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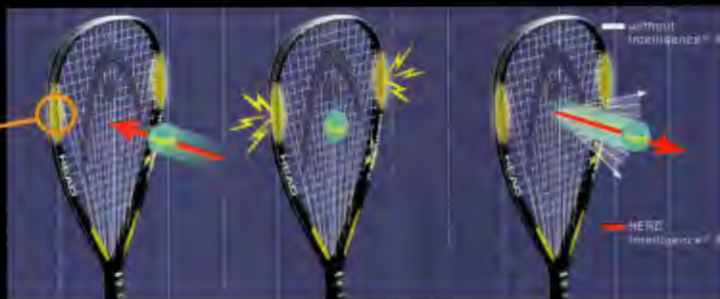


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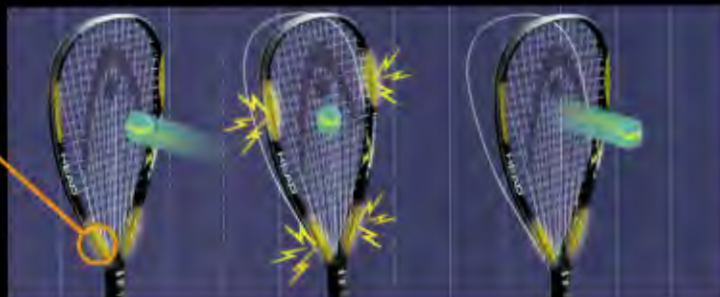
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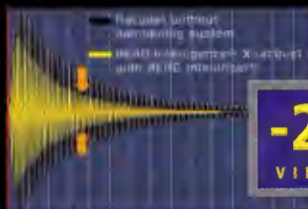
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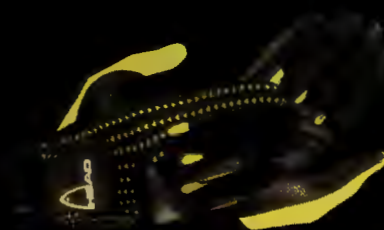
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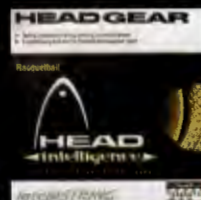
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It could be that I'm over-reacting a bit, but it seems as though all the small talk in and around the office has gone a bit like this lately —

In a slightly offhand way, Jim offers (to just about anyone who will listen) "Well, the USRA does this-that-and-the-other, and we have a (insert scary figure) deficit in our budget ..." HISER! Is it *absolutely* necessary for you to share that much detail with every unsuspecting visitor to the office? I may be in some serious denial about lots of things (this is one of them) but ... really ... shouldn't we be just a tad more discreet? Geez!

He adjusts the number, after reviewing budgets each day, and releases it like a stock market ticker — publicly, and often. My virtual elbow shoots out, and misses. If we're in a meeting, I'm aiming for his shin under the table (he's usually placed himself out of range). He's unfazed. I'm mortified. But then, it's not my personal checkbook, so why should I care? I only work here. (*I've been advised to adopt the phrase as my personal mantra ... I only work here ... I only work here ... ohhhmm*).

In fairness, the good doctor is trying very hard (the hole does get *smaller* some days), and the board is re-shaping itself into one that is more responsive to the financial needs of the organization in its care. Gradually, it's becoming more of a relief to own up. Like any governing agency, the USRA has been accused of hiding things, but the simple fact is that it's just been embarrassing. *I only work here ... um, er, ohm ...*

We've tried awfully hard to make everything about racquetball look bright, shiny and bigger than life ... so when we look, hard, at the numbers, we have to admit that we've been doing far too much, with far too little, for far too long. And now it's threatening to come back to haunt us. Cold, hard facts, to be sure, but what are we going to do? Stop? *I really, truly, only work here ...*

Over the past year, some very special people have dipped into their very own bank accounts to purchase computer equipment I've needed to do the magazine, work events off-site and manage the websites that we offer to the membership and the public. Those computer crashes weren't "budgeted" but when the needs became urgent these "donors" kept things running, and the member/reader never missed a beat. For that I'm extremely grateful. *I work here ...*

How can I repay them? Discreetly? Nah. I'm going to follow suit, put my money where my mouth is and join Randy Stafford in establishing the USRA Foundation [see pages 4 and 32]. Oh, it may not be much to start, and it might just go toward covering my own paycheck — but isn't that the theory behind paying your MasterCard with your Visa? In the long run, I'm hoping that it just might make it seem like I'm doing more than just working here ... *Om ...*

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... on the cover ... This year's flagship frames from top manufacturers line up. Is it time for a new model? ... this page ... RacquetballCatalog.com's new showroom in Denver showcases all the latest product lines. Both photos: John Foust.

Campaign Kickoff

Before you get to the center pages of the magazine, I wanted — on a personal note — to tell you that no one asked me to write this letter or start a fundraising campaign. I am a player just like you, and I am concerned that if we don't change and improve the way our sport is run, we will never see another heyday for racquetball. I do not want our sport to fade away. This can happen — and will happen — if we do not do all that we can to help.

Also, you should know that I've only been on the USRA Board of Directors for a few months. I was, and still am, an outsider — just like you — to the inner workings of our sport. Even though I have played racquetball for 34 years, I have always been content to let other people be involved in running our sport. Now, at 48, I have seen some of what was going on, and I can see that those leaders have truly done an outstanding job with the resources at their disposal. No one has gotten rich at these posts, and it has been a daily struggle for those who have done so for years. Yes, there have been some mistakes and misunderstandings, but overall I think that former and current leaders have done a remarkable job with a very diverse group of people.

I only want our sport to grow and I believe that supporting the USRA with our personal donations is the first step in achieving the goal. I hope that, as you read through the eyes of this "outsider," you can gain an understanding of what is going on, and come to trust and support this organization.

My appeal to you as an individual is because I love the sport, just like you do. My board service is completely volunteer and I will receive no benefits from any of my efforts, except to see our sport grow and watch the many new beginners start to learn our sport. I get so much joy watching kids playing and laughing while participating in their first game of racquetball. There aren't many sports around where an individual can play for the first time, have fun and get a great workout.

The list of benefits I've received from racquetball is just too long to mention. It has given me exercise for my entire life, many lifelong friends and business associates, and a sense of belonging within a sport. Not to mention the warrior-like attitude that players get when we step into a court and the benefits that we derive from being able to express ourselves, like no where else. Only players know what I mean by the high that comes from playing a hard hour of racquetball against our weekly opponent. Where else can we get a great, fun workout in an hour and actually have a smile on our faces when we're finished? Have you ever seen a jogger going down the street smiling?

FOR THE RECORD ... Debate surrounding the USRA's involvement with the Olympic movement continues. Often mistakenly, the topic focuses on the efforts of the USRA to become an Olympic sport — rather than on the benefits that are afforded to the association by being part of the Olympic movement. Simply put, the United States Olympic Committee offers numerous benefits to USRA athletes and members that would otherwise be unavailable.

USOC funds are not used exclusively for elite athletes; in fact, approximately forty percent of all USOC funds are allocated to support state developmental programs. Included under "USOC support" are numerous value-in-kind services such as computer programming assistance, data management, printing and publication services, video production, insurance, facility usage, scholarships, joint marketing opportunities and services, job placement assistance for athletes, coaching and teaching information and grant opportunities which are provided at reduced-, or no-, cost to the USRA. Without such support, the USRA could not even approach what it accomplishes on behalf of its membership.

Some also argue, erroneously, that the USRA spends too much of its time and effort in seeking Olympic inclusion. The reality is that only one out of ten full-time employees spends any time on this movement, while the remaining employees concentrate on state and membership issues.

Often overlooked is the importance of international growth. Without USOC support, international racquetball would be almost non-existent. The U.S. teams (junior and senior) continue to be a vital part of the USRA, providing a goal for our young athletes and invaluable media exposure for our sport. Although only seven percent of our annual budget is spent on these efforts, the teams provide invaluable press exposure and public visibility for the sport.

The USRA does not sacrifice any membership benefits in exchange for Olympic inclusion. In fact, the opposite has occurred. The USOC has provided athletes and members with numerous benefits that would otherwise be too costly for the association to implement.

USRA members continue to benefit from USRA/USOC integrated programs. Many new initiatives are in progress and will be announced early next year.

James L. Hiser, Ph.D • USRA Executive Director

But maybe you feel that you've given of your valuable time, and I know that volunteers have been the backbone of this organization for many years. There are many of us who have helped in many ways, and given many hours, to support our sport on a local level. There are lots of great ways to help on the local level — helping at a tournament, making calls for a ladder, giving lessons to a new player — but now we must understand that we need to help our sport financially, on a large scale. It basically boils down to that each of us needs to pay back to the sport that has given us so much personally. I understand that most of us already give to many different areas of interest in which we are involved. It is racquetball's turn to benefit from our giving and now is the time.

Randy Stafford

• Memphis, Tennessee

... letters continue on page 52

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racquet wars ...

by Tom Slear

Listening to representatives of the equipment manufacturers talk about the health of racquetball reminds one of the old story about two people who view opposite ends of an elephant. Both look at the same animal but see something entirely different.

"I'm very optimistic about the state of racquetball," says Mike Ceresia, director of racquetball for Harrow. "The opportunity for growth is there."

"I have no reason to expect racquetball to grow," says Scott Winters, the senior director of indoor court sports for Ektelon. "On the other hand, I see no reason for racquetball to decline."

"I'm quite optimistic," say Doug Ganim, racquetball promotions manager for Head. "I think the sport has shown resiliency all on its own."

"I'm not that optimistic," says Terri Graham, the business director of indoor racket sports for Wilson. "I don't see racquetball ever getting back to what it was in the

'70s. It was a fad then. Fads come and go and they don't come back."

"I don't think racquetball has seen its best days yet," says Ron Grimes, president of E-Force. "I believe the number of participants will be upwards of 15 million (four million more than the heydays of the late '70s and early '80s) within the next 20 years."

The latest data on racquetball tell a good news/bad news story. According to a survey conducted by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, 5.3 million people in the United States tried racquetball at least once during 2001. Of those, 1.37 million were frequent participants, which is to say they played 25 times or more during the year. Both numbers are up slightly from 2000 (5.15 and 1.09 million).

The bad news had been the precipitous decline in the decade prior to 2001. SGMA started its annual survey in 1987, which, it could be argued, is an unfair point to start judging racquetball participation because at the time the sport was at the zenith of hyper-charged growth of the 1970s and early 1980s. Zero growth or

even a decline was inevitable. SGMA assessed there were 10.4 million participants that year and 2.2 million frequent players. The drop-off was steep through the mid-1990s and then, mercifully, slowed to a trickle. Last year was the first time either number increased.

The manufacturers, for the most part, see promise in the stable numbers of the last few years. Depending upon the perspective, racquetball has either bottomed out or found its core group on which to build a comeback. But taking solace in numbers that have stopped declining is akin to feeling relief when a boat hits the bottom of the bay. Granted, it has stopped sinking, yet it's still under 10 feet of water. When pressed, the manufacturers admit as much.

"No question the sport needs something," says Winters. "What's been done in the past just isn't working."

"The sport has a great base and those people aren't going anywhere," says Mike Martinez, the national director of fall sports (racquetball, squash and badminton) for ProKennex, "but we need some growth."

Five million players represents a sizeable slice of the active public and is probably enough to keep the five major manufacturers (Harrow is new to the field and has negligible market share) healthy, especially since all but E-Force are part of widely diversified parent companies. As Ganim says, "We don't have to have huge numbers to justify our existence."

Still, the stagnation irks and befuddles the manufacturers. The pro tour is in its best shape ever and the players are more accomplished than at any time in the racquetball's history, yet television coverage remains as elusive as cold fusion. The game itself has lost none of its endearing traits—easy to learn; powerful, enjoyable workout; relatively inexpensive—yet the sport can't seem to attract newcomers. (The average age of frequent players is 35.) What is going on?

Answers from the manufacturers are split. Some say the problem has been lack of television exposure, which is what passes for currency nowadays in American sports.

"We have to make racquetball fashionable again," says Ganim, "and the only way to do that is to showcase the

Racquet Tech ... Summaries of current racquet lines were excerpted from each company's promotional materials, including product catalogs, press releases, and/or websites. See the October 2002 issue of the USRSA's "RacquetTech" for more frame specs!



E-Force

Flagship: Launch Pad Bedlam [SRP: \$230.00]
Weights: 150g, 170g, 190g

Technologies: "Launch Pad" power from increased stringbed deflection (the bend in the strings caused by impact), and a wishbone frame. The company's maximum LongString [MLS] design extends the mainstrings through the length of the racquet handle.

Other frames: Launch Pad Judgement, Original Bedlam/Bedlam Lite 170, Ballistic, Thrust, Venom.
Website: www.e-force.com
Phone: 858-547-3720
Display ad: pages 18/19

Ektelon

Flagship: MORE Attitude [SRP: \$280.00]
Weight: 170g

Technologies: PowerLock (a molding technique that creates string channels instead of drilled holes in the frame), no grommets and an internal wall add strength and stiffness for durability and torque resistance; Air+Comfort handle (air filled quadrants for shock absorption).

Other frames: More Thunder [190g], More Thunder Lite [175], More Game [190g]
Website: www.ektelon.com
Phone: 800-283-2635
Display ad: pages 22/23



Harrow

Flagship: Torment [SRP: \$155.00]
Weight: 175g

Technologies: The Torment is made with high modulus graphite, and uses a micro-string pattern (main and cross strings close together in the sweet spot) which enhances both power and control. The head light balance offers improved racquet maneuverability. The line is marketed through pro shops (and online) only.

Other frames: Torment II [195g]
Website: www.harrowsports.com
Phone: 800-541-2905
Display ad: page 5



Head

Flagship: Intelligence X 160 [SRP: \$275]

Weights: 160g, 180g

Technologies: Intellifiber piezoelectric material converts mechanical energy from ball impact into an electrical response that stiffens the racquet for power and reduces vibration. This year's line adds the material farther up the frame (@ 3:00 & 9:00) to control torsional bending.

Other frames: Intelligence i.165, i.185, i.195, i.205; Titanium Tornado, Cyclone, Typhoon

Website: www.head.com

Phone: 800-289-7366

Display ad: Inside front cover



pros through television. We use them to grab people's attention. Once we have their attention, we communicate the benefits of racquetball."

Others say the problem rests with the club owners who naively expect members to gravitate toward racquetball courts without the benefit of lessons, programs, or a resident pro.

"When you ask club owners why they are taking out courts, they will tell you because nobody plays and they need the space for spinning or step aerobics," says Graham. "When you ask them if they have instructors for step aerobics, they say yes; for spinning, yes. When you ask if they have an instructor for racquetball, they say no because nobody plays. They don't see the connection."

(Ganim vehemently disputes this contention. "Putting the blame on club owners for not hiring people to create demand is unfair," he says. "They own a business. It's not their job to create demand. They respond to it. We have to first make it so the phones at the club ring off the hook with people asking about racquetball.")

Programming at the club level and television exposure are hardly new issues within racquetball circles. They have been discussed for years, which, according to Winters, is precisely the rub. There's always been plenty of talk followed by very little effective action. Other than the annual U.S. OPEN at the Racquet Club of Memphis, there is no venue for viewing racquetball that accommodates more than a hundred or so spectators.

There's still no major sponsor underpinning the sport. Television amounts to one hour, once a year. Consequently, there is no way for the general public to watch the sport and no money to bring them the racquetball message of fitness and fun. What's more, people have more choices than ever before. SGMA incorporates 103 sports in its survey including paint ball and artificial wall climbing. Who would have thought? Ten years ago there were half as many.

"Then there is the enormous competition from electronic entertainment," says Mike May, SGMA's director of communications. "People are saying no to sports activities and yes to a good, brick, sit."

When talking about solutions, however, all of the manufacturers stand at the same end of the elephant.

ProKennex

Flagship: Pure1 Shadow Light [SRP: \$200]

Weight: 170g

Technologies: Shadow Frame (a modified diamond design that expands the hitting zone); Kinetic System (micro-bearings are housed around the handle to release energy and dampen vibration); SpiralTech (graphite woven sleeve encases the frame for stiffness, torsion stability and durability).

Other frames: Pure1 Shadow Pro, Momentum Pro, Light Pro; Kinetic Light, Balanced, 20g.

Website: www.prokennex.com

Phone: 800-854-1908



Wilson

Flagship: Triad 160 [SRP: \$250]

Weights: 160g, 180g, 200g

Technologies: The Triad design features customized components (the hoop and the handle) buffered by Iso-Zorb polymers to absorb shock. The "hoop" (racquet face) is made of Hyper Carbon, in the Hammer design.

Other frames: Hyper DLX 150, 170, 190; Titanium Slam, Mach 3, Patriot, Ripper, Xpress.

Website: www.wilsonsports.com

Phone: 773-714-6400

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The answer is a four letter word: cash. It takes cash to get on to television. It takes cash to market racquetball to the fitness-minded public. And it takes cash to convince club owners of the value of in-house programs.

But racquetball has always been woefully short of money, though there are vague notions that that might change. The manufacturers have formed the Racquetball Manufacturers Council for the purpose of creating specific plans to grow the sport. More important, according to Ganim, there seems to be a commitment from each of the companies to front the money to turn the plans into action.

"I don't think it's ever been better for seeing eye-to-eye (among the manufacturers)," says Martinez. "We all know each other from our playing days. We work well together. We've come to agreement on a lot of issues. This could be the group that moves racquetball forward."

Perhaps, but as Winters, the chairman of the manufacturers council, cautions, there have been many blue-sky projections over the last 15 years and most have been followed by thick cloud covers. Yet maybe, just maybe, things will be different this time around.

"I've been in this sport for 25 years," he says. "I've seen it at its height and at its low-point. Making predictions is something I don't do any more."

But then it seems that he just can't help himself, as Winters proceeds to do just that ...

"Even though the game is in limbo and needs a boost, it's also healthy and stable," he says. "Something tells me that racquetball is ready for a break."



Banding Together ...

The Racquetball Manufacturer's Council

Using combined strengths from the key manufacturers in the sport, the Racquetball Manufacturer's Council [RMC] has a unique ability to support important programs across all avenues, and has already developed several key initiatives in 2002 to help grow the game and support its players.

The RMC supported the 2002 World Racquetball Championships in Puerto Rico with an IRF grant designed to strengthen international programs and initiatives, and help realize the Olympic Dream for racquetball. The RMC also funded a two-year grant to the USRA's Junior Council, to support the administration of national junior and high school programs. A third, ongoing project is to provide support to the American Professional Racquetball Organization (AmPro). Through camps and classes to certify programmers and instructors, AmPro is a vital program, and the RMC hopes to aid in doubling its membership.

"We are very excited about these initiatives and hope to further support and grow the sport of racquetball across the world. The RMC is dedicated to its efforts and has an intense focus on both the players and the sport as a whole. If we can accomplish just a portion of what we have set out to do, racquetball as a whole will benefit greatly," stated Scott Winters, RMC Chairman. Winters continues that, "in addition to granting funds to current programs, we are especially excited about the opportunities we have to develop and grow the sport's programs and initiatives as a group. The RMC plans to appropriate a significant portion of our funds to our own initiatives, which we consider to be new and outside of the box."

The RMC is a non-profit industry organization that was formed in 2000 at the US OPEN Racquetball Championships under the umbrella of the Sports Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA). The union between the world's leading racquetball manufacturers — including E-Force, Ektelon, Head/Penn Racquet Sports, Pro Kennex and Wilson — was formed with the objective of increasing the market through a joint effort of supporting programs and projects that will bring new players to the sport as well as maintaining those that are playing now.

Funding for the group is primarily derived from annual membership dues required from Executive Council members of the RMC. These annual contributions will proportionally reflect the racquetball category sales level of each executive council member. (i.e. larger manufacturers will contribute more). All organizations who receive profit from the sport will be encouraged to contribute, including major equipment and accessory manufacturers, retailers, court builders, etc.

For more information on the RMC, or to receive membership details, please contact chairman Scott Winters at (480) 460-9019 or by e-mail at swinters@bssusa.com.

Is it Time to Upgrade Your Racquet?

The club I play at has 12 courts and one of the best racquet-ball programs in the country. Even in these modern facilities, I'm surprised at how many players are still using outdated racquets. And these aren't just the occasional players. Many are regulars who play two or three times a week and have been playing for years. In many cases the racquets aren't just four or five years old, but are 10, 15 and even 20 years old. At least I haven't seen a wooden racquet for a while, except for the one in my collection.

Players using older racquets are making a substantial investment in club membership and in the time they take each week to play. If you are one of them, my advice is to invest a few more dollars and upgrade to a new racquet at least every few years to help maximize your time on the court. Can a person still have fun and get a good workout with the old racquet? Yes ... but wouldn't it be even more fun getting to more balls, and making better shots once you get there?

Over the past few years some very significant changes have taken place in racquet construction that can very easily improve your game. Racquets have evolved to 22 inches, which will immediately improve your ability to reach shots. Retire that shorter racquet, and all of a sudden you'll seem faster as you reach shots you couldn't get to before. Racquets have also become wider, adding even more square inches of hitting area. This larger hitting area and added stability will give you better results when you hit off-center shots.

New materials like high-tech carbon, graphite and even a little titanium have significantly improved racquet durability, power and control, all in a lighter package. Years ago, to get a racquet with better power you sacrificed feel, which hurt the control aspects of your game. Many of those old power racquets felt like boards, but the control racquets lacked some power. Most of today's racquets offer great power as well as superb control — a great combination. New materials and engineering advances have produced racquets with little or no vibration, which makes these newer racquets much easier on your arm.

If you are using an older racquet, you likely have one with a handle size that is bigger than you should be using. Almost all of today's racquets come in only two handle sizes: 3 5/8" or 3 15/16". The majority of players, both men and women, play with the 3 5/8" size, which seems to be more comfortable and is easier to maneuver when changing from the forehand to the backhand grip.

