

# RACQUETBALL

May — June 1998

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**Michelle Gould**  
**What will**  
**it take to**  
**beat her?**

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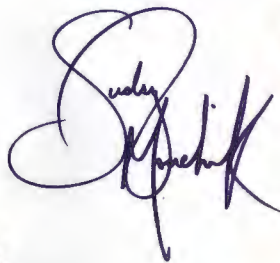
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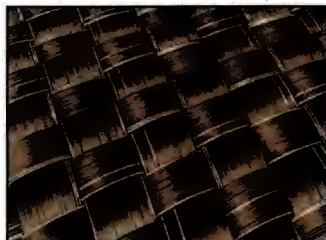
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# from the editor

You know, if I wanted to be *really* literal, I'd put this editorial on the very last page of each issue, instead of here. I'd call it "the last word" or "final shot" (*original, hm?*) or even "lights out" (*with little x's over my eyes in the photo*). Then I'd proceed to give you a complete summary of what had just taken place. You'd hear about the two solid production weeks spent calling, organizing, fact-checking, pleading, making lists, finding photos, explaining, grousing, re-writing, scanning, double-checking, cursing and generally scaring people in my immediate vicinity. Your basic pre-magazine syndrome. But that was only when I wasn't using the mouse to shift these little text blocks – left, right, up, down – in the most infinitesimally tiny increments known to man (*quite itty-bitty*), lining up things just so (*find something crooked that isn't supposed to be, I dare you*), and avoiding doing my taxes. Now the taxes are *really* due, the file for this issue is very-much-expected across town, regionals loom to within 48 hours, and I've got this space left to fill. Still, it keeps things lively just knowing that the last task on my list of "things to do" for each issue is – for some – the first thing they'll read. So shouldn't I take it more seriously?

Nah. I was serious right after the last issue when I swore I'd start a list of pertinent, politically-correct, well-thought-out editorial subjects to guide me when this time inevitably came around again. I added "making the list" to my list of things to do! I was serious about not joking around in my forum, not resorting to a routine review of content, not slipping in the results of "something just in," not explaining some new policy, nor leading any campaign du jour.

So here I am at "lights out" without a list. I just didn't find the time. Still, I think I can toss out a couple of engaging subjects – for starters – like ... sandbaggers should be ashamed of themselves (you know who you are); tournaments are a better value than people realize (they don't organize *themselves* you know); and the Internet is really big, but it can be very small (more *court* time!). Winning isn't everything. Women's racquetball is worthwhile. Volunteers deserve our respect and thanks. It's all done with mirrors. Lessons are worth the extra cash. There's a lot of work yet to be done for the sport. It's never too late to learn something new ... and more and more people are developing an interest in racquetball every day.

And it's that last point that motivates us to continue to do what we do. Talk about it, write about it, photograph it, and have fun with it. On every page – literally – from front to back!



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# RACQUETBALL

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## ON THE COVER

Michelle Gould shows off an award-winning backhand, and tells us what it takes for her to remain on top – in both the amateur and professional ranks – year after year. See page 8. Photo: Courtesy Ektelon.



*They're back! Look for new instructional articles from Lynn Adams (shown at a recent clinic above) and Fran Davis. Photo: Jeff Short*

**Vol. 9, No. 3**  
**May – June 1998**

# reader forum

## Quick! Call the Cops!

The 1998 World Police Games will be held in Dallas, Texas, June 7-12, and will include a racquetball competition for law enforcement officers from all venues. Divisions will be offered for Open, Intermediate, Novice, Doubles and age-adjusted 40+ and 50+ competitors. Eligible law enforcement entrants can register online at [www.the ticket.com](http://www.the ticket.com), or contact C.R. D'Alesandro at 214/670-4419 or 800/624-9752 for an official entry form. Or write:

**C.R. D'Alesandro • Dallas Police Department, Tactical Division  
334 South Hall Street  
Dallas, Texas 75224**

## Top of the Line Ford

I wanted to drop a letter to let you and the USRA know that I recently had the pleasure of hosting James Ford in my home over the weekend when he came to Gillette to play in a WRA Sanctioned tournament. What a fine young ambassador for the sport of racquetball we are all lucky to have in James. It is very apparent that he has taken the sport seriously and has done whatever it takes to improve his skills. The level of his play has dramatically risen from the last time I was able to see him play. His actions on and off the court are also to be commended. His parents and coaches have done a very fine job of helping James become a highly competitive player while remaining a fine young gentleman off the court. We all – as racquetball enthusiasts – should take time with the younger players to encourage this type of behavior.

**Luther D. Martinez  
Gillette, Wyoming**

## Cash Dilemma

I agree with the letter from Sandy Reep [Jan/Feb]. I played in my first tournament last year at a cost of \$65 for two divisional entries. Thinking I was pretty good, I worried that I might even be "sand bagging." Instead I got beat in both divisions in the first round and I felt cheated. Cheated in terms that my cost averaged over \$30 a match. I did get a T-shirt and two meal tickets (I didn't want). But,

because of both first round losses I didn't have to come back the next day and had a unused meal ticket anyway.

In the non-cash divisions, the entry fee should be much less than it is. Right now, it is usually only \$5 less than the money divisions and that doesn't seem fair (I didn't know trophies were that expensive). I also don't feel it's fair that half the people in the non-money, or any divisions for that matter, are going to pay \$40.00 or more for a couple of games. A double elimination tournament guarantees at least two matches for everyone, especially for those people who come to play and not to necessarily win. I suggest that the "Cash Awards" divisions be single elimination and non-cash divisions be double elimination.

**Howard Wilczynski  
Canyon Country, California**

## Missing Women ...

I recently viewed, on ESPN2, the 1997 Promus Hotels U.S. Open Racquetball Championship presented by American Express. I was surprised and disappointed at the little time given to womens' play in the 1-hour program.

Finding that there would be a re-broadcast, I sat – believe it or not – with watch in hand, to time the actual play, including replays, to determine the disparity in coverage given to the men and women players. Please do not hold me to the split second. In summary here it is:

|                                             |                |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Men's Events:</b>                        | <b>Min:Sec</b> |
| Quarters . . . . .                          | 2:20           |
| Semis: Swain/Roberts . . . .                | 10:20          |
| Semis: Monchik/Ellis . . . . .              | 4:00           |
| Final: Swain/Monchik . . . .                | 15:15          |
| <b>Women's Events:</b>                      |                |
| Final Only: Gould/Paraiso . .               | 1:40           |
| <b>Total On-Air playing time:</b> . . . . . | 33:35          |

Following a commercial break part way through the program, the camera fades in to the finals between #1 seed, Michelle Gould and #3 seed, Jackie Paraiso. The filming starts with a hard played rally-in-progress won by Gould. Then, two

consecutive serves by Gould with a rally winning pass down the right side by Michelle ending the game. Ending the match. Ending the total playing coverage for the women at the U.S. Open ... one minute and forty seconds!

I'm not a math whiz but when I converted Michelle and Jackie's playing time to seconds and divided by the total seconds of playing time, my calculator furnished me with the answer ... a shade under 5%!

As an AmPRO advanced instructor and observer of the game, I feel it a disservice to the sport and to the women who play it, that their participation, at all levels, was not used in covering the event.

I will be sending a copy of this letter to ESPN in Bristol, Connecticut, hoping it will generate both dialogue and results with the producers of made-for-TV racquetball to achieve a more balanced format.

**Louis R. Dextraze  
Colorado Springs, Colorado**

I'm a 78 year old man who loves racquetball and the U.S. Open on ESPN2 was great!! All but one thing! I'm a big fan of Michelle Gould and the coverage of this lady [was awful] — yes it was! Her record and play is good as any man playing the game! Come on guys — let the women play! I feel they are a big part of the game, just as we men are!

**Donald C. Hayden  
Chicago, Illinois**

## Forehand Improvement

Mike Guidry's article on the forehand in the latest issue is the best racquetball article I have read. The big pictures, the explanation of what and WHY!!! were very good. I have changed my stroke as a result of this article with very good results. I am 59 years old, play in tournaments and want instruction on strokes and serves. My objective is to make my game more consistent and also to improve my power on the backhand. Also to improve my drive serves. My lob serves are good. I know the game but



"winning isn't everything."



“yeah, right!”

*Cliff Swain*  
World's #1 Racquetball Player  
5-Time Pro World Champion

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**TECH TIP:**

**CLIFF SWAIN TIP OF THE YEAR:**

"Don't buy a new racquet 'til you hit the Wilson T22 Titanium. It's phenomenal!"



## In the News . . .

Several of the nation's finest newspapers reported the passing of racquetball inventor **Joe Sobek**. Among them were the Washington Post (March 30, 1998) and the New York Times (March 31, 1998) [see the Times story on page 46] ... **Joey LeGrett**, 10, of Canandaigua, N.Y., was been all over the pages of his local newspapers in 1997. The Canandaigua Daily Messenger has published four different articles with three pictures — one action and two posed ... **George Tate**, 80, of Greenville, S.C., sent in a large piece from the Jan. 22, edition of the Greenville News. Titled "Seniors on the Ball," Tate, along with friends **Jim Murphree**, **Francis Curtis**, **Lewis Still** and **Bill Owen** were pictured at the local YMCA. The article, approximately 14 inches long, was written by Alyce Atkinson ... **Dan Obremski**, **Michelle Gould** and current National Doubles champions **Adam Karp** and **Bill Sell** were listed in the March/April issue of Olympian ... **Jack Huczek** and **Josh Tucker** were chosen for inclusion in Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd" section. Huczek, who won the boy's 14-and-under world junior title, was pictured in the Feb. 2 Super Bowl issue. Tucker, who won the 1998 boy's national high school title, was featured in the March 30 issue ... The Durango Herald featured 83-year old **Harmon Minor** in its March 7 edition. In an article written by Deanna Collins, Minor gave racquetball, as well as "a good sense of humor and a good Scotch whiskey - single malt" as his anti-aging secrets ... Several elite juniors were honored by local sporting associations. Former national high school champion **Erin Brannigan** was a finalist for the Greater Spokane Sports Association Junior Male Athlete of the Year. On March 8 the Colorado Springs Gazette published the list of the Sportswomen of Colorado Honorees in which Grand Junction's **Melanie Mueller** was named for racquetball ... The Missouri Racquetball Association was featured in an entire page of the February issue of the St. Louis Saturday Sports Journal ... The 1998 **Carmen Kendall Women's Classic** was featured in the Feb. 16 edition of the Idaho Statesman. A large color picture of **Jane Higginbotham** and **Donna Johnson** headlined the large, 12-inch piece. The event also received good coverage from Emmett's Messenger-Index on Jan. 28. ... **Terry Fluharty** was pictured and featured in a "Special Mention" section of the February edition of Sports in Florida ... The January/February edition of Tennis Industry included a brief titled, "Racquetball Participation Increased in 1996" ... **Marc Auerbach** (Texas Amateur Racquetball Association) was featured in a full-page Oshman's ad titled "equipment for aging racquetball players" — in which he is shown decked out for some serious ice hockey.

## readerforum

have had no recent formal instruction and feel I could benefit (as I have from Mike's article) with more instruction.

**Frank Hayes**  
Laverne, California

### Heard Any Good Jokes?

I own a health club and am searching for humorous stories, anecdotes, cartoons etc. to pass on to our members and guests. If you have any to share or could lead me to other sources, please E-mail me at: cmit2fit@netw.com

**Don Helander**  
Sandpoint, Idaho

### What's the Hold Up?

Why do we receive the March/April magazine the last week in March? Seems to me we should get it the third week of February to make plans.

**Don Lindquist**  
Sarasota, Florida

The last stage in the process of getting your magazine rests with your local post office, which has its own set of priorities regarding the delivery of its 3rd class non-profit bulk mail (the lowest designation). At our end, we make every effort to have each issue printed in the final week of the preceding month (in the last week of April, for the May/June), then allow a week to 10 days for bindery, labeling, mail prep and delivery to the post office for shipping to each state. From there it's out of our hands.

As far as planning goes, you'll find that calendar listings in your March/April issue don't even begin until March 18th — since we anticipate a mid-March delivery up front. For planning, you'd want to use the Jan/Feb (which included tournament dates through 03/14) to select events in the early part of March. The national USRA calendar is published as far as a year in advance, and updated each issue.

We realize that our scheduling is not the same as larger monthly magazines, but we've also got our own set of limitations in terms of staffing and budget

— not to mention efforts to make our content as timely as possible using an 8-week lead/production schedule. To achieve what you've proposed as an example for the Mar/Apr, we'd need a deadline of January 1 — meaning that you'd find no time-sensitive news any later than that date. It's an editorial decision based on trying to give our readers as much overall information as possible. — Editor.

### Summer Camp Plans

This past season has been incredible for me. After the Elite Camp last August, I went to a tournament in November and achieved more than I ever thought I could. I entered three events for the first time and took first in womens open singles, mixed open doubles and lost by one point in the tiebreaker for womens doubles. Thanks to the training and nutrition I learned, I did not feel exhausted and physically depleted even after four hours worth of finals on Sunday. People were complimenting me on my great game and how fast I was on the court. I gave all the credit to camp. Recently I used the mental toughness training to overcome a pulled hamstring, illness, significant career change and family tragedy (all within two weeks) to achieve another first in both singles and mixed doubles two weeks ago in a big tournament.

Thanks again for organizing such a life-changing experience in my favorite sport. I've described camp as the Harvard School of Racquetball to my peers to see that it is possible for them to achieve an elite level of play. Many have spent time talking with me and I've shared what I can to inspire them to practice good nutrition, training, mental toughness, goal setting and smart competition. As you can tell, I'm anxious to hear if the Camp will be available again for adults.

**Nicole Schultz**  
Milwaukie, Oregon

Dates have been finalized! They're listed in the Calendar on page 63, and an ad appears on page 58 — Editor.

6. Gotten some local press lately? Send a copy of your clipping to: RACQUETBALL "In the News" ATTN: Kevin Vicroy and we'll make a note of it!

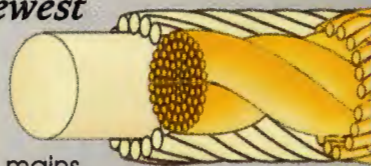


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# What will it take to Beat Her?

**Some have called her the Michael Jordan of racquetball. Others might say that Michael Jordan is the Michelle Gould of basketball.**

**Whichever way you choose to describe this Idaho wonder, her picture of success in the professional and amateur ranks can be painted with pure facts ... like:**

- **Five-time WIRT Player of the Year (1991, '93, '95-97)**
- **Seven-time USRA Player of the Year (1989-93, '95-97)**
- **Six-time WIRT season champion (1991, '93-97)**
- **Eight-time U.S. National Singles champion (1989-93, '95-97)**
- **Three-time IRF World Singles Champion (1992, '94, '96)**
- **Two-time Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN champion (1996-97)**
- **Six-time U.S. National Doubles champion (1989-91, '93, '95-96)**
- **Five-time U.S. National Juniors champion (1984-85, '87-89)**
- **1995 Pan American Games champion**
- **1989 IRF World Juniors 18-and-under champion**
- **1989 U.S. National High School champion ... and one or two more!**

by Kevin Vicroy



But as good as she is, Gould's beatable. Actually, there have been three WIRT pro stops out of the past 33 that she didn't take home the first-place money (one was a no-show). Since the beginning of the 1994-95 season, Gould holds a 106-2 (.981) record in professional matches. See, two losses . . . she's beatable. The Boise resident won 18 consecutive pro tournaments from October 1995 through May of '97 - sweeping all nine events of the 1995-96 season. She's practically falling apart.

All sarcasm aside, why is Michelle Gould so dominant and how does one go about defeating this future hall of famer? **RACQUETBALL** magazine caught up with several experts from among the top WIRT pros and asked them.

### **What are Gould's greatest assets?**

"She's got an awesome serve," Randi Friedman said. "If her serve is a little off, you'd be able to return efficiently and get in the rally. Once you get in the rally, I think anybody can play her."

Jackie Paraiso answered, "She's got a great serve and consistency and I'd say those are her two best assets."

"I have the highest respect for her game," Laura Fenton said. "Michelle is a very tough player to beat. I play a lot of men's open matches and have a much easier time in those matches than I do playing Michelle.

"People think it's a male-female thing and it's not at all because it's not how hard you hit the ball. The men hit it as hard as she does, it's not the power. It's her accuracy. Michelle is very accurate and probably the most mentally tough player there is. You don't see her make a lot of mistakes. Even if she does, you don't see her change her

expressions or anything. That takes a lot of work, determination and dedication."

Even Gould admits that mental toughness is her most dangerous weapon.

"I would say that (mental strength) is the difference between good and great athletes," Gould stated. "There are a majority of ladies on the tour who have a lot of the same skills (as me), a lot of the same physical ability, but the difference is the mental game. I spend an awful lot of time on that. I do a lot of visualization for specific shots and possible situations. I believe that's why I'm able to do a lot of things that most people can't."

### **How do you beat Michelle Gould?**

Fifth-ranked Lynne Coburn said that you have to "be as consistent as you possibly can be." Marci Drexler, who's beaten Michelle three times in her pro career, agreed, saying, "You've just got to be consistent and finish the rallies."

According to Friedman, "The keys to beating Michelle Gould are: one, to return her serve effectively so you can move her out of center court. The other thing is that when you get her out of center court, you need to pinch."

Among the top four players, the responses were a bit more detailed.

"For me to beat her, I knew that I had to get stronger and quicker," fourth-ranked Fenton said. "I had to become more accurate in my game. When she's accurate, you can't read her serves - they just go over the



**"She's got an awesome serve, [but] ... Once you get in the rally, I think anybody can play her"**  
— Randi Friedman

PHOTO: WICKY HUGHES

short line and don't come off the back wall.

"She's got basically three serves - a drive to the forehand, a drive to the backhand and, if she's off a little bit, she might serve the high-lob that kicks off the left side wall. You have to return serve well and pass her. If you can return well, then you can sideout. But, you have to serve almost perfectly to beat her. If you can't score points, forget it."

Although she's never won any of their match-ups, Fenton has taken Gould to five games on two occasions on the pro tour - she even held a 2-1 game advantage in the semi-finals of the 1997 Foxwoods WIRT Pro Nationals in Las Vegas.

"She is beatable, but you have to play very, very well to do it," Fenton said.

Third-ranked Cheryl Gudinas responded to the ultimate question by joking, "I've never beaten her.





**"She's got a good first step and usually that's all she really needs." — Cheryl Gudinas**

You're asking me how to beat her, how should I know? What have I ever been able to do?" After the laughter died down, Gudinas continued.

"You have to return serve better. You have to have an effective return. It could be just going to the ceiling and getting her out of the front court and not setting her up. If you set her up, she puts that ball away. She's got a good first step and usually that's all she really needs. You need a drive serve that's not readable – a lob isn't going to cut it with her. A hard 'Z' is effective if it's high because it's out of her power zone. But, you have to have a good drive serve – which has been my problem."

Former pro tour champ Paraiso, who has defeated Gould twice on the pro tour, stated her keys to success against the champ.

"You definitely have to be focused, that's for sure. For me, I have the quickness and focus to return that serve and get her into a rally. Once I do that, I use the pinches or cross-court passes to get her moving.

"The mental part of it too – you've got to believe that you can. A lot of the women, including myself, we've put her in (an unbeatable) position. We've made her seem like she's not beatable because we don't believe we can beat her. I know I can and people have to believe that."

So, now we know how to beat Michelle Gould, based on inside information from those who play her the most. Yet, her losses still seem to occur as often as Sudsy Monchik is rendered speechless. Maybe she knows something the rest of the WIRT doesn't.

"Above all, make no mistakes," Gould said. "I think that one of the reasons that I've been able to stay

on top for so many years is because I'm very consistent.

"I always expect that my opponent is going to play that unbelievable game when they play me, I think the people that are the shooters and strength players – people that can play that style of game cause me more fits because it's more physically demanding than somebody who's going to serve me lobs."

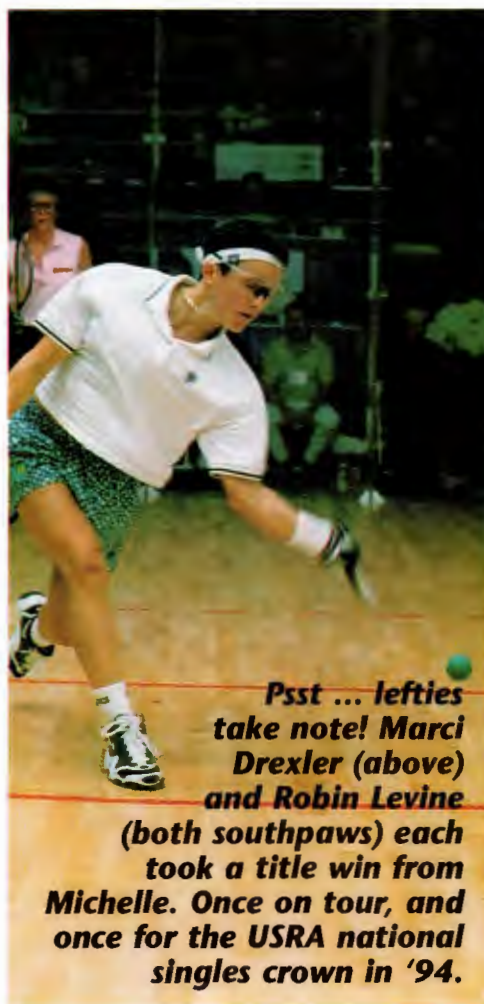
Maybe she has some extra motivation that other do not.

"Above all, I hate to lose . . . I can't stand it," she said. "Whether I'm playing darts or golfing, it doesn't matter what I'm doing – I'm just that competitive. I like to do whatever I do very well. That personality, more than anything, has allowed me to play at the level of play that I've played at for years."

### **When will the Gould dynasty end?**

"I have no idea," Gould responded. "I take everything on a two-year basis and re-evaluate as I go. When I walk on the court and I'm no longer having fun and enjoying what I do, then it's time for me to quit. But, I haven't gotten there yet."

