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selected Junior Athletes of the Year

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Choice US Open Preview

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VOLUME 18  
NUMBER 4  
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007





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Jack Huczek - IRT # 1\*

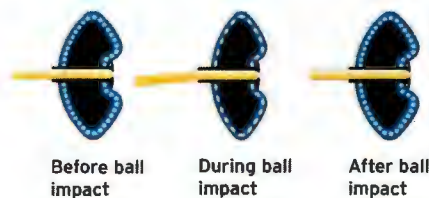
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## MISSION STATEMENT

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.

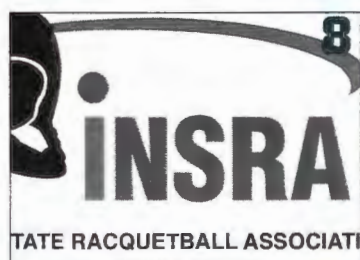
## VISION STATEMENT

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.

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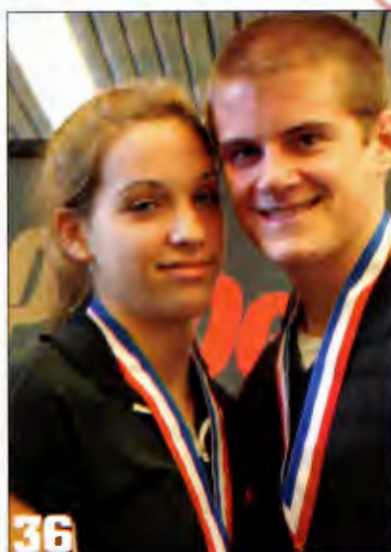


TATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATI

HALL OF FAME



CHOICE US OPEN PREVIEW



JUNIOR OLYMPICS

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 Otto Dietrich - Rules Commissioner

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

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All items submitted are subject to editing by Racquetball Magazine.

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# SPORTS



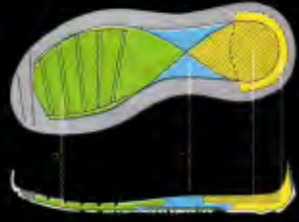
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By James Hiser, Ph.D.  
USAR Executive Director

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# Global and Grass Roots Opportunities Abound!

There's a lot going on in our sport! Let's review the positive accomplishments that will lead us into the new 2007-2008 racquetball season...

## Three Grand Slam Events

The significance of an additional Grand Slam Event (the Motorola/Verizon World IRT Championship) is that the new event solidifies the commitment of a major sponsor from outside the sport. The involvement of Motorola and Verizon into the promotion of these events must not be underestimated. They bring necessary resources to elevate racquetball to the next level: available finances to guarantee adequate exposure, the expertise involved in promoting and organizing large sporting events, and the connections to bring new sponsors to our sport.

Now racquetball has to produce. We must support these events through participation and spectatorship and we must present a good show – a professional venue with great athletes and additional entertainment. The various entities within the sport have to work together to ensure we provide impressive collaboration in every area.

## The Return of Racquetball to the Pan American Games

Although most players don't understand the importance of racquetball's inclusion in the Pan Am Games, this decision confirms our position as part of the United States Olympic Committee for at least the next four years (and probably longer). It allows racquetball to share resources available to Olympic sports such as marketing and technical support; it provides the opportunity to obtain additional financial support; it makes insurance and grant opportunities available for selected team members; it supplies drug testing and athlete information to our national events; it provides facility usage for camps; it offers instructional seminars and information regarding insurance, legal issues, scientific research, etc.; and it also provides a world showcase in which U.S. Team athletes may compete.

## Administrative Improvements

Although it has been a more complicated and lengthy process than originally anticipated, the completion and integration of our major events and tournament system, as well as the increasing integration of these systems with the membership and ranking system, is well underway. The event management system, without question the most complete system in use today, is available free to all sanctioned events. The ability to manage almost any type of event (Olympic format, round robin, double elimination, etc.) provides event directors with an efficient and easy-to-use tournament system. The additional benefits of instant membership verification and submission of results directly to the ranking system provides each event director with a coordinated and simplified method of completing all tasks needed to run an efficient event.

## Re-Creation of a Club Division

Although once an important division within the USA Racquetball structure, the Club Division was eliminated over 10 years ago and never reinstated.

Communication with individual clubs is of critical importance to the organization. Clubs recruit players and provide the venues for our members to play. The USAR needs to have contact with all clubs that contain racquetball courts. We need to promote our programs, supply league and event information, provide programming guidance and maintain communication with club directors and programmers.

The more we communicate and interact with clubs, the better our relationship will be with the over 5 million recreational players in the country.

So, those are a few of the positive factors leading us into the new season. May all who love racquetball take advantage of these great opportunities!



# It's a Bright New Season

As we go to press for this issue, the 2007 2008 competitive season is about to kickoff with our second Grand Slam event in Colorado Springs! It's been a busy off-season for the USA Racquetball Board of Directors and the Staff in Colorado Springs as we gear up for a Grand Slam in our own backyard; work with all of our State Presidents to improve our internal sanctioning and tournament processes, and yes; continue inputting tournament results into the Ranking System to improve its accuracy and reliability.

Some of the major happenings include the shifting of our USAR National Doubles to the February timeframe (announced in the last issue) to better space our National Events around the calendar and provide the opportunity for additional Grand Slams. The logistics and details around adding a second National Doubles Championship within a six-month timeframe are daunting – from ensuring hotel space (and we have a great new one with the Sheraton), coordinating with Arizona State University, handling meals, and even rewriting the US National Team rules so that everyone understands the qualifying process for next year's Pan American and World Championships. In

addition, the National Staff has been deeply involved with our Junior Council in coordinating the December Junior World Championships in Bolivia. Suffice it to say the normally "slow" summer months have been anything but laid back for your National Office.

The result of all this hard work is that we are gearing up for a great season of competitive racquetball!

We have three additional major events (Motorola/Verizon World IRT Championship, 2008 National Doubles in February, and the World Championships in Ireland) that did not appear on last season's calendar – another sign of the change and growth in our sport.

If you're one of the players who has never had the opportunity to compete at one of our National Events – make this the season you put it on your schedule and plan a vacation around it. The 2008 National Doubles in February will be right after the Super Bowl – a great time to play some racquetball, hit a golf ball or two to get ready for summer, and bring the family to the Valley of the Sun for a much needed mid-winter break. Start practicing now – it's going to be competitive and we wouldn't want it any other way!



**By Geoff Peters**  
USAR Board  
Vice President

## From Ideas to Action (PART TWO)

In the last issue of Racquetball magazine, I promised more on growing women's racquetball – what's happening and who's responsible. In recognizing a few deserving folks who are already making a difference (below), there's always the risk of omitting a very deserving someone and if I have, I apologize in advance. I look to all of you in the coming months to identify more heroes of women's racquetball, the events and the details. Now, for some movers and shakers in women's racquetball:

The Racquet for The Cure women – Jean Gallagher, Linda Mojer, Marcia Richards, Jo Shattuck and others have led the way to making a difference and bringing visibility to our sport.

WPRO reaps a multitude of benefits from its impassioned leader, Shannon Feaster.

Shannon in turn recognizes Brenda Kyzer as well as Angela Grisar, Pablo Fajre and Jo Shattuck for their efforts in showcasing the WPRO all over the world (via Racquetballonline.tv).

WS/MRA's dedicated Board does a stellar job for those of us over 35! Thanks to Kendra Tutsch, Merijeane Kelley, Nancy Kronenfeld, Terry Ann Rogers, Vickie Utter, Lynne Weisbart, and Debbie Tisinger-Moore.

Cindy Tilbury serves on the NMRA Board and produces a darned fine newsletter, too! The NMRA also highlights Lola Markus's perpetual support.

IRT Commissioner Dave Negrete hosts his Women's One Day event every December, year in and year out.

Head rejoices in Fran Davis, a visible ambassador of the sport.

Chris Evon and Terri

Graham have essentially personified Wilson racquetball for years. Malia Bailey has lent her experience and insights to further breast cancer awareness in our sport.

Scott Winters of Ektelon chartered a Women's Council in 2003, designed to serve its team players and to identify ways to grow the sport.

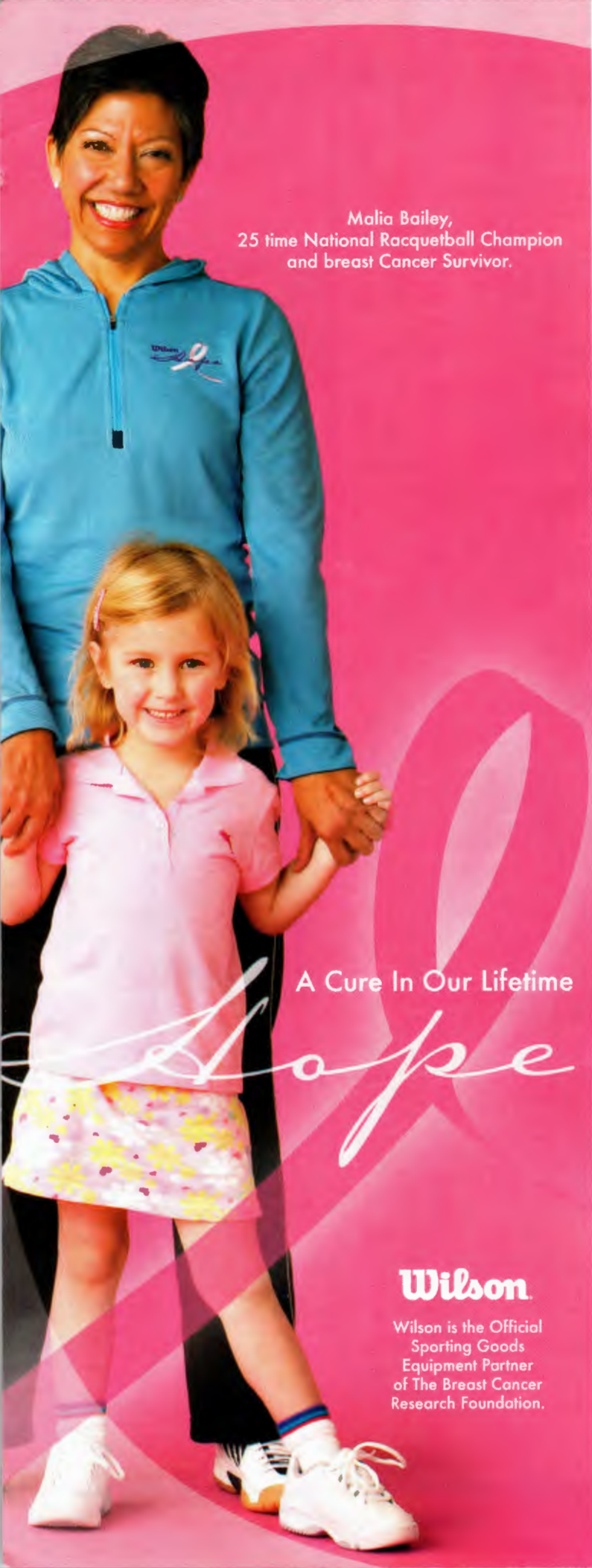
USAR Board Women's Committee – Malia Bailey, Lorraine Galloway (Chair), Linda Mojer, Tammarrian Rogers, and I are looking for a few good women and men to join us in our efforts.

Thanks to all who are doing so much...we're looking forward to hearing more!



**By Cheryl Kirk**  
USAR Board Secretary





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

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Fran Davis  
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Mary Fish  
North Carolina Racquetball  
Association  
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Racquetball Association  
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Jim Durham  
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Bill Walters  
Bobby Jacobs  
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Charles Douglass  
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Claudine Northwood  
Clay Otto  
Craig Lettovsky  
Dan Dietrich  
David Flickinger  
David Manzey  
David Schmidt  
David Strawn  
Dean Kaplan



### In the Game - Under \$50

(continued)

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Denis McConway  
Dennis Misal  
Denny Vincent  
Donald Scales  
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Eric Gundersen  
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Fawad Syed  
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Thomas Johnson  
Timothy Pompa  
Tom Baldrick  
Tony Jammal  
Traci Manuel  
William Taranovich  
Wyatt Lee  
Yosuke Shimizu

### President's Advisory Council

The following individuals have pledged the indicated amounts for the next four years and 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

There is no other company more committed to supporting women's racquetball than Wilson.

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# Hall of FAME

In May 2008, we will celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame and our illustrious inductees at the National Singles Championships in Houston. In honor of this milestone, there will be a continuing series of "Hall of Fame" articles focusing on racquetball Halls of Fame at the State level. We have a number of State Organizations that have recognized key contributors, leaders and top players in their states and regions. These individuals have also been critical to the success and growth of our great sport and we look forward to sharing their contributions with our readers. Watch for this continuing "Hall of Fame" section in upcoming Racquetball magazines.

## 1988

**Robert J. Kendler** | Chicago, Illinois (*deceased*)  
(Contributor, Inducted 1988)



Kendler was the moving force in the birth of racquetball's organization. He was a homebuilder and contractor whose interests originated with handball. As the first president and organizer of the International Racquetball Association (IRA), he began pushing racquetball

in the United States Handball Association magazine and then started the first racquetball magazine. Kendler was often called the "benevolent dictator" and resigned from the IRA over a disagreement with its board of directors. He then formed two rival organizations, the National Racquetball Club and the United States Racquetball Association. Both organizations remained in existence until they went bankrupt in 1982. It has been said that without his clout and financial input the organization that was then the AARA (now USA Racquetball) wouldn't have started when it did.

## 1989

**Charlie Garfinkle** | Buffalo, New York  
(Amateur Athlete, Inducted 1989)



Charlie, known as "The Gar" was a colorful player on the courts. He began playing racquetball as a college student. Garfinkel had played both tennis and squash and entered his first racquetball tournament in 1966. He went on to claim 15 national titles. He sported a flamboyant style

of psyching out his opponent. He played on the pro tour for many years, was a regular contributor of event coverage and instructional material in early racquetball magazines, and authored two racquetball instructional books. He remains the man to beat on the Senior/Masters circuit. In 1980 & 1982, he won the Men's 40+ singles; in '85 & '86 he took the same title in Men's 45+. Charlie has been both a club pro and an instructor.

**William Schmidtke** | Apple Valley, Minnesota  
(Professional Athlete, Inducted 1989)



Bill became interested in racquetball while employed at the Madison, Wisconsin YMCA in 1968, where he was playing a lot of paddleball at the time. He learned racquetball quickly and started competing in 1968. He was the runner-up at the first National Championships

held at the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Jewish Community Center and later won National Singles in 1971 in Salt Lake City. Again in 1974 he won National Singles and then the Men's 40+ doubles with partner, Jim Austin in 1983. Bill played on the pro tour in its early days and was sponsored both by Head and then X. He participated on the pro tour as a referee for an additional four years. Bill was named Male Athlete of the Year in 1974. He served as chairman of the International Racquetball Association and of the Minnesota association.

**Luzell Wilde** | Salt Lake City, Utah (*deceased*)  
(Amateur Athlete, Inducted 1989)

Luzell Wilde began winning championships in his age division in 1983 when he won the Men's 65+ singles. He was a consistent finalist and maintained high ranking positions in each of his subsequent age divisions,



also participating for many years in doubles competition with partner Earl Acuff. Luzell hadn't been active in any other sport prior to taking up racquetball, but when he began playing at age 50, he mastered the sport and remained active on the Senior/Masters circuit as well as National Singles and Doubles for many years.

## 1991

**Cindy Baxter** | Reedsville, Pennsylvania  
(Amateur Athlete, Inducted 1991)



Cindy was instrumental in building a reputation for the U.S. National Racquetball Team in the '80's by distinguishing herself as a major competitor on the international racquetball scene. Early in her career, Cindy became the first U.S. athlete to win three

consecutive gold medals in the World Games, in 1981, 1984 and 1986. Her achievements in the sport have been documented by the Guinness Book of Records and have yet to be matched.

**Ed Remen** | Sterling, Virginia  
(Amateur Athlete/Contributor, Inducted 1991)



Early in his career, Ed Remen parlayed handball and stickball skills learned in the Bronx into exceptional racquetball talent. His accomplishments include sixteen national titles, a gold medal at the first Master's Games in Toronto, a World Seniors Championship, and a state and regional winning

streak that spans ten years. As an instructor, Ed



"AS THE RACQUETBALL HALL OF FAME CAME INTO BEING 35 YEARS AGO, I WAS JUST BEGINNING MY RACQUETBALL CAREER AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IN FT. WORTH, TX. IT WAS INCREDIBLY EXCITING TO BE PART OF OUR BOOMING SPORT IN THE LATE 1970'S AND EARLY 1980'S. AND NOW, WITH THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY HALL OF FAME GATHERING NEXT MAY, IT WILL BE EXCITING TO SEE ALL THE OTHER HALL OF FAME MEMBERS AFTER SO MANY YEARS AND DISCOVER WHAT INTERESTING THINGS THEY HAVE BEEN UP TO SINCE I RETIRED FROM RACQUETBALL IN 1983." — SHANNON WRIGHT

"OLD SCHOOL" WILL BE IN SESSION, BRUMFIELD AND MUEHLEISEN PRESIDING!!!! — CHARLES BRUMFIELD

has taught racquetball at the college level and has organized and instructed many racquetball camps, workshops and clinics for all age groups. Ed has also served as a Master Clinician for the President's Council on Physical Fitness for Region 3.

