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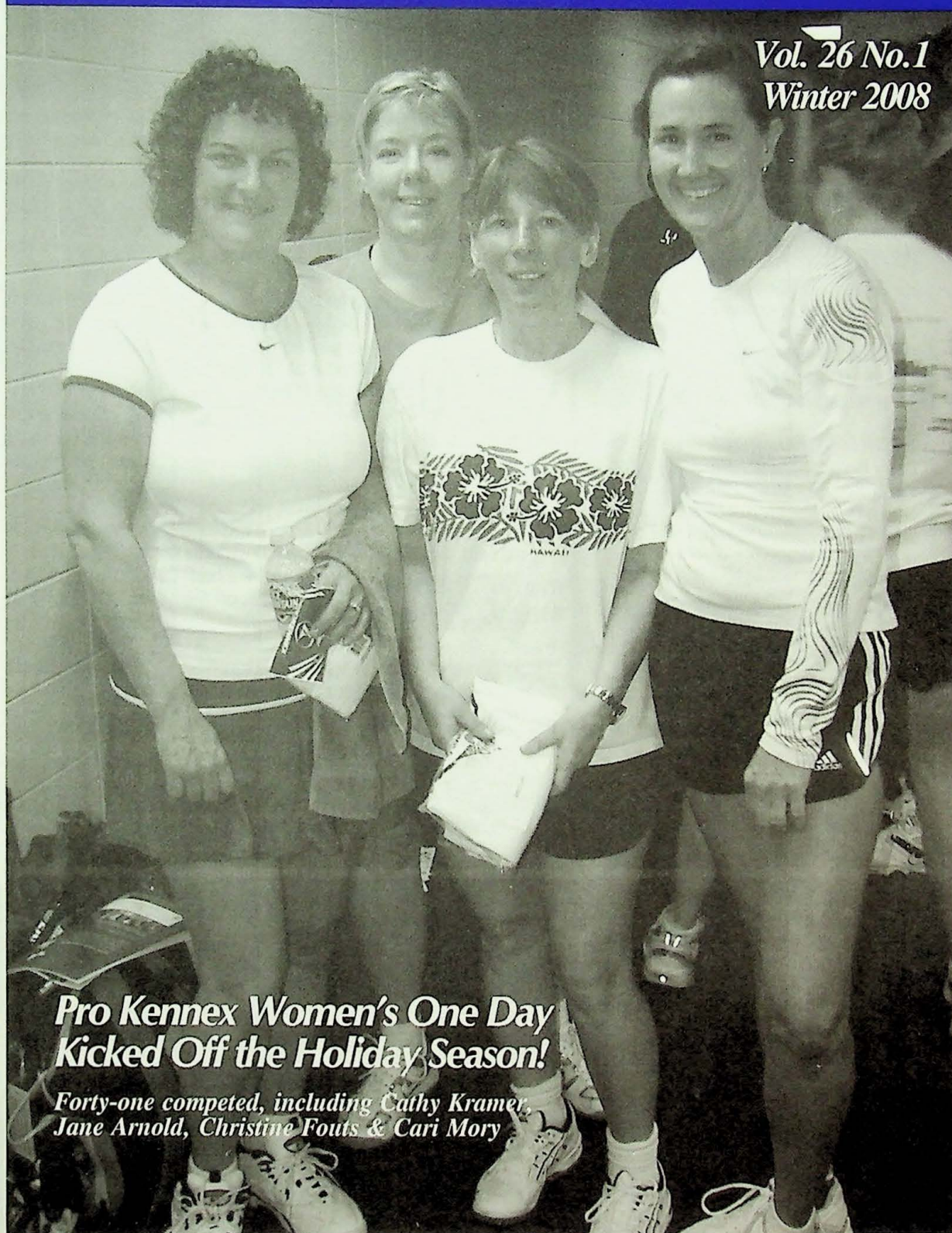
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Newsletter

The Official Publication of the Illinois State Racquetball Association

Vol. 26 No. 1
Winter 2008



Pro Kennex Women's One Day Kicked Off the Holiday Season!

*Forty-one competed, including Cathy Kramer,
Jane Arnold, Christine Fouts & Cari Mory*

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From the President

Wow! The new year is off to a fast start. The ISRA State Doubles Championships were January 11-13th at the Glass Court in Lombard. We had a great turnout – 166 players! That's 23 more than we had last year...

Between the additional players and the use of the new R2 Sports Tournament Management system, we experienced a few challenges. But, that gives us the opportunity to learn and make improvements for next time.

We ran behind at certain times during the tournament. With doubles, it is more difficult to schedule because people play with multiple partners. So, there are times when matches can't start because one partner is still involved in another match. We'll look at limiting the number of events to two per person or spreading out the allotted time as a solution. Or, we may need to consider going to a maximum number of entries.

As for the tournament management system, we just need to use it more and learn what it can do. It has a great deal of functionality. People love to be able to look at it from home and see what is happening at a tournament. On the other side...

- We chose to turn off the credit card feature because of the fee players would have incurred. The intention was to have cards run manually before the tournament started. Due to time constraints (mine), cards didn't get run and we had a bottleneck at the Check-In desk on the first day of the tournament.
- When entering players into the tournament, the system connects to your USAR membership record. Many of the records are incomplete. **It would be really helpful if everyone would look at their record and make sure it is accurate and includes a current e-mail address.** We sent some blast e-mail messages out and got a lot of them kicked back. In addition, we are looking at moving to an electronic newsletter in order to be able to communicate better and so that we can use our limited resources on things that will better promote racquetball – rather than paying for postage. (See page 12 for instructions on updating your USAR profile.)
- We added automatic Consolation to every division that was not a Round Robin. I would really like to know if players like that format or prefer to "sign up" for consolation. By adding those matches, we hoped to give everyone at least two matches and a good tournament value. It

seems like everybody in some divisions played Consolation but not very many played in others. Scheduling those additional matches contributed to the times when the tournament was running behind.