**Find out how the top WIRT Pros try to keep up with Gould — with training tips & schedules (next page)!**



**Psst ... lefties take note! Marci Drexler (above) and Robin Levine (both southpaws) each took a title win from Michelle. Once on tour, and once for the USRA national singles crown in '94.**



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## WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

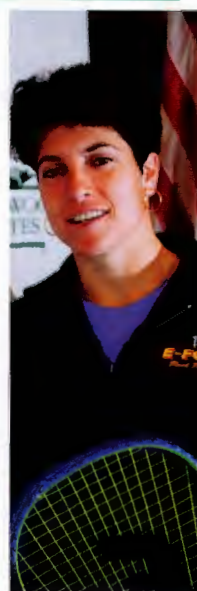
| WIRT           | Frequency | Amount    | Training                                                |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Gould</b>   | 6x/wk     | 1-1.5 hrs | Low impact cardio, speed work, weights                  |
| <b>Paraiso</b> | 5x/wk     | 1-2 hrs   | Court time, cardio, weights                             |
| <b>Gudinas</b> | 6x/wk     | 4 hrs     | Court time, speed work, cardio, spinning, weights       |
| <b>Fenton</b>  | 6x/wk     | Varies    | Flexibility, stretching, court time & practice, weights |
| <b>Coburn</b>  | 6x/wk     | 1-2 hrs   | Cross training, court time                              |
| <b>Drexler</b> | 5x/wk     | Varies    | Cardio, court time & practice                           |

**WIRT #1 Michelle Gould** usually works out three days on and one day off. "That's pretty standard for me," the eight-time national champion said. "I play racquetball between an hour to an hour and a half each of those days. I do an hour of cardio, usually low impact things." She stays away from treadmills, due to the high impact. "I do a lot of the seated bike and a minimum on the Stairmaster. After that I'm lifting weights and a little bit of speed work."



### AND RANDI FRIEDMAN ... ?

Currently ranked #11 on the women's tour, Randi Friedman now trains with a five-iron . . . well, actually, she uses all of the irons, even the woods to improve her game. Sure the training is a little different than the other WIRT pros, however, Friedman's "game" has become different as well.



"I've retired" she said to RACQUETBALL in March. "After the ('97) U.S. OPEN, I re-evaluated my racquetball career – where it was going and where racquetball was going. Then I looked at the other avenue I've been pursuing for about eight years and decided to listen to the pros around me."

After being named the WIRT's "Rookie of the Year" last season, and advancing all the way to #6 in the world, the 32-year old New York native turned in her racquet for a putter.

"I'm giving myself five years to make the LPGA," Friedman said of her dream. "I've only been playing golf for eight years – I've just developed a passion for it. I knew that in racquetball I could reach No. 1. But, I wasn't motivated enough because the sport is not what I expected it to be."

"(Racquetball) wasn't challenging enough for me. Not to be cocky or anything, but it just wasn't challenging me the way it had in the beginning."

**WIRT #2 Jackie Paraiso** "Lately, I've been doing a lot," Paraiso said. She rises early in the morning and trains from 6:30 or 7 a.m. for 1-2 hours. "It works out good for me, because Danielle's (her daughter) sleeping and I don't take any time away from us." The world doubles champion plays three times a week, usually Monday, Wednesday and Friday and practices on Saturday/Sunday. Her workout includes cardio in mornings with weight training for about 20 minutes. Friday morning workouts are longer – up to 2-1/2 hours.



**WIRT #3 Cheryl Gudinas** Trains six days a week for four hours each day. Plays from 3-5:30 p.m. either drills and/or games. She does speed work 2-3 per week and lifts weights three times per week. The Illinois native works cardio three times each week along with spinning. "That's my big thing," she said of the new spinning fitness craze.



**WIRT #4 Laura Fenton** When asked about her training schedule, Fenton jokingly said, "I don't know if I want to reveal everything I do." However, she trains six days a week. Combining weight training, speed work and a lot of flexibility and stretching. She plays 1-2 times a week and practices whenever she finds the time.



**WIRT #5 Lynne Coburn** Works out about six times a week, utilizing cross-training. She plays racquetball 4-5 times per week for 1 to 1-1/2 hours.



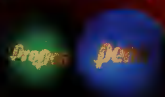
**WIRT #6 Marci Drexler** Lifts weights about four times a week. Works cardio four or five times per week. Practices racquetball three times a week and play a 2-3 times. [not pictured]



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# THE FINALS

## EKTELON

### NATIONAL SINGLES

#### RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## "The Finals" Inside Line

Over the Memorial Day weekend, 800-1,000 racquetball fanatics will converge on the Downtown Houston YMCA in search of an elusive national title. From my experience in having played from the '83 Nationals to present day, the most important advice I can give is to make sure you show up in top condition. The humid Texas weather and the fast concrete courts make for some very physical racquetball. Tune up your serve-and-shoot game a notch and let it all hang in Houston. If you don't, you'll have all summer to think about it.

The Open division U.S. Team qualifiers will be "big money" this year too, since they'll be the final cuts for the squad that will travel to Bolivia for the World Championships in July. The top-three singles finishers will have first shot at the World Team in singles, and the mens open draw looks wide open with about 10 players claiming good odds. But as we all well know, the ball can take some crazy bounces!

### Top Contenders

5-1

**Defending Champion Dan Obremski.** As a finalist in '85 — where he lost to "Mr. Forehand" Ed Andrews — Dan was known simply as the super retriever. Now a crafty veteran with almost a decade of IRT experience, Dan "O" has a great drive serve and covers the court like a cheetah. With a demanding "day job" with FOX sports in Pittsburgh and full-time dad duties, Dan comes into this event with very little playing or practice time. Can he do it again?

7-2

**'97 Runner-Up Michael Bronfeld.** A Carmel, Calif., native, the "Bronzer" has won four national titles in the past decade at the Houston YMCA (19+ in '87 & '88; open in '94 & '95). Michael feels right at home at the Y; he and his family have been coming here for many years. He just missed another title last year, finishing second to Obremski. Michael's strengths are his quick hands and feet which make him a master at the re-kill.

**Kelly Gelhaus.** Oh Kelly, can't you see the way your serve just hypnotizes me? This righty from Riverside, Calif., can really crank it up. If he has a hot week serving and keeps his head in the game, he will win the tournament. A regular on the IRT, Kelly has added a little speed to an already complete game. Best finish was third in '96.

**Ruben Gonzalez.** Now 46? This guy is a legend! National champ in '96 and third in '97, Ruben just keeps on baffling the critics. The cagey veteran can never ever be counted out. In '96 he won five tiebreakers enroute to the title — two were 11-10. Can he stay healthy? A master with the mental game of a possum. He acts like he has given up then, bam! . . . he beats you. Best shot: splats off the back wall.

**Adam Karp.** Fresh Fish!! Adam has been a consistent quarterfinalist this year on the IRT. The fastest player in the tournament, Adam has some seri-

ous "gitty-up." His best finish was third in '97. Bill Sell and Karp, the current National Doubles champs, will make the trip to Bolivia regardless of Adam's finish here. This will allow him to play loose. Bottom line: a loose fish is hard to catch.

**Eric Muller.** U.S. Open quarterfinalist and 1997 Tournament of Americans champion, Eric will be a force to be reckoned with. Muller is armed with quick hands and a solid all-around game. He has really matured in the last couple of years. Best finish was in the quarters in '95.

**Derek Robinson.** With an upset victory over Sudsy Monchik this year on the pro tour, the big guy from Kennewick, Wash., proved once again he can shoot with anyone. Derek's best assets are a strong serve, great short-hop service return and long reach. Best finish was third in '96.

### The Field ...

**Doug Eagle:** Darkhorse Doug has played the full IRT schedule this year. He has played Cliff Swain and Monchik tough. A strong and fierce competitor, Eagle can beat anyone here. Best finish was in the round of 16 in '97. **James Mulcock:** Another staple on the IRT, Mulcock has a great return of serve game from playing with Louis Vogel. Best finish was in the quarters in '97. **Todd O'Neil:** Finalist in '96 . . . missed '97 due to injury. This '96 World Singles Champion could be "PHAT" in this tourney . . . or just fat. **Chris Cole:** Former national champion, can "Cringle" hit some cracks like he did in '92? Solid all-around game.

**Chris Wright:** Chris who? Chris has consistently snuck into Houston and served his way past some of the top players. **Jason Thoerner:** Fifth place in '97. Jason is very quick, talented and could surprise people. **Rocky Carson:** The latest addition to the U.S. Team for his recent intercollegiate title, Carson is a great talent and could beat anyone. Best finish was the 32's in '97.





DAN OBREMSKI



MICHAEL BRONFELD



MICHELLE GOULD



CHERYL GUDINAS

### Ladies Lineup

The womens draw looks like a one-horse race. But if you follow sport and racquetball like I have, you know that almost anything can and will happen. If anyone plans on pulling off the upset win in this event they must have a career tournament. Holyfield beat Tyson twice and don't forget Namath and the Jets. We all know who will be seeded first. It will be interesting to see who battles their way through to the finals. Here is the Vegas line on the women.

1-10

**Defending Champion Michelle Gould.** Michelle Gould has won the Women's Open national title a record 7 out of the last 8 years. The last time she lost at this event was to Robin Levine in 1994. "Boomer" has a great serve-and-shoot game that has kept the ladies on their heels for almost a decade. The best of all time! She will be tough to beat on the Houston concrete.

10-1

**'97 Runner-Up Cheryl Gudinas.** Silver medalist in '96 and '97, Cheryl had to think "what is it going to take to beat Michelle?" every time she stepped on the court. She steadily climbed the ranks to reach the #2 spot, but has now slipped to #3 on the WIRT tour behind Jackie Paraiso. She has a complete game, but will need to have a career-best service return – and then some – to beat Michelle.

10-1

**Jackie Paraiso.** Current U.S. Open finalist and bronze medalist in Houston last year, Jackie is the most recent player to trouble Michelle. Jackie mixes her pinches and passes well which keeps her opponents off balance. Mentally tough, Jackie has never been one to shy away from competition. Win, lose, or draw, Jackie and her sister Joy will make the trip to Bolivia to play doubles for the U.S. team.

11-1

**Laura Fenton.** A semi-finalist in 1997, Laura has a solid all-around game with a smooth swing, and will definitely be a factor this week. She was blown out 1,3 by Gould in last year's semi-final, but she's a fierce

competitor, who should be motivated to make a better showing this year.

12-1

**Malia Bailey.** A finalist in '82 and '95, Malia is to be commended on her longevity. She's a crafty veteran and has been solidly placed at the top of the women's game as long as anyone. A control player with a strong re-kill game, Malia seems to always have a smile on her face.

13-1

**Kersten Hallander.** Broke into the top eight last year, then reached the finals at National Doubles to grab a spot on the U.S. Team. She's been holding the #1 ranking position in Women's Open since last summer and could be ready to play "above and beyond."

17-1

**Yesenia Delbusto.** Won the Women's A division at singles last year, then teamed with Hallander in doubles, where the two stunned defending champions Gould & Gudinas by handing them an upset defeat in the round of 16! This new U.S. Team member comes to Houston with a Women's Open qualifier title under her belt, from a tough region. Has been known to shoot the eyes out of the ball from back court and has got nothing to lose.

### LONG SHOTS

|               |       |                  |
|---------------|-------|------------------|
| 12-1          | ..... | Brian Simpson    |
| 12-1          | ..... | David Hamilton   |
| 13-1          | ..... | Joel Bonnett     |
| 13-1          | ..... | Scott Reiff      |
| 14-1          | ..... | Rocky Carson     |
| 15-1          | ..... | Dan Llacera      |
| 15-1          | ..... | Mike Locker      |
| 15-1          | ..... | Brian Fredenberg |
| 16-1          | ..... | Doug Ganim       |
| 19-1          | ..... | Ryan Staten      |
| 19-1          | ..... | Josh Tucker      |
| 33-2          | ..... | Shane Wood       |
| 33-2          | ..... | Mark Bloom       |
| 17-1          | ..... | Joey Paraiso     |
| 17-1          | ..... | Rob DeJesus      |
| 18-1          | ..... | Tim Hansen       |
| 18-1          | ..... | James Lorello    |
| 25-1          | ..... | Marty Hogan      |
| 25-1          | ..... | Jack Huczek      |
| 1-1           | ..... | Earl Acuff       |
| Million - 1   | ..... | Dave Peck        |
| 4 Million - 1 | ..... | Cliff Swain      |

### THE FIELD

|               |       |                  |
|---------------|-------|------------------|
| 13-1          | ..... | Elaine Mardas    |
| 13-1          | ..... | Chris Evon       |
| 13-1          | ..... | Kim Allen        |
| 14-1          | ..... | Dina Moreland    |
| 15-1          | ..... | Amy Kilbane      |
| 15-1          | ..... | Kerri Stoffregen |
| 16-1          | ..... | Tammy Brockbank  |
| 16-1          | ..... | Janet Myers      |
| 17-1          | ..... | Sadie Gross      |
| 18-1          | ..... | Lydia Hammock    |
| 18-1          | ..... | Janell Marriott  |
| 18-1          | ..... | Rhonda Rajsich   |
| 19-1          | ..... | Vanessa Tulao    |
| 19-1          | ..... | Carol Kriegler   |
| 1-1           | ..... | Mary Low Acuff   |
| Million - 1   | ..... | Lynn Adams       |
| 4 million - 1 | ..... | Heather McKay    |

**by Todd O'Neil**

Our author began "setting the line" at last year's U.S. OPEN, after claiming that he'd never won a bet in his life...



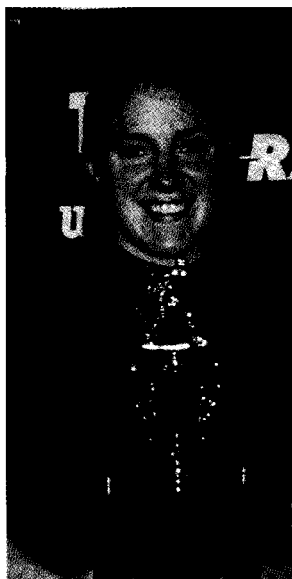
# XI high schools

## **Tucker and Crawford win Wilson National High School Championships in St. Louis Oregon's Sprague High School Wins National Team Crown**



Missouri's Josh Tucker, representing Joplin High School, and current girl's 16-and-under national champion Brooke Crawford of Henley High School in Oregon won their first career national prep singles crowns at the Wilson 11th U.S. National High School Championships, presented by Penn Racquet Sports on March 6-8, 1998.

As the #2 seed, Tucker moved through the first four rounds easily, winning by an average game margin of 15-2. The Joplin native downed Matthew McElhiney 15-11, 15-6 in the quarterfinals and six-time world junior champion Jack Huczek 15-11, 15-8 in the semifinals. Tucker then upset top-seeded Ryan Staten of Dodge City Kansas, 15-3, 15-13 for the gold medal.



On the girl's side, a Brooke Crawford-Sara Borland matchup was billed early-on as the match to see. The two met at the 1997 Junior Nationals in Baltimore, where Crawford defeated the Bettendorf, Iowa star for the girl's 16-and-under title. And just as it had been last June, Borland was the top seed,

with Crawford in the #2 spot. Even the result stayed the same, with Crawford winning 13-15, 15-10, 11-6 in the finals. Crawford also teamed with her little brother, Bart to win the mixed doubles title.

Under new qualifying procedures instituted this year, both Crawford and Tucker earned one-year appointments to the U.S. Junior National team for their wins.

At the close of a nine-year run in St. Louis (from 1990-98), the event was one of the largest ever, fielding 47 high school teams from 18 states, before moving west to Portland next year. For the third consecutive year, an Oregon high school came away with the first-place team trophy. Sprague High School tallied 177 points for the school's first prep racquetball title. Henley High School/Oregon took second with 168, followed by Heritage Christian High/Alaska in third place with 131 and Riverton High School/Wyoming in fourth with 128. The Beaverton High School/Oregon team dropped into the #6 spot overall, after capturing the two most recent team titles in '96 and '97.

### **FINAL RESULTS**

**Boy's singles:** Josh Tucker (Joplin H.S./Mo.) def. Ryan Staten (Dodge City H.S./Kan.), 15-3, 15-13

**Girl's singles:** Brooke Crawford (Henley H.S./Ore.) def. Sara Borland (Bettendorf H.S./Iowa), 13-15, 15-10, 11-6

**Boy's doubles:** Mike Harmon/Larry Peek (Sarasota H.S./Fla.) def. James Ford/Nick Glenn (Riverton H.S./Wyo.), 15-0, 15-10

**Girl's doubles:** Megan Bals/Kristen Kovar (Piux X H.S./Neb.) def. Christina Huesling/Jane Rombach (Nerinx Hall/Mo.), 15-2, 15-11

**Mixed doubles:** Brooke Crawford/Bart Crawford (Henley H.S./Ore.) def. Mary Martin/Jon Moore (Sprague H.S./Ore.), 15-1, 15-4

### **Overall Team Results**

1. Sprague H.S., Ore. (177)
2. Henley H.S., Ore. (168)
3. Heritage Christian High, Alaska (131)
4. Riverton H.S., Wyo. (128)
5. Parkway West H.S., Mo. (123)
6. Beaverton H.S., Ore. (109)
7. Kirkwood H.S., Mo. (67)
8. Robert Service H.S., Alaska (56)
9. Franklin H.S., Ore. (51)
10. Diamond H.S., Alaska (38)
11. Principia H.S., Mo. (20)

*Find expanded listings of quarterfinalists & other top finishers, plus complete team results, online at <http://www.racqmag.com/news98/98hs.htm>*



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# intercollegiates

## **Van Hees And Carson Take E-Force National Collegiate Singles Titles Southern Colorado ends BYU's Three-Year Dominance**

For the first time since the Intercollegiate Nationals were designated as a U.S. Team qualifier in 1990, players from Mexico and Canada came close — very close — to “bumping” U.S. collegiate hopefuls from a spot on the team. In fact, one did and one didn’t ... at the E-Force 26th U.S. National Intercollegiate Championships, presented by Penn Racquet Sports and held at the City Square Sports Club, March 25-29, 1998.

It was Christie Van Hees of Okanagan University in Canada who managed the crucial upset of three-time defending champ Tammy Brockbank, representing Lewis-Clark State/Idaho, 15-7, 15-0 to win her first U.S. National Intercollegiate title. Van Hees, who entered the tournament as the women’s #6 seed, became the first Canadian woman since Crystal Fried in 1986 to win the U.S. Intercollegiate singles title. Van Hees is also the reigning Canadian National Singles champion and a member of the Canadian National Team.

Still, Christie’s road to the finals was anything but simple. After a strong first-round advance past Weber State’s Sarah Campbell, 15-3, 15-1, the young Canadian had to face current U.S. 18-and-under champion Rhonda Rajsich of Phoenix College, for a slightly closer win of 15-10, 15-2. Next up was third seeded Vanessa Tulao of North Carolina, who fell 15-5, 15-3. In the closest match of Van Hees’ title bid, former two-time U.S. national 18-and-under champ Sadie Gross of the University of Memphis gave Van Hees all she could handle in their semifinal tiebreaker. But the second-seeded Gross couldn’t hold on to an early lead and lost 13-15, 15-5, 11-8.

For the men it was Luis Bustillos, a member of the Mexican National team, who advanced into the championship final, downing Richard Ross of California, Pa., 10-15, 15-1, 11-7 and Minnesota’s Aaron Greenberg 15-7, 15-10 in the first and second rounds, respectively. After a tough 15-11, 15-11 victory over UC-Riverside’s Chris Crowther, Bustillos held off a hot-shooting Mark Bloom, of the University of Texas, 14-15, 15-6, 11-8 in

the semis to set up the finale with Saddleback College freshman Rocky Carson.

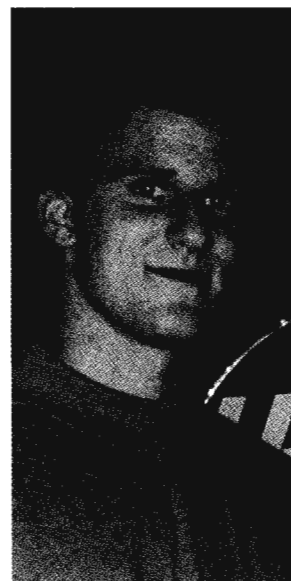
The current boy’s 18-and-under world champion, Carson held off Southern Colorado’s Bustillos 15-11, 8-15, 11-8 for the championship. Earlier, Carson had swept through the first four rounds without losing a game, including a 15-10, 15-10 win over Ohio State’s David Hamilton — the bracket’s fourth seed and eventual third-place finisher.

With his win, Carson earned a one-year appointment to the U.S. National Team. However, since Van Hees is not an American citizen, no appointment will be made to the women’s winner.

After three straight years of Brigham Young dominance, Southern Colorado took four men’s singles titles and all three of the men’s doubles divisions en route to its first-ever overall team championship. The Thunderwolves tallied 2,465 points, while second place BYU had 2,192. Florida (1,709), Lewis-Clark State (1,275) and Memphis (1,210) rounded out the top five.

