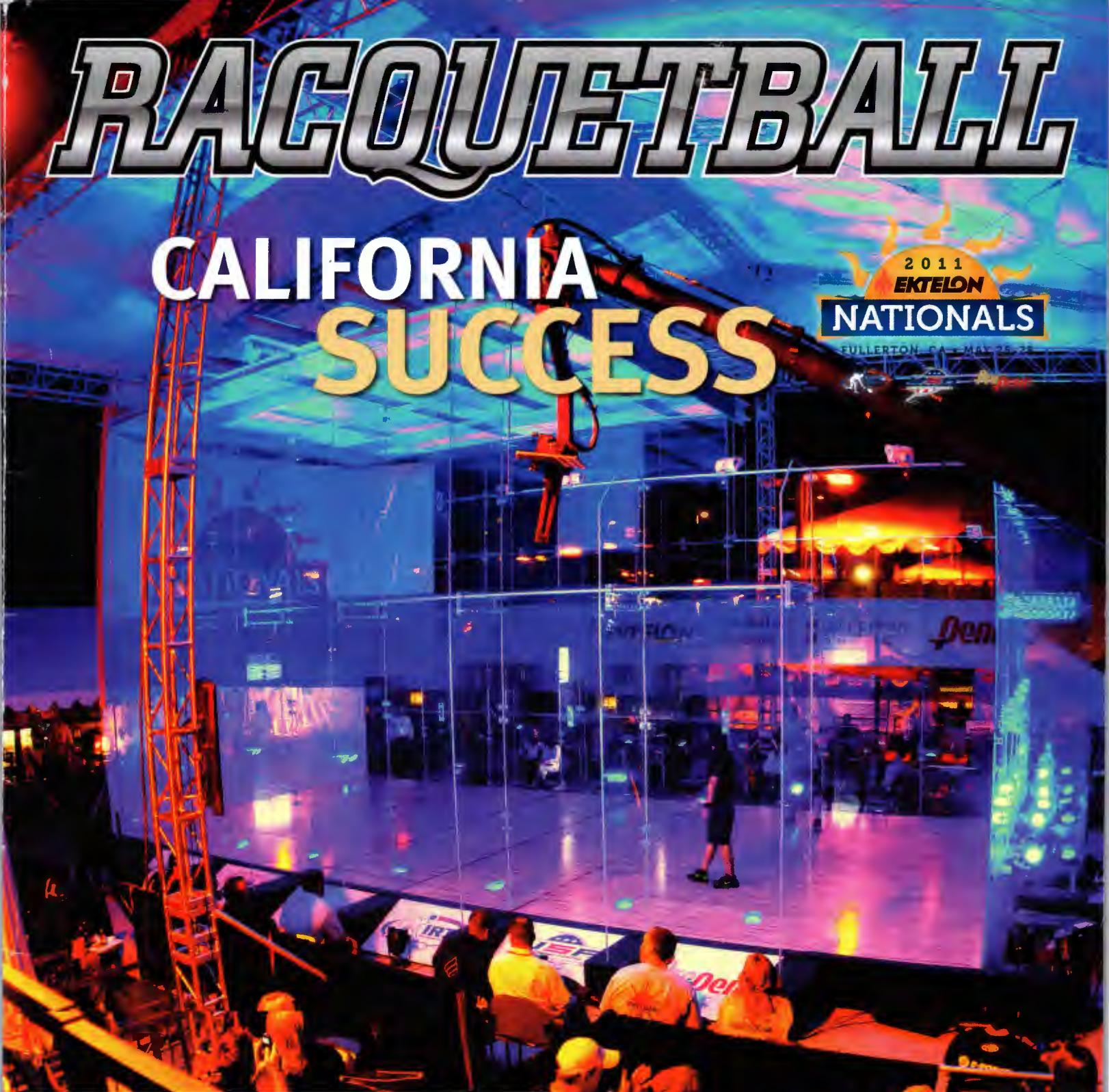


RACQUETBALL

CALIFORNIA SUCCESS



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Singles Recap
- Junior Worlds
- Junior Nationals



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USA Racquetball is the National Governing Body for the sport of racquetball, recognized by the USA Olympic Committee, and is committed to excellence and service to our members. We provide the infrastructure and organization for racquetball. We also provide competitive opportunities for members and enthusiasts through our coordination of racquetball organizations, development and administration of rules and programs, sanctioning of events and development of teams for international competition.

VISION STATEMENT

To provide racquetball opportunities in the sport of racquetball for all levels of participation through:

Objectives:

- **MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT** - USAR values its members and will strive to provide the best possible member services at all levels.
- **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT** - USAR believes that racquetball is a lifetime endeavor and the benefits of health, recreation, and competition should be available to everyone. USAR will strive to expand its membership in order to share these benefits with as many players and supporters as possible.
- **PROMOTION OF THE SPORT** - in order to sustain a strong player base USAR will promote the numerous benefits of participation through mass marketing efforts.
- **COMPETITIVE SUCCESS** - USAR strives to maintain America's position as the number one racquetball nation in the world. Success at the elite levels has a positive influence on every other facet of our sport.
- **SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS** - USAR values its relationship with sponsors and will continue to maximize benefits and exposure.



EKTELON NATIONALS



JUNIOR NATIONALS

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

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By James Hiser, Ph.D.
USAR Executive Director

EKTELON NATIONALS

– An Informational Q&A

The Ektelon Nationals was terrific! To have moved the event to a new location after many, many years was a calculated risk, but the California setting proved very satisfying for the attendees, even those who traveled from the other side of the country to participate. Of course, with any undertaking of this magnitude, the potential for continuous improvement will always exist. We took the opportunity to solicit questions and feedback from players, sponsors and fans. Below are some common observations that arose...

Q. THE EVENT SEEMED TO BE SEPARATED – THE PROS ON ONE LEVEL AND THE AMATEURS ON ANOTHER.

A. The physical set-up of the venue dictated the layout. After Houston, we looked throughout the country to select a venue that could handle the event. The advantages of the Meridian Club in Fullerton (all matches in one location, large gym for hospitality and gathering, good location and hotels) seemed to outweigh the few negatives. Without an exhibition court with adequate seating, we wanted to bring the all-Lucite court to the event in order to maximize viewing for featured matches. The parking structure "up top" was the best location for construction, viewing and use of space.

Q. THE EVENT SEEMED LIKE A PRO EVENT RATHER THAN AMATEUR NATIONALS.

A. Other than IRT player Kane, the players who participated in Houston were the same as those who participated in Fullerton. In order to create another "grand slam" style event with potential for greater visibility (especially for TV filming) and sponsorship, we were pleased to be able to incorporate the IRT pro aspect as value added for this already-popular event. We hope the women pros will be there with us in the future as well.

Q. WHY DID PLAYERS AND FANS HAVE TO PAY TO WATCH THE PROS?

A. Many of the qualifying matches were free to players and spectators. Once we reached the quarterfinals, all pro matches did require a ticket, but amateur participants received a discount. Grand Slam events typically involve an admission price, but tickets were priced economically to reflect the overall status of the event as the amateur Nationals. Future plans include providing additional complimentary access to some early pro matches on the exhibition court.

Q. WE MISSED BEING AT ONE HOTEL LIKE IN HOUSTON, AND WHY WASN'T THERE A BANQUET?

A. Other than Disneyland, which is too far away and much more expensive, there exists no one hotel near the club that can accommodate all participants. The same situation exists for a banquet center that could hold 600+ people like in Houston. The venue and hotel restrictions preclude any large gatherings like in Houston, but future plans do include more social gatherings at the club.

Our gratitude goes to everyone who responded with constructive input, straightforward thoughts and creative ideas. As we move to next year's event, be assured we have taken your input seriously.

Plan to join us in Fullerton next May for an even bigger and better event in the California sunshine!

photo by Darren Olivero



THE BLESSINGS WITHIN

By Cheryl Kirk • Photos courtesy of Tom Travers



What a beautiful thing – you become President of USA Racquetball and they give you a page in a magazine, and you get to write whatever you want (for the most part). Reflecting back on these opportunities as I enter my sixth and final year on the USAR Board (four as president), I've concentrated on keeping my articles upbeat, positive, and hopefully informational as well.

Racquetball is full of people who make a difference out there in the world and, as a pleasant by-product, bring honor and visibility back to our sport. For example, every time I attend a Racquet for the Cure event, I'm struck by the dedication of the players, sponsors and event staff who are using racquetball as a vehicle in support of a higher purpose. It's great to see so many events across the country – RFTCs and many others – that incorporate aspects of fundraising for various worthy causes and provide assistance to those who need it most.

The efforts of some even extend past our American shores. USAR-IP Master Instructor Tom Travers wrote recently, "Sometimes travel takes your life in different directions. I travel to Guatemala every other month or so to help coach their National Racquetball Adult and Junior Teams. Awhile back, I met an American pastor who has

been working in a village for the past 35 years, and through this connection, I began sponsoring a child so she can go to school. Several months ago he took me to the village area to meet the little girl. I was overwhelmed at the conditions where these people live. After visiting their homes (shacks with dirt floors), it really made me realize how much we have here in contrast to the severity of poverty in Guatemala and all over the world. They really grip your heart, especially when you see them in person and witness firsthand what they have to endure year round. These experiences really make me realize how much we have here in the USA, and I appreciate it more and more with every passing day. I decided to commit a good portion of my salary back to Guatemala to help build a house in the village." Travers went on to say that any contribution is welcome, and anyone interested can write to him at coachtravs@aol.com.

Speaking of racquetball ambassadors, a shout-out to our US Junior Team that recently returned from the Junior World Championships in the Dominican Republic: You intended to bring home the gold rather than the bronze, but please know we are incredibly proud of you and the way you represented yourselves, your sport and your country. You are the best!

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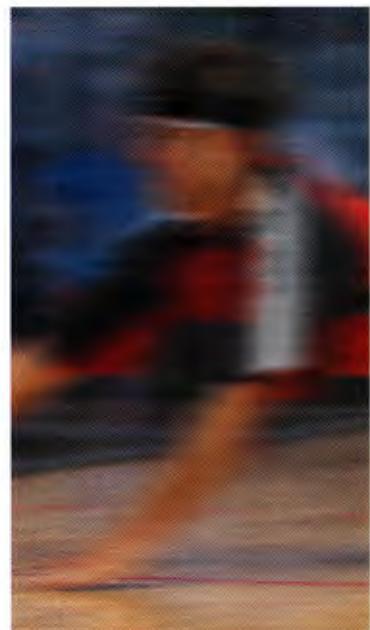
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WILSON BONES.....10.9

The IRT Satellite Tour:

More Stops to Play the Pros, Grow Participation



by Jennifer Sinclair Johnson • photos courtesy of Kim Roy

Major League baseball teams can pick from the minors, but amateur hitters are more than a field of dreams away from playing the top stars. Not so in racquetball. In addition to a full schedule of Grand Slam and Tier 1 tournaments, which are professional tournaments where competitors have to win their way into the pro draw, the IRT offers an expanding schedule of Satellite Tour Stops that provide an entry point to a higher level of competition, community, and energy for players, fans, and host clubs.

For those ready to test their skills against some of the best in the business, battling for purses reaching up to \$15,000 in total prize money, these tournaments feature up to four top-8 players depending upon the tier level, 2-5. The chance to earn a higher position in a Tier 1 or Grand Slam qualifying pro draw also sends competitors to the courts. Kim Roy, Event Director and Consultant, has been involved with Satellite and Tier 1 tournaments across

the USA. "In Florida, the Satellite events earn players valuable ranking points for the upcoming Tier 1's," she says.

Yet it's not just the challengers who can win. Clubs featuring IRT events enjoy more people on the courts and in the stands. Health and Fitness Director Stacy Crase has seen racquetball participation triple in the five years she's run programs at the Garden City Family YMCA in Kansas. "Every tournament gets bigger. Now, I get players from different states, more people are involved, and kids along with adults are picking up the sport."

Increased participation tightens the community within a club, helping it retain and add members. Crase appreciates this community of recreational and pro players. "When I first started, I didn't know where to begin. Now the players meet to help out every time, have my back, and help keep it all going."

She can also count on top ranked pros, like Shane Vanderson and Ben Croft, and retired professionals Mitch



IRT SCHEDULE

Date	Tier	Event	Location
SEPT 9 - 11	T5	HEAD Penn IRT Pro/Am Series #1	Arizona
SEPT 9 - 11	T4	Best of Texas	San Antonio, TX
SEPT 15 - 18	T1	Novasors Kansas City Open	Overland Park, KS
SEPT 21 - 25	T3	World 3 Wall Ball Championships	Las Vegas, NV
SEPT 30 - OCT 2	T3	Seattle Open	Seattle, WA
OCT 5 - 9	GS	US Open	Minneapolis, MN
OCT 14 - 16	T4	Lou Bradley Memorial Pro/Am	Sun Prairie, WI
OCT 21 - 23	T5	Tournament of Terror	Canoga Park, CA
OCT 21 - 23	T5	IRT Florida Satellite Series	Florida
OCT 27 - 30	T1	Red Swain Shootout	Davison, MI
OCT 28 - 30	T4	New Mexico Pro Am	Santa Fe, NM
NOV 4 - 6	T5	IRT Florida Satellite Series	Florida
NOV 4 - 6	T4	Pomona Valley Open	Pomona, CA
NOV 4 - 6	T5	SpongeBob Classic	Oklahoma City, OK
NOV 4 - 6	T4	Long Island Open	Long Island, NY
NOV 10 - 13	T1	Rose City Pro/Am	Portland, OR
NOV 11 - 13	T5	10th Annual Greensfelder St. Louis Open	St. Louis, MO
NOV 17 - 20	T1	Atlanta Open	Atlanta, GA
NOV 18 - 20	T5	Turkey Shoot	Lombard, IL
DEC 1 - 4	T1	Market America Pro/Am	Greensboro, NC
DEC 9 - 11	T5	IRT Florida Satellite Series	Florida
DEC 9 - 11	T5	HEAD Penn IRT Pro/Am Series #2	Arizona
DEC 9 - 11	T3	19th Annual Turkey Shoot	Garden City, KS
DEC 9 - 11	T4	North Dakota Minot Open	Minot, ND
DEC 9 - 11	T5	South TX Racquetball Holiday Pro/Am	Corpus Christi, TX
DEC 15 - 18	T1	Corona Open	Chihuahua, Mexico

IRT RANKINGS



Rank	Player	Points	Advantage	Season Rank	Season Points
1	WASELENCHUK, KANE	5559	1335	1	5791
2	CARSON, ROCKY	4224	803	2	5055
3	CROFT, BEN	3421	61	3	4235
4	HUCZEK, JACK	3360	635	4	3878
5	CROWTHER, CHRIS	2725	257	5	3260
6	HAWTHORNE, ANDY	2468	55	6	2816
7	ROJAS, JOSE	2414	54	8	2661
8	VANDERSON, SHANE	2359	517	7	2764
9	PRATT, CHARLIE	1842	320	9	1950
10	HERRERA, ANTHONY	1522	155	10	1578
11	BELTRAN, ALVARO	1367	75	12	1367
12	CARSON, TONY	1292	47	11	1387
13	WILLIAMS, MITCH	1245	7	13	1245
14	HERRERA, JUAN	1238	317	14	1238
15	MORENO, JAVIER	921	83	15	921
16	HERRERA, ALEJANDRO	838	95	16	838
17	LANDA, ALEJANDRO	743	175	17	743
18	HERRERA, ANDRES	567	65	18	567
19	DE LA ROSA, DANIEL	503	57	19	503
20	ORR, MIKE	446	7	20	446

Williams and Jason Thoerner who "just come," according to Crase. "It meant a lot to hear Croft announce that 'we're a racquetball family.' It's true - people just care."

The IRT is also ready to assist. Adam Karp, VP of Event Development, consults with state associations and governing bodies in order to schedule IRT events in conjunction with national and state calendars. Once the event is planned, Karp works with Event Directors to provide promotional material, discounted products like tee shirts and court stickers, and even free merchandise to help make events a success.

Long after the pop of rubber balls goes silent, the event champion collects his check and the stands clear, the energy continues to reverberate throughout the club. Regardless of who wins or loses, the pros' and local players' diving gets, ace serves, and did-you-see-that-shots are rehashed and relished in conversations outside the courts and around the club for months and years to come.

With more than fifty satellite events planned in twenty U.S. states, Canada, and Costa Rica this season, local fans and regional competitors can look forward to hitting the stands and the courts to battle with racquetball's tops pros and rising stars.

For more information on entering or hosting a Satellite Tour Stop, check out the IRT 2011-2012 schedule or contact Adam@IRT-Tour.com.



WPRO WIND-UP

2010-11: WHAT A YEAR!

Photo and article by Dave Ellis

There are many words that could be used to describe the end of the 2010-11 WPRO season - tumultuous, explosive, outrageous, thrilling, and controversial are just a few. The tour visited Herndon, VA, for the SCS Title and Escrow Pro Am; Stockton, CA for the In Shape WPRO Championships Presented by Ektelon; and New Orleans for the Louisiana WPRO Ektelon World Championships. Each stop ended with an epic battle between Rhonda Rajsich and Paola Longoria.

In Herndon at the SCS Title and Escrow Pro Am, previous action set the pairings for the quarterfinals: Susy Acosta vs. Paola Longoria; Rhonda Rajsich vs. Cristina Amaya; Christie Huczek vs. Adrienne Fisher; and Samantha Salas vs. Kerri Wachtel. All of the matches went quickly with Paola and Samantha moving into the semis along with Christie and Rhonda. The semis saw Paola defeat Samantha and Rhonda defeat Christie, both in four games.

