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VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1 JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2005

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## Also Inside...

- Choice Hotels US OPEN coverage
- Mexico retains IRF Junior World Cup
- Book Reviews, Instructionals and More!

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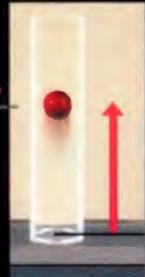
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SPORT GRAPHICS



## Mission Statement

USA Racquetball (USAR) is the National Governing Body for the sport of racquetball, recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee and is committed to excellence and service to our members. We provide opportunities for members and enthusiasts to actively participate in the sport, through sanctioning of events, administration of programs and development of competitive teams.

## Vision Statement

To provide racquetball opportunities in the sport of racquetball for all levels of participation through:

### Objectives:

- **MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT** - USAR values its members and will strive to provide the best possible member services at all levels.
- **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT** - USAR believes that racquetball is a lifetime endeavor and the benefits of health, recreation, and competition should be available to everyone. USAR will strive to expand its membership in order to share these benefits with as many players and supporters as possible.
- **PROMOTION OF THE SPORT** - in order to sustain a strong player base USAR will promote the numerous benefits of participation through mass marketing efforts.
- **COMPETITIVE SUCCESS** - USAR strives to maintain America's position as the number one racquetball nation in the world. Success at the elite levels has a positive influence on every other facet of our sport.
- **SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS** - USAR values its relationship with sponsors and will continue to maximize benefits and exposure.

# FEATURES



## The New King of Memphis

Kane Waselenchuk solidified his standing as the No.1 player on the IRT by doing what no other man has done before - win back-to-back US OPEN's.



## 2004 Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships

Cheryl Gudinas earned her second US OPEN title. Swain and Huczek battled it out in the semi's and a 15-year-old made quite a splash.



## IRF World Junior Championships

Despite a strong effort by the U.S., Mexico's juniors were able to come away with their third straight world title on their home turf.



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

RYAN JOHN  
MANAGING EDITOR



### "IT'S ONLY AS GOOD AS IT'S FOUNDATION"

The Choice Hotels US OPEN. Anyone that has ever attended the US OPEN will testify that it is by far the biggest, best, and most prestigious tournament that has ever been established. Each year the tournament gets bigger and more extravagant and this year was no exception. It is easy to see the improvements, but what many aren't able to see is the amount of time and work that goes behind the scenes to make it all happen.

US OPEN Event Director Doug Ganim is the person most responsible with creating and maintaining the tournament. Not a day goes by without Doug working on something to do with the US OPEN. It isn't like it is his only job. Doug has several other business ventures besides the US OPEN, but it is definitely his passion and what he spends the majority of his time working on. He makes at least eight trips a year to Memphis to work on various aspects of the tournament and although he may not seek it, he definitely deserves the recognition. What other major event director could be seen cleaning up trash at 2:00am each night after the last matches?

I usually arrive in Memphis about a week before the tournament begins, about the same time that USAR Executive Director Jim Hiser and Heather Fender arrive. Jim and Heather arrive from the airport, say "Hello" to everyone and then aren't seen for several days. Sightseeing around the Blues capital? Hardly. The reason that we don't see them for awhile is that they are holed up, working ridiculous hours on the draw. The US OPEN has the most divisions and participants of any tournament, yet Jim and Heather spend just as much time, if not more, on making sure that the seeding for the men's 24-D division is as correct as the Open divisions. All this before their "real" work begins at the start of the event.

Doug, Jim, Heather, and I aren't the only ones to arrive in Memphis days before the tournament begins. Doug has assembled a great staff over the years and, like the tournament, it gets bigger and better each year out of necessity. There are banners to be hung, bags to stuff, shirts and medals to organize, carpet to be laid, bleachers to set up, etc., etc. Nothing beats putting up the starbursts (those stretchy things you see hanging from the ceiling) at 3:00am on Sunday night. Nobody complains, nobody slacks off, everyone is focused on making each year the best tournament ever conducted.

Of course, with a staff this large, and all of the responsibilities that they perform throughout the week, it would be impossible to give everyone the credit and recognition that they deserve. Please, read through the list of staff at this year's OPEN and if you enjoyed the tournament, make sure that you thank them next time you see them. If I omitted anyone's name by mistake, I am truly sorry because I know that you have earned the right to have it included.

## SOUND OFF!

### GOOFY's in the Mag

In your November/December edition, pages 58-59, you have a player demonstrating a bunch of exercises (Shoulder Strengthening Drills...Ellistyle). I do not want to see one of these GOOFYS wearing a backward cap. When they grow up put them in your magazine; not before.

Regards,

**Ulf Hellsten**

**Wilmington, NC**

We enjoy hearing from you! Whether it be positive, negative, or somewhere in between, we are interested in your opinions at RACQUETBALL Magazine. To send a letter to the editor for publication in RACQUETBALL Magazine, please send your name, address, and telephone number along with your comments to:

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# COUNTDOWN —

Sure to cause discussion, and probably a little controversy, here are the Top 10 events of 2004 as compiled by RACQUETBALL Magazine.

**10**

Catlin Gable earning their first USAR National High School team championship

**9**

Alabama earning the 2004 USAR National Intercollegiate team title in just their first year of existence

**8**

Cheryl Gudinas earning her fourth straight LPRA season ending rankings title

**7**

Jackie Rice and Kim Russell recording their third straight USAR National Doubles title

**6**

Mexico winning their third straight IRF Junior World Cup

**5**

Kane Waselenchuk earning the IRT season ending rankings title by winning the last three stops of the season

**4**

Mike Dennison and Shane Vanderson upsetting everyone to earn the IRF World Doubles title

**3**

Rhonda Rajsich upsetting Cheryl Gudinas in the final of the 2004 USAR National Singles Championships

**2**

The US sweeping the IRF World Championships for just the second time in history

**1**

After five IRT rankings titles and four US OPEN titles, Sudsy Monchik retires from the sport





## James Hiser, Ph.D.

Each year brings new challenges and 2005 will be no exception. In 2004, the association concentrated on improving member services and in doing so implemented a new on-line membership system, on-line sanctioning system, and magazine format. By the time you receive this publication we will have initiated our new ranking system. The challenges for 2005 are diverse as the sport finds itself at a pivotal point in its development.

### A list of challenges for 2005

- How to develop better relationships with club owners and programmers.
- How to involve the recreational player in racquetball's overall development plan.
- Marketing of the whole sport, Pro and Amateur, to one sponsor.
- Creation of another mega event similar to the US OPEN.
- Expanded television coverage.
- Marketing of celebrities that play racquetball
- Greater influence into the collegiate and high school club and league programs.
- Better utilization of the portable court to market our sport.
- A reorganization of the sport under one umbrella, utilizing one marketing firm, one financial arm, and one PR company to promote all facets of the sport.
- Find enough finances and manpower to accomplish the above.





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# PLAYERS HELPING PLAYERS



» **BY RANDY STAFFORD, PRESIDENT, USAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

On behalf of USA Racquetball, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Players Helping Players Campaign. Since its launch in 2003 the Campaign has raised over \$165,000. Your support of the association has helped USA Racquetball maintain and improve many of its services.

Since the campaign's inception, USA Racquetball has implemented a new on-line membership system, an on-line sanctioning system, a new ranking system and finalized plans for a tournament management system that will be offered to all sanctioned events. The association has also sanctioned over 1100 events, and directed competition for over 6000 players at national tournaments. US Teams have competed in five International events, winning over 50 individual medals, including the adult world championship title. Our members

also received over \$30,000 in paid-out accident insurance claims, over \$40,000 in athlete scholarships and support, and refunded to the states over \$200,000 to develop local programs. USA Racquetball continues to publish six issues of RACQUETBALL Magazine, recognized by many as one of the best sport magazines among the 44 USOC national governing bodies and for the first time since 2000 published a new rule book. To help promote the sport, we also produced over 10 hours of racquetball on The Tennis Channel.

With the increasing costs of insurance and other operating expenses, the challenge to raise enough funds to support our programs continues. Although it is difficult to continually ask for support, it is your contributions that help make the difference and allow USA Racquetball to maintain services to its members. We need your contributions and ask for your continued support throughout 2005.

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# ENDS EVERY POINT]



# The New KING of Memphis

» BY RYAN JOHN • PHOTOS BY GEOFF THOMSEN & MIKE BOATMAN

## “Encore”

On a brisk morning in Memphis, Kane Waselenchuk was fidgeting around the gates of Graceland while the photographer changed lenses. Curious onlookers stared at the blonde haired Canadian who was strumming his racquet like a guitar while fully decked out in a king's robe and crown.

“Hello,” he responded to their inquisitive gazes. “I'm here to take over for Elvis.”

Although maybe not quite ready to take over as the King of Rock & Roll, Kane has anointed himself as defacto ruler of the racquetball world. His tear through the Choice Hotels US OPEN draw should have squashed any doubts as to who is the best player in the game today. Some are even ready to make claim that we are witnessing the greatest to ever step on the court.

Of course it will take a few more US OPEN's, and no less than five more IRT rankings titles, to give credence to this claim, but there seems to be no slowing down the Canadian Wonder. Just a year and a half ago his career seemed to be over as he struggled to find a cure for his inner ear problem. Now he has an IRT rankings title under his belt, a new wife, and the claim of becoming the first man to win back-to-back US OPEN titles.

## “We came here to set this party off right...”

Kane showed up in Memphis on Sunday, a full three days before the tournament began, relaxed and ready to get the tournament started. Whereas most people tend to train even harder before a big tournament, Kane took some time off and hit the links rather than the courts.

“I kind of kept my mind off of the tournament until I got there,” he said. “(Former IRT Pro) Tim Doyle came down and we played some golf. I really took some time off leading up to the OPEN.”

The time off prior to the event seemed to serve Kane well. He seemed confident as usual, but had an underlying urge to begin his defense.

“My main motivation was to become the first to win it two years in a row,” he explained after the tournament. “It's not just about winning anymore, it's about setting records.”

Kane went through the early rounds as expected. He took out USAR Board Member Lance Gilliam in the round of 64, 11-4, 12-10, 11-1, then handled hard-hitting Brian Fredenberg in the round of 32, 11-4, 11-1, 11-2. With another straight-game win against Juan Herrera, 11-5, 11-9, 11-2, Kane was into the quarterfinals.

**“Times up, games over, you lose, I win. ‘Bout to show these knuckleheads how to do this here.”**

Kane continued to roll through the draw as the tournament wore on, seeming to get even better with each match. Mike Guidry had been cruising through the tournament as well. Guidry had recorded three straight-game wins, while dishing out three donuts, before he met up with Kane in the quarterfinals. The story remained the same, however, as Kane dispatched the tour veteran in three, 11-5, 11-3, 11-3.

Next up was No.4 Rocky Carson who had also yet to relinquish a game during his trek to the semifinals. That didn't matter much to Kane as he took to the court.

Different opponent, same story, Kane in three, 11-6, 11-4, 11-2.

**“That’s why we always save the best cut last...”**

The win against Carson put Kane into the final against Cliff Swain, arguably the best to ever play the game. Kane had been compared to Swain several times during his career. They both are left-handed and possess a devastating serve. Kane has admitted that he looked up to Swain, among others, as he grew up playing racquetball.

“I respect all those guys. Sudsy, Jason, Cliff, even like Tim Doyle and John Ellis,” he said. “I basically grew up watching those guys.”

“I respect them off the court and even on the court. But someone has to lose, either you or me, and it's not going to be me.”

It definitely wasn't going to be Kane losing in the final and he seemed to save his best for last against Swain. Using his drive serve, which was backed up by his power from anywhere on the court, Kane recorded his record setting win with an exclamation point in the last game, 11-1, 11-3, 11-0.

“I feel like it's probably one of the greatest things that I have accomplished in my short racquetball career,” Kane said of the win, but he downplayed the fact that he won all of his matches in straight games. “I think winning back-to-back is pretty good, but beating everyone in straight games is really irrelevant.”

**“Oh yeah, New Year, next phase begin...”**

As the New Year begins, it is apparent who the player to beat will be as the season hits its midway point. After his

performance thus far, it seems as if Kane may be unstoppable as he attempts to win yet another back-to-back title - the season ending IRT rankings title. The other players on the tour are going to have to scramble to find a weakness, and find it fast, if they want to have a chance to dethrone him.

What will it take to defeat Kane while he is seemingly at the top of his game? Most in the sport agree that Kane is the only one who can stop Kane. After being prodded several times for an answer, Kane reluctantly gave his take on what it will take for someone to beat him.

“It's going to take me being off of my game and the other player playing his best,” he said. “I think I am still going to win whether I play good or average. That is the type of confidence that I am playing with now.

## Get Your Hands Up for the Doctor!

Many are familiar with the story of Kane's inner-ear problems. He began to feel dizzy and ill in September of 2002, which affected his performance and even forced him to skip tournaments. After seeking medical help from several different medical practitioners to no avail, it seemed as though his career was over before it even began.



Then Kane found out about the Shea Ear Clinic and made an appointment to visit with Dr. John Shea. Dr. Shea diagnosed Kane with positional vertigo and informed him that it could be cured. After undergoing minor surgery to fix the problem in June of 2003, Kane was able to resume his playing career.

The Shea Ear Clinic just happens to be down the road from The Racquet Club of Memphis and Dr. Shea was on hand to watch Kane earn his second straight US OPEN title. During the trophy presentation Kane was sure to thank the doctor for enabling him to reach the heights that he has.



## QUICK STATS

Games Won	18
Games Lost	0
Points For	199
Points Against	65
Avg. Margin of Victory	7.45



# 2004 Choice Hotels US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



## GUDINAS WINS SECOND US OPEN

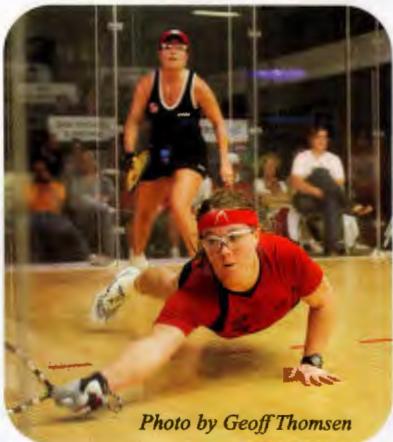


Photo by Geoff Thomsen

So much for Cheryl Gudinas' so-called US OPEN jinx. Just three years ago, Gudinas' history at racquetball's premiere event was one of close calls and could-have-beens, but not anymore. With her second US OPEN title in three years, she now owns as many as any other woman.

During her matches at last year's US OPEN it was evident that Gudinas wasn't 100%. She believed that she suffered from plantar fasciitis, but she later learned that she actually had a broken bone in her foot. Gudinas didn't make up excuses for her performance at the OPEN and was still able to finish the season ranked No.1 despite losing out on the increased ranking points that the US OPEN has to offer.

Although much healthier after resting between seasons, Gudinas still feels some effects of her injury from last season, though mostly it as affected her training schedule.

"I haven't been able to strength train and my knees are beginning to feel the effects of that," she explained. "During the next month and a half after the US OPEN I will have a chance to get back to where I want to be."

But first she had to get through this year's OPEN and catching up on her missed training before the event was not an option.

Gudinas' journey through the US OPEN draw began with qualifier Linda Moore in the round of 32. Although she felt that she could have played better in her match with Moore, the scores showed that she had things under control throughout as she won, 11-3, 11-3, 11-2.

"It's good to ease your way into the tournament," she said. "I'm also still getting used to playing on the portable court because the ball returns much slower after coming off of the front wall."

Gudinas definitely seemed to have the courts of Memphis under control in her second match against Amy Foster. She came out firing in the first game, handing Foster a donut, 11-0. The second and third games were much of the same as Gudinas methodically put away point after point to advance into the quarterfinals, 11-0, 11-2, 11-5.

Gudinas faced Chilean superstar Angela Grisar in what most saw as her first true test at the OPEN. Grisar's game has improved dramatically over the past season as she has risen to No.8 in the LPRA rankings. On her way to facing Gudinas, Grisar took out two up-and-coming players in Da'Monique Davis and Carola Loma, both in straight games.

Gudinas once again started the match hot, winning the first game, 11-2. Grisar stepped things up in the second to knot things up with an 11-8 win before Gudinas was able to once again kick it into high gear to finish the match strong by winning the third and fourth games, 11-2, 11-1, respectively.

Next up was Gudinas' doubles partner Kristen Walsh. Walsh had been having a great tournament to this point. She battled it out with Mexican Nancy Enriquez, winning a close five-gamer, 11-5, 11-8, 10-12, 7-11, 11-4, then took out former US OPEN champion Kerri Wachtel in four, 11-5, 11-9, 6-11, 11-6. Unfortunately for Walsh, she sustained an ankle injury against Wachtel that hindered her movement against Gudinas. The result was a one-sided affair with Gudinas coming out on top, 11-6, 11-1, 11-1.

"I'm glad I won today," Gudinas said following the match.

"But had I lost, Kristen is a class act and I would have been proud of her."

Now there was just one person left between Gudinas and her second US OPEN title - defending Champion Rhonda Rajsich. Rajsich has been playing with much more confidence after earning the US OPEN title a year ago and then stunning everyone by defeating Gudinas in the final of the 2004 USAR National Singles Championships.

Rajsich's trip to the final of this year's US OPEN was not an easy task. She defeated Lupita Torres in

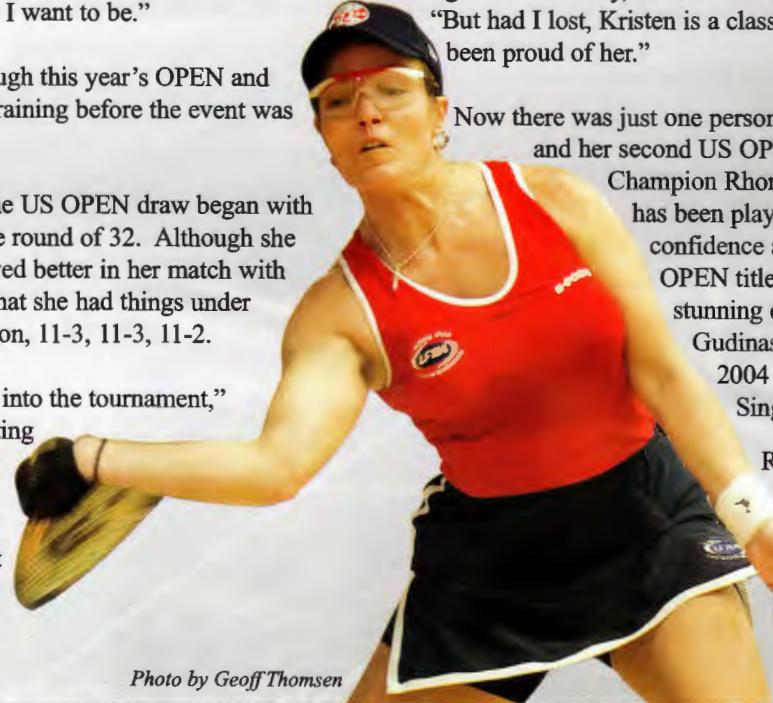


Photo by Geoff Thomsen



Photo by Geoff Thomsen

straight games in the round of 32 and then had to battle veteran Laura Fenton in the round of 16 in a grueling five-gamer, 7-11, 11-3, 11-2, 5-11, 11-4. She ended young 15-year-old Paola Longoria's amazing run in the quarterfinals (see sidebar) and then defeated Christie Van Hees to earn a spot in the final. Although Van Hees was forced to forfeit with an injury to her shoulder, it is notable that Rajsich seemed to have the match under control, up two games to one, 5-11, 11-0, 11-1, before Van Hees fell on her shoulder up 3-2 in the fourth.

"This is not how I wanted to win this match," Rajsich said afterwards. "Christie made me play tough. She pushed me every rally. I want her to rest and get better."

As the final began, Gudinas kept to her M.O. of getting off to a fast start. She took the first two games of the match, 11-8, 11-5, but then Rajsich began to make things interesting by mixing up her shots and better anticipating Gudinas'. Rajsich took the third game, 11-8, to stay alive and force a fourth game.

