Jeff Conine in the Off Season
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Racquetball is a second-rate sport. There I've said it. And having done so, I've taken a quick inventory of all the personal items I've scattered around my office over the past ten years and decided that — with focus and determination — I could have them all packed up and out the door in ... well ... just under a week, tops.

But that's not my plan. I intend to continue my love/hate relationship with racquetball well into the you-know-what. I still love the sport itself and enjoy the people who take part in it. I hate that it is considered "less sport-worthy" in any way. On the one hand, it's personal; on the other, it's business. On the court, it's all fun and games; in the office, it's ... well ... less so. Can schizoid behavior be far behind?

So here's the problem as I see it: there's just too much playing around — when it should be serious. If we don't take ourselves seriously, could it be that others won't either? Does that make the sport second-rate?

When club owners want to maximize their court usage (and revenue), they need to get serious and hire a sport-specific professional to manage the programs that will generate memberships and stimulate interest among current members. Yes, that means salary, but it also carries with it an expectation of return on that investment. If the first hire plays around and doesn't get the job done, hire another.

When tournament directors want to host an event, they need to get serious and promote it as if it were any other big name sport. From flyers and entry forms to press releases and results reporting, it's critical to spread the word about racquetball events outside the building. Yes, that means print costs and legwork, but it also promises payoffs in participation, sponsorships and prospective new members. If your press materials are rendered in crayon (or non-existent), stop playing around.

These two items alone neatly address the entire racquetball population, made up of the recreational player and the competitive athlete. Now for the holiday cheer — if you are a club owner seeking an AmPRO certified professional to run your programs in the you-know-what, send me your "help wanted" ad and RACQUETBALL will publish it at no charge [see page 55]. If you are a tournament director, access our website at www.usra.org / "index" / Media/Public Relations for a wealth of free online materials to help you promote your next event. Nothing second-rate about that ...

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November – December 1999
Cindy Conine plans some strategy with husband Jeff between points of their Mixed 25+ match [story, page 6]. Photo: John Faust.

Jeff Conine steps up to the plate in the Mixed 25+ division, against opponents Jonathan Dunn and Mae Chin-Varon. Photo: John Faust.
Luck ‘o the Irish

I recently attended a great tournament in Arklow, Ireland, organized by Michael Barnes. It was the 15th Annual Tournament and took place in May, with 70 players from all over Europe and the USA. I won the over-seventy division. Received a beautiful engraved cut crystal vase... needless to say I was thrilled! What a trophy!! The people were great, and afterward I stayed in Ireland for several days and toured. I am writing this, since I’m sure there are players out there that would have fun mixing a tournament and vacation next year. The picture enclosed is me (right) receiving the trophy from Ann Barnes. Anyone interested in more information can email to: mickbarnes@tinet.ie.

Dorothy Vezetinski
Edmonds, Washington

Draw of the Century

I don’t know which “old timers” were consulted; I certainly wasn’t one of them. But I suspect senility may have set in if you did not include Craig McCoy, Steve Lerner, Gerry Price or Scott Oliver in your fictitious draw. These four players were in the top-eight for longer than some of your 32 people.

Vance Lerner
Riverside, California

At the Tournament House in Riverside, I recently witnessed what racquetball is all about to me. I was walking across the top floor and glancing down at games in progress, on a Thursday at about 4:30 pm. Thursdays at this time are reserved for a great group of over-40 doubles players. Playing ability normally ranges from C to low A level. To my surprise I noticed Rich Wagner, ranked #9 in the “Draw of the Century” and Steve Lerner, a past pro and still competitive at that level when he wants to be, playing doubles in the league. No way!

What were they doing in the senior doubles league?? They were capable of crushing any of the teams in the league and could still beat most open level doubles teams. As I watched, I noticed they weren’t winning. How could this be? I then realized that they were both playing left-handed — da !! I often miss the obvious in my own old age.

As I watched on, it was obvious that everyone on the court was having a great time — laughing and smiling as they played away. A few days later I saw Rich and talked to him — about his new league. He stated that having played at the highest levels in the sport and competing to a level where near physical confrontations were not unusual; that just playing and having a good time was truly what racquetball is all about.

Something for all of us to remember in our next match, when we fight our hardest and don’t come out with the win. Just playing with friends and having a great workout and a good time is what really counts... since 90% of the time, that is exactly what we do.

Earl Miller
Alta Loma, California

Get Well Wishes

To Doubles Participants... Jose Gallegos, Victor Gomez, Janet Grimaldi, Jessica Loew, Linda Louder, Kathy Matson, Jeff Murphy, Scott Reiser and Marcus Riggins.

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While Jeff did a short stint on the pro racquetball tour, he soon moved on to his other love ... baseball. After pitching for UCLA, Jeff played in the minor leagues until the Florida Marlins took him as a first-round pick in the 1992 expansion draft. From there he went on to be selected for the 1995 All-Star Game — and named its MVP — then helped the Marlins win the 1996 World Series.

Cindy and Jeff met at a professional racquetball tournament in New York City, where both she and her brother Tim Doyle were well-known. Ranked as high as No.7 on the women's pro tour before shoulder surgery, Cindy had opted to focus on a different part of her life after recovering from a second bout with injury. Prior to retiring from the sport, Cindy had earned several appointments to the U.S. National Team for wins which included the 1989 Women’s Open doubles title. Wife and mother? Why not?

As newlyweds, Jeff and Cindy played in a few national doubles tournaments together, taking third in the 1993 and '94 mixed open divisions. But as Jeff's baseball career became more demanding, the two found themselves unable to compete in racquetball as often as they’d have liked.

Jeff’s trade to the Baltimore Orioles earlier this season changed all that. With his baseball season coming to a close only three days prior to the start of the doubles championships in Baltimore, Jeff and Cindy decided to come out of retirement to compete in their own, most-recent, backyard.

So the Conines paired up in the mixed 25+ division, while Jeff teamed with long-time friend Steve Lerner in the men's 30+. And despite not playing racquetball on a consistent basis for years, both Jeff and Cindy bounced back into championship form immediately.

“It's been a long time since I've played in a tournament,” Jeff said. “Your adrenaline gets going and its all comes back pretty quickly though.”

Jeff managed to advance to the finals in both divisions, playing as though he had never left the sport. Struggling a bit at first in her opening match, Cindy also quickly returned to top form.

by christie hyde
"This was fun, but frustrating," Cindy said. "I used to play at an elite level, so I'm frustrated [by] missing all these shots."

Cindy and Jeff captured the mixed 25+ division title with a 15-11, 15-10 win over Sallie Benedict and Dale Valentine. However, Jeff's luck was not as good in the men's 30+, as he and Lerner came in second to John Kleinschmidt and Chris Wright, who had earlier upset defending champions Michael Bronfeld and Drew Kachtik in the semifinals.

Both Jeff and Cindy agree that their main reason for competing in Baltimore was to renew lost friendships. "We were mainly playing in this to have a good time and see some friends, and we ended up doing well. We had a good weekend," Jeff remarked. "The best part was getting to see people that we haven't seen in a long time. We haven't been to one of these things in a while, so it was good to get to see everybody. It's nice to catch up on old times."

Jeff also donated Baltimore Orioles sports memorabilia to the U.S. Junior National Team, including autographed bats and balls, which were auctioned as a fundraiser during the tournament. Jeff stressed the importance of racquetball in his childhood, and hopes to help others gain from the sport what he did.

"Discipline is a big thing that racquetball teaches," remarked Jeff, who co-founded with Cindy the Conine All-Star Classic, a celebrity golf tournament to benefit the DiMaggio Children's Hospital. "When I was training for nationals and junior nationals, I was going to the club everyday and working out. It's all on you. If you don't do it, you're not going to play as well. I think it's a good form of discipline. It's helps you in life, too.

"I think racquetball has helped me tremendously in baseball as far as keeping my eyes and hands sharp for seeing a 90 mph fastball."

Jeff became a free agent at the end of October, and has now returned with Cindy and their two children, Sierra and Griffin, to their Florida home to wait and see what Major League Baseball has in store for them. Racquetball fans hope that — whatever the assignment — it will land the Conines near another national doubles tournament, very soon.
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IT WILL LEAVE ITS MARK.
It's becoming more and more common at USRA national events ... someone's going to do something unexpected. There's going to be some exceptional play by people who don't know any better. And there will be upsets. Plenty of upsets. All this was in store at the Ektelon 32nd USRA National Doubles Championships, presented by Penn Racquet Sports, where plenty of surprises greeted over 600 enthusiasts in Baltimore in early October. The weekend's best performances? Open division wins by Ruben Gonzalez & Mike Guidry and Robin Levine & Kim Russell.

As a "season-opener" for racquetball, national doubles is guaranteed to bring out the best — past, present and future. And if need be, it even shakes up retirement plans. The Conines came out of forced retirement to take the Mixed 25+ title, Andy Roberts returned to the amateur circuit after retiring from the pros last year (but ...), 1984 champions Diane Green and Julie Pinnell re-surfaced briefly in the Open, before going on to win their age bracket, and Jackie Paraiso clearly suffered from the recent retirement of her long-time partner and twin sister Joy MacKenzie.

**The Gold Watch?**

Early retirement came for defending champions Doug Ganim and Dan Obremski, who were handed one of two byes in the round of 32 to skip play on Wednesday, only to have their Thursday ruined by current 18- doubles champions Matt Gehling and Michael Harmon.

From the sidelines, most racquetball fans had already dismissed the junior team and were looking ahead to a semifinal between four-time national champs Ganim & Obremski and challengers Mike Guidry and Ruben Gonzalez — but those fans had jumped the gun.

Gehling and Harmon came to the exhibition court knowing they had their work cut out for them, but they also believed they could become the David to take down Goliath.

"I played (Ganim and Obremski) last year with another partner and we were able to score decent points," 19-year old Gehling said. "Mike and I were a totally better team. I knew we had a chance. I knew we weren't going to get blown out."
And blown out they were not. After falling behind the in the first round, the young pair rallied back to tie the score at 14-14, and finally put it away to win the first game 15-14.

“I was trying not to think about us winning the first game very much in the second. I was just acting like it was the first game again instead of getting overconfident,” Harmon said.

Pumped up from their first-game win, Harmon and Gehling took a commanding 12-4 lead in the second, but let it slip away as the veterans calmly and steadily regained a foothold to reach 14-13. It seemed likely that the benefit of long experience would work in Ganim and Obremski’s favor.

But Ganim and Obremski were unable to clinch the game, and the junior duo regained the serve and tied the score. A sideout gave the top seeds yet another chance to hold on to their hopes of another national title, but it wasn’t to be. With the next sideout, the eager young players quickly put away their opponents to capture the remarkable upset.

“I thought we had a chance, but I didn’t think that we were going to win,” Harmon said. “I just wanted to have a great game, and we did.”

In his first real event since a knee injury that kept him out of the Pan American Games, Obremski knew the score, “[the knee] is not repaired, so I have to play with a brace, but I’m not immobile. I can still cover the court. But our game relies on me moving and Doug killing the ball. In the first round we always struggle.”

Ganim agreed. “We didn’t kill the ball today. When that happens, we rely on our teamwork, and they just out-played us. I didn’t know they were juniors, so I can’t say I overlooked them. But we were anxious to play and ... as it turned out, we could have used a game in the first round.”

The remarkable upset advanced the young pair into the quarterfinals where they met Guidry and Gonzalez, a doubles team greatly admired by the junior wonders. “We are playing two guys who made the top 32 players of the century. Mike and I are playing with the greats of the sport. I can’t believe it,” an overwhelmed Gehling remarked.

More Action in the Sixteens
On the lower half of the draw, the Missouri team of current high school champion Josh Tucker and Chris Wright had also pulled out an unexpected straight-game win over Californians Kelly Gelhaus and Joe Paraiso, who had come into the event on the heels of a major doubles win at a satellite pro event just the week before. The advance by Tucker and Wright placed them squarely against the #2 seeds, Doug Eagle and Drew Kachtik in the quarters.

Elsewhere in the round, the Lewisville, Texas duo of Todd O’Neill and Brian Fredenberg survived a military charge by servicemen Tom Fuhrmann (U.S. Air Force) and Jimmy Lowe (U.S. Army). Fuhrmann and Lowe took control at the start of the match, with a 15-3 first game win, but the frustration level of the Texas duo turned out to be just what they needed to regain their edge. “I knew we could play better than we had in the first game,” O’Neill said. “We just had to get going.”

The Texans refused to go down without a fight, coming back in the second game to win 15-10 and force the tiebreaker. There, Southpaw O’Neill came to life with repeated line drives down the left side wall that even fellow-leftie Fuhrmann could not return, and the Texas duo survived their first scare of the tournament to win the deciding third, 11-3.
"They took us out of our tempo," Lowe said. "Todd took control of the second and the third game. He was rolling. I just couldn't get to his shots. I don't think I could have hit some of those shots even if I had been standing there."

Against the well-established team of Hart Johnson and Todd Stead (both left-handers), the never-played-together-before pairing of Adam Karp and Andy Roberts pulled out a straight-game win. "On court we don't look quite as good together as it did on paper, as of right now," said Karp, the Pan Am Games gold medalist in singles. "But we will be able to work ourselves in. We are just focused on getting a little better tomorrow."

**Turnaround in the Quarters**

The quarterfinal held a bit more of a let down for the young doubles team of Gehling and Harmon who, despite taking an early 11-4 lead, let Gonzalez and Guidry sneak back in to take control of the game. "In typical giant-killer fashion, we came back to tie it at 14-14. I started thinking that this was just like when we played Doug and Dan," Gehling said.

But the junior national champions' faith was not enough to pull out the win, as they lost to the long-time pros 15-14, 15-5. Gonzalez and Guidry admitted that "the kids," as Harmon and Gehling were dubbed by tournament veterans, are the future of the sport of racquetball. "They can play and get motivated," Gonzalez said. "It's just going to take a little bit more experience, but I would hate to play them down the road in three years. Even next year those kids are going to be tough.

In a second tiebreaker for the Texas pair, Brian Fredenberg and Todd O'Neil narrowly survived to advance to the semifinals, with their 15-10, 12-15, 11-9 win over Michael Bronfeld and Jason Thoemer, while Karp and Roberts had an easier time of it with their straight-game win over 1990 doubles champion Jim Floyd and partner Mike Johnston. Another two-game victory by Eagle and Kachtik over Tucker and Wright set up the final U.S. Team qualifying round. Each of the semi-final winners would earn a spot on the team.

