



From The President

Sometimes being president of an all volunteer organization can be very trying.... And sometimes it can be great. Saturday, April 8th was one of the great days. I had the honor of recognizing the nominees and presenting awards to this year's ISRA award winners.

Ben Croft received the "**Most Improved Player**" award. Ben has hit the big time, although he's not yet old enough to drive himself there. Just last year Ben was playing in the Men's C division. This season he won the Men's B division at the Southlake Fall Open as well as two A tournaments. At the Palos Olympic tournament, Ben entered the Open division. Although he lost his first round match, Ben went on to win the Men's AA division playing against some seasoned tournament veterans.

Nominees for "**Male Player of Year**" were Bill Lyman and Cary Slade. **Bill** is a former winner of this award and a dominant player on the state, regional, and national levels. He is also a current National Doubles Champion. **Cary** is a player whose skills are on the rise. Cary won the ISRA State Singles Men's B division in 1999 and the Men's A division in 2000. In between he finished in the top four in the big tournaments and won several tournaments with smaller draws. I'm sure the guys will give him a great welcome to the Open division next fall. The award went to **Cary Slade**. Congratulations, Cary.

Nominees for "**Female Player of the Year**" included Terri Graham, Cheryl Gudinas, and Ellen Somberg. **Terri** completed a feat no one has ever accomplished. She won THREE national championships at this year's USRA National Doubles Championships. **Cheryl's** accomplishments go on and on. She has won this award multiple times. She is the current USRA National Open Champion, the reigning Pan-Am Games champion, and a member of the USRA National Team. **Ellen** has played in many tournaments this season and has been making some big noise on the court. Ellen won the Mixed A division at State Doubles with long time partner, Jim Hillman. She won a couple of singles tournaments and played on the Palos Olympic Travel Team. When **Terri Graham** accepted the award she gave much of the credit for her victories to partners Chris Evon and Bill Lyman. Congratulations, Terri.

It was really an honor to recognize the "**Distinguished Service Award**" nominees. The things this group does to support and promote racquetball just leaves me in awe. The nominees were Rich Clay, Mike Davern, Pam Grace, and Sean Nelson. **Rich** is the ISRA Treasurer, the USRA National Rules Commissioner, an exemplary sportsman, and a dedicated tournament volunteer. **Mike** has spent SO much time helping out racquetball this year. He attends every tournament, whether playing or not, so that he can gather the results and enter them on the ISRA's website on Sunday nights. He's also taken on responsibility for this newsletter and uses much of the information he gathers at tournaments to create articles for the newsletter. As ISRA Webmaster he is the ISRA's link to the racquetball world. **Pam** assumed most of the responsibility for the ISRA Travel League at the beginning of last season. She has maintained participation, organized the league and party, and handled all of the ongoing issues with the league. She's also helped at many tournaments and assisted me with phone calls and such whenever I've asked. **Sean** has been one of our best "grass roots" promoters of racquetball. He has been responsible for racquetball programs at 3 different YMCA's over the last few years, introducing the sport to many

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Typesetting by: TypaGraphics
Printing by: Tyler Press, Inc.

Golden Masters Show the Way!

by: Geoff Peters

I had some time to kill while waiting for my match to begin at this year's 2000 ISRA State Singles Championships at the Athletic Club of Bloomingdale and found myself watching Chuck Martarano play Ken Yahiro in the Men's 70+ division. Now, neither man will ever wear the ink off of their racquet strings or the label off of a new ball during a tournament match, but they epitomize what the game is all about. No fancy outfits (I don't think that Ken ever wears anything but a plain white T-shirt), just functional clothing and a good sweat while competing for a State Championship against a good friend and frequent foe.

These guys are over 70, yet moving like men twenty years younger—playing without a referee and never disputing a call. I saw compliments and smiles for good shots and disappointment when they got to the ball and failed to put it out of their opponent's reach. They relied on smart court positioning and control, rather than power. However, to my surprise, both had powerful serves, that I estimated traveled in excess of 80mph down the line.

Racquetball is truly a lifetime sport and watching Chuck and Ken play reminded me of why many of us play racquetball. We can't all play like Sudsy Monchik or Cliff Swain, but when I see Ed Olah, John O'Donnell Jr., Joe Sulli, Bob Beiner, Chuck, Ken and all the other players 65 years young on the court, I realize that I'm only halfway through my racquetball career and that I have another 25 years to figure out how to hit my backhand!!!

Summertime Blues

Well, the warm weather is on its way and our attention will likely focus on things other than racquetball. But for the diehards out there, myself included, who play year round, a few tips about caring for your racquet in the warm weather. First, never leave your racquet, just like your pet, in an enclosed space where the heat becomes oppressive. This does two bad things. It weakens the bonding agents that hold your expensive graphite together. Not a good thing. Second, it causes the strings, particularly if the racquet isn't kept in its protective cover, to get really loose. The high heat and humidity hastens the tendency of all tensioned strings to want to relax. You'll be wondering why the crisp feel you have now is mush in July. Of course, the stringer is happy, business is after all, business. So, like winter care, avoid extremes of heat and humidity. Store your racquet in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight. I want to take these last lines to thank each of you with whom I've had dealings during this year's tournaments and I look forward to seeing you again next season. It's a pleasure serving the best racquetball people in the nation. During my travels in the racquetball world, I am always impressed by how well represented we are and by how we conduct ourselves in state as well as out. For any of your service needs, call at 618-667-8243 or email at rmkusche@aol.com. Look for my "soon-to-be" website. I'll let the webmaster know when it is available. —Ralph Kusche

Racquetball Websites

ISRA Website: <http://www.illinoisracquetball.com>

Check out the ISRA website for updated tournament information, tournament results, ranking information, and to find out what's happening at Illinois Clubs. Stop in and check it out soon!