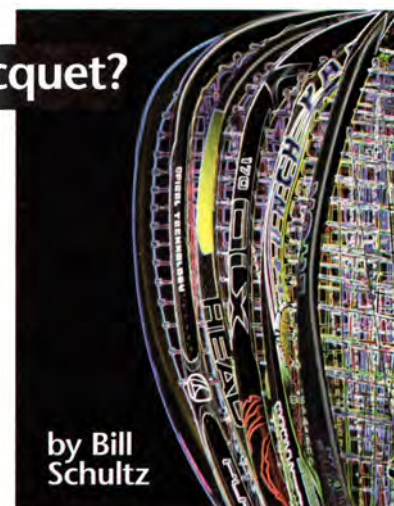
High-tech materials have trimmed the weight of racquets from most companies to the 150 to 200 gram range. It wasn't too long ago that the lightest racquets were 190 grams. The lightest racquets may be perfect for some players, but most play-

ers are going to be better off in the 170 to 190 gram range. For example, a player with great wrist snap in his or her stroke, which helps generate more power, might find a 170-gram racquet perfect. However, a player with less wrist snap may need a 190-gram racquet to generate the power they need, counting on an assist from the extra racquet weight. Also, going too light can add extra stress on the arm due to the added effort to generate the same speed you can generate with slightly heavier racquet. I believe there's a point for most players where the weight-to-power ratio is perfect. For me it's playing with a racquet around 170 grams. By going any lighter I lose power, especially on my serve.

Many of us who play a great deal will most likely look to the high-end racquets when making a change. These are the racquets ranging from \$175 to \$200 or more. However, one thing that's gone hand-in-hand with the new high-tech materials and engineering innovations are many very nice racquets at the mid-level and lower price ranges. Most of today's mid-range and lower priced racquets play better than older high-end racquets. These racquets, depending on the company, feature the 22" length, long-string technologies, lightweight construction, and often have many of the same bells and whistles as the higher priced frames. These mid-range and lower priced racquets may be perfect for the budget-conscious or occasional player who still wants a racquet that can help improve their game.

No matter what the sport, it has always bothered me when someone gets poor advice and doesn't buy the best equipment for their needs. This is why I take it very seriously when I'm asked for advice on racquets. If you're in the market for a new racquet I strongly suggest that you try a variety of demos that are available at your club or local sporting goods store. Playing with the racquets you're interested in is the best way to tell what feels right for you. Most clubs have a sponsored player or two (in many cases doing lessons and clinics) who should be able to evaluate your game and give you some suggestions based on your style of play. If your club doesn't have demos, ask to try out the sponsored player's racquets, which I'm sure they'd be happy to do.

I hope this information will help you make a wise choice when you purchase your next racquet. If you have any questions, please email me at bschultz@milwpc.com.



by Bill Schultz

TRIADTM

T E C H N O L O G Y

What if the Hoop and Handle never touched? Introducing TRIAD Technology – The Power of ThreeTM

Since the beginning of racquet sports, players have searched for three things in a racquet – power, comfort and control. But they've only found compromise, because every racquet ever played has been designed as a one-piece unit. The traditional one-piece design always minimizes one critical playing characteristic when attempting to maximize another.

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ONE: POWER

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TWO: COMFORT

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.



TRIAD 160



TRIAD 180



TRIAD 200





guidry & gonzalez rice & russell win in minnesota



top (L-R): Jack Huczek, Eric Muller, Ruben Gonzalez, Mike Guidry
bottom: Jackie Rice, Kim Russell, Laura Fenton, Rhonda Rajsich

2002 Ektelon 35th U.S. National Doubles

Presented by Penn Racquet Sports
Coverage by Ryan John, Photos by
Tyler Ohlbrecht, Bruce Adams

In opening each new season, the Ektelon USRA National Doubles Championship, presented by Penn Racquet Sports, traditionally proves to be one of the biggest tournaments of the year. Last year, Las Vegas was a record-setter for attendance, and as any long-time participant can tell you, the chance to see old friends is almost as important as the competition itself. Even with a somewhat smaller draw in Minneapolis, this was as true as in any of the event's 35 years.

It may be the only tournament where an age group title playoff may have as many people watching as the open finals — and the number of reunions rival the number of matches. There are also many stories — re-told and brand-new — at national doubles.

It's an event where a mother can watch her daughter reach the semifinals of the woman's open and the daughter, in turn, can watch her mother stand alone in capturing three gold medals. Where old friends, like Hall of Famers Johnny Hennen and Ed Remen, can get together once again, against all odds, to win their eighth national title together. For many, it's the only time of year that they see close friends and they find a way to pack a whole year of catching-up into one long weekend.

The Ektelon USRA National Doubles Championships have truly become one of sport's most anticipated social events of the year. Where else can you have this much fun while competing for something so important?

The Open Draws

Lately we've seen the gap shrink between the top players in our sport more and more. Upsets seem more the norm at national events than ever before, and this year was no exception.

Last year in Vegas, Dan Llacera and Brian Pointelin had the time of their lives — and that was before they even started playing the tables. They came from virtually nowhere (the No.15 spot) to make it into the finals, and onto the national team. On their way, they had knocked off a series of top seeded teams. Going into this year's event, they'd earned the No.2 position, and were no longer the hunters, but the hunted.

"We are approaching this tournament with the mentality of being the No.15 seed again," said Pointelin. In their first round (following a bye) Llacera and Pointelin would — ironically — face the No.15 seeded team of Jimmy Lowe and Jeff Stark.

After Llacera and Pointelin took the first game 15-7, it looked as though they would cruise into the quarterfinals for the second straight year. But Lowe and Stark came out more determined in the second game, building a big lead that they were able to hold to win, 15-9, and force the tiebreaker. There, it was all Lowe and

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Stark, or perhaps a little more of Stark, as they were able to harness the momentum of the second game to win the third 11-5.

"Jeff was hot in this match," said Lowe. "He called me off some shots in the tiebreaker and put the ball away. We were able to get ahead in both the second and third games and just tried to hang on for the wins."

"Usually it works out that one of us is hot and carries the team. Today it was me," said Stark. "We beat a great team today. They made it all the way to the finals last year and that wasn't by accident."

In the top half of the bracket, Doug Ganim was up to his old tricks at doubles again, but this time with new forehand teammate Jeff Bell. Ganim's former partner, Dan Obremski, with whom he'd won four titles, retired from the sport after suffering a badly torn ACL.

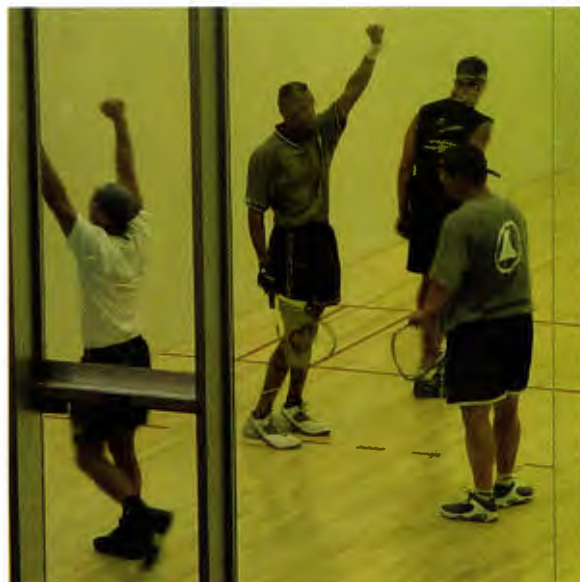
"I really enjoyed the Pan Am's (1999) a ton so I wanted a player that I could win the tournament with," said Ganim referring to the fact that the winner of national doubles would most likely be the team selected to play for the U.S. in 2003. "I knew of Jeff and knew he was a very good player."

After getting through a feeder round, Bell and Ganim faced their first real test against No.5 Brian Fredenberg and Jim Minkel. After winning the first game, 15-10, it was easy to see Bell and Ganim begin to gel as a team in the second. Their communication was much better and they began to know which shots the other was going to hit as they cruised in the second 15-2 to advance into the quarterfinals.

"We were pretty shaky in our first match," Ganim explained. "We played well together in the second."

Quarterfinals

After having to recover from a first game loss and win in a tiebreaker against Jeffery Garner and Mike Harmon,



L-R: STARK & LOWE CELEBRATE AFTER THEIR UPSET OVER NO.2 SEEDS DAN LLACERA AND BRIAN POINTELIN. PHOTO: TYLER OHLBRECHT

current IRF World Singles champ Jack Huczek and partner Eric Muller had no trouble advancing past Jimmy Lowe and Jeff Stark, 15-4, 15-5, to move into the semifinal. Top seeds Ruben Gonzalez and Mike Guidry also advanced in straight games over Mike Dennison and Shane Vanderson 15-8, 15-8. The third seeds, Jason Thoerner and Mitch Williams also looked strong in advancing past Chris Crowther and Kelly Gelhaus, 15-11, 15-10.

Not so lucky were fourth seeds Josh Tucker and Chris Wright who had to face the upset-minded team of Ganim and Bell. Looking more like a veteran team than one that was just formed, Ganim and Bell took the first 15-9. Tucker and Wright, who have played together before, replied by putting the pressure on in the second, for their own win, 15-14.

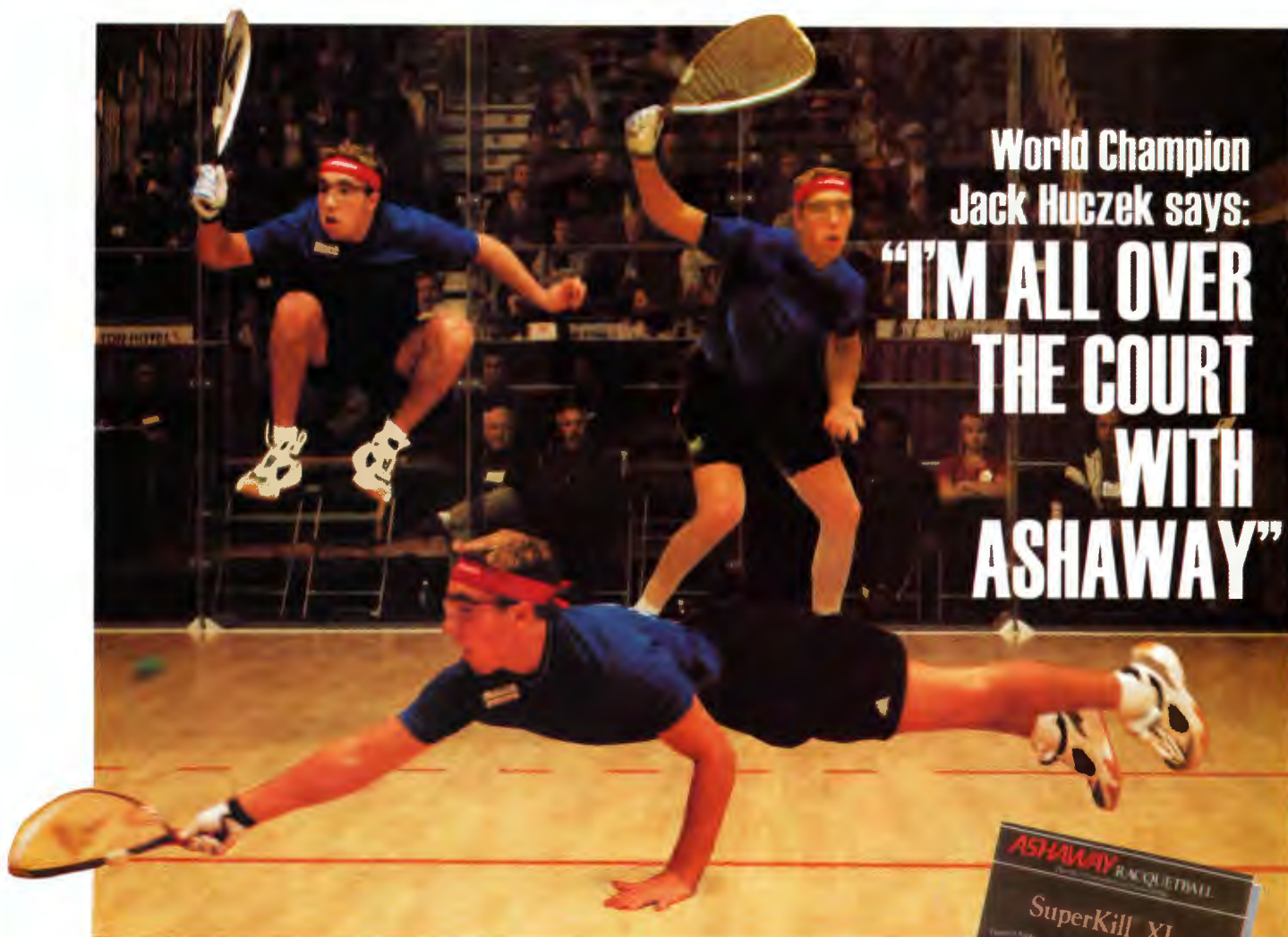
Ganim, who has been in the finals at national doubles seven times, winning four, took control of the tiebreaker. With the help of Bell, who hit some big shots down the stretch, they won the tiebreaker with surprising ease, 11-2, for their second straight upset.

Team Round

The semifinal qualifier was a study in contrasts with veterans Gonzalez (50), Guidry (32) against Ganim (35) and Bell (33) in the top half, and relative youth in the bottom with Thoerner (28) and Williams (21) set to face Huczek (19) and Muller (30).

First up were third seeds Thoerner and Williams against Huczek and Muller. Thoerner, who earned his first national team spot in May, was looking to solidify that placement with a follow-up doubles appointment. His partner Williams, after several stints on the junior national team, was looking to earn his first adult team appointment.

Muller, an Associate in the Communications, Media and Entertainment division at Goldman, Sachs & Co., in New York, was seeking his most recent team appointment (he qualified at singles in 1999). An attorney with the company since graduating from Harvard three and a half years ago, Muller earned World Championship doubles titles in 1992 and 1994, after winning national



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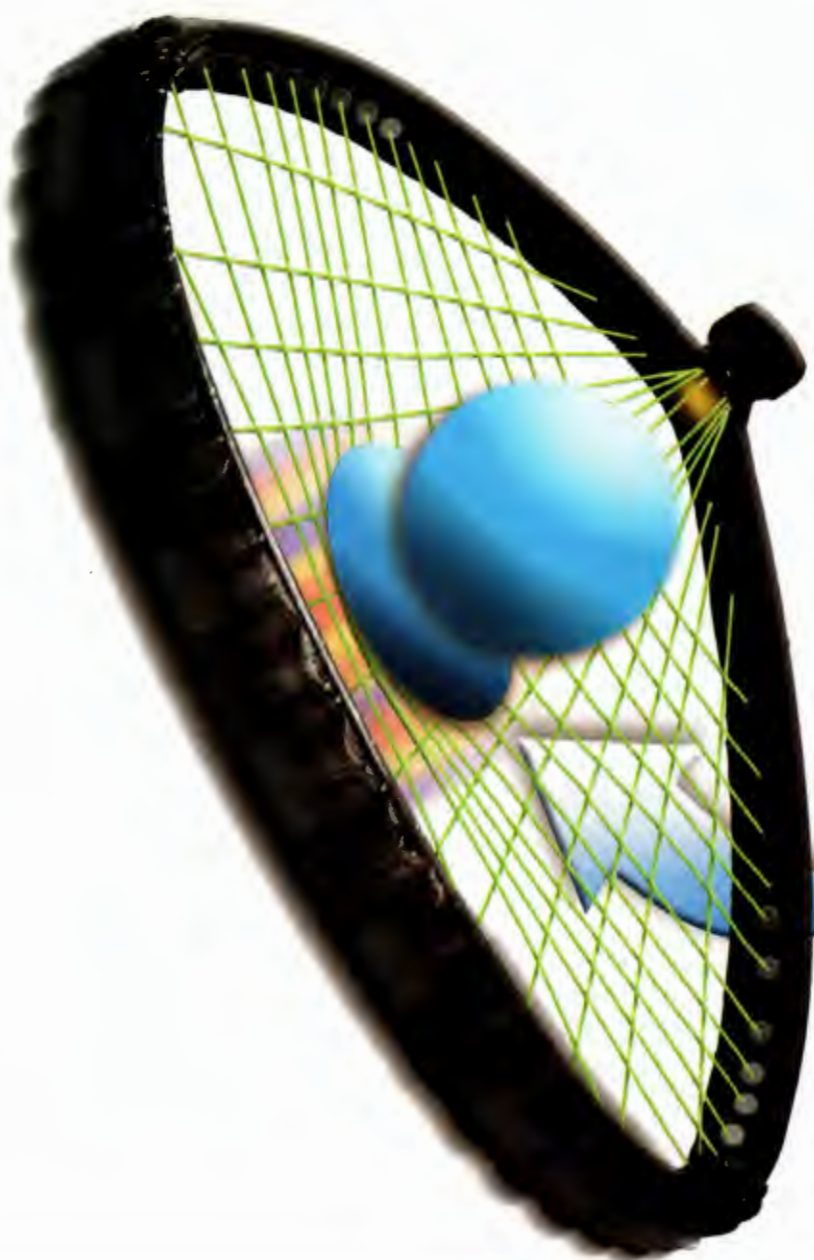
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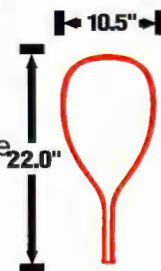
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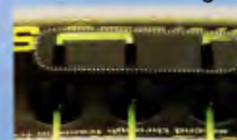
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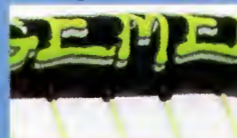
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doubles with John Ellis in 1991 and 1993. His experience in doubles was, by far, the greatest in this match-up. His partner, national and world singles champion Huczek, has been playing some of the best racquetball in his career, and it showed as they took the first game 15-6.

But the second game belonged to Thoerner and Williams. Williams, a lefty, stepped it up when he had to, to complement Thoerner's all-out gamestyle. They played extremely well as a team in the second to win 15-9 and force a tiebreaker.

Huczek and Muller, however, put the second game behind them and picked up where they left off in the first. They won the match going away, 11-4, to give Muller a shot at a third doubles title and Huczek his first.

Thoerner later admitted to having planned to pick on his elder opponent, to no avail. "We got beat, two on one, by Eric ... we knew he'd have to be the one to beat us. He played great."

Heading into the event, Muller hadn't been so confi-

dent, and was forced to present some compelling arguments to convince Huczek to partner with him again ... "I begged him. I had to drop out three years ago because of work, then we were so bad last year, I really had to convince him to give me another chance." Huczek agreed, "He did beg — but we finally gelled as a team here."

The second semi promised to be memorable, and it didn't disappoint. Gonzalez and Guidry, after coming off a poor showing at the World Championships, needed to prove that they still had it. Ganim, one of the best left-side players ever, wanted to prove that he never lost it. Bell, who had never made it this far at a national doubles, planned to show how much he wanted it.

After splitting the first two games by almost identical scores — Bell and Ganim took the first, 15-10; Gonzalez and Guidry the second, 15-11 — it came down to a single short game to decide who would get into the finals.

Bell and Ganim looked like they would run away with the match after building a 9-4 lead early and then rais-



In Minneapolis, **Johnny Hennen and Ed Remen** (L-R, above) won their eighth national doubles title together, this time in the men's 55+. It was a great match, with Johnny and Ed narrowly edging out Tom McKie and Craig Olsen in an 11-10 tiebreaker. For this pair, winning the title was great, but just being on the court together was enough in itself — a few years ago it was something they never thought they would do again.

Ed and Johnny have both been inducted into the USRA Hall of Fame, for their singles and doubles accomplishments.

In 1983 they started playing national doubles together and have won every age group from 35+ to 55+ at least once. But in 1995 Johnny became deathly ill and began a fight for his life that would keep him away from racquetball for a while.

"I got what you call vasculitis," said Johnny. "My kidneys went down and I was put on chemo and steroids."

Johnny was hospitalized from September of 1995 until January of 1996; with most of that stay in SICU. The disease left him without an immune system, which led to other complications. He had to get most of his stomach removed along with his gall bladder and appendix. He also had sinus surgery and a kidney transplant. He was even given his last rites at one point in the struggle. Then in 2000, after he was seemingly out of the woods, he had to undergo open-heart surgery to replace an aortic valve which had been damaged by all of the medication he'd been on.

It's amazing that Johnny has survived everything that he has over the past six

years, let alone been able to come back to capture yet another national title.

"I just as easily could not have lived, but I did," Johnny said. "The only thing that got me through this was thinking about my wife and kids." During the interview it was easy to see how important his wife Theresa and four children (Andrew 15, Emily 14, Jeffrey 12, Hannah 10) are to him.

"It's basically a miracle that he's here, let alone competing," said long time partner and good friend Ed. "And not only competing, but winning."

Not many people know about the ordeals of soft-spoken Johnny Hennen. He doesn't like to boast about his accomplishments or talk about his adversities. Although he is still in some pain and gets tired faster than he used to, he's never one to complain.

When asked how he's doing, Johnny always has the same simple answer. One that's more literal, for him, than for most of us ... he replies "I'm just glad to be here."

ing the stakes to 10-6. But the defending champs refused to back down. "We know each others games and we've been there before," said Guidry. "We don't give up. We just keep playing hard each point."

It was no surprise that they pulled within two at 10-8, but what happened next was a shocker. With Gonzalez serving, half-out, Ganim skipped a backhand setup to make the score 10-9. "I think Doug has only skipped three of those in his life," said Guidry. "And two of those were tonight." On the very next serve down the middle, Ganim tried an overhead return that he pounded into the floor right in front of himself to tie it up.

