



Newsletter

Vol. 18 No. 2
March, 2001

USRA
United States Racquetball Association

From The President

Here we are – at the best part of the racquetball season. The hard work is paying off for those who dedicated themselves to improving their game this season. You can see those who succeeded by perusing the tournament results in this newsletter. From experience, I can tell you there has been great improvement in the women's play this season.

The ISRA's Annual Awards were presented at the State Singles Championships on Saturday, February 24th. Congratulations to both the nominees and the winners. It takes a good deal of dedication and perseverance to get yourself in a position to be considered for these awards. Very few of us are racquetball professionals. The preparation and time spent to be successful, whether in your play or in your volunteerism, is done while juggling career and family responsibilities.

It was a great honor for me to present Ron Johnson with the "Hall of Fame" Award. He is the second person to receive the award. Ron played racquetball until his body wouldn't let him play anymore. For years, he was at every tournament and was the consummate sportsman. Ron won 12 Illinois State Singles Championships, the most recent in 1994. Ron also won the ISRA Male Player of the Year Award in 1991.

Ron has never liked to fly. I remember several times when he announced that THIS was the year he was going to fly to Houston for the national tournament. A couple of times he made it as far as the airport – where he dropped off the others who were going to the tournament and then headed his car towards Houston. The important thing was that he always made it to the tournament, played well, and had a great time. Ron not only drove to Houston to play in tournaments, he drove all over the country to play. He has always loved the game and the competition.

Over the years, Ron often stopped and watched my matches. He provided lots of positive reinforcement that was very much appreciated. Ron also made another significant contribution to racquetball, especially Illinois racquetball; his son, Dale. Dale has been one of the top players in Illinois for about 10 years. In looking through past records, I found years where both Ron and Dale won state championships. What a family legacy! Congratulations !!

Until next time,

Laurel

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Illinois Juniors take on the Worlds

The 2000 ProKennex IRF 12th World Junior Racquetball Championships were held in Fountain Valley, California December 17-21. Krystal Csuk, Andy Hawthorne and Ben Croft were 3 players out of approximately 500 who competed in this 5-day event. Andy Hawthorne, Champaign, won the Blue Division for the Boys 18 & under. In the finals, he edged out Cory Martin (WI) 15-14, (4-15), 11-5. Andy has not been seen around Illinois racquetball circles lately because he is a freshman at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio (near Cleveland). Andy, however, won the Men's 24 & under division at this year's U.S. Open in Memphis. Ben Croft was

one of 32 players in the Boys 14 & under division. After 4 rounds of play Ben made it to the finals where he was defeated by Eric DesRochers of Canada. Ben defeated the #1 and #4 seeded players in the quarter and semi-finals (Dan Sheppick, USA and Jesus Jasso, Mex., respectively).....a well-earned second place finish. Krystal took second in the Girls 18 and under, losing to doubles partner, Kristin Walsh (OH). The pair took the 18 and under Doubles Championship, beating the Canadian team of Karine Odeg and Brandi Prentice. Congratulations to great three up-and-coming Illinois players.

—Mike Davern

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California Dreamin'

That's what Deb Tisinger (tournament director of the Women's Senior/Masters National Championships) called it-and the balmy southern California weather did seem like a dream to the winter-weary Midwestern racquetball enthusiasts who attended this popular tournament. This year the tournament was held January 19-21 in Canoga Park, California. Ninety-eight players (age 35 and over) arrived from all over the country. Many came early, taking advantage of friendly doubles racquetball and sightseeing in the 68-degrees-and-sunny weather before the competition began in earnest on Friday. Donna Heinzl, Margaret Hoff, Martha Huske, Pauline Kelly, Nancy Kronenfeld, Lola Markus, Julie Vincent, Lynne Weisbart and Brenda White represented Illinois, competing in various age divisions. Illinois placed third in the number of attendees (9), following California (32) and New Mexico (11). This tourney is different in that it is a round robin event and self-officiated. You don't spend time and money and play only one round! We played two games to 11 with each opponent. There were bonus points for each game won and bonus points for taking the match (whoever has the most points after the two games wins the match, even if you split games). If there are more than 9 players, we establish flights and you play all the players in your flight and if you finish at the top you qualify (which means you get to keep playing-yikes!!). All nine Illinois players proved tough competition for the players in their respective divisions/flights. Though the competition proved not as mild as the weather, six of our nine Illinois attendees placed in the top 8 in their divisions! They were: Julie Vincent, 35+; Lynne Weisbart, 45+; Brenda White, 45+ (6th); Martha Huske, 45+; Nancy Kronenfeld, 50+ (1st); Donna Heinzl, 50+ (3rd); Margaret Hoff, 55+ (3rd); Pauline Kelly, 60+ (5th); Lola Markus, 65+ (2nd).

The Saturday evening banquet featured entertainment and a special raffle to help promote women's racquetball at the collegiate level. The very best part of this event is the camaraderie. I have not missed one of these tournaments in the last 10 years and I have made so many great friendships. So, ladies, put next year's date on your calendar. We'll be back in the Midwest, January 18-20 in Detroit, Michigan. If you are interested in more information about our organization, please give me a call at (847) 297-5511.—Nancy Kronenfeld.

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Nancy Kronenfeld on her 1st place finish in Women's 50+ at the tournament! Nancy has been involved in the Women's Senior/Masters organization for 10 years. She has been instrumental in the growth of the annual tournament, seeing it expand from 50 players her first year to the 98 in California this year. A challenge to the Illinois women-let's set a record attendance next year in Detroit!-Cheryl Kirk.



Illinois Attendees at the 2001 Women's Senior/Masters National Championships in Canoga Park, CA.

Left to Right, Back Row: Martha Huske, Donna Heinzl, Pauline Kelly.
Front Row: Brenda White, Margaret Hoff, Lola Markus, Nancy Kronenfeld,
Julie Vincent, Lynne Weisbart.

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into
the
zone.



Stefan Edberg
#1



TITANIUM
RACQUETBALL

ISRA Annual Awards Presented

The ISRA Annual Awards Ceremony took place on Saturday evening, February 24, at the Athletic Club of Bloomingdale during the Illinois State Singles Championships. Nominees and winners were recognized for their achievements in, and contributions to, racquetball.

Mike Davern was the recipient of the 2001 Distinguished Service Award. Mike's efforts have helped to bring the ISRA to a higher level of quality and technology. He has devoted countless hours to establishing and maintaining the ISRA web site and newsletter. Under his editorship, the newsletter has grown from 6 pages of mainly tournament results to 10-12 pages of results, highlights and articles of interest for Illinois players. Website hits at www.illinoisracquetball.com have exploded as more and more Illinois players have found their way to the Internet. His attention to Seeding and Eligibility helps ensure that tournament results are recorded accurately and players are moving up through the ranks as required by Illinois rules.

