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**National
Singles turns
35!**



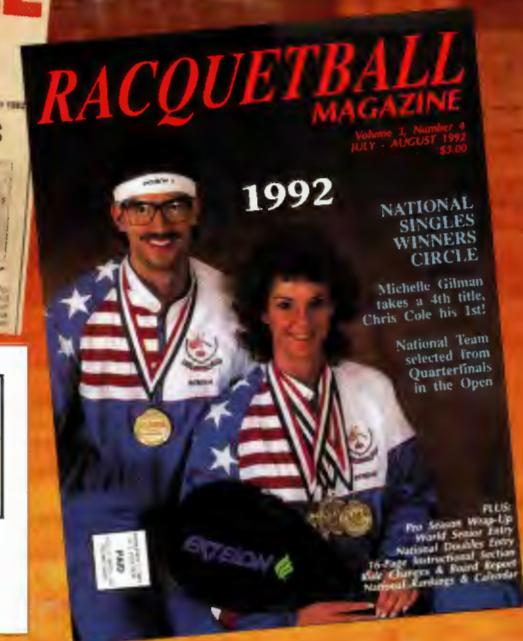
2001 Champs
Cheryl Gudinas
& Jack Huczek

**In 1983,
National
Singles came
to Houston.
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later ... now
twenty years
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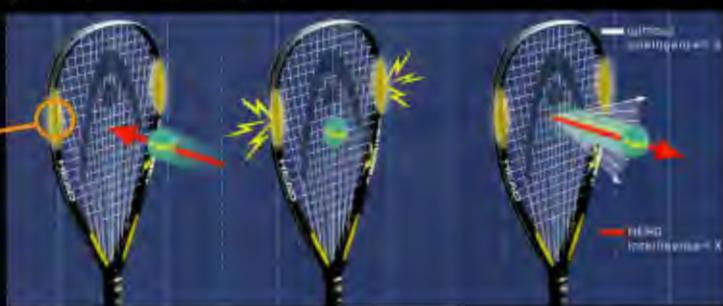
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HEAD intellifibers™ are now located in both the racquet head and the throat. While the ball is still on the strings, HEAD intellifibers™ stiffen and stabilize the racquet head and throat for ultimate power and Xtra precision.

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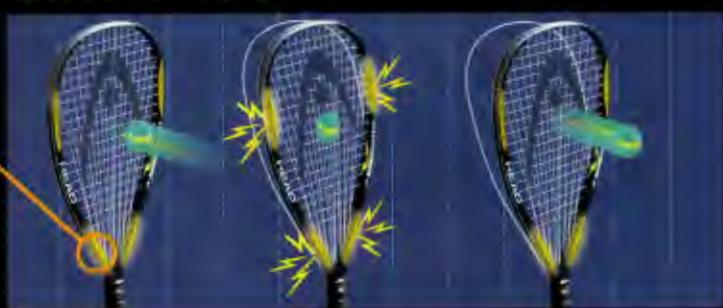
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While the ball is still on the strings, HEAD intellifibers™ in the racquet head create an active resistance against torsional bending.

Benefit

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Suds Monchik's
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It seems that I've come to have a reputation for tearing people's heads clean off. Now, that upsets me. Having never actually come out of a fugue state and seen any headless torsos in my immediate vicinity, I know it just can't be true. There's simply no evidence! A withering look, perhaps, but outright decapitation — no way!

But there is a chance that I've been doing this work too long and finally worn down my last nerve (which might explain that persistent buzzing sound). Maybe. So in the interest of public safety, where the magazine is concerned, jot this down: when you just got one, the *next* one is being put together. Repeat ... when *this one* arrives in your mailbox, the deadline for the July/August issue has just come and gone. Whoosh! Come and gone. That means that the deadline for *this one* was way back in mid-March — so the news in *this one* can only be as recent as ... the middle of March.

Yes, yes ... okay, you're right; we'll drop in some later-breaking results in "ticker style" reporting just to *try* and keep up, but the big stuff is always somewhat "dated" due to the nature of the bi-monthly production beast (one reason we "publish" events in closer-to-real-time on www.racqmag.com). And we'll occasionally pre-plan, hold space and make an exception for larger events. But on the whole, it takes eight weeks, start to finish, for each print issue to be Frank-en-published. In house. One writer. No professional photographers in those multi-pocket vests waiting around for assignments. No graphic designers hovering over tablets creating colorful artwork to illustrate articles and help make points.

So if you're going to make a suggestion, you've simply got to keep these limitations in mind ... and do your homework. For example, this doesn't work (*but can earn you a polite, glazed look, just short of withering*): "I think you should do an article on my best friend, Hal. He's a great player, gives a lot to the sport, and should be on the cover. He lives in Detroit and I can give you the number of the club he plays at." This is better: "I have an idea for an article; let me run it by you — *details, details, details* — I've never made an apostrophe error and can email you the text and send you some photos by a friend of mine who shoots for the local paper. How many words do you want, and when's your deadline?" For that, you get silly jumping up-and-down action, or some other unbridled display of glee on my part. If that's what you're looking for, of course ...

For the more mundane, if you're a tournament director with an event in six weeks — and your sanctioning form hasn't been filled out, much less processed — the calendar in the issue *in your hand* can't possibly (or even magically) contain that information, can it? Ask me why not, and you'll get the withering look. I just can't help myself.

And for the grand prize-winning stare-down — you don't, ever, want to ask me when you're going to be on the cover. I've got a beautiful one planned that just might include you. It's a well-lit shot of the corner in my office where I keep the growing pile of heads of people who asked me that ... *Oops! Is that a siren?*

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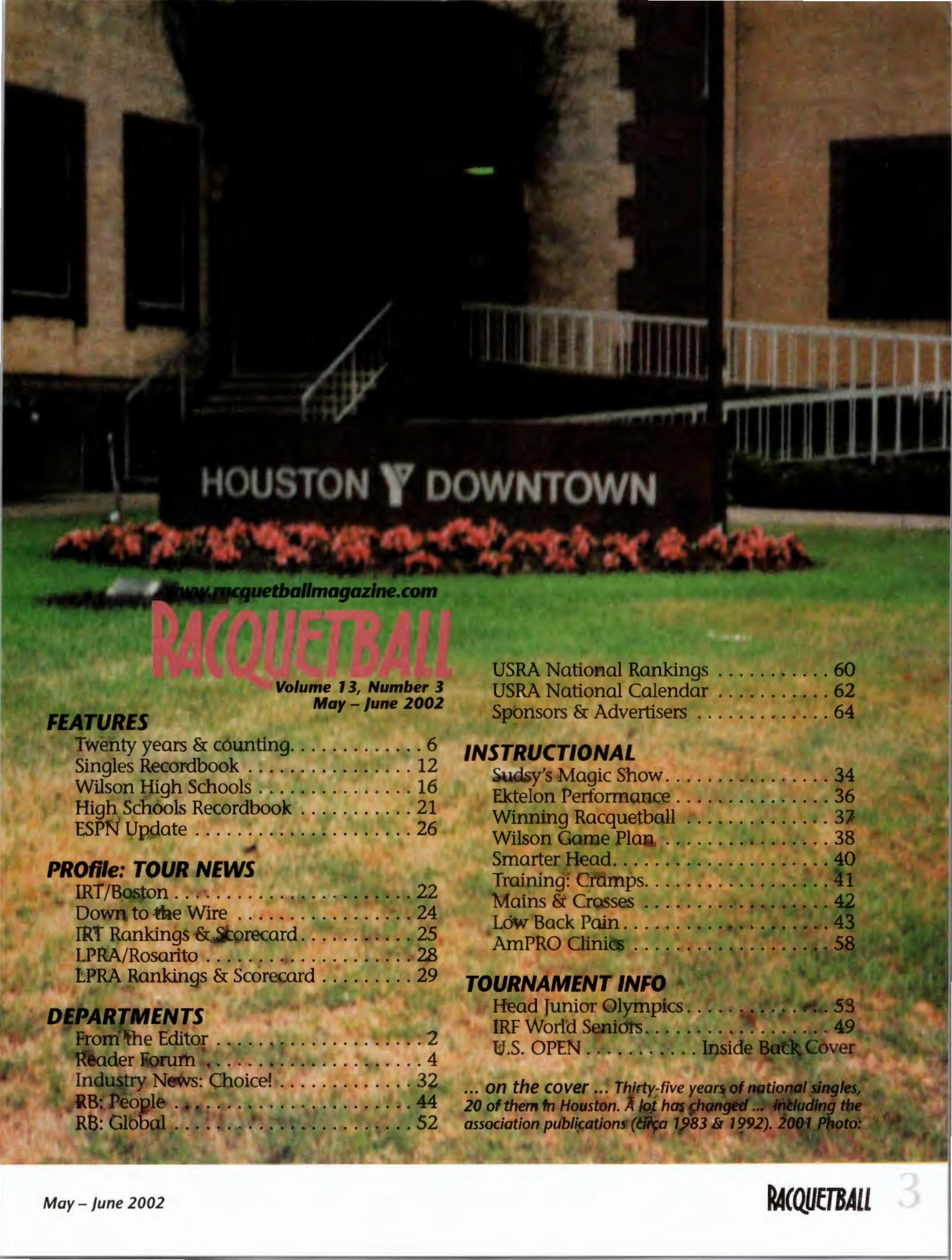
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U.S. OPEN	Inside Back Cover

... on the cover ... Thirty-five years of national singles, 20 of them in Houston. A lot has changed ... including the association publications (circa 1983 & 1992). 2001 Photo:

reader forum

One More Time ...

For your information, in the picture [Jan/Feb, pg. 46] with Luke St. Onge, the "pair of singles champions" do have names. They are Lou Getlin and Larry Rankin. They both were members of the Tournament House in Riverside, California. They both have passed away, and are missed. It would have been nice if, in the picture, you had at least given them a name.



I'll have to make sure to call on you personally the next time we're stumped. So, here they are again: Lou Getlin and Larry Rankin (and I'm hoping that's "right-to-left" ...). Thanks, Editor]

Bearing Fruit?

Several months ago a tropical storm damaged the local fitness club causing significant warping on the floor of one court. After a reasonable time elapsed the players began approaching management on the question of the courts repair and reinstatement. Management's response was "we are waiting on the insurance adjustors."

Later management evolved their response into "we are not going to repair the court since it does not get sufficient usage." At this point the players formed a "Committee to Preserve our Courts," which circulated and finally presented to management a petition signed by over 50 members, and an analysis on the segment of membership that joined only because of the presence of racquetball in the club. The analysis demonstrated that [these] members generated a minimum of \$63,000 per annum (plus having paid healthy up front initiation fees). Management acknowledged the accuracy of the money flow analysis, but indicated it was of no consequence, and that not only would the inactive court be dismantled, but the remaining three courts were to be deactivated in the next few 3-4 years.

The Committee initiated a search for alternatives, approached a local junior college that had existing courts, negotiated with them to open their courts to the public, and finally got them to agree. A kickoff competitive event was scheduled as a one-day class, and logistics were worked out to open the courts for Community Access Racquetball at a cost per semester equal to the monthly fee at the local club. The event came off successfully. [see "Ballyhoo" page 51]

*Vance Lerner
Riverside, California*

[I couldn't agree more, since I'm a bit of a stickler about captioning and crediting. But the original source publication hadn't identified the gentlemen either, so — even though it's generally not something that I'd do — I chose to run the photo anyway (it was just too perfect to pass up). I'm thrilled that you were able to name them for us, and

The local club became aware that they were "not the only game in town" any longer, and the local club management informed the "Committee to Preserve our Courts," that a management meeting to determine policy is imminent. The tone in which this information was passed on to the committee was much less "we don't give a darn what the membership wants" than in previous discussions, and much more "perhaps we can reconsider our options."

I hope this type of reaction can be employed by some of you folks out there facing similar recalcitrance in management attitudes. Racquetball is life.

*Mike Lazarow
League City, Texas*

No Rankings For You!

We don't understand why you even consider anyone for rankings that is not a member of the organization. In view of the fact that you are supposed to be a member to participate and play in sanctioned tournaments, it seems odd that someone is allowed to play at all. Even if, for some reason they are allowed to play without being a member, why should they then be considered for ranking, regardless of their outcome in a tournament? Why not just disregard them when computing rankings? Makes more sense to us.

*Tawn and Mike Wolfe
Huntington Beach, California*

Full Circle

First, I'd like to thank *Racquetball* for publishing the very flattering article written by Brenda Lee and Vaughn Johnson [Jan/Feb]. They are just two of many people at Club One Royal Courts who have contributed to my racquetball success. I should mention that although I'm proud of my achievements on the court, I am humbled when I think about what some of the other amateur players have done over the years in their respective age divisions; Mitt Layton and Ed Remen immediately come to mind.

Second, I was touched by Cliff Swain's letter concerning his father. After a three-year struggle, my girlfriend's father died of ALS in 1998 (the poem "William Carved" in my book deals with the loss). By sharing his feelings, Cliff called attention to the disease and the need for a cure. My hat's off to John Ellis as well.



Finally, like Kim Russell, someone from our club — Tom Francois — was selected to carry the Olympic torch this year in San Jose. I mention Tom because his story is special, too. After 12 unsuccessful surgeries for a circulatory problem in his right leg, in March 2001 Tom's leg was removed below the knee. He remains the most positive and upbeat person I know and inspires everybody who comes in contact with him. Tom recently started practicing racquetball by himself to negotiate front-to-back and lateral movement. We plan to start hitting together soon, and Tom should be back playing doubles by the end of March. Talk about coming full circle!

*Gene Pare
Campbell, California*

In Perspective

The "Meals for Kids" Backpack Program in Arkansas was designed to feed children who had been found — alarmingly — to go from school lunch on Friday to school breakfast on Monday without eating. Pre-packaged food items that require no refrigeration or pre-heating are delivered to area schools, where these students' backpacks are filled before they go home for the weekend. The program has grown from 3 schools and 100 children, to 32 schools and 800 children. The Arkansas Racquetball Association learned about the program and decided to help out ...

Those of you that came to Ozark Sports Club for the fundraiser for the Ft. Smith Community Clearinghouse in February, can say "you're welcome" at this time. I just got back from [this group's] board meeting, where I had been put on their agenda as a guest presenter. I explained a little bit about who we are as an association and how I became aware of who they are and what they do. I then presented them with a check for \$380.

I know the importance of this money and the good it will do, but I felt pretty insignificant when they explained to me that they now feed over 800 kids in this area at a cost of about \$5.00 a week. I made them a promise that we would do this again and would set our goal to double our check next year. This was a real eye-opener for me and I want to thank all of who participated, and donated \$20 to the cause.

*Dann Schwinger, President
Arkansas Racquetball Association*

More and Better

How sad to only racquetball on TV for one hour, perhaps the whole year, while fishing might be on for several hours a day. Is there nothing that can be done?

I volunteer at a local YMCA, where I keep pounding away trying to build this sport. I have six leagues going strong, a beginner class and an advanced class. I read Sudsy's "Watching the Ball" article in the Jan/Feb issue, and his idea of painting the ball with white lines really made a difference with my students in being able to watch the ball.

Why not get the ball manufacturers to make balls with stripes on them? If the ball is easier to follow, maybe we could get more television coverage since I understand not being able to follow the ball is the biggest complaint.

Maybe this would be the catalyst to regenerating our beloved sport once again, and by the next Olympics, our players will be bringing home the gold, silver and bronze.

*Hal Schwartz
"Saddened but Optimistic in Cincinnati"*

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c'mon down ... !



**Twice as nice ...
the 2002
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National Singles
Championships,
presented by
Penn Racquet
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the 35th playing
of the event,
and the 20th to
be held at the
Downtown
Houston YMCA.**

Houston. The name brings many things to mind - NASA, beautiful skylines, the Astros and the Rockets ... even Enron. But for the die-hard racquetball competitor, the city means only one thing — The Finals. This year will mark the 20th year running that the USRA has hosted its flagship national singles event at the Downtown Houston YMCA. And, as always, it will be celebrated with wonderful parties, great play, and the annual re-kindling of friendships that originated there.

In each year since 1983, hundreds of the nation's best racquetball players have traveled to Houston in search of a championship title. They make the trek not only for the high-level competition, but many look forward to seeing old friends. "I'm like a little social butterfly," says Malia Bailey, '83 runner-up to Cindy Baxter in the first National Singles Championships held in Houston. "I like seeing all of the people that I don't get to see the rest of the year."

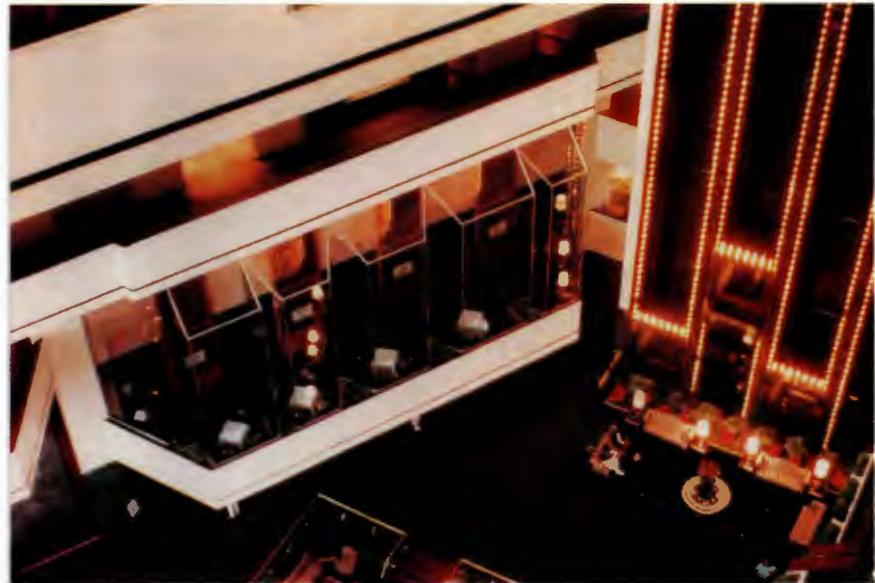
Every year friendships are made and renewed in Houston; many times, it's the only place far-flung players get to see one another. And as they move up through the age brackets, exchanging wins over the years, rivalries develop along with healthy levels of respect. "You can see that the biggest draws are in the 40's, 50's, and 55's; guys that have been playing for 30 years," recalls Hall of Famer Ed Remen, who has won several age group national titles. "They can still spit fire on the court then afterwards have a beer together and talk about how good we used to be."

Story & Interviews by Ryan John

One of the favorite places for those get-togethers is the lobby bar at the long-time host hotel, the 30-story Hyatt Regency. On registration night the bar is empty. After the first day of play it's not unusual to find 20 or more players unwinding at happy hour. Throughout the week, the numbers double each evening, up to the post-banquet crowd of nearly everyone on Saturday night.

"Among the advantages (of Houston as the host city) are the facilities available at both the club and the hotel," explains Jim Hiser, new USRA Executive Director and long-time event director. "The hotel is large enough to accommodate most of the players, so there's a lot more social interaction away from the actual competition than you see at most tournaments."

Size is one thing; proximity is another. For players on a budget, there's no need to rent a car to get from the hotel to the tournament. The hotel and club are only a few blocks apart (with newly-constructed Enron headquarters right in between) and a quick five minute walk will get you there and even give your muscles a chance to warm up a little. Plus the short hike presents another opportunity to mingle, as groups of players hauling gear bags file back and forth from early morning until late at night.



Above: Looking down on the Hyatt lobby and elevator tower from about the sixth floor. Below: In the early 90s, the USRA televised a series national singles events on Prime Network, using color commentators Lynn Adams and Jim Turner. They're shown cutting up courtside, while taping the intro in 1992.



circa 1983

In Houston for the first time, Cindy Baxter (far left, against Malia Kamahoaho) won her second of four career national singles crowns, and Dan Ferris took his first. With a repeat win the following year, Ferris became one of only six men to hold on to the title back-to-back (with Brumfield, Andrews, Doyle, Bronfeld & Karp). [See page 12]



R-L, down: Andy Roberts & USRA Board President Otto Dietrich; Ed Remen & Van Dubolsky, Malia Kamahoahoa Bailey, Shelley Ogden greets an opponent.



After sundown most player traffic is headed back to the hotel, where nightly social events have replaced standard tournament fare during the day. From the invitation only reception for National Champions on Wednesday, to the grand gala banquet on Saturday, event sponsors and partners have helped to make Houston one of the most anticipated events of the year.

The annual awards banquet is by far the classiest celebration in racquetball. The USRA male and female athletes of the year, age group athletes of the year, special award winners, and Hall of Fame inductees are all honored on the same night and given an opportunity to reflect on careers and contributions, while thanking those who have helped along the way.

"The banquet is probably one of the things I look most forward to at this event," says Hiser. "Watching all of the great players being inducted into the Hall of Fame is always my most memorable part of the tournament." Hiser has been involved with the National Singles Championships in each of the twenty years that they have been held in Houston.

But competition is still the most important component of this long-running event. "Even though the U.S. OPEN is gaining popularity, Houston is still the number one coveted title," says Andy Roberts, 1988 U.S. National Singles Champion and 2002 USRA Hall of Fame inductee. "You know that all of the good players are going to be there."

Not only do all the good players go to Houston to play, but most are able to bring their games up to a new level throughout the tournament. "I usually play 33% better in Houston than I do any other time," says Remen. "If you can't step it up at least 25% better than your regular game, you don't have a chance."

That holds true across the board, as well. It's not just the open division players who step up their level of play in search of an elusive U.S. Team spot. Some of the most memorable matches are played in the age group divisions. Time and again, when Houston regulars recall their favorites, stories begin with, "It's got to be one of the age group matches I saw."

Roberts admits that he spends a lot of time in Houston watching players compete in divisions such as 60+ and more. "That's who I tend to watch when I am there," he says. "I marvel at their competitiveness and their athletic ability at their age."



"My favorite match," recalls USRA board member Shelley Ogden, longtime Houston attendee "is when Tom Travers played Johnny Northern." In that match Travers pulled a thigh muscle in the second game. Down one game to none and hardly able to walk, Travers somehow pulled off the victory and made it to the finals. "He was on one leg and still rolling out the ball," she continues. "That's the match that I remember the most."

Improbable wins and huge comebacks are what makes Houston ... well, Houston. "Those are my



The annual awards banquet caps a long week, but finals are still two days away, on Memorial Day Monday.

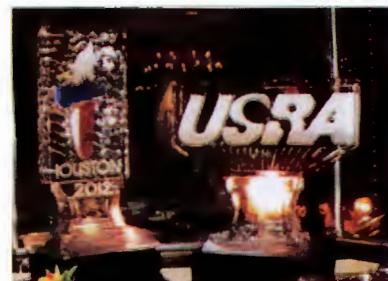
favorite matches when someone is down and somehow is able to come back," Malia Bailey agrees.

Still, after two decades in the same venue, the debate about whether or not the national singles should be moved still resurfaces from time to time. Most of the other major events, with the exception of the U.S. OPEN, relocate on a yearly, or bi-annual, basis. Some feel that it should be moved just to break up the monotony just a bit. "I like Houston fine, but I'd like to see it moved around," says Remen. "Just to see other places." And even though he might like to see it moved, even Remen understands it would be difficult to duplicate the tournament environment elsewhere at the same level. "All of the nice clubs I used to play at have closed."

Hosting over 750 players, and scheduling over 1400 opening round matches takes a lot of square footage, and even though the Houston YMCA has retired a couple of courts over the years, tournament directors still have 16 on which to schedule, full-time, throughout the week. So it's unlikely that another venue could offer the same tight-knit environment for an event this large. As is, Houston offers a site unique to major tournaments in that it only needs to make use of one club and basically one hotel for the entire event. Logistically, it's win-win for administrators and players.