1992

**Jim Austin** | Cypress, Texas  
(Amateur Athlete/Contributor, Inducted 1992)



Jim played for 27 years at state, regional and national levels. From 1970 to 1980, he won 15 Texas Open Singles and Doubles championships. In 1971, he captured the IRA Open Singles Championship and went on to win 21 National Singles and Doubles championships in age

divisions. In 1969, he helped found the first national racquetball association – the International Paddleball Association – and was founder and president of the Texas Racquetball Association in 1973. During his career he was selected as one of the top 16 players to play on the first pro racquetball tour in 1973. Jim was named the AARA Male Athlete of the Year in 1984. He served on the AARA Board of Directors for six consecutive years and served as the National Rules Commissioner for three years. Jim has made numerous other contributions to the sport and to clubs on local and national levels.

## Indiana Hall of Fame Honors Eighteen



INDIANA STATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

This issue begins a continuing series highlighting our State Organizations that have implemented a State Hall of Fame to honor local and regional players, leaders and contributors. One of the states to implement a Hall of Fame is the Indiana State Racquetball Association (INSRA). According to Don Rolland, State President, the first year of their Hall of Fame was 1989 and they induct worthy individuals whenever appropriate. Since inception, there have been a total of 18 people accorded this honor, many of whom our readers will recognize from their contributions at the National level (like Mike Arnolt, a former member of USA Racquetball's Board of Directors), or their level of play on the national stage (like Debbie Chaney, Pierre Miller, Kay Kuhfeld and John Amatulli).

2005-2006

Mike Worley

2003-2004

Rick Killion

2002-2003

Keith Berry

2001-2002

Bob Craig

2000-2001

John Amatulli

1999-2000

Jeff Wright

1998-1999

Ron Hutcherson

1997-1998

Kaye Kuhfeld

1996-1997

Mike and Renee LaBonne

1995-1996

Tony Gabriel

1994-1995

Debbie Chaney

1993-1994

Charlie Gunn

1992-1993

Ron Johnson

1991-1992

Pierre Miller

1990-1991

Rex Lawler

1989-1990

Earl Dixon

1988-1989

Mike Arnolt

To view the Indiana Racquetball Hall of Fame, go to: [www.insra.org](http://www.insra.org).

If your state is interested in beginning a Racquetball Hall of Fame and you would like some information to get started, please contact Jim Easterling at [djasterling@earthlink.net](mailto:djasterling@earthlink.net) or call (517) 449-8942. It's a great way to remember those players and contributors who have supported and grown our sport on a local and state level. They deserve to be recognized for the effort and dedication – and a state association Hall of Fame is a great way to do it.



Q:

I hear the Pros talk about "Being in the Now." Fran, can you explain this concept?



By Fran Davis

**Answer:** I was fortunate to have met Diana McNab, Sports Psychologist of the U.S. Racquetball Team, in 1989, and Dr. Learned Clark, Psychologist and Motivational Speaker for Fortune 500 Companies, in 1990. They introduced me to this very concept of "Being in the Now" and it has stayed with me ever since. I used it personally in my competitive career when I played and now I use it in my teaching and coaching. I can attest to it and so can others, players like Jason Mannino, Jack Huczek, Rhonda Rajsich and Christie Van Hees...it WORKS!

So, what is "Being in the Now?" You are totally absorbed in the present moment...with no disturbing thoughts, no distractions and no worries. The past is gone and the future is out of our control. In order to be a peak performer, you can only work in the present tense. Be here, right now...when the 20/40/20 court door closes, your problems must remain outside the court.

**EXAMPLES:**

- ★ Being in the past is allowing a "bad call" to affect you adversely. Instead of just letting it go and losing only one point, you hold onto it and lose 2 or 3 points because you are "stuck" on that bad call.
- ★ Being in the future is walking up to the draw sheet at a tournament when the tournament hasn't even begun yet and thinking you have an easy draw and will be in the finals...well guess what, you never even make it past the first round!
- ★ Being in the "Now" is when you are playing a match and the score is 4-4, you say to yourself, "Okay, let's get one more point right now."
- ★ Being distracted is allowing the crowd who is cheering for your opponent to bother you.
- ★ Being worried is when you walk up to a draw sheet at a tournament or you look at the league schedule and you say, "Oh no, I'm playing the #1 seed first...I can't beat him/her!"
- ★ Having a disturbing thought is when you say, "Oh no, I hate playing so and so because they cheat and crowd me...I despise them."

I'll leave you with a profound statement that drives this point home very soundly:

"Today is a gift, that is why we call it the present!"

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 a camp at this time. Go to [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com) for details on both.

In teaching with Jason Mannino at my camps, we reiterate to the attendees just how important it is to play in the "Now," the present moment. They all do, but they are all human and every now and then they fall victim to one of those negative thoughts that take them out of the "here and now." When they do, here are some of the things they have learned to do to refocus, regroup, and get back into the "Now."

1. Take a time out.
2. Use the "10 second rule."
3. Wipe the floor.
4. Fix the strings on their racquets.
5. Tie their shoelace.
6. Use a phrase they developed to refocus, like, "Right Now" or "Focus" or "Now" or "Watch the Ball" or "Hit Flat."
7. Use their affirmations (positive statements) they developed, like, "I am a Winner" or "I am Tough" or "I am\_\_\_\_\_."



# "If you are not on offense, you cannot call a screen."

A couple of very good questions came across my desk this month. Let's take a look...

**Art Balfe, Beaverton, Oregon submitted this question:** Player A has the chance to return the ball...yet he misses completely, allowing the ball to pass between his legs. The ball then hits Player B, the defensive player...who had no chance of seeing the ball. What is the rule here? Is this an automatic point for Player A since it hit the other player, or is it a screen ball and the point is played over?

**OTTO SAYS:** Since the player who was hit by the ball in your scenario was on defense (not his turn to hit the ball), he lost the rally when the ball touched him while it is still in play. He was NOT entitled to a screen of any kind since he was not on offense. This is one of those cases of "tough luck" -- especially when the other player may have totally given up on ever making the shot. So, just don't ever touch a ball that is technically still in play. If you do, you lose!

**That's my verdict!**

**Russ Bonnano, Massapequa, NY, asked about another often-misunderstood issue:** "If I hit a ceiling ball or any defensive shot and my opponent steps in my way and I hit him as I am about to hit the ball, is this an avoidable hinder? The people I was playing said it was not an offensive shot therefore it can't be an avoidable. I don't agree. What is your verdict?"

**OTTO SAYS:** There are many people who for a known reason believe that a **Penalty Hinder** (formerly known as an **Offensive Hinder**) must involve "an offensive shot" to be called. Not true. First, look at rule 3.15 on Penalty Hinder. The word "offensive" is used but only to distinguish one player from the other, i.e. offensive player vs. defensive player. However, the term "offensive" is not used to describe any shot/situation whatsoever.

That being said, it is generally accepted in the levels of racquetball play (but not written in the rulebook) that a "desperation shot" should never be called an "avoidable."

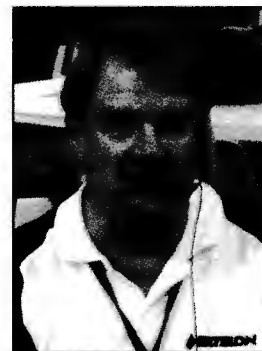
I must admit that I generally agree with that "exception" and would likely apply the rule that way if I were refing some top-level players.

But, let me also give you another scenario: Let's say that I am playing Mike Dennison who, to no one's surprise, has been ace'ing me serve after serve. Miraculously, I eventually manage to return one of his rocket-like serves and thus become engaged in a ceiling shot rally with him. After exchanging a few ceiling shots, he bumps into me as I retreat to hit my ceiling shot. If I ask the ref for a hinder, what happens? Well, the referee might say, "That was not an offensive shot, so replay the rally." Wow! I now get to face another one of his blistering serves! There's really no way that's not a penalty hinder on Mike! He clearly should have never interfered with my (defensive) shot at all, but he did! His mistake -- I should win that rally. A simple "replay" would not be a satisfying outcome. So, yes, there can be a penalty hinder on a defensive shot!

**That's my verdict!**

**P.S.** Steve Strandemo's excellent poster is still in circulation. Unfortunately, it reinterprets the official "Failure to Move" hinder rule. Please be aware that this is not USA Racquetball's official rule.

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



**By Otto Dietrich**  
USA Racquetball  
National Rules  
Commissioner







**By Connie Martin,**  
Director of Programs at  
Cascade Athletic Clubs  
in Gresham, OR and  
National Racquetball  
Hall of Fame member.

# Enhancing the Leagues at Your Club

Think you've tried it all? Here's a collection of ideas for those who are looking for a fresh approach...

## League Awards

Many people offer awards at the end of their leagues. It seems that the lower levels, or those who are new to leagues or competition, like to receive trophies or plaques. But the more people play in leagues or competitions, they seem to begin to prefer merchandise awards. If you are not sure, take a survey of what people would like. Certainly the awards offered will depend heavily on the amount people pay for leagues...

## League Parties

Depending upon the fee people pay for leagues, you might be planning some type of get-together at the end of the league. Since leagues can be one of the biggest and most important programs at clubs, hosting some type of party at the end of the leagues can help ensure long-term success. League parties vary from no get-together to a sit down dinner at a local restaurant.

Be sure to make a big deal of the party. Have sign-up sheets available plenty of time in advance so people can plan to attend. Make sure to take pictures at the parties for club and state newsletters and the club's racquetball wall. If you have double prints made, sending people copies of those prints is a nice touch.

## A few ideas for league parties:

1) **Buffets/Banquets.** If you have a restaurant or snack bar at your club, you can host your own food party. You could have a theme buffet such as an Italian Feast (pizza, salad, spaghetti, salad. French bread, etc.) For a

banquet, you may wish to have it in an Awards Banquet format. This could be held right in your club or at a local restaurant.

2) **Play & Party.** It's fun to have a playing event with dinner or snacks. Host a fun Round Robin...if you have lots more people than courts, you could also include something such as a volleyball or wallyball tournament.

You may also choose to have a clinic along with the party or an exhibition. Some leagues may also have the finals played the night (day) of the party. If you have different leagues throughout the day/evening, you may wish to have several parties, one for the early bird players, one for the day players and one for the evening players. Again, this will all be dependent upon the fees they pay (and your budget). You have the option to provide all the food or have a potluck where you provide the main dish and the players bring a salad, hot dish or dessert. For example:

- Italian Feast & Round Robin Play
- Mexican Potluck & Exhibition
- Beach Volleyball Challenge & Cookout
- League Skills Night & Pizza Party
- League Nachos &

Knowledge Clinic & Awards Presentation

Have fun celebrating the end of the leagues...and be sure to get everyone signed up for the next one starting soon!

## Award Ideas

trophies  
luggage tags  
medals  
key chains  
plaques  
Frisbees (logo'd)  
picture frame awards  
candy jars  
collared shirts  
coffee mugs  
sweatshirts  
wine glasses  
t-shirts/tank tops  
beer mugs  
caps/visors  
water bottles  
shorts  
club dollars  
socks  
free entry into next league  
sunglasses  
pro shop coupons  
sports towels  
restaurant certificates  
fanny packs  
guest passes  
note pads/pens  
sporting goods stores merchandise



Presented by **EKTELON**

# BALANCE: It's Where it "ALL" Begins!



by **Woody Clouse**

For my first Ektelon article in a series of many to come, I'll start at the very beginning. As an athlete and racquetball player who wants to improve, you must first be aware of what you need to improve upon. In order to improve in any area of the game, you'll always give yourself the best chance to succeed when you prioritize balance. I think of balance in four parts:

1. Are you prepared physically? Have you warmed up enough to be 100% ready to go at 0 serving 0? Are you rested, hydrated and well nourished?

2. Are you prepared mentally? Have you spent time visualizing a game plan? Are you focused on the task at hand and have you cleared your mind of all unrelated thoughts?

3. Do you have all of your equipment ready? What if you break a racquet or rip a glove?

4. Are you emotionally ready? Are you enjoying yourself? Are you looking forward to the challenge ahead of you? Are you relaxed and satisfied with the outcome if you play your best?

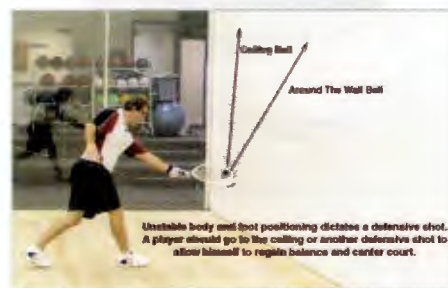
Let's talk about balance in the context of physical presence on the court. As a coach as well as a player, to bring out our very best depends upon this one primary focus. Balance should always be the primary concern of any movement. When a person is balanced, he is going to perform better. The body will move through a more stable and controlled motion and movement of every kind. As coaches and players, we'll immediately improve our execution with improved stability which

improves our control as well as consistency. If this is not our focus, we are making the job harder than it has to be.

When you think of all-time favorite athletes and racquetball players, the one thing they all have in common is superior balance. From Michael Jordan to Walter Payton to Cliff Swain and Sudsy Monchik, they all had amazing balance.

From a technical breakdown process, in racquetball we often look at the height of the elbow or something specific such as a wrist snap or the amount of shoulder rotation a player possesses. One of all of these might be needing attention and we should certainly address each one. But always maintain balance as the foundation, because every movement and improvement will come much more efficiently and consistently when a player is balanced. Keep in mind that from balance comes stability, from stability comes consistency, from consistency comes confidence and from confidence comes success.

The following photos demonstrate shot selection based on improper and proper body positioning. A player should only be aggressive when able to maintain balance and stability. If a player is not balanced, he should hit a shot that will allow him to regain his balance and get back to the center of the court!





# OFF THE BACK WALL

By Sudsy Monchik

In the last issue I talked about my magical "Grip Change," a critical part of the mechanics so you can hit flat, leading to more consistency and more power. Now I want to switch gears from the mechanics to a particular shot that is critical both on the return of serve as well as during a rally and that's my Magical Off the Back Wall Shot, a weapon I can't and won't do without.

Off the Back Wall is one of the most offensive shots in the game today as it is the only shot in the game that is moving in the direction of the target, the front wall, and you want to take full advantage of this shot when the opportunity arises. Too often I see players opt to hit a ball coming off the back wall back into the back wall, or they take it to the ceiling, or they don't even let a long ceiling come off the back wall and jump to go back up with another ceiling ball. More often than not these players do that because of fear and they don't take advantage of the offensive opportunity created by the ball coming off the back wall. I will show you trick-by-trick how to take a ball off the back wall so you can gain the confidence to use this shot offensively rather than defensively.

Two of the main reasons why players "blow" this shot is because of poor footwork and judgment of the ball. Take a look at how you, too, can have a magical off the back wall shot, just like mine.



## The Ready Position

- Down and ready
- Legs spread wider than shoulder width apart
- Knees bent
- Bent slightly at the waist
- Racquet up and in the middle of your stance
- On the balls of your feet ready to push off



## The Step

### The 1st Step

- Eyes are on the ball at all times
- Take a slight step back towards the back wall with the right leg
- Racquet begins to get into early racquet preparation position

### The 2nd Step

- Take a shuffle step back so the racquet touches the back wall, therefore getting behind the ball
- Racquet is completely up

## The Swing

- Shuffle forward to get set for the ball
- Racquet starting to come down
- Eyes remain on the ball
- Legs spread ready to hit a normal forehand shot

## The Contact Point & Follow Through

- Feet are stopped, set, and spread
- Normal forehand stroke is used

### JUDGMENT:

The key to "off the back wall," once you have the proper footwork and stroke mechanics, is that you need to learn how to judge the ball coming off the back wall correctly so you know where it will bounce on its second bounce. There are two factors that determine that:

**1- The height at which your opponent hits the ball on the front wall**

**2- How hard it leaves their racquet**

You need to know this information so when you set up to hit an off the back wall shot you are a step or step and a half behind

where you think the ball will wind up on its second bounce and you shuffle with the ball off the back wall, not ahead of the ball. This will give you the timing needed to generate the power and consistency to have a magical off the back wall shot. Do not, I repeat, do not go out and wait for the ball where it's going to bounce on its second bounce (Fran Davis calls this camping out) because often you guess wrong by waiting for it and by not shuffling with it you will lose accuracy and power and probably hit off your back foot, a no-no in stroke mechanics.



Presented by

**HEAD**  
**Penn**

Well, there you have it. My magical Off the Back Wall shot (only diagrammed with my forehand, backhand is exactly the same) continues to be one of my most offensive weapons on the pro tour. The keys to a consistent off the back wall shot are proper footwork and how you judge the ball. This will add a whole new dimension to your arsenal of offensive shots. Don't take this shot lightly because an off the back wall opportunity happens often and you want to be prepared and confident to respond with a good offensive winner.