Nominees for the award also included Char Borre, Pam Grace, and Bill Lyman. Whether through their involvement with junior programs, travel league, and/or tournament direction, these individuals are tireless in their dedication to the sport of racquetball. All were deserving of their nomination.

The 2000 Female Player of the Year went to Cheryl Gudinas. Cheryl currently ranks first in the Ladies Professional Racquetball Association (LPRA). Recent results include a second-place finish (against Jackie Paraiso) on the tour in Denver and first place honors in Albuquerque (also against Jackie). She is the two-time USRA

National Women's Open Champion ('99 and '00). Cheryl won the 2000 World Championships in Mexico as an individual representing the USRA. A U.S. Team member since 1993, Cheryl gives lessons in the Chicagoland area and serves as a teaching pro at the USRA Leadership Camp in Colorado Springs. Cheryl is now a five-time winner of this honor, having won previously in 1989, 1993, 1994 and 1995. This alone is a testimonial of her long standing at the top levels of Illinois and national racquetball.

Also nominated were Josie Barnett (winner of 2000 Turkey Shoot WO and 2000 Illini Classic WO) and Nancy Kronenfeld (winner 2000 Bloomingdale Halloween Women's 30+, the 2000 Women's 45+ Senior Masters and the 2001 Women's Senior/Masters 50+ National Championship). Both are enjoying an excellent year on the tournament circuit.

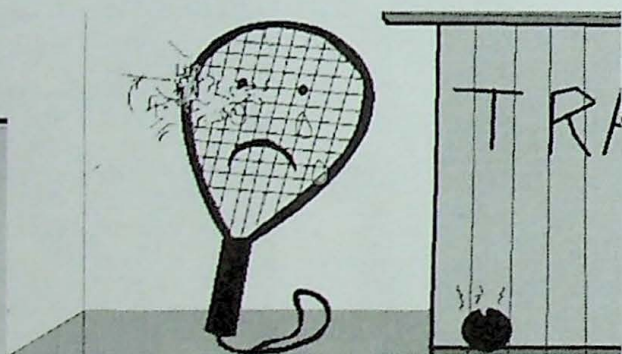
The 2000 Male Player of the Year is Bill Lyman. A competitor for over 20 years, Bill's impressive tournament results this past year include first place Men's 40+ wins at 2001 State Doubles, 5th Annual Palos Olympic Open, 2000 ISRA State Singles, 2000 Shamrock Shootout, USRA Regionals, Summerfest, Indiana Senior/Masters, Omni 41, and the 2000 Turkey Shoot. He represented Illinois at National Singles, National Doubles and the U.S. Open. Consistent doubles performances added to Bill's list of accomplishments in 2000.

Other nominees were Eugene Coyle, Martin Gonzales, Bruce Nelson, and 1989 Player of the Year winner, Rich Clay, each of whom bring excellent qualities to the game. Whether it's knowledge of the rules of the game (Rich Clay, National Rules Commissioner and 2000 Distinguished Award winner), teaching and training (Eugene Coyle), moving up through the ranks (Martin Gonzalez) or overall excellent quality of play (Bruce Nelson), all are fine representatives of Illinois racquetball.

Congratulations to Diane Bunker as 2000 Most Improved Player. Last March, Diane began taking lessons from Dave Negrete. On a brief hiatus from work, she concentrated heavily on improving her game and logged impressive tournament results through the rest of the year: Revie Sorey (Semi's WAA), St. Valentine's Day Massacre (2nd WO Doubles), State Singles (Semi's WO), Senior/Masters (3rd W35/40), Halloween Classic (Semi's WO and W30), Turkey Shoot (1st WAA), and Wilson Women's Classic (1st WO). Diane also traveled to Memphis to compete in the U.S. Open in the W35+ and W40+ divisions. If there were an award for most tournaments played, she might have won that as well! Julie Vincent was also very deservedly nominated for Most Improved Player.

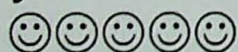
Congratulations to winners and nominees alike. Illinois is fortunate to have these fine individuals serving us and representing us so well both locally and nationally!

—Cheryl Kirk, Associate Editor and ISRA Award Chairperson.



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Glass Court Swim and Fitness

Racquetball News: Come join us March 8-11 for the Shamrock Shootout, our Special 15th Anniversary Celebration. Over \$10,000 in prizes (cash and merchandise), BIG party on Saturday night, and Juniors Division playing on Sunday!

Challenge Court on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Spring leagues begin the week of March 19. Leagues are restricted to members only. We offer a wide range of levels from Novice to Open.

Free Beginner and Intermediate lessons offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings—call for specific dates. All equipment provided!

Junior News: Lessons are scheduled for Friday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for 8 years and up. A Junior Round Robin event will take place on April 27. Call Char Borre at 630-629-3390 for details.

Glass Court is available for parties for all occasions! Our variety of party package options will make your next special occasion easier and a lot more fun; forget the mess and hassle, have your party at Glass and leave the work to us. More information is available from the Party Coordinator at the club.

Glass Court is located at 820 E. Roosevelt Road in Lombard, Illinois. Contact — Char Borre, League Director at 630-629-3390.

Athletic Club of Bloomingdale

Racquetball Tournament Schedule:
March 22-25 WIRT Pro Stop/Negrete Open
May 3-6 Ektelon/USRA Regional Championships

Racquetball News: New leagues will be forming in April; we offer an enthusiastic invitation to new and current players and especially to daytime women players. Call Dave for details...

Challenge courts are scheduled every Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Non-members may participate for a \$6 fee.

Lessons with Dave Negrete, Dennis Negrete, or Dale Johnson are offered at a rate of \$30 per hour.

Dave Negrete wishes to thank everyone who helped out with the raffle on Saturday night of the State Singles tournament. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Investment Opportunity: The Athletic Club of Bloomingdale is currently seeking investors. All serious parties should contact Dave Negrete for information.

Contacts — Dave Negrete and Dennis Negrete: 630-893-9577.

The Southlake Club

Spring Junior Racquetball Leagues begin the week of March 12th. Ages 8-11 on Mondays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Ages 11-15 on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Non-member fee is \$30 per player. Sign up early, current Monday league is filled with a waiting list.

"A" Doubles challenge courts are held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Sundays from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Racquetball lessons available from Lynn Adams or Howie Robins. To improve your racquetball game, give Lynn or Howie a call to set up a private lesson. Group clinics are also offered.

Open Wallyball courts on Friday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Teams and individual players are welcome. Fee is only \$8 for non-members. Call in by Friday noon to let us know how many players will accompany you.

Rent the club for private parties on the weekends. Great idea for birthdays, social clubs, work groups, or sports teams. Call the club for rates and availability.

Special Message: Erik Anderson, a long-time member, is on leave due to a serious illness. The club staff and the early birds wish you the best at this difficult time, Erik!

