

# RACQUETBALL

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USA RACQUETBALL



## 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary HALL OF FAME

U.S. Racquetball Association  
1685 West Uintah  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906

CHANGE Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Indianapolis, IN  
Permit No. 7867



MARCH/APRIL 2008 • VOLUME 19 • ISSUE 2



# ROCK SOLID POWER!

# HEAD®



*Jack Huczek*

Jack Huczek  
#1 Player in the World!\*

\* 2007 IRT year end ranking



Jason Thoerner - IRT # 6\*



Shane Vanderson - IRT # 5\*



Kristen Walsh - WPRO # 7\*

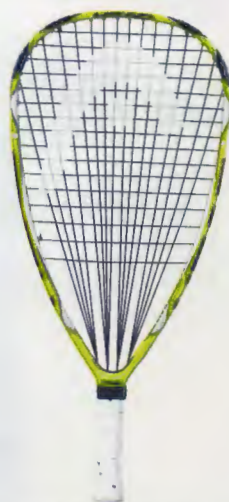


Mitch Williams - IRT # 7 \*

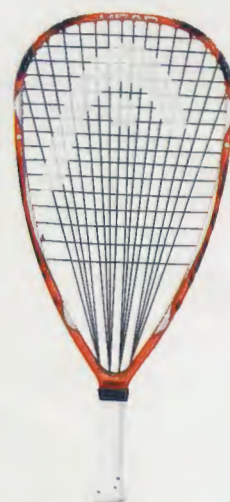


Chris Crowther - IRT # 8\*

Setting a new standard for power and performance, HEAD's new Extreme Series of racquets feature MicroGEL, Metallix and Flexpoint PWR technologies. Extreme racquets are the new weapon of choice for #1 ranked IRT pro Jack Huczek and the rest of the HEAD pro team. Experience the ultimate ROCK SOLID POWER!



**extreme  
170**



**extreme  
180**



**extreme  
190**

\*ranking as of 5/07



head.com



# ELITE SPONSOR

# Penn<sup>®</sup>

Official ball for all national and regional events

## Event Sponsors

U.S. National Singles

U.S. National Doubles

U.S. National Intercollegiates

U.S. Junior Olympics

U.S. National H.S. Championships **Wilson.**

 **EKTELON**

  
**E-FORCE**

  
**GEARBOX**  
RACQUETBALL

**HEAD<sup>®</sup>**

**HEAD<sup>®</sup>**

## Licensed Products

Official Glove

Wilson

Official Grip

Python

Official String

Ashway

Approved Balls

Penn

Ektelon

Wilson

Preferred Printer

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.





25 NATIONAL SINGLES



35 TIPS FOR HOUSTON



18 NATIONAL DOUBLES

## DEPARTMENTS

<i>From the Top</i>	6
<i>Racquetball 4 Ever</i>	7
<i>Players Helping Players</i>	8
<i>Senior/Masters Associations</i>	16
<i>Hall of Fame</i>	22
<i>What's the Call</i>	41
<i>Crandall's Corner</i>	45

## ON TOUR

<i>IRT</i>	10
<i>WPRO</i>	12
<i>Classic</i>	14
<i>WOR</i>	15

## INSTRUCTIONAL

<i>Fran's House</i>	40
<i>The Flow of Racquetball</i>	42
<i>Sudsy's Magic Show</i>	38

## SPECIALS

<i>National Doubles</i>	18
<i>National Singles Entry Form</i>	25
<i>40 Years Ago</i>	49
<i>Young Racquet</i>	56



### USA Racquetball Staff

Jim Hiser - Executive Director (130)  
 Melody Weiss - Chief Financial Officer (122)  
 Heather Fender - Exec. Assistant/Events (129)  
 Heather Izzert - Sanctioning Coordinator/  
 Membership Services (125)  
 Terri Morse - State/Membership Services (123)  
 Eddie Meredith - Events & Programs (132)  
 Mary Meredith - Accounting Assistant (124)  
 Doug Ganim - U.S. Open Director  
 Connie Martin - AmPro Programmer  
 Gary Mazaroff - AmPro Instruction  
 Otto Dietrich - Rules Commissioner

Email Us - [FirstinitialLastname@usra.org](mailto:FirstinitialLastname@usra.org)

### Contributors

Sudsy Monchik, Dave Negrete,  
 Connie Martin, Fran Davis, Otto Dietrich,  
 Steve Crandall, Hank Marcus, Woody Clouse,  
 Shannon Feaster, and Doug Ganim

### Design

Matt Lupton

### Copy Editor

Cheryl Kirk

### Photography

Geoff Thomsen

Racquetball Magazine is a publication of USA Racquetball. Readers are encouraged to submit items of possible interest to Heather Fender at the address listed below or via email ([hfender@usra.org](mailto:hfender@usra.org)). All items submitted are subject to editing by Racquetball Magazine.

### Publisher

USA Racquetball  
 1685 West Uintah  
 Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906  
 (719) 635-5396  
[www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)

Copyright (c) 2007 USA Racquetball  
 The entire contents of Racquetball are copyright protected, all rights reserved, and may not be reproduced, either in whole or in part, without written permission of the publisher.

visit us on the web @ [www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)



# GET IN THE GAME!

Updated Weekly!

CHECK OUT THE NEW RACQUETBALL REALITY SERIES!

GOTO: [WWW.RACQUETBALLWAREHOUSE.COM](http://WWW.RACQUETBALLWAREHOUSE.COM)

JON BEREZAY

WEEK 2

Age: 33  
Height: 6' 2"  
Weight: 240lbs  
Status: Married  
Location: San Luis Obispo, CA  
Division Rank: A  
Goal: 215lbs



# FREE BAG!



Buy any HEAD Extreme or HEAD Metallix racquet and receive a FREE MX Ultracombi bag.

*We'll also throw in a set of HEAD Pro Elite eyeguards as a bonus!*



**racquetballwarehouse**

[www.racquetballwarehouse.com](http://www.racquetballwarehouse.com) • 1.800.824.1101





By James Hiser, Ph.D.  
USAR Executive Director

**Got a great racquetball story or an idea for an article? Send it to us.**

USA Racquetball  
1685 West Uintah  
Colorado Springs, CO  
80904-2906  
(719) 635-5396

# NATIONAL EVENTS

## Where Our Sponsors Shine

**N**ational events are extremely important to USA Racquetball. They provide an opportunity for members to exhibit their skills and claim national titles; they provide an opportunity for members to meet with staff and national board members who attend the events; and they are a major source of revenue that help maintain member services and operations. With the increasing costs of airline travel, venue rental, hotel accommodations etc., it is extremely important that USA Racquetball solicit as much support as possible to assist with these events.

For those who attended National Doubles in Tempe, you most certainly noticed the booths of several manufacturers. In previous years, only one company has sponsored each of our major national events, but in an effort to make the event more exciting and also more inclusive, this year we opened many of our event sponsorship opportunities to all manufacturers.

It is USA Racquetball's position that the inclusion of all the sponsors improves the quality of the event. The major manufacturers (Pro Penn, Head, Ektelon, E-Force, Gearbox, and Wilson) have all been very supportive of USA Racquetball. Although each of these manufacturers possess sometimes-differing objectives and priorities, each company has stepped up in its own way

to support the sport and USA Racquetball. We as consumers and players need to do our part to support them.

This year in Houston, we will celebrate the History of Racquetball. Although the sport is a relatively young one, we do have much to celebrate.

Many of today's players know little about our history or of the personalities that created and molded our sport. At National Singles this year, we will create a museum of racquetball history that will include racquets, balls, publications, photos, ideas and clothing from our sport's history. We will also prepare a

souvenir program outlining the history and the personalities that have been important in developing this fabulous sport. Many of these personalities (Dr. Bud Muehleisen, Charlie Brumfield, Heather McKay, Lynn Adams, and Mike Yellen, to name a few) will be attending. Never before and perhaps never again will there exist such an opportunity to meet these great ambassadors!

The manufacturers have once again stepped up to support this event. Each company has been asked to use the theme "The History of Racquetball" as a focal point in their booth displays.

The event in Houston this year will be a Once in a Lifetime Experience. Join USA Racquetball and the manufacturers in celebrating our sport's history!

**With the increasing costs of airline travel, venue rental, hotel accommodations etc., it is extremely important that USA Racquetball solicit as much support as possible to assist with these events.**



# A Great Step **FORWARD**

**O**ver the years, in my time as a USA Racquetball Board member and currently its President, I have been gratified to witness the support of many, many individuals who have made contributions to support USAR. No matter the monetary amount of these donations, every dollar has been appreciated so very much.

It is my privilege to announce that USA Racquetball has officially established a Racquetball Foundation, launching a new fund that will give us increased ability to support racquetball and its many programs in the years to come.

This Racquetball Foundation Fund will be a separate entity and will be governed by its own board of directors that will oversee the fund. The individuals safeguarding this fund will possess financial experience in this field, guided by Mr. Ed Mazur, an established financial expert. This board will ensure the principle is safe; the funds are invested properly; and that only a portion of the interest is invested in racquetball programs. This autonomous board will have its

own set of priorities and duties separate from the board that governs USA Racquetball. Only the interest or gains in the fund will be used, leaving the principle intact.

There are many ways to support this fund. These include estate gifts, endowments, stocks, life insurance, real estate and end-of-year charitable donations.

Building a financial vehicle like this Foundation will make funds available to plan programs such as junior's and women's initiatives. It is common for not-for-profit organizations like ours to rely on funds like these to provide programs for members. Just as important, it gives people who have a passion for racquetball the opportunity to support it financially, knowing that their money will be administered by a separate board focusing on significant long-term programs. This fund will enhance our credibility and give players the confidence that their donations will truly make a long-term impact on promoting racquetball.

Below is a question and answer session held recently with Mr. Ed Mazur. Ed is guiding us through this



**By Randy Stafford,**  
USAR Board President

process and will administer this plan. Ed is a member of the oversight board that will govern this new fund.

We are already receiving donations to begin to build this fund into a financial tool that will really make a difference. Please join us and contribute to this new Racquetball Foundation. Support the future of racquetball – it's a great step forward for us all!

**Randy Stafford**  
President

## **RANDY STAFFORD AND ED MAZUR ON CHARITABLE GIVING**

**RS:** Before we get into the subject of Charitable Giving and the benefits to our members and USA Racquetball, please tell me a little bit about yourself.

**EM:** I've been a financial planner since the 1970's and have my own firm, Professional Investors Life and Annuity, in Farmington, CT. I've served as President of the Connecticut Association of Insurance and Finance Advisors, holding several professional designations including Chartered Financial Consultant.

In racquetball, I've held a number of positions including State President of the Connecticut Racquetball Association for 7 years. I've also served as President of the Junior Council and currently sit on the USAR Finance Committee.

**RS:** In your opinion, how important is charitable giving to the USAR?

**EM:** It's the future of racquetball! Our sport needs an infusion of funds to keep us going forward. We simply want to promote racquetball as the finest sport available for future generations, and what better way to do it than "players helping players?"

**RS:** Please speak to the confidentiality between USAR and the potential donor.

**EM:** All information is indeed confidential unless the donor grants permission. Furthermore, all related documents and correspondence are shredded on a regular basis to ensure privacy.

**RS:** In what forms can our members make charitable gifts to the Foundation?

**EM:** Some assets that are suitable for charitable giving would be unencumbered (1) Qualified Plan Assets, (2) life insurance, (3) highly appreciated stock, (4) cash, (5) real estate and/or (6) farm land.

**RS:** How are members' questions about charitable donations best addressed?

**EM:** Most questions can usually be answered immediately. Members are welcome to call me at the USAR Racquetball Foundation at 1-866-923-6444 (toll free).





Malia Bailey,  
25 time National Racquetball Champion  
and breast Cancer Survivor.

A Cure In Our Lifetime

Hope

**Wilson**

Wilson is the Official  
Sporting Goods  
Equipment Partner  
of The Breast Cancer  
Research Foundation.

PLAYERSHELPINGPLAYERS



# 2008

## Elite Level

**\$1,000 Plus**

Leo Klimaitis  
Laura Berry  
Bruce Adams  
Keith Minor

## A Level

**\$500 Plus**

Mark Malowitz  
Chris Knight

## B Level

**\$250 Plus**

NJ Open Racquetball  
Diana Durham

## C Level

**\$100 Plus**

Nidia Funes  
Joe Houck

## D Level

**\$50 plus**

Richard Stager  
Mechell Keith  
Charlie Terrazas  
Charles Rinehart  
Leslie Pawka

## President's Advisory Council

The following individuals have pledged the indicated amounts for the next four years and to meet with the President to advise and discuss association issues:

Bruce Adams	\$1,000
Doug Ganim	\$3,000
Dr. Fred Heros	\$1,000
Christopher "Kit" Lawson	\$1,000
Mike Lippitt	\$1,000
Dennis Rosenberg	\$3,000
Sal Perconti	\$1,000

## 2 reasons to donate

- It's a tax writeoff
- You support U.S. teams

## 2 places to donate

- Your Singles entry form
- [www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)



# Donations

## In the Game Under \$50

Tom Travers  
Jeff Zenga  
Gilbert Cepeda  
James Anderson  
Tyler Otto  
Mike Pawka  
Sal Perconti  
Gordon Kirkland  
Ed Mazur

Mary Herron  
Wyatt Lee  
Dan Schwinger  
Julia Mouser  
John Scotton  
Tom Doughty  
Darrin Prince  
Darlene Drapkin  
Sheryll Zeck  
Anthony Thompson  
Melody White



There is no other company more committed to supporting women's racquetball than Wilson. Our Hope products are designed by women for women!

Wilson Sporting Goods Co. has donated over \$1,000,000 to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Join us in the fight against breast cancer. Play racquetball, eat well, and get regular check ups. See you on the courts!



## HOPE® BALLS

Tournament quality, bright pink racquetballs. Consistent bounce, long lasting, perfect speed. See the ball better, play better, and support the Breast Cancer Research Foundation™

**Wilson**

AT YOUR LOCAL DEALER NOW

© 2007 WILSON SPORTING GOODS CO.





# 2008 SPARTAN SUPPLY COMPANY CALIFORNIA OPEN

by Dave Negrete, IRT Commissioner

Presented by Allied Building Products



**T**he IRT made its first appearance ever here in Canoga Park at one of the largest racquetball facilities in the country, the Spectrum Club. This facility boasts over twenty racquetball courts and is under the leadership of one of the most respected racquetball names in the world, Debbie Tisinger-Moore. The event was the kick-off of the second half of the IRT season and the IRT professionals were refreshed and ready to play.

The semifinals commenced on Saturday with Rocky Carson taking on the young Ben Croft. These two met in the semifinals of the Mexico Open last year. Croft looked relaxed in this one and had the pro-Carson crowd cheering for him at various points of the match. Carson took it all in stride and did not let his hometown fans down, winning in three 6, 8, 3. The other match had Jack Huczek and Alvaro Beltran facing off; Beltran always plays Huczek tough. Jack's holiday training of squash was evident in this one as he kept the ball in play and forced Beltran to shoot. Beltran played well but the fitness level of Huczek would give him a four-game victory 6, (9), 2,8.

In the finals, Rocky came out on fire from the start and won handily in three games 8, 4, 4, adding his fourth title of the year to his resume. Jack never could get on a run in this match as Carson controlled center court from the start and forced Jack into some uncharacteristic unforced errors. Both players stayed after the match to talk to the crowd and acknowledged all the support from the event staff, sponsors and fans.

## ANNOUNCEMENT – 2008 IRT GREENVILLE OPEN

**T**he International Racquetball Tour (IRT), The South Carolina Racquetball Players Association (SCRPA) and Sportsclub are proud to host the first professional racquetball event to ever be held in South Carolina. The 2008 IRT Greenville Open, sponsored by Steadman / Hawkins Clinic Of The Carolina's, will be held June 19-22 at the three Sportsclub locations. This event will feature the world's top ranked men's professional racquetball players participating in the world's fastest sport, with speed of the ball exceeding 160 mph! The event will be open to the public and tickets for the event will go on sale in April. For additional information regarding the event, please contact SCRPA president Sandy Tucker at [tuckeriii5@aol.com](mailto:tuckeriii5@aol.com) or visit the IRT website @ [irt-tour.com](http://irt-tour.com).

## Site and Dates set for 2008\* Motorola IRT Pro Nationals

by Dave Negrete, IRT Commissioner

**T**he 2008 Motorola Pro National Racquetball Championships presented by Verizon Wireless and USA Racquetball Adult Regional Championships are set for April 23-27, 2008. After a very successful event last year, Motorola and Verizon Wireless have renewed their sponsorship for the 2008 event. The event will be held at Schaumburg Tennis Plus, owned and operated by the Schaumburg (IL) Park District. Forest View Racquet Club, located in Arlington Heights, IL, will be the secondary site.

Men's Pro Qualifying will begin on Wednesday and Regionals amateur matches will begin Thursday. The new all-Lucite court will be present, creating the sport's most exciting grand slam event in history. The event

will be broadcast on ESPN and streamed live on ESPN360.com.

The event will again offer a charity doubles event with the top 16 professionals on Wednesday evening. Cost of playing with a professional will be \$500, with the funds going to a local chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Last year the event raised over \$8,000 and we hope to better that amount this year.

Look for information about all aspects of the event at [www.irt-tour.com](http://www.irt-tour.com), [www.irt-pronationals.com](http://www.irt-pronationals.com), or call 800-234-5396. You can enter online at [www.r2sports.com](http://www.r2sports.com).

I look forward to seeing you all in Chicago at the 2008 Motorola IRT Pro National and USAR Adult Regional Racquetball Championships presented by Verizon Wireless!

## 2007-08 IRT SCHEDULE Dates and cities subject to change.

Tier	Date	Location	Result
GS	SEPT. 13-16	MOTOROLA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COLORADO SPRINGS, CO	Rocky Carson
T1	SEPT. 20-23	KANSAS CITY, MO	Jason Mannino
T1	OCT. 4-7	BOWLING GREEN, KY	Jack Huczek
T1	OCT. 11-14	TORONTO CANADA	Jack Huczek
T3	OCT. 19-21	MADISON, WI	Jack Huczek
T4	OCT. 19-21	WILMINGTON NC	Mitch Williams
T4	OCT. 19-21	GRAND RAPIDS, MI	Shane Vanderson
T1	OCT. 25-28	ALBUQUERQUE, NM	Rocky Carson
T4	NOV. 2-4	LONG ISLAND OPEN, NY	Jason Thoerner
T5	NOV. 2-4	JAPAN OPEN TOKYO	Andy Hawthorne
T2	NOV. 2-4	CHIHUAHUA MEXICO	Alvaro Beltran
T4	NOV. 9-11	PORTLAND, OR	Mitch Williams
GS	NOV. 14-18	US OPEN MEMPHIS, TN	Rocky Carson
T5	NOV 30-DEC 2	KENT WA	Wade Reuther
T4	DEC. 6-9	TEMPE AZ	Jack Huczek
T1	JAN. 10-13	CANOGA PARK, CA	Rocky Carson
T1	JAN. 17-20	LONG ISLAND, NY	Jack Huczek
T2	JAN. 25-27	MILWAUKEE, WI	Mitch Williams
T4	JAN.25-27	FAIRFIELD NJ	Jason Thoerner
T5	FEB. 1-3	CINCINNATI, OH	Andy Hawthorne
T2	FEB. 7-10	SIOUX FALLS, SD	
T1	FEB. 21-24	SEATTLE, WA	
T1	FEB. 28-MAR. 2	SAN DIEGO ,CA	
T4	FEB 29 – MAR. 2	SCHERERVILLE, IN	
T1	MAR. 6- 9	SARASOTA, FL	
T4	MAR.14-15	BELINGHAM WA	
T4	MAR. 28-30	YORK, PA	
TBA	APR. 3-6	TBA	
T1	APR. 10-13	ALLEN TOWN, PA	
GS	APR. 23-27	MOTOROLA IRT PRO-NATIONALS CHICAGO, IL	
T4	JUN.6-8	LAUREL, MD	
T3	JUN.20-22	GREENVILLE, SC	

PRIZE MONEY DETERMINES TIER LEVEL • GS GRAND SLAM 30K Minimum • T1 TIER ONE MINIMUM \$17.5 • T2 TIER TWO \$10-\$17.5K • T3 TIER THREE \$5-\$10K • T4 TIER FOUR 0-\$5K



# 2008 NEW YORK CITY PRO AM

Presented by Cactus Salons

## SIDE NOTES:

Hats off to Tom Keogh and his staff for once again running a great event and drawing record numbers in the pro and amateur draws.

Thank you to SPORTIME of Syosset for hosting the event. It is a great club and we enjoy coming to play in front of all the fans here.

Special thanks to Joe Secreti, owner of Cactus Salons, for renewing his title sponsorship of the event. The IRT would also like to extend its thanks to Len Silversmith, Doug Walsh, and Rob Cerrito for their continued support of the NYC Pro Am.

Thanks to all of the other supporting sponsors as well!