Since we are in the heart of the tournament season, I'd like to mention a couple of other "rules to live by" to make everyone's tournament experience more enjoyable:

1. Eligibility

Be honest about your skill level when entering tournaments. The eligibility rules are posted on our website under "General," accompanied by a current list of player eligibilities. If you feel you should move down a division, please follow the rules for petitioning the ISRA Board for a reclassification.

2. Rules

Know and follow the rules – *especially* the safety rules. (A complete list of rules is listed on the USAR website – www.usar.org.)

None of us are playing this game because we are going to win a million dollars if we win the big match. We are playing because we love the game and we enjoy the people who play it. A great deal of fun goes out of the game when people try to get away with things – whether it be playing down a division, wearing the wrong kind of eyeguards, or not buying a membership. Winning is fun but it doesn't mean much if you do it without integrity.

There are a limited number of volunteers to staff the ISRA Board and to run tournaments. It's not fair to expect those people, who willingly volunteer their time, to police their friends and make sure they are following the rules. In addition, we put the clubs who host tournaments and our opponents at risk by doing things that negate the insurance provided by sanctioning a tournament through the USAR. Enough said...

We've got money!! I would like

*continued
on next
page*





Meet The Board — TJ Ferro

Here's a man who is completely dedicated to racquetball! A member of the Team Ektelon Advisory Staff, TJ Ferro began playing racquetball in 1994 and has been serving on the ISRA Board since 1996. He is a member of both Glass Court and LA Fitness (Naperville).

TJ's skill in coaching racquetball has produced some big names that have emerged from Illinois onto the national and world stages. Over the years, TJ has coached Krystal Csuk, Andy Hawthorne, Ben Croft, Trevor Snyders, Geoff Goldblatt and Vinny Carvallo!

Along with Krystal, Andy, and also Nick Bischoff, TJ began the Junior Clinic Tour in the late 90's, which later became JTI (Jun-

ior Team Illinois). He received the ISRA Distinguished Service Award in 1998 and is a member of the NMRA (National Masters Racquetball Association) where he is currently running for a board position.

Partnered for 22 years with Marty Haak, TJ raised two sons and has two grandchildren, Ellie and Will. His career in the grocery business has spanned over 20 years and he is currently with Ultra Foods in Lombard.

Those who work closely with TJ on the ISRA Board appreciate his candor, dependability and dedication to racquetball. Thanks, TJ, for your many contributions to our sport!

Southlake Fall Open

Southlake Racquet & Fitness Club,
Mundelein
Tournament Director —
Cindy Flores-Mocarski

Results

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open/A (7): Eugene Coyle;
Cary Slade; John Thorson, Jr., Zach Archer
Men's AA (3): Bob Wurtz; Tony Rosselli;
Geoff Peters (3rd)

Men's A (7): Eric Battaglia; Joey Limonciello; Moses
Elias, Rick Seaberg

Men's B (12): Bryan Tubbs; Rick Seaberg; Moses
Elias, Antonio Vazquez

Men's C (10): Russ Maziarka; Jason Hays; Kevin
McMillan, Gerry Kudanian

Men's 35/45+ (2): Cary Slade; Bob Wurtz

Women's B (3): Cari Mory; Jane Arnold; Eleanor
Heger (3rd)

Men's Open/A Doubles (4): Brian Berkelhamer/Jeff
Mullins (1st); TJ Ferro/Zach Archer (2nd)

Men's B/C Doubles (8): Brett Crawley/Rob Littledale
(1st); Mark Bricker/Russ Maziarka (2nd)

Mixed Doubles (6): Dale Willenbrink/Jonelle
Kohoutek (1st); Antonio Vazquez/Cari Mory (2nd)

President's Letter

continued from previous page

to thank John Massard and Nancy Kronenfeld for their generous donations to the ISRA. We will use the money wisely in order to meet the mission of the ISRA — "Dedicated to promoting racquetball in Illinois."

See you on the courts,

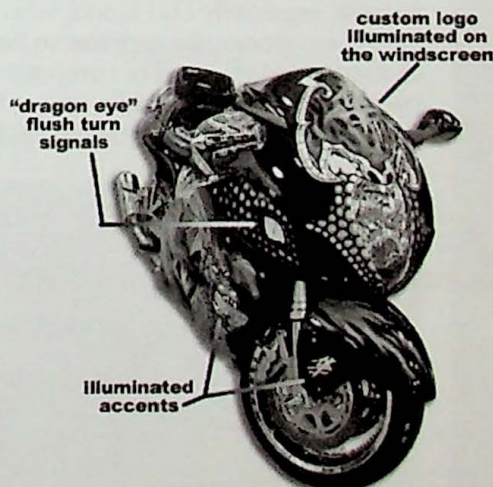
Laurel

(Editor's Note: Coverage of the ISRA State Doubles tournament will appear in the Spring 2008 issue of the ISRA Newsletter.)

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16th Annual Turkey Shoot Open

The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard, IL
November 9-11, 2007

Tournament Directors: Doug Halverson and Joe Silius

The 16th Annual Turkey Shoot, benefiting the TLC Camp, a day camp adventure for children with cancer, was hosted by the Glass Court in Lombard and proved the place to be for a weekend of great racquetball, great food, drinks and a great time. Absent was the perennial tournament director Doug Halverson and family (Michelle and Amanda) who had an out of town commitment and could not be there, but they did more than their part in the pre-planning! Club host Diane DeArmas was also absent, recovering from surgery. Well wishes were conveyed to her co-host/ husband Joe DeArmas from a concerned contingent of those attending.

