

# RACQUETBALL

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for top spots  
Gustavo  
Kuerten &  
Sudsy  
Monchik**

**INSIDE ...  
Colin Powell  
"Fit for Life"  
World Seniors  
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AmPRO Instruction  
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# from the editor

Maybe it's my imagination, but I get the distinct impression that people are actually reading this publication (Happy Thanksgiving to me ...)! Don't ask me how I know, but I'm pretty sure that players start to get antsy right about the time their bi-monthly "fix" is due.

Usually, that's right around the time when new members and subscribers — who mistakenly assume that this is a monthly magazine (bite your tongue) — start to email the office looking for their start-up issue. "I joined six weeks ago, and I haven't received my magazine yet" they wail. Mindful of their confusion, I dig out the



stock reply (which goes into great detail about production schedules, non-profit mailing status, huge mag tapes of data and the postal service) to explain the delay. And in the back of my mind, I figure, "hey, they want the darn thing ... kinda makes your life worthwhile, eh?" And I'm not even Canadian ...

Another thing that makes my life worthwhile? When I learn that not only are people reading the magazine, they are responding to content!

In fact, I've been downright giddy lately — when offers by writers and photographers to contribute to our pages come in. Mindful of my own confusion, I dig out the stock reply (which goes into great detail about volunteerism, non-profit profit status, huge expenses and long hours) to explain the deal. And in the back of my mind, I figure "hey, they want to write for the darn thing ... let 'em!"

The result? This issue is filled with articles, photos, quotes and bits and pieces from just about everyone who every offered to "do something for the magazine." We have feature writer Tom Slear (always a sure bet), plus a slew of weekend-warriors-turned-bard like Cameron Potts, Tom Rall, Joanne Pomodoro, Ron Pudduck, Mike Mesecke and Marcy Lynch adding to the work of our regular contributors. Ready and waiting to cover pro stops and special events are Mike Ceresia, Brian Pointelin, Dick Barton, Janelle Santillanes, Bill DeGregorio, Lori Lepow and Tom Haddaway. They're from all over, so find one, tell them what you want to see in the magazine and have them pitch me a story. I'm all ears!

Now it's your turn. I'm absolutely certain that each and every one of them will want to know how you like their work (to make their lives worthwhile, after all). So tell 'em. Or me. Or both.

Let's hear from you, but not before I explain ... "if it weren't for all those higher-postal-class catalogues jamming up the mail-stream, this issue would have been in your hands earlier." Happy Holidays!

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**... on the cover ...** Number three-ranked tennis pro Gustavo Kuerten traded racquets — only briefly — with Sudsy Monchik in Central Park last August. Photo: John Greene.

**... this page ...** Laura Fenton winds up a forehand against Kim Russell in their National Doubles final, as Jackie Paraiso looks on. Photo: John Foust.



# reader forum

## No Partner? No Problem!

According to friend and cub reporter Al Marchese, Robert McGuinness had never attended a national event before deciding to make his debut in Baltimore. The 52-year old sales manager for CreoScitex

DAN DAVIS, ROBERT MCGUINNESS, MARK SCHNITTKER



(makers of pre-press production materials), McGuinness has been playing out of the club at Woodbridge for about nine years, and had originally planned to compete in the Men's 35+ and 45+ C/D divisions. But his partner dropped out at the last minute, and Marchese had to convince him to make the trip, just to see what goes on at a national event.

What went on was great news for McGuinness, who checked-in to get his souvenir package and was able to pick up not one, but two, brand-spanking new partners from Denver, Colorado: Mark Schnittker and Dan Davis. Not bad pairings, as McGuinness and Schnittker defeated Gerald Janke & Donald Lewis in a tiebreaker for the M35+ C/D crown, and he and Davis took the M45+ C/D division title with a straight-game win over Jack Hughes and Ron McElwee.

"The excitement of being a first-time entrant into the National Doubles, showing up without a partner and still winning two gold medals was overwhelming."

*Robert J. McGuinness  
Wall, New Jersey*

I can't thank you enough for such a wonderful experience down in Baltimore. You guys made me feel right at home from the first moment I stepped into the Club Tuesday night. Everyone I met was incredibly kind. It was amazing to see all the big names: Hansen, Adams, Hilecher, Wehrle, Graff, the women and men professionals. I would venture to say it's a safe assumption that I watched more matches than anyone there. I learned an unbelievable amount. Who knows, maybe my mom will track down her relatives and someday I will be a right side doubles specialist for Team Australia!!!

I am a singles player at heart but my chronic back pain limits me to mostly doubles. As long as blood is flowing through my veins I will play the National Doubles every year. Thanks so much for putting on such a high class, professionally run tournament. And many thanks - again - to Heather for finding me partners with only 30 minutes left before the draw was to be made.

*Lee Horwitz • Bolton, Conn.*

## A Special Win

I hope that this special story can be printed in your next issue. It's about a good friend of mine, my old doubles partner, Russ Mannino. Recently, at the National Doubles in Baltimore, he won his first national title, teaming with Ed Remen to win the 50+ division.

But I would like to let everyone know what a special person he is, how much I respect him and how much he has done for our sport. After opening four court clubs in New York, with a total of 44 racquetball courts, he became my employer, coach and mentor ... always staying in the background while I climbed up the pro rankings to eventually reach my dream of being the #1 player in the world in 1988. He was there in the stands in Seattle to share that great moment with me.

He has also always promoted and supported the USRA, and especially its junior programs ... in fact, he's respon-

sible for two more of today's most exciting pro players, Sudsy Monchik and his son Jason Mannino!

Now he owns and operates San Diego Fitness and Racquet Center. I'm sure he's enjoying his first gold medal, but I say "Don't get too cocky ... I'll be in that division soon." Just wanted to say thanks to Russ for being my friend.

*Ruben Gonzalez • Staten Island, NY*



FIRST OF A SERIES: Racquetball, the Breakfield Way!  
International Championships Entry Inside  
Top Tournament Results • Information On Your Divisions

Gene Grapes and Al Schattner were featured in the cover shot of the first edition of RACQUETBALL, published by the IRA, in 1973. They posed for us again at the 2000 National Doubles!



FIRST OF A SERIES: Racquetball, the Breakfield Way!  
International Championships Entry Inside  
Top Tournament Results • Information On Your Divisions



# usra regional events 2001

## 2001 ektelon adult regional qualifiers [level 4] ... nationwide

Qualifying competition is **REQUIRED** to participate in the 2001 Ektelon 34th U.S. National Singles in Houston, Texas — **no exceptions (regardless of age)**! Whether or not you plan to go on to Houston, you'll want to take part in the largest nationwide event of the year! By doing so, you'll accumulate high-level ranking points plus earn seeding consideration at "The Finals." **WAIVERS:** All legitimate waivers of qualifying competition at any of these events must be approved **prior** to the scheduled regional weekend. All waivers must be directed to — and approved by — the USRA Headquarters. Individual regional tournament directors may not approve exclusions from play, for any reason.

|             |  |                                   |                        |                   |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| April 5-8   | Orlando Tennis & Racquet Club. . . . . | Orlando, Florida. . .             | Bill Herr. . . .       | 407-880-7790 x552 |
| April 19-22 | Ozark Sports Club . . . . .            | Fort Smith, Arkansas . . .        | Dann Schwinger . . .   | 501-646-4022      |
|             | Spectrum Club. . . . .                 | Canoga Park, California . . .     | Deb Tisinger . . . . . | 818-884-5034      |
|             | Southern Athletic Club . . . . .       | Atlanta, Georgia . . .            | Ric Crosby . . . . .   | 404-923-5400      |
|             | Merritt Athletic Club . . . . .        | Baltimore, Maryland . . .         | Jeff Leon . . . . .    | 410-315-7900      |
|             | Central Courts . . . . .               | Columbia Heights, Minnesota . . . | Dennis Ring . . . . .  | 612-920-6652      |
|             | Executive Health & Sports Center . . . | Manchester, New Hampshire . . .   | Kelley Beane. . . . .  | 603-759-2729      |
|             | Tom Young's Athletic Club . . . . .    | Albuquerque, New Mexico . . .     | Gary Mazaroff. . . . . | 505-266-8960      |
|             | Cascade Athletic Club. . . . .         | Gresham, Oregon. . .              | Connie Martin . . . .  | 503-665-4142      |
|             | Parma Courts. . . . .                  | Cleveland, Ohio. . .              | Doug Ganim . . . . .   | 614-890-6073      |
|             | Northwest Health & Fitness . . . . .   | Houston, Texas. . .               | Annie Muniz . . . . .  | 713-432-0881      |
| May 3-6     | Athletic Club of Bloomington. . . . .  | Bloomington, Illinois . . .       | Dave Negrete . . . . . | 630-483-6829      |

## other recognized qualifiers ... for seniors 45 & up

|            |   |                              |                       |              |
|------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Jan. 19-21 | Women's Senior Master Championships . . | Canoga Park, California. . . | Deb Tisinger. . . . . | 818-884-5034 |
| March      | NMRA Masters Singles. . . . .           | Houston, Texas. . .          | Ron Pudduck . . . . . | 734-426-8952 |

[These qualify 45+ entrants ONLY! ... 35+ & 40+ players in the preceding events must still take part in a regional qualifier — from the first group shown above — in order to compete at National Singles].

## 2001 junior qualifying @ all [level 3] state championships

To become eligible for play in the HEAD 28th U.S. Junior Olympics [June 23-27, 2001], entrants must first compete in any Level 3 State Championship, OR in a recognized junior regional event (not offered in all areas). All players must compete in (not merely enter) the qualifying state or regional event, plus meet all age requirements and other entry stipulations.

Questions? Call 719-635-5396, or go to: [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org)

### ••• qualifying tipsheet •••

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <u>This Sanctioned Event</u> . . . . . | <u>Qualifies players for:</u> |
| State Singles Championships . . . . .  | Junior Olympics               |
| Recognized Junior Regional . . . . .   | Junior Olympics               |
| National High Schools . . . . .        | Junior Olympics               |

|                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| National Intercollegiates. . . . .    | National Singles           |
| Regional Qualifiers . . . . .         | National Singles           |
| WSMRA Championship (Jan.) . . . .     | National Singles [45 & up] |
| NMRA Championship (Mar.) . . . .      | National Singles [45 & up] |
| U.S. Military Championships . . . . . | National Singles           |

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Alaska/Hawaii residents. . . . .       | exempt from qualifying |
| Active duty overseas military. . . . . | exempt from qualifying |

## Senior Slowdown?

I am in awe of the people that come to [World Seniors] each year. They are the reason the game is alive, there was no sponsorship for them when they started out, no chance for Olympic dreams when they started out, no tournaments around the globe when they started out. They gave birth to this game, nurtured, raised and preserved it for the rest of us who followed. In all the hype and flash we need to thank the Seniors and Masters for supporting this game throughout a time when it was not well represented. They have taught us much,

we need to recognize them, learn from them and thank them.

*Joanne Pomodoro  
East Boston, Mass.*

## Lesson Plan

I took a Friday night clinic from Lynn Adams and Derek Robinson last week. Then, low and behold, they appear in my RACQUETBALL magazine with a Game Plan on the lob serve. No wonder they didn't want to teach the lob serve during the clinic! Now *that* is covering the bases. Nicely done.

By the way, the clinic in Rockford, Illinois was the best learning experience any person could ever hope for. Those two really know their stuff!! Congrats to the dynamic duo of Derek and Lynn.

*Dick Barton • Park Ridge, Illinois*

## CORRECTION

In the final results published in the September/October issue of RACQUETBALL, the Boy's 6- multi-bounce division incorrectly listed the winner as Sam Reid. In fact, it was Marco Rojas, of Stockton, California who won that event. Belated congratulations!



# WHAT A YEAR!

A man in a white and black athletic outfit is celebrating on a city street, likely Times Square, with his arms raised. He is holding a racquetball racket in his right hand and a green racquetball in his left. The background shows a busy street with pedestrians, yellow taxis, and tall buildings with various advertisements. The overall atmosphere is festive and energetic.

The season's pro tour stands to be the most exciting ever as two of the best compete for racquetball supremacy.

*It just might be history in the making ... !*



*It's a conflict made for a Hollywood script. Two archrivals stand so far apart on the spectrum that if they moved one step more they would fall over the edge. One is young, brash, with stunning physical talent and, at the moment, king of the hill. The other is older, reserved, cerebral, and ensconced at No. 2.\**

But the clash doesn't end with their ages, personalities, or approaches to their craft. The two are in the midst of a struggle to resolve nothing less than racquetball eminence.

Cliff Swain, the elder, has been the top-ranked pro five times, though only once in the last five years, supplanted by Sudsy Monchik, the relative youngster who finished No. 1 in 1996 and every year since with the exception of 1998. They combined to dominate racquetball in the 1990s as thoroughly as the Chicago Bulls dominated the NBA. The question is: Which one, Swain or Monchik, will go down in the history books as racquetball's Michael Jordan?

Regardless of the winner, racquetball will at its brightest this year and the next several. In the nearly three decades of a professional racquetball tour, four players have stood out with multiple turns as No. 1. Marty Hogan ruled racquetball in its formative years and finished No. 1 five times. Mike Yellen was the top player five consecutive years during the 1980s. Swain, with five No. 1's, has already entered that elite circle. Monchik, with four, is on the cusp.

"You have Cliff trying to be the first to be No. 1 six times and you have Sudsy trying to become only the fourth player to be No. 1 five times," says Doug Ganim, the racquetball promotions manager for Head, which sponsors Monchik. "Can you think of anything better for the sport?"

What's more, observers agree, is that Monchik and Swain have taken the game to a lofty perch.

"The level of play right now is definitely higher than ever, though it is difficult — with different balls and different rackets — to compare players from one era to another," says Mike Guidry, a 10-year tour veteran who finished last season ranked sixth.

**by Tom Slear**

*\*facts based on "at writing" timeline. Current rankings may vary.*



Photo: Vicki Hughes

Andy Roberts, who spent 15 years on the tour and is now a consultant for Ektelon, is not as reticent.

"I played Hogan and Yellen in their prime," he says, "and the overall physical package is better in Sudsy, without question. But Cliff still ranks at the top in his mental approach and serve."

The smart money says that Monchik will ultimately prevail. He's eight years younger than Swain and he has athletic skills no one — Hogan, Yellen, or Swain — envisioned even on their best days.

"As pros we'll sit in the stands and watch Sudsy play and say, 'Did you see what he did? That was amazing,'" says Ruben Gonzalez, the Hall of Fame player who, like Monchik, lives in Staten Island, N.Y., and has been the closest thing Monchik has had to a coach. "That gives him the benefit of the fear factor. We won't admit it, but we don't want to play him."



"He can do things with the ball nobody else can," says Guidry. "You never know what to expect. His sheer power and quickness allow him to get out of situations other pros can't."

High praise, indeed, to which Monchik responds with, "Yeah, but..."

He's been watching Swain for so long, picking his brain at every opportunity, that he can't fully absorb the thought of displacing The Master. Monchik has no trouble viewing himself as No. 1 — the self-confidence he's had since childhood ensures that — but he can't quite picture Swain as No. 2.

"Cliff is the best player of all time, no doubt," Monchik insists. "Of all the players I've known, he is the one I admire the most."

When pressed, however, Monchik concedes the obvious. Swain achieved his first No. 1 ranking when he was 24. Monchik has just turned 26 and he already has four No. 1 rankings and foresees another six.

"Can Cliff do it (be No. 1) another five times?" Monchik asks. "I think he can. It wouldn't surprise me. But I'm speaking out of respect. If I say he couldn't do it, he'll go out and work hard to prove me wrong."

In addition to his gifted physical skills, Monchik has an impeccable racquetball resume. He was groomed through the amateur ranks, becoming the first player ever to win a USRA national championship in every junior age group, from eight through 18. He joined the professional tour in 1994 and promptly won the premier event, the Pro Nationals, and finished the season ranked 11th. Two years later he was first, a position he has ceded only once,



He's definitely marketable — At a recent Central Park play-test to introduce "Head Intelligence" technology for tennis, HEAD/Penn's VP for Marketing, Kevin Kempin, mugged with the company's star racquetball athlete. New York photos: John Greene.



in 1998, because of nagging injuries and the ever-present Swain.

But Monchik brings more to the table than a powerful backhand, speed-of-light quickness, and proper breeding. Unlike Swain, he's adept at the hype that defines modern-day sports personalities.

"Cliff is the consummate professional," says Jason Mannino, ranked fourth. "If we're in jeans, he's in slacks. He's always a step up. And he's a nice guy, just not showy. I just spent a weekend with him at a tournament and I didn't see him once turn down a request for an autograph or not answer a question."

Swain would never paint his face, *à la* Braveheart, for a picture in a national magazine, as Monchik did for Sports Illustrated last year. Nor would he take on the "Magic Show" persona that Monchik portrays for Head (which can be seen in each issue of this magazine).

"Sudsy is a free spirit, Cliff is all business," says Ganim, who worked with Swain before he switched to Wilson in 1996. "Sudsy wears his heart on his sleeve. It's more emotional to him. With Cliff, racquetball is a business."

Swain's goals are simple and by today's super-hype standards, relatively pedestrian: win games and earn nods of respect from spectators.

"What's important to me," he says, "is people coming up after a tournament and saying that I was a gentleman on the court, a class act."

He's definitely marketable — At a recent Central Park play-test to introduce "Head Intelligence" technology for tennis, HEAD/Penn's VP for Marketing, Kevin Kempin, mugged with the company's star racquetball athlete. New York photos: John Greene.



Monchik, on the other hand, wants more than approval. He's after converts. If Swain is the quiet preacher in the corner church, Monchik is the evangelist in the tent. Which one will draw the media attention that racquetball so desperately needs? Swain knows the answer and it rankles him.

Monchik, too, knows the answer and he's ready to exploit his advantage.

"Sudsy is a new breed, certainly different from the players I came up with," says Gonzalez, 49. "He brings charisma to the game. People not only want to see Sudsy play, they want to see him communicate. He is someone the sport can sell to a general audience."

But personality sells only if accompanied by dominance on the court, something Swain can steal away in a heartbeat. In the early 1990s, with the tour disheveled and purses lighter than air, he left racquetball for a foray into professional tennis. With the tour showing signs of sustainable life, he returned to racquetball two years later and played as if he were away for a couple of weeks, not a couple of years.

By all rights, Swain should have seven No. 1's, leaving Monchik in a cloud of dust. And while he probably has lost a nano-second in quickness, he dismisses the notion that racquetball, or any other sport for that matter, is solely about who can move faster or jump higher.

"There are two other parts," he says. "One is a good touch. The other is mental toughness."

While some dispute whether Monchik or Swain has the better touch, no one contests who is tougher mentally.

"Cliff will always play as hard as he can on every point," says Guidry. "He sets the standard for intensity on the court."

Even Monchik admits as much: "Can I get complacent? At times I have, and I do. Not Cliff. He is an animal on the court, so intense."

Ironically, it's Monchik who portrays himself with a killer instinct more vicious than his backhand.

"My racket is my sword, my slicer and dicer," he told Sports Illustrated. "I'm pals with each opponent I face, but once the door closes, I want to rip out his eyes and step on his trachea."

If only that were the case, counters Gonzalez. Instead of envisioning bodily harm to his opponents, Monchik often takes comfort in images of Staten Island, his wife, and his young children.

"Right now he's winning because of physical ability," Gonzalez says. "But to get serious, to get to the point where he should be, which means winning every tournament he plays, he has to start exercising mind control. He has to go onto the court thinking, '11-0 three games and I'm outta here.'"

As it is, you can see him picking it up, but usually it's in the second or



**HISTORICALLY SPEAKING ...**  
But wait, didn't Hogan win six titles? Well ... it's debatable. In our research for this article, we found that — although Hogan did close the 1982 season as the highest earner

— he was a few points shy on the official rankings. Dave Peck claimed the #1 spot that season with 920 points, to Hogan's 860.

**So, Hogan was the pro tour season champion in consecutive years from 1978-1981, then once again in 1989, for a total of five.**

**Mike Yellen's five season wins were back-to-back — and unprecedented — in 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987.**

**Cliff Swain picked up his first season win in 1990, followed by top tour honors in 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1998.**

**Monchik's tour crowns include 1996, 1997, 1999 and 2000.**

third game when he has already lost a game and the score is 7-7."

So, who will it be this year? The intense, almost studious Swain and a record-setting sixth No. 1, or the immensely gifted, free spirited Monchik and a fifth No. 1 on the way to as many as 10.

"A coin toss," says Mannino.

"Not sure," says Guidry.

"Who knows?" says Ganim. "But one thing is for sure, it will be exciting to watch."



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Cliff Swain, 5-Time Pro  
World Champion.

Derek Robinson, #6 Ranked  
on the IRT™ Pro Tour.