**T**he IRT was back in action in Long Island at the great facility known as SPORTIME of Syosset. The famous "fishbowl" court has seen the likes of all the great IRT professionals over the years. One of the few privately-owned clubs in the area that supports the racquetball community, SPORTIME is the home to event director Tom Keogh and serves over 300 league players. The events here are first class and definitely one of the most highly-attended events of the IRT season. This year was no exception as the IRT division enjoyed its largest draw of the season thus far with forty-seven players.

In the semifinals, Rocky Carson came out on top in three games, 8,9,8 over Jason Mannino. The match was a close one and lasted close to two hours as both players did their best to see the ball on this tough glass court. The second semifinal was not as long as the first, with Jack Huczek coming out fresh, focused and energized and Beltran looking tired and sluggish from his battle with Ben Croft the night before. Huczek took this one in convincing fashion, 4, 5, 4 to meet his new rival on the tour, Rocky Carson, in the final.

In the final, Rocky came out strong from the start but with the #1 ranking on the line, Huczek took charge and played with much emotion and focus. Jack would not be denied victory here on Long Island as he finished off Carson in three games, 8, 2, 6 to win his third title of the season.



**WINNER JACK HUCZEK WITH  
EVENT DIRECTOR TOM KEOGH  
AT THE NYC PRO AM**

## JASON THOERNER WINS THE 2008 IRT GARDEN STATE GAMES

by Dave Negrete, IRT Commissioner

**N**ew Jersey Amateur Racquetball (NJAR) just logged its first IRT pro stop in New Jersey in more than 6 years. The event was a huge success and represents a new and hopefully long lasting partnership between the NJAR and the IRT. This event was a sanctioned Tier 4 pro stop, with top IRT pros Jason Thoerner, Ruben Gonzalez and local IRT professional Jason Sylvester coming out to support the event. Over 125 amateurs played in the 17+ divisions throughout the weekend, and they were witness to some phenomenal matches. The highlight of the weekend was the quarterfinal upset of Ruben Gonzalez by Eric Muller in a five-game, 2.5+ hour match. Eric went on to lose a tough match to Anthony DeFusto, who in turn lost a tough one to Tournament Champion Jason Thoerner. This event would not have been possible without the help of the tournament's sponsors, DLC Sports, Classic Athletic Club, Metrographics Printing, and Crown Awards. The NJAR is hoping to make some big sponsorship deals in the near future, which could take this tournament and others to new heights. Stay tuned to [www.njracketball.com](http://www.njracketball.com) for more on NJ racquetball!

## THE MILWAUKEE OPEN

by Dave Negrete, IRT Commissioner

January 25-27, 2008 • Milwaukee, WI

**D**rawing some of the top players on the IRT, the Milwaukee Open was held at the Wisconsin Athletic Club-West Allis, the premier racquetball club amongst the Wisconsin Athletic Clubs. The facility boasts eight racquetball courts and is led by racquetball and event director Trish Beatty. Trish and her staff did a great job obtaining sponsors and organizing this year's event.

The pro draw had twenty-three players and attracted Top Ten ranked pros Rocky Carson, Mitch Williams, Shane Vanderson and Ben Croft. CPRT veteran Woody Clouse also made the trip out after hosting a clinic at the WAC and won the 35+ division. Mitch Williams advanced to the final by taking out Shane Vanderson in three very tough games and Ben Croft defeated Rocky Carson in five. The event title went to Mitch, who defeated Ben in four games in the final.

This was a Tier 2 IRT satellite event and provided the Milwaukee fans some great IRT action all weekend.

## INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE 2008 SEASON

MARCH 6- 9	SARASOTA, FL T1
MARCH 13-16	BELLINGHAM, WA T4
MARCH 28-30	YORK, PA T4
APRIL 3-6	TBA
APRIL 10-13	ALLENTOWN, PA T1
APRIL 23-27	MOTOROLA PRO NATIONALS CHICAGO, IL GS
JUNE 6-8	LAUREL, MD T4
JUNE 20-22	GREENVILLE, SC T3

*Dates and cities subject to change.*

**GS** GRAND SLAM 25K Minimum  
**T1** TIER ONE FULL RANKING EVENT \$17.5K  
**T2** TIER TWO \$10-\$17.5K  
**T3** TIER THREE \$5-\$10K  
**T4** TIER FOUR 0-\$5K  
 PRIZE MONEY DETERMINES TIER LEVEL



# CHERYL GUDINAS HOLMES

Victorious at Christmas Classic in Virginia

**T**he stars of WPRO closed out a whirlwind first half of the 2007-2008 season at the 16th Annual Christmas Classic Pro-Am Racquetball Championships at Crystal Gateway Sport & Health Club in Arlington, Virginia, December 8-10. This was again a top-notch event, thanks in large part to Tournament Director Karen Denu. After intense battles in the women's pro division throughout the weekend, Cheryl Gudinas Holmes, #2 ranked player on the WPRO tour and six-time US National Singles Champion, defeated current US OPEN champion and top-ranked pro Rhonda Rajsich in a gut-wrenching five-game war in Sunday afternoon's championship (7-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-4, 11-6).

Gudinas Holmes recently stated that she has recommitted herself to the game and has adopted a strict mental and physical workout regimen in response to the rookie and veteran talent on tour.

A small group representing the WPRO, including Rajsich, #16 Candi Hostovich, Commissioner Shannon Feaster, and Dennis Rajsich (Rhonda's father), took part in a special Pentagon visit to the Army Operations Center, organized by USA Racquetball's former Military Representative Jeffrey Elder on Thursday before the championship. After the Pentagon tour and briefing by Army officials, the WPRO pros signed balls and posters for the Crisis Action Team, led by Colonel Steven Ward. Following the autograph session, the WPRO pros participated in a series of exhibitions with military players at the Pentagon Athletic Club.

It was a day to remember and we thank Jeff, Alvin Nieder, Brigadier General David Halverson, Colonel Ward, and Major John Zenker for hosting us at the Pentagon.



## WPRO FORMS STRATEGIC MARKETING COALITION

With Other Women's Sports Groups

**I**n an effort to provide national sponsors with more opportunities in women's sports, Women's Sports Cares (WSC) recently announced the formation of a Women's Sports Marketing Coalition. The coalition partners include the National Women's Football Association, the Women's Pro Racquetball Organization and the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (roller derby). Catherine Masters, president of the National Women's Football Association and founder of Women's Sports Cares, requested that the WPRO sign on to give racquetball a voice on the coalition and to help promote women's sports around the world.

By joining forces, the coalition can offer national sponsors over 350 action-packed events coast to coast with hundreds of thousands of

visitors to more than 200 websites and extensive media, marketing and advertising opportunities.

"All of these sports are established and have growing fan bases. Plus, each provides highly-sought-after demographics. Now, companies that see women's sports as a platform for their marketing and advertising will get a lot more "bang for their bucks," stated Masters. WSC has also asked the WPRO to provide programming to their newly-formed network, Women's Sports Television, which recently signed a broadcast deal with Suncastv.com. Women's Sports Television is the only global programming service to broadcast all women's sports. In addition to the WPRO, other women's sports that will be providing programming are the National Women's Football Association (the

largest tackle football league in the world for women), the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (the largest group in the world for roller derby), Women's Professional Rodeo and the International Softball Federation.

Women's Sports Television will produce and co-produce several sports-related talk shows. Some of those shows include Her Sport and Fitness Magazine with host Dawna Stone. Stone, who is the founder and publisher of the Her Sport and Fitness Magazine, is a well known public speaker and the winner of The Apprentice: Martha Stewart. Another show that will be co-produced by Women's Sports Television is the Big W show hosted by Elissa Walker Campbell. Suncastv is making a name for itself on the Internet with more than 300,000 visitors watching the programming each month.



# WPRO INVITED TO PANAMA CITY

## To Help Grow Racquetball in Central America

**F**or the first time ever, a group of WPRO pros went to Panama to compete in a full ranking, Tier One championship event! The Canal Challenge, which took place January 11-13, was organized by Janell Wheeler and hosted by Punta Pacifica fitness club in the heart of Panama City. The venue was jam-packed throughout the weekend, with many young Panamanian players eager to see every match!

Sunday's championship match pitted #2 seed Cheryl Gudinas Holmes (Naperville, IL) and #4 seed Kerri Wachtel (Cincinnati, OH). Gudinas Holmes claimed victory after five intense and very evenly-played games, which kept the crowd on edge until the very last point. Gudinas Holmes proved too steady for Wachtel down the stretch and prevailed after nearly two and a half hours of competition: 11-7, 10-12, 10-12, 11-9, 11-7.

After the US military withdrawal from Panama in 1999, the racquetball program in Panama suffered tremendously. The local racquetball community, led by Ibero Fernando, welcomed us and made sure we were taken care of throughout our stay. From the opening press conference on Friday through the finals on Sunday, the event was covered by local broadcast network TV Max with highlights airing every day on their nightly newscasts.

Punta Pacifica is owned and managed by Eduardo Gateno, who also designed the facility with racquetball as the focus. Eduardo is himself a racquetball player as is his son, Alfredo, who was Wachtel's biggest fan and anointed himself the tour's official referee, line judge and deputy

## WPRO Rankings

1	Rajsich, Rhonda	Los Angeles, CA	1455.30
2	Gudinas Holmes, Cheryl	Naperville, IL	1102.20
3	Grisar, Angela	Santiago, Chile	763.50
4	Wachtel, Kerri	Cincinnati, OH	718.20
5	Van Hees, Christie	Calgary, AB, Canada	628.50
6	Bellows, Kristen	Pleasant Grove, UT	606.50
7	Longoria, Paola	San Luis Potosi, Mexico	486.00
8	Kyzer, Brenda	Leesville, SC	331.00
9	Shattuck, Jo	Denver, CO	297.55
10	Moore, Diane	Griffith, IN	266.50
11	Salas, Samantha	Leon, Mexico	244.50
12	Gomez, Vivian	Miami, FL	220.75
13	Fisher, Adrienne	Centerville, OH	213.50
14	Fowler, Doreen	Silver Spring, MD	206.66
15	Ferina, Kimi	Rockaway Park, NY	203.95
16	Hostovich, Candi	Falls Church, VA	138.94

WPRO Rankings as of February 1, 2008

commissioner! Special thanks to Rica, the junior racquetball instructor at Punta Pacifica, for bringing the kids out to watch the pros.

Fourth-ranked pro Kerri Wachtel and USA Racquetball Team Coach Dave Ellis conducted clinics throughout the week. On Sunday afternoon, Herman and Erlinda Rijkogel hosted a BBQ at their home to celebrate the success of the event and to toast many more to come!

## GUDINAS HOLMES MAKES IT THREE IN A ROW IN SACRAMENTO

**F**rom the moment #2 WPRO pro Cheryl Gudinas Holmes stepped onto the court at the Greater Sacramento Open Pro-Am hosted by the Signature Athletic Club, it was clear she had set out to prove that her victories at the previous two Tier One championships were not a fluke. Following an outstanding display of preparation, focus, and tenacity in Panama City, Gudinas Holmes continued her amazing winning streak without dropping a game against some of the toughest opponents on the WPRO tour.

The finals was a familiar matchup of champions with Gudinas Holmes going up against long-time rival and #1 seed Rhonda Rajsich on Sunday afternoon before a pumped crowd. From the start, Gudinas Holmes' aggressive serving and shot-making put pressure on Rajsich, who went on an uncharacteristic skipping

spree after playing a nearly perfect match against #4 seed Kerri Wachtel in Saturday's semifinals. Unfortunately for Rajsich, Gudinas Holmes wasn't missing her shots and the 2007 US OPEN champion was unable to gain any momentum through three games. This wasn't the typical battle fans have grown accustomed to seeing between these two legends, but rest assured, Rajsich is planning a comeback of her own in the remaining stops of the season!

The WPRO extends its appreciation to tournament directors John Ellis and Steve Cook and to tournament committee members Dave and Pat Ellis, Dave Ortega, Jesse Serna and Kyle Kazmierczak. We would also like to thank Lee and Larry Steiner of Bad Ass BBQ for providing outstanding meals throughout the weekend. Hands down this is the best tournament food we've

had all season! As usual, Pat Ellis made the Sponsor Doubles experience delightful by providing the food for our hungry pros and VIP supporters during that special event. We also want to recognize and thank the Diaz family, Guzman and Ortiz, and Pat Ellis (again) for assisting with the hospitality service throughout the weekend.

This event would not have been possible without the support of the following sponsors: the Law Offices of Greg Meyer; Tiner Properties (John Tiner); Dave Ellis Racquetball; George Technical Services (Bill & Michelle George); Cook's Printing & Graphics (Steve Cook); Mike Lippitt; and Signature and Carmichael Athletic Clubs.

For the complete draw from the Greater Sacramento Open and all other WPRO events, visit the tour's website at [www.wpro-tour.com/tour\\_events](http://www.wpro-tour.com/tour_events).





# CLIFF SWAIN JOINS CLASSIC PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR

**T**he Classic Professional Racquetball Tour (CPRT) is excited to announce that arguably the greatest player in the history of racquetball, Cliff Swain, will join the Tour. After watching the CPRT event during the US OPEN in Memphis and meeting with the CPRT principals, Swain has agreed to begin his CPRT play this season.

Cliff Swain has won over 100 professional events; the Pro Nationals (7 times); 2 US OPEN Championships; and holds 6 Pro Tour titles. When we asked the CPRT players to name the greatest player in the history of our sport, five of the seven CPRT pros selected Swain. The left-handed Swain now resides in Naples, Florida, where he is a restaurateur who trains regularly and still makes an occasional appearance at an IRT event.

"The CPRT is thrilled to add Cliff Swain to our line-up," said Steve Lerner, CPRT Commissioner. "Swain is not only another Hall of Famer on our Tour but perhaps our sport's best player ever." Swain will make two or three of the remaining events this season certainly including the CPRT Pro Nationals Tour Championship in Las Vegas in May.

The Classic Professional Racquetball Tour is a professional tour featuring racquetball's greatest stars who are 40 years of age and older. CPRT represents itself as "Stars of the Past supporting the Future of Racquetball."



## CPRT CHAMPIONSHIPS SET FOR LAS VEGAS

The Classic Professional Racquetball Tour Season will again be capped off in Las Vegas with the CPRT Championships, hosted by the Las Vegas Athletic Club and the Chuck Minker Sports Complex on May 2-4. The event will kick off with charity doubles on Friday as the centerpiece for the week's junior fundraising.

The format for the CPRT Championships is different from the straight draws of the regular season events. The CPRT professionals will be split into two flights with slots filled by local qualifiers to battle for two spots in Saturday night's final and over \$5,000 in prize money. The end-of-year ranking championship will certainly be on the line as well, with the CPRT Championships offering bonus points over the regular season events. Thanks to major event sponsors Desert Plumbing & Heating and Beck's Beer as well as Ahern, Fastener's, Inc. and Sunburst Shutters for making this event possible.

For additional information and an entry form, watch [classicproracquetball.com](http://classicproracquetball.com).

## CPRT SCHEDULE

March 7-9, 2008 • Rochester, NY  
April 10-12, 2008 • Concord, CA  
May 2-4, 2008 • Las Vegas, NV

## CURRENT CPRT RANKINGS

RANK	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Woody Clouse	925
2	Ruben Gonzalez	793
3T	Keith Minor	535
3T	Mike Ceresia	535
5	Bret Harnett	528
6	Gerry Price	328
7	Dave Sable	275
8T	Brad McCunniff	265
8T	Michael Anderson	265
9	Tom Travers	260
10T	Greg Campbell	250
10T	Paul Reed	250
10T	Steve Wattz	250
13	Eugene Coyle	135
14T	Doug Ganim	130
14T	Richard Eisenman	130
16T	Andrew Perry	125
16T	Brent Sturgiss	125
16T	Roland Grassl	125
16T	Stacey Witenberger	125
16T	Timothy Kirch	125

## CPRT UPCOMING EVENTS

by Hank Marcus

Penfield Fitness & Racquet Club in Rochester, New York will host the March CPRT event. CPRT pros scheduled to attend include Mike Ceresia, Woody Clouse, Mike Ray and Cliff Swain.

The Big C Athletic Club in Concord, California is the CPRT host in April.

CPRT pros scheduled to attend include Woody Clouse, Bret Harnett, Steve Lerner, Gerry Price and Cliff Swain.





# INVINCIBLE

From the Black Sand Chronicles

## Racquetball Legends Swain & Hogan Unbeatable at 2007 Black Sand World Championships

**G**ale force winds and torrential rain showers did not deter an international contingency of Pros and Amateurs at the 2007 Black Sand World Racquetball Championships (BSWC) at Waikiki Beach. The BSWC lasted three weeks and was played under both stormy and beautiful conditions. With \$10K in prize money on the line and over \$50K in sponsorships raised, reputations weren't the only thing at stake on Waikiki Beach as Cliff Swain and Mighty Marty Hogan, two of the winningest pros in racquetball history, each looked to add to their considerable legacies.

Current Motorola World Indoor Champ and outdoor WOR-Ektelon Singles and Doubles Champ 27-year old Rocky Carson of Southern California steamrolled to both the BSWC Pro Singles and Pro Doubles Finals, as expected, but Cliff Swain defied most odds-makers when he pulverized his way to a 7th World Championship Title by taking out Carson in hard fought straight games 21-18, 21-18. Carson had a shot at redemption later in the evening in the Pro Doubles finals, but Marty Hogan and Scotty Bauman stunned Carson and his partner, current WOR-Ektelon Pro Doubles Champ Rob Hoff, 31-28 in an uproarious, final pro match of the tournament and a crowning 8th World Championship Title for Hogan.

The BSWC began on Thursday with a well-publicized Pro Challenge doubles match that lined up Pros Pete Britos and Egan Inoue against Jimmy Lowe and Marty Hogan. Local news crews arrived early for interviews and the featured kick off match that saw the night end under the lights in a two-game-apiece performance. It was the first time Britos and Inoue had teamed up in careers that began in the early 80's when they were both Hawaii teenage prodigies. The next day Friday was a bust with a total of six matches played due to rain, but by Saturday the sun came out blazing and play resumed at assembly line pace. By day's end, over one hundred matches had been played with rally scoring helping to facilitate the rapid pace.

On Sunday, the caged courts packed with spectators, Carson was on a roll as he pounded his way into the finals of

Pro Singles and Pro Doubles. In singles he erased Bauman, Robinson and Lowe, all local, battle-tested outdoor pros. On the other side of the draw, Swain dispensed with local BSWC Junior Champ Robbie Collins (17) in the round of 16. He then handled Mexican pro Raphael Filipini in workman-like fashion. And finally, in a match punctuated with spectacular dives, he ended the run of Mexico's top-ranked pro Alvaro Beltran, who was making his first appearance—like Carson—at the Waikiki courts.

It was more classic Swain in the Finals as Carson repeatedly fell victim to Swain's deep, lethal drive serves and pinpoint backhand. The final two points of the match were Swain backhand blasts down the line from 40 and 45 feet. Cliff Swain is no doubt a great champion with legendary chops, but so too is Rocky Carson a legend in the making with his take-on-all-comers indoor and outdoor attitude.

Enter 49-year old racquetball uber-legend Marty Hogan, reviving the competitive fires one more time en route to taking his 8th World Championship Title, this time in the Men's BSWC Pro Doubles with local pro Scotty Bauman.

Once again, old school faced new school, and as the story goes, destiny and local knowledge prevailed against a battle-tested championship team. Clearly Carson-Hoff were odds-on favorites. Hogan and Scotty Bauman (fresh off a steel knee replacement) seemed long shots at best to capture the title, especially with the exceptionally strong field in contention.

But never underestimate the heart of a champion. Players should have taken heed earlier in the day when Hogan volunteered to referee the Pro Singles finals. It was quite a scene with three world champions on the court, Hogan, Swain and Carson, and Hogan calling the shots. Hogan introduced Carson as the hottest player on the pro circuit; and then Swain as a great player and multiple world champion. Someone from the crowd yelled out "the greatest player ever." Not skipping a beat Hogan blurted back, "greatest left-handed player ever." The crowd

erupted in laughter, and even Swain and Carson cracked up hard at Hogan's repartee.

Now in the finals of the Pro Doubles after beating Lowe and Southern Cal pro Gary Martin in the semis, Hogan was making a serious statement with his focused play. Carson and Hoff were game, no doubt about it—they had handled local heavyweights Big Rod Felton and Robinson in the semis. But Hogan and Bauman were a relentless one-two punch. At 30-27 match point, Bauman hustled forward and hit an apparent game-winning backhand dink into the front left corner. Referee Pete Britos called it game and match and the crowd went wild. But Bauman immediately called a skip on himself, which sent the crowd howling in disbelief. In rally scoring, which is what the tournament played, every rally is a point. So now, not only did Bauman give up his serve, but the Hogan-Bauman duo as well lost a point. Carson and Hoff lined up at 28-30—still match point, but with Carson in control of the serve.

Carson served an overhead drive to Hogan and after a seesaw rally, Bauman ended it with a forehand deep up the middle that jammed Carson-Hoff. The crowd went wild again and the BSWC tiki trophies were lugged onto the courts under the night lights.

