Christie Van Hees & Sherman Greenfeld

Home Court Advantage!

Reigning World Champions hope for Pan Am Gold in Winnipeg

INSIDE! Behind the Scenes at Tournaments
- Pan Am Games Preview
- National High Schools
- Houston Front Runners
- Sudsy's Magic Forehand
- Instruction by Fran Davis & Lynn Adams
- World Senior Info
- Annual Award Winners
- Calendar & Rankings
ANTI-OPponent WEPon
THE TITANIUM POWER REVOLUTION CONTINUES...
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You can bet a player of Sudsy Monchik's caliber wouldn't be caught dead using a racquet that didn't have the ultimate in power and control. That's why Sudsy chooses HEAD's new Ti. Power Series Racquets with the AnTi.Torsion System. This innovative system stiffens the entire throat area and fuses more rigidity in the frame — all without reducing the length of the main strings or the size of the string bed. The result is unprecedented power even on off-center shots. And our PowerZone System allows the strings to move more freely by expanding the string bed by eight square inches, providing maximum power with every hit. HEAD's Ti. Power Series is constructed with the perfect blend of titanium for strength and graphite for lightness. Experience the most powerful racquets ever made.

Now, the only thing deadly about Sudsy...is his game.
Love or money? In preparing this issue, with its background look at tournaments, I had to think about what it is about racquetball that seems to bring out such strong feelings among its participants. Granted, my theory is that we’re all a bit less traditional than most (... I don’t wanna play tennis ... you can’t make me!), and have tendencies toward more unusual ways to spend our time. Nonetheless, it’s becoming more and more obvious that the demand for quality racquetball is on the rise.

So let’s say you do it for love. You’re a fanatic. Can’t get enough court time — ever. When you compete in a tournament, all you want is an opportunity to test your skills against your peers — preferably long enough to be in the hunt on Sunday. Food? Maybe. Clothing? Maybe. But first and foremost, it’s the play. You want the tournament director to share your passion — maybe even enough to show up as one of your opponents at some point — and you expect them to “speak the same language” over the course of the weekend, as you fidget and pace, waiting to play more ...

Or you do it for money. For the purpose of this discussion (knowing that very few athletes in our sport earn substantial cash), let’s add the standard formula: time is money. You have the best equipment and accessories. When you compete in a tournament, all you want is a return on your investments, value for your tournament dollar, and to make good use of your weekend. You want your tournament director to share your concerns — maybe even enough to give it full-time effort at some point — and you expect them to provide you with the highest quality experience, as you fidget and pace, waiting for ... lunch.

Yes, these are the extremes, and most players will say that they want both a great time and a good value. But the majority of tournament directors happen to fall squarely into the “love” category. Just like so many of us, they have real lives with full-time jobs that demand their attention, but — because they want to make sure that tournament opportunities continue to exist, for themselves as well as others — they take on this added responsibility, for little or no personal gain.

Is racquetball ready for a new breed of promoters who will develop and run events that actually turn a profit and, in the process, offer exceptional customer service to get your return business? If so, it’s doubtful that those same promoters will be able to claim the type of personal experience in the sport that keeps it ... well, personal. So, will it be love or money? Are you ready for change?

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May – June 1999
The good old days ... Open player Mark Hegg takes a break during a Colorado State Championships, circa ?? Nowadays, tournaments might be forced to become “big business” — will it affect participation? What are your values? Story, page 6. Photo: John Foust.

World Champions Sherman Greenfeld and Christie Van Hees have high hopes for this summer’s Pan American Games in Winnipeg. Photo: Prof. Rodolfo Hernandez Rocha.
TAKING PART
I was looking back over my old newsletters and racquetball magazines and saw some very disturbing information. I noticed that many players that start competing in tournaments in the lower divisions never move into the higher divisions and seem to drop off the face of the earth. I understand that certain situations arise and people are unable to play anymore (job, injury, family, etc.), but I believe one main reason for this is the lack of awards. Players aren’t even allowed to play for third place anymore. It doesn’t take that much longer to at least offer this chance. The award doesn’t have to be much. A very small trophy, ribbon or even certificate would be nice. Just something to show for your play. I do not think this will cut into the profits that much. I believe this would actually help to increase participation because of the chance to win something. Tournament directors could come up with a “system” where divisions that have 8 or more participants, third place is offered. Maybe in divisions with 16 or more, fourth place could be offered. This way there would be plenty of entry fees to cover the awards and encourage more players to participate.

Steve Thompson
Statesboro, GA

SUDS NIGHT OUT
I would just like to thank Sudsy Monchik for a great evening in Erie. Our program director, Julee Nicolia, IHRSA’s top Racquetball Programmer in North America (see left), invited Sudsy to Nautilus for an exhibition. We all want to thank her too. Sudsy is not only a great player, but a dynamic person. He kept the crowd’s attention while he was playing on the court with his skill, his wit and charm. He really kept everyone entertained for several hours. You really felt his love for the game, in the manner that he answered all the questions and the enthusiasm that he showed the crowd. I would also like to add that he helped raise over $1,100.00 for the Mercy Center for Women in Erie. Everyone that I have talked to was completely impressed. We all left feeling a new energy for the game. Thanks again Julee and Sudsy!

Robin Wiles
Erie, PA

INTEGRITY RULES
I am not a great player in comparison to the professionals or even to the young guns, but I compete well with the lower level players in my age group, (45-55). And I won, I won, finally!!! That is all I could think about after the immediate rush I got from winning. I reflected on why I won. It was the immediate rush I got from winning, the reflection on why I won. It was the immediate rush I got from winning, the reflection on why I won. It was

Ryan Mays
Erie, PA

Christmas came early for us here at the Nautilus Fitness and Racquet Club. Thanks to Julee Nicolia, our “Program Director of the Year,” we were honored with a visit by Sudsy Monchik. And what an exhibition he put on! Not to mention the fact that he is a fine individual. If anyone gets an opportunity to see and meet Sudsy, don’t pass it up! Is is well worth it. And thank you Julee!

Tom Nemenz
Erie, PA

I am writing in regard to an exhibition performed at Nautilus Fitness and Racquet Club. I attended with my parents and had the unique opportunity to see the #1 player in the world, Sudsy Monchik. I think that I speak for everyone who attended when I say that he was simply amazing. He has a terrific attitude and sense of humor towards the game. He was an excellent role model for the youth that were present. I believe that his positive attitude will have a major affect on the promotion of racquetball.
10-10. Again I charged to a 14-10 lead; but he tied the game at 14-14. During the rally — at game and match point — Robert hit a ball to the middle and he was standing just left of the middle; I raised my left hand requesting a hinder. The official said nothing, I took a half swing to try and hit the ball and not hit my opponent but the ball did not reach the front wall. I succeeded in barely touching Robert. The official called a point; but I was offered a hinder by Robert Jacobs.

I accepted his offer and took the serve away and cracked a serve of my own to win the second game and came back from 4-8 score to win the tie breaker 11-8. After the game we were talking and he told me that he knew that I had pulled my swing because if I had made a full swing, I would have crushed him. He did not feel that winning as a result of my pulled swing was proper.

My sweat band is off to Robert Jacobs and also to Jerry Williams who did something very similar in 1996, when he gave me a replay on match point when I requested a screen and the official did not agree. In that match Jerry prevailed to win his own U.S. Open Championship title.

Jack Morgenroth
Cincinnati, Ohio

PERSONA NON GRATA

I'm writing to give my opinion about the "Not a Member" notation used for those who haven't kept up with their dues. Although it doesn't apply to me, I feel that this is unprofessional and cheap. It didn't bother me at first but the more I thought about it, I think there are two better options.

My preferred option is to leave their name in there so long as they're ranked in the top ten. Two reasons, first of all they won't remain there very long if they're not playing sanctioned tournaments, of which you have to be a member. Secondly, they have earned the points while they were members and so it is somewhat unfair to take away their recognition. This would be like the NFL not recognizing that the Los Angeles Raiders won the Super Bowl in 1983; rather listing "No longer a franchise in the NFL" in the Super Bowl Program. The other option is to remove them totally from the list and move each player up one spot until all ten spots are filled with members. While this is not the preferred option, it is less tacky and hides the appearance of holding their membership (or lack of) against them.

Rob Swindell
Elyria, Ohio

[The policy is designed as a "motivator," and it's quite successful ... a substantial percentage of those notified of a pending "not a member" listing do renew prior to publication. — Editor]

LADIES?

The Quadrangle Athletic Club recently hosted a tournament for Breast Cancer Research which offered prize money for every division of play and great hospitality. So, where were the female players? What does it take to get women to enter a tournament that supports the clubs; the charities we raise money for; the manufacturers who sponsor them; and the other women who are disappointed when they are stuck in Men's divisions for lack of other gals to play?

My hat goes off to Laura Brandt, who did support our efforts along with Helen Marseco, Paula Furey, Jan Kerrigan, and Cari Kresa. But we apologize to the few women who entered but could not play because we couldn't even offer a round robin for them. And we are extremely disappointed in one particular newcomer to the area, who entered the tournament, then cancelled on Friday night, without paying, because she was not happy with the draw!

How many excuses do we need to hear — the entry fee is too high or the shirts aren't good enough — before the females wake up and realize they are shooting themselves and the sport of racquetball in the foot? If females do not give back to racquetball by way of supporting events that are intended to promote the sport, then they will succeed in killing the game for the aspiring junior and club females who do not see a reason to become competitive.

Dean Kachel
Coral Springs, FL

BIG SWING

Although I am as impressed as the rest of the racquetball players in the world with Sudsy's awesome backhand, as a racquetball instructor for the past 17 years I do have a concern. Clearly the power generated is in large part due to his total body rotation, including follow-through. My concern is that in every day play, an attempt by most players to use such an accentuated follow-through will result in an uncontrolled and unnecessarily wide swing, possibly causing a dangerous situation for your opponent. I'm sure we all agree that, while the rules clearly state that a player must be given a "full unimpeded swing," we all have a responsibility to look out for our opponent's safety. Like all of us, I look forward to the upcoming instructional articles with the most powerful player in the game. However, as an instructor I will caution my students when incorporating these tips into their own games with regard to such a wide follow-through.

Paul Reynolds
Seattle, Washington

OUCH

Several years ago I had carpel tunnel surgery done on both hands which turned out successful. After a 4 month layoff I started playing racquetball again. The problem now is that my grip relaxes, causing the racquet to rotate and resulting in erratic uncontrolled shots and occasionally missing the ball completely. Needless to say my game went down drastically. Whether its a result of the surgery I don't know. I play 3-4 times a week without any pain or discomfort. I've tried playing with a fingerless glove, without a glove, and different racquet handle sizes. Super small to all the way up. Nothing helped. Does anyone have any suggestions on how I can alleviate this problem and get my game back?

Robert Beuier (Former B Player)
Mt. Prospect, IL
WANTED: TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR
FIRST REQUIREMENT: THICK SKIN

How thick? Get a load of this ...

Colin Callahan is an investment advisor with many avocations, two of which are racquetball and raising money for the American Cancer Society. Several years ago, when the American Cancer Society Racquetball Tournament (hosted yearly at a club in Annapolis, Md., in honor of a local player stricken with cancer) needed help with management, Callahan stepped in.

Callahan foresaw a win-win. He would be a volunteer director. The tournament was for charity. No money would go into his pocket. All proceeds would go the the Cancer Society. The players would understand this, of course, and conduct themselves accordingly — courteous, dignified, appreciative. Yeah, right.

Last year, a teenager played a forty-something in the semifinals of the open division. No one else was willing to referee, so the job fell to Callahan. After missing a shot, the teenager mumbled a profanity, which Callahan didn't hear. However, forty-something heard it.

"Did you hear that?" he yelled at Callahan. "He said F***!" People in the crowd snickered. Forty-something was not known within local racquetball circles for his genteel manner on the court. His complaining about profanity was on par with Dennis Rodman complaining about body piercing.

Callahan, however, didn't laugh. This was an event staged for charity. A family event. Children were within earshot. Yet, here was 40-something yelling a profanity and demanding that Callahan give a technical to the other player. Callahan refused. Forty-something walked off the court and Callahan forfeited the match.

"I'm shocked by what upsets people at these tournaments," Callahan understates. His reaction differs little from tournament directors who try to make money for their efforts. Charity or for-profit, it's all the same.

Racquetball players can be gauche at times and tournament directors must absorb the flak. Invariably, the source of the problem is money.

In the case of 40-something, he tried to make amends with Callahan, who immediately suspected a con. Was 40-something truly repentant about his behavior, or simply upset over disqualifying himself from the prize money? Callahan didn't ask. He stood by his decision.

Any tournament director with experience has a bevy of similar stories to tell. Annie Muniz, President of the Texas Racquetball Association, has run, as she says, "Lots of tournaments ... probably too many." She started seven years ago and learned a few tournament management principles on the fly, such as to always to check out the facility thoroughly. Last year, she didn't exhaustively examine the club hosting the state singles. At tournament time, with 330 players passing in and out, the air conditioning proved woefully

by tom slear

May – June 1999
inadequate. Before long, the court walls dripped with moisture.

“All 12 courts were bad,” Muniz says. “There were people threatening to sue.”

Sue? You bet. It’s the money, stupid!

“The players don’t understand that we (tournament directors) work for a living,” says Muniz, an accounting manager for a gas company. “We’re not getting rich running tournaments. There’s no money any more from sponsors. It’s all the entry fee. And if we make $300 from a tournament, that’s a lot.”

“The reality of it is that our players have become spoiled,” says Mary Lyons, who directed roughly 90 tournaments in Florida from 1985 through last year. “They have come to expect a shirt, a two-foot trophy, and three meals a day, all for a $30 entry fee, and they still complain. The economics of running a tournament doesn’t support that any more.”

“Racquetball players do expect a lot,” says Jim Hiser, associate executive director for the United States Racquetball Association. “What other sport feeds its players daily, organizes their social activities, lets them play in as many as three divisions in some events, and also gives them a nice souvenir?”

Muniz is convinced that most of the complaints voiced by players stem from ignorance. They don’t understand that a $30 entry fee disappears faster than a patch of snow in July. There’s the shirts, the awards, the catered meals, the club rental, the prize money, and the liability insurance.

Liability insurance? Muniz carries a policy on herself just because of racquetball. Here again, it’s mostly about money. If she kicks an open player out of a tournament...
for misbehaving [understand, Muniz takes no guff; she wears a shirt emblazoned with “Racquetball Police Woman”] that means the player loses prize money and therefore income. At such times, Muniz is not a popular woman, tournament director or not.

Even when players win the money, they complain. A few years ago in Annapolis, the open division champion confronted Callahan about the amount of prize money. He received $300; the second-place player, $150. The difference should have been greater, he told Callahan, more like $400/$50.

Callahan was stunned. The tournament was for charity and this guy was complaining about $100 in prize money? “I just laughed,” Callahan says.

However, even the beginners can present problems. Muniz recalls a D level match a few years back when one player became incensed with his opponent’s hinders. The next time they were close on his backhand, he swung his racquet into his opponent’s leg, and broke it—the leg, that is. It was lawsuit time.

“He finally dropped the suit,” says Muniz, “when the guy who hit him was banned for life.”

“There was a time back in the ‘80s when Miller would give us 10 kegs of beer and the players didn’t care how much they paid or if they lost,” says Lyons. “No more. Now there is little or no beer and there’s some jerk that says, ‘I can’t believe you’re charging $30 for this.’"

SECOND REQUIREMENT: DEEP POCKETS

Doug Ganim of Ganim Enterprises, Inc., in Columbus, Ohio, ran his first racquetball tournament 18 years ago, when he was a teenager. He was hooked.

“It was the excitement level,” he says. “It was so much work built around a deadline. Then the tournament would come off and at the end of the weekend, we felt we had accomplished something.”

As a sophomore at Ohio State, Ganim started the Ohio Super 7 series—seven tournaments in seven months. The next year he landed a Coors Light sponsorship. His seven events per year grew to 16. He was able to make enough money directing tournaments to put himself through college and graduate school. Life was good.

Ganim is one of the few tournament directors left who runs an event for more money than he can stuff into his hip pocket. But even he is discouraged. Back in 1983, a Super 7 tournament typically drew 250 entrants. A similar tournament today draws half that.

“It makes it easier to run a tournament because there are less people,” he says. “But it’s not a benefit I enjoy having.”

With participation decreasing, Ganim and others have been hesitant to increase entry fees. In fact, entry fees have been nearly flat for two decades. In 1981, first-event entry fees for one of Ganim’s tournaments was $26. This year it’s $29.

Small wonder that Mary Lyons gave up running tournaments last year. Near the end she was ecstatic if she could pocket $2,000 a year from tournament proceeds. When she figured in the time she spent coordinating with the club managers; preparing entry forms; arranging for trophies, shirts, food, and dumpster pick ups; setting up the draws and the score cards; running the tournaments themselves; and then accounting for the
SET THE WORLD ON FIRE.
START WITH THE COURTS.
PLAY WITH FIRE
money, she estimated she earned less than a $1 an hour.

"There is an enormous amount of work for very little money," she says. "There isn't a tournament director out there who is getting rich."

Not entirely true, says Ganim. Directing tournaments won't make you rich, but you can make money if you can tap into sponsors' deep pockets.