**Down to the Wire**

Adam Karp/Andy Roberts vs. Doug Eagle/Drew Kachtik. Ruben Gonzalez/Mike Guidry vs. Todd O'Neil/Brian Fredenberg. Earlier in the week, the Texas pairs had all hoped to duplicate the state doubles championship final they had all taken part in just weeks before. Unfortunately for them, that rematch would have to take place in the third place bronze medal round instead.

In advancing over their respective lone-star challengers, Gonzalez/Guidry and Karp/Roberts each kept their opponents at arms-length by maintaining leads of at least four points in each of their straight-game wins. Gonzalez and Guidry took their spot in the final with a 15-9, 15-7 win over Fredenberg/O'Neil.

“I think Mike was hot and we played good ball,” said elder statesman Gonzalez. “I felt good, but for some reason the ball kept coming up. I played a strategy game and kept it in play for him and tried to give him the perfect setup.”

Guidry agreed. “We played well as a team. I don't think we got mixed up on a single shot today. But when you get to the finals, everybody is good. All four of us have a lot of experience, and it's going to be a battle.”

The upset victory for Karp and Roberts was a bit narrower, but not by much, as they defeated the second seeded Eagle and Kachtik 15-11, 15-6.
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"I don’t know that we really hung in there that much in the first." reflected Drew after the match. "We came out with at 7-3 lead and then they started controlling the match. Andy seemed to take over quite a bit. He wasn’t leaving us any shots and he was flat rolling everything. Andy just rolled over us pretty much. I don’t think we can complain, because they played so well."

"In order to be a good doubles team, you have to have complementary styles, and we are the prefect fit," Roberts said. "I think the strength of our team is our teamwork. I think you’ll see a real solid performance on Sunday."

**Yes, no, yes ...**

Everyone expected it to be a close match. After trailing 12-7 in the first game, Guidry and Gonzalez rallied back to pull within one point at 14-13, before Roberts rocketed the ball down the line along the left glass wall to capture the first game, 15-13. Okay so far.

In the second game, the teams exchanged the lead seven times. With the score finally tied at 14-14, Roberts slammed the ball into the left corner out of Guidry’s reach for what appeared to be match point. Fists launched straight overhead, Roberts and Karp began their celebration — but it turned out to be premature. Guidry retrieved the ball from front court and raised it up to show referee Drew Kachtik that it had been broken on the last shot, resulting in a crucial replay.

With the new ball, Guidry and Gonzalez regained the serve to try to stay in the match. In mid-rally Roberts appeared to intentionally block a shot by Guidry that Kachtik called as an avoidable hinder. Point. Game. Tiebreaker.

It was clear that Karp and Roberts had exhausted their stores of adrenaline at the “first” close of game two. But the turnover had worked wonders for Guidry and Gonzalez, who ran out to a 9-2 lead in the tiebreaker and never looked back, winning it 11-3 and capturing the national crown.

"The broken ball was definitely a break. We need a little break, and we got a huge one," Guidry said. "Things like that happen for a reason. It was destiny telling us we were supposed to win that game."
This championship marked Guidry's return to the amateur circuit after competing on the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) for numerous years. "You play on the tour, and you think things can't get any more exciting, but this is a feeling that I haven't had in a long time," said 29-year-old Guidry, whose last national title was in 1989.

Twenty years his partner's senior, Gonzalez, known as a legend in the sport, was the crowd favorite. "Crowds want to see the old man dive and say 'how did he do that?'" said 49-year-old Gonzalez, who was recently nominated for the Racquetball Hall of Fame.

After the exciting turnaround in game two, crowd support had definitely shifted toward the eventual winners. "I didn't feel that the calls were going to go our way because they were the sentimental favorites because of the age." said Roberts.

"We had our chances to finish it in two straight." Karp admitted. "There were a couple of questionable calls that could have gone either way. Unfortunately at that time they seemed to all go the other way. If we would have gotten one of the calls, the match would have been over and I would be a little happier."

Robin Levine won her first major national title as an undergraduate, with her 1988 Intercollegiate championship win for Sacramento State. Kim Russell followed suit two years later, taking the 1990 intercollegiate win, representing the University of Kentucky. When the two finally teamed up for doubles in 1996, they began to make regular appearances in the semi-final rounds at nationals, then moved into the finals last year. This year they were rewarded with the top seed position, basically for sticking together.

So who were their first round opponents? Another intercollegiate championship team, made up of 1991 champion Elaine (Mardas) Albrecht and 1994 counterpart Kerri Stoffregen. Earlier, Albrecht and Stoffregen had tutored New Yorkers Shannon Feaster and Lorraine Galloway through a 15-9, 15-0 clinic to advance into the quarterfinal. There the lesson plan changed as they were handed an equally swift 15-7, 15-6 loss by Levine and Russell.

Citing that they'd played their opponents in the first round "for as long as I can remember," Florida's Mary Lyons and long-time partner Susan Pfahler went up
Lesson 1.

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Lesson 6.
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against coastal rivals Lisa Hjelm and Kari McDonough of California, who handed the '92 champs a quick 15-5, 15-13 loss. Later, Lyons and Pfähler ended a seven year winning streak in age competition in an all-Florida final against another pair of familiar, long-time rivals.

On the bottom half of the draw, another set of former champions was heading toward a quick exit. Diane Green and Julie Pinnell, 1984 title-holders, were run over by Jackie Paraiso and Laura Fenton in a 15-2, 15-2 collision. “Those girls didn’t make any mistakes” mused Green, who also holds the 1982 and 1987 national singles titles, and is currently in the doctoral degree program at the University of Texas/Austin. Pinnell, an Orlando attorney, was also stunned on her return to national competition by Paraiso and Fenton’s skills.

**Onward & Upward**

The new pairing of Malia Bailey and Cheryl Gudinas also made quick work of ‘97 finalists Yesenia DelBusto and Kersten Hallander before falling to Paraiso and Fenton in the semi-final.

“I don’t expect to win every single tournament.” said Cheryl, who succumbed to the RACQUETBALL magazine cover jinx … “I was happy with our teamwork; we were just great with court coverage. Malia is good up front and I like to hang back, but today I wasn’t very effective — I was stuck in the corner. Jackie is very good at keeping you back there. It’s kind of to her credit.”

“I thought we had opportunities that we didn’t take advantage.” Malia added. “Even though the second game was 15-14, there was a lot of opportunities that we let slip by, and we might have won by three or four points.”

In fact, at the close of the second game, Malia overturned a hinder call that would have given them the game and extended their chances through a tiebreaker. “I thought it was very obvious. I would hope that in the same situation, they would have overturned the call, too.”

“Lefty” Levine and the feisty Russell moved past Hjelm/McDonough to earn their U.S. Team renewals in straight games and face Fenton and Paraiso for the title.

There, another streak came to an end for Paraiso. “I really missed my sister out there today on the court,” she said, even though she had captured her fourth-straight mixed open title earlier in the day with her brother Joe Paraiso. “We always had a connection on the court that could make up for an off day. I just didn’t have that today.”

The straight game win for the title is a first for Levine and Russell, who took second at last year’s championships. “This is great.” said Robin. “We’ve both been training very hard to get to this moment. I’ve been very fortunate that my job has allowed me to take the time off I needed to train and travel.”
1999 Ektelon USRA 32nd National Doubles • Baltimore, Maryland

**MEN’S DIVISION FINALS**

Open: Ruben Gonzalez (State Island, N.Y.)/Mike Guidry (Carrollton, Texas) def. Adam Karp (Stockton, Calif.)/Andy Roberts (Collierville, Tenn.) 13-15, 15-9, 14-5, 15-12

A: Gill Cepeda (Palo Alto, Calif.)/Ken Fishthorn (Los Gatos, Calif.) def. David Locke (Powder Springs, Ga.)/Mark O’Brien (Woodstock, Ga.) 15-10, 15-6

B: Ron Calloway (Wilmington, Del.)/Vic Stell (Newark, Del.)/Scott Meyer (Waterbury, Ct.)/Bill Morell (New Britain, Ct.) 15-7, 15-9, 15-10

**55+: Johnny Hennen (Chattanooga, Tenn.)/Ed Azuma (Lake Oswego, Ore.)**

**40+: Dave Azuma (Lake Oswego, Ore.)/Stan Tavern (Fremont, Calif.)**

**45+: Donald Bates (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Carl Baron (Herndon, Va.)**

**35+: Steve Lustig (Rockville, Md.)/Jay Wright (Wildwood, Mo.)**

**25+: Ross Greenberg/Aaron Metcalf (Jacksonville, Fla.)**

**C/D: Chris Connell (Baltimore, Md.)/Charles Levine (Elkridge, Md.)**

**50+: Shelley Ogden/Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio)**

**55+: Joy Desantis (Valley Village, Calif.)/Gail Schafer (Randallstown, Md.)**

56+: John Underwood (Tallahassee, Fla.)/Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.) unchallenged

**MIXED DOUBLES DIVISION FINALS**

Mixed Open: Jackie Paraiso/Jo Paraiso (San Diego, Calif.) def. Cheryl Gardinias (Chicago, Ill.)/Jimmie Lowe (Fairbanks, Alaska) 15-5, 15-9

Mixed A: Janel Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.)/Jonathan Dunn (Camelillo, Calif.)

Mixed B: Debbie Ulmann (Westerville, Ohio)/Kevin Keenan (West Chester, Ohio)

Mixed C: Sharon Barrett (Watauga, Texas)/Eddie LaCost (Colleyville, Tenn.)

Mixed D: Jane Worden (Woodbury, Minn.)/Reno Birt (Lakeland, Fla.) 15-7, 15-12, 11-3

Mixed 24+: Yesenia DelBusto (Miami, Fla.)/Matt Gehling (Sarasota, Fla.)

Mixed 25+: Cindy Conine (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)/Jeff Conine (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)

Mixed 35+: Kim Machirian (St. Louis, Mo.)/Chris Wright (Wildwood, Mo.)

Mixed 45+: Elaine Desser (Pleasanton, Calif.)/Dede Ullman (Westerville, Ohio)

**WOMEN’S DIVISION FINALS**

Open: Robin Levine (Sacramento, Fla.)/Kim Russell (Chattanooga, Tenn.) def. Jackie Paraiso (El Cajon, Calif.)/Laura Fenton (Lincoln, Neb.) 15-12, 15-8

A: Patty Pollock/Maria Silva (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. Sharon Barren (Watauga, Texas)/Dorina Cooper (Fort Worth, Texas) 15-8, 15-6


C: Terri Sensinger (Delaware, Del.)/Paula Trent (Kansas City, Mo.)/Sharon McNiel (Randallstown, Md.)/Paula Pera (College Park, Md.) 15-7, 15-10, 11-8

D: Mae Chin-Varoh (North Hills, Calif.)/Debbie Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.)/Meena Evans (Advance, N.C.)/Holly Reimen ( Apex, N.C.) 15-5, 15-9

E: Esther McNally (Galesburg, Ill.)/Kim Skerry (Warwick, R.I.)/Nancy Davis (Moline, Ill.)/Veronica Yorks (Laurel, Md.) 15-7, 15-5

F: Chris Evon/Andrea Adamek (Asheville, N.C.)/Ursula Kelle (Palo Alto, Calif.)/Kim Acuff (Asheville, N.C.)/George Spear (Venice, Fla.) 15-7, 15-5, 15-4

G: Claire Kruse (Rochester Hills, Mich.)/Sandy White (Warren, N.C.)/Paula Demco/Adrianna Sisti (Jersey City, N.J.) 15-9, 15-10, 11-4

H: Diane Green (Austin, Texas)/Julie Pinnell (Sanford, Fla.)/Mary Lyons/Susan Pfahler (Weston, Fla.) 15-1, 15-11, 11-10

I: Janel Marshall (Warwick, N.Y.)/Janel Myers (Charlotte, N.C.)/Shelley Ogden/Geri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) 15-3, 15-9, 15-4

J: Paula Demco/Claudia Sisti (Harrisonburg, Pa.)/Yoko Foust (Dayton, Ohio) 15-10, 15-14, 11-4

K: Mary Jane Weldin (Newark, Del.)/Kevin Krevsky (Harrisburg, Pa.) def. Lola Markus (Tallahassee, Fla.)/Linda Louden (Mechanicsburg, Pa.) 15-5, 15-7, 15-4

L: Jennifer Funes (Novato, Calif.)/Glenn Allen (Virginia Beach, Va.) def. Joy DeSantis (Valley Village, Calif.)/Ray Lawler (Terre Haute, Ind.) 15-7, 15-10

M: Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.)/Ron Pudduck (Dexter, Mich.) def. Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.)/Paul Balanes (Phoenix, Ariz.) 15-8, 14-15, 11-7

N: Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.)/Jay Krevsky (Harrisonburg, Pa.)/Ma Roberts (Melbourne, Fla.) 15-6, 15-7

O: Joanne Russell (Lansing, Mich.)

B: Mary Low/Alfie Ashville (Europe, N.C.)

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- **30-**
- **35-**
- **40-**
- **45-**
- **50-**
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170-gram extra-lite frame for increased power, swing speed and maneuverability.
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190-grams — classic Bedlam weight and balance — racquetball's most powerful technology.

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Head-lite for faster swing speed and maneuverability. 205-grams for extra power.
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- Total carbon head
- Swing weight 145

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**Why E-Force Racquets Are More Powerful**

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<th>Racquet</th>
<th>Maximum Length Mainstrings</th>
<th>Combined Length 10 Center Main Strings</th>
<th>E-Force Advantage</th>
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<td>E-Force 22&quot; LongString Racquets</td>
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<td>Competitor Mainstrings</td>
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*Combined length of the 10 center mainstrings — effective hitting area.
Longest mainstrings in racquetball create the most powerful racquets ever made.

Patent-pending 22.0" LongString technology extends mainstrings through the entire length of the handle, creating center mains at least 6" longer than in competitor racquets. The ten center mains add at least 55 extra inches of combined length—an increase of at least 38% for power like you've never seen.