The Glass Court staff, ISRA Board members and numerous volunteers kept things running smoothly all weekend. The use of the R2 Sports software for the tournament helped eliminate many of the hours of manual preparation a tournament director would normally experience.

Highlighting the tournament (aside from the delicious traditional turkey dinner) were the matches played all weekend. The competition was stiff with Men's Open champ Brian Simpson (IN) defeating Keith Minor in a tight finals match. Keith played through an injury rather than forfeit

and gave the crowd some Sunday excitement. Brian also came out on top in the Men's 30/45+ division against Dave Milazzo. Dave's 2nd place finish didn't discourage him, since he won the Men's 50+ against T.J. Ferro. T.J.'s 2nd place didn't discourage him, as he won the Men's 55+ against Dave's brother Frank Milazzo. Frank's 2nd place didn't discourage him, although not playing a second division did. It was fun while it lasted.

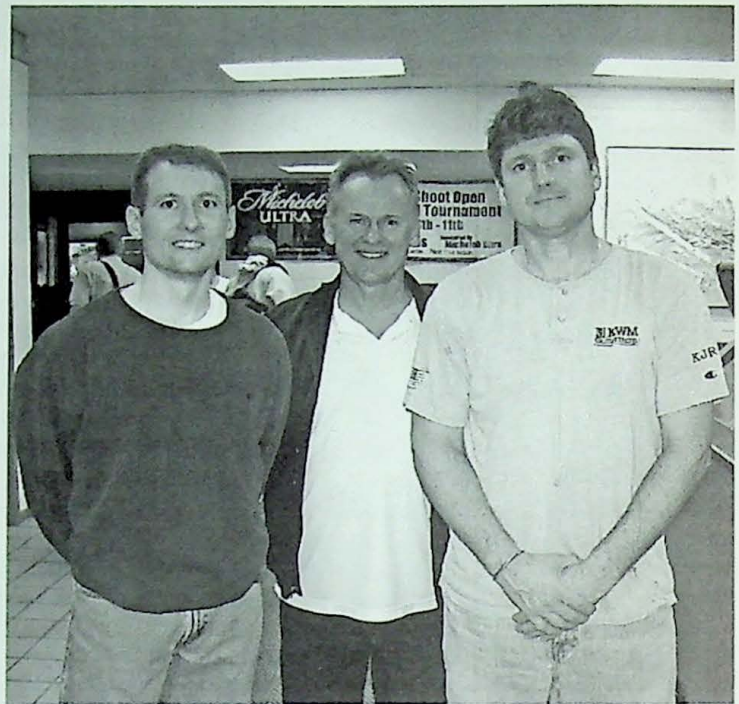
Others notable: Desmond Slusher 1st Men's A, 1st Mixed A (with wife Leila); Liz Molitor 1st Women's Open in singles and doubles (with Julie Vincent); and Dolores Lamberson 1st Women's B/C and 1st Women's D. Check out the other division results on this page, hopefully your name is in the winners bracket...if not, maybe next time!

A special thanks to Ted Huddleston and Pete Shesek who were the go-to guys when we needed referees and thanks to all those who helped make this tournament a success, especially Lori Good, who gave of herself so generously and was so helpful to so many in (dire) need of computer assistance. Always with a smile on her face, ISRA Recruiter Extraordinaire Patrice Calvi

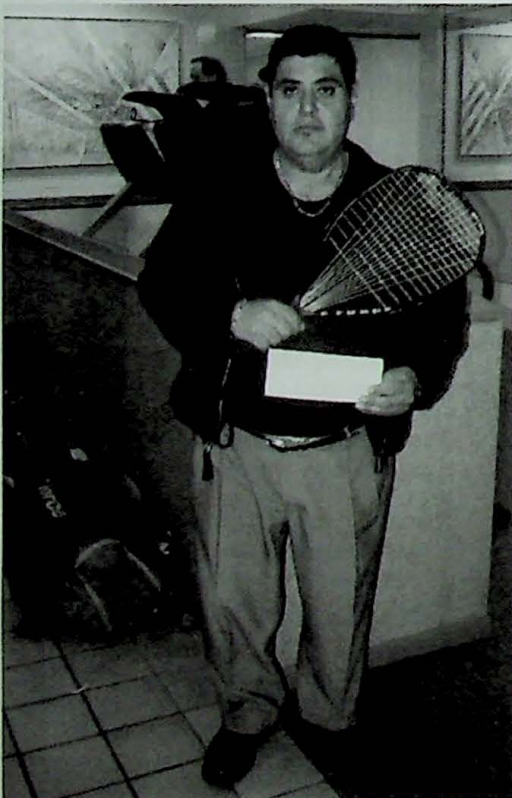
made sure the tournament had enough volunteers for the entire weekend. Laurel Davis, Cheryl Kirk - what would we do without them? Here's a look at the rest who helped out: Marian Bala, Ron Calloway, Mike Davern, Barb Curran, T.J. Ferro, Geoff Goldblatt, Jeff Grace, Pam Grace, Amanda Halverson, Doug Halverson, Michelle Halverson, Brent Huff, Grant Macuba, Jim Maroon, Dave Milazzo, Liz Molitor, Geoff Peters, John Puccio, Kathy Ruzyski, Rick Seaberg, Joe Silius, Chuck Snyders, Trevor Snyders, John Thorson, Julie Vincent, Kevin Yeazell, and Lynn Yeazell.