"Without sponsors, the whole thing falls apart," he says. "In my tournaments, I would only break even without sponsors. I make my money only through sponsors."

"If you want to make money, you can't do it with entry fees and sponsors within the industry, such as Penn and Ektelon," says Hiser, who ran a Super 7 of his own in Michigan from 1975 through 1988 with much of his profit emanating from Budweiser sponsorship. "You have to get a major, outside sponsor."

**why are entry fees so high??**

*by Carl Savage*

Why are entry fees so high? It's a common question — asked or complained about — at every tournament. Having run events over the past five years, I've answered it a lot. The intent of this article is not to defend the cost of entry fees but to try to shed some light on what really goes into running a tournament.

First, a common fallacy is that the Club runs the tournament and bears the cost. While this may have been the case years ago, in most instances, it's the tournament directors who run the event, pay the bills and hope to break even on their out-of-pocket expenses.

So, let's you and I plan a typical tournament. To run a sanctioned event we need to pay a fee of $75.00 to the state association (to get the event listed on the calendar, published in the newsletter and receive mailing labels and member lists, etc.). Next, we negotiate with the club to see how much they will charge us to use their courts. Let's say that (this time) the club will not charge us! Great! Now we need applications. A typical tournament will mail out between 1,000 and 1,500 entries to USRA members and clubs. Copies will cost us around $100 and mailing another $400. Then we need tournament shirts. How many?? This one haunts all of us... unless it's an established tournament and you have a history, this game is a guess. We are going to assume 100 players, so we buy 110 shirts that cost us around $8 each ($880 total) including new screens and printing. How about prize money and trophies? Let's assume 18 divisions, 10 with trophies and 8 with prize money. Two trophies per division at $25 per division is $50. Prize money will be $200 for first in the Opens and all others are $100 for first and $50 for second, for a total prize money purse of $1,400. Let's see, what else... oh, yes, balls! 100 players should need 120 balls, which comes to $120.

So far we haven't gotten a dime in revenue from applications yet, but we've paid out $1,825 and committed another $1,400 for prize money. What else do we need to run a tournament? My favorite, the food. We want to provide lunch and dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday, plus some type of hospitality each morning. Throw in plates, napkins, utensils, fruit and Gatorade and this will cost us around $12 per person for the weekend.

Let's assume we get the 100 players we were hoping for and 40 of them choose a second event. That gives us 100 X $35 (first event) and 40 X $15 (2nd event). Total income from fees ... $4,100. Our tournament was a great success. With 100 players, everything ran on time, we worked 50 hours preparing for the tournament (making applications, doing the draw, administering all the details of getting everything ready) plus we spent all weekend working our butts off running the tournament (gratis). We're exhausted but feel great.

Bottom line, how did we do financially? With $4,100 of income and $4,425 in expenses, we lost $325 — in other words, our tournament directors will need to chip in another $325 before we can do it all over again. Get out your checkbooks... welcome to the wonderful world of running a tournament!

**Reprinted, by permission, from the NHRA Rollout [Feb. 1999] • Published by the New Hampshire Racquetball Association**
At the larger, national tournaments, sponsors are even more critical. At the Promus U.S. Open, which Ganim has run for the last three years, sponsors account for nearly four of every five dollars of income (the rest comes from entry fees and ticket sales). But the U.S. Open is a chicken-and-egg scenario. To attract the freespending sponsors, Ganim must stage a spectacle of live music, laser light shows, and cheerleaders. Yet to stage such an extravaganza, Ganim must have the money from sponsors.

At the local level, where laser light shows are out of the question, sponsors come along about as often as midnight sunrises. And once landed, they tend to slip away in five or six years.

"It is a very tough sell," says Hiser. "But to make money on tournaments, to get the sponsors, you have to approach it as a business. That's why Doug (Ganim) does so well. It's a business to him, and there aren't many others like him."

Instead, says Hiser, 99 percent of the racquetball tournaments in the United States are run by directors who do it as a sideline, perhaps to help out the state racquetball association or the club where they play.

And that's precisely the rub: directors who run tournaments as an aside meet players who compete in tournaments with unrealistic demands.

The former get nothing but aggravation and financial headaches, and the latter, says Hiser, "just keep expecting more and more."

It's like the player who thought he deserved more prize money for winning a tournament staged for the American Cancer Society. On the superficial level, it's funny, on the deeper level, it's sad.

But on any level, it's not a healthy sign for racquetball.

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**SAMPLE EVENTS STATE 1ST/FEE 2ND/FEE JR 1ST/2ND SOUVENIR HOSPITALITY AWARDS**

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Key • 1 = daily; 2 = Friday; 3 = Saturday; 4 = Sunday • [a=breakfast, b=lunch, c=dinner, d=soft drinks, e=fruit/snacks] • T3 = top three [two, four, etc.] w/minimum # of entrants • NS = not specified — * Connecticut offers an additional, separate discount for college students; Indiana offers a third division for both adults and juniors.

**WHAT PLAYERS LIKE...** "My favorite tournaments are the one day round robin formats. I can easily play two divisions, eat a meal and drink plenty of Gatorade... T-shirts and trophies are nice, but... If it will bring the price down, I could do without these two things [Jamie Garcia] — I do like getting shirts at tournaments... But I wouldn't skip a tournament just because they didn't offer a shirt, unless the price was too high. [Jody L. Baze] — I like it when you can tell that the tournament director and staff have gone out of their way to make the tournament special. In the corporate world it would be those tournaments that give good customer service. [Mike Davern] — I'm married, with two children, so racquetball tournaments are stealing the quality time I have to spend with them. My favorite tournaments are one-day round robins, rather than a 2-3 day event on a weekend. [Jim Davidson] — Well run! In other words, the tournament that posts the brackets, updates them in a timely manner, starts the matches on time... or at least is able to provide an accurate time of day for you to return (for your next match). [Steve Hope] — I don't mind refereing, but it's a 'chore' that few people really enjoy... I like self-reffing tournaments for the free time it gives me to spend with the friends I only see at tournaments. [Jeff Anthony]"
He couldn't have planned it to play out any smoother.

Twenty years ago, Canada's Sherman Greenfeld played his first major racquetball tournament, the Canada Winter Games in Brandon, just an hour or so outside his native Winnipeg.

"Basically, it was the start of 20 years," he said, looking back on his stellar career. "It was a big event for me at that time — I was 16."

He won the bronze medal in the under 18 division. Now, at 36, the current world champion has a chance to cap his career with a Pan American Games gold medal back in his hometown ... and then, maybe, hang up his competitive racquet.

"You might argue that he has been Canadian racquetball," Canada's National Team coach Ron Brown said. "He's broken all of the records and he's got a legacy that I'm sure won't be beaten for quite a while."

Greenfeld won his first Canadian singles title in 1986, nine more would follow. A 12-year veteran of his country's national squad, Greenfeld captured his first world singles championship in '94. Last summer, the crafty Canuck outplayed Dan Obremski of the U.S. for another world title — just as he had done a few months earlier in the finals of the Pan Am Trials in Winnipeg.

While working past Obremski in the world finals, the Bolivian crowd was undoubtedly partisan to the always courteous Greenfeld. Although many of his South American followers were not fluent in English, they understood and appreciated his on-court demeanor.

"He's your poster boy for racquetball," Brown said. "He has fun when he plays. He is respectful of all that is around him, including his opponent. There isn't anything about Sherman's game that you wouldn't want to show a kid."

"He's a real ambassador. They (international fans) do love him and probably rightfully so. It's just the way he is . . . he plays the game smart, fast and exciting. The fact that he plays with such a sportsmanlike attitude, that's the big one. You aren't going to find any enemies of Sherman, on or off the court."

If "Sherm" did have enemies, it would surprise no one that they would be wearing the Stars & Stripes of the U.S. Team. Greenfeld has spoiled more than one event for several current and former U.S. players. But the Pan Am's might be his last, as Greenfeld considers retirement.

"There's got to be a point where you quit while you're on top," he said.

"I just need to concentrate on the Pan Am Games. Whatever happens at the Pan Am's, just focus on that. Don't even think of retirement, because you'll put so much pressure on yourself. You've got to just say that it's another big event."

"It could be the next day, the next week or the next month when you say, 'I've had enough.' At least you leave the option open. What happens if I play really well in the Pan Am's, love it and say that I'm going to keep playing? Then it looks like the typical athlete who comes out of retirement. It's just how I feel following the event. Whether I do well or not is probably irrelevant."
When Canadian Christie Van Hees put away the USA's Kersten Hallander in the women's finals at the 1998 World Championships in Bolivia, the laid-back 21-year-old had little advance warning of what was to follow by way of celebrity status in the South American country.

"There was one guy who invited me to his palace," Van Hees said of the friendly Bolivian. "He saw on the Internet that I had won the Tournament of Champions — he was so excited."

However, it is quite possible that the Bolivians were alerted to the young Canadian's rumored appetite for the social scene. A reputation Van Hees insists is unwarranted.

"It's my age, right? If I were 30 and married . . . things would be different," she said, then added jokingly "I think it's all because I hang out with [Mike] Ceresia, that's my biggest problem."

Winner of the 18-and-under crown at the 1995 IRF World Juniors, Van Hees owns 10 Canadian junior titles and the past three adult singles championships. Next spring, she will graduate from Simon Fraser University, located in Burnaby, B.C., with a history major and a minor in Latin American studies.

"She's got huge potential and she realized it early by winning in Bolivia," Canadian National Team coach Ron Brown said of his star pupil, who also carries a 3.0 GPA. "To me, she's the next generation. She has an amazing power game. Everything points to her having as long of a career as she wants."

A front runner to take home the gold medal at this summer's Pan American Games, Van Hees has yet to receive proper acclaim from the United States contingent. As odd as it may seem when discussing a world champion, Van Hees is still regarded as the challenger instead of the favorite when playing tournaments on U.S. soil.

"People still don't expect me to win, no matter what I do," Van Hees said. "By not going to a few pro stops, I became the underdog again."

"I think that the only place that I'm not getting respect is in the States. I get respect from the players, like Cheryl (Gudinas), Robin (Levine) and Jackie (Paraiso). They all know that I mean business, now — I take this sport seriously."

As do her sponsors. Besides Head and U.S. West Communications, Van Hees has attracted one of Canada's finest breweries [Molson] and Kelowna's finest . . . well, strip club. That's right, strip club. Oh, and lounge.

Longtime family friend Ken Noble, owner of The Willow Inn & Knobby's Lounge in Kelowna, B.C., recognized Van Hees' potential long before Worlds and signed on as a sponsor. Strip club sponsorships? A racquetball first? Think of the possibilities.

"I don't have a patch, but I have a bunch of his shirts," Van Hees said of the Knobby's Lounge sponsorship. Inside sources say that the patches, which come in pairs, are in the final stage of production and should be available soon.

Maybe after the Pan Am's ... and maybe after Van Hees has earned the respect of the entire racquetball community.
1999 Pan American Games | Team Profiles

Argentina
Top Players • MEN: German Coppolecchia, Daniel Maggi, Shai Manzuri • WOMEN: Amanda Kurzbard, Virginia Pacheco, Veronica Rivero, Lucia Sapere. 1995 Pan Am Highlights: Fabian Apa was sixth in the men’s singles; Sapere bowed out in the women’s round of 16.

Bolivia
Top Players • MEN: Oswaldo Antezuma, Ricardo Galincho, Gerardo Gil, Ricardo Monroy, Miguel Munoz • WOMEN: Maria Fernanda, Lucia Murello, Paola Nunez, Yaque Parada. 1995 Pan Am Highlights: Cintya Salazar was eighth in the women’s singles; four other Bolivians finished in the men’s and women’s round of 16 - including Fernanda.

Canada
Top Players • MEN: Mike Ceresia, Jacques Demers, Brian Istace, Mike Green, Sherman Greenfeld, Kane Waselenchuk • WOMEN: Josee Grand’Maitre, Lucie Guillermette, Lori-Jane Powell, Christie Van Hees, Debbie Ward. 1995 Pan Am Highlights: Sherman Greenfeld and Carol McFetridge finished fourth in their respective singles brackets, but still got into the record books as the bronze medal winners (due to a Pan Am ruling prohibiting a “sweep” by a single country). The doubles teams of Chris Brunwall & Jacques Demers and Vicki Shanks & Debbie Ward won silver medals.

Chile
Top Players • MEN: Pablo Fajre, Sergio Orellana, Andres Vilches • WOMEN: Loreto Barriga, Angela Grisar, Ines Kannegiesser. 1995 Pan Am Highlights: Barriga and Grisar took fourth in women’s doubles; Fajre and Grisar both reached the round of 16 in their singles divisions.

Dominican Republic
Top Players • MEN: Yamil Isaias, Simon Perdomo, Antonio Valenzuela • WOMEN: Claudine Garcia, Karina Savinon. 1995 Pan Am Highlights: Garcia, a former world junior champion, fell to Canada’s Carol McFetridge in the women’s round of 16.

Guatemala
Top Players • MEN: Manolo Benfelt, Juan Luiz Galves, Juan Jose Salvatierra • WOMEN: Elissa Beltranena, Ximena Gonzalez, Ana Maria Papa, Karen Zachrisson. 1995 Pan Am Highlights: This will be Guatemala’s first Pan American Games appearance.

Honduras
Top Players • MEN: Rolando Bier, Roberto Nassar, Franklin Raudales • WOMEN: Amalia Gutierrez, Giordana Toccaceli. 1995 Pan Am Highlights: This will be Honduras’ first Pan American Games appearance.

Mexico
Top Players • MEN: Alvaro Beltran, Luis Bustillos, Alvaro Maldonado, Javier Moreno • WOMEN: Susy Acosta, Diana Almeida, Karina Hamilton, Adriana Soto, Lupita Torres. 1995 Pan Am Highlights: Luiz Munoz took seventh in men’s singles; Lourdes Garcia was seventh in the women’s draw. Lupita Torres teamed with Rosy Torres to finish third in women’s doubles.

Puerto Rico
Top Players • MEN: Forenzo Albino, Rob Dejesus, Osvaldo Garcia, Perry Lopez, David Marrero, Miguel Santiago, Curtis Winter • WOMEN: Mary Diaz, Kim Garcia, Anita Maldonado, Kim Venegas. 1995 Pan Am Highlights: Diaz fell in the women’s round of 16, then teamed with Nydia Sotomayor to take seventh in doubles.

United States
Top Players (the 1999 team will be finalized on the basis of finishes at this year’s National Singles in Houston, with the exception of the asterisked* athletes, who have already qualified for their ‘98 national doubles titles) • MEN: Michael Bronfeld, Rocky Carson, Doug Ganim*, Ruben Gonzalez, Drew Kachtik, Adam Karp, Dan Obremski*, Derek Robinson • WOMEN: Michelle Gould, Cheryl Gudinas, Kersten Hallander, Robin Levine, Joy MacKenzie*, Jackie Paraiso* 1995 Pan Am Highlights: Diaz fell in the men’s round of 16, then teamed with Nydia Sotomayor to take seventh in doubles.

Venezuela
Definity
It's the desire of every player. Now YOU can have it.

John Ellis
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Winnipeg's organizing committee has met regularly over the past three years to attend to the details of putting together the XIIIth Pan American Games. After all — like the Red and Assiniboine Rivers — approximately 7,500 athletes, coaches and delegates will all converge on the province of Manitoba and its fine capital city this summer.

“We're really looking forward to welcoming the Americas into Winnipeg,” said Mike Moore, vice president of sport for the 1999 Pan American Games.

But with the overwhelming number of athletes, competing in such sports as basketball, baseball and track and field, racquetball could very well be pushed aside as the media's story hunters feast on the “high-profile” events. Then again, racquetball might have a meaty story of its own.

“It's a very strongly supported sport here (in Canada),” Moore said of racquetball. “Let's face it, we have the world champion living in Winnipeg.”

Moore was speaking, of course, of Winnipeg's own Sherman Greenfeld. This past summer in Cochabamba, Bolivia, Greenfeld defeated Dan Obrenski of the United States for his second world singles title.

“He's been Manitoba's athlete of the year many times,” continued Moore, referring to the 10-time Canadian national champ. “Everybody knows him and this is a chance ... not only could Canada win a gold medal but a kid from Winnipeg could win a gold medal at home in the Pan Am Games.”

Coupled with the fact that the current women's world champion is a fellow Canuck — Christie Van Hees of Kelowna, British Columbia — racquetball may receive a larger chunk of Winnipeg press attention than was originally anticipated.

“I would like to think that, potentially, we're on the edge of the growth of racquetball getting into the summer Olympics,” Moore said. “Sherm's matches are going to be front-page news here and maybe that kind of notoriety can help racquetball over that next big step toward summer Olympic status by seeing how popular it was here.”

Featuring the finest players in the Western Hemisphere on the made-for-TV portable court will help showcase racquetball as well. Used in the past three Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships in Memphis, the portable court will be shipped out of the United States for the first time.

According to Moore, “By using that court, we are obviously going to increase exposure. People who have never seen racquetball at this level are going to be able to watch it.”

Not just fans, but members of the print and television media, too.

“In the past, we might have had spots for five media people to come and watch,” Moore said. “Now, we can have 20, 30, 50 even 100 (media) people come and watch racquetball. It's really limitless.”

Well, somewhat limitless.