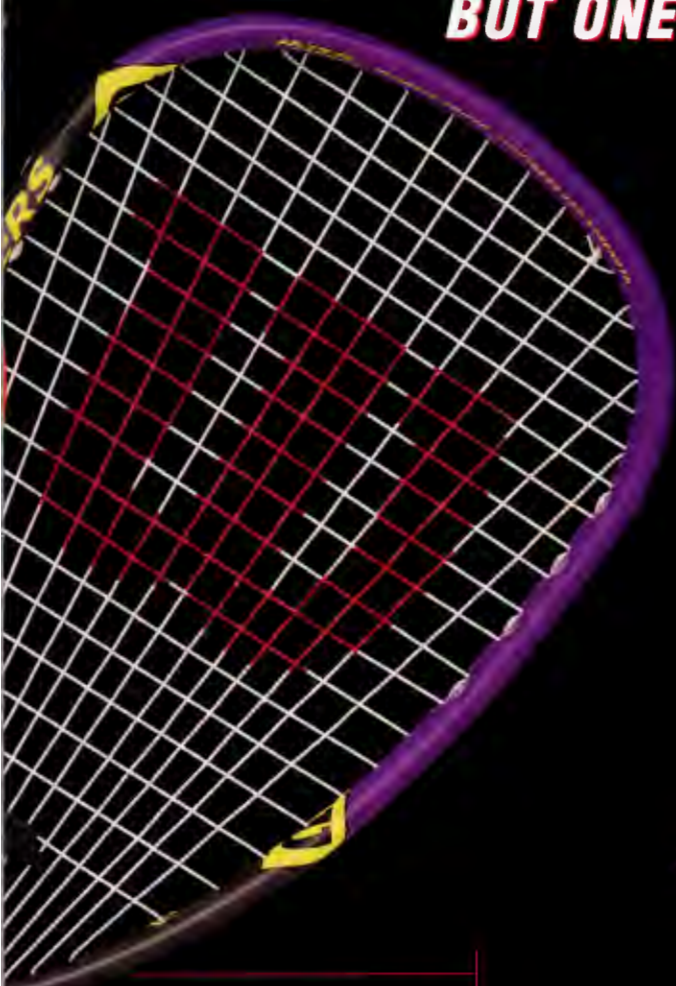
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# In Racquetball

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Balance: Head Light

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## re-matches in baltimore

The Merritt Athletic Club was well prepared to host the season kick-off event, the Ektelon 33rd U.S. National Doubles Championship in Baltimore last month. Players were greeted by a very clean and well-organized facility, decorated with draw sheets that read like a 'Who's who in Racquetball.' Defending champions and top seeds Ruben Gonzalez and Mike Guidry arrived to find a huge Men's Open draw teeming with awesome talent and great depth.

The Ladies Open draw was no less dynamic and was also saturated with talent. Not surprisingly, the top seeds were Laura Fenton and Jackie Paraiso (last year's silver medallists), over defending champ Kim Russell and replacement partner Kersten Hallander in the #2 spot. The top pairings headed an awesome field of players, rich with exceptional playing abilities and the very highest athletic skills in women's racquetball today!

The age divisions also saw a broad mix of players from all over the country, including plenty of former pro players from years gone by. These divisions were filled with very experienced players from yesteryear, not to mention more than a few returning national champions.

The mixed draws were especially large and also filled with an array of player combinations, not the least of which was the Mixed Open, featuring current national singles champ Rocky Carson and reigning world doubles champion Kim Russell advancing into the final from the #3 spot.

All came with the thought of winning. Some arrived to play for their first time, while others arrived to play their sixth, seventh or eighth time. But no matter where they came from or what their individual motivation, they all came to play. And play they did!

### A Struggle

Coming back from a pair of disappointing losses at the recent World Championships, defending champions, Ruben Gonzalez and southpaw partner Mike Guidry



REMATCHES OVERTURNED! BOTH SETS OF LAST YEAR'S SILVER MEDALISTS TRADED UP THIS YEAR. ABOVE: FENTON, RUSSELL, PARAISO, HALLENDAR IN THE WOMEN'S FINAL. BELOW: KARP, GUIDRY, GONZALEZ, ROBERTS IN THE MEN'S. ALL EIGHT WERE APPOINTED TO THE U.S.



were determined to match last year's showing in Baltimore. And although the pair weren't tested until the semi-final round, they still had to advance through some tough opposition to get that far.

They were straight-game wins, to be sure, but they were all against national-champion caliber teams. After a quick advance over locals Dirk Huck and Jonathan Jones, Gonzalez and Guidry faced Florida's Ross Greenberg and Aaron Metcalf, who would later win the Men's 25+ division. Next up were Arizona's Jeff Bell and



'90 national doubles champion Jim Floyd. In their first tiebreaker of the run, the top seeds faced more recent national champs Todd O'Neil and Derek Robinson ('96), for their first real scare.

After losing the first 6-15, and rallying to take the second 15-4, Gonzalez and Guidry had been in the hole at 6-9 in the tiebreaker before pulling out to tie it at 9 all. There, Guidry and opposing-lefty O'Neil began a sidewall glass battle that ended with an avoidable that handed the top-seeds the match. At 9-9, O'Neil appeared to have been nicked by the ball after Guidry held up his forehand backswing and let the ball pass to make a second try off the backwall. Referee Rich Clay awarded the avoidable, and point 10, to Guidry and Gonzalez, but was overturned in a split decision by line judges on appeal.

Returning to 9-9, Guidry rolled out a forehand reverse pinch to reach match point advantage a second time, then proceeded to trap O'Neil in exactly the same position on another forehand setup. Backing up to clear the forehand lane, Guidry once again found his "personal space" invaded by O'Neil's attempt to cover the shot, and this time there was no question. Another avoidable and ... game over.

Not to be outdone, #2 seeded Adam Karp and Andy Roberts also chose the semi-final round to go to their first tiebreaker, against two-time national singles champ Michael Bronfeld and the stylish Mike Locker. Earlier, Karp and Roberts had eliminated Jamal Harris and Travis Woodbury; Jeremy Best and David Sable; then ended the upset run of Jonathan Dunn and Greg Solis.

In the team-qualifying semi-final round, Bronfeld and Locker had stunned the crowd by handing Karp and Roberts a donut in the first game, only to receive their own twinkie in the second. The tiebreaker wasn't as close for the '99 silver medallists, who moved into the rematch with an 11-6 win.



O'Neil and Robinson share an opinion on a get



Locker concedes an avoidable to Karp ... gladly!



Guidry & Gonzalez Mine!

"We knew that we had to focus" said Karp afterward, "especially after being so flat in the first game. But I was pretty sure we could adjust."

With the pressure of the team round behind them (all four players were re-appointed to the U.S. Team for the coming year by reaching the final), Karp and Roberts set their minds to taking the win that had been snatched from them last year after a broken ball on match point had given Gonzalez and Guidry a reprieve – and enough of an opening to recover for the '99 title.

In this rematch, it again took a tiebreaker to bring on the tough play. Karp and Roberts lost the first 15-5; Gonzalez and Guidry lost the second 15-6. And after marching to an 8-2 lead in the third, it seemed that Karp and Roberts would have their revenge. But even facing 50, Gonzalez does not let a little thing like a six point lead shake him up.

As you'll often see with Gonzalez, he'll rev it up when he has too, and you could almost hear the announcement "let the diving begin!" His first airborne save got them to point 3. His second rolled out for point 4. The next rally saw a repeat series that kept the ball in play until Guidry switched to the right side, earning them another point with a backhand winner. A non-scoring sideout exchange put them back in the box for point six, where Guidry launched a change-up serve to Karp for a surprise ace.

## 2000 Ektelon 33rd U.S. National Doubles

*Presented by Penn • Additional material by Tom Rall • Photos by John Foust*



**PINCH SHOTS** (sideline observations about life, racquetball, the real world, and how they sometimes intertwine) *by John Foust*

**National Doubles:** Is there a more fun national event than Doubles? The competition is fierce, the play intense and action packed, yet everyone seems to be having a great time. It's a load off your shoulders when there's someone else in there to help pick up the slack.

**Speaking of National Doubles:** Hats off to the Merritt Athletic Club/Security for hosting the event again this year. Where else can you go that has so much to offer? Great courts, good viewing – and not just on the Championships courts, but all the others as well (enough space that you're not elbow-to-elbow). The upstairs restaurant is a great place to be out of the way, but you can still enjoy the tournament atmosphere. The Merritt staff did a good job handling a crowd such as ours (in itself not always an easy task).

**Older and Wiser:** There was a time that being older had its advantages. This isn't that time. Sure, the younger players hit the ball hard, so it's a power issue. The 35-50 crowd can still put some steam on the ball, but they're really starting to think about what they're doing. The 50+ divisions are filled with players who grew up with racquetball – who not only still hit the ball at a good pace, but they're *really* smart. Tough combination. So, as if we didn't already know, it doesn't pay to get older against this type of competition!



PIC: TYLER OHLBRECHT

**Elvis is in the House:** "There's a racquetball court with gold records on it. How did that happen?" [Actress Helen Hunt on *Late Night* with David Letterman explaining her tour through Graceland.]

**You know things are going to be bad when:** • Receiving at 14, you hit a ceiling ball to be safe, and miss. The ceiling. • The player on your side has *lots* of ball marks on the backs of their legs. • Your referee accidentally spills their beer on your court. • You see your girlfriend leaving with someone else during your match. Brutal.

**KARP AND ROBERTS AGREE NOT TO LET GONZALEZ & GUIDRY BACK IN THE GAME ...**



At 8-6, Karp and Roberts regained the serve and a single point before Guidry earned points 7 and 8 of their bid, then lost his focus – and an appeal for an avoidable on a grounded Karp. Back on serve, Karp rolled out a backhand reverse pinch in front court to go to match point, followed by a skipped backhand splat attempt by Roberts, and a sideout.

But the boat had left the harbor for Gonzalez & Guidry. Ruben skipped a hurry-up forehand overhead for half out, and was passed crisply for the sideout. Then, going for a big return of serve, Guidry skipped a backhand reverse pinch to end it. But the pair still went home with a gold, though. Earlier in the day, Gonzalez & Guidry had won the Men's 30+ division as a warm-up (even though their *average* age is 40).

### Three out of Four

Newly signed to ProKennex and apparently re-habbed to within an inch of her life, Laura Fenton happily claimed the top seed with partner Jackie Paraiso, on the basis of the pair's silver medal finish in last year's event. Defending champion Kim Russell had lost her lefty partner, Robin Levine, to retirement after their '99 win but brought in a first-rate sub in Kersten Hallander, pro ranked #4 at the close of last season.

But from their number two seed position Hallander and Russell were, technically, working backwards. They'd already made it to the top, just weeks earlier, with a win at the IRF World Championships, in both the individual and team rounds. Prior to that they had only played once, many years ago, and were still working their way back up to speed.

Their first-round challengers were another new pairing, made up of junior world doubles champions Rhonda Rajsich and Kristen Walsh. Both hold three junior crowns apiece with other partners, beginning with Rajsich in 1991 in the Girl's 12 and under, and Walsh in 1995 in the Mixed 12-. Rajsich recently broke into "the majors" with a semi-final finish at national singles and her first U.S. Team appointment, and Walsh is a strong up-and-comer.

But Hallander and Russell were able to dash their hopes in short order, with a straight game win, before going up against a slightly more experienced and talented pair. The #3 seeded team of Malia Bailey and Cheryl Gudinas had also been at the recent World Championships — Gudinas coming away as the world singles champion, and Bailey on the coaching staff. But Bailey is a world doubles champion in her own right with wins in '90 with Paraiso, '92 with Robin Levine and in '84





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**Eavesdropping I:** "I can only tell you two things. If I tell you more you'll just forget them." [Advice from a spectator to an upper age division player.]

**Where's the Cape?** It can't just be me. Doesn't it seem that every time "Superman" Ruben Gonzalez is down and out in River City, something spectacular happens that inspires him, his partner, and the crowd? His opponents know, all too well, what he's capable of. Ask Derek Robinson and Todd O'Neil, who looked to have their semi-final match wrapped up only to see it slip away. With Ruben, it's

not just a match, it's an event. Another case of heart and determination standing for something.



**Eavesdropping II:** "It was only a rollout to a female." [Unidentified player responding to a rollout call made by his female referee — when he was slightly over 38 feet from the ball.]

**I'll Work for Food:** Great job by Ektelon and Bedding Barn in hosting the Crab Fest on Saturday night. Steamed Maryland crabs, chicken, adult beverages — all a growing boy needs. Seriously though, it's a lot of work. Perhaps it helps to know what you're doing.

**Team of the Tournament:** This has to go to Dunn and Solis. Not to be confused with Dunn and Bradstreet. Jonathan Dunn and Greg Solis pulled out an 11-10 upset quarterfinal win over Doug Ganim and Dan Obremski — both former U.S. National Team members who can still hold their own on the court. But fresh legs, fresh attitude, and the will to want it more took over. There's always someone lurking around the corner looking to move up. It's inevitable. — *Let the good times roll!*

**John Foust is a long-time player, former USRA Board member and CRA volunteer, official event photographer, and founding partner of the newly-launched website TheRacquetballCatalog.com.**

with Carol French. Still, they fared only a little better than the juniors against Hallendar and Russell, who advanced to the final, and earned team appointments, for their two game win.

On the top half of the draw, Fenton and Paraiso also made quick work of their challengers, beginning with former junior

team member and newlywed Shannon Feaster-Stewart and lefty partner Aimee Roehler. Up next were '96 national champions Mary Lyons and Susan Pfahler, who were eliminated just as promptly.

SUSAN PFAHLER AND LAURA FENTON TRACK A SHOT BY MARY LYONS. GUESS WHAT IT WAS ...



The top-seeds (both outfitted by ProKennex) chose their best red, white & blue "formal wear" for the final, and matched their put-together look with a straightforward approach to taking the title. Fenton showed no signs of favoring her injured back as she buried every forehand put to her, and Paraiso looked as crisp as ever in her service game and low-to-the-ground shot coverage. After less-than-stellar performances in singles last season, both players were pleased with the last of their series of two-game victories for this particular title.

"Laura played great" said Jackie after the match "so I didn't have to do all that much. I've got no complaints!"

*Both men's and women's final matches were taped for webcast by Ticket2Sport.com, and should be available on the internet by press time. All draws can be found online by following links from usra.org and racqmag.com.*

## People, Personalities & Sideline Specials

By Tom Rall

Many notable names from years past appeared in the draws, and it was good to see them back on the courts again after so long. Lynn Adams, long-time pro champion, arrived in Baltimore with husband Rich Clay and three kids in tow, looking much the same as her former cover photos. A joy to be around and a gracious and wonderful person, it's always good to see this Hall-of-Famer at any event!

"I'm doing well. The family's fine and I'm happy," she said. Lynn's life-time battle with MS is her greatest challenge, and she's an inspiration to many. As one of the greatest players to ever swing a racquet and one with more championships — indoor and out — than any other player, male or female, it is always a pleasure seeing her back on the court.



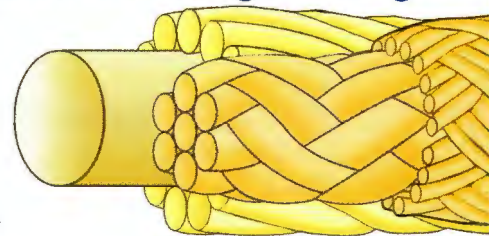
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| Kory Duarte             | <i>SuperKill 17</i>  |
| Shannon Feaster-Stewart | <i>PowerKill Pro</i> |
| Kori Grasha             | <i>SuperKill II</i>  |
| Dennis Guaglione        | <i>PowerKill Pro</i> |
| Sameer Hadid            | <i>SuperKill 17</i>  |
| Don Harrington          | <i>PowerKill Pro</i> |
| Steve Lerner            | <i>Killfire XL</i>   |
| Aimee Roehler           | <i>Killfire XL</i>   |
| Shawn Royster           | <i>SuperKill 17</i>  |
| Dan Sheppick            | <i>SuperKill 17</i>  |
| Ellie Stucker           | <i>PowerKill Pro</i> |
| Isabel Tabares          | <i>SuperKill 17</i>  |
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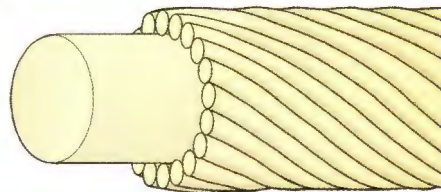
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Jerry Hilecher, who suffered a severe knee injury, was back to playing at the national level. It was interesting seeing him in the Merritt Athletic Club again, where one of his greatest wins took place in the mid eighties, at the height of a "racquetball frenzy" across the country. He was playing Dave Peck, had lost the first two games and was down 10-1 in the third. He won that game and the match, then won the next two rounds to win the tournament! I asked him about how it felt.

"Tom, that was something else. I was down and out in that last game with Peck. The people watching were getting up to leave and I was ... well, I don't know what I was thinking. But I got a few points, then a few more and before I knew it I'd won that game. Then I just stayed focused and won the match. That was a big match for me. But it was great to win the tournament too. I won a Toyota van!" Jerry's had his knee fixed and he's back. He's started his own company and his wife and children are doing fine. He came away from this year's event with a silver in Men's 45+ and a quarterfinal finish in the Mixed 45+.

Talking to Ruben Gonzalez I learned that all could not be better for him now. He said, "My family is fine. I'm still getting over the thrill of being inducted into the Racquetball Hall of Fame. That was very special for me. And I'm glad to be playing. I'm playing good."

Of course with Ruben there is always that tint of quiet modesty. For him to feel he's 'playing good' translates to the rest of us as he's still playing awesome and moving at the speed of sound on the court! It's worth mentioning that this gentleman is very approachable and it's easy to be relaxed around such greatness. Think of just how many amazing things this man has done in his seemingly endless playing career. As always, we're all glad to see him and even more pleased that his game hasn't appeared to slow down one bit. I just wish he'd show some sign of aging. It would at least let the rest of us know he's human!

Andy Roberts, who has been focusing more of his time on raising a family in recent years, also shows no signs of slowing down, and recently came away with his first World Senior 35+ championship title. Dan Obremski, known to many as Mr. Fitness, was wearing a knee brace but still seemed more than capable of covering the entire court at high speeds with no problem.



Mae Chin-Varon [shown above left, with Debbie Tisinger], who stopped playing competitive racquetball for years to have children and raise a family, is back on the courts and playing well enough to be one of only two players to have worked her way through full draws in three divisions to win triple-gold this year. Her forehand crack serves don't appear to have gone away either. Her equal in this marathon achievement? Troy Stallings in Men's 45+, Mixed 40+ and Mixed 45+.

### **What a Difference a Point Makes!**

**By Tom Rall**

There were many outstanding matches, but there was one in the Men's Open quarterfinal round that was unique. It was special because it brought together two completely different kinds of teams: Dan Obremski and Doug Ganim, high-profile players with more years of experience, plus enough national and world doubles titles between them to intimidate even the most experienced of players — and Jonathan Dunn and Greg Solis, two young Californians whose game style was defined as hard-hitting, with fantastic retrieving ability.

It was exciting because the scores went back and forth between the first and second games with the exact same scores for each team; 12-15, 15-12. Going into the third game, each team had scored 27 points. The tiebreaker was a slow mover — the kind of game where each team earns one point, but then loses serve.

All four players displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout the match, which lasted nearly two hours! The crowd was amazed at the level of play and was on its feet at the end, applauding. It was extraordinary racquetball played by exceptional athletes. Each point was extended, with many exchanges — sometimes as many as ten and twelve — and very few 'short' rallies.



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It was like this all the way up to 10-10. Between sideouts, the action could only be described as outstanding, with incredible gets by Solis (often three and four in a single rally), smart playing by Dunn and excellent shot-

making by both Obremski and Ganim. The clutch shot came at 10-10 when Ganim served to Solis, who returned a perfect side wall pinch right in front of Ganim for sideout. All tied at 10-10 (each team having earned exactly the same points – 37 apiece), Solis and Dunn won the next point and the match to advance past a more experienced veteran team and into the semifinal round.

At the end, match statistics were very surprising. When the California team won the last point to win the match it was their 38th point earned, giving them a win by only one point not only in the tiebreaker, but essentially in cumulative points earned for the entire match up to the last point played! Amazing!

As we all know, several matches are won in the third game with an 11-10 posting. But it is very rare if ever that it is won with both teams having posted the exact same scores! Considering the exceptional level and high quality of play, this match was amazing in itself. What made it even more extraordinary was how very close it really was. It just goes to show ... What a difference one point can make!

### **Amazing Comeback!**

**By Tom Rall**

In the Round of 16, the Men's 30+ division offered what had to be one of the most amazing comebacks ever! Richie Baer and John Peterson from New York were playing Mike Johnston and Mark Helton from Colorado in the tiebreaker. In what seemed like no time, Johnston and Helton went up 9-3 and it looked like a sure win. But as we all know anything's possible in racquetball.

Suddenly there seemed to be a slight momentum change. Baer, whose racquet head-speed is well known to those in the Northeast and elsewhere, started pounding the ball harder and harder and harder, roll out after roll out! Mike Johnston, who is by far one of today's premier players, had trouble retrieving and dealing with Baer's ball placement and relentless speed. The score changed: 9-4, 9-5, 9-6, 9-7, 9-8, 9-9.

The play got very 'tight' as all four players jockeyed for position. Peterson inadvertently (yet clearly) hindered more than once during these later points, kept his cool to remain very consistent and smooth, while his partner continued with the endless pounding! 9-10. Then there was another hinder, then another. Play stopped. Tempers flared a bit. Back to business. A long hard rally ensued with all four players literally 'doing it all' to keep the ball in play. But in the end it was Baer and Peterson who prevailed.

It was excellent racquetball! It was exceptional playing strategy. Baer and Peterson had staged what can only be called a remarkable comeback. When the last point was played, they waited almost like statues for the referee's announcement, 'Game and Match!'

Although Johnston and Helton went into the hallway disappointed, they had played very well. They just seemed to let it slip away... As for Baer and Peterson, they went on to the quarters with a comeback win under their belts they'd remember for years to come.

### **Long Time No See**

Molly O'Brien, former pro tour regular and commissioner of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association [WPRA] was hoodwinked into dropping by the club during National Doubles. Once on hand, a group of current, and former, women's pro tour athletes, surprised Molly with the presentation of a plaque recognizing her many contributions to the sport.