Going all out, Bell hit an amazing pinch rollout to get back into the box, but they were unable to capitalize, and when Gonzalez and Guidry stepped up to serve, they closed it out 11-10.



Title Bout

After such a tense semifinal, the title-bout was an early-round knockout, as Gonzalez and Guidry took it in straight games of 15-7, 15-10. It wasn't a poorly played match by any means ... both teams came up with great shots and amazing gets ... Gonzalez and Guidry simply made that last, great shot — more often — to end the rally.

"I feel like we both started off the match strong," said Guidry after the match. "Then they started playing more to Ruben and he just took control of the match and pulled us through it."

Above & Beyond

It's never easy to win a national title (let alone more than one), but it's often tougher to hold onto them. This group of over-achievers either mounted a successful title defense and/or came away with lots of hardware! We asked a couple of them to share their secrets ...

Defending champions: Ruben Gonzalez & Mike Guidry (MO); Brent Walters & Mitch Williams (M24-); Gene Pare & Troy Stallings (M45+) 3x; Nidia Funes & Merjean Kelley (W55+); Jody Nance & Mark-O Perez (MX30+); Malia Bailey & Jimmy Lowe (MX35+); Shelley Ogden & Frank Taddonio (MX50+).

Double Gold Medalists:

Ruben Gonzalez	MO w/Guidry, M50+ w/Russ Mannino
Mike Guidry	MO w/Gonzalez, M25+ w/Gregg Peck
Mark-O Perez	M35+ w/Michael Bronfeld, MX30+ w/Jody Nance
Troy Stallings	M45+ w/Gene Pare, MX40+ w/Debra Tisinger
Lee Graff	M60+ w/Carmen Felicetti, M65+ w/Thomas Penick
Aimee Roehler	W25+ w/Debra Bryant, MXO w/Jason Thoerner
Elaine Dexter	W45+ w/Leslie Pawka, MX45+ w/Dave Azuma
Nidia Funes	W55+ w/Merjean Kelley, MX55+ w/Glenn Allen
Joy DeSantis	W60+ w/Gail Schaefer, MX60+ w/Ronald Adams

Double Gold Teams: Duffy Bracken & Andrew Kulback, MA & M35+ A/B; Diana Courtney & Debbie Reauso, WC & W45+ C/D

Triple Gold Medalist: Debra Tisinger, W35+ w/Kersten Hallander, W40+ w/Laura Fenton, MX40+ w/Troy Stallings

Mike Guidry: One More Time. I guess I would say that it is always a great feeling to go out there and play having the confidence in your partner that you know he will take care of his side of the court. I think that is the tough part about finding a good fit in a partner is finding that person that you can always trust to cover you. As far as repeating, it is a different type of pressure because everyone is gunning for you. You are the team to beat and all the other teams can play more relaxed because there is no pressure on them. And, just for the record, Ruben is the best right side player *ever*!

Joy DeSantis: Twice is Nice. It's great having a partner that you know you can count on do to their best and, at times, even better than their best. Gail [Schaefer] was my partner in 1997 when I won my first gold medal and the excitement of taking home that first [one] is difficult to beat, but two golds "doubles" the excitement and it's great to share that with the same partner. In mixed, it was the first time I played with Ron Adams at nationals, and he injured himself and had to drop out of his men's division. But the mixed was a round robin and we only had one match left to play, so he said he would go on the court and do his best. I thank him for being a trooper. We lost that match in a tiebreaker but still won the gold ... and I learned how a three-way tie is calculated.

Debbie Tisinger: Trifecta. I'm absolutely thrilled to have had the opportunity to earn three gold medals! I had great partners ... but I deeply missed my long-time partner, Mae Varon, who is recovering from an injury. You might say I kind of "scraped" up a couple of partners, and was lucky enough to have paired

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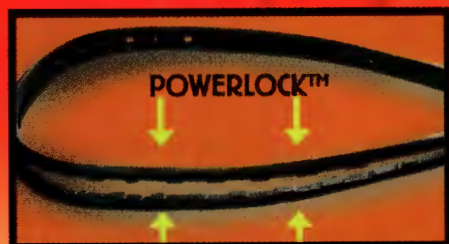


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GOT GAME.

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"When I came off the court between games Andy (Roberts) told me that I was in a zone," explained Gonzalez. "I thought 'I am in a zone' and just tried to keep it going. I was having a lot of fun out there."

Ladies take the Field

Top seeds Jackie Rice and Kim Russell were the only pair to receive a bye in the first round of women's open action and all other top seeds, except one, moved into the quarterfinals with straight game wins. The lone seed that didn't win in straight games didn't win, period.

Rachel Gellman and Jo Shattuck upset the highly-regarded No.6 seeded team of Elaine Albrecht and Kerri Wachtel, who took the first game 15-6, only to drop the next two. With Shattuck flying around the court and "Boom Boom" Gellman pounding passes down the line, they took the second and third games just as easily as they'd lost the first, 15-9, 11-4.

The quarterfinals brought a few more surprises, including what was a shocker to some, but to others came as no surprise – or so they said after the match. After winning their first round, the veteran team of Mary

RHONDA RAJSICH SERVES TO BOOM-BOOM GELLMAN AND JO SHATTUCK IN THE QUARTERFINAL; FENTON LOOKS ON. PHOTO: BRUCE ADAMS



Lyons and Susan Pfahler were set to face the newly-paired Cheryl Gudinas and Kristen Walsh. Gudinas, who has more titles than we have room to print (including last year's doubles crown with Kim Russell), and Walsh, former world junior and intercollegiate champ, were in the No.2 seed position, and overwhelmingly favored for an easy advance.

But Lyons and Pfahler know doubles. They've played 17 national championships together, and share 13 age-



Minnesota sisters **Jamie and Jill Trachsel** (L-R) grew up together playing a variety of sports. A decade ago, Jamie was collecting junior singles titles in the Girl's 8, 10 and 12- divisions. With doubles in their own backyard, they couldn't resist the chance to team up to make Women's Elite, and Mixed title bids.

They often finished each others sentences while being interviewed after

winning their semifinal against Laura Olson and Solanna Taragan. "We're like best friends," said Jamie, 23. "We do everything together."

"We even lived together until Jamie moved to Fargo," said Jill, 25. "It's weird with her being gone, but we still talk and e-mail each other every day."

They played softball together in high school but chose different schools for their college careers — rival schools. Jill attended the University of Minnesota Duluth and Jamie St. Cloud State. Their careers only overlapped two years but they had the chance to play against each other "four or five" times with St. Cloud winning all of the matchups.

They do, however, disagree on each other's racquetball game styles, but it's complimentary. "Jamie is more of a pure shooter," said Jill. "She can shoot from anywhere on the court."

"No, I think Jill is more of a shooter," Jamie disagreed. "She has power and great hands."

Actually, they're both great shooters and used those strengths way to capture the women's Elite division title, with a straight-game win over Lori Harper and Cara Pellowski 15-9, 15-12.

Earlier in the week, they had also competed in open together, vying for a shot at the U.S. National Racquetball team, but the luck of the draw had them facing the No.2 seeded team of Cheryl Gudinas (Lisle, Ill.) and Kristen Walsh (Salt Lake City, Utah), where they fell 15-7, 15-7.

In Mixed Open, Jamie reached the semi-final round with partner Jim Frautschi, before losing to Doug Ganim and Amy Foster (who had defeated Jill and her partner Mike Locker in the preceding round). All in all, not a bad week for the home team.

group wins (including five straight in the 35+). They even won the Open division 10 years ago, and they've continued to play in the qualifier ever since. Now they admit to showing up more to socialize – but still proved that they've got game.

"I just come here (national doubles) to play for fun," said Lyons, an LPGA golf pro and full-time mom. "This is the only tournament that I play all year."

Even so, the pair didn't seem to be rusty and the first game stayed close as each team swapped the lead until Lyons and Pfahler came out on top 15-14. "Knowing that they would hit the ball hard, our plan was to frustrate them by getting the ball back and making them hit the ball four or five times to get a point," said Lyons after the match. "We wanted to frustrate them with angles and a slower pace." Lyons' persistent ceiling game, and Pfahler's off-speed pinches have always combined for an unconventional game style, and this time it worked just as well as ever.

In the second, Gudinas and Walsh seemed to have figured it out, and found themselves with a comfortable 14-5 lead. After closing the gap slightly Lyons and Pfahler called a timeout 14-7. "When we came off the court I said to Mary, '(winning) 14 and 14 sounds like a good number'," said Pfahler. So their comeback began in earnest.

"I kept trying to push up to the front court," said Pfahler. "I knew Kristen would try to kill the ball and I wanted to be there to pick them up." In the end, there would be no tiebreaker. Lyons and Pfahler closed out the upset in style, scoring 10 unanswered points to win 15-14.

Both Kersten Hallander and Janel Tisinger made it to the semifinals last year, but with different partners — Hallander with Michelle Gould and Tisinger with Walsh. Even so, those performances only earned them the No.5 spot, where they faced No.4 Malia Bailey and Amy Roehler in the quarterfinals.

After the first game it looked as though Hallander and Tisinger might have received too high of a seed as they lost 15-5. Between games, her mom

up with Laura Fenton and Kersten Hallander. I consider them two of the best players around.

My mixed partner, Troy Stallings, is no stranger to doubles. He's won several mixed titles with different partners and I'm proud to have been his partner for two years now. Good doubles start with communication, and understanding each other's roles. I feel very fortunate to have had excellent left side players. Once again, I'm so excited to have had the opportunity to win three gold medals! Believe me, it feels GREAT!

[Debra is pictured with her daughter Janel, who reached the semi-final of Women's Open with mom's 35+ partner Kersten Hallander].



Jody Nance: Back-to-Back-to-Back. [Mixed 30+ with Mark-O Perez] We are so pleased to have defended our title for the third year. As always, there was good competition and some really nice people. In the Northern California area, we are fortunate to have a number of very good, nationally experienced players that love to get together to play for hours and push to better themselves. We get good practice as well as good friendships that lend support and assistance during the tournament.

Gene Pare: Two-Time, Three-peat [Men's 45+ with Troy Stallings] Years ago, winning the 45+ title three consecutive years (1996-98) with Stan Wright was incredible. Considering the level of competition and the chances for freak injuries, winning the division in three consecutive years again (2000-02) with Troy Stallings is beyond belief ... especially since [we] live on opposite coasts and play together only at nationals. Credit has to go to my two formidable left-handed partners. Both brought to the court great shot and serve selection/variety, an even temper that was calming during tight games, and the uncanny ability to play ugly or with finesse exactly when the situation called for it. Nationals is the tournament, there's no rush like it for an amateur player, and there's no better feeling than knowing that, at least for one year, you're #1 in your division, whatever that division is.



Elaine Dexter: Two for Three [W45+ w/Leslie Pawka, MX45+ w/Dave Azuma]. I think there was more pressure for me to regain the titles that I had won in the past, but had lost the last two years. I have played with Dave [Azuma] for close to 20 years; it just so

... "doubles" continues on page 43

... "champs" continues on page 44

Ektelon 35th U.S. National Doubles Championships

Minneapolis, Minnesota: October 2-6, 2002

U.S. NATIONAL TEAM QUALIFYING DIVISIONS

Men's Open: Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.)/Mike Guidry (Carrollton, Texas) def. Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills, Mich.)/Eric Muller (New York, N.Y.) 15-7, 15-10

Women's Open: Jackie Rice (El Cajon, Calif.)/Kim Russell (Austin, Texas) def. Laura Fenton (Overland Park, Kan.)/Rhonda Rajsich (Phoenix, Ariz.) 15-13, 15-11

MEN'S DIVISIONS

Elite: Blake Hansen (Hudson, Iowa)/Travis Mettenbrink (Lincoln, Neb.) def. Andrew Goldman (Belleair, Fla.)/Bruce Middleton (Clearwater, Fla.) 15-3, 15-14

24-: Brent Walters (Raleigh, N.C.)/Mitch Williams (Washington, N.C.) def. Jeff Garner (Hoover, Ala.)/Michael Harmon (Brandon, Fla.) 15-4, 15-1

25+: Mike Guidry (Carrollton, Texas)/Gregg Peck (Coppell, Texas) def. Jonathan Dunn (Newhall, Calif.)/Greg Solis (Orange, Calif.) 14-15, 15-11, 11-8

30+: Jeff Bell (Tucson, Ariz.)/Doug Ganim (Westerville, Ohio) def. Jimmy Lowe (Fairbanks, Alaska)/Jeff Stark (Olympia, Wash.) 15-13, 15-6

35+: Michael Bronfeld (Pacific Grove, Calif.)/Mark-O Perez (Visalia, Calif.) def. Hart Johnson (St. Paul, Minn.)/Todd Stead (Eden Prairie, Minn.) 15-12, 13-15, 11-6

40+: Tim Hansen (Boynton Beach, Fla.)/Gordon Kirkland (Orlando, Fla.) def. Bobby Haab (Madison, Conn.)/Bill Lyman (Berwyn, Ill.) 15-14, 15-4

45+: Ed Garabedian (West Chester, Pa.)/Tom Travers (Westlake, Ohio) def. Gene Pare (Campbell, Calif.)/Troy Stallings (Sioux Falls, S.D.) 15-8, 15-12

50+: Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.)/Russ Mannino (San Diego, Calif.) def. Jim Carson (Fullerton, Calif.)/Tom Hanson (Gardnerville, Nev.) 15-7, 15-6

55+: Johnny Hennen (Chattanooga, Tenn.)/Ed Remen (Apex, N.C.) def. Tom McKie (Garland, Texas)/Craig Olsen (Grand Island, Neb.) 15-9, 12-15, 11-10

60+: Carmen Felicetti (Bloomington, Ind.)/Lee Graff (Bend, Ore.) def. Glenn Allen (Virginia Beach, Va.)/Thomas Penick (San Diego, Calif.) 5-15, 15-13, 11-5

65+: Lee Graff (Bend, Ore.)/Thomas Penick (San Diego, Calif.) def. Paul Banales (Phoenix, Ariz.)/Jerry Northwood (Prescott, Ariz.) 15-11, 4-15, 11-7

70+: Don Alt (Dublin, Ohio)/John L. O'Donnell, Jr. (Champaign, Ill.) def. Eugene Ferris (Madisonville, La.)/Harold Hiles (Stillwater, Minn.) 15-9, 15-4

75+: Joe Goldman (Framingham, Mass.)/Joe Lambert (Plano, Texas) def. unchallenged

Men's Skill & Age+Skill Divisions

A: Duffy Bracken (Hamilton, Ohio)/Andrew Kulback (Mainville, Ohio) def. Jason Bernerth (Alpharetta, Ga.)/Gregg Shapiro (Atlanta, Ga.) 13-15, 15-14, 11-1

B: Brian Dimler (Irmo, S.C.)/Al Trujillo (Lexington, S.C.) def. Edward Dayson (Blauvelt, N.Y.)/Robert Schulsinger (Weston, Fla.) 10-15, 15-9, 11-2

C: Eddy Connor (Riverton, Utah)/Marcus Dunyon (West Jordan, Utah) def. Bob Lenzmeier (Plymouth, Minn.)/Robert Lopez (Salt Lake City, Utah) 15-9, 15-6

D: Peter Gutierrez (Mountain View, Calif.)/David Hewitt (Sunnyvale, Calif.) def. George Parobek (Dyer, Ind.)/Joe Star (Munster, Ind.) 15-7, 15-8

24- A/B: Mike Hester (Tempe, Ariz.)/Arthur Schmeister (Gilbert, Ariz.) def. unchallenged

25+ A/B: Keith Overton (Wayne, Pa.)/Mike Treacy (Honey Brook, Pa.) def. Roberto Cantos (Lilburn, Ga.)/Carlos Ramirez (Miami, Fla.) 15-8, 15-13

25+ C/D: Mike Easthope (Harrison Township, Mich.)/John Wilson (Center Line, Mich.) def. unchallenged

35+ A/B: Duffy Bracken (Hamilton, Ohio)/Andrew Kulback (Mainville, Ohio) def. Rod Mayer (Minot, N.D.)/Donn Skadeland (Williston, N.D.) 15-11, 15-10

35+ C/D: Eddie Barber (Salt Lake City, Utah)/Eddy Connor (Riverton, Utah) def. David Funk/Marc Schnittker (Aurora, Colo.) 15-1, 15-8

45+ A/B: William Cannon (Montevallo, Ala.)/Ron Martucci (Birmingham, Ala.) def. Sal Perconti (St. Petersburg, Fla.)/Ruben Triplett (Dunedin, Fla.) 15-4, 14-15, 11-7

45+ C/D: Garry Carter (Napa, Calif.)/Peter Cassidy (El Sobrante, Calif.) def. Peter Gutierrez (Mountain View, Calif.)/David Hewitt (Sunnyvale, Calif.) 11-15, 15-13, 11-2

55+ A/B: Bob Flanders (Minneapolis, Minn.)/Bob Lenzmeier (Plymouth, Minn.) def. Bill Hagedorn/Donald ReVels (Ann Arbor, Mich.) 15-13, 15-12

55+ C/D: Christopher Lawson (Naperville, Ill.)/Mike Mahon (Warrenville, Ill.) def. unchallenged

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

Elite: Jamie Trachsel (Fargo, N.D.)/Jill Trachsel (St. Louis Park, Minn.) def. Lori Harper/Cara Pellowski (Eau Claire, Wis.) 15-9, 15-12

25+: Debra Bryant (Sneads Ferry, N.C.)/Aimee Roehler (Sterling, N.J.) def. Karen Morton (Erie, Pa.)/Hideko Uchiyama (Pittsburgh, Pa.) 15-7, 13-15, 11-9

30+: Ellen Crawford (Alexandria, Va.)/Doreen Fowler (Rockville, Md.) def. Mary McKinney/Karen Morris (Springdale, Ark.) 15-6, 15-2

35+: Kersten Hallander (San Diego, Calif.)/Debra Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) def. Lisa Hjelm (Carmichael, Calif.)/Kari McDonough (Citrus Heights, Calif.) 15-7, 15-10

40+: Laura Fenton (Overland Park, Kan.)/Debra Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) def. Mary Lyons/Susan Pfahler (Neptune Beach, Fla.) 13-15, 15-2, 11-3

45+: Elaine Dexter (Pleasanton, Calif.)/Leslie Pawka (San Diego, Calif.) def. Carla Hiatt (Lincoln, Neb.)/Linda Moore (Madison, Neb.) 15-10, 11-15, 11-1

50+: Debbie Chaney (Indianapolis, Ind.)/Brenda White (Dunlap, Ill.) def. Susan Kieffer (Nisswa, Minn.)/Terry Rogers (San Mateo, Calif.) 15-4, 15-3

55+: Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.)/Merijean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.) def. Joy DeSantis (Woodland Hills, Calif.)/Gail Schaefer (Randallstown, Md.) 15-9, 15-8

60+: Joy DeSantis (Woodland Hills, Calif.)/Gail Schaefer (Randallstown, Md.) def. Judy Buckeye (Erie, Pa.)/Annabelle Kovar (Lincoln, Neb.) 15-4, 15-2

Women's Skill & Age+Skill Divisions

A: Marie Eatough (Mentor, Ohio)/Sara Pocinki (South Euclid, Ohio) def. Carla Francis (Castro Valley, Calif.)/Terry Rogers (San Mateo, Calif.) 15-6, 15-3

B: Cheryl Kirk (Naperville, Ill.)/Joan VandeKieft (Chicago, Ill.) def. Joy DeSantis (Woodland Hills, Calif.)/Gail Schaefer (Randallstown, Md.) 15-7, 15-8

C: Diana Courtney (Harrison Township, Mich.)/Debbie Reauso (Chesterfield Township, Mich.) def. Kathleen Matson (Henderson, Nev.)/Bette Miller (Aurora, Colo.) 15-10, 11-

15, 11-7

25+ A/B: Pam Avery (Jacksonville, N.C.)/Catherine Land (Greenville, N.C.) def. Melody Butler (Palm Harbor, Fla.)/Renee Fish (Dunedin, Fla.) 15-11, 15-12

35+ A/B: Cheryl Jones (Rochester, Minn.)/Susan Schatz (Fergus Falls, Minn.) def. Sandy McCall (Houston, Texas)/Sharon Wilks (Raleigh, N.C.) 6-15, 15-11, 11-1

35+ C/D: Jennifer Cook/Jean Stelma (New Bern, N.C.) def. unchallenged

45+ A/B: Barbara Mehegan/Ann Schramm (Colorado Springs, Colo.) def. Cheryl Kirk (Naperville, Ill.)/Lynne Weisbart (Northbrook, Ill.) 15-10, 15-2

45+ C/D: Diana Courtney (Harrison Township, Mich.)/Debbie Reauso (Chesterfield Township, Mich.) def. Kathleen Matson (Henderson, Nev.)/Bette Miller (Aurora, Colo.) 15-3, 15-12

MIXED DOUBLES

Open: Aimee Roehler (Sterling, N.J.)/Jason Thoerner (Atlanta, Ga.) def. Amy Foster (Fairlawn, Ohio)/Doug Ganim (Westerville, Ohio) 15-9, 15-11

Elite: Cara Pellowski/Ryan Graham (Eau Claire, Wis.) def. Esther McNary (Farmington, Conn.)/David Barnes (Warwick, R.I.) 15-14, 15-11

A: Jeni Fuller (Albuquerque, N.M.)/Jason Bernerth (Alpharetta, Ga.) def. Renee Fish (Dunedin, Fla.)/Andrew Goldman (Belleair, Fla.) 15-1, 15-5

B: Sharon Dunn (Southlake, Texas)/Tracey Robinson (Arlington, Texas) def. Lynne Weisbart (Northbrook, Ill.)/Thomas Curran (Cincinnati, Ohio) 15-8, 15-2

C: Bette Miller/Marc Schnittker (Aurora, Colo.) def. Kathleen Matson (Henderson, Nev.)/David Funk (Aurora, Colo.) 15-8, 15-10

D: Marilyn Hoagland (Apple Valley, Minn.)/Timothy Olund (Minneapolis, Minn.) def. unchallenged

25+: Rachel Gellman/Tommy Medina (Phoenix, Ariz.) def. Stephanie Munger (Anchorage, Alaska)/Jonathan Munger (Olathe, Kan.) 15-5, 15-8

30+: Jody Nance (Stockton, Calif.)/Mark-O Perez (Visalia, Calif.) def. Lynn Skadeland (Sherwood, Ore.)/Jon Martin (Gresham, Ore.) 15-8, 15-10

35+: Malia Bailey (Norfolk, Va.)/Jimmy Lowe (Fairbanks, Alaska) def. Lisa Hjelm (Carmichael, Calif.)/Mark Nomura (Fremont, Calif.) 15-2, 15-12

40+: Debra Tisinger (Simi, Calif.)/Troy Stallings (Sioux Falls, S.D.) def. Chris Evon (Wheeling, Ill.)/Bill Lyman (Berwyn, Ill.) 15-9, 5-14, 11-4

45+: Elaine Dexter (Pleasanton, Calif.)/David Azuma (Lake Oswego, Ore.) def. Meena Evans (Advance, N.C.)/Mark Baron (Herndon, Va.) 15-8, 15-8

50+: Shelley Ogden (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Frank Taddonio (Chandler, Ariz.) def. Renee Fish/Ruben Triplett (Dunedin, Fla.) 15-1, 15-11

55+: Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.)/Glenn Allen (Virginia Beach, Va.) def. Merijean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.)/Mike Pawka (San Diego, Calif.) 11-15, 15-7, 11-9

60+: Joy DeSantis (Woodland Hills, Calif.)/Ronald Adams (Camarillo, Calif.) def. Gail Schaefer (Randallstown, Md.)/Rex Lawler (Terre Haute, Ind.) 15-9, 15-12

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



Monchik's Mile-High Victory

Story & Photos by John Foust

Proving a point can be a very satisfying thing. Just ask Sudsy Monchik. Prior to coming into the Paulaner Beer/RacquetballCatalog.com Pro Fest there were those who doubted Sudsy's capacity to overcome his injuries from last year. There were those who wondered if he would ever be a consistent force on the IRT pro tour again. The people asking those questions were about to get an answer.