He added, “I'm firmly convinced that racquetball will be sold out.”

Want to be there, too?

Tickets for all Pan American Games events can be purchased online at www.panamgames.org or by phone at 1-888-780-7328. Racquetball competition runs from July 24-30. Tickets run from 10-15 dollars, Canadian. The quarters and semis (July 28-29) are $14, the finals on July 30th are $15.

Accommodations can be arranged by calling the Pan Am Manitoba Reservation System at (204) 985-1999, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (Central time). With a wide variety of options, from hotels, camping, bed & breakfast or private homes, the reservations system will allow you to make arrangements easily and effortlessly. There is no cost to use this system, but accommodation is limited, so book early!
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AMERICA'S #1 SELLING BALL
Penn is the Official Ball of USTA, Pro Penn is Official Ball of ITF and WTA.
Michigan's Jack Huczek rolled out of bed up at four in the morning to make his 7:00 a.m. flight to Portland for the 1999 Wilson 12th U.S. National High School Championships.

Huczek was readying himself for his second U.S. National High School's and his chances were much better than most. Winner of 10 world junior championships and 13 junior national titles, Huczek entered the annual tourney as the Boy's No. 2 seed and many believed that he could overtake the top seed, Ryan Staten of Dodge City High School.

But Huczek's first day would provide a bitter dose of travel horror that rivaled that of Steve Martin and John Candy in "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles." Inclement weather in the Midwest, forced Huczek to change to a later flight, still hoping to make his first match at 5:30 p.m. Pacific time.

Finally arriving in Denver — but with only 20 minutes to catch the flight to Oregon — he and his mother scrambled between terminals, while their plane took flight without them. A change of carrier required that the two fly to Washington to make a connection to Portland. Arrival in Washington was 4:30 p.m., with just one hour between touchdown and Huczek's first match. Young Jack alerted the tournament director Jim Hiser. His first opponent, Jeremiah Hawkins of South Salem H.S., agreed to give Huczek until 6:15 p.m.

By the time the Huczek's landed in Portland (5:40 p.m.), Jack's flu and ear infection was starting to kick into full gear. A young man picked the Michigan duo up at the airport (with fresh dents in his car from a accident just an hour before) and the Notre Dame Prep sophomore finally arrived at the Sunset Athletic Club.

Once on the court, Huczek didn't leave it until his first two matches were over. He downed Hawkins 15-0, 15-1 and Travis Mettenbrink (Grand Island Central H.S., Grand Island, Neb.), 15-3, 15-12. Huczek then rushed to the hospital to attempt to clear up his ear infection.

"Anything that could go wrong that weekend went wrong," said Huczek, who eventually took third place. "It was not a good weekend."

In Portland, Oregon for the first time this decade, shifting the Wilson 12th U.S. National High School Championships, presented by Penn Racquet Sports, to northwest territory did offer a good weekend to singles winners Kristen Walsh and Stephen Lewis — as well as the entire Beaverton High School squad, which won its third overall team title in the past four years. For Utah’s Walsh and Washington’s Lewis, the wins earned them each an extended stay on the U.S. Junior National Team.

**Boy's Gold Division Qualifier**

After losing in the finals of the past two high school championships, Ryan Staten entered this season's event as the favorite. Surely he wouldn't leave with a silver medal again. Thanks to Portland's Trevor Crowe, Staten wasn't forced to take home the second place hardware. Instead, Crowe eliminated the top seed 15-13, 8-15, 11-7 in the round of 16! Staten's rip-and-shoot style proved detrimental as the Dodge City, Kan., product repeatedly ripped and shot the ball into the floorboards. Conversely, Crowe played well within himself and made very few mistakes.

"What's been happening to me the last eight months?" Staten questioned. "It's the same problem I've had all of my life, I beat myself. I haven't made myself realize that hitting the ball 7-feet high is still going to be better than skipping it. At least you still have a chance if you hit it that high."

Staten pointed to a much needed on-court attitude adjustment as a possible remedy.

"It's like the saying from 'White Men Can't Jump," Staten said. "I would rather look good and lose than look bad and win. On the court, that's how I think ... and I'm trying to change that."

For Crowe, it was his finest racquetball hour.

"Trevor played so well, I've never seen him play better," Crowe's mother Terry! said. "That's an honor (for him) to beat a player that good."

It was Crowe's finely-tuned game plan that allowed the Westview H.S. student to advance into the quarterfinals.
“Since he (Staten) is obviously best at sidewall splats and pinches and also has the most power of any of the juniors, the No. 1 thing is I had to take away the side walls,” Crowe said. “So I just hit ceiling balls to the middle of the court. Also, you have to take away his power hitting by changing up speeds so he can’t just hit everything full bore.”

An hour and a half later, Crowe fell to Jason Jansen (Fargo South H.S., Fargo, N.D.) 15-7, 15-3 in the quarters.

Meanwhile, No. 4 seeded Stephen Lewis of Kennewick, Wash., was reeling off one victory after another. Lewis advanced to the finals by putting away fifth-seeded Matt Gehling (Broadneck H.S., Annapolis, Md.), 15-6, 15-9, then No. 8-seeded Jansen, 15-2, 9-15, 11-5.

“Going in, the week or two before, I felt like I had a really good shot,” Lewis said. “I was playing really well and had a lot of confidence. I felt like I had the mental edge over everybody.” By working with IRT pro Derek Robinson on a weekly basis, Lewis’ game has improved tremendously.

In the finals, the Kamiakin H.S. senior met third-seeded Shane Vanderson (Dublin Scioto H.S., Dublin, Ohio). Vanderson, along with Huczek and current No. 1 player in the world Sudsy Monchik, is one of the most decorated juniors in the record books.

Nevertheless, Lewis fought off Vanderson, 14-15, 15-14, 11-5 for the crown.

**Girl’s Gold Division Qualifier**

Defending champion and top-seeded Brooke Crawford of Klamath Falls, Ore. was only out of a hand cast for about a week before the Rose City event. Was her hand bothering her? Probably, but the Henley H.S. senior wouldn’t admit it.

Early on, Crawford cruised past the competition. She defeated Amy Jo Hollingsworth (North Salem H.S., Salem, Ore.) 15-4, 15-0 in the quarterfinals and No. 4 seed Lauren Deutsch (Bellaire H.S., Houston, Texas), 15-9, 15-7 in the semifinals.

In the bottom-half of the girl’s bracket, Kristen Walsh, representing Skyline H.S. in Salt Lake City, was tossing aside the opposition with such ease that some fans were beginning to wonder if Crawford could beat the Utah sensation — injured or not. Walsh took out Jane Rombach from Nerinx Hall H.S. in St. Louis, Mo., 15-6, 15-2 in the quarters and Denver’s Molly Law of Mullen High in the semis, 15-12, 15-7.

“I was very consistent,” Walsh said of her play. “My goal was to keep everybody under five (points) per game. I was a little skeptical of that goal in the finals (against Brooke Crawford), then I just decided to go for it. I didn’t really have anything to lose.”

Final score: Walsh over Crawford, 15-3, 15-3 — less than five points in each game and a glimpse at what could become one of racquetball’s best women’s players.

“I was so focused on that match, that afterward, it almost felt like my brain hurt,” Walsh said jokingly. “I really respect Brooke. I’m sure (the hand injury) affected her a little bit. I’ve seen Brooke play a lot better than that. She did miss shots that she usually would have made. I don’t know if that was because of her hand or because I was putting pressure on her.”

Crawford refused to take credit away from Walsh by pointing to her hand, saying, “Kristen played very, very well. She was rollin’ out my serves. She was shooting really well and killing the ball. She took advantage of every opportunity. I was a little bit off and she just pounced.”
Wilson 12th U.S. National High School Championships
Presented by Penn Racquet Sports

FINAL RESULTS

Top (L-R): Mixed Doubles finalists Jason Kerwood & Lauren Duggan, with event champions Bart & Brooke Crawford.

Middle: Overall Team Silver medal winners, Sprague High School Squad. Bottom: Overall Team Champions, Beaverton High School Squad.


Overall Team

(must have both boys and girls team to be eligible)

1. Beaverton H.S., Ore. .......................... 267
2. Sprague H.S., Salem, Ore. .................. 166
3. Heritage Christ. H.S., Anchorage, Alaska ...... 165
4. Henley H.S., Klamath Falls, Ore. ............ 156
5. North Salem H.S., Salem, Ore. .............. 135
6. Gladstone H.S., Ore. ......................... 124
7. Westview H.S., Portland, Ore. .............. 124
8. Kirkwood H.S., Mo. ........................... 104.5
9. Skyline H.S., Salt Lake City, Utah .......... 100

Boys Team

1. Beaverton H.S., Ore. .......................... 135
2. Broadneck H.S., Annapolis, Md. .............. 120
3. Gladstone H.S., Ore. ......................... 105
4. Heritage Christ. H.S., Anchorage, Alaska ...... 81
5. St. Louis University H.S., St. Louis, Mo. ...... 81
6. Reynolds H.S., Troutdale, Ore. .............. 76
7. Vianney H.S., St. Louis, Mo. ................ 75
8. Westview H.S., Portland, Ore. .............. 72

Girls Team

1. Nerinx Hall H.S., St. Louis, Mo. ............. 117
2. Sprague H.S., Salem, Ore. ................. 108
3. Beaverton H.S., Ore. ......................... 84
4. Skyline H.S., Salt Lake City, Utah .......... 72
5. Henley H.S., Klamath Falls, Ore. ............ 60
6. Mullen H.S., Denver, Colo. .................. 54
7. Robert Service H.S., Anchorage, Alaska ...... 51

May – June 1999
Derek Robinson and Robin Levine win with Ashaway string in their racket.

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OFFICIAL STRING OF THE USRA
Foxwoods Pro-Am

MONCHIK WINS IN BOSTON

With additional material by Fred Welfare

With Cliff Swain closely guarding a slim hold on his #1 ranking going into his hometown of Boston, all eyes were on his performance at the Foxwoods Pro-Am at the Ridge Athletic Club. But this year Boston belonged completely to Sudsy Monchik as he stormed through the competition without so much as losing a single game. In the process he closed the rankings gap between himself and Swain even further.

The first round featured three important upsets. Scott Reiff, seeded No. 21, held on to pull out a tough five-game slugfest against #12 Kelly Kerr. Todd O’Neil, No. 19, managed to eliminate No. 14 Dan Llacera in four. The biggest surprise came from No. 22 Mike Johnston, who took out No. 11 Doug Eagle in four.

With everyone else advancing as expected, the early-round five-gamer between No. 9 Adam Karp and No. 24 George Delany was worth checking out for a look at some resourcefulness on Delany’s part in hanging with the current USRA national champ for so long.

Also in the first round, Junior star Jack Huczek made his IRT debut. On the fast track to match Monchik’s junior record, Huczek seems to be the hottest new talent on the horizon, now that Rocky Carson is a familiar face on the tour lineup. In years past, such up-and-coming recognition has been bestowed on other stars such as Monchik, John Ellis, Mike Guidry, and Tim Doyle, to name a few.

Great matches between Guidry vs. Reiff and Karp vs. Doyle were the highlights of the round of sixteen. Reiff has been a tough competitor since his days at Memphis State in the early 90’s, and his showing against the more tour-seasoned Guidry was impressive, if not sufficient for the upset. In the Karp vs. Doyle match, the difference in seeding between #9 and #8 doesn’t seem to be much of an upset, but defeating Doyle in Boston was a big career win for Karp.

Karp held his intensity into the quarters against Swain. In fact, Swain seemed to have a lot of trouble from Karp — including an extended first game and a loss in the second — until 7-3 in the third, where Swain used three
central skills to simply shut Karp down. Swain took control of the tempo, unleashed some ace serves, and lunged into an onslaught of backhand splats that was nothing less than phenomenal. At that point, Swain's backhand splats were deadly consistent and unreturnable.

A couple of controversial calls (Swain aces that Karp thought were well short) added pressure for both players in the first game. By the second, Karp was diving and using a “modified” dive movement to extend himself into front court to cover Swain’s pinches. One of these attempts from deep court (on a Swain winner) resulted in a collision that clipped Swain from behind. Whether hurt or just enraged, Swain seemed to be moving more slowly from that point on, and he began to just roll his splats instead of leaving anything up for Karp to even try to retrieve. Whether Swain's more deliberate movements came from pain or from a renewed intensity, the change in demeanor was obvious.

In their quarterfinal, Guidry's quick-on-his-feet, cool approach proved to be too much for Mannino. Making use of some very precise lob serving and a deadly accurate backhand splat (akin to fellow southpaw, Swain), Guidry was able to completely frustrate Mannino, who resorted to his familiar ploy of playing the crowd to help get himself “psyched up.” But too much consistency from Guidry, paired with Mannino's inability to gather any momentum (plus missing out on some very close referee's calls) made all the difference. Despite pumping the crowd, and gaining a 9-5 lead in the fourth, Mannino couldn't muster enough of his special kind of magic to pull this one out.

In their semi, Swain played Guidry with the same slow deliberate movements that had marked his late match play against Karp. And while Guidry is usually very consistent and mentally sound, Swain systematically took his game apart. In three fairly quick games Swain sent Guidry away frustrated and defeated. At the same time it began to look as though Swain's focus might really have been due to protecting some physical injury more so than just deep concentration. The contact with Karp could have been serious in its own right, or simply aggravated one of several old contact injuries. Still, Swain would never readily admit to being hurt.

Derek Robinson faced off against Monchik in the quarters. Robinson often plays a very aggressive, even ferocious game, but this time, he seemed to be trying to play Monchik with more caution and cunning. While the idea of keeping Monchik from heating up and getting in his zone makes sense,
Robinson's reserve in this match kept him from using his own best weapons. Monchik may have been unbeatable, but Robinson certainly could have gotten closer to the mark by going for broke in an all-out fury.

IRT history was made in the Roberts vs. Ellis quarterfinal when a technical on Roberts at the close of the first game resulted in an Ellis win. Kelly Kerr enjoyed the dubious honor of refing his way into the history books when Roberts became enraged over a series of questionable calls on serves that were called good. (In Roberts' defense, from the stands the serves looked to hit at about half way through the service box.) With each call Roberts reached new levels of disbelief and insanity. Roberts' remarks to Kerr resulted in a technical at 11-10 that ended the game. Unable to clear his mind, Roberts left the court and whispered something to Kerr that earned a second technical and started the second game at zero-serving-minus one. A conference with commissioner Hank Marcus upheld Kerr's use of the technicals regardless of the accuracy of his original non-call. Ellis easily finished off the match in two more games by just crushing the ball. Pound for pound, Ellis may just hit the ball harder than anybody ever — and he can do it from shoulder high!

In the semi against Monchik, Ellis looked like a different player. Instead of crushing the ball, he skipped one after another. Contrary to the usual Ellis vs. Monchik marathon of blasts and dives, this one was lackluster and one-sided. With his frustration showing in uncharacteristic arguing with referee Dan Llacera, Ellis never returned to his usual calm, focused groove. Monchik permitted no more than four points to be scored against him in any of the three short games.

In their final but Monch play a ong mate rivals Although i one-sided
Swain suffice Monchik l
Whatever t

Immediately following the Boston event in one of the IRT's back-to-back sets of tournaments, the Penfield Racquet and Fitness Club in Rochester, New York hosted the Piehler Pro-Am. Right from the start in Rochester, Sudsy Monchik looked like he would rip through another draw without losing a game. In reality, except for dropping one game in the final to Cliff Swain, that is exactly what happened.

With the top four seeds enjoying an unusual bye in the first round, early glory belonged to the rest of the pack. The first round brought about a couple of upsets as No. 20 Adam Priamo took out No. 13 Kelly Kerr and No. 23 Mike Green took out No. 10 Dan Fowler.

But the real upsets of this event belonged to one of the newest touring pros, Rocky Carson. In consecutive rounds, Carson defeated No. 3 John Ellis and No. 11 Doug Eagle. A stand-out for his skills as
The big question on the minds of many these days is: “Is Swain healthy?” Even though both Swain and Monchik have been plagued with minor injuries (neither willing to admit them), they have battled fiercely for several seasons.

Searching for new weapons, sharpening the mental edge, or carefully refining a new level of consistency, Monchik and Swain seem to cruise through the first three rounds just to get another chance to do damage to one another in yet another final. Along the way, keeping knees, shoulders, lower back, and everything else at 100% (or appearing that way to opponents, at least) is just as important to these guys as rolling the ball.

In Rochester, like Boston before it, Monchik was unstoppable. Indicators as well as his confidence and maturity on the court, Carson is just beginning to prove himself in a very unforgiving arena. While Monchik blew past him in the semis, Monchik has blown past everybody for two straight tournaments. It’s also worth mentioning that Eagle had advanced to face Carson following an upset of No. 6 Tim Doyle in four games in the sixteens. After his performance in Rochester, look for big things from this tough young competitor.

Jason Mannino, having come off a defeat at the hands of Mike Guidry the previous week in Boston, was able to take some revenge in Rochester. As only Mannino can, he raised his game an entire level in one week’s time to make his win in the quarters look routine. While the score looked dismal the following round against Swain, it still set the stage for some exciting gets. Swain dominated this one, but those who said that Mannino doesn’t have what it takes to make a name for himself on the IRT have had to eat their words this season.