USRA Websites: <http://www.racquetball.org> <http://www.usra.org>

Racquetball Magazine Website: <http://www.racqmag.com>

E-Force Racquetball: <http://www.e-force.com>

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Courtesy Sports: <http://www.courtesysports.com>

Gemini Racquetball: <http://www.craiga.home.mindspring.com>

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National Masters Racquetball Association: www.genesinet.net/users/nmra

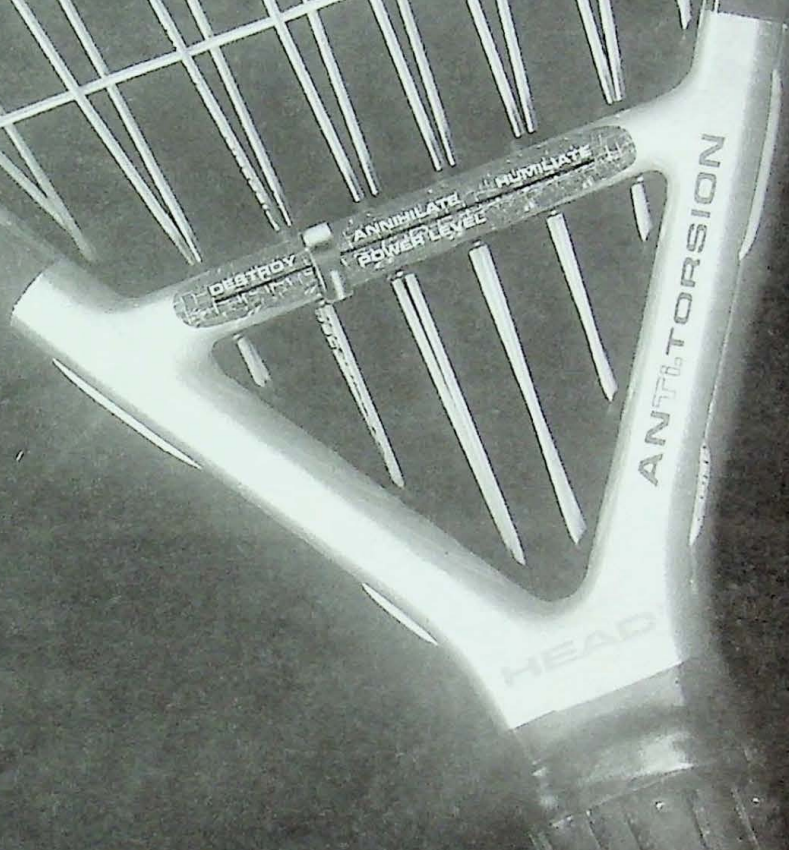
IRT/WIRT Pro Tours: www.irt-tour.com

Jordan Kahn's Home Page: <http://members.aol.com/Jordanisra/index.html>

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Sue Carow inducted into ISRA Hall of Fame

by Laurel Davis

There was an element of surprise in the air. When Sue Carow attended the USRA Regionals Tournament at Glass Court on Saturday, April 15th she had no idea she was there to be inducted into the ISRA's Hall of Fame. She thought she was just invited to come over and visit with some old friends and former competitors.

There was a great group of "old timers" present, people who were active tournament players in the 70's and 80's and whose participation has waned during the 90's, due to injury, family, time, or whatever. I think they would all tell you that it's not because they don't love racquetball. Anyway, it was great to see many of Illinois' best gathered together.

Sue Carow was presented with the "**Hall of Fame Award**" during the ISRA's annual awards ceremony. Sue's accomplishments are many. She has won several state and regional championships (both singles and doubles), and also has at least one national championship on her resume. Sue's home club was the Lattof YMCA in DesPlaines. Sue was something of a "gym rat", jumping on any open court she encountered to get in a few minutes of practice or play. Sue was also ranked in the top 5 in the early days of the WPRA (Women's Pro Racquetball Association), when she was in her early forties.

Many of the women in the crowd credited Sue for elevating the

level of their own play. Colleen (Shields) Johnson, Chris Evon, and Cheryl Gudinas all learned things from playing against Sue that helped them improve their own games. I remember watching Sue play relatively late in her career. I thought she looked pretty beatable... until I got on the court with her. Then I found that her tenacity and will to win overcame my skills. I also observed Cheryl playing Sue early in Cheryl's career. Sue helped Cheryl learn how to control her emotions on the court. Cheryl is one person you will NEVER see get rattled during a match these days.



Sue Carow and Laurel Davis

Sue is the 2nd inductee to the ISRA Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Sue and thanks to all who came out to honor her. It was great to see you and we all hope we can get together again soon.



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- These rates are in effect until December 30, 2000.
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2000 ISRA STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS



2000 ISRA STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

St. Valentine's Day Massacre

Tournament Results

February 11-13, 2000

We always start these things working on what happened on the Men's side of the draw. Hey, its Valentine's Day weekend so let's cover the Women first. While the women don't come out in force for this tournament (Illinois women seem to pick and choose their spots on the tournament calendar). Julie Vincent seems to like this weekend just fine. For the second year in a row, she takes her division, this time winning the Women's Open/A instead of the A/B. As a Bloomingdale member she must have felt right at home as she put down her fellow Bloomingdale travel league teammate, Donna Heinzl, 12-15, 15-12, 11-5. Now we just have to get her out to play at some other tournaments on the Illinois calendar. What do you say Julie? Speaking of feeling right at home, how about the mother/daughter team of Pam Hepp and Krystal Csuk teaming up for the Women's Doubles. While not as nice a story-line as the last time they played as partners (which happened two years ago when they faced another mother/daughter team of Kerri and Gerri Stoffregren in the finals). This time at least the story had a happy ending as Pam and Krystal took out Barb Utterback and Diane Bunker, 15-11, 15-4.

On the men's side the story-line starts with the Men's 30/35+ and ends with a 15-year old. Although the draw was up (as with every tournament held so far this year), tournament director, Dave Negrete decided to go without a Men's Open division, opting instead for a fuller Men's 30/35+ draw. This change put Eugene Coyle in the unenviable position of standing in the backcourt of the 30/35+ finals, having to face Tim Sweeney's drive serve with another serve opportunity if that one goes short. In the Open at least, Tim only gets one photon serve. While Eugene played very competitively in the first game, losing 15-11, in the second Tim took his serve up another notch and all Eugene could say to crack after crack was, "Nice serve". What can you do when someone is on like that? Eugene called time out once, put the ball in his pocket and walked out of the court, but that didn't work either. Second game and match, 15-1, Sweeney. At the other end of the age spectrum we go to young Ben Croft playing in the finals of Men's A, where Ben turned 15 over the weekend. Now last year, Ben loses in the quarters of the Men's C. This year he ends up playing his doubles partner from Men's A doubles, John Bertholomey and wins 15-5, 15-12. It might have been the valent effort in the finals of the doubles match where Ben and John lose in three to Ty Bowmann and Jim Mueller, 15-14 12-15 and 11-2 that took out some of the steam in John's legs. After all John has some salt and pepper in his hair and all Ben has is pepper in his game. Take a look at the rest of the Valentine's Day winners below. -- Mike Davern

