

First National Bank of Northern California presents the

2005 California Open

Hosted by Fitness W.E.S.T. Sports Club, Daly City – March 18-20, 2005

**Reported by Dave George,
Tournament Director**

Here are the results of the highly successful 2005 California Open Legends Tour Racquetball Tournament.

Legends Results:

Mens Legends

First Place: Cliff Swain

Finalist: Marty Hogan

SemiFinalists: Scott Oliver, Steve Ducich

QuarterFinalists: Gerry Price, Dave Johnson, Gil Cepeda, Ernie Phipps

Congratulations to Mens 40+ Open Singles, Friday Night Qualifiers Steve Ducich, Ernie Phipps and Gil Cepeda were the top qualifiers, and advanced to the Legends QuarterFinal draw, on Saturday. In addition to Qualifying Finalist, Ken Stone, the talented field of players included: Herb Yamashiro, Gene Pari, Eric Schmidt, Bill George, Pat McCornack, Vincent Bolden, Hank Minardo, Carl Hall and Dave George.

Special thanks go to our Title Sponsor, First National Bank of Northern California.

With their support, and from the raffle & auction the tournament raised approximately \$4,200 for Community Employment Services! Additional tournament sponsors included Fitness W.E.S.T. Sports Club, The Legends Tour, the (RMC) Racquetball Manufacturers Council, E-Force, Wilson, Ektelon, Head / Penn, Pro Kennex, Top Seed Sports, Spinnaker Cruises, One Shot, Pro Am Sports, Roger Ball, J. Crawford & Associates and Daves Pro Shop.

California Open / Legends a Hit!

In addition to the featured Legends / Mens 40+ Singles Event, there were an additional nine amateur, round-robin Doubles divisions. One hundred of Northern Californias top players,

including the Legends in Open Doubles, competed all day Saturday & Sunday. Between the playing, and watching the Legends, it was an enjoyable, entertaining weekend of racquetball! Jo Jos Cafi supplied great hospitality, and feedback was positive on both the quality tournament shirts, and the customized, photo awards earned.

Doubles Results:

Mens Open Doubles

First Place: Cliff Swain / Marty Hogan

Finalist: Scott Oliver / Brian Pointelin

3rd: Gene Pare / Mike Lin

4th: Jason Santos / Zach Aurich

Womens Open Doubles

First Place: Mary Tessier / Elaine Dexter

Finalist: Lee Ann Hardiman / Paula Mazhar

3rd: Terry Rogers / Kim Cameron

Mens A Doubles

First Place: Seedro Santos / Ryan Wollitz

Finalist: Bill Groombridge / Doug Stevens

SemiFinalists: Jeff Phalan / David Taylor & Ernie Phipps / Celia Vigil

Mens C Doubles

First Place: Ruben Ayala / Adolfo Cazarez

Finalist: Ernie Lum / J. Janero

Mens 35+ Doubles

First Place: Ken Stone / Gil Cepeda

Finalist: Armando Villa / Hernan Perez

3rd: Tom Mizukami / Nellis Freeman

4th: Brian Soo / Jeff Caparro

Mens 45+ Doubles

First Place: Barry Clyde / Robbie Brown

Finalist: Ron Woolard / Micah Brown

3rd: Mike Voyne / Ed Jaramillo

4th: Whallon Fong / Gary Furtado

Mens 55+ Doubles

First Place: Bruce Metras / Garrett Parks

Finalist: Jerry Kilroy / Robert Reicher

3rd: Mike Lippitt / Mike Schaefer

Womens A Doubles

First place: Louise Doran / Esther Lozano

Finalist: Nidia Funes / Nancy Large

3rd: Kathleen Nelson / Christina Rogers

Womens B Doubles

First Place: Debbe Barbara / Mayumi Tomoda

Finalist: Colleen Keating / JoAnn Freda

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Community Voice

Anyone wishing to post info about a mixer, demo night or any other upcoming event at their club that is not a sanctioned tournament this is the place to do it. Please e-mail your info to Steve Cook at cooksprtng@softcom.net.

Are there recreational players at your club that may want to be exposed to the USRA/CSRA membership?

