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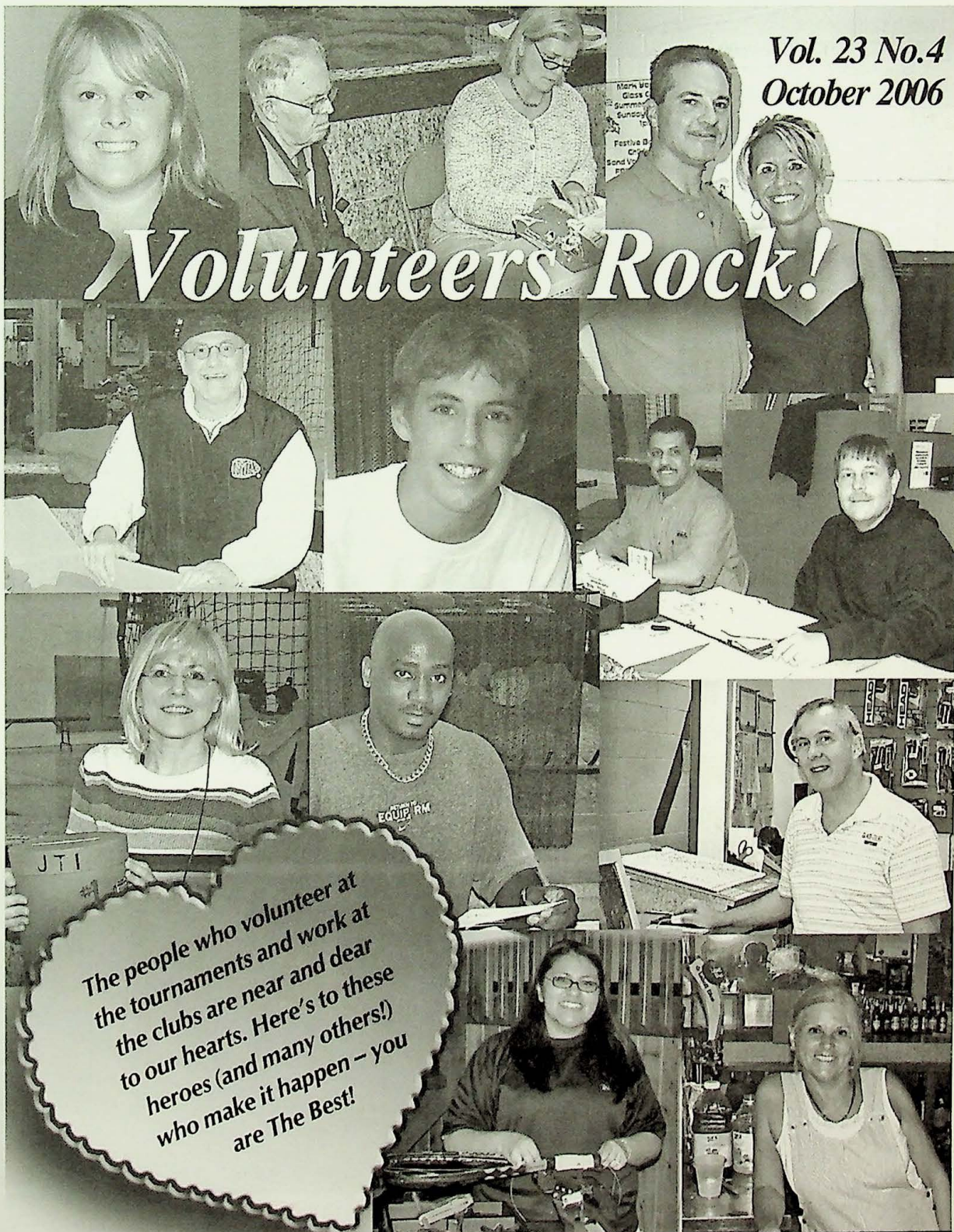


Newsletter

The Official Publication of the Illinois State Racquetball Association

**Vol. 23 No.4
October 2006**

Volunteers Rock!



The people who volunteer at the tournaments and work at the clubs are near and dear to our hearts. Here's to these heroes (and many others!) who make it happen - you are The Best!

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From the President

Here we go again! We're on the brink of a new racquetball season. This season will be different — between the changes being made at the national level and some changes we are making locally, it should be a fun and exciting season.

The changes are designed to make things more "player friendly" to increase participation at events and bring some of our old pals out of the woodwork:

1. "Event" Memberships

USA Racquetball membership fees increased August 1, 2006. The fee increase is needed to provide financial stability for USA Racquetball. However, a new "event" membership allows players to pay a nominal fee to play one event. This gives new players a chance to "try us out" and old players a way to make an occasional comeback.

2. More Accurate Rankings for Illinois Players

Geoff Peters used his time and talents to "right size" the USA Racquetball ranking system. Using our ISRA ranking system, Geoff provided the information to place Illinois players in the right place in the national rankings. That means players will move up and down as they should based on the results of matches they play this season. Thanks, Geoff!

3. One-Day Skill Events

Dave Negrete is organizing several one-day events. For instance, there might be a Men's A/B event one weekend and a Mixed Doubles event another weekend. Now you can play competitively at your skill level without giving up your entire weekend.

4. State Doubles Tournament

In the spirit of not giving up your entire weekend, the State Doubles tournament will be scheduled in such a way that you will have a good idea of when your matches will be played before you enter the tournament. For example, Women's Doubles may be scheduled for Friday night, Men's Doubles on Saturday and Mixed Doubles on Sunday. You can enter the tournament knowing the schedule based on the events you want to play.

5. A Relaxed Process for Petitioning to Play in a Lower Division

Have you been out of competitive play for several years due to other commitments or injury? If that's the case, we all know the clock doesn't stop while you're

away and your skills may not be at the same level as they were before you left the competitive racquetball scene. You can now petition to move down by e-mail. Just send an e-mail to israpresident@comcast.net. Indicate when you last played, at what level and why you feel you should be able to move down. Your case will be reviewed quickly by the ISRA Board and a decision will be delivered back to you via e-mail.

6. A New Division – Elite, perhaps?

Discussion is underway to add a new division for those of you who have made it to Open but have been unsuccessful at moving past "AA." Rather than having a dropdown division that feels like consolation, how about a division for those players that are better than "A" players but are not skilled enough to compete against the top Open players? That's what we're working on.