Men's A (17): 1-Ben Croft, 2-John Bertholomey, S-Tad Smith, Vince Grodzicki
Men's B (18): 1-Dave Coyner, 2-Dick Heithoff, S-Leo Formanski, David Royster
Men's C (17): 1-Scott Trizzino, 2-Steve Kadlec, S-Rich Wells, Sid Harshavat
Men's D (18): 1-Andy Simons, 2-Tom Frediani, S-Humberto Sosa, George Smuckel
Men's 30/35+ (12): 1-Tim Sweeney, 2-Eugene Coyle, S-John Amatulli, Keith Minor
Men's 40+ (14): 1-Carl Kisill, 2-Dave Milazzo, S-Steve Lloyd, Steve Sulli
Men's 45/50+ (9): 1-Bruce Nelson, 2-Herb Grigg, S-Ron Yonkee, Pat Taylor

Women's Open/Age (8): 1-Julie Vincent, 2-Donna Heinzl, S-Kathy Logic, Lynn Weisbart

Men's Open Doubles (8): 1-John Amatulli (IN)/John Thorn (IN); 2--Keith Minor/Jim Hillman, 2-Dennis Negrete/Tom Utterback, Eugene Coyle/Steve Sulli

Men's AA Doubles (4): 1-Dale Johnson/Scott Reisner, 2-Steve Lloyd/Angelo Moca, S-John Nagel/Frank Bunker, Dave Milazzo/Carl Kisill
Men's A/B Doubles (8): 1-Ty Bowman/Jim Mueller, 2-John Bertholomey/Ben Croft, S-Dennis Negrete/Kevin Massard, Keith Avery/Wil Rounsaville
Men's B Doubles (Drop Down)(4): 1-David Royster/Art White, 2-Ray Meisner/Brian Pforr, S-Tom Baxa/Dick Heithoff, Josh Joselane/Kevin Lio

Women's Doubles (5): 1-Pam Hepp/Krystal Csuk, 2-Barb Utterback/Diane Bunker, S-Martha Huske/Donna Heinzl, Julie Vincent/Lynne Weisberg

Mixed Open Doubles (7): 1-Julie Wells/Rich Wells, 2-Carol Page/Scott Reiser, S-Pam Hepp/Greg Paulo, Dennis Negrete/Janet Christie

5th Annual Palos Olympic

Tournament Results

February 18-20, 2000

Different tournaments have a different character. Some are long drawn out affairs. Others have a down home feel. Well, Tom and Barb Utterback know how to make everyone feel like home with lots of friendly touches. Lots of socializing after the matches, lots of excellent competition on the courts. Tim Sweeney makes another appearance and takes another Open crown. Billy Lyman and Joe Silius continue their winning ways. Fifteen year old, Ben Croft wins again, this time in Men's AA's. Cary Slade tops a very tough Martin Gonzales in Men's A, while Martin himself puts on a great run to take out Dan Pepin in Men's B. While the tournament drew fewer Open level players, Men's C and D got good sized draws. Congratulation to Juan Alcantar for taking Men's C over Brad Promisel. Jason DeSanto and Bob Diamond both made it to the semifinals for the second year in a row. Maybe we should have them face each other next year!!! In the meantime, Jason went ahead and took Dan Opferman in Men's D. With all of the different styles of play, Men's D has to be one of the hardest divisions to win. With the Open's its splat, rollout or pass. Always the best choice taken. In Men's D, its anything goes. On the Women's side, Krystal Csuk tops ISRA President, Laurel Davis. Doesn't she know she is not supposed to do that? -- Mike Davern

Check out the other winners below:

Men's Open (9): 1-Tim Sweeney, 2-Dave Negrete, S-Tom Utterback, Eugene Coyle
Men's AA (4): 1-Ben Croft, 2-Frank Bunker, S-Mike Davern, Rich Clay
Men's A (11): 1-Cary Slade, 2-Martin Gonzales, S-Kevin Johnson, Krystal Csuk
Men's B (8): 1-Martin Gonzales, 2-Dan Pepin, S-Joe Keane, Rob Ayres
Men's C (16): 1-Juan Alcantar, 2-Brad Promisel, S-Jason DeSanto, Bob Diamond
Men's D (15): 1-Jason Desanto, 2-Dan Offerman, S-Bob Johnson, James Byrne
Men's Novice (2): 1-Bill Bartnicay, 2-Steven Rodriguez
Men's 35/40+ (13): 1-Bill Lyman, 2-Tom Utterback, S-Brian Castillo, Don Grigas
Men's 45/50+ (8): 1-Joe Silius, 2-Winston Cole, S-Ken Fleck, Horace Miller

Women's Open (9): 1-Krystal Csuk, 2-Laurel Davis, S-Nancy Rocha, Liz Molitor
Women's AA (4): 1-Carrie Jaskier, 2-Mary White, S-Cathy Radloff, Diane Bunker
Women's B (4): 1-Janet Eminger, 2-Pam Jacobson, S-Cheryl Kirk, Ree Keca
Women's C (4): 1-Sue Wojnowski, 2-Janet Christie, S-Laura Guzman, Julianne Vertis
Men's Open Doubles (3): 1-Dennis Negrete/Scott Belner, 2-Jeff Baumgartner/Tom Curtis, S-Keith Kareiva/Larry Vena
Men's B Doubles (7): 1-Ric Robles/Mark Masden, 2-Scott Reiser/Pete Stopinski, S-Art White/David Royster, John Shermulis/Paul Nelson
Men's C Doubles (5): 1-Perry Plarski/Bob Diamond, 2-Brad Jordan/Frank Smalarz, S-James Byrne/Mike Ryan, Al Brunner/Mike Padivic
Women's A/B Doubles (5): 1-Dorothy Noto/Pam Grace, 2-Patrice Calvi/Pam

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Jacobson, S-Sandie McIntyre/Connie Morong, Peggy Hartman/Sue Wojnowski
Mixed Open/A Doubles (6): 1-Joe Silius/Patrice Calvi, 2-Maria Johnson/Jeff Baumgartner, S-Don Grigas/Kathy Radloff, Jeff Hotler/Carrie Jaskier
Mixed B/C Doubles (7): 1-Pam Hepp/Mike Kennedy, 2-Connie Morong/Bill Hawkins, S-Mike Berstein/Peggy Hartman, Sandi McIntyre/Jim Rogers

State Singles Tournament

"State Champion". In some years past, that title has been slightly tarnished because the competition was not up to snuff. Not so this year. Tournament host Dave Negrete made sure of that. Illinois' State Singles Championships pulled in one of the largest draws in recent history. Even with 10 courts in action at The Athletic Club of Bloomington (now one of the biggest facilities in the state) competition had to start on Thursday in order to accommodate all of the matches. Dave also enlisted the aid of sponsors **Dave Milazzo, Keith Minor, and Tony Sambo** in order to add some cash to the prize list for the Men's Open division.