To learn how to take the ball OFF THE BACK WALL, pick up one of our "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" instructional videos starring me, Fran and Jason, or attend one of our camps. See [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com) for details.





# Exciting Times Ahead for 2007-08 IRT Season

By Dave Negrete, Commissioner

The 2007-08 season is shaping up to be one of the brightest years yet for the IRT and for racquetball as a sport. Some exciting news and events are surfacing. Read on...

## Event and Player Sponsorships

First and most importantly, Motorola and Verizon Wireless have committed to sponsoring another major IRT Grand Slam event in Colorado Springs -- the Motorola World Racquetball Championship! Their commitment to the sport is beginning to open doors to places our sport has yet to explore. Motorola and Verizon Wireless have also teamed up to sponsor IRT superstar Rocky Carson for two years. This is exciting news because it is the first time in modern-day IRT history that a major corporation outside the racquetball community has seen value in sponsoring a professional player. This should prime the pump for other major companies to step up and "brand" a player (and our sport). Genesco Sports Enterprises, Motorola's sports marketing partner, will be a huge asset in helping to create real value for the sponsorship and readying the IRT for the next level.

## A New Portable Court

Also in the works is the new "all Lucite portable court." The plans have been in the works for three years; on August 6th, construction of the court began at the Schaumburg Tennis Plus, host club of the Motorola IRT Pro Nationals. The new court will be all Lucite, including the ceiling. Huge thanks go out to Leo and Sue Klimaitis and Pat and Mary Taylor who have brought the project to life. Devin Cannady, the architect on the project, should be very proud that his vision is becoming a reality. The biggest improvement of the court is that it will be much easier and quicker to set up and tear down. This will make it easier for the IRT to bring the sport to the public via shopping malls, smaller stadiums and other high traffic areas like Navy Pier in Chicago, the beach in California or at outdoor festivals.

## Top 10 Rundown

In the coming season, the IRT Tour will visit many of the same cities as it has in past years and also a few new cities as well. The demand for the IRT around the country has been overwhelming and we have done everything possible to accommodate all requests for the top players to showcase their

skills and charisma. Here's some commentary on the top contenders in the coming season:

**Jack Huczek, #1** ranked IRT professional, finished a fantastic year of racquetball by winning the Motorola IRT Pro Nationals



Jack Huczek

presented by Verizon Wireless in April. Jack won nine of his thirteen Tier One events to attain his first year-end #1 ranking. The off-season switch last year to Head Racquetball seems to have elevated Jack's game. Huczek, known for his top fitness condition, will

not only be working hard on keeping his #1 ranking this year, he will also be working hard in the classroom as he works on his Master's degree during the season. Jack will be the player to beat and everyone will be gunning for him.

**Jason Mannino, #2**, had a huge win at the Choice Hotels US OPEN this past year, giving him his second Open title. He also had wins in Long Island and Colorado. Jason, always the entertainer, will be starting off this year as the challenger for the top spot. He has been there before and would like nothing better than to grab the #1 spot for the second time. One of the most accessible players on tour, look for Jason to not only push for #1



Jason Mannino

but also to add to the record he holds for most dives in a career. Mannino, when not found playing on the IRT, can be found teaching the game at his clinics across the country. Jason just re-signed with Pro Kennex.

**Rocky Carson, #3**, logged his first win on the IRT tour in two years, taking the title in Seattle. He has the ability to push for the top spot and we will see if he has the will this year. Signing with Ektelon during the halfway point last season seemed to add a bit of excitement to his game. With the addition of his newest sponsors, Motorola and Verizon Wireless, Rocky

should be ready to play some ball this season. One of the most well-liked players on the tour, look for good things from the California Surfer this year.

**Alvaro Beltran, #4**, had the kind of season most would love to have, but he was "snake bit" in three finals last year. Alvaro has all the potential to be #1, but he has yet to find the mental toughness to finish a final. This could be his breakthrough year after inking a deal with GearBox Racquetball, and he will not be satisfied with another year-end #4 finish. Alvaro has recently had the stadium court at the new Racquetball Rio Club in Tijuana named after him. Beltran is always a threat to win on the IRT and has the ability to reach the top spot.

**Shane Vanderson, #5**, had great events at the majors last year and also appeared in the finals at Allentown. Playing and winning a few of the IRT satellite events has helped Vanderson regain that "winning" feeling. Shane has always been a mainstay with Head Racquetball and will continue to represent them as he always has: as a gentlemen and an asset to the sport. Look for Shane to raise the bar a notch this year as the mid-season move to Florida from Ohio should benefit his training routine. Shane is working on his own instructional DVD, so look for it on the IRT website soon.

**Mitch Williams, #6**, the "Rookie of the Year," raised his game to another level and then some as he finished with the highest ranking of his career. Quite an accomplishment since Mitch was finishing his Master's degree and playing on the tour full time. A new deal with Wilson Racquetball should help Mitch carve a niche for himself this season in the racquetball world. The only lefty in the Top 10, Mitch has some big shoes to fill with the retirement of Cliff Swain, the sport's greatest lefty of all time. It will be interesting to see if Mitch can raise his game to push for the #1 spot without the distraction of school this year.

**Chris Crowther, #7**, towers over everyone on the IRT at 6'6" and he used his height to his advantage last year, moving up the list and securing the highest ranking of his young career. Probably the hardest hitter on the tour, Crowther can play with anyone in the Top 10 but has still struggled with getting that big win. Chris has done a good job working on his mental game and if he continues to channel his energy on the game at hand, he will be tough to beat this year. Chris has also

been working on playing professional golf and from all indications, he may be able to attain that dream also. Look for good things from this young player this season.

**Jason Thoerner, #8**, is coming off of a sub-par season that saw some ups and downs. Finishing #8 was a disappointment for Jason and he will be back with a vengeance in 2007-08. Although fully capable of beating anyone on the IRT, Jason did not put together a run last year. This year will be different since he has been working hard this off-season on his game. Moving up in the rankings will be Thoerner's only quest this season. Acting as the tour's referee is one of Jason's other talents and he does a tremendous job. Look for Thoerner to be a spoiler on the IRT.

**Ben Croft, #9**, jumped up the ranks this year and had an impressive season. A semi-finalist in Mexico and a consistent quarter-finalist the second half will make Croft a

dangerous player this year. Quick hands and a will to win are Croft's assets. He is still working on controlling his emotions, but another full season on the tour should help cure that. Ben just finished his degree at the University of Colorado at Pueblo, which will now allow him to focus all his energy on racquetball.

Andy Hawthorne and Alejandro Herrera rounded out the top full-time players last year and these two players gave 100% all the time. Andy had only one quarterfinal appearance last year and hopes to improve on that stat. Alejandro will be looking for his second quarterfinal appearance of his young career.

## SUMMARY

Leadership at the USAR and WPRO is the best it has been in recent years and all the other great organizations in the sport such as the NMRA, WS/MRA and IRF are working hard as a collective group to grow the game. Let your favorite IRT stars see and feel your support when they come to town. We look forward to seeing you all this year!

These two can play the game the way it should be played, so watch out, as they will be sleepers this year!

The tour will deeply miss Cliff Swain as he moves on to another career in the restaurant and bar business in

Naples, Florida. Cliff's intensity will now be on his new place, Lucky's at 951, so make sure to stop in and say hello if you find yourself in the area. Sudsy Monchik is still deciding on whether he is completely retired or not. You may see him at a few events this year showing some of the magic he exhibited for so many years when he and Swain dominated the tour.

# Hitting it Around with Alvaro Beltran



**Alvaro Beltran**

**How old were you when you began hitting the racquetball?**

Well, I was around three or four years old. My dad loved racquetball and would play every night after work. He would come home late and my mother always questioned

where he was so late and he would say he was at the club playing racquetball. Well she did not really believe him so she made him come home first and take me with him!

**Who were the biggest influences in your early career?**

My parents, Alvaro and Anna.

**How old were you when you played your first real tournament?**

I was seven or eight and played in the Men's C division. I played well but still did not really understand the game. It wouldn't be until later on that I would really figure it out.

**When was that?**

When I was eleven or twelve, my parents took me up to San Diego and LA to play some tournaments. It was there I saw how the game was played. I was very fortunate that I was able to go play there because most of the juniors from Mexico don't have that chance.

**When did you get to the Open level and start believing that you could play pro racquetball?**

I was fourteen and went up to San Diego to play in my first Open event. I won the AA but had a chance to watch Jason Mannino and others play. It was a great learning experience. I realized then that I wanted to try and play on the IRT. Also, Tijuana had many great tournaments when I was growing up and I had the chance to watch guys like Ed Andrews, Joey Pariso and Aaron Embry, which helped me become a better player.

**When did you make your debut on the IRT?**

It was when I was twenty-one. I played very well, making the semifinals of the US Open that year. I beat Kane, Tim Doyle and Mike Locker before losing to Cliff in the

semifinals. It was a great feeling, finally realizing I could compete with and beat some of the best in the game.

**Who are the guys you hang out with on the tour?**

Well, I get along with everyone but travel and hang out mostly with Rocky Carson and Chris Crowther.

**Who is the toughest and most intense player you have played on the IRT?**

That would have to be Cliff Swain. He understands the game better than anyone. He helped me to learn what it takes to play on the IRT. Also, it's tough playing Rocky because we are good friends.

**Describe the type of player you are.**

I think I am a player who has many weapons. I have an all-around game. I score a lot of my points with a rally game. I wait for my shots and I like to think I am patient. When I don't play with patience, I struggle a bit. I think the thing about my game is I do not have one thing that is overwhelmingly better than something else. For instance, Cliff can come up with a big serve when he wants or Mannino can dive all over when he wants; I rely on a philosophy of doing everything well overall.

**Do you think the pro game is played differently in Mexico than in the states?**

Yes. I think that most of the Mexican players like Polo Gutierrez, Gilberto Mejia

*continued on page 18*





and Javier Moreno all play a more defensive game. We all seem to be retrievers rather than the way the game is played in the U.S., which is to shoot and kill.

**Mexico is now known for a great junior program with many up-and-comers who would like to play on the IRT. What advice would you give them?**

Do your best to find some local sponsors and whenever you can, try and get to the States to play. Unfortunately, the cost to come and play the on IRT is very expensive, making it difficult for most of the juniors to come out and play. I hope in the near future the IRT can expand to Mexico.

**If you could improve one thing on the IRT what would it be?**

To try and help increase the prize money purses so more players could make a living from playing the game. Relying on sponsorship makes it tough and sponsors nowadays are hard to find.

**Speaking of sponsors, you just signed a new deal with Gear Box Racquetball. What made you decide to sign with them?**

Well, Rafael Filippini (who started the company) is a great friend and I felt like the opportunity was right. Rafael has some new and exciting ideas on how to promote the brand of GearBox and the sport of racquetball. I wanted to be part of that. I also felt like they were the best company out there for me right now.

**You have a court named in your honor in Tijuana at the Racquetball Rio Club. How does that make you feel?**

I am very proud and honored. The city of Tijuana is a great place and racquetball is very strong there. I really thank the owner of the club, Jorge Ramos, for paying tribute to me that way.

**You play for your country's national team. How is that experience?**

It is an extreme honor to play for your country. I was really proud winning a gold medal in the last championship. They had a large parade and party for us here in Mexico.

**Any thing else you would like to say to the racquetball community?**

Coming from Tijuana to play on the IRT has been a lifelong dream. I would like to thank all my friends and family for their

support. Also, I would like to thank Tony Ramirez and Ashaway strings for the supporting sponsorship and giving me the chance to play racquetball for a living. Also, thank you to all the fans out there in Mexico and the States for your support. Viva Mexico!

Alvaro Beltran is the current number four-ranked player on the IRT. He is a three-time recipient of the IRT Sportsmanship Award and is arguably the greatest player to ever come out of Mexico.

## IRT RANKINGS

As of June 11, 2007

RANK	NAME	POINTS
1	HUCZEK, JACK	4526
2	MANNINO, JASON	3791
3	CARSON, ROCKY	3529
4	BELTRAN, ALVARO	2936
5	VANDERSON, SHANE	2543
6	WILLIAMS, MITCH	2145
7	CROWTHER, CHRIS	1991
8	THOERNER, JASON	1879
9	CROFT, BEN	1804
10	HAWTHORNE, ANDY	1534
11	SWAIN, CLIFF	1370
12	HERRERA, ALEJANDRO	1241
13	MONCHIK, SUDSY	1163
14	SHIMIZU, HIROSHI	998
15	CLOUSE, WOODY	611

## INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE 2007-08 SEASON

SEPT. 13-16	MOTOROLA IRT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP	GS
SEPT. 20-23	KANSAS CITY MO	T1
OCT. 4-7	BOWLING GREEN KY	T1
OCT. 11-14	TORONTO CANADA	T1
OCT. 19-21	MADISON WI	T3
OCT. 19-21	GRAND RAPIDS MI	T4
OCT. 19-21	CHIHUAHUA MX	T2 (tentative)
OCT. 25-28	ALBUQUERQUE NM	T1
NOV. 2-4	LONG ISLAND OPEN NY	T4
NOV. 9-11	PORTLAND OR	T4
NOV. 14-18	MEMPHIS TN	GS
DEC. 6-9	TEMPE AZ	T3 (satellite pending)
JAN. 10-13	CANOGA PARK CA	T1
JAN. 17-20	LONG ISLAND NY	T1
JAN. 24-27	MILWAUKEE WI	T4
FEB. 1-3	CINNCINNATI OH	T5
FEB. 7-10	SIOUX FALLS SD	T2
FEB. 21-24	SEATTLE WA	T1
FEB. 28- MARCH 2	TIJUANA MX	T1
FEB 29 - MARCH 2	SCHERERVILLE IN	T4
MARCH 6- 9	SARASOTA FL	T1
MARCH 13-16	ORANGE COUNTY CA	T1
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.

Prize money determines tier level: GS – Grand Slam, \$25k Minimum • T3 – Tier Three, \$5-\$10k  
T1 – Tier One Full Ranking Event, \$17.5 • T4 – Tier Four, \$0-\$5k • T2 – Tier Two, \$10-\$17.5k



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# WPRO AND ABCF LAUNCH "RACQUETBALL FOR LIFE"

## CAMPAIGN

All photography by Naylor

### Promotion to Raise Funds for Breast Cancer Foundation's Prevention and Detection Programs



The Women's Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO) and the American Breast Cancer Foundation (ABCF) have joined forces to promote "Racquetball for Life," a campaign designed to raise breast cancer awareness, prevention and detection through the sport of racquetball. The partnership was established between the two groups to support and promote ABCF's mission of providing

breast cancer screenings and treatment to underserved and uninsured citizens throughout the United States.

"The WPRO is honored to be working with ABCF on the Racquetball for Life campaign," said Shannon Feaster, Commissioner of the WPRO. "We hope that our efforts to promote this program at our major events will help save lives through early detection and will give hope to those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and cannot afford treatment."

"ABCF is excited to partner with the WPRO to launch this important campaign," said Phyllis Wolf, President and Co-Founder of ABCF. "Through the sport of racquetball, we hope to advance our goals of raising awareness about breast cancer detection and prevention and providing the underserved a fighting chance against this deadly disease."

The Racquetball for Life Campaign kicks off at the WPRO's season opener, the Outback Steakhouse Blast It! Championship, from September 13-16 at The Sports Center in Fayetteville, NC.

#### About the WPRO

The Women's Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO) is the governing body of a growing membership of the highest-level professional female racquetball players in the world. The WPRO is currently comprised of elite athletes representing over a dozen countries, including the United States, Mexico, Chile, Canada, Puerto Rico, Japan, Dominican Republic and Venezuela. The tour aims to promote the health and wellness of women and girls through racquetball related programs and events around the world. For more information about the WPRO, visit [www.wpro-tour.com](http://www.wpro-tour.com).

#### About ABCF

The American Breast Cancer Foundation (ABCF) is a non-profit organization devoted to helping women fight breast cancer through education, research, and diagnostic testing assistance programs. Through its Key to Life Breast Cancer Screening Assistance Program ABCF provides financial assistance for mammograms, diagnostic mammograms, ultrasounds, and limited assistance grants for biopsies to those in need. The American Breast Cancer Foundation was founded in 1997 and is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. For more information about ABCF and its programs, visit [www.abcf.org](http://www.abcf.org).

## WPRO BOARD WELCOMES NEW OFFICER, BRENDA LOUBE

Brenda Loube, President and Co-founder of Corporate Fitness Works, has been elected to serve on the WPRO Board of Directors. Corporate Fitness Works is a Maryland-based firm that provides customized fitness and wellness services for corporations, government agencies and residential communities.



Loube has been involved with the sport of racquetball since 1976 and has over 30 years of experience playing and teaching lessons for all ages. She was instrumental in starting the Maryland Racquetball Association in the early 1980's and holds numerous titles on the state, regional and national levels, including a National Singles title in the 30+ division in 1983.