Remember, membership is not limited to tournament players! **ALL PLAYERS** benefit and help support and promote our sport by becoming a member! For less than \$2.00 per month you can help promote racquetball! **AND** receive *Racquetball Magazine*! Please pass membership info on to others that you feel would benefit.

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Welcome to America and Racquetball

Roksana Czech, a 14 year old junior from ClubSport in Pleasanton has fallen in love with racquetball, practicing every day and playing anyone who will get on the court with her. Roksi (as we affectionately call her) emigrated from Poland a mere 2 years ago, and spoke not a word of English when she got here. She found something in America that she could not experience in her homeland—competitive sports.

Since arriving, she has played freshman volleyball at Foothill High School in Pleasanton and very recently discovered racquetball, the new passion of her life. In Poland, Roksi said that girls are not offered sports as either recreation or competition and her only exercise in that country was swimming. The new freedom she has found competing in racquetball and volleyball has brightened her life and broadened her horizons.

After only 2 weeks of playing racquetball, she participated in the ClubSport Open racquetball tournament over the May 13-15 weekend in the junior beginners flight winning 2 matches

and losing 2 matches. Not only did she play in this tournament, she volunteered 20 hours of her time over the course of the 3 days recording scores, refereeing junior matches and helping the tournament staff in every way she could.

By the time you read this article, Roksi and her family will have relocated to Orange County in Southern California. She is already researching health clubs with racquetball courts and racquetball programs that she can join as soon as she moves and promises to keep us up to date on her racquetball training and playing.

Introduce kids to racquetball! They can begin competing at some level almost immediately; having fun, getting exercise and being challenged at the same time.



Online Membership System

You have to check this out!!!!

Go to the USRA web site: USRA.org, then go to the **Member Login**. Provide your membership number to get your password.

From here you will be able to change your address, correct personal information and view your competitive history.

If it is time to renew your membership, then go to the **Activate your Membership** tab, provide your membership number or search by your name. If you have been a member sometime after 1996, you are already in the database. Update your personal information and renew your membership.

This new system is really the cornerstone for the new rating system and the tournament draw program that will

be used for all sanctioned events in the very near future.

No more wondering if your membership has expired and whether you'll need to bring the extra money to renew. With the new tournament program, most entries will be taken on-line with membership verification or application built in to the entry form. Rankings/Ratings will be stored in your membership file, which will save you from having to search for your name in the National ratings data file.

This new three-pronged system will finally bring this great sport into the 22nd century and allow it to take its place as one of the best and well-managed competitive sports.

The USRA deserves our support and applause for this huge undertaking.

Juniors throughout state meet in Stockton

The California State Junior Racquetball Championships took place in Stockton (ISSC @ Westlane) on May 21st and 22nd. The tournament was run by John Ellis and his excellent Stockton crew (including Mom and Dad).

Play began early Saturday morning with players bright eyed and eager to play. Parents, friends and coaches were less bright eyed, but as play began everyone was enthusiastic and supportive throughout the weekend. There was singles and doubles play, so courts were full non-stop to get all the matches in. As always with a junior event, no big controversies or issues. Matches generally were ahead of schedule, and there were always players willing to help out reffing or whatever else was needed. Most divisions were done as a round robin, so the players were guaranteed to get a few matches in...

Crowds followed Markie Rojas and Jose Diaz to watch their exciting doubles play. Cheering was heard from the Sacramento and Stockton groups. The 18 and unders (Jose Rojas, Ismael Aldana, and Ryan Meyer) put on matches as good as any top Open match you can see today. From the Multi bounce matches on up excellent racquetball was played all weekend....

Congratulations to John and his crew for putting on a great tournament and also to all the players.