[L-R: O'Brien & Lorraine Galloway]





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# 2000 Ektelon 33rd National Doubles • Baltimore, Maryland

## October 4-8 | FINAL RESULTS

### MEN'S DIVISION FINALS

Open:#2 Adam Karp (Stockton, Calif.)/Andy Roberts (Memphis, Tenn.) def. #1 Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.)/Mike Guidry (Carrollton, Texas) 8-15, 15-6, 11-8  
A: Mark Bouchard (Carver, Mass.)/Steven Pace (Brockton, Mass.) def. Robert Bryant (Sneads Ferry, N.C.)/Bill Savoy (Jacksonville, N.C.) 15-3, 15-9  
B: Keith Overton (Wayne, Pa.)/Angelo Perilli (Boothwyn, Pa.) def. Brad Litchfield/Paul Metlin (Jacksonville, Fla.) 6-15, 15-14, 11-0  
C: Norm Bottoms/Greg Pittillo (Wilmington, N.C.) def. #4 Barry Gribble (Washington, D.C.)/Walter Hill (Mitchellville, Md.) 15-1, 15-4  
D: Dale Clark (Pikesville, Md.)/Stanley Trent (Baltimore, Md.) def. Andrew Hahn/Aaron Johnson (Springfield, Mo.) 15-11, 15-10  
24- #1 Matt Gehling (Annapolis, Md.)/Michael Harmon (Sarasota, Fla.) def. #3 Jeff Garner (Delham, Ala.)/Mitch Williams (Washington, N.C.) 15-13, 15-5  
24- A/B:Michael Patalano (Warwick, R.I.)/Fernando Rivera (Laguas, PR) def. David Austin/Mike Gaffney (West Chester, Pa.) 9-15, 15-9, 11-8  
24- C/D:Andrew Gordan (Kirkwood, Mo.) & Aaron Johnson (Springfield, Mo.) unchallenged  
25+:#1 Ross Greenberg/Aaron Metcalf (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. #2 Rob DeJesus (Phoenix, Ariz.)/Jimmy Lowe (Lakewood, Wash.) 15-13, 15-11  
25+ A/B:Mark Bouchard (Carver, Mass.)/Steven Pace (Brockton, Mass.) def. Andrew Goldman (Belleair, Fla.)/Sal Perconti (St. Petersburg, Fla.) 15-7, 15-2  
30+:#2 Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.)/Mike Guidry (Carrollton, Texas) def. Glenn Warren/Curtis Winter (Jacksonville, Fla.) 15-8, 14-15, 11-8  
35+:#4 Dave Eagle (Vandalia, Ohio)/Dave Watson (Miami, Okla.) def. Scott Cullins (Woodstock, Ga.)/David Lockridge (Powder Springs, Ga.) 5-15, 15-10, 11-10  
35+ A/B:Joseph Baresi (Waterbury, Conn.)/Greg Campbell (Windsor, Conn.) def. Keith Avery (Chicago, Ill.)/Duffy Bracken (Hamilton, Ohio) 15-4, 15-14  
35+ C/D:Robert McGuinness (Wall, N.J.)/Marc Schnitker (Aurora, Colo.) def. Gerald Janke (Westminster, Md.)/Donald Lewis (Columbia, Md.) 15-7, 13-15, 11-6  
40+:#2 Tim Hansen (Boynton Beach, Fla.)/Gordon Kirkland (Orlando, Fla.) def. #1 Dave Azuma (Lake Oswego, Ore.)/Jerry Hilecher (Granada Hills, Calif.) 15-3, 15-8  
45+:#Gene Pare (Campbell, Calif.)/Troy Stallings (Sioux Falls, S.D.) def. #1 Dave Azuma (Lake Oswego, Ore.)/Mark Baron (Herndon, Va.) 15-4, 8-15, 11-5  
45+ A/B:#2 William Cannon (Monterey, Ala.)/Ron Martucci (Birmingham, Ala.) def. Marty Chizmar (Woodstock, Ga.)/Ed Ridge (Marietta, Ga.) 15-2, 15-8  
45+ C/D:#4 Dan Davis (Aurora, Colo.)/Robert McGuinness (Wall, N.J.) def. Jack Hughes (San Mateo, Calif.)/Ronald McElwee (Huntsville, Ala.) 15-0, 15-9  
50+:#1 Russ Mannino (San Diego, Calif.)/Ed Remen (Apex, N.C.) def. #3 Steve Meltsner (West Hartford, Conn.)/Dominic Palmieri (Songsville, Ohio) 15-6, 9-15, 11-4  
55+:#Kevin Dorr (Silver Spring, Md.)/Mike Pawka (San Diego, Calif.) def. Jerry Davis (Cleveland, Ohio)/Jack Ross (Orlando, Fla.) 15-10, 11-15, 11-8  
55+ A/B:#4 Marty Lawler (Voorhees, N.J.)/Michael Vanore (Old Bridge, N.J.) def. #3 Willie Davenport (Falls Church, Va.)/Luke St. Onge (Colorado Springs, Colo.) 9-15, 15-5, 11-3  
55+ C/D:Jack Hughes (San Mateo, Calif.)/Ronald McElwee (Huntsville, Ala.) def. Joseph Caputo (Iselin, N.J.)/Al Marchese (New York, N.Y.) 15-8, 15-14  
60+:#Lee Graff (Bend, Ore.)/Bob Webster (Northport, Ala.) def. Ron Galbreath (New Wilmington, Pa.)/Jim McPherson (Arlington, Texas) 15-14, 15-11  
65+:#1 Paul Banales (Phoenix, Ariz.)/Tom Moore (Arcadia, Calif.) def. #3 Jay Krevsky (Harrisburg, Pa.)/Thomas Penick (San Diego, Calif.) 15-6, 15-9  
70+:#Joseph Goldman (Framingham, Mass.)/Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) def. Gene Grapes (Irwin, Pa.)/Al Schattner (Pittsburgh, Pa.) 15-3, 15-5  
75+:#Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.)/Robert McAdam (Crowley, Texas) def. Allan Shepherd (Gaithersburg, Md.)/Cam Snowberger (Myrtle Beach, S.C.) 15-2, 15-2  
80+:#Allan Shepherd (Gaithersburg, Md.)/Cam Snowberger (Myrtle Beach, S.C.) unchallenged

### WOMEN'S DIVISION FINALS

Open:#1 Laura Fenton (Overland Park, Kan.)/Jackie Paraiso (San Diego,

Calif.)def. #2 Kersten Hallander (El Cajon, Calif.)/Kim Russell (Austin, Texas)15-4, 15-7  
A: Yuni Cobb (University Place, Wash.)/Beth Neff (Puyallup, Wahs.) def. Kelly Goddard (Prince George, Va.)/Karen Widger (Arlington, Va.) 15-5, 15-14  
B: #3 Judy Buckeye/Karen Morton (Erie, Pa.) def. #1 Kathleen Matson (Littleton, Colo.)/Bette Miller (Aurora, Colo.) def. 10-15, 15-14, 11-7  
C: Pamela Trent (Mt. Juliet, Tenn.)/Julie Wiedis (Princeton, N.J.) def. Tina Davenport (Silver Spring, Mc.)/Susan Flaesch (Glen Burnie, Md.) 15-4, 15-3  
25+:#Tracy Ingram/Renee Kilpatrick (Harrisburg, Pa.) def. Cherie Barth (Mesa Verde NP, Colo.)/Esther McNany (Gales Ferry, Conn.) 15-5, 15-7  
25+ A/B:Kelly Goddard (Prince George, Va.)/Karen Widger (Arlington, Va.) def. Claire Kruse (Rochester Hills, Mich.)/Sandy White (Warren, N.C.) 15-11, 15-9  
25+ C/D:Tina Davenport (Silver Spring, Md.)/Susan Flaesch (Glen Burnie, Md.) unchallenged  
30+:#1 Mae Chin-Varon (North Hills, Calif.)/Debra Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) def. #3 Lorraine Galloway (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.)/Karin Sobotta (Kennewick, Wash.) 15-0, 15-5  
35+:#3 Mae Chin-Varon (North Hills, Calif.)/Debra Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) def. #1 Chris Evon/Terri Graham (Wheeling, Ill.) 15-1, 15-8  
35+ A/B:Regina Bouie (Reston, Va.)/Maragherita Fairchild (Great Falls, Va.) def. Kathleen Goodman (Voorhees, N.J.) /Tina Visingardi (Colts Neck, N.J.) 15-5, 14-15, 11-9  
40+:#1 Mary Lyons/Susan Pfahler (Neptune Beach, Fla.) def. #2 Elaine Dexter (Pleasanton, Calif.)/Linda Moore (West Jordan, Neb.) 15-6, 15-0  
45+:#Elaine Dexter (Pleasanton, Calif.)/Leslie Pawka (San Diego, Calif.) def. Sallie Benedict (Richmond, Va.)/Meena Evans (Advance, N.C.), injury forfeit  
45+ A/B:Fran Baker (Warrington, Pa.)/JudyGwozdz (Telford, Pa.) def. Julee Nicolia/Beth Racine (Erie, Pa.) 15-4, 9-15, 11-6  
50+:#Merjean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.)/Judy Sands (Cedar Grove, N.J.) def. Michael Hill/Johnnie Hill-Hudgins (Princeton, N.J.) 15-11, 1-7  
55+:#Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.)/Mildred Gwinn (Waxhaw, N.C.) def. May Barber (Colonial Heights, Va.)/Mary Jane Weldin (Newark, De.) on round-robin points  
65+:#Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.)/Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.) unchallenged

### MIXED DOUBLES DIVISION FINALS

Open: Kim Russell (Austin, Texas)/Rocky Carson (Santa Maria, Calif.) def. Jackie Paraiso (El Cajon, Calif.)/Drew Kachtik (Louisville, Texas) 13-15, 15-14, 11-3  
Mixed A:Jody Recker (Loveland, Ohio)/Duffy Bracken (Hamilton, Ohio) def. Jessica Loew (Wethersfield, Conn.)/Tony Crespo (Meriden, Conn.) 15-14, 15-13  
Mixed B:Janice Ryan-Arnold (Lanham, Md.)/Chris Wilmouth (Largo, Md.) def. Pam Ridge (Marietta, Ga.)/Marty Chizmar (Woodstock, Ga.) 15-5, 15-2  
Mixed C:Debbie Calista (Dover, N.H.)/Bill Vagas (Hudson, Ohio) def. Sara O'Brien (Woodstock, Ga.)/Ed Ridge (Marietta, Ga.) by forfeit  
Mixed 25+:#4 Mae Chin-Varon (North Hills, Calif.)/Jonathan Dunn (Camarillo, Calif.) def. Ramona Vonondarza (Boca Raton, Fla.)/Alvaro Beltran (Mexico) 15-5, 15-3  
Mixed 30+:#3 Jody Nance (Stockton, Calif.)/Mark-O Perez (Visalia, Calif.) def. Doreen Fowler (Rockville, Md.)/Steve Myers (Frederick, Mo.) 15-6, 16-3  
Mixed 35+:#Lorraine Galloway (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.)/Dave Watson (Miami, Okla.) def. Roz Petronelli (Neaston, Mass.)/David Barnes (Warwick, R.I.) 15-13, 15-9  
Mixed 40+:#3 Malia Bailey (Norfolk, Va.)/Troy Stallings (Sioux Falls, S.D.) def. #4 Chris Evon (Wheeling, Ill.)/Bill Lyman (Berwyn, Ill.) 15-1, 5-15, 11-7  
Mixed 45+:#2 Eileen Tuckman (Boynton Beach, Fla.)/Troy Stallings (Sioux Falls, S.D.) def. #1 Elaine Dexter (Pleasanton, Calif.)/Dave Azuma (Lake Oswego, Ore.) 6-15, 15-7, 11-2  
Mixed 50+:#3 Merjean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.)/Bill Welaj (Somerville, N.J.) def. #1 Agatha Falso (Boca Raton, Fla.)/Jim Bailey (Norfolk, Va.) 15-9, 3-15, 11-6  
Mixed 55+:#2 Agatha Falso (Boca Raton, Fla.)/Jeff Leon (Lighthouse Point, Fla.) def. #1 Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.)/Glenn Allen (Virginia Beach, Va.)15-7, 15-11  
Mixed 60+:#Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.)/Jim McPherson (Arlington, Texas) def. Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.)/Edward Dalton (Atkinson, N.H.) 15-9,15-14  
Mixed 65+:#Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.)/Jay Krevsky (Harrisburg, Pa.) def. Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.)/John O'Donnell (Champaign, Ill.) 15-7, 15-6  
Mixed 80+:#Mary Low Acuff/Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) unchallenged



First of all, kudos to organizers Gary Mazaroff, Paula Sperling, Damian Jelso and the entire New Mexico Racquetball Association for hosting the 2000 World Senior Championships! In its twelfth year, this tournament was again filled with fun, excitement, great competition and good friends.

For those who are not familiar with the WSRC, let me just say that this is the premier tournament for senior athletes. The reasons are simple; you are treated with the utmost respect and the very best senior athletes attend this tournament.

From the moment you arrive you are given the red-carpet treatment. Need a ride from the airport? No problem! Jenny Mazaroff, Gary's lovely wife, is on her way to pick you up in her own wheels – complete with authentic southwest, cowhide seat-covers. She graciously makes umpteen trips to and from the airport, each time greeting her passengers with a smile and a welcome gift.

Once you're delivered to the host hotel, get settled and head down to the registration area, everyone is greeted with a warm smile and a heartfelt welcome. This is the way it is at "Seniors," regardless of whether you are a first-timer or a long-timer. A semi-circle of tables is filled with information, gifts and tokens of the tournament and the great state of New Mexico. Arms filled, you attempt to balance your wares. As you juggle, you recognize voices calling your name and then spot all the familiar faces as you make your way through the sea of hugs. The greetings are filled with care and everyone strives to catch up on the stories of friends, family, work, trials and survivals.

All in attendance share a common theme, that of resilience, triumph and success. Anyone over 35 years of age is eligible, and each player has come to know the meaning of the adage "youth is wasted on the young." This tournament is defined by the unique journey through life most of its players have traveled. For many there are the usual ups and downs. For others there is the recovery from injury or chronic illness. Some have survived cancer, some are living through it. Some are as healthy as an ox, and others have experienced the types of trials and tribulations that we only see on the news. There are special moments, celebrations and momen-

## **THE PERFECT EQUATION: Racquetball + Spirit + Competition + Friendships = World Senior Racquetball Championships [WSRC]**

tous occasions, along with the joy of lives beginning and the sorrow as a life ends. Through it all we have learned to balance sadness and happiness – and this tournament is about the here and now, the present, and how we choose to live. We arrive to play racquetball, and come away with new lessons in the value of sport and competition; in giving respect and treasuring family and friends.

In terms of skill, one is truly tested and endurance levels pushed to the max. You find out what you're made of, how deep your competitive juices flow and what matters most. You may be the top seed, but you still have to make your way through the entire round robin format. There are no byes here, everyone wants to win a World title, and — in this format — everyone has the opportunity to do so.

The New Mexico air is thin and takes a toll on some of the players. But as the week goes on and you have played at some of the nicest clubs, surrounded by the beautiful mountains of New Mexico, to the surprise of most, the aches and pains are few and far between.

Each day the players are up bright and early checking out the standings to see where they're positioned in their flight. The shuttle arrives to take warriors to their field of play, while other players roam around looking for coffee chats to get the scoop on the day's matchups. The beauty of the weather allows some to sun and swim for a few hours while others visit Santa Fe or Old Town. First-timers must seek out those special souvenirs to take home. The veterans keep an eye on the rookies and volunteer their advice on the best places to visit and hot spots to eat.

As the tournament progresses, most players will have made at least 10-20 new friends and caught up with 50-

**2000 IRF 12th World Senior Championships**  
***Presented by Penn Racquet Sports • Story by Joanne Pomodoro***





**FRESH LEGS! THE U.S. NATIONAL TEAM BROKE INTO THIS EVENT WITH DEBUTS BY MEN'S 35+ FINALISTS ANDY ROBERTS & DOUG GANIM, AND WOMEN'S 35+ WINNER LAURA FENTON. PICTURED (L-R) ARE: GANIM, ROBERTS & SEMIFINALIST DAVE WATSON.**

60 old friends, all while keeping an eye on the flight updates to find out where you stand in the draw. It's a challenge to all regardless of whether you're in a single round robin or

a qualifier into a single-elimination championship round. After everyone has played, on average, 10 matches (30 games!) just to get to Saturday – players are then all set to do one of two things. They can either watch/root/cheer or compete in yet another three to four matches, this time for the title. It made me proud to see the players put everything into their matches. To those who played well all week, there is only one priority that remains, to win a World title.

The matches run until all the titles have been claimed on the court, leaving only the evening awards banquet featuring this year's special Mistress of Ceremonies. Yes, brought back by popular demand, in from Boston, Massachusetts is Joanne T. Pomodoro, your humble author. The committee certainly knew what they were doing when they asked me to entertain ... and entertain is what I did. I had more fun, handing out the awards from the newest rookie player in the 35's, to the seasoned veterans in the 80's division. Winners all hustled up to claim their medals and get their photo taken with fellow semi-finalists, where the pride displayed in each and every smile will continue to fuel this sport for years to come.

Players came to this tournament from as far as Ireland, Guam and Japan. Now if they can travel these thousands of miles, players from the United States owe it to themselves to attend the tournament next year. Rumor has it that these international players came just to watch me present the awards and hear my wonderful jokes! I know, humble and modest to a fault, I am.

In closing I congratulate all the winners, say thank you to all the players, and send praise to the local Tournament Committee. We have a saying in New England "Good Friends Live Forever" and that certainly holds true for the World Seniors. Enjoy the moments you have with family and friends and remember that we are all ambassadors for this great sport of racquetball.

## 2000 IRF 12th World Senior Championships Albuquerque, New Mexico

**August 28 - September 2, 2000  
FINAL RESULTS**

### MEDAL ROUND PLAYOFFS

Men's 35+: Andy Roberts (Memphis, Tenn.) def. Doug Ganim (Columbus, Ohio) 15-13, 14-15, 11-7  
Men's 40+: Dave Eagle (Vandalia, Ohio) def. Jeff Wichers (Colorado Springs, Colo.) 15-12, 15-13  
Men's 45+: Jim Luzar (Brookfield, Wis.) def. Darryl Warren (Harbor City, Calif.) 15-14, 15-12  
Men's 50+: Tom Rall (Fullerton, Calif.) def. Denny Vincent (Blacklick, Ohio) 12-15, 15-9, 11-5  
Men's 55+: Glenn Allen (Virginia Beach, Va.) def. Jose Luis Gonzalez (Chihuahua, Mexico) 15-3, 10-15, 11-4  
Men's 60+: Robert Siemiatkowski (Briston, Conn.) def. Jim McPherson (Arlington, Va.) 15-12, 15-10  
Men's 65+: Don Alt (Ft. Myers, Fla.) def. Jerry Holly (Stevenson Ranch, Calif.) 15-11, 6-15, 11-9  
Women's 50+: Agatha Falso (Boca Raton, Fla.) def. Loretta Andersen (Reseda, Calif.) 15-1, 15-2

### ROUND ROBIN FINISHES (by point standings)

Men's 70+: Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) [490 pts] def. Lake Westphal (Sun City West, Ariz.) [340 pts]  
Men's 75+: Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) [392 pts] def. Cam Snowberger (Myrtle Beach, S.C.) [317 pts]  
Men's 85+: Harry Steinman (Baltimore, Md.) [unchallenged]  
Women's 35+: Laura Fenton (Kansas City, Kan.) [528 pts] def. Lorraine Galloway (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.) [511 pts]  
Women's 40+: Debra Tisinger (Simi Valley, Calif.) [490 pts] def. Sheri Anderson (Glendale, Ariz.) [422 pts]  
Women's 45+: Joanne Pomodoro (East Boston, Mass.) [331 pts] def. Laura Patterson (Midland, Mich.) [306 pts]  
Women's 55+: Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) [481 pts] def. Mary Lou Furaus (Albuquerque, N.M.) [434 pts]  
Women's 60+: Mildred Gwinn (Waxhaw, N.C.) [373 pts] def. Gloria Piscoran (Newberry, Okla.) [318 pts]  
Women's 65+: Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.) [392 pts] def. Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.) [359 pts]  
Women's 70+: Reta Harring (Madison, Wis.) [286 pts] def. Mary Lou Kackert (Roswell, N.M.) [142 pts]  
Women's 75+: Beth Keene (Beaumont, Texas) [unchallenged]  
Women's 80+: Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) [257 pts] def. Eleanor Quackenbush (Salem, Ore.) [112 pts]

For expanded results — go to [www.racqmag.com](http://www.racqmag.com)  
| "newslne" | "event coverage"



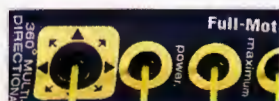
# You wanna understand power racquetball? Don't ask a tennis company.

Only E-Force develops power technologies solely for racquetball. All other major brands use technologies picked up from tennis. If you wanna play power racquetball, you gotta understand one thing – racquetball ain't tennis.



**Power comes from longer mainstrings.**

**Patented 22.0" LongString Technology** extends mainstrings through the entire length of the handle, creating center mains at least 6" longer than in competitor racquets. The ten center mains add at least 55 extra inches of combined length – an increase of at least 38% for power that will blow your opponents away.



**Power comes from 360° unrestricted cross string movement.**

**New Full-Motion Cross String Technology** extends the effective length of the cross strings and allows them to move unrestricted 360° in free space. This overcomes the string-binding effect of standard-size string holes or slots, and creates a livelier string bed with maximum power at ball impact. An E-Force exclusive.



**Power comes from a stiffer head.**

**Total-Carbon Head™** provides 20% more carbon in the head for additional stiffness, durability and increased power. Streamlining the bumper and eliminating paint allow non-structural materials to be replaced with Tri-carbon. The result is improved performance without adding weight. An E-Force exclusive!



**Power comes from strength/stiffness in curved areas of the head.**

**New Fiber Alignment Technology (F.A.T.) Zones** strengthen and stiffen the weak areas found in the sharply curved regions of all racquet heads. Patent-pending F.A.T. Zones realign the unseen bunched and wrinkled carbon fibers present in these high-stress areas, strengthening and stiffening the frame, and adding power. An E-Force exclusive.



**Power comes from stiff, light premium carbons.**

The **Tri-Carbon Frame™** is an optimum blend of 3 Toray higher-stiffness minimum-weight carbons. It increases stiffness in the racquet head and frame—without adding weight—resulting in greater LongString power and feel. An E-Force exclusive.



**Power comes from lighter weight.**

**Titanium Construction** increases strength and durability without adding weight or reducing maneuverability. Faster swing speed and quicker reactions allow you to set up better and hit the ball harder.