Loube has been on the Board for Women Business Owners of Maryland, was appointed Chairperson of the Maryland Advisory Council on Physical Fitness and is a board member of the National Health and Fitness Association. She serves as a member of the Advisory Board for the International Council on Active Aging and sits on the Board of Directors for the American Breast Cancer Foundation.

As a result of Brenda's achievements in both racquetball and fast-pitch softball, she was inducted into the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1993. Brenda has presented at the Women's Sports Foundation conference on the fitness benefits of the lifetime sport of racquetball.

## WPRO UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE

The WPRO is proud to unveil its new web site showcasing the ladies of the WPRO! Find out more about our sponsors and partners, when the WPRO pros will be in your area, and other exciting news on tour!

With regular content updates and an edgy Flash intro using graphics from Double Donut Studios ([www.doubledonut.com](http://www.doubledonut.com)), you can now follow all the action by simply logging on to [www.wpro-tour.com](http://www.wpro-tour.com). Don't forget to sign up and take part in our monthly giveaways!





## WPRO KICKS OFF 2007-2008 SEASON AT OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE BLAST IT! IN FAYETTEVILLE

The Women's Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO) began its new season at the Outback Steakhouse Blast It! Pro-Am Championships at The Sports Center in Fayetteville, NC, September 14-16. Top ranked pro's including defending champion Rhonda Rajsich (#1 - Phoenix, AZ), Kerri Wachtel (#2 - Cincinnati, OH), Cheryl Gudinas (#3 - Naperville, IL), and Angela Grisar (#4 - Santiago, Chile) were among the WPRO pros competing for this great championship.

The Outback Steakhouse Blast It! is classified as a Tier 1 WPRO and USA Racquetball sanctioned event, and has historically been well-attended by amateurs from around the country with prize money awarded in all Open divisions.



## RHONDA RAJSICH LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

Number 1 ranked WPRO pro Rhonda Rajsich recently launched her new web site, [www.rhondarocks.com](http://www.rhondarocks.com), which has been in development since last year.

Visit [www.rhondarocks.com](http://www.rhondarocks.com) for all the latest news on Rhonda, including her interests and hobbies outside of racquetball and where she will be on tour with the WPRO this season!



## WPRO TOUR SCHEDULE 2007-08 SEASON



SEPT. 13-16	Fayetteville, NC / Outback Steakhouse Blast It! (T1)
OCT. 5-7	Laurel, MD / Mid-Atlantic Tournament of Champions (Satellite)
OCT. 11-14	Burlington, Ontario, CAN / Canadian Racquetball Classic (T1)
NOV. 2-4	Long Island, NY / Long Island Open (Satellite)
NOV. 14-18	Memphis, TN / Choice Hotels US OPEN (GS)
DEC. 6-9	Arlington, VA / Christmas Classic (T1)
JAN. 10-13	Panama City, Panama / Canal Challenge (T1)
JAN. 24-27	Sacramento, CA / Greater Sacramento Open (T1)
FEB. 1-3	Cincinnati, OH / Racquet & Hand for the Cure (Satellite)
FEB. 7-10	Phoenix, AZ / Ektelon Fireball Rollout (T1)
FEB. 28-MARCH 2	Miami, FL / Great Balls of Fire (T1)
MARCH 14-16	Fountain Valley, CA / Ocean City Open (Satellite)
APRIL 3-6	Harrisburg, PA / Harrisburg Pro-Am (T1)
APRIL 17-20	New Orleans, LA / WPRO World Championships (GS)
May 9-11	Sacramento, CA / WPRO Pro National Doubles (T1)

**T1** = Tier 1 Full Ranking Event

**GS** = Grand Slam Event (higher prize money and ranking points)

**Satellite** = Lower Level Event (check web site for satellite levels)

\*All Tier 1 WPRO events will use the Ektelon Fireball and will be broadcast live on RacquetballOnline.tv so stay tuned!

\*Check the WPRO web site - [www.wpro-tour.com](http://www.wpro-tour.com) - for changes and additions.





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US OPEN

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**RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
NOVEMBER 14-18, 2007  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**

*Jason Manning*


Now Playing

*Christie Van Hees*

Now Playing

# Special Racquetball Magazine 2007 Choice Hotels US OPEN Preview



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*A Preview  
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**US OPEN**

**RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

By Doug Ganim

Well, it's hard to believe it has been twelve years, and the 2007 Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships has arrived! This year's event promises to be the best ever with a record turnout of both players and spectators. This special Preview Section will give you an idea of what to expect at this year's tourney.

**Amateur Draws:** The amateur matches will be played primarily at WellWorx Sportsplex (formerly Six50), Ridgeway Baptist Rec. Center, and The University of Memphis. No consolation divisions will be offered due to the huge draw and lack of available court time. The competition is excellent in all of the divisions offered as we have competitors from all over the world entered into the tournament. The top four finishers in each division will receive oversized US OPEN medals, that weigh about 1 lb. each!

**Pro Match Tickets:** There is no better place in the world to watch pro racquetball than at the Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships. First of all, every top player in the world on the IRT, WPRO, CPRT will be in Memphis. For the true racquetball enthusiast this means incredible matches to watch right from the round of 64. Second, ALL pro match courts are professionally wired for sound so spectators can hear every grunt, groan, and under-the-breath comment throughout every match of the tournament. The ball sounds like a missile being shot off so be sure to wear your earplugs if you have sensitive "flappers". Third, all the feature matches take place on the breathtaking made-for-TV portable stadium racquetball court. This engineering marvel has two walls made of crystal clear Lucite acrylic that is not only optically correct (no tinting, blurring, or bending of light) but is beautiful to behold. All the Lucite material is butted up

against each other with Lucite "fins" providing the support. Even the "L" brackets are made of Lucite so the result is a seamless visual experience that makes you feel like you're right in the court with the players. The stadium seats about 1,100 fans and ticket sales are always brisk. Your best bet is to purchase the Ticket Package which includes all sessions. This is by far the best value.

**Parties, Parties, and More Parties:** One of the things the Choice Hotels US OPEN is best known for is the evening social functions. For those planning to attend you can expect more of the same this year starting with the "free admission" Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude on Tuesday evening, the fun "Players Gathering" at the Fox and Hound on Thursday evening, the Players Dance Party in the Pub on Friday evening and the largest bash of the year—the Saturday evening Grand Gala—THE PARTY WITH THE PRO'S. Other activities include a special Wednesday evening International Reception (for all our "out of the country" guests) and a weeklong Industry Trade Show in the Player Hospitality Village featuring all the top racquetball manufacturers displaying the latest and greatest gear available in the sport. Look for returning special events this year including the IRT Champions Clinic and the IRT/WPRO Play the Pro for St. Jude Challenge.

**No way to attend the event this year?:** If you absolutely can't make it to this year's tournament

then the last resort is to follow the action from home. To help make this easier we will transform our website -- [www.choicehotelsusopen.com](http://www.choicehotelsusopen.com) --- into a computer "window" to look in on the action at the tournament. Plans include offering frequent amateur division results posting, up-to-the minute pro match results, digital photography from throughout the event, streaming video of select pro matches, and web-radio voice interviews with top pro's as well as play-by-play voice streaming of the quarters, semi's, and finals. Special thanks to our computer guru and webmaster Willie Tilton for spearheading this ambitious project for the Choice Hotels US OPEN.

**THE PRO'S!:** As always, the focal point of the Choice Hotels US OPEN are the pro players and the incredible entertainment they provide as each player quests for the coveted US OPEN title. Anyone on tour will tell you that at the U.S. OPEN intensity is at its highest so every match yields both players at 120% effort. The following pages in this Racquetball Magazine Special Preview Section provide some detailed insights about which players to keep your eye on





# A Year of Questions?

A 2007 Choice Hotels US OPEN IRT Preview



at this year's Choice Hotels US OPEN.

Always the highlight of the US OPEN, the IRT draw will undoubtedly deliver another memorable year for racquetball fans throughout the world. The answers to all these burning questions will soon be known. However, for those of you that like to lay a little side wager on the action, allow me to give you the inside scoop to help maximize your chances.

**Jack Huczek (2:1 odds)** – Despite never winning the US OPEN, the smart money has to be on Jack Huczek. He is the #1 ranked player in the world and completely dominated the tour last season with 8 event titles. In addition, he won his first Grand Slam title at the end of the last season at the Motorola IRT Pro Nationals. At that event, he learned how to claim victory on the often tricky portable stadium racquetball court. Look for Jack to come into Memphis with the confidence and swagger of a veteran champion. I predict it won't be easy, but in the end he will come out on top.

**Jason Mannino (4:1 odds)** – Winning the US OPEN is about guts, stamina, and the willpower to dig down deep. Being the most skilled player on the court does not even come close to guaranteeing a win. Nobody on the IRT has more guts than Jason Maninno. Largely due to his incredible victory at last year's US OPEN, Jason is now ranked #2 in the world (at the time of this writing) which will put him on the opposite side of the draw from Huczek. I look for Jason to again make the finals, setting up a re-match to the historic semi-final war between these two players last year.

**Rocky Carson (6:1 odds)** – Carson has had success at the US OPEN with two semi's and a finals appearance in the last 3 years. He is in great shape and believes he can win. Last year he made the finals but came up small with a very lackluster performance. I know that did not sit well with him over the past year. I expect a much stronger performance when he reaches the big matches this year. In fact, I predict that Mannino and Carson will square off in the

semi's for an epic battle.

**Mitch Williams (8:1 odds)** – I predict that the 2007-08 season will be a memorable one for Mitch Williams. He has more devastating power than anyone on tour and now has the confidence to go with it. Winning the National Singles title, beating Carson and Vanderson along the way was just what Mitch needed to start to believe he can be the best. Now that he is out of college and focusing on racquetball full time, don't be surprised to see Williams in the top 3 by season end. If I were going to put money down on three players to win the US OPEN this year, Mitch would be one of them!

**Cliff Swain (10:1 odds)** – It is unclear at the time of this writing if Cliff Swain will compete at the 2007 US OPEN. However, I predict he will be a last minute entry into the draw. If I am write, US OPEN fans will get another treat as they get to watch the living legend take another shot on the biggest stage in the sport. His chances for winning?



## What questions you say? How about these...

Can Jack Huczek finally get over the hump and win his first US OPEN?

Can Jason Maninno do the unthinkable and win his third US OPEN title with yet another upset victory?

Will Sudsy Monchik, who has been MIA for 3 years, surprise everyone and capture a record 5th US OPEN title?

Will Rocky Carson finally step up to claim his first Grand Slam title?

Will Cliff Swain return from retirement to play in the US OPEN?

Will Mitch Williams prove his National Singles win was not a fluke and back it up with a US OPEN title?

Will Vanderson, Beltran, Thoerner, or Hawthorne make the life-changing leap into US OPEN immortality by winning the 2007 title?

Probably not very good. He will come in rusty for sure and probably a few pounds heavier than his normal playing weight. However, Swain always plays his best at the US OPEN and it will be no fun for the top ranked player who has to face him early. Don't be surprised to see Swain pull one upset before bowing out.

**Sudsy Monchik (10:1 odds)** - Always a crowd favorite, Sudsy is back on tour this year at the age of 32. Last season was a disaster for Monchik, coming out early with lots of rust then finding his form at the US OPEN, only to go down in the round of 32



with a severe back injury. That injury sidelined Sudsy for most of the rest of the season. He is now healthy again and determined to regain his form. The only man to win four US OPEN titles, this is the event he wants most. Like Tiger Woods, for Sudsy it is "all about the Majors" at this point in his career. Much like Swain, I do not give him much of a chance for winning the event, however, beating a top-ranked player in the quarters is extremely possible. All the top players will be hoping he is not in their section of the draw.

**Alvaro Beltran (12:1 odds)** – Beltran continues to be a big under-performer at the US OPEN. Everyone on tour knows how dangerous this player can be as he has all the tools. The question is, will he ever break through on the biggest stage and really show the fans what he has under the hood? As I said in my review of Mannino, winning the US OPEN is more about guts than skill. Would love to see Beltran finally show some real fire on the court and put forth the effort necessary to claim victory.

**Shane Vanderson (11:1 odds)** – At the National Singles tourney in Houston, Vanderson beat #1 ranked Huczek for the second time last season. He has proven that he has the weapons to beat anybody. Stringing upset victories together has been his problem. Oftentimes when he beats a top-ranked player,

he shows up with a poor performance in the next round. At some point he is going to get sick of this trend and make up his mind that nobody is going to beat him. If 2007 is that year, a betting man could make some good cash on this play!

**Jason Thoerner (20:1 odds)** – Never really a threat at the US OPEN, Jason Thoerner has quietly worked his way into the Top 8 in the world rankings. This impressive result is not the reason I choose to give him somewhat reasonable odds to win the US OPEN. The reason I put Jason at the top of my darkhorse list is because of his fearless attitude and spotlight-loving personality. A perfect example of this was his near fifth game upset at the 2005 Pro Nationals against Jack Huczek where he entertained the crowd while hitting awesome shot after awesome shot to stretch the shocked Huczek to 12-10 in the tiebreaker. Don't be surprised to see Thoerner in the quarters giving a top seed more than he can handle.

**Ben Croft (40:1 odds)** – Last season he beat Jason Mannino on tour twice and gave other top-ranked players fits with his speed and determination. He is probably not ready to win it all at the US OPEN but every season shows more improvement on tour. Look for this young speedster to take someone in the top ranks to the wire.

#### Honorable Mentions:

**Andy Hawthorne** – last season was solid for Hawthorne with multiple wins over Vanderson and other top players. However, he also took some beatings from the elite ranked players. Perhaps the hardest working player on tour, look for Andy to go down swinging (and diving) at this year's US OPEN. Also, congrats to Andy on his recent marriage!

**Chris Crowther** – also known as "the crippler" Chris is another darkhorse that has incredible talent on the court. Nearly impossible to pass, he proves that players of all heights can play at the elite level with his 6' 5" stature. Always fired up on the court, look for Crowther to give someone fits in the round of 16.

**Ruben Gonzalez** – popping a quarter at the OPEN is well within the grasp of the ageless wonder. He did it at the 2005 Pro Nationals at the age of 53. Don't miss watching the living legend at yet another US OPEN!

In closing, the men of the IRT are ready to let it all loose at the 2007 Choice Hotels US OPEN. Get your seat early for the greatest show in sports and ENJOY!



### ATTENDING THE CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN AS A VIP!

A very limited number of four-person courtside luxury GOLD BOXES still remain for the 2007 Choice Hotels US OPEN (at the time of this writing). The cost is \$2,800 and includes four GOLD All-Access Credentials to the event. In addition to enjoying the pro matches from your private and comfortable courtside GOLD BOX, All-Access Credential holders have unlimited access to the exclusive Pro/GOLD Lounge throughout the event featuring free food and drink (beer, soda, water, wine, and champagne) during all hours. Event sponsors, top-ranked men and women pro players, and GOLD BOX holders are the only VIP's permitted in the lounge.

If you are interested, please call (614) 890-6073 to check for current availability.



# Choice Hotels US OPEN WPRO Preview

by Leo R Vasquez, US OPEN Media Staff



The Women's Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO) leads the world of women's professional racquetball to the place where champions are defined. A talented field will usher in the first grand slam of the season as the 2007 Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships will feature all of the top female players in the world. Stakes are high at this event: these ladies will be battling for what could be historic victories for some and first-time success for others.

Here's a look into the tour's top ladies hoping to make a splash and the odds of their chances to win a coveted US OPEN Championship.

**Christie Van Hees (2:1 odds)** – Defending champion Van Hees headlines one of the strongest fields of the season at the US OPEN this year. Van Hees looks to defend her title against a hungry field of the world's best female athletes in professional racquetball. Last year, she marched to her third US OPEN title ('00, '05, '06) and became the first female to win more than two singles championships in the women's professional division.

In 2006, Van Hees, eliminated Rajsich in the quarterfinals and went on to defeat Gudinas-Holmes in the finals. Van Hees elevates all the dimensions of her game when she comes to Memphis, look for her to claim a fourth US OPEN championship.

**Rhonda Rajsich (2.5:1 odds)** – What a year for Rajsich as she finished off the WPRO '06-'07 season with the #1 year end ranking for a second consecutive year, winning the WPRO Pro Nationals, and the

USA Racquetball National singles championships. She even has her own website ([www.rhondarocks.com](http://www.rhondarocks.com)), but nothing defines a professional career without taking a grand slam event.

Undoubtedly, one of the most athletic and entertaining women to watch, Rajsich brings excitement and exhilaration every time she steps on the portable court.

She won this event in '03 and needs to win this year to solidify her place in Memphis and keep Van Hees from making more history.

**Cheryl Gudinas-Holmes (3:1 odds)** – Determination, focus, perseverance and experience are just some of the words that describe the two-time US OPEN champion Gudinas-Holmes ('04, '02). Strangely enough, as of this writing, she has not won a professional event since the 2006 Pro Nationals. It is unfair to consider her anything less than a favorite to take home a third US OPEN championship. Ask anyone on her side of the draw and they will tell you the same thing. Cheryl won't make any excuses due to nagging injuries or lack of playing time as she brings her best to Memphis under the bright lights of the portable court. Could this be her last year here?