The question is: “Between Monchik and Swain, who can stay healthy enough to make full use of their amazing talents?” And how long can Monchik hold onto his lead?

Are you a winner in the USWest sweepstakes? Call 937-859-0599, extension 165 to find out!
PARAISO BEATS THE ODDS

It happened to Jason Mannino a few years ago. It happened to Tim Doyle before that. Lately it's been Ellis, Gould, Levine and Karp. It happened to some of the most respected names in sport as they began to gain prominence. In fact, when you look closely, it has happened time and again all the way back to the 1970's. It did not happen to Jackie Paraismo.

"It" is an appearance on the cover of the major racquetball magazine of the time with a headline like: "hottest young star," or "rising to the top," only to face a barrage of upsets in the early to mid rounds of several tournaments following that publication's release.

Many times fans and the press have recognized greatness in rising stars, only to publicize it just before an unfortunate string of upsets. Many of these stars (as is the case with Mannino and Doyle) went on to prove themselves once again with consistent wins over top players for years to come, but still felt the crunch of the "cover jinx."

Women battle fiercely for cover space in the male-dominated sport of racquetball. To prove that point: quickly, try to name three female covers in the past ten years other than Michelle Gould, Lynn Adams, or Caryn McKinney. For the previous ten rule out Adams, Heather McKay, and Shannon Wright and give it a try.

Okay, Maybe you could find Farrah, Heather or Cher on the cover of Racquetball Illustrated ... doesn't count. Paraismo earned her place on the cover of the last Racquetball Magazine with far and away the most consistent season on the WIRT. Never missing a beat, she beat the "cover jinx" as she drove right through the competition at Roanoke, Virginia's Berglund Automotive Pro-Am.

While four of the top eight of the WIRT players — Paraismo, Lydia Hammock, Kersten Hallander, and Robin Levine — call California home, it seems that with another stellar event in Virginia, the WIRT is keeping strong roots in the east.

Early rounds in Virginia saw North Carolina's Janet Myers over Bev Supanick, Hallander over Angela Burth, Tour Commissioner Molly O'Brien over Sandy Kubany, and Levine over Phyllis Morris, each in three games. The battle to watch in the first round was the five game comeback for Doreen Fowler over Michelle Wiragh in a battle of Maryland rivals.
Jackie Paraiso def. Janet Myers, 11-0, 11-0, 11-4
Doreen Fowler def. Michelle Wragh, 4-11, 7-11, 11-3, 11-8, 11-7
Kersten Hallander def. Angela Burth, 11-2, 11-3, 11-5

Jackie Paraiso def. Janet Myers, 11-0, 11-0, 11-4
Kersten Hallander def. Doreen Fowler, 11-9, 11-0, 11-1

Jackie Paraiso def. Kersten Hallander, 11-2, 11-0, 11-5

Cheryl Gudinas def. Lydia Hammock, 11-5, 11-4, 3-11, 11-5

Lydia Hammock def. Molly O'Brien, 8-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-2, 11-9
Cheryl Gudinas def. Robin Levine, 11-2, 14-12, 11-8

Lydia Hammock bye
Molly O'Brien def. Sandy Kubany, 11-11, 11-2, 11-4
Robin Levine def. Phyllis Morris, 11-6, 11-4, 11-6
Cheryl Gudinas bye

Paraiso began handing out doughnuts in the next round with Myers in line for a couple. Fowler wasn't able to come up with another upset against Hallander and fell in three.

Number two seed Cheryl Gudinas had only some brief trouble in an extended second game against Levine in what should have been a fierce battle between two intense scrappers.

The match of the round was posted by Hammock with a win in five great games over O'Brien. Both competitors seemed to keep turning up the heat until Hammock was finally able to gain some momentum with some tough serving to take the fourth (and only clearly decisive) game, 11-2.

Paraiso seemed to play the semi against Hallander in "cruise" mode, and Gudinas only ran into difficulty in the third game before advancing past Hammock in their semi-finals.

In the final, Gudinas came out smokin'. Knowing Paraiso's intensity and consistency, she knew that her best opportunity would lie in gaining as much ground as possible before she knew what hit her. The plan worked well in the first game. Gudinas, typically one of the most focused players on the WIRT, was able to capitalize on Paraiso's left-ups shots enough to draw first blood with a round one victory.

Game two was another story. Paraiso plays with tremendous confidence and is able to methodically tear down most opponents' resolve while forcing them to hit better and better shots.

While Gudinas may be one of the few that is up to this kind of test, she could never regain any momentum against the seasoned veteran. As Paraiso killed more and more balls, she never let up and walked away with the win in Roanoke.

Cool-under-pressure, and dangerous-at-any-speed, Paraiso has all but sewn up the season's number one ranking. With the win in Virginia, she has kept the rest of the pack at a distance. Going into the Nationals in Las Vegas, it would appear that only Gudinas and Christie Van Hees stand any chance against her, proving clearly that experience, confidence and a mean forehand make quick work of any "cover jinx."

Did you win the trip for two to the Pro Nationals from USWest? Call 937-859-0599, extension 165 to find out!
### IRT Rankings

[Through 2/8/99]

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<th>Player</th>
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### WIRT Rankings

[Through 2/8/99]

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### 1998-99 IRT SEASON

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<th>Score</th>
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<td>Swain def. Monchik</td>
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<td>Birmingham</td>
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<td>Riverside</td>
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<td>Chicago</td>
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<td>Swain def. Locker</td>
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### 1998-99 WIRT SEASON

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<td>Roanoke</td>
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### Bonus Pool Standings

**IRT Bonus Pools** – The following represents the current standings of the top four ranked professionals using the IRT official products shown.

- **Pro Penn Glove:** 1. Ray, 2. Kerr, 3. Mulcock, 3t. Llacera
- **Ektelon NFS Shoe:** 1. Guidry, 2. Roberts, 3. Fowler, 4. Ray

**WIRT Bonus Pools** – The following represents the current standings of the top four ranked professionals using the WIRT official products shown.

- **Pro Penn Glove:** 1. Hallander, 2. Hammock, 3. Myers, 4. Levine
- **RAD Eyewear:** 1. Paraiso, 2. Hallander, 3. Hammock, 4. Myers
**FIRST DOUBLES VIDEO PREMIERES**

The first professionally produced racquetball doubles instructional video - “Mastery of Racquetball - DOUBLES" - is taught by five-time U.S. national doubles champion Dan Obremeski and U.S. National Team coach Tom Travers. According to Travers, the video employs highly effective instructional techniques used in his previous series - the ground breaking video/workbook album “Mastery of Racquetball - The complete success program.” For more information about the “Mastery of Racquetball” programs, visit http://www.masterball.com. The 30-minute doubles video sells for $29.95 and is available from the producer at 1-800-201-8533.

**NEW FROM NETWORK MARKETING**

The new-for-'99 RAD Triumph was unveiled at the Super Show. A sleek look, extra light weight and “pinch” earpiece is featured in the new style, which is available in smoke, silver and burgundy. The standby RAD Turbo LX is now available in silver, red and crystal smoke.

Dry Grip was popular with many of the pros since it virtually eliminates hand sweat, and Network has it back in stock. A one-ounce tube retails for $4.95 and is good for approximately 50 applications. Call Doug Smith at 800-456-4305, for more information on these, and other, new products for racquetball, or see the Network Marketing display ad on page 58.

**NEW ANKLE WRAP**

United Pacific Inc., of Columbia, South Carolina recently introduced a lightweight, adjustable ankle wrap with velcro strap to help relieve sports injuries to the ankle. United Pacific has specifically developed and designed this new clinically proven heat retainer to combat these injuries usually suffered while participating in a strenuous activity. Since the tension of the support can be adjusted, it is ideal for use on swollen, sprained or twisted ankles as swelling is reduced. Thermoskin heat retainers help increase circulation, efficiently wick away moisture, are more comfortable to wear and provide light compression and support.

The Thermoskin ankle wrap is made from Trioxon, a special material featuring a spiral structure that creates a micro-climate which allows the skin to ventilate by wicking away moisture and does not close off the pores. The Trioxon lining also makes the heat retainers comfortable to sleep in and wear for extended periods of time. For more information on the new ankle wrap for sports injuries, contact United Pacific, P.O. Box 23585, Columbia, SC 29224. Telephone: (803)735-0034 or (800)706-1520; Fax: (803)735-3002; E-mail: thermoskin@thermoskin.com; Website: www.thermoskin.com.

**PYTHON GRIPS and RAD EYEGUARDS NAMED “OFFICIAL PRODUCTS of the GRF!”**

An agreement has been reached between Advance Corp (RAD), Network Marketing (Python) and the German Racquetball Federation to name these products as “Official Products” of the GRF. Network’s Doug Smith was impressed with the recent revitalization of racquetball in Germany and GRF’s Mike Mesecke was impressed with both products. Most of the German National Team members will utilize both the Rads and Pythons in competition. Both products are available through Network Marketing (800-456-4305) or email to python2@mindspring.com.
Hall of Fame
Inductee Named ...

Q: Who is 80-years old, full of smiles and this year’s lone inductee into the Racquetball Hall of Fame?

Over the past 16 years, Acuff has won almost 25 U.S. national and world senior gold medals. He has won nine U.S. national singles titles, most recently in the men’s 75-and-over. This past October in Baltimore, Acuff teamed with George Spear to capture the men’s 75+ doubles crown at the Ektelon 31st U.S. National Doubles Championships. It was Acuff’s seventh national doubles championship. Mix all of this with his 1998 men’s 80+ world title and three other world seniors crowns and you have quite a distinguished career athlete for Earl Acuff, 1999 Racquetball Hall of Fame inductee.

1998 Athletes of the Year

Each year, the USRA Board of Directors chooses its open and age group athletes of the year. Formal recognition for these awards will be conducted on May 29 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Houston, during the Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles Championships. The 1998 winners are: Adam Karp and Jackie Paraiso for male and female athletes of the year, and Sharon Hastings-Welty and Dave Watson for age group honors.

Jackie Paraiso, a resident of El Cajon, Calif., just outside San Diego, finished her ‘98 campaign with a fifth U.S. national doubles title, a fourth Tournament of the Americas doubles crown and a fourth world doubles championship. Despite missing the U.S. national singles title by a mere three points last May, Paraiso enjoyed quite a successful season.

The ‘98 USRA Female Athlete of the Year began the year by teaming with her identical twin sister — Joy MacKenzie — to win the Tournament of the Americas doubles championship in Winnipeg, Canada. The duo put away Canadians Josee Grand’Maitre and Debbie Ward 15-11, 15-1. The 32-year old then went on to finish second to Robin Levine at the U.S. National Singles in Houston, 15-8, 14-15, 11-8. In July, Paraiso again teamed with her sister in Cochabamba, Bolivia to take another win over the team of Grand’Maitre and Ward for the world doubles championship.

After returning to the U.S., Paraiso and MacKenzie went on to cruise past the competition at the Ektelon 31st U.S. National Doubles Championships in Baltimore. The two captured the October event by downing Kim Russell and Levine, 15-6, 8-15, 11-5. Paraiso capped off her year by winning her first Promus U.S. OPEN title, with an upset over current world singles champion Christie Van Hees of Canada 11-6, 11-5, 11-5.

Just 26 years of age, Adam Karp, the USRA Male Athlete of the Year, is living up the potential that racquetball experts have been predicting. The Australian-born backhand artist is known as the “Flying Fish” due to his athletic agility, quickness and ability to appear as if he were flying around the court.

Although Karp fell to Derek Robinson in the round of 16 at the Promus U.S. OPEN Championships, the Fish did capture a pair of international doubles titles and the coveted national singles crown. After putting away Canadians Mike Ceresia and Jacques Demers for the Tournament of the Americas doubles title, Karp and partner Bill Sell held off an upstart Mexican tandem of Luis Bustillos and Javier Moreno in Bolivia for the World Championship doubles crown, 15-9, 15-6.

But it was his 15-8, 15-10 win over two-time national singles champ Michael Bronfeld in the finals of the U.S. National Singles Championships that earned Karp his finest honor to date.

Sharon Hastings-Welty earned the Peggy Steding Award for age group competition for winning the women’s 55-and-over world seniors and U.S. national singles gold medals. The Corvallis, Oregon, resident handled Nidia Funes 15-3, 15-4 to win the national title, while taking second in the women’s 50+ bracket that same week. Hastings-Welty also took on the gold at the World Senior Championships in Albuquerque, N.M., by outdistancing Funes on points in women’s 55+ round-robin play.

May – June 1999
Dave Watson, 37, is this year’s recipient of the Bud Muehleisen Award. The Miami resident won the 30+ and 35+ national singles titles along with the 35+ world seniors championship. Seeded fourth, Watson defeated No. 3 seed Dan Llacera 15-10, 15-4 in Houston for the men’s 30+ national crown. That same week, Watson fought past Dave Eagle to win the 35+ gold medal, 15-6, 4-15, 11-3. After a fourth-place finish in the men’s 30’s at the Promus U.S. OPEN, Watson took out Eagle again at the World Seniors, 11-9, 6-11, 11-5 for the 35+ world title.

Minnesota Honors
by Amos Rosenbloom
The Minnesota Racquetball Hall of Fame held its 12th Annual Banquet at Central Courts in Minneapolis in late January. The MRHF is said to be the oldest Racquetball Hall of Fame Tradition in the country.

The oversubscribed banquet was “standing room only” as the evening events were managed skillfully by Bob McNamara and the program moved smoothly from dinner to Recognition Honors, Special Honors, Inductees, and to the live auction to benefit junior racquetball.

Joining in the celebrations were 14 of 34 Hall of Fame members, who helped induct new members Greg Hayenga of St. Cloud and Gary Peterson of Minneapolis. Criteria for the honor are: playing skill, being actively involved in racquetball for over 10 years, giving back to the game, and being a gentleman on and off the court. The Warren Claridge Award for Personal Giving to the Game of Racquetball went to “Pete” Peterson of Minneapolis.

The “Marvin Johnson Family Support Honors” trophy was passed from the Marvin and Carol Johnson Family to the Mike and Paula Beugen Family by Hart Johnson. The Beugen family tradition started with father Mike playing with a flair for the unusual ... he once challenged friend Harvey Chesler to a match at the Court House in Minneapolis where he wore overshoes and held an umbrella in his right hand. I don’t remember the outcome, but the gallery was filled with smiling players. Mom Paula was supportive as son Brett, at age 14, beat now-pro-star Sudsy Monchik, and as siblings Jonah and Andrea won junior national doubles titles at ages 12, 14, 16, 18 and the World Junior doubles for 14 and under. The Beugen’s are certainly a family that well deserves this honor and the trophy.

Smith Hospitalized
submitted by Alan Golombeck
Mitch Smith, perennially top-ranked in the Men’s 35+ has been hospitalized with leukemia. Mitch, seen here with visitors Alan Golombeck (left) and Ed Willis, is undergoing care at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Mitch had been experiencing flu-like symptoms that would not subside, and when he finally sought treatment, he was diagnosed with Advance Lymphatic Leukemia, a form of cancer. Mitch is doing well and responding to chemotherapy, but his recovery will be long and hard. When asked about the time frame in which we could expect to see him back on the courts, he wasn’t sure, but replied “A lot of players in the 35+ division at this year’s nationals will be breathing a little easier.” Cards and letters can be sent to: Mitch Smith, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Room 265 Oncology South, 600 North Wolfe Street, Baltimore, MD 21287.
Isn't it ironic that racquetball's famed U.S. National Singles Championships conclude on Memorial Day? It is when most of today's elite players can't seem to recall glorious memories from what might be the most puzzling amateur tournament of the year.

Adam Karp remembers dislocating his middle finger during last year's finals victory over Michael Bronfeld. His career-best victory sent him off in the right direction, even though his digit was pointing left.

Currently ranked No. 1 in the world, Jackie Paraiso currently dominates the women's game, but she can't remember winning "The Finals" . . . because she hasn't.

With his reinstated amateur status, Drew Kachtik can't, for sure, recall his last appearance at the National Singles (1990), but he does remember some tough luck. "Oh, haven't we all," he said of when asked if he has suffered any of the career low points so often associated with the annual Houston event.

So, what is it about traveling to a humid Houston in May and playing in the antique maze of courts which make up the Downtown YMCA?

Watch carefully and you can see some of the biggest-name players sneaking out of town following unSweet 16 losses in the open divisions. A former contender turned vacationer sits at the Hyatt lobby bar watching players, who are still in contention, walk to the glass elevators and then ride up to their rooms. Unfortunately for ousted players, a second chance is approximately 365 days away. The title of "National Champion" will have to wait.

"It's been so built up over the years and attendance is so high," Paraiso said. "If you don't do well, you can't redeem yourself until the next year."

Paraiso fell in the finals to Michelle Gould in '92 and Robin Levine last year. This year's favorite, Paraiso is even money, according to Jim Hiser's handicapping system.

According to Karp, the defending men's champion, "It's a prestige thing. It's a really intense and unique tournament. It took me a while to get to know what I needed to do to get ready. A lot of things have to fall into place in order to win National Singles."

"(Last year) I think I did exactly what you need to do, whether it was on purpose or not. It's kind of a cliche, but everyone says that you've got to play better each round and I truly believe that I did."

This year's rounds will be a little more difficult with the inclusion of Kachtik and an immensely improved Rocky Carson.