Results:

Boy's 18 & Under Singles

1st: Jose Rojas

2nd: Ismael Aldana

3rd: Ryan Meyer

Boy's 16 & Under Singles

1st: Eli Smukler

2nd: Markie Rojas

3rd: Christian Claymore

Boy's 16 & Under Doubles

1st: Jacob Pritchard/Eli Smukler

2nd: Teresa Diaz/Tyler Lanman

3rd: Dan Brown/Alex Richter

Boy's 14 & Under Singles

1st: Markie Rojas

2nd: Jacob Pritchard

3rd: Jose Diaz

Boy's 14 & Under Doubles

1st: Markie Rojas/Jose Diaz

2nd: Jacob Pritchard/Patrick Newman

3rd: Jonathan Garcia/Alex Guzman

Boy's 12 & Under Singles

1st: Jose Diaz

2nd: Zachary Brancato

3rd: Nicholas Hackworth

Boy's 12 & Under Doubles

1st: Zachary Brancato/Jeremy Newman

2nd: Ashkay Khetani/Abraham Guzman

3rd: Daniel Aldana/Edgar Ortiz

Boy's 10 & Under Singles

1st: Bobby Sehrgosha

2nd: Sawyer Lloyd

3rd: Andrew Glaros

Boy's 8 & Under Multi Bounce Singles

1st: Steven Diaz

2nd: Daniel Rojas

3rd: Ulysses Gamboa

Girl's 14 & Under Singles

1st: Aubrey O'Brien

2nd: Martina Glaros

3rd: Kyra Klopp

Girl's 12 & Under Singles

1st: Aubrey O'Brien

2nd: Monique Horyza

3rd: Jasmin Trevino

Girl's 8 & Under Multi Bounce Singles

1st: Ashley O'Brien

2nd: Jasmin Aldana

3rd: Jordan Nance

Mixed 16 & Under Doubles

1st: Vikram Maru/Aubrey O'Brien

2nd: Andrew Glaros/Martina Glaros

3rd: Andrew Nagel/Monique Horyza



Clyde Barker

The CSRA, and its Board of Directors, and Associate Members are sad at the sudden loss of our dear friend, Clyde Barker. We send our condolences to his immediate family. Shyla, his wife, and his two children, Andre and Rashaan, and countless friends.

Here are a few of the many letters and testimonies to his life. We hope that they will bring you comfort at this time.

I started playing racquetball about 13 years ago at 21st Point in Mountain View. A friend and a fellow player watched me play, and after careful observation of my serves and backhand, he strongly suggested that I take some lessons. That's when I met Clyde. I started with a package of 5 lessons. But over time, after playing with him and talking with him, I realized that he was much more than just an instructor to me. He was a gentleman, a beautiful spirit, a confidant, a friend, a rock of encouragement, a smile when times were bad, a laugh when things got rough, a word of wisdom when everything seemed to spin out of control, a prayer when I was desperate. Often times I just wanted to talk to him and be in his company. He was my friend, my coach, and my support. He taught me so much more than just racquetball – he taught me about life. When I was afraid, he showed me how to be courageous, when I was defeated, he taught me how to rebound and get back into the game – both on the court and in life. And when I was discouraged, he always would hold me around the shoulders, look me straight in my eyes, and convince me that I was so much more than I thought I would ever be, and that I could do anything I ever wanted to do. He would always tell me how proud he was of me, no matter the scores, no matter the outcomes, he was always proud of me, and that has made all the difference to me - as a player and a person.

There will never be another Clyde for me in my lifetime. That hurts me so

much, because he and I could talk about anything, and right now I really need to talk to him about how badly I feel that he is no longer here, and how much I miss him.

We have already talked about my Clyde story, but it is so special to me. For years, Clyde rarely called me Ruby. He always called me "Ms. Braxton", on the phone and in person - it was so funny. And of course you know about his phone messages. "Hello Ms. Braxton, this is Clyde....[at end of message] "This is Clyde. Goodbye." It's as though I'd forgotten who I was talking to all during our conversation. Another thing. Every year he called me up and sang "Happy Birthday" to me on the phone. What was funny is that he'd forget when my birthday was. I'm a November baby. However, I've picked up the phone in June to hear his fun rendition of "Happy Birthday" to me. One year I got 3 birthday calls. But I was so glad and honored to get every call, just as long as I didn't get any older J. And I'm glad that I told him that.

It was awesome looking at all of the beautiful faces of his friends, family and colleagues at Clyde's homecoming ceremony. He touched so many people, and we all deeply loved him so much. He is now in heaven with God. His physical presence will be missed, but I will always carry him in my heart. As I wrote to one of our mutual friends, "God, take great care of our friend. Clyde's now in heaven teaching all of the angels how to serve."