While most of the Pros finished play that Sunday evening, the BSWC continued for two more gorgeous weekends. By the end, though, the Black Sand tiki goddess, bearer of all good things, had left the beach, and a single sign remained fastened above the cage as a reminder of the play: "Only the Brave."

### 2007 BSWC RESULTS:

**Pro Singles:** Cliff Swain def. Rocky Carson

**Pro Dubs:** Marty Hogan/Scotty Bauman def. Rocky Carson/Rob Hoff

**Masters Dubs:** Rod Felton/Matt Robinson def. Rob Hoff/Gary Martin

**Advanced Men Singles:** Robbie Collins def. Dave Knox

**Women Open Singles:** Sarah Houghtailing def. Kaili Britos

**Mixed Open Dubs:** Mimi Greene/Bill Donges def. Michelle Luke/Scotty Bauman

**Junior Singles:** Robbie Collins def. Ethan Murao

**Junior Doubles:** Robbie Collins/Ethan Murao def. Micah Mizumoto/Kaili Britos

**Apology!** In the January/February 2008 issue of *Racquetball*, the great article entitled "Pro Kennex Outdoor US Open Dominated by California's Craig Lane and Greg Solis" was mistakenly credited to Hank Marcus. In actuality, Vic Leibofsky penned the account and we thank him for the time he took to provide us with this excellent account of the action in Florida!





# WS/MRA 2008: KANSAS CITY HERE WE COME!

Old but clear weather greeted the 88 women who arrived at the Athletic Club of Overland Park, KS for the 19th Annual Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Championships held Jan 25-27, 2008. Players from Alaska to Florida were anticipating 3 days of exciting competition, camaraderie and fun.

The court action warmed everyone up in a hurry, beginning with "fun doubles" on Thursday afternoon. This event allowed players a chance to meet friends and check out the courts in a relaxed atmosphere. Lots of new faces were seen along with the usual "old-timers." Since the doubles is planned as a fundraiser for breast cancer research, it was fitting to use the new Wilson pink "Hope" ball. All players who contributed were entered into a raffle featuring many items donated by Wilson and over \$400 was raised, to be donated to Susan G. Komen for the Cure®.

Tournament check-in was held at The Athletic Club on Thursday evening and all players received their schedule, booklet, and the tournament souvenir, a brown hoodie with a beautiful sunflower logo in honor of our location in "The Sunflower State." Tournament Director Mike Wedel discussed the rules and procedures specific to the tournament. Some age groups were combined for maximum playing opportunities. The larger divisions were broken into two flights and after flight competition was completed, a Round of 8 playoff would be held with the top 4 from each flight, with seeding determined by flight position. Semifinals and finals in these divisions, as well as final matches in other divisions, would be played on Sunday morning, so everyone would have time to play and/or watch before heading home. Matches were played in blocks of time so most players would have time off to relax or do some sightseeing in Kansas City.

Friday morning it was time to get on the courts and play some serious racquetball, as competition in all age groups got underway. Tournament director Mike Wedel and his wife Debbie manned the tournament desk and kept everything running smoothly throughout the weekend, with help from the WS/MRA Tournament Committee of Terry Rogers, Merijeane Kelley and Nancy Kronenfeld, assisted by perennial volunteer Paula Sperling. This was the first time that the WS/MRA used the R2Sports tournament management software and all agreed that it was a huge help, as was the projector lent by USA Racquetball. The Athletic Club Operations Manager Jeff Freeman tended to details behind the scenes and kept the food coming!

When not competing, players had time to eat lunch, watch other matches and, of course, browse through the items offered in the silent auction. The auction featured a raft of merchandise from our National Sponsor Wilson, merchandise from Ektelon donated by Terry Rogers and Susan Pfahler, and health products donated by local player Lucy del Sarto. WS/MRA Board member Vickey



TEAM ILLINOIS AT THE 19TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S SENIOR/MASTERS



THE 65+ PLAYERS' GROUP

Utter kept the auction moving along.

Besides the court action, the highlight of the weekend was the Saturday night banquet, held at The Athletic Club. It was a relaxed affair featuring barbeque for dinner and dancing to a top local band "Toybox." After dinner, there were various presentations and a short business meeting. The results of the auction were announced: over \$1,100 was raised, with half going to the USAR scholarship fund. Awards were given to the player who traveled the furthest: Katy Wood from Alaska; and to the largest group of players (by number!), those from Illinois. Then everyone hit the dance floor, whether or not they had to play in the morning. "Toybox" was great and a good time was had by all the "crazy little women" racquetball players.

After 2+ days of intense competition, winners had been decided in all divisions by early Sunday afternoon. All players who placed received a beautiful trophy featuring an original metal sculpture by Kansas metal artists "Trace of Copper." In 35+, Renee Roux (IL) took first place in a combined division with the 40+. In 35+ B/C, Victoria Pickard (TN) finished first on total points over Alicia Paoletta (CA). In 40+, Jean Halahan (NY) swept her matches without dropping a single game, while Debbie Beldring (CO) took second. The 45+ division had two flights and the top seeds met in the finals. In a reversal of fortune, last year's 45+ runner-up Debra Tisinger-Moore (CA) beat last year's champion Janet Tyler (FL). In 45+ B/C, Lynne Weisbart (IL) took first on total points over the top seed Kate Davis (NM). The 50+ division had two flights and the finals were a repeat of the 2007 finals, with the same outcome, as Susan Pfahler (FL), repeated as champion, defeating Linda Moore (NE). The 55+ division

*continued on page 17*



# NMRA ACTIVITIES

By Bruce Adams • NMRA Secretary

**H**ello racquetball players, spectators, and other supporters. The NMRA (National Masters Racquetball Association) is having its International Racquetball Championships at West Allis (Milwaukee area), Wisconsin at the Wisconsin Athletic Club and another nearby club. We are through with the picturesque mountains of Utah, and are ready for the cheese country of Wisconsin. So Milwaukee, Here We Come! We had a great time in Milwaukee a few years ago and look forward to the return visit. Check out the website [www.nmra.info](http://www.nmra.info) for the application and more particulars on the event. You are encouraged to register for the tournament online at [www.R2Sports.com](http://www.R2Sports.com). The tournament hotel will be the same hotel as before, but it is now called the Brookfield Suites. The room rate is \$99.00 (plus tax) for up to four in a room. All rooms are two-room suites with microwave and refrigerator. There is also made-to-order breakfast and evening hospitality included in the rate. Registration will be Tuesday, July 15, 2008 with play from July 16th to 19th. Make your room reservations early!

Congratulations to all of the participants in the Women's Seniors/Masters event held in Overland Park, Kansas in January. Speaking of the WS/MRA, they used the R2sports.com enhancement that the NMRA requested for single and double round robins/flights/playoff, and tournament staff Mike and Debbie Wedel report, "We thought that running a tournament had never been so easy." As you know, the Overland Park clubs has many, top-notch racquetball events each year.

The NMRA Board of Directors' election is complete, and the results can be found at the [www.nmra.info](http://www.nmra.info) website.

Be sure and check out the NMRA newsletter – The Racquet Racket. The last edition was 16 pages of pure reading pleasure. Editor and board member Cindy Tilbury is doing an awesome job with the newsletter. I can send you an electronic copy if you like. Cindy is also working to

*WS/MRA, continued from page 16*

also had two flights and in the highlight (and very last) match of the tournament, Debbie Chaney (IN) beat Diana Matthews (NE) in a grueling final that went for well over an hour! In 55+ B/C, Debbie Alsop (NM) bested Karla Barella (NM) on total points. Meri Jean Kelley (CA) won the 60+ division on total points over Margaret Hoff (IL). Mildred Gwinn (NC) repeated as the 65+ champ on total points over Gloria Piscoran (OR). In 75+, Lola Markus (IL) took first and Reta Harring (WI) was second.

The WS/MRA would like to thank the owners, management and staff of the Athletic Club of Overland Park; Tournament Director Mike Wedel; our National Sponsor, Wilson Racquetball; and all of the other individuals and businesses who supported this tournament. Look for a complete list on



pair players who need a partner for doubles play; she is additionally pairing folks who need roommates at NMRA events. You can contact Cindy at 303.888.4461 or [cindy.tilbury@att.net](mailto:cindy.tilbury@att.net).

The NMRA is dedicated to the mature racquetball player 45 years old and older. All matches (singles, doubles, and mixed doubles) are self-officiated and round-robin format, at our two annual events – No More One Round and Out. Your first event does not require membership to the association, but we wish you would join. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event.

our web site. This tournament has been going strong since 1990. It features round robin brackets in age groups from 35 on up and regularly attracts some of the best players in the country. You are never out of this tournament -- you play everyone in your flight, usually at least 5-6 matches and sometimes as many as 10! We also offer B/C divisions for those less-experienced in tournament competition.

The 20th Annual tournament will be held in the Los Angeles area at The Spectrum Club of Canoga Park, January 16-19, 2009. For more on the WS/MRA, pictures, complete results and information on next year's tournament, please visit our website <http://my.execpc.com/~tutsch/WSMRA/main.html>, or contact Kendra Tutsch at [kdtutsch@wisc.edu](mailto:kdtutsch@wisc.edu).



# USA NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Jim Hiser

**Presenting Sponsor:**

**Pro Penn**

**Event Sponsors:**

**E-Force, Ektelon,**

**Gearbox, Head**

## Date Change

The draw of 376 players was a pleasant surprise considering the 2007 National Doubles was just held in October. The large draw seems to be indication that next year's event will be even more successful.

## Hospitality

Numerous favorable comments were made regarding the daily hospitality. A local sponsor, "Boston's," stepped up and increased the quality and quantity of daily hospitality.

## Competition

As always, the event attracted many of the top players in the age group events. Tim Hansen and Jimmy Lowe perhaps were the most notable returns (both had to miss last year's event). They won the 45's and were second in the 40's.

## Notable Players

IRT Legends Cliff Swain, Tim Sweeney, and Tim Doyle returned to compete.

## A First

Pro Player fathers Ro Carson and Russ Mannino teamed up to win the Men's 60+ Division.

## Pool Play

Although pool play is normally used in the women's divisions, the format was used for the first time in a selected number of men's divisions. The men liked the change!







# 41ST USAR NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

## RESULTS

- Men's Doubles 25+ - Round Robin**  
 1st: Blake Hansen / Travis Mettenbrink - Hudson, IA/Norfolk, NE  
 2nd: Jason Geis / Mike Orr - Torrance, CA/San Diego, CA
- Men's Doubles 25+ A - Single Elimination**  
 1st: Bill Pobega / Eric Vought - Chagrin Falls, OH/Powell, OH  
 2nd: Andrew Goldman / Salvatore Perconti - Clearwater, FL/Saint Petersburg, FL
- Men's Doubles 30+ - Round Robin**  
 1st: Craig Lane / Greg Solis - Huntington Beach, CA/Orange, CA  
 2nd: Corey Fritz / Ira Holland - Herndon, VA/Herndon, VA
- Men's Doubles 35+ - Single Elimination**  
 1st: Brad McCuniff / Keith Minor - Cedar Falls, IA/Channahon, IL  
 2nd: Darin Randles / Tommy Medina - Phoenix, AZ/Phoenix, AZ
- Men's Doubles 35+ A - Single Elimination**  
 1st: Randy Long / Ron Miramontes - Woodland, CA/Woodland, CA  
 2nd: David Croom / Toby Devore - Seattle, Washington/Stockton, CA
- Men's Doubles 40+ - Single Elimination**  
 1st: Cliff Swain / Woody Clouse - Naples, FL/Highlands Ranch, CO  
 2nd: Jimmy Lowe / Tim Hansen - Wahiawa, HI/Wellington, FL
- Men's Doubles 45+ - Single Elimination**  
 1st: Gordon Kirkland / Tim Hansen - Orlando, FL/Wellington, FL  
 2nd: David Azuma / Thomas Travers - Lake Oswego, OR/Delray Beach, FL
- Men's Doubles 45+ A - Single Elimination**  
 1st: Joey Egea / Thomas Cain - Tucson, AZ/Tucson, AZ  
 2nd: Al Shipman / Bill Bouie - Ashburn, VA/Reston, VA
- Men's Doubles 50+ - Single Elimination**  
 1st: David Azuma / Thomas Travers - Lake Oswego, OR/Delray Beach, FL  
 2nd: Mike Lubbers / Russ Bonanno - Phoenix, AZ/North Massapequa, NY
- Men's Doubles 55+ - Single Elimination**  
 1st: Mike Lippitt / Ruben Gonzalez - Danville, CA/Staten Island, NY  
 2nd: Gene Pare / Mark Baron - Campbell, CA/Herndon, VA
- Men's Doubles 55+ A - Round Robin**  
 1st: Stephen Young / Whallen Fong - Burlingame, CA/Danville, CA  
 2nd: Jim Verhaeghe / Thomas Lundy - Tucson, AZ/Tucson, AZ
- Men's Doubles 60+ - Single Elimination**  
 1st: R D Carson / Russell Mannino - Santa Maria, CA/Poway, CA  
 2nd: Ed Remen / Mike Pawka - Apex, NC/San Diego, CA
- Men's Doubles A - Single Elimination**  
 1st: Lou Beltran / Randy Long - Woodland, CA/Woodland, CA  
 2nd: Gavin Henderson / Martin Page - Peoria, AZ/Surprise, AZ

continued on next page



# 41ST USAR NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS CONTINUED

## Men's Doubles B - Round Robin

- 1st: Chip Wolfe / John Yonkosky - Daytona Beach, FL/Palm Coast, FL  
2nd: Hank Estrada / Steven Burgoon - Alta Loma, CA/Ontario, CA

## Men's Doubles C - Single Elimination

- 1st: James Teeter / Roby Partovich - Carlsbad, CA/Oceanside, CA  
2nd: Chris Pasciuti / David Moerman - Peoria, AZ/Glendale, AZ

## Men's Doubles Elite - Single Elimination

- 1st: Damian Zamorano / Jason Richard Conway - Mesa, AZ/Phoenix, AZ  
2nd: Danny Newman / Gilbert Cepeda - Woodland, CA/San Jose, CA

## Men's Doubles M25B/35B - Pool Play

- 1st: Chip Wolfe / John Yonkosky - Daytona Beach, FL/Palm Coast, FL  
2nd: Dave Peckinpaugh / Tony Vargas - Moreno Valley, CA/Prosper, TX

## Men's Doubles M35C/45C/55C - Pool Play

- 1st: Horacio Honne / Rick Fontanares - Buckeye, AZ/San Diego, CA  
2nd: Sol Soto / Victor Rivera - Phoenix, AZ/Chandler, AZ

## Men's Doubles M45B/55B - Round Robin

- 1st: Hank Estrada / Steven Burgoon - Alta Loma, CA/Ontario, CA  
2nd: Clay (Ray) Northrop / Greg Beard - Klamath Falls, OR/Klamath Falls, OR

## Men's Doubles M65/70/75 - Round Robin

- 1st: Fred Letter / Jerry Davis - South Plainfield, NJ/Shaker Hts., OH  
2nd: Luis Guerrero / Mitch Milewski - San Gabriel, CA/Nashua, NH

## Men's Doubles Open - Single Elimination

- 1st: Jason Geis / Mike Orr - Torrance, CA/San Diego, CA  
2nd: Anthony Herrera / Rafael Filippini - Grand Junction, CO/Bonita, CA

## Men's Doubles US Team Qualifying - Single Elimination

- 1st: Jack Huczek / Rocky Carson III - Rochester, MI/Ladera Ranch, CA  
2nd: Jason Thoerner / Mitch Williams - Pekin, IL/Pueblo, CO

## Mixed Doubles 25+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Jason Bronson / Rhonda Rajsich - Glendale, AZ/Fountain Hills, AZ  
2nd: Jason Geis / Karen Key - Torrance, CA/Gilbert, AZ

## Mixed Doubles 30+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: Jason Richard Conway / Karen Key - Phoenix, AZ/Gilbert, AZ  
2nd: Anita King / Martin Mcdermott - Pflugerville, TX/Dallas, TX

## Mixed Doubles 35+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Beth Neff / Rafael Filippini - Puyallup, WA/Bonita, CA  
2nd: Cindy Gilbert / Jeff Phalan - Cupertino, California/San Jose, CA

## Mixed Doubles 40+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: Jimmy Lowe / Malia Bailey - Wahiawa, HI/Norfolk, VA  
2nd: Laura Fenton / Mark Malowitz - Overland Park, KS/Corpus Christi, TX

## Mixed Doubles 45+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: Jimmy Lowe / Terri Graham - Wahiawa, HI/Wheeling, IL  
2nd: Glenn Bell / Malia Bailey - Nederland, TX/Norfolk, VA

## Mixed Doubles 50+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: David Azuma / Elaine Dexter - Lake Oswego, OR/Pleasanton, CA  
2nd: Jill Mitchell / Patrick Gibson - El Dorado, CA/Ft Worth, TX







- Mixed Doubles 55+ - Round Robin**  
 1st: Debbie Chaney / Joe Lee - Indianapolis, IN/Mi/I, HI  
 2nd: Nancy Kronenfeld / Tony Upkes - Park Ridge, IL/Harrisburg, SD
- Mixed Doubles 60+ - Round Robin**  
 1st: MeriJean Kelley / Mike Pawka - Palo Alto, CA/San Diego, CA  
 2nd: Jerry Northwood / Mary Lou Furaus - Prescott, AZ/Goodyear, AZ
- Mixed Doubles 65+ - Round Robin**  
 1st: Luis Guerrero / Nidia Funes - San Gabriel, CA/Novato, CA  
 2nd: Gail Schaefer / Rex Lawler - Randallstown, MD/Terre Haute, IN
- Mixed Doubles A - Single Elimination**  
 1st: Alan Lawson / Jessica Munoz - Burlington, WA/Burlington, WA  
 2nd: Melissa Bentley / Mike Murphy - Perry, OH/Mentor, OH
- Mixed Doubles B - Single Elimination**  
 1st: Carol Loomis / Daniel Rhodes - Portland, OR/Beaverton, OR  
 2nd: Dave Peckinpaugh / Julia Mouser - Moreno Valley, CA/Tustin, CA
- Mixed Doubles C - Round Robin**  
 1st: Julia Mouser / Roby Partovich - Tustin, CA/Oceanside, CA  
 2nd: Chris Pasciutti / Mary Jordan - Peoria, AZ/Glendale, AZ
- Mixed Doubles Elite - Single Elimination**  
 1st: Cindy Gilbert / Gilbert Cepeda - Cupertino, California/San Jose, CA  
 2nd: Bryan Crosser / Christie Singleton - Grimes, IA/Upland, California
- Mixed Doubles Open - Single Elimination**  
 1st: Aimee Ruiz / Mike Dennison - Stirling, NJ/Hudson, OH  
 2nd: Andy Hawthorne / Diane Moore - Tallmadge, OH/Griffith, IN
- Women's Doubles 55+ C - Single Elimination**  
 1st: MeriJean Kelley / Nancy Kronenfeld - Palo Alto, CA/Park Ridge, IL  
 2nd: Carla Francis / Terry Ann Rogers - Castro Valley, CA/San Mateo, CA
- Women's Doubles A - Pool Play**  
 1st: Dorcy Norton / Lori Soares - Escondido, CA/Santee, CA  
 2nd: Gladys Leonard / Susan Hendricks - Alexandria, VA/Phoenix, AZ
- Women's Doubles Elite - Pool Play**  
 1st: Lorraine Feeney / Marsha Kazarosian - Abington, MA/Haverhill, MA  
 2nd: Beth Neff / Debra Bryant - Puyallup, WA/Sneads Ferry, NC
- Women's Doubles US Team Qualifying - Single Elimination**  
 1st: Aimee Ruiz / Jacqueline Paraiso - Stirling, NJ/EI Cajon, CA  
 2nd: Janel Tisinger / Rhonda Rajsich - Simi Valley, CA/Fountain Hills, AZ
- Women's Doubles W60/65 - Round Robin**  
 1st: MeriJean Kelley / Nidia Funes - Palo Alto, CA/Novato, CA  
 2nd: CeCe Palaski / Barbara Ahearn - Ranches De Taos, NM/Scottsdale, AZ
- Women's Doubles WB/C - Pool Play**  
 1st: Carrie Hoefft / Kelani Bailey - Chesapeake, VA/Norfolk, VA  
 2nd: Cheryllyn Toland / Diana Johnson - Peoria, AZ/Phoenix, AZ
- Women's Doubles Women's 50/55 - Pool Play**  
 1st: Elaine Dexter / Linda Moore - Pleasanton, CA/Lincoln, NE  
 2nd: Marsha Berry / Peggy Stephens - Louisville, KY/Louisville, KY



# PAST INDUCTEES

2002



**Andy Roberts**  
Memphis, Tennessee  
(Professional Athlete)

One of the most dominant pro players of the 90's, Andy Roberts finished six seasons with a top five ranking — twice finishing in the No.2 spot (1993, 1995). With over 15 tour wins to his credit, Roberts finished with a top-10 season ranking on the tour as recently as 1999. After graduating from Memphis State University (with several titles) Roberts captured a National Doubles title in 1985, a National Singles title in 1988 and a U.S. Olympic Festival singles win in 1991. He recaptured the National Doubles crown 15 years later in 2000. Selected as the USRA Athlete of the Year twice (1988, 1990), Roberts was also appointed to the U.S. National team for eight consecutive terms (1985-1991), where he added Tournament of the Americas, and World Championship titles to an impressive resume.