"I play so few events, that it's a lot easier to get up for events when you only play one every couple of months," said Kachtik, former pro tour champion.

"Right now I'm pretty healthy. When I go out for a weekend, I can give it all because I know I'm not playing for another couple of months. But there's a lot of good players on fast cement courts. If you get one guy that has a hot serve in one match and you're out of luck."

Which is one reason why Carson has to be considered a threat to dethrone Karp. The 1998 U.S. National Intercollegiate champ, Carson possesses a rocket drive serve which could trip up more than one top player.

"I feel confident about the way I'm playing," Carson said. "Even when I'm not at my best, I feel like I can hang with just about anybody . . . I'm looking at this one as it could be one of my last amateur events, if not the last. I want to go out with a good finish, I know that."

by kevin vicroy
This year's women's draw may include eight-time title holder Michelle Gould. As of press time, Gould's response to inquiries on her playing status for The Finals was "No, but considering." Her odds are 2-1 to win, or perhaps just to show.

Gould's main nemesis is Levine, who cut the Boise product's string of three consecutive national singles titles by defeating her in last year's semifinals.

"In terms of the competition that you're going to get, the U.S. National's is tougher than any international competition," said Levine, current and two-time national women's champ.

However, Levine's nemesis is herself. An injury suffered at this past Promus U.S. OPEN has forced the former Sacramento State star to once again struggle through rehab.

"Yeah, well. This body's getting old," she said. "I don't know moderation and always push it to the limit.”

Not even listed in last year's odds, Levine dismisses her current 3-1 odds, as designated by Hiser.

"I never go by those odds anyway. Every time they (RACQUETBALL magazine) have my odds low I win. Last year, I wasn't even on it. So there you have it.”

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**The Lines by Jim Hiser**

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Highest career finishes are **BOLDED**

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Highest career finishes are **BOLDED**

### Performance Factors

**MEN**

- Strong desire for team & Pan Ams; good combo
- Shows well in Houston; can he survive?
- Nearly 50; should stick to one division
- All the tools; could be the sleeper
- Injury free, but the years will take their toll
- Likely to upset a top seed. *Semi's in 90*
- Good year on tour; lawyer or a player?
- Fully recovered? Handle home state pressure?
- Could reach semifinals with a good draw
- Has a rocket serve; if missiles land, watch out!

**WOMEN**

- Injury prone; needs to stay healthy to repeat
- No pressure for Team spot; extends a great year!
- Needs a good drive; serve against top seeds
- Retired? Year off will show under pressure
- Streaky shooter; won't survive physical pressures
- Inconsistent; must focus for any hope of a title
- Lightning quick; not enough ammo for big guns
- Solid all-around player; still a quarterfinalist
- Crafty veteran, better in her age bracket
- In great shape; needs a break to reach semifinals

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May – June 1999
Sudsy’s Magic Show
Featuring ... The Forehand!
Well, it's been two months since I last spoke to you about my magical backhand. Hopefully you have had a chance to work on yours after studying mine. Like I said in the last article, I want you to be able to "get 'em from both sides." One of the worst things a racquetball player can do is be "lop-sided." What I mean by that is when a player constantly favors the backhand or forehand side and always runs around the weaker of the two whenever the opportunity presents itself. This results in over-development on one side, and the weaker side gets picked on continuously.

No, no, no ... we don't want that! So in this article I'll show you the matching five-step approach to my magical forehand. Believe it or not, some players forehands are weaker because they begin to practice their backhands more and more (usually the weaker of the two) and forget about their forehand side. They take their forehand for granted. Over time the backhand becomes stronger. We don't want that to happen to you. I want you to feel like me: I can drill my opponents from either side, hands down. I don't fear my backhand or forehand — I happen to love them both. So let's begin tearing apart my forehand so you can build yours from the ground up using the same five-step approach I used in my backhand article.

By creating a balance between your forehand and backhand you become a solid player with fewer weaknesses that your opponent can exploit. If you have glaring weaknesses from either side, your opponent can chisel away at them and before you know it you get totally frustrated and self-destruct. I've seen it time and time again, both at the amateur and pro levels. Why become part of that statistic? I urge you to do what I did growing up — become fundamentally sound from both sides.

TRICK #1: THE GRIP

- Take a look at my forehand grip (shaking hands with the racquet, the "v" between my thumb & forefinger is over the top part of the racquet handle).
TRICK #2: ERP
[Early Racquet Preparation]

Upper Body
• Look at my upper body rotation — my back is facing the front left corner and my left shoulder is pointing toward the right corner (coiling effect).
  • Non-hitting arm is up and slightly rotated.
  • Upper body erect, not bent over at the waist.

Lower Body
• Look at my hip rotation where my belly button is facing the back right corner (coiling effect again).
  • Knees slightly bent.
  • Feet a little wider than shoulder width apart.
  • Weight distribution is relatively even with a slight shift to back foot.
TRICK #3: The Swing

Upper Body
• Notice as the swing begins, my racquet head drops to shoulder level (or slightly below), it’s cocked back and my back is facing the left back corner as my hitting shoulder is pointing to the right back corner.
• Non-hitting arm is coming through for balance.
• Upper body erect.
• Leading with elbow.

Lower Body
• As I step toward the front wall the weight shifts to a more even distribution and the belly button is now facing the sidewall.
• Knees still bent.
• Feet a little wider than shoulder width apart because of the step, back foot starts to pivot and back leg is at approaching 90 degree angle.
TRICK #4: The Contact Point

**Upper Body**
- The shoulders continue to come through and are opening to the front wall.
- Racquet is at full extension from the body, flat and level. Contact is made knee high or lower.
- Upper body erect.

**Lower Body**
- Hip rotation continues to come through and my belly button is now pointing to the right front corner.
- Back foot continues to pivot and back leg is at a 90 degree angle.
TRICK #5: The Follow Through

Upper Body
- Shoulders are completely through and facing the front wall.
- Racquet is completely through and pointing to the backwall, not up toward the ceiling.
- Non-hitting arm is completely around.
- Upper body erect and uncoiled.

Lower Body
- Hip rotation is now complete and hips are facing the front wall.
- Back foot is completely pivoted and bears 40-50% of the weight.
- Back leg is at a 90 degree angle.
- Balanced up.
- Uncoiled and power released.

So there you have it — one of the most fundamentally magical forehands in the game today.

You’ve got the total breakdown of my magical forehand and backhand, so don’t let it go to waste — use it. Your confidence level will rise and you can become a major threat at tournament after tournament. You want to be that player at your club or on the draw sheet that — when someone knows they are going to face you — they say, “Oh no, not again!”

Now that you have the tools to get ‘em from both sides I want you to be able to get ‘em from the service box. Be patient! Sudsy’s magical game will surface within you if you follow my guidance. See ‘ya next time for the Drive Serve.
Everyone tells me that I keep losing matches because of my poor shot selection. Can you explain SHOT SELECTION?

From my experience as a teacher and coach over the past 15 years I can safely say that you are not alone. Shot selection is an area, at all levels, that can always use more attention. Shot selection is defined as “taking the right shot at the right time.” This is one of the most critical parts of your game because it can determine whether you win or lose a match. Many of us get into the heat of the battle and we don’t think, we just bang away. We are often guilty of hitting the “shot we like” or “feel comfortable with” rather than the “appropriate shot” that will win the point.

I have come up with a simple formula that works to make you understand this area more clearly: A + B + C + D = E

A = you | your court position and ability level
B = ball | height, speed and angle
C = opponent’s position (most important)
D = score | score of the game/match
E = shot selection | which shot to take?

“Add up” all of these components to determine the proper shot selection each and every time.

In addition to the above formula, here are a few other key tips that will help you with shot selection:

1. Hit where your opponent is not ...
   a. If your opponent is on the left side of the court, hit to the right side, or if your opponent is on the right, hit to the left (unless you plan to jam them).
   b. If your opponent is in front court, hit deep — a pass or ceiling — not a kill or pinch.
   c. If your opponent is back, hit up front — a pinch or a kill — not a pass or a ceiling.
2. Try to keep your body between the ball and your opponent.
3. Make your opponent run the furthest distance to get to the ball. Make them hit on the run.

Shot selection is more important than you think it is, so don’t take it lightly. Hitting the right shot at the right time will win you more points, more quickly and with less energy. Instead of winning a two-hour, 11-10 tiebreaker, you can win the match in one hour, in two straight — with smarter shot selection. When you hit a winner, ask yourself, “If I left the ball up, could my opponent have gotten to it?” If the answer is yes, then you didn’t take the right shot because you hit it right back to them (unless you jammed them).

Remember, hit away from your opponent and make them run. Be more selective in your shots because you will see “playing smarter is better than playing harder.” Give it a try. It works.
$100,000 in PRIZES!

- Top of the line Racquets
- Gloves
- Eyewear
- Apparel
- Bags
- Gear
- Travel
- Services
- and much more!

USRA Membership Drive ... Bring a Friend to Racquetball!

Everybody WINS ...!

Sign up a new member and BOTH OF YOU will receive:
- A FREE can of Pro Penn RACQUETBALLS!
- A 1-in-10 chance to win additional prizes based on orders received (every 10th sign-up processed will win!)
- An entry into the GRAND PRIZE drawing to be held at the 1999 Promus U.S. OPEN, November 30 — December 5!

Current USRA members! You'll receive a can of balls for each new member you “sponsor” plus increase your chances to win with every new sign up! Duplicate the reverse side of this coupon as many times as you like! Membership Drive offer good until October 31, 1999.

With prize support from: Ashaway, E-Force, Ektelon, Head, Penn, Pro Kennex, USRA & Wilson
CURRENT MEMBER — I'm already a member, but I want to sign up a friend, get a FREE can of ProPenn balls, and become eligible for weekly and GRAND PRIZE Drawings!

Name __________________________________________
Address ________________________________________
City/State/Zip __________________________________
Phone: (___) _________ Glove: R/L ________________
MC/Visa __________________________ Exp. __________
Signature __________________________________________

RENEW ME! Member Number: _______________________

☐ Renew my existing membership for another year!

NEW MEMBER — I want to join the USRA, receive RACQUETBALL, get a FREE can of ProPenn balls, and become eligible for weekly and GRAND PRIZE Drawings!

Name __________________________________________
Address ________________________________________
City/State/Zip __________________________________
Phone: (___) _________ Glove: R/L ________________
MC/Visa __________________________ Exp. __________
Signature __________________________________________

SIGN ME UP!

☐ $20.00 Adult  ☐ $15.00 Junior (18 and under only)

DO NOT SEPARATE THESE FORMS! Enclose the entire printed piece — with payment(s) — in an envelope (even if only one new member is applying, without a “sponsor”) and send to USRA, 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906.

Membership Drive offer good until October 31, 1999
I'm a decent player (A level) but when I play in a tournament, I tense up and everything bothers me. I can't relax and just play the game. Do you have any suggestions?

As our skill level increases, our quest for "mental stability" becomes more prominent. We struggle to control our tempers, our fears, and the distractions that cause us to feel out of control on the court.

First let me say there is nothing magical or mystical about the mental side of racquetball. It is a learned skill, just like hitting a forehand pinch shot is a learned skill. Anyone can get better at controlling their feelings if they work at it.

An effective mental technique to use in this situation is role playing. Role playing simply means putting yourself into a situation ahead of time, when there is no pressure, and then imagining different ways you would handle yourself in that situation.

For instance, if you are in a tie-breaker with the game score, and you are feeling tight, tense and scared, what can you do to relax? First of all, sit down with a pen and paper, and start writing down anything you can think of that might be effective in this situation.

For instance:
1. Take a time out. Focus on breathing slowly and deliberately. Repeat a calming phrase, such as "All my strength, all my heart, all my mind."
2. Pick a physical act to concentrate on, such as moving your feet twice as much as normal, or taking on extra big swing. (Personally, when I got scared, my feet would stop moving and my swing got smaller and tighter. By exaggerating my feet and my swing, I could often relieve my fears and regain confidence.)
3. Talk to yourself, talk to your opponent, talk to the crowd, make a joke, tap dance for five seconds, laugh out loud, bounce the ball on your racquet eight times. Try something!

As you are writing your list of ideas, remember this: there isn't just one right answer.

Everyone's personality is different, and different actions will be appropriate for different people. Now, here is the key: Once you have your list, go practice!!

Practice when you are playing for fun, practice during your league match, practice when you're laying in bed thinking about racquetball, practice when you're driving. Find the technique that works best for you if you wanted to learn how to hit a good backhand ceiling ball, you would go to the club and hit a lot them until you had a good backhand ceiling ball. If you want to be more relaxed in a pressure situation, you learn how to role-play, then practice over and over until it feels normal and comfortable.

You can use this technique with any situation that may arise.

Some typical examples are as follows:
1. You had a big lead, you got complacent, and now your lead is dwindling away.
2. The referee just made a bad call at a crucial time.
3. Your opponent just cheated to win a point.
4. You are nervous playing in front of a crowd or a particular person.
5. You are playing poorly and losing to a much lower ranked player.

There are lots of scenarios that can cause us to feel scared, frustrated, angry, bored or tense. By role-playing these situations before they happen, creating a plan of attack and then practicing your plan, you will feel more in control of any problems that may arise during your match.
Use String to Tie Tournaments Together

As if racquetball tournament organizers don’t already have enough on their minds, some string-related issues bear attention. Input comes from veteran tournament organizer Don Barrington, Racquetball Programmer at River Bend Athletic Club in Wakefield, RI, and President of the Ocean State Racquetball Association, a USRA affiliate.

Don says every tournament should have a racquet stringer on site. Over the course of a tournament, several players are bound to break a string; some will realize during a match that they’re not getting good performance from their racquet and blame the string (or at least think that’s why they’re losing); and incredibly, a few will arrive at the tournament with racquets badly in need of attention. Having a stringer on site meets the needs of all these players.

According to Don, one good stringer can usually cover a tournament with up to about 400 competitors. When signing up a stringer, Don looks for these characteristics:

- **Demonstrated competency.** “Certification by the U.S. Racquet Stringers Association is a great qualification,” says Don, “but in some areas of the country, certified stringers are hard to find.” Failing that, he looks for a stringer with loads of current racquetball stringing experience, including work on the newest racquets. Some of these have unusual stringing patterns and require special knowledge — sometimes even special equipment.

- **Experience as a racquetball player.** “A stringer who’s also a player understands what other players need, and can advise them properly,” says Don.

- **Dependability.** “They’ve got to show up, and be there when you need them.”

- **Friendliness.** “You want a stringer who really likes to talk with players,” says Don. “They’re an important part of the tournament infrastructure. Players who are treated well by the stringer are more likely to have a positive view of the whole tournament.”

- **Diplomacy.** Tournaments can be emotionally difficult for many players. “Some players who take things too seriously may blame anyone but themselves for losing — including the stringer,” says Don. “A good tournament stringer can take the pressure, remain calm, and respond in a helpful manner.”

Tournament stringing is usually offered at a discount. At River Bend, where a standard string job costs about $20, the “tournament special” is usually around $15 — more if the player chooses a higher quality string. Although financial arrangements vary considerably, Don likes an agreement whereby the tournament stringer gets to keep 60 percent of the take, and the club hosting the tournament gets 40 percent. (If the tournament is a charitable event, the split is usually half to the stringer, and half to the charity.) This assumes that the club provides the string, grommets, and other consumables. If the stringer brings their own supplies, they’ll usually remit a flat fee to the club for each racquet serviced. Stringers may either bring their own machines and tools, or use the club’s, if available. The machine should definitely be a professional-quality unit.

Don likes the stringer to be highly visible, so he usually has them set up shop next to the check-in desk and the draw sheets. That way, every competitor knows that the service is available, and it gives them a chance to get expert advice on an informal basis. It’s also a good security measure, for those brief moments when the stringer must leave their station. One last consideration: the area should be well lighted, to make the stringer’s work easier.

Don also views racquet string as a valuable incentive with which to promote a tournament. He often seeks tournament sponsorship from a string company, by offering to hang a company banner in a prominent place, and include the company’s name or logo in tournament literature, and on T-shirts and other promotions. In exchange, he asks for a donation of string, which can be distributed in various ways. The on-site stringer might use it when re-stringing racquets, in which case, the players pay only for the service, and not for the string itself. Alternately, the tournament organizer might include string sets in the “goody bags” they give away to players, or use them as consolation prizes. “Corporate sponsorship lends credibility to a tournament,” says Don. “And by giving something useful to players, you enhance the value of the tournament.”
DIRECTOR'S UPDATE by Gary Mazaroff

In January, I accepted the reigns of the AmPro Instructor Certification program as its new director. My immediate concerns are to make contact with interested parties in the field who wish to enhance their knowledge of our sport, attend certification clinics — or both. I have subsequently been in communication with club personnel, facility administrators, IHRSA staff, school and university officials, and others.