Love you,
Ruby Braxton

• • •

I've been reflecting about Clyde Barker's life and all that he meant to his friends in the racquetball community. In the silence, I can still hear him coaching me. In looking back, I feel that he was a fatherly presence to us girls on the court. I realize now, how important each and every moment was. If Clyde was in the club, you knew it. I always looked forward to his constructive criticism. On and off the court, he set the example, urging us all to be the best we could be. His short time with us was truly a gift. I am thankful for the time spent with him. Who knew life would be so short. The things I would have loved to have said to him in life and thanked him for. He was the ultimate example of good sportsmanship and was an exemplary human being. I will never forget him. His lessons and gentle quiet spirit will live in my heart.

Margaret
Nor CAL VP

• • •

The "Chicken Lickin' Car"

In the mid-eighties, upon returning from an ill-conceived move to work on the East Coast, I returned to Mountain View with what had been my company car. Far from being the new Jaguar I expected to be driving, it was a well used, weather worn, faded gray, midsize Pontiac that had little going for it other than a decent engine, good tires, and cassette stereo that sounded better than the car looked. In

reference to an east coast TV commercial about a decrepit vehicle suitable only for fast food delivery, Liz called it the "Chicken Lickin' Car."

Having recently purchased a new car for myself (to appease my ego, in light of this unremarkable, though quite functional vehicle) I asked Clyde if he was interested in buying it. He liked the car, purchased it from me for blue book value, and agreed to make monthly payments. Over time, it became apparent that he REALLY liked the car, and was beginning to make improvements. Much later, I learned that he enjoyed it so much that he even had it painted.

Well, the point of this story is not really the car; it's what the story says about Clyde. He was able to see the car for what it was - reliable transportation. He was much more interested in what the car could do, than he was about what the car "said about him." Though of course, it did speak volumes about him.

Clyde cared more about people than things; and cared more about how he treated people than what people thought about him. This aspect of his personality was what enamored so many of us to him. I learned a lot from Clyde about humility - being non-judgmental, maintaining quiet strength and simple goodness, and paying attention to the things that matter in life.

Keith Copeland

• • •

I remember watching Clyde work his way down a crowded hallway toward a court, probably running a little late, but greeting everyone he saw along the way with a hug or a handshake and a sincere how's-it-going just the same. Pick a time, a club, a tournament, it was always that way with Clyde, people made him go.

I remember watching Clyde on the court, cat-like and focused, but enthusiastic, too, the "That's what I'm talking about!" when he saw a shot he liked; and the way he smiled just before he rolled one out. I remember him playing for all the marbles even when there were none at stake, and I

remember the hug at the end of the match, win or lose, his thanks for being there and sharing the moment. I remember him grinning and saying, "God, I love this game!" I remember feeling the same way.

I remember Clyde holding clinics for disadvantaged youth and being active in his church. I remember him being a family man—and how you didn't necessarily have to be related to be family in his book. I remember how easy it was to talk him into one more game—unless he had a date with his wife. I remember him in my corner at tournaments, coaching during the breaks and taking notes otherwise, and I remember how good it was to have him there even on the crappiest, premenstrual stupid friggin' backhand days. The truth is, any and all time spent with Clyde was special—that was just part of the deal. Clyde was my coach and my friend, and I miss him very much.

Kathe Nelson

• • •

Clyde Barker was one of my dearest and oldest friends. From the first time we met over two decades ago, I knew I had found a lifetime friend. The passion and love Clyde had for life and racquetball was evident in the way he lived. Everyone was drawn to him because he made everyone feel special. He was real and he never caught up in the "hype". We spent endless hours on the court together playing, teaching and just hanging around the Club. I moved out from the Midwest to CA in my early 20's, I had no family here. Clyde took care of that - he became my extended family and enriched my life tremendously. I am a better person for having had Clyde as my friend. There are not enough words to express the emotions I have at this time. However, I know our Lord in heaven is praising Clyde's as they are together. Who knows maybe that thunder in the rain storm is actually Clyde hitting one of his killshot on the heavenly racquetball court above. Nice thought. Take care my friend...you will be missed.