2003



**Cliff Swain**  
Braintree, Massachusetts  
(Professional Athlete)

With over 80 pro victories to his credit, Swain is considered by many to be the best racquetball player ever. He dominated the pro circuit throughout the 90's and continues to do so into a new century. In 2002, at the age of 35, he became the first player to win six (6) professional season-ending rankings titles (1990, '93, '94, '95, '98, 2002). At the time of his induction, Swain also boasted two U.S. OPEN titles (1997, 2001) and had finished No. 3 at the close of the 2003 IRT season. Swain actually could have earned many more tour victories and possibly two more season-ending rankings titles had he not quit racquetball for two years to pursue a tennis career. After his pro tennis detour in the early '90's Swain returned to the racquetball court and promptly took back his No.1 ranking in the first year.

2004



**Shannon Wright**  
Fridley, Minnesota  
(Professional Athlete)

Shannon Wright dominated women's racquetball throughout the late 1970's and early 80's. During her 12-year career she racked up over 35 professional tournament victories, captured seven National Championships, and finished #1 on the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) Tour four times. She is said, by some, to have revolutionized women's racquetball with her hard-hitting style and aggressive play.

During her career she was also heavily involved in conducting clinics throughout the country and authored "The Women's Book of Racquetball" in 1980. She also made an appearance on ABC's Superstar Competition in Key Biscayne, Florida, finishing 3rd. In 1976 she was named the International Racquetball Association (IRA) "Women's Professional of the Year," the following year was named the IRA "Athlete of the Year", and in 1979 was selected by Racquetball Illustrated as the "Player of the Year."

Shannon left the professional circuit in 1982 to pursue her education after being narrowly defeated by Lynn Adams in the National Professional Championships. In 1989, she completed her degree in Biochemistry from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She was awarded her PhD from the University of Minnesota in 2002 and is currently in the process of completing her last two years of medical school.



**Fran Davis**  
San Francisco, California  
(Contributor)

Fran Davis is known throughout racquetball as one of the top clinicians in the game. She conducts the highly successful "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" racquetball camps and is credited with



coaching both Sudsy Monchik and Jason Mannino.

She has also been successful as a coach for the U.S. National Team. She served as Assistant Coach for the 1990, '92, '94, '96, '98, and 2002 IRF World Champions and in 1987 she was named the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Racquetball Coach of the Year. She was also part of the 1995 U.S. Pan American Games coaching staff, helping them to sweep the competition in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Former U.S. National Head Coach Jim Winterton said of Fran, "Her passion for the sport is surpassed only by her energy and knowledge of the game."

"The Hall of Fame, in any sport, is what everyone strives for," Fran said upon hearing of her induction. "That means that you will go down in history as one of the greatest players, coaches, or contributors. To me, the biggest thing is to get in while I am still heavily involved in the sport and that I am able to share it with those close to me."

## 2005



**Jerry Hilecher**  
**Northridge, California**  
(Professional Athlete)

Jerry Hilecher was one of the "original" players involved in racquetball from the very first IRA Championships held in St. Louis, MO in 1973. A finalist in over 40 professional events and winner of three National

championships Jerry also brought a high level of desire and intensity to every match he played. Never one to sit back, Jerry also organized the Professional Player's Association in 1979 in an effort to allow players an active voice in establishing clear guidelines for professional racquetball. An instructor and coach, Jerry presented over 100 camps, clinics, and exhibitions during his career and was head coach of the US Junior Team in 1992 and 1993. Recently elected to the St. Louis Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, Jerry occasionally continues to participate on the legends tour and other selected amateur tournaments.



**Dan Obremski**  
**Irwin, Pennsylvania**  
(Amateur Athlete)

Many credit Dan Obremski with changing the modern pro tour by bringing advanced sport-specific fitness training to the game. His dedication to fitness brought him pure strength, flexibility, and

unbelievable quickness that left his opponents and fans awe struck. He reached a peak ranking on tour of #3 in the world and won multiple pro events. However, he is best known as the greatest right side doubles player in history. He won an unbelievable five Men's Open national doubles titles with two different partners - a record that still stands today.

In addition to playing, Obremski was very generous with his time when it came to teaching and training players throughout the country. For many years he was a lead instructor at the annual Olympic High Performance Training Camp in Colorado Springs, CO and is credited with helping to develop advance techniques for training high level players in the areas of fitness, strategy, and mental toughness."



**Steve Strandemo**  
**San Diego, California**  
(Contributor)

Steve Strandemo is widely recognized as the father of racquetball instruction. The author of three instructional books and five instructional videos, Steve organized the first formal certification camp for

instructors. Steve was known among his peers as "an intense student of the game" and dedicated much of his career to the study and analysis of racquetball. Many credit Steve with being the original inventor of videotape analysis. Steve spent hours analyzing materials and developing new theories of instruction and strategy. As a professional player Steve maintained a top ten ranking from 1973-1986.



# RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN HALL OF FAME

Celebrating Excellence On  
and Off the Court

by Twayne M. Howard

**M**ichigan's Hall of Fame must certainly be considered one of the most prestigious in the entire nation. Established in 1984, it features some of the greatest the game has ever seen, both on the court and off. In 2007, the 28th and 29th members were inducted into this prestigious group.

Our Hall of Fame members date to the early days of the racquetball and excelled at the highest levels. Mike Yellen ('00) is the only man to win the Pro Championship 5 years in a row. In 1992, Chris Cole ('06) was the first man to win the Tournament of the Americas, US National Singles, and World Championship Singles in one year. Jim Floyd ('06) won several National Championships and in 1992 defeated Chris Cole to win

their Club Championship. Craig Finger ('07) won one of the first National Amateur Championships in 1970. Dr Fred Lewerenz ('84), Tom Brownlee ('85), Bill Gottlieb ('93), and Steve Keely ('93) all competed at the highest levels of the Pro Tour.

But Michigan also produced its share of great contributors to the sport. Stu Hastings ('87) is still considered to be one of the best clinicians in racquetball history. USA Racquetball Executive Director Dr. Jim Hiser ('85) cut his teeth in Michigan, both as a Board President and as the director of the Super Seven Series. Jim Easterling ('86) was RAM President and now oversees both the Michigan and USA Racquetball Halls of Fame. Ron Pudduck ('00) was the Director of the NMRA for many years.

## Our other honorees are:

1984	Lynn H. Hahn
1987	Bob Wilhelm
1988	Denny Wood
1993	Larry Fox
1993	Donna Henry-Brewer
1993	Gordon Kelly
1993	Irene Ackerman-Chmura
2000	Richard J. Caretti
2000	Johnny Northern
2000	Ronald S. Pudduck
2001	J.D. Driver
2002	Lou Ellen Fecher
2002	Randall Minto
2003	Dianne Easterling
2003	Duane Russell
2004	Tom Blakeslee
2005	Ken Bonnett
2007	Fred Wiegand

Michigan Racquetball stands for excellence, and these are just a few of the many reasons why.

For more information, please visit our web site [www.michiganracquetball.net/HallofFame/Inductees/tabid/100/Default.aspx](http://www.michiganracquetball.net/HallofFame/Inductees/tabid/100/Default.aspx) - where full biographies of the members are available.



## QUOTES

"I'm really looking forward to the 35th Anniversary Hall of Fame gathering this May in Houston. It's hard to believe so much time has passed, but I guess time flies when you're having fun playing and competing in this great sport of ours. I'm looking forward to catching up with and seeing a lot of old friends."

**Ed Remen**

"I have been involved in this sport since 1978...30 years...WOW...just 5 years shy of when the Racquetball Hall of Fame came into existence. Who ever knew, who ever expected, who ever dreamed racquetball would be one of the "elite" sports having a Hall of Fame, a Pro Tour for Men and Women, a National Singles and Doubles Championships, a Jr. National Championships, a World

Championship for Adults and Juniors alike and a powerful governing body, USA Racquetball, to steer the sport. And I can say I have been through 3 decades of the growth and development of the sport and have been an integral part of where racquetball is today. I cannot wait to celebrate not only with my fellow Hall of Famers, but with my Racquetball Family...YOU!"

**Fran Davis**



# THE FINALS

*Grand Gala*  
**Hall of Fame**  
*35th Anniversary*  
Houston, TX



- U.S. MILITARY CHAMPIONSHIPS
- RACQUETBALL'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS BANQUET
- POOL PLAY FOR WOMEN
- SPECIAL JUNIOR DIVISIONS
- AMERICAN IDOL PARTY
- U.S. TEAM QUALIFYING DIVISIONS
- CLINICS & EXHIBITIONS EVERY DAY
- ALL PLAYERS RECEIVE SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY GIFTS!



**Downtown YMCA  
Houston, Texas  
May 21-26, 2008**

Event Sponsors:



**HEAD**

Presented by:







This year's "Finals" will be a very special event. The theme is a "Celebration: The History of Racquetball" and there are numerous special events planned to recognize the sport's legends and to celebrate our history.

## WEDNESDAY

PARTY IN THE PARK BAR — Hyatt Regency

## THURSDAY

LADIES NIGHT OUT! — Hyatt Regency  
Reception for all female participants



## FRIDAY

TEXAS HOLD'EM  
TOURNAMENT —  
Hyatt Regency

As a prelude to the American Idol Contest, players will be able to test their skills at Texas Hold 'Em Poker.



HEAD/PENN  
PRESENTS: "AN AMERICAN  
IDOL CONTEST"

— Hyatt Regency

Returning after a few years absence, this event is always a tournament highlight. Players and guests will compete for prizes and the title of "The Finals - American Idol" winner.



## SATURDAY

CELEBRATION: THE HISTORY OF  
RACQUETBALL

The Hyatt Grand Ballroom will be transformed into an elegant setting for the most prestigious celebration in the sport's history. The evening will include appearances by many of the sport's living legends; professional entertainment; and video and slide shows. This is one event you cannot miss.



## SUNDAY

OPEN FINALS

Keep your afternoon and early evening free to watch the U.S. Team Qualifiers at the YMCA! Winners earn appointments to the U.S. Team squad that will compete at the World Championships in August.

FAREWELL IN THE BAR — PARK BAR HYATT

Join fellow players and fans for the last party night of THE FINALS.

## MONDAY

All remaining division finals will be played throughout the day (except the U.S. Team Qualifying OPEN divisions, played on Sunday).

## AND ALL WEEK LONG...

U.S. TEAM AUCTION

There will be an auction to benefit the U.S. Team held throughout the event. Anyone willing to donate an auction item please contact Heather at 719-635-5396 x129

Enjoy downtown nightlife at over 100 restaurants and nightclubs – all within walking distance of the Hyatt.

For more information on Houston – <http://www.houstonracquetball.org>



Event Sponsors:



Presented by:



## MEMBERS ONLY

This National Event is hosted for USA Racquetball members only. A USA Racquetball membership is required of all participants, ...and entrants may either join online at [www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com); include fees with their entries; or present a current membership card, receipt or cancelled check indicating recent enrollment as proof of membership. **PLAYERS WITHOUT VALID MEMBERSHIPS WILL NOT BE ENTERED IN THE DRAW.**

## THE FORM

You'll find the entry form in this issue or online at [www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com). You must submit both completed pages with fees to be entered into the draw. If you are faxing your entry, be sure to include both pages. Fax entries require an extra fee.

## THE FEES

- **ENTRY:** \$99.00 First event (includes \$10 referee fee), \$49.00 second event. Players may enter two events.
- **LATE FEES:** Entries received after the deadline will be surcharged an additional \$20.00 late fee. No payments will be accepted on-site at the registration desk.
- **PROCESSING:** Telephone/Fax entries will be accepted through the deadline with an \$15.00 service charge and pre-payment with Visa/Mastercard at 719/635-5396.

## ENTRY DEADLINE

Wed., MAY 7, postmarked no later than Friday, MAY 2. Only pre-paid entries are placed into the draw; any withdrawals will be subject to a \$15.00 fax fee; no refunds will be issued after the deadline date, regardless of cause (including unforeseen injury or illness).

**Confirmation:** Players may verify their entry and divisions by referencing an online participants' list (updated regularly through the entry deadline), linked through "Marquee Event" at [usaracquetball.com](http://usaracquetball.com).

**Registration:** Players must register at the YMCA prior to their first match, during these hours: Tues. 5 pm to 9 pm, Wed. 8 am to 9 pm, Thurs. 8 am to 9 pm, Fri. 8 am to 8 pm.

DOWNTOWN  
YMCA ACCESS

All players must have a bag tag to be admitted into the YMCA racquetball area, and to complete their registration in the Hospitality Park. Players may register online and pick up their bag tag – and one free guest pass per entrant – at the USA Racquetball desk located just inside the entrance to the YMCA. Additional guest passes can be purchased from the YMCA for \$5.00 per day or \$15.00 for the entire week.

EVENT  
ADMINISTRATION

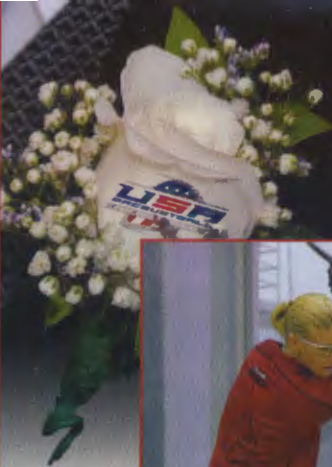
USA Racquetball @  
719/635-5396, ext. 129.

## REGISTER ON-LINE

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







## TRAVEL

The U.S. Olympic Committee Travel Desk and United Airlines join USA Racquetball in offering the lowest possible United Airfares to national events.

For reservations, phone United's U.S. Olympic Travel Desk, toll-free, at (800) 841-0460 between 8:30 am and 8:00 pm EST weekdays. Reference the USA Racquetball account number 565 EF to receive United's lowest fare!

## GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Bus, shuttle, taxi and limousine services are available from both Houston airports (you must make your own arrangements on arrival). Pricing varies by airport and service (between \$15.00-\$40.00). Hertz is the event's official car rental sponsor — make your reservations by calling 800-654-2240 and referencing meeting 962102 PC for your special rate.

## LODGING

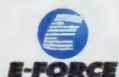
Hyatt Regency Houston  
1200 Louisiana (1 block from YMCA).  
Rate: \$95.00 per night for up to four guests per room. For reservations, call 713/654-1234 and mention National Singles or online at <http://houstonregency.hyatt.com/groupbooking/40thannualusanationalchampionships-hourh>



**U.S. Team Qualifying Divisions** - Top four players qualify for U.S. Team.

**Open Divisions** - Top 8 IRT Pro's and Top 8 WPRO Pro's may not compete.





Event Sponsors:

Presented by:

# THE FINALS OFFICIAL RULES

USA Racquetball Official Rules will govern competition, including the mandatory use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards (including prescription frames and lenses).

It is the player's responsibility to make certain that their eyewear conforms with the standard specified in Rule 2.5(a).

Find a listing of ASTM eyeguards online at [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org) > "index" > "eyeguards".

## CITIZENSHIP & AGE REQUIREMENTS

Only U.S. citizens may compete in the U.S. Team Qualifying divisions; all other age & skill divisions are open to U.S. citizens and residents. For age division competition, players must meet the proper age requirement as of the first day of competition of their division.

## DRUG TESTING

The USAR will be using the U.S. Olympic Committee's Drug Testing Program at this event. Testing will be performed on U.S. team-qualifier players only. For more information about specific medications call the USOC Drug Hotline at 1-800-233-0393.

## QUALIFIERS & CERTIFICATIONS

### REGIONALS:

All players must have competed – in any division – at a recognized Regional/State Qualifier to be eligible to compete in "The Finals". Any legitimate waivers of qualifying competition must have been directed to – and approved by – the USA Racquetball Headquarters prior to the scheduled regional weekend. National waiver fee of \$100 must be included with entry fee. Individual regional tournament directors may not approve exclusions from play, for any reason.

### SKILL DIVISION CERTIFICATION:

Skill level entrants (to A, B, C, D divisions) must:

- be AmPRO certified at that level, OR
- have played in the same division at the mandatory regional qualifier, OR
- be approved by the state director or representative as being legitimately competitive in the entered skill division at the national level.

Tournament directors will use these benchmarks to determine eligibility for skill competition, and reserve the right to re-classify or disqualify players when/if they are improperly placed.



### JUNIOR DIVISIONS:

For juniors who want to accompany their parents or others who simply want to participate in this historic event, special junior divisions will be included.

### MILITARY:

The Military Divisions are open to active duty, National Guard and Reserve forces only (entrants must show a valid DoD military ID card at event table check in). Retired members, their dependents or DoD Contractors can not compete in these divisions.







Be prepared to play at 8:00 am on the days shown next to your entered divisions. These estimates are provided for your travel planning purposes only — actual starting dates/times may change (possibly later, but no earlier) according to the final number of players entered in each draw.

## U.S. TEAM QUALIFIER AND OPEN

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## U.S. NATIONAL DIVISIONS AGE: 24-

Men: Thursday • Women: Friday

### AGE: 25+

Men: Thursday • Women: Friday

### AGE: 30+

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

### AGE: 35+

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

### AGE: 40+

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

### AGE: 45+

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

### AGE: 50+

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

### AGE: 55+

Men: Thursday • Women: Thursday

### AGE: 60+

Men: Thursday • Women: Friday

### AGE: 65+

Men: Thursday • Women: Friday

### AGE: 70+

Men: Friday • Women: Friday

### AGE: 75+

Men: Friday • Women: Friday

### AGE: 80+

Men: Friday • Women: Friday

### AGE: 85+

Men: Friday • Women: Friday

## MILITARY

Wednesday

## JUNIORS

Thursday

## SKILL: ELITE

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## SKILL: A

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## SKILL: B

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## SKILL: C

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## SKILL: D

Men: Wednesday • Women: Friday

## AGE: 24- SKILL: A

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 24- SKILL: B

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 24- SKILL: C

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 25+ SKILL: A

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 25+ SKILL: B

Men: Thursday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 25+ SKILL: C

Men: Thursday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 30+ SKILL: A

Men: Thursday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 30+ SKILL: B

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 30+ SKILL: C

Men: Thursday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 35+ SKILL: A

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 35+ SKILL: B

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 35+ SKILL: C

Men: Thursday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 40+ SKILL: A

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 40+ SKILL: B

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 40+ SKILL: C

Men: Thursday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 45+ SKILL: A

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 45+ SKILL: B

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 45+ SKILL: C

Men: Thursday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 50+ SKILL: A

Men: Wednesday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 50+ SKILL: B

Men: Thursday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 50+ SKILL: C

Men: Thursday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 55+ SKILL: A

Men: Thursday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 55+ SKILL: B

Men: Thursday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 55+ SKILL: C

Men: Thursday • Women: Thursday

## AGE: 60+ SKILL: A

Men: Thursday • Women: Friday

## AGE: 60+ SKILL: B

Men: Thursday • Women: Friday

## AGE: 60+ SKILL: C

Men: Thursday • Women: Friday

## AGE: 65+ SKILL: A

Men: Thursday

## AGE: 65+ SKILL: B

Men: Thursday

## AGE: 65+ SKILL: C

Men: Thursday

For starting times visit online at:  
[www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)

Individual starting times will be available on Monday, May 19 after 5 pm or call the National Office at 719-635-5396 during normal business hours, 9 am to 5 pm Mountain Time.



# Part 1: Entry Form

If you are FAXING(\$15) your entry, be sure to include BOTH sides of this page in your transmission! Fax: 719/635-0685 or enter on line at [www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)

## Please PRINT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M | F

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Eve) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Regional (required) \_\_\_\_\_ Division(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR SEEDING** — Please indicate your finish in these events:

### 2007 National Singles

Finish \_\_\_\_\_ Div \_\_\_\_\_

### 2008 Regional Qualifier

Finish \_\_\_\_\_ Div \_\_\_\_\_

### 2007 U.S. OPEN

Finish \_\_\_\_\_ Div \_\_\_\_\_

### 2007-08 NMRA / WSMRA

Finish \_\_\_\_\_ Div \_\_\_\_\_

### 2008 State Championship

Finish \_\_\_\_\_ Div \_\_\_\_\_

Event Sponsors:



Presented by: **Propenn.**

**WAIVER** I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the USA Racquetball, Hyatt, Ektelon, Downtown YMCA, Penn Racquet Sports, and all other event sponsors or their respective agents for any and all injuries. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition, and can provide certification in writing that my protective eyeguards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USA Racquetball Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to be subject to drug testing as administered according to the USA Racquetball/USOC guidelines, and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Participant Signature & Date \_\_\_\_\_

## REQUIRED SKILL LEVEL VERIFICATION

Please indicate below your eligibility for competition in the skill level you have chosen. This information will be verified and re-classification may take place if deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director.