The evolution of racquet frames...from teardrop to quadraform to midsize and oversize...resulted in longer mainstrings and racquet faces. This created tremendous increases in power. Why? It's the same principle as the bow and arrow. For an equal amount of effort, longer mainstrings and racquet face cause the strings to stretch further, allowing the frame to store more energy. The result is a string/frame system which provides a more powerful shot when the energy is released.

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Lightweight high-strength titanium increases strength and durability without adding weight or reducing maneuverability.

**New Total-Carbon Head™**
Unpainted frame and streamlined bumper save weight, allowing 20% more carbon in head for additional stiffness and increased power. An E-Force exclusive!

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**Top-10 Best!**

1. Acceptance by IOC and inclusion of racquetball in Pan Am Games - provided instant credibility to the sport, necessary funding for expansion and greatest potential for mainstream growth.

2. International Racquetball Federation - stimulated growth in South and Central Americas, as well as Europe and Asia, aiding the acceptance of racquetball as true worldwide sport.

3. Marty Hogan - in the sport's heyday, Marty offered charisma, athletic ability, and the type of high profile that attracted outside sponsors, television, and personalities to the sport.

4. Oversized Racquets - brought new excitement to the sport by retaining the interest of players and sponsors, plus allowed more major manufacturers to stimulate sales and remain in the sport.

5. U.S. OPEN - created the 'showcase' needed to attract outside sponsors and broadcast interest, through an upgraded format that presents racquetball as a true professional sport.

6. AmPRO - enabled the sport to get back into the clubs, with a mechanism to provide standardized instruction, programming and promotion ideas.

7. Racquetball Manufacturers Association and Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association - this forum for industry leaders to share ideas and join in promotional efforts, along with underwriting grassroots program development, kept the pro tour going during mid 80s.

8. Hank Marcus - took over the pro tour when it was all but extinct. Established a credible tour and reaffirmed the importance of pro racquetball to the growth of the sport.

9. Amateur Nationals - the 14-year pinnacle in amateur competition gives all facets of the sport an opportunity to interact, while recognizing the sport's outstanding athletes and contributors.

10. Portable Court - this vehicle for greater exposure to potential sponsors and more sophisticated television coverage professionalized the sport and provided the opportunity for more elaborate events.

---

**Top-10 Worst!**

1. Club failure to promote - and staff - the sport - During the sport's heyday, club owners and managers took the sport for granted, disregarding the need for trained program and teaching staff. When racquetball started to struggle there were no 'professionals' in the clubs to halt playing decline.

2. Marty Hogan - his failure to support players' associations and individual promoters caused division within the sport. A more supportive Hogan could have gone a long way to attract new sponsors at a time when racquetball was the 'in' sport.

3. AARA/USRA marketing - Other than Miller Lite in the early 80s, the amateur association has never been able to attract a major sponsor outside the sport. Without such sponsorship, racquetball continues to struggle in its attempts to reach the recreational player.

4. Industry/Club Void - until a couple of years ago, major manufacturers were all but absent at club trade shows and industry seminars. The industry failed to maintain active involvement in club promotions and support. The tide has recently turned, hopefully not too late.

5. Pro Tour collapse after Catalina Tour in 1984 - When Catalina and Leach failed to renew their pro tour sponsorship, the pro tour almost completely died.

6. Backer pulls Out - After three events, Tom Cavallaro (an entrepreneur from New York) withdrew all financial support from a 10-event series due to political in-fighting on the pro tour.

7. Short-lived TV commitment - Prior to 1992 the AARA Board had funded 15 broadcasts, televised nationally on independent cable companies, which maintained the sport's credibility, were avenues to attract new sponsors and reached millions of viewers.

8. Lost Crossover Marketing Opportunity - No one was prepared to approach and convert hundreds of thousands of new club members to racquetball after the latest craze had passed. Many 'fitness oriented' people joined clubs, but few were introduced to racquetball as an alternative.

9. Lack of Junior Programs - where junior programs have been developed, interest and participation has increased, but the sport continues to suffer from the lack of junior programs. The domino effect of a weakened foundation may create problems in the future.

10. Oversized racquets and 'fast' balls - The faster power game has fewer interesting rallies, is difficult to watch on television, and may be responsible for dwindling female participation. Although 'ideal' for recreation (ball bounces more and stays in play) the sacrifice of "viewability" discourages new participants.

---

**Hogan def. Roberts**: Hogan's fitness/athletic ability proves to make the difference - Roberts isn't bothered by Hogan's power, and boasts a 'smarter' all-round game, but Hogan's intensity and go-for-broke style when on, is almost unbeatable. Hogan's serve and returning ability are deciding factors in games four and five.

**Yellen def. Brumfeld**: The one player Brumfeld cannot 'psych out'. Brumfeld tries every trick, but nothing seems to work. Although a control player himself, Brumfeld is no match for the master. Brumfeld runs out of gas in the fourth game. Yellen's mistake free game takes its toll and proves he's the master of the 'control' game.

**Swain def. Peck**: One of the most difficult games to call since most modern day players believe Swain's serve and shot-making ability would make the difference. Few players recall Peck's unmatchable intensity and outstanding play in 1981-82. Before his injury, Peck played even with Yellen and Hogan. The slight edge goes to Swain, only because of the serve.

**Monchik def. Harnett**: Again, not as easy as everyone might think. At his prime, when he won four events in a row, no one came close - but then the tour folded. Harnett matches Sudsy in athletic ability and quickness. Sudsy's power gives him the advantage, even with a slower ball and small racquets. Sudsy has wider variety of shots and can change pace if needed.
**men's draw of the century!**

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**Yellen defeats Hogan:** Hogan's normally slow start may have cost him the match. Yellen continues his streak of beating Hogan in the big matches. Mike's consistently error-less game style forces Hogan to work for every point. Although in better physical shape, Hogan forces too many shots upon which Yellen capitalizes. Yellen's footwork may be the best ever — always seems to be in perfect position to hit the 'right' shot.

**Monchik defeats Swain:** Even with slower, ball, Sudsy seems to have Cliff's number. Sudsy is relentless and puts pressure on Cliff with every shot. Sudsy's motto 'no defense is a good defense' results in every imaginable shot from every angle. Even when given opportunities, Cliff is unable to capitalize, and is never able to bring a 'run' together.
round of 32


Green vs. Gudinas: Two solid players, both with stronger backhands than forehands. Green's solid play and smooth footwork surprises Gudinas, but Gudinas' newfound toughness carries her through a tight match. 

Stupp vs. Williams: Stupp is all over Williams with speed, power and savvy. Gardner vs. Panzeri: Panzeri has the unique and tough game style is just too much for Gardner to handle. Gardner tries to do too much with Panzeri's chest high soft shots. Panzeri capitalizes on Gardner's mistakes. 

McKinney vs. Baxter: Baxter plays a solid game, with few mistakes, and proves to be a tough first-round challenge. McKinney is too smart, too strong and has too large an arsenal. 

Van Hees vs. Gilreath: Van Hees is initially stalled by Gilreath's amazing athletic ability, as her power, quickness and dives dominate the first two games. Van Hees recovers her composure to take the third, but Gilreath's game is too complete. 

Levine vs. Morris: Levine starts slow and lets the first game get away. This motivates her and she starts flinging herself around, gets to a million balls and wins the next three games. 

Fischl vs. Wright: Wright's serves and precise backwall kills are too much for Fischl to combat. Wright leads the whole way. 

Stupp def. Panzeri: Not a great match-up for Panzeri. Stupp is one of the best players that not many people know about. Stupp isn't fazed by Panzeri's off-speed shots, and she handles Panzeri's amazing passes with speed and patience. Panzeri gets frustrated by Stupp's calm and joyful attitude, as well as her quickness and powerful shots. 

McKinney def. Gilreath: Gilreath gives it all she's got, throwing her body and soul around the court, but in the end McKinney is too tough mentally and too solid with her shots. McKinney makes very few errors, and takes advantage of Gilreath's mistakes. 

Wright def. Levine: Levine's inconsistent play allows Wright many set ups and opportunities. Wright, a very consistent shooter, capitalizes and Levine can't dive her way out of trouble. 

Gould def. Kuhfeld: The Ice Princess isn't affected by Gould's power but she's out strong, hitting amazing shots and getting to everything. After winning the first two games easily Drexler seemed distracted and Harding, with solid shots, wins the third. Drexler wakes up and wins in a tight fourth game. 

Fenton vs. Greer: Another tough first round, but Greer's all around skills, power and quickness proves to be too strong for Fenton. 

Steding vs. Hoff: A match up from the old days, Steding's athleticism and overheads keep Hoff off balance. Hoff's backhand keeps her in the match, but it's not enough to fend off the determined Steding. 

Walton vs. Paraiso: Paraiso plays smooth and solid, not allowing Walton to get on a roll. Walton's backhand is strong, but Paraiso's is stronger. There are a couple of moments where it seemed the match would be close, but then Paraiso kicked her play up a notch. 

Bailey vs. Martino: The third match up to reach a tiebreaker that could go either way. Both players display solid skills, both mentally and physically. Bailey eeks it out, her pinch shot exploiting Martino's lack of speed moving forward. 

Prefontaine vs. McKay: McKay dominates. Her array of shots and amazing precision won't allow Prefontaine to show any of her skills. 

round of 16

Adams def. Gudinas: Despite Gudinas' strong backhand and vastly improved forehand she can't stand up to Adam's all around strength. Adams mixes up her serves and shots to frustrate Gudinas. 

Stupp def. Panzeri: Not a great match-up for Panzeri. Stupp is one of the best players that not many people know about. Stupp isn't fazed by Panzeri's off-speed shots, and she handles Panzeri's amazing passes with speed and patience. Panzeri gets frustrated by Stupp's calm and joyful attitude, as well as her quickness and powerful shots. 

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Wright def. Levine: Levine's inconsistent play allows Wright many set ups and opportunities. Wright, a very consistent shooter, capitalizes and Levine can't dive her way out of trouble. 


Greer def. Drexler: What a match! Two similar styles... lots of diving, amazing shots, great gets and big emotions. Greer eeked out the win, due to more experience in big matches; and a more level head during the close points. This match could have gone either way. 

Paraiso def. Steding: Steding's unique game style of fly kills and overheads initially throws Paraiso off, but Paraiso quickly recovers and shows her solid game. Paraiso can't handle Paraiso's power, speed and precision shots. 

McKay def. Bailey: McKay has too many weapons, too much power, and too much consistency for Bailey to handle. Bailey fought hard, but to no avail. 

quarterfinals

Adams def. Stupp: A very close, exciting match. Both players executed shots at a high level. Adams had to pull out all the stops to stay alive in the match. There was never a moment when either player could relax and the outcome was unknown until the very end. Adams breathed a sigh of relief that Stupp didn't play the tour regularly. 

Wright def. McKinney: McKinney fought the good fight, but Wright was just too strong and tenacious. The shots Wright can make taking the ball off the back wall are breathtaking. Plus Wright can be pretty intimidating when she starts trash-talking and McKinney wasn't used to dealing with that. The third game was exciting and showcased both players phenomenal skills. 

Gould def. Greer: Greer's speed put a lot of pressure on Gould, and her splat shots caught Gould flat-footed on more than one occasion, but Gould's precision and power proved to be too much for Greer's loose game. Greer gave Gould too many opportunities, and Gould hammered Greer with photon serves to Greer's forehand. While the fourth game was close, Gould seemed in control. 

McKay def. Paraiso: Paraiso was able to put together an awesome third game, using her splats and passes to frustrate McKay, but McKay was just too consistent and strong over the course of the match. McKay had Paraiso running the four corners of the court. Whenever Paraiso made a mistake, McKay ended the rally.
women's draw of the century!

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Adams defeats Wright: Wright came out fast, hitting with amazing accuracy off the back wall. Adams seemed nervous and was hitting the ball up. Wright took advantage and looked dominant in the first two games. Adams started playing strong, mixing up her serves and shots and Wright couldn't keep up with the pace. Adams breathes a second sigh of relief.

Adams defeats Gould: The crowd wasn't disappointed as both players performed at their peak. Gould's power kept McKay on her toes, but McKay quickly adjusted. McKay's amazing pinches and wide angle passes moved Gould around more than she was used to. Both players fought hard, were able to end rallies at the first opportunity, but Gould's lack of foot speed proved to be her undoing in the end.
Wilson Introduces Two Hyper Carbon Frames

Wilson Sporting Goods has had overwhelming success with their two newest Hyper Carbon racquetball racquets, the Hyper 150g and the Hyper Air Hammer. Both racquets feature the breakthrough material Hyper Carbon—an ultra-high modulus carbon, which is four times stiffer, four times stronger, and 65% lighter than titanium. The Hyper Carbon material was introduced at the 1998 U.S. Open tennis tournament, but launched in racquetball racquets in June 1999. Hyper Carbon is a space age material developed by Toray Industries Inc., the largest supplier of composite materials in the world. This technological breakthrough, proprietary to Wilson, has produced amazing performance results in Wilson racquetball racquets.

New from Network

Network Marketing, the manufacturer of the popular Python slip-on grip, recently introduced a Python "Cushion Wrap" grip—with a snake skin pattern (what else?) which is comfortable while eliminating slippage. Also new to the product line are protective hardcases for Rad eyeguards (or other brands...). For more information on these new offerings, contact Network Marketing via email at python2@mindspring.com.

ProKennex Introduces Pure 1 Series

ProKennex announced the launch of the Pure 1 series, with two new models—the Pure Light and Pure Balanced. Pure 1 is the result of several technological advances in racquet manufacturing with the patented Kinetic system being the foundation. Other unique features include: exclusive 1K Woven Graphite, Ti-Micro Mesh, Diamond Frame headshape and Geltrac guard. These models represent the ultimate in ProKennex engineering and craftsmanship. The Pure Light specifications are: 107 sq. inch headsize, 22 inch length, 175 grams, headlight. Pure Balanced: 107 sq. inch, 22 inch length and 195 grams, balanced. Both racquets come equipped with Tecnifibre 505 17 gauge premium string.

"Our ability to produce an ultra lightweight racquet with the Kinetic System, alters the game," said Mike Martinez, ProKennex Director of Racquetball. "The Pure 1 racquets will be used by the ProKennex National Advisory Staff led by John Ellis and Jackie Paraiso.