And, what a level of play!! Illinois' top men's Open players are not always required to perform at full throttle in local tournaments. Often they get to coast by in second gear as they beat up on some poor sap moving up from the A division. (They've even been known to take bets on how quickly they can dispatch the poor sap.)

The semi-final and finals matches definitely required more than 20 minutes. They were great matches. Tim Sweeney brought his whole arsenal and took the title away from last year's winner, Jim Ellenberger. No one in Illinois has ever learned how to handle Tim's hot drive serve.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. The semi-final matches were something to watch. Dale Johnson met Sweeney in the semi's and scored 8 and 9, respectively. In an even closer match, Jim Ellenberger beat Eugene Coyle 11-15, 15-1 and 11-9. The finals match, pitting Sweeney against Ellenberger, left the spectators asking for more. Tim's serve was king, though, as each rally ended either on the serve or within 3 shots. Final score: 15-6, 15-4.

If you took a look at the Men's Open quarter-final draw you found the names of Illinois' eight best male players. Besides Sweeney, Ellenberger, Johnson, and Coyle, the draw included Andy Hawthorne, Dave Negrete, John Negrete, and Keith Minor. A VERY impressive group.

Other impressive wins in this tournament included Angelo Moca's AA win over Doug Halverson in a close match and Cary Slade's second full draw Men's A win over the always tough Eric "Rocket Serve" Reiman. Miguel Saavedra (Men's B) and Juan Alcantar (Men's C) solidified their seasons with impressive wins. Both are ready for a move to the next level. In Men's D, rapidly improving Vito Rubiano got surprised by newcomer Oscar Corona. While Oscar HAS to move up to Men's C, Vito's semi-final finish in Men's D and quarter-final finish in Men's C proves that he's also ready to move upward.

Consistency was the name of the game in the men's age divisions. Perennial winners Eugene Coyle (30+), Dave Negrete (35+), Bill Lyman (40+), Bruce Nelson (45+), and Joe Silius (50+) form a "Who's Who" roster of Illinois age group players.

The number of players in the Women's divisions were not nearly as impressive as the wins were. With powerhouses Cheryl Gudinas

and Krystal Csuk sitting this tournament out, Women's Open was up for grabs. Kathy Grill grabbed the gold with a tight win over Liz Molitor. Illinois newcomer Pontee Dodds will be moving up to where she belongs following impressive double wins. She beat Kathy Dunham to win the A championship and Ellen Somberg to take the 35/40+ division. (Pontee - Welcome to Open!) Pam Grace and Bridget Kundrot round out the skill division winners, taking B and C, respectively. Finally, we have the "pres", Laurel Davis shaking off her tournament director duties to take a win over Barb Utterback in Women's 45+.

A group of 20+ juniors took the court on Sunday to play a round robin tournament in several age categories. Boy, did they have fun! Congratulations to the Juniors and to all of the new state Champs.

A state tournament wouldn't be a tournament without help from volunteers and sponsors. So, thanks to **Penn, RC Cola, Entemann's Bakery, Frito-Lay, Original Bean Pie, Dunkin' Donuts, and Longwood Foods**. We had plenty of balls to play with and nobody went hungry! Thanks to **Keith Avery** and his always impressive presentation of great things to eat and to **Kathy Newcomb** for serving that food. Also, thanks to the ISRA members who volunteered their time to make draws, order souvenirs, work the check-in and tournament desks and make sure everyone had a good time. Finally, thanks to **Dave Negrete, Dennis Negrete, and Dale Johnson** at the **Athletic Club of Bloomington** for promoting the tournament, being great hosts and letting the ISRA move in for the week. It felt like home.

-Mike Davern and Laurel Davis.

28th ISRA State Singles Championships Tournament Results March 3-5, 2000

Men's Open (27): 1-Tim Sweeney, Bartlett, 2-Jim Ellenberger, Chicago, S-Dale Johnson, Schaumburg; John Negrete, Blomington
Men's AA (11): 1-Angelo Moca, Schaumburg, 2-Doug Halverson, Westchester, S-Glen Davis, Naperville; George Pappas, Schiller Park
Men's A (31): 1-Cary Slade, Naperville, 2-Eric Reiman, Carol Stream, S-Chris Cotton, Bolingbrook; Dennis Negrete, Schaumburg
Men's B (25): 1-Miguel Saavedra, Franklin Park, 2-Ed Libby, Elmhurst, S-Steve Saeks, Northbrook; Fred Cwynar, McHenry
Men's C (20): 1-Juan Alcantar, Chicago, 2-Tony Roseilli, Mount Prospect, S-Vito Rubiano, Des Plaines; Brian Pforr, Naperville
Men's D (19): 1-Al Rubiano, Des Plaines, 2-Oscar Corona, Chicago, S-Tom Reed, Aurora; George Smuckel, Sandwich
Men's Novice (5): 1-Tod Borleske, Wheaton, 2-Alex Kurczaba, Forest Park, S-Gary Warbel, Bloomington; Arnel Harting, Chicago
Men's 30 (8): 1-Eugene Coyle, Chicago, 2-John Negrete, Bloomington, S-John Kundrot, Chicago; Joey Logan, Chicago
Men's 35+ (11): 1-Dave Negrete, Bartlett, 2-Keith Minor, Shanannan, S-Tom Griffith, Lisle; Bob Morrison, Naperville
Men's 35+ Int. (8): 1-Randy Ems, Yorkville, 2-Fred Cwynar, McHenry, S-Leo Formanski, Chicago; John Kavorias
Men's 40+ (20): 1-Bill Lyman, Berwyn, 2-Steve Sulli, Bloomington, S-Carl Kisill, Fox Lake; Steve Lloyd, Elgin
Men's 45+ (12): 1-Bruce Nelson, Belvidere, 2-Winston Cole, Chicago, S-Dave Olson, Barrington; T.J. Ferro, Naperville
Men's 45+ Int. (6): 1-Marty Labelle, Wheaton, 2-Steve Saeks, Northbrook, S-Pete Stopinski, Glen Ellyn; John Kozio, Chicago
Men's 50+ Joe Silius, Mokena, 2-Herg Grigg, Aurora, S-Delmer Reed, Chicago; Horace Miller, Chicago
Men's 55+ Ron Yonkee, Roselle, 2-Pat Taylor, Barrington Hills, S-John Eliasik, Schaumburg; Rick Brown, Carol Stream
Men's 55+ Int. (4): 1-John Massard, Roselle, 2-John Eliasik, Schaumburg, S-John Burke, Naperville; Mike Oester, Schaumburg
Men's 60+ Bruce Mason, Barrington, 2-Don Davis, Peoria, S-John Bolster, Naperville; Lee Booth, Streamwood
Men's 65+ (2): 1-Ed Olah, Aurora, 2-Bob Beiner, Mount Prospect
Men's 70+ (3): 1-John O'Donnell Jr., Champaign, 2-Chuck Martarano, Forest Park, S-Ken Yahiro, Park Ridge