The fourth game, although full of appeals by both players, was one of the most entertaining of the tournament. The

players battled back and forth, Rajsich with her patented dives and Gudinas with her high percentage shot making. Rajsich pulled up lame at one point with an injury to her groin and Gudinas' foot also appeared to be giving her trouble, yet both players battled through their injuries with little complaint. After nearly an hour, it was Rajsich that was able to stave off yet another elimination game to win, 14-12, and the players headed to a decisive fifth game.

After such a close and exciting fourth game, the fifth seemed rather anticlimactic. Although great rally's continued into the final game, Gudinas seemed to be on the winning end of the majority. Rajsich began to skip the ball more than she had in the previous games and Gudinas was able to take advantage of her mistakes to win, 11-3.

"I am so glad that this is over," Gudinas addressed the crowd. "I fear Rhonda because she's unpredictable and an incredible athlete."

Gudinas, 37, not only was able to quiet the critics that seem to pop up every season, but she was able to do so on a court and in an environment that she has had trouble with in the past. The fact that some may still point out that Gudinas has won only two US OPEN titles is a testament to the standard that she has set. When all is said and done, Cheryl Gudinas will go down as one of the best woman players to ever step onto a racquetball court.



### The US OPEN Intern Program

The Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships once again teamed up with the University of Memphis Journalism Department in a joint effort to promote the tournament. This was the fifth year that the US OPEN has worked in conjunction with the university's journalism department and its chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

In 1999, the program was started by Event Director Doug Ganim and Dr. Rick Fischer, associate professor of the University of Memphis Journalism Department, in an attempt to give the students hands-on experience in a real life setting while working to increase exposure of the racquetball tournament.

"We are pleased to offer students the opportunity to work in an actual major sporting event media operation," said Ganim. "The hands-on experience will help to prepare them for the workplace after college."

The students are each assigned at least two top professional athletes to cover for the tournament under the supervision of the media manager. The students are then responsible for contacting the athlete's local media, issuing press releases, and providing digital images for the media if needed.

"The program has become an integral part of our media operations," said Ryan John, US OPEN media manager. "We would not be able to attain the type of coverage that we are accustomed to at the US OPEN without their help."

Former US OPEN intern Mandy Jenkins served as US OPEN Intern Manager and USA Shooting Media Director Sara Greenlee worked her second US OPEN, this time as editor of *The Daily Racquet*.

## THE MATCH OF THE TOURNAMENT...CLIFF SWAIN VERSUS JACK HUCZEK

In a match that may be talked about for years to come, Cliff Swain defeated Jack Huczak in a thrilling five-game match on the stadium court.

### GAME 1

Swain began the match by taking a 7-1 lead over Huczak. It seemed that Swain was able to win every long rally during the first game, which is exactly the opposite that many would have predicted at the onset. Huczak was able to muster a three-point run of his own to pull within three at 7-4, but this game belonged to Swain and he went on to take the first, 11-4.



Photo by Geoff Thomsen

### GAME 2



Photo by Geoff Thomsen

Swain started the second game where he left off in the first. He seemed more focused than he has since he won his last US OPEN in 2001. He forced Huczak into making many uncharacteristic mistakes and built an early 5-2 lead. Huczak was drive serving to this point, but then switched back to his lob serve. Seemingly more calm and relaxed, Huczak erased Swain's early lead and then took the lead himself at 7-6. The players traded points back and forth until Huczak closed out the second game, 11-9, on a backhand skip by Swain.

### GAME 3

This time it was Huczak that took an early lead in the game, 4-1, before Swain found himself squarely in the "Zone." He seemed to get to every ball and made every shot for the rest of the game. Huczak started to lose his composure and began making remarks to the crowd which only bolstered Swain's support and confidence. Swain didn't give up anymore points and only lost serve three more times the entire game en route to an 11-4 win.



Photo by Mike Boatman

## GAME 4

The fourth game began with a series of sideouts, something that the crowd would see a lot of as both players refused to give each other anything. The players were tied at 3-3 and 5-5 before Huczek began to find his groove.

With Swain looking a little restless, Huczek began hitting his passes more crisp and just out of reach of the veteran. Huczek rolled off five straight points to earn a 10-5 lead before closing it out, 11-6.



Photo by Mike Boatman

## GAME 5

Just when Swain seemed to be getting tired at the end of the fourth game, he fought back in the fifth to take a 3-0 lead. Huczek was unfazed and rattled off six straight points of his own to go up 6-3. Again, another momentum swing brought the two players to a deadlock at 7-7 and again at 8-8. Swain went up 10-8 by executing two magnificent jam serves that Huczek was only able to poke at. After a well taken timeout, Huczek scored another point to pull within one, but Swain fittingly ended the match with an ace to Huczek's forehand, 11-9.

The match finished in exactly two hours and those who were lucky enough to be in attendance were treated to an unbelievable display of racquetball. Be sure not to miss what US OPEN Event Director Doug Ganim dubbed "an instant US OPEN classic" when it airs on The Tennis Channel this March.



Photo by Geoff Thomsen

## ALL GROWN UP

15-year-old Paola Longoria made quite a splash in just her second US OPEN appearance. The junior from San Luis Potosi, Mexico earned a series of upsets before succumbing to defending champion Rhonda Rajsich in the quarterfinals.



After earning her way through qualifying rounds, Paola found herself up against No.6 Adrienne Fisher in the round of 32. Paola not only defeated Fisher, but defeated her in impressive fashion, 11-7, 11-2, 11-3. Next up was fellow countrywoman Suzy Acosta, whom she dispatched in four games, 14-12, 11-6, 4-11, 11-6.

Some may have been intimidated to go up against the top players on tour at such a young age, but not Paola. "I am not intimidated because I don't think that it is impossible to win against them."

Paola had to face her favorite player on the Lhra tour in the quarterfinals - Rhonda Rajsich. Rajsich was so impressed with the youngster's play that she asked Paola to sign a ball for her after the match. Paola obliged by signing, "Rhonda, You are an excellent player. Next US OPEN I will win against you. Your friend, Paola."

"Watch out for that one," Rhonda responded. "It's really refreshing to see someone so young play so tough."

Paola began playing racquetball about seven years ago when her father, Fabian Parrilla, took her to their local club. She competed at the US OPEN last year, but failed to get out of the first qualifying round. This season, in just two tour stops she has not only succeeded in getting through the qualifiers, but has made two quarterfinal appearances.

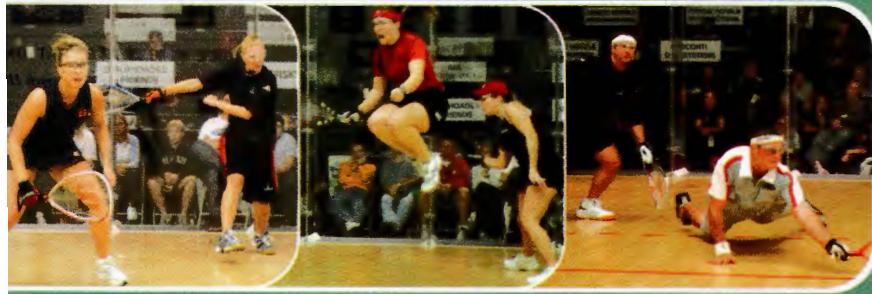
Although she has aspirations of participating in more tour stops, Paola informed us that her schooling comes first and she would miss too many exams if she competed full-time on the tour. For now her goals are to make the Mexican National Adult Team and do well at the 2004 IRF World Junior Championships this December in her hometown, which she did by winning the girl's 14-.

## The US OPEN on The Tennis Channel



Once again the US OPEN has teamed with The Tennis Channel to bring the US OPEN to homes nationwide. This year the coverage has been increased to show the IRT draw from the quarters on and the LPRA and Legends Tour finals. Please call your local cable provider and ask them to include The Tennis Channel in their programming package if they don't already do so.

Sunday, February 6	Men's Quarterfinal #1	12:00pm
Wednesday, February 9	Men's Quarterfinal #1	7:00pm
Saturday, February 12	Men's Quarterfinal #1	12:00pm
Sunday, February 13	Men's Quarterfinal #2	12:00pm
Wednesday, February 16	Men's Quarterfinal #2	7:00pm
Saturday, February 19	Men's Quarterfinal #2	12:00pm
Sunday, February 20	Men's Quarterfinal #3	12:00pm
Wednesday, February 23	Men's Quarterfinal #3	7:00pm
Saturday, February 26	Men's Quarterfinal #3	12:00pm
Sunday, February 27	Men's Quarterfinal #4	12:00pm
Wednesday, March 2	Men's Quarterfinal #4	7:00pm
Saturday, March 5	Men's Quarterfinal #4	12:00pm
Sunday, March 6	Men's Semifinal #1	12:00pm
Wednesday, March 9	Men's Semifinal #1	7:00pm
Saturday, March 12	Men's Semifinal #1	12:00pm
Sunday, March 13	Men's Semifinal #2	12:00pm
Wednesday, March 16	Men's Semifinal #2	7:00pm
Saturday, March 19	Men's Semifinal #2	12:00pm
Sunday, March 20	Men's Final	12:00pm
Wednesday, March 23	Men's Final	7:00pm
Saturday, March 26	Men's Final	12:00pm
Sunday, March 27	Women's Final	12:00pm
Wednesday, March 30	Women's Final	7:00pm
Saturday, April 2	Women's Final	12:00pm
Sunday, April 3	Legends Final	12:00pm
Wednesday, April 6	Legends Final	7:00pm
Saturday, April 9	Legends Final	12:00pm



Photos by Mike Boatman

## Urquidi and Russell Pair to Win St. Jude Pro-Am Doubles

Although the 2004 Choice Hotels US OPEN officially began on a Wednesday, things got underway the evening before with the 9th annual Pro-Am Doubles tournament.



Thirty-two lucky amateurs donated \$250 apiece for the opportunity to play in a single elimination doubles challenge with a top professional as their partner. The tournament raised \$8,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Hector Urquidi from Juarez, Mexico paired up with LPRA touring pro and four time USAR National Double champ Kim Russell to defeat the team of Brian Shwer of Memphis and No.2 ranked IRT pro Jack Huczak, 17-15.

"Donating the money to St. Jude feels even better than winning the tournament because it is a good and noble cause," Urquidi said. "So I feel good all the way around."

"I think it's awesome that they do this fundraiser for St. Jude," Russell echoed. "I also think that it is a great thing for the amateurs to get to play on the portable court with the pros in front of a large crowd. It gives them the opportunity to see how it is for us to play at an event such as this."

With the match tied at 14-14, US OPEN Event Director Doug Ganim, who assumed referee duties for the final, turned the decision over to the fans as to whether or not the match was to end with a win-by-one or win-by two score. The enthusiastic crowd chose win-by-two and were treated to a few extra points by the players.

Although Shwer, a four-time participant in the Pro-Am Doubles, was on the short end of the score in the final, he still enjoyed the overall aspect of the tournament.

"It's great to be able to make a contribution to St. Jude and to play with someone of that caliber is incredible," he said. "It's the fourth time that I have played in this tournament and I appreciate that Jack put forth a real effort out there. These pros don't have to do this with such a big tournament starting tomorrow, but Jack went out there and did."

Donations from the Pro-Am Doubles Tournament, combined with several other fundraisers throughout the week including a silent auction, popcorn sales in the village by Wilson, competitors donating their referee fees, and other private donations from players and fans helped to raise the total amount that the Choice Hotels US OPEN has raised for St. Jude to \$121,778.

# 2005 CHOICE HOTELS 9TH US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Presented by USA Racquetball • The Racquet Club of Memphis: Memphis, Tenn. • November 17-21

## FINAL RESULTS

### PROS

**Men's IRT:** Kane Waselenchuk (Edmonton, Alberta) def. Cliff Swain (Braintree, Mass.) 11-1, 11-3, 11-0  
**Women's LPRA:** Cheryl Gudinas (Lisle, Ill.) def. Rhonda Rajsich (Phoenix, Ariz.) 11-8, 11-5, 8-11, 12-14, 11-3

### OPEN

**Men's Open:** Agustin Tristan Aldave (San Luis Potosi, Mexico) def. Andy Hawthorne (Tallmadge, Ohio) 13-15, 15-14, 11-8  
**Women's Open:** Angela Grisar (Santiago, Chile) def. Claudine Garcia (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic) 15-7, 15-11

### MEN'S SINGLES

**Men's A:** Darrel Miller (Union Grove, Wisc.) def. Quentin Mieure (Terre Haute, Ind.) 15-14, 15-7  
**Men's B:** Erik Becker (St. Louis, Mo.) def. William Brian Booth (Buhl, Ala.) 15-10, 15-14  
**Men's C:** Steven Short (Harvey, La.) def. Peter Rahming (Miami, Fla.) 12-15, 15-9, 11-7  
**Men's D:** Carlos Duran (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic) def. Carl Barr (Woodland, Ga.) 15-10, 15-9  
**Men's 24:** Alejandro Herrera (Miami, Fla.) def. Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.) 15-8, 15-10  
**Men's 25:** Cesar Carrillo (Germantown, Tenn.) def. Dale Valentine (Riverside, Calif.) 15-2, 15-4  
**Men's 30+**: Brian Fredenberg (Dallas, Texas) def. Dale Valentine (Riverside, Calif.) (ns)  
**Men's 35+**: Chris Wright (Ballwin, Mo.) def. Kelly North (Walton, Ky.) 15-7, 15-5  
**Men's 40+**: Scott Cullins (Woodstock, GA) def. Keith Minor (Shannahan, Ill.) 15-12, 15-9  
**Men's 45+**: Miguel Santiago-Cruz (Killeen, Texas) def. Richard Mordachini (Olive Branch, Miss.) 14-15, 15-14, 11-10  
**Men's 50+**: Howard Walker (Bedford, Texas) def. Scott Rollins (Martinez, Ga.) 15-2, 14-15, 11-2  
**Men's 55+**: Ed Remen (Apex, N.C.) def. Greg Hasty (Peoria, Ill.) 15-9, 15-9  
**Men's 60+**: Jeff Leon (FPO AP) def. Dan Jones (Atlanta, Ga.) 12-15, 15-3, 11-5  
**Men's 65+**: Ron Hutcherson (Wersaw, Ind.) def. David Lund (Lansing, Mich.) 5-15, 15-5, 11-1  
**Men's 70+**: Jerry Holly (North Hills, Calif.) def. Robert Sullins (Arlington, Texas) 15-6, 15-9  
**Men's 75+**: Robert Miller (North Augusta, S.C.) def. Joe Lambert (Plano, Texas) 15-11, 15-5

### MEN'S AGE + SKILL

**Men's 24-A:** Luis Reveron (Venezuela) def. Joshua Jones (Sarasota, Fla.) 15-10, 15-2  
**Men's 24-B:** Jansen Allen (Rice, Texas) def. Paul Egan (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) 15-3, 15-8  
**Men's 24-C:** Steven Short (Harvey, La.) def. Nicholas Cline (Richmond, Ind.) 15-9, 12-15, 11-8  
**Men's 25+A:** John St. Pierre (Punta Gorda, Fla.) def. Elliott Mistich (Bellechasse, La.) 15-11, 15-13  
**Men's 25+B:** Jeff Johnson (Warren, Mich.) def. John Trendell (Shelby Twp, Mich.) 15-9, 7-15, 11-4  
**Men's 25+C:** Felton Cox (Nassau, Bahamas) def. Christopher Nichols (Van Buren, Ark.) 15-9, 15-13  
**Men's 35+A:** Edward Fink (Houston, Texas) def. Rod Van Dyke (Winter Haven, Fla.) 15-10, 12-15, 11-5  
**Men's 35+B:** Barry Cruthirds (Dive Branch, Miss.) def. Paul Irvine (Santee, Calif.) (ns)  
**Men's 35+C:** Gonzalo Castillo (Bedford, Texas) def. Rudy Olivares (San Antonio, Texas) Ret (inj)  
**Men's 45+A:** Paul Whitten (Rocklin, Calif.) def. Kevin Olds (Cordova, Tenn.) 15-9, 15-10  
**Men's 45+B:** Rick Graca (Victoria, Texas) def. Robert Booker (Columbia, S.C.) 15-7, 15-5  
**Men's 45+C:** Tom Gibbons (Edmonton, Alberta) def. David Michalek (Felton, Del.) 15-12, 15-7  
**Men's 55+A:** Garry Carter (Napa, Calif.) def. Paul Dietsch (Oceanside, Calif.) 15-7, 15-4  
**Men's 55+B:** Kenneth Foster (Lewisville, Texas) def. Sez Ozden (Grovetown, Ga.) 11-15, 15-7, 11-5  
**Men's 55+C:** James Douglas Key (Northport, Ala.) def. William Gill (Morrow, Ga.) 15-14, 14-15, 11-9

### WOMEN'S SINGLES

**Women's A:** Fabiola Marquez def. Viviana Reveron (Texas) 15-7, 15-11  
**Women's B:** Lori Good (Rolling Meadow, Ill.) def. Holly Hettesheimer (Cincinnati, Ohio) 14-15, 15-6, 11-4  
**Women's C:** Tori Davis (Stockton, Calif.) def. Michele, Robinson (Stockton, Calif.) 14-15, 15-14, 11-10  
**Women's D:** Tia Lecland (West Bloomfield, Mich.) def. Lindsey Anderson (Newaygo, Mich.) NS  
**Women's 24:** Da'Monique Davis (Tuscaloosa, Ala.) def. Kelley Fisher (Centerville, Ohio) 15-10, 15-13  
**Women's 25+**: Shannon Feaster (Silver Spring, Md.) def. T.J. Baumbaugh (Reston, Va.) 15-11, 15-1  
**Women's 30+:** Claudia Ramirez (Casselberry, Fla.) def. Holly Remen (Apex, N.C.) 15-6, 13-15, 11-10  
**Women's 35+:** Lorraine Galloway (Jamaica Heights, N.Y.) def. Shari Coplin (St. Louis, Mo.) 15-8, 15-6

**Women's 40+:** Anita Maldonado (Bronx, N.Y.) def. Holly Remen (Apex, N.C.) 15-13, 9-15, 11-2  
**Women's 45+:** Debra Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) def. Linda Moore (Madison, Neb.) 15-1, 15-1  
**Women's 50+:** Janet Myers (Charlotte, N.C.) def. Wenda Collins (Bellingham, Wash.) 15-12, 15-10  
**Women's 55+:** Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. JoAnn Johnson (Bellingham, Wash.) 15-1, 15-4  
**Women's 60+:** Gail Schaefer (Randallstown, Md.) def. CeCe Palaski (Taos, N.M.) RR  
**Women's 65+:** Gloria Piscoran (Newberg, Ore.) unchallanged  
**Women's 70+:** Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.)