**Kerri Wachtel (4:1 odds)** – Kerri is known as one of the fiercest competitors on the WPRO. This girl packs a powerful punch in her small frame and she is no stranger to racquetball's grandest stage. She won this event in 2001 and knows what it takes to win on the portable court. Her conditioning,

mental toughness and quickness make her a threat to win any event, Memphis included. Her five-game semifinal loss to Gudinas-Holmes last year may be all the motivation she needs to win a second US OPEN crown. If she brings her entire racquetball family, she will have plenty of support.

**Brenda Kyzer (7:1 odds)** – The Cinderella story for the 2006 US OPEN belonged to Kyzer as she advanced to her first-ever semifinal in a grand slam event. Her mobility was no longer an issue after losing more than 60 pounds last year. Brenda has shown flashes of brilliance this season and she'll be ready once the bell rings. A tour veteran with plenty of experience; she is making a successful return to the women's pro tour.

## Honorable Mentions:

**Angela Grisar (8:1 odds)** – The dark horse from Chile has the best chance to beat any of the top players in the draw with her aggressive style. Angela has been playing the WPRO tour full time and won her first tour event this year, defeating Rajsich and Wachtel along the way.

**Kristen Walsh (10:1 odds)** – Last year in Memphis, Kristen fell victim to Brenda Kyzer in the quarterfinals. She has made the semifinals here in previous appearances and has maintained a Top 5 ranking for the past four years. She needs confidence and a good draw, maybe marriage is the secret ingredient.

**Elaine Albrecht (13:1 odds)** – Amazing how this event can bring out the best in a player and Elaine found it last year. She knocked off two Top 10 players on the way to her first quarterfinal appearance at the 2006 US OPEN. Now that she's tasted some success in a grand slam, is she hungry for more?

**Tammy Brown (20:1 odds)** – The Boise native could be a real threat if she played more events. When Tammy takes the court with her power game, she can hold her own against anyone. She lacks that big win in her career to take her game to the next level.

**Adrienne Fisher (22:1 odds)** – College has kept Adrienne busy this past season, but that hasn't prevented her from playing the tour. She lost a tough five-game match last year at the US OPEN to Grisar. Her powerful backhand may not be enough to carry her past the round of 16.

**Paola Longoria (25:1 odds)** – This 18-year-old phenom is an accomplished world junior champion and most recently the 2006 Pan Am singles champion. Could she become the youngest player ever to win this event? Vamos Mexico!



# Something New for 2007!

## Choice Hotels US OPEN CPRT Preview

by Doug Ganim



An exciting new twist this year is the addition of the Classic Pro Racquetball Tour to the US OPEN. Rather than just having 4 players square off for the title, we decided to pull the entire Men's 40+ division into the fun. Therefore, the Men's 40+ (open to anyone 40 and over) will be a ranking event on the CPRT this year. Significant prize money is being offered for the top four places and many former legends of the sport have already committed to compete. Players currently ranked in the Top 8 on the CPRT will start in the round of 16 while all other entries will work through a qualifying draw to reach the elite round of 16. Once we reach the finals, it will be played on Sunday morning on the stunning portable Stadium Court.

I predict that the 2007 US OPEN will feature the strongest Men's 40+ draw in the history of the sport of racquetball. It represents a bookmaker's nightmare, since there are literally 15 guys who can win the tournament. Here is the line on just some of the living legends you can expect to see compete at the US OPEN:

**Bret Harnett (3-1)** – Former #1 ranked pro player in the world, Bret Harnett still possesses devastating power and a modern game-style.

He has kept himself in tiptop shape and is used to dominating his competition. This left-hander will dazzle everyone with his thunderous splat shots and raw power. Look for Harnett to be a force to win the title.

**Woody Clouse (3-1)** – Never made it to the top on the pro tour but is perhaps the most dangerous 40+ player in the world today (except for Cliff Swain who is not eligible to compete due to his current top 16 ranking on the IRT). He is in incredible shape and has the most modern game-style of any CPRT player. Smart money would always have at least one bet on Woody to win.

**Ruben Gonzalez (4-1)** – Former #1 ranked player in the world, the living legend is now 54 years old and is still a physical "freak of nature." Although he is giving up quite a few years to many of his opponents in this draw Ruben still has as good a chance as any to win the title. Nobody has ever re-killed the ball better than Ruben in rallies and his "never say die" attitude often wears opponents out.

**Mike Ceresia (5-1)** – A true competitor, this Canadian bag of energy is always entertaining to watch. He is never happy on the court unless he is winning by 12 (which is rare) so fans can enjoy a true "gamer" in action. Don't be fooled

by his sour puss on the court. Nobody loves to compete more than Mike Ceresia! Regardless of who he is playing, Ceresia will find a way to be competitive and win points.

### Other hopeful attendees

At the time of this writing, other CPRT regulars considering entering include former top ranked pro's Mike Ray, Dan Obremski, Gerry Price, and Steve Lerner. If any or all of these guys show up, the pool of possible winners expands greatly.

### The perennials

Perhaps the most active and sharp players of all are the amateurs who compete in the Men's 40+ division at all the national tournaments each year. Guys like John Amatuli, Keith Minor, Jimmy Lowe, Tom Travers, Brad McCunniff, and Tim Hansen are all capable of beating anyone in the draw and winning the title. As I said earlier in this article, the 2007 US OPEN will feature the strongest draw of Men's 40+ players ever assembled in the sport of racquetball. For true racquetball fans, this division will offer yet another spectacle to enjoy at the US OPEN!

## The lineup & lowdown



IRT	Line
Jack Huczek	2-1
Jason Mannino	4-1
Rocky Carson	6-1
Mitch Williams	8-1
Cliff Swain	10-1
Sudsy Monchik	10-1
Shane Vanderson	11-1
Alvaro Beltran	12-1
Jason Thoerner	20-1
Ben Croft	40-1

WPRO	
Christie Van Hees	2-1
Rhonda Rajsich	2.5-1
Cheryl Gudinas-Holmes	3-1
Kerri Wachtel	4-1
Brenda Kyzer	7-1
Angela Grisar	8-1
Kristen Walsh	10-1
Adrienne Fisher	22-1

CPRT	
Bret Harnett	3-1
Woody Clouse	3-1
Ruben Gonzalez	4-1
Mike Ceresia	5-1

### Performance Factors/Burning Questions

Not if but when will he win his 1st US OPEN?  
Effort will not be an issue. Could be time for #3!  
Needs to play multiple matches at his best to win.  
Just realizing how good he is. Bad news for rest of draw!  
Will he come out of retirement for another run?  
A bookmakers nightmare! A fan favorite.  
Has to back up a match win with even more the next day.  
Does he have the fitness for back to back upsets?  
Loves to face the top guys at the big events.  
Has proven he can pull upsets. Can he string them together?

Can she join Sudsy as the only player to win 4?  
Lost to Van Hees in 06. Has revenge on her mind!  
Does she have one more left in her?  
Champ in 2001! Will the magic return?  
Cinderella in 06 with 2nd place finish. Can she win it all this year?  
The South American wonder will need to step it up to win in Memphis.  
Newlywed will need her best career performance to capture the title.  
Has the power but lacks the game. When will she prove us all wrong?

Former #1 in the world and still in great shape.  
Sharpest player with modern game-style.  
The "freak of nature" will be diving everywhere.  
Gritty competitor. Always entertaining to watch!

# TIPS FOR ATTENDING THE 2007 CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN

## Tip #1: ENTER EARLY!

The event has completely sold out each of the last three years. At 750 entries we cap the draw and last year we had to turn away nearly 50 people. Don't get shut out. Send in your entry today.

## Tip #2: ORDER TICKETS NOW!

You must have a ticket to view any of the pro matches, and although the Stadium Court seats over 1,000, the event is always a sell-out from the quarters on. No-shows can free up some session tickets "at the door" but it's risky to wait. By far, the best deal is to purchase the ticket package (\$99) for unlimited viewing for all pro matches for the entire week. This guarantees you a seat – but ticket packages are sold only in advance!

## Tip #3: ENTER TWO EVENTS

Court time restrictions (and the large draw) do not allow us to offer consolation divisions, so we strongly recommend you enter two divisions to be guaranteed at least two matches. Although players are limited to just two divisions there are a couple of exceptions. First, if you would like to play "up" into the Men's or Women's Pro draw (perhaps just for the experience?) you can still play in two amateur divisions, for a total of three events. Second, if at least one of your divisions is doubles, you can play in any third event you choose. For these two exceptions only, a third event is permitted.

## Tip #4: STAY AT THE HOST HOTELS

The official host hotels are the Comfort Inn & Suites and the SLEEP INN. By staying at the main host hotels you'll have the convenience of the complimentary shuttle running every half hour from the hotels to The Racquet Club and back and receive special room rates. These hotels will fill up VERY fast, so call to book your room immediately. For a complete list of hotels in the area offering special U.S. OPEN room blocks and rates visit [www.choicehotelsusopen.com](http://www.choicehotelsusopen.com) and click on "Hotels."

## Tip #5: BRING NICE CLOTHES AND YOUR DANCING SHOES!

One of the really fun parts of attending the U.S. OPEN is experiencing the many evening social activities offered, especially the Grand Gala – The Party with the Pro's. Racquetball or casual attire is not allowed at this bash, so "dress to impress" will be the rule!

## Tip #6: LAST FLIGHT OUT ON SUNDAY

Make sure you book the very latest flight you can get home on Sunday. The Men's Pro final is the last match of the tournament and you won't want to miss it. A packed house, booming music, laser light show introductions and the television cameras make this an experience like no other in the sport. The match usually ends around 2:30 pm so any evening flight will do. Can't get a late flight out? Consider going home Monday morning. It will be worth it!

Keep these tips in mind when making plans to attend the 2007 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN and you will have the inside track. Lastly, if you really want to experience everything the event has to offer and you have a few bucks laying around earmarked for "gifts for myself" here are a couple ideas to treat yourself to the ultimate VIP weekend.

## PRO-AM DOUBLES FOR ST. JUDE:

On the Tuesday night before the U.S. OPEN begins, a special fundraiser is held for the event's designated charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Have you ever dreamed of playing doubles with one of the best pro players in the world as YOUR partner? Well, here's your chance. For a \$325 donation to St. Jude you'll be one of 32 lucky amateurs to be paired up with top ranked men and women pros to compete in a single elimination draw. The evening will be fully catered and each amateur player will receive an autographed racquet from their pro partner. This popular event has sold out each of the last 11 years, so call (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 to request a Pro-Am Doubles Entry. The first 32 paid entrants will get the spots.

## PRO-AM DOUBLES FOR ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Want to treat yourself to an incredible racquetball experience while at the same time supporting a world-renowned charity devoted to caring for children with catastrophic illnesses? Well here may be your chance! On Tuesday evening Nov. 13th at the 2007 Choice Hotels US OPEN 32 lucky amateurs will team up with the top stars on the IRT and WPRO for a special Pro-Am Doubles tournament. A \$325 donation gets you into the draw, until 32 commitments are received. The evening features free food and drink, an autographed racquet from your pro partner, and a complimentary portrait with your pro partner.

Although this event has sold out each of the last 11 years, at the time of this writing there are still a handful of spots left. If you are interested in participating, call (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 to register.

## GOLD BOX LUXURY SEATING.

If you really want to go first class, consider purchasing a four-person, courtside GOLD Luxury Box. Most are already reserved for event sponsors, but a very limited number are available for individual purchase. The cost is \$2,800 for the week and includes 4 GOLD All-Access credentials, a four-person stadium courtside Luxury Box with your name on it (table service included), and unlimited access throughout the week to the fully catered PRO/GOLD lounge (only Top 16 ranked pro's, event sponsors, and VIPs allowed). If you are interested, please call (614) 890-6073 to check Luxury Box availability for the 2007 U.S. OPEN.





## Classic Professional Racquetball Tour Signs Three New Players Ceresia, Obremski and Price Join Line-up

The Classic Professional Racquetball Tour (CPRT) is excited to fill out the 2007-08 line-up with the commitments of three new players. Joining the CPRT for the coming season are:

Mike Ceresia (Burlington, Ontario, Canada) – Ceresia, 44, is one of the greatest players to come from Canada.



**Mike Ceresia**



**Dan Obremski**



**Gerry Price**

Price is a 15-time Olympic & World Firefighting Games Gold Medalist.

A top-ten IRT pro in his prime, Ceresia also has 5 World and 11 National Championships to his credit.

Dan Obremski (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) – Obremski is a 2005 inductee to the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame, a five-time National Doubles Champion, two-time World Doubles Champion, and two-time IRT Tournament of Champions winner.

Gerry Price (Danville, California) – Price, 43, was a top-five pro in the '80's following a junior career filled with national titles.

Currently a firefighter,

## 2007-08 CPRT SCHEDULE

The CPRT has confirmed its complete 2007-08 schedule starting off where last season finished – Las Vegas!

**September 7-9, 2007**

Las Vegas Doubles

**October 11-13, 2007**

Salem, OR

**November 15-17, 2007**

US OPEN – Memphis

**December 7-9, 2007**

Columbus, OH

Watch for the second half of the season's dates to be announced on [classicproracquetball.com](http://classicproracquetball.com).



## SANDELLO-JOHNSON PULL UPSET TO WIN CPRT WOR DOUBLES

The sun was shining for the WOR Ektelon World Championships, but the stars were out, too. Fans were treated to a true exhibition in vintage and new school racquetball as current and former

racquetball pros competed for the \$1,500 purse provided by the Classic Professional Racquetball Tour (CPRT). Outdoor pros like Rob Hoff, Rick Sandello, Jeff Johnson and Mike Peters were battling against former indoor pros like Bret Harnett, Ed Andrews and Ruben Gonzalez.

On the top of the draw holding the #1 seed was the team of Rob Hoff (2006 Men's pro finalist) and Ruben Gonzalez. The #2 seed was the team of Bret Harnett and local pro Mike Peters. Filling in the #3 and #4 seed slots were the teams of Rick Sandello/Jeff Johnson and Mickey Guido/Paul Dylewski.

The action began on Friday with awesome first round match-ups. Florida standouts Ken Grandy and Dave Smith showed local Southern California outdoor veterans John Ivers and Georges Barrera that the state of Florida was in the house and was a force to be reckoned with. Their thunder was short lived when they were beaten by Hoff and Gonzalez. Other quarterfinal match-ups included Ed Andrews and Scott Winters losing to Sandello and Johnson. The bottom half of the draw was packed full of excitement as Dennis French and Mike Beltran lost a tough 11-4 tie breaker to Dylewski and Guido. Lastly, Harnett and Peters made quick work of Jimmy Banuelos and Roland Grassl. Banuelos and Grassl had their hands full as Peters was doing his very best to coach the Classic indoor pro in the "outdoor" ways. Peters' diligent schooling paid off as he and Harnett literally "rolled" past Dylewski and Guido in a hard fought 11-9 tie breaker in the semifinals. The second semifinal match featured Hoff and Gonzalez versus Sandello and Johnson. The latter knew they had to step it up a notch to beat the seasoned vets and did just that by converting multi-shot rallies and hitting plenty of bombs for winners. The #1 seeds went down and the finals were set with Sandello and Johnson playing Harnett and Peters.



**CPRT outdoor finalists L to R: Bret Harnett, Mike Peters, Rick Sandello, Jeff Johnson**

With more than double the teams than entered last year's 40+ division, the 16-team draw was down to the finals. Viewing was limited; there was no extra room! Tents, portable sunshades and chairs lined the featured court. The crowd was amped and it was standing room only. Sandello and Johnson began by serving Harnett deep two-wall serves that left only Peters on the court to fend for himself. This strategy paid off as they cruised

to an easy 15-7 win. The tables quickly turned as Harnett and Peters began diving and re-killing to put pressure on the two outdoor vets. Harnett and Peters won the second game 15-6 and anxiously awaited the tiebreaker. With numerous sideouts, Sandello and Johnson took a quick lead but Harnett and Peters threw a mixed bag of lobs and rollouts to bring the game to 10-10. Harnett served and Sandello barely got a racquet on the service return to hit a frame kill, get back in the service box and eventually close out the match!



**CPRT #1 Ruben Gonzalez & Rob Hoff serving in the semis; Bret Harnett serving on the way to the finals; Racquetball legend Ed Andrews came outdoor & teamed with Ektelon's Scott Winters**



# CARSON & RAJSICH BRIGHTEST STARS AT WOR EKTELON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

"The Biggest & The Best!" That was the comment heard around the event throughout the week. This year's WOR Ektelon World Championships (July 12-15) brought to Huntington Beach all the top stars of the outdoor game highlighted this year by the #1 ranked indoor player, Jack Huczek! Huczek hit the So Cal short wall courts for the first time and showed why he is so dominant, running through the Pro Singles draw until he ran into three-time champion and #1 outdoor player, Rocky Carson. The two #1's put on a show, but Carson proved too good and too experienced. Carson later made it a WOR sweep when he teamed with #1 ranked WOR doubles player Rob Hoff to win the Pro Doubles over Greg Solis and Clubber Lane in a thrilling match. Fellow Ektelon team member Rhonda Rajsich one-upped Rocky by winning all three events she entered: Women's, Mixed, & Women's Doubles. Amateur players from twelve

states, including a large group from Florida plus overflow spectators, communed with the sun and perpetual barbecue to make this year's event the best party in Huntington Beach. One of the most exciting aspects was the number and quality of juniors hitting the outdoor courts.