7. Your Other Life

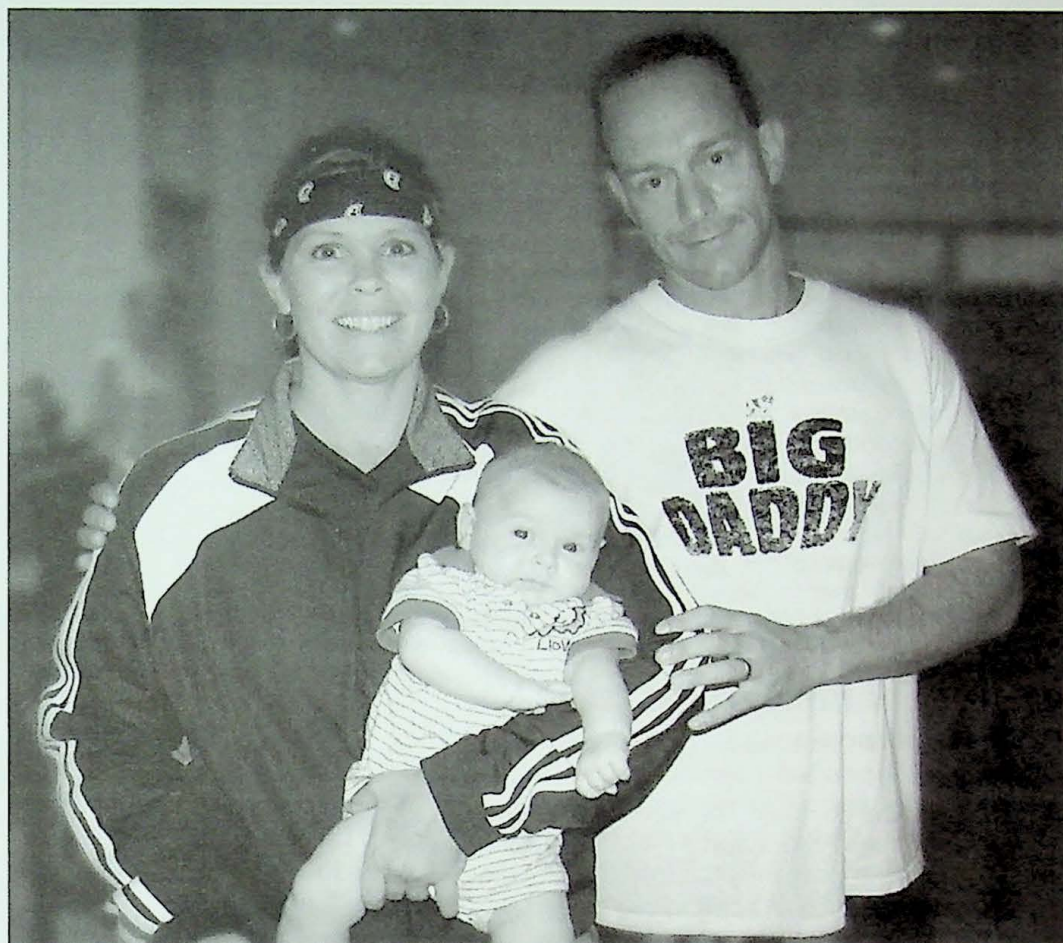
Let others know what you do when you're not on the racquetball court. Joe Silius is soliciting advertising for the ISRA newsletter. For \$80, your business card will appear in the newsletter for a year (4 issues). For \$25, you can have it published in just one issue. For more information, contact Joe at jsilius@yahoo.com. What a great way to find out what we all do so that we can support each other on and off the court!

As I said...this is going to be *fun*! See you on the courts,

Laurel



ISRA Family News

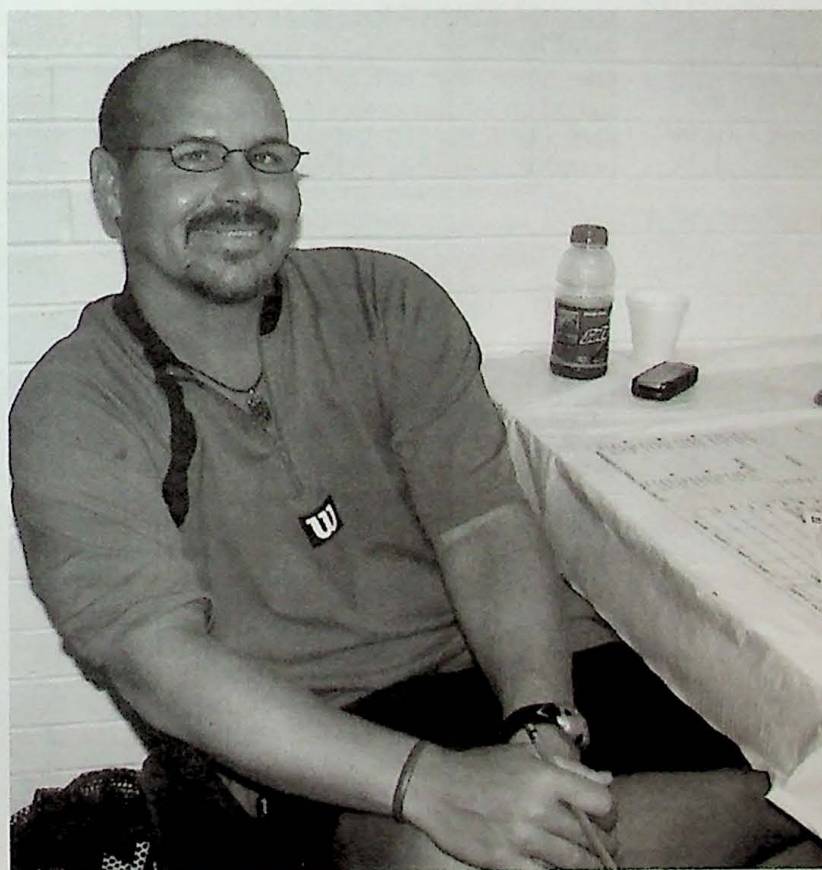


A New Marquez Hits the Tournament Scene

At the Peoria RFTC tournament, Shelly and Tony Marquez took the opportunity to show off their new addition, son Clayton James, born June 22, weighing in at 9 lbs 1 oz. He has a great start on his racquetball career – it's in his genes! With the encouragement of both his parents and proud grandma Liz Anderson, he'll be out on the courts before we know it.

Meet the Board – Featuring Tom Utterback

Lifetime Illinoisan Tom Utterback was born in Kankakee and raised in Homewood, graduating from Homewood Flossmoor High School in 1980. "I have been married to my gorgeous wife Barb for eleven years with two stepchildren, Sherry, 30 and Chad, 27. I have been in sales/purchasing for Cook County Lumber, a wholesale lumber and plywood company, for eleven years as well." An avid racquetball player over the past 21 years, Tom has logged numerous tournament wins. "I think the most memorable was



my first State Doubles Championship win in 2004 with Dave Bachar, a great partner to team up with." In the off-season, Tom enjoys golfing and spending time with Barb, just relaxing and enjoying the summer. "I owe a lot of my success to my wife Barb's love and support — without that, nothing would mean much. Thank you, Barb!"