Most that we spoke to agreed, and would like to keep the tournament in Houston. "When you talk to somebody about racquetball one of the things you will ask them is, 'Are you getting ready for Houston? Are you geared up for Houston?' and everybody knows what you are talking about," says Bailey.

"There's a lot to be said for tradition" Hiser concluded "and Houston has plenty of that." •



WINNING STREAK: Any discussion of Houston and The Finals would be incomplete without mentioning Michelle Gould. Her incredible record stands alone, after she dominated the then-only "major" in the sport for over a decade. Tiger Woods just won the Masters, giving him what the announcers called an unbelievable 6 titles in the last 10 major championships - Gould won 8 U.S. National Singles titles in 10 tries. She even went five years without losing a game, allowing only three opponents to score double-digits. When she finally did lose (to Robin Levine in '94) it was dubbed "the upset of the decade" before she returned the next year and proceeded to win three more titles. Her eight titles give her twice as many as any other player.

When asked about how she felt about some of her accomplishments even Gould was surprised at her stats. "Wow. I didn't know all of that. I was never really much of a statistics person." She went on to say, "It's not really so much the wins or losses, but that you just do your best. That's all that you can ask of yourself."



Even with the many pressures in Houston, Gould says it was easy to get up for the annual playoff. She also admitted that the most important aspect of The Finals was the chance to earn a spot on the U.S. National Team. "Getting on the National Team was my greatest joy of playing racquetball. I just loved the traveling and competing in different countries and meeting different people."

Gould retired from the sport when she decided to dedicate more time with her husband, Rod, and son, Ryan (2). She says Ryan has already taken to the sport so we may see him on the courts soon. As for Michelle, she only foresees coming back for one reason, "If racquetball gets into the Olympics I would no doubt want to come back." For the moment, that's probably good news to the other women players — at least until racquetball does become an Olympic sport. Then it will just mean that there will be one less team spot available that year. Gould wants to reserve hers now.

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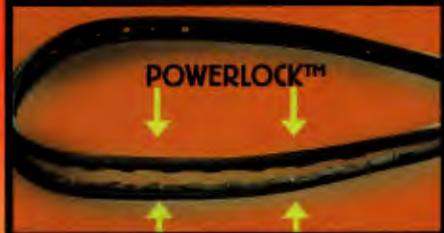


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United States Racquetball Association U.S. NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONS [Established 1968]

Men's Open		Women's Open
2001	Jack Huczak (Mich.)	Cheryl Gudinas (Ill.)
2000	Rocky Carson (Calif.)	Cheryl Gudinas (Ill.)
1999	Adam Karp (Calif.)	Cheryl Gudinas (Ill.)
1998	Adam Karp (Calif.)	Robin Levine (Calif.)
1997	Dan Obremski (Pa.)	Michelle Gould (Idaho)
1996	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)	Michelle Gould (Idaho)
1995	Michael Bronfeld (Calif.)	Michelle Gould (Idaho)
1994	Michael Bronfeld (Calif.)	Robin Levine (Calif.)
1993	John Ellis (Calif.)	Michelle Gould (Idaho)
1992	Chris Cole (Mich.)	Michelle Gilman Gould (Idaho)
1991	Tim Sweeney (Ill.)	Michelle Gilman (Ore.)
1990	Tim Doyle (Ohio)	Michelle Gilman (Ore.)
1989	Tim Doyle (Ohio)	Michelle Gilman (Ore.)
1988	Andy Roberts (Tenn.)	Toni Bevelock (Ariz.)
1987	Jim Cascio (Pa.)	Diane Green (Fla.)
1986	Ed Andrews (Calif.)	Cindy Baxter (Pa.)
1985	Ed Andrews (Calif.)	Cindy Baxter (Pa.)
1984	Dan Ferris (Minn.)	Marci Drexler (Calif.)
1983	Dan Ferris (Minn.)	Cindy Baxter (Pa.)
1982	Jack Newman (Ill.)	Diane Bullard (Fla.)
1981	Ed Andrews (Calif.)	Cindy Baxter (Pa.)
1980	Ed Andrews (Calif.)	Carol French (Va.)
1979	John Egerman (Idaho)	Sheryl Ambler (Calif.)
1978	Lindsay Meyers (Canada)	Hope Weisbach (Ariz.)
1977	Jerry Zukerman (Mo.)	Karin Walton (Calif.)
1976	Joe Wirkus (Wis.)	Sarah Green (Texas)
1975	Wayne Bowes (Canada)	Peggy Steding (Texas)
1974	Bill Schmidtke (Wis.)	Peggy Steding (Texas)
1973	Charlie Brumfield (Calif.)	Peggy Steding (Texas)
1972	Charlie Brumfield (Calif.)	Jan Pasternak (Texas)
1971	Bill Schmidtke (Wis.)	Jan Pasternak (Texas)
1970	Craig Finger (Mich.)	Fran Cohen (Mo.)
1969	Bud Muehleisen (Calif.)	
1968	Bill Schultz (Wis.)	
Men's 24- (formerly 19+)		Women's 24- (formerly 19+)
2001	Mitch Williams (N.C.)	Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)
2000	Alvaro Beltran (Mexico)	Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)
1999	Jack Huczak (Mich.)	Kerri Stoffregen (Ill.)
1998	Mike Dennison (Ohio)	Aimee Roehler (Pa.)
1997	Rob DeJesus (N.M.)	Kerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1996	Rich Baer (N.Y.)	Amy Kilbane (Ohio)
1995	Brian Fredenberg (Texas)	Tammy Brockbank (Idaho)
1994	Brian Fredenberg (Texas)	Amy Kilbane (Ohio)
1993	Jeff Evans (Wash.)	Cheryl Gudinas (Ill.)
1992	Dan Fowler (Md.)	Cheryl Gudinas (Ill.)
1991	Charlie Garrido (Texas)	Cheryl Gudinas (Ill.)
1990	Derek Robinson (Wash.)	Dana Sibell (Minn.)
1989	Charlie Nichols (Fla.)	Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
1988	Michael Bronfeld (Calif.)	Lisa Ecker (Mich.)
1987	Michael Bronfeld (Calif.)	Kersten Hallander (Fla.)
1986	Lance Gilliam (Texas)	Teresa Beresford (Va.)
1985	Joe Cline (N.J.)	Lisa Hjelm (Calif.)
1984	Tim Hansen (Fla.)	Mona Mook (Calif.)
Men's 25+		Women's 25+
2001	Brian Fredenberg (Texas)	Kerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
2000	Mike Dennison (Ohio)	Kerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1999	Rob DeJesus (Ariz.)	Heather Dunn (N.H.)
1998	Mike Locker (Minn.)	Holly Remen (N.C.)
1997	Rich Baer (N.Y.)	Elaine Mardas (Ohio)
1996	Kevin Graham (Wis.)	Elaine Mardas (Ohio)
1995	James Lorello (Fla.)	Kim Russell (Ga.)

1994	Tony Boscia (Colo.)	Kim Russell (Ky.)
1993	Chris Wright (Mo.)	Kersten Hallander (Fla.)
1992	Jim Lowe (Alaska)	Kersten Hallander (Fla.)
1991	Sam Wasko (Va.)	Lauren Sheprow (Fla.)
1990	Jim Cascio (Pa.)	Kersten Hallander (Fla.)
1989	Ron Digiacomo (N.Y.)	Joyce Pochily (N.H.)
1988	Mark Morrison (Fla.)	Malia Kamahoahoa-Bailey (Va.)
1987	Tim Hansen (Fla.)	Chris Eron (Ill.)
1986	Bill Land (La.)	Diane Bullard (Fla.)
1985	Gary Merritt (Texas)	Kathy Gluvna (Ala.)
1984	Bill Land (La.)	Molly O'Brien (Pa.)
1983	Mark Morrison (Fla.)	Cindy Baxter (Pa.)

Men's 30+	Women's 30+
2001	Kevin Graham (Wis.)
2000	Kevin Graham (Wis.)
1999	Jeff Bell (Ariz.)
1998	David Watson (Okla.)
1997	Gregg Peck (Texas)
1996	Bruce Erickson (Mo.)
1995	John Amatulli (Ind.)
1994	Armando Alonso (Fla.)
1993	Jimmy Lowe (Ky.)
1992	Dave Peck (Colo.)
1991	Bill Sell (Calif.)
1990	Bobby Corcoran (Ariz.)
1989	Mark Morrison (Fla.)
1988	Bobby Corcoran (Ariz.)
1987	Bill Land (La.)
1986	Bobby Corcoran (Ariz.)
1985	Dennis Aceto (Mass.)
1984	Jay Schwartz (Fla.)
1983	Joe Wirkus (Wis.)
1982	Joe Wirkus (Wis.)
1981	Steve Dunn (Calif.)
1980	Mark Hegg

Men's 35+	Women's 35+
2001	Andy Roberts (Tenn.)
2000	Armando Alonso (Fla.)
1999	Jimmy Lowe (Alaska)
1998	Jimmy Lowe (Alaska)
1997	Tim Hansen (Fla.)
1996	Dave Peck (Texas)
1995	Dave Peck (Texas)
1994	Dave Schwent (Mo.)
1993	Dave Peck (Texas)
1992	Dave Peck (Colo.)
1991	Craig Kunkel (Calif.)
1990	Davey Bledsoe (Ga.)
1989	Stu Hastings (Mich.)
1988	Stu Hastings (Mich.)
1987	Craig Kunkel (Calif.)
1986	Craig Kunkel (Calif.)
1985	Ed Remen (Va.)
1984	Jay Schwartz (Fla.)
1983	Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)
1982	Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)
1981	Jay Jones (Calif.)
1980	Jim Austin (Texas)
1979	Jim Austin (Texas)
1978	Jim Austin (Texas)
1977	Jim Austin (Texas)
1976	Bud Muehleisen (Calif.)
1975	Bud Muehleisen (Calif.)
1974	Bud Muehleisen (Calif.)

all time national singles champions ... all time national singles champions

Men's 40+ Women's 40+

2001	Tim Hansen (Fla.)	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2000	Tim Hansen (Fla.)	Malia Bailey (Va.)
1999	Tom Travers (Ohio)	Chris Evon (Ill.)
1998	Gil Rodriguez (Va.)	Chris Evon (Ill.)
1997	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)	Mary Bickley (Pa.)
1996	Tom Travers (Ohio)	Janet Myers (N.C.)
1995	Ed Garabedian (Pa.)	Janet Myers (N.C.)
1994	Tom Travers (Ohio)	Janet Myers (N.C.)
1993	Tom Travers (Ohio)	Janell Marriott (R.I.)
1992	Fielding Snow (Wash.)	Janet Myers (N.C.)
1991	Davey Bledsoe (Ga.)	Carole Dattisman (Pa.)
1990	Dave Kovanda (Ohio)	Jan Smith (Fla.)
1989	Johnny Northern (Mich.)	Carol Frenck (Va.)
1988	Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)	Merjeian Kelley (Calif.)
1987	Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)	Judi Schmidt (Fla.)
1986	Ed Remen (Va.)	Maite Urza (Wash.)
1985	Ed Remen (Va.)	Nancy Katz (Pa.)
1984	Jim Austin (Texas)	Susan Kraft (Kan.)
1983	Jim Austin (Texas)	Renee Hebert (La.)
1982	Charles Garfinkel (N.Y.)	Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)
1981	Bob Petersen (Idaho)	Colleen Sloan (Calif.)
1980	Charles Garfinkel (N.Y.)	Sue Graham (Va.)

Men's 45+ Women's 45+

2001	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)	Marcy Lynch (Pa.)
2000	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)	Susan Pfahler (Fla.)
1999	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)	Janell Marriott (R.I.)
1998	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)	Janet Myers (N.C.)
1997	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Janet Myers (N.C.)
1996	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Eileen Tuckman (Fla.)
1995	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Terry Ann Rogers (Calif.)
1994	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Eileen Tuckman (Fla.)
1993	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Terry Ann Rogers (Calif.)
1992	Dave Kovanda (Ohio)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1991	Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)	Agatha Falso (Fla.)
1990	Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1989	Herb Grigg (Ill.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1988	Roger Wehrle (Ga.)	Agatha Falso (Fla.)
1987	Roger Wehrle (Ga.)	Sue Carow (Ill.)
1986	Roger Wehrle (Ga.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1985	Roger Wehrle (Ga.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1984	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1983	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1982	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1981	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1980	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1979	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1978	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1977	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1976	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1975	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1974	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1973	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1972	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1971	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1970	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1969	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)

Men's 50+ Women's 50+

2001	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Agatha Falso (Fla.)
2000	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Agatha Falso (Fla.)
1999	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1998	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1997	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1996	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1995	Ed Remen (Va.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)

Men's 40+ Women's 40+

1995	Horace Miller (Ill.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1994	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1993	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
1992	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
1991	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
1990	Bobby Sanders (Ohio)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1989	Bobby Sanders (Ohio)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1988	Bobby Sanders (Ohio)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1987	Bob Wetzel (Calif.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1986	Charles Wickham (N.C.)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1985	Charles Wickham (N.C.)	Sue Graham (Colo.)
1984	Pat Colombo (N.Y.)	Colleen Sloan (Calif.)
1983	Bud Muehleisen (Calif.)	Noel Dingman (Md.)
1982	Chuck Lake (Va.)	Sippy Hammond (Ohio)
1981	Chuck Lake (Wash.)	
1980	Chuck Lake (Va.)	

Men's 55+ Women's 55+

2001	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
2000	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1999	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1998	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
1997	Bobby Sanders (Ohio)	Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
1996	Bobby Sanders (Ohio)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1995	Bobby Sanders (Ohio)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1994	Bobby Sanders (Ohio)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1993	Rex Lawler (Ind.)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1992	Arthur Johnson (Colo.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1991	Paul Banales (Ariz.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1990	Arthur Johnson (Colo.)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1989	Otis Chapman (Ohio)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1988	Otis Chapman (Ohio)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1987	Otis Chapman (Ohio)	Claire Gautreau (Texas)
1986	Chuck Lake (Va.)	Mary Lou Acuff (Va.)
1985	Pat Whitehill (Wash.)	Rachel Schild (Idaho)
1984	Fintan Kilbride (Canada)	Janet Kettman (Calif.)
1983	Floyd Svensen (Calif.)	
1982	Fintan Kilbride (Canada)	
1981	Al Rossi (Calif.)	
1980	Hal Gladstone (Canada)	
1979	Gene Grapes (Pa.)	
1978	Floyd Svensen (Calif.)	
1977	Floyd Svensen (Calif.)	
1976	Ike Gumer (Ky.)	
1975	Fred Vetter (Wis.)	
1974	Ike Gumer (Ky.)	



Men's 60+ Women's 60+

2001	Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
2000	Bobby Sanders (Ohio)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1999	Lee Graff (Ore.)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1998	Rex Lawler (Ind.)	Annabelle Kovar (Neb.)
1997	Jerry Stoltmann (Wis.)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1996	Paul Banales (Ariz.)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1995	Otis Chapman (Ohio)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1994	Don Alt (Ohio)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1993	Paul Banales (Ariz.)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1992	Fintan Kilbride (Canada)	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1991	Harvey Clar (Calif.)	Joann Jones (Conn.)
1990	Fintan Kilbride (Canada)	Claire Gautreau (Texas)
1989	Fintan Kilbride (Canada)	Claire Gautreau (Texas)
1988	Fintan Kilbride (Canada)	Claire Gautreau (Texas)
1987	Victor Sacco (N.Y.)	Claire Gautreau (Texas)
1986	Victor Sacco (N.Y.)	Claire Gautreau (Texas)
1985	Joe Hero (La.)	Claire Gautreau (Texas)
1984	Earl Acuff (Va.)	Mary Low Acuff (Va.)
1983	Floyd Svensen (Calif.)	
1982	Art Payne (Ohio)	



all time national singles champions ... all time national singles champions

1981 Don Goddard (Mt.)
 1980 Fred Vetter (Wis.)
 1979 Ed Lawrence (Tenn.)

Men's 65+ Women's 65+
 2001 Jerry Holly (Calif.) Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
 2000 Otis Chapman (Ohio) Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
 1999 Otis Chapman (Ohio) Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
 1998 Otis Chapman (Ohio) Lola Markus (Ill.)
 1997 Otis Chapman (Ohio) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1995 Victor Sacco (N.Y.) no division
 1995 Joe Lambert (Texas) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1994 Joe Lambert (Texas) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1993 Joe Lambert (Texas) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1992 Fintan Kilbride (Canada) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1991 Mal Roberts (Fla.) Claire Gautreau (Texas)
 1990 Victor Sacco (N.Y.) Claire Gautreau (Texas)
 1989 John Bareilles (Va.) Mary Lou Acuff (Va.)
 1988 Luzell Wilde (Utah) Mary Lou Acuff (Va.)
 1987 Luzell Wilde (Utah) Mary Lou Acuff (Va.)
 1986 Luzell Wilde (Utah) Mary Lou Acuff (Va.)
 1985 Luzell Wilde (Utah) Eleanor Quackenbush (Ore.)
 1984 Earl Acuff (Va.) Lucille Douglas (Texas)
 1983 Luzell Wilde (Utah)
 1982 Ike Gumer (Ky.)
 1981 Ike Gumer (Ky.)
 1980 Ike Gumer (Ky.)
 1979 Lawrence Rankin (Calif.)

Men's 70+ Women's 70+
 2001 Joe Lambert (Texas) no division
 2000 Joe Lambert (Texas) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1999 Barney Freisth (S.D.) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1998 Fintan Kilbride (Canada) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1997 Fintan Kilbride (Canada) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1996 Victor Sacco (N.Y.) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1995 Victor Sacco (N.Y.) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1994 John Bareilles (Va.)
 1993 Nick Sans (Calif.)
 1992 Earl Acuff (N.C.)
 1991 Luzell Wilde (Utah)
 1990 Earl Acuff (N.C.)
 1989 Earl Acuff (Va.)
 1988 Luzell Wilde (Utah)
 1987 Alan Shepherd (Md.)
 1986 Alan Shepherd (Md.)
 1985 Ike Gumer (Ky.)
 1984 Ike Gumer (Ky.)

Men's 75+ Women's 75+
 2001 Victor Sacco (N.Y.) Christine Stevens (Texas)
 2000 Earl Acuff (N.C.) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1999 Earl Acuff (N.C.) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1998 Earl Acuff (N.C.) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1997 Earl Acuff (N.C.)
 1996 Earl Acuff (N.C.)
 1995 Luzell Wilde (Utah)
 1994 Earl Acuff (N.C.)
 1993 Luzell Wilde (Utah)
 1992 Allen Shepherd (Md.)
 1991 Allen Shepherd (Md.)
 1990 Allen Shepherd (Md.)
 1989 Ike Gumer (Ky.)
 1988 John Pearce (Texas)

Men's 80+ Women's 80+
 2001 Robert McAdam (Texas) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 2000 Earl Acuff (N.C.)

1999 Earl Acuff (N.C.)
 1998 Luzell Wilde (Utah)
 1997 George Spear (N.Y.)
 1996 Allen Shepherd (Md.)
 1995 Allen Shepherd (Md.)
 1994 John Pearce (Texas)
 1993 Jack Daly (Va.)
 1992 John Pearce (Texas)
 1991 John Pearce (Texas)

Men's 85+
 2001 no division
 2000 Harry Steinman (Md.)

Men's Elite Women's Elite
 2001 Jonah Bishop (Kan.) Aimee Roehler (N.J.)
 2000 Alvaro Beltran (Mexico) Susana Acosta (Mexico)
 1999 Brian Pointelin (Colo.) Denise Mock (Texas)

Men's A Women's A

2001 Dave Bartscher (Texas) Tammarrian Rogers (Wash.)
 2000 Steve Tillotson (Calif.) Isabel Nagelin (Va.)
 1999 David Ghio (Calif.) Janel Tisinger (Calif.)
 1998 Jorge Hirsekorn (Venezuela) Lily Geyer (Venezuela)
 1997 Ralph Cuesta (Fla.) Yesenia Delbusto (Fla.)
 1996 Scott Grunin (Mass.) Cheryl Gistand (Texas)
 1995 Rocky Carson (Calif.) Sadie Gross (S.D.)
 1994 David Sparling (Calif.) Ann Hemphill (Ala.)
 1993 Byron Stanley (Texas) Bridget Barron (Texas)
 1992 Grant Giles (Ga.) Andrea Beugen (Minn.)
 1991 Brett Zimmerman (Texas) Roz Petronelli (Mass.)
 1990 Derek Dung (Hawai'i) Jean Halahan (N.Y.)
 1989 Todd Felicia (N.Y.) Kim Allen (La.)
 1988 Joel Bonnett (Mich.) Pat Musselman (Pa.)

Men's B Women's B

2001 Drew Toland (Ark.) Thao Le (Va.)
 2000 Michael Wang (Texas) Valerie Willis (N.C.)
 1999 Ryan Lindell (Ore.) Michelle Poage (Alaska)
 1998 Ryan Rodgers (Texas) Janel Tisinger (Calif.)

Men's C Women's C

2001 Myron Brough (Ohio) Sue Hunt (Miss.)
 2000 Chris Coy (Okla.) Rosie Gonzalez (Texas)
 1999 Peter Michaely (Texas) Cheryl Kirk (Ill.)
 1998 Lorne Burry (N.C.) Christine Fenton (Fla.)

Men's D Women's D

2001 Kyle Shwager (Ohio) Marci Laramee (Tenn.)
 2000 Jeff Bell (Conn.) Ramona Vonondarza (Fla.)
 1999 Ryan Kinnaman (Ark.) Pamela Trent (Md.)
 1998 Mukesh Wadhawan (Texas) Candy Arquiett (La.)

Men's 24- A/B Women's 24- A/B

2001 Filip Vesely (Nev.) Jesi Fuller (N.M.)
 2000 Scott Makosiej (N.J.) T.J. Baumbaugh (Md.)
 1999 Ryan Lindell (Ore.) Janel Tisinger (Calif.)
 1998 Reed Bastien (Calif.) Janel Tisinger (Calif.)