☐ I competed in my Regional, State Singles, NMRA, or WS/MRA tournament qualifier.

☐ I have been AmPRO certified at this level by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name required)

☐ I have been approved for participation at this level by the state \_\_\_\_\_ director or designated representative shown below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name required)

ALL players must have pre-qualified by competing in any division at a qualifying event. See "Qualifiers & Certifications."

## ☐ U.S. NATIONAL TEAM QUALIFIER

U.S. National Divisions

AGE

SKILL (one only)\*\*

☐ 24-

☐ Open — (national open)

(Top 8 IRT and Top 8 WPRO Players not allowed)

☐ 25+

☐ Elite (state open)

☐ 30+

☐ A

☐ 35+

☐ B

☐ 40+

☐ C

☐ 45+

☐ D

☐ 50+

AGE + SKILL\*\* (one only)

☐ 55+

24- ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C

☐ 60+

25+ ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C

☐ 65+

30+ ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C

☐ 70+

35+ ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C

☐ 75+

40+ ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C

☐ 80+

45+ ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C

☐ 85+

50+ ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C

55+ ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C

60+ ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C

65+ ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C

## U.S. Military Divisions

☐ Open & A ☐ B & C ☐ D & Novice

☐ 30 plus ☐ 40 plus

## Junior Divisions

☐ 10 & under ☐ advanced ☐ intermediate

☐ 14 & under ☐ advanced ☐ intermediate

☐ 18 & under ☐ advanced ☐ intermediate

\* Player may enter only one of the divisions shown in RED, and must be approved to compete at that skill level (see "Qualifiers & Certifications").

\*\* Players must be approved at the skill level chosen along with their age (see "Qualifiers & Certifications").

First-round losers may sign up for only ONE consolation round.

Don't forget to complete the OTHER side of this page!



# Part 2: Fees & Payment

REVISED TEAM QUALIFYING PROCEDURES  
[ As of March 1, 2005 ]

## USA RACQUETBALL MEMBERSHIP

Current Membership # (must be current)..... Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

USRA Membership .....(\$35.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST EVENT** .....(\$99.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Each entrant will be provided hospitality, plus  
nightly social events and Saturday banquet.

Entrants will also receive a high-quality souvenir.

**JUNIORS** .....(\$25.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SECOND EVENT** .....(\$49.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## MILITARY DIVISIONS

1st Division USAR .....(\$99.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Division Military .....(\$30.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3rd Division Military .....(\$30.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

1st Division Military .....(\$50.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Division Military .....(\$30.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3rd Division Military .....(\$30.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Late Fee .....(\$20.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone & Fax Entry fee .....(\$15.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Package .....(\$90.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All special events/parties will require a ticket for admission,  
and a guest pass will be needed to enter the host club. Guest  
package includes tournament shirt & souvenir, daily hospitality  
passes, tickets to all scheduled social events, Banquet and  
tournament guest pass. \$150.00 value.

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Waiver fee (all waivers) ..... \$100.00

Tax deductible donation

to Olympic Dream ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL DUE:** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Use your USA Racquetball MBNA credit card to charge your entry,  
and receive an additional 10% off your fees. Only USA Racquetball  
MBNA cards receive this discount!

MC/Visa \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. code# \_\_\_\_\_ MBNA \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Entries are NOT accepted without pre-payment  
and required signatures. Surcharges may include:  
\$25.00 for returned checks and \$10.00 for  
declined credit cards.

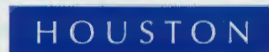
## U.S. TEAM QUALIFYING

In order to earn an appointment to the U.S.  
National Team, benchmark performances must be  
reached at selected qualifiers. Presently the team is  
comprised of one top professional from each tour  
(1 each, IRT/male & LPRA/female = 2); the top-four  
(4) finishers from the U.S.

National Singles Championships (4 each, male &  
female = 8); finalists from the U.S. National  
Doubles Championships (4 teams, 2 each, male &  
female = 8); and Intercollegiate National  
champions (1 each, male & female = 2). By  
reaching these benchmarks, individuals are  
appointed to the U.S. Team for a term of one year,  
and are then added to a pool of athletes to  
compete at international events.

**MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY & FEES TO:**  
**"THE FINALS"**  
1685 West Uintah  
Colorado Springs, CO • 80904-2906  
[Fax: 719/635-0685]

**Entries must be received by**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 7**





# GEARBOX

# MACHINE

GEARBOXRB.COM



ANTHONY  
**HERRERA**  
RANKED #19



HIROSHI  
**SHIMIZU**  
RANKED #14



ANDRES  
**HERRERA**  
RANKED #18



ALVARO  
**BELTRAN**  
RANKED #3



JOHN  
**GOTH**  
RANKED #21



JAVIER  
**MORENO**  
RANKED #10



POLO  
**GUTIERREZ**  
RANKED #17



**GEARBOX**  
RACQUETBALL



# HOUSTON HIGHLIGHTS

## Wednesday

### National leadership Conference 6 to 9 pm

Although designed for State Presidents and board members any interested members may attend. Topics to be covered are the USAR/R2 Tournament management program (hosted by Ryan Rogers), rankings, explanations and questions (Hosted by Usher Barnoff), membership and sanctioning (hosted by Terri Morse), along with numerous other relevant topics. National board members and staff will be present to answer any other questions.

## Thursday

### Women's Reception

A special reception to honor all female players and guest will be held on Thursday evening. A special presentation outlying the "Racquet for the Cure" events as well as activities designed to celebrate women in racquetball will highlight the evening.



## Friday

### American Idol Contest & Texas Hold'em poker

Back by popular demand. Great prizes, combined with outstanding talent, games, food, and drinks will highlight the evening. For those not interested in expressing their inner talent, a Texas Hold'em tournament with great prizes will be available.

## Saturday

### Grand Gala Ball

The event of the century the "Grand Gala Ball" celebrating our sports history and featuring many of the sports legends will be held in the Hyatt Regency Ballroom. The entire ballroom will be transformed into an elegant setting featuring special designed table settings and decorations. Special videos celebrating the last 25 years in Houston, professional entertainment, military honor guards, recognition of yearly award winners and some interesting surprises will highlight the evening. This is one event you can't miss!

## Sunday

### Farewell in the Bar

Gather in the Hyatt Park Bar to say good-bye to new and old friends.

## 10 WAYS TO ENJOY HOUSTON

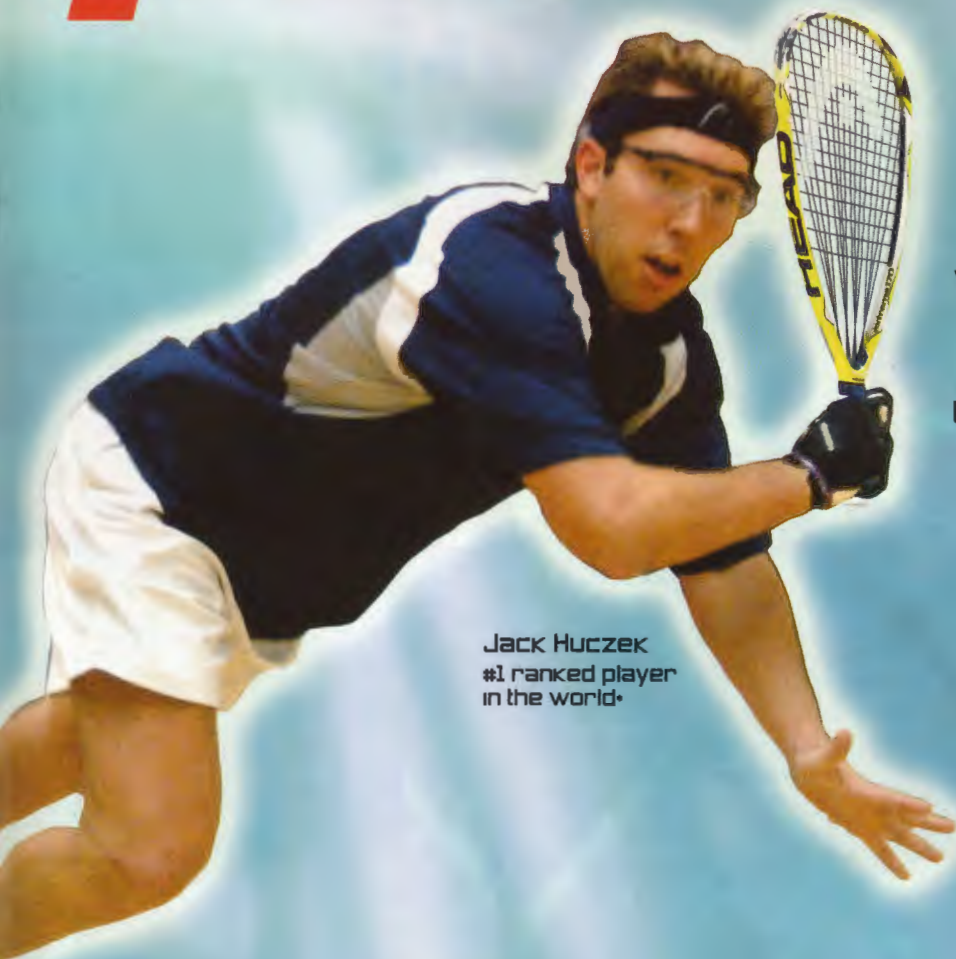
- 10** **Attend all the social functions.** There free to all players so take time to relax.
- 9** **Stay at the Hyatt.** Only 2 blocks from the venue and where all the action is.
- 8** **Meet on the Park Lounge.** Where everyone gathers at the end of a tough day.
- 7** **Visit some of the local restaurants.** Downtown has been revitalized and there are numerous good quality restaurants within a short distance.
- 6** **Tour the Racquetball History Museum.** A complete history of Racquetball. May take a few hours to competing tour so schedule some free time to enjoy this once in a lifetime experience.
- 5** **Watch matches.** The best age group players in the world will be playing.
- 4** **Enjoy the US Team Finals on Sunday.** Schedule your plans to leave on Monday or Tuesday.
- 3** **Play two divisions.** Most division only has 1 match per day so if you want more play sign up for a second division.
- 2** **US Team Auction.** This year will feature many Olympic items. Helps support our USA Team!
- 1** **Last but not least – Don't miss the banquet!** Probably the only opportunity to meet many of the sports legends in the most elegant setting of any racquetball functions.

## V.I.P. TABLES RESERVED AS OF 3.1.08

- Wilson
- Head/Penn
- Joey Lee (2)
- Cliff Swain
- Houston Racquetball Association (4)
- Sal Perconti
- Cheryl Kirk
- Geoff Peters/Randy Stafford
- Lynn Weisbart & friends
- California Racquetball Association (2)
- Paul Saberstein
- Jason Thoerner/Keith Minor
- Tom Curran - National Masters
- Dennis Rosenberg



# Penn<sup>®</sup> The Ball Matters<sup>™</sup>



Jack Huczek  
#1 ranked player  
in the world.

Penn is the only racquetball made in the USA and is considered the gold standard in the industry. Located in Phoenix, Arizona, the world's largest racquetball factory produces our entire line of quality racquetballs. As the official ball of the US Open, the IRT, the IRF and USA Racquetball, nearly every major event in the sport trusts Penn.



Official ball of:



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



## Pro Penn HD

The ultimate high performance racquetball. Top players in the world agree that Pro Penn HD is the most visible ball ever produced, even at speeds near 200 MPH.



## Pro Penn

The Official Ball of USA Racquetball makes Pro Penn the most widely used ball in tournament play.



## Penn Ballistic

Our fastest ball ever! The new Penn Ballistic is specially designed for outdoor racquetball - including increased durability and maximum visibility. Experience the lightening fast thrills of Penn's new Ballistic racquetball!



## Penn Ultra-Blue

The ball that set the standard for which all other racquetballs are measured.

#1 Selling Ball in the World





RHONDA RAISICH

# THE PLAYERS



MITCH WILLIAMS





CHERYL GUDINAS

### **Men's Team Qualifying – The Favorites**

**Rocky Carson** – *Even*: has played tough all season, momentum on his side.

**Jack Huczek** – *2 to 1*: does he have the motivation? If so should be a Rocky/Jack final – Again!

**Mitch Williams** – *3 to 1*: Won last year but inconsistent on the tour this season. Houston courts favor his game.

### **Women's Team Qualifying – The Favorites**

**Rhonda Rajsich** – *Even*: if she plays smart, she has the athletic ability to beat anyone. Has tendency to do too much.

**Cheryl Gudinas** – *2 to 1*: has played better this season. Can she regain her "old" form?

**Kerri Wachtel** – *3 to 1*: inconsistent season, seems to have all the tools but can she put them together?

### **Age Group Favorites**

**Ruben Gonzales** – Whatever age group Ruben, it probably is only a formality! In a class by himself.

**Jimmy Lowe** – Men's 35 & 40's – Although still a favorite Jimmy has tons of tough competition – Minor, McCuniff, Hansen, and who knows a few surprise legends may show up this year.

**Tim Hansen** – Always a favorite but could be pushed by Travers.

**Ed Remen** – Still favorite, but others are closing in!

**Pat Taylor** – Can he top off a great year with another 65 victory?


**Michael Jackson and John O'Donnell** – Favorites but will be pushed to their limits.

**Debra Tisinger-Moore** – Always the class of her division but may be pushed by Kyzer and Bailey dependent on what division they play.

**Maila Bailey** – Perhaps the most consistent age group player of all time. Difficult to bet against her no matter where she plays.

**Linda Moore and MeriJean Kelley** – Will try to defend their 07 titles but will be difficult to repeat.

**Mildred Gwinn** – Always the person to beat in her age bracket.



JACK HUCZEK



# FOREHAND SWING COMPARED TO GOLF SWING

by Sudsy Monchik

I wanted to discuss your forehand swing and compare it to a golf swing since Spring is right around the corner and a lot of us racquetball players love to play golf.

I LOVE golf and when I lived in Florida I played golf 3-4 days a week because I lived on a golf course. It was addicting, but I had to stay sharp and aware of the differences in the stroke from racquetball to golf so I would not develop "bad habits."

Let's take a closer look at the pictures below and see how the Forehand Swing compares to the Golf Swing:

	Forehand	Golf
<b>Trick # 1</b> Ready Position	Square to Side Wall Shoulders Level Knees Bent Legs Spread and Wide Hitting Arm Up Non-Hitting Arm used for balance	Square to Side Wall Shoulders Dipped Knees Slightly Bent Legs Narrower Both Arms Up Non-Hitting Arm used on the golf club
<b>Trick # 2</b> Step & Swing	Step toward Front Wall-wide Hips Begin to Open Drive off Back Leg Hitting Arm starts to drop	Step toward Front Wall-narrower Hips Begin to Open Drive off Back Leg Golf Club starts to drop leading with the Elbow
<b>Trick # 3</b> Contact Point	Back Foot Pivots Hips Completely Open Hitting Arm Fully Extended Non-Hitting Arm Moves	Back Foot Pivots Hips Completely Open Golf Club Down-Pendulum Non-Hitting Arm on the golf club
<b>Trick # 4</b> Follow Through	Chest Facing the Front Wall Belly Button Facing Front Wall Hitting Arm all the Way Racquet Pointing to Back Wall  Non-Hitting Arm Completely back wall and above your shoulder	Chest Facing the Front Wall Belly Button Facing Front Wall Golf Club all the Way Golf Club Pointing to and below your shoulder Non-Hitting Arm on the Golf Club

In summary, the major differences between the Forehand Swing in Racquetball and the Golf Swing are clearly shown in the pictures:

#### 1-In The Ready Position:

- a-In racquetball the shoulders are LEVEL and the legs are SPREAD WIDE with the knees bent
- b-In golf the shoulders are DIPPED and legs are narrower with knees ONLY slightly bent

#### 2-In The Step and Swing:

- a-In racquetball the step is WIDER for more power
- b-The golf step is SHORTER for more controlled distances

#### 3-In The Contact Point:

- a-In racquetball the swing is FLAT, LEVEL and at FULL EXTENSION for more consistency and power
- b-In golf the swing is a PENDULUM for more lofting ability and distance

#### 4-In The Follow Through:

- a-In racquetball the follow through is FLAT and LEVEL for more consistency, accuracy and power and ends up BELOW the shoulder
- b-In golf the follow through is UP and OVER their shoulder because of the pendulum swing





# ONE

*In The Ready Position*



# TWO

*In The Step and Swing*



# THREE

*In The Contact Point*



# FOUR

*In The Follow Through*



I encourage you to play BOTH sports as life is too short. Pay attention when you shift back and forth between the two as you DO NOT want to be hitting racquetballs high and lofty and golf balls low and level.

Hope to see you at one of our 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.



Presented by **HEAD** *Penn*



**By Fran Davis**

**Hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction on this topic and many others.**

**The next best thing is to buy my video if you can't make it to a camp at this time.**

**Go to**

**[www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com) for details on both.**

Keep in mind someone you play is generally not only going to be one of these types of players, but a combination of these types of players. With the information in the above chart provided you can craft a more detailed "Service Game Strategy."

I recommend spending quite a bit of time on this area because the serve is the most important part of the game. This is the only time you can score a point. This is the only time you can hit the ball out of your hand whereas during a rally the ball is coming at you from different angles, with different speeds, possibly with spin. The serve sets the tone to the match and you are in total control. Take advantage of the time you are serving and come up with a winning "service game strategy!"

## Q:

Fran, I just took your camp in Sarasota, Florida in October 2007 and you informed us that the #1 shot in the game of racquetball is the serve since that is the only time you can score. Would you please go over how to develop a "Service Game Strategy?" I just lost a critical match because I DID NOT have any strategy when I was serving!

## A:

First of all let me define the term "Service Game Strategy." It is a game plan for your service game. Remember a game plan is "a plan of action." Your game plan is determined by your strengths and weaknesses coupled with your opponent's strengths and weaknesses (see March/April 2002). So developing a "Service Game Strategy" is no different than developing a game plan for your overall match. It is your strengths and weaknesses on your serves, coupled with your opponent's strengths and weaknesses on their serves. With that information I can teach you how to develop a winning "service game strategy"... that works.

What you need to do first and foremost is Analyze your Opponent:

- Are they a power or control player?
- Are they a righty or lefty?
- Are they a tall or short player?
- Do they have a weak backhand or forehand?
- Do they have any injuries...knee problems?
- How's their footwork?
- Are they in or out of shape?
- Where do they stand to return serve...too far up or too far over to one side or the other?

With this information gathered, you can come up with a precise "Service Game Strategy." The following is a chart you can use to assist you:

Type of Player	Service Strategy
Power	Change the pace – all off speed drive and Z serves High out of hitting zone – lobs, 1/2 lobs, soft high Z's
Control	Hit hard serves – drive Z's, jams, wrap around
Tall	Hit right at them – drive Z's, jams, right at their feet
Short	Hit hard and away from them into the corners, make them reach
Knee Problems (injury)	Hit hard and make them move and change direction abruptly – hard drives and hard Z's (all kinds depending on your level)
Unconditioned	Hit low and hard away from them – hard drives into corners, make them move
Weak Backhand	Pound their backhand with low hard serves or lob their backhand
Weak Forehand	Same as above, but to forehand side
Poor - Reaction Time/Footwork	Hit low and hard away from them – hard drives into corners, make them move
Righty or Lefty	Make sure while they are warming up you notice and pick on the weaker side, usually the backhand



by Otto Dietrich  
USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner

In a recent letter, Mike Johns stated:

*"I thought I made the correct calls in two situations in a recent (doubles) match that I refereed, but I would appreciate your comments, clarification, and refutation if necessary."*

**Call #1:** One doubles team was serving hard Z serves for most of the game. Thinking that a change of tactics might be appropriate (they were losing), the server, who was positioned on the right side of the service zone, served a hard drive serve to far corner on the left side of the court and it popped up right



**"...TO THE SERVING TEAM, THE SHORT LINE IS EXACTLY THAT –  
A LINE ON THE FLOOR – AND NOT A 'PLANE'..."**

behind the server's partner -- effectively "trapping" him in the left side service box. My call was a "penalty hinder" because the server's partner was in the receiver's direct line to the left front corner. I also thought it was a poor choice of serve.

**OTTO SAYS:** First, I am assuming that the "direct line to the left front corner" you described was indeed a straight line to the front wall and parallel with the sidewall and not at an angle. Any angle in that path to the front wall would turn this into a replay hinder instead. Also, I assume that the receiver either held up his shot or else hit the server's partner because if the shot was taken without hesitation and it did NOT hit the server's partner, then there would be no hinder at all! Thus, if all of the preceding is true, then it sounds like you got this call exactly right. It was indeed a poor choice of serve (but yet perfectly legal). As a side note, watch top level players play doubles and you will rarely see such a cross-court serve taken for that very reason -- it

traps one's partner who may have an "injury" added to the "insult" of being guilty of a penalty hinder for "failure to move!"