In typical fashion, the final was a battle with Paola quickly winning the first game, 11-3. Rhonda turned it around and won the second game in convincing fashion, 11-5. The pivotal third game was a battle with Paola finally winning it, 13-11. In the fourth, it was all Paola who played consistently and precisely throughout. Rhonda had started the season with wins in the Grand Slam in Cali, the US Open, and a Tier 1 in Arlington, Virginia. Paola had now won three tier 1's in a row with her two previous victories at Canoga Park and Miami.

After a couple of satellite stops, the tour arrived in Stockton, California for another Tier 1. After Paola Longoria and sponsor Steve Cohen won the Thursday evening dou-

bles, sponsors and players enjoyed a pasta dinner at the Ellis' house with Pat's famous hospitality. The party continued Saturday night with a "taquisa" hosted by Jose and Carolina Diaz. No fewer than 1,500 tacos were served to hungry tournament players!

The quarterfinals saw Paola defeating Angela Grisar in three games, Rhonda defeating Cristina Amaya in four games and Samantha taking out Susy Acosta in four. Adrienne Fisher also defeated Aimee Ruiz in four games. The semis that evening were routine victories for Paola and Rhonda, who moved into their fifth straight Tier 1 final.

It was certainly the match that everyone had come to see. Paola started strong, winning the first game, 11-3. She jumped to a big lead in the second, yet midway through the game, Rhonda seemed to gain the momentum. Paola held off the charge, taking the second, 11-8. The third and fourth games were mirror images of the first two with Rhonda moving the match to a tiebreaker with wins of 11-3 and 11-5. The fifth game looked as if it was going to be all Rhonda as she achieved a 9-3 lead. Point 10 continued to elude her as Paola hung on with sideout after sideout. Chipping away at the lead, all of a sudden Paola held match point at 10-9, *and then it happened.*

At the beginning of each WPRO match throughout the tournament, the players were notified of designated court hinders. These consisted of a microphone placed by the IRT Network and the ceiling sprinklers. The sprinklers had cages around them. As Acting Commissioner, I had declared that all of the sprinklers were designated as court hinders. At 10-9, Paola hit a Z serve to Rhonda's forehand. Rhonda attempted a ceiling ball return, which contacted something on the ceiling and pretty much dropped straight down. It did not make the front wall. Referee Fisher evidently thought the shot had hit the light frame, a surface that was not designated a court hinder. She called point and match. Rhonda appealed that the shot had hit the sprinkler. Both line judges disagreed with Fisher and a replay hinder resulted.

The result seemed to unnerve Paola. She was so sure she had won the match. Play continued with Paola having additional match points at the point of replay and again at 11-10. Rhonda earned a sideout and went on to score three points to win the tiebreaker, 13-11. The match was such a classic that it was a shame someone had to lose it. Paola was extremely disappointed, to say the least, and she caused a scene with her subsequent actions. These actions resulted in multiple fines and a suspension of the first tournament in the 2011-12 season.



SCHEDULE

DATE	TOURNAMENT	Level
Oct. 5-9	U.S. Open Racquetball Championships	T1+
Nov. 17-20	Puget Sound Challenge • Olympia, WA	T1
Dec. 8-11	Christmas Classic • Arlington, VA	T1

Two weeks later, the tour moved to New Orleans for a \$20K end of the season grand slam. Throughout the tournament, Paola played as well as any woman ever has, never dropping a game. She had the consistency of Michelle Gould, the speed of Robin Levine, and the competitive drive of Lynn Adams. In three games against Laura Brandt she gave up seven points total; against Angela Grisar she gave up four; against Samantha Salas she gave up eleven; and in the final she gave up fourteen to Rhonda, with nine of those coming in the third game. It was as if her anger from losing the match in Stockton drove her to play with a vengeance.

With her victory in Stockton, Rhonda had only to defeat Kerri Wachtel in the semis to earn the #1 ranking for the season. The last time the two had played was in November in Olympia, WA. There, it was as if Kerri had voodoo powers, reading Rhonda like a book, and hitting shot after shot just out of Rhonda's reach. In New Orleans, Rhonda came out strong and won the first game 11-4. Kerri turned it around and won the second, 11-7. In the third game, Kerri jumped to a 5-0 lead. With her fans becoming nervous, Rhonda stayed composed and

went to the drive serve. The drive serve was the weapon she needed, and her multiple aces and near aces carried her to a four-game victory. With that win, Rhonda had clinched the #1 ranking for the year.

This epic season also included notable changes in the end-of-the-year Top Ten standings. Samantha Salas moved from #10 to a solid #3 ranking. Kerri Wachtel and Cheryl Gudinas clinched #4 and #5, respectively, and veterans Susy Acosta and Jen Saunders moved into the 6th and 7th positions. Colombia's Cristina Amaya finished at #9 and Krystal Csuk finished at #10. Angela Grisar, Christie Huczek and Nancy Enriquez missed tournaments but still managed to finish #11, #12 and #13. For sure, these three ladies will do damage next year. The prediction here, however, is that again in 2011-12, the tour will see the rivalry between Rhonda and Paola play out to the fullest. Barring injury, one of these two will end up #1 and the other will finish #2. It will be a great show. Don't miss it!

AN INTERVIEW WITH GIGI ROCK, NEW WPRO COMMISSIONER

Shannon Feaster served for five years as WPRO Commissioner, but her job with the federal government and her role as a new mother fostered her decision to step away from the WPRO. Under her leadership, the WPRO provided a stable tour for the ladies. This year, ten Tier 1 and above tournaments took place along with four satellites, with an even more impressive schedule slated for the coming season. Commissioner Feaster left the tour in great shape, and the WPRO players extend heartfelt gratitude to her along with their best wishes in the future.

The search was on for a new leader who could continue to expand women's professional racquetball. Enter Gigi Rock! In its recent press release, the WPRO stated: "Known for her boldness, outspoken honesty, and no nonsense approach, Rock is President and Owner of Gigi Rock Productions, and will begin the day-to-day operations as Commissioner for the WPRO, effective July 12."

In her own words, Rock describes her entry into the racquetball world:

When did you first hear about the Commissioner opening on the WPRO tour?

Rhonda Rajsich brought it to my attention. She said she was going to throw my name into the hat for Commissioner of the WPRO. I thought she was joking and didn't think twice about it!

What enticed you to consider becoming the new WPRO Commissioner?

I was intrigued when I found out everyone was serious about my nomination, so I started researching the WPRO. I was amazed at the talent of the athletes and equally amazed that

this sport is not in the public eye. This is in keeping with my background: marketing, selling, and getting elite athletes in front of the public. It was an ideal combination.

What are a few of your short-term goals?

Media, media, media! Without the media's attention, we will still be classified as a "small sport." We need to move these elite athletes into the public eye, get corporations to see their value and support them.

What is your long-term vision?

To make the WPRO as big as any other women's sport organization.

Where does Women's Pro Racquetball fit into the world of professional female athletes?

These ladies rank right up on the charts with Serena Williams, Natalie Gulbis, Lorena Ochoa, Misty May, and other great female athletes. Our women pros hit racquetballs that are flying around in a box at 120 mph. That's crazy – it's athletics at its finest. I would put Rhonda Rajsich up against Serena Williams any day - now that would be great television!

Who are the Women of the WPRO?

These women come from all walks of life - athletes, students, moms, wives, business owners, international players.

What are you looking forward to most about your first season on tour?

Just letting the world outside of racquetball know about these women – their stories, talents, ambitions. Having them treated fairly in the sport, building the fan base, you name it...we have room to make it grow. So bring it on...we are ready!



WSMRA CHAMPIONSHIPS

RETURN TO FLORIDA IN 2012

by Kendra Tutsch

The 23rd Annual Women's Senior/Masters National Racquetball Championships will be held January 13-15, 2012 at the Bath & Racquet Fitness Club and the Sarasota YMCA in Sarasota, FL. The host hotel will be the excellent and newly remodeled Bentley's Resort Hotel in Osprey, FL. This will be our fourth time in Florida, and we look forward to some warm weather and great competition. You will have fun, meet new friends and play a lot of racquetball. You are never out of the draw at this singles round robin tournament. The tournament is for all women 35 and over, and we have Open/A and B/C (Intermediate) divisions for all age groups.

The annual Fun Doubles will be the afternoon of January 12. This is a good chance to meet friends new and old and to check out the courts. Round robin singles play will begin Friday morning.

This is our first tournament on the Gulf side of Florida. Plan to come early or stay after the tournament is over to enjoy all the attractions of the Sarasota area, including Siesta Key Beach, designated as the #1 beach in the U.S. There are numerous other attractions including museums, historic neighborhoods, world-class shopping, state parks for hiking and boating, and wildlife adventures.

Please note: Entry forms will NOT be mailed out. Enter at r2sports (<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=8164>) or download the entry form at www.wsmra.com. The online entry deadline is January 6, 2012, or hard copy entry postmarked by January 4, 2012.

The WSMRA is an organization dedicated to promoting racquetball as a lifetime sport. Our members are women 35 and over who want to compete at a high level but have fun at the same time. We sponsor a yearly national tournament

of self-refereed, round robin play within age groups. All matches in our tournament count in the USA Racquetball ranking system. In this tournament you will not only find yourself competing against some of the best women players in the country, but you will also have a great time. We stress fun, friends and good sportsmanship. The WSMRA is continuing its long-time partnership with our national sponsor, Wilson Racquetball.

For more information on the WSMRA, pictures, results, information as well as entry forms and flyers for the 2012 tournament, please check our web site at www.wsmra.com or contact Kendra Tutsch at kdtutsch@wisc.edu.

WOMEN'S SENIOR/MASTERS RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION 23rd ANNUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



JANUARY 13-JANUARY 15, 2012
Round-Robin Play for Ages 35 and Older
Open/A and B/C Divisions Available
(Fun Doubles Jan 12)



Hosted By:

Bath and Racquet Club

2170 Robinhood St.
Sarasota, FL 34231
941-921-6675

Sarasota YMCA

1075 S. Euclid Ave.
Sarasota, FL 34237
941-955-8194

Host Hotel:

Bentleys Resort Hotel
1660 South Tamiami Trail
Osprey, FL 34229
941-966-2121



Fun, Friendship and Great Competition!!
All matches count in the USAR Rankings

Tournament Directors:

Chad Bailey, Auchad99@hotmail.com
Kathie Trotter, KTrotter@zebra.com
Judy Arnold, judywillbe@yahoo.com

Additional Information contact Terry Rogers, rogersta@comcast.net
or Marjean Kelley, MKelley959@aol.com

Entry forms available this fall:
At the WSMRA website <http://www.wsmra.com>

The USA Racquetball website <http://usra.org>
Or enter online at: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=8164>



NMRA UPDATE

Article and photos by
Bruce Adams, NMRA Secretary

The National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA) completed its International Championship at The Meridian Sports Club in Fullerton, CA, from July 27-30, 2011. The Meridian was "tested" by the NMRA in December for our Doubles Only event. It also hosted the USAR Ektelon Nationals in May. All three events were spectacular. The beautiful Embassy Suites in Brea served as the host hotel and held our event banquet. Participation at this event was 127 players competing in age group singles and doubles divisions.

The banquet was a little different for this event because we had TWO inductees into the prestigious NMRA International Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was started in 1996 and had 37 members before this ceremony. The latest inductees are Colonel Ben Marshall of San Antonio, Texas, in the category of Outstanding Service and Leadership, and John O'Donnell, Jr. of Champaign, Illinois as an Athletic inductee. Both inductees were fighter pilots in the service. Ninety-four-year-old Ben Marshall has been playing for a few years and has served in five wars. John O'Donnell served in two wars and started playing on military bases 40 years ago. (There will be more information posted on the NMRA website and in our newsletter.) Both inductees have been very positive and strong supporters of the NMRA and racquetball in general. John and Ben were humble in being selected to the Hall of Fame. John mentioned many other Hall of Famers that he had played with and against during his NMRA career. His award was presented by Cheryl Kirk, USAR President and fellow member of the Illinois State Racquetball Association. Ben's award was presented by NMRA President and close friend Tom Curran. Ben's daughter Alison was in attendance, as was his son Jack, who served with his dad during the Vietnam War. Congratulations to both Ben and John for your athleticism and service to the NMRA and the racquetball community.

The annual Board of Directors elections are coming this fall/winter for three positions: Tom Curran, Steve Cohen and Carmen Alatorre-Martin are rotating off the Board. Tom will not be eligible for re-election due to term limits. As of this writing, Carmen is undecided whether she will run again. Those interested in running for the Board should contact Cindy Tilbury and David Warner. We plan on using electronic voting via the R2Sports site.

The upcoming schedule is just about set for the next couple of years. The Doubles Only event will be in early December (2011) in Arlington, Texas at The Maverick Club. The March 2012 event will be in Orem and Provo, UT. The July 2012 event will be at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC. The 2012 Doubles Only event



▲ John O'Donnell and Ben Marshall



▲ NMRA Hall of Fame receiving line

is scheduled for Pleasanton, CA. In 2013, we have some possibilities that are in the very initial stages of conversation. Please check back for more developments on these upcoming events and their locations.

Come try out one of our events – you will be hooked like many others have after their first event! The NMRA is dedicated to the racquetball player 45 years. All matches (singles, doubles, and mixed doubles) are self-officiated and round-robin format – No More One Round and Out. Your first event does not require membership to the association, but we hope you will join. We look forward to having you join us at an upcoming event. The camaraderie and friendships you will establish will last a lifetime!

Remember to check out the association newsletter THE RACQUETRACKET - it is now up to 20 pages of entertaining and useful information and can be found online at the website under the NMRA News tab on the left.

For more information, please visit our website at www.NMRA.info and for tournament registration or watching the scoring after the matches, visit www.R2Sports.com; we also encourage our members and readers to visit the USA Racquetball website at www.usaracquetball.com.



Wounded Warrior TRANSITION UNIT

Article and photo courtesy of MRF

MRF made another impact in June as soldiers of the Wounded Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) had the opportunity to learn from The Legend, Ruben Gonzalez, and other great racquetball players who helped host another RRC (Rehabilitation Racquetball Clinic) at Fort Dix/McGuire AFB*.

The clinic was a huge success primarily because of our special guest speakers: Ray Davis, radio host of Racquetball Roundtable on WNJC 1360 AM (a live show every Tuesday evening on topics dealing with the sport of racquetball); Jonathan Clay, President of Rollout Marketing Solutions Clothing/Apparel line; and Tony Gattone and Aki Moore, who will be the RRC instructors for the WTU at Fort Dix as the program ends with another eight-week clinic schedule.

Joint Base MDL (McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst) is located 18 miles southeast of Trenton, NJ. Their primary missions include a center of excellence for training, mobilizing and deploying Army Reserve and National Guard units. The center also provides regional base operations support to on-post and off-post active and reserve component units of all services.



It is a high-quality community environment that includes 848 housing units for service members and their families. This base is also home to the 84th Air Base Wing and the 305th Air Mobility Wing, which has supported every major type of air mobility mission over the past 15 years. More than 13,500 persons live or work within the garrison and its tenant organizations.

For more information about the MRF, check out www.militaryracquetball.com.

WORLD FIREFIGHTERS RACQUETBALL

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER GAMES

By Peter S. Berger

The World Firefighter Racquetball Association has been blazing through tournaments around the country this year. Florida led the way with their State Fire Games. Firefighters came from 15 different departments across the state of Florida and medals were earned in ten different categories. Representatives from the WFRA were in motion as well. Peter S. Berger, Jeff Weinstein, Adam Chevalier, and Adam Perry all earned medals in their respective divisions.

However, the best story of the tournament was the return of a firefighter after a seven-year hiatus. Bill Egan from Pompano Beach Fire Rescue came back from injuries to earn his first medal after fifteen years of competing. It was a great feeling for him, and a thrilling and inspiring story for the tournament.

In July, the California Fire Summer Olympics featured over 35 firefighters from 20 departments. Competition was tough but members of the WFRA did extremely well. Son Nguyen took home a singles gold medal and a gold in doubles, teaming up with Ryan Drumm. Son's doubles competition came from WFRA West Coast representative Danny Hernandez and his partner Steve Johnson who captured silver doubles medals. Greg Dorman, a newcomer to the WFRA, took home the bronze with his partner Richard Perron.

The Colorado Police and Fire Games continued to heat up the summer in Denver. Debbie Beldring and the Denver Athletic Club hosted a great competition July 31-August 2. Over 25 participants came out to compete and to enjoy the view at the foot of the beautiful Rocky Mountains.



WE WILL NEVER FORGET 9/11/01
ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL
R.I.P. THE 343 FDNY

This fall, all roads lead to New York for the 2011 World Police and Fire Games. As Racquetball magazine goes to publication, over 20,000 police officers and firefighters will have converged on the Big Apple for a two-week Olympic-style event. Directors Peter S. Berger of the WFRA and Bill Bearden of the NPRA are eager to fire up the 60 participants who have signed up to play at Lehman College in the Bronx on August 28-30. Besides a strong USA contingent, competitors are also traveling from Ireland, Spain, Mexico, Canada, England and Australia. Commemorating the tenth anniversary of the tragedy that occurred in New York City, the opening and closing ceremonies will be held at Ground Zero.

In other news, the Ektelon Nationals tournament in Fullerton offered a firefighter division this year, and we're hopeful that enough firefighter support will be realized to make this a permanent division at National Singles. In addition, in recent months the WFRA has been designated an American Heart Association training site. Anyone who is in need of certification via any type of CPR course (CPR, Basic Life Support CPR or HeartSaver CPR) can now be trained by WFRA certified instructors. We are proud to be able to offer this service to the racquetball community.

As summer passes, the WFRA is moving with great energy into autumn. State and national tournaments are on the schedule and more firefighters are coming on board all the time. It's a thrill to have so many members, and we look forward to adding more people as we promote and enjoy the great sport of racquetball!