Ahoy, Mateys!

On a Saturday in early August, Cap'n Howie again escorted his five lassies aboard the sailing vessel Howlyn' Wind for a repeat fantastic voyage of a year ago. If you have not participated in the bidding of the JDRF silent auction at the Motorola Pro Nationals tournament the past two Aprils, you've passed up the opportunity to walk the plank. This repeat crew of gorgeous salty dogs has become quite seaworthy! Accompanying Captain Howie Weisbart and first mate Lynne on their yacht were Julie Vincent and her sister Donna along with Martha Huske and her daughter Rachel. Loaded down with enough wine and rations to sustain the crew for days (not just a few hours), the sailors embarked for a great time on Lake Michigan. The knots of wind were not completely favorable for a broadside meeting with fellow pirates Frank and Diane Bunker, as was the intention. Although the skies were more overcast than

sunny, the seas were calm and the friendship and grog were free-flowing all day and into the evening hours. Our memories with this crew will be forever treasured. (Arrrrrr!) To all you land-lubber bilge rats, get with the other sea dogs next year and bid on this fabulous prize – or risk becoming shark bait!

*From your sailing and racquetball wench (and ISRA Secretary),
Lynne Weisbart*

Apology

On page 12 of the July 2006 ISRA Newsletter, the gentleman on the far left in the picture is identified as Dave Negrete. Of course, it's Dennis Negrete. Sincere apologies to this valuable member of our Illinois racquetball community!

Illinois Players Cross State Lines

Croft Dominates the 2006 Intercollegiates

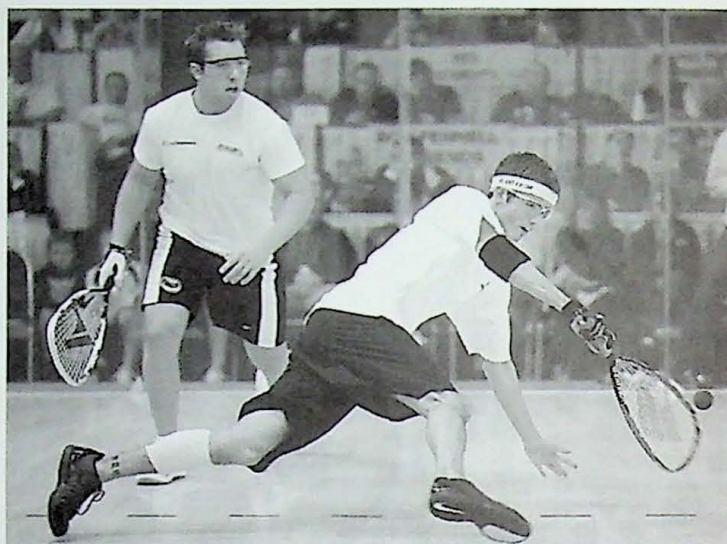
Tempe, AZ

March 29-April 1, 2006

Ben Croft once again took the Intercollegiate Championships by winning both the #1 Singles and #1 Doubles to lead his Colorado State University – Pueblo team to the Men's Division I Team Championship (and third place overall behind Oregon State University and The University of Alabama).

This year's tournament was held in the beautiful facility at Arizona State University in Tempe (the same courts will host this fall's National Doubles Championships and the World Junior Championships in December). Ben wasted no shots in wrapping up his second Intercollegiate title by defeating Augustin Tristan of the University of

Alabama 9,6 in the finals. In the Men's #1 Doubles final, he partnered with Mitch Williams to take out Augustin and his partner Shane Karmelin, 14,9. In 2005, Williams had competed for the University of North Carolina and finished second to Ben in the #1 Singles position. Ben's win also re-qualifies him as a member of the prestigious U.S. National Team that defended its Team World Championship in



Ben Croft goes airborne in a recent match against Jack Huczek

the Dominican Republic last month.

US National Junior Olympic Championships

Lansing, Michigan

June 21-25, 2006

Congratulations and thanks to Vince Carvallo, Geoff Goldblatt, Joey Limonciello, Jonathan Quinn, Matthew Quinn, and Trevor Snyders who represented Illinois very well indeed at the Junior Nationals this summer. On his experience in Michigan, Trevor commented, "Nationals is an awesome experience. You have to train so hard to play at the national level. I'm going to train twice as hard this next season to prepare to compete for a national title in Arizona next summer."

Check out the results:

Boys 8 under Multi-Bounce –

Blue – Matthew Quinn, 3rd

Boys 8 under – Red – Matthew Quinn, 3rd

Boys 10 under – Red – Jonathan Quinn, 4th

Boys 12 under – White – Jonathan Quinn, 6th

Boys 16 under – Red – Vince Carvallo, QF

Boys 16 under – Blue – Joey Limonciello, 6th

Boys 14 under – Gold – Trevor Snyders, QF

Boys 16 under – Gold – Geoff Goldblatt,

QF; Trevor Snyders, QF

Boys 16 Doubles – Gold – Vince Carvallo

and Geoff Goldblatt, QF

NMRA Championships

Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 25-29, 2006

No time for fishing up north! The National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA) hosted another fine tournament. A total of 240 players ranging from 45 to 85 years of age participated in this extended format that allows plenty of playing time. No one played less than 180 points of racquetball – that happens to be the magic number the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA) has devised to be sure everyone goes home worn out. Of course, if you signed up for two events (as 75% of the participants do) you can play 360 points worth of racquetball in four days!

Eleven members of Team Illinois came home with tons of hardware and a lot of great memories:

Singles

Men's 45 + : Mike Davern (7th)

Men's 55 + : TJ Ferro (2nd), Dennis Healy (3rd)

Men's 65 + : Pat Taylor (1st),

William Gingold (11th)

Men's 80 + : Phil Dziuk (4th)

Women's 45 + : Liz Molitor (1st)

Women's 70 + : Lola Markus (1st)

Doubles

Men's 50 + : TJ Ferro/Jim Elliott (UT) (3rd)

Men's 65 + : William Gingold/

Don Sperber (NY) (5th)

Women's 50 + : Lynne Weisbart/

Vickey Utter (NC) (2nd)

Women's 55 + : Nancy Kronenfeld/

Susan Kieffer (MN) (1st)

Women's 60 + : Lola Markus/Margaret Hoff (1st)

Mixed 50 + : Lynne Weisbart/Tom Curran (OH) (11th)

Mixed 55 + : Nancy Kronenfeld/

Tony Upkes (CA) (1st)

Congratulations to everyone who won, played or just enjoyed the camaraderie up in the Twin Cities! Unfortunately, we cannot tell you the site of next year's event; it has not yet been determined. But, you can check out the NMRA website at www.nmra.info in the future to find out what they're planning for next summer!