At the top in the 18 + Under Singles, 14-year-old Jose Diaz from Stockton, California took home the title with a 21-20 victory over 17-year-old Brandon Davis of Fountain Valley.

Congratulations to Champions crowned at the WOR Ektelon World Championships in Huntington Beach, California!



Rhonda Rajsich



Rocky Carson

## 2007 WOR EKTELON WORLD CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Champions crowned at the WOR Ektelon World Championships in Huntington Beach, California!

### RESULTS

#### PRO

**PRO SINGLES:-** Rocky Carson

**PRO DOUBLES:** Rob Hoff / Rocky Carson

**CPRT 40+ Pro Doubles:** Jeff Johnson / Rick Sandello

**CPRT 40+ Pro Doubles Consolation:** John Ivers / Georges Barrera

#### AMATEUR SINGLES

**Open:** Mike Orr

**A:** Robby Johnson

**B:** Jose Diaz

**C:** Darrin McNally

**40+:** John Ivers

**50+:** Craig Powell

**Women's:** Rhonda Rajsich

#### AMATEUR DOUBLES

**Open:** Jesus Ustarroz / Jesus Ocana

**A:** Chris McDonald / Jack McDonald

**B:** Joe Mears / Ramiro Gil

**50+:** Greg McDonald / Martha McDonald

**Women's:** Martha McDonald / Rhonda Rajsich

**Mixed Upper:** John Ellis / Rhonda Rajsich

**Mixed Lower:** Darrell Baricuatro / Jennifer Carson

#### JUNIORS

**Singles 10 & Under:** Nick Sandello

**Singles 12 & Under:** Dane Kazem

**Singles 14 & Under:** Sam Barrera

**Singles 18 & Under:** Jose Diaz

**Doubles:** Andrew Martin / David Nguyen



# Racquetball Association of Michigan

## What would you say is the key to having a successful state organization?

It is essential to have a large, motivated group of leaders involved. The Racquetball Association of Michigan Board of Directors is fortunate to include many of Michigan's racquetball leaders. As we know, it takes a lot of volunteer time to keep an organization innovating and growing; our Board members always lead the way. Outside of their Board duties, our members run most of Michigan's local tournaments; they represent each of the racquet manufacturers including most of the state's regional coordinators; and they are influential in their own clubs as instructors and program directors.

## What are the most successful programs in your state?

Like most states, we are always looking to grow the sport. Last season RAM Board Member Don Schopieray proposed and ran a Junior Fantastic Four Racquetball Series with assistance from the Board and the local tournaments. Four tournaments were selected to host special Junior divisions where they competed based on skill level, not age. Points were accumulated by participation in each event as well as winning. Any Junior who played received a special prize and overall series champions were crowned at the year-end banquet. It increased participation, rewarded the Juniors who competed in each event, and produced some very competitive matches. Over a third of the matches went to a tie-breaker! In its first year, this initiative was a huge success and we can't wait for the coming season. (Note: We are working on a similar program for Women players throughout the 2007-2008 season.)

## What is the #1 complaint that you hear as USA racquetball state representative?

We all hear the comments about the membership fee. Personally, I've never felt it to be a real deterrent, but more of an excuse. While we all need to be careful about how we spend our money, many of the people who give this as a reason for not playing tournaments are usually on their way to drop \$35 on dinner and a beverage or two.

A more realistic complaint is that we are all busy. The players of the "Glory Days" of the 1970s and 1980s now have kids, and grandkids, and a million other priorities.

What we all need to focus on is that this is a sport for all ages. If you play, bring your kids out. Bring your grandkids out. It's a great excuse to get some exercise, have some fun and spend some quality time with them. We need to continue to get people back onto the courts.

## During your tenure, what would you consider as your state's greatest accomplishment?

RAM has many things to be proud of. Since I joined, our Board has grown from 6 members to 12, we have kept a consistent membership base despite the challenges we all face, we have expanded from 3 or 4 tournaments to 15 tournaments spread across the state, and we continue to develop new exciting and innovative programs to help the sport grow.

## If you could share some advice what would it be?

It's simple: If you want racquetball to continue to grow, pitch in and help.

It doesn't take much. You can play in a couple tournaments. You can bring a friend back to racquetball. You can bring a relative or friend to racquetball for the first time. You can sponsor a local tournament. If you see a kid hitting on a court by himself, ask if he wants to play a game. Don't we all want to make sure we have someone to play in 20 years? Start with a kid!

Find a way to support the game. If you have a nice tournament shirt, wear it out in public and talk about the sport. I'm amazed how many people will wear a golf club shirt, but not one from their racquetball club. Or perhaps they'll wear a t-shirt from a 3-on-3 basketball tournament but not a racquetball tournament. It pays to advertise.

## What makes racquetball in your state special?

Michigan has a rich history in the annals of Racquetball. We boast some of the greatest pros in history, from Mike Yellen to Steve Keeley to current #1 Jack Huczek. The



By Twayne Howard

RAM Hall of Fame includes Stu Hastings, one of the greatest clinicians the sport has ever known; leaders of the national organizations, from Dr. Jim Hiser, to Jim Easterling to Ron Puddock; and National and World Champions from Craig Finger to Chris Cole to Jimmy Floyd and Joel Bonnett. Our future looks bright as well with a vibrant and growing Juniors program.

## STATE BOARD MEMBERS:

Twayne Howard – President  
Jack White – Vice President  
Don Schopieray – Secretary  
Tom Blakeslee – Treasurer  
Randy Pagels – Webmaster  
Ron Barton  
Joseph Budzynski  
Alan Coyle  
Lewis Forrest  
Sharon Huczek  
Daniel Mullin  
Paula Saad



Membership Strength: 440

Lifetime Members: 3

## Major Colleges/Universities, to name just a few:

- The University of Michigan
- Michigan State University
- Central Michigan University
- Western Michigan University
- Eastern Michigan University
- Grand Valley State University
- Saginaw Valley State University
- Ferris State University
- Lake Superior State University
- Northern Michigan University



# 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 #

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



# NMRA 2007 INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Bruce Adams, NMRA Secretary



The 2007 National Masters Racquetball Association's (NMRA's) International Championships were held July 25th-28th at the beautiful Athletic Club of Overland Park, Kansas. The facility has nine courts on three levels; a full-

service Pro Shop; spacious locker rooms; full-service bar with viewing of two courts with full back glass walls. There is also a sister club, the Fox Hill Club, about two miles away with six courts. Both venues accommodated 192 participants in singles, doubles and mixed doubles divisions. There were 24 divisions from 45 years young to 90+ years younger, with 14 divisions in doubles. Additionally, there were about 50 first-time NMRA players in the tournament.

There was the usual celebratory banquet, and this year the theme was based on *The Wizard of Oz* (naturally, since we were in Kansas). The theme included the video of the movie on two large screens and sound clips throughout the evening. The program opened with a color guard from Boy Scout Troop 222 from Stanley, Kansas presenting the colors of the United States and the State of Kansas. Troopers Luke MacKenzie, Andy Romisch and Matt Schmitz then led us all in the Pledge of Allegiance. All three participants got a roaring round of applause when it was mentioned that they are members of the Kansas Junior Racquetball Program.

Former marathoner, locomotive fireman and NMRA Board member Ken Moore of California became the 33rd inductee into the NMRA Hall of Fame. Ken had eight guests witness this historic moment, including his lovely wife Claudia. The Hall of Fame held its first ceremony in 1996 when 19 people were inducted. Amos Rosenbloom received the Sportsperson Award from his doubles partner Cap Hiles.

Mike Martin celebrated his 80th birthday on Friday while at the tournament. His four children had not seen him play before Thursday of that week. So they got to see him play, attended the banquet and had a surprise cake rolled into the ballroom when the 220 banquet attendees sang "Happy Birthday."

Some of the winners: Shari Coplen, Lynette Froehlich and Sharon Huczek in the Women's 45, 50 and 55, respectively; Dave Negrete, Thomas Travers and Tony Upkes in the Men's 45, 50 and 55; and Troy Stallings / Laura Fenton, Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Frank Taddonio, and Tony Upkes / Nancy Kronenfeld in the 45, 50 and 55 Mixed Doubles. For complete results of the NMRA International Championships, go to the NMRA website at [www.nmra.info](http://www.nmra.info) or go to the R2Sports Virtual Tournament Bracket Software website [www.R2Sports.com](http://www.R2Sports.com) for even more details on the event and player/division results.



The Board of Directors decided at Portland, Oregon to use the R2Sports.com tournament software for this event. "There was a 30% entry rate using the software," noted Treasurer Steve Cohen. "We approved a couple of changes to the software to handle our event. One such change was double round robins." Tournament directors Tom Curran and Jim Elliott enjoyed having the software's database to manage draws, court scheduling, memberships and scorecards. Players and spectators got to watch for Live Matches, Upcoming Matches and Recent Matches on a 42" screen. Thanks to Dave Negrete for use of his pagers to ease the burden of "tracking down players when the court is ready." There were 42 women (22% of the entrants) participating in the tournament and we are already raising the bar for the next tournament.

Nine sponsors supported the NMRA 2007 International Championships: Ektelon; IRT Pro Tour; Lamar Donuts; Marriott Hotels; Overland Park Athletic Club; OneShot; Liberty Fruit; Miller Brewing Company; and the Overland Park Visitors Bureau.

The purpose of the NMRA is to promote the sport of racquetball "for the player 45+ years of age who has a desire to compete against some of the finest masters players in the world through Sportsmanship-Camaraderie-Friendship-Competition." Two round-robin tournaments are held annually, typically west in March and east in July. Membership is over 1,000 players, and first-time members can play their first tournament for free.

The NMRA would love to have you join us in Orem, Utah from March 4th-8th, 2008 for the National Championships. Orem is about 40 miles south of Salt Lake City, near Provo. There is plenty of racquetball, hospitality and touristy things to do in the Wild, Wild West of the United States, including skiing and snowboarding. Check out [www.nmra.info](http://www.nmra.info) for the upcoming application and other information about the tournament. We hope to see you there!

As always, we are looking for sites for future tournaments. If you know of a club (or clubs) with 20 courts or more that would love to host our friendly members, please contact Paul Banales at [banstoll@peoplepc.com](mailto:banstoll@peoplepc.com) or any of the NMRA Board of Directors to get the ball rolling.





# Elite Racquetball Camp

## — Finding Your Inner Self

by Kim Roy – Tampa, FL

There is something about the Elite Racquetball Camp in Colorado Springs that cannot be expressed in words, but rather via the gamut of emotions that are experienced throughout the week spent at the Olympic Training Center. Imagine the possibility of attending the Elite Racquetball Camp. Imagine arriving at the Colorado Springs airport and being greeted by Coach Jim Winterton and #1 WPRO Rhonda Rajsich. Imagine being on the Olympic Training Center campus, catching sight of the Olympic rings, viewing the impressive statues, and signing in at the athlete center. Imagine waking up at 6am to crisp mountain air and running 2.5 miles: imagination meets reality.

I arrived at the elite camp unsure I would complete all the running. I was scared and intimidated about the challenges that lay ahead. Are you interested in Elite Racquetball Camp next year? Are you questioning if you can do it? Are you wondering if you can run every morning? I am here to tell you that you can do it. There is an amazing bond that develops from the moment you meet the other campers. Positive energy, enthusiasm, and motivation -- this is what will help you find your own inner self.

Five women attended the elite camp this year. Sophia (Mexico), an amazing 14-year-old racquetball player, all heart, tried desperately to teach me Spanish; it was a losing battle. Tara (New York) was an incredible motivator for the other campers during the Hell Day simulation run. Ly (Alaska) was an inspiration. Genevieve (Ohio) taught me that everyone has their own fears and struggles, but together we can go further than we thought possible!

I grew up in the country with a huge supportive family. High school, college and grad school were relatively easy for me. I loved solving problems and decided to become an engineer. Masters in Electrical Engineering - piece of cake. I worked with robots, prosthetic arms, proprietary high frequency microchips. Then one day, my life changed drastically. Nine years ago I had an ischemic stroke in the left side of my brain. I woke up, disoriented, dizzy, confused, unstable, and unable to communicate. The doctors told me I would never return to engineering, that I might not get any better, that I might not walk, talk or think the same way again. I was not able to communicate my thoughts effectively. My career was gone.

Five months later, it happened again. I had to learn how to talk, walk and think all over again. A lot of people call me resilient, persistent, tenacious. But I only did what I thought I had to do. And today, I am an amazement to doctors and therapists.

Think back in your life... is there something that you never imagined accomplishing? Is there something that you wanted so much that you dug deep and committed your heart and soul to achieving that goal? Life is about finding that inner place... that place you didn't think you could get to... the place that you must get to in order to meet higher goals. This camp taught me that I was able to get back to that place.

Looking back at my camp notes, I see so many different racquetball topics that we covered:

Aerobic Conditioning; Dynamic and Static Stretching; Video Analysis; Forehand/ Backhand; Serves/ Return of Serve; Doubles; What it Takes to be #1; Learning from your failures; Getting your mind into the Now; Footwork / Agility Training; Visualization; Sports Psychology; Goal Setting; Obstacles/ Distractions; Weight Training. What I remember most is a short conversation with Jo Shattuck and Rhonda Rajsich about pushing myself beyond my known limitations to achieve my goals. I thought a lot that particular day and realized I had the capacity to do whatever I wanted to do in life. I had done it before and I was about to do it again!

For me, this camp was about finding my inner strength, power and confidence. And being able to retrieve it on demand! It is about doing and achieving exactly what I didn't think I could do but wanted to do. Dig deep. Dream high. Imagine success. And, meet me in Colorado Springs next summer for the Elite Camp! Contact me anytime via e-mail at kimberly\_roy@hotmail.com.

Two more campers share thoughts from Elite Racquetball Camp:

"This racquetball camp is very intense and the toughest camp you will ever attend. There is not a better place to hold a racquetball camp than the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. This was an experience of a lifetime. I was being trained by the best racquetball coaches ever and some of the top pros on tour. When I heard about the coaching staff, I knew I would need to be in the best shape of my life just to survive." -- Joey Salamone, age 16

"I had a great time at this camp, one I will never forget. It pushed me physically and mentally to my limits every day. I definitely want to come back next year and hope I get the opportunity. This camp is very demanding, but if you attend it will bring your game to the next level. You will return home with memories that will last you a lifetime. My dad once told me, "The most important thing that will happen during my racquetball career will be the friendships that I will make along the way." I have made a lot of friendships already and just think, I'm only 15 years old. I look forward to much more to come." -- Nick Montalbano, age 15



**Front Row** (Muhammad Diab, Nuri Diab, Ben Kinsces, Tara Dimaggio, Kim Roy, Sophia Rascon, Robert Hoffman, Nick Hoffman, Coach Jim Winterton)

**Row 2** (Coach Dennis Fisher, IRT Pro Mitch Williams (U.S. National Champion), Christopher Knight, Asher Cohen, Rajiv Varadarajan, John Sanderson, Paul Marsek, Ray Godefroid, Clayton Newberry, Genevieve Washington)

**Row 3** (Doug Holt, Mauro Barbarosa, Ly Abbott, Anthony Bess, Wil Mercado, Kevin Kissel, Matt Vonderheide, Chris Milkes, Scott Hack, Miguel Prudencio, WPRO Jo Shattuck, WPRO Rhonda Rajsich (U.S. National Champion))

**Row 4** (Galen Reding, Randy Buffington, Richie Aaron, Matt Gillette, Nick Montalbano, Joey Salamone, Joe Hoffman, Andrew Lickenbrock, Andrew Zack, Spencer Rusch)



Event Sponsor **Penn**

Presented by **HEAD**

## Junior Olympic Championship

Michelle Key and Jose Rojas Dominate the 18's.

With U.S. Junior Team positions on the line, the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship is the premier junior event of the year! This year's team, selected from the winners of the Junior Olympics, will travel to Cochabamba, Bolivia from December 14th-20th to compete in the IRF Junior World Championships. Although the U.S. is not the favored team (they placed second in the last three IRF events), this year's team should prove strong. In 2007, the U.S. lost by only 24 points. Although normally dominant in the Boys' 18 & Under, the U.S. accumulated 0 points in 2006. With Jose Rojas, Ishmael Aldana and Allen Crockett all possible competitors in the 18's, the U.S. could avenge its 2006 defeat and provide the needed margin of victory for the U.S.

Here are some highlights from the June tournament, held in Tempe, Arizona:

### Outstanding Accomplishment – Triple Gold Medalist

Aubrey O'Brien, 14, medaled in Girls' 14 & Under Singles, Girls' 14 & Under Doubles and Mixed 14 & Under Doubles.

### Best Overall Team

Boasting the most team members attending, Team California racked up 919.5 points, finally replacing Oregon as the #1 Junior team in the U.S. The two states' teams have been neck-and-neck for the past seven years.