### WOMEN'S AGE + SKILL

**Women's 24-A:** Kara Mazur (Avon, Conn.) def. Sherrika Darnell (El Dorado Hills, Calif.) 15-14, 15-8  
**Women's 24-B:** Sharon Jackson (Shelbyville, Ind.) unchallanged  
**Women's 24-C:** Haley Rollins (Martinez, Ga.) def. Lily Berry (Upper Arlington, Ohio) 15-2, 15-11  
**Women's 25+A:** Paula Saad (Clinton Twp., Mich.) def. Maria Vera (Hampton, Ga.) 15-3, 15-10  
**Women's 25+B:** Marci Laramée (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) def. Tracy Cerovski (Tallmadge, Ohio) 10-15, 15-3, 11-2  
**Women's 25+C:** Tracie Valentine (Columbia, Md.) def. Renee Ijeoma (Nassau, Bahamas) 12-15, 15-3, 11-4  
**Women's 35+A:** Vivian Rodriguez (Olympia, Wash.) def. Maria Vera (Hampton, Ga.) 15-3, 15-10  
**Women's 35+B:** Sue Hunt (Columbia, Miss.) def. Lynn Yeazell (Naperville, Ill.) 15-5, 15-12  
**Women's 35+C:** Laurell Burrows (Miami, Fla.) def. Layla Lae (McDonough, Ga.) 15-14, 12-15, 11-7  
**Women's 45+A:** Karen Green (Waterford, Mich.) def. Diane Chappel (Brooklyn, N.Y.) 15-7, 12-15, 11-8  
**Women's 45+B:** Grace Jaworsky (Kansas City, Mo.) def. Cheryl Kirk (Naperville, Ill.) 15-4, 15-3  
**Women's 45+C:** Tia Lecland (West Bloomfield, Mich.) def. Marilyn Lemmon (Nesbit, Miss.) 15-10, 15-4  
**Women's 55+A:** Dee Stribling (Hillsborough, N.C.) def. Paula Lemon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) 15-14, 15-10

### MEN'S DOUBLES

**Men's Open:** Chris Coy (Elk City Okla.)/Brian Fredenberg (The Colony, Texas) def. Ben Croft (Lake Bluff, Ill.)/Charlie Pratt (Portland, Ore.) 15-10, 8-15, 11-9  
**Men's A:** Darrel Miller (Union Grove, Wisc.)/Ron Miller (Union Grove, Wisc.) def. Johnny Hodson (Topeka, Kan.)/Don Wells (Ozawie, Kan.) 15-11, 2-15, 11-4  
**Men's B:** Neil Cozad (Rex, Ga.)/Michael Kaufman (Marietta, Ga.) def. Robert Booker (Columbia, S.C.)/Tony Chavis (Columbia, S.C.) 15-8, 15-5  
**Men's C:** Chuck Evans (Louisville, Ky.)/Bruce Hubrich (Louisville, Ky.) def. Mike Davis (Little Rock, Ark.)/Joe Klingbeil (Little Rock, Ark.) 15-9, 15-7  
**Men's 35+:** Scott Cullins (Woodstock, Ga.)/Scot Consoli (Orlando, Fla.) def. Dave Eagle (Vandalia, Ohio)/David Watson (Miami, Okla.) 15-8, 15-11  
**Men's 50+:** Denny Vincent (Blacklick, Ohio)/Thomas Rall (Chandler, Ariz.) def. Richard Bocanegra (Topeka, Kan.)/Jim Brane (Kansas City, Mo.) 8-15, 15-14, 11-7

### WOMEN'S DOUBLES

**Women's Open:** Nancy Enriquez (Chihuahua, Mexico)/Samantha Salas (Monterrey, Mexico) def. Syinda Kenyon (Houston, Texas)/Phyllis Morris (Denton, Texas) 14-15, 15-9, 11-8  
**Women's A:** Wanda Collins (Bellingham, Wash.)/JoAnn Johnson (Bellingham, Wash.) def. Chie Saito (Mino City, Japan)/Seiko Yoshimura (Kamitoba, Japan) (ns)  
**Women's B:** Laurell Burrows (Miami, Fla.)/Susan Simmons (Miami, Fla.) def. Cheryl Kirk (Naperville, Ill.)/Lynne Weisbart (Highland Park, Ill.) 8-5 ret. (inj)  
**Women's C:** Tori Davis (Stockton, Calif.)/Michele Robinson (Stockton, Calif.) def. Lily Berry (Upper Arlington, Ohio)/Burtie Zimmerer (Hamilton, Ohio) 15-5, 15-6  
**Women's 35+:** Debra Bryant (Sneads Ferry, N.C.)/Lorraine Galoway (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.) def. Kim Allen (Ruston, La.)/Beth Sacco (River Ridge, La.) 15-10, 15-7  
**Women's 50+:** Elaine Dexter (Pleasanton, Calif.)/Debbie Chaney (Indianapolis, Ind.) def. Janet Myers (Charlotte, N.C.)/Karen Key (Gilbert, Ariz.) 15-9, 15-13

### MIXED DOUBLES

**Mixed A/B:** Sadie Hall (Memphis, Tenn.)/Andrew Gross (Kennesaw, Tenn.) def. Wanda Collins (Bellingham, Wash.)/Jeremy Disch (Bellingham, Wash.) 15-9, 15-5  
**Mixed C/D:** Rita Stewart (Parksville, Ky.)/Richard Rydman (Frankfort, Ky.) def. Alex Fernander (Miami, Fla.)/Dwayne Butler (Miami, Fla.) 15-7, 15-10  
**Mixed 30:** Cari Kresa (Dania Beach, Fla.)/Herve Bony (Miami Gardens, Fla.) def. Claudia Ramirez (Casselberry, Fla.)/Roberto Cantos (Winter Park, Fla.) 12-15, 15-9, 11-6  
**Mixed 40:** Debbie Chaney (Indianapolis, Ind.)/David Watson (Miami, Okla.) def. Shari Coplen (St. Louis, Mo.)/Patrick Gibson (Ft. Worth, Texas) 15-6, 15-5

## Master Spas Milwaukee Open

Wisconsin Club • West Allis, WI • October 28-31



There were a few surprises that took place at the 2004 Master Spas Milwaukee Open beginning in the first round when local product Kyle Veenstra upset No.3 Jason Mannino in straight games. Veenstra stayed in, and eventually won, the first game by making virtually all of his set-ups. Backed by his hometown fans, Veenstra continued to gain momentum, eventually winning the match, 11-7, 11-6, 11-3.

The next upset occurred in the quarterfinals when No.2 Jack Huczak was taken out by No.7 Derek Robinson. Robinson showed no ill effects from an injury that he suffered after diving headfirst into the wall during his previous match against Josh Tucker. Huczak was plagued by unforced errors in this one and Robinson pulled it out in four games, 7-11, 12-10, 11-5, 11-7.

## SEMIFINALS

### Swain vs. Robinson

Swain ended Veenstra's tournament quickly in the quarterfinals, 11-1, 11-1, 11-1, and continued to roll against Robinson in the semifinals by serving the ball with authority. Robinson tried mixing up his serves and changing his shot selection, but had little success. Swain won in straight games, 11-1, 11-4, 11-1, to earn a spot in the final.

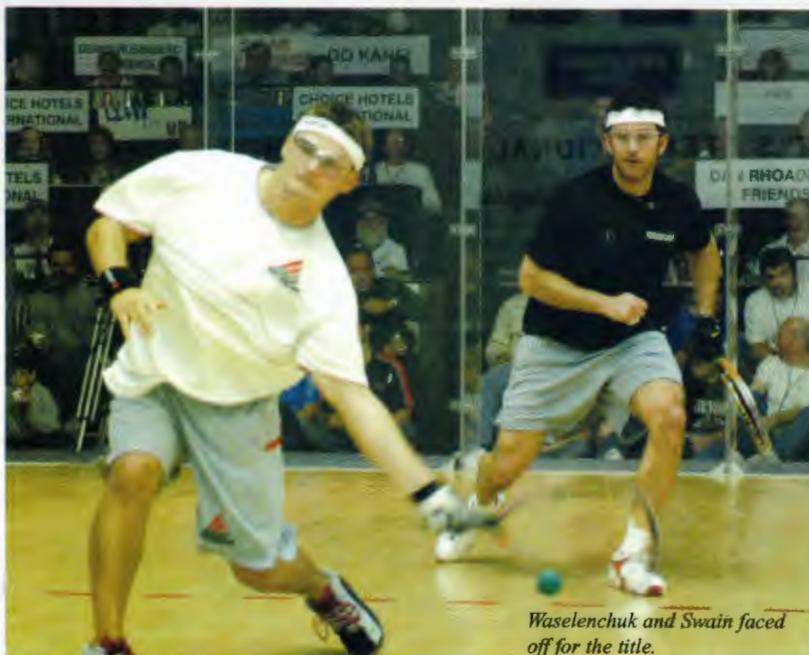
### Waselenchuk vs. Beltran

Waselenchuk seemed to come out a little lethargic in the first game and Beltran took full advantage of it,



Veenstra pulled off an upset in front of his hometown fans

winning game one with ease, 11-3. Waselenchuk used the break between games to regroup and find the much needed motivation to turn on his game. A different Waselenchuk showed up for the second game as he dominated center court and began to hit his serves at a blistering pace. It proved to be too much for Beltran and Waselenchuk moved into his fourth final of the season, 3-11, 11-1, 11-3, 11-9.



Waselenchuk and Swain faced off for the title.

## FINAL

### Waselenchuk vs. Swain

The final was all Waselenchuk as he lit up the court with some great drive serves to both sides. Swain was never able to get his serve going as he had done in his previous matches and, although he was able to put up a fight in the second game, Kane took it in straight games.

### Final

Kane Waselenchuk def. Cliff Swain  
11-4, 12-10, 11-0.

## 2004-05 International Racquetball Tour Score Card

New Orleans	Kane Waselenchuk def. Jack Huczak	11-3, 10-12, 11-3, 6-11, 11-9
Stockton	Cliff Swain def. Alvaro Beltran	12-10, 11-3, 6-11, 11-3
Casper,	Kane Waselenchuk def. Jack Huczak	9-11, 11-7, 11-2, 11-0
Chicago*	Kane Waselenchuk def. Jack Huczak	11-9, 9-11, 11-4, 11-3
Milwaukee	Kane Waselenchuk def. Cliff Swain	11-4, 12-10, 11-0
Memphis*	Kane Waselenchuk def. Cliff Swain	11-1, 11-3, 11-0

## 2004-05 International Racquetball Tour Score Card

January 14-16	Orlando, FL	Florida Open	Orlando Health & Tennis
January 20-23	Syosset, NY	New York City Open	Sportime of Syosset
February 24-27	San Diego, CA	San Diego Open	American Athletic Club
March 10-13	Louisville, KY	Louisville Open	University of Louisville
March 17-20	Greensboro, NC	Greensboro Open	Pyramids Athletic Club
March 31-April 3	Chesapeake, VA	Virginia Open	Chesapeake YMCA
April 21-24	Chicago, IL	Pro Nationals	Schaumburg Tennis Plus
April 28-May 1	Dallas, TX	The Players Championship*	Landmark Fitness Club

\* - denotes "Grand Slam" event

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

## Men's International Racquetball Tour 2003-2004 Season Rankings

(as of 11/22/04)

	Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1.	4221	Kane Waselenchuk	Edmonton, Alberta	1	1
2.	3658	Jack Huczak	Rochester Hills, MI	2	2
3.	3580	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA	3	3
4.	3223	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA	4	6
5.	2941	Cliff Swain	Quincy, MA	6	5
6.	2635	Alvaro Beltran	Tijuana, Mexico	5	4
7.	2213	Derek Robinson	Denver, CO	7	8
8.	1791	Shane Vanderson	Berea, OH	8	12
9.	1774	Mike Green	Burlington, Ontario	9	10
10.	1772	Mike Guidry	Carrollton, TX	10	9
11.	1468	Josh Tucker	Joplin, MO	12	14
12.	1319	Dan Fowler	Rockville, MD	11	19
13.	1108	Chris Crowther	Riverside, CA	13	18
14.	937	Dan Llaceria	Rehoboth Beach, DE	14	15
15.	725	Ben Croft	Lake Bluff, IL	17	26
16.	674	Mike Dennison	Twinsburg, OH	15	16
17.	654	Ruben Gonzalez	Staten Island, NY	16	20
18.	624	Kyle Veenstra	Wausau, WI	31	79
19.	600	Alejandro Herrera	Miami, FL	18	30
20.	585	Rodrigo Urzua	Boca Raton, FL	19	33

## IRT Quick Q & A

**Q:** What is the IRT?

**A:** The International Racquetball Tour (IRT) is the governing body of men's professional racquetball. Their mission is to promote the men's professional game, and the game of racquetball in general, at the highest level throughout the world. The IRT is where the real competition is played. The IRT offices are located in Chicago where Commissioner Dave Negrete resides.



## A Tour of Latin America . . . LPRA Style ➤ BY KERRI WACHTEL

During the past few seasons a new trend in the LPRA has become evident. The "Latina Chicas" have arrived and some are definitely capable of making an impact.

Mexico leads the way by boasting the largest contingent of players. They also have been able to organize a full tour stop, which is known as one of the best on tour. The players always seem cheerful although many of them need to put forth a substantial effort in order to raise enough funds to cover the costs of international airfare to polish their already great skills by playing in professional events. The Federacion Mexicana de Racquetbol (FMR) helps to support players by funding many player's trips to the US OPEN each year. Their efforts merited special recognition at this year's US OPEN as the FMR became the first recipient of the LPRA Special Recognition Award.

Also meriting special recognition at this year's US OPEN was emerging young star Paola Longoria. Longoria, just 15-years-old, earned a quarterfinal appearance after fighting through two qualifying rounds and upsetting No.6 Adrienne Fisher and No.13 Susy Acosta. Longoria finally fell to her idol Rhonda Rajsich in straight games, but was still impressive enough to prompt the No.3 player in the world to ask for an autograph.

One of those left in Longoria's wake was fellow countrywoman Susy Acosta. Acosta has been a fixture on the LPRA for several years and always delights the crowd with her great outfits and bubbly personality.

Acosta's doubles partner, Rosy Torres, has recently taken a break from singles, but made an appearance in the LPRA draw at the US OPEN. Not only is Torres an excellent player, but also is instrumental behind the scenes. She serves on the IRF Executive Board and is the main organizer of the Annual Rosarito Beach Open. Nancy Enriquez, Lupita Torres, Marcela Moreno (yes, Javier's sister), Samantha Salas, and Eleni Guzman are a few of the other Mexican players that have competed in events this season and any one of them are capable of making an impact.

Mexico isn't the only Latin American country to make an impact on the tour. The Dominican Republic has given us Claudine Garcia. Garcia was making her way up the rankings two years ago before being sidelined with a torn ACL during the 2002 Pro Nationals. She unsuccessfully attempted to rehab her knee, before ultimately opting for surgery. A successful recovery, along with her recent move to Texas, will no doubt have Garcia back on track this season.

The Chilean players have been improving rapidly and leading the way for them is Angela Grisar. One of the

fittest players on tour, Grisar earned LPRA Rookie of the Year honors at this year's US OPEN. Ranked out of the top 20 just a year ago, Grisar is now a solid No.8 and looks to move even higher as the season plays on.

The LPRA's newest full-time competitor is Bolivia's Carola Loma. Loma has temporarily left Bolivia for Stockton where the family of U.S. Head Coach Dave Ellis not only helps her to hone her racquetball skills, but her English skills as well! She has now crept into the top 20 on tour with no signs of slowing down.

Of course, these are just a few of the Latin American players and countries that have been represented on the LPRA tour in the past season. And Latin America isn't the only region that has seen a growth among female players. Asia was well represented with players competing from Japan and Korea and it is only a matter of time before one of the European ladies competes in an LPRA event. It is all of these players that make the LPRA a truly international tour and a great tour.

## 2004-2005 LADIES PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SEASON RANKINGS

(Through Memphis)

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 600	Cheryl Gudinas	Lisle, IL	1	1
2. 555.75	Christie Van Hees	Canada	2	11
3. 312.5	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ	3	3
4. 261.75	Kerri Wachtel	Cincinnati, OH	5	2
5. 244	Kristen Walsh	Salt Lake City, UT	4	5
6. 158	Tammy Brown	Boise, ID	7	17
7. 132.75	Adrienne Fisher	Centerville, OH	6	7
8. 110.75	Angela Grisar	Chile	9	18
9. 87.25	Brenda Kyzer	Lexington, SC	12	9
10. 86	Kersten Hallander	San Diego, CA	8	4
11. 77.5	Diane Moore	Griffith, IN	16	76
12. 73.5	Johanna Shattuck	Denver, CO	11	12
13. 70	Karen Morton	Erie, PA	14	20
14. 64.25	Susy Acosta	Mexico	13	14
15. 48.75	Krystal Csuk	Naperville, IL	19	25
16. 44.5	Kelley Fisher	Centerville, OH	23	32
17. 35	Paola Longoria	Mexico	65	77
18t. 33.75	Ramona Vonondarza	Venezuela	18	23
18t. 33.75	Gerri Stoffregen	Cincinnati, OH	25	24
20. 33.5	Carola Loma	Bolivia	33	75

## 2004-05 LADIES PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCORE CARD &amp; SCHEDULE

Rosarito Beach	Christie Van Hees def. Kerri Wachtel	11-9, 11-6, 11-9
Gaithersburg	Cheryl Gudinas def. Christie Van Hees	11-6, 9-11, 11-6, 11-5
Memphis	Cheryl Gudinas def. Rhonda Rajsich	11-8, 11-5, 8-11, 12-14, 11-3
Jan. 27-30	Stockton, CA	InShape Sports Club
Feb. 10-13	Atlanta, GA	Southern Athletic Club
Feb. 24-27	Clinton, SC	Clinton YMCA
March 4-6	Miami, FL	University of Miami
Mar. 11-13	Nashville, TN	Downtown YMCA
April 21-24	Chicago, IL	Schaumburg Tennis Plus



For information concerning LPRA events, contact Chris Wachtel at 513-383-0219, send e-mail to cwachtel@ladiesproracquetball.com, or visit [www.LadiesProRacquetball.com](http://www.LadiesProRacquetball.com)

# Past, Present, Future

BY BRIAN POINTELIN  
PHOTO BY GEOFF THOMSEN

## The Past:

November proved to be a great month as two Legends events were held. The first took place in Sarasota followed by the US OPEN in Memphis.

Joe Copolla held a phenomenal event in Sarasota featuring Cliff Swain, Dave Peck, Marty Hogan, Mike Ray, Woody Clouse, Ruben Gonzalez, Scott Oliver and Corey Brysman. The event raised proceeds benefiting the Salvation Army and Florida hurricane victims. Even tennis legend Martina Navratilova made an appearance while Rhonda Rajsich played a doubles match with Shari Coplen. The stop was definitely a success and drew over 200 players from across the state.

Oh yeah, and there was some good racquetball. Gonzalez and Clouse squared off in the quarterfinals in perhaps the match of the tournament. Gonzalez won 11-9 in the breaker as both players threw their bodies all over the floor during almost every rally. The finals had Hogan and Swain facing one another for the title, but in the end, a sore arm and a tough drive serve by Hogan left Swain longing for Memphis.



Gonzalez vs Hogan

his hands on - until this year. After overpowering Dave Peck in the semifinals, Hogan was set to face defending champ, Ruben Gonzalez in a re-match of the 2003 final. Gonzalez came out smoking in the first game, but Hogan began drive serving in the second to even things up and force a tie-breaker. In the breaker, it was all Hogan as he pounded drive serves and kept Gonzalez guessing during the rallies. Finally, at long last, Hogan was able to raise the US OPEN Champions Cup.

## The Present:

The months of January and February are jam packed with Legends events.

**January 14-16:** The first event of the New Year will kick off in Cleveland at the Severance Athletic Club. Event Director Merle Walker has put together an incredible schedule of events, including a "Big D" Roadshow, a serving clinic by the "King of Swing" Cliff Swain, and also a junior clinic by Marty Hogan. For a full schedule, tournament information and results, you can check out [www.clevelandracquetball.com/open](http://www.clevelandracquetball.com/open).

**January 28-30:** The Tour heads south to Dallas, Texas and the Maverick Athletic Club. Known for their amazing tournaments and their southern hospitality, Leo Vasquez and staff have a great time planned.



**February 4-6:** What could be better than fun in the sun?? How about playing racquetball in sunny Coral Springs, Florida? The tour will be making a repeat appearance in Coral Springs where the charity of choice, at the time of writing, will again be the Salvation Army. Dean Katchel and staff always put on great events and the Legends are ecstatic to go back in the spring.

**February 17-20:** From fun in the sun, to the slopes and snow in Salt Lake City, Utah we go. Hopefully the snow stays away so the old men can play. There is a weekend of activities planned with skiing optional.

## The Future:

The Legends Tour is very excited to be headed to San Francisco March 17-21 during the IHRSA Convention. With media sessions, personal appearances by players at the Convention, and autograph sessions, the focus of the week will be completely on the game of racquetball and helping to promote the sport to a multitude of companies, and outside sources. We are very excited about the opportunity to show off the sport and potentially help it grow.