Contacts — Kathy Logic (Manager), Veronica Salazar (Membership Director): 847-949-8180; fax 847-949-8160.

Naper Olympic Health Club

Irish Fitness Fling — March 16 at 7:00 p.m.! Features Racquetball round robin, Group Exercise, Fitness & Yoga, Pilates Extended Challenge, Children's Fun Zone, refreshments, prizes, and fun!

Seven racquetball instructors are available to help you improve your game: Kathy Dunham, T.J. Ferro, Tom Griffith, Don Grigas, Cheryl Gudinas, Sean Moskwa, and Krystal Csuk (junior pro). Call the club to schedule time with one of these fine instructors.

In the Pro Shop, Ektelon and E-Force products are available for purchase on-site or by special order. We offer the newest line of both companies' racquets. Demo racquets are available for trial.

Special Note: We salute the many players who represented Naper Olympic at the Revie Sorey, Southlake, Illinois State Doubles, B.R. Ryall YMCA, St. Valentine's Day Massacre, Palos Olympic, and Illinois State Singles tournaments. Good luck during the balance of the tournament season!

Programs Birthday party packages are available! Mix and/or match your perfect party!! All Fitness Fun Packages include room decorations and invitations. Call our Birthday Party Director at the club for additional details and to reserve your party package.

We offer badge programs for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Brownies! Scout leaders can get additional information by calling the club at 630-357-7200.

Naper Olympic Health Club is located at 101 E. 75th St. in Naperville, Illinois. Contacts: Dave and Margo Gebraski (Owners); Rich Gebraski (Membership Director): 630-357-7200.

Club Owners/Managers, if you would like to see your club's information included in the ISRA Newsletter, please call Cheryl Kirk at 630-305-8291.

TO STRETCH OR NOT TO STRETCH???

It seems that in this past two seasons, I have been confronted by more and more people with injuries that are preventing them from playing racquetball at their full potential. I believe that a high percentage of these injuries are due to improper warm-up and stretching and are, therefore, completely preventable. Think about the normal recreational player and a surprising number of competitive tournament players who pull up to the club at the last minute, jump out of their car and scramble onto a court with barely any off-court warm-up.

Most racquetball players don't naturally possess the level of flexibility needed for optimal swing mechanics. For others, such factors as sitting for long periods at work, old orthopedic injuries and current aches and pains help tighten up muscles in just the span of a few hours. For this reason, everyone should participate in pre-event warm-up exercises.

Prior to beginning any stretching routine, it is important to warm up the muscles. When stretching, you are attempting to lengthen muscles that may be very tight. If your body is cold, your chances of over-stretching and injuring the muscle you are attempting to protect is very high. When tension is placed on a musculotendinous unit, heat is generated. This heat breaks down the ground substance in the connective tissue housing the muscle fibers, allowing the musculotendinous unit to elongate. If you are cold, this process cannot happen as effectively.



Eugene Coyle stretching out Kerri Stoffregen of Ohio.

I am often asked if it better to stretch before or after a racquetball match? My answer would be both. Stretching after any athletic event is a good means for reducing post-exercise muscle soreness. When muscles fatigue, they tighten and the blood flow through them is reduced. However, after an athletic event, the metabolic rate often stays elevated for several hours, with muscles continuing to produce metabolic by-products. Many of these post-exercise metabolic by-products are acidic in nature and aggravate sensory nerve endings in muscles tissue. This serves to tighten the muscle even more. To prevent unnecessary and unwanted muscle soreness after racquetball, it is a good idea to perform post-event stretching, especially if you are playing in a tournament and have multiple matches. Post-event stretching involves stretching all the major muscle groups used in racquetball, particularly the legs, hips, lower back and shoulders. Next month I will demonstrate some of the pre- and post-event stretching that should be done during tournament play. —Eugene Coyle. Eugene is President of Personalized Fitness with locations in Barrington, Buffalo Grove and Palatine. He can be reached at 847-277-7746.

USRA
United States Racquetball Association

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Tournament _____ Representative _____

All memberships are for one year, and include a subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine (six times/year) and the Illinois Newsletter (six times/year).

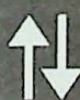
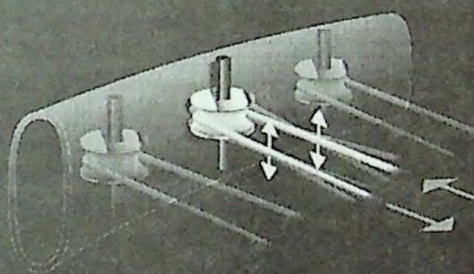


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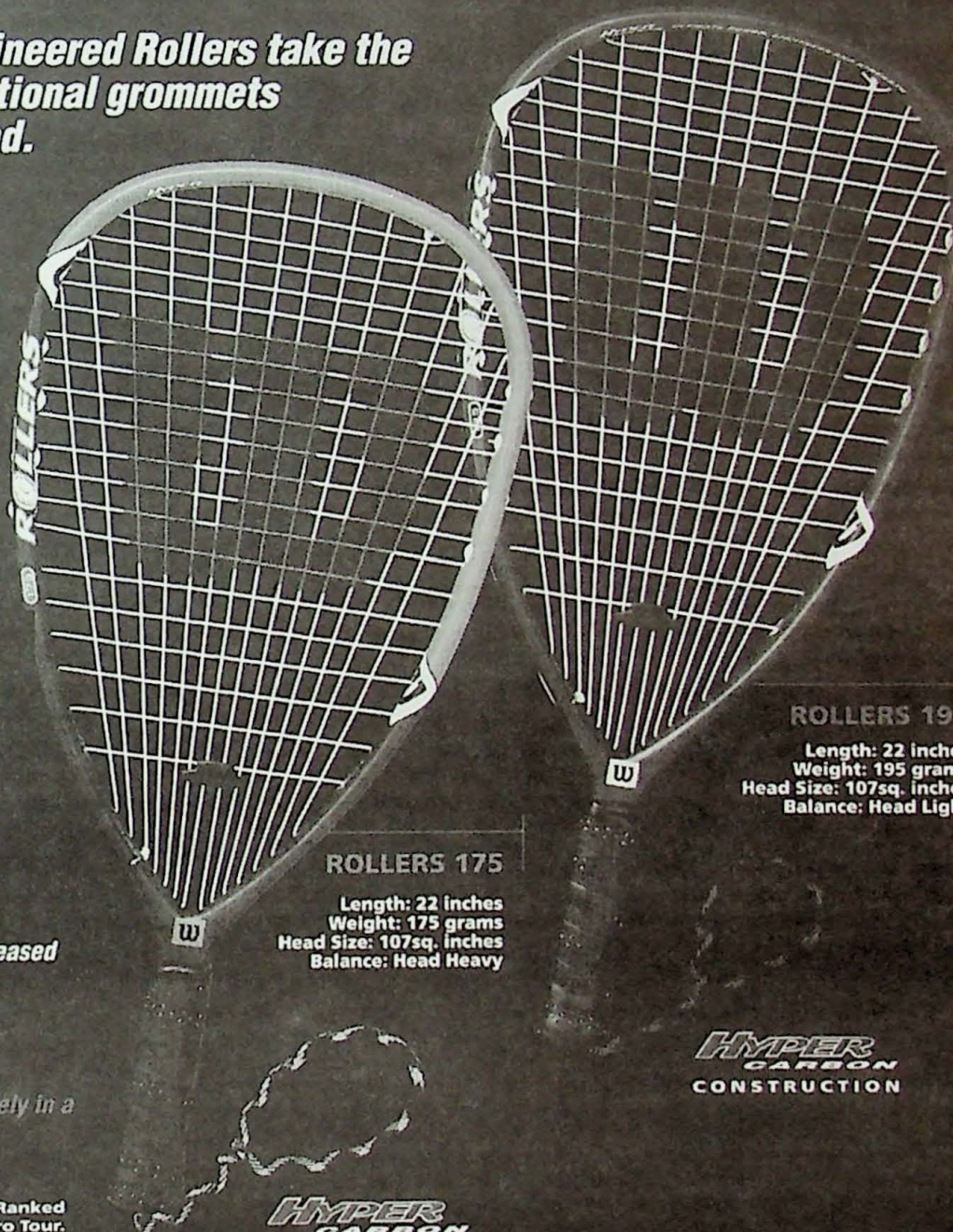
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Illinois State Doubles