### **FINALS SINGLES RESULTS**

- Men’s No. 1: #1 Rocky Carson** (Saddleback College) def. #2 Luis Bustillos (Southern Colorado) 15-11, 8-15, 11-8
- Men’s No. 2: #2 Willie Tilton** (Southern Colorado) def. #1 Erik Ekman (Nichols College) 15-14, 15-7
- Men’s No. 3: #1 Andrew Kane** (Southern Colorado) def. #3 Jack Long (Texas) 15-2, 15-4
- Men’s No. 4: #1 Samuel Menache** (Southern Colorado)





def. #6 Sonny Harrison (Arizona State) 15-10, 15-6  
**Men's No. 5: #1 Christian Guerra** (Southern Colorado)  
 def. #2 Scott Erker (Florida) 15-14, 15-14  
**Men's No. 6: #1 Don Petrella** (Florida) def. #2 Merrill  
 Dibble (BYU) by forfeit  
**Women's No. 1: #6 Christie Van Hees** (Okanagan  
 University, Canada) def. #1 Tammy Brockbank  
 (Lewis-Clark State) 15-7, 15-0  
**Women's No. 2: #3 Liana Kerwood** (Oregon) def. #1  
 Lisa Hailstone (Missouri) 15-6, 15-4  
**Women's No. 3: #2 Kim Blake** (BYU) def. #4 Sam  
 Gibbs (Florida) 15-8, 15-4  
**Women's No. 4: #2 Nicole Passage** (BYU) def. #5 Jen  
 Vennemen (Missouri) 15-11, 15-4  
**Women's No. 5: #1 Janette Olsen** (BYU) def. #3 Kim  
 Jacklitch (Florida) 15-14, 15-2  
**Women's No. 6: #1 Jennifer Birchenough** (BYU) def.  
 #2 Shana Costa (Florida) 15-12, 15-0

### FINAL DOUBLES RESULTS

**Men's No. 1: #1 Luis Bustillos/Willie Tilton** (Southern  
 Colorado) def. #6 David Hamilton/Paulos Strike  
 (Ohio State) 13-15, 15-3, 11-3  
**Men's No. 2: #1 Samuel Menache/Christian Guerra**  
 (Southern Colorado) def. Brian Howell/Travis Riddle  
 (Lewis-Clark State) 15-10, 11-15, 11-8  
**Men's No. 3: #1 Andrew Kane/Mark Makimoto**

(Southern Colorado) def. Brian Rigney/Andy  
 Warner (Arizona State) 15-5, 15-9

**Women's No. 1: #3 Erin Frost/Liana Kerwood**  
 (Oregon) def. #1 Darla Wenger/Janette Olsen (BYU)  
 11-15, 15-2, 11-2

**Women's No. 2: #1 Kim Blake/Valorie Woodbury**  
 (BYU) def. #2 Rosemary Dahlburg/Deirde O'Donell  
 (Penn State) 15-5, 12-15, 11-4

**Women's No. 3: #2 Jennifer Birchenough/Nicole  
 Passage** (BYU) def. #1 Shana Costa/Kim Jacklitch  
 (Florida) 15-7, 15-2

### FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

**Overall - 1. Southern Colorado**, 2,465; 2. Brigham  
 Young, 2,192; 3. Florida, 1,709; 4. Lewis-Clark State,  
 1,275; 5. Memphis, 1,210; 6. Texas, 1,078; 7. Weber  
 State, 974; 8. Penn State, 895; 9. SW Missouri State, 866;  
 10. Missouri, 835; 11.-tie Arizona State & Colorado, 820;  
 13. Oregon, 660; 14. Nichols College, 631; 15. Baldwin-  
 Wallace, 525.5; 16. Air Force, 451.5; 17. Utah State, 292;  
 18. North Carolina, 210; 19. Army, 138; 20. Ricks  
 College, 133; 21. UC-Davis, 122.5; 22. RPI, 70; 23.  
 Providence, 17; 24. Bryant College, 5.

*Find expanded daily reports, listings of quarterfinalists &  
 other top finishers, plus complete team results, online at  
<http://www.racqmag.com/news98/98ic2.htm>*

### Collegiate Program Re-Structured!

*Last year at this time, the USRA Board of Directors mandated the review and re-structuring of the USRA's Collegiate Program. Under the direction of Associate Executive Director for Programming Jim Hiser, changes to the program this season included a revised qualifying procedure for the annual Collegiate National Championship. The procedure was designed to provide easier access to qualifiers – for larger numbers of undergraduates – and resulted in an increase of 18% in the participation numbers for 1998. A second phase of the program upgrade was the selection of the individuals listed below to serve on the USRA's Intercollegiate Council, plus the appointment of three regional coordinators to develop grassroots intercollegiate programs. For information about intercollegiate activity and opportunities in your area, please contact your closest representative, or go to <http://www.usra.org>.*

#### USRA Intercollegiate Council Directory [Alpha Listed by State]

| Contact          | College/University               | City & State     | Telephone        | E-mail                     |
|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Jim Hiser        | USRA Collegiate Program Director |                  | 719-635-5396 x30 | usraadm@webaccess.net      |
| Del Villanueva   | Berkeley                         | Concord CA       | 952-825-1461     |                            |
| Norm Struck*     | U.S. Air Force Academy           | Colo.Springs, CO | 719-596-1315     |                            |
| David Sims       | SW Missouri State                | Springfield, MO  | 417-831-0050     | dsims@dialus.com           |
| Pat Bernardo*    | Rensselaer Polytechnic           | Albany NY        | 518-463-1352     | Racworld@aol.com           |
| Neil Shapiro     | Rensselaer Polytechnic           | Albany NY        | 518-436-9522     | plmalib@global2000.net     |
| Tim Miller*      | Baldwin Wallace College          | Berea OH         | 440-826-2286     |                            |
| Ron Huff         | Ricks College                    | Rexburg ID       | 208-356-1432     |                            |
| James Mosley III | University of Tennessee          | Oolteijah TN     | 423-238-5057     | jmosleyL@utk.edu           |
| Larry Liles      | University of Memphis            | Memphis TN       | 901-678-3458     | LELiles@admin2.Memphis.edu |
| Dennis Fisher    | Brigham Young University         | Provo UT         | 801-378-5301     | Dennis_Fisher@byu.edu      |

#### \*Regional Coordinators

**East – Pat Bernardo** Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia.

**Mid-West – Tim Miller** Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin.

**West – Norm Struck** Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.



# pro file: irt & wirt

## IRT Columbus Pro-Am Ellis Takes Second in a Row!

For the third consecutive year, the Continental Athletic Club hosted the IRT Columbus Pro-Am, presented by Hampton Inn and Complete Creative. Upsets marked this year's event from the start, beginning in the round of sixteen as #15 seeded Derek Robinson knocked out the #2 ranked player in the world, Sudsy Monchik, in four games. Robinson went on to put together a string of match wins as he advanced past #7 Dan Fowler in the quarterfinals and #6 Mike Guidry in the semi to reach his first career finals. Robinson, who lived in Indiana for a couple of years, was favored by a crowd already familiar with his great play and personality.



JOHN ELLIS  
PHOTO: IRT

But John Ellis was perhaps even more of a crowd favorite in their final. Ellis, who made this his home club two years ago for a full season, had just come from a win in Denver, the second of his career. Here, Ellis' claim to a final berth had included an upset of the number one player in the world, Cliff Swain, in the semi-finals.

In their final, Robinson kept the pressure on Ellis, taking the first game and a lead in the second before letting it slip away 12-10. From there it was all Ellis, who took his second event in a row and snatched a career-high number three ranking for himself, dropping Andy Roberts into the #4 spot.

One hundred and fifty amateur entrants filled the courts for a weekend highlighted by outstanding junior play by

Shane Vanderson, Peter Strike, Jack Huczek, Brandon Shoemaker, Crystal Winfrey, and Kimberly Irons, who dominated their divisions from Open on down. Ryan



MAANNINO (DIVING) & ELLIS - PHOTO: STEVE LERNER

Sandler made it a double for himself with wins in the Men's B and 30 B/C and a strong group of enthusiastic players from West Virginia were led by Shannon Dean, who took honors in the Men's A.

## Laundry Land Pro-Am Swain Subdues Ellis in Lincoln

At the IRT's third stop in three weeks the question was not who would win between Swain & Monchik, but could anybody beat the tour's hottest player John Ellis? Coming off back-to-back wins in Denver and Columbus, John was finally fulfilling the tremendous potential everyone has seen in him for years. And as the IRT made it's first stop ever in Nebraska at the Laundry Land Pro-am at Sports Courts, the pros were ready for one last push in a brutal three week schedule.

Surprises and IRT firsts were par for the course in Lincoln as WIRT pro and Lincoln resident Laura Fenton made history by being the first female to play in an IRT event. In the qualifying round, Fenton made a great showing for her home crowd before losing a tough four game battle to Brian Pointelin.

It soon became obvious it would be a strange week, starting with Sudsy Monchik's no-show forfeit to qualifier Shai Manzuri in the Round of 32. Following a tough early round loss the week before in Columbus, Sudsy was physically unable to make it to Lincoln. But there was still plenty of action, with a couple of seeds falling early. Eric Muller fought off #10 Tony Jelso in a



five game war and #11 Kelly Gelhaus barely saved four match points against him in a three hour battle with #22 Scott Reiff. #12 seeded Louis Vogel added to a frustrating comeback season for Tim Doyle with a four game victory, and #9 Adam Karp fought off #24 Dan Llacera in a match that saw Llacera take a full speed hit to the face with the racquet. Behind a lot of blood was a broken nose, but after an injury timeout Llacera refused to forfeit and finished the match.

The Round of 16 just kept getting better for the fans, many of whom were seeing "live action" IRT pros for the first time — and weren't disappointed! Virtually every match was a five-game struggle, including #5 Jason Mannino pulling out a win over close friend Eric Muller and ending his upset streak. After surviving the earlier Reiff battle, Kelly Gelhaus found himself down by two games to #7 Mike Ray. Gelhaus started shooting everything and somehow fought off two match points this time, to advance in five. Ellis was the only easy winner as he continued his roll by beating #14 Doug Eagle in three.

Top seeds continued to be pushed as #13 Derek Robinson followed up his Columbus final with a tough five game loss to #4 Andy Roberts. Robinson is playing the best racquetball of his career and is a threat to any player in the draw. Louis Vogel used his devastating power game to defeat #5 Dan Fowler in another match that went the distance. By the time Swain and #16 James Mulcock took the court for the final match of the evening it was 11:00 pm! And like the previous matches, this one did not go quickly. Mulcock, playing his best ball, went up 2-1 in games and had a 6-3 lead in the fourth as the other pros tried to seek a peek over the spectators at who threatened one of the biggest upsets of the season. But as champions do, Swain kept fighting and won the match in five.

The semis shook out into "veteran" and "up-and-coming star" brackets. Young studs Ellis and Mannino were up first, in the most recent of a long line of meetings which started in the junior ranks. But Ellis proved to be too much, as his great athleticism and quiet confidence controlled the volatile Mannino through an easy



three gamer. The veteran half of the draw featured Swain and Roberts, who had both survived tough tests earlier in the draw and were looking for an opportunity to put an end to Ellis' hot streak. Over the years these two have had some legendary battles including last season's semi at the IRT Nationals, where Roberts' overruled a call at match point and played the rally over. This meeting wasn't so close, as a confident Swain seemed comfortable with his new racquet throughout his four game win.

Having beaten Swain in both Denver and Columbus, Ellis was considered the favorite before the match began, and quickly went up 2-1 in games thanks to ongoing coaching by his father Dave this season. And although no one seemed to think that Swain could come back and win, he's built his career on both an amazing talent and a competitiveness that has not been matched since Mike Yellen. Swain never believes he will lose, as proven earlier in the week against Mulcock, and he began the long road

back with grit and determination. Ellis seemed to tire a little in the fifth game and Swain reclaimed his "view from the top" following a long drought.

### **Foxwoods Pro-Am**

## **Swain Sweeps Greenbrook**

Cliff Swain walked right into Sudsy Monchik's backyard in Greenbrook, New Jersey to prove that he's back and still #1. Swain easily won the third event of the Foxwoods Resort & Casino Super Series and his second of that series by dominating the competition as he did years ago. Swain lost only one game the entire tournament as the IRT played to sell out crowds at the King George Racquetball Club.

Seeded players moved easily through the Round of 32 with the exception of #12 Woody Clouse's forfeit to #21 Dan Llacera, #14 Derek Robinson's tough four game victory over #19 Tim Doyle who continues to try and get his game together after a season off due to injury, and #13 James Mulcock demolition of #20 Scott Reiff. Ruben Gonzalez made a triumphant return to the IRT in



front of a home crowd with a four game win over #16 Rafael Filippini.

The round of 16 proved little more than a practice session for the top 8 as they battered lower ranked competition. #8 Dan Fowler, who has been one of the tour's hottest players, destroyed #9 Adam Karp in three straight including a donut in the third. #4 Andy Roberts won a tough four game battle over the hot Mulcock, and Monchik struggled to a four game win over up-and-coming #15 Doug Eagle. But the highlight was Swain vs IRT's living legend, Ruben Gonzalez. Ruben had the crowd support, but Swain would have none of the upset talk, and used his serve to keep Gonzalez off balance throughout their three games.

On the tour the quarterfinal round separates the men from the boys, with great matches and frequent fire-works. But New Jersey bucked that trend to showcase just how dominant the top four are: Swain, Monchik, Ellis, and Roberts swept past seeds 5-8 in three game matches across the board. The "Big Four" are playing at a level above the rest of the tour and the New York & Jersey fans got to see it up close.

The dominance of the higher seeds in each match continued into the semifinals as Monchik looked like his old self for one of the first times this season – running, diving, and smiling his way to a three game drubbing of Ellis. Swain was up next against Roberts and was not to be out done by the kid. He served well right from the start never allowing Roberts in the match and won in three straight as well.

For almost 18 months on the IRT, Swain vs. Monchik has been the match to see and fans were rarely, if ever, disappointed. Only Ellis' recent breakthrough into three straight finals had altered the lineup. Here, Swain and Monchik were back, with a homecourt advantage and the vocal backing of the sellout crowd in Monchik's corner. But Swain silenced the crowd early on with a devastating serving display, as he took the first game easily. Monchik came back, as both players showed their diving and court coverage skills in a 33-minute game two. But when Swain needed the big points, he had a little extra to pull out the next two games and take the title in four. Swain felt the homecourt advantage doesn't always work for you "it's tough to play in your hometown. You feel extra pressure to perform in front of family and friends, but Sudsy played well today."

## **Piehler Motors Pro-Am Roberts Rules Rochester**

A new format for an IRT stop and a new winner for this season were all part of the excitement of this year's Piehler Motors Pro-Am hosted by Penfield Racquet & Fitness Club in Rochester. The IRT tested a new format which shortened the event to a Thursday through Sunday schedule with the quarterfinals and semifinals both held on Saturday.

In one of the deepest draws of the season the Canadians provided their share of early round action. Then #17 Doug Eagle started out the brutal round of 32 matches with a four game win over #16 James Mulcock, and #24 Tim Doyle, who has struggled all season to regain his form, beat #9 Adam Karp in three easy games. Tour newcomer Dan Llacera pushed #5 Jason Mannino to the brink before losing in four games. Real upsets began when Canada's Sherman Greenfeld, who had to qualify, took out #6 Mike Guidry in a surprisingly easy three games.

The round of 16 settled down a little with all the top seeds establishing themselves and moving on easily to the quarters. The sell-out match for the 16's featured Greenfeld, fresh off his upset of Guidry, against #12 Louis Vogel.

It was Canada vs. USA as an overflow crowd squeezed in to see if Greenfeld could move on to the quarters. The match up featured one of the tour's hardest hitters in Vogel, against the ultimate control player in Greenfeld. Greenfeld took the first two games to the delight of the Canadians in the crowd but Vogel got his huge serve warmed up and won the last three games to move on.

With the quarter- and semifinals on the same day, many in the crowd — including the players —





wondered how the tour's finest would hold up. Swain and Monchik, the two most likely to reach the finals, never made it out of the quarters. Monchik, who has suffered a nightmare season of injuries and disappointing losses, had to forfeit to Mike Ray at the end of their second game due to a nagging foot and ankle injury. Swain appeared to be in line for his third straight victory, but was sidetracked by a red-hot Mannino, who dominated the entire match with his tremendous court coverage and pinch kills. In two short years, Rochester has become the place Swain would least like to play after losing to Ellis here for the first time last season.

Roberts and the "on a roll" John Ellis easily advanced. The semis presented a test of stamina as well as skill with players hitting the court again the same night. Ellis had no problem dominating Ray in three straight while Roberts and Mannino put on a three-hour battle featuring every shot and diving get on record as Roberts hung in and won it in five.

Roberts and Ellis were surprise finalists to everyone who expected to see Swain vs. Monchik. But it should have been no surprise to see Ellis there. Ellis has come into his own this season, calling up all the skills and promise he has shown for the last few years. Since the U.S. Open in November, Ellis has been the most consistent player on the tour with career wins over both Swain and Monchik. On the other hand, Roberts was in his first final of the season, bringing a chronic bad knee which made each match a toss-up. Even he admitted "I would never have thought I could win with this new format and my knee." But win he did, using lob serves and controlling center court to capture his first win of the season in three straight games.

### **Berglund Automotive Pro-Am Gould takes Roanoke**

The WIRT rolled into Roanoke for the second year in a row to an incredible welcome from the Roanoke Athletic Club and the tournament fans. General manager, Marilyn Montano and V.P. Bud Grey score a "ten" in southern hospitality and putting on a fabulous event. According to Laura Fenton "this is one of the women's favorite tour stops!"

Laura has reason to feel close to the Roanoke event because – for the second year in a row – she has shown

that she is a top contender. In 1997 Laura played her way to the finals by upsetting Cheryl Gudinas in the semis. '98 was no different ... Fenton met #6 seed Lynne Coburn in the quarters and then won a thrilling five-game match against Jackie Paraiso in the semi-finals. Laura was focused and able to stay tough at the end of the match to win 12-10 in the fifth. It is clear that the women's tour is developing some strong rival matches between Paraiso, Gudinas and Fenton.

Missing from action due to weather problems was #3 seeded, Cheryl Gudinas. Snow and freezing rain had hit the Mid-west and there was no way for her to get to Roanoke in time. Fortunately, this miss did not drop her from the #3 position, but Fenton certainly narrowed the gap. It will be interesting to see where the positions fall after the next WIRT event in Long Island!

With Gudinas out, a door opened for Molly O'Brien to move into the semi-finals only to fall to the dominant Michelle Gould. Gould then took to the final round against Fenton with a mission. Her intensity and strength were all there! Once again Michelle solidly defeated Fenton in three, and defended her title in Roanoke. After the match Gould commented, "I felt like I played well and kept my focus."

Earlier rounds provided great matches with Marci Drexler and Jackie Paraiso in the quarters. Drexler, who has the ability to bring down any top player, was not on top of her game against Jackie and made many unforced errors. Both players are so fast and dynamic to watch ... it was great racquetball!

In her quarterfinal match against Fenton, Lynne Coburn played outstanding in the second and fourth games. Coburn's problem became consistency and she was not able to execute her shots at the end.



MICHELLE GOULD  
PHOTO: WIRT



Doreen Fowler had a tough win in five games over #8 seeded Janet Myers. Fowler then met her match with Gould in the quarters. The forfeit from Gudinas opened the door for newcomer Carolyn Payne to reach the quarter finals.

So, in Roanoke, Gould prevailed, but it is certainly good turf for Fenton as she once again reaches the finals with some great racquetball!!



## pro X.

### **Shoe Technology** by Grant P. Smith D.C.

*The 3/4 Top Advantage  
Board vs. Slip last  
Shock Absorption  
Lateral & Heel support  
Toe box & Lacing  
Materials & Special features  
Insoles & Orthotics*

Welcome to Dr. Smith's shoe shop. Sit back and enjoy this tour of the latest technologies

in the world of racquetball shoes. First of all I would like to thank all of the participating companies for their help, time and patience in preparing this article.

There are many different brands of so-called "court shoes" on the market today, But only a handful can say that they are tailor-made for the sport of racquetball — and the technologies can be absolutely mind-boggling. Not content to produce just another pair of pretty shoes, these companies paid close attention to support, shock absorption, and overall comfort. The latest advancements are geared toward the professional athlete but reasonably priced for the recreational player.

#### **3/4 Top Advantage**

In case you haven't noticed, the style of choice has been the "three-quarter" height. The question is "does shoe height actually make a difference?" In 1995 an

**Follow the IRT & WIRT on the Web!**  
**Check out the pros on the web at [irt-tour.com](http://irt-tour.com) anytime. Want the updated rankings, results from the last tour stop, entry forms for upcoming pro stops, which player accumulated the most fines at the last event? Everything you want to know about the IRT, WIRT, or your favorite pro players is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at [irt-tour.com](http://irt-tour.com). Check out the action!**

article published in the American Journal of Sports Medicine proved that 3/4 top shoes significantly increase the maximal resistance to inversion movement by 29.4%. Even in moderate plantar flexion (slight toe pointing) the resistance had still improved by 20.4%. The results of this article suggest that shoe height does make a difference.

#### **The First Is Last**

Stability of the shoe is determined by the last. A board last makes the shoe stiff. Flat footed individuals and excessive pronators (your foot has a tendency to roll inward) will benefit from a board lasted shoe. If you have a high arch, or are a supinator (the foot tends to roll outward), you will probably prefer a slip lasted design. This is a form fit design and results in a very flexible shoe. [Don't know if you're a pronator or a supinator? Look at a favorite pair of your old shoes and see which side of the heel is worn down the most. Inside = you pronate, outside = you supinate.]

#### **Insoles**

Insoles are mainly used for the reduction of shock. These can be replaced by specialized insoles or even orthotics which can be prescribed by a physician.

#### **Outsoles**

Gum rubber is the material usually chosen for wood surfaces such as a racquetball court. When gum rubber heats up it will start gripping the floor, which aids in sudden directional changes on the court.

#### **Midsole and Heel**

The midsole and heel are the bread and butter of shock absorption. The midsole houses all of the arch technology and some of the shock. The heel cup secures the heel and helps lock it into place, as you go deeper into the heel the shock absorption increases.





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## **Lateral stability for the ankle**

We have already determined that 3/4 top shoe are superior to low top shoe because of lateral stability and protection. Design of the outer part of the shoe contributes greatly to protect and support through cross strapping, lacing and durable over lapping of materials so the foot is kept secure.

## **Fit**

A shoe will perform no better than it fits. Shoes should be purchased later in the day to allow for foot swelling. Wear athletic socks and try on both shoes at the same time. Shoes are not always the same size and neither are your feet.



All of the shoes profiled on page 26 are 3/4 top court shoes. All have equal capability to support the ankle because of actual shoe height. The amount of material used also plays a major role in ankle stability. More material equals more support, but you will lose some mobility. Choose a shoe the best suits your needs and abilities and, of course, overall comfort.