ProKennex Signs Rojas

Jose Rojas is not exactly a household name, yet. Recently, Jose inked a multi-year agreement to represent ProKennex in all racquetball related activities. Rojas competed at the this year's Junior Olympic Racquetball Championships and captured the gold medal in the 8-and-under division and was a finalist in the 10-division. Rojas' feats caught the attention of John Ellis, then Mike Martinez, ProKennex Director of Racquetball. With Ellis dubbing Rojas "the future of racquetball," Martinez caught the next flight to Stockton, Calif., and secured Rojas' signature, with his families approval.

"We are proud of Jose's achievements and pleased to have him join the list of ProKennex junior champions. This represents another example of our commitment to the growth and development of racquetball," Martinez said.

Worldwide Racquetball Ladder Forming

A global racquetball ladder is now forming as a free, Internet based service for the racquetball community at http://www.sportsladder.com/racquetball. In addition to promoting a friendly competition and tracking personal match statistics, the ladder can help players find other opponents locally and while traveling.

"Racquetball is a great sport. Anything that helps promote active and varied play will help the sport continue to grow," says racquetball player and ladder founder, Jeff Wenger. "This service is great for the sport for the racquetball community and there is nothing like it on the Internet today. We are hoping to attract players ranging from beginners to touring professionals."

A racquetball ladder is similar to a league for individuals. Players can challenge each other to a match and the results help determine rankings. The Worldwide Racquetball Ladder is owned and operated by World Wide Sports Ladders, Inc. Founded in October 1997, the service helps the recreational athlete through its "sportsladder.com" web site. In June 1999, the company received over 100,000 hits on the site.
Ever stopped to think what a difference the ball can make in your game? Penn has. That's why we make three different balls: Fast, faster and fastest. There's one to match your level of play. And your bruises.

www.pennracquet.com

AMERICA'S #1 SELLING BALL

Penn is the official ball of ITA. The Penn Pro is Official Ball of NCC and WCT.
New Orleans Summer Cooler
Each year when New Orleans Elmwood Fitness Center welcomes the top pros and the south's best amateurs to New Orleans, it is both the official start of the pro tour season, and the unofficial start of racquetball season in general. As this year's event kicked off again in early August, I was reminded just how amazing Elmwood really is, how good the pros really are, and how much fun it is to enter the time of year when more and more players set aside their golf clubs, fishing poles, and softball gloves in favor of their racquets. As tournament director Al Schof and company teamed up with Miller Lite and Coca Cola for this year's "Cooler," the action was anything but "cool."

The event itself saw the introduction of the new IRT schedule format, playing all qualifiers and early rounds on Thursday, the sixteens and quarters on Friday, semis on Saturday, and the final on Sunday. With so much play on Thursday, it was easy to catch some great action most anytime ... especially when former pro national champs Ruben Gonzalez and Drew Kachtik were both playing in the qualifiers! Both reached the opening round easily, but Gonzalez had a bit more trouble with #16 Dan Llacera in the first round, extending to five before a Gonzalez win. Kachtik found even more trouble as #11 seed Rocky Carson closed him out in the fourth game. Familiar faces on the IRT from years past, Todd O'Neil and Scott Reiff came out of the qualifying round to post first round wins against #15 seed Kelly Kerr and #13 seed Mike Locker respectively.

Aside from the surprise of seeing several familiar names in the draw for the qualifiers, another oddity was seeing former national champ Andy Roberts coming in with a #9 seed. Now I'm checking to see when Roberts was last outside the top eight. My guess is that it has been at least ten years, representing one of the most solidly consistent careers in the history of the tour.

After a relatively easy first round, California's Adam Karp sent him packing in what has to be one of only a very few three game, second-round losses of Robert's life. In the next round, Karp enjoyed the distinction of taking the first game from reigning National Champion Sudsy Monchik — in five straight events! Smart money says keep an eye on Karp. Still young but now a seasoned tour veteran, I see a pivotal year coming for the number five ranked pro.

Tim Doyle looks to have regained some of the power of his youth, eliminating #10 seeded Dan Fowler, and taking a game from Cliff Swain in the following round. California's John Ellis and Washington's "Big D" Derek Robinson fought through a tough four-gamer that saw Ellis come out on top of what must have seemed to them like a replay of their practice days as teammates on the Southwest Missouri State collegiate team. Still, the closest and most entertaining match of the event was the five-gamer that saw #4 Jason Mannino and #5 Mike Guidry battle neck-and-neck in the quarters.

The now-so-familiar Monchik vs. Swain final was just what the crowd wanted in New Orleans. However most of the battle for this epic rivalry would be left until later days as Monchik kept the former champ frustrated and closed him out in three quick games. I really thought the top four pros had already gotten about as good as they were going to get, but if New Orleans is any indication, look for them to squeeze even more from one another this year in the heat of battle. Karp and Robinson have the potential to play at that level as well. And now healthy and focused, Guidry and Doyle have both been in the top four and seem ready to return to top of the heap. At any rate, the heat at the New Orleans Cooler showed signs of one of the best ever IRT seasons ahead.

Stockton Coors Light Pro Am
A seventeen-year-old Labor Day tradition, the Stockton event has been a mainstay on the IRT since the dawn of the Yellen vs. Hogan rivalries of the early eighties. While presidents have come and gone, fashion and popular music have changed with each season, and the economy today seeming as different from 1982 as night and day, In-Shape Sports at Westlane's Coors Light Pro-AM has continued to be a showcase for the best athletes in professional sports.

In addition to the familiar pros that return at summer's end each year, Stockton enjoys the added advantage of welcoming California's best young players. The players that emerge from this, the largest and most intense

Tour reporting by Marvin Quertermous
competitive region in the world, are the often the toughest and most innovative to enter the tour.

But this year, the newest tough guy on the tour would not hail from California, but from St. Paul, Minnesota. Mike Locker (who raged through the field in Denver last January to a final against Swain) came back from a first game loss in the sixteens against Guidry to win that match by capturing the following three.

One of my picks to stand out this season, Guidry simply could do nothing to counter what Locker himself dubbed "the slowest good serve in racquetball." Even with a loss to Doyle the following round, with the Guidry upset to back up last winter's performance, Locker now stands out as a contender.

Roberts, enjoying new territory once again coming in at number nine, closed out Robinson in three in a battle between two of the physically largest pros on the tour. Hard hitting #14 seed Louis Vogel managed to take a game from Ellis in the same round. Fowler sent Karp packing with a three game victory in a battle of guts and quickness. Once again, Mannino and Carson delivered their crowd favorite three hour marathon battle. If you have the time and the nerves for it, this is one of the best shows going!

While Swain easily handled Mannino this time out, he could not overcome Ellis' home court advantage in the semis. At the top of the draw, Monchik came back from a game two loss to hand Doyle a rare doughnut on his way to a win in four. All in all, Doyle looks more and more like the Doyle of several seasons back — who could be a threat to any player on the tour.

The final was a battle between the closest of friends off the court — who transform into the most bitter of enemies on the court. With more blasts and dives than any two players should be able to perform, Monchik and Ellis gave Stockton fans four great games to end a Labor Day weekend of great racquetball.

In the area of what's-to-come, it seems to be the point in the season when Swain usually hits his stride. Look for him to fire up, especially as we approach the US Open. Monchik looks to be nearly unbeatable. Ellis and Mannino dig in for the season. Fabian Balmori has looked good in early rounds of two tournaments in a row, and could be ready to make a serious run on the tour. Carson still looks like the best young threat. And Locker, last year's Cinderella story, has proved to be no fluke and could gain a lot of ground this season. More importantly, my observations in New Orleans are reaffirmed, and I look for one of the best seasons ever for the IRT.

---

**Monchik Signs with New Agency**

Sudsy Monchik, the 1999 IRT champion, recently announced his selection of Flynn, Sabatino & Day, of Dayton, Ohio, to represent him in his pursuit of commercial endorsements. Currently, Monchik is the endorsing celebrity for HEAD USA Racquetball, Forten String and Python Grips.

"My recent re-emergence as world pro champion is the ideal time to maximize my position as a product spokesperson," says Monchik. "I chose Flynn, Sabatino & Day (FS&D) because they demonstrate the same aggressive competitiveness in marketing that I do on the racquetball court."

FS&D featured Monchik in an advertising campaign for HEAD USA Racquetball that kicked off in May 1999. "The advertising campaign captured Sudsy's personal intensity for outstanding performance, which is the distinguishing characteristic of HEAD racquetball equipment," Doug Ganim of HEAD USA Racquetball said.
IRT Rankings
[Through 09/07/99]

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WIRT Rankings
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1999-2000 IRT SCORECARD & CALENDAR

New Orleans........Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain........6, 1, 6
Stockton........Sudsy Monchik def. John Ellis...........7, 5, 8, 5

October 15-17.....Salem, OR................Courthouse Athletic Club
October 21-24.....Albuquerque, NM.......Tom Young's Athletic Club
October 28-31.....Bloomingdale, IL.....Athletic Club of Bloomingdale
December 1-5.......Memphis, TN.........Racquet Club of Memphis
December 9-12.....Lakewood, CO............Lakewood Athletic Club
January 13-16.....Denver, CO...............TBA
January 20-23.....Boston, MA...............Ridge Athletic Club
February 10-13.....Fairfield, NJ...........46th Fitness
February 17-20.....Brooklyn Ctr, MN....NW Hwy 100 Racquet/Swim
February 24-27.....Rochester, NY..........Penfield Racquet & Fitness
March 9-12........Birmingham, AL.........TBA
March 23-26.......Santa Barbara, CA......Goleta Valley Athletic Club
April 26-30.......Las Vegas, NV..........Las Vegas Sporting House
May 11-14........Seattle, WA...............TBA
May 18-21........San Diego, CA...........Sorrento Valley Fitness Club
June 1-4...........Portland, OR...........Multnomah Athletic Club

1999-2000 WIRT SEASON CALENDAR

October 21-24.....Albuquerque, NM.......Tom Young's Athletic Club
November 5-7........Baltimore, MD..............Merritt Athletic Club
December 1-5.......Memphis, TN.........Racquet Club of Memphis
December 10-12.....Denver, CO...............Lakewood Athletic Club
January 7-9........Chalfont, PA............Highpoint Athletic Club
February 4-6........Roanoke, VA..............Roanoke Athletic Club
March ................Northern VA...............TBA
April 26-30.......Las Vegas, NV..........Las Vegas Sporting House
June 1-4...........Portland, OR...........Multnomah Athletic Club

WIRT Award Winners

The Women's International Racquetball Tour recently named its annual award winners, for performances and contributions over the 1998-99 season. The winners were:

Rookie of the Year.........................Aimee Roehler
Sportsmanship Award......................Janet Myers
Most Improved Player.....................Christie Van Hees
Player of the Year.........................Jackie Paraiso
Steding Cup (outstanding contributor).....Molly O'Brien

www.promususopen.com

Even if you can't make it all the way to Memphis to attend this year's Promus U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships, you will be able to follow the action online at the event's own website at www.promususopen.com. Bookmark it now for a look at the entry form, ticket application, previews, updates and athlete bios, then call it up regularly throughout the event for up-to-the-minute reports of daily action.
Mister Pickwick presents a miniature Racquetball game of two full-figured players in a three-dimensional court with an audience and a green emerald ball, made in a gold and silver metal. A lifetime momento for a Racquetball enthusiast.

**Racket Lapel Pins/Tie-Tacs w/Emerald Stone**
- Silver Racket on Silver Plate • PRR-150 $145
- 14 Karat Gold Racket on Silver Plate • PRR-151 $190
- Silver Racket • PRR-152 $99
- 14 Karat Gold Racket • PRR-153 $135

**Lorge Racquet Pendant w/Emerald Stone**
(Chains Not Included)
- 14 Karat Gold Pendant PRR-156 $240
- Silver Pendant PRR-157 $220

**Lorge Racquet Cuff Links**
- 14 Karat Gold Cuff Links PRR-160 $715
- Silver Cuff Links PRR-161 $470

**Small Racquet Earrings Posts or Hoops w/Emerald Stone**
- 14 Karat Gold Earrings PRR-158 $280
- Silver Earrings PRR-159 $195

**Small Racquet Bracelet w/Emerald Stones**
- Silver PRR-154 $580
- 14 Karat Gold PRR-154-14K $920

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Thank you for your order.
In the last two issues I taught you my magical power drive serve and lob serve. We focused primarily on the mechanics and techniques of the serves … ball toss, footwork, hip rotation, contact point etc.

The importance of the serve is to set the tone of the match and create either a weak return or an ace (no return at all). The mechanics of the serve helps you create the consistency to accomplish that, but the factors of power, placement, deception and variety also affect the outcome of the serve.

We touched upon these factors briefly before, but I feel they are so important I wanted to really zero in on them and go into more detail on the placement, deception and variations of my power and lob serves. Are you ready to learn more tricks of the trade and see why my magic show separates me from the rest of the pack? I hope so because you are in for a real eye opener …

The easiest and simplest way for me to teach you these serves is through diagrams … here we go!
The ball takes its first bounce between the short line and receiving line, and its second bounce in either corner (it does not hit the side wall).

Ball hits the side wall before the short line on the fly and takes its first bounce right in front of your opponent, jamming them.

Ball hits the side wall on or near the dotted line on the fly, then bounces just behind your opponent, wrapping around them.

Ball hits the side wall deep (30-32' back) and very, very low (almost looks as if it cracked out).

Ball hits front wall within 6-12" of the first side wall, travels past the short line, then hits the second wall about 30-35' back.

THE BASIC TRICKS

- **Deception:** The element of surprise is the key to forcing a weak return. If your opponents have no idea where the ball is going or which serve is coming, you've got 'em where you want 'em. This deception is created in two ways ... with your footwork and the ball toss. The two-step motion I taught you earlier should be exactly the same no matter whether you are drive serving to the right or left, z serving or jam serving ... the ball toss is what will change ever so slightly, but only a matter of inches. It will appear in the same spot, off the front foot, but the server will drop it off the big toe for the drive to the right, off the little toe for the drive to the left, off the heel for a z-serve, etc. Keep your opponent guessing.