Lucy DelSarto, WEC

• • •

As many of you know Clyde and I met when he was asked by a mutual friend at the time to help me move from Sacramento to the Bay Area back in 1988. Clyde being Clyde the most caring and gracious man, he volunteered to drive the unhaul back to the Bay Area, not just drop off the truck and be on on his merry way, he also unloaded the truck set up my "waterbed" (long time ago) everything.

It didn't stop from there, he graciously helped me get around the bay area, showing me how to get from point a to point b, not knowing he had an agenda all along. But at that point, I didn't care, thought he was really cute and what a gentleman he was. Never had that before.

I most remember this particular time when Clyde took me to Santa Cruz (strictly platonic) of course. That was the most memberable time that we had. Clyde and I would often talk about the "Santa Cruz" trip. There's actually more to it, but I will leave as is.

Clyde has called me everyday from that day on, everyday at 9:30 am I would get a call. 9:30 rolls by and no phone call.

I truly adored Clyde as I know you all did too. He was a kind passionate soul that no one can ever duplicate (in my eyes) Although he blessed me with a host of extended family as yourself, I know you all feel the same, it won't be the same without Clyde. His laughter, his smile his passion.

I truly miss my Husband, Friend, Soulmate my Protector.

Shyla Barker

• • •

Oh Boy!

My favorite memory of Clyde is that he always kick my hinney. When he worked with me he worked me. And it was always for the good. It would pay off in the middle of a game and I would yell "thank you Clyde" because he was always right.

There won't be a time when I put on

Clyde Barker continued...

my head band that it won't remind me of him, I can see him to this day in his head band, sweats and a t-shirt. My hero.

And in case Shyla reads this I have to quote a lady from the service "Thank you for sharing him"

Have a nice day,
Louise Doran

• • •

Since December, Clyde has coached me at Club One in Oakland. Although I only knew him for a short time, I saw him as a mentor and friend. I looked forward each week to my Thursday night coaching sessions where Clyde always taught me some new shot or strategy and shared his passion for racquetball. We had fun together. He was always kind, generous, gracious, professional, and especially thoughtful. The last few weeks we didn't meet because my father was in the hospital, and Clyde would call each week to see how I was doing and how my father was and to say that he was thinking of me and my family.

Clyde had a special gift for teaching: incredible patience and a relentless love for the game. He made racquetball more accessible to me and I believe to women in general, by creating a comfortable space in which to learn. Moreover, his passion and dedication helped me to rediscover my inner athlete and competitive spirit. At the end of every session he would give me a high five with his left hand, holding his racket with his right. This simple gesture of accomplishment and friendship imparted a sense that we were a team working together towards greatness, which was a feeling that I hadn't had in a long time. For this, I am incredibly grateful for having known Clyde, and I will miss him.

Fondly,
Nicole Meyer

• • •

Clyde the Glide

Three or four years ago, Clyde attended an AmPro certification clinic Dave George and I were teaching. As

an introduction, Dave asked all the budding instructors to supply a nickname that would help each of them remember the others' names. When Clyde's turn came around, he smiled and said, "They call me Clyde the Glide." Now, in all the years I'd known Clyde, I'd never heard anyone call him that, but it certainly fit, and it wasn't farfetched that players would call him that. So, he was thereafter Clyde the Glide to me. Amen.

Here are some words that just begin to describe Clyde the Glide: loyal, patient, generous, fair, competitive, loving, always encouraging, nearly always positive, a gentle force, and in general, a large presence. NOT TO BE REPLACED.

Clyde was the real thing. A class player, easy going, considerate, and genuinely a pleasure to be around. We'll all miss him in the hallways at the club, on the courts, and in our lives.

Most Sincerely,
Gene Pare

• • •

I have some very special stories of Clyde which I would like to share with everyone.

Clyde was an avid jazz fan. During one of our many conversations Clyde invited Ruby and I to the David Sanborn concert which was held at Union Square in San Francisco. We met Clyde and Shyla at this event and had a wonderful evening together.

Clyde was a very spiritual and God loving person. I invited Clyde to Allen Temple Baptist Church for Sunday service. Clyde accepted the invitation and enjoyed the service. We shared stories about our respective churches' and their upcoming Health Faires. Later, Clyde called me to let me know he went to Emmanuel Baptist Church Health Faire and was extremely happy about having the opportunity to fellowship with his church members.