## **Footwear Profiles ...**

**EKTELON** — The official shoe of the IRT. The NFS "Natural Foot Shape" features a full slip lasted construction assuring no break-in period and maximum flexibility. Lace to toe eyestay design accommodates a variety of foot widths & elastic webbing secures the tongue. Double Nylon Quarter Strapping and Thermoplastic heel counter increase support and stability.

**HEAD** — Head caters to the racquetball player by creating shock absorption throughout the toe box, midsole and ending with a molded heel cup to give a custom like feel. This slip lasted shoe also comes with a speed lacing system which allows for quick adjustments between points.

**HI-TEC** — Hi-Tec's molded phylon with Quadra-form and neolite heel counter gives lightweight cushioning, ankle support and overall comfort in a very lightweight shoe. This is a slip lasted shoe with a vari-width lace system for a custom fit. This shoe is very breathable and offers a formula 1 toe bumper to help with toe drag.

**POWER** — Power Shoes offer a tunnel system technology which cradles the heel and provides excellent cushioning and shock absorption. This is a board lasted shoe with a heel midsole deflection design that secures the foot and provides proper balance of energy storage and energy return.

**WILSON** — Wilson's stable wrap technology minimizes excessive medial and lateral movement for maximum ankle stability. The new "low to the ground" design improves balance and traction. This board lasted shoe also offers a dual density EVA midsole — the only midsole you can actually lace through for enhanced support.



## Coaching Corner

By Marcy Lynch

One of the most common questions I'm asked when coaching is, "there's only so much time in a day ... how do I juggle kids, job, home-making, relationship, and still have time to play racquetball?"

As a society we've become very busy. Our country was founded on an ethic of hard work. The very essence of capitalism is that if you work hard enough, you can achieve anything. So, if hard

work is good, then more work must be better. It's no coincidence that as we push harder and harder, the influence of eastern culture and philosophy becomes more evident than ever. People are looking for ways to de-stress, take the pressure off, and have more of what we all are working for, not just the work itself. T'ai chi, yoga, meditation and spirituality all fall to the flip side of extreme effort. Can you imagine that by working less, you might achieve more? The mere energy of 'pushing' is directly counter to 'attracting.' As we become more in tune with the way the universe operates and move away from the laws imposed by man, we can learn to attract, or draw, what we need to us, instead of *pushing* for it.

There is no greater teacher than sports to illustrate this concept. Think about a time in a match when you struggled to win. I'm sure you can also think of a time when a match just 'flowed.' What was the difference? Whether you were conscious of it or not, when you struggled you were most likely focused on — and pushing for — an outcome (to win). With the sense of flow, I'll bet you were enjoying yourself and playing for the love of the game.

So, these are nice things to talk about, but bottom line, the shopping and the laundry needs to be done and who's gonna pick up the kids? It's a good idea to take some time and evaluate how your time is spent and prioritize — what stays, what goes? But my experience

is that beyond setting priorities, most of us have a backlog of 'stuff' that needs to be done; the closet that needs to be cleaned, the attic that needs to be sorted, the oil change for the car, the pictures that need to be put in an album, the letter than needs to be written, etc.

So take 10-20 minutes right now and make a list of all of the things in your life that you've postponed doing. In coaching we refer to these things as tolerations, or things that we have put off and tolerated until we aren't even conscious of them anymore. You may think some are minor, but put them on the list anyway. Each one drains a little of your energy and collectively they create quite a lot of noise! Once you've finished the list, create a block of time (a weekend) to complete as many of the things on your list as possible. Enlist the help of family and friends and make it fun. Then give yourself a set amount of time to complete the rest. If you do this (and I challenge you to), I guarantee you will feel a surge of energy and a sense of well being that you may not have felt in a long time. The more we can clean out the backlog, the freer we are to be in the present and to enjoy life as it's happening rather than in terms of what we need to do.

This column is intended to be interactive. I would love to hear from you once you take the 'toleration challenge'. I would also welcome your specific questions. Life is a challenge. We can choose to let circumstances, tolerations, 'stuff' dictate to us or we can be pro-active and participate in making life the best we can make it. I look forward to hearing from you!! E-mail me at: coach2u812@aol.com

## Tour Notes

IRT DOUBLES PRO-AMS are among the most exciting and entertaining events at an IRT tour stop — offering a chance for the pros and sponsors to hit the court together as teams for some doubles action. For the sponsors, it's a dream come true; playing doubles with a partner like Swain or Monchik. For the players, it's a great chance to spend some time with event sponsors and pass on a few tips. IRT would like to acknowledge the champions of these special events:

Denver: Mark Helton/Woody Clouse  
 Lincoln: Ron Canfield/Cliff Swain  
 New Jersey: Rick Folger/Cliff Swain  
 Rochester: Bruce Bell/Mike Ray  
 Columbus: Michael Blumenfeld/Jason Mannino





**Keeping Busy:** When she's not competing on the WIRT, Laura Fenton keeps busy. Over the Thanksgiving break, the multi-talented Fenton signed on to play the piano aboard the Royal Caribbean International cruise liner "Enchantment of the Seas." Laura – shown above tickling the ivories – entertained hundreds of holiday vacationers with dinner music twice each evening, plus gave nightly shows in the ship's piano bar. The ship took Laura and friends to Key West; Cozumel, Mexico; Ocho Rios, Jamaica and the Grand Cayman Islands. She had such a great time, she plans a return engagement this summer ... after the racquetball season is over!

## Thanks!

**In January** — Thanks go out to IRT presenting sponsors Hampton Inn and Complete Creative which made possible the Future Cellular event in Columbus. After hosting such a great event, the Continental Athletic Club looks forward to becoming the only club in the city to host an annual IRT

event. — The Laundry Land Pro-Am in Lincoln was a big hit thanks to tournament director Doug McIntosh who made the pros feel welcome, while drawing large numbers of amateur players and fans from throughout the region. The pros were also kept busy leading up to the event with a junior clinic, doubles program, and a promotional appearance at a local elementary school on Wednesday.

**In February** — Special thanks to Alan Hanford, Jacquie Morrison, and all the great staff at the Penfield Racquet & Fitness Club for their help in hosting the Piehler Pro-Am. — At the Foxwoods Pro-Am stop, tournament director Bill Serafin and King George manager John Primeau welcomed the IRT to the New Jersey/New York area for the first time in five years and the event was a huge success thanks to their work.

**MBNA & Visa Announce IRT & WIRT Credit Cards:** You can now have the credit cards of the pros as VISA introduces the IRT & WIRT visa cards. These new cards will be offered beginning in May and carry the IRT or WIRT logo on the card. In addition, all those signing up for the card receive a can of Pro Penn racquetballs, IRT Pro Tacki Mac grip, and discounts from Courtesy Sports. So get the card that makes you part of the tour. For applications or further information contact IRT at 888-772-5346 or 503-639-3410.

## PRO TOUR BONUS POOLS

**FOXWOODS RESORT & CASINO SUPER SERIES STANDINGS** — The official resort & casino of the IRT sponsored a three-event Super Series this season.

1. Cliff Swain
2. Jason Mannino
3. Sudsy Monchik
- 4t. Derek Robinson
- 4t. Todd O'Neil

**FOXWOODS SUPER SERIES CHAMPIONS** —  
**LAS VEGAS DOUBLES:** Derek Robinson & Todd O'Neil  
**BOSTON:** Cliff Swain  
**NEW JERSEY:** Cliff Swain

**PRO PENN GLOVE**  
 Official Glove of the IRT

1. Jason Mannino
2. Mike Ray
3. James Mulcock
4. Woody Clouse

**EKTELON NFS FOOTWEAR**  
 Official Shoe of the IRT

1. Andy Roberts
2. Mike Guidry
3. Dan Fowler
4. Kelly Gelhaus

**TACKI MAC GRIP**  
 Official Grip of the IRT

1. Cliff Swain
2. John Ellis
3. Jason Mannino
4. Mike Ray

**PRO PENN BONUS POOL**  
 Official Ball of the WIRT

1. Jackie Paraiso
2. Laura Fenton
3. Marci Drexler
4. Kersten Hallander
5. Lydia Hammock
6. Christie Van Hees
7. Mindy Hartstein
8. Kim Machiran
9. Phyllis Morris
10. Marcy Lynch



# pro tour

results • schedules • rankings

## '97-98 IRT SCORECARD

|               |                                   |                                |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Las Vegas     | O'Neil/Robinson def. Lerner/Jelso | 3-11, 11-6, 11-6, 5-11, 11-7   |
| New Orleans   | Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain    | 11-7, 11-4, 11-5               |
| Stockton      | Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik    | 12-10, 11-5, 11-2              |
| Riverside     | Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain    | 11-8, 11-8, 12-14, 6-11, 11-6  |
| Chicago       | Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik    | 10-12, 8-11, 11-8, 11-6, 12-10 |
| Memphis       | Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik    | 11-6, 11-2, 11-3               |
| Boston        | Cliff Swain def. Mike Ray         | 5-11, 11-4, 11-4, 11-4         |
| Lakewood      | Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik    | 11-2, 11-6, 10-12, 10-12, 11-8 |
| Denver        | John Ellis def. Sudsy Monchik     | 1-11, 11-8, 11-7, 12-10        |
| Columbus      | John Ellis def. Derek Robinson    | 7-11, 12-10, 11-3, 11-4        |
| Lincoln       | Cliff Swain def. John Ellis       | 11-2, 2-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-8   |
| Greenbrook    | Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik    | 11-2, 11-13, 11-8, 11-8        |
| Rochester     | Andy Roberts def. John Ellis      | 11-8, 11-2, 11-6               |
| Santa Barbara | Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik    | 7-11, 5-7 (injury default)     |

## '97-98 WIRT SCORECARD

|           |                                    |                   |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Annapolis | Michelle Gould def. Cheryl Gudinas | 11-4, 11-5, 11-2  |
| Memphis   | Michelle Gould def. Jackie Paraiso | 12-10, 11-5, 11-4 |
| Roanoke   | Michelle Gould def. Laura Fenton   | 11-4, 11-3, 11-2  |
| New York  | Michelle Gould def. Jackie Paraiso | 11-7, 11-5, 11-7  |

## IRT SCHEDULE

May 6 - 9  
Phoenix Pro-Am  
Arizona Athletic Club  
Phoenix, Arizona

June 3 - 7  
Spalding Tournament  
of Champions  
Multnomah Athletic Club  
Portland, Oregon

## WIRT SCHEDULE

May 1 - 3  
Crystal City Classic Pro-Am  
The Skyline Club at Crystal  
Gateway - Arlington, Virginia

June 4 - 7  
RAD Tournament of Champions  
Multnomah Athletic Club  
Portland, Oregon

## International Racquetball Tour 97-98 SEASON RANKINGS

### As of March 30, 1998

|                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| 1. Cliff Swain . . . . .       | 3366 |
| 2. Sudsy Monchik . . . . .     | 2815 |
| 3. Andy Roberts . . . . .      | 2321 |
| 4. John Ellis . . . . .        | 2308 |
| 5. Jason Mannino . . . . .     | 1687 |
| 6. Mike Guidry . . . . .       | 1487 |
| 7. Dan Fowler . . . . .        | 1386 |
| 8. Mike Ray . . . . .          | 1285 |
| 9. Kelly Gelhaus . . . . .     | 1142 |
| 10. Adam Karp . . . . .        | 1112 |
| 11. Tony Jelso . . . . .       | 1088 |
| 12. Louis Vogel . . . . .      | 1038 |
| 13. Michael Bronfeld . . . . . | 981  |
| 14. Woody Clouse . . . . .     | 888  |
| 15. Derek Robinson . . . . .   | 882  |
| 16. James Mulcock . . . . .    | 818  |
| 17. Doug Eagle . . . . .       | 673  |
| 18. Ruben Gonzalez . . . . .   | 479  |
| 19. Joe Paraiso . . . . .      | 478  |
| 20. Darrin Schenck . . . . .   | 462  |
| 21. Brian Simpson . . . . .    | 442  |
| 22. Tim Doyle . . . . .        | 409  |
| 23. Mike Green . . . . .       | 407  |
| 24. Kelly Kerr . . . . .       | 360  |
| 25. Rafael Filippini . . . . . | 338  |
| 26. Dan Llacera . . . . .      | 316  |
| 27. Drew Kachtik . . . . .     | 313  |
| 28. Scott Reiff . . . . .      | 286  |
| 29. Eric Muller . . . . .      | 283  |

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 30. Brian Istace . . . . .      | 239 |
| 31. Mike Ceresia . . . . .      | 222 |
| 32. Hank Minardo . . . . .      | 198 |
| 33. Rocky Carson . . . . .      | 179 |
| 34. Mike Locker . . . . .       | 151 |
| 35. Jacques Demers . . . . .    | 142 |
| 36. Sherman Greenfeld . . . . . | 136 |
| 37. Dave Sable . . . . .        | 135 |
| 38. Sam Rutkowski . . . . .     | 128 |
| 39. Aaron Embry . . . . .       | 113 |
| 40. Jason Thoemer . . . . .     | 102 |
| 41. Javier Moreno . . . . .     | 99  |
| 42. Mike Johnston . . . . .     | 95  |
| 43. Grant Smith . . . . .       | 92  |
| 43. Luis Bustillos . . . . .    | 92  |
| 43. David Hamilton . . . . .    | 92  |
| 43. Todd O'Neil . . . . .       | 92  |
| 47. Jeff Bell . . . . .         | 85  |
| 48. Brian Pointelin . . . . .   | 84  |
| 49. Kevin Graham . . . . .      | 82  |
| 50. John Barrett . . . . .      | 80  |
| 51. Brad McCunniff . . . . .    | 76  |
| 51. Ryan Homa . . . . .         | 76  |
| 53. Scott Hamon . . . . .       | 74  |
| 54. Steve Lemer . . . . .       | 73  |
| 55. James Lockhart . . . . .    | 72  |
| 56. Brian Hurwitz . . . . .     | 65  |
| 56. George Delaney . . . . .    | 65  |
| 58. Erin Brannigan . . . . .    | 61  |
| 59. Franco Palmer . . . . .     | 58  |
| 60. Adam Priamo . . . . .       | 56  |
| 60. Shai Manzuri . . . . .      | 56  |

## Women's International Racquetball Tour 97-98 SEASON RANKINGS

### As of March 31, 1998

|                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 1. Michelle Gould . . . . .     | 1218 |
| 2. Jackie Paraiso . . . . .     | 923  |
| 3. Cheryl Gudinas . . . . .     | 890  |
| 4. Lynne Coburn . . . . .       | 545  |
| 5. Laura Fenton . . . . .       | 527  |
| 6. Marci Drexler . . . . .      | 481  |
| 7. Molly O'Brien . . . . .      | 432  |
| 8. Lorraine Galloway . . . . .  | 415  |
| 9. Kersten Hallander . . . . .  | 384  |
| 10. Doreen Fowler . . . . .     | 365  |
| 11. Randi Friedman . . . . .    | 351  |
| 12. Lydia Hammock . . . . .     | 350  |
| 13. Janet Myers . . . . .       | 307  |
| 14. Phyllis Morris . . . . .    | 192  |
| 15. Mindy Hartstein . . . . .   | 187  |
| 16. Christie Van Hees . . . . . | 164  |
| 17. Carolyn Payne . . . . .     | 160  |
| 18. Caryn McKinney . . . . .    | 135  |
| 19. Chris Evon . . . . .        | 134  |
| 19. Kim Machiran . . . . .      | 134  |
| 21. Jennifer Dering . . . . .   | 124  |
| 22. Malia Bailey . . . . .      | 108  |
| 22. Robin Levine . . . . .      | 108  |
| 24. Michelle Wiragh . . . . .   | 107  |
| 25. Monique Flaherty . . . . .  | 104  |
| 26. Beverly Supanick . . . . .  | 90   |
| 27. Mary Diaz . . . . .         | 83   |
| 28. Lisa Kerr . . . . .         | 80   |
| 29. Anita Maldonado . . . . .   | 75   |

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 30. Marcy Lynch . . . . .        | 57 |
| 31. Sandy Kubany . . . . .       | 55 |
| 32. Holly Gray . . . . .         | 51 |
| 33. Angela Madden . . . . .      | 40 |
| 34. Amanda McDonald . . . . .    | 39 |
| 35. Lisa Hjelm . . . . .         | 36 |
| 35. Lori Jane Powell . . . . .   | 36 |
| 37. Josee Grand'maitre . . . . . | 35 |
| 37. Sadie Gross . . . . .        | 35 |
| 37. Karina Odegard . . . . .     | 35 |
| 40. Lynne DePledge . . . . .     | 20 |
| 41. Kori Grasha . . . . .        | 12 |
| 41. Linda Moore . . . . .        | 12 |
| 41. Sabrina Pasos . . . . .      | 12 |
| 44. Cindy McTaggart . . . . .    | 11 |
| 45. Sara Borland . . . . .       | 9  |
| 45. Debbie Ward . . . . .        | 9  |
| 47. Shannon Feaster . . . . .    | 8  |
| 47. Cindy Grady . . . . .        | 8  |
| 47. Robin Low . . . . .          | 8  |
| 47. Lisa Marie Papp . . . . .    | 8  |
| 47. Jennifer Saunders . . . . .  | 8  |
| 47. Shantal Turgeon . . . . .    | 8  |
| 53. Aimee Roehler . . . . .      | 3  |
| 54. Nancy Davis . . . . .        | 1  |
| 54. Ruth Hough . . . . .         | 1  |
| 54. Jody Paul . . . . .          | 1  |

On the tour, players earn: 185 points for a win; 140 for finals; 110 for semi-finals; 80 for quarterfinals; 50 for 16's; 20 for 32's; 10 for 64's; 5 for qualifying match plus 1 point for each game won.





## HEAD ROLLS OUT TITANIUM TECH

HEAD introduced its Titanium technology to the sport of racquetball at the Atlanta Super Show, the largest sporting goods trade show in the world, in early February. HEAD publicly "rolled out" a complete new line for the 1998-99 season, including three new Titanium/Graphite composite racquets. The Ti.175 XL (shown) is the flagship of HEAD's new line and represents the cutting edge of power racquet technology in the sport of racquetball.

Head engineers developed an exclusive "weave" of ultra light graphite with super strong titanium fibers to create the new composite. In addition, the new Ti. Frames feature several other technological advancements, including a new Box Beam cross section in the throat area, Pyramid V cross section in the hitting area, exclusive PowerMax string pattern, Shock Stop vibration dampening technology in the handle, Ultra Light Weight construction, Xtra Long racquet design, and a sleek new head shape for lightning quick maneuverability. HEAD's new line of racquets, bags, gloves, shoes, and accessories will be available from your favorite dealer in June. For more information on HEAD products or for a dealer near you check out the web site at [WWW.HEADUSA.COM](http://WWW.HEADUSA.COM)



## PENN'S NEW LOOK

Penn Racquet Sports has recently unveiled new packaging for its line of racquetballs including the Ultra Blue and Pro Penn (green) balls. The new label for the Ultra Blue ball promotes Penn's leadership role in the industry with the tag line "America's #1 Selling Ball." The label also highlights the continuing status as the official ball of the United State Racquetball Association (USRA). The new Pro Penn label features a richer, bolder look that coincides with the premium status of the ball. The label also incorporates the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) logo to emphasize Penn's official ball status of the IRT.

## EKTELON'S TITANIUM LONGBODY FRAMES

Also debuting in Atlanta, Ektelon introduced its line of titanium LongBody racquets, including two Power Ring Titanium models and the RipStick Titanium racquet- featuring the largest headsizes and main string lengths ever. By utilizing titanium in its shafts, Ektelon's new frames are stronger

than traditional graphite-shaft racquets, while minimizing the amount of stress placed on the arm by racquets which are too head-heavy or too light.

In addition to increases in strength and power (up to 1150 power level- the highest Ektelon power levels ever), Ektelon's new titanium racquets incorporate patent pending PowerWEB technology, (a unique frame design which delivers a 25% power boost), WallBEATER bumpers which reduce the shock of wall hits by 70%, plus Morph Beam and Sweet Spot Suspension Systems, first introduced by Prince for tennis and squash. Developed to reduce torque and improve power, Morph Beam construction combines an aerodynamic widebody head with a classic box-shaped shaft. Sweet Spot Suspension reduces vibration by 60% and enlarges the sweet spot by 8%. Available in late Spring 1998, the suggested retail price of the new Ektelon Titanium racquets will range from \$150-\$250. For additional information, please call 1-800-4-EKTELON.

## GRINDING THE RUMOR MILL: 23" FRAMES??

Last year the USRA Board of Directors passed a two-year rules moratorium, meaning that no formal rule changes can be approved prior to September of the year 2000. But, believe it or not, the national office has



# industry news...

already begun receiving questions from the membership asking if the USRA was once again going to change its position on racquet length. According to USRA Executive Director Luke St. Onge, "I can assure you and anyone who might have this question asked of them, that the USRA Board of Directors has no intention of entertaining another racquet length rule change. Changing to 22" was an extremely traumatic experience for the USRA, and the Board sees absolutely no reason in the future to change it."

## **RACQUETBALL MAKES HISTORY IN PHOENIX**

Although not widely known, racquetball continues to be integral to the operations of hundreds of IHRSA clubs across the country. At the International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association annual conference in Phoenix, the sport once again made its mark with an historic presentation honoring excellence in racquetball programming. To celebrate a resurgence in racquetball, IHRSA officials selected six of the top court club facilities in the nation — and their successful program directors — to be honored at the convention. Inaugural winners of the first IHRSA Racquetball Programming Awards were

**1st Place — The Cascade Athletic Club**  
Gresham, Oregon (*Connie Martin & Brian Ancheta, pictured at right*)

**First Runner Up — West Allis Athletic Club**  
West Allis, Wisconsin (*Gary Schleinz*)

**Second Runner Up — Lehigh Valley Racquet & Fitness**  
Allentown, PA (*Jodi Paul, pictured at right*)

**Fourth Place — What A Racquet Athletic Club**  
Daly City, California (*Fran Davis*)

**Fifth Place (tied) — Racquet's Edge Fitness Center**  
Essex Junction, VT (*Heather Dunn*)  
& **The Racquet Club of Pittsburgh** (*Dave Kimmick*)

Throughout the week, one of the largest-ever racquetball display areas claimed some serious floorspace in the huge Phoenix Civic Plaza auditorium, with booths hosted by E-Force, Ektelon, Head, Penn Racquet Sports, ProKennex, USRA and Wilson Racquetball. Later in the week, top IRT & WIRT pros Michelle Gould, Sudsy Monchik, Jackie Paraiso and Cliff Swain were the marquee attractions for IHRSA attendees, who were invited to a reception and exhibition hosted by the City Square Sports Club.