— Joe Silius

continued on next page



Joe Silius (center) congratulates Open Champion Brian Simpson and Runner-Up Keith Minor



Enrique Rodriguez, Men's C 2nd place



Brian Berkelhamer, Lori Good and Pam Grace

Turkey Shoot

continued from previous page

Editor's Note: Joe Silius stepped up in Doug's absence and ran his first ISRA tournament (trial by fire!) and he was up to the task. His subsequent knee surgery had nothing to do with his inaugural TD experience... Great job, Joe!

Results

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

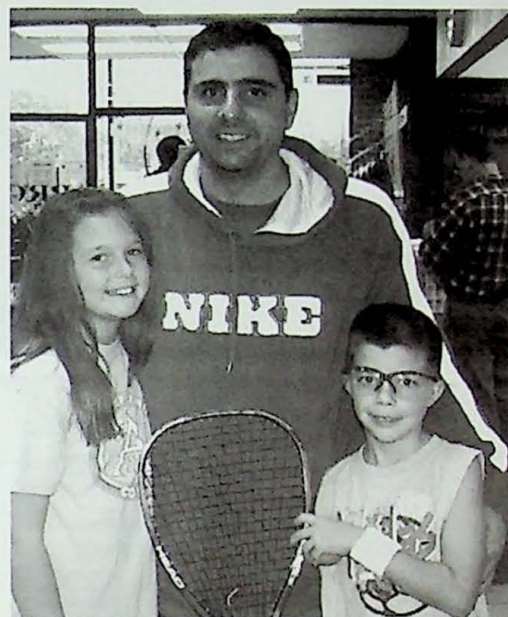
Men's Open (10): Brian Simpson (IN); Keith Minor; Jorge Ortiz, Alex Ackermann (IN)
Men's AA (4): Richard DeArmas; Zach Archer; Clint Hickman
Men's A (13): Desmond Slusher; John Puccio; Scott Fauque, Brian Finley
Men's B (17): Mike Vieni; Rick Seaberg; Kenny Brown, Dan Jaskier
Men's C (18): Andy Stoltmann; Enrique Rodriguez; Brad Rupsis, Sriram Ravindran
Men's D (7): David Singer; Tom Barr; Don Devereaux, Jr., Mark Richier
Men's 30+ (2): Martin Gonzalez; Tony Rosselli
Men's 30/45+ (8): Brian Simpson (IN); Dave Milazzo; Martin Gonzalez, Patrick Francis
Men's 50+ (8): Dave Milazzo; TJ Ferro; Kevin Yeazell, Jim Hillman
Men's 45/50+ B/C (7): Tony DiCianni; John Geatros; Dan Musgrove, Leo Formanski
Men's 55+ (5): TJ Ferro; Frank Milazzo; Pat Taylor (3rd)

Men's 60/65+ (3): Dennis McKee; Jose Castro; John Ramsay (3rd)

Women's Open (6): Liz Molitor; Julie Vincent; Janet Eminger, Ellen Somberg

Women's AA (3): Ellen Somberg; Renee Roux; Lynn Yeazell (3rd)

Women's A (4): Bernadette Bland; Kathleen Ruzyski; Pam Grace (3rd)



Men's B Champ Mike Vieni with biggest fans, Danielle and Michael, Jr.

Women's B/C (4): Dolores Lamberson; Pam Jacobson; Letty Maldonado (3rd)

Women's D (4): Dolores Lamberson; Letty Maldonado; Joy DeShazer (3rd)

Men's Open Doubles (7): Zach Archer/Alex Ackermann (IN); Andy Pitock/Eric Jensen; Brian Berkelhamer/Jorge Ortiz, Brent Huff/Kevin Yeazell

Men's A Doubles (13): Dan Flood/Tim Brown; Chris Liljestrand/Matt Malcheski; Brian Finley/John Puccio, Mike Vieni/Steve Butler

Men's B Doubles (6): Glen Bero/Steve Kudwa; Art Davis, Jr./Paul Jepsen; John Anaya/John Geatros, Joe Lococo/John Trendell

Men's C Doubles (8): Jeffrey Hill/David Singer; Brian Lien/Dale Willenbrink; Dan Pacetti/Jim Donzal, Art Davis, Jr./Michael Odea

Men's 40+ Doubles (7): Bob Morrison/Dave Bachar; Jim Hillman/Dennis McKee; Bill Lyman/Tony Cosmano, Andy Pitock/Eric Jensen

Women's Open Doubles (6): Julie Vincent/Liz Molitor; Pam Schubach/Patrice Calvi; Barb Curran/Cheryl Kirk, Ellen Somberg/Renee Roux

Mixed Open Doubles (3): Barb Curran/John Thorson, Jr.; Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez/Richard DeArmas; Patrice Calvi/Geoff Goldblatt (3rd)

Mixed A Doubles (11): Desmond Slusher/Leila Slusher; Lynn Yeazell/John Puccio; Bernadette Bland/Rick Seaberg, Jim Maroon/Pam Schubach

Mixed B/C Doubles (2): Paul Jepsen/Marcia Warren; Antonio Vazquez/Cathy Mysliwiec



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2007 Choice Hotels US Open Racquetball Championships

The Racquet Club, Memphis, TN

November 14-18, 2007

Tournament Director – Doug Ganim

Pro Results

Mens Pro Singles — Semifinals:

Jack Huczek def. Shane Vanderson 11-2, 11-10, 11-4

Rocky Carson III def. Jason Mannino 11-3, 11-3, 1-11, 11-8

Final: Rocky Carson III def. Jack Huczek 11-3, 7-11, 11-8, 11-6

Ladies Pro Singles — Semifinals:

Rhonda Rajsich def. Angela Grisar (Chile) 11-7, 11-8, 11-3

Cheryl Gudinas-Holmes def. Christie Van Hees (Canada) 5-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-9