Clyde and Shyla invited us over for New Years Day dinner (2003). Ruby and I had the opportunity to spend some quality time with Clyde, his wife Shyla and their niece.

On Saturday March 26th, I called

Clyde to say hello and another of our wonderful conversations. Clyde said earlier in the day he had went to the airport to pick their niece who would be with them for one week. Clyde said he was watching movies with his family.

God bless.
Willie Washington

• • •

I knew Clyde when I was the Fitness Director at The Club of Mtn View. He was so impressive. He was awesome to work with. I really tried to promote him, his private lessons and the freebies he was giving at The Club. He was a great 'cusion' for me - so many times the other players just wanted to vent on someone and he was always helping to keep them "kind" and keep it less personal, where they were just feeling so much that their club was being taken from them. Understandable. I was trying to help and support them, but they saw me as the "bad guy/girl" and Clyde helped bridge this with his smiles, and kindness.

It was obvious from the service you had for him that he touched so many folks. Yet, somehow I know you know all this and I am just floundering. My apologies.

I heard about Clyde's passing while I was visiting my family back east. I received a text message from Charlene. Although I have moved on since The Club, Char and I have remained the best of friends. (lucky for me)

On the flight home I could not get Clyde out of my mind. I opened my notebook and out came the poem. I shared it with a few close friends who I know, knew Clyde. Two of them, Charlene being one, told me to share this with you. I hope you like it.

God Bless you and yours, and thanks for sharing Clyde with the rest of us,
Sincerely,
CJ Jones

Do you live each day with a smile for strangers and friends?
Sharing yourself not expecting an end.

Tell those around that you love them

and care,
Then they will know when you cannot
be there.

Share your excitement with those in
your life,
Live like tomorrow is the last day of
your life.

Working is only part of the "you" that
you are,
Look at your family and friends, those
near and far.

Share your passion, you might ignite
someone new.
You will spread your spirit, to yourself
you'll be true.

When a friend leaves forever, you'll
never forget,
How he touched your life from the
moment you met.

Clyde shared his energy, his passion
and spirit.
Always a smile so radiant you'd feel it.

He was a team player, helping any
that asked.
In those he encountered his spirit will
last.

If wanting a game or a lesson you just
had to ask.
He was always ready to take on the
task.

A teacher, a friend all around a great
guy.
Racquetball his passion, sharing his
high.

He never gave up, he never gave in.
He loved teaching others the skills
needed to win.

And he was a winner in all that he did.
Deep down inside, he was just a big
kid.

Thank you Clyde for sharing yourself,
For your kindness and patience we
have all felt.
In each one of us you've left a piece
of yourself.

Now is the time and your spirit is free.
We honor a man who gave gener-
ously.

Your time here is over, when it's all
said and done,
You'll live inside us, each and every-
one.

Written by C.J. Jones

Clyde Barker Memorial Tournament

The Clyde Barker Memorial Tourney was held 25 June at Fitness West, Daly City. Dave George, Lucy Kupish-Del Sarto and Ruby Braxton coordinated the event with assistance from many volunteers. Lucy put it together from Kansas. Close to a hundred people played, and scores of people attended to celebrate Clyde's life. Mrs. Barker, Shyla, was also there. It was a novel round robin doubles only concept divided into Advanced and Intermediate. Four names would be drawn at a time. You played for one hour, switching partners every 15 minutes. After a break, it was repeated with different groupings. That way everybody played each other, and the courts were full. Everybody won. It was a good day in memory of a Good Man.

Regards, Gene Colberg

California Kids represent at Junior Nationals in Oregon

California team went to Oregon in search for the mighty GOLD medal for the Juniors National Racquetball Championship! You can feel the tension and heart beat every tournament because every game is so exciting that our California Juniors try their best to be at the top! Stockton's hopeful Ismael Aldana and Jose Rojas gave the California team something to be proud off. A GOLD medal in the Gold division. Some of the Juniors like Jose, Teresa, Markie..... (Stockton), Jake, Cody, Patrick..... (Fairfield), Zach, Bobby, Tyler..... (Pleasanton), and Victor..... (Woodland) also gave their best to make the California Team one of the best Team in the nation!!!! BUT it's not the medal nor the game make the Juniors enjoy their trip to Oregon! It's the everlasting friendship they made to their fellow Racquetball players. Win or lose, our California Juniors had fun making new friends and partying! During the Head Party and the Banquet party, our Juniors enjoy dancing, playing games, EATING, and of course taking good memories to bring back to California. This is what Racquetball is all about. Playing the game and having fun at the same time!!!!!! To all the Juniors in the California Team, Congratulations and we are very proud of you all!!!!