— Nancy Kronenfeld

IRF 18th World Seniors Racquetball Championships

Albuquerque, New Mexico

August 29-September 2, 2006

Bringing home the Gold from the World Seniors in the sunny southwest were Keith Minor and Lola Markus. Keith took first in Men's 40 + ; Lola earned double gold in Women's 70 + singles and with partner Ralph Waddington in Mixed 75 + . Michael Goodyear, also of Illinois, participated in the Men's 60 + competition.

13th Annual Summerfest Open

The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
July 28-30, 2006

Tournament Director – Doug Halverson

On that lazy Sunday afternoon, all apprehension resided: the rain had cleared and the barbecue/pool party was again a success! It was hot, hot, hot, but that didn't stop the party-goers from enjoying the wonderful food and hospitality that has become the benchmark at Glass Court.

Prior to the party, a nice representation comprised of local talent with the added spice of players from Indiana, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin (*plus* a fun bunch from Central Illinois) competed in twenty divisions.

A Recurring Theme

Interesting...a good number of players faced off in the singles finals and also managed to put aside their individual competitive aspirations to partner in the doubles divisions:

Keith Minor and John Amatulli were 1-2 in the Men's Open and also collectively took on Ben Croft and Eugene Coyle in the Men's Open Doubles.

Men's AA gladiators Jake Hutkins (NE) and Phil Mathews faced off, plus made it to the Open Doubles semi's.

The young ladies from the east, Sharon Jackson (IN) and Sarah Hettesheimer (OH),

made a return appearance this year, placing 1-2 in the Women's Open/A singles, then going on to take first in the doubles together.

Same thing with Bernadette Bland and Char Borre –1-2 in the Women's Open/A Dropdown, then captured the same division in the doubles category as a team.

Other Highlights

Trevor Snyders and Richard DeArmas competed in the Men's A finals and, on what was shaping up to be an otherwise mellow Sunday afternoon, had an SRO crowd roaring its approval for the fine show put on by these two talented athletes. Trevor's three dives in one rally, the third resulting in a rollout, brought the loudest response; he took the match in the 11-10 tiebreaker.

Ray Meisner has earned himself a trip up to Men's A next season with his victory in this tourney. Matt Sochacki, a relatively new tournament player, showed up well and grabbed the Men's C title.

Joe and Diane DeArmas and Tournament Director Doug Halverson wish to thank volunteers Doug Brown, Laura Brown, Patrice Calvi, Joey Eminger, Jeff Grace, Pam Grace, Michelle Halverson, Cheryl Kirk, Jim Maroon, Keith Mecklenburg, Dave Milazzo, Geoff Peters, Kara Peters, Kevin Peters, Amanda Podlesak, Lem Rowans, Joe Silius, Tom Utterback, as well as the staff of Glass Court Swim & Fitness: Barb, Phyllis, Juan, Don, and Char. Couldn't do it without you!

Get ready for another great Glass Court experience – The Turkey Shoot...it's that time again...November 9-12...right around the corner!

— Cheryl Kirk



Men's AA Winner Jake Hutkins, Tournament Director Doug Halverson and Runner-up Phil Mathews

Results

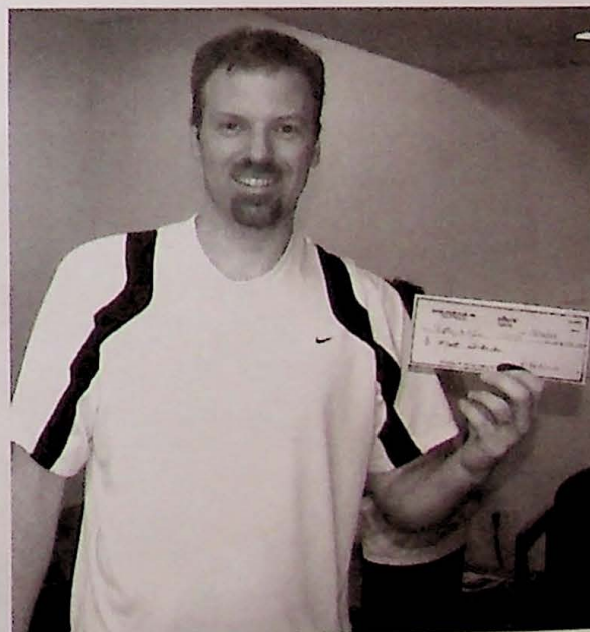
Division; First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (8): Keith Minor; John Amatulli (IN); Geoff Goldblatt, Eugene Coyle
Men's AA (4): Jake Hutkins (NE); Phil Mathews; Mike Hammel, Ben Fraga
Men's A (9): Trevor Snyders; Richard DeArmas; Tom Lamberson, Brent Huff
Men's B (14): Ray Meisner; Juan Martinez; Rick Seaberg, Ray Shimizu
Men's C (10): Matt Sochacki; Scott Fauque; Ron Muklewicz, Steve Kudwa
Men's D (7): Steve Menard; Dan Pacetti; Steve Kudwa, Mark Stevenson

continued on next page



Cromwell and Mahon finished first in Men's B Doubles



Men's C Champ Matt Sochacki — In the Money!

Brothers in Arms

A nice relaxed tournament...Summerfest...the one we all look forward to as low-stress — no refs, a great pool party and barbecue...on a mid-summer's weekend.

But wait. What's this? The combining of three age groups into the Men's 45/50/55+ division allowed for an intriguing possibility. Brothers placed into opposite brackets on the draw sheet...so when Jim Hillman bowed to Dave Milazzo, and Frank Milazzo handed it to John Matarrese in the tiebreaker of a lopsided semifinal match, the stage was set. Sunday, 11:00 a.m.: Milazzo vs. Milazzo.



Frank and Dave Milazzo faced off in the finals!

A break in the action:

Frank Milazzo is the older by several years; he turned 54 on August 1. After a 15-year career with Mercedes, he has recently begun his own business of purchasing and rehabbing town homes in Gurnee. Dave, 49, is the national licensee for Gino's East Pizza. He and his wife Shelly are the proud parents of Matthew, 14 and Sarah, 11.

Together, the brothers took up racquetball in 1970 and, according to Dave, "We know each other's game so well — we've been playing together for so long." So, have you ever competed against each other in a finals match? Dave continued, "We played in the finals two other times; the first was in 1980 at Lehman Courts [match to Dave] and the next time was in 2001 at Edens — Frank took that one."

Back to the court:

No mention was made of requesting a referee; their mother would be proud. In a similar grey and navy apparel motif, with the same racquet and (sorry, guys, I call it like I see it) a few identical foot faults (okay, not *that* many), the match was underway, with both moving at the speed of men far, far younger. The action heated up: eyeguards flew, rallies were fierce. Garbage shots were punctuated by hard-hit passes.