As often occurs with any transition, there will be some obstacles to negotiate. In the short term, some changes will occur administratively; in the manual, in the pricing structure, in the testing, and in the certification process itself. At the same time, we will continue to host seminars across the country — and outside its borders — in an ongoing effort to satisfy the needs of our constituency. The major goals for 1999 are:

1. Circulate a quarterly newsletter
2. Place certified instructors in clubs, fitness centers, and schools
3. Make protective eyewear mandatory for all players
4. Hold a summit with current and prospective clinicians
5. Develop a common sense continuing education agenda for existing certified instructors.
6. Provide incentives for annual renewals
7. Provide enough services to make certification more readily available to all candidates
8. Identify a liaison to the national office in all 50 states.
9. Have an annual AmPro convention

In closing, I look forward to working with the folks at Wilson Racquetball to create a mindset within our industry which correlates racquetball’s growth directly with the stature of this organization.

AMPRO PRICE LIST

Instruction Manual: $50.00 + shipping & handling
Programming Manual — current members & IHRSA clubs: $59.95 Others: $69.95 + shipping & handling
Coaching Manual: $10 + shipping & handling

AMPRO SEMINAR FORMAT

Each weekend seminar consists of three sessions:
• Friday night (7-9pm)
• Saturday (9am-5pm)
• Sunday (9am-5pm)*

On court — practice drills, hitting & set-up skills, practice teaching, game playing, techniques, shots of the game & more.

Classroom — shared presentations, manuals review including history, rules, lessons & lesson plans, junior programs, goals & more.


Hitting & Set-up — execution of shots & serves, partner set-ups, & solo set-ups and shot making.

Practical — Presentation skills, demonstration skills, and error detection skills.

Written — Short answer with emphasis on technique, drills, lessons, marketing, and rules. Upgrade written exam

* Individual seminars may adjust times as needed

REVISED CLINIC PRICE STRUCTURE

INSTRUCTIONAL CLINIC & EXAM .................. $178.00
UPGRADE (includes seminar) ......... $75.00
ANNUAL RENEWAL*.......................... $50.00

*includes USRA membership fees

Instructor Certification — 1999 Clinic Schedule

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<td>North Carolina Central University</td>
<td>Durham, NC</td>
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<td>May 14-16</td>
<td>Results Health &amp; Fitness</td>
<td>Cleveland Heights, OH</td>
<td>Jim Winterton</td>
<td>315/426-9204</td>
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<td>May 24-25</td>
<td>Downtown YMCA</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>Ken Woodfin</td>
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<td>June 4-6</td>
<td>Downtown Athletic Club</td>
<td>Amarillo, TX</td>
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<td>July 9-11</td>
<td>Colorado Athletic Club/Inverness</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>Jim Gillhouse</td>
<td>719/471-0799</td>
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<td>August 6-8</td>
<td>Santa Clarita Athletic Club</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>Gary Mazaroff</td>
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<td>August 13-15</td>
<td>The Alaska Club</td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
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<td>October 1-3</td>
<td>Central Penn Fitness Center</td>
<td>Harrisburg, PA</td>
<td>Gary Mazaroff</td>
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For more information about conducting an AmPRO Instructor Certification clinic, or about becoming certified, please contact Gary Mazaroff [Director of AmPRO Instructor Certification] at 505/266-8960, or email GMazaroff@usra.org.
In my most recent columns I have shared major efforts by the industry — Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, IHRSA, and the USRA — to achieve the goals outlined in the 1995 Industry Summit. This unified effort to re-establish our sport as an integral part of the fitness industry has gained acceptance and greater visibility through the IHRSA Awards, Programming Workbook, Programming Certification, and AmPRO. Racquetball has taken an aggressive position to show club owners, not only that it is possible, but how to generate $70,000 per court per year — with limited investment and manpower — as opposed to utilizing the same square footage for other fitness disciplines.

Another 1995 initiative was to create a major event that would unify the sport and increase television exposure for racquetball. As we prepare to host the 4th annual Promus U.S. OPEN, it’s clear that this event has positioned racquetball into a major sport arena. But it hasn’t been easy … the greatest accomplishment was reaching agreement by the industry on these major goals.

This summer we will celebrate the inclusion of racquetball as a full medal sport in the Pan American Games, which are second only to the Olympic Games in worldwide recognition and importance. The International Olympic Committee has had its problems of late, but the Olympic Games — and all that they stand for — are not going to be diminished. As the qualifying event for over 15 sports which will be showcased in Sydney, the Pan American Games have gained a tremendous amount of stature.

The visibility that racquetball will receive from the Pan Ams cannot be understated. The IRF qualified eleven teams at the Pan Am Trials in Winnipeg last year and the Olympic Committees of each of those countries has committed to sending their racquetball athletes to the Pan Ams. The Winnipeg Organizing Committee has identified racquetball as one of its key sports and is supporting it both financially and logistically by underwriting the use of the portable court as the focal point of the racquetball competition. There will be seating for over 800 spectators and the racquetball venue is expected to be sold out throughout the competition.

What does this mean for the sport? Racquetball will be showcased to the world. Over 2000 journalists from 150 countries will be in Winnipeg to cover the games. Racquetball will have a chance to exhibit its athleticism, excitement, and professionalism. Our sport will have its day in the sun. Come join us.

For more information on the Pan Am Games, see page 16, or call the Pan Am ticket & reservations hotline at 204-985-1999.

don’t forget ... if you’ll be “abroad” this summer, the first annual IRF World Senior Doubles Championships — June 17-20 — has moved to Antwerpen! For more information, contact Gary Mazaroff at 505/266-8960, or Eric Meyer at 00 32 3 231-8019.

BOLIVIAN TEAM GROWS

A bronze medalist in the men’s blue division at last year’s IRF World Championships, Bolivian National Team member Oswaldo Antezana and wife Yovanna Pardo de Antezana are enjoying their new family addition — a newborn son. Jonathan K. Antezana was born this past February 26 in Cochabamba, Bolivia.
United States Racquetball Association
U.S. NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONS
[Established 1968]

Men: Open
1998 Adam Karp (Calif.)
1997 Dan Otelemiki (Pa.)
1996 Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)
1995 Michael Bronfeld (Calif.)
1994 Michael Bronfeld (Calif.)
1993 John Ellis (Calif.)
1992 Chris Cole (Mich.)
1991 Tim Sweeney (Ill.)
1990 Jim Doyle (Ohio)
1989 Tim Doyle (Ohio)
1988 Andy Roberts (Tenn.)
1987 Jim Casicio (Pa.)
1986 Ed Andrews (Calif.)
1985 Ed Andrews (Calif.)
1984 Dan Ferris (Minn.)
1983 Dan Ferris (Minn.)
1982 Jack Newman (Ill.)
1981 Ed Andrews (Calif.)
1980 Ed Andrews (Calif.)
1979 John Egerman (Idaho)
1978 Lindsey Meyers (Canada)
1977 Jerry Zukerman (Mo.)
1976 Joe Wirtz (Wis.)
1975 Gaye Bowes (Canada)
1974 Bill Schmidtke (Wis.)
1973 Charlie Brumfield (Calif.)
1972 Charlie Brumfield (Calif.)
1971 Bill Schmidtke (Wis.)
1970 Craig Fingar (Mich.)
1969 Bud Muehleisen (Calif.)

Women: Open
1998 Robin Levine (Calif.)
1997 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)
1996 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)
1995 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)
1994 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)
1993 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)
1992 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)
1991 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)
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1989 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)
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1985 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)
1984 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)
1983 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)
1982 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)
1981 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)
1980 Michelle Gulm (Idaho)

Men's 24+ (formerly 19+)
1996 Mike Dinnison (Ohio)
1995 Rich Berr (NY)
1994 Brian Fredenberg (Texas)
1993 Jeff Evans (Wash.)
1992 Dan Fowler (Md.)
1991 Charlie Gardo (Texas)
1990 Derek Robinson (Wash.)
1989 Charlie Nichols (Fla.)
1988 Michael Bronfeld (Calif.)
1987 Lance Gilliam (Texas)
1985 Joe Cline (N.J.)
1984 Tim Hansen (Fla.)

Women's 24+ (formerly 19+)
1996 Holly Remen (N.Y.)
1995 Elaine Mardas (Ohio)
1994 Amy Kilbane (Ohio)
1993 Amy Kilbane (Ohio)
1992 Amy Kilbane (Ohio)
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1989 Amy Kilbane (Ohio)
1988 Amy Kilbane (Ohio)
1987 Amy Kilbane (Ohio)
1986 Amy Kilbane (Ohio)
1985 Amy Kilbane (Ohio)

Men's 25+ (formerly 20+)
1998 Mike Locker (Minn.)
1997 Rich Berr (NY)
1996 Kevin Graham (Wis.)
1995 James Loretto (Fla.)
1994 Tony Boscia (Colo.)
1993 Chris Wright (Mo.)
1992 Jim Lowe (Alaska)
1991 Sam Wasko (Va.)
1990 Jim Casicio (Pa.)
1989 Ron Digiacomo (N.Y.)
1988 Mark Morrison (Fla.)
1987 Tim Hansen (Fla.)
1986 Bill Land (La.)
1985 Gary Merritt (Texas)
1984 Bill Land (La.)
1983 Mark Morrison (Fla.)

Women's 25+ (formerly 20+)
1998 Holly Remen (N.Y.)
1997 Elaine Mardas (Ohio)
1996 Elaine Mardas (Ohio)
1995 Elaine Mardas (Ohio)
1994 Elaine Mardas (Ohio)
1993 Elaine Mardas (Ohio)
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1986 Elaine Mardas (Ohio)
1985 Elaine Mardas (Ohio)
1984 Elaine Mardas (Ohio)
1983 Elaine Mardas (Ohio)

Men's 30+
1998 David Watson (Okla.)
1997 Gregg Peck (Texas)
1996 Steve Holm (Mich.)
1995 John Amal (Fla.)
1994 Armando Alonso (Fla.)
1993 Jimmy Lowe (Ky.)
1992 Dave Peck (Colo.)
1991 Bill Sell (Fla.)
1990 Bobby Corcorran (Ariz.)
1989 Mark Morrison (Fla.)
1988 Bobby Corcorran (Ariz.)
1987 Bill Land (La.)
1986 Bobby Corcorran (Ariz.)
1985 Dennis Aceto (Mass.)
1984 Jay Schwartz (Fla.)
1983 Jim Wirkus (Wis.)
1982 Joe Wirkus (Wis.)
1981 Steve Dunn (Calif.)
1980 Mark Hegg

Women's 30+
1998 Debbie Tisinger (Calif.)
1997 Tim Hansen (Fla.)
1996 Dave Peck (Texas)
1995 Dave Peck (Texas)
1994 Dave Schwong (Mo.)
1993 Dave Peck (Texas)
1992 Dave Peck (Colo.)
1991 Craig Kunzel (Calif.)
1990 Davy Bledsoe (Ga.)
1989 Stu Hastings (Mich.)
1988 Stu Hastings (Mich.)
1987 Craig Kunzel (Calif.)
1986 Craig Kunzel (Calif.)
1985 Ed Remen (Va.)
1984 Jay Schwartz (Fla.)
1983 Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)
1982 Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)
1981 Dave Peck (Tenn.)
1980 Jim Austin (Texas)
1979 Jim Austin (Texas)
1978 Jim Austin (Texas)
1977 Jim Austin (Texas)
1976 Bud Muehleisen (Calif.)
1975 Bud Muehleisen (Calif.)
1974 Bud Muehleisen (Calif.)

Men's 40+
1998 Gil Rodriguez (Va.)
1997 Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)
1996 Tom Travers (Ohio)
1995 Ed Garabedian (Pa.)
1994 Tom Travers (Ohio)
1993 Tom Travers (Ohio)
1992 Fieding Snow (Wash.)
1991 Davey Bledsoe (Ga.)
1990 Davey Bledsoe (Ohio)
1989 Johnny Northern (Mich.)
1988 Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)
1987 Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)
1986 Ed Remen (Va.)
1985 Ed Remen (Va.)
1984 Jim Austin (Texas)
1983 Jim Austin (Texas)
1982 Charles Garfinke (N.Y.)
1981 Bob Petersen (Idaho)
1980 Charles Garfinke (N.Y.)

Women's 40+
1998 Chris Ivan (Ill.)
1997 Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)
1996 Tom Travers (Ohio)
1995 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1994 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1993 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1992 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1991 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1990 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1989 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1988 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1987 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1986 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1985 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1984 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1983 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1982 Janet Myers (N.C.)
1981 Colleen Sloan (Calif.)
1980 Sue Graham (Va.)

Men's 45+
1998 Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)

Women's 45+
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**Singles champions**

- **Men's 50+**
- **Women's 50+**
- **Men's 55+**
- **Women's 55+**
- **Men's 65+**
- **Women's 65+**

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**Racquetball**

May – June 1999
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**UNITED STATES RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION**

**JUNIOR OLYMPIC NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**

*Established 1974*

- Boys 18 and under
  - Girls 18 and under
- Boys 14 and under
  - Girls 14 and under
1996 Shane Vanderson (Ohio) ................. Krystal Csek (Ill.)
1995 Ryan Staten (Kan.) ...................... Sara Borland (Iowa)
1994 Rocky Carson (Calif.) .................. Katie Gould (Mo.)
1993 Rocky Carson (Calif.) .................. Vanessa Tulio (Tenn.)
1992 Mark Hurck (Fla.) ..................... Sadie Gross (Minn.)
1991 Shane Wood (Mass.) .................... Shannon Feaster (D.C.)
1990 Jason Mannino (N.Y.) ................. Amy Jerde (Iowa)
1989 Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.) ................. Elkoa Icencule (Calif.)
1988 Allan Engel (Fla.) ..................... Jenny Spongberg (Calif.)
1987 John Ellis (Calif.) ..................... Jenny Lee (Texas)
1986 Robby Waldin (Fla.) .................... Erica Wilhite (Ohio)
1985 Joey Paraizzo (Calif.) .................. Michelle Gilman (Ore.)
1984 Scott Pekovich ......................... Michelle Gilman (Ore.)
1983 David Simonette (Ohio) ............... Elaine Mardas (Ohio)
1982 David Simonette (Ohio) ............... Crystal Fried
1981 Luis Miranda (Texas) ................. Elaine Mardas (Ohio)
1980 Luis Miranda (Texas) ................... Noelle Kudinger
1979 David Gross .............................. Donna Allen (Wyo.)

1996 Jack Huczek (Mich.) ................. Karina Odefard (Canada)
1990 Shane Vanderson (Ohio) ............. Alexis Feaster (D.C.)
1989 Gabriel Gose (N.M.) .................. Suzette Solomon (Ind.)
1988 Jacob Gautreau (Texas) .............. Jamie Trachsel (Minn.)

Boys 8 and under multi-bounce. Girls 8 and under multi-bounce

1998 Erick Padwill (Ore.) ................... Sharon Jackson (Ind.)
1997 Brandon Callahan (Alaska) ......... Brittany Leggett ( Ore.)
1996 Justin Erdman (Ohio) ................. Trina Harper (Wis.)
1995 Matthew Hammond (Ohio) ........... Kelley Fisher (Ohio)
1994 Jeremy Robbins (Texas) .............. Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)
1993 Brandon Shoemaker (Ohio) ......... Kim Iorns (Ohio)
1992 Evan Hornigfield (Texas) .......... . Molly Law (Colo.)
1991 Jimmy Rodger (Minn.) ................. Karina Odefard (Canada)
1990 Shane Vanderson (Ohio) ............. Alexis Feaster (D.C.)
1989 Gabriel Gose (N.M.) .................. Lynn Hansen (Iowa)
1988 Shane Vanderson (Ohio) ............. Jamie Trachsel (Minn.)
1987 Jon Boyett (Calif.) ..................... Dawn Marie Gates (Ill.)
1986 Jon Boyett (Calif.) ..................... Dawn Marie Gates (Ill.)
1985 Wesley Miller (Tenn.) .................. Christie Van Hees (Canada)
1984 Scott Zimmerman (Mich.) .......... ... Christie Van Hees (Canada)
1983 Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.) ............... Kelli Fisher (Ohio)
1981 Derek Locker (Minn.) .................

Boy's 6 and under multi-bounce. Girls 6 and under multi-bounce

1998 Jake Bridenbeck (Minn.) .......... ... Kaitlin Inglesby (Ore.)
1997 Erik Podwill (Ore.) ............... .

Boy's 18- Doubles

1998 Rocky Carson (Calif.)/Josh Tucker (Mo.)
1997 Rocky Carson/Tyler Siggens (Calif.)
1996 Mark Bloom (Texas)/Eric Storey (Ind.)
1995 David Hamilton (Ohio)/Eric Storey (Ind.)
1994 Justin Bell/Shane Wood (Mass.)
1993 Jason Mannino/Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)
1992 Alan Engel (Fla.)/Brett Parker (Mo.)
1991 John Ellis (Calif.)/Eric Muller (Ind.)
1990 Joel Bonnett (Mich.)/Vince Kelley (Ore.)
1985 Charlie Nichols (Calif.)/Scott Reid (Mich.)
1984 Doug Ganin/Jim Leone (Ohio)
1983 Klein/Montalbano
1981 G. Pack/H. Johnson
1975 Jeff Larson (Wash.,)/Hank Marcus (Ore.)
1974 Bob Adam Jr. (Minn.)/Mark Domnake (Neb.)