Men's 24- C/D Women's 24- C/D

2001 Bryan Shaw (Mo.) Laura Berrera (Texas)
 2000 Chris Coy (Okla.) Denielle Matheiu (Mo.)
 1999 Jason Hicks (Kent.) no division
 1998 Jeremiah Jones (Texas) no division

Men's 25+ A/B Women's 25+ A/B

2001 Ivan Perry (Pa.) Esther McNany (Conn.)
 2000 Eric Jubin (Texas) no division

all time national singles champions

... all time national singles champions

1999 David Bartscher (Texas) Lia Sullins (Texas)
 1998 Jack White (Mich.) Leanne Mays (La.)

Men's 25+ C/D Women's 25+ C/D

2001 Enrique Loaiza (Calif.) Karissa Sparks (D.C.)

2000 Cesar Jimenez (Texas) no division

1999 Luis Garcia III (Texas) Lynn Hiorns (Ill.)

1998 Andrew Silva (Fla.) Rhonda Lindeman (Okla.)

Men's 30+ A/B Women's 30+ A/B

2001 Kipp Atwell (La.) Karen Morton (Pa.)

2000 Mike Nolan (Texas) Catherine Land (N.C.)

Men's 30+ C/D Women's 30+ C/D

2001 Patrick Knox (D.C.) Karen Marzano (Ill.)

2000 Combined division Caron Chung (Va.)

Men's 35+ A/B Women's 35+ A/B

2001 Bob Jackson (Miss.) Yuni Cobb (Wash.)

2000 Edwardo Munoz (Texas) Ann Doucette (Maine)

1999 Wayne Gonsalves (N.Y.) Gladys Leonard (Va.)

1998 Jack White (Mich.) Erin Kelly (Wash.)

Men's 35+ C/D Women's 35+ C/D

2001 Alex Morelos (Okla.) Sue Hunt (Miss.)

2000 Philip Suarez (Texas) Combined division

1999 Richard Golden (Texas) Janice Kennedy (Ga.)

1998 Melvin Todd (Texas) Mary Jo Hodgkinson (Ohio)

Men's 40+ A/B Women's 40+ A/B

2001 Steve Myers (Md.) Sandy McCall (Texas)

2000 Clinton Allen (Ohio) Isabel Nagelin (Va.)

Men's 40+ C/D Women's 40+ C/D

2001 John J. Mason (Ill.) Aline Jackson (Ark.)

2000 Paul Gomberg (Texas) Rosie Gonzalez (Texas)

Men's 45+ A/B Women's 45+ A/B

2000 Bob Talley (Fla.) Sharon Barrett (Texas)

1999 Ron Fowler (Ga.) Carmen Alatorre Martin (Va.)

1998 Steve Newport (Texas) Karen Kattengell (La.)

Men's 45+ C/D Women's 45+ C/D

2001 John Coaker (Mich.) Nila Gresham (Colo.)

2000 Randy Williams (Texas) No division

1999 Donne Crowe (La.) Linda George (Kan.)

1998 Tom Sikorski (Texas) Judy Jones Woods (Texas)

Men's 50+ A/B Women's 50+ A/B

2001 Roger Aronoff (D.C.) Sharon Huczek (Mich.)

2000 David Gross (S.D.) Cookie Wachtel (Ohio)

Men's 50+ C/D Women's 50+ C/D

2001 John Coaker (Mich.) no division

2000 Garry Carter (Calif.) no division

Men's 55+ A/B Women's 55+ A/B

2001 Fred Roe (Calif.) CeCe Palaski (Calif.)

2000 Ronald Yonkee (Ill.) CeCe Palaski (Calif.)

1999 Paul Lowe (Texas) Marquita Molina (Calif.)

1998 Luke St. Onge (Colo.) Nidia Funes (Calif.)

Men's 55+ C/D Women's 55+ C/D

2001 Peter Kochis (Okla.) no division

2000 Steven Lavorgna (N.J.) no division

1999 Grant Morrill (Pa.) no division

1998 Ralph Temple (Ga.) no division

Men's 60+ A/B Women's 60+ A/B

2001 Robert W. Hill (Texas) Marquita Molina (Calif.)

2000 Grant Morrill (Pa.) no division

Men's 60+ C/D Women's 60+ C/D

2001 Robert Sholly (Texas) no division

Men's Wheelchair Open Women's Wheelchair Open

1996 Rick Slaughter (Tenn.) no division

1995 Chip Parmelly (Calif.) Donna Cline (Texas)

1994 Chip Parmelly (Calif.) Jeannie Nicklos (Texas)

1993 Chip Parmelly (Calif.) Chip Parmelly (Calif.)

1992 Chip Parmelly (Calif.) no division

1991 Gary Baker (Pa.) Chip Parmelly (Calif.)

1988 Chip Parmelly (Calif.) Chip Parmelly (Calif.)

1987 Chip Parmelly (Calif.) Chip Parmelly (Calif.)

1986 Chip Parmelly (Calif.) Jim Leatherman (Md.)

1985 Jim Leatherman (Md.) Chip Parmelly (Calif.)

1984 Chip Parmelly (Calif.) Tammy Riggs (Calif.)

1983 Jim Leatherman (Md.) Stacy Norman (Tenn.)

1982 Jim Leatherman (Md.) Jim Leatherman (Md.)

Deaf Open

1993 Jeff Eastman (Wis.)

1992 Ron Tkachuk (Wis.)

National Singles Championship Sites

1983-current: Houston, Texas

1982: Buffalo, N.Y.

1981: Boise, Idaho

1980: Miami, Florida

1979: Las Vegas, Nevada

1978: Denver, Colorado

1977: Southfield, Michigan

1976: Chattanooga, Tennessee

1975: St. Louis, Missouri

1974: San Diego, California

1973: St. Louis, Missouri

1972: Memphis, Tennessee

1971: Salt Lake City, Utah

1970: St. Louis, Missouri

1969: St. Louis, Missouri

1968: Milwaukee, Wisconsin



National Singles Record Holders

Although Michelle Gould has the most U.S. National Singles Open championships (8), there are many age-group competitors that have equaled and even surpassed her marks. Here's a list (number of titles in parentheses):

Mary Low Acuff (22)

Jo Kenyon (19)

Earl Acuff (13)

Gerri Stoffregen (12)

Bud Muehleisen (11)

Luzell Wilde (10)

Ron Galbreath (9)

Claire Gautreau (9)

Fintan Kilbride (9)

Kathy Mueller (9)

Otis Chapman (8)

Ike Gumer (8)

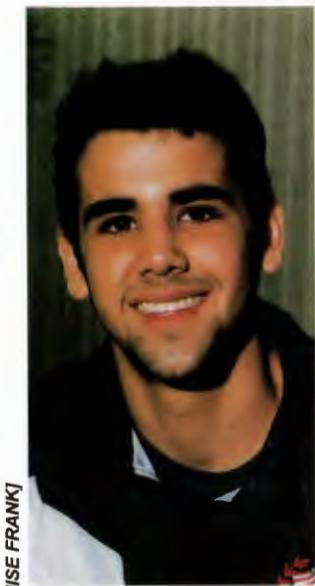
Chip Parmelly (8)

Ed Remen (8)

Bobby Sanders (8)



Did we miss anyone?



STEVEN KLAIMAN [BY JOHN FOUST] & ADRIENNE FISHER [BY DENISE FRANK]



klaiman & fisher take high school wins

Nearly 250 of the nation's top high school racquetball players traveled to unusually sunny Portland, Oregon for the 2002 Wilson 15th National High School Championships in early March. Although perfect weather and beautiful, snow-capped Mt. Hood beckoned, all attention was focused on the inside of Multnomah Athletic Club where two spots on the junior national team were up for grabs.

With the graduation of last year's champ, the boy's draw was wide open for first-time entrant Steven Klaiman, who earned the top seed, and Virginian Travis Woodbury, in the No.2 spot. Also expected to make strong bids were Dan Sheppick, Joey Lakowske, and Ben Croft. With over 150 players in the boy's singles draw, anything could happen on the way to the finals.

The girl's division was nearly as large, with almost 100 players. Defending champion Adrienne Fisher was seeking a

record-tying third win, after two years earlier becoming the first freshman to take the crown. To repeat, Adrienne would have to get past No.2 Ashley Legget, (who lost to Fisher in the 16s at the U.S. Junior Nationals and the IRF Junior Worlds), plus challengers Elise Wilson, Jenny Cary, and her own sister Kelley.

The tournament format features individual competition, plus titles for the top boy's, girl's, and overall team. "The emphasis of this tournament is on the team," explained John Ferguson, commissioner of the Oregon High School Racquetball Association. There is also a cross-country rivalry between Missouri and

Oregon high schools; eleven of the fourteen team titlists have been from one state or the other. Missouri has a slight 6-5 edge, but Oregon schools hoped to even things up with a home court advantage.

Opening Day

The first day was exhausting for tournament staffers, with over 200 players going through registration and another 200 matches scheduled. Fortunately an excellent volunteer staff was on hand to help out. "This was the best volunteer staff that I have ever worked with," Jim Hiser remarked after the tournament. And while the staff and volunteers may have been worn out, the players were just getting started. "I'm already having fun," said Da'Monique Davis early on the first day. "And I've only played one round so far."

Gold divisions narrowed from 100+ to the round of 32, with none of the top seeds upset, and quite a few blowouts. Andy Klibowitz may have said it best – *"Lot's of feeder matches."* Jim Hiser explained why there were so many lopsided victories during the first day of competition. "At the local level you have a lot of C and D level players. The players that fly in from around the country are mostly Open and A level players."

While most players were all business on the court, some were still all business off it as well. Kirkwood High senior Laurie Fisk was busy between matches earning extra cash by refereeing. Most of the time it's hard to get a player to ref but it might have been harder to get Laurie *not* to ref. "I reffed over ten matches so I could pay for my spring break," she explained.

Matches promised to get tougher for the players during day two when some of the higher seeds began to meet up. The field would narrow down to the final four by the end of the day.

Round of 32

The boy's division started out hot on Saturday, and although there were no major upsets, there were some close matches. Zach Archer defeated Jeremy Johnson 15-7, 8-15, 11-4. Brady Hernandez and David LaForest split the first two games, each with ten points, before Hernandez came out on top in the third, 11-4. Nguyen

2002 Wilson 15th National High School Championships
Presented by Penn Racquet Sports • Coverage by Ryan John

Quang squeaked by Ryan Hodges, 15-9, 8-15, 11-9, in the closest match of the round.

The girls' division played out much the same, along with some exciting matches of their own. The best match of the round featured Rachel Dazey and Rebecca Gordon in a nail-biter. Dazey won the first game 15-7 only to drop the second 15-12. The players battled back and forth in the tiebreaker but Dazey narrowly escaped with an 11-10 win to advance into the 16s.

Round of 16

The top seeds kept moving closer in the round and Chris Meyer and Charles Pratt gave the crowd an early preview by taking their match the distance. Meyer came back to win the match after dropping the first game 15-10, and taking the next two 15-8, 11-6 to earn his spot in the quarterfinal.

The girl's division saw three matches go to a deciding third game. Katie Ferguson pushed Jesi Fuller to the limit in a marathon match. Fuller dominated the first game 15-2 but Ferguson didn't get down on herself and came back to win the second game 15-7. The tiebreaker was close before Fuller began to hit a half lob z-serve that may have given her the edge she needed to win the tiebreaker 11-8.

Da'Monique Davis provided the crowd with an upset by defeating No.6 Kynzie Dalton. Davis looked strong in the first game with a 15-9 win, but Dalton replied with a 15-5 win of her own before Davis regrouped in time to come away with an 11-6 tiebreaker victory. Ashley Willhite and Laurie Fisk also went to a tiebreaker, something Willhite would get used to in the next few rounds, with Willhite advancing 12-15, 15-9, 11-4.

Elite 8

Late Saturday marked the players third singles match of the day. Would fatigue be a factor? While top seeds had all advanced easily to this point, the hours of court time began to take their toll.



FINALISTS DAN SHEPPICK & STEVEN KLAIMAN, ADRIENNE FISHER & ELISE WILSON



In a minor upset, No.5 Joey Lakowske defeated No.4 Ben Croft in straight games of 15-11, 15-12. Oregonian Ryan Lindell nearly pulled off an upset against No.2 Travis Woodbury. After they split the first two games by the same score of 15-8, Woodbury took control in the third, winning it going away 11-2. Top seeded Steven Klaiman continued to march through the tournament as if on a mission, disposing of Chris Meyer 15-6, 15-7. Klaiman had yet to give up a double-digit score to any of his opponents.

For the girls, the only player to advance in the round without needing a third game was Adrienne Fisher, who defeated Jesi Fuller 15-4, 15-1. Fisher, like Klaiman, had been cruising through her competition without letting an opponent get past five points.

In the bottom bracket, the player that everyone expected Fisher to meet in the final, No.2 Ashley Legget, wasn't having such an easy time. After losing the first game to No.7 Ashley Willhite, 15-13, Legget looked as though she had gained control of the match when she took the second game 15-4. But it didn't stick, as Willhite stunned Legget, and the crowd, by winning the tiebreaker 11-4.

In the remaining quarterfinal, No.5 Jenny Cary ruined the Fisher sisters' plan to face-off in the semifinals when she ousted younger sister Kelley in a very close 15-6, 11-15, 11-9 match.

Semifinals

Players returned to the Multnomah Athletic Club early on Sunday with only two more rounds of action left to go. On the boy's side it would be Steven Klaiman facing Joey Lakowske and Travis Woodbury challenged by Dan Sheppick. The girl's would have Adrienne Fisher versus Jenny Cary and Elise Wilson up against Ashley Willhite.

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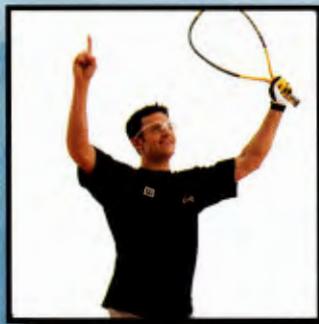
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#1 Player in the World
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Because shock is trapped in the hoop, the handle of a TRIAD racquet remains completely stable in your hand at ball impact. The feeling of control is extraordinary.



ONE: POWER

Maximum power is generated in the hoop of a TRIAD racquet. Wilson engineers combine Hyper Carbon® - the stiffest, lightest, strongest material ever used in racquetball racquets - with our patented Hammer® design, which reduces overall weight, but maintains mass in the racquet head.

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Iso-Zorb™ is an exclusive Wilson polymer, similar to the material used in skyscraper foundations to absorb the shock of an earthquake. We utilize Iso-Zorb as a buffer between the TRIAD hoop and handle for dramatically increased levels of comfort, which can be customized to fit your game.



Klaiman had yet to give up a double-digit game to an opponent and looked like he would keep that streak alive when he won the first game 15-4. Lakowske stepped it up a notch for the second and gave Klaiman his best game of the tournament but it still wasn't enough, as Klaiman won 15-11.

Meanwhile Woodbury and Sheppick were engaged in an all out war for the right to face Klaiman in the finals. In the first game Sheppick was on fire, especially with his serves, and surprised Woodbury 15-8. Woodbury refused to go away quietly and evened things up at a game apiece by edging Sheppick 15-13. The tiebreaker was close and the local support swung to Sheppick's corner. A few questionable calls that went against Woodbury seemed to rattle him. To his credit, he regained composure and didn't let the calls affect his play, but this was Sheppick's day and with a few more

aces up his sleeve he finished off Woodbury with a narrow 11-9 win to get into the finals.

With one Fisher sister out of her way, Jenny Cary set her sights on big sister Adrienne. Before the match Adrienne had been a little nervous about her play ... not because she was playing badly, but just the opposite. "I felt like I was having a good tournament and that I was playing well," she explained. "I remembered that Kristen (Walsh) was having a great tournament (in 2000) but I was able to knock her off in the finals."

In the first game it looked as though Fisher had been concerned for no reason as she won 15-6. But Cary replanted a seed of doubt when she edged the second, 15-14, to force a third. Fisher responded well in her first tiebreaker of the tournament and won 11-3 for her third finals.

Willhite was coming off her second straight tiebreaker victory going into the semifinals against Wilson and there was no relief in sight. They split the first two games, and the strain of playing three tiebreakers in less than 14 hours – combined with Wilson's relentless play were too much, and Willhite's upset dreams were shattered 11-6.

Klaiman vs. Sheppick

Klaiman hadn't lost a game nor been seriously challenged on his way to the final. The Episcopal High senior had dominated the competition, but would be tested by Sheppick. In the first game, the players battled back and forth, staying within two points of each other, until Klaiman took a 14-10 lead. Sheppick called a timeout and made a four-point run to even things up at game point. Klaiman then called a timeout of his own and walked back onto the court to close it out 15-14.

Game two was a different story as Klaiman came out hot and forced Sheppick into making unforced errors, as he won 15-1. "He just got

Wilson 15th National High School Championships **The Multnomah Athletic Club, Portland, Oregon**

March 1-3, 2002

FINAL RESULTS

Boy's Singles: Steven Klaiman (Episcopal High/Bellaire, Texas) def. Dan Sheppick (Rex Putnam H.S./Milwaukie, Ore.) 15-14, 15-1

Girl's Singles: Adrienne Fisher (Centerville H.S./Dayton, Ohio) def. Elise Wilson (Bristol Central H.S./Bristol, Conn.) 15-7, 15-3

Boy's Doubles: Ryan Lindell/Scott Rieders (Southridge H.S./Beaverton, Ore.) def. Jacob Karmelin/Shane Karmelin (Dacula High/Dacula, Ga.) 15-10, 15-9

Girl's Doubles: Adrienne Fisher/Kelley Fisher (Centerville H.S./Dayton, Ohio) def. Laurie Fisk/Sarah Ulmer (Kirkwood H.S./St. Louis, Mo.) 15-5, 15-2

Mixed Doubles: Katie Lee/Ryan Lindell (Southridge H.S./Beaverton, Ore.) def. Ashley Legget/William Northrop (Mazama High/Klamath Falls, Ore.) 15-12, 15-12

TEAM RESULTS

Boys Team

1. Southridge, 201
2. Dacula, 132
3. Kirkwood, 129
4. McMinnville, 120
5. Rex Putnam, 114
6. St. Louis Univ., 114
7. North Salem, 86
8. Episcopal, 84
9. Milbank, 84
10. Sprague, 80
11. N. Clackamas, 78
12. Mazama, 72
13. Sports & Health, 66
14. Beaverton, 65.5
15. Crescent Valley, 60

Girls Team

1. Centerville, 168
2. Kirkwood, 148.5
3. Catlin Gable, 103
4. Nerinx Hall, 93
5. Beaverton, 84
6. Mazama, 84
7. Sprague, 79
8. Aloha, 69
9. Bristol Central, 60
10. Klamath Union, 54
11. Rex Putnam, 40
12. Southridge, 39
13. Communication Arts, 36
14. Manzano, 36
15. South Salem, 36

Overall

1. Kirkwood, 227.5
2. Southridge, 240
3. Sprague, 159
4. Mazama, 156
5. Rex Putnam, 154
6. Beaverton, 149.5
7. Catlin Gable, 127
8. McMinnville, 120
9. Aloha, 96
10. South Salem, 83
11. Sunset, 40
12. Clackamas, 27
13. Highland, 24
14. Westview, 24
15. Gladstone, 18

Find daily site reports, expanded results and drawsheets @ www.racqmag.com > "newsline" > "event coverage"

tired," said Klaiman. "He played five matches today and it showed in the second game." Sheppick, a sophomore at Rex Putnam High, agreed with Klaiman that he was tired but vowed to be back in the finals again next year, "If not, I'll be mad."

Fisher vs. Wilson

Fisher and Wilson would square off again in a rematch of last year's final, and showing no signs of her earlier

doubts, Fisher dominated this match much as she had previously. In the end, Fisher came away with her third consecutive High School National championship, with straight game wins of 15-7, 15-3.

Fisher will have a chance to win an unprecedented fourth straight title next year. "I hadn't really thought about that during this tournament," she said. "Now that this one is done I can start to focus on it more." •

all time national high school champions

United States Racquetball Association (USRA) U.S. NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS [est. 1988]

Boys #1 Singles	Girls #1 Singles
2002 Steven Klaiman, Episcopal HS (Texas)	Adrienne Fisher, Centerville HS (Ohio)
2001 Jack Huczak, Adams HS (Mich.)	Adrienne Fisher, Centerville HS (Ohio)
2000 Jack Huczak, Adams HS (Mich.)	Adrienne Fisher, Centerville HS (Ohio) Jr.
1999 Stephen Lewis, Kamiakin HS (Wash.) Sr.	Kristen Walsh, Skyline HS (Utah)
1998 Josh Tucker, Joplin HS (Mo.)	Brooke Crawford, Henley HS (Ore.)
1997 Erin Brannigan, Sandpoint HS (Idaho)	Rhonda Rajsich, Thunderbird HS (Ariz.)
1996 Eric Storey, Lawrence HS (Ind.)	Rhonda Rajsich, Thunderbird HS (Ariz.)
1995 Eric Storey, Lawrence HS (Ind.)	Vanessa Tulao, Baylor HS (Tenn.)
1994 Shane Wood, Auburn HS (Mass.)	Shannon Feaster, School without Walls (D.C.)
1993 Kevin Armbrrecht, West Forsyth HS (N.C.)	Tammy Brockbank, Borah HS (Idaho)
1992 James Mulcock, Albuquerque Academy (N.M.)	Elkova Icenogle, Placer HS (Calif.)
1991 Sudsy Monchik, Totenville HS (N.Y.)	Elkova Icenogle, Placer HS (Calif.)
1990 Joel Bonnett, Forest Hills Central HS (Mich.)	Elkova Icenogle, Placer HS (Calif.)
1989 Jason Waggoner, Ft. Myers HS (Fla.)	Michelle Gilman, Ontario HS (Ore.)
1988 Jim Floyd, Bentley HS (Mich.)	Holly Gray, Broad Run HS (Va.)

Boys Doubles

2002 Ryan Lindell/Scott Rieders (Southridge HS, Ore.)
2001 Jeremy Huss/Kirk Pauley (Aberdeen HS, S.D.)
2000 Blake Bower/Tyler Hollingsworth (North Salem HS, Ore.)
1999 David Foye/Matt Gehling (Broadneck HS, Md.)
1998 Mike Harmon/Larry Peek (Sarasota HS, Fla.)
1997 Mike Harmon/Larry Peek (Sarasota HS, Fla.)
1996 Mike Harmon/Larry Peek (Sarasota HS, Fla.)
1995 Brit Berkey/Bryan Berkey (Fort Wayne Snider HS, Ind.)
1994 Jaime Alexander/Andrew Haywood (Nacogdoches HS, Texas)
1993 Shai Manzuri/Dawoud Gharfashad (Foothills HS, Calif.)
1992 Jason Thoerner/Andrew Haywood (Lakeside HS, Ga.)
1991 Britt & Alan Engel (Manatee HS, Fla.)
1990 Scott Reiff/Andy Reiff (Taravella HS, Fla.)
1989 Robbie Walden/Alan Engel (Manatee HS, Fla.)
1988 Robbie Walden/Alan Engel (Manatee HS, Fla.)

Girls Doubles

2002 Adrienne Fisher/Kelly Fisher (Centerville HS, Ohio)
2001 Adrienne Fisher/Kelly Fisher (Centerville HS, Ohio)
2000 Kristen Walsh/April Watson (Skyline HS, Utah)
1999 Lynne Berg/Mary Martin (Sprague, HS, Ore.)
1998 Megan Bals/Kristen Kovar (Piux X HS, Neb.)
1997 Liana Kerwood/Christina Lewental (Beaverton HS, Ore.)
1996 Erin Frost/Brooke Crawford (Henley HS, Ore.)
1995 Dianne Torrey/Meghan Guardiani (Notre Dame Acad., Mass.)
1994 Katie Gould/Christy Gould (Lafayette HS, Mo.)
1993 Dianne Torrey/Stephanie Torrey (Notre Dame Acad., Mass.)
1992 Jennifer Modica/Stacey Olson (St. Joseph's Acad., Mo.)
1991 Jodie & Jeannie Eggebrecht (Parkway West HS, Mo.)
1990 Elkova Icenogle/Rusti Icenogle (Placer HS, Calif.)
1989 Elkova Icenogle/Hayden May (Placer HS, Calif.)
1988 Linda Gates/Martha Gates (Clifton HS, Ill.)

Mixed Doubles

2002 Katie Lee/Ryan Lindell (Southridge HS, Ore.)
2001 Laurie Fisk/Dan Costello (Kirkwood HS, Mo.)
2000 Blake Bower/Amy Hollingsworth (North Salem HS, Ore.)
1999 Brooke Crawford/Bart Crawford (Henley HS, Ore.)
1998 Brooke Crawford/Bart Crawford (Henley HS, Ore.)
1997 Melissa Harmon/Mike Harmon (Sarasota HS, Fla.)
1996 Maggie DeBord/Andrew Tucknott (Lincoln SE HS, Neb.)
1995 Katie Gould/Brian Thompson (Lafayette HS, Mo.)
1994 Sadie Gross/Andy Gross (Apple Valley HS, Minn.)
1993 Joe Maginn/Colleen Maginn (Portage-Turner HS, Ore.)
1992 Elkova Icenogle/Jaron Icenogle (Placer HS, Calif.)
1991 Britt Engel/Alan Engel (Manatee HS, Fla.)