January 26-28, 2001

What's a Super(Bowl) Weekend? It's playing racquetball on Super Bowl Sunday and still getting home in time to sit back and watch another boring Super Bowl. No regrets for pigging out on all that food you cooked. Our late January weekend seems to serve tournament players well, as, once again, the draw increased over last year's contest. Tournament director Tom Griffith did a great job pulling all the various strings together and keeping things running on time. The switch to \$10 referee fees was a big hit and helped move matches along nicely. Looks like that might be a permanent change for future State Doubles.

Lots of good story lines to follow in this tournament, but the two best involve birthday boy Don Grigas off the court and Eugene Coyle on the court. We'll start with Eugene and his partner Dale Johnson. In their semi-final match against Ben Croft and Cary Slade, Dale hurt his back after a nasty spill off of a wet spot on the floor in the second game. Dale, one of the best players in Illinois and beyond, has been fighting various injuries in the recent past. This time the fall hurt his lower back, seriously limiting his mobility. He was able to finish the match with Eugene carrying most of the load. However, the finals the next day were going to be impossible to play. Most players would throw in the towel, apologize to their partner and next round opponent and begin the rehab. (In fact, there were quite a few forfeits for injuries and other reasons over the weekend.) Not for Dale, however. He and Eugene instituted the "I" formation for doubles. Dale would lob serve and move over to the back wall, letting Eugene do the work against finals opponents, second seed Keith Minor and Rick Ricksecker. It didn't look like the strategy would work during the first game, with Dale and Eugene losing 15-11, but they would pull it out, winning 15-7 and 11-5 in the final two games. Dale actually contributed two points during the whole match as he was forced to hit a couple of shots during play. Quite a sight.

The story line off the court, also starts on the court as well. Don Grigas and partner Dave Bachar are perennial winners on the doubles circuit and they showed their stuff once again by winning the tough Men's 35+ division against second seeds Jim Hillman and Keith Minor. Don also entered the winners' circle with Patti Drendel in Mixed 40+. However, those of you who thought you were at State Doubles were misled. The weekend was actually an extended 45-year young birthday party for Don. He had a fine ole' time both at the bar and away from it. Somehow Don got the idea to collect 45 lipstick kisses on the back of business cards and completed his goal in the course of the weekend. Everyone got into the act, men included. Rich Clay even got involved with an impromptu "pants-ing" of Don in front of the crowd at the Saturday night party. Nice bikini briefs big guy!!

Don sent me a note (the full text of which can be found on the Illinois website at www.illinoisracquetball.com) making sure he thanked all involved and especially Joe and Diane DeArmas, owners of the Glass Court. They do so much for racquetball, mainly in the background, that we can never thank them enough. We look forward to coming back to the Glass Courts for this season's Shamrock Shootout in just a few weeks. Check out the other tournament winners at right.

— Mike Davern



Joe DeArmas



Char Borre, Sharilyn Pope



Patrice Calvi, Kathy Grill



Kevin Yeazell, Lynn Hiozns



Mary Crawford, Len Restaino

Tournament Results

January 26-28, 2001

ILLINOIS STATE DOUBLES

Glass Court Swim & Fitness/Lombard

Tournament Director: Tom Griffith

Event: First Place; Second Place; Semis

Men's Open (8): Dale Johnson/Eugene Coyle; Keith Minor/Rick Ricksecker; Ben Croft/Cary Slade
Joey Logan/Jim Ellenberger

Men's AA (2): Martin and Tony Gonzalez; George Pappas/Don Vols

Men's A (20): Eli Williams/Rick Cavalier; Jim Gaw/Chris Selvig; Tim Brown/Rajesh Sondhi, Scott Reiser/Tony Mangiaracina

Men's B (18): Mitchell Becker/George Steffens; George Nonas/Rich Wells; Dan Jaskier/Matt Malcheski Mike Ardito/Jim McHale

Men's C (11): Luis Monsreal/Kevin Massard; Mike Mahon/Kit Lawson; Andy Simons/Brad Stanfield, Tom Pope/Brian McNally

Men's D (4): Thomas Reed/Bill Apostolos; Gerry and Mike Degonia; Fred Conforti/Ron Lamberg

Men's 30+ (4): Pat Armstrong/Jim Jeffers; Dale Johnson/Dave Negrete; Doug Halverson/Eric Reiman

Mens 35+ (7): Dave Bachar/Don Grigas; Jim Hillman/Keith Minor; Kevin Yeazell/Jeff Baumgartner; Scott Koburi/Steve Lloyd

Men's 35+ INT (4): Calvin Branch/David Royster; Ron Calloway/John Mason; Kevin Hart/Steve Lange

Men's 40+ (6): Bill Lyman/Mike Burns; Mike Davern/Tom Griffith; Angelo Moca/Steve Lloyd, Gregg Mandell/Shawn Warner

Men's 45+/50+ (11): Frank Rusch/Joe Silius; Gregg Mandell/Dave Olson; TJ Ferro/Len Restaino, Fred Barbara/Bob Weber