**22" LongString®, the most important technology advance in the history of racquetball.**

The evolution of racquet frames ... from teardrop to quadraform to midsize and oversize ... resulted in longer



mainstrings and racquet faces. This created tremendous increases in power. Why? It's the same principle as the bow and arrow. For an equal amount of effort, longer mainstrings and racquet face cause the strings to stretch further, allowing the



frame to store more energy. The result is a string/frame system which provides a more powerful shot when the energy is released.

Only E-force effectively applies the principles of longer, more powerful strings to racquetball. LongString technology makes maximum use of the 22" racquet frame by extending the mainstrings the full 22 inches from the racquet head through the entire length of the handle. That's why LongString racquets are the most powerful ever made.

**You wanna see the most powerful racquetball racquets ever? Turn the page.**





# E-FORCE

## LongString - You wanna win or what?

# New Bedlam-X and LongString® technologies create the most powerful racquets ever.

A new stiffer  
stronger  
LongString frame

### NEW FIBER ALIGNMENT TECHNOLOGY (F.A.T.) ZONES

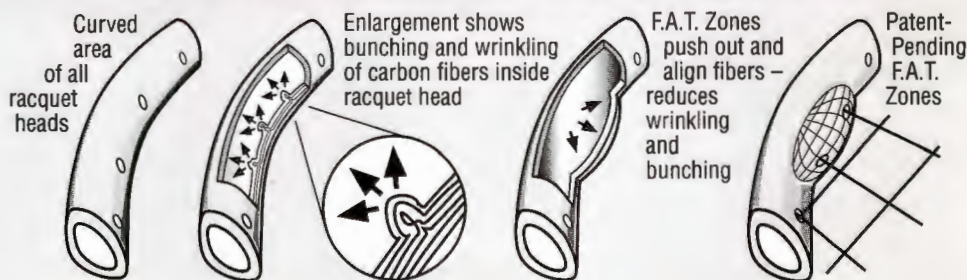
In all racquets the process of making the sharply curved corners in the head causes carbon fibers inside the frame to bunch and wrinkle. Though not visible from the outside, these misaligned fibers create weak areas. New patent-pending Fiber Alignment Technology (F.A.T.) Zones straighten the fibers in these high-stress areas. This stiffens and strengthens the head of the frame and adds power. The stronger frame also allows E-Force to add even more power through the use of new Full-Motion Cross String Technology.



### NEW FULL-MOTION CROSS STRING TECHNOLOGY

Full-Motion Cross String Technology creates added power and string response by allowing cross strings to move unrestricted 360° in free space. This technology is based on the use of extra-large circular string holes which would not be possible without the incredible strength of E-Force's new patent-pending "F.A.T." Zones. The cross strings are effectively longer and more powerful. The string bed is livelier. This exclusive E-Force technology overcomes the string-binding caused by standard-size string holes and narrow slots which do not allow full 360° string movement.

### HOW EXCLUSIVE NEW (F.A.T.) ZONES CREATE POWER



## New Bedlam-X Power Series

| How Bedlam-X Technologies Increase Power |   |
|--|---|
| X  | 22" LONGSTRING TECHNOLOGY<br>Longer mainstrings - adds power.             |
| X  | NEW (F.A.T.) ZONES<br>Stiffens/strengthens frame - adds power.            |
| X  | NEW FULL-MOTION CROSS-STRINGS<br>Unrestricted 360° movement - adds power. |
| X  | TRI-CARBON FRAME<br>Stiffens frame - adds power.                          |
| X  | TOTAL CARBON HEAD<br>Increases carbon content - adds power.               |
| X  | TITANIUM CONSTRUCTION<br>Less weight - adds power.                        |

**New Bedlam-X 150 GRAMS**  
**New Bedlam-X 170 GRAMS**



**New Bedlam-X 190 GRAMS**  
**New Bedlam-X 210 GRAMS**



# New Revolt 175 and 195. The power of LongString® with vibration-free control.

New Revolt Control-Wrap™ racquets increase control and minimize vibration without the loss of LongString power.

E-Force accomplishes this with an exclusive new one-piece fin/frame design that increases stability and prevents frame distortion from off-center hits. Ball response and power are enhanced.

## STRUCTURAL FIN/FRAME DESIGN ELIMINATES DISTORTION

When a racquet maintains its shape at ball impact, control is maximized. Conversely, when the racquet shape is distorted – usually by off-center hits – control is lost. E-Force limits racquet distortion, therefore maximizing control, by creating a stiff Tri-Carbon frame with a built-in structural “fin” support. The fin – an integral part of the frame – prevents the racquet from distorting at ball impact, increasing control, while allowing the necessary straight back-and-forth racquet flex. The one-piece construction adds power and creates a livelier string bed.

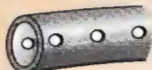
### EXCLUSIVE NEW ONE-PIECE FIN/FRAME DESIGN



Eliminates frame distortion.

## REMOVES 100 STRING HOLES

### ALL COMPETITOR FRAMES HAVE MULTIPLE STRING HOLES.



Each string contact point has both entry and exit holes...totaling over 100.

String holes result in random flexibility and unwanted distortion. Elimination of 100 string holes – one entry and one exit hole at each of 50 string contact points – also decreases frame distortion while increasing frame stability and durability.

## DOUBLE-SIZE STRING HOLES

The durable frame allows all string holes to be double-size (twice the diameter of standard holes). The strings move more freely and the string bed is livelier and more responsive. The double-size holes and easy slide-in grommets make stringing easier.

### DOUBLE-SIZE STRING HOLES



The strings move easier.  
The string bed is livelier.

## New Revolt Control-Wrap Series



**New**

**Revolt 175 GRAMS**

### Control Wrap Adds Control Without Loss of Power

|   |   |
|---|---|
| X | 22" LONGSTRING TECHNOLOGY<br>Longer mainstrings – maximum power.            |
| X | ONE-PIECE FIN/FRAME DESIGN<br>Limits distortion / vibration – adds control. |
| X | REMOVES 100 STRING HOLES<br>Prevents frame distortion – adds control.       |
| X | TRI-CARBON FRAME<br>Stiffens frame – adds power.                            |
| X | TOTAL CARBON HEAD<br>Increases carbon content – adds power.                 |
| X | TITANIUM CONSTRUCTION<br>Reduces weight – adds power.                       |

**New**

**Revolt 195 GRAMS**



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## ProFILE Tour News

### **If personality sells, the Locker70 will be a big hit**

**By Cameron Potts**

When analogies describing a new athletic shoe include characters like Moses and Anna Kournikova, you begin to expect a lot. But that's what officials at In-Stride, inc. are saying about the Next Up Locker70.

The Next Up Locker70 racquetball shoe is unique in many ways, from its patented UFIT lacing design to the fact it was named after a player who has yet to crack the top-10 pro rankings.

Mike Locker is the upper Midwest's long-reigning racquetball king, currently ranked 11th on the IRT lineup. The Next Up trademark is a direct reference to challenge courts, and the Locker70 is named after the player and his year of birth. It's been a whirlwind few months for Locker to say the least, from discussing product endorsements with a variety of companies, to having a shoe with his name on it.

While Locker has been in and around the game for more than 15 years, traveling to national and international competitions that have gained him valuable name recognition, he isn't Sudsy Monchik or even Marty Hogan. But then again, they aren't Mike Locker, and maybe that's the point.

In-Stride Inc. President Kent Anderson said Locker brings national name recognition, is ranked near the top-10 professionally, and at the time, was the top ranked amateur player in the coun-

try. "What we saw was an athlete excelling at both ends of the spectrum," Anderson said. "He is charismatic, a good communicator and an established name. One of the things Mike has done professionally is to teach lessons. He has already proven he can talk to players and market to the everyday racquetball player."

Through a Minnesota racquetball player and In-Stride investor, Locker was put in touch with company executives. They were looking to develop a new athletic shoe, and Locker threw in the idea of doing a racquetball shoe. Last Christmas, thinking a new shoe might benefit the sport and gain himself a new sponsor, Locker never envisioned his name on the canvas. By February 2000, Locker was looking at a prototype of the Locker70.

Some might say it was luck; others timing. In reality, it was a bit of both. A product management firm in San Antonio, In-Stride is slowly breaking into various athletic shoe markets. Anderson says they aren't Nike or another major conglomerate that can just punch out sneakers like cookie cutters, so they have to pick their spots. While they are working with professional basketball player John Starks and the CBA on a basketball shoe, they also market a new sneaker for the burgeoning sport of cheerleading. For a company targeting niche markets, racquetball seemed like a perfect avenue on which to "tread."

At 30 years old, Locker has been around racquetball long enough to know that even Michael Jordan's name on the shoe wouldn't help if the product was less than stellar. Primarily a racquetball shoe, the Locker70 incorporates an reinforced toe to make the shoe more durable for players who drag their feet on serves, improved traction and added cushioning to prevent lower back injuries. But the key to In-Stride's designs is the UFIT





technology, developed by Adam Oreck of Minneapolis.

The UFIT lacing design features a unique fit and closure system where the lace passes through eyelets that are attached at the sides of the shoe, allowing the foot to be cradled. Anderson says it's like the sandals you'd see in the movie "The Ten Commandments."

"The sandals he (Moses) wore laced up to the knee. The reason the sandals laced up as high as they did is because you didn't have an outsole or an insole, all you have was the sole (on the bottom of the foot). That had to work in concert with your foot because if it didn't, you'd get rocks in there and you'd hurt your foot," Anderson said. "To be able to lace that up tight, you had to spread that lacing pressure over a greater surface area or you would cut off the blood pressure to the foot. It is really a simple idea that has been around for thousands of years. It really feels good."

The lacing makes for a more snug fit, so a player's foot won't shift, alleviating possible discomfort and injuries. But the design had to be comfortable, and practical. Locker tested several designs and prototypes, offered his input and expertise until they all agreed the Locker70 was ready.

"I still have not figured it all out. My name isn't Monchik and I don't have the national championships under my belt. The fact that I am not even in the top four makes this a little bit overwhelming. But a lot of marketing is about personality. I've met a lot of people over the years and I've never burned a bridge."

This is where the Anna Kournikova angle comes in. Pointing to tennis, Locker says a player like Kournikova, who has never won a professional event, is eminently marketable because of her looks, personality and appeal. Locker knows he is not a gorgeous blonde who looks good in a



skirt, but he feels his name, ability and personality will help to make the shoe a success.

"I've been traveling the country since I was 11 years old, promoting the sport and playing exhibitions. Even before this shoe idea came along, I'd talk to people at tournaments, stay around to the end, help out, meet people," he said. As part of his Pro Kennex contract, Locker always takes time to promote racquetball, either on tour, or as a teaching pro at Southview Athletic Club in his home city of St. Paul.

Locker has been signed by In-Stride for the next three years. In-Stride is also making a big push into racquetball, making the Locker70 the official shoe of the IRT. The season is only just beginning, but Locker can already say it has been a successful year. He plans to concentrate more on the tour, on winning and promoting the shoe. No matter how many clinics and appearances he makes, the athletic shoe that bears his name can only benefit if he makes a series of semi-finals and finals, and if he climbs in the rankings.

The Next Up Locker70 will be unveiled in full-force at athletic and clothing stores this Thanksgiving for

\$79.95. For more information, contact the company's Web site at [www.nextupshoeshop.com](http://www.nextupshoeshop.com).



# • pro tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

## 2000-2001 IRT SCORECARD & SCHEDULE

New Orleans.....Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik .....10, (9), 4, 7  
Stockton.....Jason Mannino def. Sudsy Monchik .....5, (9), 5, 9  
Las Vegas.....Swain/Mannino def. Robinson O'Neil.....5, 3, 4  
Albuquerque.....Sudsy Monchik def. John Ellis.....4, (7), 4, 1

October 26-29.....Chicago, IL.....Athletic Club of Bloomingdale  
November 15-19...Memphis, TN.....Racquet Club of Memphis  
December 7-10 .....Denver, CO .....Lakewood Athletic Club

2001 TBAs.....Keep checking here for details on the latter half of the season schedule ...

January 18-21 .....Dallas, TX  
February 1-4 .....Boston, MA  
February 8-12 .....Fairfield, NJ  
February 15-19 .....Minneapolis, MN  
March 15-18.....Greensboro, NC  
May 2-6 .....Las Vegas, NV.....Pro Nationals  
June 1-3 .....Portland, OR .....Tournament of Champions



## IRT RANKINGS

[Through 10/22/00]

| Player              | Last Issue | Last Year | Total Points |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. Cliff Swain      | 1          | 2         | 3,518        |
| 2. Sudsy Monchik    | 2          | 1         | 3,514        |
| 3. John Ellis       | 3          | 3         | 3,093        |
| 4. Jason Mannino    | 4          | 4         | 2,961        |
| 5. Tim Doyle        | 5          | 7         | 2,263        |
| 6. Mike Guidry      | 6          | 4         | 1,948        |
| 7. Rocky Carson     | 7          | 11        | 1,786        |
| 8. Adam Karp        | 8          | 8         | 1,719        |
| 9. Derek Robinson   | 9          | 6         | 1,523        |
| 10. Dan Fowler      | 10         | 10        | 1,339        |
| 11. Mike Locker     | 11         | 12        | 1,184        |
| 12. Louis Vogel     | 12         | 14        | 1,120        |
| 13. Luis Bustillos  | 13         | 20        | 991          |
| 14. Erin Brannigan  | 16         | 30        | 690          |
| 15. Ruben Gonzalez  | 14         | 26        | 646          |
| 16. Mike Johnston   | 19         | 38        | 563          |
| 17. Scott Reiff     | 21         | 28        | 451          |
| 18. James Mulcock   | 17         | 23        | 449          |
| 19. Greg Thomas     | 26         | 58        | 446          |
| 20. Brian Pointelin | 23         | 49        | 432          |



E-Force, HEAD,  
ProKENNEX: Official  
Racquets of the IRT

1. Sudsy Monchik
2. Jason Mannino
3. John Ellis
4. Tim Doyle

Pro Penn: Official  
Glove of the IRT

1. Erin Brannigan
2. James Mulcock
- 3T. Chris Crowther
- 3T. Dan Llacera

Ashaway: Official  
String of the IRT

1. Derek Robinson
2. Erin Brannigan
3. Brian Pointelin
4. Bruce Moore

BONUS POOLS

## 2000-2001 LPRA SCORECARD & SCHEDULE

Albuquerque .....Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso.....17, 18, 16

November 3-5.....Colorado Springs, CO.....Lynmar Racquet Club  
November 15-19 .....Memphis, TN .....Racquet Club of Memphis  
December 7-9\* .....Denver, CO .....Lakewood Athletic Club  
2001

January 19-21 .....Rosarito Beach, Mexico .....Rosarito Beach Resort  
February 16-18.....Arlington, VA.....Tyson Sport & Health  
March 22-24\* .....Chicago, IL .....Athletic Club of Bloomingdale  
April 27-29 .....Syracuse, NY .....  
May 2-5\* .....Las Vegas, NV .....Pro Nationals  
June 1-3 .....Portland, ORE.....  
Tournament of Champions

\* LPRA events held in conjunction with IRT stops will begin on Thursday and end with finals on Saturday. All others (with the exception of the Hilton U.S. OPEN in Memphis) will be scheduled



Ashaway was recently named as  
the Official String of the IRT.  
The three-year contract covers  
all IRT tournaments in the  
United States and abroad.



*Dr. Jim Hiser does have a Ph.D — in microbiology — but his vitae as a pro tour promoter is just as hard-earned. He headed the Men's Professional tour at the height of of the sport's popularity in the 80s, and developed a long-running "super series" of events in Michigan before moving to Colorado Springs to work at the national office over a decade ago. So did the idea of re-vitalizing the struggling women's pro tour present enough of a challenge to the USRA administrator? You bet.*



*Why did the USRA decide to take on the management of the women's professional tour?* The USRA recognizes that women's racquetball has been in decline across the board — and that from a U.S. Team perspective, we need to aid in the development of team prospects from up-and-coming juniors all the way up the ranks, including the pro tour. Women are integral to the strength of the team and they need more opportunities to keep their games in top form. Last year there were only two stops — other than the premiere U.S. OPEN and the Pro National events — for women.



Beyond that, I believe that a strong, stabilized pro tour is needed to re-establish interest in women's racquetball on the whole. If you look at tennis and golf, their recent growth has been a direct result of a revitalized professional tour — plus dynamic young stars like the Williams sisters and Tiger Woods who add personality and star appeal. To get the women's tour on a fast track, there needed to be an immediate investment of personnel and finances, and the USRA was the only

acquire the tour and continue its growth.

*The tour will be implementing a new ranking and scoring system — why?* I look at women's racquetball as a bankrupt organization. I believe that throwing money at the problem — with everything else remaining the same — won't help. There needs to be something different about the game so fans will want to see women's racquetball. Call it a gimmick or whatever you want, but we need to get people into the club to see the women compete. Women's racquetball can be very exciting but, to be honest, at this point in time there is a tremendous gap in skill level between the top four or five women and the

remaining 25-30 players. The new scoring system will allow each player to have equal serving opportunities which, hopefully, will improve their serving chances. I believe the new format will improve the quality of play by forcing the players to develop better all-around games. Of course, this won't happen overnight, but if young girls feel they have a chance, for whatever reason, maybe they will give the game a chance as they move into adulthood.

## Dr. H and the Women

entity able to make that commitment at this time.

*What is the long-range goal of the USRA for women's professional racquetball?* Ideally, the USRA would like to build the tour to a 10-14 stop circuit, with the hope of attracting a national sponsor within the next three years. Establishing the tour will not be a problem, since we have nine events contracted for this season already. I am confident that, by the end of this season (June), we will be able to announce a solid tour of 12 events for the year 2001-2002 (four events are already confirmed). After three years, if the tour is stabilized, we would like an independent promoter, like Ed Willis, to

*What else will you do to make the women's game exciting?* I have numerous ideas, but to begin with the women will be treated as professionals. They will be given professional introductions at events, be guaranteed prize money and tournament benefits and be showcased in print as professional athletes. The magazine will be very important in developing the new image of the female athlete. We will be developing a women's poster, having clinics at each event, speaking to schools and community service groups and basically exposing the women as real professional athletes.

Each event will be a total interaction between the women and the spectators. The women have to work hard to attract new players and recruit former players back to the game.







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Well, in the last issue I covered my Magical Z Shot, an advanced defensive shot. Today I want to switch hats and introduce one of my advanced offensive shots ... my Magical SPLAT SHOT — my absolute favorite and signature shot. The main characteristic of an offensive shot is to end the rally and/or score a point ... and the splat shot does just that. Your goal is to go offensive whenever possible because that will put points on the scoreboard for you. Think offensive, not defensive, unless you are off balance, out of position or the ball is too high and out of your hitting zone.

I absolutely love this shot. If you've ever seen me play you know why I am known as the "Splat King," but over the years I had to learn the hard way not to splat too much. When I first came on the tour, young and immature, I tried to splat everything. Wrong. Then after reviewing my losses and watching videotapes, I finally listened to people like Ruben Gonzalez and Fran Davis, who told me that the pass sets up the effective splat.

Let's take a look at how to hit it first, then when to use it. Both are extremely important because remember, it is an advanced shot and if it is not executed correctly or you hit it at the wrong time, you can leave your opponent up front...a no no. The last thing I want to do is leave Cliff, Jason or John up front...never ever, ever...you become too susceptible to your opponent being in control and re-shooting the ball.

#### **Let the magic begin...How do I hit it?**

Before I cover the splat shot, I want to preface it with two key points I want you to keep in mind as you read this: I will be demonstrating the shot using my backhand, but the forehand is exactly the same.

Also, the stroke mechanics for my power backhand (March/April 1999) and my power forehand (May/June 1999) are the foundation of this shot. Everything is exactly the same ... the only thing that changes is the contact point...let's see!

## ***Sudsy's Magic Show ... The Splat!***

Photos: Kurt Silvershield



### **TRICK #1: Ready Position**

- Early Racquet Preparation ... everything else is the same.

### **TRICK #2: The Step**

- Step at a 45 degree angle for the backhand and straight ahead for the forehand ... at this point you are close to the sidewall.

### **TRICK #3: The Swing**

- Racquet head begins to drop...

### **TRICK #4: Contact Point**

- Contact point is made knee high or lower and the ball is hit off the heel of your lead foot ...

### **TRICK #5: Follow-Through**

- The racquet comes completely through ... everything else is the same.



### **Let the magic continue...Trajectory!**

As I pointed out in Trick #2, you should be close to the sidewall ... this is critical for a splat shot to work effectively. I recommend you should be within one foot of the sidewall, if not closer, so contact on the ball is within inches of the sidewall, clearly seen in Trick #4. Watch where contact is made (knee high and lower and off the heel), how close to the sidewall (inches), and the path of the ball (hits the sidewall deep as you can see, unlike the pinch shot that hits close to the corner). After the ball hits the sidewall, it hits the front wall and then bounces twice before hitting the second sidewall, like the pinch, and is nearly impossible to return.

### **Let the magic finish...When to use it!**

Here's the clincher. Knowing how to hit the splat shot is only a small part of the equation. *When* to hit it is even more important. It's very simple ... when your opponent is either behind you — or in front of you, but shading to the side you are on — use the splat shot (of course only if you are close to the sidewall).

Remember, the splat shot winds up landing in the front of the court so make sure your opponent is not in good center court position (see March/April 2000 issue), otherwise — if they are — use the pass as a better option.

There you have it...my Magical Splat Shot. Remember the splat shot is advanced, so until you have some of the basics down pat like the pinch or the pass, don't attempt this shot. It's fun, it's exciting and it's cool (like me!) but don't lose matches unnecessarily like I did. Be smart about it like Fran and I teach at our camps and I do on the court. That's what makes me #1. See you next issue to cover some more of my advanced magical techniques!





## Game Plan: Back Wall Play

by Lynn Adams

Racquetball is a unique and wonderful sport, played within the confines of four walls and a ceiling. Because of all those walls, the ball comes at us from a variety of angles, including the uniquely-different back wall shot. For those of us who have played sports growing up, we are used to the ball coming at us, but a ball that comes at us ... goes by us ... and then comes back again?! Very different and often difficult to track.