Overall Team Results

2002 Kirkwood HS (St. Louis, Mo.)
2001 Kirkwood HS (St. Louis, Mo.)
2000 North Salem High School (Salem, Ore.)
1999 Beaverton High School (Beaverton, Ore.)
1998 Sprague High School (Salem, Ore.)
1997 Beaverton High School (Beaverton, Ore.)
1996 Beaverton High School (Beaverton, Ore.)
1995 Service Stellar High School (Anchorage, Alaska)
1994 Lafayette High School (St. Louis, Mo.)
1993 Lafayette High School (St. Louis, Mo.)
1992 Lafayette High School (St. Louis, Mo.)
1991 Lafayette High School (St. Louis, Mo.)
1990 Parkway West High School (St. Louis, Mo.)
1989 Manatee High School (Bradenton, Fla.)
1988 Manatee High School (Bradenton, Fla.)



Cliff's House: Boston Athletic Club

The Red Swain Memorial • by Kevin Young

Boston welcomed new IRT commissioner Dave Negrete with open arms when he brought pro racquetball back to South Boston in January. Dave produced a great show that will be remembered for years to come.

From as early as the round of 16's it was just great racquetball. After taking a hard match against Mike Green in five games, Tim Doyle look good and seemed confident about his chances in the next round. In another tiebreaker, Brian Istace surprised the Boston crowd by taking out Alvaro Beltran, using his new Harrow frame. The crowd was kept on the edge of their seats throughout the awesome 11-8 fifth game.

Derek Robinson also found a formidable foe in Kane Waselenchuk, who won the first two games and was leading in the third when Derek ran hard to his right in pursuit of the ball and went down in great pain. His hip had popped out of the socket and he couldn't return to play. After the forfeit he headed directly to the club's physiotherapy department for treatment, and although he was seen later sitting in the stands, it was unclear as to how long it would be before he would be able to get back into action. He said he'd just take it day to day.

Cliff Swain won his first round match against Shai Manzuri, after taking the first game 11-8, then handing Shai a "donut" in the second. Shai battled back to win the third game, only to have Cliff respond with another donut in the fourth.

Jason Mannino had a good time in advancing past longtime tour veteran Ruben Gonzalez, who also drew the match out to four games. Respect, admiration, and affection were obvious throughout the match.

John Ellis advanced in three games over Chris Crowther who, although he has a lot of reach, was unable to keep up with Elli's fast pace. Afterwards, Chris admitted the need to work out more, and not just play. In another set of straight games, Rocky Carson won his match over Dan Fowler, who was definitely having an off day and never really got started.

In the first of his string of wins enroute to a career peak, Jack Huczak looked quite sharp in a three game win over Mike Guidry. Mike played very well and still got the donut in game two. Jack was on a tear, and the crowd was buzzing.

On Friday night, both players and fans definitely got their "money's worth" through a long evening featuring four quarterfinals that all went the full five games. In some of the best racquetball I've ever witnessed Jack Huczak upset Jason Mannino, John Ellis advanced past Doyle, Cliff Swain defeated Kane Waselenchuk in a repeat performance of the quarters in the U.S. Open, and in a match that started just a few minutes before midnight, Rocky Carson eliminated Brian Istace.

The first Saturday semifinal between John Ellis and Jack Huczak was everything it had been hyped to be. Bringing out the best in both players, Huczak won an all-out, five-game war to advance to the finals. Jack didn't seem to break a sweat as he dove all over the court, and John was soaked as he fought as hard as he could. After the match, John said he was tired and needed to get in better shape. In this author's opinion, no player would have beaten the teen, given the way he was playing on that day.

In the second semifinal, Cliff Swain won in a not-so-close four game performance over Rocky Carson. Game one saw Rocky Carson shoot to an impressive 8-1 lead, only to have Cliff rebound and take it back, 11-8. Game two gave a narrower 13-11 win to Cliff, and the momentum stayed with Rocky in the third as he charged to a 9-3 lead, then hung on to a 11-9 win. But the fourth and final game went to Cliff, who charged easily the entire game to win 11-3 and advance.

The crowd at Sunday's final held an air of cautious optimism for hometown favorite Cliff Swain. They were painfully aware that rookie Jack Huczak had just taken down the #8, #2 and #3 ranked pro's on the tour, and was gunning for #1 in South Boston.

Game one began with Cliff starting out slowly, as he sometimes will here at home. Jack was on fire and had great success with high nick lob serves to Cliff's backhand, winning game one, 11-4 in front of a silent crowd. Game two opened with plenty of encouragement from the gallery, and Cliff used it to his advantage in winning it 11-6. The crowd repeated itself and Cliff rode the emotion to a 7-1 lead in the third, only to see Jack battle back and take it 11-8.

Concern marked faces in the crowd as their hero faced elimination in game four. Cliff and Jack began by trading points and spectacular diving gets, one after another, until the emotion was draining fans as well.

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Jack Huczak, 2001 US Racquetball Champion
9-Time Jr. World Racquetball Champion



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Tied at 4-4, Jack went up 6-4. Cliff tied it up and then pulled ahead to 8-6. The electrified crowd cheered Cliff on as he increased his lead to 10-6. But Jack wisely called a timeout, at what was obviously a pivotal point in the game and match.

Returning from the timeout with renewed determination and after several sideouts by both players, Jack marched off to his first pro tour victory with a 12-10 finish. Both players were gracious in thanking the sponsors and spectators, and Jack Huczak left Boston with the newfound admiration of many.

"That's what you get when your intensity is in and out, and the other guy's isn't." Cliff commented. "When my intensity was good I played well, and when it wasn't I didn't. Jack played well, pretty much straight through. Sometimes you get away with it, sometimes you don't. I hate losing that way."

"It's a little different playing, seeing your Dad's name on the wall (Red Swain Memorial) instead of seeing him right here, but he was a great man, and now he's got the best seat in the house. I know he won't be mad at me, so I'll sleep well tonight."

New champ Jack Huczak agreed with the assessment, "I know Cliff, like he said, was in and out and didn't play his best today. I'm just happy to be here playing hard and being healthy. That's all I did this week was play my heart out and play as hard as I can. I hope to continue it for the rest of the season."



Cliff Swain in the U.S. OPEN final. Photo: Mike Boatman

Down to the Wire

It all comes down to one tournament. Heading into the season last fall, it was going to be the year that Sudsy and Cliff battled it out to be the first to earn an unprecedented sixth No.1 season ending ranking. Suds held a slight edge, until a freak accident knocked him out of contention just days before the U.S. OPEN. After winning the U.S. OPEN, Cliff appeared to have a clear path to the record-setting mark, until several other players stepped up their games - including Jason Mannino.

In recent months, Jason has crept closer and closer to a No.1 ranking with each tournament, and - at press time -- is less than 100 points behind Cliff. There was even a period of a few days earlier in the year (between stops) where Jason actually overtook Cliff's top spot. Because the IRT is on a year-to-day ranking system (points drop off on the same day they were earned in the previous year) - combined with a later Pro Nationals

date — the IRT rankings will change somewhat, again, just before the Pro-Nationals. Going in, Cliff will have a slightly larger lead than is reflected in this issue.

Then there's the wild card — Sudsy. If he's fit enough and decides to play in the Pro-Nationals, the scenario can become much more interesting.

With a little help from IRT Commish Dave Negrete, we were able to predict (somewhat) where the players might fit into the draw. If Sudsy does play, and there are no more injuries to any other players, Sudsy and Cliff would play into each other in the round of 16. How hard do you think Sudsy would play to keep Cliff from earning the record-setting sixth title before he can? Cliff says he has no problem sleeping at night when he thinks of his place in racquetball history, but we're sure he wouldn't mind counting to six instead of five when he puts his head on his pillow. All in all, that playoff would make for the most exciting round of 16 match, possibly in IRT history.

Of course there are many, many, many other variables — and matches — to be played out for a surprise season-ender. 1: Mannino would have to make it to the finals. Not an easy task with John Ellis and Jack Huczak in his half of the draw. 2: The IRT rankings are set up to allow a player to miss one tournament and still earn the average points of all his previous tournaments, minus one round. Cliff could exercise that option and still finish No.1, but we don't think he'd even consider it. He's a gamer and not one to back down from a challenge, ever. 3: Even Sudsy doesn't know if he is going to play yet and if he does come back, will he be able to take Cliff out after such a long time on injured reserve? 4: If you look back at the season you will notice one thing — the tour has expanded considerably beyond just the "Big Four." Anyone can win on any given day and upsets have become the norm.

One thing is for sure ... this should be one of the best, and closest, finishes to an IRT season in quite some time. By the time this issue hits mailboxes, it will be over ... find out the answer at www.irt-tour.com.

• men's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule



Webcasts

Over the past season, some "entrepreneurs" have taken on the task of shooting footage at each of the men's and women's tour stops. Led by Wisconsin's Ed Arias, the company sends videographers to events (among them Kevin Young, who authored this issue's coverage of the Boston stop), then offers the finished tapes for sale on their website. Go to www.proracquetball.net for a full list of the IRT's "library," of tapes, webcast previews and ordering information.

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SEASON RANKINGS

[Rankings dated 03/04/02, through San Diego]

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 3391	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA	1	1
2. 3268	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA	2	4
3. 3004	John Ellis	Stockton, CA	3	3
4. 1936	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA	6	7
5. 1881	Alvaro Beltran	Chihuahua, Mexico	5	12
6. 1842	Jack Huczak	Rochester Hills, MI	7	5
7. 1783	Tim Doyle	San Diego, CA	4	2
8. 1741	Derek Robinson	Kennewick, WA	9	8
9. 1625	Mike Guidry	Carrolton, TX	8	6
10. 1607	Kane Waselenchuk	Alberta, Canada	11	18
11. 1398	Mike Green	Ontario, Canada	10	13
12. 1098	Brian Istace	Alberta, Canada	12	19
13. 904	Ruben Gonzalez	Staten Island, NY	14	36
14. 889	Chris Crowther	Riverside, CA	13	11
15. 878	Sudsy Monchik	Staten Island, NY	18	21
16. 825	Dan Fowler	Rockville, MD	16	26
17. 645	Javier Moreno	Memphis, TN	15	15
18. 582	Woody Clouse	Littleton, CO	17	9
19. 560	Erin Brannigan	Sable, ID	19	44
20. 526	Shai Manzuri	Llano, CA	20	80

2001-2002 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE & SCORECARD

New Orleans	Cliff Swain def. Jason Mannino	3-11, 11-9, 11-7, 12-10
Stockton	Jason Mannino def. Alvaro Beltran	11-2, 10-12, 11-6, 11-5
Chicago.....	Kane Waselenchuk def. John Ellis	11-4, 11-4, 8-11, 8-11, 11-8
Memphis	Cliff Swain def. John Ellis	11-5, 7-11, 12-10, 11-4
Denver	Cliff Swain def. Jason Mannino	3-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-6
Boston.....	Jack Huczak def. Cliff Swain.....	11-4, 6-11, 11-8, 12-10
Coral Springs.....	Jason Mannino def. Jack Huczak.....	11-5, 11-8, 11-6
San Diego.....	Cliff Swain def. Jason Mannino	11-9, 10-12, 5-11, 11-7, 12-10
Greensboro.....	Jason Mannino def. Cliff Swain.....	4-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-7

May 8-12.....San Diego, CaliforniaPro Nationals @ Los Caballeros Racquet & Sports Club, 714-546-8560

For information concerning any IRT events, contact Dave Negrete at 630-430-1IRT [1478] or send e-mail to negretz@mindspring.com



ESPN U.S. OPEN Broadcast A Huge Hit

By Doug Ganim

For those that had a chance to see the national ESPN broadcast of the 2001 U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships in February, you were treated to the best video presentation of pro racquetball ever produced. The one hour show featured excerpts of the men's pro quarters and semi's, extensive coverage of the finals match between Cliff Swain and John Ellis, and highlights of Kerri Wachtel's historic victory over Jackie Rice in the women's pro finals.

"Feedback from this show has been overwhelmingly positive at every level" stated U.S. OPEN Director Doug Ganim. "ESPN executives were very pleased with the ratings for the show and extremely impressed with the quality of the production. We have received hundreds of letters and e-mails from racquetball fans around the world unanimously praising the quality of this year's telecast."

J.M. Associates, a world-renowned sports production firm with long standing ties to ESPN, produced the show. The executive producer was "insider" Matt McKinnis, who competes in his own right at the open level in Arkansas. "We were very pleased with the way this years show turned out," McKinnis said. "After working with the portable court for the past five years we've really learned how to set up the lighting and camera angles to maximize the quality of the show. Through the use of high definition digital cameras and extensive instant replay we were able to create a show where even the non-racquetball enthusiast would actually be able to clearly see the ball."

First class color commentating by Aaron Katz and Tommy Sanders (*pictured above, left to right*) further

enhanced the broadcast. Sanders, a weekly fixture on ESPN's outdoor sports programming, is recognized as one of the most talented on air personalities in all of sports. His smooth color commentary and celebrity status gives the U.S. OPEN broadcast instant credibility. Aaron Katz, a former IRT touring pro, provides continuous insights into what is really going through the minds of the players, as he breaks down strategy issues in a very informative yet entertaining way.



"If racquetball ever makes the big time on TV I have no doubt that Aaron Katz will be able to give up his law practice and go at this full time." stated Ganim. "I would put Aaron up against John McEnroe as an expert on air commentator any day of the week! He really has a natural talent for it."

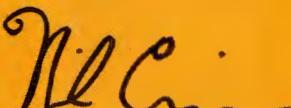
If you missed the show, you can purchase either videotape or DVD versions online at www.usrastore.com or by calling the USRA at 719-635-5396 ext. 132. Want more? A special limited edition collectors set is also available, featuring all six past U.S. OPEN shows from 1996-2001.

1. the launch**Introducing Harrow Racquetball**

Harrow Racquetball, a division of Harrow Sports, is a dynamic organization with a mandate to grow racquetball through Pro Shops across North America. Harrow products will be available in **PRO SHOPS ONLY**. The goal is to re-enforce the strength of the Pro Shop in the clubs and offer clubs an additional revenue stream. Furthermore, we have designed a unique Harrow Racquetball Credit Program as an added benefit to Pro Shops.

Harrow products, starting with the Torment racquet, are distinctive in both appearance and design. The Torment racquet is a high modulus graphite power machine that features a micro stringing pattern for maximum playability and head light balance for tremendous acceleration through the ball. In addition, the complete product line includes Harrow string, apparel, bags, gloves, Puma indoor court shoes and Rudy Project eyewear.

We are very excited to be involved in the resurgence of racquetball. Players will enjoy our products because they are both innovative and effective. Also, Pro Shops and Clubs will find Harrow eager to create and strengthen the relationship by taking an active role in the future of the Clubs and subsequently the game.

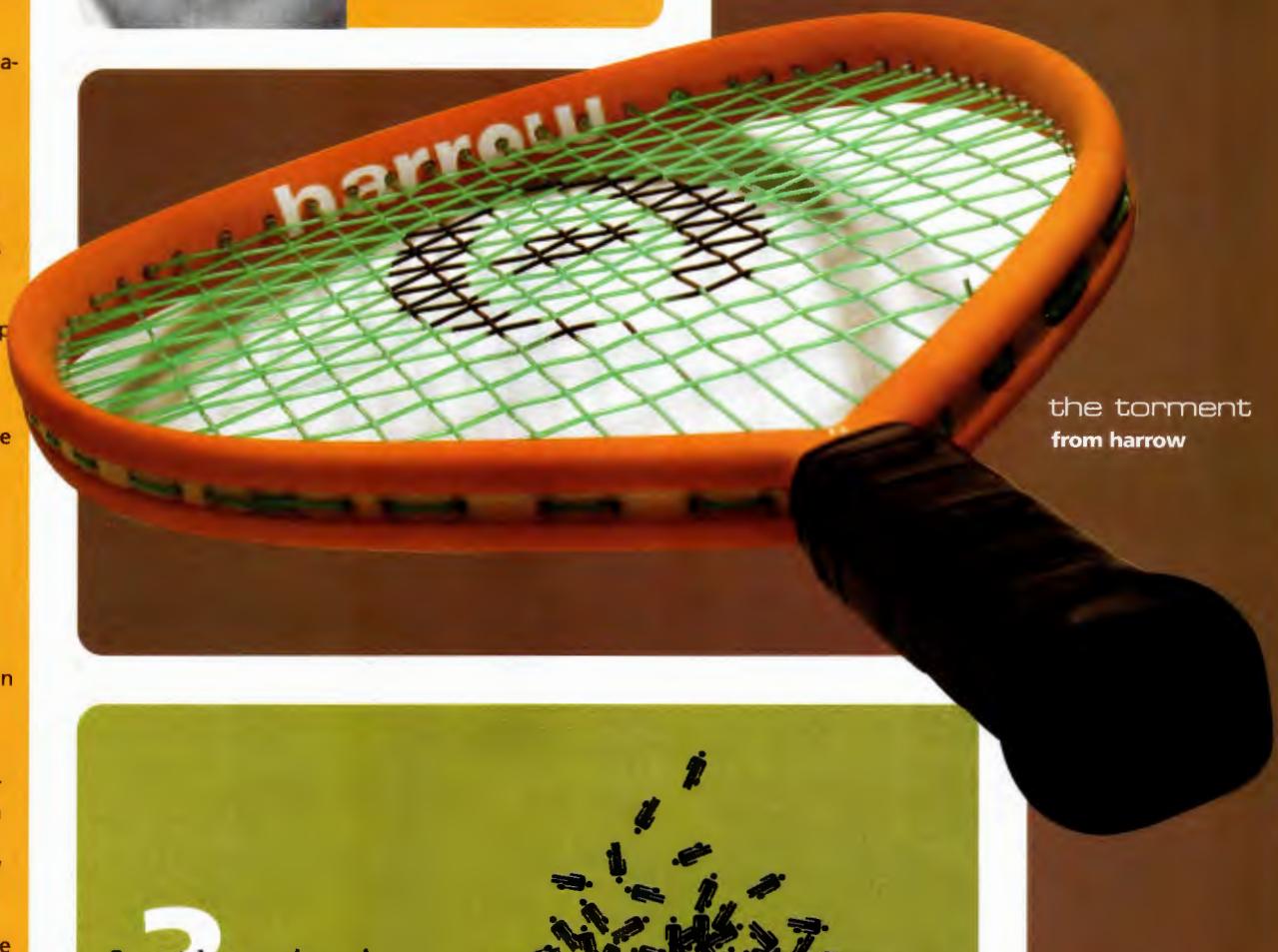

Mike Ceresia,
Sales and Marketing Manager
Harrow Racquetball



agent: mike ceresia

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First for Rajsich

by Ryan John

Rhonda Rajsich, a former standout basketball player at Stephen F. Austin State University, earned her first professional win in the first LPRA stop of the new year by topping current U.S. OPEN champion, Kerri Wachtel in the finals. In the preceding round, she'd logged her second straight tournament victory over Gudinas in the semifinals. She had placed second at the LPRA Denver event in December, losing to Jackie Paraiso Rice.

"I just decided to start having fun again," Rajsich said of her recent success on the tour. "After playing so bad in Canada (LPRA/Saskatoon) I just decided to loosen up and have fun on the court."



PHOTO: DENISE FRANK

In her quarterfinal match, Rajsich lost the first game to Kersten Hallander, 15-7, but bounced back to take the next three 15-13, 15-10, 15-11. She also lost the first game of her semifinal match against Gudinas, 15-11, and came back to win three close ones, 15-10, 16-14, 15-13, to earn her spot in the finals.

Her opponent in the finals was Wachtel who just finished a five-game thriller with Jackie Paraiso Rice. Rajsich kicked her habit of dropping the first game by coming hot out of the box and taking the first two games 16-14, 15-5. Wachtel evened the match at two games apiece by going on her own two-game run 15-8, 16-14. It all came down to one game and Rajsich was due as she downed Wachtel 15-11 for her first pro tournament win.

Her finals appearance in two straight tournaments vaulted Rajsich back into the No. 4 spot in the rankings, the same position she held last year at this point. Last season, her first on the LPRA tour, Rajsich shocked everyone by earning a spot in the finals of the U.S. OPEN but since then her success has been limited and her talent only repeated in spurts.

"I realized that I was thinking too much on the court," Rajsich explains. "In basketball you don't figure out how to run a play during the game, you figure it out in practice so that when it's game time you can be loose and just play. That is what I am trying to do in racquetball now. I just go out there and play loose and have fun."

The LPRA may be at its most competitive level in years. One or two players no longer dominate the circuit and most tour regulars have a shot at winning a stop this year.

"There are five tournaments left this year and the fact that it's not Cheryl (Gudinas, No. 1) or Jackie (Paraiso Rice, No. 2) in the finals every time shows that we're all trying to get better." But Rajsich still has plenty of respect for the two players that have been on top since she started playing on the tour, "It's good that they are up there. It gives us something to strive for."



WAKE UP CALL ...

After Intercollegiate Nationals (where she lost her spot on the U.S. Team to Krystal Czuk), Kristen Walsh stepped up her play a notch. "That got my attention" she remarked at her regional qualifier, "and I started working harder." She knocked off the #2 and #3 seeds (Rice & Wachtel) to reach the final in San Diego.

Ladies Professional Racquetball Association Season Rankings

[Dated 03/04/02, through Minneapolis]

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 746.250	Cheryl Gudinas	Lisle, IL	1	1
2. 451.750	Kerri Wachtel	Cincinnati, OH	3	11
3. 439.875	Jackie Paraiso Rice	San Diego, CA	2	2
4. 304.750	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ	4	4
5. 216.000	Kersten Hallander	San Diego, CA	5	6
6. 144.750	Claudine Garcia	Dominican Republic	6	n/a
7. 144.375	Kristen Walsh	Salt Lake City, UT	7	15
8. 123.750	Kim Russell	Austin, TX	8	21
9. 107.250	Lori-Jane Powell	Calgary, Alberta, Canada	9	13
10. 66.750	Laura Fenton	Overland Park, KS	10	5
11. 57.450	Jennifer Saunders	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada	14	26
12. 43.125	Denise Mock	Allen, TX	13	16
13. 42.375	Susana Acosta	Chihuahua, Mexico	11	7
14. 39.750	Dina Moreland	Montgomery, AL	12	22
15. 37.450	Rachel Gellman	Phoenix, AZ	21	22
16. 37.325	Doreen Fowler	Rockville, MD	15	8
17. 32.125	Johanna Shattuck	Denver, CO	16	14
18. 26.125	Janet Myers	Charlotte, NC	18	12
19. 25.200	Adrienne Fisher	Centerville, OH	17	24
20. 19.375	Ellen Crawford	Alexandria, VA	24	n/a

• women's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

2001-2002 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE & SCORECARD

Charlotte	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kristen Walsh	15-11, 15-8, 15-12
Albuquerque	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso Rice	9-15, 15-11, 16-14, 15-10
Colorado Springs	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso Rice	15-13, 15-10, 13-15, 9-15, 15-5
Memphis	Kerri Wachtel def. Jackie Paraiso Rice	15-13, 12-15, 15-11, 15-10
Saskatoon	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso Rice	13-15, 15-12, 15-12, 15-10
Denver	Jackie Paraiso Rice def. Rhonda Rajsich	15-10, 15-11, 15-8
Rosarito Beach	Rhonda Rajsich def. Kerri Wachtel	15-14, 15-5, 8-15, 14-16, 15-11
Chicago	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel	15-12, 15-4, 15-10
Minneapolis	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel	15-5, 18-16, 15-8
San Diego	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kristen Walsh	15-11, 15-8, 14-16, 9-15, 15-19
May 8-11*	San Diego, California	Pro Nationals @ Los Caballeros Racquet & Sports Club, 714-546-8560
June 21-23	McLean, Virginia	Tyson Sports & Health, 703-527-7785

*Combined LPRA/IRT stops feature a Saturday final.