It was particularly gratifying for industry leaders to see that IHRSA has not forgotten its roots and continues to recognize racquetball as a profitable part of the ever-expanding fitness market, thanks to ongoing support from John McCarthy and Chuck Leve who have worked closely with the USRA in supporting racquetball over much of its 30-year history.

## **RADS RE-EMERGE AT NETWORK MARKETING**

Doug Smith of Network Marketing has announced the availability of "new & improved" RAD eyewear through his Georgia-based company. Now offered by a new manufacturer, the popular RAD Turbos are available in black, smoke, purple & blue; the RAD Junior Neon and the RAD Jr./Ladies Feather in black; and the RAD LX's in smoke. The sleek original design of the popular eyeguard remains the same, but the product and its packaging has been upgraded. To place an order, or for more information about the RAD line of eyewear — or other accessory products — contact Doug Smith at Network Marketing (see display ad on page 54).



ABOVE: CONNIE MARTIN & BRIAN ANCHETA.  
BELOW: JODI PAUL





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United States Racquetball Association

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cotton mock turtleneck.  
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choice of USRA or USA  
logo. Adult sizes M-  
XXL.

WHITE

MT-USRA \$26.00  
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\*Add \$2.00 for XXL sizes.



100% cotton pique knit  
Stars 'n Stripes golf shirt.  
Embroidered with your  
choice of USRA or USA  
logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

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NAVY

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SS-USA \$49.00

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WHITE

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RED  
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NAVY

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100% Cotton denim jacket with two front flap pockets and two side welt pockets. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

**DJ-USRA \$69.00**  
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80/20 heavyweight pique fleece half-zip pullover with two in-seam pockets. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

**FP-USRA \$66.00**  
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Denier polyester sport bag with three outside pockets. Detachable shoulder strap. USRA or USA embroidered logo. 20"X10"X10"

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Six panel adjustable cap available in colors and embroidered designs shown.

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**CNS-USRA \$60.00**  
**CNS-USA \$60.00**

\*Add \$4.00 for XXL sizes.

100% nylon fully-lined warm up suit with matching pants. Embroidered with USA or USRA front logo. Adult sizes S-XXL.

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**WU-USA \$99.00**

\*Add \$4.00 for XXL sizes.

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|      |       |   |   |   |    |     |                 |            |          |
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# perform

## The Evolution of the Service Return

*By Mike Guidry*

Like the backhand and the forehand, the service return has undergone changes since the seventies. The speed of the ball and improved racquet technology have influenced the game more than anything else in the past twenty years. These improvements have brought the drive serve into play much more so than in the past, which in turn has forced changes in the service return.

The drive serve has become a hugely important part of the game. In return, it has placed an even greater emphasis on the service return. I am not guaranteeing that these tips will have you stepping over and killing Cliff Swain's drive serve, but they will hopefully give you a little more time and confidence when facing the drive serve. Good Luck!



# 34

# service return

May - June 1998



# performance series

## << 70's

The ready position while returning the serve had a narrower stance with the weight out on the toes. The traditional grip was the forehand grip (mainly due to the fact that players didn't rotate grips in the seventies).



## 90's >>

Today's pros return serve with a wider stance, therefore lowering their center of gravity. With the rising use of the drive serve as well as the increased ball speed, the receiver must be lower to the ground and balanced in order to react to whichever side the serve is hit. The feet should be almost flat-footed with the weight of the body evenly distributed. This may sound opposite of what you may have heard, but the first movement that must be made before reacting to a shot is to lower your center of gravity and get flat-footed to be able to push off effectively.



# ready position

*Performance Tip: Try widening your stance as well as standing a little more flat-footed. This will help you react sooner to the serve by keeping you more balanced. You may want to have one foot slightly in front of the other as I do in the picture to help your balance. Also, hold your racquet with a backhand grip since most of the serves come to your backhand.*



## 70's >>

The first step when returning a drive serve is made with the foot opposite the side of the court where the ball is. This movement is called a crossover step. Since most serves take two steps to return, using a crossover step causes the receiver to hit most of their returns off of their back foot.



## first step



## << 90's

The first step taken when returning a drive serve should be with the foot closest to the ball. In other words, if the ball is hit to the left side of the court, then the first step should be with the left foot. This movement allows the receiver to return most serves while hitting off of their front foot.

*Performance Tip: Practice taking your first step with the foot closest to the ball. The first step does not have to be a large step. It just needs to be enough to get the body turned and in position. This may be a difficult habit to break, but you will be amazed how many more balls you will get as well as hit good returns on.*



## << racquet position

The racquet should reach back towards the back wall and away from the body (It is difficult to tell in the picture, but the racquet is reaching back). The racquet head is upright and the elbow is slightly bent, but level and away from the body. Notice that the wrist is straight and not curled as has been taught in the past. This way allows for a swing that is basically straight across and level. (This is the same as in my last article on the backhand.)

## contact point >>

The contact point should be away from the body and out off of the front foot. Notice that the feet are spread apart and balanced. The elbow is straight and fully extended. Once again, the contact point should be just as it is on any other backhand. The contact point is between knee and mid-thigh high. Hitting the ball out away from your body will keep the ball flatter as well as increase power tremendously. Avoid getting too close to the wall, which can cause you to either hit the wall with your swing or change your swing to correct the mistake. Also, avoid overrunning the ball and getting yourself jammed. Try to stay far enough away from the ball so that you can take a full swing.



*AmPro has created a standard teaching model – based on low injury and proven results – for use by its Certified Instructors in the field. Mike Guidry is one of many qualified instructors within the industry who utilizes a more personalized variation of this model. Success comes in many forms, and AmPRO is dedicated to providing the highest quality instruction, using the latest and safest methods. For more information about AmPRO, or the standard teaching model, contact Michelle Gould at 208/362-3844.*





## Head Rules!

**Featuring Fran Davis**



# Q&A...Q&A...

## Q:

**How can I develop a winning game plan for the Nationals?**

First of all, what is a game plan? It's a plan of action, based on the following formula:

**Your Strengths and Weaknesses**

**+ Opponents Strengths and Weaknesses**

**= Game plan**

If you talk to any of the pros — Cliff Swain or Michelle Gould — they would never think of stepping on the court without a game plan. They consider it a part of their equipment ... simply a must. It's their road map to success.

The questions below represent a simple method used at my camps to help gather the information that goes into developing a game plan. Consider yourself a racquetball detective trying to uncover this information. Ask yourself the following about your opponent:

1. **Stroke Mechanics:** Do they have a stronger forehand or backhand? Do they run around their backhand to hit a forehand?
2. **Court Position:** Do they play too far up (pass them) or too far back (pinch or splat on them)? Do they shade to the side the ball is on (use a cross-court against them)?
3. **Shot Selection:** Do they go cross-court too much or kill more than pass? Are they splat happy?
4. **Serves:** Are they predictable or do they have good variety? Can they hit an effective Z serve? Can they handle your power? Can they return a lob to their backhand?
5. **Return of Serve:** Are they aggressive on the return of serve and attack? Can they hit an effective ceiling return? Do they try to kill off the back wall?
6. **Footwork:** Do they square up to the side wall or hit open stance a lot? Are they quick on their feet?
7. **Emotional State:** Are they calm or do they get upset easily? Are they easily distracted? Do they get rattled when you slow them down?
8. **Type of Player:** Righty or Lefty? Power or Control? Rabbit or Turtle?

Once you gather the facts about your opponent and sort through them you can begin to use the information to come up with a winning game plan. Remember when developing this plan keep in mind *your* strengths and weaknesses, but even more importantly – *your opponents* strengths and weaknesses.

I'll end with this very familiar saying: **If you fail to plan, you plan to fail!?**

Hopefully, we'll see you at one of the Head Rules Racquetball Camps to learn this more in detail... your road map to success (see page 59 for details and cities in your area).

# ...Q&A...Q&A

## Q:

I'm decent B player looking to move up to the A division. What are the key skills an A player has that I don't?

Great question! While there are many skills required to advance to the next highest level, three key areas come to mind.

### **Execution of Set-Ups**

If you give a pro player a set up, they will – on average – successfully execute the rally-ending shot within one or two tries. An Open player needs two to three chances to end a rally, an A player takes up to four attempts, and a B player may need up to five set ups before ending a rally.

In order to end a rally sooner, define what a set up is, then practice hitting specific shots off that set up. For instance, a typical set up is a ceiling ball that drops short. You decide you want to work on hitting a consistent, down-the-line pass shot off that set up. Hit yourself ten set ups and strive to hit three, good, down-the-line pass shots. Repeat the drill over and over. When you can hit the shot three times a majority of the time, strive to hit four out of ten, etc. This repetition will help you to become a more consistent shot maker.

### **Backwall Play**

An A player knows the footwork of taking the ball off the backwall and sees it as an offensive opportunity.

A B player struggles with the backwall, especially a ceiling ball that comes off the backwall. I suggest taking lessons on backwall technique. If you have never taken lessons before, this skill is a good reason to search out a good instructor. The high number of opportunities the backwall presents is worth spending the time and money to become more proficient.

### **Serves**

Most B players stay basic with their selection of serves. A fairly typical scenario is to hit a drive serve to the opponents backhand, followed by a second-serve lob to the backhand.

As you move up in skill, you see wider variety of serves, like: Jams, Z's, serves to the forehand side, various lobs and serving from different locations in the box.

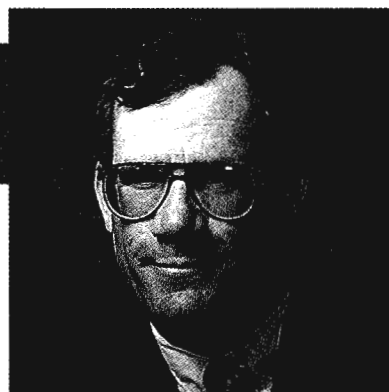
Experiment with a variety of serves hit from different locations in the service box, to become a more aggressive player.



**Game Plan**  
**Featuring Lynn Adams**

**Wilson**  
**RACQUETBALL**





## ***Sponsorship is a Two-Way Street***

Like most sports equipment manufacturers, Ashaway sponsors many players at the amateur level. I made a special point to meet with "our" racquetball players at the U.S. Open in Memphis, to hear their concerns, and to express ours. I also spent time talking with management from other corporate sponsors, and with some of their players as well.

You'd think that sponsorships are a good deal all around: the player gets free equipment, in exchange for which the sponsor gets bargain-priced exposure. Instead, I heard a lot of dissatisfaction on both sides of the relationship. Players' comments ran along the general lines of:

*"Sponsors are always trying to get you to sell, sell, sell. They're only interested in what we can do for them."*  
and ...

*"These 'team' meetings are a waste of time. It's all one-way communication, from the sponsor to the players."*

Surprisingly, I also heard players complain that they are not given enough information about the products and the company they are supposed to represent. These players feel they're treated like low-level employees, rather than "part of the team."

From the other side of the table, sponsors' complaints included:

*"These 'team' meetings always turn into gripe sessions for our players, who don't want to hear what we've got to say."*  
and ...

*"All we ever hear from players is 'what else can I get from you?' They don't seem interested in the payback side of the relationship."*

Both sides, it seems, have nearly identical complaints: the other guy isn't listening, and isn't holding up their end of the bargain. With that in mind, let's step back and review the foundations of the sponsorship relationship.

Companies want to sponsor players who will represent them in a positive manner, and who will help them sell products either directly (through active recommenda-

tions), or indirectly (by providing visibility).

Specific selection criteria differ among manufacturers, but most are looking for players who: reach the semis or finals with a fair degree of consistency; are responsible and well-spoken; and are respected by, and influential among, their peers.

From the sponsor's point of view, the player has three main responsibilities:

- The player should display the sponsor's logo on equipment, clothing, gear bag, etc.
- The player should talk with peers — both friends and competitors — about the sponsor's equipment, always placing it in the most favorable light. The level of direct selling and persuasion expected may vary with the sponsor and the individual.
- When given the opportunity (such as, when winning a tournament), the player should promote the sponsor to a wider audience. This generally entails thanking the sponsor publicly (along with the player's family, coach, lucky troll doll, and anyone else who helped them win).

In addition, the sponsor may want the player to use specific equipment, in order to support the company's marketing objectives. This may mean asking the player to trade up periodically, to provide visibility for a new product model. It is never in the sponsor's interest to give the player less-than-excellent equipment, for it is by winning that the player best serves the sponsor's objectives.

From the player's point of view, the sponsor should provide:

- The best equipment possible, in sufficient quantities.
- Enough technical information about the equipment to be able to appreciate and explain its benefits fully.
- An opportunity to become a true member of the sponsor's promotional "team," possessing real influence. The sponsor must be willing to explain marketing objectives and strategies, and must be willing to listen carefully to players' suggestions. Sponsored players are often a company's best source of input when it comes to new product develop-

ment, and may be in a better position to know what kinds of marketing "messages" will be persuasive among players.

While players all want the best equipment available, some resist being moved into new models. They may feel comfortable using the old model, and fear that having to adjust to a new one will harm their game. Both sides should try to accommodate each other on this point. It does nobody any good if the player loses; on the other hand, there may be little benefit to the sponsor if the player wins with a discontinued product.

Sometimes, sponsors provide players with equipment that is still under development and not yet for sale to the public. In doing so, the sponsor hopes to give players a competitive edge or, at the very least, expects to obtain feedback about what works and what could be improved. Again, the intent is to provide mutual bene-

fits, so both parties must be willing to make concessions.

The opportunity to try development-stage products is one way in which sponsors give players advance or inside information. "Team meetings" at tournaments are another. Both parties should use these meetings for give and take: they are the ideal opportunity to get information and air concerns. Be prepared to talk, but be prepared to listen as well.

Should sponsors help make players famous? There's nothing sponsors like better. All sponsors hope their amateur players will become a Sudy or a Cliff, a Michelle or a Cheryl, and that they'll be able to say truthfully, "I owe it, in part, to my sponsor's great equipment." The key to getting there is working together, and remembering that communication has to flow both ways.



## *changingtimes* • by Luke St. Onge

I've been in the sport since the early 1970s and each year I continue to find reason to get on this particular soapbox. I think we can agree that the sport has come together over the past five years

with the IRT/WIRT, USRA, manufacturers, and club owners all working together to promote racquetball. We are on television, we have a major court club initiative in place, and our numbers are up. So what never ceases to frustrate me, month after month and year after year?

It's the lack of product loyalty by players who neglect to support the very manufacturers and industry sponsors who work so hard to promote and develop our sport. The next time you play at your club, look at the equipment in use by the players around you. Are they playing with a racquet that advertises, sponsors, or promotes the sport? Or with an off brand frame purchased from the trunk of a car? What shoes are they wearing – Ektelon, Prince, Wilson, Head? Or Nike, Adidas, and Reebok – companies which don't even

bother to design shoes for racquetball – and instead take your profits and funnel them into rival sports? What strings do you demand to be put into your racquet? What glove do you wear? There are well over 20 eyewear manufacturers, but only three actively promote the sport. What do you wear and what do your friends wear?

We are all in business of one type or another. Given a choice, do you support your own business or do you buy a competitor's product? Do you support your alma mater, or a rival institution? Get the drift? Many of today's racquetball manufacturers — which also manage to promote the sport you love — offer product second to none. Every time anyone in the racquetball community buys a piece of equipment produced by a manufacturer that does not support our sport, we are all being hurt.

If we, as racquetball players, don't make a point to direct our consumer dollars appropriately, we have no one to blame but ourselves the next time one of our courts becomes the next "Adidas" box soccer room or the next "Nike" climbing wall. Take a moment to look in your gym bag. Who gets to push their next gimmick with your dollars? Who do you support? Does it matter? Is loyalty still alive?



# **AmPRO** American Professional Racquetball Organization **CLUB RACQUET**

**News for Professionals in the Business of Racquetball • Special to RACQUETBALL**

## **50 WAYS TO LEAVE YOUR ?? ... COURTS INTACT!**

**by Connie Martin**

**AmPRO Director of Programming**

The recent promotion of "Active Racquetball Programming" in clubs has resulted in more and more facilities not only leaving their existing courts intact, but adding new ones!

Industry leaders feel — and clubs with a commitment to programming know — *active racquetball programming* is the primary catalyst in retaining your membership and maximizing your court investment. It's taken a while for clubs to realize that racquetball (just like aerobics, fitness, tennis and youth programs), needs leadership to thrive. Each and every successful racquetball program boasts a leader who can motivate, create, schedule, retain, and supervise their "department."

And that's exactly what active racquetball programming is ... the simple act of assigning a person to be responsible for the scheduling of daily, weekly, monthly and annual activities, programs and instruction on existing courts. Why? To maintain a high member-retention rate and enable the department to handle new members when they join your facility.

But this isn't a new concept. Imagine going to a club, asking about aerobics classes and being told: "Well, we have a room and music but we feel you can exercise on your own. We have no leaders for the class." Sure it sounds ridiculous, but it's a common occurrence where racquetball is concerned!

A member wants to improve their game ... "Sorry we don't have an instructional program." A member wants to get into a league ... "Sorry we don't have anyone to set up racquetball programs here." A new member wants to learn how to play ... "Sorry we only do lessons once every six months." A member wants to buy a can of balls ... need we go on?

Simply having courts accessible to your membership will not — and does not — guarantee that existing members will reserve them or new players will become interested in them. Racquetball is so much more than just the court! It's a game that needs to be learned properly and safely. It's a game that, once learned, can become a compulsion. And it's not unusual for someone to commit to racquetball for a lifetime.

So, to 'Leave Your Racquetball Courts Intact' you need to actively program. The following "50 ways" are presented in greater detail in the new AmPRO Program Manual now available through the USRA Office. The original 'Racquetball Workbook 101' is sold out, but it's expanded sequel, the 'AmPRO Racquetball Program Manual' is now in print and ready for purchase. Look for an order form on page 51.

## **50 Ways to Leave Your ... Courts Intact!**

### **Planning**

1. Provide answers for the following three questions ...Where did we come from?...Where are we now?... Where are we going?

### **Evaluate Your Current Program**

2. After answering those questions, set up a goal-setting meeting with all your key players.
3. In that meeting, give yourself a pat on the back for what you have accomplished to this point, then get down to business. Discuss what you need to do to improve your department. Remember, it is one of the profit centers of your club.
3. In the meeting, discuss the answers to #1, as well as list everything you already do and what you need to do.
4. From your discussions, concentrate on three major goals you wish to achieve in the next 12 months.
5. Make sure to write down your goals, and assign specific people to set deadlines and develop plans for achieving them.
6. Put together a racquetball wish list for the next 12 months, so that next year you can review and discuss what you got (earned) on that list.

### **Evaluate Your Current Staffing Situation**

7. Develop a racquetball director/instructor job description.
8. If you do not have one already, hire a full- or part-time racquetball director.
9. Develop and implement a policy to keep your service desk staff informed about racquetball.

10. Develop and implement a procedure to have staff know how to play and learn the rules of racquetball.
11. Set up special staff racquetball lessons. Teach them how to play so they can enjoy the game and pass this excitement on to current – and potential – members.
12. Develop an incentive program for your racquetball director/instructor. You may wish to incorporate it into the original goals.

#### **Set Up An Annual Calendar**

13. Write down all the programs you currently offer, need to offer, and want to offer.
14. Develop an annual or seasonal calendar of events and activities.
15. Don't keep it a secret! Post the annual or seasonal calendar.

#### **Set Up A Consistent Cost Study Report**

16. Develop consistent record forms to use for all programs. You can't track progress if you don't know how many people were in each program, how much money was made, etc.
17. Develop consistent application forms for all lessons and activities.
18. Develop a 'To Do' check off sheet for special events to help you remember all the details.
19. Develop a program tally sheet by activity for ongoing evaluation. This way you know 'where you were and where you are going'.

#### **Check Out The Competition**

20. What are other area clubs doing? Take note!
21. What's happening nationally? Read, and become an active part of your state and national associations.
22. What are other area fitness competitors doing? Bowling alleys, the YMCA, tennis facilities, etc.

#### **Advertising & Promotion**

23. Develop a Staff Log Book, divided by departments, where staff can find out about everything that is happening at the club for members.
24. Provide a seasonal brochure of racquetball activities and lessons. Provide to all current members and potential members. Post on your racquetball bulletin board.
25. Have your own racquetball bulletin board.
26. Send out special mailings to the membership promoting upcoming leagues, tournaments.
27. Make announcements over the loud speakers 'Free Introductory Racquetball Lesson in court 3 at 7:00pm, all members and their guests welcome.'
28. Call call call call call call call call.
29. Have special racquetball membership promotions.
30. Offer a membership referral program.
31. Give the names of all non-members who participate in your programs to a membership director for follow-up.
32. Prepare and send out press releases and news releases often.
33. Better yourself through continual self education. Become AmPRO Instructor Certified. Attend the IHRSA National Convention. Attend the USRA National Singles and Doubles Championships. Help with an area racquetball tournament if you do not offer them. Get a degree, take a motivational course...
34. Write articles for anything! Your racquetball bulletin board ... your monthly newsletter ... your local paper ... your

state association newsletter ... RACQUETBALL magazine ... your local school newspaper.