Final: Rhonda Rajsich def. Cheryl Gudinas-Holmes 11-6, 11-5, 8-11, 11-9



Team Illinois players and fans celebrate at the US Open Party with the Pros



Men's C partners Sanjay Gurav and Srinivas Avasarala

Men's 40+ (Classic Professional Racquetball Tour – CPRT) — Semifinals:

Woody Clouse def. Mike Ceresia (Canada) 11-4, 11-8, 11-5

Ruben Gonzalez def. Keith Minor 11-3, 11-7, 9-11, 11-1

Final: Ruben Gonzalez def. Woody Clouse 11-2, 2-11, 11-4, 8-11, 11-5

Team Illinois at the US Open

Men: 27 Women: 9

Medal Count - 18

Gold (8) – Navin Deo (2), Lola Markus, John O'Donnell, Jr., Cary Slade, Pat Taylor, Gary Frasco/Michael Hall (CA), Juan Herrera/Andres Herrera (CA)

Silver (5) – Eugene Coyle, Cheryl Gudinas-Holmes, Letty Maldonado, Rhonda

Mundhenk, Chris Evon/Trish Beatty (WI)
Bronze (5) – Krystal Csuk, Greg Hasty, Horace Miller, Keith Minor (2)

Top Finishers (Quarterfinals or better, see below **): 21

Men's Singles

Pat Armstrong – Men's 35+ A

Eric Battaglia – Men's A, Men's 35+ A

Keith Brown – Men's 55+ B**

Eugene Coyle – Men's 35+ (2nd)**, Men's 40+

Ben Croft – Men's Pro

Mike Davern – Men's 45+ A, Men's 50+

Michael Davern, Jr. – Men's D, Men's 24-C

Navin Deo – Men's 45+ C (1st)**, Men's 55+ C (1st)**

continued on next page



Joey Logan, Horace Miller and Wil Rounsaville



Keith Brown, Rick Seaberg, Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez and Mike Hammel



1st time at the Open! Letty Maldonado checks her competition schedule



Gold medalist Lola Markus with Lynne Weisbart

2007 Choice Hotels/US Open Racquetball Championships
continued from previous page

Gary Frasco – Men's B, Men's 45 + B**
Sanjay Gurav – Men's C, Men's 25 + B**
Mike Hammel – Men's A, Men's 35 + A
Greg Hasty – Men's 60 + (3rd)**
Juan Herrera – Men's Pro
Brent Huff – Men's 30 +
Leo Klimaitis – Men's 55 + A
Dave Milazzo – Men's 45 +, Men's 50 +
Frank Milazzo – Men's 55 +, Men's 55 + A
Horace Miller – Men's 55 + **, Men's 60 + (3rd)**
Keith Minor – Men's 35 + (3rd)**; Men's 40 + (3rd)**
John O'Donnell, Jr. – Men's 75 + (1st)
Geoff Peters – Men's 50 +
Rick Reynolds – Men's 45 + A, Men's 50 +
Wil Rounsaville – Men's 45 + A, Men's 55 + A**
Rick Seaberg – Men's 35 + B, Men's 45 + B
Cary Slade – Men's 30 + (1st)**, Men's 40 +

Pat Taylor – Men's 65 + (1st)**
Mike Vicary – Men's 35 + A

Women's Singles

Krystal Csuk – Women's Pro, Women's Open (3rd)**
Cheryl Gudinas-Holmes – Women's Pro (2nd)**
Letty Maldonado – Women's C (3rd)**, Women's 35 + C (2nd pool play)
Lola Markus – Women's 75 + (1st)**
Rhonda Mundhenk – Women's C, Women's D (2nd pool play)
Lynn Yeazell – Women's 35 + A (3rd pool play)



Geoff Peters, Keith Brown and Mike Hammel

Men's Doubles

Pat Armstrong/Mike Vicary – Men's 35 +
Eric Battaglia/Cary Slade – Men's 35 +
Gary Frasco/Michael Hall (CA) – Men's B (1st)**
Sanjay Gurav/Srinivas Avasarala (MO) – Men's C
Juan Herrera/Andres Herrera (CA) – Men's Open (1st)**
Brent Huff/Brian Andresen (IA) – MA**

Women's Doubles

Chris Evon/Trish Beatty (WI) – Women's Open (2nd)**
Cheryl Kirk/Lynne Weisbart – Women's BC
Lynn Yeazell/Deb Evers (WI) – WA (3rd pool play)

Mixed Doubles

Mike Hammel/Lynn Yeazell – Mixed A/B
Cheryl Kirk/Geoff Peters – Mixed A/B
Lynne Weisbart/Tom Curran (NC) – Mixed A/B



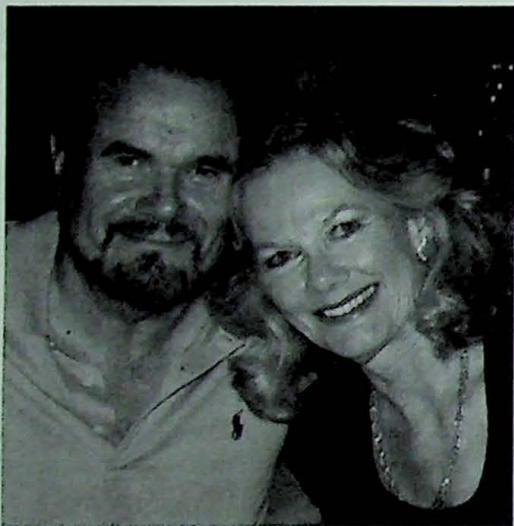
Cheryl Kirk, Lynne Weisbart, Marian Bala, Lynn Yeazell and Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez

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**2007 Choice Hotels US Open
Racquetball Championships**
continued from previous page

Team Illinois Cheerleaders

Bringing their enthusiasm to Memphis were Marian Bala, Mark Coleman, Beth and Bob Croft, Terri Graham, Pat and Bill Gudinas, Doug Holmes, Susan Klimaitis, Kit Lawson, Joey Logan, Deb Peters, Lem Rowans, Kim Seaberg, and Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez. Thanks to each of you for coming down...it's great to have the support!