- **Variety:** You want to be like a baseball pitcher throwing a fastball, knuckle ball, slider or sinker. The batter has no clue what's coming until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand and is in flight. The same is true in racquetball. You want to be able to serve from all three positions, as I do, to create different angles. Look at all the serves I have from all three positions.
Drive Position 1
- Power Drive, right & left
- Off Speed Drive, right & left
- Hard Drive Z, right & left
- Drive Jam, right & left
- Drive Wrap, right & left
- Drive Nick, right & left

Drive Position 2
- Same options as in position 1, with the exception of the Z's, which I don't recommend from the middle.

Drive Position 3
- Same options as position 1, but with only one Z-serve to the right.

Lob Position 1
- High & Half Lobs, right & left
- Lob Nick, right & left
- High, soft Z, left only with forehand and backhand stroke

Lob Position 2
- Same options as Position 1, but without Z's from the middle.

Lob Position 3
- Same options as Position 1, but I only have one high soft Z to the right.

Use the principles of deception & variety in the same way for your lobs.

Soft High Lob Straight In
- Hits 3/4 of the way up the front wall and the first bounce hits 1-2' in front of the dotted line (so your opponent can't attack it) and the second bounce is deep in either corner. It does not hit the side wall.

Lob Nick
- Hits 3/4 to 7/8 of the way up the front wall and hits the side wall on the fly 30-35' back, with the first bounce deep in the corner. The ball dies before it hits the back wall.

High Soft Z
- Hits 3/4 of the way up the front wall, within 6-12" of the side wall, travels past the short line and then hits the second side wall about 30-35' back. The ball dies before it hits the back wall.

Now you have what it takes to fully take advantage of the serve ... mechanics and techniques, power, placement, deception and variety. Remember, the serve is the only time you hit the ball out of your hand so you are in the driver's seat. I recommend two things ... concentrate and take your time ... these are the magic tricks I use each and every time I step into the service zone. I'll see you next time for my magic Return of Serve.
In my travels one of the most asked questions is “How can I get better?” The answer sounds simple: practice! But I have found that many racquetball fanatics just have no idea how to practice. So here are some tips on how to get better, or to eliminate a current slump.

First, let’s put a myth to rest: nobody practices racquetball alone for three hours. The only thing that can come out of a three-hour practice session is therapy. I am a true believer in what I call “focused” practices. Time is not important, goals are important. In every sport, practice is designed to reinforce fundamentals, improve on weakness, and get in better shape for your sport. Second, let’s establish that all “well-focused” practice drills are up-tempo, no rests, no visiting, no fooling around. In fact, a solid practice session should be harder than any matches you play.

**Drop & Hit**

Obviously, always begin with a warm-up of 10 minutes or so. I recommend the stationary bike, some light jogging or jump rope to start, then...
proceed to hitting. I always suggest the classic “drop and hit” drill for openers.

The starting point for this drill is the short line. Face either side-wall, and from about five feet from that side wall, drop the ball to the floor and hit a down-the-line pass. Remember, this drill reinforces good swing thoughts, plus allows you to practice good footwork, body posture and offensive shots. The drill may seem boring, but I will tell you this if you cannot execute this drill at a high level in practice (which means no skips and no balls hitting the side wall) you’ll never be effective in matches.

After executing 25 down-the-line pass shots from the short line, move to the five foot line and do a set there. After you complete the drill at the five-foot line, go to the 3/4 court area, then all the way to the back-wall. Set yourself up for back-wall practice by bouncing the ball into the floor, angle it into the back wall, then strike it before it hits the floor a second time.

Remember that this five-foot area along the side-wall is called the power-alley. Over 60% of all setups end up in this region, so you must be proficient with both forehand and backhand shots from this area. At the end of this drill you should see some sweat ... remember you’ll be practicing all the shots from each spot; down-the-line, cross court-pincht — all up-tempo! (Tip: take more than one ball on the court with you)

Next proceed directly into a “5-4-3-2-1” — or simply running lines. Starting from the back-wall, run to the five foot line then return to your
starting position at the back wall; then sprint to the short line and return to the backwall; then dash to the foot fault line and back; then to the front wall and back. That counts as one rep, and you'll do five sets without stopping.

At the end of the five sets take a two-minute rest, then do four without stopping, with two minutes rest; then three with a two minute rest, then two with a one-minute rest, then one rep as fast as you can. (Tip: time each set, and try to improve on your times, this will insure that you're putting out on each rep!)

**Set-Up Drill**
You will start at the five-foot line and give yourself one of three types of set-ups: a short-ceiling ball; a ball that comes off the backwall; or a ball that falls in mid-court. The reason we start at the five foot line is so you are forced to move your feet.

After giving yourself a set-up, move and execute either a down-the-line, cross court, or a pinch. Remember, you are looking for consistency, no skips, good footwork and balance.

You'll end with five “30-second drills.” This is an excellent drill and my favorite. Start at 3/4 court, drop the ball and hit it. Chase the ball and keep hitting it, but don't pick it up. If you cannot strike after the first bounce hit wherever you can but stay in the 3/4 court area. This drill helps with racquet speed, and hitting on the run.
Derek Robinson: String Maven

As anyone who reads this magazine knows, competition among the world's Top 10-ranked male players is pretty fierce, and they do everything they (ethically) can to gain the smallest advantage over one another. Even so, #6-ranked Derek Robinson isn't concerned if those ranked 1-5, and 7-10, know exactly how he's setting up his racquet. Derek knows he's the only guy in the world with his particular combination of size, strength, speed, agility, strategy, tactics, and racquet sponsor. He'd be only too happy if his opponents were to copy his choices exactly, and end up with setups that aren't so well suited to their personal needs.

What can be copied by other players, however, is not the specifics of Derek's string setup, but the thought process that goes into it. Derek puts a lot of time and energy into getting it right. Here's how he does it.

Derek has his racquets strung by Bruce Bell of Bell Racquet Sports, in Penfield, NY (a suburb of Rochester). Even though Derek lives in Washington state, he can do this because Wilson provides him with four or five dozen identical racquets. So even if the stringer has 12 or 18 of his racquets in the shop, and more are in transit, Derek still has plenty of sticks to play with.

"I used to like stringing my own racquets, but that was before I realized the benefits a professional stringer like Bruce can provide," Derek says. "I'd go to Japan if I had to, to find someone to take care of my racquets properly because that's how I make my living."

When Derek gets a new set of racquets, he initially sends several to Bruce, who sets them up with a variety of string types and gauges, at different tensions. Derek tries them all and identifies the setup that's closest to his preferences, then he and Bruce discuss fine-tuning. Even after they've found the right setup through careful trial-and-error testing, Derek confers with Bruce regularly.

"I used to keep the tension as low as possible, to generate as much power as I could, consistent with some minimal level of control," says Derek. "But since Wilson introduced the Power Hole design, I've changed my approach. (Power Holes™ are a design feature in some Wilson racquets that increases the effective length of the strings a bit.) Now I'm able to string up tighter for better control, and I still get all the power I want because of the longer string length." Derek had his "pre-Power Hole" racquets strung at 28-30 lb., compared to the 31-32 lb. he uses now in his Wilson® Hyper Air Hammer™. He's considering bumping it up even further, to 33-34 lb., but this still isn't considered tight; some players go up to about 45 lb.

Derek has been using the same 17-gauge, Ashaway SuperKill® 17 string for almost four years, and remains happy with it. "I like to play with the thinnest gauge possible," he continues. "I'm a big individual, and a lot of players try to hit into me all the time. Thinner strings give me a better feel for the ball — better 'touch' — if I'm blocking the ball.

"I'd play with even thinner strings if I could keep them in the racquet. But I like using a racquet with an open string pattern, and I'd break an 18 gauge string in about five shots. The 17-gauge string gives me good durability, with plenty of power and control.

Derek brings 8-10 racquets to a typical four-day tournament, and as many as 15 to longer events. Every one is set up identically, so that if he breaks a string, or feels that one is losing tension, he can pick up a new racquet and know exactly how it's going to feel. A racquet usually lasts Derek from six to ten games before he feels the string has gotten too soft — assuming that he hasn't broken the string before that.

"I tell everyone that when they buy a new racquet, the first thing to do is get it restrung," he says. "You need someone to set it up with the right string, gauge, and tension for the way you play. A professional stringer can do a lot to make your racquet play better for you."

As a particularly large player, Derek Robinson has stringing requirements that differ considerably from those of his good buddy Cliff Swain, over whom he towers. Photo: Courtesy Wilson Sporting Goods Co.
The new frames are out. Their cosmetics are hot, the manufacturer's power ratings are up, and the marketing chatter promises to elevate your game to a whole new level. Although tennis racquets have just recently reached the 200 gram barrier, racquetball has long been the leader in lightweight frames.

This year's unstrung frames range from just under seven and half ounces to barely over five ounces.

Wow! How did we get down to nearly five ounces? Graphite. In less than a decade, composite materials have allowed manufacturers to go from graphite to high modulus graphite to ultra-high graphite. This year's new vocabulary includes such words as Hyper Carbon and Tri-Carbon. But it's still graphite, a black lustrous carbon, which is the heart of all frames. New combinations of resins and fibers have doubled the number of graphite layers within your frame — and coincidentally allowed companies to put more angles in your frame. In short, more layers combined with more angles have created our lighter, more powerful, frames.

So do you listen to the hype on who has the lightest, the strongest, the most precise weapon out there? Do you buy sight unseen? Or do you visit your local pro shop and pick up a series of demo racquets? In other words, do you have a game plan for selecting your next weapon?

There is only one thing we can agree on: demo, demo, and demo some more. Any instructor or retailer worth their salt will encourage you to try different frames. This year, instead of asking, "Which one is the top of the line?" Or, "Which is the lightest?" Or, "Which has the most power?" Clear your head of all preconceived notions and make a choice that is advantageous to your game. For once, do not concern yourself with weight or expense.

Surround yourself with a number of demo frames and begin by picking them up one at a time. Slow down! Do not run out to the court and immediately start pounding the ball. Instead get a static feel — just find out what feels natural in your playing hand. The racquets which have a good static feel are the ones you should take to the court.

Don't be a sucker for the first frame pushed into your hand. Chances are your old frame, although it may still be aesthetically sharp, has lost some of its pop. Between hard matches and time on the rack getting re-strung, the carbon fibers of your frame have taken a beating. It's a dirty little secret that under such circumstances, a new frame of any comparable model will feel great.

Grams should not be the single most defining factor. Remember there is a trade off: a light frame will allow you to prep more quickly, but you'll have to increase swing speed to compensate for the lack of mass at impact. A heavy frame may be a bit slower to hoist, but once the swing starts it may feel like the frame propels itself. Ergo, instead of being so concerned about the number of grams and the rumored connection to arm fatigue, check your legs out first. By the time a player is demonstrating visible arm fatigue, chances are the feet are not anywhere near a good set up position. Don't blame the frame for your dysfunctional footwork.

Power ratings are set within each manufacturer's specifications. Every company has its own power rating so you cannot compare a nine at one company with an eleven at another. All things being equal, a frame with a wide beam generates more power — as does a frame with a larger head size or longer strings. If you absolutely insist that power is the single most important facet to your game, bear in mind there is a trade off here too: a stiffer frame associated with more power will also deliver more shock to your arm while a flexible, less powerful frame will deliver less of a shock.

Take a second look at the more flexible frames padded with a few more grams. Is extra mass such a bad thing? That depends on how you view it. In what may seem like a contradiction to the previous paragraph, a heavier frame by virtue of its weight, creates less shock for your arm simply because the ball pushes it around less than a lighter frame. Then again, regardless of which frame you select, hit the sweetspot consistently and you should not feel discomfort from vibration.

Competitive players who drill on a regular basis have an
advantage over players who simply play matches. (Not
that there is anything inherently wrong with just want­
ing to play!) The more familiar you are with your weak­nesses and strengths, the easier it should be to select a
new frame for the season.

Take the demo racquets which initially felt good into
the court. Start by just hitting some easy backhands
and forehands. The balance and weight will differ from
frame to frame so don't expect rollouts right away. You
may also experiment with what you know are your
weakest shots. Chances are your best shots will remain
with you no matter what frame you select, so you
should be more concerned with finding a frame which
might strengthen those weak shots.

Then serve. Because our game is often dominated by
the serve, the serve should weigh in heavily as a deter­
mining factor. Regardless of who is endorsing a product,
discard any frame that induces arm pain. One should
never underestimate the advantages of a comfortable
racquet.

How long do you need to hit with a demo frame before
making a decision? That is an individual choice.

In summary, if you demo with an open mind, you
might be surprised to discover that the lightest and
stiffest frame may not be the most responsive racquet
for you. Or it could turn out that the high end frame
you first snarled at as "just glitz and advertising" is the
perfect fit. No matter which frame you select, all have
benefited from space age technology. Be less concerned
about how a racquet performs for somebody else, and
more concerned about what it delivers to your game.

AmPRO Instructor Certification Clinic Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Host Club</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Clinician</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 12-14</td>
<td>Executive Health &amp; Fitness</td>
<td>Manchester, NH</td>
<td>Jim Winterton</td>
<td>315-426-9204</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18-19</td>
<td>Pikes Peak Downtown YMCA</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, CO</td>
<td>Gary Mazarroff</td>
<td>505-266-8960</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24-26</td>
<td>LA Fitness</td>
<td>Tempe, AZ</td>
<td>Joe Wittenbring</td>
<td>480-883-1010</td>
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<td>March 10-12</td>
<td>Ft. Myers Army Post</td>
<td>Ft. Myers, VA</td>
<td>Gary Mazarroff</td>
<td>505-266-8960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 14-15</td>
<td>Tyson's Sport &amp; Health</td>
<td>McLean, VA</td>
<td>Gary Mazarroff</td>
<td>505-266-8960</td>
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</table>

For more information about conducting an AmPRO Instructor Certification clinic, or about becoming certified, please contact Gary Mazarroff [Director of AmPRO Instructor Certification] at 505/266-8960, email GMazarrof@usra.org, or contact any of the clinicians listed in the directory below — each of whom are qualified to offer clinics in your area!