**Call #2:** That same team changed tactics once again and this time he hit a much wider Z serve that hit his own partner as he was leaning out of the service box -- across the plane of the short line. I called an immediate "out" because the server's partner was hit by the serve while out of the service box.

**OTTO SAYS:** I think that you may have gotten this one wrong -- at least that's what I detect based on the way you described it. Here are my considerations. You are right in that Rule 4.4(b) does say that it is an immediate "out serve" if the non-serving partner is hit by the served ball while "out of the service box." But, to the serving team, the short line is exactly that -- a line on the floor -- and NOT a "plane" as you described it in your question. This means that until some part of the player's body is actually touching the

FLOOR outside of the service box, then he is technically NOT "out of the service box"! So, if the non-serving partner is hit by the serve while "leaning" over the plane of the short line, it is just a fault serve.

Hey, Mike, you concluded by saying that you were willing to buy the beers and pizza and apologize for either of those calls if necessary. Well, open up your wallet and let me know when and where to show up! That is, of course, unless I misunderstood the logic of your second call... Thanks for writing!

Always "Play by the Rules!" If you don't have a copy, you can find and review them online at: <http://www.usaracquetball.com/Default.aspx?tabid=839>.

**So, 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.



# THE FLOW OF RACQUETBALL

## WILLINGNESS TO RALLY

Presented by  **EKTELON**

by Woody Clouse  
www.ektelon.com

**W**hat is the one constant of all the greatest players in the history of racquetball? From yesteryear, players like Charlie Brumfield, Mike Yellen and the Peck brothers to more recent greats like Sudsy Monchik, Cliff Swain and Ruben Gonzalez as well as today's greats like Jason Mannino, Jack Huczek and Rocky Carson. Is it heart? Yes. Intelligence, you bet. Work ethic? Most definitely! But technically speaking, it was/is their "willingness to rally." Not one of these players were/are afraid to keep the ball in play! They all understand that it's more important to move your opponent around than it is to roll it out! It's more important to keep the ball in play (how else can you pick on your opponent's weaknesses?) than it is to roll the ball out. They all know that getting balls, hustling and forcing your opponent into the deep corners has a greater impact on the result of the match than does hitting flat rollouts. They all have put a higher premium on forcing their opponents to move and hit the ball off balance than they have on hitting outright winners. And yes, they have all embraced the defensive side of the game.

The simple truth of the constant is this: you can play great defense every day! You can make your opponent work for each point every day! It's a lot more realistic and tangible to be a good or even great defensive player. It's something you can control. Being a great shot maker is a totally different story. It takes years of practice to have the control and more importantly, the consistency, to roll balls out. Most of us don't have the time in our schedules to get it done. It's also a much lower percentage way to play the game.

When you try to play with the intent to roll balls, your margin for error is reduced to a couple of inches. With a "make them move" approach, you instantly improve your margin for error. This in turn makes you a more consistent player. You also become a smarter player.

Physiologically it works in a very basic way. When you try to hit a rollout, it becomes an end-result effort. Your focus and goal is to hit a specific target. As you do this, you're consumed with the result, thus not staying engaged in the process of what you should be doing after you hit the shot (moving into position and watching where your opponent is going to hit the next shot) if yours is left up.

On the other hand, if you hit the same shot in an effort to make your opponent move, you intuitively don't hit the shot as low, which improves your margin for error. You also stay engaged in the flow of the rally which means that you become much more proactive with your movement and awareness. All of this translates into you being a smarter, more consistent player. One of the best by-products of this is that it immediately increases the number of shots your opponent has to hit. This in turn forces them to make more unforced errors and give you easy points.

To clarify and prove this fact and philosophy of the game, we can look at the two different types of players that make up racquetball players. There are exceptions, but most often this holds true. The first type of player sees himself as a physical player -- a player who can out-hit, out-run, overpower and overcome his opponent due to physical prowess. The second player sees himself as a more intelligent player. He is going to beat his opponent with better and

smarter shot selection, serves, and positioning. Patience and adjustment is the name of his game. We have all seen and or run up against this type of player -- the older guy we played when we were beginners who stood in the middle of the court and ran us to death! In either case, the ball has to be kept in play in order to keep and have the upper hand.

As this happens, you begin to play in the flow of the racquetball. The game will work for you as opposed to you working against the flow of the game. You will start to hear phrases such as "I can't believe I played that badly against you."

Two last facts to leave you thinking about:

1. The only people who get lucky bounces are the players who keep the ball in play!
2. You will continue to mis-hit the same amount of shots as you do now; the biggest difference now is that more often than not, your mis-hit will turn into a kill shot instead of a skip!

No pictures are provided for this article because this has to be translated in your head and executed by your intent to move your opponent. Hit the ball into the open area of the court as if you're playing "keep-away" (with you in center court) and you're going to see your game go to new heights!

For clinics and camps, contact Woody at [woody@winningracquetball.com](mailto:woody@winningracquetball.com). For a list of scheduled dates and locations, please visit <http://www.classicproracquetball.com> and click on the "CPRT University" link.



# WHY I ALWAYS WEAR APPROVED PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR

by Keith Bryan

I had just finished a Tae Kwon Do workout and was asked by a couple of fellow racquetball buddies to jump in for a quick game of cut-throat. For league play or tournaments, I always wore my contact lenses with an approved protective eyeguard. For this one spontaneous game of cut-throat, I had my glasses on, which were a polycarbonate (shatter-proof) lens, and figured my glasses would suffice.

**"...THE BALL CAN TRAVEL AT SPEEDS UP TO 175 MILES PER HOUR, AND THE SIZE OF THE BALL FITS PERFECTLY INTO THE EYE SOCKET."**

It was a return of serve. I never saw it. The impact was a direct hit to my left eye, and knocked me completely off of my feet. My racquetball buddies immediately came to my aid, checked me over, and reported the eye looked fine, but there was a cut on my nose.

However, it wasn't the laceration on my nose that had me worried, rather it was the complete loss of vision in my left eye. Everything was white with a numb sensation, which soon turned to agonizing pain. My eye was not bleeding externally, so I was hopeful all would be fine when I called my wife to come to take me to the ER.

One ER visit, three eye specialists, and four surgeries later, I had partial vision restored in my left eye. I suffered a severe corneal abrasion and vitreous hemorrhaging; acute glaucoma was threatening the optic nerve, all from the racquetball forcing the shatter-proof eyeglass lens back into my eye socket, imploding my eyeball. One ophthalmologist remarked that I was very fortunate that I was not completely blind.



**"Each year, more than 40,000 athletes suffer an eye injury. Racquet sports are responsible for more eye injuries than any other sport."**

*(Racquetball Safety: Proper eye protection is vital, by Michael Gerdt)*

**"People mistakenly believe that racquet sports are safe compared to sports like football and hockey. However, the ball can travel at speeds up to 175 miles per hour, and the size of the ball fits perfectly into the eye socket."**

*(Saving Your Sight by Mark A. Sibley, M.D.)*

Wearing protective eyewear can prevent 90% of sports-related injuries. Eyeglasses do not provide protection and can even place an athlete at an increased risk for such injuries. Because sports eye injuries often result from high impact and blunt trauma, protective eyewear should be considered necessary equipment for all racquetball athletes, every single time.



THE GALA IS  UN.

JOIN US AT THE FINALS.



Downtown YMCA  
Houston, Texas  
May 21-26, 2008



[usaracquetball.com](http://usaracquetball.com) for details





# REX LAWLER ON STRINGING

By Steve Crandall  
Vice President, Sales & Marketing  
Ashaway Racket Strings

**I**t's always interesting to talk to people who are really masters of their craft. And when the craft is racquet stringing, few can claim to have mastered it as thoroughly as Rex Lawler, the self-described "String King." We had a chance to chat with Rex recently about his involvement with the game and about stringing. Here's some of what he had to say.

Rex chanced onto racquetball nearly 35 years ago and immediately became "hooked." He began playing tournaments, local at first, then regional and even national, and had the good fortune, as he says, "to win a few." About 25 years ago, frustrated with the lack of good stringers at many of these venues, he began stringing, first his own racquets, then on others' as well.

News of a good thing travels fast and soon Rex had a nice part-time business going. Then, downsizing at the company where he worked gave him his golden opportunity to turn his passion into a full-time venture. He never looked back, and today Lawler Sports ([www.lawlersports.com](http://www.lawlersports.com)) is one of the best known online/mail-order racquetball suppliers in the industry.

And Rex is stringing more racquets than ever. In addition to stringing at national events like the US Open Racquetball Championships, the National Singles, and World Seniors, Rex traveled with the US Team for a few years and works a number of Midwest regional tournaments as well. He also receives quite a few racquets through the mail. "We try to do the mail orders the same day we receive them," he says. "So with priority mail, you're normally talking about a four-day turnaround. A lot of times a local place will take a week."

Over the years Rex has strung for many of the sport's top players—including names like Jack Huczek, Rocky Carson and Ruben Gonzalez—but he says it's not his experience at this level that has made his stringing so popular. "Most of the top players have their own people now," he says, "and



they don't string like the average player."

For one thing, pros tend to be more conservative. They may experiment with different strings in practice, but once they find one that works for them, they are reluctant to change.

"They also tend to string their racquets tighter than the average player," said Rex. "Most seem to generate a lot of power naturally, so what they are looking for is good control." Many, he added, string between 38 to 45 pounds, and many go beyond recommended stringing tensions. "You have to remember that they do what tennis pros do, they use a racquet for maybe a game or two and then they don't use that racquet again until they restrung it."

So, we asked, how should the average player approach stringing and what should he or she look for in a stringer?

"First, players need to understand the importance of stringing. I'm always surprised at how often recreational players will ask if there's something they can do to help their game a bit. They'll complain that they don't seem to be getting the same power they did when they first got their racquet. 'Well,' I'll say, 'when's the last time you restrung your racquet?' 'Well,' they say, 'I haven't.' 'And how long have you had the racquet?' 'Mmmmm, a year, maybe a year and a half.' So the problem is, their strings are dead.

"The second thing players need to understand is the importance of a good stringer, someone with enough experience and string knowledge to

guide them through the process of finding the right string for their game. It takes awhile. Unfortunately, if you take your racquet into some of these national chains, you get neither the stringing experience nor the guidance you need. I was at a tournament in Kentucky awhile back and a guy brought me a racquet he'd had restrung three times at a sporting goods chain. The first two times, the string broke as soon as he used it. I checked it over and, my goodness, it was supposed to be strung at 32 pounds, but was hardly 20.

"Stringing is complicated, especially for racquetball where you have shared holes, and strings that go down into the handle and back up, and others that go into the frame but not through it. So go to a professional shop or someone who belongs to the USRSA. It's a good chance they'll have a lot more knowledge of strings and what they can do.

"For example, a lot of people try to use tennis string to play racquetball, but it doesn't hold up. You need a good quality string, made especially for racquetball, something like Ashaway. And you need to let the stringer take you through the process, ask you about your game and how you swing. Let him make recommendations and then report back, let him know how it worked out. Go through the process. We've got data on our customers going back five years. Sometimes it takes awhile to find just the right string. But it's worth it."

To find a USRSA Stringer, you can go to [www.ashawayusa.com](http://www.ashawayusa.com) and click on "Locate a Professional Racquet Stringer



ROCK AND ROLL IT OUT

AT THE



# IRT PRO NATIONAL RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

APRIL 23-27, 2008 ▶ SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS



[irt-tour.com](http://irt-tour.com)



Prevent Child Abuse  
America



**KWM**  
Guttermann

Leo & Susan  
Klimaitis

DARTMOOR  
CLUB

[www.irt-tour.com](http://www.irt-tour.com)





# Great connections on a network you can rely on.



MOTO Q™ 9m



MOTORIZR  
World Edition



MOTO Q™

When you want to stay connected, Verizon Wireless is the solution. From voice and data services to entertainment applications, switch to the network that can bring you the wireless solutions you want.



Verizon Wireless is a Proud Sponsor of the International Racquetball Tournament.

Switch to America's Most Reliable Wireless Network.®

Call 1.877.2BUY.VZW

Click [verizonwireless.com](http://verizonwireless.com)

Visit any store

America's most reliable wireless network claim based on fewest aggregate blocked & dropped connections; see [vzw.com/bestnetwork](http://vzw.com/bestnetwork) for details. ©2008 Verizon Wireless



## #1 CHOICE OF PROS & AMATEURS



"It's a Fact... nothing does grip like a Python."

#1 Jack Huczek

Python Grips (18 colors including new white) / Rads / Zone Strings  
Wristlacers / Undergloves  
Dry Grip / Dynaflex / Gyros  
Python Wraps / Anti-Slip &  
Anti-Fog Sprays / Patches  
T-Shirts / Cell-mates



**PYTHON RACQUETBALL.com**

"Check out our website"



"Simply the Best Eyeguards..."

#1 Jack Huczek

& WPRO's Laura Fenton

Mfg. By Infinite Products, Inc.  
Free Pouch & Headstrap  
Anti-Fog • Anti-Scratch

New Improved Turbos (10 Colors)

Turbo Ambers / Oxygen/Super LX

Jr./Ladies II / Interchangeables

Sunglasses / Protective Hardcases

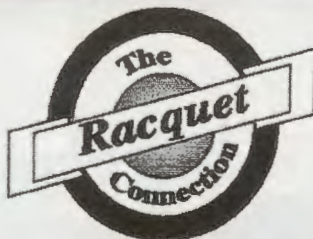
**PRESCRIPTION ADAPTABLE!**

DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

**800-456-4305**

FAX: 770-751-9469

python3@mindspring.com



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

24 HOUR SECURED ON-LINE SHOPPING

E-MAIL - RACQUETCON@AOL.COM

**1-888-822-2501**

**YOUR RACQUETBALL SUPERSTORE  
WITH ALL MAJOR BRANDS  
AT DISCOUNT PRICES**

**SAME DAY SHIPPING - DEMOS AVAILABLE**

**RACQUET CUSTOMIZATION BY:**

**GENE GENE THE STRINGIN' MACHINE**

1-386-788-7780 INFO

1-386-788-7149 24 HR FAX

2090 S. NOVA RD. #AA10

S. DAYTONA, FL 32119

**America's Best Selling Stringer 22 Years Running!**

**KLIPPERMATE® \$145.00**

*The only racquet stringer you'll ever need...*

- Unlimited Lifetime Guarantee
- Most accurate stringer made
- String, grip & tool package
- 30 Day Money-Back Guarantee
- Complete instructions, stringing patterns & unlimited technical support



MADE IN THE USA!

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

**800-522-5547**

780 CHURCH RD., ELGIN, IL 60123 / T 847.742.1300 / F 847.742.0738

(Optional)  
Machine Stand  
\$94.50



**Racquetball  
MART**

**1-800-875-3701**

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



**COMPLETE PRO SHOP LINE!**

VISA, Mastercard, DISCOVER accepted

<b>PRO KENNEX</b>	<b>E-FORCE</b>	<b>EKTELON</b>
Core Shadow 170 .....\$89	Lethal 160 .....\$189	More Dominant .....\$79
Core Shadow 180 (S).....\$89	Radium 150.....\$99	More Attack .....\$89
Shadow 180.....\$69	Radium 170.....\$119	TT Warrior SS.....\$59
Shadow 175 (B).....\$59	Bedlam Stun 170.....\$119	TT Vendetta SS.....\$59
Shadow 185 (S).....\$59	LP Bedlam 170.....\$99	DPR 2500 Lite.....\$99
Silver Ace (S).....\$40	LP Judgement 165.....\$119	
	Bedlam LT 170.....\$79	<b>GLOVES</b>
<b>HEAD</b>	Bedlam 185.....\$85	Call about specials
LM IGS 175.....\$99		
LM 170 5/8.....\$89	<b>WILSON</b>	<b>EYEWEAR</b>
i.165 - 3 5/8.....\$69	n190.....\$89	Head Vision System .....\$20
Ti 175 XL 3 5/8.....\$59	nLite SS.....\$99	
	nPower SS.....\$99	

**Add Power &  
Playability to Your  
Racquetball Game!!!**

*Have your racquet restrung by REX LAWLER*

- A Certified Professional Racquet Stringer
- Over 35 year experience as a player
- Over 25 years experience stringing racquets
- A large string collection to choose from

297 W. Honey Creek Drive, Terre Haute, IN 47802

Info: 812-235-3701 Fax: 812-235-4482

Email: rex@lawlersports.com or manny@lawlersports.com

VISIT US ONLINE AT  
[www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)







AT THE 1ST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, LARRY LEDERMAN (CENTER) CONGRATULATES SINGLES CHAMPION BILL SCHULTZ (RIGHT) AND RUNNER-UP BILL SCHMIDTKE.

## IT ALL STARTED 40 YEARS AGO IN MILWAUKEE

By Bill Schultz, Jr

**L**arry Lederman was the Athletic Director of the Milwaukee Jewish Community Center when, on the last weekend in May 1968, the Milwaukee JCC hosted the First National United States Gut Paddleball Association Paddleball Championships. This tournament is recognized as the first National Racquetball Championship and was an exciting place to be with my dad, Bill Schultz, who came away from that first national tournament as racquetball's first champion.

Joe Sobek is credited with inventing paddle rackets in 1950, with the game spreading quickly throughout the northeast and points west. Also in the 1950's and '60's, paddleball, a similar sport using a solid wooden paddle, had also gained popularity at a steady pace. Lederman knew of both sports and his dream was to hold a unifying national championship. His overall goal was to take paddle rackets to the next level and to do this, he enlisted the help of Bob Kendler, head of the United States Handball Association. Handball had been moving along at a steady pace for many years until Kendler got involved, creating *Handball* magazine and really promoting the

sport. As Lederman told me years ago, he wanted to get 12 pages in *Handball* magazine earmarked just for racquetball. It took Lederman three tries, but Kendler finally said he would do it.

I'm still very active on the Wisconsin racquetball scene, and sometimes I think about how lucky I was to be there when it all began. At that first tournament, Lederman was able to attract 77 of the top players from paddleball and paddle rackets. Players came from 17 states with 40 playing in the singles and a 20-team draw in doubles. The entry fee was \$5.

Two things from the tournament left a lasting impression. One was sitting at the JCC in a meeting that included most of the players and listening to Bob Kendler tell how he wanted to work with Lederman to organize and promote racquetball the same as he had done with handball. The other was the championship match between my dad and Bill Schmidtke. In those days, paddleball, paddle rackets and handball all played matches that were two out of three games to 21 points. In the singles championship match, 26-year-old



Schmidtke took the first game 21-14. My dad, who was 44 years old, took the second 21-12 and a very physical tie-breaker 21-18.

Not only was that first tournament held in Milwaukee, but it seemed to belong to the Wisconsin players. Along with my dad and Schmidtke playing in the singles finals, nationally ranked handball doubles players Jim White and Simie Fein of Milwaukee beat fellow Milwaukeeans Dan Trost and Dave Glinberg, 14-21, 21-11 and 21-19 in the doubles finals. White was also a top squash player and Fein was a three-time national doubles champion. To give themselves an advantage, White and Fein decided to play their doubles matches more like handball using ceiling balls and big Z serves. Their strategy worked.

Madison had been one of the hotbeds of paddleball for years. My dad and Paul Nelson won three national paddleball titles in the 1960's. Nelson was a national runner-up at least once, and my dad was runner-up from 1964-66. To get ready for the 1968 tournament, my dad bought four gut rackets and two dozen Pennsylvania Pinkie balls so he and Schmidtke could concentrate on paddle rackets for a few weeks before the tournament. Following

the tournament, paddle rackets took over in Madison and the sport began its tremendous growth throughout the country.

Who would have guessed that the seed planted by Larry Lederman in Milwaukee at the First United States Gut Paddleball Association Championships would grow into the great sport of racquetball we have today, 40 years later?

## TAKE NOTE:

It should be noted that there is some debate on whether the first true national championship was held in Wisconsin in 1968 or St. Louis in 1969. Both schools of thought have legitimate reasons for claiming the title of First National Championship and the history of the debate makes interesting reading for any racquetball aficionado. For more information, be sure to visit the History Museum at the Finals in Houston.

# SUNSET ATHLETIC CLUB

## BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!

by Paul R. Maduell

**S**unset Athletic Club (SAC) in Portland, OR is something of a magical place for its approximately 5000 members, and the facility just became even more appealing for the racquetball contingency as the members celebrated the opening of two new stadium courts at an event on February 25, 2008.

The newest of the nine SAC racquetball courts feature full glass back walls and are fitted with "Double Play" walls that move to convert the courts into regulation size squash courts, allowing versatility to develop programs for squash players and host squash league matches in addition to an already-robust racquetball program.

To inaugurate the courts, SAC Racquetball Director Paul Maduell arranged an exhibition with IRT pros Shane Vanderson and Jason Thoerner. Their appearance sponsored by HEAD/Penn Racquet Sports and Oregon Racquetball Promotions, Vanderson and Thoerner played the first matches on the new courts on February 25.