CLOUSE

CLOSES OUT THE CPRT SEASON WITH ANOTHER TOUR TITLE

By Steve Lerner • Photo provided by CPRT

1-9, 9-2 victory, Clouse's domination of Aldinger in the finals secured him the title and the season-ending CPRT Tour Championship. He "three-peated" the Championship by winning the last three events of the season.

The exciting, upset-filled CPRT Nationals weekend ended with Jason Conway and Greg Solis defeating Singles Champion Woody Clouse and Craig Lane in the finals of the CPRT Doubles, 9-7, 9-8, 9-2.



The Classic Professional Racquetball Tour finished a great 2010-11 season at the CPRT Nationals, April 8-10, at the Las Vegas Athletic Club.

A draw of 16 players faced off for the largest purse of the season and bonus ranking points in the season finale. Leading the lineup were the two top ranked CPRT players, Woody Clouse of Highlands Ranch, Colorado and Cliff Swain of Boston. Seeded third was Hawaii's Jimmy Lowe and rounding out the top four was Californian Craig Lane. A full slate of amateur singles and doubles divisions with over 150 entries filled out a fantastic weekend that benefited the National Fibromyalgia Research Association.

The story of Friday at the 2011 CPRT Nationals was the upsets in the quarterfinals. Woody Clouse opened with a fairly quick win over Gerry Price, 9-2, 9-5, 9-6, ending Price's inaugural return to CPRT play after a yearlong injury leave. The next match was the shocker as Travis Aldinger, playing in his first CPRT event after recently turning 40, upset #2 seed Cliff Swain, 9-6, 8-9, 1-9, 9-8, 9-7. Swain came from 0-8 to win the second game and dominated the third game before Aldinger regrouped and hung on to win the last two close games. The upsets continued as Louis Vogel was blown out of the first two games by third seed Craig Lane before mounting a comeback with two tight wins, ultimately wearing down Lane in five, 1-9, 0-9, 9-8, 9-8, 9-2. The evening ended on a disappointing note as Dale Valentine was forced to forfeit to Jimmy Lowe due to illness midway through the match.

Travis Aldinger continued his run with a solid three-game win over #3 seed Jimmy Lowe, 9-7, 9-8, 9-4, earning the right to face Woody Clouse in the finals. Clouse avoided another Louis Vogel comeback with a 9-2, 9-2,

UPCOMING CPRT EVENTS

The new season will continue outdoors with the much-anticipated 2nd Annual 3 Wall Ball World Championships, September 22-25 in Las Vegas! More information is available on www.classicproracquetball.com or enter on r2sports.com.

CPRT RANKINGS

(as of August 1, 2011)

RANK	PLAYER	TOTAL
1	Woody Clouse	3540
2	Cliff Swain	2130
3	Craig Lane	1615
4	Jimmy Lowe	1575
5	Louis Vogel	1055
6	Dale Valentine	1045
6	Mike Ray	1045
6	Travis Aldinger	1045
9	Jeff Bell	800
10	Fred Ramirez	780
10	Mike Peters	780
12	Brad McCunniff	540
13	Gabriel Medina	520
13	Mike Beltran	520
13	Trey Taylor	520
17	Gerry Price	515
17	Mike Ceresia	515
19	Ted Pittinaro	395
20	Richard Eisenmann	390



Photo and article by
Mike Welch and Bill Bearden

The 2011-2012 season is upon us, and we can't wait to get started again!

Our first year on the racquetball scene was well spent making appearances in Nevada, Ohio and Minnesota. Over \$6,500 has been raised at tournaments and benefits, and the opportunity to make a positive financial contribution to the lives of injured officers and their families is the foundation for everything we do. We have been contacted by officers interested in joining NPRA from as far as Rhode Island and our neighbors to the north in Canada.

The 2011 Texas Police Games were held in DeSoto, TX and officers came from all parts of the state to

participate in this annual event. Great competition, a party and free gifts from Ektelon made it lots of fun for everyone. Next year, officers will invade our state's capitol as Austin hosts the 2012 Games. We're extremely excited to be a part of these outstanding events.

The candles continue to burn as we're always working and planning for the future. As Racquetball Coordinators with Peter Berger's World Firefighter Racquetball Association (WFRA), we look forward with great anticipation to the upcoming 2011 World Police & Fire Games in New York City. Police & firefighters from across the globe will fly in to participate in individual and team sports in what will surely be a week to remember.

These are just a few of the past and upcoming events on our calendar. As we continue to grow, however, we have not strayed from our #1 responsibility. NPRA was created to promote the game of racquetball and to use the sport to help raise funds for fellow police officers who have been injured while protecting the citizens they serve. As we make new friends everywhere we go, we believe it's valuable to have a network that stretches from coast to coast.

For more information, or if you would like to become involved with NPRA, check us out on Facebook and www.policeracquetball.com. We look forward to hearing from you and as always, we'll see you on the courts!



The 2011 WOR

RACQUETBALL WAREHOUSE OUTDOOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

presented by Ektelon

The 2011 WOR Racquetball Warehouse Outdoor World Championships celebrated fun and sun this year at one of the coolest events of the year in Huntington Beach, California. This is the longest-running outdoor tournament championship and attracts players from around the country. Led for the second year in a row by WOR's National Co-Director Vic Leibofsky, it has become a regular event for many professional racquetball players as well as some of world's top tier divisional players. Players and spectators alike were treated to high-level games with great food and hospitality.

With the ramping up of the level of play brought by professional players, outdoor players have seen a need to step things up in order to

make it deeper into the charts. Rocky Carson, IRT's #2 player, again showed why he is the best outdoor player as he defended his Men's Pro Singles title against Scott Davis. Scott, who has progressively improved his results at the championships, took out Alvaro Beltran earlier in a semifinal.

The Men's Pro Doubles division was hotly contested as Jason Mannino and Cliff Swain had begun to dial in the big courts at Marina Park, battling through their draw and making it to the final where they lost in the tiebreaker to Alvaro Beltran and four-time National Doubles Champion Mike Peters.

The Women's Pro Division saw Rhonda Rajsich take home both Singles and Doubles titles, meeting

a very game Janel Tisinger (who won the Mixed Pro Doubles title with Greg Solis) in the Women's Pro Singles Final. Rhonda paired with Martha McDonald of Gainesville, Florida in an exciting Women's Doubles Final as they defeated defending champs Aimee Ruiz and Jacqueline Paraiso to take back their title.

As is the norm, though, the Pro Divisions didn't hold dibs on action. Each division was filled with intense competition.

WOR has worked hard to aggregate the country's outdoor communities and draw indoor players out into the sun. At the biggest party of the year, fans hang out at the courts all day under tents and umbrellas, watching the exciting competition and mingling with some of the world's best racquetball champions.



2011 Mike Augustin/40By20.com



DIVISION WINNERS

Men's Singles Military/Police/Fire - Dillon Silver
Men's Singles Pro/Open - Rocky Carson III

Men's Singles Open - Nick Montalbano

Men's Singles A - Samuel Barrera

Men's Singles B - Luis Flores

Men's Singles C - Robert Johnson

Men's Singles First Time Player - Bruce Greenberg

Men's Age Singles 40+ - Rob Mijares

Men's Age Singles 50+ - Larry Hernandez

Men's Doubles Pro/Open - Alvaro Beltran/Mike Peters

Men's Doubles Open - Eric Fernandez/Ravi Sohoni

Men's Doubles A - Steve Ivers/Tony Burg

Men's Doubles B - Favio Soto/Luis Flores

Men's Doubles C - Esteban Hernandez/Rick Rodriguez

Men's Doubles CPRT 40+ - Cliff Swain/Craig Lane

Men's Doubles Combined 100+ - Dale Valentine/Steve Cohen

Women's Singles Pro/Open - Rhonda Rajsich

Women's Singles Pro/Open Consolation - Kristen Bellows

Women's Singles B - Emma Sanchez-Jones

Women's Doubles Pro/Open - Martha McDonald/Rhonda Rajsich

Women's Doubles Pro/Open Consolation - Danielle Key/Michelle Key

Women's Doubles Elite - Dorcy Norton/Kathy Geels

Women's Doubles A - Cynthia Figueroa/Lan Huynh

Women's Doubles B - Bridgette Paganetto/Tanya Nofs

Mixed Doubles Pro/Open - Greg Solis/Janel Tisinger

Mixed Doubles Pro/Open Consolation - Michelle Key/Charles Pratt

Mixed Doubles Elite - Rick "Soda Man" Koll/Sarah Houghtailing

Mixed Doubles A - Cynthia Figueroa/Robby Johnson

Mixed Doubles B - Sonya Green/Garrett Hickman

Boys Singles 10 & Under - Carson Nguyen

Boys 8 & Under - Caleb Richardson

The Making of a CHAMPION

by Fran Davis (The Coach) • Diana McNab (Sports Psychologist) • Dan Obremski (Fitness Expert)



Let's continue "Making You a Champion" using the core principles of "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" as you build your championship racquetball game one assessment at a time. This will allow you to continue to complete the "Racquetball Success Triangle" explained in the Winter 2010 issue of *Racquetball* magazine.

We wish to convey that the lull between seasons is the perfect time to take off from a long season and heal both physically and mentally; otherwise, you are susceptible to physical injuries as well as mental burnout – not a good combination! Most people overlook what we call the recovery cycle, but we advocate it.

POST-SEASON RECOVERY. Take three weeks off and then start back up with your aerobic conditioning and overall fitness. Slowly add strength training (weights) and cross training (other sports such as yoga, hiking, and biking). Never go longer than three weeks without exercise or you will lose a lot of your muscle tone and aerobic fitness.

Once you go through the recovery cycle, you'll be ready for the pre-season schedule that will start getting you ready for the fall schedule when tournaments and leagues start up again.

PRE-SEASON TRAINING. You want to focus on getting back into a routine. In the chart below, see how to set up a pre-season training program using the components of flexibility (FLEX), speed play (SP), aerobic conditioning (AC), strength training (ST), drilling (DR) and mental (MENT). Give yourself adequate time to prepare.

MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
DR1	DR1	DR1	Off	DR1	DR1	Off
DR2	DR3	DR2	FLEX	DR2	DR3	FLEX
DR4	DR5	DR4	MENT	DR4	DR6	MENT
ST	AC	ST		ST	SP	
AC	FLEX	AC		AC	FLEX	
FLEX	SP	FLEX		FLEX		
			MENT			

As you come within 4-6 weeks of the beginning of your season, replace one day a week of DR with one day a week of playing. As you are within 2-4 weeks of your season, replace one more day a week of DR with another day of playing. As you are within 0-2 weeks of your season, replace one day a week of DR with yet another day of playing.

1-RACQUETBALL SKILLS

6-8 weeks out – begin practicing and drilling on the court by yourself (no playing yet), three to five times per week.

4-6 weeks out – continue practicing and drilling by yourself, but add some movement and service drills, plus play with someone once per week (choose a partner one level below you so you can work on your game and not feel pressured).

2-4 weeks out – continue practicing by yourself one or two times per week, and play two times per week with someone a level below you as well as someone a level equal to you so you can put your skills to the test.

0-2 weeks out – continue practicing by yourself once per week, and play three times per week with someone one level below you, one level equal to you, and one level above you to push you to get you ready for peak play and the season.

2-MENTAL SKILLS

6-8 weeks out – at the onset of 6-8 weeks from your season, you will be doing three times a week of "MENT," especially visualization.

4-6 weeks out – add in a 4th day of MENT

2-4 weeks out – add in a 5th day of MENT

0-2 weeks out – add in a 6th day of MENT

You can never be doing too much MENT!

3-FITNESS SKILLS

6-8 weeks out – start with an aerobic conditioning program of running, biking, stair stepping, and so on for 25 to 35 minutes and build up to 35 to 45 minutes, three or four times per week. Begin strength training with light weights for endurance and cleansing, two or three times per week

4-6 weeks out – continue the aerobic conditioning program three times per week, and add speed play for 15 minutes once a week. Continue strength training, and increase to heavier weights two or three times per week for power and speed.

2-4 weeks out – continue aerobic conditioning two times per week for up to 35 minutes and speed play one or two times per week for 15 minutes. Continue strength training two or three times per week with lighter weights and more repetitions to begin your maintenance program.

0-2 weeks out – continue aerobic conditioning one or two times per week for 20 minutes and speed play two times per week for 15 minutes. Continue strength one or two times per week, tapering to lighter weights and fewer repetitions to enter your peak play mode.

4-NUTRITION SKILLS

Often during the recovery cycle, people have a tendency to "treat" themselves and stray from eating well and drinking lots of water. As you enter back into your pre-season training, make sure you get back into the routine of eating right and hydrating as your body and mind need this in order to perform at their best.

by Otto Dietrich
USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner



photo by Geoff Thomson

ONGOING RALLIES

“... if the ongoing rally has to be replayed for any reason, it is first serve once again.”

ball hit the front wall first is a basic objective of the game (a good shot), and a ball that hits the floor first is to be avoided since doing so results in the immediate loss of that serve/rally (a skip ball) for the person who hit that ball.

But what about the ball that hits both the wall and the floor at the same time (or else so close to the same time that the difference can't be ascertained)? It has to be ruled as one or the other – either good or bad. Which is it?

If you hit two surfaces at the same time then you really didn't hit either one first! Therefore, since its inception as a sport, racquetball has declared that if the ball does NOT hit the front wall FIRST, then it is the same as having hit the floor first, i.e., NOT GOOD. This basic concept appears in the Rulebook as Rule 3.10(g), which addresses the effect when this happens on a serve.

This concept regarding the juncture of the floor and a vertical wall also applies in other cases. Take, for example, a serve that might be long or a 3-wall serve, except that it hits in the wall/floor crotch.

Applying the same concept, that serve is considered “GOOD” if it happens to hit both the horizontal and vertical surfaces at the same time. Only if it clearly hits the vertical wall first is it considered long!

The only remaining crotches that involve a “call” are the three that are formed by the two side walls and the ceiling with the front wall. In effect, these shots are judged the same as the front wall/floor crotch. If the ball hits the front wall and any of those other four surfaces at the same time (or so close the difference can't be determined), then it is ruled the same as if it had NOT touched the front wall first, i.e., NOT GOOD.

I began by saying that I cited a general policy covering all of this, and here it is: “For any ball striking a crotch formed with the floor, unless the ball hits the vertical wall first, then the ruling is that ball hit the floor first with the proper outcome – a skip ball when it's formed with the front wall and a good serve when formed with either the side or back wall. Similarly, all crotch hits involving the front wall are ruled as having NOT hit the front wall first if the ball hits both surfaces at the same time.”

I was recently honored to be the first guest on a new weekly Internet racquetball show hosted by Leo Vasquez and Eddie Van. (The schedule of upcoming shows can be found at <http://www.racquetballjunkie.com>.) A listener called in and asked about making the proper call when the ball contacts one of the many junctures of floor, ceiling, or walls. I cited a general policy that can be applied when the ball hits very near or directly in those junctures – more commonly referred to as a “crotch.”

Let's first talk about that ten-foot-long joint where the front wall meets the floor. There are three possibilities: (1) the ball hit the front wall first; (2) the ball hit the floor first; or (3) the ball hit both the front wall and the floor at exactly the same time. Of course, making the

DARYL WATERWALL ASKED VIA EMAIL:

“My question is about doubles play. In a rally, one person hits the ball and the other team makes a play on a ball, but misses, then the ball hits the partner of the person who originally hit ball. Whose point is it?”

ANSWER: If a ball that either you or your partner has struck then hits one of you before the other team touches it, your team loses that rally whether you were serving or receiving. Therefore, it could be a point or a hand out or a side out depending totally on who was serving.

BRUCE SALAZAR ASKED VIA EMAIL:

If someone first fault serves, but then serves again and a volley is played until a replay hinder occurs, does the previous fault serve “carry over” when the offensive player serves again making it “second serve?”

ANSWER: Once a good serve has been made, then all previous faults by that server are erased. So, if the ongoing rally has to be replayed for any reason, it is “first serve” once again.

Always “Play by the Rules!” If you don't have a copy, you can find, review, and download them for printing online at: <http://www.usaracquetball.com/Portals/18/pdf/RacquetballRules2011.pdf>.

Thanks to Danny Rodriguez, please note that the Table of Contents is now hot linked for easier lookup by subject.

DO YOU HAVE A RULES/REFEREEING QUESTION? Email it to me at Odiетrich@usra.org and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of *Racquetball*.



EKTelon

Penn



2011
EKTELON
NATIONALS A

WESTWARD HO!



Ektelon National Singles Successful in Move to California

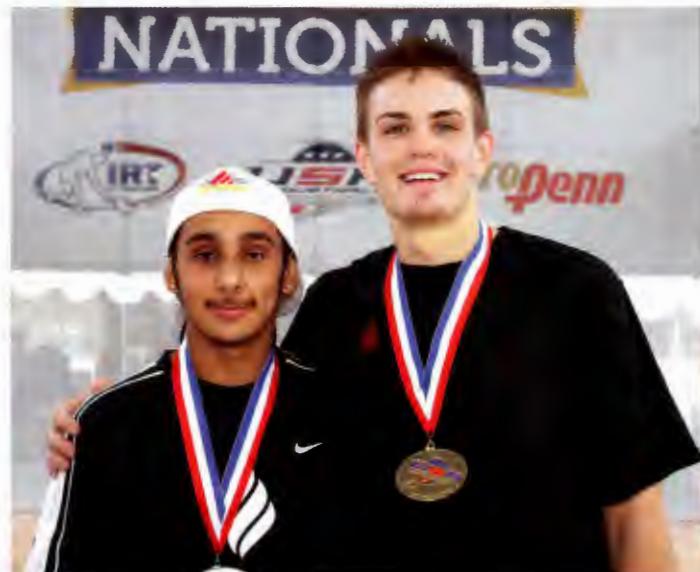
By Jeff Oliver • Photos by Geoff Thomsen

For 28 years, the USA Racquetball National Singles Championships called the Lone Star State home. This year the event moved west to the Golden State, where five hundred of the country's best players descended on Southern California looking for the chance to become a National Champion. In addition to the competition in the more than 70 amateur divisions, for the first time in more than 40 years the National Singles Championships also featured a Men's Professional division.