continued on next page

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Men's 65/70+ (6): 1-Ed Olah, Aurora, 2-Chuck Martarano, Forest Park, S-John O'Donnell, Champaign; Bob Beiner, Mount Prospect

Women's Open (6): 1-Kathy Grill, Champaign, 2-Liz Molitor, Glen Ellyn, S-Diane Bunker, Lisle; Laurel Davis, Hinsdale
 Women's A (8): 1-Pontee Dodds, Matteson, 2-Kathy Dunham, Woodridge, S-Patrice Calvi, New Lenox; Julie Vincent, North Barrington
 Women's B (5): 1-Pam Grace, Wheaton, 2-Cathy Radloff, Romeoville, S-Gail Parzygnat, Elgin; Lynn Hiorns, Naperville
 Women's C/D (6): 1-Bridget Kundrot, Chicago, 2-Peggy Hartman, Lisle, S-Debbie Albright, Hoffman Estates; Michelle Lexow, Waukegan
 Women's 35/40+ (7): 1-Pontee Dodds, Matteson, 2-Ellen Somberg, Oak Park, S-Liz Molitor, Glen Ellyn; Mary Crawford, Naperville
 Women's 45+ (7): 1-Laurel Davis, Hinsdale, 2-Barb Utterback, Orland Park, 2-Lynne Weisbart, Northbrook; Pam Grace, Wheaton

Girl's 8 & Under Multi-Bounce (3): 1-Julia Negrete, Bartlett, 2-Carly Griffith, Lisle, S-Stephanie Davern, Naperville
 Boy's 8 & Under Multi-Bounce (4): 1-Johnny Belvidere, 2-Kyle Koburi, Streamwood, S-Nick White, Shorewood; David Negrete, Bartlett
 Boy's 10/12 Under (6): 1-Justin Fleck, Lombard, 2-Tom Molitor, Glen Ellyn, S-Kevin Peters, Chicago; Nick Calvi, New Lenox
 Boy's 14 Under (6): 1-Ben Croft, Lake Bluff, 2-Tad Dallas, Bollingbrook, S-Mike Degonia, Palos Hills; Joey Calvi, New Lenox
 Boy's 18 Under (3): 1-Andy Hawthorne, Champaign, 2-Ben Croft, Lake Bluff, S-Vito Rubiano, Mount Prospect

14th Annual Shamrock Shootout

Tournament Results

March 9-12, 2000

After watching the tournament staff work late into the night (and up again at the crack of dawn) for three days straight (not to mention the working late into the night in the days before the tournament). I wonder why any sane person would do it? It can't be the money, since no amount of money can be worth the level of effort required. Fortunately, we all know that Doug Halverson is not a sane person and therefore we look forward to version 15 of the Shamrock Shootout next year. As to this year's version, the surprise of the tournament has to be the welcoming of another Negrete to the Men's Open ranks. Dennis Negrete made what some felt was a long overdue win in a full draw Men's A tournament. Welcome to the big time Mr. Negrete. As to the rest of the winners, we hope your trip to the finish line wasn't as long and winding.... -- Mike Davern

Men's Open (22): 1-Mike Locker (MN), 2-Josh Tucker (MO), S-Chris Wright (MO), Tim Sweeney
 Men's AA (8): 1-Ryan Homa (MN), 2-John Thorson, S-Glen Davis, Mark Brimer (MO)
 Men's A (16): 1-Dennis Negrete, 2-Martin Gonzalez, S-Mark Werthman, Keith Wiener
 Men's B (24): 1-Carl DeAmbrose, 2-Rob Ayres, S-David Royster, Dick Heitoff
 Men's C (22): 1-Kelvin Branch, 2-Jesse Ortiz, S-Wayne Grane, Dan Jaskier
 Men's D (28): 1-Dave Porzel, 2-Joe Snyders (MD), 2-Tony Gonzales, S-Herb Rodriguez, Andy Simons
 Mens Novice (2): 1-David Rawcliffe (MD), 2-Tad Dallas
 Men's 30/35+ (11): 1-Eugene Coyle, 2-Jim Luzar (WI), S-Cheryl Gudinas, Tom Utterback
 Men's 40+ (12): 1-Bill Lyman, 2-Carl Kisill, S-Chuck Snyders, Frank Bunker
 Men's 45+ (7): 1-Jim Luzar (WI), 2-Len Restaino, S-Ken Fleck, John Conrad
 Men's 45+ INT (6): 1-Len Schultz, 2-Larry Schum, S-Jim Schevers, Doug Wakeley
 Men's 50+ (6): 1-Joe Silius, 2-Joe Quirke, S-Steve Donarski, Tom Fehsel