Because the ball comes off the back wall quite often over the course of a match, it pays to spend time really working on perfecting this aspect of our game. Lets look at the four basic steps you need to be successful at taking the ball off the back wall, and the common problems that can hinder your success. Good luck!

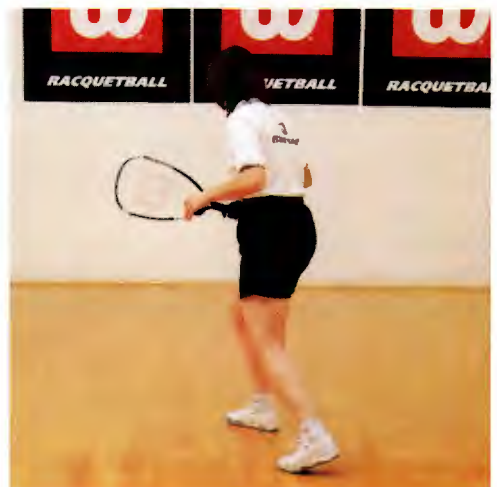


**STEP ONE: PREPARATION — DO!** Turn sideways and shuffle (step-together-step) to the back wall. This motion is the quickest and most efficient way to move, assuming you aren't up in the front court and have to run a long distance to the back-wall. Not only will you be quicker, you will already be sideways and set up for the shot. All you have to do is step into the ball and swing. Very efficient.



**DON'T!** There are two don'ts. First, *don't* back-pedal to the back wall. It will slow you down and you tend to not get turned sideways in time. This can cause major timing problems.

Second, *don't* turn to the back wall and run. When you face the back wall, it becomes harder to get your body re-positioned sideways and you will have a tough time hitting your shots cross-court and down the line. You'll end up hitting the side wall a lot, and that might not be your shot of choice.







**STEP TWO: MOVING IN TO POSITION — DO!** Let the ball pass by you as it comes off the back wall, then start moving in to the shot. This is a **KEY CONCEPT!** You want to come in from behind the ball, so all you have to do is step and swing.



**DON'T** get ahead of the ball. This is the most common error players make when setting up for a shot off the back wall.

If you plant your feet and wait for the ball to come to

where you are standing, you are at the mercy of wherever the ball presents itself. That's why we end up either reaching back for the ball, getting jammed up or hitting the ball at its high point. The results are mostly disappointing.



**STEP THREE: CONTACT POINT — DO!** If you've done step two correctly then the ball should be out in front of your body, on its way to the front wall. At this point you step into the ball and make contact around your front foot and at knee height or below. This allows you to hit a variety of shots flat and low.

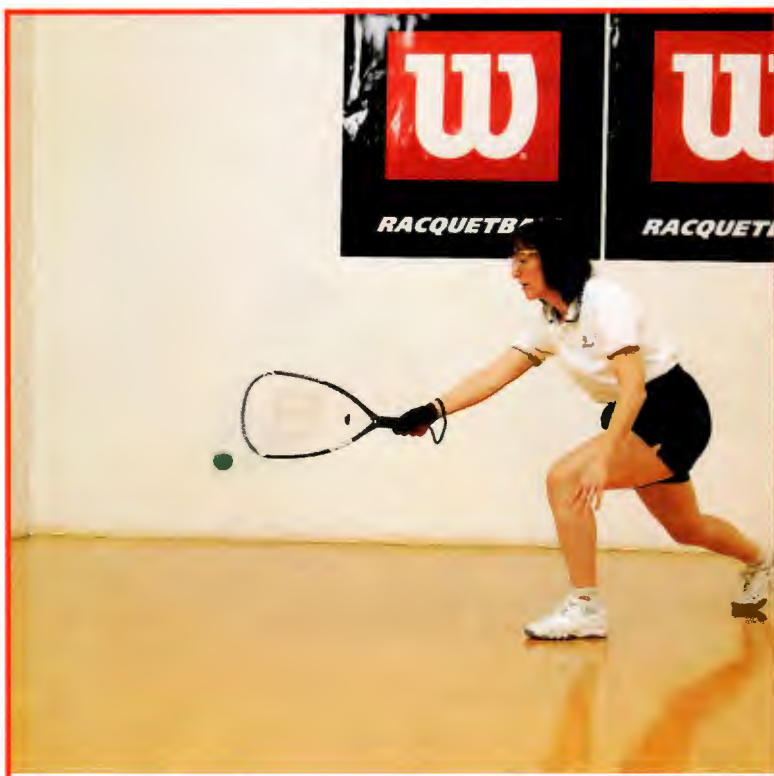


**DON'T —** You don't want to be hitting the ball off your back foot, behind your stride.

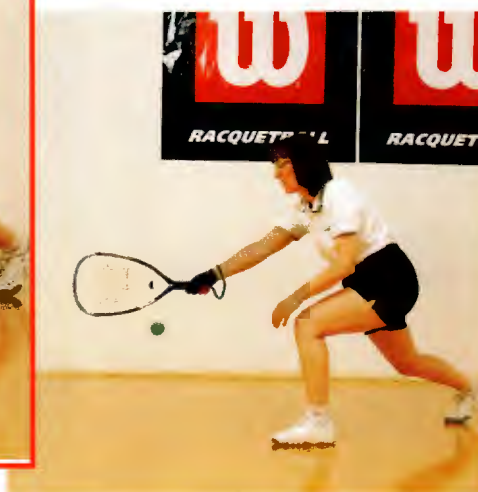
This will limit the shots you are capable of hitting, such as a cross court (you can't

get your racquet face around when the ball is behind your stance) or even a solid down the line. Instead, you'll hit the side wall or the floor frequently and put a lot of strain on your arm.





**STEP FOUR: EXTENSION — DO!** In order to hit with full power and still have control over where your shots go, you need to keep the ball away from your body. This will allow you to have full extension of your arm at the point of contact.



**DON'T** let the ball get too close to your body. If you get jammed up at the point of contact, you'll lose power and the ability to control the face of your racquet.



#### COMMON PROBLEMS

Not using your legs to stride into the ball will cause your racquet head to drop down to make contact with the ball. This causes inconsistency....sometimes the shot is okay, but more often then not, the ball skips or rises up.



Lifting up after contact tends to make the ball go up as well. If you want the ball to stay low more consistently, then you need to stay low through your shot.





## MAINS & CROSSES

By **Steve Crandall**  
Vice President, Sales & Marketing

### HYBRID STRINGING: The What & Why

One of the most frequent questions I get from racquetball players concerns hybrid stringing — an important concept, and one that is widely misunderstood. As a matter of fact, early returns on the pop quiz I gave in the last column showed that many respondents missed the question about hybrid stringing. I'll review

answers to the quiz when I've finished grading them, but in the meantime, let's get started on a series of columns I've put together to take the mystery out of hybrid stringing.

About 25 years ago the concept of hybrid stringing, like many other things in our sport, was born "across the border" in the land of tennis. It was about that time that the first oversized tennis racquets were introduced to the market. Almost immediately this led to a number of issues regarding stringing.

About five years after that, the size and shape of racquetball racquets also began to change. Similar issues arose. In both sports, players looked to alternative stringing approaches to optimize new racquet geometries and get the most out of their preferred styles of play. Here's how the issues played out first in tennis.

#### **Tension**

At the same time that oversized tennis racquets were introduced, a young Swedish tennis player was winning many Grand Slam tournaments with his standard-sized racquet strung at 80 lbs. of tension, which provided for optimum topspin and control of the ball. Since oversized racquets had more string area, they also had to be strung at even higher tensions to duplicate the tension and feel of a standard-sized racquet. This led to the development of alternative stringing techniques, one of which was hybrid stringing.

#### **Durability**

While they helped players improve their game, oversized racquets also had an unwanted consequence — premature string wear and breakage. Due to the increased surface area, oversized racquets use more string and the string pattern is generally more open. This results in greater string movement during play and more friction between strings. With the evolving "topspin" game, increased tension and string movement, higher caliber players discovered their strings were snapping with disconcerting frequency. The

practice of hybrid stringing was adapted to improve the durability and useful life of racquet string.

#### **Trampoline Effect**

One of the big initial drawbacks to oversized racquets resulted from what has become known as the "trampoline effect." Imagine you are bouncing happily on a relatively small and firm trampoline. Now imagine that the frame has increased in size to double the surface area of the trampoline with a corresponding decrease to its firmness. How sure-footed do you feel now?

Your loss of control on the trampoline is analogous to the loss of ball control players experience when racquet surface area is increased without using a compensating method of stringing. So hybrid stringing was one of the techniques developed to provide a firmer string bed and increased ball control — a good alternative to stringing frames at ridiculously high tensions.

#### **So What Is It?**

Preliminary results of the Pop Quiz show that there is a great deal of confusion between "hybrid stringing," "composite strings" and "hybrid tensioning." Each of these concepts produces different results. "Hybrid stringing" involves using two distinctly different types of string — one for the main strings and another for the crosses. Each type of string has a specific purpose and we'll discuss this in more detail in the next column.

Many respondents to the quiz thought that hybrid stringing referred to the use of a string constructed from two different types of raw material. A single string incorporating two different materials is a "composite string." A composite string is taken from the same coil and used over the racquet's entire stringing area.

Other readers thought "hybrid stringing" involved using different tensions on the crosses and the mains. This common practice is "hybrid tensioning." It involves using the same coil of string, but placing different tensions on the racquet's crosses and mains.

While hybrid stringing became an important adjunct to the modern top spin game in tennis, many top-seeded racquetball players have used hybrid stringing to take their game in an entirely different direction. We'll learn more about the evolution and theory of hybrid stringing in racquetball next time around.





## Head Rules by Fran Davis

### Service Strategy

# Q:&A...Q&A

*I heard the serve in racquetball is important. What do you think and what do you suggest for improving a service game?*

The serve is not only important in racquetball it is the single most important part of the game and it is considered the #1 weapon by all the pros! If you look at the pros games you can clearly see the role played by the serve. Whether it's Sudsy, Cliff, John, Jason or Jackie, Cheryl or Christie — they do not take the serve lightly. I've talked or worked with all of them and they all spend the most time in practice on their serve. Why? They all know that ...

- this is the only time in the match they have complete control of the ball as they hit it from their own hands, and they take extreme advantage of that fact.
- the serve sets the tone to the match. If their serve is on, rocking, rolling and grooving, they feel like no one can stop them. Conversely, if their serve is off, even slightly, they don't feel as confident and it shows.
- with a good, strong and solid service game they can apply pressure to their opponent and most people fold under pressure, as you know.

With all of this in mind I want to cover what I believe to be the five key components to improving your service game.

#1 The purpose of a serve is primarily to force a weak return or, periodically, ace your opponent.

#2 You can vary your serve by changing the:  
Height (high, low or three quarters)  
Speed (hard, soft or three quarters)  
Angle (move around in the service box and serve from different positions) [See Nov/Dec 1999 issue, Sudsy's Magic Show...Service Variety]  
Type (drive, Z, lob, etc.) [See Nov/Dec 1999 issue, Sudsy's Magic Show Service Variety...for complete details].

#3 OFFENSIVE SERVES: V-serve, Drive serve, Jam, Wrap Around, Hard, Low Z, Overhead Z, Overhead Jam.  
DEFENSIVE SERVES: High Lob, Half Lob, Lob into side wall, Lob right along wall, Backhand Lob, Soft High Z, Three-quarter Z.

#4 Mix them up to keep your receiver guessing and off balance. There are over 30 serves in the game of racquetball, so don't become predictable.

#5 Analyze your opponent to determine the best serve to use against the: Power Player; Knee Problem (Injury); Beer Belly/Pregnant; Weak Backhand; Weak Forehand; Poor Reaction Time. Analyze your opponent weaknesses!

The serve in racquetball is critical. In my camps, clinics and lessons I stress the serve above and beyond anything else. I truly recommend going to back issues of RACQUETBALL and carefully reading over the following Sudsy's Magic Show articles as they precisely cover the how's and why's to serving:

The Power Drive Serve . . . . . July/August 1999  
The Lob Serve . . . . . September/October 1999  
Service Variety . . . . . November/December 1999

Good luck in your quest for developing the service game of the millennium!!!





## **WINNING: Is it Everything?** **by Marcy Lynch**

***Is being number #1 the only goal really worth striving for?  
Is winning a tournament, a league, a match the only thing that  
matters? If so, are you wasting your time unless you win?  
Is it possible to lose a match and still be a winner?***

There's no denying that there is a lot of support in the world for 'winners' and a certain stigma attached to being a 'loser.' It's pretty easy to internalize the popular worldview of winning and losing based on the importance that winning is given in our culture.

The fact is, no one wins all the time. Some people have a higher success rate for winning compared to others, but no one wins all the time. And, since there is only one winner at any given event, there are definitely more losers than winners. So why do we still compete? As non-winners, are we just winner wanna-be's?

I know this is a topic for which there are many different views. My summer softball team has this discussion every season. Do we want to be 'competitive', (i.e. try to 'win') or just 'have fun'? There's a lot of pressure associated with winning and I'm convinced that those who are wanting to 'have fun' are looking for a way to take the pressure off of themselves by letting go of any expectations.

To me, the idea of winning and having fun are not mutually-exclusive — in fact, winning is a lot more fun than not winning. I don't have much fun unless I'm making every effort to win. Where I have learned the most, however, is in regard to how I deal with losing. I believe the key to winning is coming to terms with the fear of losing.

The way I deal with the fear of losing is *not* to focus on it. I have been most successful when I am able to focus on something other than winning or losing.

It may sound like a contradiction to try to win but not think about it. The distinction here is between a goal and focus. A goal is an intention that resides in the back of my mind. My goal is to win. Focus is

what I give immediate attention to and is in the very forefront of my thinking. I focus on what I need to do to win - a game plan and the execution of it. My internal challenge then becomes, "let's see how well I can execute my plan." At the end of the match I will have either won or lost but the measure of my own success will be how well I executed my plan.

Therefore, in my mind, it is possible to lose and still feel like a winner if I did everything I could possibly do to execute my plan. Losing this way feels a lot less painful than having my measure of success solely determined by the outcome of the match. I've also experienced times when I've not played well and won. Although I wouldn't give up the win, it's not as sweet as when I've won knowing I played well.

This is what works for me. I know athletes who are totally motivated by the fear of losing or hate to lose so much that they are able to use that energy to win. Others are just simply jazzed up by the challenge of putting their skills on the line and the fear becomes excitement (I imagine this kind of person loves sky diving or bungee jumping). Every one of us is different and we handle fear and pressure in different ways. The game of racquetball becomes more about learning to manage ourselves than 'beating' our opponent.

In conclusion, I think there are many ways to win and to define what winning means. We don't have to be limited by anyone else's measure of success. We can define it for ourselves. The better we get to know ourselves, the better chance we have of having a satisfactory relationship with the ability to win and to tolerate losses.

If you'd like to receive my e-mail newsletter on other topics like these, please send an e-mail to [Malnutr@aol.com](mailto:Malnutr@aol.com). I welcome any comments or feedback to this address as well.





## newdirections by Luke St. Onge

As we approach the end of the year 2000 I'd like to take a moment to reflect on several of the highlights of the past twelve months, beginning with the USRA Leadership conference at the Olympic Training center here in Colorado Springs last January. There — for the first time — the entire industry addressed the sport's grass-roots leaders and offered their total support for the

Court Club Programming initiative. A new enthusiasm and energy was established for this critical long-range program with the 100% endorsement of not only the industry, but of the State Leaders as well. In conjunction with this plan to grow the sport, a goal was established to increase the USRA membership by 1200 by the end of the year.

The IHRSA convention followed quickly on the heels of the Leadership Conference and for the first time in many years there was a new spark for the sport among club owners, as retention and profitability was stressed from the Industry booth. This was a complete turnaround from only two years before when racquetball was not considered a part of the fitness mix. It was also exciting to convey to the owners that in the last 18 months over 2000 new courts were built in the U.S. Certainly an indication of progress!

The back-to-back Wilson High School Nationals and E-Force Intercollegiates fell in this same period and once again showed an increase in participation. The Ektelon Regionals followed suit with their own very successful upturns in participation, as did the Ektelon National

Singles, which drew over 650 individual players to Houston. Three new members were inducted into the Hall of Fame — Van Dubolsky, Ruben Gonzalez and Jim Winterton — at the Annual Awards Banquet.

The Summer found activity at its highest with the Head/Penn Junior Olympics in Minnesota, Elite camps in Colorado Springs and the World Championships in Mexico. All were great successes with probably the most noteworthy being the Canadian Racquetball Team winning the World Cup, outright, for the first time in the history of the World Championships, along with first-time individual title wins by Mexican National Team members in both singles and doubles.

In programming, AmPRO continued through this period certifying over 200 new instructors and programmers to bring the total active member roster to over 600. The USRA also opted to take over the management of the women's pro tour, in an attempt to stabilize an athlete pipeline so critical to the success of a sport. Internationally, Keith Calkins of the USRA Board was elected President of the International Racquetball Federation and a new IRF Executive Committee was selected at the Worlds, with the added stipulation that a minimum of two women delegates would be required to be elected to it, for the purpose of fostering women's development in the sport worldwide.

The Ektelon National Doubles opened the current season with over 673 playing in Baltimore, with some 30 late entrants being turned away because of the size of the event. Now, the Hilton U.S. Open looms before us, followed by the annual, year-end Pro Kennex Junior World Championships rounding out the year. In all, its been quite a non-stop, jam-packed year for racquetball from our end. We hope yours has been just as active and equally successful!

### AmPRO Instructor Certification Clinic Schedule

| DATE .....           | HOST CLUB .....                   | CITY/STATE .....            | CLINICIAN .....       | CONTACT ..... |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| November 10-12 ..... | Quadrangle Athletic Club .....    | Clearwater, FL .....        | Ed Remen .....        | 919-363-4439  |
| November 13-14 ..... | Wimbledon SportsPlex .....        | Memphis, TN .....           | Gary Mazaroff .....   | 505-266-8960  |
| November 17-19 ..... | Highpoint Sports & Wellness ..... | Albuquerque, NM .....       | Joe Wittenbrink ..... | 505-890-0096  |
| December 1-3 .....   | YMCA .....                        | San Juan, Puerto Rico ..... | Gary Mazaroff .....   | 505-266-8960  |
| December 2-3 .....   | Broadstone .....                  | Folsom, CA .....            | Dave George .....     | 650-589-6904  |

**For more information about conducting an AmPRO Instructor Certification clinic, or about becoming certified, please contact Gary Mazaroff [Director of AmPRO Instructor Certification] at 505/266-8960, email [GMazaroff@usra.org](mailto:GMazaroff@usra.org).**

**AmPRO Instructors! Check your online directory listing for accuracy! Follow links from [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org) | "AmPRO" |**

**"Instructors" to see if we have your most recent contact information, then email us corrections, if needed!**



## 17th Hamburg Open

<http://www.racquetball.de/hamburgopen2000/>

by Mike Mesecke

The 17th edition of the Hamburg Open took place September 15-17, with an Olympic atmosphere shared by the opening of the 15th the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Players from many countries such as Netherlands, USA, Spain, Puerto Rico came to Germany's Northern city to compete with Hamburg and Germany's finest.

And this tournament turned out to be Martin Klippel's own. Being the first ERT event of the new season after the World Championships in San Luis Potosi, this years Hamburg Open brought Martin to the top of Europe's roster with his defeat of Achim Loof (1991, 1993, 1997, 1999 European Champion) in the semis and by his victory over Miguel Santiago (PUR), top ranked military player here in Europe and current USAREUR Champion. Earlier, Santiago defeated former ERT No. 1 Pascal Matla (NED) in straight two games in the Men's Open quarterfinals.

The Mens B and C divisions were in "older" hands, when over-50-year-old US citizen Ron Ruiz won the Mens B's against the mid-30 Robert Carden (USA), and 52-year-old Karel Matla from the Netherlands won the Mens C" against the late-20s Alfonso Bebia (ESP) who played for Spain at the Worlds for the first time this year.

There were no serious surprises in the age divisions: Scott Creps (USA) defeated Rico Southee (USA) in the finals. In the Masters 40+, Miguel Santiago faced German 40+-Champion Jörg Ludwig, but as expected, no surprise here either – Santiago won in two straight games.



The Women's Open have been dominated by Rita Mitchell (USA), followed by Yvonne Kortés [pictured L-R], 2000 German National Champion. Elke Esquibel (GER) in third, followed by Cheryl Carden (USA).

The Doubles Open division saw Martin Klippel and Pascal Matla from the Netherlands dominate Antonio Bebia/Achim Loof in the Semis and Scott Creps/William Smith (USA) in two games.

"We have seen great games this year, I am glad that this tournament, so close after the Worlds and on this special (Olympic) weekend, brought great players to Hamburg to open the new season", said Bjoern Jensen, tournament director and President of the Hamburg State Racquetball Association. "Let's hope all tournaments will be that great, big and on such a high level in future European events!"

## EUROPEAN RACQUETBALL TOUR CALENDAR

|                |                                     |                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| january 13-14  | ..... French Open, Paris            | ..... IRT Satellite |
| february 10-11 | ..... Antwerp Open, Antwerp         | ..... ERT major     |
| march 9-11     | ..... Castlebar Open, Castlebar     | ..... ERT minor     |
| march 15-17    | ..... DutchZoetermeer/European Open | ..... IRT Satellite |
| april 6-8      | ..... German Open, Hamburg          | ..... IRT Satellite |
| may 4-7        | ..... Arklow Open, Arklow           | ..... IRT Satellite |
| june tbd       | ..... Paris Open, Paris             | ..... ERT minor     |

## World Senior Doubles Website

Erik Meyer and Philippe Lecomte recently announced the launch of the European Racquetball Federation's website for the IRF World Seniors. On it, you'll find photos and results from 2000, plus dates and event information for 2001. Go to: <http://wsd.european-racquetball.org>

## International Women's Group Founded

The tentatively-named Women's International Racquetball Association was formed at the World Championships in San Luis Potosi on August 12, with a founding group of over 30 women from all corners of the globe. Minutes of that meeting, from chair person Angela Grisar, included the following stated goals.