Clinician Directory

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Clinician Directory</th>
<th>State of Residence/Region Served</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine Galloway</td>
<td>New York/New England</td>
<td>718-739-4629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave George</td>
<td>California/Northern California, Nevada</td>
<td>650-589-6904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Gillhouse</td>
<td>Colorado/Rocky Mountain</td>
<td>719-471-0799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Mazarroff</td>
<td>Mexico/At Large</td>
<td>505-266-8960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Pellowski</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>414-486-0914</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Remen</td>
<td>North Carolina/Southeast, Mid-Atlantic</td>
<td>919-363-4439</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fielding Snow</td>
<td>Washington/Pacific Northwest</td>
<td>206-363-0308</td>
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<td>Darryl Warren</td>
<td>California/Southern California</td>
<td>310-530-9606</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Watson</td>
<td>Okalahoma/Central States</td>
<td>918-540-3501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Winterton</td>
<td>New York/Northeast, New England</td>
<td>315-426-9204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Wittenbring</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>480-883-1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Woodfin</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>281-280-8408</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AmPRO Instructors! Check your online directory listing for accuracy! Follow links from www.usra.org / "AmPRO" / "Instructors" to see if we have your most recent contact information, then email us corrections, if needed!
I was about to write the obligatory “new millennium column” (that everyone is compelled to do every 1,000 years) when a major breakthrough in our sport occurred to sidetrack me.

Since racquetball’s inception in the 60s, it has been clear that — aside from the fanfare and excitement of tournaments — for our sport to continue to develop and expand, a primary goal was to have a racquetball instructor/programmer in every court club.

Efforts have been made over the past thirty years to make this happen, but after multiple false starts, we really never got beyond first base with the program. Even though this should have been the highest priority of the entire industry, it never really took off and other, glitzy-er promotions took its place. There is no reason to go into why or who did what to whom, but suffice it to say that today it has become the number one priority of the industry.

Patterned after tennis’s highly-regarded USPTA instructional program, racquetball’s AmPRO is positioned to generate the certified programmers/instructors needed to accomplish this goal.

We had always thought that to make AmPRO successful that the entire industry had to take an active part, not only in supporting AmPRO financially, but using its vast player program to penetrate the clubs.

We recently held a brainstorming meeting at USRA Headquarters with Tom Odishoo of Wilson, along with USRA staffers Jim Hiser, Gary Mazaroff, Linda Mojer and myself on how to take AmPRO to the next level within the industry. The results of the meeting established...

- The main goal of AmPRO is to place a qualified AmPRO instructor/programmer in every racquetball club in the United States.
- Four thousand certified AmPRO instructors/programmer will be needed.
- Every major manufacturer should be actively involved and participate in this effort.
- The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association should help the program with a seed grant over four years.
- The industry’s Player Program of over 5,000 sponsored players must be involved.
- The initial target population is The International Health and Racquet Sports Association (IHRSA) which has 1,100 clubs with racquetball courts.

I would like to personally and publicly thank Tom Odishoo who put aside his own company’s marketing priorities to include the entire industry in this project by stating, “when we grow the market, Wilson will get its share.”

I will keep you informed of the manufacturers who come on board and the progress of this exciting grass roots program as it develops. I guess I’ll have to wait until 2999 to write the millennium column...

**DOUBLES NOTEBOOK**

There were so many people who contributed to the success of this year’s national doubles event, including: Ektelon’s Jim Flesch, Sharlene Sones, Kelly McGann, and Herb Sweren ...

Clarence Bishop of the Washington/Baltimore 2012 Coalition (U.S. Bid City for the Olympic Games), who helped by sponsoring the event hospitality ... Terry Dezzutti, CEO of the Merritt Athletic Clubs, of which the facility at Security is one of, if not the best, racquetball venues in the U.S ... Doug Ganim of Penn Racquet Sports for the company’s continued support of the USRA and its many events ... Laura Ranquist, Gatorade Regional Event Manager, for product support, and Redding Barn’s Larry Crone ... plus all those who participated in the Olympic Dream Auction, and supported the Junior Racquetball team by buying raffle tickets for the autographed Jeff Conine souvenir bat. It was also great to see top-ranked 35+ competitor Mitch Smith, who has been undergoing chemotherapy for leukemia at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Thanks to everyone who helped in so many ways!
11th IRF WORLD SENIORS
by Christie Hyde

The city of Albuquerque, New Mexico celebrated 15 years of international racquetball with the 11th IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships, August 31 - September 4, where Dave Watson and Karen Key repeated as the men's 35+ and women's 45+ champions, respectively. After losing the first game of the final, Watson came back to knock off Tony Feldstein, 5-15, 15-5, 11-3. Key topped Nan Higgins in round-robin points, 417-401, to capture her second world senior title. Greg Hasty and Glenn Allen also repeated as world senior champions in the men's 50+ and 55+ divisions.

Sharon Hastings-Welty captured her ninth-consecutive world senior title at the championships, with a gold-medal performance in the women's 55+ division, capturing 441 round-robin points, 45 more than silver-medalist Mildred Gwinn. Hastings-Welty has captured five women's 50+ and four women's 55+ titles at the World Senior Racquetball Championships.

Debra Tisinger picked up her seventh-straight world senior title by winning the women's 40+ division at this year's championships. USRA Hall of Fame-member Mary Low Acuff grabbed her 10th world senior title with her uncontested win in the women's 80+ division. Acuff has captured a title at every World Senior Racquetball Championships since the tournament's inception, except 1997 when she did not compete. Her husband and fellow-USRA Hall of Fame member, Earl Acuff, picked up his sixth world senior title at this year's championships by winning the men's 80+ division with 134 round-robin points more than George Spear, who slide into second-place past bronze-medalist Allen Shepherd by only one point.

Paul Banales grabbed his ninth world senior title when he won the men's 65+ division over silver-medalist Don Alt on round-robin points. Joe Lambert and Lola Markus snatched their sixth world senior titles with victories in the men's 70+ and women's 65+ divisions, respectively. Lambert topped Jack Bogasky on points, while Markus' only age-group competitor was Jo Kenyon.

Mike Sole, Hal Price, and Lake Westphal captured their first world senior championships. Sole defeated Japan's Ono Tsuyoshi, 7-15, 15-12, 11-6 in the men's 40+ age group, while Price knocked off 1998 world senior champion Ron Adams, 15-13, 15-14, for the men's 60+ title. Westphal took the men's 75+ title from Nick Sans, who has won the title the previous three years, on round-robin points, 452-438.

Due to the absence of 1999 Pan Am Games bronze-medalist Laura Fenton, the women's 35+ division was up for grabs, and Lorraine Galloway took it in round-robin play, defeating Cyd Evans and Mexico's Rosario Gonzales.

At the event banquet, Agatha falso was presented with the Al Wetherill award for sportsmanship.
WORLD SENIORS FINAL RESULTS

MEN'S 85+: Harry Steinman (Baltimore, Md.) unchallenged
MEN'S 35+: Dave Watson (Miami, Okla.) def. Tony Feldstein (Colorado Springs, Colo.) 5-15, 15-5, 11-3
MEN'S 40+: Mike Sole (Owasso, Okla.) def. Ono Tsyoshi (Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan) 7-15, 15-12, 11-6
MEN'S 45+: Jesus Montezuma (Copperras Cove, Texas) def. Randy Stafford (Memphis, Tenn.) 15-12, 15-5, 11-5
MEN'S 50+: Greg Hasty (Peoria, Ill.) def. Rick Rios (Bozeman, Mont.) round robin, 482-444
MEN'S 55+: Glenn Allen (Virginia Beach, Va.) def. Dennis O'Brien (Boise, Idaho) 15-4, 15-0
MEN'S 60+: Hal Price (Rohmet Park, Calif.) def. Ron Adams (Camarillo, Calif.) 15-13, 15-14
MEN'S 65+: Jesus Moctezuma (Copperas Cove, Texas) def. Dray Alt (Dublin, Ohio) round robin, 482-444
MEN'S 70+: Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) def. Jack Bogasky (McLean, Va.) round robin, 563-574
MEN'S 75+: Lake Westphal (Sun City West, Ariz.) def. Nick Sans (Irvine, Calif.) round robin, 452-438
MEN'S 80+: Earl Auff (Asheville, NC) def. George Spear (Venice, Fla.) round robin, 490-356
MEN'S 85+: Steve Heisman (Baltimore, Md.) unchallenged

WOMEN'S 70+: Reta Harring (Madison, Wis.) def. Dorothy Vezetinski (Edmonds, Wash.)
WOMEN'S 60+: Hisako Hayashi (Chuo-Ku, Tokyo, Japan) def. Jeanne Leben (Sun City, Ariz.)
WOMEN'S 55+: Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) def. Mildred Gwinn (Waxhaw, N.C.) round robin, 447-394
WOMEN'S 40+: Debra Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) def. Cheryl Shaw (Albuquerque, N.M.) round robin 6-5
WOMEN'S 60+: Hisako Hayashi (Chuo-Ku, Tokyo, Japan) def. Jeanne Leben (Sun City, Ariz.)
WOMEN'S 65+: Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.) def. Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.)
WOMEN'S 70+: Reta Harring (Madison, Wis.) def. Dorothy Vezetinski (Edmonds, Wash.)

CANADA

Saskatoon’s Karina Odegard & Kam Barteski Emerge as Canada’s Next Champions • by Susan Blumenschein

Wondering who will make up the next wave of Canadian racquetball champions? You don’t need to look any further than Saskatoon, Canada to find them. Karina Odegard and Kam Barteski became the new junior champions, crowned at the 1999 Canadian Junior National Championships, held in Brandon, Manitoba.

Saskatoon’s 16-year-old protege, Odegard, trounced Brandi Jacobson Prentice, also of Saskatoon, to capture the junior national crown for girls’ 16 and under. Odegard then went on to defeat Veronique Guillemette of Rock Forest, PQ, to bring in the Girls’ 18-and-under crown. Barteski, also of Saskatoon, was officially crowned the 1999 Canadian Junior National champion in the boys’ 18-and-under division after defeating Odegard’s older brother Kris.


For expanded results & top finishers posted online, go to www.racqmag.com, then follow links to: newsline | events.
After the men's team event, the men's from backcourt, and in the second Wannee and Hoenig, met for the cham­mons and doubles competition started, Wannee of the Netherlands and Renate first appearance at the European game, cruised past Hoenig to capture the two most experienced women , apparently, Waselenchuk had celebrated their round-robin matches . Only Yvonne the team from the Netherlands to take her first European Championship . The Dutch favorite won produce stiff competit ion . In the final , November 20-24 , 1999: Bad Toelz, Germany • After months of appeals and negotiations, Fabian Balmori and Ramona Vonondarza have been traded from the Venezuelan Racquetball Team. Earlier this year, the Venezuelan Racquetball Federation had denied Balmori's international transfer request to compete for Spain and an appeal was made to the Executive Committee of the IRF, which convened during the Pan American Games. The IRF committee also denied Balmori's immediate transfer, and imposed an 18-month suspension which will clear Balmori in time for the World Championships in Mexico in 2000. Vonondarza, who represented the Venezuelan team at the 1998 World Championships, was officially released from her duties with the Team when her transfer to Germany was approved by the IRF, effective July 15. Both players expressed gratitude for the support offered them by the Venezuelan national team in recent years, while looking forward to their new “assignments.”

**EUROPE**

**10th European Championships/7th European Masters Championships**

After a memorable official opening, with school kids and many locals in traditional clothing, the men’s team competition at the 10th European Championships commenced in a round-robin format with seven national teams competing. The German men’s team led the field undefeated, The Irish team shocked everyone by scoring more wins than the team from the Netherlands to take second place, while the French team came in fourth. The Belgium, Swiss and Italian teams finished in fifth, sixth and seventh place, respectively. The Swiss team’s return to competition marked its first appearance at the European Championships in seven years.

In women’s singles competition, Daphne Wannee of the Netherlands and Renate Hoenig of Germany comfortably won their round-robin matches. Only Yvonne Kortes, the local favorite, was able to produce stiff competition. In the final, the two most experienced women, Wannee and Hoenig, met for the championship title. The Dutch favorite won the first game with fierce shots, mainly from backcourt, and in the second game, cruised past Hoenig to capture her first European Championship.

After the men’s team event, the men’s singles and doubles competition started, as well as masters play. Fabian Balmori was granted permission to play in the men’s open competition without protest from any of his fellow competitors, then breezed through the tournament to meet Germany’s Joachim Loof in the final. Their match was a perfect demonstration of high-standard racquetball, however Balmori was never in danger of losing the match. Due to Balmori’s inability to officially compete for Spain until his 18-month suspension is complete, Loof was named the official European champion for the fourth-straight time. The match for third place between Germans Trevor Hayter and Martin Klippel was an exciting one. After being down 9-1 in the tiebreaker, Hayter battled back to win 11-10.

In the masters competition, all represented countries in all categories won awards, however the Germans’ earned the largest haul, capturing four first-place and five second-place awards.

**10th European Championships**

**7th European Masters Championships**


**Gemi Open Results**

**Zoetermeer: June 12-13, 1999**


**SOUTH AMERICA**

**Team Trades** • After months of appeals and negotiations, Fabian Balmori and Ramona Vonondarza have been traded from the Venezuelan Racquetball Team. Earlier this year, the Venezuelan Racquetball Federation had denied Balmori’s international transfer request to compete for Spain and an appeal was made to the Executive Committee of the IRF, which convened during the Pan American Games. The IRF committee also denied Balmori’s immediate transfer, and imposed an 18-month suspension which will clear Balmori in time for the World Championships in Mexico in 2000. Vonondarza, who represented the Venezuelan team at the 1998 World Championships, was officially released from her duties with the Team when her transfer to Germany was approved by the IRF, effective July 15. Both players expressed gratitude for the support offered them by the Venezuelan national team in recent years, while looking forward to their new “assignments.”
Winterton, Fisher Named Coaches of the Year

The U.S. Racquetball Association recently announced its 1999 Coaches of the Year. The national coach award went to previous-U.S. National Team Head Coach and current-U.S. Junior National Team Head Coach Jim Winterton, and Brigham Young University Head Coach Dennis Fisher, of Provo, Utah, was awarded the development coach award.

Winterton, who has had a long, successful career as coach of the U.S. National Racquetball Team, received the award for the second time (his first was in 1996). During his 10-year tenure, Winterton has become the USRA’s most successful coach, capturing every possible title in international competition, including multiple World Cups and Pan American Games sweeps in 1995 and 1999.