Women's Open (10): 1-Krystal Csuk, 2-Josi Barnett, S-Brenda White; Nancy Rocha
 Women's AA (4): 1-Carrie Jaskier, 2-Mary White, S-Diane Bunker; Kathy Dunham
 Women's A (7): 1-Nancy Schum, 2-Leslie Miller, S-Ellen Somberg, Britt Schoonover
 Women's B (8): 1-Cathy Radloff, 2-Janet Eminger, S-Jane Klass, Char Borre
 Women's C (7): 1-Mary DeJournio, 2-Joyce Burzloff, S-Bridgett Kundrot,

Gretchen Slusser

Women's D (3): 1-Michelle Lexow, 2-Carla Moats, S-Sheri Kaestner, Karen Nauta

Men's Open Doubles (9): 1-Cory Martin (WI)/Kyle Veenstra (WI), 2-Mike Kinkin/Mike Locker (MN); S-Bill Lyman/Dave Bachar, Josh Tucker/Chris Wright (MO)
 Mens A Doubles (10): 1-John Muscato/Ralph Wakerly, 2-Randy Rupsis/Rick Cavaliere, S-Joe DeArmas/John Matarrese; Bob Morrison/Joey Brownlee
 Mens B Doubles (12): 1-Carl DeAmbrose/T.G. Venkateshwaran, 2-Keith Mecklenberg/Matt Malcheski, S-Jim Gaw/Dale Johnson, Joe Camiolo/Jim Lasala
 Men's C Doubles (6): 1-Tom Pope/John Anaya, 2-Andy Simmons/Tom Frediano, S-Grant MaCuba/Mike Belvidere, John Nowakowski/Robert Woycheese
 Men's 40+ Doubles (7): 1-Carl Kissil/Mark Mattos, 2-Winston Cole/Wil Rounsaville, S-Len Restaino/Brian Parrish, Rick Cavaliere/Nick Radloff

Women's Open/A Doubles (6): 1-Kathy Dunham/Laura Davis, 2-Liz Molitor/Nancy Kronenfeld, S-Jill Wells/Gail Parzygnat, Sharon Cunningham/Deb Windisch
 Women's B/C Doubles (7): 1-Cheryl Kirk/Gloria Fidecaro (NJ), 2-Dorothy Jackson/Sandi McIntyre, S-Char Borre/Sharilyn Pope, Mary DeJournio/Joyce Burzloff

Mixed Open Doubles (7): 1-Krystal Csuk/Ben Croft (WI), 2-Doug Halverson/Carrie Jaskier, S-Joe Silius/Brenda White, Maria Johnson/Jeff Baumgartner
 Mixed A Doubles (5): 1-Jill Wells/Rich Wells, 2-Leslie Miller/Kurt Mankle, S-Ellen Somberg/Jim Hillman, Mary White/Tom Curtis
 Mixed B/C Doubles (6): 1-Joe Comiolo (NJ)/Gloria Fidelaro (NJ), 2-Jim Lasala (NJ)/Cheryl Kirk, S-Frank Aguilar/Gail Parzygnat, Deb Windisch/Mike Labak

2000 Negrete Open Tournament Results

March 23-25, 2000

Another Bloomingdale tournament. Another record draw. The change in date from mid-April to late March, two weeks before Regionals helped pull in a nice group of players. With the weather heating up, the competition inside was equally hot. Tim Sweeney, last year's winner, had all he could handle with Jim Ellenburger playing excellent ball. Without resorting to his powerful drive serve (protecting a sore right shoulder) Tim had his work cut out for him winning 15-14, 15-9. While the rest of the Men's Open draw was down one from last year (12 players instead of 13) the rest of the draw was way up. We had 19 in the Men's A draw (versus 14 last year) with perennial Men's A powerhouses Dennis Negrete getting his second win of the year, besting Eric Rieman 15-14, 15-4. Regionals will be the last time these two will have a chance to meet in a Men's A event. (You are allowed to play the Regionals at the level that you began the year, so that you have a chance to play the Nationals at that level.) Men's B with 18 in the draw (same as last year) saw a visibly tired Keith Mecklenburg outlast Jack Tamplin 15-14, 15-7. The Men's C draw jumped from 8 last year to 20 this time around, with second seed John Anaya having to go through new ISRA member Lee Scoville, George Gonski and unseeded Rick Griffin to meet and beat Brad Stanfield in the finals. In Men's D (up from 8 to 18) saw another second seed, Tom Frediani gain some revenge on top seed Andy Simons, who beat Tom in the finals at the St. Valentine's Day Massacre in February of this year. This time it was Tom's turn to take the victory lap. They will both start the long road up to Men's C champ in the same season. On the Women's side, Ellen Somberg finally put a stop to Illinois newcomer Pontee Dobb's march through the Women's divisions, by beating her, 15-9, 8-15 and 11-9. The women did not even have an Open draw last year and this year they pulled in 9 players. It was great to see some excellent action on the women's side of the draw. Congratulations to all of the winners and good luck at the Regionals! — Mike Davern

Men's Open (12): 1-Tim Sweeney, 2-Jim Ellenberger, S-Dave Negrete, John Negrete

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Men's AA (5): 1-Ben Croft, 2-John Thorson, S-Kent Hadabra, Eric Reiman
 Men's A (19): 1-Dennis Negrete, 2-Eric Reiman, S-John Bartholomay, Martin Gonzalez
 Men's B (18): 1-Keith Mecklenburg, 2-Jack Tamplin, S-Ed Libby, Rich Wells
 Men's C (20): 1-John Anaya, 2-Brad Stanfield, S-Don Mayberry, Rick Griffin
 Men's D (18): 1-Tom Frediani, 2-Andy Simons, S-Dan Offerman, Ken Zwyrer
 Men's 35/40+ (8): 1-Lem Rowans, 2-Tom Utterback, S-Brian Castillo, Horace Miller
 Men's 45/50+ (8): 1-Len Restiano, 2-Leo Klimaitis, S-Ray Meisner, Horace Miller

Women's Open/A: 1-Ellen Somberg, 2-Pontee Dobbs, S-Julie Vincent, Kathy Dunham
 Women's A (4): 1-Lynne Weisbart, 2-Lynn Hiorns, S-Jill Wells, Julie Vincent
 Women's C/D (6): 1-Karen Marzano, 2-Janet Christie, S-Bridget Kundrot, Liz Janda