- To make every country take one step forward from the point they are today. This means that if, what Ireland needs today is a trainer, make everything possible to get them one, and if athletes from Bolivia need to start participating in the women's pro tour, find an inexpensive way they can do it (contact airlines, restaurants for discounts).
- A council of seven members was formed to include representatives of all continents.
- To give a name and a logo to this women's organization (called WIRA at the moment), and charge an annual fee for membership.
- To set a meeting, like IRF and PARC, during the tournaments.
- To start a newsletter.
- To help arrange hospitality "exchanges" in family homes where the athletes can stay, especially for the major events.
- Invite LPRA tour players to join in our goal to make women's racquetball bigger.
- To encourage debate, proposals and voting via a website, in order to have a democratic organization where we can all suggest ideas on how to develop women's racquetball and be all informed on what is going on.
- To increase visibility of tournaments. A few women noted that they had lived in the U.S. for many years, but had never heard about the World Championships before.
- Work locally for racquetball, giving lessons, organizing social activities.



# rb:people & places



## FIT FOR LIFE

by General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret)

During my days at the Pentagon, racquetball was part of my exercise routine. At the POAC – the Pentagon Officers Athletic Club – I'd meet a partner and proceed to engage in some friendly but nonetheless hard-driving competition. I loved it. It kept me fit; it was a safety valve for releasing the tensions and frustrations that accrued from a generally high-pressure working environment; and it did it all very efficiently, without taking too much time from a busy schedule.

My racquetball days are behind me now, but I remember them fondly. I also consider them instructive – particularly in light of my present work on behalf of America's youth.

Since 1997, I have been leading a national crusade to endow young people with the character and competence they need to succeed in life. America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth makes what we call our Five Promises to the nation's youngsters. These are: (1) an ongoing relationship with a caring adult; (2) a safe place with structured activities during non-school hours; (3) a healthy start; (4) a marketable skill through effective education; and (5) an opportunity to give back through community service.

These Five Promises have been endorsed by every living President of the United States and First Lady, and by the host of governors, mayors, public officials, business executives, and spiritual and civic leaders nationwide. Today, America's Promise includes more

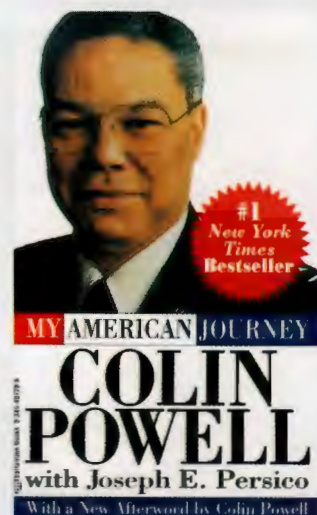
In his autobiography "My American Journey" [Ballantine Books/Random House, August 1996] General Powell makes several references to his lifetime enjoyment of racquetball.

In the Carter Defense Department (pg. 233) ... "About a year after (our) first encounter, Bandar [Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, son of the minister of defense and aviation, nephew of King Fahd, and a man who would eventually become the oil kingdom's ambassador to United States] was living in Washington and attending the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. We started playing racquetball together at the Pentagon Officers Athletic club, he and I against Charles Duncan and General David Jones, then Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff ... "

One Last Command (pg. 392) ... "I had good people working for me. I set out a clear command philosophy. Once again, I could lead the good life: home by 5:30 pm, racquetball with my old V Corps driver, Otis Pearson ... "

A Line in the Sand (pg. 451) ... "Later that day, President Bush and Scowcroft spoke with Prince Bandar, my old racquetball partner, now Saudi ambassador to the United States ... "

A Farewell to Arms (pg. 579) ... "But the days of my own modest athletic glory, a long-ball hitter in softball, a fair racquetball player, are over ... "





than 1,000 communities, businesses, and non-profit and charitable organizations that make up our Alliance for Youth.

For millions of our youngsters, especially for the disadvantaged, America's Promise represents their best hope of getting the minimum requirements they need to grow up into successful and contributing adult members of our society. In the past three years we have taken dramatic strides, yet we still have miles to go if we are to keep the Five Promises to all the young people in this country who need our help.

USRA is complementing our efforts. Through your National Outreach Program, you are introducing inner-city youngsters to the fun and fitness-enhancing qualities of racquetball. I understand that you are working with the National Association of Police Athletic Leagues, one of our Alliance partners, toward this end.

I think that's great. When young people experience the joys of healthy, challenging sports they are less likely to succumb to the lure of drugs and gangs. Also, they are more likely to develop a sense of their own self-worth and their potential to achieve significant goals in life.

So we are both engaged in the work of helping young people become fit for life. I hope that the USRA, the readers of this magazine, and your local affiliates throughout the country will want to do even more for youth in the future.

We stand at a moment of historic opportunity. For the first time since the birth of our Republic, we have the means to enable every American youngster to realize his or her full potential as a human being. We need only mobilize our nation's vast resources to reach this goal. Together, we can keep America's Promise.

*Gen. Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret) is chairman of America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth.*

## **Off the Beaten Path**

Several years ago, current U.S. Team member Doug Eagle was in a car accident and sustained a severe slipped disk injury to his back. After surgery, he underwent 18 months of physical therapy, which became a key factor in his return to the sport, and his most recent silver-medal finish at National Singles. In addition to some new career moves and his unique personal approach to health and wellness, the Texas native went a bit "off the beaten

path" to celebrate the new year, traveling to Egypt with fellow pro tour regular Louis Vogel.

"At the turn of the millennium, I was of the 100,000+ people gathered at the base of the pyramids in Cairo, Egypt, Africa. On the morning of January 1, 2000, I had a unique opportunity to be the first person to enter the Great Pyramid where I sat, still in meditation giving great thanks for the opportunity.

During my earlier recovery, I sought methods self-healing, eventually becoming dedicated to yoga, meditation, and spirituality. I feel the spiritual development I gained during this time strongly influences and guides my life. I've further enhanced this growth and my health by becoming a vegetarian. My new clinic, Eagle Rehab, now helps others reestablish their lives after physical incapacitation." — [www.dougeagleenergy.com](http://www.dougeagleenergy.com)





# rb:people & places



## < Feaster-Stewart

Three-time U.S. Junior National Team member Shannon Feaster wed Ayinde Stewart in Washington, DC on July 1. The couple was introduced by a mutual acquaintance at the Maryland State Singles Championships in Baltimore in March of 1998, and many racquetball veterans attended the ceremony, including the bride's long-time friend, doubles partner and fellow-junior champ Vanessa Tulao.

Feaster holds a series of singles titles from national junior events, world juniors, high schools and the U.S. OPEN, as well as numerous doubles crowns with various partners over the years. She is a graduate of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism and Howard University, and is currently employed as a guest booker and field producer for CNN in Washington, DC. Stewart is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and is a maintenance business manager for Scientific and Engineering Solutions in Annapolis Junction. The couple honeymooned in DisneyWorld and the Bahamas and reside in Silver Spring, MD with their cocker spaniel, Peanut.



## < Ellis-Stern

Top ranked IRT pro John Ellis also got hitched over the summer – he and Jennifer Stern tied the knot on June 25, then honeymooned in Greece for two weeks before returning to Stockton where they will make their home. In addition to the traditional wedding photo, John and current U.S. OPEN champ Jason Mannino posed with the garter. Nice suit! Congratulations and best of luck!



## Brockbank-Brown >

Three-time former intercollegiate champion and U.S. Team member Tammy Brockbank tied the knot just prior to National Singles. Tammy and Sean Brown were married on May 20 in Boise, then headed straight to Houston, where they honeymooned – and played racquetball – through Memorial Day. The couple are both completing degrees at Boise State University in Criminal Justice and work at the Juvenile Detention Center when they're not assisting Tammy's mom Sharon with running racquetball programs and tournaments for the area's Idaho Athletic Clubs.



## < Hadid-Coleman

Sameer Hadid won't be in Memphis to defend his '99 U.S. OPEN title in the Men's 25+ division – he'll be in Hawaii. Hadid was married to





Dawn Leslie Marie Coleman of Richmond, California on June 16 and the couple held off their Kona honeymoon until the end of the year. When the couple returns, Sameer will be back to work at iMotors.com and they will reside in Sacramento.

## Quite a Backhand >

According to proud papa, Sudsy, the newest addition to the Monchik clan — son Derek Ray — was born on July 12, just shy of an oversized frame at 20.5" 7lbs, 15 oz. And *reportedly* with a genetically-engineered backhand. Congratulations!



## Long-Distance Godparents

Former-Guam National Team member Frank Rios has been a big fan of Ruben Gonzalez and Jackie Paraiso from his years of competing against them at the 1994 and '96 World Championships, then coaching against them in '98.

So, when he and Gloann became the proud parents of baby daughter Christina Nichole last year, they felt it was only fitting to ask Gonzalez and Paraiso to be their daughter's godparents. Although the two athletes were unable to attend Christina's christening in Makati, Philippines, they expressed how happy and honored they were to be chosen as godparents.



## High Performance Camp

Twenty-two athletes traveled to Colorado Springs to participate in the Racquetball High Performance Camp, held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center and Lynmar Racquet Club. The USRA's Jim Hiser led the camp, with the assistance of U.S. National Team Head Coach Tom Travers, U.S. National Team-member Cheryl Gudinas, U.S. National Junior Team Assistant Coach Kelley Beane and former U.S. National Team-member Todd O'Neil.

Participants in the camp included: Anita Antony, Ryan Bush, Yuni Cobb, Larry Cotton, Mary Crawford, Joshua Epstein, Jacob Gentillon, David Gentry, Donald

Grunstra, Sid Harshavat, Jason Loesch, July Malone, Orlando Mayo, Kevin Miliffe, Carla Moats, Beth Neff, Greg Neimeyer, Nicholas Rowley, Drew Toland, Oscar Vargas, Joe Vincent and Michael Wang.

## Kaiser to be Missed

Leonard Kaiser, of Gavilan Hills, Calif., passed way of a heart attack while playing racquetball on May 20. He was a long-time member of the Tournament House Racquetball Club, in Riverside, Calif. Kaiser won the national masters 70-and-over singles championship last February in Fountain Valley, Calif.

He was the director of the YMCA in West Orange County for 25 years, and later went on to become the director at the Campfire Girls of Los Angeles. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War, and was a 1949 graduate of North Central College, in Naperville, Ill. Kaiser is survived by a daughter and four sons, nine grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

## Courts Planned in Player's Memory

The Randolph-Asheboro (N.C.) YMCA broke ground for racquetball courts dedicated to a local doctor who loved the sport in July. The family of Dr. William Hendricks, a 47-year-old Asheboro dermatologist and YMCA member who died in January 1996, said they are donating the start-up money for the racquetball addition.

"It's a dream that my husband had and the family and the community can help carry out," said Hendricks' widow, Caywood Hendricks.

YMCA general director Patrick O'Hara recalled Hendricks talking to him about racquetball courts five years ago. And Caywood Hendricks said he talked about the courts again the day before he died, even though he knew his damaged heart would probably prevent him from playing the game again.



# rb:people & places



Happy Birthday! Almost a year old now, these two cuties are Jacob & Joshua Yellen, twin sons of Mike Yellen.

"He was still interested in the racquetball courts and what they could do for this community," she said.

YMCA officials plan to build two and possibly three courts, which will be named after Hendricks, depending upon the amount of donations received. They hope to have the racquetball addition completed by year end.

## NMRA NATIONAL MASTERS

**Houston Fitness & Sports Club: April 5-8**

The Houston Fitness and Sports Club hosted the NMRA National Masters Championships last April, and although this statement sounds perfectly natural, it was not quite so simple. The event had originally been set for a club in Jacksonville, Florida, but in December of 1999 the club went out of business, leaving the NMRA tournament in complete limbo. NMRA President Ron Pudduck scrambled to the phone and with the cooperation of Dan Davis, general manager of the new host club, this event safely touched-down in Houston. Once this new site had been selected, we had to find a qualified tournament director. The next to step-up and volunteer was Annie Muniz, President of the Texas Racquetball Association. Now it seldom gets any better than working with Dan Davis as the club manager, and having Annie Muniz as your tournament director.

Now all the NMRA needed were players who would show up when the tournament doors opened. That they got with the assistance of Annie, Dan, the USRA and the membership of the NMRA. In fact, this tournament had the largest draw (by 20 players) of any NMRA tournament held in the month of April for the last six

years. So, with all the pieces in place, it was now time to start the matches and let the play begin.

All NMRA tournaments offer four days of round-robin competition to players age 45 and up. Regardless of whether you win or lose a match, you keep right on playing and experiencing the thrill of competition. That is exactly what happened in Houston for the four days of this event. But, besides lots of fine competition, there were many extras available, including beautiful embroidered blue denim shirts for each participant, and the spouses and guests were presented with very attractive maple picture frames containing a "Welcome to Houston" message.

### HOUSTON, 2000 RESULTS

**MEN SINGLES:** 45+: 1. Thomas Weniger-CA; 2. Pat Gibson-TX; 3. Howard Walker-TX. 50+: 1. Don Scales-TX; 2. Terry Wells-TX; 3. Dave Warner-MN; 4. Dave Briski-KS. 55+: 1. Len Wilson-PA; 2. Leland Rients-MN; 3. Warren Reuther-LA; 4. Mitch Milewski-NH. 60+: 1. Rex Lawler-IN; 2. Lee Graff-OR; 3. Don Harrington-RI; 4. Bob Webster-AL. 65+: 1. Otis Chapman-OH; 2. Paul Banales-AZ; 3. Don Alt-FL; 4. Emil Kuenzler-NY. 70+: 1. Barney Friesth-SD; 2. John O'Donnell-IL; 3. Philip Dziuk-IL; 4. Joe Lambert-TX. 75+: 1. Bob McAdam-TX; 2. Jack Pillar-FL; 3. Bob Miller-MI; 4. Albert Romero-NM. 80+: 1. George Spear Jr.-FL. — **WOMEN SINGLES:** 45+: 1. Jere Luttner-TX; 2. Nan Higgins-NH; 3. Karen Weins-FL; 4. Kathy Matson-CO. 50+: 1. Merjean Kelley-CA; 2. Bette Miller-CO. 55+: 1. Cece Palaski-CA. 65+: 1. Jo Kenyon-FL; 2. Lola Markus-IL. — **MEN DOUBLES:** 45+: 1. Tom Weniger (CA)/Jim Gutierrez (CA); 2. Pat Gibson (TX)/Howard Walker (TX). 50+: 1. Marc Auerbach (TX)/Dan Davis (TX); 2. Jack Soble (OH)/Jerry Davis (OH); 3. Terry Wells (TX)/Jim Baker (CA); 4. Dennis Misal (DC)/Ken Weinstein (MD). 55+: 1. Len Wilson (PA)/Ray Testasecca (NJ); 2. Jerry Davis (OH)/Jack Soble (OH); 3. Leland Rients (MN)/Rex Lawler (IN); 4. Mitch Milewski (NH)/Don Harrington (RI). 60+: 1. Lee Graff (OR)/Bob Webster (AL); 2. Grant Morrill (PA)/Fran Roman (WI); 3. John Hoffpauir (TX)/Dirk Stronch (TX); 4. Eladio Herrera (VA)/Bob O'Brien (SC). 65+: 1. Don Alt (FL)/Otis Chapman (OH); 2. Paul Banales (AZ)/Ron Pudduck (MI); 3. Ken Moore (CA)/Milas Turney (FL); 4. Eugene Ferris (LA)/Emil Kuenzler (NY). 70+: 1. Joe Lambert (TX)/Joe Goldman (MA); 2. Philip Dziuk (IL)/Dick Kincade (CO); 3. Harold Hiles (FL)/Dave Bowersock (KS). — **MIXED DOUBLES:** 45+: 1. Ron Pudduck (MI)/Merjean Kelley (CA); 2. Marc Auerbach (TX)/Jere Luttner (TX); 2. Ed Dalton (NH)/Nan Higgins (NH); 3. Fred Roe (CA)/Cece Palaski (CA). 55+: 1. Ron Adams (CA)/Lola Markus (IL).

## NMRA International Masters

**USAFA, Colorado Springs, CO: July 12-15**

The U.S. Air Force cadets had left the parade grounds and the academy for the summer, but they were replaced by 215 excited and eager masters' age racquetball players. These 45+ individuals were all delighted to be at the beautiful facilities of the U.S. Air Force Academy to compete in the NMRA International Masters Championships. While the racquetball players were a little older than the usual crop of cadets, they were no less eager to strut their stuff ... not on the parade grounds but on the seventeen courts in the Cadet Gym.



With 215 entrants, this tournament was the largest draw of any tournament in the 29 year history of the NMRA. Because of the full round-robin format used in all NMRA tournaments, guaranteeing lots of play, the total draw for this event had to be limited.

Thanks to the year-long hard work of Dick Kincade and his very large committee of volunteers, the event went off without a hitch. From the day you checked into the hotel until the day you departed, Dick and his volunteers catered to all the participants like they were royalty. To fill in the hours when the players were not on the courts, players and friends were treated to an evening of food and great entertainment at the Flying W Ranch and a cog railroad train trip up Pike's Peak.

The Friday evening banquet began with the presentation of a new memorial plaque, designed by Joe Lambert (TX) and funded by Charlene Luckman (MT) and Jack Soble (OH). This magnificent racquet-shaped memorial was

created to celebrate the lives of NMRA members no longer with us. The banquet concluded with NMRA President Ron Pudduck presenting the Sportsmanship Award to Otis Chapman (OH), the Ivan Bruner Contributor's Award to Jack Hoffa (CA) and the NMRA Hall of Fame Award to recent inductee Rex Lawler (IN), who became only the 24th person to have his name inscribed on the the Hall of Fame plaque.

#### COLORADO SPRINGS, 2000 RESULTS

**MEN'S SINGLES:** 45+: 1. Bruce Nelson IL; 2. Jerry Kewley IN; 3. Tulensa Tulensa CO; 4. Mark Scanlon AZ. 50+: 1. Tom Rall CA; 2. Dave Warner MN; 3. Doug Douville UT; 4. Bill Welaj NJ. 55+: 1. Kevin Dorr MD; 2. Glenn Allen VA; 3. Ray Huss OH; 4. John Pease FL. 60+: 1. Jim Wilkins UT; 2. Leland Rients MN; 3. Ron Adams CA; 4. Jim McPherson TX. 65+: 1. Art Johnson CO; 2. Don Alt OH; 3. Ken Moore CA; 4. Jerry Holly CA. 70+: 1. Jim Wilkstrom WA; 2. Joe Lambert TX; 3. Manny Organista CA; 4. John O'Donnell IL. 75+: 1. Bob McAdam TX; 2. Don Goddard MT; 3. Ross Filippone B.C., CAN.; 4. Bill Matotan NM. 80+: 1. Earl Acuff NC; 2. George Spear FL; 3. Charlie Russell CA; 4. Bill Weinacht OH. — **WOMEN'S SINGLES:** 45+: 1. Marcia Richards CO; 2. Debbie Holley B.C., CAN.; 3. Nan Higgins NH; 4. Jere Luttner TX. 50+: 1. Meri Jean Kelley CA; 2. Linda Neel OR; 3. Charlene Luckman MT; 4. Jane Bentley NM. 55+: 1. Mary Lou Furaus NM; 2. Cece Palaski CA. — **MEN'S DOUBLES:** 45+: 1. Bruce Burgess-CO/Dave Letsche-CO; 2. Mike Benedict-

CO/Randy Kyzar-CO; 3. James /Diamantides-TX/Glen Huey-TX; 4. Jim Anderson-FL/John Green-FL. 50+: 1. Barry Hendricks-AZ/Jon Walker-AZ; 2. Steve Mihalko-PA/Tom Moore-CA; 3. John Pease-FL/John Green-FL; 4. Jim Gutierrez-CA/Dale Knotts-OH. 55+: 1. Kevin Dorr-MD/Mike Pawka-CA; 2. Glenn Allen-VA/Tommy Gladson-VA; 3. Alan Holley-B.C., CAN./Jon Walker-AZ; 4. Tom Penick-CA/Ed Woolery-CA. 60+: 1. Lee Graff-OR/Tom Penick-CA; 2. Gerald Beattie-OK/Jim McPherson-TX; 3. Ron Adams-CA/Gene Pletcher-UT; 4. Rex Lawler-IN/Leland Rients-MN. 65+: 1. Don Alt-OH/Otis Chapman OH; 2. Art Johnson-CO/Dick Manson-CO; 3. Pat Colombo-NY/Norm Goldetsky-MN; 4. Jim Keenan-CA/Ken Moore-CA. 70+: 1. Jerry Webb-CO/Frank Zagorski-CO; 2. Duane Russell-MI/Marvin Schinagle-OH; 3. Joe Goldman-MA/Joe Lambert-TX; 4. Alan Adirim-B.C., CAN./Phil Swartz-B.C., CAN. 75+: 1. Ivan Bruner-WI/Chet Howard-WI; 2. Don Goddard-MT/Ross Filippone-CAN.; 3. Wallace Dockall-TX/Bill Matotan-NM. 80+: 1. Charlie Russell-CA/Bill Weinacht-OH. — **WOMEN'S DOUBLES:** 45+: 1. Linda Mojer-CO/Jeanne Cannella-CO; 2. Elly Diggers-MT/Charlene Luckman-MT; 3. Kathleen Matson-CO/Bette Miller-CO; 4. Nila Gresham-CO/Charlotte Wolleson-CO. — **MIXED DOUBLES:** 45+: 1. Dave Letsche-CO/Marcia Richards-CO; 2. Randy Kyzar-CO/Jeanne Cannella-CO; 3. John Wuerffle-CO/Linda Mojer-CO; 4. Charles Yaqub-CA/Nancy Abram-CA. 55+: 1. Ron Loehman-NM/Mary Lou Furaus-NM; 2. Dan Davis-CO/Loretta Marks-CO; 3. Dave Funk-CO/Bette Miller-CO; 4. Norm Struck-CO/Cece Palaski-CA. 65+: 1. John O'Donnell-IL/Lola Markus-IL; 2. Duane Russell-MI/Joann Russell-MI; 3. Earl Acuff-NC/Mary-Low Acuff-NC.