They certainly didn't pass up opportunities to encourage each other, as brothers are wont to do. A serve cracked out: "Lucky serve." "Didn't I serve that?" "That

was no screen!" "Don't forget about that red dotted line rule." "10-7" "No, 9-7" "Are you sure that's the score?" It was entertaining and heart-warming in equal measure.

Dave took the first game and while Frank fought hard in the second game (including an impressive dive into the right back corner on match point), the victory went to Dave, 9,14. And the third Milazzo final is logged into the record books!

— Cheryl Kirk



Summerfest

continued from previous page

Men's Novice (4): Tony Soyak; Mike Murlasits; Pat Wrobel (3rd)

Men's 30/40+ (4): Lem Rowans; Tom Utterback; Larry Vena (3rd)

Men's 45/50/55+ (7): Dave Milazzo; Frank Milazzo; Jim Hillman, John Matarrese

Men's 45+ Int.: Alberto Palacios

Women's Open/A (10): Sharon Jackson (IN); Sarah Hettesheimer (OH); Carolyn Watkins, Pam Schubach

Women's Open/A dropdown (4): Bernadette Bland; Char Borre; Pam Larsen (WI), Julianne Beran

Men's Open Doubles (6): Ben Croft/Eugene Coyle; Keith Minor/John Amatulli (IN); Doug Halverson/Matt Malcheski, Jake Hutkins (NE)/Phil Mathews

Men's A Doubles (6): Joe DeArmas/Richard DeArmas; John Matarrese/Keith Kareiva; Steve Galla/Dave Collier, Walt Fornek/Tom Lamberson

Men's B Doubles (7): Gene Cromwell/Mike Mahon; Todd Burris/Joe Lococo; Jim Harper/Robb Geiger, Ron Muklewicz/Don Nessel

Men's C Doubles (3): Ray Almaraz/Rodrigo Vazquez; Tim Gorecki/Pat Wrobel; Brendan Hughes/Tony Soyak (3rd)

Women's Open/A Doubles (8): Sarah Hettesheimer (OH)/Sharon Jackson (IN); Janet Eminger/Patrice Calvi; Pam Schubach/Kelly Carter, Lynn Yeazell/Marian Bala

Women's Open/A Doubles dropdown (4): Char Borre/Bernadette Bland; Joann Kempthorne/Traci Steen; Pam Grace/Cheryl Kirk, Pam Larsen (WI)/Carolyn Watkins

Mixed Open Doubles (7): Tom Utterback/Janet Eminger; Matt Malcheski/Sarah Hettesheimer (OH); Lem Rowans/Carolyn Watkins, Andy Pitock/Marian Bala

Mixed A Doubles (6): Mike Hammel/Lynn Yeazell; Pam Grace/Jeff Grace; Frank Valentino/Julianne Beran, Geoff Peters/Cheryl Kirk



The King & Queen of Summerfest — Doug and Michelle Halverson!

Dog Days Open

Southlake Racquet and Fitness, Mundelein

August 19, 2006

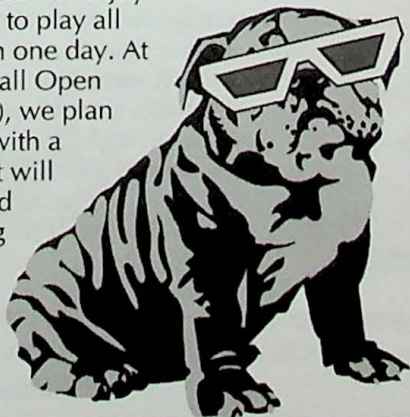
Tournament Director – Cindy Flores-Mocarski

Keith Minor defeated newcomer Matt Fontana (recently relocated from Florida to Crystal Lake) in the tiebreaker of the Men's Open division finals, 11, (10), 4, to take the \$200 first place check at the Dog Days Open held on August 19th at The Southlake Club in Mundelein. In the Men's A/B division, Southlake Club member Waylon Adams held off a gimpy Pat Taylor who had to take an injury forfeit after gamely trying to play through the stiffness and pain. We hope Pat is resting up and getting ready for the rest of the season! In the Men's C bracket, Steve Menard defeated Antonio Vasquez (10), 4, 5 in another lengthy tiebreaker, while Dave Milazzo (Southlake) once again captured the Men's Masters division, taking out Jeff Grace 10, 8 in the finals.

The Women's Open Division featured Joan Vande Kieft defeating Carolyn Watkins 11, 5 and the Men's B/C Doubles had Russ Maziarka and Mark Bricker (Southlake) besting Jesus Aguirre and Charlie Naber (both from Southlake) in another tiebreaker 9, (13), 9 in a tough match that went down to the final points. In the always hotly-contested Mixed Doubles, Joan Vande Kieft and Jorge Ortiz took out Indiana challengers Sara Hoffman and Mike Hernandez 10, 13.

Play this year started at 9:00 am and the last matches were off the court by 7:45 pm, so we had a full day of racquetball with lots of great food and the Dog Days Open tank tops designed to soak up the sun that never materialized (no matter how long Geoff kept grilling out on the front deck).

Special thanks to Cindy Flores-Mocarski and her dedicated staff of Cheryl, Sam, Lynn, Jesus and of course her Chief Cook and Bottle Washer Geoff Peters for a fun one-day shootout. We're seeing many more of these one-day formats and the players really seem to enjoy the opportunity to play all their matches in one day. At the Southlake Fall Open (November 4-5), we plan to experiment with a new format that will have singles and doubles playing on separate days to



eliminate scheduling conflicts. Check it out on our next entry blank and we look forward to seeing you in Mundelein!

— Fido

Results

Division: 1st ;
2nd; Semifinals

Men's Open (8): Keith Minor; Matt Fontana; Geoff Goldblatt, Dave Milazzo

Men's AA (3): Zach Archer; Jordan Khan; Jorge Ortiz (3rd)

Men's A/B (7): Waylon Adams; Pat Taylor; Joe Garay, Joey Limonciello

Men's C (7): Steve Menard; Antonio Vasquez; Joe Garay, Arlyn Tratt

Men's 45+ (6): Dave Milazzo; Jeff Grace; Keith Brown, Jordan Kahn

Women's Open/A (6): Joan Vande Kieft; Carolyn Watkins; Cheryl Kirk, Allison Dauer (FL)

Men's B/C Doubles (5): Russ Maziarka/Mark Bricker; Jesus Aguirre/Charlie Naber; Steve Sorensen/Dan Pacetti, Waylon Adams/Argyll Piansay

Mixed Doubles (6): Joan Vande Kieft/Jorge Ortiz; Sarah Hoffman (IN)/Mike Hernandez (IN); Allison Dauer (FL)/Zach Archer, Karen Thurlow/ Joe Gill



Mixed Doubles finalists Mike Hernandez, Sarah Hoffman, Jorge Ortiz and Joan Vande Kieft



Grill Man Geoff Peters — Keepin' the Customers Satisfied



Keith, Trudy and Emily Brown lunched on the front steps of Southlake

2nd Annual Racquet for the Cure

Landmark Racquet & Health Club, Peoria, IL

August 25-26, 2006

Tournament Directors - Pam Schubach and Jim Maroon

This fundraising racquetball event was held in support of the Peoria Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The foundation was established in 1982 to help fight breast cancer by funding research grants and supporting education, screening and treatment projects in communities around the world.