### Biggest Upset

Seeded #7 going into the event, Holly Hettesheimer defeated #2 seed Kara Mazur in the Girls' 18 & Under quarterfinals. This

is the first time Holly has defeated Kara in a national event.

### Most Dominant Display

In the Boys' 16 & Under, Jose Rojas, 16, played 5 matches with no opponent accumulating over 5 points in any one game. Jose also won the Boys' 18 & Under Singles.

### Almost as Dominant

In the Girls' 18 & Under, Michelle Key, 18 breezed through to the Gold by winning every match in two straight games and never allowing her opponents to score double digits in any game.

### Most Impressive Newcomer

Unseeded in Girls 12 & Under, Kelani Bailey upset the #2 and #3 seeds on her way to winning the Gold and earning a position on the U.S. Junior Esprit Team.

### Most Entertaining

Dylan Reid vs. Jose Diaz  
Divisions-Boys 14 Singles

Dylan fought back from a 10-7 deficit and overcame 4 service opportunities by Jose to win the match. Both players exhibited unbelievable shot making and diving abilities combined with great sportsmanship and entreating athleticism.

### Stats

Top 4 seeds reaching the semifinals – 85.7 %  
Entries by gender – 78% Male, 22% Female  
Played 2 divisions – 54.2%  
Played 3 divisions – 32.7%



Aubrey O'Brien and Jacob Pritchard



Jose Rojas and Michelle Key



Dylan Reid





**BOYS B6/8MB - ROUND ROBIN**

1st: Sean Henry - Georgetown, IN  
 2nd: Jack Kulju - Seattle, WA  
 3rd: Christian Ulliman - Westerville, OH

**BOYS 8 & UNDER GOLD - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Jordan Barth - Cold Spring, MN  
 2nd: Justus Benson - Sun Prairie, WI  
 3rd: Warren Bailey

**BOYS 8 & UNDER BLUE - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Mauro Rojas - Stockton, CA  
 2nd: Jack Kulju - Seattle, WA  
 3rd: Sean Henry - Georgetown, IN

**BOYS 8 & UNDER RED - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Spencer McCarthy - Mesa, AZ  
 2nd: Jordan Birnel - Bellingham, WA

**BOYS 10 & UNDER GOLD - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Spencer Shoemaker - Findlay, OH  
 2nd: Sam Bredenbeck - Marine On St Croix, MN  
 3rd: Ryan Francis - Litchfield, NH

**BOYS 10 & UNDER BLUE - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Kyle Ulliman - Westerville, OH  
 2nd: Zachary Walz - Grand Forks, ND  
 3rd: Matt McAdam - Englewood, CO

**BOYS 10 & UNDER RED - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Jesse Mendoza - Tucson, AZ  
 2nd: Esteban Diaz - Stockton, CA  
 3rd: Cory Zeng - Troy, MI

**BOYS 10 & UNDER WHITE - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Jordan Barth - Cold Spring, MN  
 2nd: Derek Lynn - Odenton, MD  
 3rd: Justus Benson - Sun Prairie, WI

**BOYS 12 & UNDER GOLD - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Zachary Wertz - Kenner, LA  
 2nd: Sam Reid - Portland, OR  
 3rd: John (Steven) Lindsay

**BOYS 12 & UNDER BLUE - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Trevor Deason - Whittman, AZ  
 2nd: Sawyer Lloyd - Petaluma, CA  
 3rd: Robert Hemphill - Fosters, AL

**BOYS 12 & UNDER RED - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Sean Cooperrider - Palm Harbor, FL  
 2nd: Nicholas Riffel - Loveland, CO  
 3rd: Matthew Wray - Huron, OH

**BOYS 12 & UNDER WHITE - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Paul Frondorf - Arlington, VA  
 2nd: Steven Boyle - Beaverton, OR  
 3rd: Matthew Mejia

**BOYS 14 & UNDER GOLD - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Marco Rojas - Stockton, CA  
 2nd: Dylan Reid - Portland, OR  
 3rd: Jose Diaz, Jr. - Stockton, CA

**BOYS 14 & UNDER BLUE - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Joshua Hungerford - Milwaukie, OR  
 2nd: Jacob Boyle - Beaverton, OR  
 3rd: Alex Guzman - Stockton, CA

**BOYS 14 & UNDER RED - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: William Craig - San Antonio, TX  
 2nd: Kamal Lachmansingh - Chesapeake, VA  
 3rd: Ryan Kelly

**BOYS 14 & UNDER WHITE - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Doug Ganim, Jr. - Westerville, OH  
 2nd: Gunner Sledgeski - Crofton, MD  
 3rd: Mark Brower - Hudson, OH

**BOYS 16 & UNDER GOLD - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Jose Rojas - Stockton, CA  
 2nd: Taylor Knoth - Milwaukie, OR  
 3rd: Bradley Kirch - Syracuse, NY

**BOYS 16 & UNDER BLUE - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Tyler Otto - Chesterfield, MO  
 2nd: Eric Lampley - Southaven, MS  
 3rd: Michael Bone

**BOYS 16 & UNDER RED - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Brian Nichols - Auburn, WA  
 2nd: Justin Ivers - Murrieta, CA  
 3rd: Jeffrey Pyne

**BOYS 16 & UNDER WHITE - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Jared Imhausen - Medford, OR  
 2nd: Jonathan Alvarado - Bedford, NH  
 3rd: Todd Elias Jr.

**BOYS 18 & UNDER GOLD - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Jose Rojas - Stockton, CA USA  
 2nd: Ismael Aldana, Jr. - Stockton, CA  
 3rd: Allan Crockett - Birmingham, AL

**BOYS 18 & UNDER BLUE - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Brandon Callihan - Peoria, AZ  
 2nd: Grant Stalley - Beaverton, OR  
 3rd: David Horn - Stockton, CA

**BOYS 18 & UNDER RED - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: J. Benjamin Spooner - Manakin, VA  
 2nd: Johnny Melgaard - Coeur D'Alene, ID  
 3rd: Danny Salamone

**BOYS 18 & UNDER WHITE - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Eric Atchison - Northfield, MN  
 2nd: Nick Johnson - Northfield, MN  
 3rd: Kyle Fosdick

**BOYS DOUBLES 10 & UNDER - SINGLE ELIMINATION**

1st: Kyle Ulliman / Spencer Shoemaker  
 2nd: Matt McAdam / Sam Bredenbeck  
 3rd: Jake Birnel / Ryan Francis

**BOYS DOUBLES 12 & UNDER - SINGLE ELIMINATION**

1st: Adam Manilla / Sean Cooperrider  
 2nd: John (Steven) Lindsay / Sam Reid  
 3rd: Mitchell Hardin / Sawyer Lloyd

**BOYS DOUBLES 14 & UNDER - SINGLE ELIMINATION**

1st: Dylan Reid / Joseph Lee  
 2nd: Jose Diaz, Jr. / Marco Rojas  
 3rd: Chase Stanley / Zachary Wertz





# 2007 JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIP

## BOYS DOUBLES 16 & UNDER - SINGLE ELIMINATION

- 1st: Jake Bredenbeck / Taylor Knoth
- 2nd: John-Craig Chisholm / Bradley Kirch
- 3rd: Miguel Wiggins / Trevor Sniders

## BOYS DOUBLES 18 & UNDER - SINGLE ELIMINATION

- 1st: Ismael Aldana, Jr. / Danny Lavelly
- 2nd: Allan Crockett / Jonathan Doyle
- 3rd: Jacob Hutkins / Jansen Allen

## GIRLS G6/8MB - ROUND ROBIN

- 1st: Jordan Cooperrider - Palm Harbor, FL USA
- 2nd: Mary Zeng - Troy, MI USA
- 3rd: Christina Lavelly - Cuyahoga, FL

## GIRLS 8 & UNDER GOLD - OLYMPIC FORMAT

- 1st: Erica Manilla - Centennial, CO
- 2nd: Jordan Cooperrider - Palm Harbor, FL
- 3rd: Mary Zeng - Tray, MI

## GIRLS 8 & UNDER RED - OLYMPIC FORMAT

- 1st: Sierra Reid - Portland, OR
- 2nd: Kaitlyn Boyle - Beaverton, OR
- 3rd: Victoria Leon

## GIRLS 10 & UNDER GOLD - OLYMPIC FORMAT

- 1st: Elizabeth Vargas - Aurora, CO
- 2nd: Erica Manilla - Centennial, CO
- 3rd: Alicia Fladstol - Conrad, MI

## GIRLS 10 & UNDER RED - OLYMPIC FORMAT

- 1st: Kaitlyn Simmons - Crofton, MD
- 2nd: Abby Carter - Tampa, FL
- 3rd: Krystle Boyle - Beaverton, OR

## GIRLS 12 & UNDER GOLD - OLYMPIC FORMAT

- 1st: Kelani Bailey - Norfolk, VA
- 2nd: Sabrina Viscuso - Auburn, CA
- 3rd: Mercedes Arias - Ann Arbor, MI

## GIRLS 12 & UNDER RED - OLYMPIC FORMAT

- 1st: Samantha Simmons - Crofton, MD
- 2nd: Abbey Lavelly - Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- 3rd: Victoria Fladstol - Conrad, MI

## GIRLS 14 & UNDER GOLD - OLYMPIC FORMAT

- 1st: Aubrey O'Brien - Auburn, CA
- 2nd: Devon Pimentelli - San Bruno, CA
- 3rd: Courtney Chisholm - Malborough, MA

## GIRLS 14 & UNDER BLUE - OLYMPIC FORMAT

- 1st: Jessica Munoz - Burlington, WA
- 2nd: Jacquelyn Rosado - Meriden, CT
- 3rd: Anna Thorndike - Medford, OR

## GIRLS 14 & UNDER RED - OLYMPIC FORMAT

- 1st: Amanda Lindsay - Oregon City, OR
- 2nd: Elizabeth Simmons - Crofton, MD
- 3rd: Savannah McVay

## GIRLS 16 & UNDER - ROUND ROBIN

- 1st: Sheryl Lotts - Bedford, OH
- 2nd: Danielle Key - Gilbert, AZ
- 3rd: Kaylea Henderson





**GIRLS 18 & UNDER GOLD - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Michelle Key - Gilbert, AZ  
 2nd: Sharon Jackson - Shelbyville, IN  
 3rd: Samantha McGuffey - Cincinnati, OH

**GIRLS 18 & UNDER BLUE - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Gabrielle Shnurman - Prole, IA  
 2nd: Sue Sublaban - Stockton, CA  
 3rd: Teresa Diaz - Stockton, CA

**GIRLS 18 & UNDER RED - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Brittany Legget - Klamath Falls, OR  
 2nd: Shanae Taylor - Shelbyville, IN  
 3rd: Emily Melgaard - Coeur D'Alene, ID

**GIRLS 18 & UNDER WHITE - OLYMPIC FORMAT**

1st: Kara Donnithorne - Salem, OR  
 2nd: Cassi Dieringer - Oregon City, OR

**GIRLS DOUBLES 10 & UNDER - ROUND ROBIN**

1st: Abby Carter / Kaitlyn Simmons  
 2nd: Ashley O'Brien / Julia Lanman  
 3rd: Ashley Boyle / Krystle Boyle

**GIRLS DOUBLES 12 & UNDER - ROUND ROBIN**

1st: Hollee Hungerford / Sabrina Viscuso  
 2nd: Abbey Lavelly / Elizabeth Vargas  
 3rd: Alicia Fladstol / Victoria Fladstol

**GIRLS DOUBLES 14 & UNDER - ROUND ROBIN**

1st: Aubrey O'Brien / Lily Berry  
 2nd: Courtney Chisholm / Devon Pimentelli  
 3rd: Jacquelyn Rosado / Samantha Rosado

**GIRLS DOUBLES 16 & UNDER - ROUND ROBIN**

1st: Danielle Key / Sheryl Lotts  
 2nd: Brianna Ho / Jessica Munoz  
 3rd: Kaylea Henderson / Savannah McVay

**GIRLS DOUBLES 18 & UNDER - ROUND ROBIN**

1st: Kara Mazur / Samantha McGuffey  
 2nd: Holly Hettesheimer / Sharon Jackson  
 3rd: Gabrielle Shnurman / Michelle Key

**JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES 10 & UNDER - SINGLE ELIMINATION**

1st: Erica Manilla / Matt McAdam  
 2nd: Derek Lynn / Kaitlyn Simmons  
 3rd: Ashley O'Brien / Esteban Diaz

**JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES 12 & UNDER - SINGLE ELIMINATION**

1st: Bobby Sehrgosha / Sabrina Viscuso  
 2nd: Kelani Bailey / Sam Zeng  
 3rd: Hollee Hungerford / John (Steven) Lindsay

**JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES 14 & UNDER - SINGLE ELIMINATION**

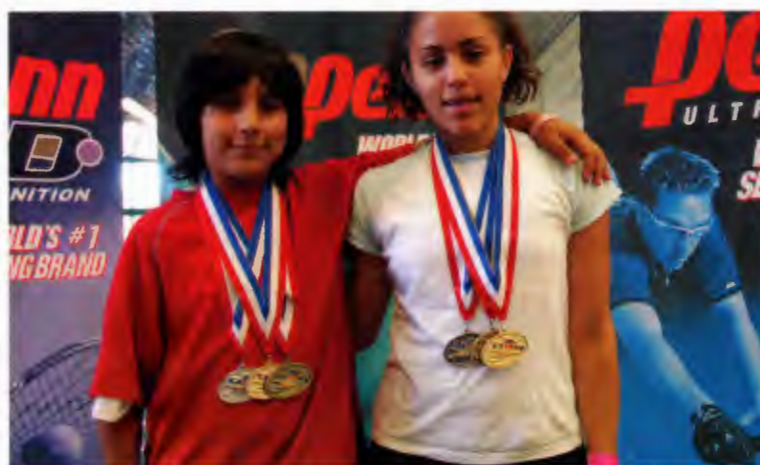
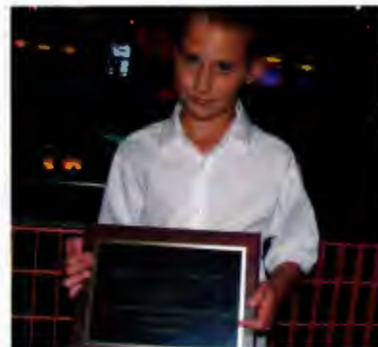
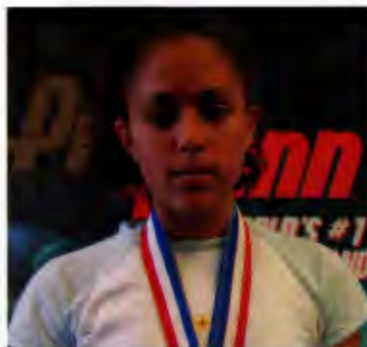
1st: Jose Diaz, Jr. / Samantha Rosado  
 2nd: Courtney Chisholm / Dylan Reid  
 3rd: Amanda Lindsay / Joshua Hungerford

**JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES 16 & UNDER - ROUND ROBIN**

1st: Aubrey O'Brien / Jacob Pritchard  
 2nd: Jacob Boyle / Kaylea Henderson

**JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES 18 & UNDER - SINGLE ELIMINATION**

1st: Kara Mazur / Richard Sledzik  
 2nd: Ismael Aldana, Jr. / Samantha McGuffey  
 3rd: Sharon Jackson / Allan Crockett







Junior Elite Team



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New Jr Elite

Sharon Jackson-IN  
18 & Under  
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16 & UNDER

DYLAN REID-OR  
14 & UNDER

SAM REID-OR  
12 & UNDER

ADAM MANILLA-CO  
12 & UNDER

JAKE BRENDENBECK-MN  
16 & UNDER

JEROME JACKSON-MA  
18 & UNDER

GEOFF GOLDBLATT-IL  
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14 & UNDER  
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### TWELVE RACQUETBALL POWER PATENTS

#6,764,417 #6,935,974 #7,077,768B2 #6,447,412B1  
#6,958,104 #6,796,916 #7,144,341B1 #5,919,104  
#D476,386S #6,852,048 #7,140,958B2 #7,097,576

**EXCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGIES  
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### PATENTED EXTREME LONGSTRING TECHNOLOGY

- Massive Power from Increased Stringbed Deflection
- Mains Extend in Free Space from Head Through Handle for Lethal Power
- All Crosses Extend to Outside Edges of the Frame, in Free Space, For Maximized Power

Patent #5,919,104



**ALL STRINGS ARE  
LONGEST POSSIBLE**

### PATENTED DUAL CYLINDER CONSTRUCTION

- Incredible Power & Stringbed Deflection. All Strings Are Longest Possible
- Creates Solid, Stable Hitting Platform
- Prevents Twist, Adds Power

Patent #7,077,768B2  
And Patents Pending



**TWO-CYLINDER DESIGN  
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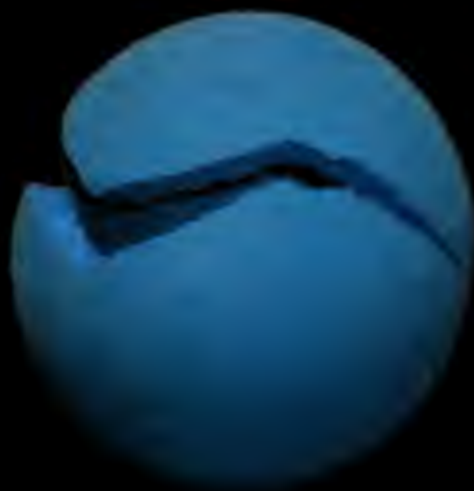
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## NEW BEDLAM DAGGER

### TWELVE RACQUETBALL POWER PATENTS

12

#6,764,417 #6,935,974 #7,077,768B2  
#6,447,412B1 #6,958,104 #6,796,916  
#7,144,341B1 #5,919,104 #D476,386S  
#6,852,048 #7,140,958B2 #7,097,576

EXCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGIES  
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### NEW PATENTED DUAL CYLINDER POWER ZONES



#### TWO-CYLINDER FRAME DESIGN IN CORNERS

- Corner Crosses and Mains Are Longest Possible for Increased Power
- Stabilizes Head of Frame for Solid Feel at Impact
- Prevents Twist, Adds Power and Control

Patent #7,077,768B2  
And Patents Pending

### PATENTED LONGSTRING SUPER-MAINS



- Massive Power from Increased Stringbed Deflection
- All Mains Extend In Free Space from Head Through Handle for Vicious Power

Patent #5,919,104

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- Aerodynamic Frame Shape for Faster Swing Speed
- Super-Thick Frame Walls Add Stiffness and Power

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## Camp Schedule

### Weekend Camps 2007/2008

October 19-21	Sarasota, FL
October 26-28	Portland, OR
November 2-4	TBA
November 9-11	Greensboro, NC
January 25-27	TBA
February 1-3	Las Vegas, NV
February 8-10	Seattle, WA
February 29-March 2	Rochester, MN
March 28-30	Dayton, OH
April 18-20	Overland Park, KS
April 11-13	Seattle, WA
(Women's Only with Christine Van Housen)	
May 30-June 1	San Diego, CA
June 6-8	TBA
July 19-20 (Women Only)	Laurel, MD
July 25-27	NY/NJ
August 1-3	San Francisco, CA

### Week Long Fantasy Camps 2007/2008

Nov. 29-Dec. 6	Aruba
(Caribbean Island, Advanced Camp)	
May 1-8	Hawaii
(Hawaiian Island, Advanced Camp)	
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The above dates are subject to the IRT schedule.	