NMRA Reports by Ron Pudduck

## Pro Kennex IRF XII World Junior Championships PLANNER

**WHERE:** Los Caballeros Sports Village  
Fountain Valley, California  
**WHEN:** December 17 – 21  
**DEADLINE:** Friday – December 1  
**POSTMARKED BY:** Tuesday – November 28  
**DIVISIONS:** Singles & Doubles  
**FEES:** \$65.00/1st event  
\$35.00/2nd event  
\$15.00/3rd event  
**STARTING TIMES:** Available Friday – December 15  
**CHECK-IN:** Opens Saturday – December 16  
**PLAY BEGINS:** Sunday – December 17  
**MEMBERSHIP:** USRA Membership Required

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• **HOSPITALITY:** There will be no daily meals provided, but at 6:30 pm on Thursday evening (12/21) a banquet will be offered to all players at no charge. Non-participants may purchase banquet tickets for \$25.00 at the tournament desk, by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, December 20th.

• **EXPANDED ENTRY FORM:** Find a single-page entry in the Sept./Oct. issue of RACQUETBALL, or download a .pdf entry form at usra.org (indexed under "forms"), or request a faxed/mailed entry by calling 719-635-5396. You can also enter online through the USRA.org and Active.com websites.



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At its May 2000 meeting, the USRA Board of Directors voted to suspend the existing rules moratorium for the purposes of formalizing the experimental "one-serve in Open" rule, and to clarify several text rulings. Effective on September 1, 2000, the following revisions were made to the Official Rules of Racquetball. This addendum — in conjunction with the current rulebook — now comprise the official 2000-2001 version.

- Text was re-worded regarding "certifications & compliance" for the mandatory eyeguard rule. The rule now reads:

#### **Rule 2.5 APPAREL**

(a) All players must wear lensed eyewear that has been warranted by its manufacturer or distributor as 1.) designed for use in racquetball and 2.) meeting or exceeding either the full ASTM F803 standard or Canadian (CSA) impact standard. This rule applies to all persons, including those who wear corrective lenses. The eyewear must be unaltered and worn as designed at all times. A player who fails to wear proper eyewear will be assessed a technical foul and a timeout to obtain proper eyewear. A second infraction in the same match will result in immediate forfeiture of the match.

**Certifications & Compliance.** The USRA maintains a reference list of eyewear so warranted by their manufacturers, and provides that list to each sanctioned event (an eyewear list dated more than 90 days prior to the first day of the tournament will be deemed invalid for the purpose of determining compliance with this eyewear rule). In addition, the list is available online at the USRA.org website (indexed under "eyeguards"), and individual copies may be requested by calling the USRA National Office at 719/635-5396.

To be used in sanctioned competition, protective eyewear must:

- bear a permanent, physical stamp of the appropriate "ASTM-F803" citation on the frame itself, OR
- appear on the ASTM reference listing, OR
- bear the "Protective Eyewear Certification Council" [PECC] seal of approval for the ASTM standard, OR
- be certified in writing by the maker that it complies with the required ASTM standard (in this instance, the player must be able to provide written, adequate proof - on demand - at any sanctioned event, before such eyewear may be used).

- The one-serve modification in Open division play was officially adopted for all sanctioned competition, resulting in text changes to the following rulings:

#### **Rule 3.1 SERVE**

In Open Division competition, the server will have one opportunity to put the ball into play [see section 5.0, for complete, one-serve modifications]. In all other divisions, the server will have two opportunities to put the ball into play. [remaining text moved to separate paragraph]

**Rule 3.9(i)** — In open division play, if a serve is called a screen, the server will be allowed one more opportunity to hit a legal serve. Two consecutive screen serves results in an out.

**Rule 3.10(a)** — Two Consecutive Fault Serves [see Rule 3.9], or a single fault serve in open division play [see exceptions: 5.0].

**Rule 3.12(a)2.** — Two Consecutive Fault Serves [see Rule 3.9], or a single fault serve in open division play [see exceptions: 5.0].

#### **Rule 4.3 Fault Serve in Doubles (c) [serve hits partner] & (d) [consecutive faults]**

(c) In open division play, if a serve hits the non-serving partner while standing in the box, the server will be allowed one more opportunity to hit a legal serve. Hitting the non-serving partner twice results in an out.

(d) In open division play, consecutive faults -- either (i) a screen serve followed by hitting the non-serving partner or (ii) hitting the non-serving partner followed by a screen serve -- results in an out.

Rule 5.0 One-serve modifications - With the adoption of the one-serve rule, this modification is eliminated, and replaced with revisions to Rule 3.1; 3.9; 4.3(c) & (d) [preceding]. Additional text changes, referencing first and second serves, were applied consistently within text wherever applicable.

- **Rule 4.2 Serve in Doubles** - Changed text to "The order of serve may be changed between games, provided that the referee has been verbally notified before the first serve of the new game."

- Rule 11.0 - Specific to Men's Professional Tour [IRT]
- Rule 12.0 - Specific to Women's Professional Tour [LPRA]

- Within the policy section, the following segments had text changes, and now read:

#### **A.3 SCHEDULING**

(a) **Preliminary Matches.** If contestants are entered in more than one division, it is likely that they will be required to play several times on the same day with little rest between matches. This is a risk assumed on entering multiple categories of play. If possible, schedules should provide at least one (1) hour of rest between matches.

(b) **Final Matches.** Where the possibility exists of one or more players reaching the finals in multiple divisions, it is recommended that these matches be scheduled several hours apart to assure more rest between the final matches. If this is not possible, it is recommended that a singles final be scheduled before any doubles final, and that at least one (1) hour of rest be allowed between matches.

(c) **Conflicts.** If a player reaches the finals of two divisions which are scheduled within the same hour, that player should be given the option of choosing which final is to be played first.

#### **A.5 FINISHES**

Finalists must play off for first and second place, or determine a winner by some mutually-acceptable method. Semi-finalists are not required to play off for third place. However, if one semifinalist wishes to play off and the other does not, the one willing to play shall be awarded third place. If no playoff for third place occurs, both semi-finalists will receive fourth place points.

- Missing text added:

#### **A.9 SPECTATOR CONDUCT**

In the event of disruptive or threatening behavior on the part of any spectator, relative, parent, guardian or coach at any USRA sanctioned event, the referee is empowered to address a "first offense" by enforcing sanction #1 detailed below. For additional infractions, the tournament director or USRA official in attendance, either of their own accord or at the request of the referee, is empowered to enforce sanctions #2 and #3 as warranted.

1. For the first offense: violator may watch, but not speak, while the athlete's match is being played.
2. For the second offense: violator may not watch the athlete's match, but may remain within the building.
3. For the third offense: violator will be removed from the club for the duration of the tournament, and pertinent authorities advised of the restriction. If a given situation so warrants, the tournament director or USRA official may invoke this sanction immediately and without previous offenses ? in the interest of safety.

- Moratorium on Rule Changes extended:

D.1 (a) Rule change proposals must be submitted in writing to the USRA National Office by June 1st. NOTE: The Board of Directors has imposed a moratorium on rule changes that establishes the next deadline for submission of rule change proposals as June 1, 2002, which would set the earliest possible effective date as September 1, 2003.

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| HI-TEC ADRENALIN PRO 2-M .....     | 53.95 | HEAD SONIC 500-LOW-M .....  | 44.95 |
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| November 15-19 | 5th Hilton U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships [5] | Memphis, Tennessee          | 719-635-5396 |
| December 17-21 | ProKennex 12th IRF World Junior Championships [5]  | Fountain Valley, California | 719-635-5396 |

**... and 2001...**

|                   |  |                            |              |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------|
| January 11-14     | USRA Annual Leadership Conference                            | Colorado Springs, Colorado | 719-635-5396 |
| January 19-21     | WSMA U.S. Women's Senior/Master Championships [5]            | Canoga Park, California    | 818-999-5944 |
| March 1-4         | Wilson 14th USRA National High School Championships [6]      | TBA                        | 719-635-5396 |
| Mar. 28 - Apr. 1  | E-Force 29th USRA National Intercollegiate Championships [6] | Las Vegas, Nevada          | 719-635-5396 |
| April 6-15        | PARC Tournament of the Americas                              | San Pedro Sula, Honduras   | 719-635-5396 |
| April 19-22       | Ektelon USRA Regional Championships [4]                      | Nationwide                 | 719-635-5396 |
| May 23-28         | Ektelon 34th U.S. National Singles Championships [6]         | Houston, Texas             | 719-635-5396 |
| June 23-27        | HEAD/Penn 28th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships [6]         | TBA                        | 719-635-5396 |
| Aug. 28 - Sept. 1 | IRF 13th World Senior Championships [5]                      | Albuquerque, New Mexico    | 505-266-8960 |





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## november ...

|                  |  |                      |              |
|------------------|--|----------------------|--------------|
| November 14-18   | Mullett Hoover Open @ Orem Fitness Center . . . . .                | Orem, UT             | 801-229-7156 |
| November 15-19   | 5th U.S. Open Racquetball Championships [5]. . . . .               | Memphis, TN          | 719-635-5396 |
| November 17-19   | All Valley Open Championships @ Mid Valley Athletic Club . . . . . | Reseda, CA           | 818-705-6500 |
|                  | Alpha Turkey Gobbler @ Alpha Club . . . . .                        | Mechanicsburg, PA    | 717-540-5111 |
|                  | John Marsden Open @ North Conway Athletic Club . . . . .           | North Conway, NH     | 603-356-5774 |
|                  | Texas Turkey Shoot @ Racquetball & Fitness Of San Antonio. . . . . | San Antonio, TX      | 210-344-8596 |
|                  | Turkeyfest @ The Fitness Forum . . . . .                           | Sanford, ME          | 207-324-1154 |
|                  | Turkey Open @ Healthworks . . . . .                                | Wallingford, CT      | 203-248-1869 |
|                  | YMCA Turkey Shoot @ YMCA . . . . .                                 | Idaho Falls, ID      | 208-523-0600 |
| November 18-19   | 2nd Annual Turkey Round Up @ Idaho Athletic Club . . . . .         | Meridian, ID         | 208-888-0060 |
| Nov. 30 - Dec. 2 | Rocky Mountain Masters @ Redwood Multipurpose Center . . . . .     | West Valley City, UT | 801-974-6923 |
| Nov. 30 - Dec. 3 | CRA Starlight Charity @ Colorado Athletic Club-Inverness. . . . .  | Englewood, CO        | 303-790-7777 |

## december ...

|                |   |                      |              |
|----------------|---|----------------------|--------------|
| December 1-3   | Big Brother/Big Sister @ Courts Plus Of Jacksonville . . . . .    | Jacksonville, NC     | 910-346-3446 |
|                | BQE Holiday Classic @ BQE Racquetball Club . . . . .              | Woodside, NY         | 718-429-8489 |
|                | Connecticut Cup @ Downtown Health & Racquet Club . . . . .        | New Haven, CT        | 203-248-1869 |
|                | EFC 2000 Turkey Shoot @ Elmwood Fitness Center. . . . .           | Harahan, LA          | 504-468-2813 |
|                | Fiberlink Technologies #7 @ La Camarilla . . . . .                | Phoenix, AZ          | 480-730-8156 |
|                | Holiday Magic All Doubles @ Westerville Athletic Club . . . . .   | Westerville, OH      | 614-882-7331 |
|                | Indiana State Doubles @ Greenbriar Athletic Club [3] . . . . .    | Indianapolis, IN     | 317-897-5481 |
|                | Pennsylvania State Doubles @ Oxford Athletic Club [3] . . . . .   | Monroeville, PA      | 412-466-7325 |
|                | Quad West Winter Classic @ Quad West . . . . .                    | Clearwater, FL       | 727-535-4901 |
|                | Santa Claus Tournament @ Merritt Athletic - Security . . . . .    | Baltimore, MD        | 410-298-8700 |
|                | Superstars XIII @ Central Courts . . . . .                        | Columbia Heights, MN | 612-572-0330 |
|                | The Claremont Club Tournament @ The Claremont Club. . . . .       | Claremont, CA        | 909-625-6791 |
|                | Thorbeck's Fitness Tournament @ Thorbeck's Fitness. . . . .       | Centralia, WA        | 360-736-1683 |
|                | Winter Splat Shot @ Bowling Green YMCA . . . . .                  | Bowling Green, KY    | 270-842-4991 |
|                | 20th Annual Freeze-Out @ Auburn YMCA. . . . .                     | Auburn, NY           | 315-253-5304 |
| December 2-4   | Portland Open @ Racket & Fitness Center. . . . .                  | Portland, ME         | 207-775-6128 |
|                | Wilson Women's Classic @ Athletic Club - Bloomingdale . . . . .   | Bloomingdale, IL     | 630-893-9577 |
| December 6-10  | Rippin' Around The Christmas Tree @ The Alaska Club East. . . . . | Anchorage, AK        | 907-258-3211 |
| December 8-9   | Diane Dalton Memorial @ Cedardale. . . . .                        | Haverhill, MA        | 978-373-1596 |
| December 8-10  | Back To The Bay @ What-A-Racquet Club. . . . .                    | Daly City, CA        | 650-994-9080 |
|                | Brian Scott Memorial @ 24 Hour Fitness/Courthouse . . . . .       | Boise, ID            | 208-377-0040 |
|                | Holiday Cash Classic @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet . . . . .        | Orlando, FL          | 407-645-3550 |
|                | Holiday Classic @ Classic Athletic Club . . . . .                 | Fairfield, NJ        | 973-742-8806 |
|                | Holiday Open @ Nashua Athletic Club . . . . .                     | Nashua, NH           | 603-889-5520 |
|                | Mountain Madness @ Gatlinburg Community Center. . . . .           | Gatlinburg, TN       | 865-436-4990 |
|                | Pro Kennex Super Six Stop #2 @ Southview Athletic Club. . . . .   | West St. Paul, MN    | 651-450-1660 |
|                | WNY Kickoff Classic @ University Of Buffalo. . . . .              | Buffalo, NY          | 716-743-1852 |
| December 9     | Junior Stop #3 @ Seattle Athletic Club Northgate . . . . .        | Seattle, WA          | 206-361-8853 |
| December 15-17 | Christmas Crunch @ White Bear Athletic Club. . . . .              | White Bear Lake, MN  | 651-426-1308 |
|                | 9th Annual Christmas Classic @ Tyson's Sport & Health . . . . .   | McLean, VA           | 703-527-7785 |
| December 17-21 | ProKennex 12th IRF World Junior Championships [5] . . . . .       | Fountain Valley, CA  | 719-635-5396 |

## january ...

|              |  |                 |              |
|--------------|--|-----------------|--------------|
| January 5-7  | Blast Off New Year @ Merritt Athletic - Security. . . . .      | Baltimore, MD   | 410-298-8700 |
|              | Jim Backes Open @ Healthworks. . . . .                         | Wallingford, CT | 203-248-1869 |
|              | L/A Open @ Central Maine Athletic Center . . . . .             | Lewiston, ME    | 207-786-4820 |
|              | Off The Wall @ Natomas Racquet Club . . . . .                  | Sacto, CA       | 916-649-0909 |
| January 6-7  | Juniors Roll Out The New Year @ Pueblo Athletic Club . . . . . | Pueblo, CO      | 719-561-3488 |
| January 9-13 | Alta Canyon Avalanche @ Alta Canyon Sports Center . . . . .    | Sandy, UT       | 801-942-2582 |



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|                  |  |                   |              |
|------------------|--|-------------------|--------------|
| January 10-14    | Splats On Ice @ The Alaska Club Midtown .....                        | Anchorage, AK     | 907-258-3211 |
| January 12-14    | Ektelon Racquetball With The Gar @ Bally Matrix Fitness Center ..... | Amherst, NY       | 716-839-0079 |
|                  | Martha's New Years Open @ Wimbledon Sportsplex .....                 | Memphis, TN       | 901-388-6580 |
|                  | New Jersey State Doubles @ King George Racquet Club [3] .....        | Greenbrook, NJ    | 732-356-6900 |
|                  | Pittsburgh Open @ Oxford Club .....                                  | Monroeville, PA   | 412-466-7325 |
|                  | Winter Blahs @ Cedardale .....                                       | Haverhill, MA     | 978-373-1596 |
|                  | WOW Winterfest @ Work Out West .....                                 | Greeley, CO       | 970-330-9691 |
|                  | 2001 Southlake Pro-Am @ Southlake Athletic Club .....                | Morrow, GA        | 770-968-1792 |
| January 19-21    | Big Chill @ Northwest Fitness .....                                  | Houston, TX       | 713-895-8688 |
|                  | Cocoa Classic @ Cocoa Court Club .....                               | Hershey, PA       | 717-540-5111 |
|                  | Conditioning Spa Shoot Out @ Conditioning Spa .....                  | Greeley, CO       | 970-352-0974 |
|                  | Doubles Tune Up @ The Southlake Club .....                           | Mundelein, IL     | 847-949-8180 |
|                  | Sunshine Tournament @ Athletic Express .....                         | Gaithersburg, MD  | 301-258-0661 |
|                  | Superbowl Open @ In Shape - West Lane .....                          | Stockton, CA      | 209-472-2100 |
|                  | Tennessee Women's Invitational @ Gallatin Civic Center .....         | Gallatin, TN      | 615-451-5911 |
|                  | The Mitch Nathanson Classic @ Executive Health & Sports .....        | Manchester, NH    | 603-641-6116 |
|                  | Winter Classic @ Southridge Athletic Club .....                      | Greenfield, WI    | 414-421-5770 |
|                  | WSMA U.S. Women's Senior/Master Championships [5] .....              | Canoga Park, CA   | 818-884-5034 |
|                  | 2001 - A Racquetball Odyssey @ Summerhill .....                      | Rogers, AR        | 501-238-1204 |
|                  | 24 Hour Fitness Open @ 24 Hour Fitness/Courthouse .....              | Boise, ID         | 208-377-0040 |
|                  | 3rd Annual New York City Pro-Am @ BQE Racquetball Club .....         | Woodside, NY      | 718-429-8489 |
| January 24-27    | Provo Racquetfest @ Provo Recreation Center .....                    | Provo, UT         | 801-371-6874 |
| January 26-28    | Fiberlink Technologies #1 @ Arizona Athletic Club .....              | Tempe, AZ         | 480-730-8156 |
|                  | Greenbriar Classic @ Greenbriar Athletic Club .....                  | Indianapolis, IN  | 317-897-5481 |
|                  | Hog Classic @ Omega 40 .....   | Ormond Beach, FL  | 904-672-4044 |
|                  | Illinois State Doubles @ Glass Court Swim & Fitness [3] .....        | Lombard, IL       | 630-629-3390 |
|                  | Metroplex Championship @ Maverick Athletic Club .....                | Arlington, TX     | 817-275-3348 |
|                  | Penn State Winter Classic Open @ I M Building .....                  | State College, PA | 814-861-6804 |
|                  | The Bel-Aire Open @ Nautilus Fitness & Racquet Club .....            | Erie, PA          | 814-459-3033 |
| January 27-28    | Meals On Wheels Benefit @ Gold's Gym .....                           | DeWitt, NY        | 315-446-0376 |
| Jan. 31 - Feb. 4 | Fearsome Four Doubles @ The Alaska Club Midtown .....                | Anchorage, AK     | 907-258-3211 |

## february ...

|               |   |                   |              |
|---------------|---|-------------------|--------------|
| February 1-3  | Gold's Gym Downtown Invitational @ Gold's Gym .....               | Ogden, UT         | 801-399-5861 |
| February 1-4  | Foxwood Pro-Am @ Ridge Racquet Club .....                         | Braintree, MA     | 781-982-6029 |
| February 2-4  | B R Ryall Winter Tournament @ B R Ryall YMCA .....                | Glen Ellyn, IL    | 630-858-0100 |
|               | Idaho State Doubles @ Fitness Inc. [3] .....                      | Pocatello, ID     | 208-233-8035 |
|               | Shapes Open @ Shapes Fitness Center .....                         | Watertown, NY     | 315-782-9348 |
|               | Wintergreen Tournament @ Laurel Sport Fitness .....               | Laurel, MD        | 410-987-0980 |
|               | WNY Open @ University Of Buffalo .....                            | Buffalo, NY       | 716-743-1852 |
| February 3    | One Day Singles @ Quad West .....                                 | Clearwater, FL    | 727-535-4901 |
| February 3-4  | Icicle Open @ Allentown Racquet Club .....                        | Allentown, PA     | 610-821-1300 |
| February 8-11 | New Jersey Pro-Am II @ Classic Athletic Club .....                | Fairfield, NJ     | 973-742-8806 |
| February 9-10 | 23rd Indy Open @ Noblesville Athletic Club .....                  | Noblesville, IN   | 317-255-3321 |
| February 9-11 | Kidney Foundation @ Sports Barn .....                             | Chattanooga, TN   | 423-899-2068 |
|               | Longhorn Open @ University Of Texas .....                         | Austin, TX        | 512-407-9449 |
|               | NAC Winter Classic @ Northwest Athletic Club .....                | Springdale, AR    | 501-750-3538 |
|               | St. Valentine's Day Massacre @ Athletic Club - Bloomingdale ..... | Bloomingdale, IL  | 630-893-9577 |
|               | Valentine Double Trouble @ Alpha Racquet Club .....               | Mechanicsburg, PA | 717-540-5111 |
|               | Valentine Open @ Downtown Health & Racquet .....                  | New Haven, CT     | 203-248-1869 |
|               | Valentines Tourney @ Racket & Fitness Center .....                | Portland, ME      | 207-775-6128 |
|               | Wyoming State Doubles @ YMCA [3] .....                            | Sheridan, WY      | 307-674-7488 |

• For all sanctioned events [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2)

• Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 12/00, you must renew your membership in the month of December in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.