For more event details and complete tournament draw sheets online,
go to www.ladiesproracquetball.com > "Events"

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rosarito beach

Top row (l-r): Jackie Rice, Kim Russell, Susy Acosta, Tournament Director Rosy Torres. Second row: Cheryl Gudinas, Kerri Wachtel, Brenda Kyzer & Janet Myers.

Fond Farewell:
Surrounded by the LPRA athletes, Jim Hiser says goodbye to the women's tour in Mexico. New duties as USRA Executive Director will keep him too busy to continue to direct the tour, so the Rosarito stop was his last. Ed Willis

took over as LPRA commissioner at the following tournament in Chicago.

All photos by Denise Frank.



KICK IT UP!



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NFS Men's Tour Mid

NFS Women's Pro Tour Mid

*World Champion
Kane Waselenchuk



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2001 US Open
Champion
Kerri Wachtel

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*Member of the World Champion Canadian National Team



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NEW TITLE SPONSOR FOR U.S. OPEN

In mid-March, the United States Racquetball Association announced that Choice Hotels International (NYSE: CHH) had signed a three-year agreement to become the title sponsor of the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships and "Official Hotel Partner" of the USRA. The annual marquee event will now be known as the CHOICE HOTELS U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships.

Founded by the USRA in 1996, the U.S. OPEN has become the largest and most prestigious racquetball tournament in the world. Held each November at the Racquet Club of Memphis in Tennessee, the U.S. OPEN is the sports' only "Grand Slam" — featuring all the finest male and female professional players vying for the largest prize money purse of the season, over 700 top-level skill and age-group athletes, the world's only made-for-TV portable stadium racquetball court, and a tape-delayed broadcast on ESPN2.

"We are thrilled to form this new partnership with the sport of racquetball and to become the title sponsor of the CHOICE HOTELS U.S. OPEN," said Wayne W. Wielgus, Senior Vice President, Marketing for Choice. "We are equally excited to join the effort to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the U.S. OPEN's designated charity."

Doug Ganim, Director of the U.S. OPEN since its inception, said "Choice Hotels International is a worldwide leader in the travel industry and an ideal partner for the sport of racquetball. The CHOICE HOTELS U.S. OPEN will continue to be the biggest event of the year and I urge all racquetball players to support the CHOICE brands on a year round basis."

Choice franchises more than 5,000 hotels open or under development in 43 countries, under the Clarion, Quality, Comfort Suites, Comfort Inn, Sleep Inn, MainStay Suites, Econo Lodge and Rodeway Inn brand names.

The 2002 CHOICE HOTELS U.S. OPEN is scheduled for November 20-24 in Memphis, Tennessee. An Entry Form/Ticket Application will be available in the next issue of RACQUETBALL. For more information on the event, see the inside back cover, or contact the USRA at (719) 635-5396. For more information on Choice, see the display ad on facing page.

USRA Unveils New Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Logo

New Website & Dates for 2002

The United States Racquetball Association unveiled the new Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN logo on the heels of signing a new three year contract with Choice to become the title sponsor of the event.

The logo incorporates the Choice Hotels International corporate masthead, the classic U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships "flag" design, and all the Choice hotel brands. In addition, the logo recognizes the event's designated charity – St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

This new logo will be utilized in all promotional materials for the event, including ads, posters, entry forms, ticket applications, billboards, and on-site credentials. A new

website URL will reflect the new title sponsor, at www.choicehotelsusopen.com, where you'll find all the latest news and more.

The dates for the 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN have been confirmed for November 20-24, and the event will again be held at the Racquet Club of Memphis in Tennessee.

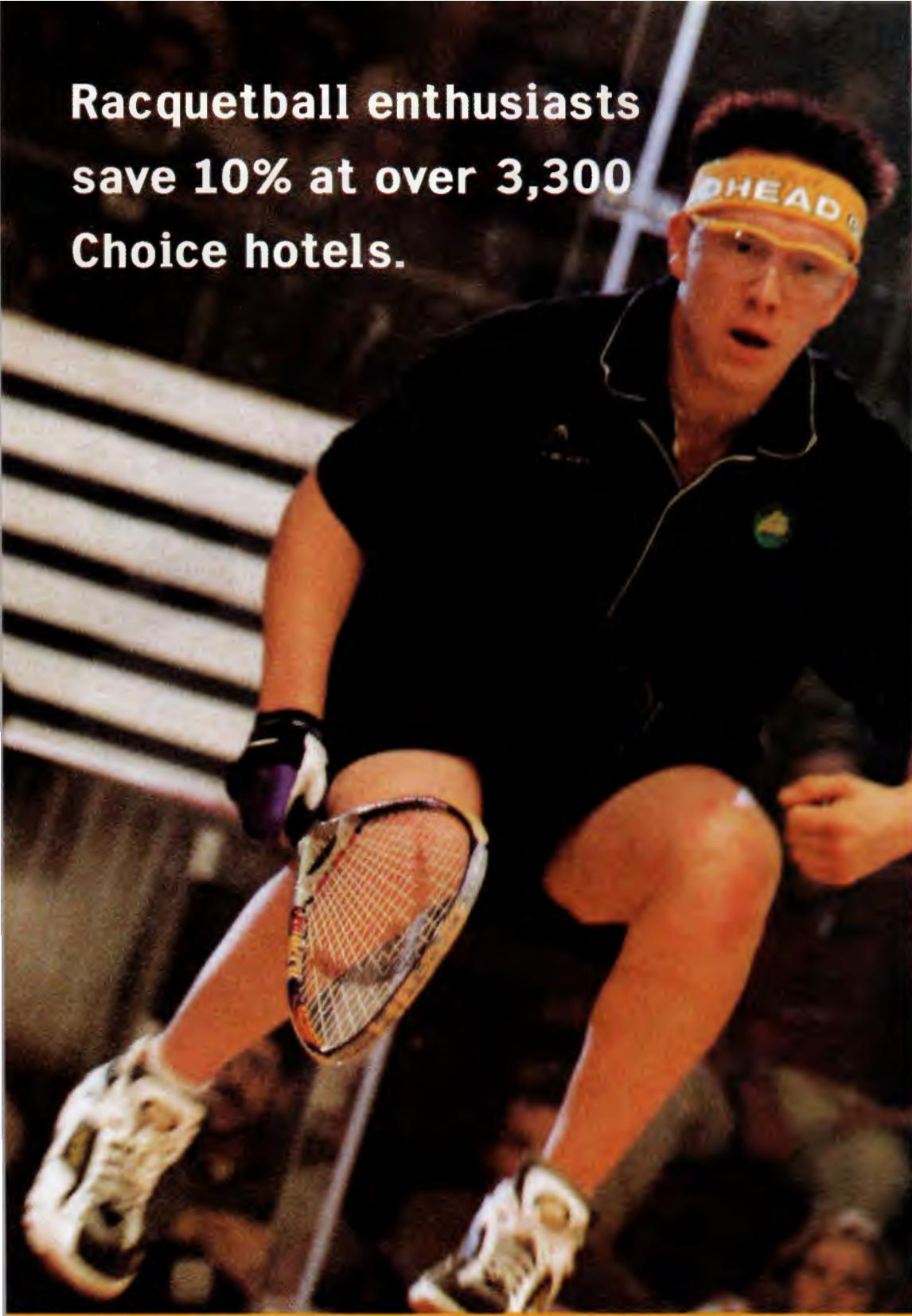
Featuring all the top men & women pro players, the largest prize money purse of the season, and USRA singles and doubles divisions for every age and skill level, the event promises to be the highlight of the coming season. Look for an Entry Form/Ticket Application in the center of the July/August issue of *RACQUETBALL* or visit www.choicehotelsusopen.com or www.usra.org (after July 1) for links to downloads.

For more information about the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, call the USRA at (719) 635-5396.



CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

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The Power of Being There. GO.

In the last issue I introduced a new way to look at taking offensive shots — which opened up a whole new way of becoming more aggressive. There we talked about magically "Cutting off the Ball." Today I want to continue with that line of thinking — being more aggressive offensively — and unveil to you my magical "Overhead Pass Shot."

The "Overhead Pass Shot" is exactly that ... hitting the ball when it's over your head. In the past [May/June 2000] I taught you that — when the ball is over your head on the forehand side and 35 feet back — you should take the ball to the ceiling, the #1 defensive shot in the game. Most players continue to rely on the ceiling shot, even when the ball winds up in front of 35 feet and they could go offensive. Instead, they are stuck in the defensive mode.

Now I want to teach you another option. If the ceiling ball (forehand only please, not backhand) isn't well hit, drops short and doesn't quite end up in the last five feet of the back court, I want you to be more aggressive. I want you to take advantage of your opponent's mistake (the poorly hit ceiling ball) and step up and hit the "Overhead Pass."

What this does, generally, is catch your opponent off guard, since they're expecting you to go back to the ceiling.

Then, at the last minute you bring the ball down with the offensive "Overhead Pass Shot." As we go through the pictures, you'll see that I set up exactly the same way and follow through the same way as the forehand ceiling ball, the only difference is the contact point, which creates deception. Let's take a closer look:



Photos: Rodney Boyd



1.

< Trick #1 The Ready Position

- Same as the forehand ceiling ball (May/June 2000)

Trick #2 > The Step

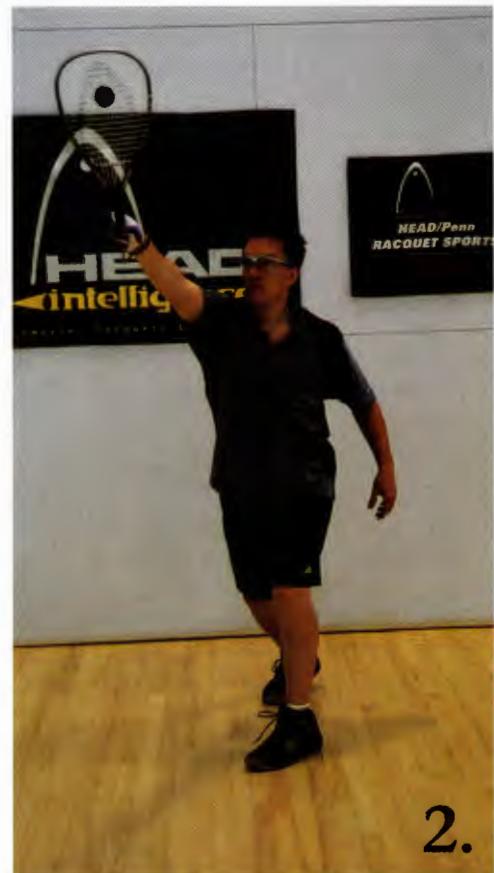
- Same as the forehand ceiling ball (May/June 2000)

The Swing

- Same as the forehand ceiling ball (May/June 2000)

The Contact Point

- Arm is at full extension
- Racquet head is at a 45 degree angle downward (unlike the forehand ceiling shot which is upward)
- Ball is hit off my lead shoulder about eye level (unlike the forehand ceiling shot which is full extension above the head)
- Hips Open



2.

< Trick #3 The Follow Through

- Same as the forehand ceiling ball (May/June 2000)

By incorporating the "Overhead Pass" into your arsenal of shots it will allow you to make a more offensive play from a defensive posture. Now you have two shots when the ball is over your head and, depending on the situation (where the ball and your opponent are positioned), you can elect to go up with the ceiling ball, or bring it down with the overhead.

The deception that occurs allows me to use this very shot against Cliff, Jason, John or the #25 guy on tour and it works just as well. At the pro level, there is no question you need to be more aggressive and create opportunities (because sometimes opportunity only knocks once), but you'll find it works just as well, if not better, in your weekly league match. Remember — only go for the overhead *pass*, not the overhead kill, because the overhead kill has too low a percentage for success.

Have fun "faking" your opponent out with the "Overhead Pass." I do ... it's a blast!



3.

ZIG-ZAG DRILL by Kersten Hallander

How many times have you found yourself leaning one way to cover your opponent's shot, they hit the other way, and you're just too slow to change directions and get to the ball? How about when you are returning a really good drive serve and your feet just aren't quick enough to take off from a standing position?

Racquetball requires quickness, explosiveness, the ability to change directions rapidly, and good reactions. Top level players incorporate plyometric exercises into their training regimen to improve these aspects of their game. Plyometrics is a form of exercise that enhances the ability to blend speed and strength training. It can take many forms, including jump training for the lower extremities and medicine ball exercises for the upper extremities. Here's one low intensity exercise that will improve your ability to change directions during a rally and take off for a ball from a standing position.

Stand on the short line close to one sidewall facing the other sidewall furthest from you. Bend your knees and balance on the foot closest to the back wall [photo #1].

Jump side-to-side, rotating feet, from the Short Line to the Foot Fault Line in a continuous forward motion towards the other sidewall [photos #2-4]. Turn around and perform the jumps back to the other sidewall.

Plyometric training is strictly anaerobic (without oxygen) in nature so you should only go from one sidewall to the other and back and then rest for 1-2 minutes. Depending on your fitness level, you may just want to go from one sidewall to the other and then rest. I do this exercise back and forth only three times with one-minute rest intervals in between. I try to do this exercise and other plyometric exercises 1-2 times a week. If you have knee problems you

should
consult your
physician
before imple-
menting any
plyometric
program.

If you would like to learn about more plyometric exercises that can help your racquetball game, e-mail me at kersten@kersten.com



1.



2.



3.



4.



Winning Racquetball: Designing a Roadmap by Marcy Lynch

In the last article I talked about building a 'foundation' for developing your racquetball potential. That foundation includes creating a vision, connecting that vision to a purpose, and setting goals. This article will focus more specifically on the process of goal setting.

The most effective goals are structured according to the following guidelines; they must be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and have a time frame.

Goal-Setting

'Specific' goals have a definable outcome. For example, a goal of 'playing better' is not specific because you haven't stated what 'better' is. If 'better' is having a better backhand or a better serve, then you've begun to be more specific.

Measure

In order for a goal to be 'measurable', you must first define how you will measure progress. If you want a better backhand, how will you know when it is better? First you must establish a starting point for your ability and then re-test your ability at various intervals. For example, perhaps today you can consistently hit five out of ten backhand setups straight down the line (determined by hitting yourself setups and counting). A month from now you can hit eight out of ten. You have made measurable progress.

Define

An 'achievable' goal refers to your actual as well as your 'perceived' ability to accomplish the goal. Actual ability would refer to physical circumstances. It would be difficult to achieve a goal of running a marathon if you had a sprained ankle. Your goal may be achievable at another time, just not currently achievable.

Your 'perceived' ability is determined by your belief. Beliefs are very powerful and we have all seen circumstances where belief can override a physical

limitation. There is a fine line, however, between 'overreaching' in your beliefs and setting an appropriate challenge. This guideline will require you to be very honest with yourself. You will know when you have set an achievable goal when you feel excited about 'going for it' versus overwhelmed by all the work it will require.

Whether a goal is 'reasonable' or realistic is determined by comparison to a benchmark. For example, let's say you want to be the number #1 ranked racquetball player in your state but you never play tournaments. Based on the fact that a #1 ranking requires consistently playing in and winning tournaments, the goal of being #1 is unreasonable.

Schedule

Time frame is the last guideline for setting a goal. Your time frame is the amount of time you pre-plan for achieving your goal. Your time frame must also be realistic. In the above example, a realistic time frame could shift an unrealistic goal into a realistic one. Given a 'reasonable' amount of time, a goal of being #1 is achievable.

Pick up your racquetball journal once again and write down three goals that you want to achieve in the next 90 days. Make sure your goals pass the guidelines for an effective goal. For each goal, write out three action steps that you will take. Now you have a plan ... a 'roadmap'!

In future articles I will talk more specifically about putting that plan into action as well as addressing obstacles that may arise.

This goal setting process works for any area of life in which you want to improve. The payoff for the time you spend building the 'foundation' and 'designing the road map' is motivation. Instead of having to 'push' or 'force' yourself to work toward a goal, the goal itself will 'pull' you along toward its own completion.

Marcy is the Nutrition and Mental Training Coach for the U.S. National Racquetball Team.

To subscribe to Marcy's free e-newsletter, or to schedule a "Winning Racquetball" workshop at your club, send an e-mail to marcy@marcyl Lynch.com, or visit www.marcyl Lynch.com. ©Marcy Lynch, the Fitness Coach 2002.



Wilson Game Plan: Practice with a Purpose

by Derek Robinson & Chris Evon • Featuring Cliff Swain



Players who are interested in improving their games are often frustrated by the lack of useful drills that can hone their skills and increase their consistency. In reality, it's not the lack of drills that is the problem, but the lack of focus that can cause our practice time to be less effective.

Good players can win with some natural talent, but no one can move beyond those natural abilities without dedicating time to practice. Time on the court is important, but the quality of that time is the key. This series of articles will feature great drills for racquetball; your job will be to read them and develop a plan to improve your skills. Be specific, be creative, be focused, and we guarantee that you'll improve!

Setting Goals

The first step is to decide what it is that you actually want to improve. Be specific! Forehand pinch from back court, backhand kill off the back wall, drive serves, short hops. This month, choose 2-3 shots that you want to improve.

If you feel you have pretty good technique you are ready to go and can begin right away. If not, make some time, spend the money, and take a few lessons from an AmPro certified instructor. You can put in all the practice time in the world, but if you practice incorrectly your progress will be slow, and you might even get injured.

Key Points for Effective Drilling

Identify a successful shot. If you are working on a down the line pass, a successful shot would be one that hits the front wall, passes the short line no more than three feet from the side wall, bounces twice before it hits the back wall, and does not hit the side wall. This is the only shot that will be considered good.

Dropping and hitting certain shots can be a great tool to help you perfect your mechanics and to get the "feel" for the correct shot. This is an initial step in learning shots, and should not be omitted.

Once you feel comfortable dropping and hitting, it's time to set yourself up and simulate different game situations.

Use the 10/10/10 method. This is a great way to stay focused on your drill. Set yourself up, and count how many "good" shots you hit out of ten. This will give you a percentage. If you hit two out of ten, you have a 20% success rate, and you'll try to improve that percentage. Repeat another set of ten. Focus on hitting successful shots, based on the criteria you've set. Start with three sets of ten.

Use TARGETS! This is one of the best tools to keep you focused on hitting accurate shots all of the time. You can use targets on the walls, or on the floor.

Photos

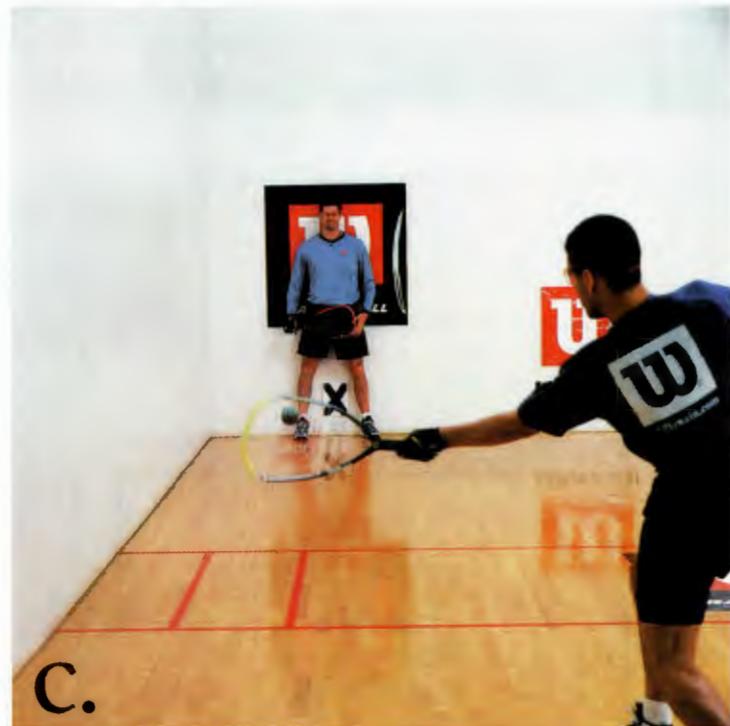
a. Derek hitting a down the line backhand. Drop hit the ball from back court. If the ball hits the bag (your first target), it's a good kill shot. If it hits between the bag and the "boxed W" logo (your second target) it will be a good down the line pass. If it hits your second target, it will probably come off the back wall.

Progression: Set yourself up off the front wall. Set yourself up off the back wall. Set yourself up off the ceiling. *Remember: Be specific with your goals. The targets are there to help you achieve your perfect shot!*

b. Cliff hitting forehand to target between Derek's legs. How good do you think you are? How good do your friends think you are? You'll find out — if you can get someone to volunteer to be your target for this drill ... or maybe you shouldn't try this at home!

c. Perfect extension, perfect shot ... everytime!

d. Derek hitting backhand to target between Cliff's legs. Always be sure to perfect your backhand as well as your forehand!



Q: I often get confused about when to hit an offensive shot and when to hit a defensive shot. Any advice?

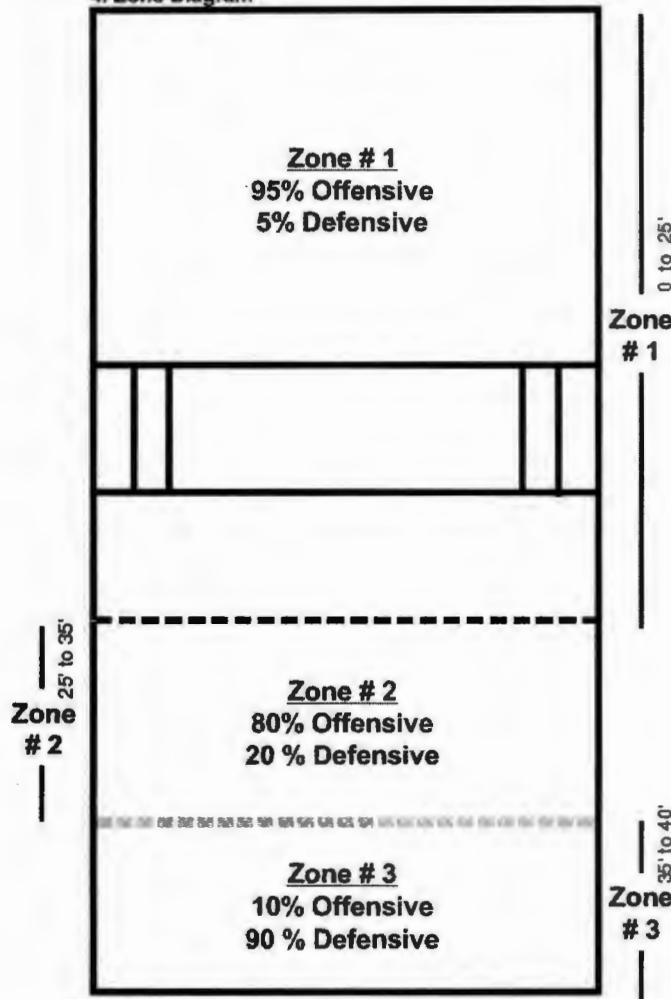


Answer: Very good question, since "offense vs. defense" comes up all the time when I cover the topic of shot selection at my camps. To start, let's define offensive and defensive shots.

Offensive Shot – ends the rally and/or scores a point.

Defensive Shot – draws your opponent out of center court and/or buys you time.