The challenge started early. On arrival at the Family Fitness and Racquet Club in Broomfield, Colorado, Sudsy was pulled aside by a tournament director. There was a rumor floating round and it seemed only fair for Sudsy to hear it straight up. In a nutshell, some were saying Sudsy's natural athleticism was working against him. His accomplishments had always come easily. That being the case, he didn't have the desire, dedication, or work ethic to come back and be a champion. Sudsy conceded he'd heard inklings of the same remarks. Champions love a challenge. It was from this conversation that the "mission" began. The two agreed that Sudsy was to remember those statements before every match; a silent reminder as he stepped on the court. "Has-been" ... "quitter" ... "not tough enough." Fightn' words. Those who didn't believe, might by the end of the tournament.

Qualifying for the Pro draw is always interesting, as top amateur players vie for a spot in the main draw. Big names are a target and a chance for some recognition with an upset. The only one with something to lose is the pro who has to work his way in. And that's where Sudsy had to start, since his ranking points had plummeted during his recovery through most of last season. Technically, his wins were upsets, but a better term might have been "feeder fodder." Two qualifying rounds; two quick workouts. From there things got quite a bit tougher.

Going into the round of 16, Sudsy had to deal with another early-round hazard of "starting at the bottom" in facing one of the toughest players on the tour, IRT Pro Nationals champ, John Ellis. As you can imagine, it was a grueling five-gamer — (8), 9, (3), 2, 7 — and one of the best matches of the tournament right off the bat. In the meantime the other top seeds, Jason Mannino, Kane Waselenchuk, and Cliff Swain advanced on cruise control.

The quarters had Mannino, Kane and Monchik all taking care of business in relatively short order. Sudsy dispensed of Jack Huczek



Mannino gets ready to blast a forehand in the final against Monchik.



in a straight-game match for adults only. It would appear that Sudsy and Jack don't bring out the best in each other, and there were as many personal shots taken as those with the ball. Jason took care of Derek Robinson in three, while Kane whupped up on Rocky Carson in much the same way. Where Sudsy had survived a big battle in the previous round, it was Cliff Swain taking on that chore in the quarterfinal. His nemesis was fellow-southpaw and USRA men's open champion Mike Guidry, who showed that he has the skills to take anyone down in the right time and place. And it was darn near "right" in both ways, as he gave Cliff all he could handle. When the dust settled it was Cliff still standing with a 3, (8), (1), 6, 5 victory.

At this stage of the game you'd think things would get much tougher. A semifinal with three solid Hall of Fame prospects, and a kid who might eventually be best of the lot? Yep, that's what you'd think. Against Canadian wunderkind Waselenchuk (for the big match that wasn't) Mannino took control early and often, to win quickly, 5, 6, and 3. On the other side Sudsy's personal mission stayed on track. Sudsy and Cliff have only faced each other about a 100 times this century, and generally you can be guaranteed a dogfight. This

time there was no abuse, no antics. Sudsy's game had been picking up pace and Cliff appeared not to have recovered from the Guidry marathon. With the two vastly different approaches, Sudsy ran away with the win, 2, 8, and 6.

Thus ... the finals between Monchik and Mannino. Good friends, good players, neither wanting to give the other an inch. Both willing themselves to get seemingly irretrievable shots, both giving their all. It was a classic battle. The big difference? One was on a mission, one wasn't aware that there was a mission. It was only fitting that it would go back and forth in the first four games, and end with the last game going down to the wire: the 13-11 final went to Sudsy. As friends will be, both were gracious in their assessment of the match and their opponent's skill. The mission was over. Objective completed. Sudsy was back on top and he had done it the right way — he let his actions speak louder than words.

It had been early in the season for Colorado players, making the overall tournament smaller than most IRT events, but it proved to be a blessing in disguise. The OktoberFest theme gave things an intimate and fun feel (of course it didn't hurt there was live entertainment in the parking lot, plenty of beer, and some great German food). Players could hardly ask for more, and hosts Jurgen Denk, Jo Shattuck and the FFRC staff put their all in to making this a quality, not quantity, tournament. It showed in the great response by both pros and amateur players, and should make a good start to a great tradition.

IRT Ticker by Nick Irvine

Summer Cooler, August 22-25, 2002

Elmwood Fitness Center, New Orleans, LA

The IRT opened the season in New Orleans at the Elmwood Fitness Center with some exciting match-ups. The return of legendary Sudsy Monchick was the talk of the tournament. How would this pan out? Well, Monchick started with an easy win and was not only playing some good fundamental racquetball, but everyone was amazed with the power in his game. But his next round would be against John Ellis ... In the end, it

... IRT ... continues on page 45



Swain Re-ups

On September 25, Wilson announced the re-signing of Cliff Swain to a multi-year contract. Coming off one of his best years on tour, Swain finished last season as the IRT's #1 player for a record sixth time. He will be conducting exhibitions throughout the year, while he continues competing on the pro tour looking to capture another #1 finish.

"My relationship with Wilson has been very enjoyable over the past four and a half years and I am looking forward to continuing the relationship," stated Swain.

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SEASON RANKINGS

[Rankings through McLean]

	Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1.	3445	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA	2	3
2.	3149	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA	1	1
3.	3058	Kane Waselenchuk	Edmonton, Canada	4	14
4.	2658	John Ellis	Stockton, CA	3	4
5.	2192	Jack Huczek	Rochester Hills	5	15
6.	2156	Derek Robinson	Kenniwick, WA	8	8
7.	2151	Alvaro Beltran	San Diego, CA	6	5
8.	2052	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA	7	6
9.	1747	Mike Green	Ontario, Canada	11	11
10.	1724	Mike Guidry	Carrollton, TX	10	9
11.	1428	Sudsy Monchik	Staten Island, NY	17	2
12.	1261	Tim Doyle	San Diego, CA	9	7
13.	1215	Chris Crowther	Riverside, CA	14	20
14.	1204	Dan Fowler	Rockville, MD	15	10
15.	1134	Javier Moreno	Memphis, TN	16	17
16.	1086	Ruben Gonzalez	Staten Island, NY	12	18
17.	847	Brian Istace	Alberta, Canada	13	16
18.	526	Shai Manzuri	Manchester, NH	18	28
19.	514	Woody Clouse	Littleton, CO	19	25
20.	468	Dan Llacera	Rehoboth Beach, DE	22	26

• men's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

2002-2003 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCORECARD

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New OrleansKane Waselenchuk def. Alvaro Beltran.....7-11, 11-2, 7-11, 11-9, 12-10
 StocktonJason Mannino def Alvaro Beltran13-11, 10-12, 11-9, 11-2
 Denver.....Sudsy Monchik def. Jason Mannino11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 5-11, 13-11
 Chihuahua.....Kane Waselenchuk def. Jason Mannino11-8, 6-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-6
 McLean.....Alvaro Beltran def. Jack Huczek.....2-11, 11-8, 3-11, 11-6, 11-5

2002-2003 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE

Oct.31 - Nov.3Chicago, ILHalloween Classic @ Athletic Club of Bloomingdale, 630-893-9577
 November 7-10Riverside, CA.....Splat Shot Open @ tournament House, 909-682-7511
 November 20-24Memphis, TN.....Choice 7th U.S. OPEN @ Racquet Club of Memphis, 901-765-4400
 December 12-15.....Denver, CO.....Lakewood Pro Am@ Lakewood Athletic Club, 303-989-5545

2003

January 9-12.....Cleveland, OH.....Cleveland Open @ Severance Athletic Club
 January 16-19.....Long Island, NYNew York Open @ Sportime of Syosset, 718-429-8489
 Jan.30 - Feb.2.....Coral Springs, FL.....Florida Cup @ Quad Club, 954-743-8900
 February 6-9.....Austin, TX.....Longhorn Open @ University of Texas
 Feb.27 - Mar.2.....San Diego, CA.....San Diego Open @ American Athletic Club, 619-477-2100
 March 20-23Boston, MAFoxwoods Pro Am @ Metro South Athletic Club, 508-588-3444
 April 3-6.....Greensboro, NCNC Open Championships @ Pyramid Health & Fitness
 April 24-27Chesapeake, VA.....Virginia Beach Open @ Greenbriar North YMCA, 757-366-9622
 MayPro Nationals.....TBA

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



ProFILE Tour News



Charlotte Stop a Huge Success by Lynn Stephens

The ladies of the LPRA made the trip to Charlotte for the second annual Dowd Fall Classic LPRA Pro-Am in late September, and this year's event turned out to be better than ever for the ladies. Twenty-four of the top women players competed for \$15,000 in prize money. No, that's not a misprint; the prize money raised this year was equal to the amount offered at the tour's most prestigious annual event, the U.S. OPEN.

Thanks to efforts by tour regular and local organizer Janet Myers, plus the generosity of Bill Belk (of the Belk department store chain), Claude Crocker from South Carolina, and many other sponsors, the event was able to match the prize money from racquetball's only Grand Slam event. And Belk has vowed to make the event even bigger and better next year.

When Myers originally approached Belk about having an LPRA Stop in Charlotte last fall, he felt compelled to do something for the Queen City. "It creates a reputation that we are a city that can bring the best and brightest here to display their talents," Belk said. He also views the LPRA athletes as role models, saying, "Young women need to have heroes and get excited about them. We want our children to be exposed to, and be inspired by, the best." In addition to donating the foundation sum (upon which the remainder of the prize money was built over both years), Belk recruited Bank of America and others to help sponsor the event. And as an added treat for the ladies, Belk opened up his mansion on Saturday night to host a dinner for them and the sponsors. Complete with swimming pool and waterfall, tennis court, home theater, and a full wine cellar, his home is something most of us only get to see in magazines.

Back on the court, the LPRA re-adopted the standard pro scoring system this season, and with the

more familiar format, the round of 32 held no surprises as all of the top seeds advanced easily.

The round of 16 had two great tiebreaker finishes against top seeds. Adrienne Fisher took Kristen Walsh to five before Kristen finally pulled out the win by keeping everything to Adrienne's forehand. Jen Saunders managed to pull out a good win over Kersten Hallander in another tough match that ended 11-8 in the fifth. Jen had Kersten diving all over the court, but in the end it just wasn't enough.

The best match of the quarters had to be the Kerri Wachtel and Jen Saunders match up. Jen came out strong and took the first two games off Kerri, 5 and 7. But last year's U.S. OPEN champion was not out of it yet, and she showed up to play the next three games, taking them with scores of 6, 2 and 0. This set the semis as No.1 Cheryl Gudinas against No.5 Rhonda Rajsich in the top half, and No.3 Kerri Wachtel playing No.2 Jackie Rice in the bottom.

Rhonda seemed to be more comfortable with her game in Charlotte, not making as many of the unforced errors that have plagued her in the past. She played well against Cheryl and was the only player to take a game off her all weekend. But Cheryl was just too strong and took the match in four. Jackie had also not dropped a game up to this point, and seemed to be moving a lot better now that her ankle injury has had some time to heal. She was very intense and took the first two games, 4 and 1, before Kerri mounted a comeback in the third

with an 11-5 win. But Jackie wasn't to be denied her second finals of the season and took the fourth game and match with a score of 11-3.

The finals featured Cheryl's patented game plan of keeping the ball in play with perfect ceiling balls until she has the opportunity to hit the great pinch or passing shot, while Jackie just couldn't seem to keep the ball down as well as she had in her other matches. She seemed to pull it together, and made a good run in the third game, but Cheryl hung tough and took home the winners paycheck with a straight game win.





BACK TO BASICS ...

This season the women have opted to return to the traditional scoring system used by their male counterparts. After experimenting with rally-scoring and alternating service, all match play on the LPRA tour will now be played the best of five games to 11 (win by two), using standard service rules.

Ladies Professional Racquetball Association Season Rankings

[Rankings through Charlotte]

	Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1.	712.500	Cheryl Gudinas	Lisle, IL	1	1
2.	360.000	Jackie Rice	El Cajon, CA	2	2
3.	244.250	Kerri Wachtel	Cincinnati, OH	3	4
4.	203.750	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ	4	6
5.	201.000	Kristen Walsh	Salt Lake City, UT	6	5
6.	180.750	Kersten Hallander	San Diego, CA	5	3
7.	156.000	Kim Russell	Austin, TX	8	12
8.	117.500	Suzy Acosta	San Diego, CA	11	8
9.	89.875	Jennifer Saunders	Winnipeg, Canada	13	19
10.	83.000	Lori-Jane Powell	Alberta, Canada	9	9
11.	82.500	Rachel Gellman	Phoenix, AZ	14	21
12.	75.625	Denise Mock	Allen, TX	12	13
13.	64.500	Adrienne Fisher	Centerville, OH	17	23
14.	61.000	Doreen Fowler	Rockville, MD	15	14
15.	60.000	Amy Foster	Fairlawn, OH	26	—
16.	45.000	Laura Fenton	Overland Park, KS	10	7
17.	33.750	Brenda Kyzer	Lexington, SC	25	34
18.	33.000	Ellen Crawford	Alexandria, VA	22	—
19.	32.500	Johanna Shattuck	Denver, CO	18	15
20.	30.625	Ramona Vonandarza	Venezuela	21	22

• women's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

2002-2003 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCORECARD

OFFICIAL SHOE OF THE LPRA: EKTELON

Rosarito Beach.....Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Rice.....11-7, 11-7, 11-6
Charlotte.....Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Rice.....11-2, 11-4, 13-11
Albuquerque.....Jackie Rice def. Rhonda Rajsich.....3-11, 11-8, 11-2, 11-2

2002-2003 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE

November 1-3.....Colorado Springs, CO.....Lynmar Classic @ Lynmar Racquet & Health Club, 719-598-4069
November 20-24.....Memphis, TN.....Choice 7th U.S. OPEN @ Racquet Club of Memphis, 901-765-4400
December 13-15.....Denver, CO.....Lakewood Pro Am @ Lakewood Athletic Club, 303-989-5545

2003

January 17-19.....Cincinnati, OH.....Five Seasons Country Club, 513-469-1400
February 1-3.....San Diego, CA.....Sorrento Valley Racquetball & Fitness Center, 858-455-1551
February 14-16.....Nashville, TN.....TBA
March 7-9.....Minneapolis, MN.....Central Courts, 763-572-0330
March 13-15.....Baltimore, MD.....Make-a-Wish Open @ Merritt Athletic Club/Towson
March 28-30.....Saskatoon, Canada.....River Racquet Athletic Club, 306-242-0010
May.....Pro Nationals.....TBA

Combined IRT/LPRA stops feature a Saturday final. For LPRA information, contact Jim Hiser at 719-635-5396, ext. 130, or email JHiser@usra.org, or Ed Willis at EwillisII@aol.com, or go to www.ladiesproracquetball.com.

players helping players ... now is the time ...

I wanted to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on a few matters of importance regarding the USRA and its need for a major fundraising campaign. I've been on the USRA board for only a few months, but I've already discovered many interesting things.

THE SITUATION

First of all, I've learned that this organization is one of the most giving that I have ever known; they give and give to support racquetball programs in many different areas. As the only national governing body for the sport, the USRA has developed many successful programs over the years, including tournaments, international events and teams, rules, equipment reviews, teaching at all levels, state organizations, RACQUETBALL magazine, and much more. The organization is run by a small group of individuals who have devoted their working careers to the goal of promoting racquetball. They have accomplished all this, and much more, through support from a small pool of industry sponsors and funding from the U.S. Olympic committee. They have never asked the membership — on the whole — to support the association financially. I have never seen a non-profit organization operate wholly and as successfully as the USRA has, for so many years, without financial help from its members.

Changing economic times over the past three years have had an impact on businesses nationwide, and the USRA has not gone unaffected. Advertising dollars and corporate sponsorship have become very scarce. In response, the USRA has also changed by shifting priorities, becoming more efficient, dropping some programs and striving to become a more dynamic association. They continue to both develop realistic short-term goals and look forward to achieving long-term goals. Unfortunately, reduced budgets do not allow them to continue to support racquetball at the same levels that they have in the past without help from the membership.

So many different hardships have caused us to re-focus our priorities, and at the same time we are more determined to appreciate and sustain our American way of life. Personally, I want to re-focus on the areas that I think are important. I have always assumed that the other person will get the job done, and that has usually been the case. Now I realize that each of us must do our part to be actively involved in the important things or they may just disappear altogether. I see racquetball being pressured from all different angles. First it was aerobics, then biking and cross training. Now, there are so many new activities (not to mention old standbys like football) that have sliced and diced our racquetball population.

Despite all this, racquetball participation the past few years has actually increased. Yes, increased. Even with the pressures I mentioned, racquetball is actually on a slight rise. And I think I know the main two reasons. First of all, and most important, it's just plain fun and beneficial to the player.

Secondly, I believe the USRA's long-standing programs are finally paying off. For racquetball participation to actually be increasing in these difficult times [up 2.7% just last year, according to the SGMA] is just plain exciting.

For myself, there is one area that I think needs a tremendous amount of work. At the clubs I play in and the tournaments I attend, the players are mostly men, mostly over 35. I remember when I first started it seemed like the sport was evenly divided between men and women, tournaments were four times the size, and filled with young people. It's not hard to guess what will happen to our sport if we don't figure out a way to get kids and women playing again, and do this very soon.

I have asked for the USRA's list of short-term goals. In the first year of his service as Executive Director, Dr. Jim Hiser has shown real focus and determination in identifying this list of short-term goals and promoting racquetball from within. I am real excited with what I've seen and I know with time and money, these goals will be accomplished. They are:

1. Increased membership services
2. Financial stability - USRA Foundation
3. Interactive club programs
4. National ranking system
5. National training center

THE "PLAYERS HELPING PLAYERS" CAMPAIGN

For these reasons — trust in our membership, positive growth in the sport, and established needs — we have decided to start a fundraising campaign to both relieve current budget pressures and to build a foundation for racquetball's future. The slogan for this effort will be "Players helping Players" and by making a donation to this campaign you will be joining myself and others in preserving what is important to us, in the years to come.

If you will join with me in personally investing in the USRA, I promise to be your representative to make sure these dollars are spent properly and effectively. My dollars will be there too. I'll



also make you another promise: I will work with the USRA to develop a comprehensive long-term plan, then follow-up by approaching corporate and charitable donors to try to sell them on giving to the USRA as well. This will take some time but I believe that, with the right leadership and proper planning, we can achieve both the short- and long-term goals.

Very soon, I will be reporting on the long-term goals and our progress in

by randy stafford

developing the larger donors. I believe that we need to somehow hire a professional marketing company to sell our sport to corporate America. I think we play a clean, fun sport that companies would sponsor if given the right marketing plan, presented professionally.

The USRA governs and promotes racquetball by whatever means that it can. It has done this important work through the talents of volunteers and staff, funded by companies through their donations. But we are faced with dwindling resources in all areas and if we do not make up the difference from individual donations now, we will see programs shrink even further. They have pretty much already cut all the programs that they could without damaging the integrity of the association. With declining corporate support, we are now faced with the hard choices of further budget cuts and reducing the association to a much smaller format, or raising money from our players to continue our work.

I think that our player base will care enough about preserving the benefits that we have received for so long, for free, that it will realize that now is our time to step up to the plate and lend a big helping hand. Please understand that this is not the time to think about what the next person will do. This is when all of us need to do our part and understand we are in this together. Now is the time to care even more than ever about our sport.

In recalling the old axiom "Don't throw good money after bad." I assure you that this is not the case with the USRA, at this point in its history. These donations will be well spent (or invested for the long term), with the main goal of "players helping players." Please help us help the sport with your tax-deductible contribution, today.