Leo and Susan Klimaitis

2008 ISRA Newsletter Advertising Rates

GUIDELINES:

- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include **product pricing**.
- All ads are assumed to be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- These rates are in effect until March 31, 2008.
- Deadlines are as follows:

- **Issue Mail Date:** 5/2/08
- **Articles/Releases Due:** 4/4/08
- **Stuffers/Inserts Due:** 4/11/08

- All stuffers/inserts are to be received by:
Laura Kreiner, 2307 Arrow Street, Carpentersville, Illinois 60110
- Ad rates:
Full page: \$150/issue Half page: \$75/issue Quarter page: \$50/issue
Other sizes quoted on a case by case basis
- For any questions or submission:

Joe Silius, jsilius@yahoo.com

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SLAM IT FOR SUSAN!

Lattof YMCA, Des Plaines, IL

November 19, 2007

Event Organizer – Art Michaely

It was a night for remembering Susan Mertes, raising money and awareness for breast cancer research, and just slamming the ball around the courts at the Lattof YMCA in Des Plaines. Everyone was a winner!

Art Michaely took charge and set up challenge courts for anyone who could hold a racquet and smack the ball into the front wall. In this all-doubles event, the winners stayed on the court and were challenged by another doubles team. The losers got back in line to try again. Over 50 racquetball enthusiasts participated – mostly men. We love you guys, but we hope to have more women next year...especially because we played with pink balls donated by Wilson Sporting Goods!

Donna Albert, Nancy Kronenfeld, Dave Kronenfeld and Janet Leet all assisted Art in checking in the players and making sure everyone received a racquetball item do-

nated by Wilson or a pair of pink socks donated by Nancy Kronenfeld and Art Michaely. Some of the men even put them on that night! Thanks to Wilson Sporting Goods, Susan G. Komen for the Cure and Geoff Peters, there were plenty of items donated. Also, thanks to Rick Colletti for donating awesome pizza from his restaurant.

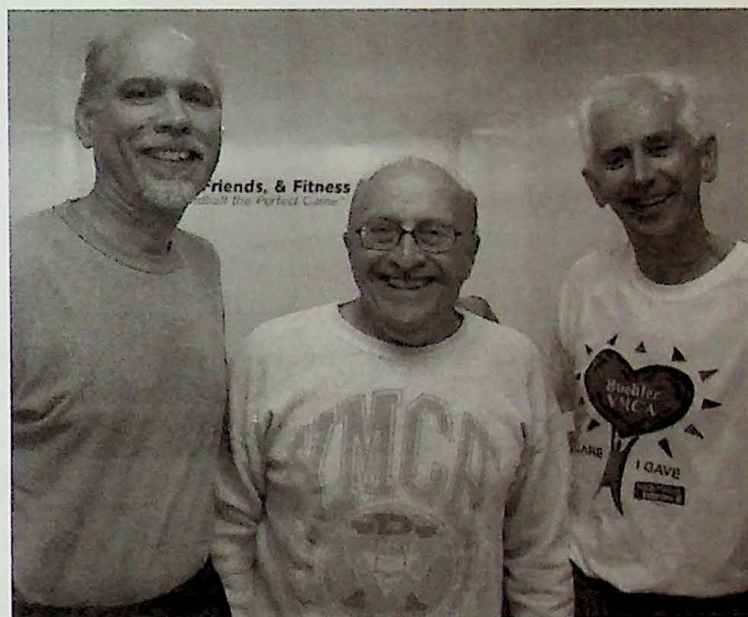
When the night was over, \$1,700 had been raised, with \$1,450 of that amount donated to Susan G. Komen for the Cure and \$250 donated to the Lattof YMCA in memory of Susan Mertes. We all miss Susan and plan to remember her every year by making this an annual event. Hope to see you at the 2nd Annual "Slam it for Susan!"

— Nancy Kronenfeld

For more information about Susan G. Komen for the Cure, visit <http://cms.komen.org/komen/index.htm>



Assistant organizers Janet Leet and Nancy Kronenfeld



Art Michaely (center) and friends



Pro Kennex Women's One Day

Forest View Racquet Club

December 2, 2007

Tournament Director – Dave Negrete

At the onset of the holiday season, it takes a lot to get women out of the malls and onto the courts. Dave Negrete manages to do it year in and year out. Somehow, when he announces a tournament, we all show up...could it be:

- Spirited racquetball matches to burn off holiday calories yet to be consumed?
- Lots of food and munchies on hand? (Hey, one can't exist on racquetball alone.)
- Pro Kennex raffle prizes for everyone? (Thanks, Bob Dunlap!)
- The Lia Sofia jewelry table? (Shopping and racquetball...heaven on earth!)
- Julie Vincent's (Dave's assistant's) excellent organizational skills and dedication to providing a great event?



"We love the One Day!" Janet Christie, Laurel Davis, Pauline Kelly, Karin McCauley, Lori Good, Pam Grace and Marla Cusano

Some flew in (Alabama and Washington), most drove in (Illinois and Wisconsin), and all 41 competed in one of four divisions offered: Open, A, B, C/D.

Three guys and all those women! Thanks to Dave, Bob, and also Jim Thurber, manager of Forest View. We appreciate you!

(Note: Found out an interesting fact...Oreo cookies and milk at the tournament desk are magical in keeping Dave in a mellow mood throughout the day.)

Ladies, thank you for coming out to the One Day event!