Our Planning & Fundraising Committee (Jim Maroon and Pam Schubach [co-directors], Karen Carter, Gail Goeppinger, Joann Kempthorne, Traci Steen, Terry Sutton) set the goals and objectives for this year's tourney. We also had an Advisory Committee consisting of Kelly Carter (Bloomington), Laurel Davis (Chicago), Jean Gallagher (Colorado), Cheryl Kirk (Naperville), and Kurt Mankle (Peoria) to gain input and pass the word to their local clubs.

Our goals for this year were 1) to have 50+ players enter the tournament and 2) to donate \$6,000 to the Foundation. Both goals were exceeded: **77 players** participated (up from 51 last year) consisting of **53 women** (up from 34 last year) and 24 men (Mixed Doubles only). The players traveled from points throughout the Midwest as well as Colorado. A donation in the amount of **\$10,500** has been presented to Linda Maricle, Program Director of the Peoria Memorial Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation by Terry, Pam and Jim.

The format was a two-day tournament be-

ginning Friday evening with Women's Singles, Women's Doubles, and to include the men, Mixed Doubles. Saturday was a very full day of racquetball with many women playing in three events. Overheard from Pam Schubach, "If the last point is the only one that really counts, couldn't we just play three games to one point and call it a match?"

Many companies and individuals sponsored the tournament via monetary donations, gift certificates, and items to assist with expenses, awards and the silent auction. Gold sponsors (\$1,000+) were Carter Law Offices, Ektelon, Kades Coffee Company, OSF Medical Group, RJ Distributing, and Sutton Carpet Center. Silver sponsors (\$500+) were F. Michael Schubach-Advanced Asset Management, Associated Bank, Green Chevrolet Hummer, Land-



*The RFTC Planning Committee Aced It Again:
L to R: Karen Carter, Terry Sutton, Gail Goeppinger, Jim Maroon,
Pam Schubach, Traci Steen, Joann Kempthorne*

mark Racquet & Health Club, Maui Jim, Inc., Steiger Farms, and Wilson. Bronze sponsors (\$250+) were Ham-burg Distributing, Illini Golf, McDonald's Corp., Mitchell Family Trust, Pepsi, Rhythm Kitchen & Music Café, and Dr. John Richier & Associates.

Professional racquetball player Andy Hawthorne (#11 in USA rankings) partnered with his aunt Kim Wolpert from Peoria. Kim is a breast cancer survivor. Andy traveled from Tallmadge, Ohio to play in this event. Kim and Andy won the Mixed Open Division!

After the tournament, an awards banquet, slide show, silent auction and dance was held. Guest speakers included Dr. Michael Veeder, Director of Oncology at Oncology-Hematology Association; Pam Schubach, CEO of Peoria YWCA; Jean Gallagher of Denver, founder of RFTC tourneys; and Jim Maroon, Peoria RFTC.

The evening gala was capped off with beer and wine (provided by RJ Distributing), a great meal, music and dancing. The Soggy Bottom Blues Band and belly dancing by Pava's Gems dance troupe provided live entertainment. WHOI-TV (ABC) and WEEK-TV (NBC) were on hand to produce a story aired on their Saturday evening newscasts.

continued on next page

Racquet for the Cure

In Celebration of...

Player/Sponsor:

Tonya Alig
Karel Ares
Debbie Chaney
Kristen Coulter
Dan Curless
Alice Douglass
Devanice Gaa
Serena Gaa
Jean Gallagher
Becky Geng
Gail Goeppinger
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Evelyn Steiger
Pam Schubach & Kim Wolpert
Shelley Pawlak
Kim Wolpert
Shelley Pawlak

A Tournament with Heart



Andy Hawthorne and his partner/aunt
Kim Wolpert took Mixed Open



First tournament, ever!
L to R: Serena Gaa, Miranda Barrett, Melanie Davis, Pallavi Thota

Racquet for the Cure

continued from previous page

Wickwire Chiropractic.

Many thanks to support of our sponsors, the tournament players, the Planning and Fundraising committee, the Advisory Committee and the many volunteers for making this event a success! Plans are underway for the August 2007 3rd Annual Racquet for the Cure tournament in Peoria.

— Jim Maroon, RFTC Co-Director

Results

Division: 1st; 2nd; 1st Consolation

Women's Singles

Open: Liz Molitor, Alice Douglass (IN); Ellen Somberg

A: Jean Gallagher (CO), Pam Grace; Janis Russell

B/C: Mary Kay Herman, Cara Phillips; Debi Ramos

Novice: Keri Vance, Shelby Ziegler; Tonya Alig

Juniors: Pallavi Thota, Melanie Davis; Serena Gaa

Women's Doubles

Open/A: Ellen Somberg/Renee Roux, Liz Molitor/Laurel Davis; Cheryl Kirk/Barb Curran
B/C: Karen Carter/Pam Stanek, Joann Wickwire/Gail Goeppinger; Mary Kay Herman/Missy Moses

Mixed Doubles

Open: Kim Wolpert /Andy Hawthorne (OH), Shelly Marquez/Tony Marquez; Ellen Somberg/Randy Puebla (IA)

A: Cheryl Kirk/Jesse Purvis, Kristen Coulter/Jeff Waggoner; Traci Steen/Gary Steiger

B/C: Pam Stanek/Matt Kaag, Joann Wickwire / Doug Gordon; Karen Carter/Scott Sutton



Send to:

ISRA
603 E. Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148

Member Sport,
U.S. Olympic
Committee

COMPETITIVE LICENSE APPLICATION

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____
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E-MAIL _____
BIRTHDATE _____

Adult competitor (effective August 1, 2006) \$35.00
Junior competitor \$20.00
RACQUETBALL Magazine subscription only \$20.00
Tax-deductible donation \$
Total enclosed \$

Tournament _____ Representative _____

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



USAR Racquetball High Performance Camp

July 29 – August 4, 2006

This past summer my teenage son, Mike and I had the pleasure of attending a weeklong racquetball camp at the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

The High Performance Camp is an annual summer event conducted by former U.S. National Team Coach and member of the Racquetball Hall of Fame, Jim Winterton. It was a thrill to be training in the same facility where world-class athletes have trained for their Olympic events. During the week we saw Olympic athletes from sports such as volleyball, gymnastics and wrestling.