Men's 45+ INT (2): Joe Wilhelm/Dick Heitoff; Mike Padavic/Al Brunner

Men's 50+ (2): Frank Rusch/Joe Silius; Horace Miller/Delmer Reed

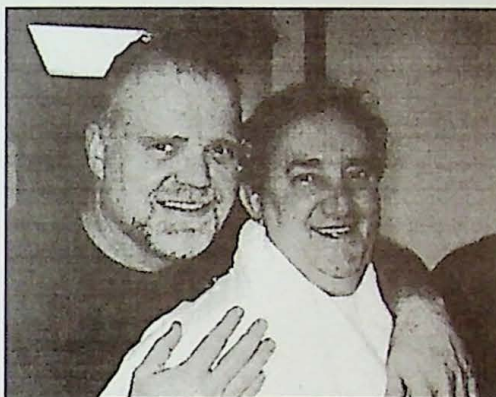
Men's 55/60/75+ (5): David Crouse/John O'Donnell; Pete Stopinski/Tom Baxa; Lee Cherry/Willie McGee



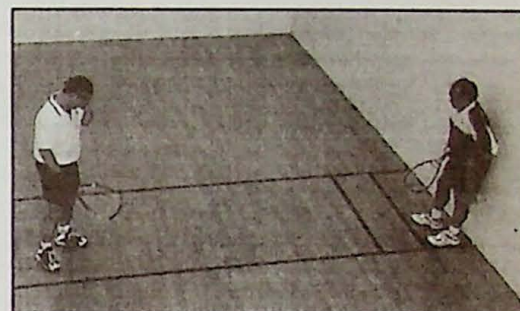
John O'Donnell, Jr.



Karen Marzano, Ed Olah



Kit Lawson, Tom Pope



Tom Griffith, Mike Davern



Don Grigas, Dave Bachar



Kara Peters

Women's Open (5): Patrice Calvi/Kathy Grill; Laurel Davis/Liz Molitor; Julie Carter/Nancy Rocha

Women's A (8): Martha Huske/Donna Heinzl; Patti Drendel/Cheryl Kirk; Pam Grace/Britt Schoonover; Maria Johnson/Marie Larsen

Women's B/C (3): Char Borre/Sharilyn Pope; Lynn Hiorns/Ree Keca; Janet Christie/Peggy Hartman

Women's 35+/40+ (3): Patrice Calvi/Kathy Grill; Diane Bunker/Julie Vincent; Liz Molitor/Brenda White

Mixed Open (7): Krystal Csuk/T.J. Ferro; Ben Croft/Kathy Logic; Carrie Jaskier/Doug Halverson, Kathy Dunham/John Thorson

Mixed A (9): Lynn Hiorns/Kevin Yeazell; Kathy Welker/Scott Reiser; Barb Utterback/Jim Amsden, Pat Hennings/Ken Cook

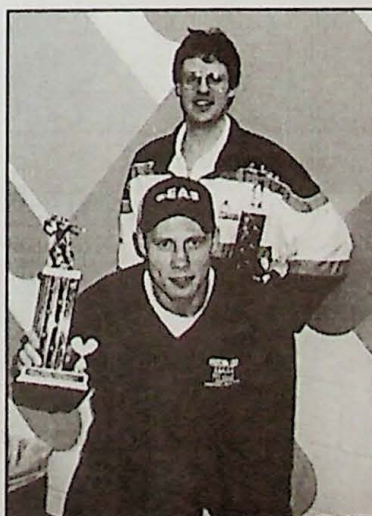
Mixed B (4): Dave Schoonover/Britt Schoonover; Mike Mahon/Cheryl Kirk; Debbie Windisch/Mike Laback

Mixed C/D (3): Karen Marzano/Ed Olah; Janet Christie/Russ Tator; Deb Dallas/John Burke

Mixed 30+/35+ (4): Mary Crawford/Len Restaino; Maria Johnson/Jeff Baumgartner; Julie Carter/Dale Carter

Mixed 40+ (3): Patti Drendel/Don Grigas; Laurel Davis/Geoff Peters; Peggy Hartmann/Ken Fleck

Mixed 45+/50+/65+ (4): Kathy Dunham/Joe Silius; Donna Heinzl/John Heinzl; Lola Markus/John O'Donnell, Jr.



Eugene Coyle, Dale Johnson
winning "I" formation



2001 Distinguished Service Nominee
Char Borre at the Check-In desk.



Don Grigas,
Patti
Drendel

Revie Sorey

January 11-14, 2001

If you were new to racquetball (or absent for some time) and walked into the Athletic Club of Bloomingdale during the weekend of Revie Sorey, you would have to be excused from thinking that racquetball must be the most popular sport on the planet. Parking blocks away, standing room only crowds squeezing into viewing areas, conversations at unusually loud volumes to be heard over the din. Bleachers on glass-backed courts filled to the brim. Quite a sight. Once again, the draw was of national quality and the entries were at a record level. With the location back at the Athletic Club of Bloomingdale players had plenty of room to enjoy themselves. As for the Men's Open finals it was a long wait to see if the crowd would be chanting "USA, USA" or singing "Oh Canada". For the second year in a row, Canada's Mike Green makes it to the finish but gets stopped just before the line. Last year, we had Mike Locker of Minnesota fighting for America's side. This time around it was Jack Huczek of Michigan celebrating his 18th birthday weekend with the win in a tense tie-breaker. With this win, Jack takes another step up the road to eventual IRT stardom. Mike Green is the real thing, Canada's top player and a player who finished in the semi's at the IRT Pro Stop in Denver a few weeks ago. Jack Huczek is the real thing too, a great combination of speed, shot making and diving ability. We hope he continues to come to Illinois to show his stuff.

Another player who we like to see come back again and again is Kerri Stoffregen, who did not waste her trip up from Ohio, as she took Sara Borland of Iowa in the Women's Open final, 13 and 9. In fact, players came from all over, including such far-away places as Maryland and Florida. Quite a few made the trip down with Mike Green all the way from Ontario. With so many out-of-town players on the court, Illinois players had to work hard to hold the line. Eventually, Illinois players took 15 of 25 finals. Not too shabby. Whether from near or far, we heard over and over again that everyone had a great time, despite the late times both on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Dave Negrete sends his sincere apologies to tournament players for the late court times. Court situations combined with lots of tie-breakers and the record turnout made it a long weekend. Changes discussed by the tournament staff and to the courts will solve the problem for next year. So, we hope more local players continue to come out and support this excellent tournament. If you bump into Revie Sorey on the courts (now an Illinois resident himself) let him know we expect him to continue this excellent tradition! — Mike Davern



Glen Williams, Cliff Benson and Revie Sorey



Rich Clay and Patrice Calvi checking out the auction items.