Mentoring and Racquetball

I'm currently participating as a mentor in a mentoring program and thought that I'd share a little bit of my experience in the hope of encouraging you to become a mentor.

Mentoring programs show kids that someone cares; something that each child needs to know if they are to develop emotionally and socially. Children look to role models to help them face the future. Mentors can be a positive example, something many children seek.

Mentoring may be easier than you think because your role is not to be a counselor or psychiatrist, but just someone to hang out with, a role model, or for at-risk kids, just a friend to get the child out of a stressed home environment for a couple hours.

Racquetball and mentoring seem to be a pretty good match. Although there's no guarantee that a mentee will even like racquetball, it's fortunate that racquetball is an almost instantly addicting sport. I play racquetball weekly with my mentee and I found it to be an easy way to remove barriers between myself and him.

My mentee has gotten good enough to win a couple of local junior tourneys but of course you have to exercise a lot care about putting a mentee into a pressured situation such as a tournament. It takes some judgment to figure out what is the exact level of challenge that they are ready for. I play so many tournaments that I decided that I would start taking him with me so that I could spend more time with him. When first starting out, I set pretty low expectations. I originally only entered him in round robin tournaments so that he would be assured of playing several matches. The first goal was just for him not to give up in the middle of the match, which he wanted to do. Next tournament, while he was losing badly, so I told him I would give him a dollar for

every point he made. It worked to keep his spirits up as he switched from focusing on his loss, to the money that he was making off of me. Now, he loves going to tourneys with me, meeting friends that he's made at previous tourneys and just hanging out at the clubs watching great matches.

The good thing about hanging out with your mentee at racquet clubs is that there are other supportive adults around, he can learn how to get along in social groups by watching how you socialize, and it's a safe environment in which to let him play with other kids. You're both having a great time without having to work at it.

The State of California has simplified things by approving almost 400 quality mentoring programs. The programs range widely, from those where you help kids with their

homework, to working with at-risk children. The mentoring organizations are especially short of men volunteers.

Kids in the mentoring programs are there only because they have chosen to have a mentor, so it's good to know that it's a decision that they've made themselves and not forced into it. If you're interested, take a look at the web site for the California state mentoring program: <http://www.mentoring.ca.gov/>

Thanks, and if you have any questions for me, feel free to ask!

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alexg@surfermall.com, (530) 758-4519



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2005 Collegiate Regionals

The university of California at Berkeley emerged victorious after a closely fought battle against the University of California at Davis to determine the 2005 Collegiate Regional Champion at the Twin Arbors Athletic Club in Lodi, California, Feb. 18-20. The camaraderie and sportsmanship displayed by the collegiate wallbangers was exemplary and deserving of much praise. There is much to be said about being a true ambassador of goodwill for one's school and one's sport.

The two schools along with other California collegiates will be playing at the upcoming Collegiate Nationals to be held at the Arizona State University March 30 - April 2, 2005. Good luck team California collegiates!

Congratulations:

Men's 1/2 Singles
1st Kyle Severns UCD
2nd Aaron Parsons UCB

Women's Singles
1st Margeaux Wilkinson Wright
Institute (Berkeley)

2nd Betsy Bamberger UCB

Men's 3/4 Singles
1st Tom Allen UCB
2nd Benny Goldenberg UCD

Men's Doubles
1st B. Goldenberg/K. Severns UCD
2nd Tony Wong/A. Parsons UCB

Men's 5/6
1st Kyle McMakin UCD
2nd Allen Santos UCB

Del Villanueva
CSRA Collegiate Liaison
USAR Inter Collegiate Council

2005 Collegiate Nationals

The state was represented by 3 schools at the recent Collegiate Nationals last March 29th-April 2nd at the Arizona State University. The tournament hosted 280 participants from 43 schools. Congratulations to Sacramento State University who finished 8th overall, 6th place in the men's division and 12th in the women's division. Respectable showings were turned in by the University of California at Berkeley (18th place - men's) (2005 regional champions) and the University of California at Davis (33rd place - men's).

