The Power in the Game: Sudsy Monchik #1 & Cliff Swain #2.

Suds, they call him the "Tiger Woods of racquetball." In his lifetime he has achieved every major goal in the game. After dominating junior racquetball and winning every top group, he skipped amateur altogether. His first season in the pro's he finished #1. In his second, he became World Champion and never looked back. But as powerful as he is, he also knows that if you can get more from your racquet it's a little less time in the weight room. And that's why he switched to The Catapult. More power when and where you need it. Yeah, like he needs it.

Cliff. They call it the Swain Era, six years in which he completely dominated the game. It was rare that anyone took games from him much less matches. And remember those 180 MPH serves? Still ripin' em'. His play? Well, he's the only guy who's still scaring Suds from time to time. But this four-time World Champion isn't just a "take my trophy and go home" kind of player. His input and consultation have always been a great asset to Head and the game. Currently playing with a racquet he helped develop, The Pyramid 190 "G". Fast, powerful and a true winner. Sounds a lot like Cliff.

Catapult Technology: Most racquets, when hit a ball, lose energy. With Head racquets several factors work together to help harness this power. Catapult's throat area is designed with less mass action. Like a golf club, to snap back to its original state faster than other racquets. This creates a "touch like" action which accelerates the ball so it leaves your strings. Hit with a just once and you will feel the increase in power.

Pyramid "V" Design: Head created one of the most unique breakthroughs in racquet cross section design with our Pyramid shape. It creates a consistent flex that minimizes energy loss through the frame. And now we've improved it. The inner wall now conforms to reflect the same shape as the outer wall. This gives the Catapult an additional one square inches of string bed. The benefit is more surface area for hitting, more string power on each shot and more consistent response from the string bed.

For a dealer near you contact us at 1-800-HEAD USA.
Let's not beat around the bush. Power is everything. Ours isn't some gentlemanly sport where the combatants sit around and complain about how powerful the racquets have become. On the contrary, if we could give you just a touch more juice so that you could knock off the guy just ahead of you on the ladder we've probably made a friend for life. We're about to make many more lifelong friends.

Introducing the new Catapult Series featuring kick-point technology. At Head, our engineers have developed not just one, but three separate innovations that are incorporated into this new series of racquets. Often one design improvement will lead to others and that's precisely what happened with our new Catapult Series. Kick point technology, Pyramid "V" Construction and "XL" Design. Three new innovations that may soon have you wanting to make friends with one of these powerful new racquets.

**THE CATAPULT SERIES:**
- THE CATAPULT 170
- THE CATAPULT 180 & 180 L
- THE CATAPULT 200 XL
- THE PRO XL
- THE FURY XL

**GLOVES**
The hottest gloves in racquetball! And Head makes them. Well thought out designs benefiting from the finest leather and synthetic materials available. Like Pittards® Tackified leather and breathable Lycra®. We've also added unique new elements like rubberized knuckle pads to protect fingers and silicon grip patterns that improve the hold on your handle. And their looks - they're dynamic. But don't just take our word for it. See for yourself.

**SHOES**
If you like the look of our gloves, check out our shoes. The Head Anatom Sonic 500 Mid is hot. It's Anatom Fit System™ allows your shoe to perform like the human foot. Flexing to allow your shoe to remain in contact with the floor at all times. It's integrated Anatom Midsole made with lightweight Phylon adds crucial support. It's mesh upper, synthetic toe cap and abrasion resistant gum rubber sole add up to one very attractive shoe.

**BAGS**
Where would we be without them? Most of us virtually live out of one. Kind of like small mobile homes without the wheels. And what makes a great bag? Space and lots of it. Here you go. Large central chambers with plenty of pockets so that dry can be kept separate from wet and vice versa. Holders for water bottles, reinforced floorboards and comfy padded shoulder straps for easy carrying. It's in the bag.

---

"XL" Design: In nothing to design extra-long racquets our competitors have simply added length without considering the implications. Length — height. With our obsession to create the lightest frames possible, we have taken them to maximum frame strength without adding weight. The reason our XL racquets weigh the same as our conventional-length frames. In a strategic move we have also added our length to the bottom of the frame, giving more natural leverage in your shots.
the editor

Hold it right there. That's right. All you players out there who all of a sudden decided to jam up my email (and snail mail) with complaints about equipment changes in the market. And before you start up again, give some thought to the following...

Over 30,000 March/April magazines — each containing ballots to select new members to the Board of Directors and non-binding selections of which rule changes to adopt — were mailed to voting members and subscribers in early spring. Of that grand total, the number of ballots marked and returned was a whopping 284. Let's see...that's roughly .94 percent. Not even a single, full percentage point. Now, I'm no statistician (or politician, for that matter), but it seems to me that you can't truly expect to direct your decision-makers through that kind of response.

Nonetheless, you'll find a policy statement responding to the racquet length controversy reprinted on page five. Then, if you want to learn more about the rule-change process, you can contact National Rules Commissioner Otto Dietrich (he'll love that). To learn more about marketing new products, you can refer to the list of manufacturers that accompanied the sponsorship article in the last issue, and speak to any one of them about why they chose to invest huge chunks of their budgets in the research and development of a larger racquet (they'll love that). And to learn more about creating demand for new product, think twice about the last time you bought something you didn't really need. Replaced something that wasn't broken. Upgraded a perfectly serviceable item — just so you could have the latest model (well...I love that). And while you're at it, could someone find out why I can't get a computer component out of the box before it's obsolete?