Men's Open Doubles (8): 1-John Kundrot/Mike Kinkin, 2-John Negrete/Ben Croft, S-Dave Negrete/Steve Sulli, Dale Johnson/Bill Kuhlman
 Men's A Doubles (8): 1-Martin Gonzalez/Dennis Negrete, 2-Dick Heithoff/Mike Lyle, S-Tom Mueller/Scott Ross, Tad Smith/Greg Benjamin
 Men's B Doubles (8): 1-Keith Mecklenburg/Dick Heithoff, 2-Kevin Massard/Russ Tator, S-John Anaya/Tom Pope, Andy Simons/Tom Frediani
 Men's C Doubles (4): 1-Mike Belvidere/Jesse Ortiz, 2-Wayne Grane/Sal Oliver, S-Mike Padavic/Dave Corrington, George Gonski/Lee Scoville

Mixed Open Doubles (11): 1-Tom Utterback/Nancy Rocha, 2-John Thorson/Kathy Dunham, S-Maria Johnson/Jeff Baumbartner, Pontee Dobbs/Al Rubaldo

Boy's 6-under Multi-Bounce: 1-Kyle Koburi, 2-Johnny Belvidere, S-David Negrete, Justin Kuhlman

USRA Regional Championships

Tournament Results

April 7-9, 2000

Despite the fact that the Regional entries were up for the third year in a row (with over 240 entries from 8 states this year), the last big tournament of the season came off without a hitch thanks to Geoff Peters, Doug Halverson and the hard working tournament and club staff at the Glass Court in Lombard. The tournament featured great competition, lots of awards, tons of giveaways, and a special group of Illinois "oldtimers" coming back for a special presentation. (See article and picture elsewhere in this issue.) The addition of the out-of-state competition made for some great match-ups. Jim Ellenberger finished his year strong, prevailing in Men's Open over a tiring Brad McCunniff (IA) who had just completed a victorious match in the Men's 30+ division over Joey Logan. On the Ladies side, Cheryl Gudinas showed why she is the top gun among the area ladies as she prevailed over Chris Evon in the finals. With Team HEAD player Tim Sweeney sitting this one out with a sore shoulder, we had Team Ektelon besting Team Wilson in both the Men's and Women's Open finals. As to the rest of the draw we got some matchups that we would not have seen in a normal tournament since you get to play the Regionals at the level that you started the year (so that you get a chance to play Nationals at that same level). Point in fact was the matchup of Cary Slade and Ben Croft in the Men's A finals. Both are now trying to make the difficult transition to Men's Open. However, since they started the year in Men's A (or in the case of Ben...even lower at Men's B!!!) they get to play Men's A one last time in Illinois. The interesting thing before the start of this match however, is that they already were both winners. The night before, Cary won the 2000 Player of the Year and Ben, the year's Most Improved Player. The nice thing is that each player proved the value of his respective award in the match. Ben Croft, winning 12 and 9, is just on a roll and is going to be harder and harder to stop. It is going to be real interesting to watch Ben's improvement over the next few years. As for Cary, he has had a

great year on the local level and, we look forward to seeing him in Men's Open. Ben also took second in the 24 and under to Andy Hawthorne. Andy, Ben and Krystal Csuk were all beneficiaries of the Silent Auction and Referee Fishbowl as each received a check toward their participation in the Junior Nationals this summer from Tournament Director Geoff Peters. Good luck to all three of you. Lots of old-timers turned out on Saturday night to enjoy Diane DeArmas's turkey dinner and be present as Sue Carow was inducted into the ISRA Hall of Fame. Saw some faces from the past including: Jim and Judy Harper, Coleen (Shields) Johnson, Dave and Nancy Kronenfeld, Ed Byrnes, Chris Evon, Barb Edelstein, Jean Sausser, Bill Feigen, Laurel Davis, Marshall Waldo, Judy Young, Barry Siegel and others! Come visit us more often! Actually, many of the "old-timers" were playing in the tournament! Congratulations to Ken Yahiro who bested John Bolster in the finals of the Men's 70+ division and also competed in the Men's 65+ with all the young pups. While everyone who was anyone turned up for the fun, we did miss Jim Gaw and Karen Nauta (three weeks to the nuptials) and Dan and Julie Flood this year. Both couples are usually fixtures at the tournament and at the bar. The overall bar take was down considerably until some of the other regulars were knocked out of the tournament. Doug Halverson was the backbone of the tournament once again as he was able to accommodate almost every conflict (don't know how real some of them were....) and cover for Geoff who was on the road all week (as usual). The Grand Rapids gang played all weekend. Next year you guys will have to haul Chuck Kaiser down with you as well. He called in with the shingles this year! The Indiana gang was light this year - but JC (Jon Cole) played into Sunday again. Lastly, what was up with the weather? 70 degrees on Thursday and 2 inches of snow on Friday night! Get out those scrapers, but as they say, it could always be worse - you could have spent the weekend in Cleveland!

—Geoff Peters and Mike Davern.

Men's Open (11): 1-Jim Ellenberger, 2-Brad McCunniff (IA), S-Andy Hawthorne, Nick Radloff
 Men's AA (4): 1-John Kundrot, 2-Jon Cole (IN), S-Mike Davern, Mike Kinkin
 Men's A (23): 1-Ben Croft, 2-Cary Slade, S-Eric Reiman, Dennis Negrete
 Men's B (24): 1-Martin Gonzalez, 2-Phil Streater, S-Dick Heithoff, Ray Meisner
 Men's C (25): 1-Tony Roselli, 2-John Anaya, S-Rich Wells, Mark Mobilia
 Men's D (20): 1-George Bound, 2-Humberto Sosa, S-George Smuckel, Joe DeRoche
 Men's 24- All-Age (3): 1-Andy Hawthorne, 2-Ben Croft, S-Andrew Stamler (IA)
 Men's 25/30+ (9): 1-Brad McCunniff (IA), 2-Joey Logan, S-John Kundrot, Doug Halverson
 Men's 35+ (10): 1-Dave Negrete, 2-Dave Milazzo, S-John Cole (IN), Clinton Allen
 Men's 30/35+ A/B INT. (9): 1-Rich Wells, 2-Randy Ems, S-Twayne Howard (MI), Jim Burns
 Men's 40+ (19): 1-Bill Lyman, 2-Jack White (MI), S-Greg Hodges (MI), Carl Kisill
 Men's 45+ (7): 1-Gregg Mandell, 2-Len Restaino, S-Horace Miller, Bob Croft
 Men's 40/45+ INT (10): 1-Al Robledo, 2-Joe Wilhelm, S-Dick Heithoff, Doug Wakeley
 Men's 50+ (5): 1-Joe Silius, 2-Tom Blakeslee (MI), S-Horace Miller, Leo Klimaitis
 Men's 50+ INT (6): 1-Len Schultz, 2-Ray Meisner, S-John Koziol, Larry Schum
 Men's 55+ (5): 1-Ron Yonkee, 2-Michael Mychaskiw (WI), S-Erhard Gruenwald, Don Davis
 Men's 60+ (2): 1-Don Davis, 2-Elliot Papermaster (WI)
 Men's 65/70+ (6): 1-Ed Olah, 2-John Bolster, S-Dan Dallas, Hugh Morrison