Any student or team who is interested in competing at the regional level and the eventual national championships in the upcoming 2005-2006 season should contact: Del Villanueva at delfirst2fifteen.1@netzero.com, (925) 787-4473.

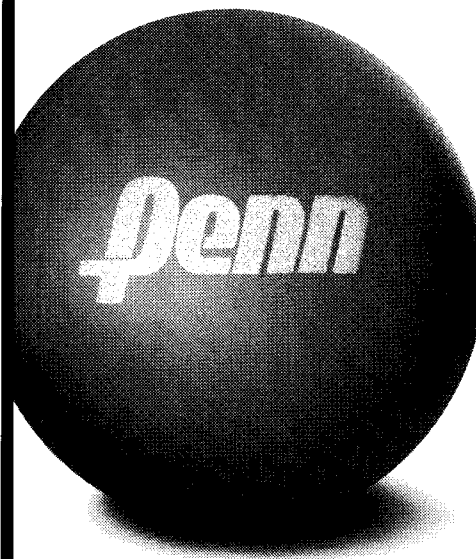
Del Villanueva
CSRA Collegiate Liaison/Board
Head Coach, UC Berkeley

Jr. Racquetball Camp – Auburn, CA

Our club AmPro instructors, Jill Mitchell & Justin Cone, will conduct a August 8-10, 2005 junior racquetball camp featuring various games, drills, stroke mechanics, plyometric exercises by our club's fitness director and personal trainer, video analysis with a DVD and camp t-shirt given to all our junior participants.

Richard Martin
Racquetball Director
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Also: “Intro. To AmPRO” and “Adv. AmPRO” Clinics, **July 31 & Sept. 11th**. See below.

Are you happy with the 2004 - 2005 season? Did you see enough new players entering the sport to fill the empty spots left by those leaving? Did you see opportunities to help out and not answer the call? Well, in one fell swoop, here is the chance to change much of what's been bothering you about your racquetball experience! That's right. The AmPRO Certification Course is held for 2 + days, October 14 – 16, 2005, @ Fitness WEST Sports Club, 2945 Junipero Serra Blvd., Daly City, Ph. 650-994-9080 Clinician – Dave George.

Here are a couple of things not commonly known about receiving an AmPRO Certification:

- It almost instantly improves your game a couple of points.
- It doubles the typical instruction fee you can charge for private and group lessons.
- It will allow you to get more out of your game, and you will benefit more during the next year of playing, teaching and coaching racquetball.

Starts Friday, Oct. 14th @ 6:30pm. Continues Sat. & Sun., 9am – 5:00pm

- Fee: \$225. - Upgrade Fee: \$100. Free “Intro. to AmPRO Clinic” with your Registration.

Register early in order to receive your materials and take home tests, ASAP!!

Sign up online @ www.USAmPRO.org or call Gary Mazaroff at 505-321-1110, or Dave George at 650-589-6904, or email Dave@DaveAtTheClub.com .

Also ... Contact Dave George, directly, for:

II. “ Intro. To AmPRO Clinics ”, \$15 - Sundays, July 31 or Sept. 11, 12:30 – 2:00PM

III. “ Advanced AmPRO Clinics ”, \$15 ea. (current AmPRO Members) ; \$45 (Non members)

July 31

Sun. 2:00 – 4:00pm

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Sept. 11

Sun. 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Topic: ‘Teaching Stroke Mechanics’

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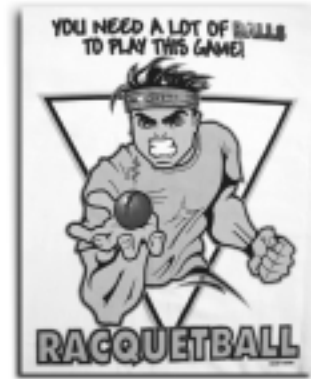
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Contact: Tim Scott

(916) 441-2977

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(909) 625-6791

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(209) 472-2100

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Contact: Debbie Tisinger

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