## Please note the following schedule changes:

**Denver:** Event in January has been re-scheduled for September

**Honolulu:** Has been cancelled.

## For more information or changes, you can check out the following websites:

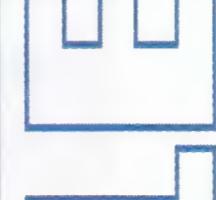
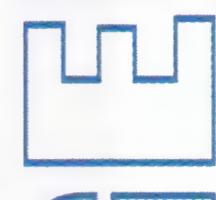
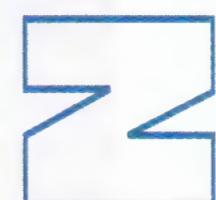
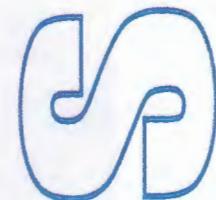
[www.legendsrbtour.com](http://www.legendsrbtour.com) or [www.topseedathletics.com](http://www.topseedathletics.com), or you can e-mail the Legends Tour Commissioner, Brian Pointelin at [bpointelin@aol.com](mailto:bpointelin@aol.com)

## 2004-2005 Legends Tour Season Rankings

(as of 12/15/04)

1.	Marty Hogan	St. Louis, MO
2.	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA
3.	Ruben Gonzalez	Staten Island, NY
4.	Corey Brysman	Miami, FL
5.	Dave Peck	Austin, TX
6.	Mike Ray	Hilton Head, SC
7.	Derek Robinson	Denver, CO
8.	Gerry Price	Sacramento, CA
9.	Ben Koltun	St. Louis, MO
10.	Woody Clouse	Denver, CO

For more information concerning Legends Tour events contact Brian Pointelin at [BPointelin@aol.com](mailto:BPointelin@aol.com)



## MCDONALDS RECEIVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Martha McDonald with Brian Hawkes

As far as we at WOR can tell, there is only one person who has attended every Outdoor National over the last 30 years! Martha McDonald of Gainesville, Florida is legendary in outdoor circles and continues to travel and play with her husband Greg and sons Jack and Chris. Martha and Greg are cornerstone's of outdoor racquetball in the Southeast and Martha spent years as a women's pro player in the 70's. She has always been an outdoor enthusiast and many of her best indoor shots were developed on the hot, humid, outdoor courts of Florida.



Martha and Greg have won numerous Mixed National Outdoor Championships throughout the years and, at the 2004 Outdoor Nationals, they were recognized with a special player recognition award. Tournament sponsor Rob Hoff presented the award for their 30 years of involvement in outdoor racquetball. All of us at WOR are honored and excited to have people like the McDonalds involved with our organization.

## WAIKIKI BEACH COMBINES RACQUETBALL AND FOOTBALL IN FEBRUARY EVENT

The 2005 Hawaiian Outdoor Open - A WOR Super Series Event

February 10-12, 2005

Tournament Director: "Big Rod" Felton, 808-255-6968, Felton@aloha.net



It is one of the most beautiful beaches in the world and WOR is heading back in February with the NFL! The Hawaiian Outdoor Open, February 10-12 is not only one of the most popular events on the WOR tour, but this year will be held during the NFL's Pro Bowl week. The event is the ultimate vacation with great racquetball right on the beach at Fort Derussy, lots of sun, and the Pro Bowl all while it is snowing throughout much of the country. This WOR Super Series event offers divisions of all levels of play and features the big name stars of the outdoor game from California, New York, and Florida including Marty Hogan. Big Rod Felton is the island's greatest host and all the events in Hawaii are great play on and off the court!



A vacation package is available through Campbell Cruises and Tours that includes both the NFL Pro Bowl and the Hawaiian Outdoor Open. The tour runs from February 7-14. For more information contact Pam Gray of Campbell Cruises & Tours at (800) 586-7245 or log onto [www.campbellcruises-tours.com](http://www.campbellcruises-tours.com)

## WOR NATIONALS

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR THE OUTDOOR NATIONALS!

Make plans now to attend the biggest outdoor tournament of the year - The WOR Allstate- Ektelon 31st Outdoor Nationals, July 8-10, 2005 at the beautiful Golden West College in Huntington Beach, California. The event is the highlight of the WOR season with singles and doubles divisions for every level of play including the marquee Pro Singles and Pro Doubles. 2004 Pro Singles National Champion Rocky Carson, as well as 2004 Pro Doubles National Champions Greg Solis and Craig Lane will be on hand to defend the most prestigious titles in outdoor racquetball. They will be joined by players from throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The WOR Nationals features food, fun, music, and activities for every age. Disneyland and the beach are close and discount rates at the Hotel Huntington Beach are available for all players & spectators.

Mark your calendar and plan on some So-Cal sun and fun at the WOR Nationals. Check the WOR website or with WOR National Tournament Director Robert Martinez ([Robert@WorldOutdoorRacquetball.com](mailto:Robert@WorldOutdoorRacquetball.com)) for more info.

## VENUE FEATURE



One of the most exciting parts of WOR getting started is the tremendous number of outdoor facilities we are finding. Check out the pics below of the Tennis Learning Center in Boca

Raton, Florida. This is the future home to a large WOR event and one of the best outdoor facilities in the country! It features 12 lighted 3-wall courts in addition to a water park, soccer fields, basketball courts, and nineteen tennis courts.



### 2004-2005 WOR Season Rankings (as of 12/1/2004)

#### MEN'S PRO SINGLES

1.	Greg Solis	990
2.	Rocky Carson	600
3.	Jesus Ocana	560
4.	Dave Genevay	475
5.	Brian Hawkes	390
6.	Tim McGuire	375
7.	Mike Behar	340
8.	Greg Freeze	275
9.	Gary Martin	275
10.	Kevin Booth	275

#### Men's Pro Doubles

1.	Gary Martin	1425
2.	Rob Hoff	1190
3.	Robert Martinez	1100
4.	Kevin Booth	1025
5.	Greg Solis	965
6.	Craig Lane	790
7.	Freddy Ramirez	690
8.	Mike Peters	675
9.	Robert Sostre	575
10.	Greg Freeze	550



## World Championships on TV

The IRF has just received airing dates from The Tennis Channel for the broadcast of the XII IRF World Championships from Anyang, Korea. There are four separate broadcasts covering men's and women's singles and doubles. Each broadcast is two hours long with times to be announced in December.

**Episode #1:** March 6th, 10th and 12th

**Episode #2:** March 13th, 17th and 19th

**Episode #3:** March 20th, 24th and 26th

**Episode #4:** March 27th, 30th and April 2nd

## Ireland

### Double Gold for Skehan and O'Hagan

Junlie Skehan (Touraneena) and Ruairi O'Hagan (Fermoy) were double gold medal winners at the All-Ireland Junior Championships in Castlebar. Skehan won the Under 17 and Under 21 titles while O'Hagan won the Under 15 and Under 17 titles. Other champions were Katie Kenny (Castlebar), Majella Haverty (Castlebar), Karen Cliffe (Touraneena), Daire Gargan (Kingscourt) Sean Conron (Touraneena), and Triston Hickey (Touraneena).

### Farrell Causes Upset at Munster Open

Joe Farrell of Arklow was the winner of the Men's Open at the 2004 Munster Open held in Fermoy, Ireland. Farrell upset top seeded Noel O'Callaghan in the final, 15-14, 12-15, 11-9. Susan Neary took home the women's open title and Vincent Fitzgerald earned the men's B/C crown. Don Lawlor (Kilkenny) and Niamh Coffey (Touraneena) earned the men's and women's novice titles, respectively.

## Upcoming IRF Events

January 14-16	Canadian National Team Selection - Doubles
January 28-30	24th German National Championships
January 29	2005 English National Championships
February 4-6	Canadian National Team Selection - Singles
February 25-27	Victoria Open
March	Dutch Open
April	18th Pan American Racquetball Championships
April 1-2	Nova Scotia Open
April 1-3	2005 23rd German Open
April 23-25	3rd English Open
April 26-30	Canadian Junior National Championships
April 29-May 2	Arklow Irish Open
May	2005 Japan Open

## Dominican Republic

### Social Program Combined With Racquetball Classes

As part of racquetball development in the Dominican Republic, a social program for juniors taking racquetball classes has been created. During this program, the juniors will be taking part in an Odontological evaluation. This program assures the health of the juniors taking racquetball classes while at the same time offering support to the families of those juniors by the racquetball community.

## Belgium

### O'Callaghan wins Belgian Open

Noel O'Callaghan (Ireland) was the winner of the 2004 Belgian Open in Antwerp. He defeated Peter DeJong (Netherlands) in straight games to earn the title. O'Callaghan later teamed up with club mate John Comerford to win the Open doubles, defeating Bart Wouters (Belgium) and Bjorn Jensen (Germany) in the final.

## France

### 2005 French Open Site and Dates Announced

The 2005 French Open will be held in Paris at the Forest Hill City Form Club January 15-16, 2005. Do not miss this major European event and contact Alex du Fresne to enter at alexracquet@wanadoo.fr.

Calgary	Canada
Hamburg	Germany
Alconbury	England
Brossard	Canada
Victoria	Canada
Zoetermeer	Netherlands
Caracas	Venezuela
Halifax	Canada
Hamburg	Germany
Rendlesham	England
Winnipeg	Canada
Arklow	Ireland
Tokyo	Japan

# IRF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

SAN LUIS POTOSI, MEXICO  
DECEMBER 17-22

## THE VENUE



Perhaps one of the most complete sport venues in the world, Los Loma Athletic Club in San Luis Potosi Mexico provided the perfect setting for the first Junior World Championships to be held outside the United States. Eight full back glass wall courts, including two with sidewall exhibition glass, and amphitheater seating behind all courts, provided spectators and players with great visibility and viewing.

## THE COUNTRIES

Over 340 juniors, representing 12 countries, competing in one of the largest Junior World Championships in years. Countries represented were Canada, Mexico, United States, Venezuela, Australia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Cuba, England, and Puerto Rico. Increased participation from Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Guatemala indicated the success of their junior programs.

## OUTSTANDING US PERFORMANCES

### BEN CROFT



Perhaps this was the most outstanding competition of Ben's junior career. Heckled and intimidated by fans, Ben kept his composure and concentration to defeat Mexico's Agustin Tristan in the semis and Gilbert De Los Rios in the finals. This was sweet revenge for Ben who was beat by Agustin in the Pro division at the US Open.

### ASHLEY WILLHITE



It was obvious that Ashley has worked hard on her game since June. Although she was defeated in the round robin competition by Canada she was able to bounce back and defeat the same girl in the gold medal match. Shane Wood described Ashley as "one of the toughest competitors on the team" and "a player who gives everything she has at all times".

### JESI FULLER



Almost but not quite! Jesi saved her best performance of the year for the World Championships but was unable to hold a tiebreaker lead to capture the title. Jesi defeated one of Mexico's strongest players Nancy Enriquez in the semis and after Adrianne Fisher's disappointing performance in the semis Jesi found herself in the finals against Samantha Salas of Mexico. Jesi's strong performance in the finals established her as a future up and coming collegiate and perhaps adult US Team player.

# WHAT HAPPENED?

Adrienne Fisher losing in the semis of the juniors? Was it Possible? It seems since Adrienne has left Ohio and entered college her game has struggled. She was forced to win two tough tiebreaker matches at Junior Nationals just to qualify and lost in the first round of the US Open to 15-year-old Paola Longora of Mexico. Once referred to as the next Michelle Gould it is obvious that Adrienne needs to recommit herself to a more disciplined training and conditioning program in order to be successful the rest of this season.

## THE FUTURE

Mexico has definitely established itself as the team to beat in junior racquetball. With their well-established junior racquetball centers, and continual exposure to good coaching the Mexican juniors have a very strong and deep junior racquetball program.

Without a strong US club and state commitment to develop and work with juniors (similar to Oregon's program) the current trend of Mexico being number one may not change for many years.

## RESULTS

### WORLD CUP

1. Mexico
2. USA
3. Canada

### ESPIRIT CUP

1. Mexico
2. USA
3. Ecuador

### FRIENDSHIP CUP

1. Mexico
2. Canada
3. USA



## THE COACHES

The US was indeed fortunate to have a dedicated and experienced coaching staff, which spent endless hours of volunteer time and service to help our junior players become the best possible athletes and representatives of USA Racquetball.

### KELLEY BEANE

Dedicated, motivated and great organizer. Without her leadership the team would struggle to exist.

### CHERYL GUDINAS

Positive image provides mental toughness and strategic expertise. Great to have a World Champion as role model.

### SHANE WOOD

Tireless, unwavering dedication to promote junior racquetball. Excellent ability to analyze opponent's weakness.

### JACK HUCZEK

Another example of a World Champion giving back to the sport. Role model for discipline and off-court preparation.

### JEN MYERS

No one better to work with our young players 12 and under. Patient, understanding and compassionate.



# Scholarships

The USA Racquetball Board of Directors recently awarded scholarships to seven collegiate athletes that applied for scholarship. The scholarship committee reviewed the list of applicants and determined the award recipients.

The scholarship program began in 1990 and has granted awards to 61 athletes totaling \$37,750. The National Masters Racquetball Association and Women's Senior Masters Racquetball Association are two of the primary contributors for this award although there remains a growing list of individual donors. Proceeds from the fund are used to issue awards to athletes who obtain, complete and submit applications by the June 15, 2005 deadline.

To obtain an application please contact USAR or go to: [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org) and search "Scholarship" under the sitemap/index



**ERIK  
BECKER**

(University of  
Missouri -  
Columbia)



**Da'Monique  
Davis**

(University of  
Alabama)



**Mathew  
Karmelin**

(University of  
Alabama)



**Philip  
Mathews**

(University of  
Illinois)



**Nicholas  
Pagano**

(Saint Louis  
University)



**Brandon  
Stanley**

(Louisiana State  
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# BookReviews



By TOM RALL

Racquetball players, as well as all active representatives of the game should be aware of what printed resources about the sport of racquetball are out there. This will allow them to refer beginner players, or those merely interested in the game to yet another source from which to read and learn about racquetball. The more 'sources' players and representatives know about, the greater he or she becomes a symbol of leadership for local players regardless of geography. In essence, **YOU** become their resource!

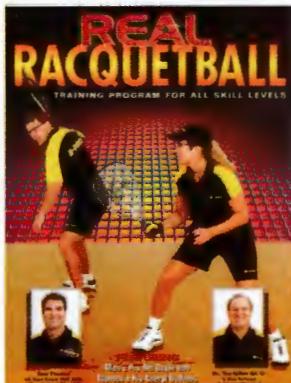
Much has been written about racquetball since Joe Sobek invented the game in 1949 some fifty-four years ago. But despite what has been put in books or manuals, many have learned the game through exposure by simply going to their gym, or a YMCA, or local recreation center. For some, however, who have no gym close to them, and do not have racquetball played in their area, the game must be learned another way. For those interested in learning what the sport was and where it came from, this meant reading and learning about the sport in books without ever stepping on to a court.

## REAL RACQUETBALL

**Authors:** Tom Travers and Dr. Tim Miller Ed. D.

**BIO:** Both authors have been players, teachers and coaches for over 40 years

- **Tom Travers** coached the US Team 1997 2002 and is 6 Time National Champion
- **Dr. Tim Miller** is a 5 Time Collegiate Champion Team Coach and was recognized in 2001 by the US Olympic Committee as 'Racquetball Development Coach of the Year'



With illustrative pictures of both Tim Doyle and Cheryl Gudinas and others throughout the book, *Real Racquetball* focuses on ways to improve fitness, player skills and strategies in order to play better, and be a more effective player when competing. In addition to this, there is also a high focus given to ways to win matches and overcome continued losses to the same players over and over again. Several

professional players in this regard have provided their keen insight on how they strategize, and how they adjust their game in order to win more. Chapters on 'Shots and Their Mechanics', 'Serve Philosophy and Mechanics', and 'Training' are the longest chapters together making up thirty-five pages, which is approximately one-third of the 120 page book. The standard

Fortunately, almost any large bookstore will provide a variety of books to read on the sport. Patrons who make their way to the sports books section will find publications about racquetball, although not in high numbers; i.e. most sports sections in book stores will stock several volumes of books on our national team sports like baseball, football, basketball, hockey and soccer. As America's biggest and most popular sports these naturally take up the bulk of the space on the shelves. Others like boxing, boating, golf, tennis, squash, badminton and handball fill nearly all of the remaining shelves. All of these aside there are always some books on America's newest and fastest growing sport - **Racquetball!**

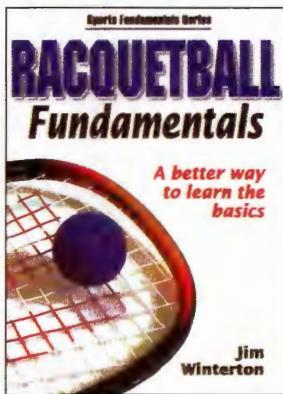
The books that have been written about racquetball provide a wealth of information about the game ranging anywhere from how it had its humble beginning and how it is played, to what kind of equipment is used and where tournaments are held. One can easily learn much about the sport by simply reading about it. The two books I have listed below are excellent and provide an in depth understanding about what racquetball is and how it should be played. I will be reviewing several other books in the months ahead that will appear in upcoming issues. Look for them and be sure to tell your friends about them!

chapters such as how to play the game, how to learn more about forehand and backhand mechanics, and how to practice, are presented in a well-organized fashion. There are also three chapters devoted to the history of the game, basic rules, as well as a full nineteen pages devoted to the 2003-2004 official rules of the game. The chapter on 'Equipment', provides why equipment really can make a difference when playing competitively. Racquets, eyewear, shoes, balls, sweatbands, shock absorbers, gloves and strings are discussed. Along these lines, the authors recommend that "In order to become a better player, get a quality racquet," and coin the phrase that in this regard, "You get what you pay for." Many will agree that although it does not make up the entire game the Serve and Return of Serve are absolute essentials to competitive racquetball success. Further, put into percentages, it would not be difficult to build the argument that these two activity-skills represent more than half, or 50% of the game. It goes without saying that if one's serve, or return of serve is ineffective, that player stands a poor chance of winning. Thus, the attention given in two chapters entitled 'Serve Philosophy and Serve Mechanics', and 'Return of Serve Philosophy and Technique' are excellent and in my opinion two of the very best out there. Overall, this publication is clearly one of the finest available. Both Tom Travers and Dr. Tim Miller have done a very fine job making point after point on the importance of staying fit, and improving court skills and strategies in order to play better and win more often. If your interest is in winning then this book is a definite must read! This publication is available at most nationally recognized bookstores (Borders, Barnes & Noble, etc).

## Racquetball Fundamentals, A Sports Fundamentals Series

**Author:** Jim Winterton

**BIO:** Has been coaching Racquetball for over 30 years and is regarded by many as the best in the world; Is the Director of the High Performance Racquetball Camp in Colorado Springs, CO; National Team Coach for 12 years; 5 Time Tournament of the Americas Team Championships (1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2002); Coached his Teams to Three First-Place Standings in the Pan American games (1995, 1999, 2003); Former Coach of the US Junior National Team; Head Coach of Mexican national Racquetball Team (1999, 2001); Named 3 Times as Racquetball Coach of the Year by the US Olympic Committee; Racquetball Hall of Fame Inductee (1999); Coaching Clinician for the International Professional Racquetball Association



some not offered in other publications such as, 'Court Positioning', 'Footwork', 'Kill Shots and Passing Shots', 'Doubles', and some 'Advanced Serves and Shots'. Each chapter is presented in a simple and easy fashion easy for enthusiasts to learn from. Even the text is brief and to the point, yet says so much; i.e. players often overlook the fact that, "Because the serve is the only shot that does not have to be hurried, a player should take his time executing it." The entire

I'd strongly suggest passing along to friends and family alike the names of the aforementioned books, as well as the Internet Site [www.HumanKinetics.com](http://www.HumanKinetics.com). where Racquetball Fundamentals can be found. Not all of us are fortunate enough to have a facility near us where we can play. Many people throughout the country today live with no racquetball courts near them for miles. Thus, the game loses popularity and people lose interest. Even in the eighties when racquetball had its best and most exciting days, there were still cities and towns throughout America where there were no racquetball courts for the game to be played. Unlike tennis, which has courts in seemingly every park in the United States, racquetball does not and many opt for playing tennis or badminton instead of racquetball. The same oddly enough holds true for both

book is saturated with important playing tips like this one. What is also interesting is that rather than just explain portions of the game and expect the reader to learn, the author provides 'Drills' to perform as well as charts to record practice results. Many who start playing fear executing the dreaded back hand shot. But the author explains 'Common Backhand Problems', that make the learning process that much easier, and clearer. Further, Jim provides a Backhand Error Checklist complete with Symptoms and Corrections columns so there is nothing left to the imagination when execution is less than perfect. I was particularly impressed with Jim's having devoted several pages to 'Footwork' and also providing many footwork drills for players to practice in order to improve both their mobility and shot preparation. I have found no other publication that explains and stresses the importance of footwork as well. And this is odd, considering racquetball is a game that demands quick motion and both high-speed movement and relative body mechanics. If for no other reason, I would encourage people to acquire this book to read the chapter on 'Footwork'. I am certain after reading it players at all levels will improve their play in many ways. There are also what I refer to as surprise explanations that pop up all through this book. These are pieces of information that make you just stop and think. One such example is Jim's approach to explaining about a Kill Shot verses a Passing Shot. It isn't an explanation we would expect and I sense it will surprise players at all levels. And there is so much more! Side Wall Serves and Shots, On-Court Strategies, Match Play Strategies, Doubles, Shot Location and Selection, even an explanation about when and why to dive for shots. This is a complete book that covers far more than the rest. And it does so in an easy to understand way. Nothing is put forth in an 'elevated' fashion. There's just plain and simple stuff here, all worth its weight in gold! Jim Winterton has taken all the years of playing, teaching, and coaching the game of Racquetball and put it down in one book for us all to benefit from. In so doing he has topped the rest. This book is an absolute must have! If that's not enough, at \$15.95 it also costs less than nearly all other publications. This book is available at most nationally recognized bookstores (Borders, Barnes & Noble, etc). It can also be found on the Internet at [www.HumanKinetics.com](http://www.HumanKinetics.com).

handball and squash. Fortunately we live in a computer age. And the Internet has joined cities together where never before thought possible.