I urge you to contact me if you have any questions regarding this campaign at Steve3n@aol.com. And thanks for reading such a long article, but I felt it was necessary to explain all the details of what we are trying to accomplish.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Randy Stafford, USRA Member &
Fundraising Chair, Board of Directors

create a legacy of giving ...

This first phase of the fundraising campaign is truly designed for players, as you can see from the special "gift list" that offers a great package of benefits, from top to bottom. When you take part, you'll be supporting the association with a donation that practically pays for itself in real value, plus it's tax-deductible!

Open	\$5000	Ten-Year National Event Pass, plus all shown below
Elite	\$1000	Five-Year National Event Pass [+ lifetime membership, frame, hat & racquetballs]
A	\$500	Lifetime Membership SPECIAL* [last-chance pricing!]
B	\$250	Frame of your choice [+ U.S. Team hat & racquetballs]
C	\$100	U.S. Team Hat [+ commemorative racquetballs]
D	\$50	"Players Helping Players" commemorative racquetballs

• National event passes entitle the holder to free entry to any USRA National event (including US Open, Nationals singles or doubles, National Intercollegiate or Junior Nationals) for the term noted. • *USRA Lifetime Memberships will be increased to \$1000 in 2003 — take advantage of the current low price. • "Player's helping Players" commemorative racquetball balls will be produced in a limited edition by Penn and will bear a special stamp of the campaign slogan. A collector's item, they will only be available to campaign donors. • All donors will receive a letter detailing their tax-deductible contribution.

terms of endearment

FOUNDATION GIVING

(RESTRICTED): Gifts to the "USRA Foundation" will be deposited in a capital fund, with the intent of building a working cash account which will generate interest income in the long term. Funds are restricted, and may not be used or spent directly — only accumulated — for the purpose of establishing financial stability for the association's future.

PLANNED GIVING (RESTRICTED): You can create a "Legacy of Giving" in a number of ways, through: *Charitable Remainder Trust* (charity receives assets of trust at the expiration of the trust); *Wealth Replacement Trust* (used with CRT, replaces value of assets given to charity); *Charitable Lead Trust* (pays predetermined percentage of trust income to charity); *Family Foundation* (tax deduction for donations made in future); *Donor Advised Funds* (immediate tax deduction for contribution). There are numerous other methods of estate giving that your financial advisor can assist you in planning. For more information, contact your financial advisor, or call 800-234-5396 for a complete list of estate options.

SPECIAL SUPPORT (RESTRICTED): Gifts may be earmarked for specific support (i.e. junior development, U.S. Team, LPRA) in any special-interest area of your choice.

GENERAL FUND (UNRESTRICTED): Gifts to the "general fund" are the most flexible, and valuable, in the short-term. Your unrestricted gifts enable the USRA to work toward reducing a sizable deficit, or it might just help us pay the light bill.

Please use the enclosed card to give us your instructions, and to take part in an ambitious campaign to put the USRA on firm financial footing ... for the future of racquetball. Thank you!

... this is the place

In the last several issues I have introduced you to many of my advanced magical shots and serves, like "The Jump", "The Backhand Lob", "The Splat" and "The Cut Off" — just to name a few. Today I want to add my magical "Short Hop" to that list. It is the most difficult shot in the game because it takes such impeccable timing.

In order for it to be effective you want to hit the ball on the rise immediately after it hits the floor and bounces, roughly six inches and lower (ankle high or lower). This very aggressive shot places a tremendous amount of pressure on your opponent as it takes away their reaction time and it catches them off guard. Most players are expecting you to wait and take it in the back court — instead you step up and take it early which makes it that much more effective.

Let's discuss what level of player should try it, when best to use it, then follow along with the photos to learn how to hit it.

What level of player should use it? Remember, this takes split-second timing, so I wouldn't recommend trying this until you have good racquet control and can hit all the basics shots with precision and accuracy. My philosophy is crawl ... walk ... then, and only then, ... run. You should probably be an "A" level player or higher and be willing to practice this shot on a regular basis to get the timing down.

When to use it? In general, there are two good occasions to use this shot: First, to return a "bad" lob serve that bounces on or beyond the dotted line (being extremely careful not to encroach). While you want to step up and be aggressive with "the short hop," you're

only going for a passing shot here, but it still puts plenty of pressure on the server. And second, you'll want to use it during a rally when you are up front for re-kills, pinches or pass-kills.

So there you have it ... my magical "short hop". I can't stress enough how difficult a shot this is to hit. When you are down and ready, and see an opportunity to short hop, commit early and go for it. But remember to go primarily for passes — not low percentage kills or



Photos: Rodney Boyd

The Short Hop

pinches — unless you are way up front. Only the top pros and elite players use this effectively in their games, because it's a shot that needs to be practiced and grooved in order to be consistent. And we *do* practice it. Take it from me ... I have to practice this shot religiously since I like the pressure it puts on opponents like Cliff, Sudsy, John, Kane or Jack. You'll need to do the same to make this shot work for you.

Good luck with this shot and if I see you at one of my camps with Fran Davis, I will be sure to use it against you!

Trick #1 **The Ready Position**

- Same as "The Power Backhand & "The Forehand"

Trick #2 **The Step and Swing**

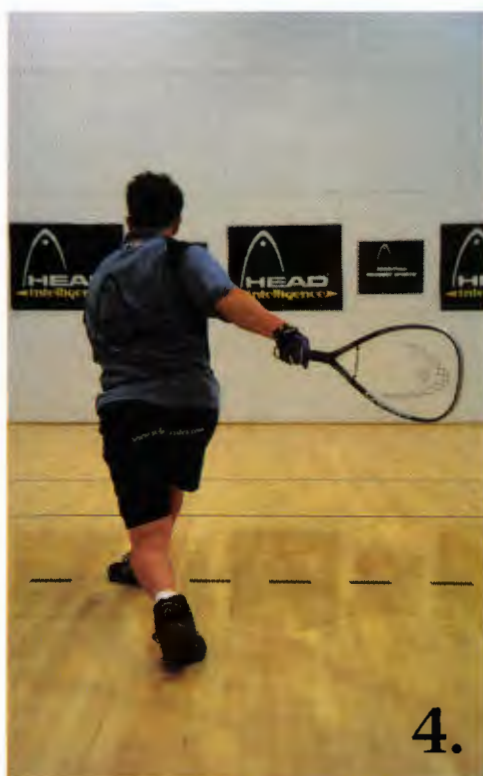
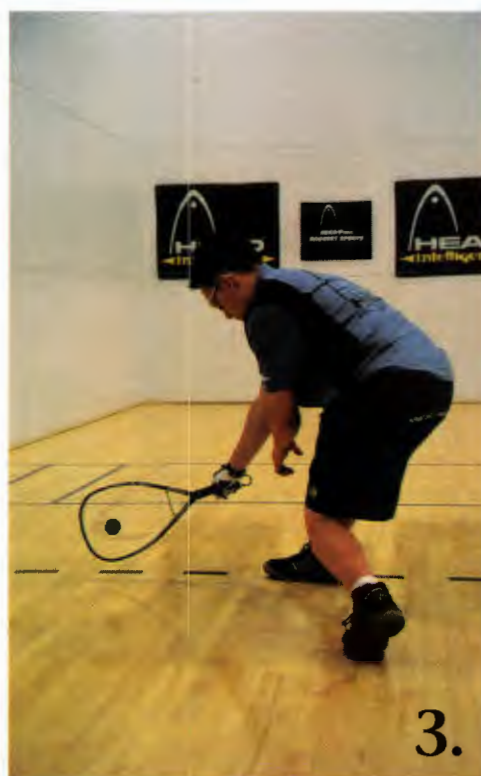
- Cross over step
- Racquet down by the floor ready to hit the ball
- Same as "The Power Backhand & "The Forehand"

Trick #3 **The Contact Point**

- Racquet down
- Arm at full extension
- Ball hit ankle high
- Same as "The Power Backhand & "The Forehand"

Trick #4 **The Follow Through**

- Same as "The Power Backhand & "The Forehand"





Wilson Game Plan: Getting out of the Box

by Chris Evon & Cliff Swain

One of the most important skills in serving, that *most* players overlook, is where and how to position yourself afterward. When you are serving you should be in control of the point. Your serve is designed to force a defensive or weak return from your opponent. However, many times, even though we force a weak service return, we find ourselves in the wrong place or set up in the wrong way. The results — the third shot, the one you are supposed to put away — is ineffective and the advantage switches to your opponent!

Watch Cliff as he demonstrates the right and the wrong way to move out of the zone. Learning how moving out of the zone properly affects the third shot, will help you be a more effective server, and will also teach you how to exploit your opponent's bad habits! Pay attention to your own movement and positioning, *and* pay attention to your oppo-

nent's. It will unlock the key to getting and staying in control of the match!

After serving, move out of the zone to about the hash mark, and toward center court. Look over your shoulder so you can see where the ball is and anticipate the shot your opponent is going to hit. Be sure your body and racquet are in a good ready position.

... correct ...

Cliff moves out of zone, but opens his stance so his feet are on a slight diagonal (facing the front wall). Result: He can effectively cover and retrieve almost any shot that is left up.



... correct ...



a.

... incorrect ...



b.



c.

... incorrect ...

- < a. After serving to his forehand side, Cliff keeps his feet and shoulders parallel to the side wall as he watches his opponent. Remember, Cliff is a lefty). Result: He can only effectively cover a down the line shot.
- < b. Cliff moves out of the zone by crossing his front foot over. Result: This is *always* an ineffective way to move. The side-step movement is quicker and much more efficient.
- < c. After Cliff moves out of the zone he completely faces the front wall while waiting for his opponent to hit. Result: Unless he has radar, he has no idea where his opponent is hitting the ball until *after* the ball reaches the front wall.

This will delay his anticipation and slow his movement. He is also a prime candidate for a hinder or an avoidable hinder. If you hit a bad serve, you may be right in the line of fire of your opponent's shot. It is your responsibility to see the ball and to move into the proper position to avoid being hit by the return.



... correct ...

This series of photos on this page show the proper way to move out of the service zone, after hitting a drive serve to your backhand side. Cliff is standing on the left side of the zone. His drive serve is going towards *his* backhand side (which is the forehand side to a right handed player).

correct: picture #1 >

Cliff pivots off his back foot, turning towards the side the ball is traveling to.



correct: picture #2 >

He then uses the side step method to move out of the zone, towards where the ball was hit.

correct: picture #3 >

He ends up at the hash mark, with in a slightly open position. He is looking at the ball, and is ready to react. Your final positioning will depend on where the ball ends up. If it is well into the corner, position yourself a little off center, towards the ball. If the ball wraps around the corner, and ends up towards the middle, be sure to adjust your positioning so you are not in the way of your opponents straight in, or cross court shot.

... correct ...



... never ...

Whether it is after your serve or during a rally — never turn your body to face your opponent! If you make that mistake, use your racquet to protect those areas that are most important to you!

FOREHAND MECHANICS

by Kersten Hallander

In my last article, I stressed the importance of early racquet preparation. Now, I'd like to take the next step and methodically break down the forehand so you can gain more power and control. Then, with lots of practice, you can take your game to the next level.

Pick up any golf magazine and you'll see how analytical they are about swing mechanics. Any deviation can mean disaster to your shot. Fortunately, in racquetball, deviations are more forgiving and sometimes result in "lucky" winning shots.

Once you decide you are going to hit a forehand, square your shoulders to the sidewall and get your racquet ready (see July/August 2002), with knees slightly bent and feet shoulder width apart [photo #1]. Make sure the elbow and hand of your hitting arm is as high as your shoulder and your elbow should be bent almost 90 degrees.

Just before the ball gets into the hitting zone, raise your elbow a bit higher, put most of your weight on your back foot and coil your torso by pointing your belly button to the rear corner [photo #2]. Notice how much higher my right shoulder is than my left? This is very important for generating power. When you step into the shot, your lead foot can move anywhere from 5-10 inches slightly diagonal towards the front wall. The knee of your leading leg should be bent 70 to 90 degrees and your toes are pointed towards the front wall. Don't let your knee extend past your heel, as this will compromise balance in your follow through.

As you step, your elbow drops down behind your hips and points towards the front wall. Your hip on the racquet side also drops [photo #3]. The elbow at this point is leading your hand and racquet. Now notice



1.

how the bottom of the grip is facing the front wall. This is because my wrist is cocked backwards [photo #4]. This is what enables the wrist to snap just before contacting the ball. The racquet head then starts to get more perpendicular to the floor as it catches up with the elbow just before contact.

At the point of contact, the racquet should be parallel to the floor, with the racquet face perpendicular to the floor. The hitting arm, shoulder, elbow, wrist and racquet are all in alignment [photo #5] to ensure proper timing. Be sure to grip the racquet tightly, especially with the pinky and ring finger. If you are holding your racquet too high on the grip, you will be unable to opti-



2.



3.



4.

EKTELON performance series

mize the snap of your wrist. *Please note: It is very important that your elbow drops down behind the hips in order to hit the ball flat. If you drop your elbow down in front of your body, you'll "chop" the ball [photo #6].* The result? Even the lowest kill shots will pop up off of the front wall and you could end up with elbow problems, too.

The follow-through brings the racquet head up to the opposite shoulder or slightly higher [photo #7]. Your back foot has pivoted like you're squashing a bug and your hips and shoulders are now square to the front wall. The elbow on your non-hitting arm has also come back behind you, helping to pull your torso around through your shot.

Don't forget about your non-hitting arm. When waiting for the ball, it should be slightly bent and approximately 8-12" from your ribs [photo #1]. Look at the full photo series and note how your hitting arm flows through the stroke, while your non-hitting arm helps to pull your torso around.

Timing is everything to get that "pop" on the ball. Practice in front of a mirror in slow motion so you can have a visual picture in your mind when trying it on the court. As it becomes more comfortable, start to practice your full swing in fast motion in front of the mirror, too. After you have practiced in front of the mirror and have a good picture in your mind on how to execute it, it's time to get on the court and practice.

Drop and Hit

Start out with the basic drop and hit drill. The ball cannot be too close or too far away, as this will inhibit

power and control. If you think about it, your arm (from shoulder to palm) is about a foot and a half to two feet long. Wilt Chamberlain played racquetball and his arms were probably three feet long. Most, if not all, racquets are now 22 inches. If you measure your arm length, from shoulder to the middle of the palm, and add 16-18 inches (because you should be hitting the ball in the top center of your racquet face), that is how far away the ball should be when you hit it.

Everything should be in alignment at the point of contact, just before the heel of the leading foot. Stand 4-5 feet from the sidewall and drop the ball away from you at the distance you measured. Also, bounce the ball toward the front wall a little bit to account for the 5-10 inch step you take during your swing. I sometimes put a piece of tape on the floor so students can get the hang of bouncing the ball far enough in front and away from them. Everyone's step is different so find where you step with your leading foot and measure your contact point out laterally from the inside heel.

Once you get the timing down and are hitting with power and control, straight in to the front wall, try setting yourself up some short ceiling balls and hitting those straight in too. A short ceiling ball is one that bounces a second time in the rear court area. Aim about 6-12 inches high on the front wall. Doing the drop and hit drill is great for perfecting your stroke mechanics but practicing game situation shots is what gives you the confidence to hit the winning shot in a game.

If you have any questions or suggestions for future articles, please email them to me at kersten@kersten.com.





Q: I hear all this "stuff" about what to do before a match. I do nothing ... which hasn't been all that successful. Any words of wisdom?

You are definitely not alone. Most players do what you do — nothing at all — or they do very little ... and neither one of those approaches is a good strategy to adopt.

If you want to be successful and have more "W"s in the win

column than "L"s in the loss column, pay attention to this four-step approach, used by the pros and U.S. team members.

I can share this with you firsthand, having coached Jason Mannino, currently ranked #1 on tour, and the US Team at the world championships in Puerto Rico this past summer. Both Jason and the team members swear by a "pre-game plan." To them, it's as important as coming to the club with all your equipment.

By establishing a "pre-game plan" you are taking 100% responsibility for your performance. By doing this necessary homework you too can achieve peak performance within whatever level you are at. Let's take a closer look at what this will mean.

Pre- Game Preparation

Step #1 is understanding yourself as an athlete and as a human being. Athletes thrive on consistency and routine — we are creatures of habit and perform best when there are no surprises, which means optimal performance levels need to have pre-performance routine!

Step #2 is to insure that you are nutritionally ready. Eat enough complex carbohydrates (fruits, grains, pastas, breads and veggies) to store enough glycogen (for speed, quickness and energy) in your muscles for game time. Also, make sure that you eat very little protein, fats, or fried foods on game day; and drink

enough water to hydrate all systems. Sound sports nutrition is totally within the athlete's control and responsibilities. What you eat will determine how you feel, which will determine your sports performance. (Source: Diana McNab's Peak Performance Manual).

Step #3 is your pre-game physical warm-ups or routine. From stretches, to conditioning drills, to physical warm-ups! Remember your body loves routine and needs to get into the appropriate arousal level for you to perform at your best. Find out what feels good and what works — then do it before each match to physically prepare you for your best performances. Whether you need to be highly energized, slightly warmed-up, or relaxed, it's your responsibility to get yourself in that state of physical readiness.

Step #4 is your mental preparation. This is totally individual and unique with each athlete. Relaxation techniques of deep breathing, muscle relaxation, and affirmations (positive statements) can lead into simulation visualization exercises. It is imperative that the athlete allow enough time to mentally rehearse their performance beforehand and to "simulate" or go over each match (game plan)! Often the best time for this is after the pre-game meal and lying down and relaxing before the contest!

Remember, all the thinking and planning and strategizing should be done before the performance. Thinking and performing don't mix; your body can only concentrate on one aspect at a time. So the athlete needs to mentally prepare before his match so that he can physically get into his "flow" state and perform.

You need to think like a winner, act like a winner and be a winner — before it can come true. Pre-game planning is all about pulling up your "winning attitude" before you enter the court.

Smarter Head, Better Game — by Fran Davis • "Pre-Game Planning"

email your questions to: fran@frandavisracquetball.com



Training: Racquetball and Muscle Soreness ... Partners for Life

by Tim Scheett, Ph.D

Ask anyone who plays in tournaments "Is playing on Sunday worth the pain?" and you will most likely get a very quick and concise answer: 'That's a stupid question – of course it is!' Anyone that has ever played serious racquetball

knows exactly what I am talking about: barely being able to swing your legs out of the bed the next morning, walking half bent over, struggling to stand up straight, making weird noises as you try to reach for your morning coffee (or soda in my case) because your arms, shoulders and chest are so stiff and sore that you really just want to crawl back in bed and go to sleep for a week.

The term "DOMS" or "Delayed Onset of Muscle Soreness" specifically refers to the soreness caused by exercise that you do not feel on the day that you exercise but rather one or two days later. The delayed effect is strictly due to the time it takes for the body to respond to the damage caused by the exercise. The amount of muscle damage can be determined directly by collecting a sample of the damaged muscle or indirectly by analyzing a blood sample for a few different proteins that are only present in the blood following muscle damage.

Over the years you may have heard numerous explanations for what causes this type of soreness to occur. More than likely, someone has told you that it is due to either lactic acid, a sodium or potassium deficiency and/or dehydration. Rest assured – all of these explanations are *wrong*! And, yes you can quote me on that. In basic terms, muscle soreness results from actually damaging the muscle itself. Exercise causes very small tears of the muscle fibers (typically called microfiber tears) which result in the body initiating responses to heal the damaged muscle cells. The more intense the exercise, the more muscle damage, the greater the amount of soreness.

The body will respond to the muscle damage in the exact same way it responds to any injury – with inflammation. Inflammation is the body's way of trying to control the amount of damage, then it helps

the body begin the repair process to heal the damaged tissue. Very recent research has shown that excessive inflammation can actually cause additional muscle damage to occur but this is still a theory that is being tested. However, it is this inflammation that is causing you to feel tight and stiff.

Now you may be thinking that all muscle damage and soreness is bad and this is just not true. Simply stated, if you never cause muscle damage, the muscle will never become stronger. Contrary to popular belief, lifting weights or exercise does not cause muscles to grow and get stronger. Muscles *only* grow and get stronger while they heal in response to the damage induced from lifting weights or exercise. Thus, if you never tear muscle down it can never build up. At the same time, you must use caution because too much high intensity exercise will not only cause severe muscle damage (which can take days or weeks to recover from) but also may lead you to surgery with a torn muscle, tendon or ligament.

Okay, now that you know what is causing the soreness (maybe more than you ever wanted to) let's discuss what can be done to prevent it from ever occurring, as well as what can be done to deal with it if it does.

Generally speaking, the only way to prevent severe muscle damage and soreness (the kind that lasts for for days following a workout) is to gradually increase your exercise intensity over several weeks. Depending on your current activity level it may take you weeks or months to build up to the point where you can play (or exercise) at an intensity equal to that experienced during tournaments before you no longer feel sore during the following days. Gradually increasing the intensity, duration and frequency of high intensity exercise will allow your body to become used to that amount of stress and thus it will respond by becoming more resistant (i.e. stronger).

On the other hand, if you are already experiencing muscle soreness, there are a few remedies that can be used to help you get through those uncomfortable days. During the days that you are experiencing muscle soreness it is worthwhile to use any method

that will increase blood flow to the affected area. Things such as hot tubs or hot baths work but, believe it or not, exercise is best. Exercises that target the affected area (e.g. cycling for sore legs) will increase blood flow to the damaged muscles, which will then speed removal of the dead cellular debris and the fluid associated with the inflammation and will result in improved healing time.

However, do **not** use any method of applying heat to sore muscles on the day you exercised as the heat will increase blood flow to the affected area and will actually cause more inflammation and end up making things worse.

Cool baths or swimming pools would be of great benefit as the cool water will limit blood flow and also inhibit severe inflammation (think about what ice does to a sprained ankle – it's the same principle).