#### **Offer Services to your Racquetball Members**

35. Provide a 'welcome to the club' letter to your new members.
36. Set up an organizational structure for new members, including a free introductory lesson and organized weekly programs to get them playing.
37. Set up a racquetball directory for all members, including names, phone numbers, level of play and when they can play.
38. Run free weekly introductory lessons to all your members and friends.
39. Run free weekly round robin play (guaranteed to have someone to play).
40. Provide a 'I need someone to play' service.
41. Run monthly mini-clinics for all levels of play.
42. Provide challenge court play.
43. Provide a racquetball rules sheet complete with club policies.
44. Run ongoing programs (weekly, monthly, annually) for all your members, guests and non-members, including:
  - competitive programs (leagues, travelling league, challenges, tournaments)
  - social programs (mixers, theme events)
  - annual 'racquetball membership meeting'
  - manufacturers racquetball nights
  - commitment based programs
  - appreciation based programs
45. Offer ongoing instruction (weekly, monthly, annually)
  - if your racquetball director does not teach - hire an instructor
  - certify your racquetball director through AmPRO
  - include group and private lessons for all levels of play
  - clinics and court work drill classes
  - specialty clinics for kids, adults, families, seniors
  - lesson/league programs for outside groups
46. Set up programs for specialty groups
  - a junior racquetball program
  - racquetball as an activity in your seasonal junior sports programs and summer camps.
  - classes for local PE classes at grade, middle, high school, community colleges
  - set up a sensational seniors play
  - offer families "how to learn and play together"
  - offer couples "how to play together"
  - offer a parent-child tournament
  - offer racquetball as an event during special family nights
  - host teams (and coaches) for the High School Racquetball League
47. Carry a selection of equipment for players
  - have a special order system for other products
  - offer a racquet demo program
  - offer a stringing service
48. Constantly evaluate and re-evaluate your current racquetball program
49. Keep the courts clean, lights bright and floors dusted.
50. Purchase the USRA Racquetball Program Manual! See page 51 for an order form!

**For more information about AmPRO, including clinic schedules and program ideas, please call Michelle Gould at 208/362-3844.**





## Racquetball and the Olympics

*An Update by Luke St. Onge*

Heard time and again – "Why isn't racquetball in the Olympic Games when sports like 'Ballroom Dancing' and 'Billiards' are?" Well, the facts are that **neither** 'Ballroom Dancing' (now called 'Sport Dancing') or 'Billiards' (popularly known as 'pool') are in the Olympics, regardless of what you hear or read.

The International Olympic Committee, which is the international controlling body for the Olympic Games has two separate categories for sports. Sports which are on the program of the Summer and Winter Olympic Games and sports which the IOC has determined as 'recognized.' IOC 'recognized sports' mean only that, and the term has no real bearing on whether a sport will ever be on the Olympic Program.

A sport is accepted on the Olympic Program if it meets the minimum requirements of the program contained in the Olympic Charter. Some basic requirements are that a sport be widely practiced in 75 countries on five continents; be available to men and women; conduct world championships, and many other points of consideration. For example, all Winter Games sports must be conducted on ice or snow. Once all these criteria are met – and they are extensive – the sport must be accepted by the next Olympic Organizing Committee and voted in by the IOC members.

The current climate for new sports being admitted is that they will definitely be 'few and far between.' By far the greatest problem the IOC faces is 'gigantism.' The Olympic Games have become so large that they have become unmanageable for all but a small number of highly developed countries which face over two billion dollars in expenditures just to host them.

In addition to this challenge, the IOC must deal with the very real problem of give-and-take. For a new sport to be added, it must replace an existing sport or discipline – and extremely difficult task given the political atmosphere that exists within the IOC. In addition, sports already on the program have the inside track for adding *disciplines* (beach volleyball is *part* of Volleyball, mountain biking is *part* of Cycling, snowboarding is *part* of skiing), which further restricts the opportunity for new sports.

Lastly, there is a very real political process which must be undertaken after a sport meets all the requirements. The "Olympic-hopeful" must mount a formal election campaign, traveling to over 100 countries and developing very close working relationships with IOC members, staffers and entire organizing committees.

How much cash and personnel resources are needed to accomplish this task? It's speculated that a minimum 10-year commitment by the sport's International Federation and over a four million dollar expenditure will just barely meet the requirements for a favorable vote. Even then, the chances remain at 50-50.

OK, knowing all this, how does racquetball stack up against these requirements? Well, not too bad, actually. The International Racquetball Federation currently has 91 member countries on five continents. It's open to men and women, and the IRF will host its 9th World Championships in July. Plus, racquetball is currently a full medal sport in the following IOC approved continental games:

- South American Games
- Boliviano Games
- Central American Games
- Central American Caribbean Games
- South Pacific Games
- Pan American Games (*second only to the Olympic Games in prestige*)
- World Games (*of which racquetball is a charter member*)

The International Federation has accomplished all this in a 14-year period on less than a \$10,000 annual budget. On the home front, there is little interest on the part of the racquetball manufacturers to support this complex effort – at least until the U.S. market has been stabilized and the overall growth of the sport is on a systematic upswing.

The big picture? The International Racquetball Federation continues to make strides and see progress within the Olympic family, against tremendous odds, and it will never lose faith in its ultimate goal of being added to the Olympic Program. Racquetball's Olympic destiny continues to be "not IF ... just WHEN?"

## Ektelon IRF IX World Championships Up For Grabs?

Experts suggest the possibility of major upsets in the IX World Championships slated for Cochabamba, Bolivia, July 8 - 18, 1998. Will Canada repeat as the men's team champions, or go all the way to take the overall World Championship for the first time ever? Will Argentina break through and win a gold medal in men's doubles? Will Mexico finally put it all together and break into the coveted second place team position? And what about Venezuela's chances with Fabian Balmori heading up the team? Where do the Japanese and the Irish fit into the equation?



### Here's the line on the Worlds ...

**USA** — the team championship will rest with the men's squad that qualifies in Houston (the top three), with even odds on the U.S. recapturing the men's team title from the Canadians. The U.S. women's team is very strong and deep in talent and should repeat their top finish. The overall team competition will depend solely on the performance of the men. Individually, the U.S. is favored to win four out of six available gold medals.

**Canada** — the men's team holds even odds to repeat as world champions and a much improved women's team will challenge the U.S. women's team for the first time. This is Canada's best chance to win the World Cup. In individual play, the Canadians could win three out of six gold medals available.

**Mexico** — will be bringing a much improved team to Bolivia. Will challenge the Canadians on an even basis in the men's division. The Mexican women's team continues to improve and will finish third.

**Japan** — once again an unknown factor, but promises to be strong, especially in the women's team event.

**Argentina** — has reached parity with

the Mexican and Japanese men's teams. Look for the Argentine men's team to upset either of those rivals and move into the top three or four.

**Ireland** — will bring a strong men's team who should finish in the top 10. The women's team is an unknown, but continues to dominate play in Europe.

**Bolivia** — at home Bolivia will be tough. Under Coach Jeff Leon the Bolivian teams, which have always reached the top ten, will become the spoilers of the Worlds. Have an excellent chance to break into the top five and maybe finish as high as fourth overall.

**Venezuela** — led by Fabian Balmori, who plays both singles and doubles, Venezuela will stay in the top ten, possibly moving up into the top five. How well Balmori plays will dictate how well Venezuela finishes.

**Colombia** — probably the event "sleepers." If Colombia sends its best in both men and women's teams, they will do extremely well with a possible top-five finish.

**Germany** — always strong, but is currently in a developmental stage. Should finish in the top 10 overall.

**Puerto Rico** — has the talent to be spoilers and finish in the top 10. It all

depends on the team that they send.  
**Australia** — should finish in the men's top six.

**Teams to watch** — Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Chile, Uruguay, Austria, Korea.

**Other teams competing** — Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, France, Guam, Vietnam, Nigeria, Tonga.

Interested in being part of racquetball history? Come cheer on your home country!

### For travel, Contact GITANO Tours:

Phone/fax 591-42-35-900

(if available, use handset on fax, display may show 591-42-71202, but confirmation should show 42-35-900)  
e-mail - GITANOCBB@bo.net

### For lodging, Hotel Portales:

Av. Pando No. 1271

Cochabamba, BOLIVIA

Telephone — 591-42-85444; 85445;  
85446; 85447; 85448

Fax — 591-42-42071

## CANADIAN LISA KERR EARNS NATIONAL ACCLAIM

Lisa Kerr, a member of Racquetball Canada's Junior National Team, was awarded the 1997 Canadian Junior Female Athlete of the Year award at the 25th Annual Spirit of Sport Awards Banquet in Toronto on March 25.

Currently attending the University of Southern Colorado, the 17-year old Kerr has been playing racquetball for ten years and recently captured both the girls 16-and-under and 18-and-under titles at the World Junior Championships this past December. Those victories mark the fourth and fifth World Junior Championship titles for Kerr and only the second time that a Canadian has won the Girl's 18 and under singles title. No athlete, male or female, has ever won both of these events in the same year.

As one of the finalists for the award, Lisa had the opportunity to meet current Olympians Elvis Stoyko, Catriona LeMay Doan and Grant Connell. Former Olympian swimmer, Elaine Tanner, presented the award to Kerr. The other two finalists were Allison Farsyth (Nanaimo, B.C.) for alpine skiing and Valerie Hould-Marchand (Calgary, Alberta) for synchronized swimming.

"It's great to receive such positive acknowledgment for my accomplishment," Kerr said. "Playing racquetball represents an inner challenge and desire, which is satisfied only by training and playing to the fullest of my potential. While gold medals and awards are not the ultimate of my goals, it is great to help racquetball receive the attention it deserves, and in particular to promote female athletic development."







## German Open

Reported by Mike Mesecke

The 17th playing of the German Open, one of the most popular tournaments in Europe, was held in Hamburg on March 6-8, 1998. With Germany's best players (but without German National Champion Trevor Hayter) this event had great games and it brought people from different countries together again.

The 1997 German Open Champion, Achim Loof, defended his title against Bernd DeForge, both from Hamburg, Germany. Loof also took over the # 1 in the German ranking from Germany's National Champion Trevor Hayter, who was not able to play in this tournament. "I missed him a lot. He is always a great bonus for such an event. The fans just like him," said tournament director Mike Mesecke, who was very happy that people from the USA, France and other German cities were able to attend on this weekend. "We might have to schedule the next German Open for April 1999 since there are too many tournaments going in March and a lot of good players got too tired after the stressful season."

European Seniors Champion Bernd DeForge also won the 1998 German Open Seniors title. "This might be one of my best seasons ever," he said. DeForge won against National team member Marc Scheffler.

In the Juniors divisions, the two German National Champions Gun Choi and Jan Jensen won their first German Open titles in the Boys U14 and Boys U10. Jennifer Dach won her first title ever in the Girls U10 division.

**FINAL RESULTS** — Men's Open: Achim Loof def. Bernd Droege 2:0; 3rd place: Marc Scheffler-Jason Linnell 2:0. Men's B: Mike Mesecke def. Thomas Gennrich 15:7/15:13; 3rd place: Joerg Ludwig def. Steffen Schroeder 15:5/6:15/11:7. Men's C: Thomas Gennrich def. Markus Mindnich 2:0; 3rd place: Herrman Bachmaier def. Timo Zeuch 15:7/4:15/11:5. Women's Open: Yvonne Kortess def. Melanie Voigt 15:5/15:2. Doubles Open: Achim Loof/Andre Schimpf def. Dieter Stengl/Marc Scheffler 15:13/15:9; 3rd place: Bjorn Jensen/Joerg Ludwig-Martin Klippel/Thomas Gennrich 15:11/12:15/11:8. Boys U10: Jan Jensen-Maximilian Florian 15:7/15:2; 3rd place: Jennifer Dach-Tobias

Schunke 6:15/15:8/11:5. Boys U14: Gun Choi def. Ame Schmitz 15:11/14:15/11:10; 3rd place: Sahin Acar-Melanie Voigt 15:9/15:2. Girls U10: Jennifer Dach def. Lara Ludwig 15:9/15:2; 3rd place: Jennifer Voigt def. Cindy Zimmermann 15:0/15:0.

## USAF in Europe

Reported by Joseph Villarreal

The first United States Air Forces in Europe Command Racquetball Tournament in four years was held at Spangdahlem AB, Germany, 27-29 March 1998. The tournament was one of the biggest successes for the Armed Forces in the past few years, and the tournament staff outdid themselves in true dedication and professionalism. Participants commented on the excellent management of courts and players, which allowed a flawless flow of 45 players in four divisions through four racquetball courts. The hospitality shown by the Fitness Staff was unmatched, and personal kudos were extended to MSgt Becker, SSgt Panoski, and the entire Fitness Staff for going that extra distance to make us feel comfortable.

Several military players from many countries throughout Europe were in attendance, including players from Turkey, Italy, the United Kingdom and Germany. Some of the players were "regulars" like Joseph Villarreal, Mike Bowers, Ynez Slaymaker, Chris Small, Craig Rife, Dan Barbeau, Nate Andree, John Surovy, and many more.

For the newcomers, there was an impressive display of talent, which definitely started with Team Wilson's Trevor Smith and Ryan Percevalle, who each displayed equal amounts of power and finesse. These two will be forces to be reckoned with in the coming year for European Racquetball. Other newcomers included, Kyle Martin (Italy), Scott Barnes (Italy), Michael Norwood (Turkey), and Eric Curtis (Germany).

**FINAL RESULTS** — Women's Open: Champion - Ynez Slaymaker (SMSgt), Ramstein; 2. Michelle Brittingham (SSgt), Spangdahlem. Men's Open: Champion - Dan Barbeau (SMSgt), Spangdahlem; 2. Mike Bowers (DOD Civ), Kaiserslautern; 3. Joseph Villarreal (TSgt), Ramstein. Men's Seniors: Champion - Craig Rife (MSgt), Spangdahlem; 2. Chris Small (Capt.), Ramstein; 3. Michael Norwood (MSgt), Incirlik. Men's Masters:

Champion - Donnie Crowe (Civ.), Darmstadt; 2. Ron Ruiz (DOD Civ.), Sembach; 3. Mr. Jerome Wells (Civ.), Cologne; Open Doubles: Champions - Joseph Villarreal (Ramstein) and Chris Small (Ramstein); 2. Scott Barnes (Ghedi Italy) and Kyle Martin (Livorno Italy); 3. Trevor Smith (Mildenhall, England) and Ryan Percevalle (Lakenheath, England).

## Hanau Open: March 21-22

**FINAL RESULTS** — Men's Open A: 1. Mike Bowers (Kaiserslautern); 2. Martin Klippel (Hamburg); 3. Mike Mesecke (Hamburg). Open B: 1. Herbert Taitingfong (Ramstein AB); 2. Jerry Buchanan (Darmstadt); 3. Peter Rakowski (Hamburg). C Novice: 1. Yvonne Kortess (Bad Tolz); 2. Markus Mindnich (Mainz); 3. William Coe (Hanau); 4. Ame Schmitz (Hamburg). Seniors: 1. Rico Southree (Ramstein AB); 2. Bjorn Jensen (Hamburg); 3. Jorg Ludwig (Hamburg). Women's Open: 1. Ynez Slaymaker (Ramstein AB); 2. Elke Esquibel (Schweinfurt); 3. Judy LeFlore (Mannheim).

## United Nations Namesake!

On behalf of the International Racquetball Federation, Gary Mazaroff of Albuquerque, New Mexico recently wrote to Ambassador Bill Richardson to seek his support for "United Nations Racquetball." In part, his letter read:

*International Racquetball is in a similar position to that faced by international basketball thirty years ago. Most of the coaches, trainers, and clinicians are from the United States. They are frequently summoned to five continents in order to spread the values of the sport of racquetball. We have programs in place which will soon produce instructional and coaching leaders within these developing countries.*

*In the scheme of things, our mission seems light-years removed from Middle Eastern co-existence and other daily concerns. Nevertheless, we promote health and fitness for a worldwide audience, and an opportunity for conflict resolution within the sporting arena. In our own way, we can effectively do what you are trying to accomplish. Some of our athletes reside and have resided in New Mexico. As a long standing U.S. Representative from the Third District in New Mexico, you can appreciate the importance of bringing diverse cultures together for a common goal in a non threatening environment. Sport, especially racquetball, is our avenue! We intend to be successful!*

# rb:people & places

## **Joseph Sobek, Inventor of Racquetball, Dies at 79**

**By FRANK LITSKY – New York Times**

Almost a half-century ago, Joe Sobek, frustrated that he could not find an indoor racquet sport he liked, designed a new racquet, found a ball of the right size and spring, and invented racquetball. On Friday, March 27, he died at Greenwich Hospital in Connecticut at age 79.

The cause was congestive heart failure, said his wife, the former Nancy Erlichman.

According to Luke St. Onge, the executive director of the United States Racquetball Association and secretary general of the International Racquetball Federation, the sport Mr. Sobek invented now has 7 million players in the United States, 8.5 million worldwide.

Mr. Sobek was the first person inducted into the Racquetball Hall of Fame. His sport is played in 91 nations, with a lucrative professional tour in the United States, Japan, Mexico and Canada. It is part of the quadrennial Pan American Games, and the international federation is trying to have it added to the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

Joseph George Sobek was born April 5, 1918, in Greenwich and was raised there. Until he retired in 1985, he had spent most of his life as a tennis and squash racquets professional at the Greenwich Country Club; the Westchester Country Club in Rye, N.Y., and the Fairview Country Club in Greenwich.

But it was an office job at a rubber manufacturing plant in Bridgeport, Conn., that led to the start of racquetball in 1950.

"For me," Mr. Sobek once said, "suddenly not to exercise regularly, sitting on my fanny all day and watching my waistline spread was very hard to take."

He was such a good squash racquets player that he had trouble finding opponents. He rejected handball as "too strenuous and too hard on the hands." He spurned paddle ball as too slow. Then an idea struck, a variation of paddle ball.

Legend has it that he sawed off part of the handle of a tennis racquet. In truth, he started with a platform-tennis paddle altered with strings. Then, after many experiments, he found that the core of a tennis ball produced a rubber ball smaller, softer and not as lively as a handball. Racquetball was born.

To promote his invention, Mr. Sobek took it on the road. He founded the Paddle Rackets Association, but he never played in a tournament. Y.M.C.A.'s, which housed most of the nation's handball courts, would not allow professional athletes to take part, and he had been a tennis professional on and off since 1937.

In 1968, a group of racquetball players formed an association and asked Robert Kendler, the president of the United States Handball Association, to promote the sport. In 1969, the new group held a national championship. Within a year, Mr. Kendler had taken over the sport.

Mr. Sobek was out of the picture and went back to work as a tennis professional. He insisted that he was pleased. As he told Tom Carlson for a 1979 article in Racquetball: "I decided that things had grown beyond me and my Paddle Rackets Association, and so I willingly let the big boys take over."

For a 1993 article in Racquetball Magazine, another publication, Sobek told Tom Slear:



*In 1988, Joe Sobek made his last formal appearance at the 21st Annual National Singles Racquetball Championship – where he was honored at the event banquet.*



## rb:people & places

"Kendler had both the money and a proven record in handball. I was old enough to know what happened to squash tennis. It was a good sport, but it never had a chance because of opposing organizations. I'm just proud that something I started has become a multimillion-dollar sport played around the world."

Those multimillions never reached Mr. Sobek. As Mr. Slear wrote:

"All those volunteer hours he spent with engineers at rubber companies designing a suitable ball, all those late nights packaging racquets, balls and rule books before mailing them to interested parties throughout the country. Make money? Hell, he lost plenty and never gave a thought to making any of it back."

Mr. Sobek is survived by his wife; a son, Joseph Jr. of Irvine, Calif., from a previous marriage; a brother, Edward of Conyers, Ga.; two sisters, Florence Coppola of Greenwich and Barbara DiNardo of Somers, N.Y.; four

stepchildren, Peter Schuyten of Princeton, N.J.; Candace Smith of Williamsburg, Va.; Katherine Sebestyen of Melbourne, Australia, and Vicky Suscaldo of New Canaan, Conn., and seven grandchildren.

For Mr. Sobek, the satisfaction of invention was enough. "A sport I began for a few friends at the Greenwich Y.M.C.A. is now played by millions of people all over the world," he once said. "It's truly astonishing."

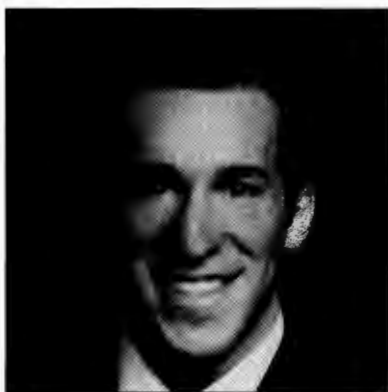
His sport burns almost 800 calories an hour. Power and strength are not required, making it especially attractive to women and older men.

In addition, he said: "When you hit the ball, it makes an awful pop, and that's just a very satisfying noise. It's an easy game to learn. In about 15 minutes of practice, anyone can attain instant mediocrity."

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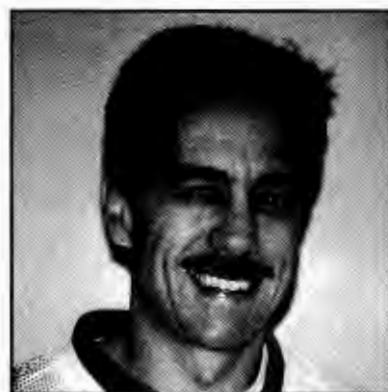
Above: Dan Obremski & Michelle Gould

### USRA Athletes of the Year

Current National Singles champions Dan Obremski of North Versailles, Pennsylvania and Michelle Gould of Boise, Idaho were selected by the USRA Board of Directors as the 1997 Athletes of the Year, along with Mitt Layton of Jacksonville, Florida and Debbie Tisinger of Canoga Park, California as the Age Group Athletes of the Year. Layton is awarded the association's Bud Muelheisen Award, while Tisinger receives the Peggy Steding Award.

Obremski, 34, captured the men's open national singles title last May by defeating two-time champion Michael Bronfeld in the finale. Earlier in the season, he finished second at the 11th Tournament of the Americas in Chihuahua, Mexico, while helping earn the U.S. National squad the overall team title. A sportscaster at WPGH FOX-53 in Pittsburgh, Obremski teamed with long-time partner Doug Ganim to finish in the quarterfinals of the men's open division at national doubles this past October.