Boys' 16- Doubles

1998 Jack Huczecz (Mich.)/Shane Vanderson (Ohio)
1997 James Ford (Wyo.)/Ryan Staren (Kan.)
1996 Brandon Herline (Ga.)/Willie Tilton (Colo.)
1995 Mark Bloom (La.)/Bucky Freeman (Texas)
1994 Mark Hurst/John Stanford (Fla.)
1993 Eric Storey (Ind.)/Brent Zimmerman (Mich.)
1992 Jason Arnbrecht (N.C.)/Shane Dodge (Wash.)
1991 Craig Czyz/Jon Xynidis (Fla.)
1990 Jason Mannino/Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)
1985 David Simonette (Md.)/Richard Vazzano (N.H.)
1984 Greg Borgas/Mike Griffith
1981 L. LaCours/E. Scheyer

Boy's 14- Doubles

1998 Trevor Crowe (Ore.)/Gary Martin (Wash.)
1997 Matt McElhiney (Fla.)/Zack Miller (Calif.)
1996 Jason Jaron (N.D.)/Shane Vanderson (Ohio)
1995 James Ford (Wyo.)/Ryan Staren (Kan.)
1994 Brandon Friend/Dan Gottlieb
1993 Mark Bloom (La.)/Bucky Freeman
1992 Eric Storey (Utah)/Brent Zimmerman
1991 Wes Miller/Shane Wood

Boys 8 and under. Girls 8 and under

1998 Ismael Aldana (Calif.) ............... Shannon Inglesby (Ore.)
1997 Nick Arturo (Alaska) ................. Brittany Leggett (Ore.)
1996 Andrew Grissom (Calif.) ............ Ashley Willhite (Ore.)
1995 Matthew Hammond (Ohio) .......... ... Elkoa Icencule (Calif.)
1994 Geoffrey Mora (Calif.) ............... Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)
1993 Steven Kliman (Texas) ............... Kim Iorns (Ohio)
1992 Jack Huczecz (Mich.) ................. Molly Law (Colo.)

May – June 1999
<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Tyler Halingsworth/Dan Sheppick (Ore.)</td>
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<td>Seth Parker (Pa.)/Travis Woodbury (Va.)</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Jack Huczek (Mich.)/Cory Martin</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Jack Huczek (Mich.)/Matthew McElhiney (Fla.)</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Jason Jansen (N.D.)/Shane Vandenberg (Ohio)</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Jeff Garner (Ala.)/Ryan Staten (Neb.)</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Gabe Gose/Willie Tilton (Colo.)</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Hal Spangenberg/Robbie Thompson</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Eric Stormy (Utah)/Brent Zimmerman</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>John Ellis (Calif.)/Sameer Haddad (Calif.)</td>
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<td>Nolan Glantz/Legill</td>
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<td>Rachel Gellman/Jenny Spangenberg</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Jill Brittain/Liana Kerwood (Ore.)</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Andrea Beugen/Shannon Feaster</td>
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<td>Amy Crocker/Britt Engel</td>
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<td>Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)/Vanessa Tulao (Ala.)</td>
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<td>Molly Law/Melanie Mueller (Ore.)</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)/Vanessa Tulao (Ala.)</td>
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<td>Davina Bloom/Olivia Guardini (Mass.)</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Jill Brittain/Liana Kerwood (Ore.)</td>
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<td>1992</td>
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<td>Debra Derr/Amy Meyer</td>
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The Evolution of Junior Competition: From 1974-77 only Boys 18- results were recorded, and listed with Adult National results. In 1978, 3 junior divisions were played (17/15/12-). In 1979, 4 junior divisions (17/15/12/10-). In 1982, 6 junior divisions (18/16/14/12/10/8nb). In 1987, 7 junior divisions (regulation rules 8- added). For purposes of clarity, all results have been inserted into the correct divisions, according to the current junior structure.
Southwestern Style
by Rick Anderson
Three years ago San Carlos Junior High started a racquetball club whose membership has since grown to 70 members in a school of about 400 students. San Carlos is located on an Apache Reservation about 120 miles east of Phoenix, Arizona.

Started by sixth grade ancient world history teacher Rick Anderson, the San Carlos club members travel 14 miles to the high school to play. The four courts are cement with a back wall, but no door. “The ball does go out quite often, but I am happy that our superintendent John Bush had the courts built,” Anderson says.

Although they run fundraising activities, the school does not include the racquetball club in the budget. “We have had assistance from The Apache Gold Casino located on the San Carlos Reservation,” Anderson says. “They helped out in buying the 16 racquets we have. The club gets used racquetballs from the tournaments I play; the (tournament) directors are always happy to help us out.”

Anderson takes eight club members at a time to play once per week. The other 62 must wait until their turn comes around. Still, the club is helping produce some of the area’s finest young people.

“If a student in their teenage years pursues this highly competitive sport, they will no doubt set a standard of athletic conditioning for their body that will last well into their mid-life years,” San Carlos principal Keith Gustafson says. “The key is to maintain a regular schedule of matches as a form of stress relief and entertainment throughout a person’s adolescence and early adulthood.”

For Anderson, he hopes that the comments from his young players will make some of the serious tournament players think for a moment about our sport and why we play. “I know they made me look at the game differently,” he said.

For more information about the program, Anderson can be reached at San Carlos Junior High at (520) 425-2141.

From the players … “You have to be fast and have a lot of speed to play. You have to think very quickly to know where the ball is going.” - Lewis Talgo, seventh grade … “I like it because you get to wear glasses.” - Myron Bendle, sixth grade … “You get to play with friends and work out at the same time. I get to be
good at another sport!" - Raleigh Smith, eighth grade ... "It's fun to play, especially with friends." - Krystal Astor, eighth grade ... "It is the best sport, that's what I like about racquetball." - Chance Natsyn, sixth grade ... "You can get energy from it." - Brianna Astor, sixth grade.

**Upsets in Cortland**

*by John Edwards*

Some of the top players in Upstate New York converged on Cortland for the First Annual Graphics Plus Cortland Racquetball Championships. The event, hosted by Cortland College proved to be a showcase for unseeded talent which subsequently led to a host of major upsets.

While some local Cortland player's fared well, top ranked players from Auburn, Syracuse and Binghamton also earned their share of trophies. The event's Cinderella story was local player Steve Cinquanti's return to competition after a three years hiatus. Unseeded in the B Division, Cinquanti had to move past a number of talented players and stage a series of upsets earned a spot in the final. Battling fatigue, Cinquanti focused on control and accuracy against #3 seeded Bob Lannigan (Syracuse), but Lannigan came out on top with the win 15-11, 15-7.

Former Cortland College Assistant Football Coach and top seeded favorite Josh Scutt met his long time rival from Binghamton, George Rutkowski, in the Men's Open Division. While Scutt's power allowed him to take the first game 15-6, Rutkowski's speed earned him an opportunity to go to a tiebreaker by limiting Scutt to 11 points in game two. In the end, power outlasted speed and Scutt won the third game 11-1.

Leading up to the Men's A final, top seeded Steve Petroski (Endwell) defeated local favorite John Edwards in the semi-finals, where other players had to make adjustments to their game plans. Edwards, who competes on the Jamaican National Racquetball Team, only scored 6 points in the first game but in his trademark style, came back from a deficit to win game two 15-13. After the two stalled early in the tie-breaker, Petroski regained control and outlasted Edwards 11-4. Later, Petrowski was upset by #3 seeded Jim Morrissey (Auburn) in straight games of 15-10, 15-13.

Men's C Division saw unseeded players vie for first place with Guy Rivera (Ithaca) defeating Shane Staats (Rochester) 15-3, 15-14. Cortland College student Matt Widrick (Lowville) defeated Mary Sweeney (Herkimer) in a close three game battle by 12-15, 15-6, 11-8. Ed Ruttkowski (Binghamton) defeated one of Cortland's heavy hitters Bob Roos in two games to win the Men's 45+, 15-9, 15-1. This also marked Roos's return to competitive racquetball after a three year layoff.

**Scott Reiff ties the Knot**

Tour regular Scott Alan Reiff and Jill Diane Shamroth were married on August 9, 1998 in Waltham, Massachusetts. Jill is a 1994 graduate of Syracuse University and is set to earn her law degree from Suffolk University Law School in Boston this May. Former junior champion and long-time racquetball athlete, Reiff is the director of administration of Holtzman Therapy Center of Coral Springs, Florida. The couple honeymooned at Disney World before taking up residence in Sunrise, Florida. Congratulations!

**New Starters**

Former U.S. National Team Member and '96 World Champion Todd O'Neil and wife Mary welcomed their second child on January 28 of this year. The couple announced their first son, Paul McKinley, who weighed in at 7 lbs., 8 oz. and 20 3/4 inches, and is shown with big sister Sara Hope (18 months).

In Whitby, Ontario, Canada, Christian William Prentice was born to Will and Sandy on January 19. The couple met playing racquetball! Congratulations to both families.
10th Annual Women's Senior/Masters National Racquetball Championships

By Merijean Kelley and Sue DiPiano

Ten years ago, 31 women met in Madison, Wisconsin for the first in a series of increasingly popular tournaments that continue to be known for their camaraderie and competitive racquetball. This year, the Chicago lyric “there'll be a hot time in the old town tonight” rang true as 107 participants from across the U.S. and Canada gathered at the Lattof YMCA in Des Plaines, Illinois on the last weekend in January for the 10th annual Women's Senior/Masters National Racquetball Championships.

This year's local tournament committee, headed by Nancy Kronenfeld with Lola Markus, Pauline Kelly, Margaret Hoff and Art Michaealy worked tirelessly with Don Quinlan and the staffs of the YMCA and the Holiday Inn-Elk Grove Village to make this a very special event. The weather was cold, but most players from warm-weather areas “remembered their mittens” and survived quite well! Early arrivals even played some “friendly” doubles and checked out the Y before things really heated up with age-group round robin competition on Friday. Matches ran smoothly and on time while lots of hospitality, shopping, visiting and pampering took place off the court. The highlight of the day was a Lynn Adams' clinic, which was well-attended and very much enjoyed.

As Saturday progressed, play became more intense — competitors obviously aware of the importance of each point. Players gathered around updated score sheets to discuss the latest results and to re-evaluate their positions. When the final tallies were calculated and posted there was a mixture of excitement, resignation, “what ifs,” and “well, there's always next year.” Later at the banquet, dinner was excellent and the company lively (in some instances downright raucous.) President Kendra Tutsch received a well deserved round of applause, both for her dedication and for her efforts in getting the organization started, helping it grow and keeping it strong. Eleven women who had played in the first tournament were in attendance to celebrate the 10th, and a special thanks and round of applause was also given to the tournament committee which — with all the surprises collected and put in the tournament bags and all the items given away at the banquet — made sure that no one went home empty handed!

On Sunday the top four finishers in each age division were presented with lovely glass plates depicting landmarks of the Chicago skyline. Next year's Women's Senior/Masters National Racquetball Championships will be held January 21-23, 2000, in Baltimore, MD at the Merritt-Security Athletic Club and will be coordinated by Gail Schaefer (410/655-7958). See you there!

For more information on the Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Association or to get on the mailing list, contact Kendra Tutsch, 7562 Fellows Road, Lodi, WI 53555 (608/592-2497).

FINAL RESULTS: 35+: Lori Harper (WI) defeated Kelly Whalen (WI) 11-3, 11-3; 40+: Susan Pfahler (FL) defeated Meena Evans (NC) 11-4, 11-9; 45+: Gerri Stoffregen (OH) defeated Mary Frances Visser (MN) 11-6, 11-8; 50+: Shelley Ogden (OH) defeated Merijean Kelley (CA) 8-11, 11-10, 11-8; 55+: Sharon Hastings-Welty (OH) defeated Nancy Butts (WI) 11-4, 11-3; 60+: 1. Jean Tull (VA) 2. Annabelle Kovar (NE) by total points; 65+: 1. Jo Kenyon (FL) 2. Lola Markus (IL) by total points; 70+: 1. Reta Harring (WI) 2. Dorothy Vezetinski (WA) by total points; 75+: 1. Mary-Low Acuff (NC) by total points.

May – June 1999
**Membership**

Players must present proof of current membership with their respective International Racquetball Association; otherwise, a current USRA competitive license is required of all participants. Entrants may purchase this membership at registration or must be able to present proof of current USRA membership.

**Entries, Fees & Deadline**

ENTRY FORMS: Entries will be mailed to persons on the WSRC mailing list and available in late April.  

Fees: $110.00 per player, $170.00 total for Husband/ Wife team.  

ENTRY DEADLINE: All registration forms and fees must be received at the WSRC office no later than AUGUST 1, 1999. All entries are final. Enter early to guarantee a space. Entries are limited to the first 400.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BE ADDED TO OUR ENTRY MAILING LIST, CONTACT: EVENT DIRECTOR GARY MAZAROFF  
405/256-1380 (FAX)  719/635-5396  
OR CONTACT THE USRA TOURNAMENT DESK • 719/635-5396**

SEND INTERNET EMAIL INQUIRIES TO: joel.gellman@gte.net.

**Tournament Rules & Format**

IRF Official Rules will govern competition unless otherwise specified. Round-robin format for qualifying rounds Tuesday through Friday. Matches consist of 3 games to 11 points. Matches are self-officiated. The tournament play begins TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, at 7:00 AM. First match time information will be available at registration. Late registration will be held TUESDAY thru SATURDAY.

**About the Tournament**

In 1985, this event was first established as the North American Senior 40+. Since then, the tournament has grown to attract participants from all over the world and has become a premier tournament for Senior Women and Men in the world. In 1989, the tournament was designated as the IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships. Throughout the history of this tournament, a major goal of the organizing committee has been to support the continued growth and development of our sport. To this end, the WSRC is an official fund-raising event to support THE OLYMPIC DREAM for our sport. Through the contributions of players, sponsors, and advertisers, the WSRC Council has raised over $180,000.

This event has achieved the success that it has because of the continued support of the senior racquetball community, numerous volunteers, sponsors, and advertisers. The Albuquerque and New Mexico community, too, have supported this event with their unique brand of hospitality. We welcome and encourage your participation, and we are delighted to showcase our country, state, and city. When you're not playing racquetball, our host city and state offer many other sites and attractions. Come early, stay late, and have FUN!
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### May

- **May 14-16**: Craig McCoy Memorial @ The Tournament House, Riverside, CA 909-682-7511
- **May 14-17**: Crawfish Classic Pro-Am @ Prime Fitness, Birmingham, AL 205-988-3819
- **May 17**: Georgia State Games @ A.C. Northeast, Atlanta, GA 404-636-5993
- **May 10**: Rio Invitational @ Rio Sport & Health, Gaithersburg, MD 301-258-5100
- **May 8**: Spring Fling Cash Classic @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet, Orlando, FL 407-645-3550
- **May 10-13**: Tournament of Aces @ Tri City Leisure Center, West Columbia, SC 803-772-0672
- **May 15**: Junior Regional #1 @ Racquets Edge [4], Essex Jct, VT 603-367-8533
- **May 15**: National Shoot-Out @ Northwest Fitness Center, Houston, TX 713-895-8688
- **May 19-23**: CRA Juniors Championship @ Colorado Athletic Club, Aurora, CO 303-699-7988
- **May 21-23**: Merced Open @ Merced Sports Club, Merced, CA 209-722-3988
- **May 24**: Women’s Only @ Gold’s Gym, Dewitt, NY 315-446-0376
- **May 26-31**: Ektelon USRA National Singles Championships [6], Houston, TX 719-635-5396

### June

- **June 2-6**: Oregon State Championships @ Multnomah Athletic Club [3], Portland, OR 503-223-8740
- **June 4-6**: Interbay Classic @ Interbay-Glover YMCA, Tampa, FL 813-839-0210
- **June 5-7**: Kill Shot @ Merritt Athletic Security, Baltimore, MD 410-298-8700
- **June 8**: Sportslife Summer Slam @ Sportslife-Club Cobb, Marietta, GA 770-952-2120
- **June 5-7**: Summer Fun Racq Tourn. @ North Park Family YMCA, Austin, TX 512-973-9622
- **June 6**: Team Cut-Throat @ Gold’s Gym, Dewitt, NY 315-446-0376
- **June 10-13**: First Security State Games @ Midtown Sports & Wellness, Albuquerque, NM 505-266-8960
- **June 10-14**: 14th Annual Pepsi Cup Champs @ Colorado Athletic Club, Aurora, CO 303-696-9313
- **June 11-13**: Gold Country Open @ Courthouse Athletic Club, Auburn, CA 530-885-1964
- **June 12**: Louisiana Games @ Elmwood Fitness Center, Harahan, LA 504-468-2813
- **June 18-20**: Summer Bash @ Sports Club of Asheville, Asheville, NC 704-252-0222
- **June 19**: Summer Splat @ Modesto Court Room, Modesto, CA 209-577-1060
- **June 19**: Pan-Massachusetts Challenge @ Gold’s Gym, Dewitt, NY 315-446-0376
- **June 26**: Summer Shoot-Out @ Northwest Fitness Center, Houston, TX 713-895-8688
- **June 26-30**: Sarasota YMCA Open, Sarasota, FL 941-957-0770
- **June 26-30**: HEAD 26th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships [6], Tempe, AZ 719-635-5396