SAC has previously hosted other pro stops and USAR sanctioned events, annually hosting one of the largest USAR tournaments every November, but with the

completion of the two new courts and other facility additions, local racquetball players have much more to look forward to. After four years of construction during a multi-phase facility expansion, SAC has grown from 50,000 to 140,000 square feet of athletic opportunity.

SAC Owner Chuck Richards, a racquetball enthusiast, remains dedicated to amateur athletics in Oregon. As a former collegiate and Olympic athlete, he has spent his life in pursuit of athletic opportunity. He opened Sunset Athletic Club as Cornell Court Club in 1977 and for more than 30 years has provided athletic opportunity for others.

Richards and the SAC staff focus on programming for the entire family. In addition to the nine racquetball courts, the facility houses seven indoor and two outdoor tennis courts, in addition to an aquatics center with one outdoor and three indoor pools. A gymnasium also features two full-size basketball courts, a walking track overhead and an indoor rock climbing wall that reaches 40 feet high. In addition, the facility has four group fitness studios, a weight room, a cardio theater, full-service locker rooms and a host of childcare programs. For more information, visit [www.sunsetac.com](http://www.sunsetac.com).



**RL&S**  
Since 1901  
**Reuben Landsberg & Sons**  
740 Sansom Street - Suite 305  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

[www.landsbergandsons.com](http://www.landsbergandsons.com)  
215-925-9787  
215-922-3983 Fax  
Contact:  
Fred or Gerry Landsberg

Customization upon request.  
See you at National Singles, in Houston



## BUILDING your RACQUETBALL

Presented by Fran Davis Racquetball  
Featuring Sudey Monchik & Jason Mannino

**Video**

**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**

Featuring Fran Davis - World Premier Coach/ 2004 Hall of Fame and Jason Mannino - 2003 #1 Pro Player and 1999 & 2006 US Open Champion

Selected camps may include other top ranked professionals

**New Location and Phone**

Fran Davis  
A Healthy Racquet, Inc.  
1037 NE 65th St. #343  
Seattle, WA 98115  
Phone: 206-522-FRAN (3726)....new  
Fax: 206-260-7909....new

**Dream House**

**Special On-line Video Offer**  
[www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com)  
Mention National Racquetball Magazine under "Comments" section and receive a free can of Penn Balls

**VHS = \$39.95** plus shipping & handling - 108 minutes  
**DVD = \$49.95** plus shipping & handling - 128 minutes

Questions? Video@FranDavisRacquetball.com

**Camp Schedule**

Weekend Racquetball Camps 2008/2009

April 4-6	Dayton, OH
April 11-13	Seattle, WA
(Women's Only with Charles Van Hook)	
May 16-18	Overland Park, KS
May 30-June 1	San Diego, CA
June 6-8	Sun Prairie, WI
July 18-20 (Booker Day)	Laurel, MD
July 25-27	Woodbridge, NJ
August 1-3	San Francisco, CA
October 17-19	Atlanta, GA
Nov 21-23 (Booker Day)	Portland, OR
Fall 2008 - New Orleans, LA Texas	
Albuquerque, NM; Omaha, NE; Long Island, NY	
January 23-25 2009	Sarasota, FL

**Week Long Racquetball Fantasy Camps**

May 1-8, 2008	Kauai, HI
(Hawaii Island - Advanced Camp)	
December 4-11, 2008	Aruba
(Caribbean Island - Advanced Camp)	
Possible Future Dates: Ill., IL, HI + more	
The above dates are subject to the IRT schedule.	

**Fran's Credentials**

- 20+ Year Camp Experience
- 2004 Racquetball Hall of Fame
- 1986 National Team Coach
- Coach, 2002, 2003
- United States Olympic Committee National Coach of the Year 1997
- Coaches Jason Mannino and Sudey Monchik
- Coached Jim to Olympic National and World Titles

Questions? Upcoming camp dates...  
camps@FranDavisRacquetball.com  
[www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com)

**HEAD Penn**

## HOLABIRD SPORTS

FACTORY AUTHORIZED DEALER  
**CALL 410-687-6400**  
CELEBRATING OUR 28th YEAR

★ **ONLY AT HOLABIRD** ★

ALL ORDERS — ONE LOW \$4.95 SHIPPING CHARGE FOR UNLIMITED QUANTITY — SHIPPED WITHIN 48 HOURS

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

### RACQUETBALL RACQUETS—STRUNG

**FREE SHIPPING ON MOST RACQUETS!**

**EKTELON**

03 BLACK	159.00
03 COPPER	229.00
03 RED	139.00
03 SILVER	129.00
03 WHITE	199.00
03 RG	169.00
03 HYBRID DIABLO	57.95
03 HYBRID SHARK	99.00
AIR LAUNCH	49.95
AIR BOLT	49.95
DPR 2500 LITE	99.00
MORE ATTACK	89.00
MORE DOMINANT	79.00
TRIPLE THREAT VENDETTA	54.95
TRIPLE THREAT WARRIOR	56.95

**WILSON**

K POWER	149.00
K SURGE	129.00
K TOUR	179.00
K ZEN	109.00
NANO CARBON ACE	49.95

**HEAD**

EXTREME 170	199.00
EXTREME 180	179.00
EXTREME 190	159.00
I. 165	69.95
LIQUIDMETAL 170	99.00
LIQUIDMETAL IGS 175	109.00
MX 170	159.00
MX 180	139.00
MX 190	119.00
NANO TI BLAST 2008	34.95
NANO TI CYBER 2008	41.95
TI RAPTOR	24.95

**E-FORCE**

BEDLAM DAGGER 150	179.95
BEDLAM DAGGER 170	169.95
BEDLAM DAGGER 175	159.95
BEDLAM LITE 170	79.95
DANGER	64.95
GLADIATOR	44.95
LP BEDLAM 170	99.95
LP JUDGEMENT 165	119.95
LETHAL 160 OR 170	189.95
LETHAL 175 OR 190	169.95
LETHAL NXT GEN 160	239.95
LETHAL NXT GEN 170	199.95
LETHAL NXT GEN 175	199.95
LETHAL NXT GEN 190	189.95
SHOCK	34.95

### RACQUETBALL BALLS

**4 CANS—3 PER CAN**

EKTELON PREMIUM SELECT	10.75
PENN BALLISTIC	12.95
PENN ULTRA BLUE	10.95
PRO PENN GREEN	12.95
PRO PENN HIGH DEFINITION	13.95
WILSON CHAMPIONSHIP	9.40
WILSON TI TOUR	9.95

**6 CANS—2 PER CAN**

EKTELON CLASSIC-BLK	16.95
EKTELON FIREBALLS	16.95

**GIANT CANS 12 BALLS**

PENN ULTRA BLUE	9.95
PRO PENN GREEN	12.95

### EYEGUARDS

BLACK KNIGHT	
TURBO	15.95

**E-FORCE:**

CRYSTAL WRAP	16.95
DUAL FOCUS	19.95

**EKTELON:**

03 BONES	19.95
MIRAGE II	7.95
MORE GAME	16.95
MORE GAME ALL-COURT	28.95
QUANTUM	21.95
SPECTOR	16.95
SPEED	19.95
STROBE	12.95
VENDETTA	8.95

**HEAD:**

IMPULSE	6.95
PRO ELITE	18.95
PRO TECH	12.95
RAVE	11.95
WILSON AVIATOR	14.95
WILSON JET	10.50
WILSON n VUE	44.95

### SPORT BAGS

**E-FORCE:**

BACK PACK	29.95
LARGE SPORT	49.95
MEDIUM SPORT	39.95

**EKTELON:**

03 BACK PACK	29.95
03 LONGBODY BACK PK	34.95
03 CLUB	39.95
03 DUAL PACK	24.95
03 RG CLUB	39.95
03 TOUR	46.95
SLING PACK	12.95

**HEAD RACQUETBALL:**

BACK PACK	29.95
CLUB	39.95
TOUR	49.95
ULTRA COMBI	34.95
WILSON ALL GEAR	34.95
WILSON BACK PACK	34.95

### GLOVES

**E-FORCE • EKTELON**  
**NEUMAN • HEAD • WILSON**

### INDOOR SHOES

**ADIDAS:**

STABIL 7—MEN	79.95
VUELO CC—MEN	59.95

**ASHAWAY:**

AMPS 311—MID—MEN	74.95
AST 3500 i—MEN	74.95
AST 5500 i—MEN	69.95

**HEAD:**

HI 63—MEN	59.95
900—LOW—MEN	64.00
900—MID—MEN	69.00

**HI-TEC:**

4: SYS—MEN	84.95
V-LITE INDOOR—L	79.95
VENOM 3—LADIES	56.95
WRAPTOR—MEN	49.95

**EKTELON:**

CLASSIC 1.0—MEN	46.95
NFS CLASSIC 1.5-MID-M	47.95
QT SCREAM-MID-MEN	69.00
QUICKTRAC GT-MID-M	79.00
T9 ROADSTER-LO/MID-M	73.95

**NEW BALANCE:**

653 GUM—MEN D,4E	49.95
------------------	-------

**PRINCE:**

INDOOR IV—MEN	62.95
NFS '03 SQUASH—M	61.95
NFS INDOOR II—MEN	55.95

**WILSON:**

EM 6—LOW / MID—M	59.95
EM 7—MID—MEN	69.95
EB 7—LADIES	49.95

### UNDER ARMOUR® — GREAT SELECTION!

SHOP SHOWROOM OUTLET—PHONE—MAIL—FAX  
ALL MAJOR TENNIS & SQUASH RACQUETS, BAGS, SHOES & ACCESSORIES — LOWEST DISCOUNT PRICES EVER!

9220 PULASKI HWY. • BALTIMORE, MD 21220  
CALL 410-687-6400 • FAX 410-687-7311  
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-5 • SATURDAY 9-3:30  
— SMALL ADDITIONAL SHIPPING OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. —  
— MD. RESIDENTS ADD 6% — FREE CATALOG —

# THE GALA IS ON.

## JOIN US AT THE FINALS.

Downtown YMCA  
Houston, Texas  
May 21-26, 2008

usaracquetball.com for details

Grand Gala  
Hall of Fame  
35th Anniversary  
Houston, TX





# TEAM GEARBOX: *NEW ADDITION* HIROSHI SHIMIZU

**Gearbox Racquetball welcomes Hiroshi Shimizu, #13 ranked player on the IRT**

**G**earbox Racquetball is proud to announce the signing of Hiroshi Shimizu of Osaka, Japan. Hiroshi has made his name known as the best player from Asia. Recognized for his precision shot-making ability, technically sound game, and respectful play, Hiroshi has won the admiration of many players on the International Racquetball Tour (IRT).

After winning the Asian Open title in 2001, Hiroshi started his professional career shortly after placing third at the 2003 U.S. Open. At home, he has earned titles at the All Japan Championship in the singles division in 2000, 2001, and 2003. He also won titles in the doubles division in 1998 and in 2000, then every year since. Recently, Hiroshi has made the Round of 16 at the 2006 and 2007 U.S. Opens and at the 2007 Pro Nationals presented by Motorola and Verizon Wireless.

"Gearbox Racquetball is excited to add Hiroshi Shimizu to its ever-growing roster," says Rafael Filippini. "Hiroshi has a bright future with Gearbox and with the IRT. He adds a great presence to the team."

#### **Gearbox Racquetball:**

Gearbox Racquetball takes its roots in being a company for the racquetball player, designed by a racquetball player. Seeing racquetball not only as a great sport but also as a great lifestyle, Gearbox wants to create a proud and enduring identity for the sport. Gearbox is committed to designing products for the racquetball player's lifestyle, products that promote racquetball both on and off the court. For more information, please visit [www.gearboxrb.com](http://www.gearboxrb.com).



**W**ilson's most popular eyewear for tournament players now is available in snow white. This eyewear is only available with clear lenses. Padded wire ear and nose pieces allow each person to customize the fit for optimal comfort. And, you won't find any re-grind material in this piece! Made from 100% plastic, this eyewear provides ultra light weight and supreme durability. Available now at [Racquetworld.com](http://Racquetworld.com).



# DARRIN SCHENCK

## JOINS EKTELON AS COLLEGIATE PROGRAM MANAGER

Respected Racquetball Player Ready to “Play with Fire”



**E**ktelon is proud to announce the hiring of Darrin Schenck as the company's new Collegiate Program Manager. Schenck, who spent three years ranked in the Top 25 IRT, at one point reaching #18 in the world, will report to John Ellis, Ektelon Program Director. Schenck has a long and impressive history in the sport. In addition to being a world-class player and collegiate coach, he also has more than fifteen years in private and group instruction, has held positions as Official Stringer for the IRT, and was a photographer and contributor to industry publication Killshot magazine. Schenck has also authored one of the sports most acclaimed books, “Percentage Racquetball,” which Racquetball magazine deemed the Best Book for Competitive Players.

“Like the Ektelon brand, I completely live and breathe racquetball. I have done a lot in the

sport over these 20+ years, but nothing has been as exciting as joining the team at Ektelon. It is the most respected, forward-thinking brand in the industry, not only with products, but with grassroots programs as well, and I am excited to help grow its college business and get more players on the court, regardless of their level of play.”

In his new position, Schenck will be responsible for overseeing all collegiate-related programs and player outreach as well as conducting focus groups, developing sales leads, hosting demo events and leading other promotional college level initiatives on behalf of the brand. Schenck will focus his attention primarily on the region surrounding Arizona, where he is currently the head coach for the Arizona State University club team. In his first year as Head Coach he led the Women's Team to the 2007 Collegiate Women's

National Title and an Overall Team finish of No. 2 in the nation.

“Darrin is a valuable addition to the growing Ektelon team. He is a true racquetball pro, with an incredible passion for, and knowledge of, the sport in all of its facets,” said Scott Winters, Vice President of Small Court Sports at Prince and Ektelon. When it comes to racquetball, he has worn many hats and worn them well. We are honored and excited to have him wearing the Ektelon flame.”

For more information on Darrin or Ektelon products or programs, log onto [www.rbguru.com](http://www.rbguru.com) or [www.ektelon.com](http://www.ektelon.com)





# 2008 RACQUETBALL

EVENT TITLE	EVENT START	EVENT END	CONTACT
PARC 21ST PAN AM RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	3/15/2008	3/22/2008	JIM HISER
2008 VA DR. JEWUSIAK MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT	3/16/2008	3/18/2008	CARL MOODY
2008 UTAH SOUTH DAVIS SPRING SLAM	3/19/2008	3/22/2008	MIKE VAN VALKENBURG
2008 AZ MICHELOB ULTRA SPRING BREAK OPEN	3/21/2008	3/23/2008	RICHARD ANDERSON
2008 TX YMCA SHOOTOUT	3/22/2008	3/22/2008	CURTIS HAINES
2008 ME STATE SINGLES	3/22/2008	3/23/2008	DEVI MAGANTI
36TH USAR NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	3/26/2008	3/29/2008	HEATHER FENDER
2008 CA STATE SINGLES	3/28/2008	3/30/2008	JACK HUGHES
2008 5TH ANNUAL SOUTHWEST MI SHOOTOUT	3/28/2008	3/30/2008	MARTIN VANDE WEERD
2008 LOUISIANA STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS	3/28/2008	3/30/2008	ANTHONY ZERINGUE
2008 VA WORLDGATE SPRING OPEN	3/28/2008	3/30/2008	REX DEITZ
2008 NY SPRING CLASSIC	3/28/2008	3/30/2008	BETH SHEA
2008 TN ROCKIN ROLLOUT	3/28/2008	3/30/2008	ANDREW RAWLINS
2008 MO STATE SINGLES	3/28/2008	3/30/2008	DAN WHITLEY
2008 5TH ANNL DELAWARE ORTHOPAEDIC CENTER STATE SINGLES	3/29/2008	3/30/2008	CHRIS VEALE
2008 IN CLADDAGH OPEN	3/29/2008	3/29/2008	RYAN GRIFFIN
2008 ARKANSAS STATE SINGLES (CLOSED EVENT)	3/29/2008	3/30/2008	DANN SCHWINGER
2008 FL SPRING TRAINING	4/4/2008	4/6/2008	KIM ROY
2008 MN STATE SINGLES	4/4/2008	4/6/2008	MICHAEL DITTRICH
2008 MD LAKE FOREST OPEN	4/4/2008	4/6/2008	BEVERLY SUPANICK
2008 WA STATE SINGLES	4/4/2008	4/6/2008	CHEYENNE HAYES
2008 AZ STATE SINGLES	4/4/2008	4/6/2008	DAROLD KEY
2008 KENTUCKY RACQUETBALL SENIORS TOURNAMENT	4/4/2008	4/6/2008	RON MARR
2008 SOUTH TEXAS REGIONAL ROUND UP	4/5/2008	4/5/2008	JO ANNA REYES
2008 CO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS	4/10/2008	4/13/2008	DAREN GIRLING
2008 CA CONCORD CLASSIC	4/10/2008	4/13/2008	JOHN ELLIS
2008 SC RICH GRANQUIST MEMORIAL	4/11/2008	4/13/2008	CLIFFORD SMITH
2008 PA DENNIS ROSENBERG IRT PRO AM	4/11/2008	4/13/2008	JOHN BARRETT
2008 OKLAHOMA STATE SNGLES	4/11/2008	4/12/2008	STEPHANIE BIRD
2008 AR VILLAGE ON THE CREEKS APRIL SHOOT-OUT	4/12/2008	4/12/2008	MICAH NICHOLS
2008 KS REGIONAL QUALIFIER	4/17/2008	4/20/2008	MIKE WEDEL
2008 CA REGIONAL QUALIFIER	4/17/2008	4/20/2008	DEBRA TISINGER-MOORE
2008 OR REGIONAL QUALIFIER	4/17/2008	4/20/2008	BRIAN ANCHETA
2008 MO REGIONAL QUALIFIER	4/17/2008	4/20/2008	DAN WHITLEY
2008 NY REGIONAL QUALIFIER	4/17/2008	4/20/2008	TOM KEOGH
2008 GA REGIONAL QUALIFIER	4/17/2008	4/20/2008	OTTO DIETRICH
2008 MD REGIONAL QUALIFIER	4/17/2008	4/20/2008	SUSAN FLAESCH
2008 OH REGIONAL QUALIFIER	4/17/2008	4/20/2008	DOUG GANIM
2008 NH REGIONAL QUALIFIER	4/17/2008	4/20/2008	KELLEY BEANE
2008 WPRO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS/REGIONAL QUALIFIER	4/17/2008	4/20/2008	ANTHONY ZERINGUE
2008 FL REGIONAL QUALIFIER	4/17/2008	4/20/2008	KIM ROY
2008 TX REGIONAL QUALIFIER	4/23/2008	4/27/2008	MIKE FITZSIMMONS
2008 IRT PRO NATIONALS/REGIONAL QUALIFIER	4/23/2008	4/27/2008	DAVE NEGRETE
2007 CA STATE JUNIORS	5/2/2008	5/4/2008	JOHN ELLIS
2008 VA ALL MILITARY CLASSIC	5/2/2008	5/4/2008	CARTER GREEN
2008 AR VILLAGE ON THE CREEKS MAY SHOOT-OUT	5/3/2008	5/3/2008	MICAH NICHOLS
2008 MD END OF THE YEAR SOCIAL	5/17/2008	5/17/2008	SUSAN FLAESCH
41ST USAR NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS	5/21/2008	5/26/2008	HEATHER FENDER
2008 FL JUNIOR REGIONALS	5/30/2008	6/1/2008	KIM ROY
PEPSI CUP TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS/COLORADO	6/5/2008	6/7/2008	MARCIA RICHARDS
2008 VA COVENTRY COMMONWEALTH GAMES	6/6/2008	6/8/2008	PHIL WHEELER
2008 TEXAS STATE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS	6/6/2008	6/8/2008	LANCE GILLIAM
2008 AR VILLAGE ON THE CREEKS JUNE SHOOT-OUT	6/7/2008	6/7/2008	MICAH NICHOLS
2008 TX KANE WASELENCHUK IRT INVITATIONAL PRO-AM	6/13/2008	6/15/2008	LEO VASQUEZ
2008 GRAND CANYON STATE GAMES	6/20/2008	6/22/2008	DAROLD KEY
35TH USAR JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS	6/25/2008	6/29/2008	HEATHER FENDER
2008 IN HOT SUMMER NIGHTS	6/28/2008	6/28/2008	RYAN GRIFFIN
HIGH PERFORMANCE TRAINING CAMP	7/1/2008	7/2/2008	HEATHER FENDER
2008 AR VILLAGE ON THE CREEKS JULY SHOOT-OUT	7/12/2008	7/12/2008	MICAH NICHOLS
2008 TX TRIPLE CROWN JULY RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT	7/12/2008	7/13/2008	LEO VASQUEZ
2008 KEY SPORTS FLAGSTAFF CLASSIC	7/18/2008	7/20/2008	DAROLD KEY
2008 AR VILLAGE ON THE CREEKS AUGUST SHOOT-OUT	8/9/2008	8/9/2008	MICAH NICHOLS
2008 TX TRIPLE CROWN AUGUST RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT	8/9/2008	8/10/2008	LEO VASQUEZ
2008 TX TRIPLE CROWN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	9/13/2008	9/14/2008	LEO VASQUEZ
2ND IRT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	9/17/2008	9/21/2008	JIM HISER
2008 TX STATE DOUBLES RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	10/10/2008	10/12/2008	LEO VASQUEZ
13TH US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	10/22/2008	10/26/2008	DOUG GANIM
2008 VA TURKEY STROKER	11/6/2008	11/9/2008	RAFAEL LOPEZ
2008 TX STATE SENIORS RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	11/8/2008	11/8/2008	LEO VASQUEZ
2008 TX MAVERICK HOLIDAY RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT	12/13/2008	12/13/2008	LEO VASQUEZ