Women's Open (7): 1-Cheryl Gudinas, 2-Chris Evon, S-Krystal Csuk, Brenda White
 Women's A (8): 1-Pontee Dodds, 2-Ellen Somberg, S-Nancy Schum, Leslie Miller

continued on next page

Old Timers Reunite

At a get together last weekend, a number of Illinois racquetball players dating back into the early 1970's gathered to attend the annual ISRA awards ceremony which included Sue Carow being given the Illinois Hall of Fame Award. Players included: Sue Carow, Jean Sauser, Barb Edelstein, Ed Byrnes, Geoff Peters, Jim Harper, Judy Harper, Nancy Kronenfeld, David Kronenfeld, Marshall Waldo, Bill Roberts, Barry Siegel, Chris Evon, Judy Young, Bill Feigen, Rich Clay, Colleen (Shields) Johnson and Laurel Davis.

I'm trying to see other faces in the picture, but the resolution isn't that clear! Maybe I'm seeing the ghost of Alvin Barasch! —Geoff Peters



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

continued from previous page

Women's B (7): 1-Cathy Radloff, 2-Janet Eminger, S-Char Borre, Lynn Hiorns

Women's C (4): 1-Bridget Kundrot, 2-Peggy Hartman, S-Liz Janda, Glenda Rankin

Women's D (4): 1-Liz Janda, 2-Julianne Vrtis, S-Michelle Lexow, Carla Moats

Women's 35+ (2): 1-Pontee Dodds, 2-Mary Crawford

Women's 40+ (3): 1-Liz Molitor, 2-Deb Stefandel, S-Mary Crawford

Women's 45 (4): 1-Brenda White, 2-Nancy Rocha, S-Debbie Chaney (IN), Lynne Weisbart

Mixed Open Doubles (7): 1-Cheryl Gudinas/Scott Kuburi, 2-Joe Silius/Patrice Calvi S-Rich Clay/Ellen Somberg, Geoff Peters/Krystal Csuk

Mixed A Doubles (5): 1-Leslie Miller/Mark Mattos, 2-Cheryl Kirk/Kevin Yeazell, S-Janet Eminger/Al Murry, Peggy Hartman

From the President continued from page 1

new players during that time and introducing them to tournament play. He has served as ISRA Vice-President, State Doubles Tournament Director and has also held many tournaments of his own. His passion for racquetball shows in what he does. The "**Distinguished Service Award**" went to **Rich Clay**, but everyone in this group is a winner. Congratulations, Rich.

One final award was given this year. That award was the "**ISRA Hall of Fame Award**". It was really fun to see and visit with the group of "old timers" that gathered to see **Sue Carow** receive the award. Please see the article inside for more.

The season is running down. Thanks to all of the participants, supporters, and members for a great year. Have an excellent summer and enjoy yourself on the court—whether your summer court is a racquetball court, a golf course, or a swimming pool!

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Notice of Election of ISRA Officers

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The ISRA Board will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday June 14th, 2000 at 7:00pm at the National City Bank office in Oakbrook, at 2021 Spring Road, Suite 600 (use the elevator in the south west corner of the building). As with all ISRA meetings, this meeting is open to the membership, however this session is particularly important since all members attending have a vote in the election of the ISRA Board of Directors. Officer and Board positions are for staggered two year terms. This year, the open positions include Vice President and Treasurer, two of the four Zone Vice Presidents and 5 of the 10 Governing Board members. Remember, any ISRA member attending can vote! The Officer slate is: Tom Griffith for Vice President, Rich Clay for Treasurer, Carol Bastien for South Zone Vice President, and Doug Halverson for West Zone Vice President. In addition, the following five individuals are being nominated (or renominated) to the Governing Board: Jim Gaw, Peggy Hartman, Bill Lyman, Cary Slade, and Steve Stone. The Board would like to thank departing officers and governing board members: Sean Nelson, Larry Keller, Eric Rieman, and Howie Spaeth for their excellent service and contribution to the sport of racquetball in Illinois. We know that we can continue to count on your support. The Board would also like to welcome five new members to the Auxiliary Board: Rob Ayres, Gail Parzygnat, Krystal Csuk, Rich Wells and Cheryl Kirk. Any ISRA member who wishes to help improve the quality of racquetball in Illinois is welcome to join the Auxiliary Board. Come out and support Illinois Racquetball!

ISRA 2000 Slate

VICE PRESIDENT: Tom Griffith

TREASURER: Rich Clay

SOUTH ZONE VP: Carol Bastien

WEST ZONE VP: Doug Halverson

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Tournament _____ Representative _____

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



2000 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Call Geoff Peters (773) 935-9685 to add your listing.

May 6-7

WRA Junior Singles

Mukwonago Athletic Club
Carol Pellowski
(262) 363-2212
SANCTIONED

May 20-21

USRA Junior Regionals

Wisconsin Athletic Club,
Waukesha
Trish Elfman
(414) 544-4111
SANCTIONED

July 14 & 15

Summersplat Outdoor Three Wall

Athletic Club of Bloomingdale
Dale Johnson
(630) 893-9577

July 8

ISRA Golf Outing

Village Greens Golf Course
Woodridge, Illinois
Tom Utterback
(708) 479-1135

July 28-30

Summerfest

Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Doug Halverson
(630) 629-3390
SANCTIONED

Challenge Court Nights

Bloomington Challenge Court

Saturday and Sunday

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. \$6.00

Glass Court Challenge Court

Wednesday 6 - 9 p.m. \$6.00

Saturday 9-11 p.m. \$6.00

Oak Park Athletic Club

Wednesdays 4-7 and

Saturday 12-3 p.m. \$8.00

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Friday 6 - 8:30 p.m. \$5.00

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