Books can be read about our sport all over the country, the world for that matter. Every city, every town has a library. And nearly all libraries have Internet access. So players and sport representatives pass the word! Tell your friends and tell them to tell everyone they know that although they may not be able to play racquetball, they can at least learn about it through books. It's true. We do live in a computer age. And things change quickly as computer technology advances. Many things will come and go. But books...Books above everything else, will remain!

*Tom Rall has been playing Racquetball since 1972, is a freelance writer for Racquetball Magazine and other sports publications. He has served on several State Racquetball Boards and is an avid Racquetball enthusiast and promoter of the game. Tom was a 'Second Alternate' on the 1972 Olympic Diving Team, is on the Ektelon Advisory Staff, is an AMPRO Certified Instructor, holds 10 National Racquetball Titles, and was a former #1 Ranked player. He is also writing his first book on Racquetball, which is due out in 2005.*



By SHANE WOOD, CHAIRMAN, USAR INTERCOLLEGiate COUNCIL

Shane Wood recently had a chance to pick the brains of two of the most successful Intercollegiate racquetball players of all time. Kristen Walsh won three National Intercollegiate titles while competing for Baldwin Wallace College and the University of Utah. Jack Huczak has gathered in three of his own National Intercollegiate titles and is attempting to win a fourth this year for Oakland University in Michigan.

**Racquetball Magazine:** As an elite athlete in the sport of racquetball, what influenced your decision to play in the National Intercollegiate Championships?

**Kristen Walsh:** The main reason I play racquetball is because I have fun doing it and I'm competitive. Collegiate Nationals was one of the most fun tournaments I've ever played because of the camaraderie of everybody in attendance. It was a tournament I could be around kids my own age and compete as not only an individual, but as a team. There is something to be said of the extra support you get when competing as a team versus an individual. Collegiate Nationals also serves as a qualifier for the U.S. Adult National Team, so that definitely helped influence my decision to play a little bit.

**Jack Huczak:** Being in College is something that I take a lot of pride in. To do all the things that I want to do, I have to take classes full-time all year round. I realize that you're only in College once, and being eligible to compete at Collegiate Nationals is something that I have earned the privilege to do and I wanted to take that opportunity while I can.

**RM:** Balancing racquetball, schoolwork and social time is an issue that everybody in collegiate sports has had to deal with at

one time or another. By taking your game to the level that you have obviously required a very disciplined schedule. How have you been able to handle the amount of time that you put into racquetball, while still maintaining schoolwork and social life? What advice can you give to other student athletes that are having the same issues?

**KW:** Balancing racquetball, schoolwork, social time and other extra-curricular activities is definitely

an issue I have to deal with. I think the best advice I could give to other student athletes with the same issues is to decide what your priorities are first. I love the sport, but I also realize that I won't be making a living with it anytime soon because there isn't that much money right now in women's racquetball. So my first priority is school. I make sure I have the time to study and get my homework done and then I can schedule my other activities. Sometimes everything else suffers when I have a big test because I will spend a lot of time studying. Yes, evening practicing racquetball is affected by my schoolwork!

My second priority, racquetball, gets scheduled in pretty much every day with playing and working out. I still spend time with my boyfriend and go out with friends and have a good time, but I'm a little more conscientious of going to bed at a decent hour so I can get up to work out the next morning. That is sometimes an impossible task because I'm the worst morning person EVER! (Interviewer's Note - after spending a week with Kristen at the U.S. Junior Team Camp in Colorado, with our runs scheduled at 6:30 in the morning, I second that comment) I do have my lists of

things I need to get done after I'm done working out or going to class. I even have time to do other things I love such as snowboarding, playing the piano and playing basketball and volleyball with friends.

**JH:** Even before College, in High School and earlier, I learned very quickly how to balance my schedule while playing several sports, as well as racquetball. My parents deserve the credit in teaching me how to plan my schedules and find time during the days to do the things that need to get done. Simply stated, if you are devoted and dedicated, you will find the time. The excuse, "I just don't have the time" just doesn't cut it for me. I used to get up before 5:00 every morning to be at the gym to get to the point that I'm at. I would have liked to sleep in, but you don't always get to do the things you want to do, you just find a way to get it done. I have worked in College to set up a schedule so I can do things, such as racquetball, that I want to do. My advice would be that if you want to have success, choose which area of your life will have to take a second priority. Don't get caught with the "I don't have time" excuse. That's very easy to do.

Kristen Walsh

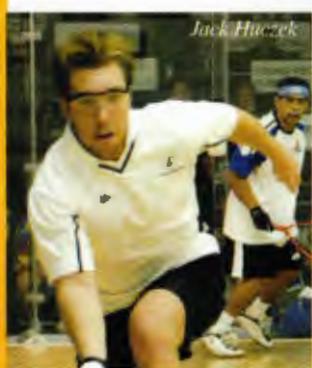


**RM:** Jack, while I believe it's fantastic that these student athletes get a chance to see racquetball at its highest level and an asset to have you participate in Collegiate Racquetball, as you know, there are many critics out there that believe you should not be playing in Collegiate Nationals, or any amateur events for that matter, given your Pro Ranking. What are your thoughts on that subject?

**JH:** I don't feel that anybody should EVER be hindered from playing any type of event given they're following the rules that are already in place. If there's a problem with the system, then people should approach the rules and policies that are set, not the athlete following them. It means even more when it's Collegiate Racquetball because it's something that you only get a chance to experience once in your lifetime. I take a lot of pride in putting in the work to earn this opportunity and I'm not too sure why I, or any athlete in the same situation, would be questioned about participating in events that I've worked so hard to have the chance to play.

**RM:** Kristen, talk a little bit about the chance to be able to play with your mother at last year's Collegiate Nationals.

**KW:** It is always so funny to see the look on peoples' faces when I say my mother and I won Collegiate Nationals. A year and a half ago my mom decided she was going to get her masters degree at the University of Utah. I told her she had better be ready to compete in her first Collegiate Nationals with me. It was fun helping my mom get ready to play and to see her get nervous and excited about the tournament. It was cool to be on the other side at this tournament to coach her through matches and be a nervous wreck watching from outside the court. Now I know how some parents leave racquetball tournaments with a few more gray hairs than they came with! It was definitely an experience both of us will remember forever. How many people can say they won collegiate national doubles with their mom or dad as a partner? It meant a lot to me to be able to play with the woman that introduced me to the game and with someone that is such a great role model for me as a person.



# JUNIOR JUNIOR MATTERS

By the time you read this, the 2004 IRF Pro Kennex World Junior Racquetball Championships will have concluded in San Luis Potosi, Mexico and we will all know whether the United States was able to regain the World Cup and the Espirit Cup. In this column, however, I would like to talk about the team itself.

Back in early August, they gathered at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs for their weeklong camp with coaches Kelley Beane, Cheryl Gudinas, Kristen Walsh, and Shane Wood. At the initial meeting, they reelected Adrienne Fisher and Dan Sheppick as captains. As the camp went on it was obvious that this year felt different. Despite the fact that the team members come from all over the country their closeness was apparent. It could be seen in their eyes that they all were very committed to working their hardest at this camp and the Junior Worlds ahead.

## 18'S

Adrienne Fisher (Ohio) is a natural leader for this team and has earned a spot on the squad in all six years that she has been eligible. She is also the reigning 18- girl's singles World Champion and double-qualified for this year's team by winning the girl's 18- Junior Olympics with Jesi Fuller as her partner.

Jesi Fuller (New Mexico) not only qualified in doubles with Adrienne Fisher, but finishes second to Fisher in the girl's 18- singles Junior Olympics. Jesi is making her third appearance on the team and is half of the reigning girl's 18- World Champion doubles team.

Ben Croft (Illinois) was able to repeat as the boy's 18- Junior Olympic singles champion and also paired with Dan Sheppick to earn the boy's 18- Junior Olympic doubles title. Ben is attempting to repeat his performance a year ago when he was able to win the boy's 18- World Singles Champion.

Charlie Pratt (Oregon) is making his third appearance on the team. Usually known for his doubles with partner and current High School Champion, Joey Lakowske, Charlie put together a very strong tournament at Junior Nationals before losing to Ben in a tiebreaker for the title.

Dan Sheppick (Oregon) rounds out the boy's 18- team members and earned his fourth appointment on the team by teaming up with Ben Croft to win the boy's 18- Junior Olympic doubles title.

## 16'S

Ashley Wilhite (Oregon) leads the way in girl's 16- singles as the 2004 Junior Olympic champion. This marks her second appearance on the team.

Kara Mazur (Connecticut) made the camp in 2003 as a third place finisher and used that experience to take second in girl's 16- singles and makes her first appearance on the team.

Holly Hettesheimer (Ohio) and Samantha McGuffey (Ohio) are making their first appearance on the team after surviving a tough test in the doubles at Junior Nationals. That experience should serve them well in the hostile environment predicted for Junior Worlds.

Zach Apperson (Ohio) earned his first appearance on the team in a big way by double-qualifying in the boy's 16- by winning both the boy's 16- Junior Olympic singles title then teaming with Alan Crockett for the boy's 16- doubles crown.

Alan Crockett (Alabama) also double-qualified as he not only teamed with Apperson for the doubles title, but finished second to his partner in the boy's 16- singles division.

## 14'S

Shannon Inglesby (Oregon) and Brittany Leggett (Oregon) are making their second appearance on the team.

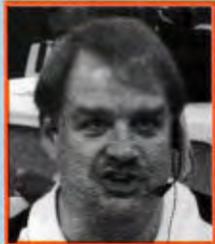
And for the second straight year, they have double qualified. The only difference is that this year Shannon beat Brittany in the girl's 14- Junior Olympic final.

Ismael Aldana (California) and Jose Rojas (California) also double-qualified for the team by dominating both the singles and doubles at the Junior Olympics. For Ismael, this is his second appearance on the team, while Jose is making his first appearance.



So, now you know their names, it's time to learn a little something about them as people. Last May, a junior player from Colorado, Jeremy Lanosga, was paralyzed in a climbing accident. When the team came out to Colorado Springs in August for their training camp, they were offered the opportunity to have an afternoon off on Friday, their last full day of camp, or they could go and visit Jeremy while he was on an outing from his hospital. This team, despite the fact that only a handful of the players even knew Jeremy, voted unanimously to spend part of that Friday afternoon with Jeremy. That visit was an extremely selfless act by these young people, but it lifted Jeremy's spirits immeasurably. I cannot thank them enough for that gesture, but I can tell you that I am proud that they represent the United States!

# WHAT'S THE GALL?



» BY OTTO DIETRICH ■ USA RACQUETBALL NATIONAL RULES COMMISSIONER

If you look on pages 27 thru 38 of the last issue of RACQUETBALL Magazine you will discover the complete text from the newly updated USAR rulebook. In it you will find not only the USAR's rules, but also those of the IRT, LPRA, and WOR rules!

I encourage you to read it thoroughly and carefully, if you haven't already done so, and then pull it out and carry it with you the next time you go to your favorite racquetball courts.

There are a number of rule clarifications and wording changes contained therein. Prime examples are terms "Deadball" and "Avoidable" hinders which are now re-named as "Replay" and "Penalty" hinders respectively. Moreover, there is one particular rule addition that everyone should pay close attention to. Wording was added to Rule 3.16(a) which now gives the referee the authority to assess a timeout even if the player doesn't call for one as he walks off the court and automatically assess additional timeouts or possibly a technical foul (loss of a point) if more than 30 seconds is taken when only one timeout has been called. Be sure to read this rule carefully to get the precise details.

NICK BLASZAK FROM PORTLAND, OR, asks: In doubles, the right-side

“ . . . the doubles player who is not involved with either the on-going or pending shot cannot interfere with play without being penalized. ”

opponent sometimes hits a shot at the same time his partner on the left side, where I am playing, is taking up the exact position on the court that I think I need to be in to prepare to return his partner's shot. This happens quite often and we just "play it over". The "blocking" [Rule 3.15(c)] is all I can find about this, but it speaks of "moving" and, in this case, my opponent claims that he is entitled to his "spot" since he is already there and not "moving" as is described in the rule. That's why we play it over rather than enforce the prescribed penalty hinder. What do you think?

What you're addressing here is another rule that has had some clarifying wording added to indicate that any type of hindrance (includes moving or failing to move) by the non-hitting partner is "blocking" and, therefore, can be a penalty hinder. That's what your example sounds like to me, but I'd have to see it to be sure. I say that because some hindrances sort of "just happen" and I certainly am not advocating wholesale application of this rule to every single instance of contact involving the non-hitting partner. But hopefully it is now a bit clearer that the doubles player who is not involved with either the on-going or pending shot cannot interfere with play without being penalized.

Always "Play by the Rules" and, if you don't have a copy, I encourage you to find and review them on-line at: <http://www.usra.org/usa/pub&ref/Rulebook.htm>. Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at [ODietrich@usra.org](mailto:ODietrich@usra.org) and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of Racquetball.

# GET WITH THE PROGRAM



By CONNIE MARTIN

## RACQUETBALL ‘SELLS’

Yes, you should carry  
racquetball equipment...  
It's a source of  
profit and service

### Carry Popular Racquets, Have Demos and Special Order the Rest

You do not need to stock every brand and model. For racquets, carry what you know will sell and special order the rest.

### Carry Necessary Accessories

You should at least stock everyday accessories such as balls, gloves, eye guards and grips. There is nothing worse than a member coming to your club needing to purchase these items, but can't because you are either out or don't carry them.

### Check It Out

As a Pro Shop Manager, I have learned that whether I am in a club, whether it be mine or another, I am constantly looking at what the players are wearing before, during and after they play. I also check out what type of accessories they are using. Visual observation is very important in selling pro shop items. In order to know what to sell, you need to know what people are buying.

### Price Competitively

Check out other local clubs and pro shops, sporting good stores and discount stores to see what their prices are. It is important to price competitively in order to maintain confidence and loyalty. It is very hard sometimes to compete with on-line companies, but it can be done by offering service and no shipping charges.

**Remember that if you don't sell anything, you don't make anything.**

Even if your profit margin is small, you will make money on pro shop sales and provide a service to your members.

If you provide quality service you will have a customer for the duration of their membership.

Connie can be reached at: [Connie@CascadeAthleticClubs.com](mailto:Connie@CascadeAthleticClubs.com)  
For more programming ideas, visit [www.playracquetball.org](http://www.playracquetball.org)

## TRAINING TIPS FOR BODY AND MIND

» **By MARCY LYNCH**

### “EXCUSE ME PLEASE” - a Primer on Court Etiquette

Every sport has its etiquette. Although often unspoken, your etiquette defines your status within the sport. Knowing proper etiquette separates a veteran from a newbie. Take golf for instance. Try talking while someone ahead of you is teeing off. The hard stare from everyone within earshot sends a pretty clear message. Then there's tennis. Everyone is polite in tennis. There's not a lot of screaming and yelling. Even when your opponent 'misjudges' a line call, you're expected to accept it.

So what about racquetball? Just in case you hadn't stopped to think about it, here are some basic dos and don'ts.

#### DON'T'S

- Don't punch a court wall in anger. If you really must vent, at least don't use your racquet hand. And avoid smashing the racquet on the wall - at \$250 - \$300 a pop, who can afford such an outburst?
- Don't smile when you've tagged your opponent in the back of the leg and the welt is starting to form.
- Do NOT wear tube socks, shirts with holes, or really short shorts. Enough said.
- Don't play doubles with your spouse or partner. Remember, you have to go home with them.

#### DO'S

- Do tell your opponent when they've made a good shot. You'll lull them into complacency. They'll think you're actually a pretty nice person and soon their killer instinct will fade.
- Do call double bounces on yourself. It's inevitable that you will need that favor back somewhere in the match - and if it isn't reciprocated, the anger you'll feel is worth a point or two.
- Do upgrade your racquet more often than every 20 years.
- Do hang multiple gloves on the outside of your racquetball bag. The more gloves you have, the more 'victims' you portray to the world.

One more bit of advice. Be nice to everyone you see at a tournament. You never know who might be refereeing your matches. I guarantee if you follow these simple rules, you will always be seen as a real racquetball player!

# FRAN'S HOUSE

» By FRAN DAVIS



## QUESTION: When is the best time during a game to take a timeout?

ANSWER: I think all of you at one time or another have seen yourself in one, if not all, of the following situations:

- A** It's 10-10 in the second game and you've come up to serve for the fifth time without being able to score
- B** You just hit a shot you thought was good and the ref called it a skip ball at a crucial time in the match and you are furious
- C** The crowd is against you and you have lost your focus
- D** You just had a long rally and you are out of breath
- E** Your glove is wet and the racquet is slipping out of your hand

People always ask me what they should do in the above situations. My answer every time is - TAKE A TIMEOUT! A time out is a pause in the action.

Just as the strokes, the serve, and the return of serve are tools of the game, consider the TIMEOUT as another tool in your arsenal of weapons when you enter the court.

I just got back from The US Open and watched a classic semi final match between Cliff Swain and Jack Huzek and they both used their timeouts wisely. Let's take a look:

**Example 1:** Jack was down 1-7 then came up to serve, scoring three points in a row to make the score 4-7. Cliff finally gets a side out and before he got up to serve he called a timeout. He did it to regroup and get refocused. It worked as he went from 7-4 to 10-4. Excellent time out.

**Example 2:** Jack and Cliff were in the fifth game...the tiebreaker. They had battled back and forth for the entire game. At 8-8 Cliff scored two big points to make it 10-8. Jack immediately called a timeout in hopes of changing the momentum and tempo of the game. He came back after the timeout and earned a side out to get another opportunity to serve and score. He did just that and made it 9-10. A smart timeout.

At this point I'd like to share with you several opportunities of when it would be a good time to take a TIMEOUT:

- You are physically tired.
- Your shots are not working and you want to regroup.
- Your game plan is not working and you want to check it and make adjustments.
- You are too excited and need to calm down and refocus.
- Your opponent is on a roll and you want to change their momentum.
- You need fluids (water and electrolytes).
- You need to change equipment.
- You are upset with the referees call and need to let it go and focus on the now not the past.

When the game is over you should not have ANY time outs remaining, especially if you lost the game... because that means you did not do everything in your power to change the momentum of the match so you could give yourself the best opportunity to win. Remember, there is no point in saving your time outs...they are not redeemable at a later date, nor do they carry over to the next game. If you don't use them you lose them. So use them every chance you get...THE PROS DO!!!

### Jason Mannino

"I use it to take a break and get a pause in the action because things are not going my way. I look at the problem, evaluate it and try and fix what is wrong."

### Kane Waselenchuk

"I primarily use them to calm me down or change the tempo."

### Christie Van Hees

"I use them to change the tempo of the game or when my shots aren't working."

### Rhonda Rajsich

"Time outs are critical for me. I use them usually for three main reasons. To mentally regroup and evaluate what is going on in the match, to calm down after a bad call by the ref, and I also like to put a wrench into my opponent's momentum. After my opponent scores anywhere from two to four points in a row I take a time out."

### Kristen Walsh

"To me a time out is a momentum stopper as well as a chance for me to fix the shots I am missing."

I think this gives you some food for thought about "TIME OUTS". If you look at any other sport like football, baseball, soccer, etc. they use time outs as well. PLEASE I urge you to give this a try because I know it will make a difference in your game.

Hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction or the next best thing buy our video if you can't make a camp at this time. Go to [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com) for details on both the video and camps.

**“...consider the TIMEOUT as another tool in your arsenal of weapons when you enter the court.”**

# ELLISTYLE

» By JOHN ELLIS

Presented by  
**EKTELON**

## A COMMON MISTAKE & How to Fix It . . . ELLISTYLE

Picture this; you force your opponent into the backcourt with a nice ceiling ball and you get great center court position. You're ready to track down any shot they hit. Your opponent does exactly what you want and tries to force a 39' Sudsy Monchik style backhand splat. Of course they leave the splat up and for a quick second you have a "setup". Next thing you know, you're hitting your shot cross-court right back to your opponent. Why???? I see this play at every level and believe me, I'm guilty way too often!!

I'll tell you why this ill-advised cross-court shot happens so often. It's a product of improper footwork. The result most often allows your opponent to stay in the rally and likely have an opportunity to gain the advantage when they should basically be behind the eight ball. The correct shot is obvious, DOWN THE LINE (DTL)!! It's getting into the position to effectively hit the DTL that is difficult. Check out these photos to see the mistake happen and then the simple drill to help you make the necessary shot selection change.

Here's an example of how the mistake happens. Notice how I don't have my lead leg rotated over enough so that I'm facing the right side wall and able to hit the ball down the line. I leave the left foot pointing cross-court which will automatically force my shot to go cross-court. The only way to adjust the shot is to add a lot of wrist action. That wrist action will cause inaccuracies to the DTL, most notably a floater off the side wall right back to your opponent near center court with you in the way. Sound familiar?





Here's a simple drill to help you change your bad habit of going cross court off of your opponent's left-up splat/pinch. Add this drill to your practice routine, as it will take time to make the correct movements second nature. Remember, it's always easier on your body to not move as much, but that won't get you far in your racquetball life.

Basically the drill is not much different from what happens while playing. It's always easier to work on this drill with a practice partner. Have your partner leave you a splat setup and focus on rotating your body all the way over so that your shoulders are squared up to the sidewall. Likewise, your rear should end up facing the opposite sidewall instead of the back wall. Start the drill by making the setup easy so that you have more time to move your feet. As you get better, hit the setup a little harder or lower. Eventually you want the drill to be as close to actual game speed as possible and you can even continue by finishing the rally. Make the change and I promise you'll execute these setup opportunities at a higher percentage.



# Becoming a Pro/Open/A/B/C Player

## Your guide to achieving the next level of play.

### BE AN OPEN PLAYER!

**"YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE LAY-UP"**

**G**eorge Henshaw is the Assistant Head Coach/Offense for the Tennessee Titans. He is also an avid racquetball player. He still remembers a tip he learned from a top pro years ago. In order to win, "you have to make your lay ups".

Derek Robinson uses basketball as a cross trainer for racquetball. He firmly agrees that in order to be a top racquetball player, you must be able to make your set ups!

What does shooting a basketball have to do with improving your racquetball game? **EVERYTHING!** In basketball, teams that don't make the lay ups usually don't win. The same is true for racquetball players. If your goal is to be successful in the A or Open divisions, you have to make your lay ups. Which means, you have to make your set ups! Take the time to practice those shots your opponent "gives" to you each match. Front court set ups, back wall set ups and ceiling set ups. When practicing, set goals, be specific about the type of shot you want to hit, and repeat the shot over and over.

#### **BIG D'S ROADSHOW...**

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AND CHRISTIE  
VAN HEES.

## TOSSING THE BALL

### PURPOSE:

- Increase Core Stabilization
- Strengthen abdominal and back muscles
- Developing these muscle groups will allow you to maintain good posture and good form, which will translate in to more powerful and accurate shots – even when you are tired! A strong core also helps prevent lower back injuries.

### TIPS:

1. Begin your toss from low and across your body.
2. Toss the ball so your partner must lunge to the side to make the catch.
3. When tossing and catching, be sure you are stable and balanced.
4. Minimum of 10 repetitions on each side.





# THE ONE STEP

# VS

# THE TWO STEP

## MOTION ON THE LOW HARD SERVES

» BY SUDSY MONCHIK



Presented by



Today I am going to discuss with you "The One Step vs. the Two Step" motion on the low, hard, power serves such as the drive, the Z, the jam, etc. No matter which one you use, (the one or the two step motion) you want to make sure you step into your serve, a key part of the service motion. When you step into your serve it generates power by allowing you to use your hips very similar to the forehand mechanics, see the Sept./Oct. 2004 issue.

**When do you use a One Step or a Two Step Serve?**

**1-ONE STEP . . . Beginner to Low Intermediate**

**2-TWO STEP . . . Intermediate all the way up to the Pros.**

Let's take a closer look at my "Magical Footwork" for both:

### TRICK 1 READY POSITION

#### ONE STEP



- My back foot is right on the short line, not over the line
  - a. **For righties** - right foot on the short line
  - b. **For lefties** - left foot on the short line
- Feet are side by side, shoulder width apart
- Racquet up
- Eyes on the ball



#### TWO STEP

- My feet are right on the short line, not over the line
- Feet are one in front of the other
  - a. **For righties** - left foot in front of the right foot and the feet can be close together like mine or a little further apart
  - b. **For lefties** - right foot in front of the left foot and the feet can be close together like mine or a little further apart
- Racquet down
- Eyes on ball

### TRICK 2 1ST STEP/RACQUET

#### ONE STEP

- Step toward the front wall with your lead foot
- Ball is released
- Racquet begins to come down
- Eyes on the ball
- Weight relatively even

#### TWO STEP

- I step toward the front wall with my back foot
  - a. **For righties** - right foot
  - b. **For lefties** - left foot
- Ball is released
- Racquet comes up
- Eyes on ball



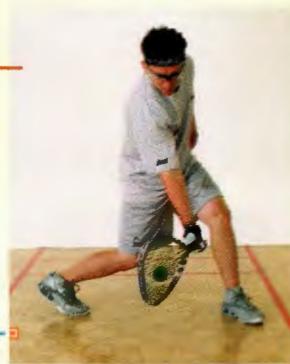
## TRICK 3 2ND STEP/SWING

### ONE STEP

N/A

### TWO STEP

- Step toward the front wall with your front foot (not at an angle - it locks your hips)
  - a. For righties - left foot
  - b. For lefties - right foot
- Racquet comes down close to contact point
- Eyes on ball



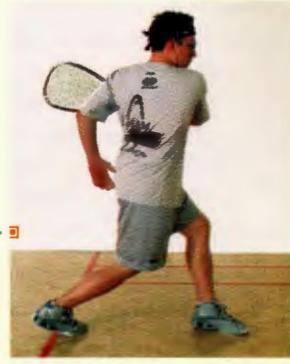
## TRICK 4 CONTACT POINT

### ONE STEP

- Back foot near short line
- Legs are lined up
- Racquet at full extension and parallel to the floor
- Same as forehand

### TWO STEP

- Back foot a little in front of the short line because of the step
- Legs are lined up
- Racquet at full extension and parallel to the floor
- Same as forehand



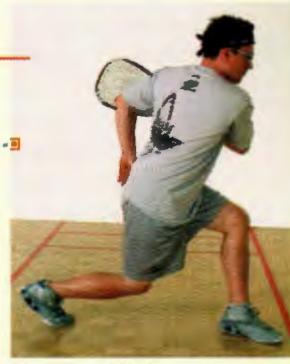
### ONE STEP

- Feet lined up
- Weight even
- Racquet pointing to the back wall

## TRICK 4 FOLLOW THROUGH

### TWO STEP

- Feet lined up
- Weight even
- Racquet pointing to the back wall



As you can see "The One Step and the Two Step" are virtually the same except for an added step, which is used to generate more power...a key element in the low, hard power serves. The harder you hit the ball, but still remaining balanced, the less reaction time you give your opponent...a positive for you.

I recommend you start out using the one step motion because it is less complicated and much simpler. As you gain racquet control and experience begin experimenting with the two step motion because the benefits of gaining power are a huge plus. Kane, Cliff and I are all known to have the "big serve". We hit in excess of 160 mph which creates problems for our opponents to return the serve.

Take it slow and don't get frustrated...it is worth the wait to move from a "one step serve" to a "two step serve". Good luck!

Please I invite you to attend one of the camps with Fran Davis to learn this first hand or in the meantime pick up one of our videos, "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" with Fran, Jason and myself. It has ALL of this in depth in chapter 7...Serves. Go to [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com) for details.

# SHAKERS & MOVERS



» **WITH DAVE NEGRETE,  
IRT COMMISSIONER**

Since assuming the role of IRT Commissioner in May of 2001, Dave Negrete has helped to increase the amount of prize money, number of tour stops, and overall exposure of the sport. One of the truly "Good Guys" in the sport, Negrete, 44, resides just outside of Chicago with his wife, Kathy, and two children, Julia (13) and David (10).

**RACQUETBALL Magazine:** How were you chosen as Commissioner of the IRT?

**Dave Negrete:** I was chosen by the players and by (former IRT Commissioner) Hank Marcus. I had actually talked to Hank about helping out with the tour before the player split in 2001. After the split I believe that they chose me because of my familiarity with the players and the sport and the I ran a successful pro stop in Chicago for so long.

**RM:** What changes have taken place in your tenure?

**DN:** Well, the whole tour has changed. The tour is no longer owned by any one person; that is the first big change. A Board of Directors was added and prize money has increased as well as the number of stops. The tour is now ultimately run by the players and it was never like that before.

**RM:** What additional changes do you wish to make?

**DN:** Obviously to generate more money is the primary one. With more money, additional "Grand Slam" events would be possible. We would like to generate enough money that someone the graduates High School or College would have the opportunity to make a living solely off prize money earned in professional tournaments. They make their living now by being professional racquetball players, but that involves conducting clinics and getting sponsors, rather than being able to rely solely on prize money. I want the clinics and sponsorships to be the bonuses and the prize money to be the meat of their income. It's the opposite of that now.

**RM:** What are some of the challenges involved with balancing a family and your busy tournament schedule with the IRT?

**DN:** The challenge for me is the travel. I'm not used to traveling so much. I have to be sure I don't miss my kids stuff like school functions and their games. That's the hard part, but it's a once in a lifetime opportunity so you make it work.

**It's great to bring in players like Kane, Jack, Jason, Rocky, and Alvaro, to name a few, and seeing people freak out about them. //**

**RM:** What is your least favorite part of being Commissioner?

**DN:** Probably my least favorite part of the job is having to draw the line between friendship and business; especially since I was friends with most of the guys on tour when I took the job. Oh, and the politics. (laughs)

**RM:** What is your favorite part?

**DN:** Going to the different cities and bringing the greatest players in the world to these places then hearing, "That was incredible!" when we leave. I like to hear how great our guys are, both on and off the court. I love being a part of that. It's great to bring in players like Kane, Jack, Jason, Rocky, and Alvaro, to name a few, and seeing people freak out about them.

**RM:** Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

**DN:** I'd love to see myself 10 years from now at the top of a sport that has been hidden, have an office with a staff, and be running a professional business in a professional sport.

**RM:** 20 years from now?

**DN:** Retired, sitting on a beach with a big Arturo Fuente cigar in my mouth, listening to the highlights of little Mannino, little Monchik, little Ganim, and little Negrete battling it out on SportsCenter.

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• Head Web—TOP

• Pro Kennex Friction

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• Head Web—WHEELS

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• Head Web—WHEELS

• Wilson Speed

\$13.95

• Head Web—WHEELS

# NATIONAL TEAM



**Name** → Jason Thoerner  
**Nickname** → Thoerner

## National Team Appointments → 2

**Most Recent Qualifier** → 2004 National Doubles Championships  
(2nd with Mitch Williams)

**Sponsors** → Head/Penn

**Date of Birth** → October 15, 1973 (age - 31)

**Birthplace** → Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Hometown** → Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Current Residence** → Atlanta, Georgia

**Biggest Influence** → Grandparents, Hazel and Joe Cottage

**Strengths** → Mental toughness and forehand

**Training Schedule** → Cardio - 3x's per week (2 hours), Weights - 3x's per week, Court time - 4x's per week

**Goals** → To bring back the Pan American Championships to the U.S. and to finally win National Doubles with Mitch Williams.

## Did You Know? →

Jason served as an assistant coach for the U.S. at the 2003 Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

## Did You Know? →

Jackie competes in a soccer league and recently was in the winning side of her family's annual game.

**Name** → Jackie Rice

**Nickname** → Left-side

## National Team Appointments → 28

**Most Recent Qualifier** → 2004 National Doubles Championships  
(1st with Kim Russell)

**Sponsors** → Currently negotiating

**Occupation** → Club Pro/Director LA Fitness

**Date of Birth** → September 14, 1966 (age - 38)

**Birthplace** → Fort Bragg, North Carolina

**Hometown** → El Cajon, California

**Current Residence** → Ramona, California

**Biggest Influence** → Parents, June and Rudy Paraiso

**Strengths** → Agility, Speed, and anticipation

**Training Schedule** → Cardio - 5x's per week, Weights - 5x's per week, Court time - 3x's per week

**Goals** → Stay on the U.S. National team for as long as she can, win the Pan American Games in 2007



**Junior National Team Appointments** ➔ 1  
**Most Recent Qualifier** ➔ 2004 Junior Olympics  
(1st in 16+ Doubles w/  
Holly Hettesheimer)

**Sponsors** ➔ Head  
**School** ➔ Northwest High School  
**Date of Birth** ➔ August 29, 1988 (age - 16)  
**Birthplace** ➔ Cincinnati, OH  
**Hometown** ➔ Cincinnati, OH  
**Current Residence** ➔ Cincinnati, OH  
**Biggest Influence** ➔ Parents, Bonnie and Terry  
McGuffey  
**Strengths** ➔ Forehand and court coverage  
**Goals** ➔ To make the U.S. Junior National Team for  
the next three years and then play on the  
LPRA tour  
**Favorite Food** ➔ Steak  
**Favorite Actor/Actress** ➔ Jennifer Anniston and  
Ben Affleck  
**Favorite Music** ➔ Rap & Hip Hop

**Name** ➔ Samantha McGuffey

**Junior National Team Appointments** ➔ 5  
**Most Recent Qualifier** ➔ 2004 Junior Olympics  
(2nd boy's 18+ singles)  
**Sponsors** ➔ Wilson, Splat Gear  
**School** ➔ Colorado State University - Pueblo  
**Date of Birth** ➔ April 17, 1986 (age - 18)  
**Birthplace** ➔ Portland, Oregon  
**Hometown** ➔ Portland, Oregon  
**Current Residence** ➔ Portland, Oregon  
**Biggest Influence** ➔ Joey Lakowske and Ben Croft  
**Strengths** ➔ Mental focus  
**Goals** ➔ Win the 2005 IRF World Junior  
Championships  
**Favorite Food** ➔ Sushi  
**Favorite Actor/Actress** ➔ Tom Hanks  
**Favorite Music** ➔ Rap

**Name** ➔ Charlie Pratt  
**Nickname** ➔ Goof

**JUNIOR TEAM**

## USA RACQUETBALL ANNUAL AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE

Nominations for the USA Racquetball Annual Awards are due by February 28, 2004. These awards are based on the preceding year.

- Joe Sobek Outstanding Contributor Award:** This award is based on an outstanding commitment to the sport of racquetball.
- Presidential Award:** This award is given to the State President who has exhibited outstanding organizational performances in their state.
- John Halverson Fair Play Award:** This award is for anyone who had an exceptional gesture of fair play carried out during the year or for anyone who has a sports career which has consistently shown a spirit of fair play over the years.
- Peggy Steding Award (Female Age Group Athlete):** Any outstanding female athlete, age 35 and over, is chosen on the basis of their performance record for the preceding year.
- Bud Muehleisen Award (Male Age Group Athlete):** Any outstanding male athlete, age 35 and over, is chosen on the basis of their performance record for the preceding year.

If you know someone who falls into one of the categories mentioned above, please nominate them for one of the awards.

For more information or to nominate a person contact Jim Easterling via e-mail at [djeasterling@earthlink.net](mailto:djeasterling@earthlink.net) or mail to:

**Awards Winners**  
321 Village Drive  
Lansing, MI 48911

Please send your name, phone number, nominee's name, phone number, what category he or she belongs in, and some facts about the nominee.

### BIG D AND ELLISTYLE TEAM UP IN WYOMING



What happens when Derek Robinson's Big D Road Show meets up with John Ellis' Ellistyle Experience? The players of Green River and Rock Springs, Wyoming get to find out every year. December 3rd-5th marked the 2nd Annual Sweetwater Pro Racquetball Camp. The camp is held at the beautiful Green River Recreation Center, which has four courts and is located next to the city's only high school. This year's event had 13 players in attendance.

If you're wondering what makes this camp so special besides the fact that two of professional racquetball's most active clinicians come together. It's the city of Green River and their willingness to provide this event at the city's expense. The players attending have a minimal cost for the weekend camp but that amount only covers the catered food that is brought in for the campers. The cost to bring in Derek and John is handled by Green River. Green River's city activities director and avid racquetball player, Lisa Maes is responsible for putting this together. Lisa believes that exposing the small cities of Green River and Rock Springs to pro racquetball players and instructors will be the spark that keeps racquetball growing in the two cities. One thing is for sure; most of the campers would never have an opportunity to see pro racquetball first hand if this camp didn't happen. Kudos to Green River!!

## THE ART OF RACQUETBALL



Ruben Gonzalez has been playing professional racquetball for more than 25 years. He was inducted into the Racquetball Hall of Fame in 2000, while still an active top-10 player on the International Racquetball Tour. He also competes regularly on The Legends Tour.

But at his ninth US OPEN, Ruben chose to display the creativity and imagination that kept him at the top of his sport for so many years in a different form - his paintings.

For some time, Ruben had been interested in pursuing his passion for art. "This idea has been brewing for about six or seven years," Ruben said. "I would come up with these ideas, but I never had an opportunity to actually carry through with them."

That is until a few weeks before the US OPEN, when Ruben had some time off and took a trip to the city. The next thing he knew, he was walking into an art store, and making it happen.

"I didn't really know a thing about what I needed to do. I didn't know what kind of supplies to get, or anything, all I knew is what I wanted the final product to look like."

Beginning with his first two pieces of art, which were auctioned off at the US OPEN - St. Jude Silent Auction, Ruben has officially launched this new line of original art. Of course, all proceeds from the auction went directly to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

If you missed your chance to bid on Ruben's artwork at this year's US OPEN be sure to inquire or place an order by e-mail at [sales@rgball.com](mailto:sales@rgball.com).

## WEDDING BELLS RING FOR RUSSELL AND WASLENCHEK

Four-time USA Racquetball National Doubles champion Kim Russell and top ranked IRT pro Kane Waselenchuk were married December 4, 2004 in Naples, Florida. Kim and Kane were sent a sign of good luck by two dolphins frolicking in the ocean behind them as they took their vows. Kim wore a Maggie Sottero strapless, chapel length gown with a sequined body veil and crystal tiara. Kane wore a black Armani suit with red stripes. An endearing ceremony was performed by tournament regular Minister Leo Vasquez as 45 guests stood witness. Other racquetball guests included Ron Marr, IRT Commissioner Dave Negrete, LPRA pros Rhonda Rajsich and Jackie Rice, and Coach Jim Winterton. The couple honeymooned in Naples for a week and will honeymoon again this June in Hawaii.

Congratulations Kim and Kane!



## RACQUETBALL LOSES HALL OF FAMER

**Luzell Dilworth Wilde**  
**1917-2004**



Luzell Wilde passed away on December 15, 2004 at the age of 87. He was born on October 25, 1917 in Carey, Idaho to

Lawrence and Sadie Wilde. He married Georgia Hansen on October 2, 1946, who preceded him in death on July 17, 2001. Luzell took up the sport of racquetball at the age of 50 and won over 45 national championships while traveling with his wife 250,000 miles in a 25 year span. His accomplishments led him to the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame in 1989. In addition to being inducted into the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame, he was also inducted into the Masters International Hall of Fame (1996) and the Utah State Hall of Fame (1999). Centerville City honored him with a key to the city in 1989 and again in 2002 during his induction into the Centerville City Hall of Fame.