But always remember that chronic soreness is a sign that you are either not getting enough rest (rest allows the body time to recover and heal itself) or perhaps there may be some other underlying problem in which case you need to consult with your personal physician.

As always – if you have questions you would like me to answer, send an email to: timscheett@hotmail.com.

Training: Another Painful Tunnel

by Aaron Haydu, D.C.



Most athletes place an enormous amount of stress on their feet and ankles resulting in a number of painful conditions. The carpal tunnel of the wrist has received its share of attention recently due to the increase in sedentary jobs and the use of computers in daily life. Severe or progressive ankle pain combined with tingling and/or numbness in the foot could be a sign of another common tunnel for pain, the tarsal tunnel.

The tarsal tunnel is located on the inside of the ankle and just below the large bony protrusion. With a dense ligament cover, it is a space that contains the major tendons that flex the foot and toes, a major artery, vein, and nerve.

Altered foot or ankle motions, or abnormal stress, often cause symptoms. Localized pain is common and can be followed by tingling and numbness in the ball of the foot and into the toes. Symptoms are typically gradual in onset and worse with weight-bearing activities such as running, extended walking, or prolonged standing. With the high number of motions in a typical racquetball match, chronic pressure can put the tunnel at risk for inflammation, causing the painful sensations of tarsal tunnel syndrome.

There are many causes of tarsal tunnel, but the most common cause is abnormal stress to the ankle. Flat feet (pronation) are a major cause as pressure from the altered foot motions chronically stresses the tunnel. Often, recent or chronic ankle sprain can be identified as the onset of the symptoms of tarsal tunnel.

Caring for tarsal tunnel first involves proper diagnosis, as many conditions of the foot, ankle, and low back can present themselves with similar symptoms. If there is swelling in the area, a regiment of ice and anti-inflammatory medication can alleviate symptoms. Shoes and athletic footwear should be inspected for abnormal wear at the heel to determine if normal heel strike is occurring with activity. Chronic flat feet will often cause excessive wear on the inside of the heel. Strengthening the small muscles of the foot and ankle can stabilize the area, and orthotic foot supports can correct mechanical foot disorders. Commonly, manual techniques are necessary to normalize the soft tissues and bony joints of the foot.

Treatment should begin as soon as possible following symptom onset because long-standing pressure in the tarsal tunnel can ultimately result in atrophy/weakening of the muscles of the foot and sensation deficits to the foot and toes. Often the symptoms are associated with low back and/or hip pain and often seen and managed successfully with chiropractic care. A podiatrist is very effective in the recognition and treatment, especially when orthotics are needed. Early recognition and care is the best way to alleviate this chronic condition and keep you in the action.

... "doubles" continued from page 25

Debbie suggested that Janel relax and just play her game and stop trying to impress her partner, who's consistently been ranked in the top five on the LPRA tour. Taking the advice to heart, Tisinger calmed down and then did begin to impress. Donning her "scary" face, she helped Hallander blank Bailey and Roehler in the second game and put away the tiebreaker 11-5.

Team Cut

After their big upset, Lyons and Pfahler's work wasn't getting any easier. They faced No.3 seeded Laura Fenton and Rhonda Rajsich, who'd barely made the decision to play together in time to meet the entry deadline. The interesting team paired a two-time winner in Fenton (1993 & 2000) and the younger and more athletic Rajsich, who made it into the finals last year with Bailey. And they knew what to expect.

"Anyone who plays Mary and Susan knows what it's like," said Fenton. "It's very easy to get lulled into their game."

Early on, Fenton and Rajsich fell in line, and promptly found themselves playing Lyons and Pfahler's style. "They were dominating from center court," Fenton explained. "We knew we had to be more patient so we started hitting ceiling balls to move them back."

The strategy worked and Fenton and Rajsich were able to get back to their own game and win the first, 15-9. The second game followed suit, with Fenton and Rajsich staying in control to win 15-10, and renew their spots on the U.S. Team.

"They are very good at their style of play," said Fenton after the match. "I wasn't surprised that they won (against Gudinas and Walsh)."

In the other semi, top seeded Jackie Rice and Kim Russell faced Hallander and Tisinger. Rice and Russell had just won the IRF World Doubles Championships in August but knew that the tournament wouldn't be a walk-through by any means.

"There are a lot of strong teams in the women's draw this year," said Russell. "I think this was the toughest women's open that we've ever had."

Rice and Russell had gone through the draw to this point without losing a game. Although tested by Hallander and Tisinger they stayed on track by winning in two straight, 15-12, 15-11.

"I am excited to be in the finals for the fifth year in a row," said Russell after the match. "I've never won the Pan Am's so it is important for us to come out and play tough."

Rice, who by winning this final stood to become the winningest women's doubles player in USRA history, downplayed her accomplishments and preferred to just concentrate on the task at hand. "I don't really worry about that (the record). I just want to be able to play at the level I was at before," she said referring to the string of injuries that has plagued her in the last two years.

With the finals set, Fenton found herself playing for a national title for the second time this year, after finishing second to Gudinas at the national singles last May. Her partner, Rajsich, had made it to last year's doubles finals and wanted to take it one step further.

Fenton and Rajsich were fired up and held a slim lead for most of the first game. Rajsich was moving and shooting the ball well, but they had trouble closing. They built a 10-6 lead only to see Rice and Russell come back to knot it up at 13-all. Experience gained from world competition paid off for Rice and Russell and they pulled out the first game, 15-13.

The second game was much like the first, except that Rice and Russell held the lead by a slight margin most of the time. Tied up late in the game, at 11-11, Rice and Russell were once again able to switch into a higher gear to finish off the match 15-11.

"We tried to play a lot of angles to the middle to slow Rhonda down," said Rice. "I thought Laura played pretty sharp on her side and Rhonda was pretty quick so it was hard to shoot the ball. They played really, really well."

"I am excited about going to the Pan Am's with Jackie, but I never let it cross my mind on the court," said Russell. "I knew they were going to be tough so I just tried to play point by point."



... "champs" continued from page 25

happened we played at the same club (at the time). I think it is vital to get competitive games year round in order to stay sharp for "big" tournament events. I'm very lucky to belong to a club with many high-level doubles players. It is more amazing that my mixed partner, Dave Azuma [who now lives in Oregon], can continue to play at his incredibly high level when he can rarely even find three other people to play doubles with. He is truly a focused competitor.

I met both my other partners, Leslie [Pawka, W45+] and Linda [Moore, 40+], as opponents at the national doubles and we later arranged to play together. It's a great way to meet partners, actually. Playing against people really gives you an idea of how they play and what they are like. It's very important to me to play with someone who is honest, fair, a good sport as well as a good player. Oh, and fun to be on the court with!

Andy Kulback: Third Time's the Charm [MA & M35+ A/B with Duffy Bracken (below left, Kulback at right)]. I have been playing since 1978 and have been participating in local and state events for what seems like forever. Even though I have won many titles in many different divisions in Ohio, I have to say that winning two divisions at the National Doubles is the crowning achievement of my racquetball career.

This was only my third national doubles, and I believe that the previous two prepared me for what it takes to win on the national level.



In my first, I played in two divisions and lost both of them in the first round. In retrospect, I probably underestimated the level of competition. In my second year, I played in three events and lost all three in the second round. I was a little more prepared, but not

quite prepared enough for what it was going to take to win. This year, my third attempt, I won.

The competition at a national tournament is very fierce, however, I must say that all of our opponents were not only first-rate players, but they were first-rate people as well. In

any type of competition there are bound to be disputes, the intensity level is very high and sometimes tempers may flare. However, at the end of every match, both the winners and the losers were able to put the competition aside, wish each other well and be friends. I can honestly say that in the three years that I have participated in this event, I have not played a match that has ended on a bad note.

Lee Graff: The Right Formula [M60+ w/Carmen Felicetti, M65+ w/Thomas Penick]. The exhilaration of winning a gold medal at the national level is outstanding; winning two gold medals only doubles the thrill and euphoria. At this level of competition each player has such outstanding racquetball skills, that I believe the single most important ingredient to winning is chemistry. Interview those teams that have won five nationals or more and I am very confident that they would say, "When we won, the chemistry was perfect or nearly so, and when we were defeated our chemistry was just not there." If the 'chemistry' is still there between partners, the confidence of past success is a critical factor and it will lead to continued success and another national title. In fact, I believe a team with multiple titles has a three to four point game advantage going into a semi or final match.

Frank Taddonio: Email me the Game Plan [Mixed 50+ with Shelley Ogden]. There's a ton of pressure to repeat the previous year's results and most of it is self-induced. In my case, I teamed with Shelley as a fellow Board member just to give a shot last year and we ended up winning. I based that on a lot of luck and Shelley's great play. We'd emailed each other and thought we'd give it another shot, even knowing we hadn't played together for a year and we'd be up against tough competitors who play together routinely. Once again, Shelley played great and we got lucky.

About re-focusing and preparing for a second title run, we focused on what we did the previous year to be successful and it worked. Our success, and I think this holds true for any doubles team, is based on one partner backing up the other both in individual rallies and when one partner makes mistakes the other picks up the slack. Disaster comes when both make mistakes and get in a rut at the same time!

Brent Walters: Back to Back [M24- with Mitch Williams]. It's pretty awesome to win a national title, and to win it back-to-back is quite a feat. When you rate a champion in any sport the bottom line is if you have won a title. Winning once could maybe be considered luck or a fluke, but multiple titles puts you on a small list of champions.

The big key in doubles is finding a good partner. Mitch seems to be a good match. He is a lefty while I have the right side taken care of. His power on the left side plays a major role, while my consistency and most importantly my speed make a great one two punch. We compliment each other very well; he takes the majority of the shots in the backcourt while I clean up the front.

... IRT ... continued from page 28

was Kane Waselenchuk who came out on top. See www.irt-tour.com for details.

Stockton Pro-Am — September 5-8 In-Shape Sports Club @ West Lane

According to IRT Commissioner Dave Negrete, Stockton was an interesting tournament, with extra international flavor. Kane Waselenchuk had visa issues at the boarder and was unable to enter the country. Alvaro Beltran continued his outstanding play from New Orleans to upset Swain early, then advance into his second final of the season against Mannino. But it was Mannino who pulled it out for the win in his own backyard. *He and Dave Negrete share a laugh at the award ceremony.*



Chihuahua Open — September 26-29 Club Campestre, Chihuahua, Mexico

If you haven't been to Mexico to play in a racquetball tournament, mark the next one down on your calendar. The people there are the best in the world! There were more people watching the qualifiers than most finals back in the states. Should I mention how excited everyone was to be there? Oh yes, they treated us like *Kings!* *Players answer questions at the event press conference.*



Team Ed Pro-Am — October 10-13 Tyson Sport and Fitness, Mclean, VA

Despite the very real threat of sniper fire, the finals featured #5 Jack Huczek and #7 Alvaro Beltran for a shoot-out of their own for the first-place check at the Team Ed Pro-Am. The strong up-and-comer Huczek came out firing to take the first game. The second was close right down to the end, with both players fighting for front court position before Alvaro pulled out the win. Game three was similar to the first, with Huczek showing us why he has been such a dominant force in the USRA ranks. The determination and desire for a first pro win took Alvaro to the next level, and he came back to win the next two in a nail-biting tiebreaker. Alvaro Beltran, the *Mira Mexicana* (white shirt, center), brings home a title for Mexico! *All photos this page: courtesy Nick Irvine.*



14th IRF WORLD SENIOR RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Growing Worldwide Participation creates new Excitement!

The 14th annual World Senior Racquetball Championships drew 248 participants representing nine countries and territories from around the world to Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 28-31. The diverse group descended on the high desert city for intense competition, genuine camaraderie, vast generosity and ultimately to honor those who exemplify the spirit of sportsmanship in our truly international game.

International Flavor

This year's competition was flush with representatives from all points of the globe, including a spirited delegation of thirty players from Mexico, two from Canada and one each from Cuba, Colombia, Ireland, Nigeria, Uruguay, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The many backgrounds and unique perspectives provided exceptional flavor and spice to the tournament. National pride bubbled over in Tuesday night's all-player meeting with predictable chants and cheers for the players' respective countries of origin. By Saturday night's banquet, all that had been filtered and players of multiple nations shared food and drink at the same table.

Spirit of Giving

The tournament began with a required all-player's meeting at the Hyatt, the new host hotel in downtown Albuquerque. WSRC officers Paula Sperling, Damian Jelso and Gary Mazaroff briefed the assembly on rules, parking options, transportation, and logistics. The session shifted into an all-out discourse on the finer points of avoidable hinders, encroachment lines and the alternatives to lagging for serve to the general chuckles of the repeat participants.

The meeting ended with a live auction called by the incomparable "Maz" to benefit the efforts of the IRF in its pursuit of the ongoing Olympic Dream for racquetball. The generosity of the crowd became obvious as special items went

for fantastic prices; over the years the World Senior events have raised well over \$250,000 in cumulative contributions.

The spirit of giving carried over throughout preliminary round-robin play and medal round competition. Players encouraged one another, shared racquets as needed, gave each other regional gifts, and resolved all on-court issues without the interjections of referees. This key characteristic of this event is rarely found in today's competitive arenas. As I spoke with many of the first-time participants, it stood out in their memory as a unique attribute that will play heavily in their mind when they consider returning in the future.

A special example of this type of giving attitude is the "backstory" of Colorado resident, and Women's 45+ champ, Mary Keenan. Throughout the week, Mary was shadowed by a black Labrador Retriever puppy named Ola. An accomplished horsewoman, Mary is a volunteer trainer for Canine Companions for Independence, and has used her skills with animals to help train Ola for service use with the handicapped. At the end of 18 months, Mary's time and dedication in socializing and training this special dog will benefit someone less fortunate [see page 48].

Spirit of Competition

With over 1,500 matches held at four corners of the city, over four days, there really is no way to properly summarize the quality of play and the incredible skill demonstrated across all 21 divisions of competition. See facing page for all the final results.

The return of numerous female competitors after several years of decreased



Story by David Stob
Photos by Bruce Adams

participation was refreshing for the tournament directors. There are still many more former female participants who need to reconsider a Labor Day trip to the Duke City for competition and renewed acquaintances, and this year was a start. Put this international event on your calendars for next summer!

The closely contested women's 35+ final found Solanna Taragan and Lorraine Galloway battling back and forth in several crowd-pleasing rallies. After one particularly long exchange resulted in a collision and Galloway went crashing to the floor, the crowd held its breath as the players jointly mulled over the correct call specific to the rally. Simultaneous with the collision, Tarragon's shot sailed past Galloway as she lay sprawled on the floor. To the approving roar of the crowd, Solanna called an avoidable hinder on herself and awarded the rally to Lorraine.

Eighty-five year old Bill Sherman of Texas showed his fans that you can still cover the court well into the octogenarian years, while perennial women's champion Mary Low Acuff collected another Women's 80+ division title without firing a shot.

Leaving a Legacy

This tournament is one of the few annual events which leave a true legacy for its

L-R: Kay McCarthy and Bernadette Godwin; Oklahoma silver medalists Dave Watson & Roy Rudichuk



participants. The most obvious is the permanent inscription of names into the World Senior recordbook; winners are duly recognized as world champions in our sport. However, many people maintain that the real legacy this event leaves behind is written in the hearts and minds of the participants. Spectators and participants alike depart to the four points of the compass with a renewed sense of compassion, commitment to their sport and a bevy of new friends to connect with in the future.

The most prominent accolade and anticipated announcement is the annual presentation of the Al Wetherill Award, representing of the best of this event and the sport. Named

for a perennial competitor from Oklahoma City, the award is presented to a participant selected by the WSRC for his or her demonstration of sportsmanship on the court. This year's winner, Ed Willis of Virginia, accepted the award to a standing ovation of all present at the closing banquet and awards ceremony.

So, if this sounds like your kind of tournament, and you are at least 35 years of age, come check out one of the finest tournaments of the annual racquetball calendar next year. See you there!

IRF XI World Championships • Final Results Albuquerque, New Mexico: August 27-31, 2002

Women Final Matches/Positions

- 35+ Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.) def. Solanna Taragan (Calif.) 10-11, 11-8, 11-2
- 40+ Debra Tisinger (Calif.) [475 pts] def. Sheri Anderson (Ariz.) [426 pts]
- 45+ Mary Keenan (Colo.) [485 pts] def. Karen Key (Ariz.) [440 pts]
- 50+ Elaine Dexter (Calif.) [385 pts] def. Nancy Kronenfeld (Ill.) [360 pts]
- 55+ Cecelia Palaski (N.M.) [207 pts] def. Paula Sperling (N.M.) [197 pts]
- 60+ Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.) [490 pts] def. Mildred Gwinn (N.C.) [404 pts]
- 70+ Lola Markus (Ill.) [294 pts] def. Louise Kiss (N.M.) [157 pts]
- 75+ Mary Lou Kackert (N.M.)
- 80+ Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)

Find daily site reports & expanded results @
www.racqmag.com > "event coverage"

Men Final Matches/Positions

- 35+ Doug Ganim (Ohio) def. Eugene Coyle (Ill.) 11-4, 11-6
- 40+ Tony Feldstein (Colo.) def. Dave Watson (Okla.) 11-5, 7-11, 11-3
- 45+ Len Knudsen (Fla.) def. Carlos Asconce (Cuba) 7-11, 11-6, 11-8
- 50+ Darryl Warren (Calif.) def. Gary Mazaroff (N.M.) 11-4, 11-8
- 55+ Joe Quirke (Ireland) def. David Warner (Minn.) 7-11, 11-7, 11-8
- 60+ Ron Burdo (Va.) def. Fred Letter (N.J.) 9-11, 11-1, 11-1
- 65+ Lee Graff (Ore.) def. Jerry Holly (Calif.) 11-8, 11-0
- 70+ Don Alt (Ohio) [434 pts] def. Roy Rudichuk (Okla.) [377 pts]
- 75+ Joe Lambert (Texas) [237 pts] def. Duane Russell (Mich.) [151 pts]
- 80+ Earl Acuff (N.C.) [423 pts] def. Bob McAdam (Texas) [419 pts]
- 85+ Bill Sherman (Texas)

Worldly Women

by Angela Grisar (Chile) &
Rosy Torres (Mexico)

During the XI World Championship in Puerto Rico, female racquetball players got together to exchange ideas and find out how racquetball is doing in their home countries. Realizing that women's development is critical — numbers are low and newcomers that show up for one tournament don't necessarily show up for the next — the group acknowledged the need to work hard just to get more women involved in our sport. This meeting was a starting point, and we need to keep in contact during the year to share successful ideas that motivate women to play racquetball. Countries represented at the meeting were: Ireland, Germany, Costa Rica, Japan, Bolivia, Mexico, India, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Venezuela and Chile.

Some of the ideas that came up to motivate women to play were:

1. Family tournaments in which at least one woman gets to play.

2. Couples tournaments, similar to the mixed doubles format used in the Junior Worlds: men serve to men, women to women. We want the women to play themselves, not just watch and wait until the men are done.
3. Women's open players should offer instruction to young girls, instead of men who might be too intimidating. We need to create an environment that is supportive for young girls to learn in.
4. "Davis Cup" style racquetball tournaments between neighboring countries on a weekend; starting Friday with two single matches, one doubles on Saturday and two singles on Sunday.
5. We need to look for government funding and programs in each country that are designed for women's development in health and sport activities.
6. Share homes and hospitality with "exchange" players who play on the women's pro tour. This will help keep costs low so that more women will be able to compete "internationally" on the tour. Check the LPRA schedule in the Racquetball Magazine for dates and nearby stops.
7. Participate in international events: U.S. Open in November (20-24), Junior Worlds in December (18-22), Ecuador Open in November, Bolivian Open in February.



Finally one of the most important things is to get in touch with your local racquetball association and your national Olympic Committee to find out if there are funds to assist in our efforts. Do you have ideas that will help women's racquetball grow worldwide? Please let us know! Contact us at: angela1801@hotmail.com or rosymtorres@hotmail.com.

globetrotter ... did you see her at national doubles, too? Labrador puppy-in-training "Ola" is learning all about travel and socializing by attending tournaments nationwide. She took her first in-cabin flight to Minnesota for doubles, after a road trip to World Seniors in Albuquerque. She's pictured giving sideline support to trainer and W45+ champ Mary Keenan and Joanne Pomodoro following their match last August.



The Canine Companions for Independence program was founded in 1979 and pioneered the concept of training dogs to assist people with disabilities. Hundreds of men, women and children since then have benefited from the type of training offered by volunteers like Keenan. For more information about CCI, go to www.caninecompanions.org. Photos: Above, Bruce Adams, Right: Monique Camarillo.



RMC Membership Program Announced

The Racquetball Manufacturers Council (RMC) is a non-profit industry organization that was formed in 1999 by major sporting goods companies with an interest in growing the sport of racquetball. At an historic meeting in Memphis, TN in November of 2000 at the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships, industry leaders throughout the sport came together to formally announce the goals of the newly formed RMC. The group's primary objective is to raise funds, designated as the "Grow Racquetball Fund", to support RMC's mission statement of "Dedicated to Growing the Sport of Racquetball".

Funding for the group is primarily derived from annual membership dues required from Executive Council members of the RMC. These annual contributions will proportionally reflect the racquetball category sales level of each executive council member. (i.e. larger manufacturers will contribute more). All organizations who receive profit from the sport will be encouraged to contribute, including major equipment and accessory manufacturers, retailers and court builders.

Additional funding is received from contributions by patrons and donors. Patrons are primarily companies that receive profit from the sport, and will be asked pay an annual assessment determined by the executive council, not to exceed \$5,000. As a Patron, companies are entitled to the same member benefits as the Executive Council and they may attend up to two annual meetings per year as designated by the Executive Council. Donations are received from anyone interested in supporting the RMC Grow Racquetball Fund. Contributions from Donors will be accepted in any amount exceeding \$100 and those individuals or companies will be recognized by the RMC as a Donor to the RMC Grow Racquetball Fund.

