**President’s Message, September 2023**

**The 38th IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships were held Labor Day week in Las Vegas, NM (the ORIGINAL Meadow City). The operative phrase coming after the event is:**

**‘We came, we saw, we conquered’**

**Over 100 participants representing 15 US states and 13 countries competed across five days at three venues: The NM Highlands University John Wilson Complex, the Abe Montoya Recreation Center, and the Armand Hammer United World College of the American West Edith Lansing Field House. Host hotels were the historic Castaneda & women’s singles and doubles, mixed doubles, and Racketball Singles (Squash 57). We appreciate the dedication and hard work from the administrations at NMHU and the City of Las Vegas, as they upgraded their court complexes for our event.**

**The powers that be will convene later this month at the Plaza to reflect and to begin planning for the 2024 event (39th edition). Dates are set for August 27-31.**

**Passing: NM Racquetball recently lost 4 friends - Rudy Burrola (Businessman), Dean Harvey (Government), Richard Myers (Accountant), & Tony Sanford (Government). The former resided in Roswell; the others resided in Albuquerque.**

**World-wide Racquetball Day: On September 9th in honor of WWRD, we confirmed two upcoming events: NM State Championships (Nov. 2-5) & NPA National Paddleball Championships (December 8-10). Both will be held at Riverpoint Sports & Wellness in Albuquerque.**

**Quote of the month:**

***‘This is one of the greatest experiences in my lifetime’***

***Per Loseth (80+ player at his first ever tourney — IRF World Seniors in Las Vegas, NM)***

**IPRO Director’s Message, September 2023**

**In a quest to promote the sport, USA Racquetball teamed up with the International Racquetball Federation to heighten awareness; coining a ‘World-wide Racquetball day’ on September 9th. It had a presence across five continents. One motivation was to bring the constituency on-board by:**

**…Introducing the game to a new audience.**

**…Showing these ‘newbies’ the basics, and creating an enjoyable and safe environment.**

**…Treating Racquetball first as a GAME; having a mindset to promote from the bottom up.**

**…Adding actions to words:**

**-Keeping current courts presentable; court lines drawn according to the rules of the game.**

**-Maintaining a in-tact infrastructure; lights working, walls cleaned, & flooring safe.**

**-Having an advocate to promote multi-discipline programs as well as being available to meet and greet members, non-members and others.**

**…Insisting on making the courts income generating.**

**…Networking with venue administrators and employees to build and sustain an energy flow.**

**…Providing common-sense options to bring youth back into the fold. Special days for learning and recreating on the courts. Also, special days for sharing knowledge/wisdom.**

**…Keeping the outdoor disciplines available and energized. Ultimately a large segment of these individuals will have the wherewithal and lifestyles to join the clubs. Remember that we are promoting a LIFETIME PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.**

**Let us get started now! By next September 9th, Racquetball will hopefully be on the move.**

**Quote of the Month:**

***‘When you find yourself out of your depth in troubled waters, discover how to swim’***

***Bono***

**President’s Message July, 2023**

**Worldwide Racquetball Day is coming September 9th! Mark it on your calendar.**

**New Mexico Racquetball will honor this day with a series of events. First, the 38th IRF World Senior Championships the previous week. Then, the return of the State Racquetball Championships at the Highpoint Sports & Wellness club in Albuquerque (Sept. 15-17). Singles, doubles, & mixed doubles will be held over two days (Sat & Sun). The tourney will kick off with a doubles pickleball event on Friday evening.**

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

**Ibarra’s shine at Intercollegiates. Held at the Ohio State University in April, Andrea took second place in the womens singles. She teamed with brother, Alan, to medal in Mixed.**

**STREAMING:**

**Most of our events are streamed live; and, are held on the site for a minimum**

**of thirty days. Go to: New Mexico Racquetball Facebook/posts/scroll down to event/play**

**OUTDOOR FESTIVAL:**

**Target date of spring, 2024. Location will be North Domingo Baca Recreation Center in Albuquerque. It will be a joint venture with the City Parks & Recreation Department; and, will mimic the WOR annual outdoor event in Las, Vegas, NV. The host hotel will likely be the Marriott Uptown. Disciplines of racquetball, handball, and paddleball will be offered.**

**UPCOMING:**

**July 27-30 Santa Fe Warmup (Racquetball/handball/squash); El Gancho Club, Santa Fe**

**Aug 29-Sept 2 IRF 38th World Senior Racquetball Championships; Las Vegas, NM USA**

**Quote of the month**

**‘Life is fragile; do not take anything for granted’ HR Dratcher**