Perhaps the most dominant player in the sport's history, Gould, 27, swept through the women's open bracket at last year's national singles to claim her eighth title in nine years. She was



Above: Mitt Layton & Debbie Tisinger

forced to forfeit, due to injury, in the finals of the 11th Tournament of the Americas in March of 1997. Later in the year, with teammate Cheryl Gudinas, Gould finished in the final eight of the women's open division at national doubles.

Mitt Layton ruled the nation in men's 45-and-over play in 1997, winning the age division singles crown at the Ektelon U.S. National Singles Championships in May and then again at the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Championships in November. Layton also took second and third place in the 40+ division at the Singles and OPEN events, respectively.

Debbie Tisinger earned her fifth consecutive World Senior Championships 35+ title this past season, along with 30+ and 35+ crowns at the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Championships. Tisinger also won the gold medal in 35+ and a silver in 30+ at the Ektelon U.S. National Singles Championships. At the Ektelon U.S. National Doubles, the 40-year old captured two more silver medals - in the 30+ and 35+ divisions.

## **Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball National Championships**

January 30-February 1, 1998

By Sue DiPiano and MeriJean Kelley

Just imagine 113 women from across the continent, all over the age of 35, descending on L.A. for a national tournament to play racquetball — just for fun!! No big prize money, no huge trophies, no media attention ... so what!! Women from as far as Alaska and Vancouver, Canada to New York and Florida — and all points in between — competed in the 9th Annual National Women's Senior/Master Nationals held at the Spectrum Club in Canoga Park, California the last weekend of January. Forty-two of the entrants were from California and the 35's had the largest number of participants, with 29.

With the luxury of a 20-court facility to host the event, tournament director, Debra Tisinger and her very competent staff were well organized in getting over 400 matches off to a prompt start on Friday. The three day event offered round robin play for age groups, and due to the size of the draw, most divisions were divided into flights. The top two finishers in each flight (based on total points) earned a quarterfinal spot in the single-elimination title playoffs. In divisions with fewer than

four flights, wild cards holding the next highest point totals rounded out the top eight.

Friday was the day to get "back in the groove" after catching up on a year's worth of each others' lives. Late that afternoon an overflow crowd of appreciative players enjoyed a clinic with Lynn Adams who instructed, demoed, entertained, and lingered until she had answered every last question.

Throughout the weekend, instead of hearing names like Gould and Paraiso, there were bits of conversation about Hall of Famer Jo Kenyon ... "how's she holding up?" "where are Vickie Luque and Liz Lyon this year?" "It's too bad Mary Low got snowed in, she has never missed this one," "Debbie is doing a fantastic job of running the tournament, not to mention an awesome job on the court" and "wasn't that a great clinic by Lynn Adams?" We'll never forget Lynn's "prophetic dream" stories she told at the banquet on Saturday.

The tournament is such a wonderful experience for seniors because it is all about fun. All games are self-officiated and winning takes on a new meaning. It's all about points, perseverance and a never say die attitude — not just winning games but getting as many points as possible against even superior opponents. As Nancy Kronenfeld says "with a little luck, you can still make the playoffs even if you get a donut or two in your flight."

The sportsmanship and good play continued through Saturday. The multi-flight brackets completed their round robin play as well as the lead-off quarterfinal round of the playoffs. That evening everyone gathered at the Marriott for cocktails and dinner. The camaraderie was interrupted briefly for recognition of all playoff participants, semifinalists, age group winners of 60 and above, and a round of applause for all the sponsors, the management and staff of the Spectrum Club, the tournament desk staff and of course the tournament director. Lynn Adams also shared a couple of anecdotes and a few words of inspiration and received a well-deserved standing ovation.

Some notable victories: In the 35's Kim Machiran knocked of last year's winner Debra Tisinger in a hard-fought battle 9, (10) and 3. In the 50's Mary Lou Furaus captured first place in her first time out in this tournament. New champions were crowned in the 40's (Linda Moore), 45's (Judy Sands), and 70's (Dorothy





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**FINAL RESULTS** — 35+: Kim Machiran (Mo.); 40+: Linda Moore (Neb.); 45+: Judy Sands (N.J.); 50+: Mary Lou Furaus (N.M.); 55+: Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.); 60+: Jo Kenyon (Fla.); 65+: Lola Markus (Ill.); 70+: Dorothy Vezetinski (Wash.).

See expanded online lists of event finishers at [www.racqmag.com/newsline/1st98.htm](http://www.racqmag.com/newsline/1st98.htm).

*The entire, assembled group of Women's Senior/Master Championship entrants is shown at right. Photo: Courtesy Kendra Tutsch.*

Vezetinski). Repeat champions included Sharon Hastings-Welty in the 55's, Jo Kenyon in the 60's and Lola Markus in the 65's. Also of note, Jean Tull made the playoffs in the 55's even though she turned 60 on the second day of the tournament!!

As the final matches are being played on Sunday, there was a little sadness and a lot of soreness. Our spirits are high and even more friendships have been cultivated. We congratulate each other on our triumphs and encourage each other to come next year. Most can't wait to see each other in Chicago for the 10th anniversary tournament and do it all over again.

The Women's Senior/Master Racquetball Council would like to thank Jo Kenyon for her devotion to women's racquetball and her years of service on the Board of Directors for the WSMRC. For personal reasons Jo submitted her resignation at this year's board meeting. Congratulations to Debra Tisinger who was chosen, by general election, to fill the vacancy.

Next year's event will be held at the Lattof YMCA in Des Plaines, Illinois the weekend of January 29-31. The courts and host hotel are just minutes from O'Hare International Airport with easy access to downtown Chicago by train. Nancy Kronenfeld will be working with the club and hotel managers to make this event even more special as it will be the Tenth Annual tournament. Many surprises are in store!!! Mark your calendars, pull out your warm coats, and plan on a weekend with good friends and great racquetball!

For more information on the Women's Senior/Master Council contact Kendra Tutsch at 110 S. Midvale Blvd., Madison, WI 53705 (608/233-5865) and for information on the tournament contact Nancy Kronenfeld at

## **LATE-BREAKING PRE-SERIES RESULTS: 1998 EKTELON REGIONALS**

### **March 20-22: Jacksonville, Florida**

Men's Divisions — MO: Chris Cole; MA: Mitch Williams; MB: Horatio Perez; MC: Johnny Miller; MD/Novice: James McDonald; All-Age: John Cole; 25+: Aaron Metcalf; 30+ Curtis Winter; 35+: John Scargle; 40+: Terry Fluharty; 45+: Oscar Corsaut; 50+: Rick Fusari; 55+: Jim Lane; 60+: Bob O'Brien; 65+: Milas Turney.

Women's Divisions — WO: Yesenia DelBusto; WA: Corinne Turnbull; WB: Vivian Gomez; WC: Christine Fenton; WD: Christy Aguirre; WN: Carrie Peppler; All-Age: Yesenia Delbusto; 30+: Lori Lepow; 35+: Susan Pfahler.

Junior Divisions — Boy's 8-MB: Cameron Pfahler; B8-: Kenny Green; B10-: Jamin Godwin; B12-: Brad Slocum; B14-: Justin Meadows; B16-: Matthew McElhiney; B18-: Nick Hawk. Girl's 8-MB: Sarah Parrish.

### **March 27-29: Lombard, IL**

Men's Divisions — MO: Jim Ellenberger; MA: Barry Dixon; MB: Scott Ross; MC: Dan Flood; MD: Ben Croft; Novice: Audi Gutasukas; All-Age: Lem Rowans; 25+: Eugene Coyle; 30+: Brad McCunniff; 35+: Mike Anderson; 40+: Jim Luzar; 45+: Greg Hasty Sr.; 50+: Greg Hasty Sr.; 55+: Pat Taylor; 60+: Jerry Stoltmann; 65+: Charles Kaiser; 70+: Ken Yahiro.

Women's Divisions — WO: Lara Pellowski; WA: Mary Crawford; WB: Leslie Miller; WC: Jill Nelson; 25+: Lara Pellowski; 30+: Amy Tyler; 35+: Mary Crawford; 40+: Laurel Davis; 45+: Brenda White; 55+: Lola Markus; 65+: Lola Markus.

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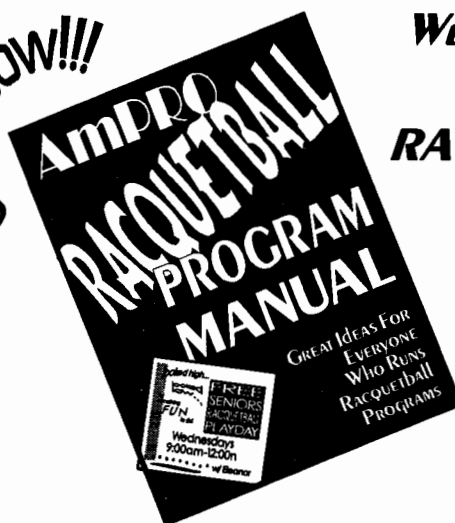
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## USRA - AmPRO

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# team news

## **1998 USRA Junior Olympic National Championships to be held in Portland, Oregon June 27-July 1**

*For the first time, the Ektelon U.S. Junior Olympic Championships will be an "automatic" qualifier for Junior Team USA!*

This year, the USRA Junior Olympic National Championships will be held at the Multnomah Athletic Club in Portland, Oregon June 27-July 1, 1998.

Multnomah Athletic Club, founded in 1981, is the largest athletic facility in the state, with a membership of over 19,000. Located within walking distance of downtown Portland, the club overlooks the Civic Stadium which hosted last year's World Cup Soccer qualifier and is home to the city's professional baseball team, the Portland

Rockies.

We hope that tournament players, their families and friends will consider extending their stay and spend some extra time with us enjoying Portland and the surrounding area.

Portland is located in northwest Oregon, where the Columbia and Willamette rivers meet. Known as the "City of Roses," it is home to the

International Rose Test Garden, where more than 500 varieties of roses bloom. With a population of 1.6 million, Portland is the largest city in Oregon. During summer months, Oregon's climate remains temperate with the average daily maximum temperature during June and July around 75 degrees.

Portland is a great walking city with fountain lined streets, many parks and an ordinance requiring all street level structures be visually appealing. Stroll along the sidewalks paved with famous quotes, visit the nation's smallest dedicated park (just 24 inches in size), sample a

bevy of Northwest brews served up by local microbreweries and specialty coffee shops, and browse through the largest bookstore in the United States. The arts and entertainment scene is one of the best in the country: from heart-pounding, foot-stomping performances by the talented Northwest Afrikan American Ballet to outdoor twilight chamber music concerts to clubs featuring jazz, blues and alternative rock 'n' roll.

There are 37,000 acres of parks in the metro area, including the 5,000-acre Forest Park which is the largest forested municipal park in the nation with miles of hiking, biking and riding trails close to downtown. Also located within 10 minutes of downtown are the Japanese Gardens, Rose Test Gardens, Washington Park Zoo and Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. Tying it all together is our light rail and bus system, free within the downtown area.

Outside the Portland area are many other great places to visit, most of which are within a two hour drive. The Pacific ocean is located 80 miles from the Portland area with several first class resorts available. The Oregon Coast Aquarium, home of Keiko the Orca whale, is a popular destination. Also located on the coast is the Tillamook cheese factory. East of the city is the Columbia River Gorge, site of Multnomah Falls, Bonneville Dam and international windsurfing competitions held in Hood River. Sixty-five miles to the east is Mt. Hood which, at 11,235 feet, is noted as the "most climbed peak" in North America. Timberline Lodge, located at 6,000 feet and constructed in the 1930's as part of FDR's Works Progress Administration, offers year-round skiing and a great weekend away. An hour's drive to the north is Mt. St. Helen's, which erupted on May 18, 1980, blowing away 1,300 feet of its 9,644 foot height. Oregon is also gaining international recognition for its fine wines. Over 50 wineries are located in Yamhill and Washington counties, about an hour's drive west of the city.

So come join us at Nationals and plan to stay for a while. With so much to do and see, we're sure it will be a great vacation! For more information about Portland and the surrounding area, contact the Portland Oregon Visitors Association at (800) 345-3214 or [www.pova.com](http://www.pova.com).

*For juniors, two events serve as qualifiers for the U.S. Junior National Team in 1998. The National High School champions (1 each, male & female = 2) will be appointed to the team for a term of one year, along with top finishers at the Junior Olympic Championships in selected divisions: 18 and under semi-finalists (4 each, male & female = 8); 16 and under semi-finalists (4 each, male & female = 8); plus 14 and under finalists (2 each, male & female = 4). Like its adult counterpart, the 22-member U.S. Junior Team competes internationally and conducts annual goodwill tours.*

# irf world senior

## racquetball championships • september 1-5

### TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS:

**SHERATON UPTOWN ALBUQUERQUE**  
2600 Louisiana Blvd. NE  
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Contact THE SHERATON directly for reservations at 1-800-252-7772 (PHONE) or 505-881-3736 (FAX). RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE 21 DAYS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL DATE.

### CLUB VENUES:

**Tom Young's Athletic Club**, 2250 Wyoming Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87112  
**Midtown Sports & Wellness**, 4100 Prospect Ave. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
**Kirtland Air Force Base East Gym**, Texas and G  
Streets, Albuquerque, NM

**SANCTIONING:** IRF (International Racquetball Federation), USRA (United States Racquetball Association), NMRA (New Mexico Racquetball Association)

**MEMBERSHIP:** Players must present proof of current membership with their respective International Racquetball Association; otherwise, a current USRA competitive license (\$20.00 for 12 months) is required for participation in this tournament.

**RULES & FORMAT:** IRF Official Rules will govern competition unless otherwise specified. Round-robin format for qualifying rounds Tuesday through Friday. Matches consist of 3 games to 11 points. Matches are self-officiated. One tourney point earned for each game point scored, 3 points earned for each game won, and 7 points earned for each match won. At a minimum, the top 8 qualifiers within each age group earn berths in the Saturday Championship Medal Rounds. Flight winners are guaranteed a berth. Saturday playoff matches consist of 2 out of 3 games to 11 points with finals 2 out of 3 games to 15 and an 11-point tiebreaker (single elimination). No consolation matches will be scheduled.

Use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards is mandatory.

**EVENT DIRECTOR:** Gary Mazaroff, 505/266-8960

**ENTRY FEES & DEADLINE:** \$110.00 per player, \$170.00 total for Husband/Wife team. \$45.00 per non-playing spectator (includes meals and banquet). All registration forms and fees must be received at the WSRC office no later than **AUGUST 1, 1998**. Enter early to guarantee a space. Entries are limited to the first 400. **NO REFUNDS AFTER AUGUST 1, 1998**. Make checks payable to: World Senior Racquetball Championships (WSRC). \$5.00 processing fee for VISA/Mastercard.

**REGISTRATION & CHECK-IN:** ALL PLAYERS MUST CHECK IN AT REGISTRATION PRIOR TO PLAYING THEIR FIRST SCHEDULED MATCH. REGISTRATION on **MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2:00 PM TO 7:00 PM** at The Sheraton. Tournament play begins **TUESDAY, September 1, at 7:00 AM**. First match time information will be available at registration. Late registration **TUESDAY - 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at Tom Young's.

### ENTRY FORM. PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION LEGIBLY.

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
GENDER (CIRCLE ONE) MALE FEMALE  
AGE AS OF 9/1/98 \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

### CHECK ONE EVENT PER PARTICIPANT

#### WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

- ☐ 35+  
☐ 40+  
☐ 45+  
☐ 50+  
☐ 55+  
☐ 60+  
☐ 65+  
☐ 70+  
☐ 75+  
☐ 80+  
☐ 85+

#### WHEELCHAIR DIVISION

- ☐ MEN/WOMEN 35+

#### MEN'S DIVISIONS

- ☐ 35+  
☐ 40+  
☐ 45+  
☐ 50+  
☐ 55+  
☐ 60+  
☐ 65+  
☐ 70+  
☐ 75+  
☐ 80+  
☐ 85+

#### PLAYER LEVEL

- ☐ Advanced (Open, AA)  
☐ High Intermediate (A, B)  
☐ Low Intermediate (C, D)  
☐ Novice

STATE RANKING: \_\_\_\_\_  
REGIONAL RANKING: \_\_\_\_\_  
NATIONAL RANKING: \_\_\_\_\_

*Propenn.*

### NO ENTRIES ACCEPTED WITHOUT FEE. FEE ENCLOSED:

- ☐ Individual Player - \$110.00 ☐ Husband/Wife Players - \$170.00  
☐ Non-Player Spectator(s) - \$45.00 each (Enter Name(s) Below.)

Please Check Method of Payment. U.S. CURRENCY ONLY.

Add \$5.00 processing fee for VISA or MASTERCARD.

☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Bank Draft ☐ VISA ☐ MC  
Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

### ALL ENTRIES ARE FINAL. NO REFUNDS AFTER AUGUST 1, 1998.

**WAIVER:** In consideration of my participation in the World Senior Racquetball Championships, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the World Senior Racquetball Championships Council, Tom Young's Athletic Club, Midtown Sports & Wellness, Kirtland Air Force Base, International Racquetball Federation, United States Racquetball Association, New Mexico Racquetball Association, and their respective agents, representatives, successors and assigns for any and all injuries or damage, whether caused by negligence of the above or otherwise.

(Original Signed Waiver Required For Participation.)

### PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE & DATE

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## NEW AMPRO LOGO

AmPRO has a new look! The revised logo shown on page 42 has been designed to visually associate the program with the USRA. The similarities in graphic presentation between the two logos clearly identifies AmPRO as a division of its "parent" association, while maintaining the same appeal of the original, copyrighted USRA logo. It reproduces well, is easy to use in a variety of applications, and can be reduced or enlarged proportionally. Logo sheets are being printed, including color and usage specifications, and are available for certified AmPRO instructors on request. The logo graphic will also be available as a PC format .tif file via email or on disk, by contacting the USRA National Office at 719/635-5396, or AmPRO Director Michelle Gould at 208/362-3844.

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- 6T. Tim Hardison, SC
- 6T. Rob Teren, OH
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- 9T. Billy Barker, OH
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5. Ron Bonds, MI
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8. Todd Cook, NC
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- 4T. Jason Skinner, AR
6. Tim Anderson, MN
7. Kevin Brand, SC
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2. Melvin Todd, TX
3. Vince Session, MI
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- 4T. Jon Hardy, AR
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1. Chris Poole Jr., AR
2. Daniel Fowler, GA
- 3T. Josh Chronister, PA

- 3T. Rob Day, WA
- 3T. Eric Fritchley, OH
- 3T. Lou Lapper, PA
- 3T. Scott Lubbers, MI
- 3T. Jesse Wells, TX
9. Wm. Allen Ayers, AR
10. Mark Benedict, MD

### Men's All Age

1. Ryan Homa, WI
2. Rob DeJesus, NM
- 3T. Not a Member, IN
- 3T. Willie Tilton, CO
5. Mike Dennison, OH
6. Alain Pujolar, FL
7. Scott Grunin, MA
8. Aaron Metcalf, FL
- 9T. Jeff Bloom, VA
- 9T. Jeffrey Garner, AL

### Men's 25+

1. Mike Locker, MN
2. Kevin Graham, ND
3. Rich Baer, NY
4. Brian Pointelin, CO
- 5T. Anthony DeFusto, NY
- 5T. James Lorello, FL
7. Aaron Metcalf, FL
8. Al Schof, LA
9. John Cantrell, KS
10. Steve Gloss, NY

### Men's 30+

1. Brad McCunniff, IA
2. Dan Llacera, DE
3. Gregg Peck, TX
4. Jimmy Lowe, AK
5. Alan Sheppard, NC
- 6T. Pat Bernardo, NY
- 6T. Not a Member, MN
8. John Barrett, PA
- 9T. Lance Gilliam, TX
- 9T. John Scargle, FL

### Men's 35+

1. Mitch Smith, PA
2. Tim Hansen, FL
3. Bob Haab, CT
4. Dave Watson, OK
5. Roger Miller, VA
6. Joe Hassey, AZ
7. Martin McDermott, TX
8. Wayne Gonsalves, AK
9. John Scargle, FL
10. Jim Gillhouse, CO

### Men's 40+

1. Terry Fluharty, FL
2. Mitt Layton, FL
3. Dave Schwent, MO
4. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
5. Gil Rodriguez, VA
6. Jesus Moctezuma, TX
7. Dave Peck, TX
- 8T. Jim Luzar, WI
- 8T. Jamie Velasco, MD
10. Mitch Smith, PA

### Men's 45+

1. Mitt Layton, FL
2. Jim Luzar, WI
3. Jerry Dye, TX
4. Gary Mazaroff, NM
5. Russ Palazzo, CT
6. Bruce Shafer, NY
7. Darryl Warren, CA
8. Greg Hasty, IL
9. Rick Fusari, FL
10. Dave Kovanda, OH

### Men's 50+

1. John Aldape, ID
2. Ed Remen, NC
3. Ray Huss, OH
4. Scott Rudoni, CA
- 5T. Rick Fusari, FL
- 5T. Dennis O'Brien, ID
7. Stan Lemon, TX
8. Horace Miller, IL
9. Sam Machotka, VA
10. R.O. Carson, CA

### Men's 55+

1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Roger Wehrle, GA
3. Les Barbanell, NJ
4. Bobby Sanders, OH
5. Don Harrington, RI
6. Warren Reuther, LA
7. Rex Lawler, IN
8. Tom Rearden, IL
9. Ron Hutcherson, IN
10. Luis Guerrero, CA

### Men's 60+

1. Jerry Stoltmann, WI
2. Jerry Holly, CA
3. Paul Banales, AZ
- 4T. Michael Jackson, CT
- 4T. Ron Maggard, MO
6. Ken Moore, CA
7. Rex Benham, AR
8. Grant Morrill, PA
9. Frank Trask, ME
10. David Jordan, NJ