The RMC is a recognized committee of the Sporting Good Manufacturers Association (SGMA). The SGMA provides financial and legal supervision to the RMC. Management of the RMC will be conducted through an Executive Committee with support from one represen-

tative of the SGMA. The Executive Council of the RMC will meet five times annually, two of these meetings (US OPEN & Super Show) will be open to all Patron members. [Read more about RMC on page 10]

For membership details, please contact Scott Winters at (480) 460-9019 or email to swinters@bssusa.com.

Initial benefits of RMC membership for Executive Council and Patrons members include:

- Discounted advertising rates in Racquetball Magazine (a start-up program, effective in the first year of membership only).
- Company name on RMC letterhead
- Invitation to a minimum of two annual meetings
- Recognition at all RMC display booths
- Session tickets to US OPEN
- Recognition in Racquetball Magazine
- Recognition in US OPEN Souvenir Program
- Membership listing on all press releases
- Recognition in USRA National Singles Souvenir Program.

RMC benefits are subject to change. All members will receive notice of any changes that occur on a timely basis.

Unique turns 30

Based in a suburb of Atlanta, Unique Sports Products celebrates its 30th corporate anniversary this year, under the direction of founder Gene Niksich. The company opened in 1972, and has been in the eyeguard business for 22 years, marketing eyewear tested by an independent testing laboratory (Detroit Testing Labs) to rigorous ASTM standards. The company owns its eyeguard molds and does all its own packaging in Alpharetta, Georgia.

Elsewhere in its product line, Tourna Grip (endorsed by Pete Sampras) is the best selling grip in the world for tennis and squash. The company also

offers wrist tethers, sweatbands, grips, and other accessories and is the largest domestic manufacturer of head and wristbands, according to Sport Scan Market data compiled from actual scanned retail sales, even outselling Nike in unit sales. [Display ad: page 59]

New at Python

Python recently announced new products, now available in its line — a new Rad turbo "Flag" eyeguard, and "Glow-in-the-Dark" Grips. With all the new backpack-style racquet carriers, the new grips will stand out and provide a lot of curiosity & fun, while still provid-



ing Python's very best traction and gripping power. Quantities of the "Glow Grips" are limited!

Also, the new larger Rad Protective hardcases are in. These will fit the Turbo Super LX as well as many other eyeguard styles. Also new: Python "Positrac" Anti-slip shoe spray and/or the new Python Anti-fog spray. [Display ad on page 54]

New Shoes on Tour

As the official footwear sponsor of both pro tours, Ektelon has announced its new Tour Series footwear line, and will be displaying the new products, in full size runs, at each LPRA and IRT event during the 2002 - 2003 season.



"We are excited about expanding our footwear line with the three new Tour Series models," stated Scott Winters, Senior Director of Indoor Court Sports for Benetton Sportssystem USA, "These shoes are extremely comfortable and provide all the performance features active players are looking for ... We are especially excited about our first women's specific shoe!"

All of Ektelon's footwear will feature exclusive Natural Foot Shape® (NFS) comfort, in three new models for next season. The NFS Women's Pro Tour Mid, which is narrower in the heel and wider in the forefoot to conform to a woman's specific fit, has a suggested retail price of \$65. The NFS™ Men's Tour 3/4, has a higher collar for added ankle support, and a dynamic black/red cosmetic; SRP: \$80. The NFS Men's Tour Mid has a classic, yet aerodynamic look with a white/charcoal/red cosmetic; SRP: \$70. [Display ad, page 9]

Chris Evon Promoted

Earlier this summer Chris Evon was named Marketing Manager/Indoor Racquet Sports for Wilson. In 1998, Chris Evon joined the company as the Player Program Manager for Indoor Racquet Sports, managing over 1000 sponsored players throughout the country. Her management and direction of the players was instru-

mental in boosting Wilson's indoor racquet share to 40% of all racquetball racquets sold.

This past year, Evon led the development process of Wilson's new TRIAD racquetball racquets. Her playing history and knowledge of the game was crucial for the creation and production of the new product line.



"It's great working for Wilson with the sport that I love so much," said Evon. "I have the best of both worlds because I work for the #1 sporting goods company in the world and on my #1 sport that I love so much."

Evon has won three National Singles Titles and seven National Doubles Titles. She will continue on with her duties managing the player program as she takes on the new responsibilities of product development of all racquetball gear.

Derek Robinson renews with Wilson

In 1995 Robinson first signed on to lead the promotion of Wilson's new performance racquetball racquets. Not only was he instrumental in taking the company to another level, but he also took his game to another level, rising to the #8 ranked pro player in the world. At the same time, Robinson has been very active in conducting clinics throughout the country at hundreds of clubs, maintaining a strong focus on grassroots growth.



"I feel Wilson is a great fit for me," said Robinson. "They believe in grassroots promotions and not only keeping the current players active in the sport, but also introducing new players to the game. It is the perfect match for me."

Robinson resides in Kennewick, Washington with his wife Tina, son Ethan, and a daughter due in August. Derek will be playing with the new TRIAD 160 this upcoming season.

New Digs for RacquetballCatalog.com

Sports and Gear LLC — a.k.a. RacquetballCatalog.com — announced the grand opening of its retail store in WheatRidge, a suburb of Denver, Colorado in October. "I am very excited about our new retail location. We have over 1500 sq.ft. of racquet sports equipment, mostly focused on racquetball. This is one of the largest racquetball retail stores in the world," said Steve Parker, CEO.

In less than two years, Sports and Gear LLC has become one of the largest racquetball dealers in the U.S. What started as a small retail club pro shop, housed and operated out of the basement of one of the founding owners, has grown into a 4000 sq.ft. warehouse / distribution center and state of the art 1500 sq.ft. retail space.

"It's a candy store for racquetballers," says John Foust, Product Manager (and professional photographer/contributor to RACQUETBALL). "Even our friends did not realize how big the store would be and the amount of products we carry." [See display ad, inside back cover]

Sports and Gear LLC is a niche sports marketer focused on racquet sports. The company manages RacquetballCatalog.com, SquashCatalog.com, HandBallCatalog.com, BadmintonCatalog.com and TennisOutfitters.com. They are also the official retailers of the International Racquetball Tour and the U.S. Racquetball Association. For more information about Sports and Gear LLC, visit www.sport-sandgear.com, or contact Steve Parker, CEO, 720-898-8585 x21.

Shown L-R foreground: Steve Parker, Jurgen Denk, Tony Perez, John Foust, Rick Sorenson; background: Brent Mail & Jeff Kuhns.



Entering USRA Events Online: A Tutorial

Never entered a USRA event online before? If you're nervous, keep these step-by-step instructions with you ... then break out the credit card and go to: www.usrastore.com ...

Once you're at the storefront, you'll see a light blue box in the upper left corner ...

- Select "Event Entries"
- A drop-down selection of active events will appear below the "Event Entries" heading. If nothing is listed, no online registration is active, and you'll have to check back later.
- Click on the event you want to enter.
- Click on the link for your entry, shown above the event code and price.
- You'll answer a series of questions, and make your division selections from drop-down lists. If a heading is bolded, an answer/response is required.
- The last box to check is "Accept the Waiver" (which appears only on the first page, if you miss it and are prompted later, you won't see the text).
- When you've completed all your choices, you'll proceed by clicking on the button "Add to Basket". If you've forgotten to complete a line, you'll be prompted for the missing information.

The screen will refresh, but all you've done is add an entry to your shopping cart — you're not entered yet ...

- REVIEW your entry, and fees, by clicking on "Basket Contents" at the top of the page.
- If you need to make corrections, it's easiest to "remove" the entire purchase from your basket, then use the back button on your browser, and make your changes ...
- Use the "Add to Basket" button again to re-submit your information ...
- Check it again by clicking on "Basket Contents"
- If everything is correct, find "Checkout" in the upper right corner and click.
- Depending on your browser settings, you might be prompted to allow access to "secure transactions" -- choose "OK"
- You'll go to a login page, which will give you the option of creating an account for future reference, or placing your order without one. Either choice is fine.
- You'll go to checkout, where you'll see your "order" for an event entry, and be asked to fill in your standard sales information.
- Choose "continue" when you're done.
- You'll be asked for your MasterCard or Visa choice, then "continue"
- You'll fill in your credit card number and expiration date, then "continue"
- If the credit card account is valid, you'll go to a completed invoice, with your order number. THIS is your confirmation of entry (you can print the page if you like), PLUS you'll get another confirmation by email that will be your receipt. Hold on to it!

NOW, you're entered ... If you haven't completed all the steps — all the way through to an invoice and email confirmation — the national office doesn't have your entry, and you won't be in the event ... !

If you're unsure, you can confirm your entry by following links from www.racqmag.com > "Event Coverage" > then select your event and locate "participant's list" on the event preview -- or you can call 719-635-5396 to double-check!



Bowling 'em Over

I thought you might be interested in this little tidbit. On July 30, my racquetball partner, Jeff Montgomery, bowled his first 300 ... and then did it again. Back to back 300's puts him in the record book; his third game was a measly 248.

In an article in the Mena Star, Jeff was asked about his consistency in his bowling game. He said he believes racquetball had greatly contributed to both his improvement and consistency. Jeff and I play 2-3 times per week. He's just been playing for two years. So, play racquetball and improve your bowling!

Jack Schoeppey • Mena, Arkansas

According to the Mena Star write-up, Jeff practices at bowling only once a week and has carried a 220 or better average for about five years. After 43 years at the lanes, he'd been close to a perfect score before, but "... missed the 300 game just about every way possible and figured that it wasn't meant to be." His consecutive 300 games will be on permanent display at the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame in St. Louis, Missouri. Jeff is pictured above (right), in his U.S. OPEN souvenir shirt, with proud partner and friend Jack Schoeppey.

Another Reason ...

Your editorial comments were so timely [about recording scores on drawsheets] – I cut it out and we have posted it about. This weekend we are hosting the ORA tourney, and it will help. For years I did the registration and people always wanted to mess up the cards to see the scores. This might keep them away from behind the desk!

Eleanor Quackenbush • Salem, Oregon

Kudos

I would like to congratulate the group that put together the Junior Olympics in June in Chicago. This was my first major event to attend for kids and I was hesitant at first to enter my six year old, but he really wanted to go. Not only was it well run and matches were *early*, the host hotel was fabulous and the banquet a huge hit for us.

I would also like to give a special thank you to the wonderful group from Oregon who helped us with transportation between the two facilities as well as the Baton Rouge group, the people from Louisville, KY, Long Island, and Manitowoc, WI. We met so many nice people in my son's age group as well which made this trip so great. What an easy decision to make whether to return for another big tournament. Looking forward to Orlando.

Ann Hemphill & Robert • Fosters, Alabama

A Different Approach

The article by Tom Rall was impressive but, in my opinion, does not address growing the game. To [do so], club management must support free introductory programs. Did I say free? Yes, new players need a calm, safe learning situation, at no cost to them.

Watching competition is not the best introduction (i.e. the accidental smack in the lip of Jason by Huckek in the 2002 World Championships). At lower club level play there are some jerks (usually self taught) who think this is competition. With a proper introduction, players can be placed in organized leagues confident of their knowledge of how to play safe, and be safe.

Youth will always be a market but they do not seem to stay long. This may be due to the lack of college scholarships or the dream of big money in other sports. The present growth market is 50+, both men and women, and they love the word free. However, once they are introduced, they stick with it and spend money for leagues and equipment.

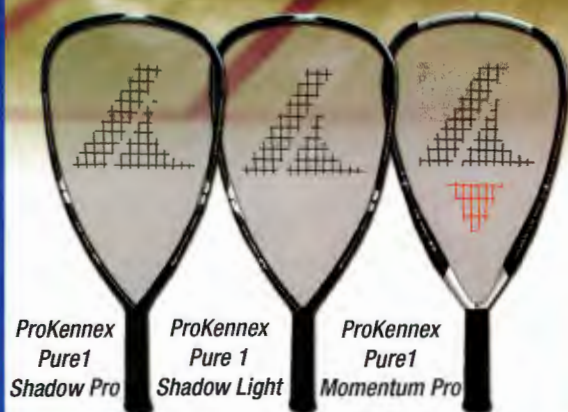
My Arizona club has seen growth and progress due to the club management support to new player programs. I have not won any National Championships and I'm not AmPro certified. For over 30 years I have played the game and now spend some of my time teaching new players. My only recognition is "[he's] the guy with the Converse Chuck Taylor high tops." Is that old or what?

David Hendricks • Tucson, Arizona

Coming in 2003 ... Reader Surveys ... You'll be able to take part in periodic online surveys — through usra.org and racqmag.com — to express your opinion on a variety of important subjects. Look for an announcement in the new year!



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special event

"Gathering of the Greatest": The Finale — April 25-26, 2003

The tragedy of 9/11 postponed the original "Gathering of the Greatest" reunion of former top women pros last fall, and it was even more unfortunate when many were not able to attend the later event due to prior commitments. But for those who were able to re-schedule, the Gathering proved to be the most exciting women's promotion of the season.

Since it didn't come off exactly as planned, event organizers have decided to give it one more try. So if you were too skittish to fly last fall, you can experience a repeat of the fun by attending the finale "Gathering of the Greatest" on April 25-27, 2003. Hosted by the Nautilus Fitness & Racquet Club in Erie, PA, the event will include "Pro Doubles", "Amateur Doubles" and a "Mini Pro-Am" fundraiser where amateurs will be able to bid to play with a pro for cash & prizes.

On Saturday night, a special "Party-with-the-Pros" will regale entrants with a sumptuous dinner, music, dancing, and a charity auction and drawing for two airfares anywhere in the U.S. Tournament fees will include the "Party-with-the-Pros", a commemorative "Gathering of the Greatest" wall clock, water bottle and bag tag, plus full hospitality.

Don't miss this final opportunity to play, party and rub elbows with the greatest female players in racquetball history. All proceeds from the weekend will go to the John Tramontano, Jr. Education Foundation that provides education opportunities at every level. Although, participation is limited to first 100 players, spectator tickets will be available throughout the weekend to non-players.

For additional information or a tournament application, contact Julee Nicolai at 814-459-3033.

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3. Chris Wright, MO
4. Mike Guidry, TX
5. Jimmy Lowe, AK
6. Jason Thoerner, GA
7. Ben Croft, IL
8. Shane Vanderson, OH
9. Raymond Maestas, NM
10. Ryan Rodgers, TX

Men's Elite

1. Matthew Anderson, GA
2. Richard Maggard, MO
3. Raymond Maestas, AZ
4. Craig Allen, WA
5. Maurice Barros, KS
6. Mike Gann, OK
7. Matt Anderson, IN
- 8t. Wayne Gonsalves, NY
- 8t. Dave Guentert, CO
- 8t. Dominic Maestas, NM

Men's A

1. Chris Coy, OK
- 2t. Myron Brough, OH
- 2t. Marcelo Laprea, TX
4. Andres Ramirez, FL
5. Jay Mathis, GA
- 6t. Kipp Atwell, LA
- 6t. Drew Toland, AR
8. Mike Gaffney, PA
9. Alex Zamudio, IN
10. Jake Brandyberry, OH

Men's B

1. Carlos Ramirez, FL
2. Vito Rubiano, IL
- 3t. Tony Gonzales, IL
- 3t. Lamon Marchbanks, MN
5. John Reed, CO
6. Joe Appleman, MA
7. Cam Grundman, MN
- 8t. Elliott Mistich, LA
- 8t. Bryan Shaw, MO
10. Mike Kaiser, MN

Men's C

1. Harold Beshaw, PA
2. Mike Belvedere, IL
3. Garry Carter, CA
4. Jon Soike, IL
5. Kevin Chan, OH
- 6t. Jerry Garcia, CO
- 6t. Richard Morris, TX
8. James Houston, FL
9. Bob Guidaboni, NH
10. Mark Burd, SD

Men's D

1. David Aguirre, CA
2. David Sadler, TN
3. Jansen Allen, TX
- 4t. Suneel Battula, OH
- 4t. Mario Giancola, MN
6. Gene Desruisseaux, MA
7. Alex Brown, OH
- 8t. George Bazinet, AR
- 8t. Bob Littledale, IL
- 8t. Mike Najjar, MO

Men's Novice

- 1t. Todd Anderson, NH
- 1t. Bruno Guerrero, FL
3. Josh Redding, KY
- 4t. Terry Bahr, CA
- 4t. Andrew Carter, OH
- 4t. Orlando Gonzalez, TX
7. Alfredo Alvizo, FL
8. Justin Watson, OK
- 9t. Larry Hicks, KY
- 9t. Robert Quintela, NM

Men's 24-

1. Mitch Williams, NC
2. Jack Huczek, MI
3. Brent Walters, NC
- 4t. Ben Croft, IL
- 4t. Mike Harmon, FL
- 4t. Darrin Prince, MN
- 4t. Shane Vanderson, OH
- 8t. Alejandro Herrera, FL
- 8t. Sanjay Laforest, NY
- 8t. Marcelo Laprea, TX

Men's 25+

- 1t. Mike Orr, PA
- 1t. Kyle Veenstra, WI
3. Tom Fuhrmann, AZ
- 4t. Gared Edmunds, KY
- 4t. Shawn Royster, CA
6. German Herrera, FL
- 7t. Mike Dennison, OH
- 7t. Nate Gagne, ME
- 7t. Andy Gross, MN
10. Ryan Griffin, IN

Men's 30+

1. Brian Fredenberg, TX
2. Brian Pointelin, UT
3. Kelly North, KY
4. Toby Devore, LA
5. Dale Valentine, CA
- 6t. Russ Bruns, VA
- 6t. Tom Keogh, NY
- 6t. John Ledig, FL
9. Pete Ulliman, OH
10. Dan Spector, NY

Men's 35+

1. Jim Minkel, TX
2. Eugene Coyle, IL
3. Jimmy Lowe, AK
4. Jim Frautschi, MN
5. Doug Ganim, OH
6. John Barrett, PA
7. Alan Sheppard, NC
- 8t. John Collision, DE
- 8t. Bobby Haab, CT
10. John Davis, LA

Men's 40+

- 1t. Tim Hansen, FL
- 1t. Tom Travers, OH
3. Bobby Haab, CT
4. Tony Feldstein, CO
5. Dave Eagle, OH
- 6t. Scott Cullins, GA
- 6t. Bill Lyman, IL
- 6t. Dave Watson, OK
9. Joe Garbarino, NY

10. Greg Hodges, MI

Men's 45+

1. Randy Stafford, TN
2. Mitch Smith, PA
3. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
4. Patrick Gibson, TX
5. Len Knudsen, FL
6. Rick Howick, WA
7. Jim Luzar, WI
8. Mark Baron, VA
9. John Vohland, CO
10. Greg Benson, CA

Men's 50+

1. Mitt Layton, FL
2. Frank Taddonio, AZ
3. Jim Luzar, WI
4. David Dennis, AR
5. Denny Vincent, OH
6. Howard Wilker, TX
7. Gary Mazaroff, NM
8. Mark Daigle, NY
9. Alan Jorgensen, UT
10. Don Prater, FL

Men's 55+

1. Bill Wolfe, NY
2. Horace Miller, IL
3. Terry Albright, MO
4. Tom McKie, TX
- 5t. Sammy Robles, TX
- 5t. David Steiger, ME
7. David Warner, MN
8. Joseph Bard, WA
9. Ron Galbreath, PA
10. Kevin Dorr, MD

Men's 60+

1. Ed Sword, KY
2. Glenn Allen, VA
3. Warren Reuther, LA
4. Leland Rients, MN
5. Chris Segura, UT
6. Jim Trammell, MO
- 7t. Ron Hutcherson, IN
- 7t. Kyle Smith, TX
- 7t. Roger Wehrle, GA
10. Mitch Milewski, NH

Men's 65+

1. Michael Jackson, CT
- 2t. David Jordan, NJ
- 2t. Dave Lund, MI
- 4t. Jerry Northwood, AZ
- 4t. Dave Snyder, TX
- 6t. Charlie Hamon, WA
- 6t. Jerry Holly, CA
8. Rex Benham, AR
- 9t. Alan Dwyer, FL
- 9t. Ken Moore, CA

Men's 70+

1. Don Alt, OH
2. Sean Reid, NV
3. Robert Miller, SC
4. Joe Lambert, TX
5. John O'Donnell, IL
- 6t. Marty Donohue, FL
- 6t. Don Maxey, TX
- 6t. Frank Trask, ME

- 9t. Charles Kaiser, MI
- 9t. Emil Kuenzler, NY

Men's 75+

1. Duane Russell, MI
2. Dick Kincade, CO
- 3t. Earl Acuff, NC
- 3t. J.W. Studak, TX
5. Mal Roberts, FL
6. Victor Sacco, NY
7. Cam Snowberger, SC
8. Hank Richard, NC
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Men's 80+

1. Robert McAdam, TX
2. Earl Acuff, NC
3. Sam Harry, PA
4. Cam Snowberger, SC
5. Bill Matotan, NM
6. Hank Richard, NC
7. Don Goddard, MT
8. Bill Weinacht, OH
9. Ben Marshall, TX
10. Bob Botkin, CA

Men's 85+

1. Bill Sherman, TX
2. Ben Marshall, TX

Women's Open

1. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
2. Aimee Roehler, NJ
3. Laura Fenton, KS
4. Elaine Albrecht, OH
5. Jackie Rice, CA
6. Janet Myers, NC
7. Denise Mock, TX
8. Vallana Perrault, MN
9. Julie Hill, OK
10. Heather Dunn, MA