Event: First Place; Second Place; Semis

Men's Open (25): Jack Huczek (MI); Mike Green (ONT); Mike Ceresia (ONT), Chris Wright (MO)

Men's AA (8): Darin Bryce (ONT); Cary Slade; Rodney Naylor (IN), Brian Gomez (OH)

Men's A (33): Doug Forbes (ONT); Eric DesRochers (ONT); Darryle Chalmers (ONT), Craig Nichols

Men's B (26): Russ Tatar; Joe DeMarco; Dave Schoonover, Kelvin Branch

Men's C (22): Mike Bowden (MI); Bryan Pforr; Joe Vallender, Ray Shimizu

Men's D (22): Brad Stanfield; Bill Switalla; Dan Doretti, Jim Schevers

Men's 30/35+ (12): Keith Minor; Tom Utterback; Cheryl Gudinas, Joey Logan

Men's 40+ (9): Jim Schenk (IND); Bob Wright (IND); Watmore Casey, Mark Mattos

Men's 45+ (9): Steve Lloyd; Brian Castillo; Horace Miller, Wil Rounsaville

Men's 50+ (10): Bruce Nelson; Horace Miller; Herb Grigg, Joe Silius

Men's 55/60+ (9): Pete Stopinski; Willy McGee; Elliott Papermaster (WI), Jim Schevers

Women's Open (10): Kerri Stoffregen (OH); Sara Borland (IA); Krystal Csuk, Gerri Stoffregen (OH)

Women's AA (5): Adrienne Fisher (OH); Julie Vincent; Brenda White, Diane Bunker

Women's A (13): Patrice Calvi; Cathy Bertucci; Martha Huske, Donna Heinzl

Women's B (7): Lynn Hiorns; Karen Marzano; Terry Truvillion (MI), Terri Hiller

Women's C (5): Judy Porter (MI); Janet Christie; Karen Marzano, Peggy Hartmann

Women's 35+ (11): Liz Molitor; Geri Stoffregen (OH); Mary Crawford, Diane Bunker

Men's Open Doubles (11): Josh Tucker (MO)/Chris Wright (MO); Mike Green (ONT)/Mike Ceresia (ONT); Andy Hawthorne/Cory Martin (WI), Dave Negrete/Eugene Coyle

Men's A Doubles (11): Tom Austin (IN)/Jason Retzloff (IN); Lou George (MD)/Willie Johnson (MD); Mike Campbell/Tod Dillard, Darrel Chalmers/Eric DesRochers

Men's B Doubles (13): Russ Tator/Tony Sambo; Howard Williams/Mark Billingslea; Dave Schoonover/Bill Switalla, Tim Brown/Rajeshi Sondhi

Men's C Doubles (7): Alfonso Pugh/Frank Ball; Brad Stanfield/Andy Simmons; Dan Opferman/Bob Worcheese, David Lily/Sylvester Harvey

Men's 35+ Doubles (9): Keith Minor/Rick Ricksecker; Rich Clay/Tom Utterback; Howard Williams/Rick Cavaliere; Greg McClellan/Stam Johnson, Keith Avery/J.C. Cole

Mixed Open Doubles (7): Rich Lopez (IN)/Diane Moore (IN); Shannon Kohl (MI)/Krystal Csuk; Jack Huczek/Cheryl Gudinas, Chris Wachtel/Kerri Stoffregen (OH)

Mixed A Doubles (11): Delmer Reed/Julia Perkins-Ball; Dan Kolodziej (IN)/Mary Herron; Jeff Grace/Pam Grace, Ken Cook/Pat Jennings

Mixed B/C Doubles (6): Dorothy Jackson/Lee Cherry; Allen Kohl (OH)/Pam Hepp (OH); Vince Session (MI)/Terry Truvillion (MI), Liz Janda/Jack Talty

Juniors (5): Brandon Ritchard; Tad Dallas; Jeff Novak; Angel Khamis (4th); Justin Fleck (5th)

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

2001 Southlake Doubles

January 19-21, 2001

Well there is certainly one thing you can say about a Southlake tournament: Wow! The food doesn't stop coming. Kinda makes it hard to play with all of that food weighing you down. Donuts, salads, mostaccioli, enchiladas, Italian Beef sandwiches, free drinks and more. The other participants were of course all very serious with State Doubles right around the corner. I was just there for the food. Southlake Doubles is held on just one Saturday and condensed into a span of a few hours at that. Lots of friends, lots of fun and of course, I already mentioned the food. These are important tournaments for the ISRA and Illinois racquetball. Local clubs bring in new players and new members for Illinois racquetball. Anyway, new or old, everyone seemed to have a good time. Hope you can join in next year. Check out the tournament results below: — Mike Davern

Event: First Place; Second Place; Semis

Men's Open (8): Ben Croft/Cary Slade; Joe Gill/Bob Clar; Tom Griffith/Mike Davern, Geoff Peters/T.G. Venkateshwaran

Men's AA (4): Jordan Kahn/Rick Mundrane; Jim McHale/Carl D'Ambrose; Bob Weber/Fred Barber; Bob Wurtz/John Thorson

Men's A (9): Jim McHale/Carl D'Ambrose; Ed Libby/Roy Orr; Al Rubiano/John Bertholomey, Phil Schmidt/Joe Deccio

Men's B (12): Ron Calloway/John Mason; Ron Alesia/Mark Bricker; Walter Kosogof/Mark Bricker, Dave Hobson/Gunther Procter

Men's C (4): Vito Rubiano/Carlos Vidrio; Mary Krenger/Dave Seltzer; Bill



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Mixed B Doubles (4): Waylon Adams/Kathy Logic; Cheryl Kirk/Christopher Lawson; Donna Albert/Joe Falco, Beth Weiler/Henry Broman

A special THANKS to TC and Manager Kathy Logic for doing a great job!

2001 B. R. Ryall Winter Classic

February 2-4, 2001

We usually crow about how nice it is to go to one of Sean's YMCA tournaments, since they are run so smoothly and over in a day. With tournament after tournament long drawn out affairs-Thursdays start, late Saturday nights, long Sunday afternoons-it is nice to go to a short quick tourney every once in awhile. Well, the secret is out. This time around, the Winter Classic brought in some nice size draws on the men's side, some good doubles match-ups and, most importantly, some huge junior draws. Only the women have yet to make a big splash, although a few brave female souls have found their way to Sean's club. Hopefully, more will join in next year. All tournament directors, except Char Borre at the Glass Court, could learn something about Juniors from Sean. Developing the juniors is the key to the future of racquetball. Dave Negrete at Bloomingdale knows it, too. My kids have attended some great junior clinics at his club. However, both Char and Sean go out of their way to push the junior events at their tournaments. This is where the reduction in courts has hurt tournaments the most. There are only so many court hours to play in a weekend and tight scheduling cause juniors to get left off the schedule. Anyway, off the soap box and kudos to Sean for running a nice tournament. Hope to see more of you next year.