Hosted by Meridian Sports Club in Fullerton, it was a spectacular event. The Meridian offered a wonderful facility that houses 24 racquetball courts all under one roof! On

top of the club's parking garage, USA Racquetball set up the all-Lucite portable court with a concert dome roof in an outdoor stadium environment that took full advantage of the splendid California weather.

This awesome court was within a lob serve of one the country's busiest corridors, California State Route 57, also known as the Orange Freeway. During the five days of the Ektelon Nationals, more than 1.2 million cars passed by the stadium court while the world's best racquetball players were putting their skills on display. Across the freeway sits the campus of California State University, Fullerton, where more than 27,000 students hit the books. In addition,



Far Left: U.S. Team Qualifiers Rhonda Rajsich & Cheryl Gudinas

Left: U.S. Team Qualifiers Jose Diaz & Alex Ackerman

Fullerton sits in the middle of a metropolitan area of more than 17.8 million people. Great potential exposure for the sport of racquetball for many years to come.

Next to the stadium court sat the Players Village where all the sport's top manufacturers displayed their newest product lines for the upcoming season. The outdoor setting allowed players, families and fans to socialize under California's sunny blue skies. Often the Players Village was where everyone gathered to pre-funk before heading out to one of the nightly parties!

On Thursday evening, the women got the off-the-court fun started with "Ladies Night Out" at Don Jose's. On Friday, everyone was invited to the pool at the Marriott, the tournament headquarters hotel, for the PENN Pig Roast. After "porking out," the party migrated to downtown Fullerton for the PENN Pub Crawl. On Saturday before the professional semifinals, Ektelon hosted a Fiesta in the Players Village with free beer for all!

On the court, the top divisions offered thrilling play, both expected and unexpected. In the Men's Professional Division, Kane Waselenchuk extended his consecutive-match winning streak to 113 after defeating hometown hero Rocky Carson in the finals. Kane last lost a match in 2009! While the final predictably pitted the top two players in the world, other up-and-coming players made statements by going deep into the draw. Chris Crowther, also playing close to his home in Riverside, CA, reached the semifinals. Oregon's Taylor Knoth reached the quarterfinals, as did Colorado's Tony Carson.

In the Men's Singles US Team Qualifying Division, youth shined its way through the draw as 23-year-old Alex Ackermann from Texas knocked off reigning High School Champion Jose Diaz from California in the final.

The Women's Singles US Team Qualifying Division featured two of America's most celebrated female players as Arizona's Rhonda Rajsich won her fourth US Singles title over eight-time winner Cheryl Gudinas of Illinois.

While everyone came to Fullerton to compete on the court, one of the best features of the event was all the off-the-court activities the beautiful surrounding region has to offer. Just seven miles from the stadium court sits Disneyland, which makes a future trip to the Ektelon Nationals ideal for any racquetball-playing family. If your second favorite sport is baseball, MLB's Los Angeles Angels play just down the road, making catching a game after your matches nice and easy. California's top beaches, including the surfing capitol of the world, Huntington Beach, are just a 20-minute drive away. And if you're looking to make an extended stay, Los Angeles, Hollywood and San Diego are just a little over an hour's drive away!

Start making plans now for the 2012 Ektelon Nationals -- you'll have a blast...we guarantee it! ■



Photos by Geoff Thomsen

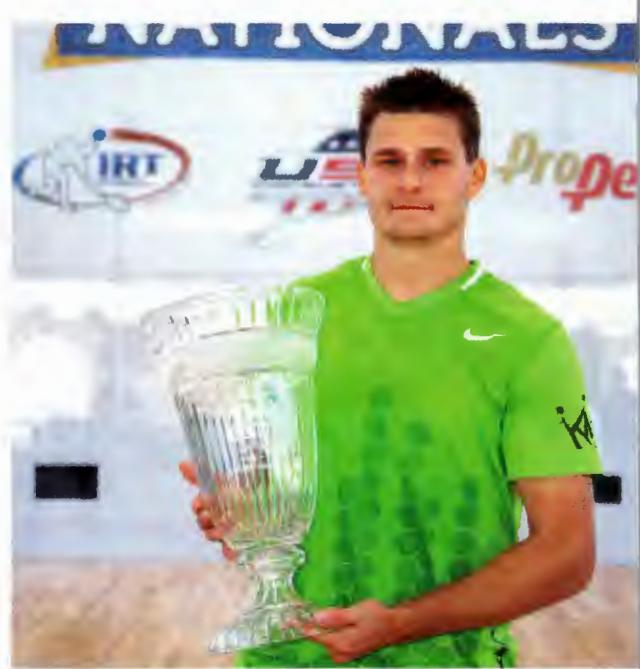




A standing room only crowd watches Carson in the Quarterfinals



Rocky Carson interviews with University radio station



Kane Waselchuk with the title trophy

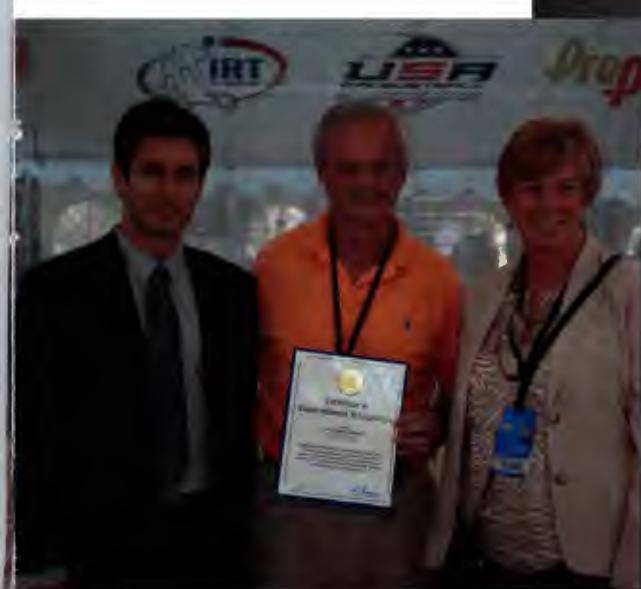
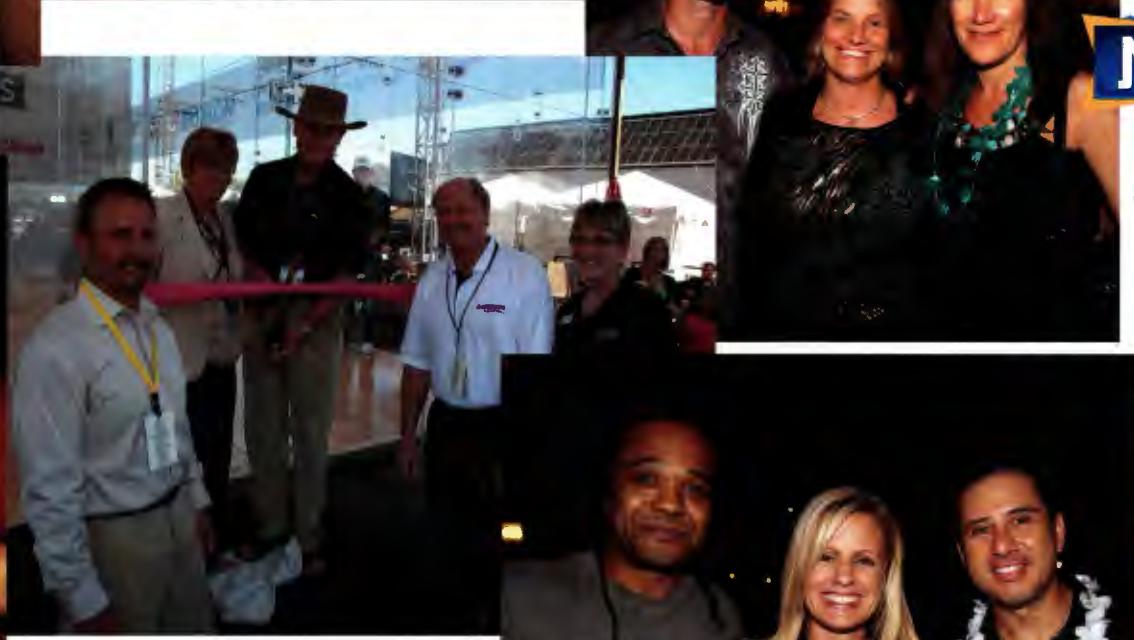


Jim Hiser receives the Recognition Award from Doug Ganim, Sudsy Monchik & Eric Muller





FULLERTON, CA • MAY 25-29



2011 EKTELON NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS PRESENTED BY PRO PENN – RESULTS

Men's Singles IRT Pro - Single Elimination

- 1st: Karen Waselcheck - Life Time Fitness, Austin, TX
- 2nd: Rocky Carson II - YMCA Carlisle, Ladera Ranch, CA
- 3rd: Ben Croft - Pure Fitness, Carlsbad, CA
- 4th: Chris Crowther - Centre Club, Lake Bluff, IL

Men's Singles Open / Team Qualifying - Single Elimination

- 1st: Erik Ackermann - LA Fitness, Lewisville, TX
- 2nd: Jose Diaz - Franklin High School, Stockton, CA
- 3rd: Anthony Herrera - Lynnmar Racquet And Health Club, Grand Junction, CO
- 4th: Erik Leech - Walton Life Fitness Center • Jbu, Siloam Springs, AR

Men's Singles Elite - Single Elimination

- 1st: Brandon Davis - LA Fitness, Fountain Valley, CA
- 2nd: Arturo Burriel - Life Time Fitness, Grapevine, TX
- 3rd: Brent Huff - Tinker AFB, Moore, OK
- 4th: C. J. Shaffer - Tinker AFB, Moore, OK

Men's Military Singles Open / A - Single Elimination

- 1st: C. J. Shaffer - Tinker AFB, Moore, OK
- 2nd: Mark Fuhrman - Charleston AFB, Mt Pleasant, SC
- 3rd: Reid Percivalle - Davis Monthan AFB, Sahuarita, AZ
- 4th: Rabbit Rogers - Robins AFB, Robins AFB, GA

Men's Singles A - Single Elimination

- 1st: Bart Landsman - LA Fitness, Huntington Beach, CA
- 2nd: Enrique R. Loiza - LA Fitness, Trabuco Canyon, CA
- 3rd: Kenny Green Jr. - Snyder Center, Biloxi, MS
- 4th: Gonzalo Castillo - LA Fitness, Euless, Bedford, TX

Men's Singles B - Single Elimination

- 1st: Maurice Mckoy - Pensacola, FL
- 2nd: Joe Rosales - Pay And Play, Los Angeles, CA
- 3rd: Jay Mathis - LA Fitness, Atlanta, GA
- 4th: Daniel Mullin - Michigan Athletic Club, Perry, MI

Men's Singles C - Single Elimination

- 1st: Ryan Moreno - Tournament House, Riverside, CA
- 2nd: David Diaz - Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City, UT
- 3rd: Robert Rhys - LA Fitness, Oceanside, CA
- 4th: Galahad Carreira Jr. - Nuuanu YMCA, Honolulu, HI

Men's Singles D - Single Elimination

- 1st: Andrew Bevilacqua - Healthrax, West Greenwich, RI
- 2nd: John Cebal - Healthrax East Providence, E. Providence, RI
- 3rd: Anthony Santos - Belmont Athletic Club, Long Beach, CA
- 4th: Juan Munoz - Riverside Health Club, Burlington, WA

Junior Singles 10 and Under - Single Elimination

- 1st: Jaden Elkins - John Wooden Center , Brentwood, CA
- 2nd: Cody Elkins - UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

Junior Singles 14 and Under Playoff - Single Elimination

- 1st: Fausto Santana - Rancho, Chula Vista, CA
- 2nd: Dane Elkins - UCLA, Brentwood, CA
- 3rd: Jaden Elkins - John Wooden Center , Brentwood, CA
- 4th: Cora Garcia - Renaissance Sports Club, Aliso Viejo, CA

Junior Singles 18 and Under - Round Robin

- 1st: Maurice Miller - LA Fitness , Lilburn, GA
- 2nd: Rion Ceampo - 32nd St. Naval Base, Sunny San Diego, CA
- 3rd: Rebecca Nielsen - The Claremont Club, Upland, CA
- 4th: Dane Elkins - UCLA, Brentwood, CA

Men's Age Singles 24+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: Kenny Green Jr. - Snyder Center, Biloxi, MS
- 2nd: Joel Barshaw - Lloyd Athletic Club, Portland, OR
- 3rd: William Craig - Triton Sports Center, San Antonio, TX
- 4th: Jeremy McGlothin - East Side Athletic Club, Canby, OR

Men's Age Singles M24A/25A - Single Elimination

- 1st: Ryan Hunter - Healthrax, North Attleboro, MA
- 2nd: Michael Nguyen - LA Fitness, Garden Grove, CA
- 3rd: Dennis Negrete - LA Fitness , Schaumburg, IL
- 4th: Ian Norton - LA Fitness Escondido, Escondido, CA

Men's Age Singles M24B/25B - Single Elimination

- 1st: Chris Poucher - LA Fitness, Atlanta, GA
- 2nd: Maurice Mckoy - Pensacola, FL
- 3rd: Kofken Wencius - Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
- 4th: Ryan Phillips - Eglin AFB Center, Niceville, FL

Men's Age Singles M24C/25C - Single Elimination

- 1st: Ford Rainey - LA Fitness, Torrance, CA
- 2nd: Dustin Cole - Southern Athletic Club, Oklahoma City, OK
- 3rd: Jose Romero - Sports World, Tijuana, BC Mexico
- 4th: Oscar Vargas - , Ruidoso, New Mexico

Men's Age Singles 25+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Jason Sylvester - NYC Health And Racquet, Harriman, NY
- 2nd: Andres Ramirez - LA Fitness, Casselberry, FL
- 3rd: Nick Baile - Club Northwest, Grants Pass, Oregon
- 4th: Jason Bronson - The Village, Glendale, AZ

Men's Age Singles 30+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: Mike Harmon - Sarasota Bath & Racquet Club, Sarasota, FL
- 2nd: Andres Ramirez - LA Fitness, Casselberry, FL
- 3rd: Jason Sylvester - NYC Health And Racquet, Harriman, NY
- 4th: Raymond Maestas - Las Vegas Rec Center, Albuquerque, NM

Men's Age Singles 30+ A - Single Elimination

- 1st: Andy Wiegand - Life Time Fitness 98th St, Lakeville, MN
- 2nd: Mike Patalano - Healthrax East Providence, Warwick, RI
- 3rd: Jon Lara - LA Fitness, Murrieta, CA
- 4th: Andrew Aronstein - Club Fit, Yorktown Heights, NY

Men's Age Singles M30B/35B - Single Elimination

- 1st: Jon Lefemee - Solano Athletic Club, Vacaville, CA
- 2nd: Jay Mathis - LA Fitness, Atlanta, GA
- 3rd: Joe Rosales - Pay And Play, Los Angeles, CA
- 4th: Kareem McKinnon - In-Shape Sport- Antioch, Brentwood, CA

Men's Age Singles 35+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: Mike Orr - Sonterra Valley Racquetball & Fitness, La Jolla, CA
- 2nd: Matthew Maynor - Montana State University, Belgrade, MT
- 3rd: Paul Ozulak - LA Fitness, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- 4th: Mark Davis - LA Fitness, Clearwater, FL

Men's Age Singles 35+ A - Single Elimination

- 1st: Scott Grunin - Willy's, Orleans, MA
- 2nd: Kim Atwell - Fox's Health & Racquet Club, Denham Springs, LA
- 3rd: John Welsh - LA Fitness, Wellington, FL
- 4th: Brett Elkins - UCLA, Brentwood, CA

Men's Age Singles 40+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: Jimmy Lowe - Honolulu, Wahiawa, HI
- 2nd: Brad McCunniff - Cedar Falls Rec Center, Cedar Falls, IA
- 3rd: Keith Minor - LA Fitness, Channahon, IL
- 4th: Dale Valentine - Tournament House, Riverside, CA

Men's Age Singles 40+ A - Single Elimination

- 1st: Shawn Conrad - LA Fitness, Lithia Springs, GA
- 2nd: Steve Ivers - LA Fitness, Huntington Beach, CA
- 3rd: Edward Kuritz - LA Fitness, Lithonia, GA
- 4th: Kipp Atwell - Fox's Health & Racquet Club, Denham Springs, LA

Men's Age Singles 40+ B - Single Elimination

- 1st: Michael Miller Jr - LA Fitness, Camp Creek, Atlanta, GA
- 2nd: Jeffrey Dorrington - LA Fitness, Oxnard, CA
- 3rd: Durrell Mcdoon - LA Fitness, Camarillo, CA
- 4th: Daniel Mullin - Michigan Athletic Club, Perry, MI

Men's Age Singles M40C/45C - Single Elimination

- 1st: Craig Canoy - LA Fitness, OceanSide, CA
- 2nd: Kevin Scroggins - Club Sport, Henderson, NV
- 3rd: Leroy Woods Jr - Nuuanu YMCA, Mililani, HI
- 4th: Bret Dorsett - LA Fitness, Phoenix, AZ