Women's Elite

1. Aimee Roehler, NJ
2. Solanna Taragan, CA
3. Janel Tisinger, CA
4. Jeni Fuller, NM
- 5t. Heather Dunn, MA
- 5t. Susan Hann, FL
7. Jill Crouse, CA
- 8t. Jessie Carbajal, CO
- 8t. Cyd Evans, NM
- 8t. Jere Luttner, TX

Women's A

1. Susan Lichtman, NY
2. Candi Hostovich, VA
3. Leah Upshaw, GA
4. Grace Jaworsky, MO
5. Vicki Taylor, MN
6. Pat Sims, ME
7. Stephanie Cobb, MI
8. Melissa Johnson, ME
9. Kathy Welker, IL
10. Shirley Parsons, CO

Women's B

1. Sara Noyes, FL
2. Elizabeth Shaia, TX
3. Cheryl Kirk, IL

4. Joan Vande Kieft, IL
- 5t. Hiromi Iida, NY
- 5t. Rhonda Kochis, OK
7. Susan Bertelsen, CO
8. Stephanie Gordon, MO
9. Patty Barrows, MA
10. Marci Laramée, TN

Women's C

1. Marci Laramée, TN
2. Ann Barnes, MS
3. Cheyenne Hayes, WA
4. Patty Barrows, MA
5. Robin Maestas, CO
6. Peyton Myers, NC
7. Alyson Webb, OH
8. Janet Christie, IL
9. Beth Gainer, PA
10. Petra Allen, CO

Women's D

1. Jean Lerch, NH
2. Victoria Pickard, FL
3. Janice Bell, GA
4. Laura Davis, GA
5. Janet Christie, IL
6. Jennifer Fenton, KS
7. Melanie Stowell, FL
- 8t. Claire Brooke, MO
- 8t. Nancy Gager, NJ
- 8t. Elena Houle, OR

Women's Novice

1. Debra Mathis, FL
2. Donna Margwarth, NM
- 3t. Theresa Brodzik, OH
- 3t. Kristi Zonfrelli, MA
- 5t. Judy Bress, NH
- 5t. Malorie Johnson, ME
- 5t. Martha Robinson, NH
8. Jenifer Westemeier, NM
9. Yvonne Grinnell, NM
10. Jen Bezrutczyk, PA

Women's 24

1. Kristen Walsh, UT
2. Janel Tisinger, CA
3. Adrienne Fisher, OH
4. Krsytal Csuk, IL
5. Lauren Deutsch, CA
6. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
7. Jeni Fuller, NM
8. Melissa Borgwat, CA
9. Kris Alatorre-Martin, AZ
10. Jessica Donvon, RI

Women's 25+

1. Aimee Roehler, NJ
- 2t. Heather Dunn, MA
- 2t. Kerri Wachtel, OH
- 4t. T.J. Baumbaugh, VA
- 4t. Rachel Gellman, AZ
- 6t. Stephanie Bird, OK
- 6t. Jennifer Lynch, CO
8. Ramona Vonondarza, FL
9. Shannon Stewart, MD
10. Vallana Perrault, MN

Women's 30+

1. Jo Shattuck, CO
- 2t. Elaine Albrecht, OH

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- 2t. Debra Bryant, NC
 4t. Kelley Beane, NH
 4t. Lorraine Galloway, NY
 6. Vivian Gomez, FL
 7t. Amy Foster, OH
 7t. Tina Joslin, TX
 7t. Hideko Uchiyama, PA
 10. B.J. Ehrigott, CT

Women's 35+

1. Debra Tisinger, CA
 2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
 3. Solanna Taragan, CA
 4. Anita Maldonado, NY
 5. Felicia Mann, MI
 6t. Debra Bryant, NC
 6t. B.J. Ehrigott, CT
 8. Lori Lepow, FL
 9. Lisa Papp, GA
 10. Kelley Beane, NH

Women's 40+

1. Debra Tisinger, CA
 2. Malia Bailey, VA
 3. Denise Mock, TX
 4. Marianne Walsh, UT
 5. Kim Machiran, MO
 6t. Sheri Anderson, AZ
 6t. Shari Coplen, MO
 8. Anita Maldonado, NY
 9t. Meena Evans, NC
 9t. Susan Hann, FL

Women's 45+

1. Meena Evans, NC
 2t. Marsha Berry, KY
 2t. Linda Moore, NE
 4. Susan Pfahler, FL
 5. Marcia Richards, CO
 6. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
 7t. Karen Key, AZ
 7t. Laura Patterson, MI
 9. Mary Keenan, CO
 10. Jean Trimble, FL

Women's 50+

1. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
 2. Janet Myers, NC
 3t. Elaine Dexter, CA
 3t. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 5. Susan Kieffer, MN
 6t. Debbie Chaney, IN
 6t. Kathy Dunham, IL
 8. Renee Fish, FL
 9. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
 10. Andee Glansberg, FL

Women's 55+

1. Cece Palaski, CA
 1. Meri Jean Kelley, CA
 3. Agatha Falso, FL
 4t. Nidia Funes, CA
 4t. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 6. Margaret Hoff, IL
 7. Paula Sperling, NM
 8. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 9. Joy Desantis, CA
 10. Mildred Gwinn, NC

Women's 60+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 2. Marquita Molina, CA
 3. Mildred Gwinn, NC
 4. Gail Schaefer, MD
 5. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
 6. Gloria Piscoran, OR
 7. Annabelle Kovar, NE
 8t. Nancy Butts, WI
 8t. Lola Markus, IL
 10. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

Women's 65+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
 2. Lola Markus, IL
 3. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 4. Barbara Anderson, VA
 5. Marilyn Hoagland, MN

Women's 70+

1. Lola Markus, IL
 2. Reta Harring, WI
 3. Louise Kiss, NM
 4. Marilyn Hoagland, MN

Women's 75+

- 1t. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 1t. Mary Lou Kackert, NM

Women's 80+

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

Boy's 6-

- 1t. Zachary Pellowski, WI
 1t. Jesse Van Valkenburg, UT
 3. John Katner, WI
 4. Ross Brandvold, WI
 5t. Brandon Golob, VA
 5t. Jimmy Leone, OH
 5t. Matt McAdam, CO
 5t. Tyler Tanko, WI
 9. Austin Linn, OH

Boy's 6- Multi-Bounce

1. Zachary Pellowski, WI
 2. Anthony Dimatteo, CT
 3. Logan Nance, CA
 4t. Kyle Ulliman, OH
 4t. Chris Vosberg, MA
 6. Sam Reid, OR
 7. Jimmy Leone, OH
 8. Thomas Santilli, CT
 9t. Sam Bredenbeck, MN
 9t. CJ Coffee, VA

Boy's 8-

1. Marco Rojas, CA
 2. Sam Reid, OR
 3. Jose Diaz, CA
 4. Ryan Coates, OH
 5. Keegan North, KY
 6. Timothy Lerow, FL
 7. Andy McGuffey, OH
 8. Chase Stanley, LA
 9. Josh Hirsch, FL
 10. Joseph Lee, LA

Boy's 8- Multi-Bounce

1. Jose Diaz, CA

2. Keegan North, KY
 3. Sam Reid, OR
 4. Ryan Coates, OH
 5. Josh Hirsch, FL
 6. Doug Brenner, OR
 7t. Andrew Lee, KY
 7t. Jackson Rogers, NM
 7t. Marcos Rojas, CA
 10. Kamal Lachmansingh, VA

Boy's 10-

1. Joseph Lee, LA
 2. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
 3. James Fahey, CT
 4t. Matthew Hunter, FL
 4t. Brad Kirch, NY
 4t. Trevor Snyders, IL
 7. Logan North, KY
 8. Tyler Hooghe, OH
 9t. Nick Loy, IL
 9t. Taylor Regier, OR

Boy's 12-

1. Danny Lavelly, OH
 2. Sean McGrath, IN
 3. Ishmael Aldana, CA
 4. Brad Kirch, NY
 5. Chad Laforest, NY
 6t. Taylor McDermott, TX
 6t. John Sanderson, UT
 6t. Corey Walsh, UT
 6t. Matt Wyland, MO
 10. Jonathan Doyle, OH

Boy's 14-

1. Chris Coy, OK
 2. Richard Sledzik Jr., MA
 3. Zachary Apperson, OH
 4t. Nathan Chirban, MO
 4t. Mike Keddle, NH
 4t. David Laforest, NY
 7t. Jonathan Doyle, OH
 7t. Andrew Gale, UT
 7t. Geoffrey Hunter, FL
 10. Michael Wood, LA

Boy's 16-

1. Ben Croft, IL
 2. Dan Sheppick, OR
 3. Matt Emmel, NY
 4. Zachary Apperson, OH
 5t. Brady Prince, MN
 5t. Daniel Stewart, KY
 5t. Drew Toland, AR
 8. Scott Manship, MA

9. Ronnie Hubbard, OH
 10. Nick Knudsen, FL

Boy's 18-

1. Jack Huczek, MI
 2. Ben Croft, IL
 3. Marc Moccia, MA
 4. David Chirban, MO
 5. Josh Epstein, NY
 6. Clay Burris, FL
 7. Travis Woodbury, VA
 8. Chris Brown, CT
 9. Alex Zamudio, IN
 10. Andrew Coon, KY

Girl's 6-

1. Abbey Lavelly, OH
 2. Elizabeth Vargas, CO

Girl's 6- Multi-Bounce

- 1t. Emily Hathaway, MN
 1t. Abbey Lavelly, OH
 3t. Antonia Duran, NM
 3t. Danielle Soltren, FL
 3t. Elizabeth Vargar, CO
 6. Tessa Feamster, WA

Girl's 8-

- 1t. Annelise Albrecht, OH
 1t. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
 3. Natalia Canovas, FL
 4. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
 5t. Monique Horyza, CA
 5t. Lauren Neilan, MA
 7. Alexis Templeton, NM
 8t. Dawn Jones, NC
 8t. Jordan Ward, ID
 8t. Joe White, IL

Girl's 8- Multi-Bounce

1. Abbey Lavelly, OH
 2. Lauren Stanley, LA
 3. Annelise Albrecht, OH
 4. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
 5. Nicole Bruns, VA
 6t. Emily Hathaway, MN
 6t. Samantha Rosado, CT
 8. Katie Ragan, MN
 9. Kendra Henderson, OR
 10. Rebecca Berryman, KY

Girl's 10-

1. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
 2. Nicole Grundman, MN
 3. Sally Blakemore, VA

- 4t. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
 4t. Wesley Toland, AR
 4t. Courtney Chisholm, MA
 7t. Marisa Miosi, NY
 7t. Emma Scheer, MO
 9t. Monique Horyza, CA
 9t. Julia Negrete, IL

Girl's 12-

1. Shannon Inglesby, OR
 2. Sharon Jackson, IN
 3. Brittany Legget, OR
 4. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
 5. Shanae Taylor, IN
 6t. Paige Hunter, FL
 6t. Wesley Toland, AR
 8t. Jennifer Fenton, KS
 8t. Ashley Wetherall, NJ
 10. Cheryl Lotts, OH

Girl's 14-

1. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
 2. Ashley Willhite, OR
 3. Kara Mazur, CT
 4. Alyson Webb, OH
 5. Dannielle Pimental, OR
 6. Jenny Epstein, NY
 7. Rebeka Kopf, NY
 8. Sharon Jackson, IN
 9t. Kelli Anderson, AZ
 9t. Ashley Murphy, MO

Girl's 16-

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 2. Elise Wilson, CT
 3. Kimberly Walsh, UT
 4t. Da'monique Davis, TX
 4t. Kelly Fisher, OH
 6. Ashley Legget, OR
 7. Katie Ferguson, OR
 8. Jesi Fuller, NM
 9. Ashley Willhite, OR
 10. Jaimie Campanelli, MI

Girl's 18-

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 2. Janel Tisinger, CA
 3. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
 4. Jeni Fuller, NM
 5t. Kelly Fisher, OH
 5t. Kristen Walsh, UT
 7t. Krystal Csuk, IL
 7t. Staci Schwinger, AR
 9t. Lauren Deutsch, CA
 9t. Bethany Dundon, OR

EVENT LEVEL/DESCRIPTION

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5-8	9-16
1 = Closed Club/League 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*

FINISH/POINTS

At selected national events:

Round of 16 finishers receive added points (in draws of 48 or more)*

Blue division winners receive 20 points (in draws of 16 or more)

Red division winners receive 15 points; White division winners receive 10 points.

november...

November 14-17	All Valley Open Championships @ Mid Valley Athletic Club	Reseda, CA	818-705-6500
	Courts Classic @ Courts Plus Fitness Center	Fargo, ND	701-237-4805
	Cross Court Open @ Cross Court Athletic Club	Woodland, CA	530-666-1319
	DAC Turkey Ball @ DAC - Merritt	Baltimore, MD	410-332-0906
	Eastern States Bash @ McLaughlin Physical Center	Ft. Lee, VA	804-991-2129
	Holiday Cash Classic @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
	Northeast Regional Doubles @ Nashua Athletic Club	Nashua, NH	603-759-2729
	Noblesville Fall Classic @ Noblesville Athletic Club	Noblesville, IN	317-879-8100
	November Points Rally @ The Alaska Club Fairbanks	Fairbanks, AK	907-452-6801
	ORA Intercollegiate Doubles @ Baldwin Wallace College	Berea, OH	440-826-2286
	Puget Sound Challenge @ The Valley Athletic Club	Tumwater, WA	253-848-9493
	Silver State Games Series III @ Double Diamond Athletic Club	Reno, NV	775-425-1885
	The Turkey Shootout @ Springfield Athletic Club	Springfield, OH	937-399-2360
	Minnesota State Doubles @ Northwest AC-Hwy 100	Brooklyn Center, MN	952-920-6652
	Griffith Memorial @ Courtsports Athletic Club	Eugene, OR	541-687-2255
November 21-24	Mullett Hoover Open @ Orem Fitness Center	Orem, UT	801-229-7156
	Turkey Gobbler @ Alpha Racquetball & Fitness	Mechanicsburg, PA	717-540-5111
	Turkeyfest @ Saco Sport & Fitness	Saco, ME	207-284-5953
	New Mexico State Juniors @ Downtown Sports & Wellness	Albuquerque, NM	505-890-0096
	4th Annual Pete Cisneros @ Tamuk The Spec	Kingsville, TX	361-595-3407
Nov.28 - Dec.01	Big Brothers-Big Sisters @ Courts Plus Jacksonville	Jacksonville, NC	910-346-3446
	E-Force Xtreme Tour #5 @ Northwest AC-Hwy 100	Brooklyn Center, MN	763-535-3571
	Texas Turkey Shoot @ Racquetball & Fitness	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596

december...

December 05-08	Snowball @ Highpoint Sports & Wellness	Albuquerque, NM	505-293-5820
	Burns Park Winter Classic @ Burns Park	North Little Rock, AR	479-785-8666
	Happy Joe's Open @ Center Court Fitness Club	Grand Forks, ND	701-746-2790
	Holiday Magic & HS State Champs @ Westerville Athletic Club	Westerville, OH	614-882-7331
	Music City Open @ Downtown YMCA	Nashville, TN	615-895-3679
	Osmo Winter Beach Blast @ Sport & Health Club	Myrtle Beach, SC	843-497-1410
	Portland Open @ Portland Racket & Fitness	Portland, ME	207-775-6128
	Spectrum Holiday Classic @ Spectrum Club Fullerton	Fullerton, CA	858-271-6741
	St. Nick Splat @ Severna Park Club	Millersville, MD	410-987-0980
	Superstars @ Central Courts	Columbia Heights, MN	763-572-0330
	Sweetwater Pro-Am @ Green River Recreation Center	Green River, WY	307-872-0511
	Turkey Shoot @ Family Fitness	Huntsville, AL	205-880-0770
	Pennsylvania State Doubles @ Cocoa Court Club	Hershey, PA	717-540-5111
	24 Hour Fitness Courthouse Tournament @ 24 Hour Courthouse	Boise, ID	208-368-9737
	4th Annual Mistletoe Matchup @ Greenbriar North Ymca	Chesapeake, VA	757-366-9622
	Connecticut Open @ Downtown Health & Racquet	New Haven, CT	860-632-1281
	Masters Fall Open 2002 @ Metro South Athletic Club	Brockton, MA	508-588-3444
	North Conway Open @ North Conway Athletic Club	North Conway, NH	603-356-5774
	NWFC Shoot Out @ Northwest Fitness Club	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
	Xmas Classic @ Classic Athletic Club	Fairfield, NJ	973-389-9978
	Indiana State Doubles @ Greenbriar Athletic Club	Indianapolis, IN	317-897-5481
December 12-15	Holiday Open @ Cascade Athletic Club	Gresham, OR	503-665-4142
	LAC Annual Racquetball Proam @ Lakewood Athletic Club	Lakewood, CO	303-989-5545
	Rocky Mountain Masters @ Redwood Center	West Valley City, UT	801-974-6923
	Christmas Classic @ Tysons Sport & Health	McLean, VA	703-442-9150
	E-Force Xtreme Tour #6 @ Southview A-C	West St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	Holiday Charity Open @ Nashua Athletic Club	Nashua, NH	603-579-0858
	Holiday Doubles @ Pojoaque Wellness Center	Santa Fe, NM	505-690-6876
	Paul Gorman Memorial @ Inter-Bay Glover YMCA	Tampa, FL	813-643-8077
	Rollingwood Winter Classic @ Rollingwood Racquet Club	Fair Oaks, CA	916-988-1727

sanctioned • event • calendar • sanctioned • event • calendar sanctioned • event • calendar • sanctioned • event • calendar sanctioned • event • calendar • sanctioned • event • calendar

December 19-21	Maverick One Day @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3340
	Jr. Jack Frost @ Lincoln Racquet Club	Lincoln, NE	402-423-2511
	LCC Christmas Tourn @ Lincoln City Club	Dallas, TX	214-827-9994
	E-Force Xtreme Tour #7 @ Northwest AC-Hwy 100	Brooklyn Center, MN	763-535-3571
	Thorton Ymca One-Day Shootout @ Thorton YMCA	Tulsa, OK	918-645-4304
january...			
January 03-05	E-Force Xtreme Tour #8 @ Southview Athletic Club	West St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	Superbowl Open @ In-Shape West Lane	Stockton, CA	209-472-2100
January 07-11	The Winter Freeze @ Springfield Athletic Club	Springfield, OH	937-399-2360
	Alta Canyon Avalanche @ Alta Canyon Sports Center	Sandy, UT	801-942-2582
January 10-12	Cleveland Open-Irt Pro Event @ Severance Athletic Club	Pepper Pike, OH	216-832-5694
	Jim Backus @ Healthworks	Wallingford, CT	860-632-1281
	L-A Rollout @ Central Maine Athletic Center	Lewiston, ME	207-786-4820
	Maryland State Games @ Severna Park Club	Millersville, MD	410-987-0980
	New Year's Ball @ Courts Plus Fitness Center	Fargo, ND	701-237-4805
	New Hampshire State Doubles @ Racquet Club Concord	Concord, NH	603-759-2729
	New Jersey State Doubles @ Classic Athletic Club	Fairfield, NJ	973-389-9978
	Peninsula Club Challenge Cup @ Peninsula Club	Grand Rapids, MI	616-459-3261
	Prairie Life West Open @ Prairie Life West	Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
	Southlake Cash Pro Am @ Southlake Athletic Club	Morrow, GA	404-256-2222
	St Cloud Pro-Am @ Suburban Racquet	St Cloud, MN	320-251-3965
	Wilson Racquetball Championships @ Tournament House	Riverside, CA	909-682-7511
January 16-19	Junior Winter Classic @ Greenbriar Athletic Club	Indianapolis, IN	317-879-8100
	Griffith Memorial @ Courtsports Athletic Club	Eugene, OR	503-687-2255
	Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic @ The World Gym	Palatine, IL	708-474-2440
	Cocoa Classic @ Cocoa Court Club	Hershey, PA	717-540-5111
	Greater Sacramento Open @ Wenmat Clubs	Carmichael, CA	530-666-1319
	Hall Of Fame @ Central Court	Columbia Heights, MN	763-572-0330
	New Years Open Classic @ Kirkwood Fitness & Racquetball	Wilmington, DE	302-674-9468
	Smash & Splash @ Green River Recreation Center	Green River, WY	307-872-0511
	Winter Classic @ Capital Racquet & Fitness Center	Bismarck, ND	701-221-6855
	Winter Classic @ Southridge Athletic Club	Greenfield, WI	414-421-5770
	24 Hour Fitness Courthouse Winter @ 24 Hour Courthouse	Boise, ID	208-368-9737
	5 Seasons LPRA Open @ Five Seasons Country Club	Cincinnati, OH	513-351-1184
	B-C Challenge @ Great Bay Athletic Club	Newmarket, NH	603-659-3151
	Motor City Rollout @ Courtland	Utica, MI	248-651-8365
	5 Seasons Super 7 Shootout Series @ Five Seasons Country Club	Westlake, OH	440-871-2811

• The majority of listed, sanctioned events are level two events; where titles indicate a "state" "regional" or "national" tournament, a higher level of point earnings may be applied. • Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 12/02, you must renew in the month of December 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.usrastore.com.

2002 national calendar

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	www.usra.org
2003			
Jan.31-Feb.2	WSMA 14th U.S. Women's Senior/Master Champonships [5]	Orlando, Florida	810-774-6900
Feb.28-Mar.2	Wilson 16th U.S. National High School Championships [6]	St. Louis, Missouri	719-635-5396
March	NMRA U.S. Masters Championships [5]	TBA	www.nmrba.com
April 3-6	E-Force 31st U.S. Intercollegiate Championships [6]	TBA	719-635-5396
April 10-13	Ektelon USRA Regional Championships [5]	Nationwide	www.usra.org
April 11-19	PARC 16th Tournament of the Americas [5]	Dominican Republic	719-635-5396
May 21-26	Ektelon 36th U.S. National Singles Championships [6]	Houston, Texas	www.usra.org

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