— Mike Davern

Event: First Place Second Place Semis

Men's Open/A (8): Cory Martin; Ben Croft; Bob Morrison, T.J. Ferro

Men's A (11): John Bertholomey (WI); Al Rubiano; Kevin Yeazell, Mark Mobilia

Men's B (17): Rich Wells; Mark Mazza; Grant Macuba, John Anaya

Men's C (18): Vito Rubiano; Humberto Sosa; Joe Vallender, Ray Shimizu

Men's D Singles (20): Jose Castro; Blair Wagner; J.D. Brown, Mike DeGonia

Men's 45+ Intermediate (6): Mark Mazza; Pete Stopinski; Dale Brown, Charlie Naber

Women's A (2): Lynn Hiorns; Gail Parzygnat

Women's C/D (4): Colleen Janus; Liz Janda; Mary Fisher, Sue Young

Mens Open Doubles (5): Dave Bachar/Cory Martin (WI); T.J. Ferro/Ben

Croft; Al Rubiano/Vito Rubiano, Bob Morrison/John Bertholomey

Men's A Doubles (3): Phil Schmitt/Al Ramirez; Sean Nelson/Troy Stevens; George Nonas/Rich Wells

Men's B Double's (10): Grant Macuba/Mark Mobilia; Rich Wells/Gail Parzygnat; Bill Diccico/Don Goad, Mike DeGonia/Jerry DeGonia

Mixed A Doubles (3): Mary Herron/Dan Kolodziej; Gail Parzygnat/Rich Wells; George Nonas/Lynn Hiorns

Youth Advanced (8): J.D. Brown (AGE=14); Mike DeGonia (15); Brandon Ritchard (12); Alex Brown (15), Graham Howard (16);

Youth Intermediate (6): Jermaine Brock (AGE=15); Dan Moores (13); Angel Khamis (13), Steve Howard (14)

Youth Beginner (5): Mike Rodriguez (AGE=14); Jason Young (14); Miles Greengard (13), Jeff Snider (13)

continued on next page

St. Valentine's Day Massacre

February 9-11, 2001

We always start these things working on what happened on the Men's side of the draw. However, in honor of Valentine's Day weekend and to continue a tradition begun last year, we will again cover the Women side first. While the women don't come out in force for this tournament, we got two good sized divisions in Women's A (11 in the draw) and Women's B (8 in the draw). With two time Valentine's Day winner Julie Vincent taking the weekend off, Kathy Dunham and Martha Huske worked their way through the draw in Women's A to face each other in the finals. This was a serious match with nice long rallies (for the spectators to watch at least), excellent drive serves and smart shot selection. Kathy Dunham was just a bit too much for Martha to handle this time around, so she took home the crown. Now the Women's B match was quite a different story. With frequent competitors, Gail Parzygnat and Janet Eminger on the court, good natured trash talking was the rule—and not just

between rallies. These women were talking trash even as shots were being hit. (The rule against talking while a rally is in process must have been held in temporary suspension.) Yes, it is the finals, but this is only a game after all. Next time we need to put microphones on these women. The Mixed Open Doubles saw a nice upset, with Scott Reiser and partner, Kathy Welker facing perennial favorites, Dennis Negrete and Janet Christie, in a round robin match to decide the eventual winner of that division. In a surprising upset, Scott and Kathy took down the top seeds in fine style, knocking Christie/Negrete all the way down to third. Should be some rematch in an upcoming tournament.

On the Men's side, for the second year in a row, Eugene Coyle had to face Tim Sweeney in a Valentine's tourney finals. This time it was in Men's Open, where Tim only gets one photon serve. Last year, it was in Men's 35+ with each player getting two serving opportunities. Having to face a Sweeney drive with a second chance if it is short is too much to bear. Still the result was pretty much the same, with Tim beating Eugene, 4 and 10. Tim also won the Men's Open Doubles with partner, Dennis Negrete over Eugene and Dave Negrete. (How do the Negrete brothers decide which one gets Tim and which gets Eugene? Do they draw straws, lag serve or what?)

Other men's winners filled a who's-who of Illinois racquetball royalty. With Doug Halverson in AA, Jim Hillman in A, John Mason in Men's B, Brad Stanfield in C and Dan Opferman in D you have a great line-up of winners. Everyone seemed to have a great time, as usual for a Bloomingdale tournament. Thanks to all the club and tournament staff for all of their hard work. Take a look at the rest of the Valentine's Day results below: —
Mike Davern

Event: First Place;
Second Place; Semis

Men's Open (18):
Tim Sweeney;
Eugene Coyle; Dave
Negrete, John
Amatulli (IN)

Men's AA (8): Doug Halverson; Angelo Moca; Kent Hadraba, Mike Davern

Men's A (20): Jim Hillman; Tony Sambo; Raul Artega, Jeff Grace

Men's B (18): John Mason; Tony Sambo; Dick Heitoff, Tony Roselli

Men's C (15): Brad Stanfield; Joe Vallender; Tom Frediani, Humberto Sosa

Men's D (16): Dan Opherman; Bret Crawley; Tony Sindt, Dan Doretti

Men's 30/35+ (7): Dave Milazzo; Tom Utterback; Mike Davern, Cary Slade

Men's 40/50/55+ (9): Len Restaino; John Conrad; Pat Taylor, Keith Weiner

Women's A (11): Kathy Dunham; Martha Huske; Andrea Scott, Cathy Bertucci

Women's B (8): Janet Eminger; Gail Parzygnat; Karin McCauley, Lynn Hiorns

Men's Open Doubles (8): Tim Sweeney/Dennis Negrete; Eugene Coyle/Dave Negrete; Ben Croft/Joey Logan, George Pappas/Angelo Moca

Men's A Doubles (5): Tony Gonzalez/Martin Gonzalez; Keith Mecklenberg/Matt Malcheski; Dave Coyner/Pete McCauley, Joey Brownlee/John Mason

Men's B Doubles (6): Mike White/Pete McCauley; Joe Wilhelm/Dick Heithoff; John Anaya/Mark Mobilia, Ed Libby/Jim Gaw

Men's C/D Doubles (7): Jose Castro/Dave Porzel; Tom Reed/Bill Apostolos; Robert Woycheese/Dan Opferman, George Gonski/John Gearos

Mixed Open Doubles (6): Kathy Welker/Scott Reiser; Cathy Bertucci/Keith Mecklenburg; Janet Christie/Dennis Negrete; Gail Parzygnat/George Nonas

5th Annual Palos Olympic Tournament

February 18-20, 2000

Well you have to like a Palos tournament. Even if you are coming from across town, it feels just like home. Lots of socializing between matches, going out to dinner with friends on Saturday night. Celebrating birthdays (like Doug Halverson's) and even weddings (like Nancy Rocha, now Nancy Amaro). Great gifts for the ladies from Victoria Secret—lotions and stuff (guys, not what you were thinking). Some great wins as well. Probably the win of the tournament was Cary Slade and Ben Croft besting the always tough Don Grigas and Dave Bachar in Men's Open. Ben was just on fire and could not miss. Don called his game, "the second coming of Dale Johnson". 2000 Male Player of the Year winner, Bill Lyman destroys the competition in Men's Open and

continued on next page

Racquetball Websites

ISRA Website: <http://www.illinoisracquetball.com>

Check out the ISRA website for updated tournament information, tournament results, ranking information, and to find out what's happening at Illinois Clubs. Stop in and check it out soon!