4. Zone Diagram



I've made it easy for you to see when you should go for what shot, by using this "zone diagram." It breaks up the court into three clearly marked zones to help you decide what to do:

Zone 10-25 feet95% offense/5% defense
 Zone 225-35 feet80% offense/20% defense
 Zone 335-40 feet10% offense/90% defense

For the most part, this scheme holds true when you are playing and have set ups, but when you are off balance or out of position you should be thinking "defense" and use a ceiling or Z-shot to stay in the rally.

Also, when you are in Zone 3 (back court), you are predominantly going to be in a defensive position, unless you get a shot off the back wall, when it becomes an offensive opportunity.

I am confident that studying this diagram will take the confusion out of what to hit, and when: offense or defense. If you understand this principle off the court, you'll have more success on the court when the ball is traveling at different speeds and coming off at different angles and spins.

Good Luck!

Smarter Head, Better Game — by Fran Davis • "In the Zone"

email your questions to: fran@frandavisracquetball.com



Training: Cramp Management!

by Tim Scheett, Ph.D

What's worse than losing after having had a big lead? Muscle cramps — that's what!

I have no idea whether or not other racquetball players

experience what I used to think were the most intense and painfully excruciating muscle cramps of all time, during — or following — a tournament, but if anyone reading this ever has ... well then you know exactly what I'm talking about! The only "cure" for a muscle cramp is to do the one thing that at the time seems to be the most ridiculous option of all: you need to get up and stand on it.

Unfortunately, we (geeky researchers) do not know exactly what causes muscle cramps to occur. In fact, the only way that we *might* be able figure out the precise cause of a muscle cramp would be to take a sample of muscle tissue — directly *from* a muscle while it is cramped. Any takers? If you've ever had the "pleasure" of experiencing one of these cramps firsthand, you know that the *last* thing you would ever want someone to do is to stick a needle into the muscle to take the sample! So finding volunteer "subjects" for this type of research is tricky ...

However, with what we do know about muscle physiology we can safely say that the majority of muscle cramps are most likely due to an imbalance in electrolytes (typically: sodium [Na⁺], potassium [K⁺], calcium [Ca⁺⁺], and chloride [Cl⁻]). This means that there are either too many, or not enough, electrolytes in the body. The remedy for either underlying cause is quite simple ... you need to either consume fluids or food containing electrolytes.

Now the question is: How do you know which to consume? Fluids or electrolytes? This is fairly easy as well. If you experience a cramp while you are in the middle of intense mortal combat (i.e. 9-8 in the tiebreaker) you are most likely dehydrated and need to consume fluids (water is sufficient at this time but a fluid/electrolyte drink would not hurt either — but you may not want the additional calories included to make the drink taste better). But if you experience a muscle cramp several hours after you have finished playing

(and you have already consumed fluids) it is most likely that you need to consume electrolytes.

There are several different commercially available fluid/electrolyte drinks to choose from which may help your body regain fluid/electrolyte balance. However, it is not really necessary to go to the expense of purchasing these drinks if you don't want to. A simple and adequate means to sufficiently re-establish the fluid/electrolyte balance is to consume water and liberally salt your food at your next meal.

If a dehydrated individual consumes large amounts of water they may experience what is called hyponatremia (which means that you decrease the amount of sodium in the body) and thus it is necessary to consume adequate amounts of electrolytes to allow the body to re-establish the fluid/electrolyte balance. Other foods which would work as well and are easy to have on hand include: cured or salted meats, chips or other such snack foods, some cheeses, or hey — ever *need* a reason for french fries??

Even though we've have discussed how to re-establish the body's fluid/electrolyte balance, preventive maintenance is also worth another mention. Obviously, you try and prevent a fluid/electrolyte imbalance from occurring in the first place.

Now I realize that this may sound *too* simple, but the truth is just that. Make sure to eat a well balanced meal at least 3-4 hours before exercising/playing and, if you have a tendency to get muscle cramps, it would be advisable to liberally salt your pre-game meal (or eat salty foods) and be sure to drink fluids throughout the day.

This combination *should* help prevent the onset of these most intensely painful, screamingly excruciating muscle cramps. But if you should still be lucky enough to get one, all I can say is — I'm deeply sorry and I know your pain!

Still, if you just happen to cramp and want to help science "march on" by donating some muscle tissue, give me a call! (Ha ha) As always — if you have questions you would like to have addressed in a future article, just send me an email: tim.scheett@hotmail.com.

MAINS & CROSSES

By Steve Crandall

Vice President, Sales & Marketing

HYBRID STRING III: STRINGERS TAKE THEIR SHOT AT HYBRIDS Part I: Putting the Brakes on Breakage

Hybrid stringing, as we have discussed, is the practice of using two different types of strings (one for the crosses, the other for the mains) in the same racquet. In theory, hybrid stringing allows you to take advantage of the best properties of the two different strings, while minimizing the effect of their weakness on your game. But does this actually work? If so, how often are players using hybrids? And why?

To find out, I asked a couple of professional stringers, both members of the USRSA (United States Racquet Stringers Association) these very questions. I learned that their answers, and stringing customs, varied quite a bit. From the extent to which they recommend hybrid stringing to their customers, to the reasons they recommend it, stringers are still evolving

solid practices when it comes to hybrids.

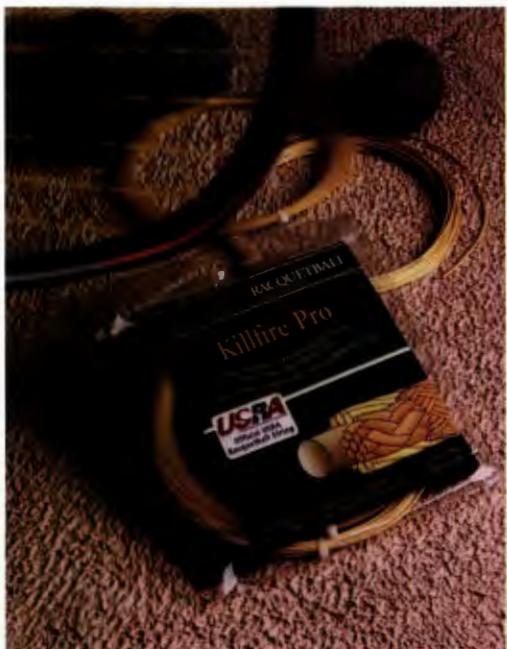
Jonah Bishop is self-employed and operates out of Pittsburg, Kansas, a small town in the southeast corner of the state. He currently does hybrid stringing for about 10% of his customers, most of whom are chronic string breakers.

"The hybrid combination I recommend most often for chronic string breakers is a string of braided KEVLAR® for the mains, with nylon strings for the crosses," said Jonah.

He explained that in his experience, most string breakage occurs on the mains rather than on the cross strings. "Most of my chronic string breakers, the folks who need repairs weekly, or even daily, frequently hit the ball toward the tip of the racquet rather than on the sweet spot. Strings that close to the racquet's edge are very rigid and prone to snapping."

"KEVLAR is an extremely durable choice," Jonah advised, "but an all-KEVLAR string job tends to make the racquet play stiff, like a board. Using a more flexible string for the crosses, like nylon, gives back some of the string's playability."

As a player, Jonah does not have a breakage issue, so he uses Ashaway's SuperKill® 17 nylon



Hybrid string combinations designed with braided aramid fiber mains and nylon crosses like Ashaway's Killfire Pro are ideal for chronic string breakers, according to Jonah Bishop, Master Racquet Technician (MRT).

polymer string for the mains, and an 18 gauge for the cross string to enhance playability. According to Jonah, he's found that it's all right to use this very narrow gauge string because the cross strings don't get the same abuse from mis-hits that the main strings do.

"My customers have been asking me more and more frequently about hybrid combinations," said Jonah. "I think that this is due, in some part, to the fact that a couple of top-of-the-line stock racquets are now promoted and sold with a hybrid string combination."

Rex Lawler has been stringing racquets since 1979. He operates out of Terra Haute, Indiana, but also does a considerable amount of stringing work by mail. "For myself, I play four times a week, restringing about every three or four months, and never break a string," said Rex. "I generally uses SuperKill II, a good synthetic multifilament string."

"As for massive string breakers, they often find themselves in a bind," he continued. "While they usually don't need strings to enhance their power, many would like to use the higher quality string to improve playability. The rub is, these tend to break even more frequently."



For these players, Rex suggests a thicker gauge Zyex® string that is very durable, but plays like a thinner gauge string. If that doesn't do the trick, then he will recommend a hybrid combination.

According to Rex, some string breakers are just massive hitters or they can't seem to hit the ball in the sweet spot. Many others, however, are not necessarily power players, but they do use a slashing stroke.

"When you cut at the ball," he said, "the strings move quite a bit, creating so much friction at the intersections that they saw through each other. Many players opt for a pure polyester string, which won't tear up, but also plays deader than a door nail." For these players, Rex suggests that a hybrid is a better choice.

"My goal is to arrive at the thinnest possible combination that will improve playability and result in a frequency of breakage that the customer can live with."

There is no one combination that is best for every player. In the end, the stringers agree that it is finding the right mix for each player that is important. Both Jonah and Rex spend a lot of time talking with customers about their style of play before making a recommendation, hybrid or otherwise.

Next time we'll talk to a stringer who is experimenting with all sorts of hybrid combinations, customizing his stringing jobs to the specific needs and styles of an individual player's game. Check us out then, and see if he has some inventive ideas that can take your game to the next level.

KEVLAR® is a registered trademark of E.I. duPont de Nemours and Company. Zyex is a registered trademark of Zyex Ltd.



Low Back Pain in the Athlete

by Aaron Haydu, D.C.

Low back pain is prevalent among athletes and can result in a significant loss of training time. Racquetball requires repetitive bending and twisting which can be potentially dangerous to the lumbar spine. Though low back injuries can be very painful, it is important to realize that 98% of all such injuries do not require surgical intervention. Therefore, an aggressive yet conservative

approach is the best remedy for returning to sport and function. Following some simple guidelines will put you back in the action safely and quickly.

Initially, an injured back requires acute care no different than the treatment of a sprained ankle. Often the pain and limited range of motion is due to the inflammation of muscles, tendons, or joints. Therefore ice, not heat, is the treatment of choice. Heat used early in low back injury can actually make the problem worse or perpetuate the symptoms. Over the counter anti-inflammatory medication can also be helpful.

Though rest for an injured low back is important, selective activity is the best way to recover quickly. Bed rest or inactivity has been proven to be detrimental to a speedy recovery, because movement will reduce stiffness and weakness. Low back braces or supports can help with the initial stages of pain but should be used on a limited basis and no longer than three days.

When tolerable, range of motion and flexibility movements should be performed 2-3 times daily, but avoiding the painful motions. Aerobic conditioning can and should be utilized to tolerance; often an exercise that is easy on the back such as swimming or an elliptical machine will help you maintain your fitness. Your muscles will heal faster when you can challenge them early and often, even in the initial stages of the injury. But you should definitely avoid activities that involve a combination of twisting and bending.

Addressing some overlooked exercises is also essential to recovering of low back injury. It is important to incorporate leg flexibility and abdominal strength as an essential part of your return to sport. Balance and coordination exercise is an easy way to improve control of your lower body, using balance shoes or single leg standing exercises. You should return slowly to your sport, as muscular endurance can be decreased rapidly following injury.

An important issue with low back injury is the location of symptoms. Pain that travels from the low back and down the leg past the knee is serious, particularly if it is worsened with bending at the waist or prolonged sitting. This is indicative of lumbar disc injury and professional care should be administered as soon as possible.

In summary, a healthy low back can keep you on the court but an injured one needs special care. Don't neglect low back pain, as a chronic problem is quick to develop. Recent studies have shown that chiropractic is twice as effective as any other therapy for the care of low back injury. If you aren't hurting, stay that way. If you are, go see your chiropractor.

rb:people & places

First Annual Big Dogs Classic

Bronfeld is "Top Dog" in San Jose
by Ken Fichthorn

The Big Dogs® Classic, hosted by Club One Royal Courts on March 8-10, marked the return of premier racquetball to the Silicon Valley. With some of the toughest players from all over California vying for \$6,000 in prize money, Michael Bronfeld made sure the finals featured a Northern Californian, and breezed through the draw to pocket prize winnings totalling \$1,400.

The Men's Open singles originally featured John Ellis as the favorite, but he withdrew due to a family emergency just hours before his first match. That shake up left the \$1,250 first prize up for grabs by remaining top seeds Bronfeld, Chris Crowther, Kelly Gelhaus, and Greg Solis. Ultimately young Juan Herrera would send one of those seeds home early in a surprise upset.

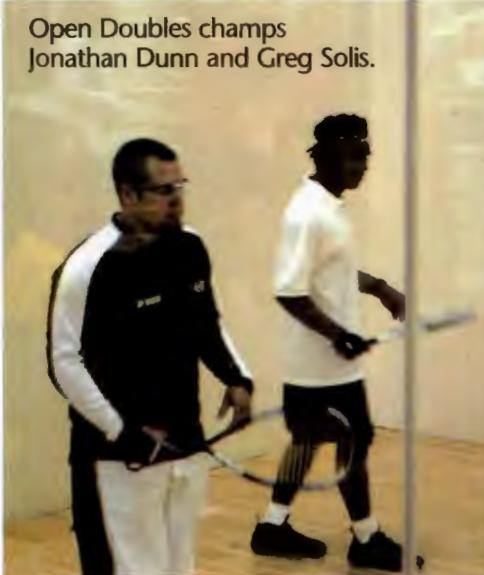
Bronfeld said he had "several lousy practices leading up to the tournament," but he looked fine once he got started against hard-hitting Dave Garcia. Bronfeld beat Garcia 15-4, 15-7, then throttled Joel Koppel 15-5, 15-3 and disposed of Greg Solis 15-3, 15-7 to reach the final.

On the other side of the draw, Chris Crowther advanced to face Juan Herrera, after defeating Juan's brother, Andres, just hours before. Herrera took the first game 15-13. Hearing the wake-up call, Crowther came out and destroyed Herrera, 15-2, in the second game. Crowther also led the tiebreaker 10-6, but Herrera clawed his way back to avenge his brother's earlier defeat, edging out Crowther in an 11-10 tiebreaker.

Bronfeld's opponent in the final would be determined by another tiebreaker involving Herrera. Former ranked pro Kelly Gelhaus defeated Herrera 15-5 in the first game, using mainly high lob serves to the forehand side. Herrera won a close second game 15-14, but Gelhaus won the tiebreaker 11-1 using hard Z serves, again to Herrera's forehand. All in all, not a bad showing for Herrera.

Kelly Gelhaus' earlier tiebreaker matches (three of them) may have slowed him down in the final. Against

Open Doubles champs
Jonathan Dunn and Greg Solis.



Bronfeld, he didn't mount much of an offense, as Bronfeld won both games 15-7, thus going the entire tournament without giving up more than seven points in a game. With crisp shots, and nearly flawless play, this was as well as Bronfeld has ever played.

When asked how he would have fared against John Ellis, Michael said simply, "it would have been interesting."

Open Results — Men's Open Singles: Michael Bronfeld def. Kelly Gelhaus, 15-7, 15-7; Womens Open Singles: Mary Tessier def. Lisa Hjelm 9-15, 15-11, 11-4; Mens Open Doubles: Jon Dunn/Greg Solis def. Michael Bronfeld/Marko Perez 15-12, 4-15, 11-9; Womens Open Doubles: Mary Tessier/Elaine Dexter def. Lisa Hjelm/Kari Gardner 15-13, 14-15, 11-9; Mixed Open Doubles: Jon Dunn/Janel Tisinger def. Elaine Dexter/Mark Nomura 15-12, 15-11.

Sacco Fan >>

by Junko Geddes

Mr. Victor Sacco actively promotes the sport of racquetball in our small community. He regularly plays at the courts of State University of New York at Potsdam and he is very well known, loved and respected. He not only enjoys the sport himself but he often volunteers to coach rules and skills to beginners. He absolutely refuses any rewards for his time; as a matter of fact he seems to be very uncomfortable if someone who had received generous hours of instructions from him tries to return some form of compensation.

His teaching extends beyond the rules of the sport, it conveys the code of life and of humankind. He is the mentor to the students and the adults who uses the facility of the college. I think that what makes Mr. Sacco such giant (he is a very slightly built man) is his attitude toward everything in life.

According to the citation of St. Lawrence University's Athletic Hall of Fame, Mr. Sacco captained for both

football and baseball and was the defensive captain (and MVP) of the 1949 football team which won the last six games of a season that set the stage for a fourteen game win streak which included an unbeaten 1950 team. He also led the 1948 baseball team in hitting with a .310 average and captained the 1951 team. He was an assistant baseball and football coach for SLU while attending graduate school.

He started playing racquetball in his early sixties, was awarded the USRA's Age Group Athlete of the Year award in 1996 and was inducted into the MNRA Hall of Fame in 1997. He's won twenty gold medals and twelve silver medals in international singles and doubles — and he's still competing regularly.

His superb physical condition, which obviously is the result of his life-long dedication to athletics, is envied by all of us who play racquetball or tennis with him.

After a few games, while the rest of us are panting and being drenched with sweat, Mr. Sacco's breathing remains unlabored and his hands turn ice cold. Regarding his cool composure after several hard games, men would half admiringly and half teasingly say, "He breathes only every other Tuesdays. Today is not Tuesday, so, he is not breathing today," and about his icy hands after the games, "He is dead! But, he doesn't know it himself!"

A young man once told me, in awe, about his experience with Mr. Sacco, "While I was playing racquetball with Vic, he crashed hard into a wall and dislocated his shoulder. Then he just rammed his dislocated shoulder against the wall a couple of times, put it back in

place, swung his arm to loosen it a bit and continued on playing as if nothing had happened. He had several major surgeries on his both knees and both shoulders. Any one of them would put any man out of commission. But, he is still competing in national and international tournaments. I'm telling you that man is really something, nothing will stop him."

Mr. Sacco is also known as being compassionate and soft spoken. I once asked him, "Vic, you are always so gentle that I cannot imagine you being angry, have you ever lost temper to anybody?"

He paused a moment, then said, "I cannot tolerate dirty plays. It doesn't matter whether the player is in my own team or in the other. When I was a captain, one of my teammates made a really dirty play that resulted in the injury to a player in the other team. He seemed to be pleased with himself because he got away with it and his teammates congratulated him. But, I went up to him and said, 'You know you really didn't have to do it. It was uncalled for.' The player was shocked. He thought that he helped his team and did not expect to hear such criticism from me," he continued. "You know, in sports, one exerts his skill, his strength, his speed and is demanded to make decisions in the split of a second. In the arena of sports, a man must shine, winning is not the goal, depicting his best is. Playing sports must be fun. Just go out there and have a good time."

And having a good time is exactly what we're doing — playing racquetball with Mr. Sacco, at SUNY Potsdam.

Galbreath tapped as Head Coach

Ron Galbreath has accepted the position of head coach for the Geneva College women's basketball team. Galbreath previously coached the men's basketball team at rival college Westminster for 25 years where he posted an impressive 448-206 record before retiring in 1998. Galbreath also has an impressive racquetball record. He has won nine USRA National singles championships in age-group competition including this past years 60+ title.

"Racquetball has helped me throughout my coaching career," Galbreath tells us. "I believe that by playing racquetball it helped to keep me fit and relieve stress."



rb:people & places



Most people might be a little concerned or intimidated with such a big job change — coaching for a rival college and switching from coaching men to coaching women — but not Galbreath. "I'm sure I'll find out the difference between coaching men and coaching women," he explains. They're athletes. I'm me. I'm not going to change the way I coach basketball. They want discipline. They want to work hard."

<< Galbreath isn't worried about the change of schools either. "I have been at Westminster for thirty-three years now but Geneva actually gave me my start." Galbreath was hired as a 26-year-old assistant at Geneva College in 1966. His wife and two brothers are graduates of Geneva college and it is where he has held his basketball camp that has seen over 3700 players go through.

As for racquetball, Galbreath is already gearing up for another national title in Houston and shows no signs of slowing down. "I have been blessed with a lot of good racquetball and a supportive wife. I figure I still got another 20 years of racquetball left."

<< NY Fire Department Benefit

Submitted by Ann Hemphill

In October the annual Ghosts 'n Goblins racquetball tournament held a New York Fire Department Benefit Doubles fundraiser. With assistance from the Tuscaloosa Fire Department, the event raised over \$1600 which was added to over \$10,000 the Tuscaloosa Fire Department had raised through other various events.

The tournament hosted over 35 players at the University of Alabama in round-robin doubles competition as well as singles divisions for the junior players that attended [*group of "goblins" shown at left*]. Winners were: Open/A - Billy Cannon/Mike Jones; B/C - Chris Crockett/Allen Crockett; Mixed - Lisa Davis/Billy Cannon; Juniors 10-and-under - Robert Hemphill; Juniors 10-18 - Drake Craig.

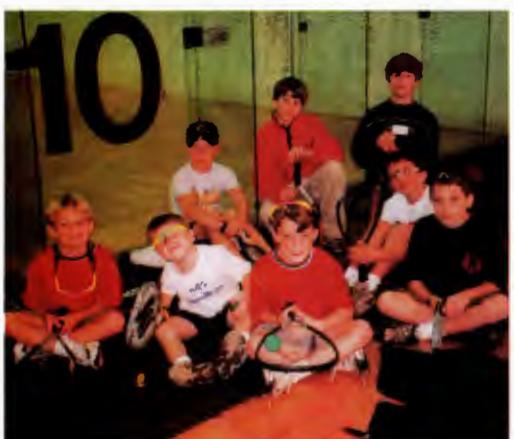
The Tuscaloosa Fire Fighters were on hand to personally present the check to the New York Fire Department at a memorial service held in memory of the victims of September 11. Many thanks go out to all the local businesses who donated food, beverages, and balls.

<< Wee Whack-It Doubles

Submitted by Julee Nicolia

Friday, December 7, Erie, Pennsylvania's Nautilus Fitness & Racquet Club held its annual Shriner's Hospital racquetball "One-nighter". This year's event raised enough money to purchase a dozen videos and two TV-VCR combination sets for use in the children's ward of the hospital. [*Pictured: Jason Loggett & Ryan Bush*]

The event was called the "Wee Whack-It Doubles." The object of the event was to use the small racquets from the sports earlier years. Each



team was required to have one partner play with one of these "ancient" racquets. Not only did it bring back a lot of memories, but provided many laughs for players and spectators as well.

Each participant was treated to a full chicken dinner, snacks, and beverages. The winning team received a Head racquetball bag with runner-ups getting a "PA Doubles" long sleeve shirt along with a Head water bottle and sweat towel. Overall, everyone had a great time and the event was a success.

NCRA Awards Banquet

Submitted by Lynn Stephens

The North Carolina Racquetball Association [NCRA] held its first ever awards ceremony at the North Carolina State Singles Championships February 2. The event was hosted by The Sports Center in Fayetteville, and attracted over 180 of North Carolina's best racquetball players over a three-day period.

Inducted into the NCRA Hall of Fame were Mary Low and Earl Acuff, Kevin Armbrecht, Mike Dimoff, Mildred Gwinn, Janet Myers, Ed Remen, and

Paul Saperstein. Receiving the Athletes of the Year awards were Eddie Albert and Debra Bryant. The Sportsmanship Awards went to Meena Evans and Mike Bourgeois. One of the highlights of this very special evening was the presentation of the Contributor Award. It is given to an individual that helps to promote and further the sport of racquetball and truly possesses a love for the game. This year's winner was Jan Stelma. Stelma is the owner of Courts Plus, former NCRA president, and current USRA board member. The award will now be known as the Jan R. Stelma Contributor Award. [Shown L-R above: Gwinn, Acuff(s), Myers & Remen(s)]

Membership in the NCRA has increased 37% in the past two years to nearly 600, vaulting it to 10th in the country. North Carolina also boasts one of the largest junior programs in the country. "I was honored to present these awards to these very deserving people," said Lynn Stephens, president of the NCRA. "We need to recognize these people who have played important roles in the growth of racquetball in our state."