He is survived by his brothers Myron and Veldon Wilde; his children, Vicki Kimmel, Kayleen Seaver, Gordon L. Wilde, Marilyn Marsden; grandchildren, Brandy Guin Barningham, Andy Wilde, Kari Anton, Kimberly and Tristan Seaver, Darci Mayer, Ashley Wheeler, Ryan, Katrina, and Eric Madsen; great-grandchildren, Mesha and Mikey Guin, Morgan and Kevin Barningham, Broderick and Noralani Mayer. He will be missed by all.  
(source: Deseret News)

# BUILDING

## Video

Presented by Fran Davis Racquetball  
Featuring Sudsy Monchik & Jason Mannino

### What's Included

- Be deceptive - vary serves to keep your opponent guessing
- Learn to hit the perfect backhand
- Think like the pros - improve shot selection
- Find out why game plans and strategies are a must
- Learn to be aggressive on return of serve
- Perfect practice makes perfect - have fun doing it

### Camps

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**DVD = \$49.95** plus shipping & handling -120 minutes

Questions? [video@FranDavisRacquetball.com](mailto:video@FranDavisRacquetball.com)

### Camp Schedule

#### 2004

November 12-14 Greensboro, NC  
December 2-9 Aruba (Caribbean Island)

#### 2005

January 14-16	San Francisco, CA
January 28-30	Detroit or Grand Rapids, MI
February 4-6	Indianapolis, IN
February 11-13	Seattle, WA
February 18-20	Laurel, MD
March 4-6	Minneapolis, MN
April 8-10	Portland, OR
April 15-17	TBA, Canada
May 6-8	TBA
May 13-15	TBA
June 3-5	San Diego, CA
June 10-12	TBA
June 22-24	Boston, MA
June 29-31	Woodbridge, NJ
July 5-7	San Francisco, CA

above future cities...Los Angeles, CA; CO; LA; NM; PA; TN; TX etc.

above dates are subject to the IRT schedule.

Questions? [info@FranDavisRacquetball.com](mailto:info@FranDavisRacquetball.com)

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# 2005 18th USA National HIGH SCHOOL RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Presented by



U.S. Junior Team Qualifier

Gold Division Singles Champions will be appointed  
to the U.S. Junior National Team for one year!

Junior Olympic Qualifier - High School National entrants  
will qualify for the 2005 Junior Olympics in Portland.

Event Sponsor



**MARCH 3 - 6**

Vetta Sports - Concord  
Event sponsor  
12320 Old Tesson Road  
St. Louis, Missouri

**DEADLINE:** Wednesday - February 16

**POSTMARKED BY:** Friday - February 11

**DIVISIONS:** Singles & Doubles

**FEES:** \$45.00/1st event

\$30.00/2nd event

\$30.00/3rd event

**STARTING TIMES:** Available Wednesday - March 2

5:00 pm (Central Time) @ 314-842-3111 ext 3

**CHECK-IN:** Opens Thursday - March 3

**PLAY BEGINS:** Thursday - March 3

For an Official Entry Form please go to [www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com) or call 719-635-5396 ext.0.



**USA Racquetball**

1685 West Uintah

Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906

Tel: 719/635-5396

Fax: 719/635-0685

[www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)

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# 2005 33rd USA Racquetball NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Presented by



U.S. National Team Qualifier

Division #1 Gold singles winners will be appointed  
to the U.S. National Racquetball Team!

National Singles Regional Qualifier

Event entrants who compete in the Intercollegiate Nationals  
will qualify for the 2005 National Singles.

**MARCH 30 - APRIL 2**

Arizona State University  
Student Recreation Center  
Tempe, AZ 85287

Event Sponsor



**DEADLINE:** Tuesday March 8th

**POSTMARKED BY:** Wednesday - March 2nd

**DIVISIONS:** Team Singles & Doubles

**FEES:** \$60.00/1st event

\$35.00/2nd event

\$35.00/3rd event (mixed doubles only)

**STARTING TIMES:** Available Monday - March 28th  
5:00 pm (central) @ 480-545-1363

**CHECK-IN:** Opens Tuesday - March 29th

**PLAY BEGINS:** Wednesday - March 30th

For and Official Entry form and more information please go to [www.usraracquetball.com](http://www.usraracquetball.com) or call 719-635-5396 ext 0.



**USA Racquetball**  
1685 West Uintah  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906  
Tel: 719/635-5396  
Fax: 719/635-0685  
[www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)  
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# USA RACQUETBALL ALL-TIME GOLD POINTS

**GOLD POINTS • GOLD POINTS • GOLD**

With a new national ranking program about to be launched, USA Racquetball would like to recognize the all-time point getters from the former point based ranking system. The following top 500 list shows the lifetime accumulation of points earned in all divisions played by both men and women.

1. Jo Kenyon, FL	45429	63. Ruben Gonzalez, NY	13730	125. Kara Mazur, CT	10830	187. Cory Martin, WI	9035
2. Mary-Low Acuff, NC	40230	64. David Hamilton, OH	13640	126. Greg Hasty, IL	10829	188. Chris Wright, MO	9030
3. Earl Acuff, NC	33155	65. Ron Hutcherson, IN	13623	127. Dave Eagle, OH	10780	189. Laurel Davis, IL	9000
4. Jack Huczek, MI	32590	66. Mitch Williams, NC	13575	128. Jason Thoerner, GA	10765	190. Randy Olson, ME	8990
5. Debra Tisinger, CA	25110	67. Joseph Lee, LA	13570	129. Mark Hurst, FL	10594	191. Raymond Maestas, NM	8970
6. Don Alt, OH	25025	68. Dario Mas, DE	13475	130. Chris Ewon, IL	10445	192. Brittany Legget, OR	8960
7. Adrienne Fisher, AL	24475	69. Marcia Richards, CO	13445	131. George Spear, FL	10425	193. Debra Bryant, NC	8925
8. Mitt Layton, FL	23641	70. Linda Miller, IN	13315	132. Sylvia Sawyer, UT	10405	194. Tim Lavoi, MN	8835
9. Lorraine Galloway, NY	23395	71. Eric Storey, IN	13295	133. Otis Chapman, OH	10390	195. Mary Walker, CA	8830
10. Joe Lambert, TX	23155	72. Roz Petronelli, MA	13278	134. Dave Negrete, IL	10383	196. Ken Moore, CA	8825
11. Agatha Falso, FL	22383	73. Jim Luzar, WI	13200	135. Jason Jansen, MN	10355	197. Janell Marriott, RI	8805
12. Shane Vanderson, OH	22140	74. Tammy Brown, ID	13155	136. Matthew McElhiney, FL	10255	198. Dan Jones, GA	8795
13. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR	21800	75. Tom Travers, OH	13115	137. Mary Lyons, FL	10192	199. Dennis Aceto, MA	8780
14. Susan Pfahler, FL	21733	76. Malia Bailey, VA	13070	138. Joe Hassey, NV	10190	200. James Loretto, FL	8728
15. Jimmy Lowe, AK	21235	77. Victor Sacco, NY	13036	139. John Scargle, FL	10185	201. Jim Young, PA	8713
16. Kristen Walsh, UT	20130	78. Ron Galbreath, PA	13025	140. Nick Arturo, AK	10170	202. Johnny Northern, MI	8709
17. Lola Markus, IL	19970	79. Debra Derr, FL	12905	141. Todd O'Neil, TX	10168	203. Britt Engel, FL	8696
18. B.J. Ehrgott, CT	19930	80. Bobby Haab, CT	12900	142. Kevin Graham, WI	10125	204. Anita Maldonado, NY	8675
19. Tim Hansen, FL	19095	81. Horace Miller, IL	12860	143. Dawn Gates, IL	10065	205. Alan Sheppard, NC	8630
20. Mildred Gwinn, NC	18665	82. Molly Law, CO	12830	144. Shannon Inglesby, OR	10050	206. Charlie Russell, CA	8620
21. Paul Banales, AZ	18380	83. Nidia Funes, CA	12823	145. Elkova Icenogle, CA	9988	207. Charlie Pratt, OR	8615
22. Gerri Stoffregen, OH	17845	84. Jesi Fuller, NM	12760	146. Janel Tisinger, CA	9945	208. Ken Karmel, NM	8610
23. Will Tilton, CO	17600	85. Ray Huss, OH	12565	147. Scott Reiff, NH	9935	209. Matthew Hammond, OH	8555
24. Kersten Hallander, CA	17198	86. Vanessa Tulao, AL	12485	148. Dan Sheppard, OR	9910	210. Mickey Bellah, CA	8505
25. Glenn Allen, VA	16755	87. Kim Machiran, FL	12405	149. Howard Walker, TX	9910	211. Matt Fontana, FL	8500
26. Mike Locker, MN	16740	88. Bill Lyman, IL	12393	150. Marianne Walsh, UT	9890	212. Greg Hayenga, MN	8460
27. Aimee Ruiz, NJ	16635	89. Brad Mccunniff, IA	12265	151. Jim Wilking, UT	9785	213. Frank Trask, ME	8460
28. Dave Kovanda, OH	16485	90. Cari Miltitsky, NY	12255	152. Reta Harring, WI	9720	214. Eileen Tuckman, FL	8455
29. Shannon Feaster, MD	16455	91. Mary Bickley, PA	12245	153. Josh Tucker, MO	9693	215. Russ Palazzo, CT	8420
30. Kathy Mueller, MN	16170	92. Brian Fredenberg, TX	12210	154. Paul Newcomb, VA	9690	216. Elise Wilson, CT	8400
31. Heather Dunn, MA	16158	93. Herb Grigg, IL	12205	155. John Ellis, CA	9623	217. Matt Gehling, DE	8335
32. Mal Roberts, FL	16068	94. Pattie Schof, LA	12170	156. Terry Ann Rogers, CA	9573	218. Frank Ciociola, NY	8325
33. Linda Moore, NE	16025	95. Sara Borland, IA	12165	157. John Barrett, PA	9560	219. Brian Pointelin, UT	8325
34. Rex Lawler, IN	15925	96. Val Shewfelt, UT	12147	158. Mike Dennison, OH	9555	220. Joel Bonnett, MI	8300
35. Cheryl Gudinas, IL	15820	97. Ron Johnson, IL	12110	159. Bobby Corcoran, AZ	9545	221. Dana Anderson, MN	8290
36. Jeff Garner, AL	15700	98. Kimberly Irons, OH	12100	160. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR	9525	222. Paula Saad, MI	8280
37. Doug Ganim, OH	15531	99. Bill Welaj, NJ	11890	161. Ashley Willhite, OR	9455	223. Bill Wolfe, NY	8255
38. Kelley Fisher, OH	15525	100. John O'Donnell, IL	11865	162. Eugene Coyle, IL	9440	224. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL	8215
39. Gary Mazaroff, NM	15503	101. Kim Russell, TX	11843	163. Rex Benham, AR	9416	225. Andrea Beugen, MN	8175
40. Luzell Wilde, UT	15455	102. Michelle Gould, ID	11680	164. Jere Luttnar, TX	9408	226. Sharon Huczek, MI	8161
41. Charlie Garfinkel, NY	15260	103. Roger Wehrle, GA	11536	165. John Davis, LA	9405	227. Ashley Legget, OR	8160
42. Nick Sans, CA	15213	104. Dan Fowler, MD	11530	166. Jean Trimble, FL	9405	228. Karen Key, AZ	8140
43. Mitch Smith, PA	15003	105. Ryan Staten, KS	11510	167. Annabelle Kovar, NE	9400	229. Stu Hastings, MI	8128
44. Dan Llacera, DE	14950	106. Bobby Sanders, OH	11489	168. Tony Boscia, CO	9396	230. Don Goddard, MT	8110
45. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ	14905	107. Shelley Tarshis, OH	11455	169. Sal Perconti, FL	9380	231. Amy Kilbane, OH	8085
46. Michael Bronfeld, CA	14845	108. Kelley Beane, NH	11445	170. Brandon Shoemaker, OH	9360	232. Gary Tanko, WI	8015
47. Chris Coy, OK	14840	109. Dennis O'Brien, UT	11430	171. Steven Klaiman, TX	9345	233. Marsha Berry, KY	8000
48. Rachel Gellman, AZ	14820	110. Brooke Crawford, OR	11345	172. Tom McKie, TX	9325	234. Ron Adams, CA	7980
49. C. Allen Shepherd, MD	14810	111. Robert McAdam, TX	11325	173. Cam Snowberger, SC	9313	235. Jeni Fuller, NM	7970
50. Merrijean Kelley, CA	14780	112. Michael Jackson, CT	11320	174. Jim Bailey, VA	9310	236. Jerry Northwood, AZ	7960
51. Shane Wood, MA	14770	113. Laura Fenton, KS	11185	175. Lance Gilliam, TX	9295	237. Liz Molitor, IL	7930
52. Janet Myers, NC	14765	114. Drew Toland, AR	11150	176. Bill Serafin, NJ	9285	238. Dan Hardan, WA	7928
53. Sadie Hall, TN	14760	115. Jerry Holly, CA	11118	177. Rob Dejesus, FL	9215	239. Mary Jane Weldin, DE	7925
54. Denise Mock, TX	14740	116. Debbie Chaney, IN	11115	178. Jim Jeffers, IL	9210	240. Sheri Zappala, NY	7900
55. Marquita Molina, CA	14390	117. Aaron Metcalf, FL	11019	179. Tim Sweeney, IL	9207	241. Cara Pellowski, WI	7880
56. Dave Watson, OK	14265	118. Allan Engel, FL	10923	180. Robin Levine, CA	9205	242. John Sanderson, UT	7855
57. Joanne Pomodoro, MA	14175	119. Darryl Warren, CA	10910	181. Dick Kincade, CO	9195	243. Clay Burris, FL	7840
58. Kerri Wachtel, OH	14035	120. Crystal Winfrey, OH	10895	182. Jim Ellenberger, IL	9145	244. Tom Neill, NM	7840
59. Ben Croft, IL	13890	121. John Pearce, TX	10885	183. Jake Bredenbeck, MN	9105	245. Mike Harmon, FL	7820
60. Ed Remen, NC	13885	122. Warren Reuther, LA	10855	184. Krystal Csuk, IL	9105	246. Sharon Jackson, IN	7805
61. Rocky Carson, CA	13775	123. Sudsy Monchik, NY	10845	185. Bruce Erickson, MO	9100	247. Curtis Winter, FL	7791
62. Ed Garabedian, PA	13751	124. Brian Simpson, IN	10838	186. Bart Crawford, CA	9075	248. Gregg Mandell, IL	7771

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249. Les Barbanell, NJ	7765	314. Steve Lerner, OH	6945	379. David Hunter, TN	6290	444. Sanjay LaForest, NY	5790
250. David Barnes, RI	7745	315. Jack Bogasky, VA	6925	380. Duane Russell, MI	6290	445. Erik Ekman, MA	5785
251. Andy Trozzi, MA	7745	316. Garry Carter, CA	6920	381. Karen Weins, FL	6278	446. Dan Gagne, ME	5785
252. Jed Bhuta, AL	7720	317. Tina Hagen, CO	6920	382. Vicki Yarns, GA	6275	447. T.J. Baumbaugh, VA	5780
253. Ben Williams, NY	7695	318. Lesley Kishigian, MI	6915	383. Kevin Dorr, MD	6273	448. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH	5780
254. Christopher Cole, MI	7690	319. Brian Rankin, MO	6905	384. Travis Woodbury, VA	6270	449. Elizabeth Brenner, OR	5760
255. Wesley Toland, AR	7685	320. Andy Roberts, TN	6891	385. David Dennis, AR	6265	450. Mat Kelly, CO	5750
256. Steve Wattz, CA	7685	321. Sam Reid, OR	6890	386. Brent Walters, NC	6255	451. Zack Miller, CA	5750
257. John Negrete, IL	7663	322. Mike Winslow, FL	6885	387. Jim Herron, OH	6245	452. Rebeka Kopf, NY	5730
258. Lisa Hjelm, CA	7660	323. Pat Taylor, IL	6845	388. Don Harrington, RI	6235	453. Dave Milazzo, IL	5725
259. Armando Alonso, FL	7655	324. Kelly Kirk, MN	6835	389. Steve Chapman, FL	6225	454. Scott Fisher, NY	5715
260. Vinnie Ganley, FL	7647	325. John Stanford Jr., FL	6835	390. Jim Hamilton, MI	6220	455. Don Prater, FL	5715
261. Renee Fish, FL	7643	326. Janet Tyler, FL	6835	391. Jack Long, TX	6210	456. Al Schof, LA	5715
262. Nancy Kay Butts, WI	7615	327. Solanna Taragan, CA	6815	392. Rick Strout, UT	6159	457. Denny Vincent, OH	5715
263. Gabe Gose, NM	7560	328. Stacy Sour, CO	6785	393. Ed Sword, KY	6150	458. Lynne Weisbart, IL	5695
264. Erik Leetch, AR	7555	329. Randy Pfahler, FL	6768	394. Tom Fuhrmann, AZ	6130	459. Laura Brandt, FL	5688
265. Dave Bartscher, TX	7550	330. Bob Christ, FL	6751	395. Dan Davis, TX	6125	460. Byron Williams, TN	5685
266. Hank Richard, NC	7548	331. Rob Walden, FL	6748	396. Scott Cullins, GA	6110	461. Dianne Pratt, WA	5680
267. Mitch Posner, NJ	7545	332. Sue Cox, FL	6740	397. Dan Llacera, FL	6105	462. Jansen Allen, TX	5665
268. Cindy Baxter, PA	7518	333. Jen Yokota, MO	6735	398. Dominic Palmieri, OH	6105	463. Andrew Grissom, CA	5665
269. David Jordan, NJ	7510	334. Will Epperson, AL	6725	399. David LaForest, NY	6100	464. Joetta Hastings, MI	5655
270. Tom Rall, AZ	7495	335. Shane Dodge, WA	6710	400. Abbey Lavelly, OH	6100	465. Jody Morris, TX	5655
271. Michelle Lucas, VA	7485	336. Jim Floyd, MI	6710	401. Troy Stallings, SD	6100	466. Dave Cardillo, NY	5650
272. Leland Rients, MN	7480	337. Andee Glansberg, NY	6685	402. Jason Armbrecht, NC	6098	467. Terry Lauritsen, NM	5650
273. Shane Karmelin, AL	7475	338. Sid Williams, WA	6675	403. David Liakos, NE	6085	468. Craig Czyz, FL	5630
274. Brenda White, IL	7465	339. Bill Matotan, NM	6670	404. Tom Perna, OH	6055	469. Tyler Siggins, CA	5630
275. Elaine Hooghe, OH	7460	340. Melanie Mueller, CO	6670	405. John Collison, DE	6045	470. Mary Keenan, CO	5625
276. Lee Graff, OR	7450	341. Jerry Davis, OH	6665	406. Lynn Hahn, MI	6045	471. Jean Tull, VA	5625
277. Art Johnson, CO	7435	342. Michael Lawrence, AL	6655	407. J.W. Studak, TX	6045	472. Patrick Gibson, TX	5620
278. Laura Patterson, MI	7435	343. Kimberly Walsh, UT	6650	408. Jeff Kristjansen, NC	6035	473. Jerry Rand, FL	5618
279. Cheryl Kirk, IL	7415	344. Jeff Wilson, NM	6650	409. Craig Rappaport, PA	6030	474. Karen Denu, VA	5610
280. Kipp Atwell, LA	7375	345. Karin Sobotta, WA	6640	410. Adam Taylor, IN	6020	475. Mark Bloom, TX	5608
281. Glenn Leib, PA	7368	346. Cece Palaski, NM	6635	411. Richard Melhart, WA	6005	476. Dave Lund, MI	5603
282. Clement McIntosh, GA	7329	347. Meena Evans, NC	6630	412. Rabbit Rogers, ID	6005	477. Dave Peck, TX	5600
283. Eric Muller, NY	7325	348. Jim Minkel, TX	6595	413. Andy Yambrek, TN	6000	478. Russ Montague, PA	5595
284. Frank Taddonio, AZ	7305	349. Joey Lakowske, OR	6575	414. Chris Thomas, NC	5987	479. Matt Johnson, NM	5585
285. Isaac Laughinghouse, MA	7290	350. Josh Epstein, NY	6570	415. Pat Tarzon, IL	5986	480. Hal Spangenberg Jr., CA	5565
286. Jose Rojas, CA	7275	351. Gene Couch, TX	6560	416. Sean McGrath, IN	5985	481. Janet Christie, IL	5560
287. Vance Lerner, CA	7273	352. Grant Giles, GA	6555	417. Nicole Grundman, MN	5980	482. Rick Ferrin, CA	5548
288. Mark Baron, VA	7265	353. Rhonda Haselbarta, OK	6530	418. Matt Keddie, NH	5970	483. Dave Steiger, ME	5545
289. Vicki Luque, GA	7265	354. Marion Crawford, NY	6504	419. Don Maxey, TX	5960	484. Tim Kirch, NY	5520
290. Craig Kunkel, CA	7260	355. Deb Stefandel, IN	6503	420. Karen Green, MI	5955	485. Carol Kriegler, MN	5520
291. Harvey Clar, CA	7245	356. Bob Siemiatkoski, CT	6490	421. Ed Fink, TX	5950	486. Jim Railey, KY	5520
292. Holly Remen, NC	7245	357. Grant Morrill, PA	6475	422. Matt Adesso, OH	5940	487. Jim Grant, MA	5515
293. Jo Shattuck, CO	7220	358. Anthony Defusto, NY	6465	423. Gared Edmunds, KY	5940	488. Fred Calabrese, NH	5510
294. Charlie Nichols, FL	7215	359. David Warner, MN	6460	424. Jim Winterton, NY	5940	489. Sallie Benedict, VA	5505
295. Megan Bals, AR	7210	360. Juliet Campbell, CT	6440	425. Ismael Aldana Jr., CA	5910	490. Doug Dickman, MO	5495
296. Charlie Hamon, WA	7180	361. David Lewis, CO	6415	426. Pat Musselman, PA	5905	491. Marc Moccia, MA	5490
297. Sheila Collins, TN	7155	362. Brad Slocum, FL	6410	427. Nate Gagne, ME	5895	492. Adam Anderson, UT	5485
298. Bruce Shafer, MD	7150	363. Cyd Evans, NM	6393	428. Tom Delle Donne, DE	5890	493. John Bareilles, VA	5485
299. Rich Baer, NY	7140	364. Jack White, MI	6390	429. Claire Gautreau, TX	5890	494. Tom Keogh, NY	5485
300. Ken Bailey, ME	7105	365. Robin Rodriguez, AK	6386	430. Walter McDade, TN	5890	495. Robert Miller, SC	5485
301. Marci Laramee, TN	7105	366. Gail Schaefer, MD	6380	431. Evan Pellowski, WI	5890	496. Mike Stephens, MI	5480
302. Jim Frautschi, MN	7090	367. Allan Crockett, AL	6370	432. Jim Gillhouse, CO	5885	497. Jenny Meyer, CO	5460
303. Ryan Homa, MN	7085	368. Esther McNany, CT	6365	433. Ramona Von Ondarza, FL	5870	498. Fred Letter, NJ	5450
304. John Vohland, CO	7068	369. Rob French, IA	6360	434. Paula Sperling, NM	5865	499. Ryan Lindell, OR	5440
305. James Mulcock, CA	7066	370. Tom Rumsey, FL	6354	435. Doug Eagle, TX	5855	500. Ines Queiros, CT	5435
306. Katie Gould, CA	7065	371. Scott Grunin, NY	6350	436. Jim McPherson, TX	5850		
307. Mike Keddie, NH	7040	372. Jason Mannino, CA	6345	437. Derek Robinson, WA	5850		
308. Terri Thornton, MN	7035	373. Bucky Freeman, TX	6340	438. Adam Karp, CA	5835		
309. Chuck Kaiser, OH	6995	374. Chris Zalegowski, NH	6335	439. Marcy Lynch, PA	5832		
310. Sean Graham, CT	6973	375. Mike Martinez, CA	6330	440. Mike Orr, PA	5830		
311. Brad Parra, CA	6970	376. Phyllis Morris, TX	6325	441. Leesa Smith, ME	5830		
312. Gary Peterson, MN	6965	377. Mike Guidry, TX	6305	442. Mike Arnolt, IN	5818		
313. Michael Anderson, MI	6960	378. David Lockridge, GA	6305	443. Lauren Deutsch, CA	5795		