— Cheryl Kirk

Open (13): Jen Bezruczyk (WI), Bernadette Bland, Diane Bunker, Laurel Davis, Lori Good, Nancy Kronenfeld, Karin McCauley, Liz Molitor, Renee Roux, Kathy Ruzycki, Julie Vincent, Jill Wells, Lynn Yeazell

Winner — Renee Roux

A (8): Marla Cusano, Pam Grace, Margaret Hoff, Sharon Hunter, Cheryl Kirk, Alexis Ross

(AL), Lynne Weisbart, Tammy Wronski
Winner — Margaret Hoff

B (11): Donna Albert, Jane Arnold, Janet Christie, Mary Crambes, Christine Fouts, Carrie Howard, Pauline Kelly, Cathy Kramer, Lola Markus, Cari Mory, Julianne Valentino

Winner — Cari Mory

C/D (9): Ximena Alban, Celestia Boughner, Dolores Lamberson, Kimberly Lowery, Letty Maldonado, Rhonda Mundhenk, Joyce Satorius, Tina Thomas (WA), Deanna Wheatland

Winner — Rhonda Mundhenk





TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

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

February 8th — 10th
ISRA State Singles Championships (JR)
The Chalet, Willow Springs
Cheryl Kirk; (630) 215-4242
SANCTIONED

February 13th — 17th
**40th Annual USA Racquetball National
Doubles Championships**
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

February 28th — March 2nd
**20th Wilson National High School
Championships**
Location TBA, (Tentative: St. Louis)
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

March 5th — 8th
NMRA National Championships
Orem (SLC), UT
www.nmra.info
SANCTIONED

March 13th — 16th
The Shamrock Shootout, \$\$
The Glass Court Swim and Fitness,
Lombard
Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390
SANCTIONED

April 10th — 13th
**USA Racquetball Regional
Championships Weekend**
Various Sites Nationwide
View: www.usaracquetball.org
SANCTIONED

April 23rd — 27th
**Fourth Annual IRT Motorola Pro
Nationals/Chicago USAR Regionals, \$\$**
Schaumburg Tennis Plus, Schaumburg
Dave Negrete; (630) 430-1478
SANCTIONED

May 21st — 26th
**41st USA Racquetball National Singles
Championships**
The Downtown YMCA,
Houston, TX
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

July 16th — 19th
NMRA International Championships
West Allis, WI
www.nmra.info
SANCTIONED

JR - Includes Junior Divisions
\$ - Prize Money in Open Divisions
\$\$ - Prize Money in Multiple Divisions

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Finding the Right Doubles Partner

by Cindy Tilbury

Finding a doubles partner can be pretty easy, but keeping one is a little more difficult. Some players want to find a "permanent" partner, and since styles and attitudes don't always mesh, you have to decide for yourself the most important reason to play doubles. In most cases, you can ask a tournament director to match you up with someone else in the tournament who needs a partner. If you have played doubles a lot with other partners, a short conversation with your new partner before you start should help you get in synch. During that tournament, you can decide whether or not you want to play with that player again in the future. Of course, make sure you get his/her phone number and email address, if you plan to ask him/her to play.

To have players want to play doubles with you, though, you might want a longer conversation. Some of the considerations are:

Skill Level – It's not fair to ask a C player to play Open Doubles against skilled Open

Doubles teams, and it's not acceptable to have higher-level players enter a lower division. Pair up with someone who plays doubles at the same level you do.

Age Group – The National Masters organization will let you play opponents younger than yourself, but not older. If your potential doubles partner is quite a bit older, it may not be as fun for him/her to play in the younger division.

Doubles Style – Do you like to play the front? Shoot from the back? Keep to the forehand? Always take the backhand side? Serve lobs up the middle? Rely on the cross-court pass? Never hit a ceiling ball? Play with a left-handed person? Cling to the wall? Think about the way you like to play and let your potential partner know what shot you will probably hit when certain setups come your way or it is your turn to serve. If your style is causing your partner to be out of position, you might want to test-drive a new style or a new partner.

Match Attitude – Do you believe in drilling five times a week? Winning at all costs? Arguing every call? Taking your partner's shots? Not holding up? Accusing your opponents of cheating? There is a chance that you might not be the right doubles partner for anyone. Most players I know want to play great racquetball against skilled players with cheerful (and sometimes intense) attitudes. If you can't find anyone to play doubles with you or against you, it's possible you could need an attitude adjustment.

Communication – Even if your style and attitude are perfect matches, you may still not be the perfect doubles partner until you define your communication style. Every match has lots of shots that can be effectively taken by either partner. Signals or verbal calls between partners will keep you from letting a ball drop, cracking racquet frames as you both hit a shot, or (the worst) both running to the same shot and letting the other team easily pass your

continued on next page

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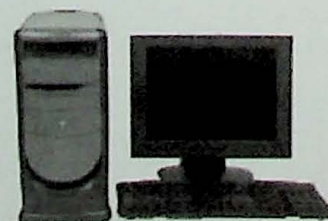
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Glass Court Junior Clinic

December 8, 2007

Event Organizers – Marian Bala and Andy Pitock

What a great deal for parents in the middle of the holiday season! Drop off your kids at Glass Court for 3 hours and at the bargain price of \$10, they are fed, get exercise, learn something, and have fun! And that's just what 23 kids between the ages of 6 and 14 experienced at Glass Court the second Saturday of December. Thanks to Marian Bala, Andy Pitock and an all-star cast of volunteer instructors, the afternoon event was a great success.

Racquets (to keep!) and eye guards were supplied to those who didn't have them. Then, warm-ups, forehands, backhands, and side-to-side drills were covered in 20-minute court rotations by Barbara Curran, Scott Fauque, Steve Goodman, Jeff Grace, Liz Molitor, and Enrique Rodriguez.