### Men's 65+

1. John Reid, CA
2. Don Alt, FL
3. Charles Kaiser, MI
- 4T. Otis Chapman, OH
- 4T. John O'Donnell, IL
6. Ken Karmel, AR
7. Vance Lerner, CA
8. Skip Kiphart, TX
- 9T. Jack Bogasky, VA
- 9T. Victor Sacco, NY

### Men's 70+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Victor Sacco, NY
3. Dick Kincade, CO
4. Mal Roberts, FL
5. Hank Richard, GA
- 6T. Earl Acuff, NC

- 6T. Marvin Rosenberg, NJ
- 6T. Duane Russell, MI
- 9T. Not a Member, PA
- 9T. John Dillon, RI

### Men's 75+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Nick Sans, CA
3. Hank Richard, GA
4. Robert McAdam, TX
5. Al Romero, NM
6. Luzell Wilde, UT
- 7T. Bill Matotan, NM
- 7T. George Spear, FL
- 9T. Mike Friedman, ME
- 9T. Ossie Schulz, CA

### Men's 80+

1. George Spear, FL
2. Harry Steinman, MD
- 3T. C. Allen Shepherd, MD
- 3T. Andy Trozzi, MA

### Men's 85+

1. Ralph Hoyle, NY

## WOMEN

### Women's Open

1. Kersten Hallander, CA
2. Janell Marriott, RI
3. Michelle Gould, ID
4. Carol Kriegler, MN
5. Denise Mock, TX
6. Ines Queiros, CT
7. Rosemary Anderson, NC
8. Janet Tyler, FL
9. Debbie Brown, ME
10. Cheryl Gudinas, IL

### Women's A

- 1T. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
- 1T. Debbie Fiordilino, NY
3. Megan Bals, NE
4. Karen Schmidt, CA
5. Isabel Delgado, FL
- 6T. Victoria Carpenter, NC
- 6T. Thelma Ruhlen, VA
- 6T. Sheri Viscount, DE
9. Karen Wigder, CT
10. Jeanette Coury, TX

### Women's B

1. Kristen Kovar, NE
2. Kassi Herr, FL
3. Grace Jaworsky, KS
4. Diane Taylor-Whitman, MA
5. Stephanie Walker, NC
- 6T. Shellie Davis, TN
- 6T. Not a Member, TX
- 6T. Patricia Weaver, KS
- 9T. Patricia Bentz, WA
- 9T. Barbara Bond, GA

### Women's C

1. Terry Truvillion, MI

2. Nathania Stewart, GA
3. B.J. Calloway, GA
4. Jesi Fuller, NM
5. Judith Justice, SC
- 6T. Nancy Cole, TX
- 6T. Laurie Gordon, CT
- 8T. Vivian Gomez, FL
- 8T. Susan Huntsman, TX
- 8T. Sheri Kinnaman, AR

### Women's D

1. Alicia Matza, CA
2. Rhonda Lindenman, OK
3. Tammy Pacinelli, NM
4. Dianne Elmore, AR
5. Jennifer Quon, CA
- 6T. Erica Beaudry, CO
- 6T. Gail Gabrysh, TX
- 6T. Peggy Hartmann, IL
- 6T. Mary Jo Hodgkinson, OH
- 6T. Not a Member, FL

### Women's Novice

1. Nikki Winfrey, OH
- 2T. Kastle Arturo, AK
- 2T. Karen Berry, IL
- 2T. Linda Gubitose, PA
- 2T. Lourdes Rivera, FL
6. Not a Member, IN
- 7T. Janice Heinemann, MO
- 7T. Amy Manneer, PA
- 7T. Andrea McDonald, MD
- 7T. Tammy Pacinelli, NM

### Women's All Age

1. Shannon Feaster, DC
2. Sadie Gross, SD
- 3T. Tammy Brockbank, ID
- 3T. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
5. Vanessa Tulao, NC
6. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
7. Aimee Roehler, PA
- 8T. Erika Juhl, DE
- 8T. Kim Machiran, MO
- 8T. Lori Perino, MT

### Women's 25+

1. Michelle Wiragh, MD
2. Elaine Mardas, OH
3. Jen Yokota, MO
4. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
5. Tina Bragdon, CO
- 6T. Peggine Callahan, CA
- 6T. Holly Remen, NC
- 6T. Jo Shattuck, CO
9. Kim Herrold, SC
10. Sue Cox, FL

### Women's 30+

1. Lorraine Galloway, NY
2. Debbie Tisinger, CA
3. B.J. Ehr Gott, CT
4. Lydia Hammock, CA
5. Holly Remen, NC
6. Mindy Hartstein, NY
7. Stacy Sour, CO
8. Teri Lawrence, FL



# rankings...rankings

These rankings are based  
on results processed by  
the national office as of:  
**MARCH 15, 1998**

9. Lori Lepow, FL
10. Rosemary Anderson, NC

## Women's 35+

1. Debbie Tisinger, CA
2. Denise Mock, TX
3. Lorraine Galloway, NY
4. Kim Machiran, MO
5. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
- 6T. Mary Bickley, PA
- 6T. Melanie Britton, FL
- 6T. Jodi Paul, PA
- 6T. Janet Tyler, FL
10. Mary Beke, AZ

## Women's 40+

1. Linda Moore, NE
2. Karen Bouchard, FL
3. Janice Chayt, NJ
- 4T. Mary Bickley, PA
- 4T. Susan Hendricks, AZ
6. Jean Trimble, FL
7. Marcia Richards, CO
8. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
9. Val Shewfelt, UT
10. Debbie Brown, ME

## Women's 45+

1. Judy Sands, NJ
2. Shelley Ogden, OH
3. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
4. Janet Myers, NC
- 5T. Renee Fish, FL
- 5T. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
7. Karen Weins, FL
- 8T. Debbie Chaney, IN
- 8T. Carol Palombino, CA
10. Gerri Stoffregen, OH

## Women's 50+

1. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
2. Pattie Schof, LA
- 3T. Agatha Falso, FL
- 3T. Mary Lou Furaus, NM
- 3T. Meri Jean Kelley, CA
6. Nidia Funes, CA
7. Donna Ebner, MO
- 8T. Gwen Benham, AR
- 8T. Jean Heckman, NY
10. Carol Pellowski, WI

## Women's 55+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
2. Gail Schaefer, MD
3. Rose Stoltmann, WI
4. Marquita Molina, CA
5. Jo Kenyon, FL
6. Pauline Kelly, IL
7. Nidia Funes, CA
8. Mildred Gwinn, NC
9. Annabelle Kovar, NE
10. Joy DeSantis, CA

## Women's 60+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Susan Embry, CA
3. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

4. Jane Graham, GA
- 5T. Lola Markus, IL
- 5T. Kathy Mueller, MN
- 7T. Helen Dunsmoor, ID
- 7T. Naomi Eads, MO
- 7T. Ellie Sanchez, NM
10. Mary Peterson, CA

## Women's 65+

1. Lola Markus, IL
2. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
3. Reta Harring, WI
4. B.G. Railey, KY
- 5T. Louise Kiss, NM
- 5T. Audrey Thixton, OK

## Women's 70+

- 1T. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
- 1T. Dorothy Vezetinski, CA
3. Mary Lou Kackert, NM
4. Beth Keene, TX
5. Roberta Schoenfeld, NM

## Women's 75+

- 1T. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
- 1T. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR
3. Christine Stephens, TX

## Women's 80+

1. Zelda Friedland, NM

## BOYS

### Boy's 6 & Under

1. Not a Member, WI
2. Michael Kaupla, WI

## B6- Multi-Bounce

1. Erick Podwill, OR
2. Ryan Noble, NC
3. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
4. John Sanderson, UT
- 5T. Mike Clark, OR
- 5T. Jordan Faith, CO
7. Devin Rojas, OR
8. Andres Garcia, CA
9. Rutger Jackson, CO
10. Ryan McDaniel, CO

## Boy's 8 & Under

1. Nick Arturo, AK
2. Jamin Godwin, FL
3. Matt Keddle, NH
4. Mark Beaudry, CO
- 5T. Jansen Allen, TX
- 5T. Brad Starken, WI
7. Allan Crockett, AL
8. Conner Reynolds, GA
9. Matthew Machiran, MO
10. Cam Grundman, MN

## B8- Multi-Bounce

1. Brandon Callihan, AK
- 2T. Eric Noble, NC
- 2T. Avery Zuck, OR
4. Matthew Machiran, MO

5. Cam Grundman, MN
6. Justyn Asuncion, MA
- 7T. Andy Bertagnoli, WI
- 7T. Kenneth Green Jr., GA
- 7T. Matt Keddle, NH
10. Tim Tilton, CO

## Boy's 10-

1. Charley Pratt, OR
2. Joey Lakowski, OR
3. Chris Coy, OK
4. Drew Toland, AR
5. Andrew Grissom, CA
6. Mike Keddle, NH
7. David Lewis, CO
- 8T. Matthew Hammond, OH
- 8T. Brad Starken, WI
10. Matt Johnson, NM

## Boy's 12-

1. Steven Klaiman, TX
2. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
3. Clay Burris, FL
4. Mike Keddle, NH
5. Jacob Karmelin, GA
- 6T. Patrick Debord, NE
- 6T. Nicholas Rowley, AZ
8. Eddie Mazur, CT
- 9T. Adrian Anulewicz, CT
- 9T. Not a Member, WI

## Boy's 14-

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Bart Crawford, OR
3. Matthew McElhiney, FL
4. Trevor Crowe, OR
5. Adrian Anulewicz, CT
- 6T. Michael Lawrence, AL
- 6T. Erik Leetch, AR
8. Chad Walters, NC
9. Bobby Tantalo, NY
10. Darrin Prince, MN

## Boy's 16-

1. Ryan Staten, KS
2. Jeffrey Garner, AL
3. Josh Tucker, MO
4. Mike Harmon, FL
5. Brent Walters, NC
6. Shane Vanderson, OH
7. Matt Gehling, MD
- 8T. Brad Jantz, WI
- 8T. Darrin Prince, MN
- 8T. Fred Tantalo III, NY

## Boy's 18-

1. Mark Bloom, TX
2. Rocky Carson, CA
- 3T. Not a Member, CA
- 3T. Josh Tucker, MO
- 5T. Chris Crowther, CA
- 5T. Jeffrey Garner, AL
7. Willie Tilton, CO
8. James Ford, WY
- 9T. Eric Lackscheide, MO
- 9T. Sam Ryder, WI

## GIRLS

## G6- Multi-Bounce

1. Nicole Robinson, OR
2. Brittany Legget, OR
- 3T. Amber Hanson, OR
- 3T. Becca Machiran, MO
5. Kara Mazur, CT
- 6T. Jennifer Fenton, NE
- 6T. Dannielle Pimental, OR
- 8T. Laurie Reid, CO
- 8T. Lisa Reid, CO

## Girl's 8 & Under

1. Brittany Legget, OR
2. Shannon Inglesby, OR
3. Rebeka Kopf, NY
4. Jenny Epstein, NY
5. Kara Mazur, CT
- 6T. Brandi Alexander, LA
- 6T. Dannielle Pimental, OR
8. Nicole Robinson, OR
- 9T. Sarah Davis, AR
- 9T. Brianna Elder, MD

## G8- Multi-Bounce

1. Brittany Legget, OR
2. Kara Mazur, CT
3. Shannon Inglesby, OR
4. Brooke Schulenberg, MN
- 5T. Jenny Epstein, NY
- 5T. Nicole Robinson, OR
7. Sharon Jackson, IN
- 8T. Not a Member, NM
- 8T. Alicin Schmeling, OK
- 8T. Shanae Taylor, IN

## Girl's 10-

1. Ashley Legget, OR
2. Brandie Hanson, OR
3. Ashley Willhite, OR

4. Natalie Starken, WI
5. Kelley Fisher, OH
6. Katie Lyons, FL
7. Kimberly Walsh, UT
8. Kastle Arturo, AK
- 9T. Trina Harper, WI
- 9T. Jenny Hough, MD

## Girl's 12-

1. Kimberly Irons, OH
2. Adrienne Fisher, OH
- 3T. Lindsay Deutsch, TX
- 3T. Jesi Fuller, NM
5. Derai, Darling, OR
6. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
7. Brittany Larson, OK
8. Mary Sweeney, NY
9. Erica Beaudry, CO
10. Katherine Stock, OR

## Girl's 14-

1. Melanie Mueller, CO
2. Krystal Csuk, IL
3. Krystal Csuk, IL
4. Crystal Winfrey, OH
5. Molly Law, CO
6. Kristen Kovar, NE
7. Amy Jo Hollingsworth, OR
8. Jeni Fuller, NM
9. Juliana Mayor, NY
10. Adva Buzi, TX

## Girl's 16-

1. Brooke Crawford, OR
2. Megan Bals, NE
3. Sara Borland, IA
4. Maggie Debord, NE
- 5T. Natasha Elmore, AR
- 5T. Not a Member, NY
7. Meghan Guardiani, MA
8. Jenn Swallow, PA
9. Davina Bloom, LA
10. Krystal Csuk, IL

## Girl's 18-

1. Brooke Crawford, OR
- 2T. Liana Kerwood, OR
- 2T. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
4. Katie Gould, MO
5. Sara Borland, IA
- 6T. Vanessa Tulao, AL
- 6T. Kristen Walsh, UT
- 8T. Erin Frost, OR
- 8T. Melissa Harmon, FL
10. Christina Lewendal, OR

## Event Level & Description

## Finish & Point Awards

|                             | 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.



## MAY

**May 14**  
National Warmup  
Club International  
Santa Fe, NM  
505-266-8960

**May 15**  
I Love R-Ball Series  
Aspen Hill Club  
Silver Spring, MD  
301-598-5200

Merced Spring Open  
Merced Sports Club  
Merced, CA  
209-722-3988

Championships at the  
Bay @ Bayhill Ath. Club  
Milpitas, CA  
408-946-2151

YMCA Campaign For  
Kids @ Lexington-  
Central KY YMCA  
Lexington, KY  
606-254-9622

**May 16**  
Nationals Shoot-Out  
Northwest Fitness Ctr.  
Houston, TX  
713-895-8688

Spring Fling Cash  
Classic @ The Orlando  
Fitness & Racquet  
Orlando, FL  
407-645-3550

**May 20 - 25**  
**Ektelon USRA**  
**31st National**  
**Singles**  
**Championships**  
**Downtown YMCA**  
**Houston, Texas**  
**719-635-5396**

**May 24**  
JCC of Greater Palm  
Beach Memorial Day  
W. Palm Beach, FL  
561-689-5747

**May 29**  
Dr. Pepper Classic  
Sportsfirst  
Mt. Brook, AL  
205-871-3039

3rd Irving Fryar Tourn.  
Quadrangle East Ath.  
Club - Coral Springs, FL  
954-753-8900

## JUNE

**June 5**  
Park Point Open  
Park Point Athletic Club  
Santa Rosa, CA  
707-578-1640

Super 6 Racquetball  
Series @ LaCamarilla  
Racquet & Fitness  
Scottsdale, AZ  
602-730-8156

The Radical R-Ball  
Series @ Heights Health  
& Racquet Club  
Worthington, OH  
614-436-6886

**June 11**  
First Security NM  
Games @ Midtown  
Sports & Wellness  
Albuquerque, NM  
505-266-8960

13th Annual Pepsi Cup  
Team Championships  
Colorado Athletic Club  
Aurora, CO  
303-696-9313

**June 12**  
Gold Country Open  
Auburn Court House  
Auburn, CA  
916-885-1964

Interbay Classic  
Interbay YMCA  
Tampa, FL  
813-839-0210

June Classic  
Elmwood Fitness Center  
Harahan, LA  
504-733-1600

Massachusetts Senior  
Games @ New England  
Health & Racquet  
W. Springfield, MA  
413-748-3030

Virginia State Games  
American Family Fitness  
Richmond, VA  
804-330-3400

**June 13**  
Metro B'ham City  
Championships  
Courtsouth  
Vestavia Hills, AL  
205-823-2120

**June 19**  
Summer Siesta  
Ultimate Courts  
El Paso, TX  
915-859-5585

Summer Splat  
Modesto Court Room  
Modesto, CA  
209-577-1060

**June 20**  
Summer Shoot Out  
Northwest Fitness Ctr.  
Houston, TX  
713-895-8688

**June 26**  
Quad West Summer  
Classic @ Quad West  
Athletic Club  
Clearwater, FL  
813-535-4901

Summer Bash  
Sports Club of Asheville  
Asheville, NC  
704-252-0222

Summer Doubles  
Continental Ath. Club  
Westerville, OH  
614-890-6073

2nd Summer Classic  
St. Andrews Family Rec  
Center  
Charleston, SC  
803-556-2518

**June 27 - July 1**  
**Ektelon 25th U.S.**  
**Junior Olympic**  
**Championships**  
**Multnomah**  
**Athletic Club**  
**Portland, Oregon**  
**719-635-5396**

## JULY

**July 10**  
The Courthouse of  
Blues Open  
Jackson, MS  
601-956-1300

**IRF 9th World**  
**Championships**  
**Cochabamba,**  
**Bolivia**

Redwood Empire Open  
Rancho Arroyo Racquet  
Club - Petaluma, CA  
707-795-5461

Southern California  
Championships @ Los  
Caballeros Sports Vlg.  
Fountain Valley, CA  
714-546-8560

Tom Pappas Memorial  
Wilmington Sportsplex  
Memphis, TN  
901-388-6580

**July 17**  
Georgia Games  
Georgia Tech Student  
Athletic Complex  
Atlanta, GA  
404-636-7575

The Way It  
Wuz...Again!  
TBA, CA  
510-794-9594

**July 18**  
Summer Pick of the  
Pairs Tournament  
Allentown R'ball Club  
Allentown, PA  
610-821-1300

Summer Shoot Out  
Northwest Fitness Ctr.  
Houston, TX  
713-895-8688

**July 22**  
NMRA International  
Masters Invitational  
Las Vegas, NV

**July 24**  
5th Annual Summerfest  
Glass Court Swim &  
Fitness - Lombard, IL  
630-629-3390

## AUGUST

**August 1**  
Quad West Doubles  
Warm-Up @ Quad  
West Athletic Club  
Clearwater, FL  
813-535-4901

**August 7**  
Friendly's Restaurant  
Doubles @ Nautilus  
Fitness Ctr - Erie, PA  
814-868-0072

Summer Doubles Shoot  
Out @ The Orlando  
Fitness & Racquet  
Orlando, FL  
407-645-3550

### USRA Official Event Sponsors

• E-Force • Ektelon  
• Penn • ProKennex  
**USRA Approved Balls**  
• Dunlop • Ektelon  
• Penn (official) • ProKennex  
• Spalding • Wilson



# Calendar...calendar

**BOLDED** listings are  
State Championships  
(Level 3) or higher.

August 14  
Florida State Doubles  
Orlando, FL

August 20  
Utah State Junior  
Championships  
Redwood  
Multipurpose Center  
West Valley City, UT  
801-974-6923

August 22  
Doubles Shoot Out  
Northwest Fitness Ctr.  
Houston, TX  
713-895-8688

August 28  
Best of Bexar  
Racquetball & Fitness  
San Antonio, TX  
210-344-8596

Summer Hot Cash  
Classic @ Omega 40  
Ormond Beach, FL  
904-672-4044

## SEPTEMBER

**September 1 - 5**  
**IRF 10th**  
**World Senior**  
**Racquetball**  
**Championships**  
**Tom Young's**  
**Athletic Club**  
**Albuquerque,**  
**New Mexico**  
**505-266-8960**  
**[See entry on**  
**page 53]**

September 11  
Regional Doubles  
Racquetpower  
Jacksonville, FL  
904-270-2224

September 18  
Blast It  
The Sports Center  
Fayetteville, NC  
910-864-3303

**1998 USRA NATIONAL EVENTS**  
**May 20-25** Ektelon USRA 31st U.S. National Singles: Houston, TX  
**June 27 - July 01** Ektelon USRA 25th U.S. Junior Olympics: Portland, OR  
**July 08-11** NMRA International Masters Invitational: Las Vegas, NV  
**July 10-18** IRF Ektelon 9th World Championships: Cochabamba, Bolivia  
**August 15-21** Junior Team Training Camp: Colorado Springs, CO  
**August 26-31** High Performance Junior Training Camp: Colorado Springs, CO  
**September 01-05** IRF 10th World Senior Championships: Albuquerque, NM  
**Sept. 26 - Oct. 1** High Performance Adult Training Camp: Colorado Springs, CO  
**October 14-18** Ektelon USRA 31st National Doubles Championships: Baltimore, MD  
**November 11-15** Promus Hotels 3rd U.S. OPEN: Memphis, TN  
**December 18-22** IRF Pro Kennex 10th World Junior Championships: Fountain Valley, CA

**1999 USRA NATIONAL EVENTS**  
**January** USRA Annual Leadership Conference: Colorado Springs, CO  
**January 29-31** Women's Senior/Master Championships: Des Plaines, IL  
**February 17-20** NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Invitational: Phoenix, AZ  
**March 05-07** USRA 12th U.S. National High School Championships: Portland, OR

**September 25**  
Texas State Doubles  
Northwest Fitness Ctr.  
Houston, TX  
713-895-8688

**September 30**  
Magic City Classic Pro-  
Am IRT @ YMCA  
Birmingham, AL  
205-324-4563

## OCTOBER

**October 9**  
Wild West Shootout  
Downtown YMCA  
Ft. Worth, TX  
817-332-3281

**3rd Steve Chapman**  
**Memorial**  
Quadrangle East Ath.  
Club-Coral Springs, FL  
954-753-8900

## NOVEMBER

**November 6**  
FL State Outdoor 4-  
Wall Championship  
Auburndale Municipal

R/B Court  
Auburndale, FL  
941-965-5544

Froggy Open  
Nautilus Fitness Center  
Erie, PA  
814-868-0072

NFC Tournament  
Northwest Fitness Ctr.  
Houston, TX  
713-895-8688

**November 20**  
Holiday Cash Classic  
The Orlando Fitness &  
Racquet  
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