# CALENDAR

CONTACT PHONE	FACILITY NAME	FACILITY CITY	FACILITY STATE	EVENT PHONE
719-635-5396	COSTA RICA ATHLETIC CLUB	UNKNOWN		
804-221-2373	RIVERSIDE WELLNESS & FIT CTR	NEWPORT NEWS	VA	
801-502-9526	BOUNTIFUL RECREATION CENTER	BOUNTIFUL	UT	801-502-9525
928-768-3344	LONDON BRIDGE RACQUET CLUB	LAKE HAVASU CITY	AZ	928-542-1217
281-827-7420	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON	TX	281-872-7420
	THE RACKET AND FITNESS CENTER	PORTLAND	ME	207-775-6128
719/635-5396	THE ATHLETIC CLUB OF OVERLAND PARK	OVERLAND PARK	KS	719-635-5396
650-697-9162	ANASTASIA ATHLETIC CLUB	LOS GATOS	CA	650-349-9533
269-349-9603	BRONSON ATHLETIC CLUB	KALAMAZOO	MI	269-370-2013
225-266-9665	FOXYS HEALTH AND RACQUET CLUB	BATON ROUGE	LA	225-266-9665
703-437-3360	SPORT & HEALTH, WORLDGATE	HERNDON	VA	
914-739-7755	PREMIER ATHLETIC CLUB	MONTROSE	NY	
615-904-3966	YMCA - MARYLAND FARMS	BRENTWOOD	TN	615-995-8817
314-842-3111	VETTA SPORTS CONCORD	ST. LOUIS	MO	314-842-3111 EXT 3
302-886-7530	KIRKWOOD FITNESS & R/B CLUB	WILMINGTON	DE	302-886-7530
317-842-6563	GREENBRIAR ATHLETIC CLUB	INDPLS	IN	
479-785-8666	WORLD CLASS FITNESS	FORT SMITH	AR	
603-491-1494	HARBOUR ISLAND ATHLETIC CLUB	TAMPA	FL	603-491-1494
	CENTRAL COURTS	COLUMBIA HEIGHTS	MN	
301-853-5694	LAKEFOREST SPORT & HEALTH CLUB	GAITHERSBURG	MD	301-445-2021
360-558-9493	PRO SPORTS CLUB	BELLEVUE	WA	
480-545-1363	LA FITNESS CHANDLER II	CHANDLER	AZ	480-545-1363
270-765-9941	YMCA - OF GREATER LOUISVILLE	LOUISVILLE	KY	270-304-4575
361-855-8258	WORLD GYM - BROWNSVILLE	BROWNSVILLE	TX	361-510-1040
	DOWNTOWN YMCA	COLORADO SPRINGS	CO	719-329-7240
209-969-4497	BIG C ATHLETIC CLUB	CONCORD	CA	209-949-4497
864-677-5557	YMCA - GREENWOOD	GREENWOOD	SC	864-223-2777
570-654-3557	ALLENTOWN RACQUETBALL CLUB	ALLENTOWN	PA	570-947-1097
918-521-0999	YMCA - THORNTON	TULSA	OK	
479-381-3300	VILLAGE ATHLETIC CLUB	ROGERS	AR	
913-383-9060	THE ATHLETIC CLUB OF OVERLAND PARK	OVERLAND PARK	KS	913-383-9060
818-884-5034	SPECTRUM CLUB	CANOGA PARK	CA	818-884-5034
503-665-4142	CASCADE ATHLETIC CLUB	GRESHAM	OR	503-665-4142
314-842-3111	VETTA SPORTS CONCORD	ST. LOUIS	MO	314-842-3111
	SPORTSET - SYOSSET CLUB	SYOSSET	NY	718-429-8489
770-972-2303	SOUTHERN ATHLETIC CLUB	LILBURN	GA	770-972-2303
410-579-4600	SEVERNA PARK RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CLUB	MILLERSVILLE	MD	410-365-6144
614-890-6073	SOLOH ATHLETIC CLUB	SOLOH	OH	614-890-6073
603-759-2729	NASHUA AC	NASHUA	NH	603-668-4753
225-266-9665	ELMWOOD FITNESS CENTER, HARAHAH	HARAHAH	LA	225-936-4508
603-491-1494	RICHEY RACQUET	PORT RICHEY	FL	603-491-1494
832-260-2781	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON	TX	
630-430-1478	SCHAUMBURG TENNIS PLUS	SCHAUMBURG	IL	630-430-1478
209-969-4497	LAGUNA CREEK RACQUET CLUB	ELK GROVE	CA	209-684-8855
757-515-1269	YMCA - GREENBRIER NORTH	CHESAPEAKE	VA	
479-381-3300	VILLAGE ATHLETIC CLUB	ROGERS	AR	
410-579-4600	SEVERNA PARK RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CLUB	MILLERSVILLE	MD	410-551-5429
719/635-5396	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON	TX	
603-491-1494	SARASOTA BATH & RACQUET CLUB	SARASOTA	FL	603-491-1494
303-986-1501	HIGHLANDS RANCH RECREATION CENTER	HIGHLANDS RANCH	CO	
	ROANOKE ATHLETIC CLUB	ROANOKE	VA	
210-979-7055	TRITON SPORTS CENTER	SAN ANTONIO	TX	210-573-2324
479-381-3300	VILLAGE ATHLETIC CLUB	ROGERS	AR	
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340
480-545-1363	THE SPORTS CLUB AT CITY SQUARE	PHOENIX	AZ	480-545-1363
719/635-5396	BIG C ATHLETIC CLUB	CONCORD	CA	
317-842-6563	GREENBRIAR ATHLETIC CLUB	INDPLS	IN	
719/635-5396	USA RACQUETBALL *FAST*FURIOUS*FITNESS	COLORADO SPRINGS	CO	
479-381-3300	VILLAGE ATHLETIC CLUB	ROGERS	AR	
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340
480-545-1363	FLAGSTAFF ATHLETIC CLUB WEST	FLAGSTAFF	AZ	
479-381-3300	VILLAGE ATHLETIC CLUB	ROGERS	AR	
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340
719-635-5396	USA RACQUETBALL *FAST*FURIOUS*FITNESS	COLORADO SPRINGS	CO	
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340
614-890-6073	THE RACQUET CLUB OF MEMPHIS	MEMPHIS	TN	
509-966-4050	YAKIMA ATHLETIC CLUB	YAKIMA	WA	509-966-4050
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340





## Interview with Jack Huczek

**FAMILY:** No brother or sisters

**BIRTHDAY:** January 13, 1983

**PETS:** 2 cats, Pipper and Tigger



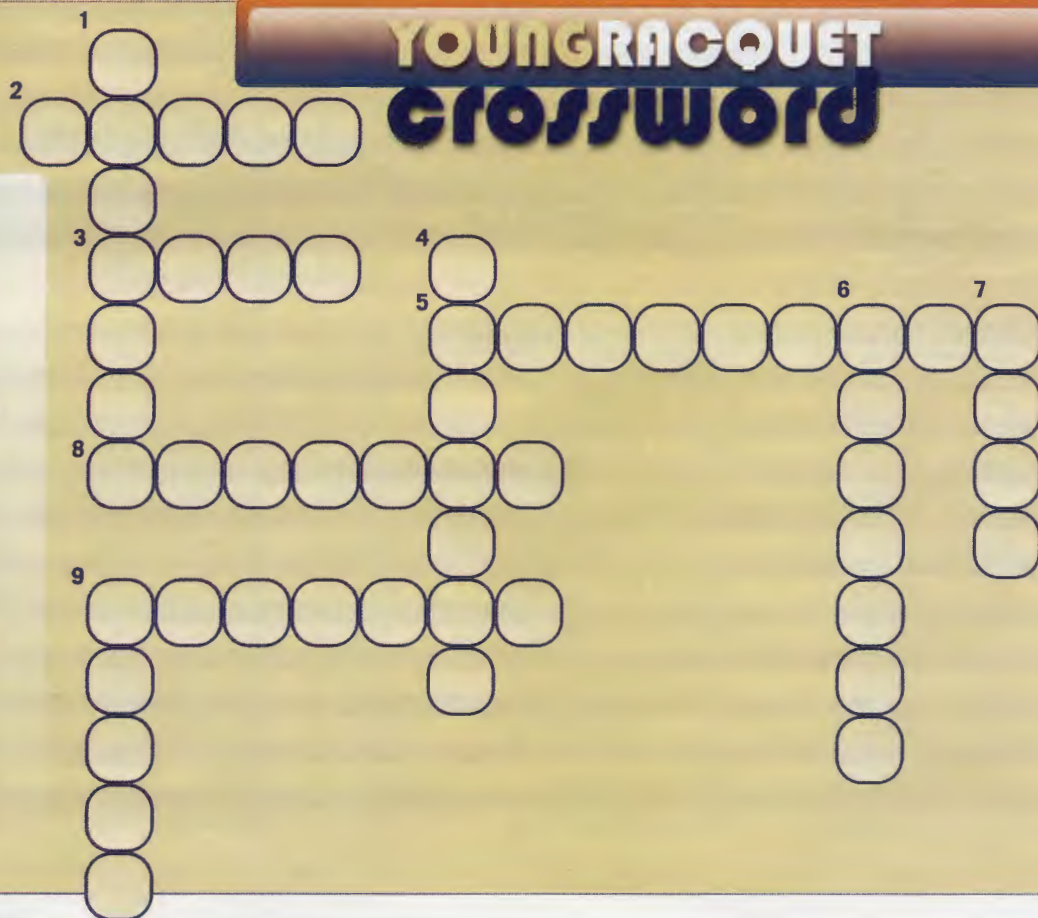
1. **Were you named after anyone?**  
John Joseph Huczek III - so after my grandfather and father
2. **Do you like your handwriting?**  
No, but they say smart people have messy handwriting :)
3. **What is your favorite lunch meat?**  
Turkey
4. **If you were another person, would you be friends with you?**  
Absolutely
5. **Do you use sarcasm a lot?**  
Yes
6. **Do you still have your tonsils?**  
Yes

7. **Would you bungee jump?**  
Absolutely
8. **What is your favorite cereal?**  
Honey Nut Cheerios
9. **Do you untie your shoes when you take them off?**  
If I can slip them off, then no.
10. **What is your favorite ice cream?**  
Vanilla
11. **What is the first thing you notice about people?**  
Their smile
12. **Red or pink?**  
Red

## YOUNGRACQUET crossword

### across:

- 2 Where a racquetball game is played
- 3 What players hit when playing a game
- 5 Protects a player's eyes
- 8 One person vs. one person
- 9 Used to strike the ball





**13. What is your least favorite thing about yourself?**

I don't always take time to celebrate my successes

**14. What is your favorite thing about yourself?**

My optimism

**15. Who do you miss the most?**

My girlfriend Christie

**16. What color pants and shoes are you wearing?**

Blue jeans and black shoes

**17. What was the last thing you ate?**

Salad

**18. What are you listening to right now?**

CNN Headline News

**19. If you were a crayon, what color would you be?**

Red

**20. Favorite smells?**

Eucalyptus

**21. Do you wear contacts?**

No

**22. Favorite food?**

Thanksgiving dinner, pizza, hot apple pie ala mode

**23. Scary movies or happy endings?**

Happy endings!

**24. Last movie you watched?**

The Bourne Ultimatum

**25. Summer or winter?**

Summer

**26. Favorite dessert?**

5 berry pie, nice and hot, ala mode

**27. What book are you reading now?**

The Toyota Way and S.C.O.R.E (both books for school)

**28. What did you watch on TV last night?**

The Red Wings

**29. Where were you born?**

Warren, MI

## down:

- 1 Four players on the court
- 4 "Polices" the game
- 6 Perfect kill shot
- 7 Ball Bounces on floor before it hits front wall
- 9 All the shots between when the serve is made and the point is earned

Answers in the next issue!

## YOUNGRACQUET

## art corner

Dear Gearbox Guys,  
Thank you for coming to our class-  
room. Thanks for the poster and  
knowledge about racquetball. It was  
cool meeting you guys! So two racquetball  
players, one cameraman and a Mr. Holly-  
wood. I now know that racquetball is  
cool and healthy. Thanks for making us cool  
kids.

Cool kid,

Ms. Meyers, Class, Michaela out

THANK YOU!





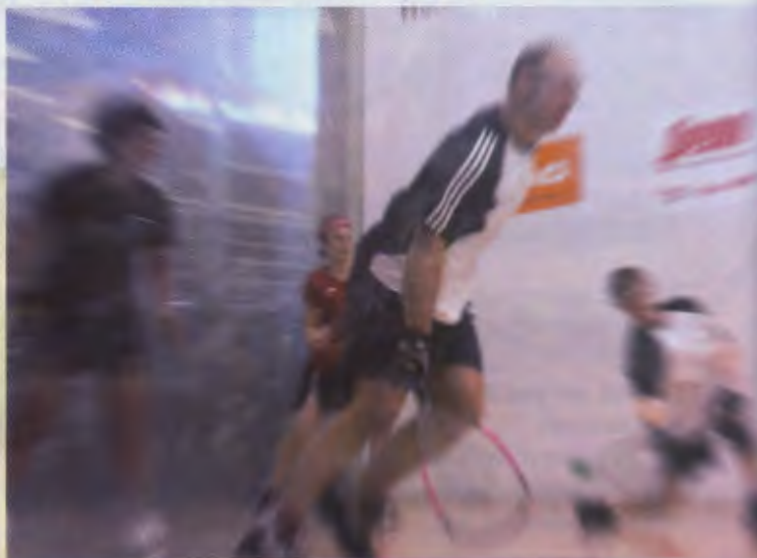
# DICHOTOMIES OF RACQUETBALL

IF THE SHOE FITS, WEAR IT!

IF IT DOESN'T...GOOD FOR YOU!

by Racquetball Joe

- 1 Players who want the best referees for their matches but don't want to referee themselves; and when they do referee, don't seem to care!
- 2 Players who argue over every little call but won't call a double bounce or skip on themselves!
- 3 Players who want to play in large events but can't play until the weekend.
- 4 Players who want the event to run on time but show up one minute before their matches.
- 5 Players who sign up after the deadline but need to know their starting times ASAP!
- 6 Clubs who want racquetball to succeed but won't give a free membership to someone in return for teaching lessons.
- 7 Manufacturers who desire increased sales but have 1,000 sponsored players.
- 8 Professionals who want fan recognition but won't stay around to sign autographs and talk with the fans.
- 9 Tournament directors who want large draws, but have no flexibility.
- 10 Tournament directors who confuse rankings and seedings and then become offended when questioned about the draw.



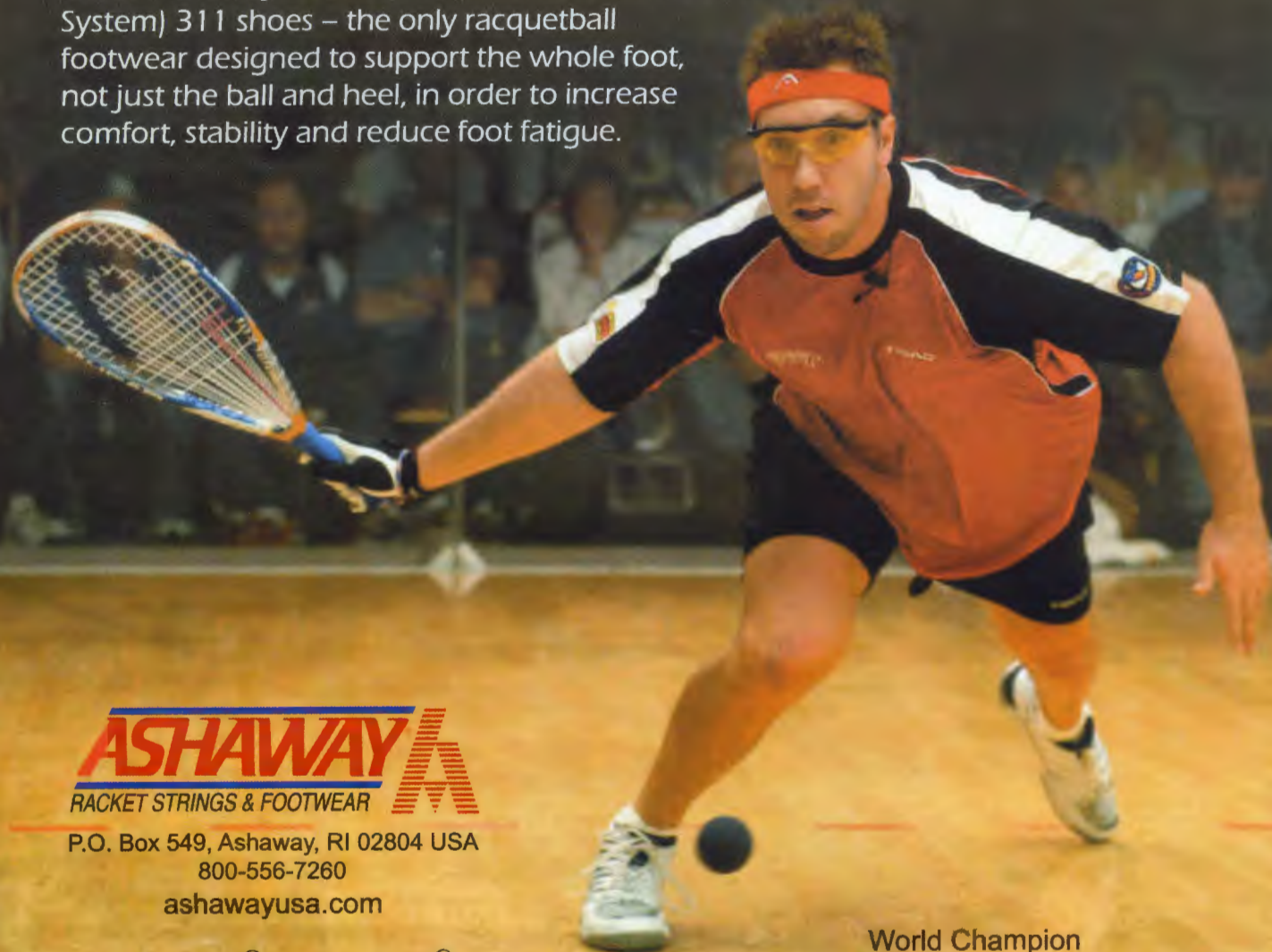


# **ADVANTAGE ASHAWAY** **Introducing** **AMPS™ 311** **Technology**



## ***Supporting Jack Huczek*** ***Every Step of the Way***

World Champion and IRT Professional, Jack Huczek, demands a lot from his equipment. That's why Jack chose Ashaway's new AMPS (Anatomic Multi-Performance System) 311 shoes – the only racquetball footwear designed to support the whole foot, not just the ball and heel, in order to increase comfort, stability and reduce foot fatigue.



**ASHAWAY**  
RACKET STRINGS & FOOTWEAR

P.O. Box 549, Ashaway, RI 02804 USA  
800-556-7260  
ashawayusa.com

SuperKill®, PowerKill®  
& KillFire® strings,  
AMPS™ footwear

World Champion  
& IRT Professional,  
Jack Huczek, wears  
AMPS™ 311 footwear



# POWER

## ANY WAY YOU WANT IT!

Introducing the most powerful line-up of Ektelon racquets ever. Featuring - Total Racquet Customization! Adjust racquet weight, balance and the string pattern for ultimate power and precision shot making!

### GET PLUGGED IN

Power Plugs located at the top of the frame accelerate racquet head speed for greater power. Adjust the number of plugs you want to use for extra power or maneuverability. Available in the new  $\text{O}^3$  Copper,  $\text{O}^3$  White and  $\text{O}^3$  RG racquets.



$\text{O}^3$  White  
Power Level 3200-3400

$\text{O}^3$  Copper  
Power Level 3300-3500  
Includes - New Customization Kit

### POWER RING INSERTS

Interchangeable Power Ring Inserts are located in the throat area of the  $\text{O}^3$  Copper frame. Using the DPR 2 ring insert gives you the longest main strings possible for ultimate power. The Power Ring 8 inserts provide extra control and extended string life.

 **EKTELON**  
PLAY WITH FIRE

For complete details visit [www.ektelon.com/customizeit](http://www.ektelon.com/customizeit).