Later, hot dogs and snacks were served while Junior Elite player Trevor Snyders, 16, shared a few words about his racquetball experiences over the years.

The afternoon ended with a fun exercise where everyone ended up with a prize for hitting a target (or attempting to) on the Glass court!

Those attending were: Bryce Bishop, Griffin Brugh, Miles Brugh, Andy Conroy, Michael Degrece, Jessica DeJong, Nick DeJong, Corie Ewoldt, Jourdan Ewoldt, Jason Goodman, Sam Goodman, Max Hillman, Adrian Martinez, Julian Martinez,

Jostin Murphy, Mike Pietras, Robbie Quinn, Ashlynn Sove, Kailey Vitale, Kyle Vitale, Steven Vitale, Tiffany Wallick, Ethan Zarco.

Marian and Andy have already committed to holding more of these clinics in the future, so stay tuned to the ISRA website!

— Cheryl Kirk



Liz Molitor coaches backhand

Finding the Right Doubles Partner *continued from previous page*

uncovered court. I was taught to yell "Me" or "You" to let my partner know if I was or was NOT going to try for a shot, but there are other great ways to work with your partner, too. If your partner won't communicate, find one who will.

Longevity – There are some of us who enjoy playing with different people almost all of the time, but the security of having a go-to partner can be exactly what makes you happiest. After you find someone to match your level, style, attitude and communication approach, ask that person if he/she is interested in playing most tournaments with you. If you are playing more tournaments than your partner, make sure they don't mind your picking up an occasional temporary partner for a weekend.

I hope to see you on the doubles court this year—as your partner and as your opponent.

This article was reprinted with permission of Cindy Tilbury and the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA). For more information on the NMRA, visit www.nmra.info.



Lend Your Support

Your membership in the ISRA has helped make our organization second to none. Though we strive to make improvements to build and grow the sport for future success, we sometimes struggle to keep our heads above water as an organization. Our focus is not for the purpose of monetary gain but to generate enough funds to give back quality, first-rate programs, tournaments and events we can all be proud to participate in. Our volunteers who donate their time and/or money are greatly appreciated as are those who advertise in this ISRA Newsletter. For as little as \$25 for a business card size ad, we can help get your name out there to let everyone know what you do; for \$150, we can run your ad on a full page. Help Us Help You by getting your ad into the next ISRA newsletter. Many thanks, *Joe Silius*, Advertising Editor

Attention ISRA Members!

In 2008, the ISRA Newsletter will transition to an electronic format. Please take the opportunity now to update your USA Racquetball membership profile, most especially supplying your current email address so you don't miss any issues of this cutting edge publication!

Please follow the steps below to update your profile:

1. Log into www.usra.org
2. Select Membership Login in the upper left hand box
3. Enter your six-digit USAR membership number and password*
4. Update the information in the profile
5. Click on Edit Contact Info
6. Log out

Now, wasn't that easy?

*If you don't know or have misplaced your membership number and/or password, contact Heather Izzett at hizzett@usra.org.

Thanks for taking the time...and be sure to visit www.illinoisracquetball.com for tournament schedule revisions and competition results.



Send to:

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Lombard, IL 60148

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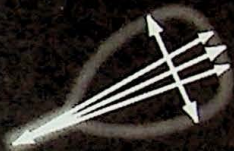
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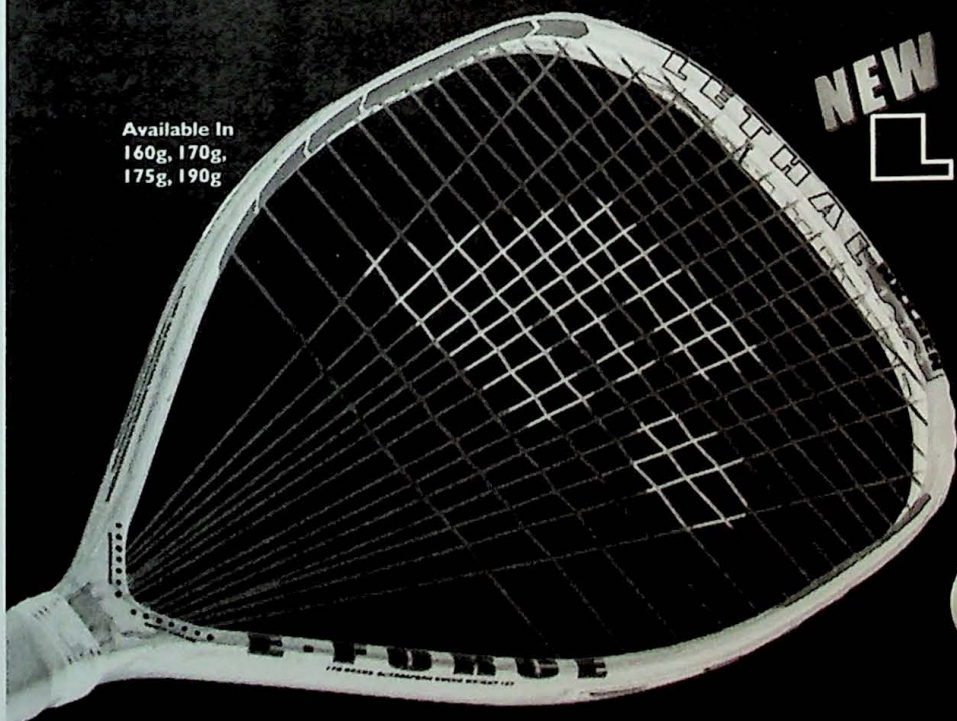
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To add your club to this list, contact:
Lynne Weisbart (847) 732-7245



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