## MEN

### Men's Open

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Mike Locker, MN
3. Rocky Carson, CA
4. Jimmy Lowe, WA
- 5T. Doug Eagle, TX
- 5T. Dan Fowler, MD
7. Todd O'Neil, TX
8. Dan Llacera, NJ
9. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
10. Gared Edmunds, KY

### Men's A

1. Cary Slade, IL
2. Steve Tillotson, CA
3. Sunny Osagie, AR
4. James Davis, TX
5. Clay Burris, FL
6. Brian Stone, GA
7. Kipp Atwell, LA
8. Joe Clinton, TX
9. Ben Croft, IL
10. Felix Marrero, LA

### Men's B

1. Michael Wang, TX
2. James Russell, FL
3. Brandon Cortese, MI
4. Craig Sparks, AZ
5. Larry Weene, MA
6. Jason Hicks, KY
7. Filip Vesely, NV
8. Peter Michaely, TX
- 9T. John Dill, TX
- 9T. Martin Gonzalez, IL

### Men's C

1. Chris Coy, OK
2. Cam Grundman, MN
3. Reinaldo Rodriguez, FL
- 4T. Sriman Chennareddy, TX
- 4T. Not a Member,
6. Mike Gaffney, PA
7. Jim Zimmerer, OH
- 8T. Not a Member, TN
- 8T. Mike Williamson, TN
10. Grant Macuba, IL

### Men's D

1. Ken Newberry, TX
2. Jeff Bell, CT
3. Muhammad Jawad, TX
4. Christopher Nichols, AR
5. Joe DeRoche, IL
6. Bryan Shaw, MO
7. Mike Dolitsky, FL
- 8T. Sid Harshavat, IL
- 8T. Robert Villanueva, FL
10. Joe Snyders, MD

### Men's Novice

1. Dan LaRochelle, NH
2. Garrett Jordan, TX
3. Matt LaRochelle, NH
4. Richard Aguirre, ID
- 5T. Francis Aguilera, CA
- 5T. Joedy Pack, OH

7. Not a Member, TX
8. Chris Herrera, NM
9. Louis Lenckus, TX
10. Brandon Ritschard, IL

### Men's 24-

1. Richard Ross, PA
2. Kyle Veenstra, WI
3. Mitch Williams, NC
4. Jason Bledsoe, FL
- 5T. Jack Huczek, MI
- 5T. Not a Member, TN
- 7T. Brad Hansen, IA
- 7T. Mike Patalano, RI
9. Paul Strike, OH
10. Jeffrey Garner, AL

### Men's 25+

1. Brian Pointelin, UT
2. Tim Hardison, SC
3. Mike Dennison, OH
4. Mike Locker, MN
- 5T. Tom Fuhrmann, TX
- 5T. Ryan Homa, MN
- 5T. Raymond Maestas, NM
- 8T. Rob DeJesus, AZ
- 8T. Jamal Harris, MD
- 8T. Aaron Metcalf, FL

### Men's 30+

1. Kevin Graham, WI
2. Jim Minkel, TX
- 3T. Don Costleigh, NY
- 3T. John Davis, LA
- 3T. Brad McCuniff, IA
6. Jim Frautschi, MN
7. Dana Levy, FL
8. Jody Morris, TX
9. Eugene Coyle, IL
10. Rich Baer, NY

### Men's 35+

1. Dave Negrete, IL
2. Dave Watson, OK
3. Armando Alonso, FL
4. John Scargle, FL
5. Rick Ferrin, CA
6. Jimmy Lowe, WA
7. Scot Consoli, FL
8. David Barnes, RI
9. Alan Sheppard, NC
10. Scott Cullins, GA

### Men's 40+

1. Dave Eagle, OH
2. Bill Lyman, IL
- 3T. Terry Fluharty, FL
- 3T. Tim Hansen, FL
- 3T. Joe Thomas, MA
6. Not a Member, CA
- 7T. Greg Hodges, MI
- 7T. Gary Tanko, WI
9. Glenn Leib, PA
10. Ron Argenbright, ME

### Men's 45+

1. Jim Luzar, WI
2. Russ Palazzo, CT
3. Gary Mazaroff, NM

- 4T. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
- 4T. Darryl Warren, CA
6. Joe Clinton, TX
- 7T. Mark Baron, VA
- 7T. Bruce Nelson, IL
- 9T. Mitt Layton, FL
- 9T. Not a Member, OH

### Men's 50+

- 1T. Mitt Layton, FL
- 1T. Thomas Rall, CA
3. Don Scales, TX
4. Bill Welaj, NJ
5. Dave Warner, MN
6. Ed Remen, NC
7. Joe Silius, IL
8. Horace Miller, IL
9. Don Prater, FL
10. Bert Castelanelli, CA

### Men's 55+

1. Ray Huss, OH
2. Glenn Allen, VA
3. Tom McKie, TX
- 4T. Warren Reuther, LA
- 4T. Ron Yonkee, IL
- 6T. Ron Galbreath, PA
- 6T. Leland Rients, MN
- 8T. Kevin Dorr, MD
- 8T. Mike Winslow, FL
10. Horace Miller, IL

### Men's 60+

1. Jim Wilking, UT
2. Rex Lawler, IN
3. Jim McPherson, TX
4. Ron Hutcherson, IN
5. Charlie Garfinkel, NY
6. Grant Morrill, PA
7. Bobby Sanders, OH
8. Ron Adams, CA
9. Bob Webster, AL
10. Lee Graff, OR

### Men's 65+

1. Jerry Holly, CA
2. Don Alt, OH
3. Otis Chapman, OH
4. Kenneth Moore, CA
5. Milas Turney, FL
6. Don Maxey, TX
7. Art Johnson, CO
- 8T. Ed Olah, IL
- 8T. Frank Trask, ME
10. Norbert Lecompte, NH

### Men's 70+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. John O'Donnell, IL
3. Barney Friesth, SD
4. Robert Miller, SC
5. Duane Smith, TX
6. Len Kaiser, CA
7. Carl Buschner, MA
8. Stan Fugate, FL
9. Mal Roberts, FL
10. Not a Member, WA

### Men's 75+

1. Robert McAdam, TX
2. Earl Acuff, NC
- 3T. Bill Matotan, NM
- 3T. Nick Sans, CA
- 3T. J.W. Studak, TX
6. Bernard Sand, IA
7. Bill Gencarella, CA
8. Al Romero, NM
9. Hank Richard, NC
10. Robert L. Thompson, FL

### Men's 80+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. George Spear, FL
3. Cam Snowberger, SC
4. Ben Marshall, TX
- 5T. Hank Richard, NC
- 5T. Charlie Russell, CA
7. Harry Steinman, MD
8. Harvey Greenfield, CA
9. Bill Weinacht, OH
10. Walter Gardner, UT

### Men's 85+

1. Harry Steinman, MD

## WOMEN

### Women's Open

1. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
2. Lisa Hjelm, CA
3. Aimee Roehler, NJ
4. Kersten Hallander, CA
5. Denise Mock, TX
6. Lourdes Sanders, CO
7. Kristen Walsh, UT
8. Terri Thornton, MN
9. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
10. Anita Maldonado, NY

### Women's A

1. Isabel Nagelin, VA
2. Melissa Young, TX
3. T.J. Baumgaugh, MD
4. Sandra Adams, TX
- 5T. Christa Davis, TX
- 5T. Ponttee Dodds, IL
- 7T. Jean Gordon, MN
- 7T. Karen Roykouff, ME
9. Jennifer Lynch, UT
10. Vivian Gomez, FL

### Women's B

1. Catherine Bertucci, IL
2. Valerie Willis, NC
3. Angela Deltito-Cook, PA
4. Rhonda Kochis, OK
- 5T. Cheryl Kirk, IL
- 5T. Fanny Scargle, FL
7. Janice Kennedy, GA
8. Melanie Bianucci, NC
9. Donna Spano, MA
10. Antoinette Bell, CO

### Women's C

1. Rosie Gonzalez, TX
2. Bridget Kundrot, MI
3. Joanna Reyes, TX

4. Pamela Trent, MD
5. Kelly McCloskey-Romero, NM
6. Gennie Salinas, TX
- 7T. Not a Member, PA
- 7T. Heather Westphal, VA
9. Charla Thomas, TN
10. Ann Matto, FL

### Women's D

1. Ramona Vonondarza, FL
2. Chieko Mineo, TX
3. Katie Brewer, OK
4. Samaria Bennett, TX
5. Bonnie Koehne, LA
6. Melody Hoagland, MN
7. Jennifer Herr, CA
- 8T. Lauren Barrett, MO
- 8T. Laura Edgar, GA
- 8T. Jamie Johnson, OH

### Women's Novice

1. Sarah Parrish, FL
- 2T. Marcy Ruiz, TX
- 2T. Alyson Webb, OH
4. Burtle Zimmerer, OH
- 5T. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
- 5T. Wesley Toland, AR
7. Monica Haynes, TX
- 8T. Kimberly Adamonis, PA
- 8T. Dina Alwan, DE
- 8T. Connie Coile, FL

### Women's 24-

1. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
- 2T. Kristen Fritz, PA
- 2T. Kristen Walsh, UT
4. Shannon Feaster, MD
5. Brooke Crawford, OR
6. Vallana Perrault, MN
- 7T. Aimee Roehler, NJ
- 7T. Janel Tisinger, CA
- 9T. Megan Bals, NE
- 9T. Adrienne Fisher, OH

### Women's 25+

1. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
2. Cara Pellowski, WI
3. Tina Hagen, CO
- 4T. Kim Herrold, SC
- 4T. Jo Shattuck, CO
- 4T. Jen Yokota, MO
- 7T. Kelley Beane, NH
- 7T. Aimee Roehler, NJ
9. Debra Bryant, NC
10. Lisa Marie Papp, GA

### Women's 30+

1. Michelle Lucas, VA
2. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
- 3T. Doreen Fowler, MD
- 3T. Mickey Richer, CO
5. Kelley Beane, NH
6. Lorraine Galloway, NY
- 7T. Jennifer Dering, NY
- 7T. Lori Lepow, FL
9. Michelle Shewchuk, MN
10. Laura Brandt, FL



**national•rankings•national•rankings•national•rankings**  
**national•rankings•national•rankings•national•rankings**  
**based.on.results.processed.by.the.national.office.as.of.09.15.00**

**Women's 35+**

1. Lorraine Galloway, NY
2. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
3. Lori Lepow, FL
4. Kersten Hallander, CA
- 5T. Denise Mock, TX
- 5T. Solanna Taragan, CA
- 7T. Anita Maldonado, NY
- 7T. Debra Tisinger, CA
- 9T. Pontee Dadds, IL
- 9T. Terri Thornton, MN

**Women's 40+**

1. Debra Tisinger, CA
2. Malia Bailey, VA
3. Val Shewfelt, UT
4. Linda Moore, NE
5. Roz Petronelli, MA
6. Sallie Benedict, VA
7. Sheri Anderson, AZ
8. Peggy Stephens, KY
9. Deb Stefandel, IN
10. Jodi Paul, PA

**Women's 45+**

1. Susan Pfahler, FL
2. Meena Evans, NC
- 3T. Karen Key, AZ
- 3T. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
5. Marcia Richards, CO
- 6T. Nan Higgins, NH
- 6T. Brenda White, IL
8. Jere Luttner, TX
- 9T. Linda Bentzel, PA
- 9T. Lesley Kishigian, MI

**Women's 50+**

1. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
2. Meri Jean Kelley, CA
3. Agatha Falso, FL
4. Shelley Ogden, OH
5. Mary Jane Weldin, DE
6. Sharon Huczek, MI
7. Linda Neel, OR
- 8T. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
- 8T. Cathy Stryker, VA
10. Ly Abbott, AK

**Women's 55+**

1. Mary Lou Furaus, NM
2. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
3. CeCe Palaski, CA
- 4T. Nidia Funes, CA
- 4T. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
6. Agatha Falso, FL
7. Mildred Gwinn, NC
8. Margaret Hoff, IL
- 9T. Marquita Molina, CA
- 9T. Cookie Wachtel, OH

**Women's 60+**

- 1T. Jo Kenyon, FL
- 1T. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
3. Gloria Piscoran, OR
4. Mildred Gwinn, NC
- 5T. Lola Markus, IL
- 5T. Jean Tull, VA
- 7T. Marion Crawford, NY

- 7T. Marquita Molina, CA
9. Ann Westphal, AZ
10. Jeanne Leben, AZ

**Women's 65+**

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Lola Markus, IL
3. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
- 4T. Naomi Eads, MO
- 4T. Louise Kiss, NM
- 6T. Not a Member, CO
- 6T. Ruth Zenk, FL

**Women's 70+**

- 1T. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
- 1T. Reta Harring, WI
3. Tillie Davies, AZ
- 4T. Mary Lou Kackert, NM
- 4T. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA

**Women's 75+**

1. Christine Stephens, TX
2. Helen Deysher, PA
3. Beth Keene, TX
4. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

**Women's 80+**

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
2. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR

**BOYS**

**Boy's 6 & Under**

1. Brandon Waldon, LA
- 2T. Not a Member, ID
- 2T. Keith McElhany, SD
- 2T. Not a Member, WI
- 2T. Marco Rojas, CA
6. Tyler Forbus, LA
7. Zachary Wertz, LA
- 8T. Not a Member, CA
- 8T. Not a Member, UT
- 8T. Nick Gottsleben, SD

**B6- Multi-Bounce**

1. Sam Reid, OR
2. Marco Rojas, CA
- 3T. Joseph Lee, LA
- 3T. Timothy Lerow, CT
5. Colin Kush, CT
6. Kyle Walsh, UT
7. Ryan Kutner, TX
- 8T. Alec Gonzales, CA
- 8T. Steven Kochis, OK
- 8T. Jackson Rogers, NM

**Boy's 8 & Under**

1. Joseph Lee, LA
2. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
- 3T. Brad Falvey, WI
- 3T. Charlie Locke, OR
5. Not a Member, OR
6. Jose Rojas, CA
- 7T. Jordan Faith, CO
- 7T. Erick Podwill, OR
9. Taylor Regier, OR
10. Calvin Godwin, AR

**B8- Multi-Bounce**

1. Brad Falvey, WI
2. Taylor Regier, OR
3. Miguel Martinez, AK
4. Not a Member, OR
5. Sam Reid, OR
6. Erick Podwill, OR
7. Ryan Kutner, TX
8. Matthew Hunter, FL
- 9T. Daniel Lerow, CT
- 9T. Dan Ring, MN

**Boy's 10-**

1. Jose Rojas, CA
2. Jonathan Doyle, OH
3. William Lee, LA
4. John Sanderson, UT
5. Sean McGrath, IN
6. Ismael Aldana, CA
7. Matt Keddie, NH
8. Erick Podwill, OR
9. Tony Casiano, ID
10. Daniel Borisov, WA

**Boy's 12-**

1. Chris Coy, OK
2. Andrew Grissom, CA
3. Allan Crockett, AL
4. Nick Arturo, AK
5. David Lewis, CO
6. Tripp Isley, NC
7. Brady Prince, MN
8. Mike Keddie, NH
9. John Edwards, WA
10. David Laforest, NY

**Boy's 14-**

1. Dan Sheppick, OR
2. Shane Karmelin, GA
3. Joey Lakowski, OR
4. Drew Toland, AR
5. Not a Member, TX
- 6T. Charles Pratt, OR
- 6T. Brad Slocum, FL
- 8T. David Key, LA
- 8T. Nicholas Rowley, AZ
10. Chris Coy, OK

**Boy's 16-**

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Bart Crawford, OR
3. Not a Member, AL
4. Clay Burris, FL
5. Erik Leetch, AR
6. Josh Epstein, NY
7. Cory Martin, WI
- 8T. Paul Carroll, ID

- 8T. Not a Member, TX
- 8T. Craig Klein, FL

**Boy's 18-**

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Shane Vanderson, OH
3. Zack Miller, CA
4. Stephen Lewis, WA
5. Mitch Williams, NC
6. Dan Beaudry, CO
7. Rick Warner, AZ
8. Jason Kerwood, OR
9. Robby Gunther, AK
10. Bart Crawford, OR

**GIRLS**

**G6- Multi-Bounce**

1. Not a Member, OR
2. Sierra Adam, CO
3. Katie Faith, CO
- 4T. Michaela Christiansen, ID
- 4T. Kaitlynn Pacinelli, NM
6. Blake Plaster, ID
7. Katie Nelson, WA
8. Hannah Edwards, WA
9. Kelsi Nelson, WA

**Girl's 8 & Under**

1. Kaitlyn Inglesby, OR
2. Nicole Grundman, MN
3. Wesley Toland, AR
4. Tia Smith, OR
5. Stephanie Moyle, OR
- 6T. Brooke Bolender, OH
- 6T. Brianna Musselman, PA
- 6T. Not a Member, VA
9. Stephanie Rojas, OR
10. Buffy Misanin, VA

**G8- Multi-Bounce**

1. Nicole Grundman, MN
2. Tristyn Trelease, OR
3. Kali Gottsleben, SD
4. Tia Smith, OR
5. Ceara Odell, NM
6. Wesley Toland, AR
7. Rebecca Machiran, MO
8. Brianna Ho, WA
9. Sierra Adam, CO
10. Nicole Carrell, WA

**Girl's 10-**

1. Brittany Legget, OR
2. Shannon Inglesby, OR
3. Sharon Jackson, IN
4. Wesley Toland, AR

5. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
6. Emily Melgaard, ID
7. Danielle Key, AZ
8. Shanae Taylor, IN
9. Taylor Miley, NM
10. Courtney Hill, NM

**Girl's 12-**

1. Ashley Willhite, OR
2. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
3. Sarah Moyle, OR
4. Not a Member, NY
5. Kara Mazur, CT
6. Not a Member, OR
7. Michelle Key, AZ
8. Jenny Epstein, NY
9. Kelley Fisher, OH
10. Liz Taylor, OR

**Girl's 14-**

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
2. Jesi Fuller, NM
3. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
4. Ashley Legget, OR
5. Kelley Fisher, OH
- 6T. Kastle Arturo, AK
- 6T. Lindsay Deutsch, CA
8. Elise Wilson, CT
9. Alyson Webb, OH
10. Natalie Starken, WI

**Girl's 16-**

1. Not a Member, OH
2. Janel Tisinger, CA
3. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
- 4T. Erica Beaudry, CO
- 4T. Adrienne Fisher, OH
- 4T. Kristen Walsh, UT
7. Jenny Cary, OR
8. Katie Brewer, OK
9. Kelley Fisher, OH
10. Da'Monique Davis, TX

**Girl's 18-**

1. Kristen Walsh, UT
- 2T. Jenny Cary, OR
- 2T. Adrienne Fisher, OH
4. Nickii Whitney, VT
5. Krystal Csuk, IL
- 6T. Lauren Deutsch, CA
- 7T. Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA
- 7T. Brooke Crawford, OR
- 7T. Jane Rombach, MO
- 7T. Not a Member, OH

**EVENT LEVEL/DESCRIPTION**

- 1 = Closed State Tournament
- 2 = Open Tournament
- 3 = State Championship
- 4 = Regional Championship
- 5 = National Invitational
- 6 = National Championship

**FINISH/POINTS**

|                             | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5-8  |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1 = Closed State Tournament | 30  | 20  | 15  | 10  | 5    |
| 2 = Open Tournament         | 50  | 30  | 20  | 15  | 10   |
| 3 = State Championship      | 150 | 100 | 75  | 50  | 25   |
| 4 = Regional Championship   | 250 | 150 | 100 | 75  | 50   |
| 5 = National Invitational   | 300 | 200 | 150 | 100 | 75   |
| 6 = National Championship   | 600 | 400 | 300 | 200 | 100* |

\*In draws of 48 or more at a national championship, the 9-16th place finishers receive 50 points.



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### THE CHANGES

- The **new scoring system** for the LPRA will allow players to score on every rally – meaning that if a serve goes short, the server will have “lost the rally” and a point will be scored for the receiver. Whether or not you are serving, if you win the rally, you’ll score a point.

- The **service game** will be structured so that each player will serve in “sets” of five, then sideout. A player with a strong service game can still pick up points on their serve, but an aggressive return of serve can also earn points for the receiver.

- With scoring on every

rally speeding up the games, **matches will be the best of five games to 21.** Players will still need to have a two-point margin to win and – if tied at 20-20 – they will alternate serves until the margin is reached.

- **Ranking points** are awarded as follows: 100 points for 1st place, 50 points for second, 30 points for semifinalists, 15 points for quarters, 5 points for 16s, 1 point for competing.

### LPRA Rankings

[Through 10/22/00]

| Player                 | Last Issue | Last Year | Total Points |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. Jackie Paraiso      | 1          | 1         | 525.00       |
| 2. Cheryl Gudinas      | 2          | 2         | 302.50       |
| 3. Christie Van Hees   | 3          | 3         | 162.25       |
| 4. Kersten Hallander   | 4          | 4         | 146.25       |
| 5. Susana Acosta       | 5          | 13        | 112.50       |
| 6. Lisa Hjelm          | 6          | 15        | 73.50        |
| 7. Michelle Lucas      | 10         | 7         | 47.75        |
| 8. Kim Machiran        | 7          | 12        | 46.25        |
| 8. Janet Myers         | 14         | 9         | 46.25        |
| 10. Phyllis Morris     | 8          | 10        | 39.75        |
| 11. Laura Fenton       | 24         | 15        | 38.75        |
| 12. Doreen Fowler      | 9          | 8         | 34.75        |
| 13. Josee Grand'Maitre | 17         | NR        | 26.25        |
| 14. Lori-Jane Powell   | 11         | 18        | 23.75        |
| 15. Lourdes Sanders    | 13         | 22        | 21.75        |
| 16. Jennifer Dering    | 12         | 32        | 18.75        |
| 17. Angela Burth       | 15         | 13        | 17.75        |
| 18. Loreto Barriga     | 20         | NR        | 15.00        |
| 18. Kerri Stoffregen   | 20         | 21        | 15.00        |
| 20. Johanna Shattuck   | 16         | 20        | 12.75        |

Clockwise from bottom left: Christie Van Hees, Cheryl Gudinas, Jackie Paraiso, Kersten Hallander, Lori-Jane Powell, Laura Fenton.  
Photos: Vicki Hughes.



# SUPERSONIC



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