# February

Feb. 1-5	2005 Massacre @ Redwood Center
Feb. 3-6	Fifth Annual America's Cup @ Quadrangle Athletic Club
Feb. 4-5	Racquet for The Cure @ Denver Athletic Club
Feb. 4-6	Chuck Galkin Memorial @ Br Ryall YMCA
	Hartsville Pro-Amm Shootout @ Hartsville YMCA
	Super Bowl Splat @ Olympus Athletic Club
	Whaley Children's Center Classic @ Davison Athletic Club
Feb. 5	Puyallup Junior Open @ Puyallup Recreation Center
Feb. 5-6	Double Trouble Open @ Cocoa Court Club
Feb. 10-13	2005 New Jersey State Doubles @ Classic Athletic Club
Feb. 11-12	Indy Open @ Noblesville Athletic Club
Feb. 11-13	Burnsville Hotshots @ Northwest Athletic Club
	Groundhog Open @ Metro South Athletic Club
	Sweetheart Doubles @ Sawmill Athletic Club
	13th Annual Winter Classic @ American Family Fitness
	2005 Kentucky State Singles @ Downtown YMCA
Feb. 15-19	Sports Mall Challenge @ Sports Mall
Feb. 17-20	Aurora City Open @ Colorado Athletic Club-Aurora
	Beaverton Classic @ Griffith Park Family YMCA
Feb. 18-20	Five Seasons Super 7 Singles @ Five Seasons Country Club
	Reno 7-up Open @ Double Diamond
	Southern Ohio Championship @ Heights Health & Racquet Club
	The Schultz Classic @ The Sports Center
	10th Annual Palos Olympic Open @ Palos Olympic Health Fit
	2005 Washington State Singles @ Club Tbd
Feb. 19-20	Post-Holiday Racquetball Event @ Pojoaque Wellness Center
Feb. 25-27	Countryside YMCA Charity Tournament @ Countryside YMCA
	Lifestyle Fitness Primetime @ Lifestyle Family Fitness
	Northern Ohio Championship @ Solon Athletic Club
	OJRA Tour Stop #3 - Sunset @ Sunset Athletic Club
	Tornado Alley Racquetball @ Wichita Falls YMCA
	2005 Illinois State Singles @ Chalet Fitness Center
	2005 Massachusetts State Juniors @ Caritas Health & Racquet Club
Feb. 26	One Day Shootout @ Southern Athletic Club

West Valley City, UT	801-974-6923
Coral Springs, FL	954-753-8900
Littleton, CO	303-738-9797
Glen Ellyn, IL	630-858-0100
Hartsville, SC	843-383-4547
Northfield, MN	507-645-8007
Davison, MI	810-287-9394
Puyallup, WA	253-848-9493
Hershey, PA	717-540-5111
Fairfield, NJ	973-389-9978
Schaumburg, IL	630-430-1748
Noblesville, IN	317-879-8100
Burnsville, MN	952-435-7125
Brockton, MA	508-588-3444
Columbus, OH	614-889-7698
Richmond, VA	804-382-7663
Louisville, KY	502-587-6700
Murray, UT	801-261-3426
Aurora, CO	303-696-9313
Beaverton, OR	503-644-3900
Westlake, OH	440-871-2811
Reno, NV	775-348-9791
Dayton, OH	614-890-6073
Fayetteville, NC	910-638-8008
Palos Hiolls, IL	708-974-1900
City Tbd, WA	360-303-2820
Santa Fe, NM	505-321-1110
Loveland, OH	513-932-1424
St Petersburg, FL	727-244-8239
Solon, OH	440-349-3349
Portland, OR	503-330-0624
Wichita Falls, TX	940-322-7816
Willow Springs, IL	630-325-6410
Norwood, MA	978-927-3923
Oklahoma City, OK	405-919-0375

# March

March 1-5	Luck of The Heights @ Cottonwood Heights
March 4-6	Amatulli Open @ Omni 41
	March Madness @ Courts Plus Fitness Center
	Southern Collegiate Racquetball Finals @ Atm
	2005 Massachusetts State Singles @ Boston Athletic Club
	2005 Pennsylvania State Singles @ Penn State University
	2005 Virginia State Singles @ Fort Lee
March 5-6	2005 Washington State Junior Championships @ Club Tbd
March 10-12	2005 Texas State Singles @ Maverick Athletic Club
March 10-13	Spring Doubles @ East Side Athletic Club
March 11-13	Edens March Madness @ Edens Athletic Club
	Killshot for Cancer @ Waverly Oaks Athletic Club
	Southview Slam #2 @ Southview Athletic Club
	2005 Ohio State Singles @ Hall Of Fame Fitness Center
	Spring Smash @ Marv Jenson Fitness Center
March 15-19	

Salt Lake City, UT	801-974-6923
Schererville, IN	219-865-6969
Williston, ND	701-237-4805
College Station, TX	817-966-1707
Boston, MA	978-927-3923
University Park, PA	570-696-2642
Richmond, VA	804-991-2129
City Tbd, WA	360-676-1800
Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
Milwaukie, OR	503-659-3845
Chicago, IL	773-286-6700
Waltham, MA	508-881-3953
West St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
Canton, OH	614-890-6073
South Jordan, UT	801-253-4404

# March-April

March 18-20	Eastern Indiana Open @ Health Connection March Madness @ Suburban Health Club Northwest Open @ Bellingham Athletic Club Shamrock Shootout @ Glass Court Swim & Fitness St. Paddy's Day Open @ Springfield Athletic Club	Richmond, IN St. Cloud, MN Bellingham, WA Lombard, IL Springfield, OH	765-478-3141 320-251-3965 360-676-1800 630-629-3390 937-399-2360
March 19-21	2005 New Jersey State Singles @ Classic Athletic Club	Fairfield, NJ	973-389-9978
March 25-27	Baywinds Spring Open @ Baywinds Athletic Club	Sandusky, OH	419-433-2750
March 31 - April 3	2005 Colorado State Singles @ Highlands Ranch Recreation Center	Highlands Ranch, CO	303-738-9797
April 1-3	Five Seasons Super 7 Singles @ Five Seasons Country Club OJRA Tour Stop #4 - Medford @ Superior Athletic Club	Westlake, OH Medford, OR	440-871-2811 503-330-0624
	2005 Minnesota State Singles @ Northwest Athletic Club	Brooklyn Center, MN	320-251-3965
April 5-9	2005 Utah State Singles @ Orem Fitness Center	Orem, UT	801-229-7118
April 8-10	Foxwoods Red Swain Memorial @ Metro South Athletic Club	Brockton, MA	508-588-3444

## 2005 USA Racquetball Regional Qualifiers

April 8-10	Sportime of Syosset TBA	Long Island, NY Florida	718-429-8489
April 14-17	Midtown Sports & Wellness Southern Athletic Club Central Courts Solon Athletic Club Chuck Minker Sports Complex Vetta Sports Club of Concord Southern Athletic Club Cascade Athletic Club Severna Park Racquet & Fitness	Albuquerque, NM Atlanta, GA Minneapolis, MN Cleveland, OH Las Vegas, NV St. Louis, MO Oklahoma City, OK Gresham, OR Millersville MD	505-321-1110 770-923-5400 763-572-0330 614-890-6073 702-615-5051 314-842-6363 x3 918-541-0722 503-665-4142 443-850-2648
April 20-24	Schaumburg Tennis Plus	Chicago, IL	630-430-1478
April 21-24	Racquetball & Fitness Clubs of San Antonio Cedardale Athletic Club	San Antonio, TX Haverhill, MA	210-344-8596 978-927-3923

\* California Site TBA but may not be held

\* Florida Site TBA but the date is set

For more information about the upcoming regional championships then please contact Kevin Joyce at 719/635-5396 ext. 123 or [kjoyce@usra.org](mailto:kjoyce@usra.org)



## National & International Events

INTERNATIONAL  
RACQUETBALL  
FEDERATION



March 4-6	18th USAR National High School Championships	St. Louis, MO
March 9-12	NMRA Masters National Championships	Canoga Park, CA
March 18-26	PARC 18th Pan American Championships	Caracas, Venezuela
March 30 - April 2	33rd USAR National Intercollegiate Championships	Tempe, AZ
April 14-17	USRA Regional Championships	Nationwide
May 25-30	38th USAR National Singles Championships	Houston, TX
June 22-26	32nd USAR Junior Olympic Championships	Portland, OR
July 13-16	NMRA International Masters Championships	Canton, OH
July	USAR High Performance Training Camps	Colorado Springs, CO
Aug. 30 - Sept. 3	IRF 17th World Senior Championships	Albuquerque, NM
Sept. 28 - Oct. 2	38th USAR National Doubles Championships	Tempe, AZ
November 16-20	9th Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships	Memphis, TN





# US OPEN Redux

» By ERIC MULLER

## FIVE GAMES! My Kingdom for Five Games!

Poor, poor Doug Ganim. Every year the US OPEN produces some of the finest matches men's professional racquetball has even seen - in the quarter's and semi's. Unfortunately, much to Doug's chagrin, there has never been a five-game barn burner in the finals. As a result, the US OPEN television broadcasts, while always entertaining, lack the tension and excitement unique to a five-game battle.

True to form, the 2004 men's final lasted three short games, however I believe Doug will have the last laugh this year because television audiences in select designated metropolitan areas will witness the sport's most electrifying athlete playing the match of his career. Even better, all five games of the women's final and several quarter and semi-final matches will be broadcast in their entirety on the Tennis Channel.

## Think Globally, Act Locally

Speaking of the Tennis Channel...one simple way for every racquetball fan to help our game grow is to contact their local cable or satellite provider to request the Tennis Channel. A growing number of cable MSO's are offering the channel, but the big fish is Comcast and its 23 million subscribers. Apparently Comcast has run trials in select markets (e.g. Atlanta), but a system-wide rollout would dramatically increase racquetball's exposure. If you've already contacted your provider, do it again. If you currently subscribe to the Tennis Channel, email a thank you note to your provider's customer service department.

## Event Coverage

As I was not able to attend the US OPEN in person this year, I was pleased to be able to follow the event on-line,

and overall, I found the coverage to be reasonably good. The draw sheets were usually updated, and I found the articles, particularly Mike Ceresia's, to be entertaining. While there is always room for improvement, I think this is an area where the sport is making progress.

## N.A.F.T.A.

To steal a line from one of Mike Ceresia's articles from the US OPEN, the men's draw featured "a baker's dozen of Herrera's" in the round of 32. This strong showing from the Mexican delegation was no fluke. Former USA Head Coach and Hall of Fame inductee Jim Winterton has been saying for 15 years that the Mexicans are coming, and I have to say that the old curmudgeon got it right. There is no doubt in my mind that Alvaro Beltran and Susy Acosta are merely the first in what will surely be a wave of Mexican players to become mainstays among the top ranks of the IRT and LPRA. I'm told the player with the most potential is Paola Langoria, a 15-year-old phenom who reached the quarters of the US OPEN with a surprisingly easy three-game upset over Adrienne Fisher in round of 32 and a win over Susy Acosta in the 16's.

Strong junior development programs and tremendous enthusiasm are the secrets to the Mexican's success. Doves of kids are introduced to the game each year in Mexico City and Chihuahua, and the energy at Mexican tournaments rival U.S. events from the late 1970's. In coaching the U.S. Junior Team against the Mexican Junior Team almost a decade ago, I was impressed with the solid fundamental stroke mechanics and the fierce competitive drive of the Mexican players. In those days, it was only greater experience that allowed the U.S. to prevail in international competition. Now that the Mexicans are more seasoned, it would not surprise me in the least to see a decade of domination.

# MULLER'S MARKET PICKS

## BUY, SELL, HOLD

### BUY

A beer for Shawn Royster the next time you see him. Shawn is one of the entrepreneurs who will lead racquetball to the next level. His Royster Productions filmed the US OPEN, and without his efforts and sponsorship of the sport, we would not have been able to fully maximize our opportunity with the Tennis Channel.

### SELL

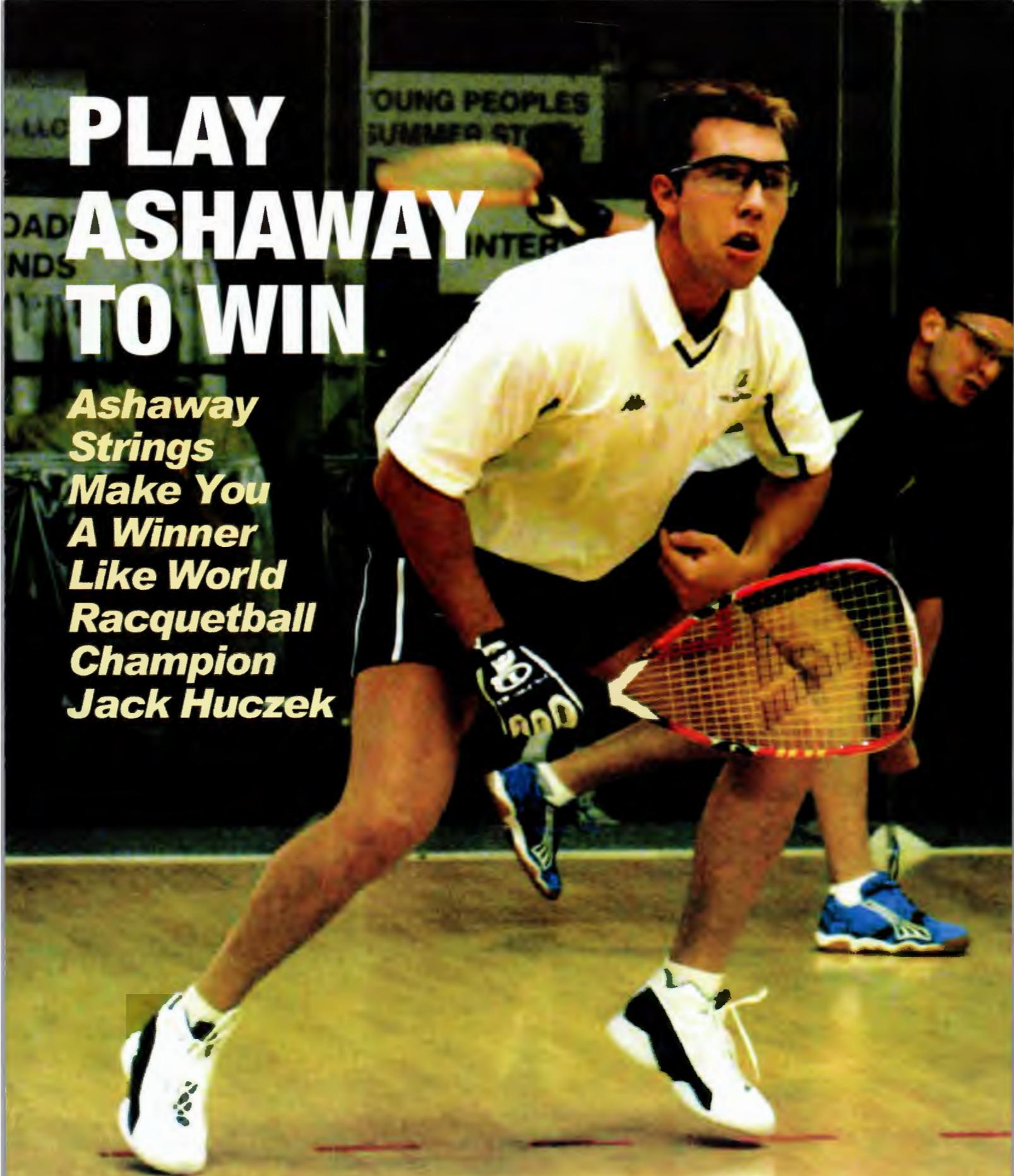
Your old racquetball racquets on eBay, and buy some new ones. With the holidays over, it is likely that you can get a good deal on some frames at your local Sports Authority or Wal-Mart.

### HOLD

Suds Monchik's early retirement. When Sudsy announced his retirement prior to the beginning of this season, there was still some hope of a rivalry and a joint "Kane-Huczak" era. This season, and symbolically, the 2004 US OPEN, removed all doubt as to whose era this will be. Many fans now believe that only Sudsy has the game to stay with Kane, and I know that he has received a flood of emails and phone calls imploring him to step into the breach. With Kane appearing more dominant than Sudsy was at his best and Cliff Swain's resurgence, how could Sudsy's competitive juices not be boiling?

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