### July

- **July 9-11**: Central Oregon Pro-Am @ Power House, Bend, OR 541-389-2009
- **July 10**: Redwood Empire Open @ Rancho Arroyo Racquet Club, Petaluma, CA 707-795-5461
- **July 10**: Courthouse of Blues IV @ The Courthouse, Jackson, MS 601-956-1300
- **July 10**: One Day Shoot-Out @ Maverick Athletic Club, Arlington, TX 817-275-3348
- **July 14-17**: NMRA International Masters Invitational [5], Champaign, IL 217-351-9093
- **July 17**: Hot Tamale Shootout @ Racquetball & Fitness, San Antonio, TX 210-344-8596
- **July 17-18**: Summer Pick of the Pairs @ Allentown Racquet Club, Allentown, PA 610-821-1300
- **July 17-18**: Virginia Commonwealth Games @ Lancerlot Sports Complex, Vinton, VA 540-981-0205
- **July 23-25**: Harbour Island Athletic Club Open, Tampa, FL 813-881-1088
- **July 24-Aug. 8**: Pan American Games, Winnipeg, Canada 719-635-5396
- **July 24**: Summer Shoot-Out @ Northwest Fitness Ctr, Houston, TX 713-895-8688
- **July 30-Aug. 1**: 8th Annual Summerfest @ Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard, IL 630-629-3390
### August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 5-8</td>
<td>Summer Cooler Pro-Am @ Elmwood Fitness Center</td>
<td>Harahan, LA</td>
<td>504-468-2813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 6-7</td>
<td>Friendly’s Restaurant Doubles @ Nautilus Fitness Center</td>
<td>Erie, PA</td>
<td>814-868-0072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 7</td>
<td>Doubles Warm-Up @ Quad West Athletic Club</td>
<td>Clearwater, FL</td>
<td>727-535-4901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One Day Shoot-Out @ Maverick Athletic Club</td>
<td>Arlington, TX</td>
<td>817-275-3348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 13-15</td>
<td>Florida State Doubles @ Orlando Fitness &amp; Racquet</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
<td>407-645-3550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 20-22</td>
<td>Best of Texas @ Racquetball &amp; Fitness</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
<td>210-344-8596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>Doubles Shoot-Out @ Northwest Fitness Center</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>713-895-8688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31-Sept. 4</td>
<td>IRF 11th World Senior Racquetball Championships [5]</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td>505-266-8960</td>
</tr>
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### September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 10-12</td>
<td>Fall Classic @ Maverick Athletic Club</td>
<td>Arlington, TX</td>
<td>817-275-3348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 17-19</td>
<td>Outback Blast It @ The Sports Center</td>
<td>Fayetteville, NC</td>
<td>910-864-3303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 24-26</td>
<td>Life Styles Open</td>
<td>St. Petersburg, FL</td>
<td>727-347-7701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas State Doubles @ Northwest Fitness Center [3]</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>713-895-8688</td>
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### October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 22-24</td>
<td>Paul Gorman Memorial @ Interbay-Glover YMCA</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
<td>813-839-0210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 5-7</td>
<td>Froggy Open @ Nautilus Fitness Center</td>
<td>Erie, PA</td>
<td>814-868-0072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NFC Tournament @ Northwest Fitness Center</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>713-895-8688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12-14</td>
<td>Holiday Cash Classic @ The Orlando Fitness &amp; Racquet</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
<td>407-643-3550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 14-15</td>
<td>Turkey Shoot @ Player’s Athletic Club</td>
<td>Warren, MI</td>
<td>810-774-6900</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Upcoming 1999 National & International Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 14-17</td>
<td>1st IRF World Doubles Championships</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
<td>505-266-8960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14-17</td>
<td>NMRA International Masters Invitational [5]</td>
<td>Champaign, IL</td>
<td>217-351-9093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24- Aug. 8</td>
<td>Pan American Games</td>
<td>Winnipeg, Canada</td>
<td>719-635-5396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31- Sept. 4</td>
<td>IRF 11th World Senior Racquetball Championships [5]</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td>505-266-8960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 6-10</td>
<td>Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Doubles Championships</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>719-635-5396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17-21</td>
<td>Promus Hotel Corporation 4th U.S. OPEN</td>
<td>Memphis, TN</td>
<td>719-635-5396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 13-16</td>
<td>USRA Leadership Conference</td>
<td>U.S. Olympic Center, Colorado Springs, CO</td>
<td>719-635-5396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 16-19</td>
<td>NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Invitational</td>
<td>Fountain Valley, CA</td>
<td>816-229-1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21-23</td>
<td>Women’s Senior/Master Racquetball Association Championships</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>410-655-7958</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Bolded listings are USRA National Championships or International Racquetball Federation Events
- For remaining sanctioned events [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2)
- Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 04/99, you must renew your membership in the month of April in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.
MEN’s Open
1. Jimmy Lowe, CA
2. Ryan Rodgers, TX
3. Michael Richardson, CA
4. Jeff Jenson, CA
5. Rob DeJesus, AZ

MEN’s A
1. Jason Samora, OR
2. Dave Barter, TX
3. Mark Tetreau, CA
4. T. Erik Leetch, AR
5. Manda Alvear, TX

MEN’s B
1. Not a Member, TX
2. Ryan Rodgers, TX
3. Bill Troth, AZ
4. George Anthon Jr., LA
5. Jon Albright, TN

MEN’s C
1. Lorne Burry, NC
2. Hector Tenorio, TX
3. Rob Bullitt, MN
4. Pete Kochis, OK
5. Shawn Barrera, TX
6. Phil Gebert, SC
7. Ozzie Urías, CA
8. Wayne Light, ME
9. Melvin Todd, TX
10. Tony Abo, GA

MEN’s D
1. Mukesh Wadhawan, TX
2. Not a Member, TX
3. Matt Stroup, NJ
4. Garry Carter, CA
5. Lance Hudson, SC
6. Doug Sanders, TX
7. Bill Foster, MN
8. Eddie Lacost, TX
9. Brandon McCue, TX
10. Ralph Temple, GA

MEN’s Novice
1T. Brian Covarrubio, NY
1T. Sam Doris, OH
1T. Not a Member, NY

MEN’s 45+
1T. Mike Denning, OH
2T. Garry Carter, CA
2T. Not a Member, TX
3T. Bill Trott, AZ
4T. Bill Kochis, CA

MEN’s 55+
1. Glen Allen, CA
2. Warren Reather, LA
3. Luis Guerrero, CA
4. Jim Trammell, MO
5. Dan Davis, TX
6. Bill Yoakam, CA
7. Dennis O’Brien, ID
8. Tom Mckie, ID
9. Dave Warner, CA
10. Steve Haynes, ME

MEN’s 60+
1. Rex Lawler, IN
2. Jerry Holly, CA
3. Jim Wiking, UT
4. Ron Adams, CA
5. Leo Graf, OR
6. Jerry Northwood, CA
7. Michael Jackson, CA
8. Paul Bandle, AZ
9. Rex Benham, AR
10. David Jordan, CA

MEN’s 70+
1. Joe Lambert, TX
2T. Richard Davis, TX
2T. Philip Dziuk, IL
3. Ray Gordon, ND
4. Mike Roberts, FL
5. Windell Hildebrandt, AZ

WOMEN’s Open
1. Robin Levine, CA
2. Kersten Hallander, CA
3. Denise Monk, TX
4. Jackie Paraiso, CA
5. Ines Quiros, CT
6. Lydia Hammock, CA
7. Jere Luttner, TX
8. Paula Truman, ME
9. Kim Machiran, MD
10. Rachel Gillman, AZ

WOMEN’s A
1. Mary Crawford, CA
2. Sandy Sexton, TX
3T. Lindsay Deutsch, TX
4T. Jennifer Hunter, TN
5T. Phyllis Bishop, MD
6T. Sherri Feldman, NY
7T. Not a Member, TX
8T. April Settle, CO
9T. Stephanie Walker, NC
10T. Keri Patko, CA

WOMEN’s B
1. Janet Tsinger, CA
2. Esther McNary, CT
3. Barbara Allen, NY
4. Sherri Kinnaman, AR
5. Michelle Ronowski, OH
6. Debbi Misansin, VA
7. Adilsha Payne, CA
8. Bev Austin, CA
9T. Christina Pastore, MA
9T. Janice Payne, CA

WOMEN’s C
1. Rosario Bauer, CA
2. Rhonda Kochs, OK
3. Christine Fenton, FL
4. Christa Davis, TX
5. Melissa Young, TX
6. Candy Arquetti, LA
7T. Leslie Ault, MO
7T. Sylvia Bryant, ME
8. B. J. Calloway, GA
9T. Mary Jo Hodgkinson, OH

WOMEN’s D
1. Candy Arquetti, LA
2. Cherie Hale, NC
3T. Kastle Arturo, AK
3T. Nikki Winfrey, OH
5. Not a Member, TX
6. Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA
7T. Sylvia Bryant, ME
7T. Chris Plata, PA
8. Candace Griffin, SC
9T. Suzanne Hammons, CA

WOMEN’s Novice
1. Not a Member, NM
2T. Helen Armijo, NM
2T. Pam Duran, AK
3. Debbie Pinto, NY
3. Marcy Schreiber, ID
6. Gena Reilly, NM
7. Tammy Darling, TX
8. Tomoko Martinez, AZ
9T. Not a Member, AK
9T. Lynette Ross, PA

WOMEN’s 24-
1. Aimee Roehler, PA
2. Shannon Feaster, DC
3T. Rhonda Rajisch, AZ
3T. Marni Shute, NY
4. Kerri Stoffregen, IL
6. Not a Member, FL
6. Rachael Gillman, AZ
6. Kristen Sutek, TX
6. Kristin Underwood, MT
10. Candy Arquetti, LA

WOMEN’s 25+
1. Jennifer Dering, NY
2. Jo Shattuck, CO
3T. Tina Blanding, CO
3T. Heather Dunn, VT
5. Holly Ramey, NC
6. Jen Yokota, MO
7. Kelley Beane, NH
8. Stacy Sou, CO
9. Pat Phanvorngsa, TX
10. Tishi Casiano, ID

United States Racquetball Association
national rankings...
rankings...rankings

Women's 30+
1. Lyda Hammock, CA
2. B.J. Ehrgott, CA
3. Kersten Hallander, CA
4. Mindy Hartstein, NY
5. Holly Remen, NC
6. Stacy Sour, CO
7. Lori Lebow, FL
8. T. Karen Kattenge/1, LA
9. ST. Jean Trimble, FL

Women's 35+
1. Lorraine Galloway, NY
2. Denise Mock, TX
3. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
4. Jodi Paul, PA
5. Lori Harper, WI
6. Debbie Spica, LA
7. Shari Coplen, MO
8. Janet Myers, NC
9. Jere Luttner, TX

Women's 40+
1. Debra Tisinger, CA
2. Linda Moore, MO
3. Susan Plahler, FL
4. Sherril Feldman, NY
5. Chris Evon, IL
6. Jean Trimbly, FL
7. Val Shevell, UT
8. Leesa Smith, ME
9. Mary Beke, AZ
10. Kelly Rink, MN

Women's 45+
1. Karen Key, AZ
2. Brenda White, IL
3. Janet Myers, NC
4. Karen Kattengell, GA
5. Karen Weins, FL
6. Jere Lutzner, TX
7. Janell Marriott, RI
8. Gert Toffenegger, OH
9. Renee Fish, FL
10. Shelley Ogden, OH

Women's 50+
1. Merjean Kelley, CA
2. Donna Ebner, MO
3. Mary Lou Furrus, NM
4. Gert Toffenegger, OH
5. Stacey Sour, CO
6. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
7. Pattie Schof, LA
8. Sharon Huczek, MI
9. Mildred Gwinn, NC
10. Louise Graham, WI

Women's 55+
1. Sharon Huczek-Welty, WI
2. Nidia Funes, CA
3. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
4. Joy DeSantis, CA
5. Mildred Gwinn, CA
6. Marquita Molina, CA

Girl's 12-
1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
2. Deitra Darling, OR
3. Jesi Fuller, NM
4. Carli Miltitsky, NY
5. Ashley Leggett, OR
6. Brandon Harrison, OR
7. Natalie Stanken, WI
8. Kastle Arturo, AK
9. Melissia Martin, WI
10. Nikki Winfrey, OH

Boy's 18-
1. Rebeba Kopi, NY
2. Sarah Moyer, OR
3. Liz Taylor, OR
4. Katie Marshoff, CA
5. Brooke Schulemburg, MN
6. Jenny Epstein, NY
7. Kimberly Walsh, UT

Boy's 16-
1. Crystal Winfrey, OH
2. Molly Law, CO
3. Lindsay Deutsch, TX
4. Carli Miltitsky, NY
5. Kenny Orms, CA
6. Jana Cary, OR
7. Not a Member, NY
8. Erica Beaudry, CO
9. Jeni Fuller, NM
10. Alinee Fisher, CO

Boy's 14-
1. Kristen WALSH, UT
2. Krystal Cusk, IL
3. Lauren Deutsch, TX
4. Kristen Kowar, NE
5. Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA
6. Nicki Whitney, VT
7. Molly Law, CO
8. Adva Buzi, TX
9. Crystal Winfrey, OH
10. Not a Member, CA

Boy's 12-
1. Ashley Willhite, OR
2. Danielle Pimental, OR
3. Kara Mazur, CT
4. Becca Machiran, MO
5. Brittany Leggett, OR
6. Wesley Tolan, AR
7. Shanae Taylor, WI
8. Laura Van Der Vear, OR
9. Mark Beaudry, CO
10. Brandi Starks, WI

Boy's 10-
1. Nick Arturo, AK
2. David Lewis, CO
3. Andrew Grissom, CA
4. Mike Kenneh, MD
5. Brandi Starks, WI
6. Rachel Johnson, CO
7. Mark Beaudry, CO
8. David Keyt, CA
9. Brittany Lenggett, OR
10. Emily McLaughlin, CO

Boy's 8 & Under
1. Not a Member, WI
2. Brad Falvey, WI
3. Ben Mahon, WI
4. Jack Huczek, WI
5. Jack Bredereken, MN
6. Jack Bredereken, MN
7. Jack Bredereken, MN
8. Jack Bredereken, MN
9. Jack Bredereken, MN
10. Jack Bredereken, MN

Girl's 10-
1. Not a Member, OR
2. Danielle Pimental, OR
3. Kara Mazur, CT
4. nota Member, OR
5. Not a Member, OR
6. Not a Member, OR
7. Not a Member, OR
8. Not a Member, OR
9. Not a Member, OR
10. Not a Member, OR

Event Level & Description: Finish & Point Awards
1st = Closed State Tournament
2nd = Open Tournament
3rd = State Championship
4th = Regional Championship
5th = National Invitational
6th = National Championship

Rankings are based on results processed by the national office as of: March 15, 1999

May – June 1999

63
RACQUETBALL Ad Index

A Healthy Racquet..........................415-757-0199......................56
AmPRO Program Manual....................719-635-5396......................39
Ashaway......................................800-556-7260......................21
Bell Racquet Sports.........................800-724-9439......................57
Black Knight.................................800-535-3300......................58
Buffum’s Sporting Goods....................813-535-4901......................57
Caller’s Advantage..........................800-435-6832......................64
Courtesy Sports..............................800-729-1771......................55
Ektelon.......................................800-435-8356......................9
Excell.Net.....................................413-565-4430......................55
Forten..........................................800-722-5888......................54
Head Sports Inc..............................800-874-3234.....................1FC+1
Head Sports Inc..............................800-874-3234........................57
Holabird Sports................................410-687-6400......................55
Kipperrame....................................847-742-1300......................57
Lawler Court Products.......................800-875-3701......................58
Michael’s Ripit..............................800-552-6453......................54
Midwest Sports Supply......................800-334-4580......................54
Network Marketing.........................770-751-9463......................58
Pacific Sports Warehouse...................800-835-1055......................56
Penn Racquet Sports.........................800-289-7366.......................17
PlayPro........................................888-671-7529......................57
Pro Kennex....................................800-854-1908......................15
Racquet Connection.........................888-822-2501......................56
Racquetball-OnLine..........................407-880-7790......................54
Samuels Tennisports........................800-543-1153......................57
USRA Merchandise.........................719-635-5396........................IBC
White Athletic Supplies.....................573-447-3442......................59
Winning Racquetball.........................719-635-5396......................59
Your Tennis Advantage......................805-964-1962......................59

ENTRIES & INFO........................USRA Events
IRF World Seniors..........................719-635-5396......................53

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May – June 1999
Solid Polos —
Were: $30 | Sale: $14

Denim Shirt (left) — Was: $39 | Sale: $20

Assorted T-Shirts (above) —
Were: $15 - $18 | Sale: $7

Long Sleeve Mock Turtle —
Was: $26 | Sale: $12

Henley’s w/contrast sleeves (below) —
Were: $24 | Sale: $12

Solid Polos —
Were: $30 | Sale: $14

Warm-Up —
Was: $99 | Sale: $40

3/4 Zip Fleece Pullover —
Was: $66 | Sale: $28

Embroidered & Screened Logo Sweatshirts (right) —
Were: $32 | Sale: $17

Crewneck Sweater —
Was: $60 | Sale: $27

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With a new line on its way for the coming season, the USRA must reduce its inventory of discontinued merchandise!

Sizes and quantities are limited, so call early to place your order! All sale prices INCLUDE shipping and handling!

For close-up views of these items, refer to the January/February issue of RACQUETBALL (inside back cover) for the full-scale ad, or view it online at www.usra.org, via "index."
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