USRA Websites:

<http://www.racquetball.org> <http://www.usra.org>

Racquetball Magazine Website: <http://www.racqmag.com>

E-Force Racquetball: <http://www.e-force.com>

Ektelon Racquetball: <http://www.ektelon.com>

Head Racquetball: <http://www.head.com>

Wilson Racquetball: <http://www.wilsonracquetball.com>

Courtesy Sports: <http://www.courtesysports.com>

Gemini Racquetball: <http://www.craiga.home.mindspring.com>

Penn Racquetball: <http://www.pennracquet.com>

National Masters Racquetball Association:
www.genesinet.net/users/nmra

IRT/WIRT Pro Tours: www.irt-tour.com

Jordan Kahn's Home Page:
<http://members.aol.com/Jordanisra/index.html>

Meet and Play: <http://www.meetandplay.com>

then gets taken out by Tim Sweeney in the finals. Levels and levels to this game isn't there? That's what makes it interesting. You get to one level and you try to find out how high is the next one. Martin Gonzalez is going to have to find out next year in Men's Open after taking second to Cary last year. Krystal Csuk wins again, this time over Nancy Rocha (it is going to take awhile getting used to calling her Nancy Amaro). Joe Silius is also a double winner in Men's 45/50+ and Janet Eminger in Women's A. Everyone seemed to have a great time. You have to find a way to schedule in one of Tom and Barb Utterback's tournaments next season. Check out the other winners below.
— Mike Davern

Event: First Place; Second, Semis
Men's Open (15): Tim Sweeney; Bill Lyman; Cory Martin (WI); Cary Slade
Men's AA (7): Doug Halverson; Jason Retzliff (IN); Mike Bogue, Kevin Stevens
Men's A (17): Martin Gonzales; Tony Mangiaracina; Jim Amsden, Larry Vena
Men's B (16): Steve Hensley; Joe Keane; Joe Vallender, Dan Jaskier
Men's C (17): Ray Shimizu; Tom Atwood; Bill Hawkins, Brian Shaw
Men's D (17): Royce Simpson; Sal Oliver ;David Bloom, Ray Hurley
Men's Novice (2): Kevin Talty; Brian Grigas
Men's 35/40+ (10): Tom Utterback; Brian

Castillo; Tom Griffith, Jeff Hotler
Men's 45/50+ (9): Joe Silius; Horace Miller; Brian Castillo, Len Restaino

Women's Open (5): Krystal Csuk; Nancy Rocha; Laurel Davis, Julie Vincent
Women's A (7): Janet Eminger; Pam Grace; Lynn Hiorns, Barb Utterback
Women's B/C (7) Ree Keca; Terri Kozubik; Sue Wojnowski, Peggy Hartmann

Men's Open Doubles (9): Ben Croft/Cary Slade;

Dave Bachar/Don Grigas
Men's A Doubles (4): Paul Curran/Bill Paulovich; David Royster/Tony Gonzales
Men's B Doubles (5): Phil Strieter/Gene Cromwell; Paul Nelson/John Shermulis
Men's C/D Doubles (8): Mike DeGonia/Gerry DeGonia; Ray Shimizu/Paul Mangiaracina

Women's A/B Doubles (6): Nancy Rocha/Julie Carter; Patrice Calvi/Connie Arvia

Mixed Open/A Doubles (5): Joe Silius/Patrice Calvi; Mary Herron/Dan Kolodziej

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Friday, April 20, 2001

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- ♦ Organized Round Robin Play:
- ♦ 6:30pm – 8:30pm Check in by 6:15pm
- ♦ Banquet starts at 8:45pm
- ♦ Awards and Raffle 9:30pm
- ♦ \$12.00 per person
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Name _____

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Partners Name _____

Phone H _____ W _____

Travel Team Skill Level (Circle One)

Women's Men's Open /A B/C

Round Robin including awards banquet (\$12.00) \$ _____

Partners fee round robin including awards banquet (\$12.00) \$ _____

Awards Banquet Only/Guest (\$7.00) (Total # for dinner _____) \$ _____

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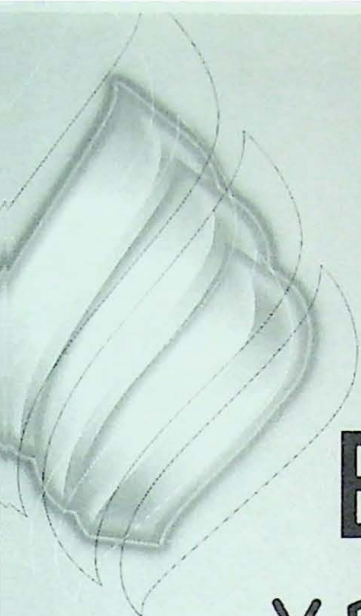
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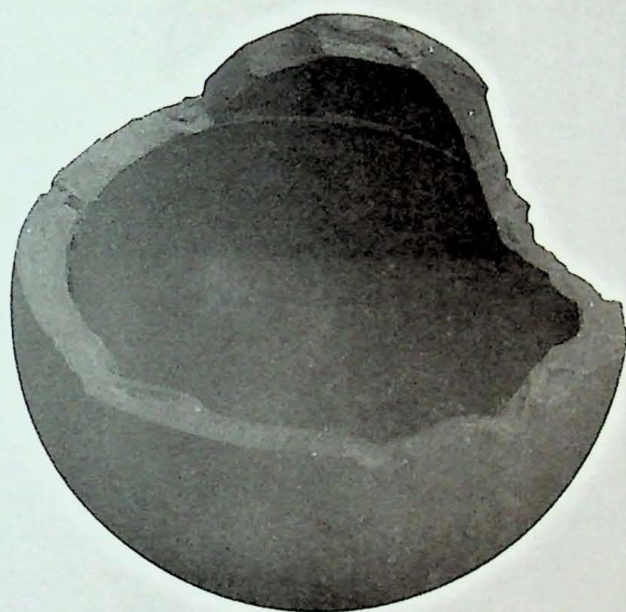


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Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard
Doug Halverson
(630) 629-3390
SANCTIONED

March 9-11

Four Seasons
4 Seasons
Bloomington
Bev Schubbe
(309) 663-2022

March 16-18

Edens March Madness
Edens Athletic Club
Cindy Flores
(773) 286-6700
SANCTIONED

March 16-18

St. Pat's Day Open
Springfield Racquet
& Fitness
Sara Welsh
(217) 787-2460

March 22-25

Negrete Women's
Pro Stop
Athletic Club
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April 19-21

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May 4-6

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Dave Negrete
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