Men's Age Singles 45+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: Jimmy Lowe - Honolulu, Wahiawa, HI
- 2nd: Richard Eisenmann - LA Fitness, Grapevine, TX
- 3rd: Brad McCunniff - Cedar Falls Rec Center, Cedar Falls, IA
- 4th: Doug Ganim - Medalion Country Club, Westerville, OH

Men's Age Singles 45+ A - Single Elimination

- 1st: David Tedeschi - LA Fitness, Santa Ana, CA
- 2nd: Alan Lawson - Resilience Fitness, Burlington, WA
- 3rd: Ian Chin - Adelhot Gym, Navarre, FL
- 4th: Robert Cole - Southern Athletic Club, Oklahoma City, OK

Men's Age Singles 45+ B - Single Elimination

- 1st: Michael Miller Jr - LA Fitness, Camp Creek, Atlanta, GA
- 2nd: Brian Ancheta - Cascade Athletic Club, Gresham, OR
- 3rd: Don Jorgensen - Laughlin AFB, Del Rio, TX
- 4th: Phil Grey - Novc Port Hueneme Gym, Oxnard, CA

Men's Age Singles M45C/50C - Single Elimination

- 1st: Steve Levine - LA Fitness, San Marcos, CA
- 2nd: Kevin Groff - Life Time Fitness, Garland, TX
- 3rd: Robert Spita Warnars - LA Fitness, Palmdale, CA
- 4th: Steve Bonfiglio - LA Fitness, La Habra, CA

Men's Age Singles 50+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: Richard Eisenmann - LA Fitness, Grapevine, TX
- 2nd: Tim Hansen - LA Fitness, West Palm Beach, FL
- 3rd: Robert Siebert - LA Fitness, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA
- 4th: Glenn Bell - Beaumont Health & Wellness Center, Nederland, TX

Men's Age Singles 50+ A - Single Elimination

- 1st: Tom Griffith - Wisconsin Athletic Club, West Bend, WI
- 2nd: Ambrose (Butch) Fish - In-Shape Sport; Tracy, Tracy, CA
- 3rd: Edward Roffey - Home, Grand Junction, CO
- 4th: Charles Hallenbeck - LA Fitness, Orange, CA

Men's Age Singles 50+ B - Single Elimination

- 1st: Mark Candy - YMCA, Pinckney, MI
- 2nd: George Brewer - Ballys, Woodinville, WA
- 3rd: Will Costanza - LA Fitness Windham, Alpharetta, GA
- 4th: David Aguirre - LA Fitness, Fontana, CA

Men's Age Singles 55+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: Edward Fink - Downtown Club At The Met / LA Fitness, Houston, TX
- 2nd: Steve Jeenes - Prescott Downtown Athletic Club, Prescott Valley, AZ
- 3rd: Larry Matula - Triton Sports Center, San Antonio, TX
- 4th: Ricardo Balderas - In-Shape Sport Monterey, Pacific Grove, CA

Men's Age Singles 55+ A - Single Elimination

- 1st: Ricardo Balderas - In-Shape Sport Monterey, Pacific Grove, CA
- 2nd: John Guerrero - Spectrum Club, Redondo Beach, CA
- 3rd: E. Goldbaum - Ballys, Bala Cynwyd, PA
- 4th: F. Martinez - Las Flores, GA

Men's Age Singles 55+ B - Single Elimination

- 1st: George Brewer - Ballys, Woodinville, WA
- 2nd: Chris Poucher - LA Fitness, Atlanta, GA
- 3rd: David Wofford - Lincoln Racquet Club, Lincoln, NE
- 4th: Ray Redelman - LA Fitness, Wheaton, IL

Men's Age Singles 60+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: Thomas Rall - LA Fitness, Ahwatukee, Chandler, AZ
- 2nd: Joe Lee - Honolulu Club, MI, HI
- 3rd: R. Chmirinsk - Lanzater, CA
- 4th: Russ Manning - Temecula, CA

Men's Age Singles M60A/65A - Single Elimination

- 1st: Mike Targon - Cobbs, CA
- 2nd: Dee Ritter - Placentia, CA
- 3rd: Daniel Rodriguez - Rustburg, VA
- 4th: Pete Harvey - Gallatin Civic Center, Gallatin, TN

Men's Age Singles 60+ A - Single Elimination

- 1st: Michael Malcom - Mvp, Grand Rapids, MI
- 2nd: Cliff Peterson - Orchards Athletic Club, Fort Collins, CO
- 3rd: Chris D'avino - Aera Racquetball, Apo, AE Germany
- 4th: David Ryan - YMCA - Victoria, Victoria, TX

Men's Age Singles M60B/65B - Single Elimination

- 1st: Michael Stephens - Mvp, Rockford, MI
- 2nd: Greg Kearney - Westwinds, Oak Hills, CA
- 3rd: Tony Vargas - LA Fitness, Menifee, CA
- 4th: Ed Boan - YMCA, Brighton, MI

Men's Age Singles 60+ C - Single Elimination

- 1st: Robert Rivers - LA Fitness, OceanSide, CA
- 2nd: Greg Young - Snowcreek Athletic Club, Mammoth Lakes, CA
- 3rd: Jack Morganroth - Weycross Athletic Club, Cincinnati, OH
- 4th: Bruce Cole - LA Fitness Kearny Mesa, San Diego, CA

Men's Age Singles 65+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: Jeffrey Leon - Asociacion Nacional De Racquetball De Panama, Deerfield Beach, Panama
- 2nd: Mickey Bellah - Meridian Sports Club - Fullerton CA, Laguna Hills, CA
- 3rd: Fredrick Roe - Marina Fitness, Santa Monica, CA
- 4th: Robert Lattanzio - Renaissance Club Aliso Viejo, San Clemente, CA

Men's Age Singles 65+ C - Round Robin

- 1st: Dave Shebarche - Crescendo-canada YMCA, La Crescenta, CA
- 2nd: Bob Bacharach - LA Fitness, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
- 3rd: Ronald Maestas - Las Vegas Rec Center, Las Vegas, NM
- 4th: Pablo Reyes - Laughlin AFB, Del Rio, TX

Men's Age Singles 70+ - Playoff - Single Elimination

- 1st: Gordon Kelly - BB Racquet Club, Gainesville, FL
- 2nd: Steve Covey - LA Fitness, Huntington Beach, CA
- 3rd: Kyle Smith - LA Fitness, Katy, TX

Men's Age Singles 75+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Jerry Holly - LaFitness, Canyon Country, CA
- 2nd: Robert Sullins - Maverick Athletic Club, Arlington, TX

Men's Age Singles 80+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Vance Lerner - Tournament House, Riverside, CA
- 2nd: Charles Kaiser - PikeRington, OH

Men's Age Singles 85+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Bill Gencarella - YMCA, San Clemente, CA

Men's Age Singles 90+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Ben Marshall - San Antonio, TX

Men's Doubles Pro / Open - Single Elimination

- 1st: Alvaro Beltran / Javier Moreno - San Ysidro/Chihuahua, DG
- 2nd: Alex Ackermann / Jansen Allen - Lewisville, TX/Rice, TX
- 3rd: Doug Ganin / Jason Bronson - Westerville, OH/Glendale, AZ
- 4th: Joe Diaz / Brad Schopieray - Westerville, OH/Glendale, AZ

Women's Singles US Team Qualifying - Single Elimination

- 1st: Rhonda Rajach - Life Time Fitness, Fountain Hills, AZ
- 2nd: Cheryl Guindas - Glass Court, Naperville, IL
- 3rd: Adrienne Fisher - Germantown Athletic Club, Memphis, TN
- 4th: Krystal Cruk - LA Fitness, Aurora, IL

Women's Singles Elite Playoff - Single Elimination

- 1st: Solana Taragan - LA Fitness, Torrance, Redondo Beach, CA
- 2nd: Christie Noller - YMCA, Santa Maria, CA
- 3rd: Kris Kaskawal - LA Fitness, Lahabra, CA
- 4th: Kathy Gluva-Islett - Oakridge, Moorpark, CA

Women's Singles 90+ - Single Elimination

- 1st: Janet Tisinger - Spectrum Club, Simi Valley, CA
- 2nd: Da'monique Davis - Triton Sport Center, San Antonio, TX
- 3rd: Grace Hughes - Bangor Base Gym, Bremerton, WA
- 4th: Jessica Munoz - Resilience Fitness, Burlington, WA

Women's Singles Open - Single Elimination

- 1st: Janet Tisinger - Spectrum Club, Simi Valley, CA
- 2nd: Da'monique Davis - Triton Sport Center, San Antonio, TX
- 3rd: Grace Hughes - Bangor Base Gym, Bremerton, WA
- 4th: Jessica Munoz - Resilience Fitness, Burlington, WA

Women's Singles A Playoff - Single Elimination

- 1st: Rebecca Wilkinson - Paige Fieldhouse, Oceanside, CA
- 2nd: Rebecca Nielsen - The Claremont Club, Upland, CA
- 3rd: Cindy Herceg - LA Fitness, Lake Forest, CA
- 4th: Ashley Corna - Rhode Island College, North Attleboro, MA

Women's Singles B Playoff - Single Elimination

- 1st: Erika Manilla - Denver Athletic Club, Centennial, CO
- 2nd: Laurie Welsh - LA Fitness, Wellington, Wellington, FL
- 3rd: Lexi York - East Side Athletic Club, Milwaukee, WI
- 4th: Betty Mota - LA Fitness San Carlos, San Diego, CA

Women's Singles C Playoff - Single Elimination

- 1st: Kanessa Madison - LA Fitness, Lithia Springs, GA
- 2nd: Vanessa Smith - Bob Sierra YMCA, Tampa, FL
- 3rd: Sherri Heard - Rhode Island College, Coventry, RI
- 4th: Ashley Corna - Rhode Island College, North Attleboro, MA

Women's Singles D Playoff - Single Elimination

- 1st: Cindy Herceg - LA Fitness, Ahwatukee, Chandler, AZ
- 2nd: Nick D'Amato - Rhode Island College, Providence, Rhode Island
- 3rd: Brittany Bilodeau - Rhode Island College, Seekonk, MA
- 4th: Hilary Switzer - Rhode Island College, Unknown, RI

Women's Age Singles W25C/30C/35C/40C Playoff - Single Elimination

- 1st: Kanessa Madison - LA Fitness, Lithia Springs, GA
- 2nd: Sherri Heard - Rhode Island College, Coventry, RI
- 3rd: Cindy Herceg - LA Fitness, Los Angeles, CA
- 4th: Ashley Corna - Rhode Island College, North Attleboro, MA

Women's Age Singles W24A - Round Robin

- 1st: Kelly Gremley - Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Women's Age Singles W24B - Round Robin

- 1st: Lea York - East Side Athletic Club, Milwaukee, WI

Women's Age Singles W24C - Round Robin

- 1st: Michael Malcom - Mvp, Grand Rapids, MI

Women's Age Singles W25 - Round Robin

- 1st: Marita Markus - Park Ridge, IL

Women's Age Singles W30 - Round Robin

- 1st: Tracy Hawthorne - Baldwin Wallace College, Seven Hills, OH

Women's Age Singles 35+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Melissa McElfresh - ClubSport Pleasanton, Pleasanton, CA, San Ramon, CA

Women's Age Singles 40+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Bernadette Zimmerman - LA Fitness, Carrollton, TX

Women's Age Singles 45+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Michelle Roberts - The Alaska Club, Anchorage, AK

Women's Age Singles 50+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Jennifer Lynch - University Of Massachusetts, Hadley, MA

Women's Age Singles 55+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Lorraine Galloway - Sunrise Health And Racquet, Flushing, NY

Women's Age Singles 60+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Christine Noller - YMCA, Santa Maria, CA

Women's Age Singles 65+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Kris Kaskawal - LA Fitness, Lahabra, CA

Women's Age Singles 70+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Melanie Jones - The Club At WoodBridge, Aberdeen, NJ

Women's Age Singles 75+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Janet Scheffer - Honolulu Club, Honolulu, HI

Women's Age Singles 80+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Andrea Almon - LA Fitness, San Diego, CA

Women's Age Singles 85+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Melanie Jones - The Club At WoodBridge, Aberdeen, NJ

Women's Age Singles 90+ - Round Robin

- 1st: Vicki Birkmann - LA Fitness, Corona, CA

Women's Age Singles W55A - Round Robin

- 1st: Cheryl Kirk - Glass Court, Naperville, IL

Women's Age Singles W55B - Round Robin

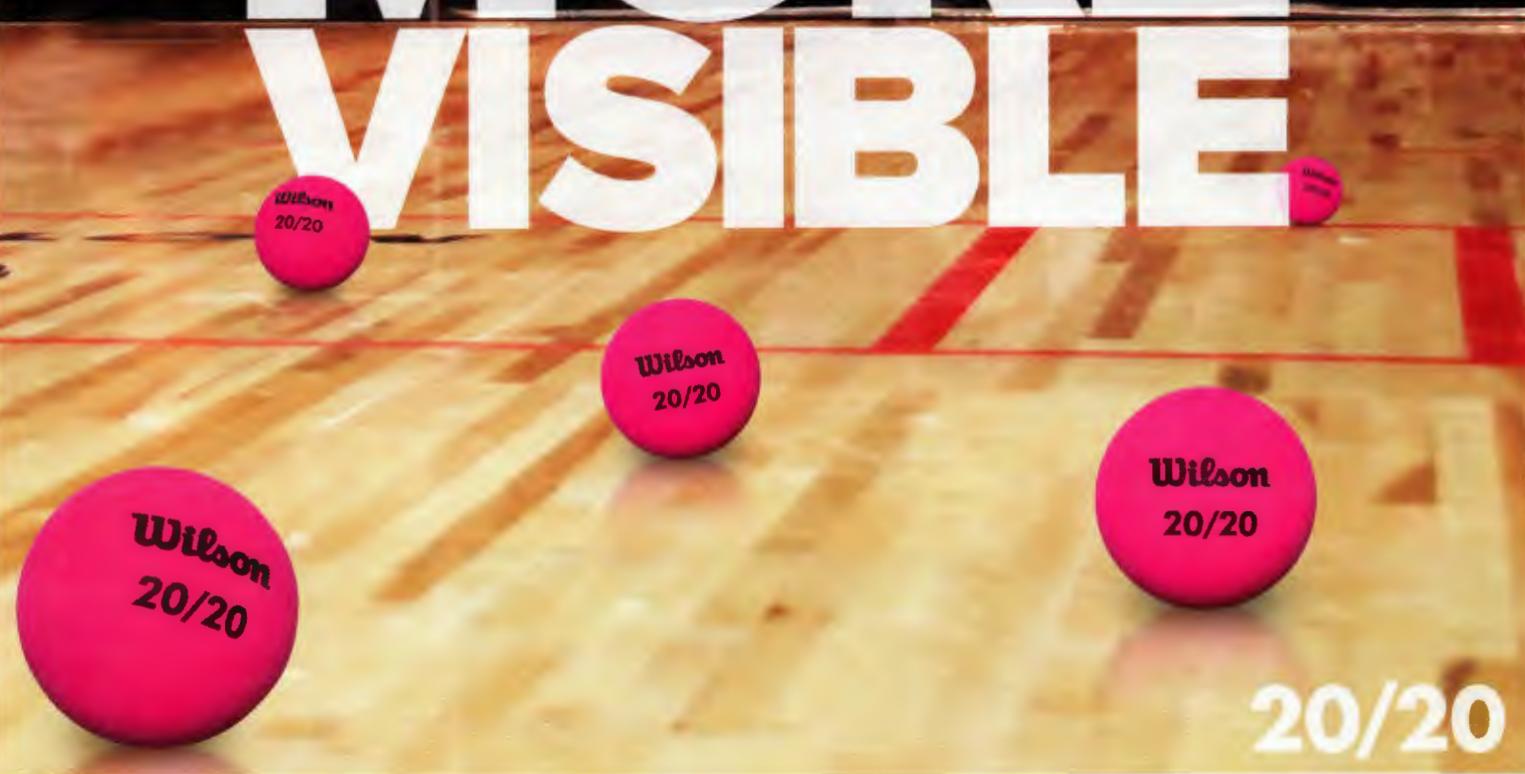
- 1st: Margie Der - Alhambra, CA

Women's Age Singles W55C - Round Robin

3LX

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2011 AWARD WINNERS

Photos by Geoff Thomsen



Female Athlete
of the Year Award
Rhonda Rajsich • Fountain Hills, AZ



Male Athlete
of the Year Award
Rocky Carson • Ladera Ranch, CA



Joe Sobek Outstanding
Contribution Award
Jen Meyer • Fruita, CO



Presidential Award
Leo Vasquez • Arlington, TX



Peggy Steding Female
Age Group Award
Linda Moore • Lincoln, NE



Bud Muehleisen
Male Age Group Award
Jimmy Lowe • Wahiawa, HI



John Halverson
Fair Play Award
Zachary Brown • Sandy, UT



HALLOF FAME NOMINATIONS DUE

Nominations for the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame are due October 1, 2011.

The Racquetball Hall of Fame is maintained to recognize and honor those athletes and contributors who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in competition or in the development, leadership and advancement of the sport. The award is based upon years of consistent excellence in one or more of the following areas:

COMPETITOR: In either an amateur or professional field, the person must have influenced other competitors with his or her performance through any or all of the following: high performance standards, sportsmanship and fair play, competitive techniques, persistent and inspirational leadership.

CONTRIBUTOR: The person must have made a significant and noteworthy contribution that has left a lasting, positive effect on the advancement of the sport. The person's efforts must have been devoted to the sport and organization of racquetball.

NOMINATION CRITERIA: Contributor or Competitor.