Charlie Russell: 1918-2002

Photos, courtesy George Spear

To inform us of the passing of longtime friend Charlie Russell earlier this year, George Spear shared these photos of himself (left), Harry Steinman, and Charlie Russell (far right & inset).

Russell passed away January 28, at the age of 83. He was a retired Captain in the U.S. Navy and served his country as a Navy pilot in WWII and the Korean War. Married to wife Marion for 55 years, Russell was also father to eight, grandfather to sixteen, and an avid racquetball player. Steinman also passed away last year [see July/August 2001 issue].

Spear suffered a stroke in May of last year but says he's "coming along pretty good." He has been on the courts a few times, but admits that it's still a little rough. He hopes to compete in the IRF World Senior Championships this September in the 85+ age division. We'll be on the lookout for him!





Huczek Signs with ProKennex

World ProKennex recently announced the signing of Jack Huczek to a long-term professional contract. "I am extremely proud of my association with ProKennex throughout my amateur career", said Huczek, "I am excited and look forward to continuing our long term relationship as a professional."

Joining ProKennex's highly talented professional racquetball staff, which includes #2 Jason Mannino, and #3 John Ellis (*shown left & right, above*), Huczek springboards from an unprecedented junior record highlighted by 12 Junior National singles titles, 10 Junior World singles titles, 2 National High School singles titles, and the 2001 U.S. National Singles Championship crown.

In his first year as a professional, Huczek has moved up the IRT rankings quickly with big wins over seasoned touring pros to reach the #6 spot with only one event remaining on the 2001/2002 season schedule. This announcement comes as Huczek winds down a junior racquetball career that has produced double wins at every age division and will be regarded as one of the best in the history of racquetball.

"I have enjoyed working with Jack during his amateur career, his work ethic and on-court professionalism are extraordinary", said Mike Martinez, Director of Fall Sports at ProKennex. "His talents will ensure our presence at the top of the professional tour for years to come."

Komen Foundation a Winner

by Jean Gallagher

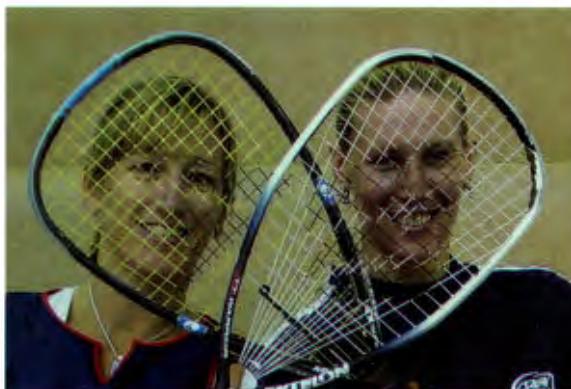
This year's Racquet for the Cure Tournament was a huge success when — thanks to all our sponsors and players — we were able to bring in \$3000.00 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. A total of 56 women participated, making this the largest single-day tournament so far. Thanks to Lakewood Athletic Club and its 12 courts, we were able to fit all our games into a Saturday filled with fun and laughter, not to mention sweat and fatigue!

We kicked off with an exhibition match between top-ranked pros Kersten Hallander and Rhonda Rajsich, who gave it their all, and didn't let up for anything. You'd have thought they were playing at the US Open! It's hard to get a ball past Rhonda, who dove repeatedly to keep the ball in play. Kersten played strong and came through in the fifth game for the win. But the most fun was in the stands, after Jo Shattuck started "the wave" every time one of the players dove!

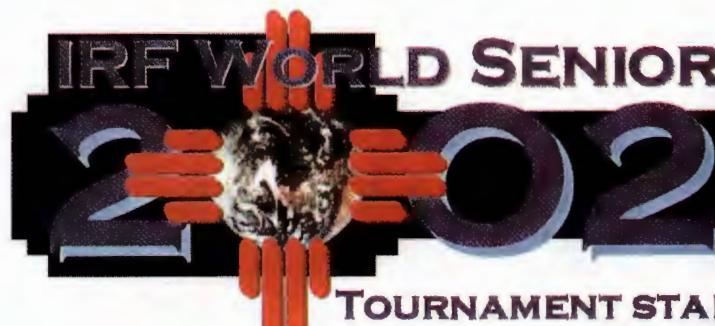
For the rest of the players, this playoff format is a departure from the norm. First, we set up designated teams, distributing all levels of play equally on each team. With a total of ten teams, we divided half into "Team Rajsich" and the other half as "Team Hallander." This

allowed any players needing help with their game to go to their "coach" for advice throughout the day. This was also a way to get to know "your" pro.

Singles matches were played to 11, best of three. The Open/A doubles matches were played one game to 21. We included a B/C doubles this year, allowing the lower levels to get some time on the court with a partner, and scheduled it in a shuttle format, five games for ten minutes, with Team Hallander's playing against Team Rajsich's.



HALLENDER & RAJSICH
PHOTOS: DAN DAVIS



IRF WORLD SENIOR RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO

TOURNAMENT STARTS **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28**
FINALS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

ENTRY FORM - PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION LEGIBLY.

Last Name:	First Name:	
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP:
Country:	Gender (Check One): <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	
Email:		
Age As Of 8/28/2002:	Date Of Birth:	

NO ENTRIES ACCEPTED WITHOUT FEE. FEE ENCLOSED:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Player - \$110.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband/Wife Players - \$170.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Player Spectator(s) - \$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/> USRA Competitive License - \$30.00
(Enter Spectator(s) Name(s) Below.) <input type="checkbox"/> Late Fee - \$15.00	

Spectator(s):

CHECK METHOD OF PAYMENT BELOW - TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED: \$

U.S. Currency Only. Add \$5.00 processing fee for VISA or Mastercard.

<input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order	<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Draft	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard
Credit Card #		Exp. Date:		

NO REFUNDS AFTER AUGUST 1, 2002.

WAIVER: In consideration of my participation in the World Senior Racquetball Championships, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the World Senior Racquetball Championships Council, New Mexico Sports and Wellness Clubs, Kirtland Air Force Base, International Racquetball Federation, United States Racquetball Association, New Mexico Racquetball Association, and their respective agents, representatives, successors, and assigns for any and all injuries or damages, whether caused by negligence of the above or otherwise. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition and can provide certification in writing that my protective eye guards (including prescriptive frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified by the IRF rules. By registering to compete in this event, I release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

(Original Signed Waiver Required For Participation.)

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE & DATE:

MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY AND FEES TO:
WORLD SENIOR RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
P.O. BOX 30188 ♦ ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87190

DEADLINE: ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 1, 2002

EVENT DETAILS: Note change in starting day (Wednesday) this year.

For details on **event headquarters and venues, hotel rates and location**, go to www.usra.org "Index" to search online for an expanded entry form, contact Gary Mazaroff at 505-266-8960 to request a full entry form by mail, or email joel.gellman@gte.net.

TRAVEL: United Airlines @ 800-841-0460 (use acct. #550 OH) for best United rate.

OFFICIAL BALL: Pro Penn

CHECK ONE EVENT PER PARTICIPANT

WHEELCHAIR DIVISION

Men/Women 35+
MEN'S DIVISIONS
 Men's 35+
 Men's 40+
 Men's 45+
 Men's 50+
 Men's 55+
 Men's 60+
 Men's 65+
 Men's 70+
 Men's 75+
 Men's 80+
 Men's 85+

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

Women's 35+
 Women's 40+
 Women's 45+
 Women's 50+
 Women's 55+
 Women's 60+
 Women's 65+
 Women's 70+
 Women's 75+
 Women's 80+
 Women's 85+

PLAYER LEVEL

Open, AA
 A, B
 C, D
 Novice

State Ranking: _____

Regional Ranking: _____

National Ranking: _____



rb:people & places

After the rounds were complete, the number one spots played each other, the number two's played each other and so on. Everyone survived (no one got hit with a racquet or a ball) and a lot was learned in this hour of fun.

All day long, there were "Test Your Skills" events with prizes to the most accurate players. Targets were set up to hit with a drive serve, a lob serve, or a pinch, along with many others that Marcia Richards conjured up. Players won whatever prize was in the target. By the end of the day, as players were being eliminated, they decided to test their skills on the court with a pro. This event paired you with a pro to play a doubles game. Kersten and Rhonda adapted their games to fit the level of the players, sometimes even playing left-handed.

Even though everyone was exhausted, we all managed to drag ourselves over to the nearby Old Chicago for our dinner and awards party. The 85 in attendance at dinner were just another testament to how well this event had gone. Not a soul left without an award for something. Tasha Morris, a professional kick boxer recovering from breast cancer, was our guest speaker, and gave a heartfelt speech that left us all amazed at her recovery. We'd like to thank her for her time and sharing her personal life with us. Not to mention the fact she got on the court and actually played racquetball! She took a few pointers from Kersten and we look forward to her entering the tournament next year.

Thanks to all the guys that helped out during the day ... Bruce Burgess, Adam Katz, Dan Davis, Steve Nelson, and Larry Mullen to name a few. They helped run the tournament desk, took pictures, answered any questions throughout the day, ran the pro events and even stepped on the court for a few rallies with Kersten and Rhonda. Their support was overwhelming, along with that of the tournament committee and sponsors, who made the marathon day worth all the effort.

We were able to meet many new players and get to know the ones that we've seen before. A special thanks to out to LPRA regulars Kersten and Rhonda for sharing their time and talents with Colorado locals. We enjoyed learning more about them as individuals.

So the next time you dive on the court and the crowd starts the wave, hopefully it will remind you of the "Racquet for the Cure" and bring a smile to your face.



Colorado Students Have a Ball

Submitted by Jo Shattuck

The eighth grade students at the Colorado Academy, an independently funded school, are learning the great sport of racquetball. The students are shuttled to Lakewood Athletic Club each day for one hour of instruction and play. The class consisted of 24 students nearly doubling its size from the previous year. In fact, the class is so popular students have to sign up far in advance. Other classes offered at the same time are rock climbing, strength/conditioning, and basketball. Students are graded in all classes and each counts for a course credit.

Every year the entire class has the opportunity to see the best players in the world compete at the Coca-Cola Classic Racquetball Tournament. The tournament is an IRT/LPRA combined pro stop held each December at the Lakewood Athletic Club. This year was extra special because several stars in the racquetball world took time out of their busy schedules to talk to the students and answer questions. Top 20 IRT players Woody Clouse and Jack Huczek joined Kersten Hallander, a top LPRA player to visit the students. Huczek and Hallander are also members of the U.S. National Team.

Marcia Richards, a full-time P.E. teacher at the school, and Jo Shattuck, consistently a top 16 ranked player on the LPRA tour, taught the class for twelve weeks. Ektelon provided eyeguards at reduced cost and Wilson donated prizes for the class. The Lakewood Athletic Club, located in Denver, Colorado, has been hosting the class for three years.

What's all the Ballyhoo?

Submitted by Mike & Neil Lazarow

At San Jacinto College, southeast of Houston, a drive to create a Community Racquetball Access Class began with the "Ballyhoo Reunion Shootout." Invitations were forwarded to the players who had petitioned the nearby national fitness club not to destroy courts, to the folks who had appealed to the local club to repair a rain damaged court, to local new players, and to San Jacinto students.

In a challenge format, Court 1 was Singles Challenge, Court 2 was Doubles and Court 3 was Challenger's Choice. Sign up sheets were posted outside each court, and the tournament coordinator ran down the halls like a "town cryer" heralding the plea: "Let the games begin!"

But things still didn't get going, at least not right away. The real purpose of this event took over immediately. The players started getting re-acquainted by finding out how each other had fared in the four years since they played each other, every week. Who had new kids?, new jobs?, new directions in life? Each time another "old face" appeared it started a new round of "catch up" and sheer joy ruled.

What this event was really all about was giving people a place to play, and a chance for the player with family obligations (and a 50 or 80 mile round trip) to get some exercise. It was to help them continue to compete in a game they love against good friends, to keep up longterm friendships, to let off the steam of a busy and taxing workday, to maintain health, and to do all that at a reasonable cost. It was all about turning glum faces into ear to ear "cat that swallowed the canary" grins.

But the competitive juices did not, however, remain suppressed for long. Statements like: "It's been too long since I whipped your butt!" were soon heard. Individual challenges were levied, teams formed, players signed up, and the wars were on. Matches were two games to 11 with a most-points tiebreaker. The second tiebreaker was a 1-point "sudden death" with first serve decided by coin flip. Winners retained the court for up to three matches.

From that point on things settled down to just plain out-and-out fierce competition. The San Jacinto College staff registered players for the new community racquetball access membership program, the players had fun, exchanged contact information and set up games for the future. The shootout instigator clowned around in front of the E-FORCE display/prize table. Ralph Smith and Steve Cowans, who were the tournament coordination committee (without whose efforts this thing would never have flown) finally got to play too. Everybody had a blast, and *racquetball just didn't look like a dying sport to anyone ...!*

For a preview of events leading up to this special "shootout" and photos of the action, see "Reader Forum" on page 4, then check out an expanded version of this story in the May/June issue of RACQUETBALL online, at www.racquetballmagazine.com.



Just what I needed! Above: After delivering the keynote remarks at the USRA Leadership Conference, new USOC CEO Lloyd Ward quipped "I get the message, Luke" when presented with a Pan American Games pin set by Luke St. Onge. Below: Also in attendance was U.S. Handball Executive Director Vern Roberts, who "won" a case of Penn racquetballs at the conference banquet. "What am I going to do with these?" he mused. Both gentlemen were good sports, and gracious in taking time from busy schedules to meet with USRA state directors.



21st German National Championships January 25-27, 2002: Hamburg

Submitted by Mike Mesecke

Mens Singles: Martin Klipper (Hamburg) def. Trevor Hayter (Hamburg) 11-5, injury forfeit

Womens Singles: Yvonne Kortes (Hamburg) def. Alexandra Rosenberg (Weilheim) 15-8, 15-8

Mens Doubles: J. Loof/W. Ruiz (Hamburg) def. M. Klipper/M. Scheffler (Hamburg) 15-6, 15-12. [Martin Klipper shown at right >>]

Womens Doubles: Y. Kortes/A. Rosenberg (Hamburg/Weilheim) def. R. Vonondarza/É. Lang (Wentorf/Reichersbeuern) 15-10, 15-6

Seniors 30+: Joachim Loof (Hamburg) def. Trevor Hayter (Hamburg) 15-10, 15-7

Seniors 35+: Marc Scheffler (Hamburg) def. Goetz Schulte-Langforth (Worms) 15-8, 15-7

Seniors 40+: Hermann Bachmaier (Bad Toelz) def. Tobi Paulsen (Hamburg) 15-6, 15-9

Senior Doubles 35+: O. Gerullis/M. Scheffler (Hamburg) def. B. Jensen/H. Bachmaier (Hamburg/Bad Tölz) 15-10, 15-3

Juniors U13: A. Wolf (Brunsbek) - M. Mielke (Hamburg) 15-5, 14-15, 11-7

Juniors U17: Jan Buchholtz (Hamburg) def. Marcel Czempisz (Hamburg) 15-7, 15-6

21st German Open

April 5-7: Hamburg

Submitted by Mike Mesecke

With huge success, close games and new friendships, the 21st German Open Championships were held in Hamburg, Germany's second largest city. Players from countries like the Netherlands, USA, Greece, Chile and of course Germany participated in this great event which has been a satellite tournament for the International Racquetball Tour (IRT).

Mens Open Final: Martin Klipper (GER) def. Trevor Meyer (GER) 11-7, 12-10, 11-6. Semi Finals: Martin Klipper (GER) def. Joachim Loof (GER) 11-5, 11-7, 8-11, 11-4; Trevor Meyer (GER) def. Pascal Matla (NED) 11-8, 11-9, 7-11, 11-9.

Doubles Open Final: P. Matla/J. Huang (NED/USA) def. R. Ortega/R. Cardenas (MEX) 12-15, 15-11, 11-5. Semi Finals: R. Ortega/R. Cardenas (MEX) def. M. Klipper/M. Scheffler (GER) 15-14, 15-11; P. Matla/J. Huang (NED/USA) def. J. Loof/W. Ruiz (GER/CHI) 15-4, 12-15, 11-2.

Womens Open: Yvonne Kortes (GER) def. Ramona von Ondarza (GER) 15-5, 15-9

Mens A: Allen Drew (USA) def. Ricardo Ortega (MEX) 15-4, 15-12; Mens B: Eric Godlewski (USA) def. Yvonne Kortes (GER) 15-0, 15-2; Mens C: Jiotis Pirigkos (GRE) def. Keith Komosinski (USA) 15-14, 15-11



Seniors 35+: Olaf Gerullis (GER) def. Marc Scheffler (GER) 15-1, 15-6; Masters 40+: Allen Drew (USA) def. Hermann Bachmaier (GER) 15-7, 15-8. All results can also be viewed at www.germanopenracquetball.de.

Late Breaking News ... Pan Am Qualifier in Bolivia

In the absence of a tie-breaking procedure in the Tournament of the Americas format, the United States and Canada returned from Bolivia with a shared 2002 overall team title, after each team earned a combined total of 80 points through performances by their respective squad members.

The men's and women's teams shifted between the top two spots, with the U.S. earning 40 points in each, for a win in the men's team playoff, and a second-place finish on the women's side. Canadian men earned 35 points, and the women 45 toward the combined team total, placing them second in the men's team lineup, and first among the women's teams.

Individual Finishes were — Men's Singles: Kane Waselenchuk (Canada) def. Javier Moreno (Mexico) 15-5, 14-15, 11-8; Women's Singles: Laura Fenton (USA) def. Josee GrandMaitre (Canada) 15-6, 15-11; Men's Doubles: Ruben Gonzalez/Mike Guidry (USA) def. Polo Gutierrez/Gilberto Mejia (Mexico) 15-10, 4-15, 11-10; Women's Doubles: Lori-Jane Powell/Karina Odegard (Canada) def. Paola Nunez/Carola Santos (Bolivia) 15-14, 15-14.

In a pre-event year, the 2002 Tournament of the Americas event also served as both a qualifier, and seeding playoff, for positioning for the quadrennial Pan American Games. Separate tallies, reflecting advances by all roster players (individually in singles and doubles) on each national team, will play an important role in the setting the draws for the 2003 Pan American Games, to be held next summer [August 1-17] in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Look for coverage in the July/August issue of RACQUETBALL, but until then you can find a complete wrap-up of event results, links to drawsheets hosted by Racquetball Canada and Pan American Game seedings for 2003, on the internet. Go to www.racqmag.com > "Newline/Events" > "Event Coverage" > select Tournament of the Americas.



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Blend	22/20'	8.95
Pearl-Zone	40'	6.75
Titanium Elite	40'	5.95
Tech Spin	40'	5.35
Syn. Gut Ultra-Fibre	40'	3.70
Syn. Gut Original	40'	3.50
Tournament Nylon	40'	1.45

STRING REELS	LENGTH	PRICE
Kevlar	380'	65.00
Pearl-Zone	380'	62.50
Titanium Elite	380'	54.00
Tech Spin	380'	46.50
Syn. Gut Ultra-Fibre	380'	32.50
Syn. Gut Original	380'	30.00
Tournament Nylon	660'	25.00
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Ribbed-Grip	48"	3.85
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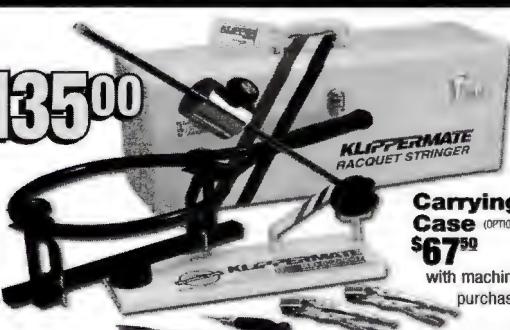
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AmPRO Instructor Certification Clinic Schedule

May 10-11
Wyoming Athletic Club
Casper, WY
Clinician: Gary Mazaroff
505-266-8960

May 11-12
Lakewood Athletic Club
Denver, CO
Clinician: Jo Shattuck
303-989-5545

May 18-19
Prairie Life Center
Omaha, NE
Clinician: Linda Moore
402-454-2765

May 20-21
Downtown YMCA
Houston, TX
Clinician: Ken Woodfin
281-434-4775

July 16-17
University of Illinois
Champaign, IL
Clinician: Gary Mazaroff
505-266-8960

Want to host a Clinic?
Schedule options are —
•Traditional Weekend:
Fri. 7-9PM; Sat. 9AM-6PM; Sun. 9AM-5PM.
•Pre-event (two consecutive weekdays): 9AM-6PM preceding a national event •Two weeknights: 3PM-10PM (Mon/Tue, Tue/Wed).
For more information, call Gary Mazaroff at 505-266-8960 or contact a clinician in your area!