This year's camp had five instructors with 24 campers in ages ranging from 14 to 55. Also in attendance were four guest speakers on the subjects of speed training, weight training, nutrition and goal setting. Besides Jim Winterton, who currently coaches a number of top IRT pros, and Dr. Jim Hiser, former camp director and currently Executive Director of USA Racquetball, the instructors included two top pro players, Illinois' own (now Ohio resident) Andy Hawthorne and Jo Shattuck along with Dennis Fisher, coach of the impressive Brigham Young University racquetball team. All were excellent coaches with the ability to translate instructions into language that was easy to understand. All players were taped and sent home with an excellent set of materials to review after the camp concluded.

This camp is physically demanding. You must train beforehand to withstand the rigors of playing and working out at high altitude. You don't have to be a nationally ranked player in order to attend; however, the coaches are looking for players serious about racquetball and who are prepared to push hard when every muscle in the body is saying "I've had enough." A few of the players had to cut back during the week after realizing they had not properly prepared. Still, the camp is very do-able if you



USAR High Performance Camp — Class of 2006

put in the proper time. The schedule each day had us up at 6:00 am for a two-and-a-half mile run, followed by 45 minutes of calisthenics and stretching with the always-upbeat Dr. Hiser. There definitely is a "boot camp" feeling but this was balanced with the tremendous sense of accomplishment you felt as your body adjusted to the rigors of the camp and the altitude as the week progressed. After breakfast, campers began a full day of drills and playing at the Lynmar Athletic Club, located a few miles from the Olympic Training Center. In the evenings we met as a group to listen to guest speakers. Mid-week there is the infamous "Hell Day" where we were required to run a simulated racquetball game on a local high school track. This is where we ran for 11 minutes to Jim Hiser's whistle, alternating all-out sprints with jogging to simulate an intense racquetball match. After a two-minute "time-out," we did it all over again. Thank goodness there was no tie-breaker!

The dorms on the campus of the beautiful Olympic Training Center are three bunks to a room. It was a nice way to remind me what my son will be experiencing in just a few weeks as he heads off to college. The

setting was stunning, with beautiful weather and Pikes Peak in all of its purple majesty off in the distance to inspire us on our morning run.

The junior players were extremely talented. I expect to see a number of them on the pro tour in a few short years. One of the junior players, John Sanderson, took the end-of-camp tournament, besting all adult and junior players. It was great seeing juniors taking some of us old-timers aside to help with different aspects of our game. It was never a problem to get one-on-one time with the coaches and they were always available to help address inadequacies in your game (of which I have found too many to discuss in the space provided here). If I only could have had such quality instruction when I was younger!

There are a variety of racquetball camps around the country and many knowledgeable instructors, but getting a full week of training and instruction with this group was an amazing experience. I hope you get a shot at this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – it is not to be missed!

— Mike Davern

Movin' On Up – 2006-2007 Season

Racquetball success equates to greater challenges. These individuals won at least one full-draw division in the 2005-06 season and recently received The Letter notifying them of their new eligibility. Good luck to all in the coming year!

Singles Divisions

Men's A to Men's Open – Ben Fraga

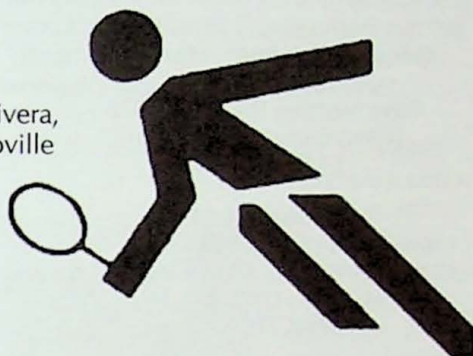
Men's B to Men's A – Joey Limonciello,
Mike Hammel, Brian Andresen (IA),
Trevor Snyders, Scott Ness

Men's C to Men's B – Juan Martinez, Sergio Rivera,
Joe Lococo, Mike Vieni, Chris Kudrna, Lee Scoville

Men's D to Men's C – Bryan Manis (KY),
Curtis Paloumpis, Dave Grigsby

Novice to D – Aaron Wauters, Rachel Vena

Women's A to Open – Karen Thurlow



Doubles Divisions

Men's B to Men's A – Brady Mann/Jim Maroon,
Joey Limonciello/Kevin Schulz

Men's C to Men's B – David Carr/Mike Vieni

2006 ISRA Newsletter Advertising Rates

GUIDELINES:

- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include **product pricing**.
- All ads are assumed to be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- If ads are run for the entire season, **AND** payment is received with the first issue, the sixth ad is FREE!
- These rates are in effect until December 31, 2006.
- Deadlines are as follows:

- **Issue Mail Date:** 1/5/07
- **Articles/Releases Due:** 12/1/06
- **Stuffers/Inserts Due:** 12/8/06

- All stuffers/inserts are to be received by:

Laura Kreiner, 2307 Arrow Street, Carpentersville, Illinois 60110

- Ad rates:

Full page: \$150/issue Half page: \$75/issue Quarter page: \$50/issue

Other sizes quoted on a case by case basis

- For any questions or submission:

Joe Silius, jsilius@yahoo.com

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- ▶ Sponsor ONE NEW player to the sport of racquetball this year. Any age.
- ▶ Take him/her to your club... and teach the game. Stay with them until they can join a league on their own.
- ▶ Just think how good you'll feel when each of us sponsors the players of



www.illinoisracquetball.com

2006-2007 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR



For updates or edits to the ISRA Tournament Calendar, please contact
Geoff Peters at (773) 251-4413 or at Petersgeoff@hotmail.com