1. Nominee must be 40 years of age or older.
2. **Contributor:** Nominee must have been involved in racquetball at a state, regional, or national level for a minimum of ten (10) years. Professional: A professional may be nominated once he or she has been retired from professional tour play for three (3) years or longer. Amateur: Nominee must have exhibited outstanding performance at the national level in either singles or doubles play over an extended period of time.
3. **Eligibility:** Staff members or members of the respective IRT/WPRO/USAR Boards of Directors shall not be eligible for nomination until three (3) years following their last employment by/service to one of the above associations.

The person presenting a nomination must obtain and submit a resume of the nominee and complete a one-page cover letter accurately summarizing the resume.

Please email or send by first class mail to both:

USAR Hall of Fame
Jim Hiser
1685 West Uintah, Suite 103
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(jhiser@usra.org)

USAR Hall of Fame
Jim Easterling
321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911
(djeasterling@earthlink.net)

IMPORTANT: Submissions must include your name, address, email address, and phone number(s).

For additional information, please go to the USAR website and go to Hall of Fame and click on nominations.



RAM HALL OF FAME INDUCTS THREE AT ANNUAL HALL OF FAME AND AWARDS BANQUET

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY TWAYNE M. HOWARD



▲ Mike Anderson



▲ Sharon Huczek



▲ Jack White

An annual tradition was revisited at State Singles as friends and family came together to celebrate Michigan Racquetball's past, present and future at the RAM Hall of Fame and Annual Awards Banquet. This year we found we had much to celebrate.

Masters of Ceremonies Jim Easterling, Twayne Howard and Don Schopieray hosted an outstanding evening and dinner that were enjoyed by all. Don kicked off the formal awards with an update on Junior Team Michigan. Our Junior National Team had a top ten finish, establishing us as one of the country's top programs. Three of our long-standing juniors, Lucas Arias, Andrew Price, and Bryan Schopieray, aged out of the division and competed in their last Junior Nationals tournament this year.

Finally, the highlight of the evening was induction of the RAM Hall of Fame Class of 2011.

First up was Sharon Huczek, who is one of the most accomplished women in Michigan Racquetball history, period. Sharon is a tough competitor on the court with dozens of local, state, regional and national championship wins. Off the court, she has been a member of the RAM Board of Directors for over two decades, serving as Secretary for most of that time. This was a well deserved and long overdue honor for Sharon.

The second inductee was Jack White, who has also amassed a huge list of championships at every level. He served on the RAM Board of Directors for a decade, including many years as Vice President. In addition to being a racquetball instructor at the highest level for many years, Jack has been a significant contributor to our Juniors program.

Final inductee Mike Anderson's qualifications can be summed up in one word: excellence. Mike is a tremendous athlete who quickly rose to the top of the racquetball world and has yet to leave. Incredibly, he has won Open Championships in five different decades, and he competed on the Pro Tour playing many of the greats in our sport. Mike has been a huge supporter of racquetball, generously contributing his time and talent. But, as he stated in his speech, his greatest accomplishment is the many friends he's made over the years.

That says it all. Racquetball is about the friendships and relationships, and that's why we are so lucky to be involved with this great sport.

Congratulations to all of our deserving winners and nominees!

MISSOURI RACQUETBALL HALL OF FAME

BY SHARI COPLEN

Missouri was proud to induct its inaugural members to the Hall of Fame at the Missouri State tournament in April. MRA members voted on a ballot of ten nominated names for players and three names for contributors.

Congratulations to the inductees!

Iona Baldwin - Elected as a contributor for starting the High School league that currently consists of over 500 players.

Jerry Hilecher - Ranked in the top four on the Pro Tour ten years in a row; ranked #1 in the world in 1981.

Rita Hoff - Consistently ranked in the top three nationally on the Pro Tour from 1978-1983 and won seven professional tournaments.

Marty Hogan - Ranked the #1 player in the world from 1976-1981 and again in 1989; considered by some to be the greatest player to ever play the game.

Steve Serot - Regarded as the first real power player; held the #2 ranking in singles; held the #1 ranking in doubles for both indoor and outdoor, winning four International Doubles championships between 1973-1976.



Chris Wright - Held the #1 position for High School Racquetball with a record of 53-1. His career highlights include being a Gold Medalist with wins as 25+ National Champion, 30+ National Doubles Champion, 30+ National Mixed Doubles Champion, and 35+ U.S. Open Champion.

The physical site for the Hall of Fame is the Missouri Athletic Club. For more information on the Missouri Hall of Fame please visit our website at moracquetball.com/HallofFame/2010Nominees.aspx.



ALOHA OPEN

BY LYNN STEPHENS • PHOTO COURTESY JEFF WEST/SHELBILYN BOELSCHÉ

The Aloha Open's tenth anniversary tournament, held on June 17-19, was one of the best yet. Among the total 129 participants, including a record 31 women, competition was strong in all divisions. Players came from as far as Louisiana, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, and Tennessee to compete at the beautiful Winston Salem Athletic Club in North Carolina.

Number one seed Jason Bledsoe captured the Men's Open top prize in two well-styled final straight game wins over #7 seed Dereck Dirks. Dereck was the upset of the tournament, taking out last year's winner Brent Walters in a thrilling tie-breaker. Youssef Bouzidi provided some exhilarating moments with his just plain crazy drop shots in the front corner. On the women's side, #4 seed Leigh Gintert defeated #3 seed Maria Swedeen in straight games for the Women's Open title.

For those who don't know the history of this event, The Aloha Open began in the late eighties, but after the club

changed hands several times, the tournament died. Then in 2001, Lynn Stephens and Bobby Thore, a couple of hard-core racquetball players, decided to revive it and really step it up with the Hawaiian theme. It is now one of the most popular tournaments in North Carolina.

This year was no exception! Topping off three days of outstanding competition, the Party by the Pool on Saturday night was a huge success, highlighted by amazing food, a tiki bar, music by the Tsunami Wave Riders, and of course hula girls. Players received souvenir Hawaiian shirts and got to participate in a silent auction and raffle. A few brave souls even took a few hula lessons from band leader Ronnie Tsunami.

Thanks to everyone, especially Mike Bourgeois, Paul and Joy Job, Donna and Clay Matthews, Bobby Thore, photographers Jeff West and Shelbilyn Boelsche and our many great sponsors for an unforgettable week! For more photos of the event go to www.tmtevents.com

DID YOU KNOW...

Your membership profile isn't just a place to update your contact information?

When you login to your membership profile, you have access to various aspects of your racquetball life. Your membership home is the opening page. You can always go back to this page when you are navigating through your profile by clicking on "Membership Home" next to the USAR logo on the top left. The right side is your profile. It also has links to renew your membership, print your membership card, update your profile picture and profile, view your profile (which includes a list of the events you have signed up for), activity and payment history, and match history. You will be able check on any of your racquetball memberships that utilize the system including USAR (indoor), WOR, and NMRA. You are automatically affiliated with the state association of your residence and the national racquetball association of your membership, but you can also select other groups to receive information from by updating "My User Groups" under the "User Groups" heading.

Take your time, navigate through your profile, and connect even more with racquetball.

iContact ***New National Email System***

USA Racquetball has been trying to find the best ways to keep in touch and receive feedback from both members and non-members. Currently, USAR is migrating over to a new email provider called iContact. You may have received an email from iContact asking you to confirm your subscription to USA Racquetball. This email was intended to give USA Racquetball permission to send you emails. Clicking on the link below the "postcard" will confirm that you want to receive our emails. Without it, you will no longer be getting the electronic newsletter or information regarding our national events. You can sign up with multiple emails at <http://community.icontact.com/p/usaracquetball>.



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• USOC National

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• Coaches Rocky Carson,

Patricia Longoria,

Taylor Knott, Sharon Jackson

• Coach Legends Jason

Mannino and Sudsy Monchik

• USAR-IP Master Professional

• #1 IRT Professional

Player 2003

• #2 U.S. Open Champion

• IRT Most Improved

Player 1998

• IRT Rookie of the Year 1996

• International Racquetball

Tour President

Camp Schedule:

Weekend Camps 2011

September 9-11 - Tampa, FL

October 14-16 - Atlanta, GA

October 21-23 - TBA

November 11-13 - Chicago, IL

Weekend Camps 2012

January 27-29 Las Vegas, NV

February 3-5 Seattle, WA

March 2-4 Findlay, OH

March 30-April 1 Mobile, AL

April 20-21 Salt Lake City, UT

May 4-6 TBD

Week Long Fantasy Camps 2011

December 1-8, 2011 - Aruba
(Caribbean Island...Intermediate
to Advanced Camp)

Possible future cities: AZ, NM,
MD/VA, New England and more

The above dates are subject
to the IRT schedule.



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2011 NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 22-26, 2011 • Sunset Athletic Club (Portland, OR) and Griffith Park Family YMCA (Beaverton, OR)

by Jim Hiser • photos by Kirk Jones

The 2011 Junior Nationals was one of the best junior events in recent years. This spectacular event's success was due in large part to the efforts of the tremendous local organizing committee led by **Paul Maduell** and **Annette Knoth**. Great clubs, great hospitality, fun poolside banquet!

THE EVENT

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

Boys - **Nick Montalbano** - Upset favorite **Jose Diaz** to take the singles, and won the doubles with **Josh Hungerford**.

Girls - **Kelani Bailey** - No one scored double figures against her!

GREAT MATCHES

Boys - **Adam Manilla** beat doubles partner **Nick Riffel** in a very close tiebreaker in Boys 16's.

Girls - **Kaitlyn Simmons** snuck by **Lexi York** in Girls 14's. An awesome battle between two great friends.

GREAT POTENTIAL

Spencer Shoemaker (Boys 14) - Great athlete! Spencer has all the skills to be a pro if other sports don't sidetrack this great talent.

Sebastian Fernandez (Boys 10) - Outstanding skills for such a young player - keep an eye on this kid!

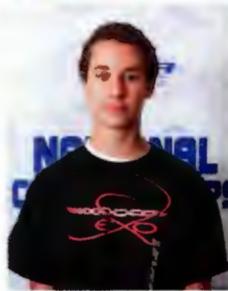
FUTURE AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

Girls - The number of young girls entering the sport maintains its downward trend. This will likely continue without the promotion of junior development by clubs and state organizations.

Skill level and coaching - The overall skill level of players continues to fall. This seems due to the reduced playing time available for juniors as well as a lack of skilled coaches.

Young players - Only three players signed up for the 8 & Under division, which indicates a drastic reduction of the number of young players entering the sport.







B8MB/G8MB - Round Robin

- 1st: James D'Ambrugia - Petaluma Valley Athletic Club, Petaluma, CA
 2nd: Jaxon Hall - Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, TX
 3rd: Andrew Shaw - East Side Athletic Club, Damascus, OR
 4th: Zachary Allen - YMCA, Everett, WA

Boys' Singles 8 and Under - Round Robin

- 1st: Antonio Rojas - In-Shape Sport: West Lane, Stockton, CA
 2nd: James D'Ambrugia - Petaluma Valley Athletic Club, Petaluma, CA
 3rd: Cole Hartman - Life Time Fitness, Hamel, MN
 4th: Jaxon Hall - Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, TX

Boys' Singles 10 and Under Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Sebastian Fernandez - American Athletic, San Diego, CA
 2nd: Antonio Rojas - In-Shape Sport: West Lane, Stockton, CA
 3rd: Julian Singh - ClubSport, Pleasanton, CA
 4th: Dominic Pisaneschi - East Side Athletic Club, Milwaukee, OR

Boys' Singles 10 and Under Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Nick Birnel - Bellingham Athletic Club, Bellingham, WA
 2nd: Brian Barberis - Life Time Fitness, McKinney, TX
 3rd: Cayden Akins - Roanoke Recreation Center, Keller, TX
 4th: Jett Guthrie - Bellingham Athletic Club, Bellingham, WA

Boys' Singles 10 and Under Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Jacob Allen - YMCA, Everett, WA
 2nd: Alan Yeziz - Stockton, CA
 3rd: Jesse Rojas - Stockton, CA
 4th: Ryan Shaw - East Side Athletic Club, Damascus, OR

Boys' Singles 10 and Under White - Olympic Format

- 1st: Micah Miller - Bellingham Athletic Club, Bellingham, WA
 2nd: Jeremy Holz - Bellingham Athletic Club, Lynden, WA
 3rd: Nicholas Kaminsky - East Side Athletic Club, Clackamas, OR
 4th: Andrew Burns - Bellingham Athletic Club, Everson, WA

Boys' Singles 12 and Under Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Jordan Barth - Suburban Health Club, Cold Spring, MN
 2nd: Mauro Rojas - In-Shape Sport: West Lane, Stockton, CA
 3rd: Wayne Antone IV - Courtsports Athletic Club, Junction City, OR
 4th: Justin Benson - Prairie Athletic Club, Sun Prairie, WI

Boys' Singles 12 and Under Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Brady Yelverton - LA Fitness, Garland, TX
 2nd: Ryan Holz - Bellingham Athletic Club, Lynden, WA
 3rd: Nikhil Singh - Club Sport, Pleasanton, CA
 4th: Evan Wargo - Harbour Island Athletic Club - Tampa FL, Clearwater, FL

Boys' Singles 12 and Under Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Braeden D'Almeida - Rose Shores, Harrison Township, MI
 2nd: Quade Howell - Sportplex, Mobile, AL
 3rd: Ryan Penders - Mel Korun YMCA, Puyallup, WA
 4th: Brannon Shrock - Bellingham Athletic Club, Bellingham, WA

Boys' Singles 12 and Under White - Olympic Format

- 1st: Karl Zeeb - Wisconsin Athletic Club, West Allis, WI
 2nd: Jordan Birnel - Bellingham Athletic Club, Bellingham, WA
 3rd: Adam Maduell - Sunset Athletic Club, Beaverton, OR
 4th: Brady Ancheta - Cascade Athletic Club, Gresham, OR

Boys' Singles 14 and Under Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Spencer Shoemaker - YMCA, Findlay, OH
 2nd: Kyle Ullman - Life Time Fitness Center, Westerville, OH
 3rd: Jake Birnel - Bellingham Athletic Club, Bellingham, WA
 4th: Jacob Matthews - Golds Gym, Bethel, NC

Boys' Singles 14 and Under Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Jesse Mendoza - LA Fitness, Tucson, AZ
 2nd: Matthew Goolsby - Cascade Athletic Club, Portland, OR
 3rd: Daniel Fishbein - Executive Health & Sports Center, Barrington, NH
 4th: Ryan Francis - Nashua Athletic Club, Litchfield, NH

Boys' Singles 14 and Under Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Thomas Carter - LA Fitness, Murrysville, PA
 2nd: Dima Gafarov - Petaluma Valley Athletic Club, Unknown, CA
 3rd: Gabriel Thomas Evans - Triton Sports Center, San Antonio, TX
 4th: Sam Goodman - Glass Court Swim and Fitness, Wheaton, IL

Boys' Singles 14 and Under White - Olympic Format

- 1st: Luis Torres - Spectrum Racquetball and Fitness, Helotes, TX
 2nd: Russell Chaver II - Triton Sports Center, Converse, TX
 3rd: Nicholas Pavloski - Life Time Fitness, Kingwood, TX
 4th: Joshua Gibson - The Fitness Center, Spokane Valley, WA

Boys' Singles 16 and Under Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Adam Manilla - Denver Athletic Club, Centennial, CO
 2nd: John Lindsay - Oregon City High School, Oregon City, OR
 3rd: Sam Reid - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR
 4th: Nicholas Riffel - Orchards Athletic Club, Loveland, CO

Boys' Singles 16 and Under Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Tanner Gross - Racquetball Plus, Alexandria, MN
 2nd: Joshua Lebow - Courthouse Athletic Club North, Salem, OR
 3rd: Jacob Matthews - Golds Gym, Bethel, NC
 4th: Luke Sewall - Petaluma Valley Athletic Club, Petaluma, CA

Boys' Singles 16 and Under Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Raul Quintanilla - YMCA - El Paso, El Paso, TX
 2nd: Ac Orozco - Fitness Inc., Pocatello, ID

3rd: Robert Hemphill - Fitness One, Fosters, AL
 4th: Sean Cooperider - LA Fitness - Palm Harbor FL, Palm Harbor, FL

Boys' Singles 16 and Under White - Olympic Format

- 1st: Toma Matiross - Southridge, Beaverton, OR
 2nd: Zach Pellowski - Crossroads Health & Fitness, Palisade, CO
 3rd: Bryan Domogalla - Southridge, Tigard, OR
 4th: Gabriel Thomas Evans - Triton Sports Center, San Antonio, TX

Boys' Singles 18 and Under Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Nick Montalbano - World Gym, West Islip, NY
 2nd: Jose Diaz - Franklin High School, Stockton, CA
 3rd: Dylan Reid - Multnomah Athletic Club, Portland, OR
 4th: Brad Schopieray - Davison Athletic Club, Swartz Creek, MI

Boys' Singles 18 and Under Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Brandon Qualls - Burton Wells, Seabrook, SC
 2nd: Kyle Lebow - Courthouse Athletic Club North, Salem, OR
 3rd: Jacob Boyle - Sunset Athletic Club, Beaverton, OR
 4th: Trevor Bukovi - Club Sport, Henderson, NV

Boys' Singles 18 and Under Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Ac Orozco - Fitness Inc., Pocatello, ID
 2nd: Coby Arff - Idaho Athletic Club, Boise, Boise, ID
 3rd: Mark Brower - Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium, Hudson, OH
 4th: Josh Pryor - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR

Boys' Singles 18 and Under White - Olympic Format

- 1st: Erik Smith - LA Fitness - Klein, Houston, TX
 2nd: Erik Gregory - Griffith Park YMCA, Unknown, OR
 3rd: Chase Zielinski - East Side Athletic Club, Portland, OR
 4th: Carter Wendt - LA Fitness, Scottsdale, AZ