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MEN

Men's Open

1. Jack Huczak, MI
2. Chris Wright, MO
3. Mitch Williams, NC
- 4T. Dan Fowler, MD
- 4T. Mike Locker, MN
6. Jim Minkel, TX
7. Rocky Carson, CA
8. Brian Pointelin, UT
9. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
10. Matt Gehling, MD

Men's Elite

1. Jonah Bishop, KS
2. Zach Pope, TX
3. Mark Fuhrmann, WA
4. Dave Bartscher, TX
5. Ray Smith, OK
- 6T. Raymond Maestas, NM
- 6T. Matthew Majxner, MT
- 6T. Jonathan Munger, AK
- 6T. Randy Place, OK
- 6T. William Smith, AE

Men's A

1. Filip Vesely, NV
2. Dave Bartscher, TX
3. Eric Zamudio, IN
- 4T. Mark Bianchi, OK
- 4T. Rob Bultinck, MN
6. Dan Sublett, AR
- 7T. Kipp Atwell, LA
- 7T. Joey Lakowske, OR
- 7T. Jody Morris, TX
- 7T. John Weist, OH

Men's B

1. Drew Toland, AR
2. Chris Coy, OK
3. Alex Zamudio, IN
- 4T. Myron Brough, OH
- 4T. Mike Wiseman, WI
6. Brady Hernandez, LA
- 7T. Andres Ramirez, FL
- 7T. Roberto Tinajero, TX
9. Mark Powers, CA
10. Steven Droski, MD

Men's C

1. Myron Brough, OH
2. Bryan Shaw, MO
3. Philip Suarez, TX
4. Enrique Loaiza, CA
5. Alex Morelos, OK
6. Jason Ganahl, MO
7. Garry Carter, CA
8. Wm. Allen Ayers, AR
- 9T. Cam Grundman, MN
- 9T. Jason Lightbourne, FL

Men's D

1. Kyle Shawger, OH
2. Dan Whiston, MI
3. Michael Grosse, CO
- 4T. Rudy Olivares, TX
- 4T. John Schwinger, AR
- 4T. James Thomas, SC
7. Brian Keteltas, NY

- 8T. David Cohen, MA

- 8T. Ubaldo Melo, IL

- 8T. Tom Tierney, IN

Men's Novice

- 1T. Matthew Bracken, OH
- 1T. Nick Knudsen, FL
- 1T. Nick Lovett, NY
- 1T. Sonny Rodriguez, CA
- 1T. Stephen Terry, TX
6. Marco Rojas, CA
- 7T. Mark Chester, MI
- 7T. Anthony Clark, UT
- 7T. Justin Evans, NM
- 7T. Ekundayo Falase, NM

Men's 24-

1. Mitch Williams, NC
- 2T. Matt Gehling, MD
- 2T. Willie Tilton, CO
4. Shane Vanderson, OH
5. Alejandro Herrera, FL
6. Brent Walters, NC
- 7T. Jason Jansen, ND
- 7T. Josh Tucker, MO
9. Drex Fitzwater, NM
10. Sean Brown, ID

Men's 25+

1. Brian Fredenberg, TX
2. Dale Valentine, CA
- 3T. Rob Dejesus, AZ
- 3T. Andy Gross, MN
- 3T. Brian Pointelin, UT
- 6T. Corey Fritz, VA
- 6T. Matthew Majxner, MT
- 8T. Mike Dennison, OH
- 8T. Kyle Veenstra, WI
10. Silvio Rostran, FL

Men's 30+

1. Kevin Graham, WI
2. Jeff Bell, AZ
3. Jim Frautschi, MN
4. Pedro Aranda, TX
5. Travis Aldinger, PA
6. Pete Ulliman, OH
7. Scott Krouse, ME
8. Matt McKinnis, AR
9. Russ Bruns, VA
10. John Ledig, FL

Men's 35+

1. Dave Watson, OK
2. Jim Minkel, TX
3. Andy Roberts, TN
4. Brad Mccunniff, IA
5. Gary Tanko, WI
6. Scot Consoli, FL
7. Bill Lyman, IL
8. Eugene Coyle, IL
- 9T. Glenn Bell, TX
- 9T. Greg Fox, MN

Men's 40+

1. Tim Hansen, FL
2. Bill Lyman, IL
3. Dave Eagle, OH
4. Tom Neill, NM

- 5T. Greg Hodges, MI

- 5T. Gary Tanko, WI

- 7T. Scott Cullins, GA

- 7T. Tom Travers, OH

9. Noel De La Rosa, TX

10. Bobby Haab, CT

Men's 45+

1. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
2. Mark Baron, VA
3. Mitt Layton, FL
4. Tom Travers, OH
5. Howard Walker, TX
6. John Vohland, CO
7. James Jones, CA
8. Bill Greaney, FL
- 9T. Richard Bocanegra, KS
- 9T. Steve Williams, VA

Men's 50+

1. Mitt Layton, FL
- 2T. David Dennis, AR
- 2T. Russ Mannino, CA
4. Frank Taddonio, AZ
5. Denny Vincent, OH
6. Jim Bailey, VA
7. Jim Luzar, WI
8. Gary Mazaroff, NM
9. Sal Perconti, FL
10. Dave Warner, MN

Men's 55+

1. Ed Remen, NC
- 2T. Steve Meltsner, CT
- 2T. Horace Miller, IL
- 2T. Bill Wolfe, NY
5. Joe Gellman, NM
6. Joe Quirke, IL
7. Bill Hagedorn, MI
8. Ken Vanzandt, TX
- 9T. Glenn Allen, VA
- 9T. Paul Pearce, TX

Men's 60+

1. Warren Reuther, LA
2. Leland Rients, MN
- 3T. Ron Hutcherson, IN
- 3T. Ed Sword, KY
- 5T. Ron Galbreath, PA
- 5T. Jim Trammell, MO
7. Chris Segura, UT
8. Jim Mcpherson, TX
9. Grant Morrill, PA
10. Lee Graff, OR

Men's 65+

1. Jerry Holly, CA
2. Rex Benham, AR
3. Don Alt, OH
4. Dave Lund, MI
5. Art Hurley, NM
6. Ken Karmel, NM
7. Dave Snyder, TX
8. Terry Lauritsen, NM
- 9T. Alan Dwyer, FL
- 9T. Roy Rudichuk, OK

Men's 70+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. John O'donnell, IL
3. Frank Trask, ME
4. Pearce Grove, VA
5. Ralph Waddington, NM
6. Don Maxey, TX
7. Robert Miller, SC
8. Wendell Hall, NM
- 9T. Vance Lerner, CA
- 9T. Larry Moyer, OR

Men's 75+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Bill Matotan, NM
3. Victor Sacco, NY
4. Cam Snowberger, SC
5. Mal Roberts, FL
6. J.W. Studak, TX
7. Al Romero, NM
8. Duane Russell, MI
9. John Leech, OH
10. John O'Donnell, IL

Men's 80+

- 1T. Earl Acuff, NC
- 1T. Robert Mcadam, TX
3. Cam Snowberger, SC
4. Hank Richard, NC
- 5T. Ben Marshall, TX
- 5T. George Spear, FL
7. William Gillio, CA
8. Charlie Russell, CA
9. Ralph Davis, OR
10. Walter Gardner, UT

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Cheryl Gudinas, IL

2. Laura Fenton, KS

3. Kim Russell, TX

4. Jackie Paraiso-Rice, CA

5. Elaine Albrecht, OH

6. Kersten Hallander, CA

- 7T. Adrienne Fisher, OH

- 7T. Lisa Mayo, ME

9. Angie Roby, MN

10. Julie Hill, OK

Women's Novice

1. Laura Blaylock, NM

- 2T. Julie Arvidson, ME

- 2T. Theresa Brodzik, MI

- 2T. Nancy Gager, NJ

- 2T. Michelle Key, AZ

- 2T. Jamie Shaw, TX

7. Donna Margwarth, NM

- 8T. Kimberly Archer, OK

- 8T. Ginger Buttke, TX

- 8T. Kim Cochrane, ME

Women's Elite

1. Aimee Roehler, NJ

2. Adrienne Fisher, OH

3. Rachel Gellman, AZ

4. Lauren Deutsch, CA

- 5T. T.J. Baumbaugh, MD

- 5T. Vivian Gomez, FL

- 5T. Linda Moore, NE

- 5T. Janel Tisinger, CA

- 9T. Norma Bilbo, AZ

- 9T. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ

Women's A

1. Christine Mcalpine, VA

2. Tammarrian Rogers, WA

- 3T. Candi Hostovich, VA

- 3T. Karen Morton, PA

5. Leah Upshaw, GA

6. Stephanie Bird, OK

7. Pat Sims, ME

Women's 24-

1. Kristen Walsh, UT

2. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ

3. Janel Tisinger, CA

- 4T. Brooke Crawford, CA

- 4T. Adrienne Fisher, OH

- 6T. Brenna Bilbrough, OR

- 6T. Lauren Deutsch, CA

- 6T. Melissa Harmon, FL

- 6T. Olivia Martinez, TX

- 6T. Rachel Mimms, KY

Women's 25+

1. Kerri Wachtel, OH

- 2T. Claudine Garcia, FL

- 2T. Rachel Gellman, AZ

- 2T. Aimee Roehler, NJ

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5. T.J. Baumbaugh, MD
 6T. Debra Bryant, NC
 6T. Heather Dunn, MA
 8T. Kelley Beane, NH
 8T. Brenna Bilbrough, OR
 8T. Vivian Gomez, FL

Women's 30+

1. Lorraine Galloway, NY
 2. Elaine Albrecht, OH
 3. Kim Russell, TX
 4. Lori Lepow, FL
 5T. Kelley Beane, NH
 5T. B.J. Ehrhart, CT
 7T. Michelle Lucas, VA
 7T. Kim Wapola, MN
 9T. Debra Bryant, NC
 9T. Angela Birth, HI

Women's 35+

1. Debra Tisinger, CA
 2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
 3. Felicia Mann, MI
 4T. B.J. Ehrhart, CT
 4T. Anita Maldonado, NY
 6. Solanna Taragan, CA
 7. Diane Mueller, CA
 8. Cindy Wittenbrink, NM
 9. Stephanie Johnson, TX
 10. Laura Fenton, KS

Women's 40+

1. Debra Tisinger, CA
 2T. Cyd Evans, NM
 2T. Liz Molitor, IL
 2T. Linda Moore, NE
 5. Peggy Stephens, KY
 6. Shari Coplen, MO
 7. Malia Bailey, VA
 8. Sheri Anderson, AZ
 9T. Meena Evans, NC
 9T. Therese Lewis, OK

Women's 45+

1. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
 2T. Marcy Lynch, PA
 2T. Susan Pfahler, FL
 4. Meena Evans, NC
 5T. Lesley Kishigian, MI
 5T. Linda Moore, NE
 7. Marsha Berry, KY
 8. Marcia Richards, CO
 9. Brenda White, IL
 10. Mary Keenan, CO

Women's 50+

1. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
 2. Susan Kieffer, MN
 3T. Agatha Falso, FL
 3T. Sharon Huczak, MI
 5. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
 6. Linda Neel, OR
 7. Paula Sperling, NM
 8. Paula Lemon, OK
 9. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 10. Veronica Yorski, MD

Women's 55+

1. Mary Lou Furaus, NM
 2. Cece Palaski, CA

3. Agatha Falso, FL
 4. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 5. Nidia Funes, CA
 6. Joy DeSantis, CA
 7T. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 7T. Margaret Hoff, IL
 9T. Merijkean Kelley, CA
 9T. Suzanne Storey, TX

Women's 60+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 2. Marquita Molina, CA
 3. Mildred Gwinn, NC
 4T. Jo Kenyon, FL
 4T. Gail Schaefer, MD
 6T. Lola Markus, IL
 6T. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
 8. Gloria Piscoran, OR
 9. Nancy Butts, WI
 10. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

Women's 65+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
 2T. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
 2T. Lola Markus, IL
 4. Naomi Eads, MO
 5. Carol Brown, AZ
 6. Jeanne Leben, AZ

Women's 70+

1. Lola Markus, IL
 2. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
 3. Reta Harring, WI
 4. Tillie Davies, AZ
 5. Betty Railey, KY
 6. Louise Kiss, NM
 7. Mary Lou Kackert, NM

Women's 75+

1. Christine Stephens, TX
 2. Beth Keene, TX
 3. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

Women's 80+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 2. Helen Deysher, PA

BOYS

Boys' 6-

1. Jesse Van Valkenburg, UT
 2. Gregory Shipman, UT
 3. Kamal Lachmansingh, VA
 4. Kevin Fenton, VA

Boys' 6- Multi Bounce

1. Doug Brenner, OR
 2. Jackson Rogers, NM
 3. Sam Reid, OR
 4. Zachary Pellowski, WI
 5. Ryan Coates, OH
 6. Keegan North, KY
 7. Nathaniel Stevens, CO
 8T. Brandon Golob, VA
 8T. Tanner Heiser, SD
 8T. Oliver Trowbridge, ID

Boys' 8-

1. Joseph Lee, LA
 2. Marco Rojas, CA

3. Taylor Regier, OR
 4. Dylan Reid, OR
 5. Brad Falvey, WI
 6. Logan North, KY
 7T. Keith McElhany, SD
 7T. Sam Reid, OR
 9. Keegan North, KY
 10. Chase Stanley, LA

Boys' 8- Multi Bounce

1. Marco Rojas, CA
 2T. Daniel Ring, MN
 2T. Gavin Seaders, OR
 4. Sam Reid, OR
 5. Chase Stanley, LA
 6. Marcos Rojas, CA
 7. Logan North, KY
 8. Marty Andrie, CO
 9. Bennett Goff, WI
 10. Andrew Boelter, WA

Boys' 10-

1. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
 2. Jose Rojas, CA
 3. John Sanderson, UT
 4. Danny Lavelly, OH
 5. Taylor Knoth, OR
 6. Brad Falvey, WI
 7. Andrew Carter, OH
 8T. Joseph Lee, LA
 8T. Michael Watson, OK
 10. Sean Wickers, CO

Boys' 12-

1. Jose Rojas, CA
 2. Nick Arturo, AK
 3. Jonathan Doyle, OH
 4. Brad Starken, WI
 5. Ismael Aldana Jr., CA
 6. Justin Watson, OK
 7. Tyler Wickers, CO
 8T. Tripp Isley, NC
 8T. Brandon Ritschard, IL
 10. John Edwards, WA

Boys' 14-

1. Matt Johnson, NM
 2. Joey Lakowske, OR
 3. Charles Pratt, OR
 4. Chris Coy, OK
 5. Andrew Gale, UT
 6T. Anthony Martin, UT
 6T. Brad Starken, WI
 8T. Graham Seaders, OR
 8T. Drew Toland, AR
 10. Daniel Stewart, KY

Boys' 16-

1. Steven Klaiman, TX
 2. Travis Woodbury, VA
 3. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
 4. Dan Sheppick, OR
 5. Ben Croft, IL
 6. Devin Drury, WA
 7T. Ryan Lindell, OR
 7T. Quang Nguyen, UT
 9T. Dain Taylor, IN
 9T. Ryan Watson, OK

Boys' 18-

1. Jack Huczak, MI
 2. Zack Miller, OH
 3. Cory Martin, WI
 4. Ben Croft, IL
 5. Dan Beaudry, CO
 6T. Ryan Kofoid, AK
 6T. Matthew McElhiney, FL
 6T. Logan Stewart, KY
 9. Richard Terry, UT
 10. Alex Brown, MI

Boy's 16-

1. Steven Klaiman, TX
 2. Travis Woodbury, VA
 3. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
 4. Dan Sheppick, OR
 5. Ben Croft, IL
 6. Devin Drury, WA
 7T. Ryan Lindell, OR
 7T. Quang Nguyen, UT
 9T. Dain Taylor, IN
 9T. Ryan Watson, OK

Boy's 18-

1. Jack Huczak, MI
 2. Zack Miller, OH
 3. Cory Martin, WI
 4. Ben Croft, IL
 5. Dan Beaudry, CO
 6T. Ryan Kofoid, AK
 6T. Matthew McElhiney, FL
 6T. Logan Stewart, KY
 9. Richard Terry, UT
 10. Alex Brown, MI

Girl's 6-

1. Nicole Bruns, VA
 2. Danielle Key, AZ
 3. Courtney Hill, NM

Girl's 8-

1. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
 2. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
 3. Sierra Adam, CO
 4T. Monique Horyza, CA
 4T. Amanda Watson, OK
 6. Stephanie Rojas, OR
 7T. Vianna Gutierrez, TX
 7T. Joe White, IL
 9T. Janelle Coates, OH
 9T. Adam Ivetic, IL

Girl's 10-

1. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
 2. Sierra Adam, CO
 3. Hannah Edwards, WA
 4. Emily Hathaway, MN
 5T. Marissa Bintz, WI
 5T. Nicole Bruns, VA
 5T. Stephanie Rojas, OR
 8. Kaitlyn Pacinelli, NM
 9T. Jordan Golob, VA
 9T. Bailee Painter, ID

Girl's 12-

1. Kristen Walsh, UT
 2T. Krystal Csuk, IL
 2T. Lauren Deutsch, CA
 4. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 5T. Melissa Gransbury, OR
 5T. Janel Tisinger, CA
 7. Jeni Fuller, NM
 8T. Kastle Arturo, AK
 8T. Lynne Berg, OR
 8T. Linda Knudsen, UT

Girl's 14-

1. Shannon Inglesby, OR
 2. Brittany Legget, OR
 3. Dannielle Pimental, OR
 4. Kara Mazur, CT
 5. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
 6T. Sharon Jackson, IN
 6T. Shanae Taylor, IN
 8. Liz Taylor, OR
 9. Hannah Oliver, CO
 10. Kali Gottsleben, SD

Girl's 16-

1. Ashley Legget, OR
 2. Kelley Fisher, OH
 3. Elise Wilson, CT
 4. Ashley Willhite, OR
 5. Natalie Starken, WI
 6T. Sarah Moyle, OR
 6T. Kimberly Walsh, UT
 8. Katie Ferguson, OR
 9T. Alexandra Humiston, MA
 9T. Samantha Salas, CA

Girl's 18-

1. Kristen Walsh, UT
 2T. Krystal Csuk, IL
 2T. Lauren Deutsch, CA
 4. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 5T. Melissa Gransbury, OR
 5T. Janel Tisinger, CA
 7. Jeni Fuller, NM
 8T. Kastle Arturo, AK
 8T. Lynne Berg, OR
 8T. Linda Knudsen, UT

EVENT LEVEL/DESCRIPTION

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5-8	9-16
1 = Closed Club Event	30	20	15	10	5	0
2 = Open Tournament	50	30	20	15	10	0
3 = State Championship	150	100	75	50	25	0
4 = Regional Championship	250	150	100	75	50	0
5 = National Invitational	300	200	150	100	75	25*
6 = National Championship	600	400	300	200	100	50*

*In draws of 48 or more at Level Five or Level Six events, 9-16th place finishes earn points.

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may...

May 2-5	Ektelon Regional/Oklahoma @ Southern Athletic Club [4]	Oklahoma City, OK	918-541-0722
May 2-5	Cinco De Mayo @ Pueblo Athletic Club	Pueblo, CO	719-547-8034
May 3-5	All Military Championships @ Greenbriar North YMCA	Chesapeake, VA	757-366-9622
	The MAC Open @ Michigan Athletic Club	Grand Rapids, MI	616-956-0944
	The Negrete Open @ Athletic Club Of Bloomingdale.	Bloomingdale, IL	630-893-9577
	The Schultz Classic @ The Sports Center	Fayetteville, NC	910-864-3303
	Waycross Spring Tourney @ Waycross Sports Club	Loveland, OH	513-742-1700
	1st Racquet For The Cure @ Idaho Athletic Club.	Boise, ID	208-345-7599
	Outdoor State Doubles @ Golden West College	Huntington Beach, CA	714-639-8568
	Spring Fling @ Classic Athletic Club	Fairfield, NJ	973-742-8806
May 4	Women's Sat At Stillaguamish @ Stillaguamish Athletic Club	Arlington, WA	360-653-5956
May 10-12	Mother's Day Tournament @ Los Caballeros Sports Village.	Fountain Valley, CA	714-979-4317
May 10	Shelbyville Junior Tourney @ Shelbyville Athletic Club	Shelbyville, IN	317-879-8100
May 11	Atlanta Grand Prix #2 @ Athletic Club Northeast.	Atlanta, GA	404-784-5327
	Florida Challenge @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet.	Orlando, FL	407-889-3861
	NWFC Shoot Out @ NWFC	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
May 15-19	Untalan Open @ Lloyd Athletic Club	Portland, OR	503-287-4594
May 17-19	Fiberlink Technologies #6 @ AAC.	Tempe, AZ	480-730-8156
	Financial Services Specialists2002 @ Landmark Fitness Factory.	Dallas, TX	214-827-9994
	Tournament Of Aces @ Tri City Leisure Center	Wes Columbia, SC	803-781-0462
	Washington Seniors @ Pro Sports Club.	Bellevue, WA	206-361-8853
May 20-21	Crawfish Classic/Junior Regional @ Prime Fitness	Homewood, AL	205-988-3819
May 30 - June 1	Juniors Only Racquetball Tour @ Gold River Racquet Club	Gold River, CA	916-638-7001

june...

June 1	Lac Charity Tournament @ Lakewood Athletic Club.	Lakewood, CO	303-989-5545
June 1-2	Outdoor Nationals Warm-Up @ Golden West College	Huntington Beach, CA	714-639-8568
June 5-9	Ektelon ORA State Championship @ Multnomah Athletic Club.	Portland, OR	503-223-8740
June 6-9	Pepsi Cup @ CAC Aurora.	Aurora, CO	303-696-9313
June 7-9	Craig McCoy Memorial @ The Tournament House.	Riverside, CA	909-682-7511
	Hurricane Hideout @ Goldsboro YMCA.	Goldsboro, NC	919-736-1232
June 8	Triple Crown One Day @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3340
	Jerry Stoltmann Memorial @ Wisconsin Athletic Club.	Waukesha, WI	414-321-2500
June 14-16	Silver State Games 2002 @ Reno Athletic Club.	Reno, NV	775-425-1885
June 15	NWFC Shoot Out @ NWFC	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
June 21-23	Summer Splat @ Racquetball & Fitness.	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
	Aloha Open @ Body Check Health & Fitness	Winston Salem, NC	910-947-3202
	Arizona State Games @ A.S.U.	Tempe, AZ	480-633-2736
	Steve Powers Memorial @ Tysons Sport & Health	McLean, VA	703-442-9150
June 28-30	The Broadstone Open @ Broadstone Athletic Club	Folsom, CA	916-983-9180

july...

July 4-7	Outdoor Nationals @ Golden West College	Huntington Beach, CA	714-639-8568
July 12-14	Big Brothers/Big Sisters @ Courts Plus New Bern	New Bern, NC	252-633-2221
	Summer Shoot Out @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550

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July 13	Triple Crown One Day @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3340
July 14-16	July Jam @ YMCA.....	Birmingham, AL	205-988-3815
July 19-21	Virginia Commonwealth Games @ Sport & Health	Vinton, VA	540-977-1200
July 20-21	Cornhusker State Games @ Sports Courts	Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
July 20	Hot Tamale @ Racquetball & Fitness	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
	NWFC Shoot Out @ NWFC	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
July 26-27	ARAC Doubles Open @ American River Athletic Club.....	Sacramento, CA	916-920-1933
July 26-28	Quad West Summer Classic @ Quad West.....	Clearwater, FL	727-535-4901
	Virginia State Games @ Arlington Sport & Health	Arlington, VA	703-522-1702

august...

August 3	Atlanta Grand Prix #3 @ Athletic Club Northeast.....	Atlanta, GA	404-784-5327
August 10	Triple Crown One Day @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3340
August 16-18	Another Leftover Tournament @ Worldgate Sport & Health	Herndon, VA	703-527-7785
August 17	Florida Challenge @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet.....	Orlando, FL	407-889-3861
	NWFC Shoot Out @ NWFC	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
August 23-25	Best Of Texas @ Racquetball & Fitness	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596

september...

September 6-8	American Family Open @ American Family Fitness	Richmond, VA	804-330-3400
September 13-15	Outback Blast It! @ The Sports Center	Fayetteville, NC	910-864-3303
	Triple Crown Championships @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3340
September 21-22	Alpha Fall Kick Off @ Alpha Racquet Club.....	Mechanicsburg, PA	717-540-5111
September 27-29	Fall Rally @ Olympus Racquet & Fitness	Sterling, VA	703-430-0666
	State Doubles @ NWFC	Houston, TX	713-895-8688

• For all sanctioned events [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2)

• Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 06/02, you must renew your membership in the month of June in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.

For expanded calendar listings, refer to the online edition of RACQUETBALL at www.racqmag.com.

For online entries, go to www.usra.org > "Events & Records" follow links to entry forms & online registration.

2002 national calendar

May 22-27	Ektelon USRA 35th National Singles Championships [6].....	Houston, Texas	719-635-5396
June 26-30	Head 29th U.S. JuniorOlympic Championships [6].....	Chicago, Illinois	719-635-5396
July 17-20	NMRA International Masters [5]	Champaign, Illinois	734-426-8952
August 2-10	IRF 11th World Championships	San Juan, Puerto Rico	719-635-5396
August 16-21	U.S. Junior Team Training Camp.....	Colorado Springs, Colorado	719-635-5396
August 21-26	High Performance Training Camp.....	Colorado Springs, Colorado	719-635-5396
August 28-31	IRF 14th World Senior Championships [5]	Albuquerque, New Mexico	719-635-5396
October 2-6	Ektelon USRA 35th National Doubles Championships [6] .	Minneapolis, Minnesota	719-635-5396
November 20-24	Choice Hotels 7th U.S. OPEN Championships [5]	Memphis, Tennessee	719-635-5396
December 18-22	IRF 14th World Junior Championships [5]	Orlando, Florida	719-635-5396

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE ... Huzcek & Czuk win Intercollegiates ... US & Canada tie at Tournament of the Americas Pan Am Qualifier in Bolivia ... National Singles ... IRT & LPRA Pro Nationals ... Andy Roberts inducted to Hall of Fame ... Between issues, find updates online at WWW.RACQMAG.COM

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RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Memphis, Tennessee

Cliff Swain
2001 champion

Kerri Wachtel
2001 champion



Look for Entry Form in the July/August
Issue of Racquetball Magazine



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