Since taking over as head racquetball coach at Brigham Young University, Dennis Fisher has helped his team become one of the top intercollegiate squads in the nation. Since 1995, his teams have won a total of eight team titles at the U.S. National Intercollegiate Championships. At the 1999 championships, BYU captured its fifth-consecutive women’s team title, in addition to its second-place finish in the overall-team competition. Fisher has also led his teams to three overall-team titles at the championships in previous years. The women’s team at BYU has been extremely successful under Fishers’ direction, with 23 singles, 11 doubles and five team titles going to BYU women since 1995.

Former Doubles Partners Meet Up on Military Mission

Stringer Alan Golombek, from Baltimore, Maryland, and WIRT tour player Angela Burth, stationed in Las Vegas, Nevada, were shocked to find out they would both be serving in the Balkans at the same time. Golombek is an Army Reserve officer who was mobilized and sent to the Balkans, while Burth is an Air Force communication officer, also deployed to the same theater of operations.

The two are long-time friends who have played mixed doubles together in tournaments — and although there are no racquetball courts at the Eagle Base in Bosnia and Herzegovina — they both brought their racquets and found a way to hit a ball against an aircraft hanger for practice. Angela should be stateside by press time, and can be e-mailed at CUBUFF1992@aol.com. Alan won’t be back until March 00 and can be e-mailed at alangolombek@yahoo.com

Junior Racquetball Camp Held at USOTC

The top junior racquetball players in the United States converged on Colorado Springs in mid-August for the U.S. Junior National Racquetball Team training camp, held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center and Lynmar Racquet Club, the USRA’s official training site.

Returning for her sixth-consecutive year as a member of the team was Sara Borland, who qualified by placing second in the girls’ 18- singles division at the 1999 Junior Olympic Championships held in June. Brooke Crawford made her fourth and final appearance as a junior athlete at the camp after winning the girls’ 18- title. Current National High School and Girl’s 16- champion Kristen Walsh, was a junior-team camp attendee for a third time.
Jack Huczek, Josh Tucker and Shane Vanderson all made third appearances on the U.S. Junior National Team roster. Huczek qualified for the team by capturing the 1999 Junior Olympic boys' 16-singles title, while Vanderson finished second to Tucker in the boys' 18-singles competition.

Two sets of siblings trained with this year's junior team, including the Oregon brother-and-sister twosome of Brooke and Bart Crawford and sisters Lauren and Lindsay Deutsch from Studio City, California. The training camp featured coaching by a crew of top-notch racquetball coaches and athletes, including Junior Team Head Coach Jim Winterton, pros Todd O'Neil and Robin Levine, plus '99 Pan American Games gold medalist and U.S. National Singles champion Cheryl Gudinas. New Hampshire's Kelley Beane also assisted the training camp as the team leader.

**New Staff Member at USRA**

Effective July 1, Christie Hyde joined the USRA as its media and public relations coordinator, after serving six months with the U.S. Olympic Committee's Media and Public Affairs Division where she was the primary liaison with all the USOC's national governing bodies. She was also the author of the USOC's bi-weekly media newsletter Newsbeat, in addition to writing for Olympic Beat and The Olympian magazine. While with the USOC, she created a feature series, Athlete Spotlight, designed to highlight Olympic and Pan American hopefuls often overlooked by the media.

Hyde is a 1998 graduate of the University of South Carolina Spartanburg, where she received a bachelor's of arts in communication journalism. While in school, she performed her cognitive work in sports marketing.

**Tribute to Larry Adams**

by Tom Travers

Larry Adams of Stow, Ohio, producer of the Mastery of Racquetball video instruction series, passed away of cancer this past May, leaving behind his wife, Marty and two children, Ben and Mary.

Larry, without question, loved the game of racquetball. He was an avid fan as well as player, who really wanted to help people learn more about the game. His second instructional videotape, Mastery of Racquetball Doubles, was produced as he was battling this deadly disease last year.

As a player, Larry never questioned calls, always had a smile on his face, was quick to laugh and congratulated his opponent with sincerity after the game, win or lose. Even when he found out that he had cancer, he took a positive approach to try to end the disease throughout his year-long struggle. Not once did I hear he was discouraged by hospital results or doctor's remarks. When I saw him in the hospice only weeks before he died, he said, “We're going to beat this.” His smile and his pride were as big as ever.

Unfortunately, Larry did not beat the disease, but he showed courage and never gave up throughout his fight. Larry has shown us all that he loved life and racquetball equally. He gave a lot to the game and will be truly missed.

**First Level Two Coaching Clinic Held**

The world's top racquetball coaches traveled to the Colorado Springs U.S. Olympic Training Center for the first Level II Coaches Clinic in mid-September. The clinic marked the first time an international group of coaches have met for such a seminar, which included six coaches from this summer's Pan American Games in Winnipeg.

Canada's Ron Brown was on hand, after coaching the Canadian Team to three silver medals at the Pan Ams. Other attendees included touring pro Mike Guidry, who took over the reigns for the Chilean Racquetball Team... continued on page 52...

More Doubles Winners! Virginia's Paul Newcomb won the raffle to support the U.S. Junior Team, and took home the Jeff Conine autographed bat (presented by Conine and current U.S. Junior Team member Josh Tucker). Photo: John Faust. Debra Bryant of North Carolina won the Ektelon-sponsored trip to "The Finals" in Houston next May. The grand prize included round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations and free entry to the 2000 event. Congratulations!
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*November – December 1999*
this year to lead his team to the country's first-ever Pan Am Games medal in racquetball (a bronze in women's doubles). Argentina's Oswaldo Maggi and Venezuela's Manuel Medina also took part in the three-day clinic, along with the USOC's Developmental Racquetball Coach of the Year, Dennis Fisher, and fellow-collegiate coaches Ed Arias, Pat Bernardo and G. Kyle Smith.

Presenters at the clinic were U.S. National Team Head Coach Tom Travers and U.S. Junior Team Head Coach Jim Winterton, along with speed trainer Scott Phelps, who has worked with various amateur and professional teams including the Dallas Cowboys.

NMRA National Masters Championship

by Ron Pudduck

Masters age players came from all directions to meet at the Greenbriar Athletic Club in Indianapolis for four days of high-level masters' racquetball competition and warm friendship in April. When the dust had settled and the final point had been scored, all the participants went home with something of value — a medal for some, while others took home a big smile, or a few new shots to practice.

Club manager Chad Bird and his great staff made all the players feel very welcome. The facilities at the Greenbriar were excellent, including carpeted bench seats behind the two main viewing courts which were used to watch the contests being played. They also served as a place where old and new friends could meet and share tales and stories about great matches of the past. (You know "the older we get, the better we was" theory of sports and life). Many soon found out that those same carpeted steps were also a great place to catch a quick nap or short rest between events.

Tournament director Rex Lawler delighted all participants with a beautiful embroidered fleece jacket, which most agreed was the best entry gift that they had ever received at any tournament. Rex topped that by presenting the non-participant guests with an attractive Penn watch. The tournament ran very smoothly and the banquet and auction on Friday evening sent the players to bed with full stomachs and empty wallets.

The National Masters Racquetball Association offers three USRA sanctioned Level Five tournaments each year. For a complete brochure on the NMRA, contact NMRA President, Ron Pudduck @ 7560 Forest; Dexter, MI 48130.

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www.courtesysports.com

November - December 1999
### November...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 18-20</td>
<td>Wasatch Turkey Shoot @ Weber State University</td>
<td>Ogden, UT</td>
<td>801-626-6483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 19-21</td>
<td>Alpha Turkey Gobbler @ Alpha Athletic Club</td>
<td>Mechanicsburg, PA</td>
<td>717-540-5111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Championship of the Millenium @ BQE</td>
<td>Woodside, NY</td>
<td>718-429-8489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E.F.C. Turkey Shoot @ Eimwood Fitness Center</td>
<td>Harahan, LA</td>
<td>504-468-2813</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greenbriar Classic @ Greenbriar Athletic Club</td>
<td>Indianapolis, IN</td>
<td>317-255-3321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holiday Cash Classic @ The Orlando Fitness &amp; Racquet</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
<td>407-645-3550</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turkey Shoot @ Sports Club of Asheville</td>
<td>Asheville, NC</td>
<td>704-252-0222</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turkeyfest @ Fitness Forum</td>
<td>Sanford, ME</td>
<td>207-324-1154</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maryland/DC State Doubles @ Severna Park R &amp; N Club</td>
<td>Millersville, MD</td>
<td>410-987-0980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minnesota State Doubles @ Hwy 100 Club [3]</td>
<td>Brooklyn Center, MN</td>
<td>612-920-6652</td>
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### December...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2-4</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain Masters @ Redwood Multi-Purpose Ctr.</td>
<td>West Valley City, UT</td>
<td>801-887-2949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 3-4</td>
<td>Diane Dalton Memorial Masters @ Cedardale Health &amp; Fitness</td>
<td>Haverhill, MA</td>
<td>978-373-1596</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3-5</td>
<td>Brian Scott Memorial @ 24 Hour Fitness</td>
<td>Boise, ID</td>
<td>208-377-0040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Portland Open @ Racket &amp; Fitness Center</td>
<td>Portland, ME</td>
<td>207-775-6128</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Santa Claus @ Merritt Athletic-Security</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>410-298-8700</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Superstar XII @ Central Courts</td>
<td>Columbia Heights, MN</td>
<td>612-572-0330</td>
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<tr>
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<td>E-Force Open @ Solon Athletic Club</td>
<td>Solon, OH</td>
<td>440-349-3349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>19th Annual Freeze-Out @ Auburn YMCA - Weiu</td>
<td>Auburn, NY</td>
<td>315-253-5304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>One Day Shoot-Out @ Maverick Athletic Club</td>
<td>Arlington, TX</td>
<td>817-275-3348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8-12</td>
<td>Christmas Classic @ The Alaska Club East</td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>907-337-9550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10-12</td>
<td>Big Apple Open @ Sportset-R.V.C.</td>
<td>Rockville Centre, NY</td>
<td>516-754-4564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connecticut Cup @ Downtown Health &amp; Racquet Club</td>
<td>New Haven, CT</td>
<td>203-248-1869</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Holiday Charity Open @ Nashua Athletic Club</td>
<td>Nashua, NH</td>
<td>603-889-5520</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Holiday Magic All Doubles Tour @ Westerville Athletic Club</td>
<td>Westerville, OH</td>
<td>614-882-7331</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pro Kennex Super Six Stop #3 @ Southview Athletic Club West</td>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
<td>651-450-1660</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>X-mas Classic @ The Tysons Club</td>
<td>McLean, VA</td>
<td>703-527-7785</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pennsylvania State Doubles @ Cocoa Court Club [3]</td>
<td>Hershey, PA</td>
<td>717-540-5111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11</td>
<td>Holiday Shoot-Out @ Northwest Fitness Center</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>713-895-8688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11-13</td>
<td>The Whole Enchilada @ Racquetball &amp; Fitness</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
<td>210-344-8596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 17-19</td>
<td>Christmas Crunch @ White Bear Racquet &amp; Swim</td>
<td>White Bear Lake, MN</td>
<td>651-426-1308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Bomb @ Sport &amp; Fitness Club</td>
<td>Rexburg, ID</td>
<td>208-356-7008</td>
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</tbody>
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### January...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 5-9</td>
<td>The Alaska Open @ The Alaska Club Midtown</td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>907-337-9550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 7-8</td>
<td>The WPR Grand Slam @ Highpoint at Chalfont</td>
<td>Chalfont, PA</td>
<td>703-527-7785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 7-9</td>
<td>Jim Backes Open @ Healthworks</td>
<td>Wallingford, CT</td>
<td>203-248-1869</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L/A Open @ Central Maine Athletic Center</td>
<td>Lewiston, ME</td>
<td>207-876-4820</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Off the Wall New Years @ Natomas Racquet Club</td>
<td>Sacramento, CA</td>
<td>916-649-0909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pro Kennex Super Six Stop #4 @ Southview Athletic Club West</td>
<td>West St. Paul, MN</td>
<td>651-450-1660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 7-10</td>
<td>Pittsburgh Open Tournament @ Oxford Athletic Club</td>
<td>Monroeville, PA</td>
<td>412-466-7325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 11-15</td>
<td>Alta Canyon Avalanche @ Alta Canyon Sports Center</td>
<td>Sandy, UT</td>
<td>801-942-ALTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14-16</td>
<td>Broken Ball Open @ Norwich YMCA</td>
<td>Norwich, NY</td>
<td>315-782-1500</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ektelon R Ball With The Gar @ Bally Matrix Fitness</td>
<td>N. Tonawanda, NY</td>
<td>716-839-0079</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indiana State Doubles @ Greenbriar Athletic Club [3]</td>
<td>Indianapolis, IN</td>
<td>317-255-3321</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
calendar...calendar...