Girls' Singles 10 and Under Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Kaitlyn Boyle - Sunset Athletic Club, Beaverton, OR
 2nd: Gracianna Wargo - Harbour Island Athletic Club - Tampa FL, Clearwater, FL
 3rd: Lorriann Pepe-Iluhaorg - Sunset Athletic Club, Beaverton, OR
 4th: Hannah Carver - The Fitness Center, Spokane, WA

Girls' Singles 10 and Under Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Faith Sampson - YMCA Greenbrier Chesapeake, VA, Currituck, NC
 2nd: Megan Carver - The Fitness Center, Spokane, WA
 3rd: Vanessa Read - East Side Athletic, Milwaukee, OR
 4th: Hanna Dobash - Wilsonville, OR

Girls' Singles 12 and Under Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Jordan Cooperider - Clearwater YMCA, Palm Harbor, FL
 2nd: Erika Manilla - Denver Athletic Club, Centennial, CO
 3rd: Hollie Scott - Bellingham Athletic Club, Bellingham, WA
 4th: Daniela Torres - Spectrum Racquetball and Fitness, San Antonio, TX

Girls' Singles 12 and Under Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Sierra Reid - Multnomah Athletic Club, Portland, OR
 2nd: Brenna Guthrie - Bellingham Athletic Club, Bellingham, WA
 3rd: Alysha Dobash - Wilsonville, OR

Girls' Singles 14 and Under Gold - Round Robin

- 1st: Kaitlyn Simmons - Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club, Crofton, MD
 2nd: Lexi York - East Side Athletic Club, Milwaukee, OR
 3rd: Krystle Boyle - Sunset Athletic Club, Beaverton, OR
 4th: Ashley Boyle - Sunset Athletic Club, Beaverton, OR

Girls' Singles 16 and Under Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Kelani Bailey - Greenbrier North YMCA, Norfolk, VA
 2nd: Samantha Simmons - Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club, Crofton, MD
 3rd: Mercedes Arias - One On One Athlete, Club, Ann Arbor, MI
 4th: Rebecca Nielsen - The Claremont Club, Upland, CA

Girls' Singles 16 and Under Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Hollie Hungerford - Rex Putnam, Milwaukee, OR
 2nd: Ariana Gulak - Southridge, Beaverton, OR
 3rd: Kendra Henderson - East Side Athletic Club, Clackamas, OR

Girls' Singles 18 and Under Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Devon Pimentelli - Capuccino High School, San Bruno, CA
 2nd: Amanda Lindsay - East Side Athletic Club, Oregon City, OR
 3rd: Jessica Munoz - Resilience Fitness, Burlington, WA
 4th: Courtney Chisholm - Marlborough, Marlborough, MA

Girls' Singles 18 and Under Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Elizabeth Simmons - Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club, Crofton, MD
 2nd: Tanya Ulloa - Sprague, Salem, OR
 3rd: Sara Del Balzo - Sunset Athletic Club, Portland, OR
 4th: Augusta Herman - Southridge, Tigard, OR

Girls' Singles 18 and Under Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Maddie Patton - Mac, Portland, OR
 2nd: Sarah Lewis - Beaverton YMCA, Beaverton, OR

Boys' Doubles 10 and Under - Round Robin

- 1st: Julian Singh / Sebastian Fernandez - Pleasanton, CA/San Diego, CA
 2nd: Brian Barberis / Cayden Akins - McKinney, TX/Keller, TX
 3rd: James D'ambrosia / Ryan Shaw - Petaluma, CA/Damascus, OR
 4th: Cole Hartman / Dominic Pisaneschi - Hamel, MN/Milwaukee, OR

Boys' Doubles 12 and Under - Single Elimination

- 1st: Mauro Rojas / Wayne Antone IV - Stockton, CA/Junction City, OR
 2nd: Jordan Barth / Justus Benson - Cold Spring, MN/Sun Prairie, WI

3rd: Carter Simon / Sean Henry - Sun Prairie, WI/Georgetown, IN
 4th: Jordan Birnel / Nick Birnel - Bellingham, WA/Bellingham, WA

Boys' Doubles 12 and Under Consolation - Single Elimination

- 1st: Ryan Holz / Tyler Burns - Lynden, WA/Everson, WA
 2nd: Brady Yelverton / Evan Wargo - Garland, TX/Clearwater, FL
 3rd: Jared Lee / Nikhil Singh - Danville, CA/Pleasanton, CA
 4th: Adam Maduell / Justin Juul - Beaverton, OR/Wood Village, OR

Boys' Doubles 14 and Under - Single Elimination

- 1st: Kyle Ullman / Spencer Shoemaker - Westerville, OH/Findlay, OH
 2nd: Jake Birnel / Ryan Francis - Bellingham, WA/Litchfield, NH
 3rd: Daniel Fishbein / Jessi Mendoza - Barrington, NH/Tucson, AZ
 4th: Matthew Goolsby / Wayne Antone IV - Portland, OR/Junction City, OR

Boys' Doubles 14 and Under Consolation - Single Elimination

- 1st: Dima Gafarov / Jacob Matthews - Unknown, CA/Bethel, NC
 2nd: Luis Torres / Thomas Carter - Helotes, TX/Murrysville, PA
 3rd: Gabriel Thomas Evans / Nicholas Pavloski - San Antonio, TX/Kingwood, TX
 4th: Jason Goodman / Sam Goodman - Wheaton, IL/Wheaton, IL

Boys' Doubles 16 and Under - Single Elimination

- 1st: Adam Manilla / Nicholas Riffel - Centennial, CO/Loveland, CO
 2nd: John Lindsay / Sam Reid - Oregon City, OR/Portland, OR
 3rd: Connor Laffey / Joshua Lebow - Salem, OR/Salem, OR
 4th: Raul Quintanilla / Tyler Kendrick - El Paso, TX/Arlington, TX

Boys' Doubles 16 and Under Consolation - Single Elimination

- 1st: Matthew Wray / Mitchell Hardin - Huron, OH/Findlay, OH
 2nd: Daniel Ullrich / Zach Pellowski - Kittredge, CO/Palisade, CO
 3rd: Alex Winter / Christopher Francis - Melville, NY/Litchfield, NH
 4th: Nicolas Smith / Sean Bagley - Portland, OR/Portland, OR

Boys' Doubles 18 and Under - Single Elimination

- 1st: Brandon Qualls / Trevor Bukovi - Seabrook, SC/Henderson, NV
 2nd: Jon Lanford / William Craig - Wichita Falls, TX/San Antonio, TX
 3rd: Andrew Pryor / Josh Pryor - Beaverton, OR/Beaverton, OR
 4th: Jasper Jackson / Erik Smith - Anchorage, AK/Houston, TX

Girls' Doubles 18 and Under - Round Robin

- 1st: Amanda Lindsay / Jessica Munoz - Oregon City, OR/Burlington, WA
 2nd: Courtney Chisholm / Devon Pimentelli - Marlborough, MA/San Bruno, CA
 3rd: Elizabeth Simmons / Sarah Lewis - Crofton, MD/Beaverton, OR

Girls' Doubles G16/140 - Round Robin

- 1st: Kelani Bailey / Mercedes Arias - Norfolk, VA/Ann Arbor, MI
 2nd: Kaitlyn Simmons / Samantha Simmons - Crofton, MD/Crofton, MD
 3rd: Krystle Boyle / Lexi York - Beaverton, OR/Milwaukee, OR

Girls' Doubles G12/100 - Round Robin

- 1st: Erika Manilla / Jordan Cooperider - Centennial, CO/Palm Harbor, FL
 2nd: Gracianna Wargo / Kaitlyn Boyle - Clearwater, FL/Beaverton, OR
 3rd: Brenna Guthrie / Daniela Torres - Bellingham, WA/San Antonio, TX
 4th: Hannah Carver / Megan Carver - Spokane, WA/Spokane, WA

Junior Mixed Doubles 10 and Under - Round Robin

- 1st: Sebastian Fernandez / Faith Sampson - San Diego, CA/Currituck, NC
 2nd: Gracianna Wargo / Nick Birnel - Clearwater, FL/Bellingham, WA
 3rd: Jett Guthrie / Megan Carver - Bellingham, WA/Spokane, WA
 4th: Andrew Burns / Hannah Carver - Everson, WA/Spokane, WA

Junior Mixed Doubles 12 and Under - Round Robin

- 1st: Erika Manilla / Justin Benson - Centennial, CO/Sun Prairie, WI
 2nd: Hollie Scott / Tyler Burns - Bellingham, WA/Everson, WA
 3rd: Daniela Torres / Brady Yelverton - San Antonio, TX/Garland, TX
 4th: Evan Wargo / Kaitlyn Boyle - Clearwater, FL/Beaverton, OR

Junior Mixed Doubles 14 and Under - Round Robin

- 1st: Kaitlyn Simmons / Kyle Ullman - Crofton, MD/Westerville, OH
 2nd: Hollie Scott / Jake Birnel - Bellingham, WA/Bellingham, WA
 3rd: Jett Barth / Lexi York - Cold Spring, MN/Milwaukee, OR
 4th: Ashley Boyle / Daniel Fishbein - Beaverton, OR/Barrington, NH

Junior Mixed Doubles 16 and Under - Single Elimination

- 1st: Kelani Bailey / Nicholas Riffel - Norfolk, VA/Loveland, CO
 2nd: Samantha Simmons / Tyler Kendrick - Crofton, MD/Arlington, TX
 3rd: Hollie Hungerford / Matthew Goolsby - Milwaukee, WI/Portland, OR
 4th: Joshua Lebow / Krystle Boyle - Salem, OR/Beaverton, OR

Junior Mixed Doubles 16 and Under Consolation - Single Elimination

- 1st: Connor Laffey / Rebecca Nielsen - Salem, OR/Upland, CA

Junior Mixed Doubles 18 and Under - Single Elimination

- 1st: Adam Manilla / Devon Pimentelli - Centennial, CO/San Bruno, CA
 2nd: Elizabeth Simmons / Jade Hemiller - Crofton, MD/Watertown, SD
 3rd: Courtney Chisholm / Ethan Wadsworth - Marlborough, MA/Joshua, TX
 4th: Mark Brown / Mercedes Arias - Hudson, OH/Ann Arbor, MI

Junior Mixed Doubles 18 and Under Consolation - Single Elimination

- 1st: Kyle Lebow / Tanya Ulloa - Salem, OR/Salem, OR
 2nd: Coby Arff / Rebecca Nielsen - Boise, ID/Upland, CA
 3rd: Brandon Qualls / Sarah Lewis - Seabrook, SC/Beaverton, OR
 4th: Augusta Herman / Josh Pryor - Tigard, OR/Beaverton, OR



Building Champions, Changing Lives

Dear Friend,

Competition, fitness, fun, and friendship are the cornerstones of the racquetball experience. Racquetball already makes a difference in the lives of millions in the U.S., but we know with additional resources we could do so much more to create awareness of and increased participation in our sport.

USA Racquetball is recognized by the USOC as the National Governing Body for the sport of racquetball. However, although we are a Pan American sport, we do not receive outside funding from the USOC or other government entities.

A not-for-profit 501(c)(3) association, we depend upon three major sources of funding – membership, events, and fundraising. To support the ongoing success of our mission, we announce the creation of the USA Racquetball Champions Club. Three levels of participation are available – Lifetime Member*, Benefactor and Patron.

Help support the sport of racquetball in America. Please consider joining USA Racquetball's most distinguished and loyal giving community – the USAR Champions Club.



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

As a Champions Club participant, your gift will support:

- US Adult and Junior National Teams
- *Racquetball* magazine and USAR eNewsletters
- USAR-Instructors and Coaching Program
- A legacy to support competitive and recreational growth of racquetball for both genders of all age and skill levels
- Collegiate and junior development

CHAMPIONS CLUB BENEFCTOR - \$5,000

- USAR Lifetime Membership
- VIP access for four people to all USAR designated national events
- Recognition on a plaque at USAR headquarters
- Official USA Racquetball commemorative statue
- VIP Champions Club recognition gift and name listed in *Racquetball* magazine
- Special opportunities to purchase VIP tickets to select USAR events

CHAMPIONS CLUB PATRON - \$2,500

- USAR Lifetime Membership
- VIP access for two people to all USAR designated national events
- Official USA Racquetball commemorative statue
- VIP Champions Club recognition gift and name listed in *Racquetball* magazine
- Special opportunities to purchase VIP tickets to select USAR events

CHAMPIONS CLUB LIFETIME MEMBER - \$1,250

- USAR Lifetime Membership
- VIP access to USAR designated national events
- Recognition in *Racquetball* magazine
- Special opportunities to purchase VIP tickets to select USAR events

* All current USAR Lifetime Members automatically become Champions Club Members. Additional donations will be greatly appreciated.

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Expiration (mm/yyyy) _____ Security Code # _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

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 Enclosed is \$2,500 to become a Champion Club Patron
 Enclosed is \$1,250 to become a Champion Club Lifetime Member
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 Please invoice me quarterly for complete payment over one year.

- I cannot support Champions Club at this time, but I would like to contribute
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 My check is enclosed*

- Please charge my credit card:
 Mastercard VISA



* Please make check payable to USA Racquetball Champions Club and return to: USA Racquetball, 1685 W. Uintah St., Suite 103, Colorado Springs, CO 80904



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Huczek Signs On As Product Development Advisor For Ashaway

Retired Racquetball Superstar To Help Direct UltraKill Evolution

Ashaway Racket Strings has announced that recently retired racquetball superstar and former World Champion Jack Huczek has agreed to help the company steer the development of UltraKill® and other product lines.

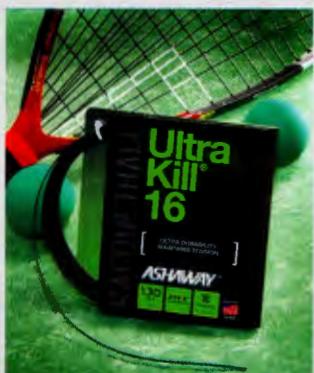
Huczek announced his retirement from professional racquetball last May and leaves an impressive legacy in the world of racquetball. Since he picked up his first racquet over 25 years ago, Jack has amassed 22 World Championships and 42 National Championships. After joining the IRT Tour and winning the first of his 29 IRT tournaments in 2002, he ranked among the top five players

in the world for the next ten years and in 2006-07 captured the coveted No. 1 spot on the IRT Year End Rankings.

"Being an ambassador for my sponsors has always been an enjoyable part of being a professional racquetball player," Huczek said. "I've worked with Ashaway on the UltraKill family since its inception and play-tested the string very early. I'm very pleased with the opportunity to continue working with Ashaway and perhaps helping out with other products as well."

While no travel plans were announced as part of Jack's advisory role, he says don't be surprised to see him turning up at a tournament near you!

Ashaway Introduces UltraKill® 16 Racquetball String



Ashaway Racket Strings has introduced the newest member of its popular UltraKill® family of racquetball strings. New UltraKill 16 utilizes the same Zyex® core polymer as other members of the family, but in a special, multi-stranded monofilament Zyex construction that maintains tension throughout the life of the string for reliable performance. The rugged 16-gauge (1.30 mm) thickness maximizes durability for chronic string breakers.

"UltraKill 16 is the workhorse in the family," said Steve Crandall, Ashaway's

Vice President of Marketing. "It's designed to provide exceptional power and ball control. The Zyex core minimizes tension loss for more consistent performance, and the braided surface maximizes control and increases spin."

Because of its tension holding properties, Ashaway recommends stringing the glossy black UltraKill 16 up to a maximum of 35 lbs tension, approximately 10-15% less than standard racquetball strings.

For more information visit ashawayusa.com

Gearbox Introduces New Line of Racquets and Racquetballs

After Owner and CEO Rafael Filippini spent over a year developing new and improved frame technology, Gearbox Racquetball recently announced the introduction of its innovative new line of racquets.

The Solid 1.0 features the patented Solid Head technology united with new Displacement Channel and String Dimple Technologies. The Displacement Channels add stiffness to the frame's enhancing power and control while reducing deformation of the racquet. Distributing impact loads along the frame's channels augments durability as well.

The String Dimples' soft beveled edges reduce string angles to improve structural resiliency. Solid Head technology,

shared with the GB 250, has revolutionized racquetball racquets in durability by doubling the wall thickness and increasing impact resistance.

Offered in both a quadraform and a teardrop-style frame, the Solid 1.0 racquet quadraform frame comes in three different weights: 165g, 170g, and 185g. The teardrop frame is available in 165g and 170g.

Along with these new racquets, Gearbox is thrilled to release a new ball to the market, one that has received tremendously positive feedback. It offers great durability, true bounce, terrific playability and a mid-range speed.

For more information, check out www.gearboxrb.com.

Asia Racquetball Federation

By Yuni Cobb

The Asia Racquetball Federation became an official member of the IRF in 1999. Since then, Japan, Korea and Saipan have hosted numerous championships, and many international players, including juniors, have played in tournaments hosted by the ARF. We were proud to host the Asia Open in June, with six Asian countries and players from the USA, Colombia and Canada participating.

The ARF's fifth and most recent president, Dr. Cho Wang Ki, continues to promote the sport with the same passion as his predecessors. After only seven months, Dr. Ki has:

- A. Developed a racquetball program for underprivileged children in Korea with plans to expand into other Asian countries.
- B. Attended the Junior World Racquetball Championships in 2010 in Los Angeles to develop relationships with the presidents of racquetball federations around the world.
- C. Built portable outdoor racquetball courts in two Asian countries. Dr. Ki firmly believes this is a great way to promote racquetball in countries that do not have indoor court facilities due to cost and space limitations.



Ultimately, with the help from not only Asian members but also players around the world, we hope to become a member of the Olympic Committee of Asia.