October 13 – 15

Fall Classic

Willow Creek Club, Rosemont

Joe Gill; (312) 315-4413

SANCTIONED

October 27

One Day Shootout –

Men's & Women's Doubles

Location TBD

Dave Negrete; (847) 430-1478

www.ripitracquetball.com

SANCTIONED

November 4 – 5

The Southlake Fall Open, JR

Southlake Racquet and Fitness, Mundelein

Cindy Flores-Mocarski; (847) 949-8180

SANCTIONED

November 9 – 12

The Turkey Shoot, JR

The Glass Court Swim and Fitness,

Lombard

Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390

SANCTIONED

November 15 – 19

The 11th Annual Choice Hotels US Open

The Racquet Club, Memphis TN

Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396

SANCTIONED

November 25

One Day Shootout – Men's Open/A

Location TBD

Dave Negrete; (847) 430-1478

www.ripitracquetball.com

SANCTIONED

December 3

Wilson One Day Women's Tournament

Location TBD

Dave Negrete; (847) 430-1478

www.ripitracquetball.com

SANCTIONED

December 16 – 20

IRF World Junior Championships

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396

SANCTIONED

January 6 – 7

Junior State Championships

Site TBD

TJ Ferro; (630) 305-0989

SANCTIONED

January 7

One Day Shootout – Men > 35

Location TBD

Dave Negrete; (847) 430-1478

www.ripitracquetball.com

SANCTIONED

January 11-14

Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic, JR

Silver Lake Country Club, Orland Park

Anita Efron; (708) 474-2440

SANCTIONED

January 20

One Day Doubles Tune-up

Southlake Racquet and Fitness, Mundelein

Cindy Flores-Mocarski; (847) 949-8180

SANCTIONED

January 26 – 28

WS/MRA National Championships

Orlando Fitness and Racquet Club; Orlando, FL

Jean Trimble; (407) 645-3550

SANCTIONED

January 26 – 28 (tentative)

Four Wall Brawl

BR Ryall YMCA, Glen Ellyn

Sean Nelson; (630) 688-5165

SANCTIONED

February 3

One Day Shootout – Women's > 35

Location TBD

Dave Negrete; (847) 430-1478

www.ripitracquetball.com

SANCTIONED

February 9 – 11

ISRA State Doubles Championships

The Glass Court Swim and Fitness, Lombard

Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390

SANCTIONED

February 23 - 25

The Lakeshore Open

Lakeshore Athletic Club, Chicago

Bob Good (847) 226 - 8382

SANCTIONED

February 17

One Day Shootout – Mixed Doubles

O/A and B/C

Location TBD

Dave Negrete; (847) 430-1478

www.ripitracquetball.com

SANCTIONED

February 28 – March 4

20th Wilson National High School

Championships

Location TBD, (Tentative: St. Louis)

Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396

SANCTIONED

March 8 – 11

The Shamrock Shootout, JR

The Glass Court Swim and Fitness,

Lombard

Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390

SANCTIONED

March 16 – 18

March Madness

Willow Creek Club, Rosemont

Joe Gill; (312) 315-4413

SANCTIONED

March 28 – 31

35th Annual Ektelon Intercollegiates

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396

SANCTIONED

March 29 – April 1

The 35th Annual ISRA State Singles

Championships

The Chalet, Willow Springs

Cheryl Kirk; (630) 215-4242

SANCTIONED

April 12 – 15

USA Racquetball Regionals Weekend

Various Sites Nationwide

View: www.usaracquetball.org

SANCTIONED

April 25 – 29

Third Annual IRT Motorola Pro Nationals/

Chicago USAR Regionals

Schaumburg Tennis Plus, Schaumburg

Dave Negrete; (630) 430-1478

SANCTIONED

May 23 – 28

40th USA Racquetball

National Singles Championships

The Downtown YMCA, Houston, TX

Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396

SANCTIONED

July 27 – 29

14th Annual Summerfest Open, JR

The Glass Court Swim and Fitness,

Lombard

Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390

SANCTIONED

sponsored by



ISRA Annual Golf Outing

Fox Run Golf Links, Schaumburg
July 8, 2006

Golfers enjoyed beautiful weather this year at the ISRA Golf Outing. The outing was smaller than last year with many people away on vacation enjoying their summer. Those in attendance enjoyed a day of great golf, outstanding food and fun!

Fox Run was again the host course this year and they provided not only the challenging course but another great spread for all to

enjoy. This year Dan Flood, Doug Halverson, Ron Calloway and Eric Rieman claimed the win at 13 under. Longest drive for the men went to Tom Utterback (yes, I can golf) and the women's longest drive went to Julie Carter. Eric Rieman earned "closest to the pin" for the men and the women's winner was Nancy Laser.

After the dinner, a raffle was held with prizes for every golfer in attendance. Thanks to all who donated prizes and our gratitude also goes to Janet Christie and Dennis Negrete for their help in coordinating the event. Special appreciation to our Wisconsin friends Carl and Deb Evers who came out to experience this fun-filled afternoon with us.

— Tom Utterback



Barb & Tom Utterback — MC's Extraordinaire



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Food, Fun...Prizes for Everyone!

Racquetball Challenge Courts

Bartlett Health and Fitness (630) 540-4848

Bartlett, IL
Wednesdays 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Saturdays 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
\$5.00

Bloomington Health, Handball and Racquetball, Inc. (630) 924-0788

Saturdays & Sundays
8:30 a.m. - Noon \$6.00

Buehler YMCA (847) 359-5098

Palatine, IL
Thursdays 8-10 p.m.
Saturdays 8 a.m. - Noon
\$15 One-Day Guest Pass

Courts Plus (Elmhurst Park District) (630) 833-5064

Saturdays
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Members \$3, Non-Members \$10

Glass Court Swim & Fitness (630) 629-3390

Wednesdays 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturdays 7 a.m. - Noon
Members Free, Non-Members \$7

Heritage YMCA (630) 420-6270

Naperville, IL
Saturdays 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Members \$4, Non-Members \$8

Lakeshore Athletic Club - Downtown (312) 644-4880

Chicago, IL
Mondays & Wednesdays
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Members free, Non-Members \$12

Landmark Health & Racquetball (309) 685-8200

Peoria, IL
First & Third Fridays of Month
6-8 p.m. \$5.00

MultiSports Complex Melrose Park 708-343-5151

Mondays 7 - 9 p.m.
Members \$5
Non-Members \$7

Norris Rec Center (630) 377-1405

St. Charles, IL
Tuesdays and Thursdays
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Fridays 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Sundays 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
\$5.00 Members & Non-Members

Palos Olympic Health & Racquet Club (708) 974-1900

Thursdays 6 - 8:30 p.m.
\$12.00

Schaumburg Park District (847) 490-2505

Saturday 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Sunday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Members \$3, Non-Members

Schaumburg Tennis Plus (630) 430-1478

Women Open/A Players
Fridays 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Members \$3, Non-Members \$5

Silver Lake Country Club (708) 349-6940

Orland Park, IL
Fridays 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Members &
Non-Members \$7.00

The Southlake Club (847) 949-8180

Saturdays 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
\$10.00 for ISRA Members
(with membership card)

West Cook YMCA (708) 383-5200

Wed. 7-8 p.m.,
Thurs. 2-4 p.m.,
Sat 8-10 a.m.
Free to Y Members,
\$9 for Non-Members

To add your club to
this list, contact:
Lynne Weisbart
(847) 732-7245



Illinois State Racquetball Association

c/o Cheryl Kirk
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Naperville, IL 60540

CHERYL KIRK
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