Questions? Upcoming camp dates...  
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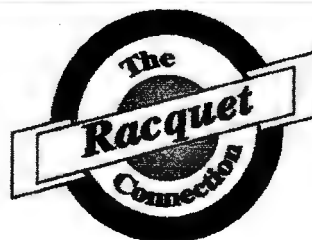
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# USA RACQUETBALL SANCTIONED EVENTS

EVENT TITLE	EVENT START	EVENT END	FACILITY NAME	CITY, STATE
2007 Kentucky ProAm Open Racquetball Championships	10/4/2007 12:00 PM	10/7/2007 6:00 PM	WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY	BOWLING GREEN, KY
2007 CA POMONA VALLEY OPEN	10/5/2007	10/7/2007	THE CLAREMONT CLUB	CLAREMONT, CA
2007 MEADOW CITY TOURNEY PRESENTED BY QUICKCARE	10/5/2007	10/7/2007	MONTOYA REC CENTER	LAS VEGAS, NM
2007 DE KEN LARAMORE MEMORIAL	10/6/2007	10/6/2007	KIRKWOOD FITNESS & RACQUET CL	WILMINGTON, DE
Greenbriar Fall Shootout	10/6/2007	10/6/2007 11:00 PM	GREENBRIAR ATHLETIC CLUB	INDPLS, IN
Midwest Senior Masters	10/12/2007	10/13/2007 11:00 PM	GREENBRIAR ATHLETIC CLUB	INDPLS, IN
2007 OK STATE DOUBLES	10/12/2007 6:00 AM	10/13/2007 7:00 PM	Cushing Community Center	Cushing, OK
2007 Atlanta Open	10/12/2007 3:00 PM	10/14/2007 6:00 PM	SOUTHERN ATHLETIC CLUB	LILBURN, GA
2007 Texas State Doubles Racquetball Championships	10/12/2007 5:00 PM	10/14/2007 3:00 PM	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON, TX
2007 MN RAC N SPLAT	10/13/2007	10/15/2007	Rochester Athletic Club	Rochester, MN
2007 NM DEL NORTE AL SUR	10/19/2007	10/21/2007	DEL NORTE FITNESS CENTER	HOBBS, NM
2ND ANNUAL GRAND SLAM TRICK OR TREAT SHOOTOUT	10/20/2007	10/21/2007	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON, TX
East Coast RBall Championships	10/20/2007	10/22/2007	WILMINGTON ATHLETIC CLUB	Wilmington, NC
Spooky Kooky	10/26/2007	10/27/2007 11:00 PM	SHELBYVILLE ATHLETIC CLUB	SHELBYVILLE, IN
2007 LA WARHAWK OPEN	10/26/2007 5:00 PM	10/28/2007 6:00 PM	UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA @ MONROE	MONROE, LA
Halloween Shoot Out at the Y	10/26/2007 6:00 PM	10/27/2007 6:00 PM	YMCA - THORNTON	TULSA, OK
2007 Dallas Doubles Series IV	10/27/2007 8:00 AM	10/27/2007 6:00 PM	LANDMARK FITNESS FACTORY	DALLAS, TX
OMNI 41 Classic	11/2/2007	11/4/2007 11:00 PM	OMNI 41 SPORTS COMPLEX	SCHERERVILLE, IN
Music City Open	11/2/2007 5:00 PM	11/4/2007 5:00 PM	YMCA - Downtown Nashville	Nashville, TN
2007 AZRA FALL CLASSIC	11/2/2007 5:00 PM	11/4/2007 6:00 PM	LA FITNESS CHANDLER II	CHANDLER, AZ
SPARTAN SPLAT	11/9/2007	11/11/2007	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB-LANSING	EAST LANSING, MI
November Madness	11/9/2007 6:00 PM	11/11/2007 3:00 PM	North Jeffco Racquet & Fitness	Arvada, CO
2007 MD FALL SHOOTOUT	11/10/2007	11/11/2007	SEVERNA PARK RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CLUB	MILLERSVILLE, MD
2007 Texas State Seniors Racquetball Championships	11/10/2007 8:00 AM	11/10/2007 10:00 PM	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON, TX
2007 CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	11/14/2007	11/18/2007	THE RACQUET CLUB OF MEMPHIS	MEMPHIS, TN
2007 CO STATE DOUBLES	11/29/2007 5:00 PM	12/2/2007 4:00 PM	Highlands Ranch Recreation Center	Highlands Ranch, CO
2007 MD St Nick Splat	11/30/2007 8:00 AM	12/2/2007 11:00 PM	SEVERNA PARK RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CLUB	MILLERSVILLE, MD
2007 Dallas Doubles Series V Invitational	11/30/2007 6:00 PM	12/2/2007 3:00 PM	LANDMARK FITNESS FACTORY	DALLAS, TX
2007 PA TRI STATE OPEN	12/1/2007	12/2/2007	CHALFONT ATHLETIC CLUB	CHALFONT, PA
2007 IN STATE DOUBLES	12/1/2007	12/2/2007 10:00 PM	OMNI 41 SPORTS COMPLEX	SCHERERVILLE, IN
Courts For A Cure	12/7/2007	12/9/2007	COURTS PLUS OF JACKSONVILLE	JACKSONVILLE, NC
2007 Holiday Racquetball Shootout	12/8/2007 8:00 AM	12/8/2007 10:00 PM	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON, TX
3RD ANNUAL GRAND SLAM ST NICK'S SHOOTOUT	12/15/2007	12/16/2007	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON, TX
2007 Cowboy Santa	12/15/2007 9:00 AM	12/15/2007 6:00 PM	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON, TX



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# It's Not Too Early For a Pre-Season Tune-Up

By Steve Crandall, Vice President, Sales & Marketing

## Ashaway Racket Strings

The dog days of summer may still be lingering, but it's not too early to start thinking about the upcoming racquetball season. It may even provide a little mental relief from the thoughts of fall chores ahead. Now may also be a good time to clean out your gym bag (oh, that's where those socks went!) and give your equipment a thorough pre-season tune-up.

Start at the bottom and check your shoes. While they do not need to be as bright and clean as they were when you took them out of the box, make sure that the soles are intact. A worn or uneven sole can make maneuvering your way around the racquetball court a risky proposition. A slip can cost points or even cause an injury. You might also want to check out some of the new shoes that have come on the market recently that are designed specifically for playing racquetball. They offer better support for the entire foot and the soles are designed to provide maximum traction on all indoor court surfaces.

Also, take a look at the grip on your racquet. Is it worn to the point of compromised performance? Does it still provide both traction and comfort? If your grip has flattened out, you may be holding the racquet handle too tightly. This could throw off your ability to control difficult shots. You may also want to consider a specialized grip that provides shock absorption to reduce vibration and improve feel.

Next stop on your pre-season inspection should be your frame. Check it closely for cracks. A tiny crack that happened last season may have grown, depending on how the racquet was stored during the off season. Improper storage may also account for bent or warped frames. Either of these problems can hinder performance.

If your racquet is structurally sound, you don't need to buy a new one just because the paint is a little scratched or because it's last year's style. However, if you don't yet have a carbon fiber frame, you should probably consider an upgrade. In addition to weight/strength advantages, they offer a number of new features such as "dual cylinder" designs; strategic stringing nodes



The start of the season is an ideal time to restring your racquet, whether the strings are broken or not.

for enhanced string performance and maximum kinetic advantage; larger "O-port" holes; two-part heads with string "channels" (instead of holes) which increase sweet spots; and other technical wizardry which improves balance, torsional stiffness, and power with control.

While you are surveying your racquet frame, check to see if your grommet strip is intact or whether it needs to be replaced. Worn or damaged grommet strips can cause damage to your racquet and cause your strings to break prematurely.

Speaking of broken strings, the beginning of the racquetball season is the ideal time to restring your racquet, whether the strings are broken or not. The general rule of thumb is that—barring any broken strings—you restring your racquet as many times a season as you play racquetball in a week. That means a player who steps onto the court five times a week, will most likely restring five times during the season.

This is also an excellent opportunity to check that you are playing with a string that best matches your style of play. Think back to last season—did your string give you the

feel, playability, tension, power and durability you were looking for? If you aren't sure, try playing a trial match or two with the string currently in your racquet. Then, evaluate whether or not your string is giving you the level of performance you desire.

If you want to make a switch, but are unsure about what string might be best for you, ask for help. The racquetball pro at your club is an invaluable resource and can work with you to determine the right string setup for your style of play. He or she offers a great way to learn about new strings that have come on the market, too. You can also find a professional stringer in your area by visiting the Ashaway website at [www.ashawayusa.com](http://www.ashawayusa.com) and clicking on, "Locate a Professional Racquet Stringer Near You." Either way, finding the racquetball string with the right combination of characteristics for your playing needs just might be the thing to take your game to the next level this season.



# Ektelon Strengthens its Team with Addition of Racquetball Great Woody Clouse

Player, Teacher, Game Ambassador Joins Company as Director of Instruction

Brent "Woody" Clouse, one of the fiercest competitors to ever step on a racquetball court and now one of the game's most gifted teachers, has signed with Ektelon to become the company's Director of Instruction. In Clouse's new role, he will organize and execute a series of demos and clinics at National and CPRT events as well as write and illustrate an instructional series for Racquetball magazine. In conjunction with CPRT, Clouse will also host a camp series, including several special "Fantasy Racquetball Camps" in unique locations across the country.

"It's an honor to become a part of this leading team in racquetball," said Clouse. "It's been a long-time dream of mine to join Ektelon and play and teach for #1. They are doing incredible things for the sport and the players, and I'm excited to pick up the O3

White and take to the court on behalf of the Brand."

At seventeen, Clouse shocked the racquetball community by upsetting the third ranked player in the world in the opening round of a Pro-Am tournament in Beaverton, Oregon. Two years later, he became the only player in racquetball history to win both the Canadian Open and the US Grand Nationals in the same year. Now Clouse, at 41, is one of the most recognized personalities in the game. He continues to entertain and dazzle crowds with his signature brand of acrobatic dives and intense playing style.

In 2005 and 2006, Woody won both singles and doubles titles at the World Senior Championships; he finished 2006 by becoming the oldest player in the history of the game to play both singles and doubles for

Team USA at the same event, sweeping gold in the Pan-American Championships. In late August, Clouse, wielding his new O3 White, will defend his World Senior title in Albuquerque.

While he continues to compete at the highest levels, in recent years Woody has also become passionate about sharing his experiences, lessons and "never concede to defeat" attitude with players and coaches everywhere -- a tool he believes others can harness to bring out their best for a lifetime.

"Woody is a true ambassador of the sport and an inspiration to everyone he meets," said Scott Winters, General Manager at Ektelon. "He has an acclaimed and successful history in the sport, both as a teacher and a player. An incredible representative of the Ektelon brand, we are fortunate to have him on our side."

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# Ektelon Expands its Popular T-9 Roadster Footwear Line

Racquetball Leader Offers New Styles and Colors for Fall 2007

The wildly popular T-9 Roadster line of footwear has just gotten wider and more stylish – and players are psyched. Beginning this fall, Ektelon will introduce new styles and colors to complement the already-successful line, allowing even more players the opportunity to take advantage of the T-9 Roadsters perfect fit and optimum performance.

Ektelon has addressed a growing trend by becoming the first company to offer standard and wide width shoe sizes in performance racquetball footwear. Standard sizes range from 6-14 and the wide sizes, equivalent to a 2E size, go from 9-14.

The original T-9 Roadster in the Low cut black and red cosmetic was so sought after last season that Ektelon decided to offer the same look in a Mid High cut version – for those players looking for the same sleek appearance, but with maximum support. In addition, Ektelon has introduced a new white cosmetic version of the shoe in a Mid style with a cleaner, more traditional look in a wide range of sizes.

“The Mid cut black and red T-9 version is the perfect complement to our Low model introduced last year,” said Scott Winters, General Manager at Ektelon. “There is a strong contingency of players who love the look of a black shoe and this new Mid version accentuates the aggressive cosmetic scheme while providing them with additional support for quick, sharp cuts and improved mobility on the court. The white version offers exactly what players are looking for in a clean cosmetic design that coordinates well with any outfit.”

In fact, beginning soon, fans will see #3 Indoor and #1 Outdoor ranked pro Rocky Carson as well as many of this year's Team Ektelon players wearing the new white Mid High on the court. Rocky wore the black Low version last year, but he is looking forward to the extra support the Mid cut will provide. “The T-9 is an awesome racquetball shoe. Since I play both indoor and outdoor

racquetball, two very different games, I find that I need even more support than I have in the past. Ektelon has basically taken a great shoe and enhanced it to meet the needs of players like me who need that added support.”

For more information on Ektelon's entire line of footwear, log onto [www.ektelon.com](http://www.ektelon.com)





# 2007 MEN'S NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPION MITCH WILLIAMS JOINS WILSON RACQUETBALL ADVISORY STAFF

Top IRT Tour player Mitch Williams has signed with Wilson Racquet Sports and joined its Racquetball Advisory Staff. Williams, who is currently ranked #6 on the IRT Tour, began playing racquetball at the age of 10 and continued to compete as an undergrad at North Carolina State University, winning over 100 local open tournaments throughout the Southeast and qualifying in 15 tour stops.

"Mitch is a dynamic player with a dynamic personality. Besides his intense ambition to win, Mitch is very interested in giving back to the sport by conducting clinics throughout the country. He will be a great addition to the Wilson team," said Chris Evon, Marketing Manager of Indoor Racquet Sports for Wilson.

Following his first full year as a professional, Williams earned the impressive distinction of being ranked among the Top Ten players in the world on the IRT Tour. In 2005, Williams was honored as the IRT's Rookie of the Year and was also named the Tour's Most Improved Player.

During the 2006/2007 season, Williams, competing on the Colorado State Pueblo team, became the Men's Intercollegiate Champion. He also made 10 out of 13 Pro Quarterfinal appearances that year. His winning streak has continued during the 2007 season, as Williams defeated the #8, #5 and #3 ranked pros back-to-back on his way to capturing the 2007 Men's National Qualifying Division title.

Wilson Racquet Sports is a division of Chicago-based Wilson Sporting Goods Co., one of the world's leading manufacturers of sports equipment and owned by Amer Sports. Wilson designs, manufactures and distributes sporting goods throughout the world and focuses on making technologically advanced products that help athletes of all levels perform better. Wilson's core sport categories include: Football, Basketball, Baseball,

Volleyball, Soccer, Youth Sports, Uniforms/Apparel, Golf, Footwear and Racquet Sports (Tennis, Racquetball, Squash, Badminton and Platform Tennis).

For more information, visit [www.wilson.com](http://www.wilson.com).



Mitch Williams

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