Ektelon Introduces Three New Racquets For Summer 2011

Three new EXO3 Frames Join a Completely Revamped Racquet Line with New Manufacturing Process

Ektelon has launched three new frames to its line of performance racquets this summer, including the EXO3 RG Toron (named after racquetball legend Ruben Gonzalez), EXO3 Attack Lite and EXO3 Re-Ignite. All three feature the company's patented and revolutionary EXO3 technology, eliminating conventional grommet holes to literally lengthen the strings to the frame's exterior edges and suspending them to create the largest functional hitting area of any racquet on the market. These four high performance frames provide the largest sweet spot possible for ultimate power for competitive to recreational racquetball players.



These racquets (excluding the RG Toron) offer weight and balance customization options with EXO3 String Suspension Inserts which provide up to four different swing weight combinations per frame. All are available from authorized Ektelon dealers.

The entire EXO3 and O3 line features a new Ektelon manufacturing process highlighted by a new resin material that bonds graphite fibers together. This makes them stronger and more resilient for improved frame strength and power.

These EXO3 racquet models and the revamped Speedport and O3 frames are now available at retail locations where Ektelon products are sold. For more information about EXO3 technology or to view the full line of Ektelon products, visit www.ektelon.com.



Junior Worlds Team 2011

2011 IRF Junior World Championships

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, July 24-30, 2011

By Kelley Beane, US Junior Team Head Coach

Team USA arrived in beautiful Santo Domingo on Saturday and got right down to the courts to practice. The setup is very nice - we could either take the buses or the subway to the Olympic Park where the courts are. The subway proved best as the tropical rains came every day in the afternoon – and when it rains there, it means business! After practicing Saturday and Sunday we got the team together, and, along with our helpful translators Nancy and Victor Manilla, went downtown to the markets since it was our only chance during the week to buy gifts and see what the local vendors had to offer. Then it was back for the opening ceremonies which featured music and dancers and included local dignitaries.

Pool play started Monday morning and continued through Wednesday night. This established our place in the regular draws that started Thursday morning and finished up Saturday night. Mexico took the top spot, followed by Bolivia and the USA.

The last evening we went out for a team dinner with Team Ireland and then enjoyed our remaining time left in the Dominican by the pool.

We only had six returning members of last year's World Championship Team, which made for some tough play out there, but I'm proud to say that our athletes gave everything they had out on the court. It was good to see some of the other countries like Bolivia and Guatemala start posting some serious results at the event. The talent is deep worldwide and we here in the USA need to continue to support our junior programs. We have a year to train and rebuild, and that's exactly what we are going to do.

A big thank you goes to our gracious hosts, the Dominican Racquetball Federation, and to the IRF for your hard work putting on this event. Special thanks also to our coaches and parents and to everyone for your continued support!



Team members surround Team Trainer Joyce Parsons



Adam Manilla & Nick Riffel



Gold Medalist Nick Montalbano & Josh Hungerford



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENT TITLE	EVENT START	FACILITY NAME
2011 WOR WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS PRESENTED BY EKTELON	9/3/2011-9/3/2011	MARINA PARK
ANTIOCH PRIZE MONEY SHOOTOUT	9/3/2011-9/4/2011	IN-SHAPE SPORT - ANTIOCH
RENEW IT RACQUETBALL	9/9/2011-9/11/2011	COMPETITIVE EDGE
2011 FRAN DAVIS CAMP - SARASOTA	9/9/2011-9/11/2011	SARASOTA BATH & RACQUET CLUB
2011 MRF FT. MYER MILITARY RACQUETBALL OPEN	9/9/2011-9/11/2011	FT. MYER FITNESS CENTER
2011 KSRA SENIORS TOURNAMENT	9/9/2011-9/11/2011	DOWNTOWN LOUISVILLE YMCA
CSRA STATE DOUBLES	9/9/2011-9/11/2011	SPECTRUM
HEAD PENN IRT PROAM SERIES	9/9/2011-9/11/2011	SPORTS CLUB AT CITY SQUARE
EKTELON FALL SEASON OPENER	9/9/2011-9/11/2011	BALLY TOTAL FITNESS
THE COURTHOUSE FALL ONE-DAY SHOOTOUT	9/10/2011-9/10/2011	COURTHOUSE FITNESS CENTER
2011 TX MAVERICK TRIPLE CROWN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	9/10/2011-9/11/2011	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB
2011 12TH ANNUAL GHOST OF GEORGETOWN IRT PROAM TIER 1 TOURNAMENT	9/15/2011-9/18/2011	ATHLETIC CLUB OF OVERLAND PARK
TIMBERHILL OPEN	9/15/2011-9/18/2011	TIMBERHILL ATHLETIC CLUB
2011 BOBCAT OPEN	9/16/2011-9/18/2011	JOWERS CENTER
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE NORTH	9/16/2011-9/18/2011	EVERETT YMCA
GRPA ATLANTA OPEN	9/16/2011-9/18/2011	RECREATION ATC
TRAVERSE CITY CHERRY SPLAT	9/17/2011-9/18/2011	GRAND TRAVERSE ATHLETIC CLUB
2011 3 WALLBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	9/22/2011-9/25/2011	STRATOSPHERE HOTEL & CASINO
KICK-OFF CLASSIC	9/22/2011-9/25/2011	RIVERPOINT SPORTS AND WELLNESS
2011 FLORIDAY REGIONAL DOUBLES	9/23/2011-9/25/2011	SARASOTA BATH & RACQUET CLUB
TEXAS TECH OPEN	9/23/2011-9/25/2011	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
2011 VA AMERICAN FAMILY FALL OPEN	9/23/2011-9/25/2011	AMERICAN FAMILY MIDLOTHIAN
SEATTLE OPEN	9/30/2011-10/2/2011	WASHINGTON ATHLETIC CLUB
2011-2012 ECRC MEET #1	9/30/2011-10/2/2011	24/7 FITNESS CLUB - BETHLEHEM
SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAMPIONSHIPS: A HEAD PENN IRT SERIES SPECIAL EVENT	9/30/2011-10/2/2011	TUCSON RACQUET & FITNESS CLUB
HUNTSMAN WORLD SENIOR GAMES	10/5/2011-10/8/2011	ST. GEORGE REC CENTER
2011 17TH ANNUAL US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	10/5/2011-10/9/2011	LIFETIME FITNESS - TARGET CENTER
2011 VA YMCA JAMES RIVER OPEN	10/7/2011-10/9/2011	YMCA OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA
MAC OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	10/15/2011-10/16/2011	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB
COURT SPORTS FALL CLASSIC	10/20/2011-10/23/2011	COURTSPORTS ATHLETIC CLUB
2011 TX STATE DOUBLES RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	10/21/2011-10/23/2011	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB
TOURNAMENT OF TERROR	10/21/2011-10/23/2011	SPECTRUM
AUBURN VW OPEN	10/21/2011-10/23/2011	BALLY'S KENT
CROSS COURT OPEN	10/21/2011-10/23/2011	CROSS COURT ATHLETIC CLUB
2011-2012 ECRC MEET #2	10/21/2011-10/23/2011	COURT CLUB
RED SWAIN SHOOTOUT IRT RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT	10/27/2011-10-30-2011	DAVISON ATHLETIC CLUB
IZZI RACQUETBALL OPEN	10/28/2011-10/30/2011	CAMPBELL COUNTY REC CENTER
THE GHOSTLY DOUBLES	10/29/2011-10/30/2011	SPECTRUM HILL COUNTRY VILLAGE
2011 SEATTLE PROAM	11/3/2011-11/6/2011	WASHINGTON ATHLETIC CLUB
AGGIELAND SHOOTOUT	11/5/2011-11/6/2011	A&M REC CENTER
SUNSET TURKEY SHOOT	11/9/2011-11/13/2011	SUNSET ATHLETIC CLUB
2011 TX WAR - WOMEN AND RACQUETBALL - HOUSTON	11/13/2011-11/13/2011	UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON - DEPT OF CAMPUS REC
2011 IL TURKEY SHOOT OPEN	11/17/2011-11/20/2011	GLASS COURT SWIM AND FITNESS
SARASOTA FALL TOURNAMENT	11/18/2011-11/20-2011	SARASOTA BATH & RACQUET CLUB
2011 NMRA DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP	12/1/2011-12/3/2011	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB
MRF TEXAS IRON HORSE OPEN	12/2/2011-12/4/2011	ABRAMS PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER
SOUTH TEXAS RACQUETBALL HOLIDAY PROAM	12/10/2011-12/10/2011	CORPUS CHRISTI ATHLETIC CLUB



Calendar of Events

2011

EVENT PHONE	CITY	STATE	CONTACT NAME	CONTACT EMAIL
714-767-4622	HUNTINGTON BEACH	CA	STEVE COHEN	STEVE.WORLDOUTDOORRACQUETBALL@YAHOO.COM
209-969-4497	ANTIOCH	CA	JOHN ELLIS	ELLISTYLE@COMCAST.NET
360-820-3224	PUYALLUP	WA	NEAL HEGGEN	NHEGGEN@YAHOO.COM
206-522-3726	SARASOTA	FL	FRAN DAVIS	CAMPS@FRANDAVISRACQUETBALL.COM
202-341-5973	ARLINGTON	VA	PEGGIE TELLEZ	PEGGIE@PACBELL.NET
270-304-4575	LOUISVILLE	KY	RON MARR	RONMARR@WINDSTREAM.NET
818-884-5034	CANOGA PARK	CA	RANDY LAM	RJLAM@HOTMAIL.COM
480-730-8270	PHOENIX	AZ	BEN SIMONS	BSIMONS101@COX.NET
216-262-2134	BEACHWOOD	OH	JUSTIN LABELLE	JUSTINLABELLE10@GMAIL.COM
513-604-0398	CINCINNATI	OH	ANDREW KULBACK	AMKULBACK@YAHOO.COM
817-275-3348	ARLINGTON	TX	LEO VASQUEZ	LEO@THEMAV.COM
913-383-9060	OVERLAND PARK	KS	MIKE WEDEL	MWEDEL@ATHLETICCLUBOP.COM
541-757-8559	CORVALLIS	OR	ROB DURBIN	DURBIN_ROB@COMCAST.NET
512-557-1171	SAN MARCOS	TX	JODY MORRIS	JLMPROK@YAHOO.COM
425-418-0319	EVERETT	WA	NEAL HEGGEN	BRIAN@WASHINGTONRACQUETBALL.ORG
404-317-7992	LILBURN	GA	WILL COSTANZA	GRPATOURNAMENTS@EARTHLINK.NET
231-218-0929	TRAVERSE CITY	MI	JEFF SIMONIS	SIMONISCONSTRUCTION@CHARTER.NET
614-361-7162	LAS VEGAS	NV	STEVE LERNER	STEVE@CLASSICPRORACQUETBALL.COM
505-897-3716	ALBUQUERQUE	NM	ROBERT LEE	ROBERTELEE@924@HOTMAIL.COM
941-545-5802	SARASOTA	FL	CHAD BAILEY	AUCHAD99@HOTMAIL.COM
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By Steve Crandall
Vice President, Sales & Marketing
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Multiply Your Options With Hybrid String

Hybrid stringing" is using one string for the mains and another for the crosses. It's been recommended for many years as an option for chronic string breakers or for finesse players who want more touch or control. But longtime coach and age group champion Tom Travers recommends hybrid stringing for all players.

If anyone should know, it's Tom. He has been on the racquetball circuit for the past 35 years, playing, coaching, teaching, and stringing. Now 58 and a well known figure in Masters tournaments, he holds 21 National and World Titles in Singles and Doubles age group divisions. He's also written a book, *Real Racquetball*, produced two popular instructional videos and was inducted into the Ohio Racquetball Hall of Fame in 1999.

According to Travers, hybrid stringing can benefit any player regardless of playing style or the tension at which they normally string. The benefits, he says, include more string durability, a racquet that has a softer feel, and a string bed that delivers better control and improved power.

Hybrid strings can come ready-made, but, says Travers, you can just as easily make up your own combinations. "I like the new Zyex-based UltraKill® 18 for my mains—which for me is just stiff enough—and a softer 18-gauge nylon string for my crosses."

The key, he says, is to combine a stiffer string for the mains and a softer string for the crosses. Most players break their mains first, so a stiffer string there adds durability, while using softer crosses improves playability. "Combined, the strings have more resilience. They let the ball sit on the strings a bit longer, so you have more feel and more power. The ball compresses more as the strings come back. To my mind, stiff cross strings make the whole racquet feel stiff. Soften up the crosses, and you soften the whole racquet."

Another benefit of hybrids is that the strings don't move as much, according to Travers. "The strings tend to lock together better and don't abrade against each other

as much. A more stable string bed improves playability and increases string life. Also, you don't need those little spacers people sometimes use."

Who should use what gauge for hybrid stringing? Travers has it pretty much down to a formula. "Generally speaking, players who hit the ball harder—above 140 mph, for example—should use a 16-gauge for both mains and crosses, but still with the stiffer main and softer cross combination. For moderate hitters with speeds between 120 and 140 mph—and this includes most players—a 17-gauge stiff/soft combination should work. Light hitters who hit under 120 mph should go for an 18-gauge combination."

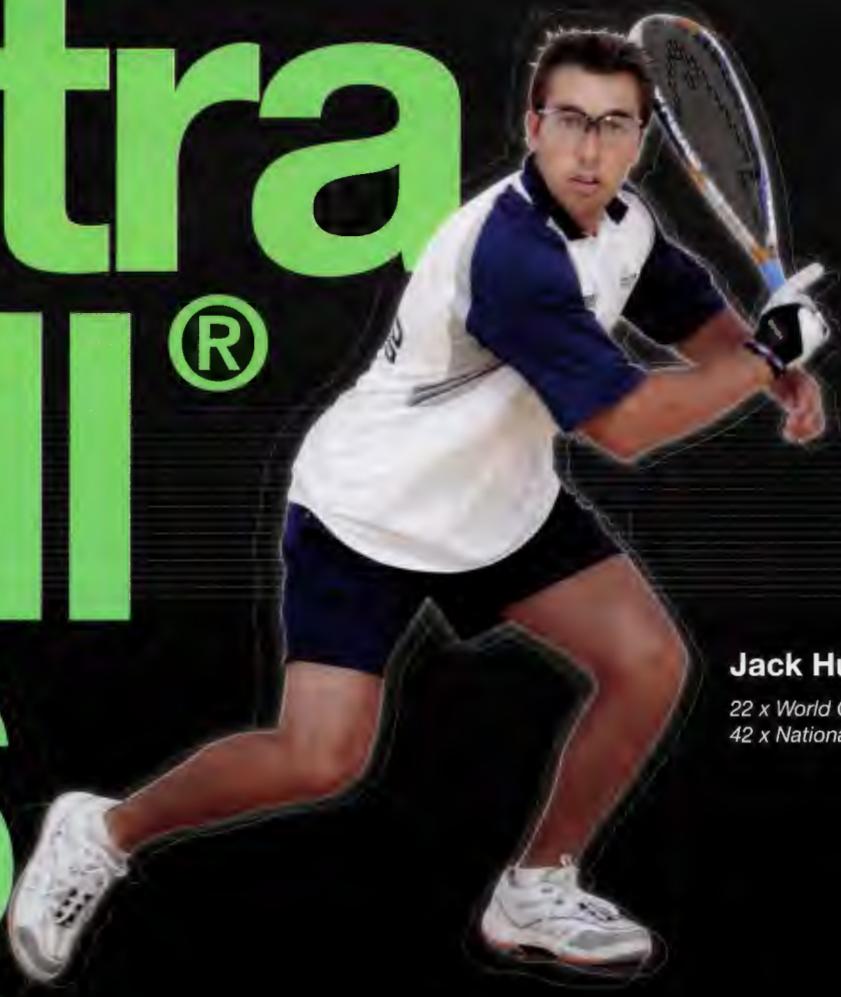
Players who really want to fine-tune their racquets can mix gauges by half steps, using a heavier string for the mains and lighter string for the crosses. "It depends on what you're working for. The thicker the gauge, the more durable the string, and a thinner gauge will give you more feel. Just because you're a hard hitter and need a thicker string doesn't mean you don't still need to feel the ball. Mixing gauges lets you do that."

What combination you use also depends on how you hit the ball. Irrespective of power, strings last longer with experienced players who tend to hit on the sweet spot of their racquets. Players who hit all over the face of the racquet go through more strings, so they should opt for a heavier main combination.

To find the best combination for you, here's what Travers recommends. "Tournament players generally have several racquets. Let's say you're happy using 17/17 and you want to get a bit more playability. Have one racquet strung 18/18 and another strung 17/18 and count the number of matches you get out of each. See which lasts longest. This will give you good, objective criteria."

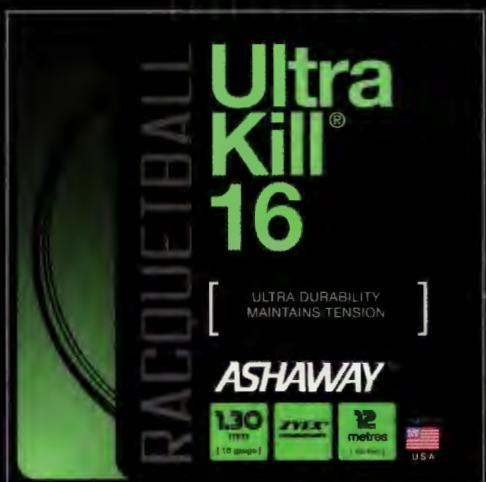
In summary, hybrid stringing offers you more choice of string type and additional options for string gauge. Hybrid string beds provide more feel, more control and better string durability than traditional stringing. Travers believes all players need control without giving up power. Hybrid stringing helps accomplish this goal.

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