St. Cloud Pro-Am @ Suburban Racquetball Club ............................................. St. Cloud, MN 320-251-3965
TBA @ Racquetpower ................................................................. Jacksonvile, FL 904-268-8886
The Cocoa Classic @ Cocoa Court Club .................................................. Hershey, PA 717-540-5111
24 Hour Fitness Open @ 24 Hour Fitness .................................................. Boise, ID 208-377-0040
January 16-18
Superbowl Open @ ISSC at West Lane ......................................................... Stockton, CA 209-472-2100
January 21-23
Big Chill @ Northwest Fitness Center ....................................................... Houston, TX 713-432-0881
Hall of Fame @ Central Courts ................................................................. Columbia Heights, MN 612-572-0330
January 26-29
Long Island Classic @ Sportset-R.V.C ....................................................... Rockville Centre, NY 516-754-4656
Super 6 @ Arizona Athletic Club .............................................................. Tempe, AZ 480-730-8156
Women’s Senior/Master Association Championships [3] ............................. Baltimore, MD 410-655-7958
January 28-30
Alaska State High School Champ @ The Alaska Club East [3] ..................... Anchorage, AK 907-337-9530
Total Fitness 2000 @ Total Fitness Center ................................................. Ogden, UT 801-399-5861
Hog Classic @ Omega 40 ........................................................................... Ormond Beach, FL 904-672-4044
Snowball Classic @ Fitness Forum ............................................................... Sanford, ME 207-324-1154
February 1
Sycamore Open @ Indiana State University ................................................. Terre Haute, IN 812-235-3701
February 2-3
The Froggy Open @ Nautilus Fitness Center .............................................. Erie, PA 814-868-0072
February 4-5
7th Annual Rochester Pro-Am @ Rochester Athletic Club ......................... Rochester, MN 507-282-6000

February ...
February 4-6
Idaho State Doubles @ Fitness Inc [3] ......................................................... Pocatello, ID 208-233-8035
Pro Kennex Super Six Stop #5 @ Southview Athletic ClubWest .................. St. Paul, MN 651-450-1660
Shapes Open @ Shapes Family Fitness Center .............................................. Watertown, NY 315-782-9348
February 5
The Icicle Open @ Allentown Racquet Club ................................................. Allentown, PA 610-821-1300
Valentine Open @ Bristol Hosp. Wellness Center ........................................ Bristol, CT 203-248-1869
February 8-12
WNY Open @ Bally Total Fitness .............................................................. Amherst, NY 716-743-1852
2nd Annual New York City ProAm @ BQE .................................................. Woodside, NY 718-429-8489
Valentine Open .......................................................... West Valley City, UT 801-887-2949
February 26-27
Valentine Doubles @ The Alaska Club Midtown ......................................... Anchorage, AK 907-337-9550

upcoming 1999 national & international events ...
Nov. 30 - Dec. 5
December 17-22
ProKennex 11th IRF World Junior Championships [5] ................................. Fountain Valley, CA 719-635-5396

2000 ...
January 20-23
USRA Leadership Conference ................................................................. U.S. Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, CO 719-635-5396
January 21-23
Women’s Senior/Master Racquetball Association Championship [5] ............. Baltimore, MD 410-655-7958
February 16-19
NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Championship [5] ........................................... Fountain Valley, CA 816-229-1300
March 3-5
April 5-9
April 13-16
Ektelon USRA Regional Championships [4] ............................................... Nationwide 719-635-5396
April 14-23
PARC Tournament of the Americas ........................................................ Cochabamba, Bolivia 719-635-5396
May 24-29
Ektelon 33rd USRA National Singles Championships [6] ............................. Houston, Texas 719-635-5396
June 24-28
July 12-15
NMRA International Masters Championship .............................................. Colorado Springs, CO 816-229-1300
August 4-12
IRF 10th World Championships ............................................................... San Luis Potosi, Mexico 719-635-5396

• 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 11/99, you must renew your membership in the month of November in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.
### Men's Rankings

| Men's Open | Men's A | Men's B | Men's C | Men's D | Men's Novice | Men's SS+ | Men's BS+ | Men's 24- | Men's 30+ | Men's 35+ | Men's 40+ | Men's 45+ | Men's 50+ | Men's 55+ | Men's 60+ | Men's 65+ | Men's 70+ | Men's 75+ | Women's Open | Women's A | Women's B | Women's C | Women's D | Women's Novice |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|

**Note:** The rankings are for November-December 1999.
Multi-Bounce

Women's 30+
1. Kim Russell, VA
2. Michelle Wilagr, VA
3. Lorraine Galloway, NY
4. Lori Lepow, FL
5. Kelley Beane, NH
6. Mindy Hartstein, NY
7. Micky Richer, CO
8. Patty Powl, FL
9. T. Cheryl Conrad, IA
10. B. E. Hergott, CT

Women's 35+
1. Lorraine Galloway, NY
2. Denise Mock, TX
3. B. J. Hergott, CT
4. Holly Remen, NC
5. Phyllis Morris, NC
6. Debbie Tisinger, CA
7. Kim Machian, MO
8. Karin Sabotta, WA
9. Laura Fenton, OR
10. Paula Soad, MI

Women's 40+
1. Debbie Tisinger, CA
2. Susan Pholier, FL
3. Val Sheffelt, UT
4. Linda Moore, NE
5. Janell Marriott, RI
6. Chris Evan, IN
7. Jean Trimbil, Fl.
8. Jill Mitchell, AK
9. Sherri Feldman, NY
10. Peggy Stephens, KY

Women's 45+
1. Karen Key, AZ
2. Brenda White, IL
3. Jere Lutther, TX
4. Raymie Roland, CA
5. Janell Marriott, RI
6. Nan Higgins, NJ
7. Lesley Kishigan, MI
8. Debbie Chaney, IN
9. Marsha Berry, KY
10. Deb Mustone, VA

Women's 50+
1. Merriean Kelley, CA
2. Sharon Huczek, MI
3. Gerri Stofffren, OH
4. Shelley Ogden, OH
5. Mary Lou Furans, NM
6. Donna Ebner, MO
7. Agatha Falso, FL
8. Pattie Schoff, LA
9. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
10. Mildred Gwinn, NC

Women's 55+
1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
2. Mildred Gwinn, NC
3. Gil Schoeder, MD
4. Gerri Stofffren, OH
5. Nidia Funes, CA
6. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
7. Joy DeSantis, CA
8. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
9. Marquita Molina, CA
10. Louise Graham, WI

Women's 60+
1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Annabelle Kowar, NE
3. LaVonne Kohliep, WI
4. Susan Embry, WA
5. Audrey Lenroot, WI
6. Jean Tull, VA
7. B. J. Calloway, GA
8. Jeannne Leben, AZ
9. Mary-Low Aucuff, NC
10. Danielle Smith, FL

Women's 65+
1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Lolo Markus, IL
3. Mary-Low Aucuff, NC
4. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
5. Ruth Zenk, FL
6. Paula McNish, FL
7. Louise Kiss, NM
8. Holly Remen, NC
9. Marsha Berry, KY
10. Beth Karmefin, GA

Women's 70+
1. Reta Harring, UT
2. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA
3. Tille Daviess, AZ
4. Mary Lou Kackert, NM

Women's 75+
1. Mary-Low Aucuff, NC
2. Christine Stephens, TX
3. Beth Keene, TX
4. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR

Women's 80+
1. Mary-Low Aucuff, NC

BOYS

Boy's 6 & Under
1. Kyle Radyn, IA
2. Joseph Lee, LA
3. Matthew Markert, LA
4. Jake Breeden, MN

Boy's 6- Multi-Bounce
1. Joseph Lee, LA
2. Calvin Godwin, FL
3. Andres Garcia, CA
4. Matthew Hunter, FL
5. Ryan Kutner, TX
6. Jake Breeden, MN
7. Marco Rojas, CA
8. Taylor Regier, OR
9. Not a Member, OR
10. Brad Falvey, WI

Boy's 8 & Under
1. Jose Rojas, CA
2. Erick Podwill, OR
3. John Tomlinson, UT
4. Not a Member, OR
5. Jordan Faith, CO
6. Jake Breeden, MN
7. Billy Wallnwright, OR
8. Joseph Lee, IA
9. Chris Rynard, IN
10. Not a Member, TX

Boy's 8- Multi-Bounce
1. Joseph Lee, LA
2. Billy Wallnwright, OR
3. Miguel Martinez, AK
4. Not a Member, CO
5. Jordan Faith, CO
6. Andrew Peterson, OR
7. Calvin Godwin, FL
8. Chris Rynard, IN
9. Isaac Mitchell, AK
10. Matthew Hunter, FL

Boy's 10-
1. Nick Arturo, AK
2. Mark Beaudry, CO
3. Connor Reynolds, GA
4. Jose Rojas, CA
5. Matt Keddie, CO
6. Brandon Callihan, OH
7. Jonathan Doyle, OH
8. Johnny Melgaard, ID
9. Brad Stanken, WI
10. William Lee, LA

Boy's 12-
1. Joey Lokowski, WI
2. Chris Coy, OK
3. Matt Johnson, MN
4. Drew Toland, AR
5. Charles Pratt, WI
6. David Lewis, CO
7. Dave Lautest, NY
8. Marc Kovalick, FL
9. Mike Keddie, NJ
10. Garrett Olson, WI

Boy's 14-
1. Steven Klaiman, TX
2. Ben Croft, IL
3. Ryan Lindell, OR
4. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
5. Dan Sheppick, OR
6. Clay Burris, FL
7. Jacob Karmeli, CA
8. Jordan Faith, CA
9. Anna Lueckwitz, CA
10. Nicholas Rowley, AZ

Boy's 16-
1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Dan Beaudry, CO
3. Joey Delfino, MA
4. Rusty Powell, LA
5. Sanjoy Lalacer, NY
6. Bart Crawford, OR
7. Matthew McElhinney, FL
8. Erik Leech, AR
9. Brandon Burgess, CO
10. Justin Meadows, FL

Boy's 18-
1. Josh Tucker, MO
2. Shane Vanderson, OH
3. Not a Member, WA
4. Stan Shaw IV, MA
5. Jeffrey Garner, AL
6. Joe Marchetti, AK
7. Jack Huczek, MI
8. Mitch Williams, NC
9. James Marchetti, AK
10. Jason Kerwood, OR

ST. Michelle Key, AZ
ST. Rebeka Kop, NY
7. Erin Pratte, NY
8. Katie Wafer, CO
9. Sharon Jackson, IN
10. Brittany Leggett, OR

Girls' 12-
1. Ashley Leggett, OR
2. Kynzie Dalton, OR
3. Kastle Arturo, AK
4. Kelley Fisher, OH
5. Elite Wilson, CT
6. Brandie Hanson, OR
7. Natalie Storke, WI
8. Kimberly Walsh, UT
9. Not a Member, OR
10. Tiffany Loman, CO

Girls' 14-
1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
2. Jenny Car, OR
3. Cari Mitltsky, NY
4. Lindsay Deutsch, CA
5. Erica Beaudry, CO
6. Jeff Fuller, NH
7. Mary Sweeney, NY
8. Crystal Winfrey, OH
9. Else Wilson, CT
10. Not a Member, SC

Girls' 16-
1. Kristin Walsh, UT
2. Krysal Cusk, IL
3. Cari Mitltsky, NY
4. Nicki Whitney, VT
5. Kristen Kvar, NE
6. Molly Law, CO
7. Not a Member, CA
8. Danielle Ohlson-Martin, VA
9. Erica Beaudry, CO
10. Ashley Leggett, OR

Girls' 18-
1. Brooke Crawford, OR
2. Michelle Gonzalez, OR
3. Kristen Walsh, UT
4. Sara Boland, IA
5. Megan Bals, NE
6. Tiffany Steffick, OR
7. Chris Young, AK
8. Not a Member, CA
9. Crystal Winfrey, OR
10. Meghan Guardiani, MA

Racquetball Rankings

November – December 1999

Boys' 12- Under
1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Dan Beaudry, CO
3. Joey Delfino, MA
4. Rusty Powell, LA
5. Sanjoy Lalacer, NY
6. Bart Crawford, OR
7. Matthew McElhinney, FL
8. Erik Leech, AR
9. Brandon Burgess, CO
10. Justin Meadows, FL

Girls' 12- Under
1. Ashley Leggett, OR
2. Kynzie Dalton, OR
3. Kastle Arturo, AK
4. Kelley Fisher, OH
5. Elite Wilson, CT
6. Brandie Hanson, OR
7. Natalie Storke, WI
8. Kimberly Walsh, UT
9. Not a Member, OR
10. Tiffany Loman, CO

Girls' 14- Under
1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
2. Jenny Car, OR
3. Cari Mitltsky, NY
4. Lindsay Deutsch, CA
5. Erica Beaudry, CO
6. Jeff Fuller, NH
7. Mary Sweeney, NY
8. Crystal Winfrey, OH
9. Else Wilson, CT
10. Not a Member, SC

Girls' 16- Under
1. Kristin Walsh, UT
2. Krysal Cusk, IL
3. Cari Mitltsky, NY
4. Nicki Whitney, VT
5. Kristen Kvar, NE
6. Molly Law, CO
7. Not a Member, CA
8. Danielle Ohlson-Martin, VA
9. Erica Beaudry, CO
10. Ashley Leggett, OR

Girls' 18- Under
1. Brooke Crawford, OR
2. Michelle Gonzalez, OR
3. Kristen Walsh, UT
4. Sara Boland, IA
5. Megan Bals, NE
6. Tiffany Steffick, OR
7. Chris Young, AK
8. Not a Member, CA
9. Crystal Winfrey, OR
10. Meghan Guardiani, MA

Event Level & Description

Finish & Point Awards

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

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

Rankings are based on results processed by the national office as of:
September 21, 1999
International Racquetball Federation
Pro Kennex XI World Junior Championships
Los Caballeros Sports Village
Fountain Valley, California
December 17-22, 1999

ENTRY FORM – Please Print . . .

Name ___________________________ Gender: M / F
Address ________________________________________________
City __________________ State ________________ Zip ____________
Phone (Day) __________________ (Evening) ________________
Email ________________________________________________
Birthdate __________________________ Age ________________
Arrival Date/Time __________________________

National Championship Division _____ Finish ___________
Competition in a third division must be in mixed doubles! Need a doubles partner? □ Check here and we’ll match you up!

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the IRF, Pro Kennex, Penn, Los Caballeros Sports Village, event sponsors or their respective agents for any and all injuries. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition, and can certify in writing that my protective eyeguards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USRA Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to be subject to drug testing as administered according to the IRF/USOC guidelines, and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Participant Signature & Date ____________________________

LIABILITY: I agree to be liable for all costs for damages for which my child is responsible and to pay for all costs arising from any disciplinary action imposed as stated in the Junior Code of Conduct, as adopted by the IRF.

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date ____________________________

Use your USRA MBNA credit card to charge your entry, and receive an additional 10% off your fees. Only USRA MBNA charges receive this discount!

MC/Visa __________________________ Exp. __________

Signature __________________________

LODGING: Holiday Inn/Orange County Airport – Rate: $79.00 +tax/night (up to four/room). Call 1-714-481-6306 and mention World Juniors to receive the special rate. AWARDS CEREMONY & BANQUET: Free for all participants, $25.00 for non-participants, on Wednesday evening (12/22) at the Marconi Museum, 6:30 pm.

TRAVEL: United Airlines @ 800-841-0460 [use acct. #542HC] for best United rate. OFFICIAL BALL: Pro Penn
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