So, how do these things differ for racquetball? Quite frankly, they don't. It's a market and we're the consumers. But the last time I checked, we all still operate with free will and retain the right to choose.

Now I hope this doesn't come back to haunt him, but my father is fond of remarking that a Hogan, a Monchik, a Gould, or any of a long list of favorite Florida players, could win if they used a 2x4 instead of racquet. They're that good. In other words, it just might be true that size doesn't matter after all.

So choose. If you're good...really good...you might not need a longer racquet. But, if you're a near-compulsive-consumer like me you just can't wait to see what those darn marketing wizards have come up with now...
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PHOTOS
Top: What is featured AmPRO contributor Mary Lyons hiding behind that big racquet? Big sister Katie knows...
Center: Hall of Famers ham it up following the induction ceremony in Houston. L-R standing: Chuck Leve, Marty Hogan, Mike Yellen. Seated: Dave Peck, Lynn Adams.

ON THE COVER
Staff writer/photographer Kevin Vicroy rounded up the finalists of the IRT Pro Nationals in Las Vegas for this shot. To find out what happened in the finals – and elsewhere – read his story on page 8.
In the May-June issue, an e-mail message from Mike Wolfe, in my opinion, hit on a sensitive issue that is bothering many racquetball enthusiasts, including me. I am a very happy person who tries not to be afraid of change. But the lawyer in me and my love for the sport makes me question any change that might occur to the sport that I have grown to love.

Make a commitment to the growth of the sport and challenge yourself to making creative rule changes, to slowing the sport down somewhat, to making it attractive to more people and especially television. Ektelon, Wilson and the others will get their money. But the way I see it, you are allowing them to generate additional revenues off of us by making the technology that we spend so much money to acquire and become efficient with, and making it obsolete.

The selfish side of me wants to tell you that last season I competed in nine tournaments, including our state championships and the U.S. Open. This wasn’t cheap. And needless to say I have many other priorities in my life. However, at the next U.S. Open and state championships my three-year-old racquets will be obsolete. I don’t have the $300 - $400 that it would cost to replace them before the next season. I am faced with the decision of whether or not to attend these tournaments, spend the funds it would cost to attend, and use valuable vacation time from work when my equipment is obsolete.

The racquetball enthusiast in me says ... how in the world does increasing the power in the game, making the ball harder to see and hit, help to support or further your goals for getting the sport on television? I challenge the board to take a poll and see what reaction you get. Maybe I will learn that I am becoming conservative and it is me that needs to re-evaluate my direction and feelings about racquetball. However, I bet that it is the board that is the one that needs to re-consider its direction and loyalties.

Rob Trowbridge • Jefferson City, Missouri

I didn’t start playing racquetball until the late 1980s, so I’ve really only played with midsize and oversize racquets. Unfortunately, I’m afraid the huge, high-tech racquets of today have changed the game for the worse. — When I first started playing, there were still quite a few players who used finesse and conditioning to win matches. Those factors are out the window now, as players bash away mindlessly. The game has essentially turned into a powerfest. It’s no wonder so many players have moved on to squash or badminton, where thinking is still part of the game. — Now that the USRA has caved in and extended the legal racquet length again, how many more players will we lose? And for what? So that the USRA’s corporate mentors can continue to move product? What idiotic idea will they think of next? — Obviously, I think this extension of the legal length is bad news for racquetball, I can’t see anything positive coming from it. //Pete Dunlop/Portland, Oregon/via aol.

There are lively discussions taking place in the field and on the newsgroup [alt.sport.racquetball] about this topic, and the USRA's official position addressing these questions and concerns is offered on the facing page — to provide a bit of balance.

COLOR BLIND-ED

Thought I'd drop you a line to let you know how disappointed I am with the decision to adopt the ProPenn green ball as the tournament ball for regional and national championship play. Not again! I remember the difficulty I had playing with this ball at the U.S. Open. I did not question the use of the ProPenn ball at that time. Obviously, the U.S. Open was a premiere event, focusing primarily on the pro players. The amateurs were presumably invited to play in order to provide the numbers, support and much-needed dollars. Therefore I had no argument with the use of the pro ball being used at that event. But to select the ProPenn green ball for our amateur regional and national championships as well? Now that's a horse of a different color (no pun intended).

First, I find this "decision," contradictory at best and dictatorial at worst. In an article in the January/February issue (and in the now-familiar ads for the green ball), we are told that the ProPenn green ball was developed "in conjunction with the IRT for pro tour play." It further states that the Penn ultra blue racquetball will maintain its USRA "official ball" status and remain a vital part of the competitive environment nationwide. Now come on folks,
make up your mind! Was the green ball designed for the pro tour player or not? And why, if the Penn ultra blue is in fact the official ball of the USRA, are we not playing with it at our regional and national championships this year? I know many players, and I myself, would have been a lot happier playing with the "official" blue ball. Now, once again we are being forced to play with this heavier, unfamiliar and unquestionably "faster" green ball at our U.S. national championships? Who made this decision anyhow; and did anybody think to ask the amateur players for their concurrence and/or input?

Later, the March/April "Changing Times" column informed us that the USRA approved an increase in racquet length. The new rationale was that the extension would bring "new excitement to the sport, not unlike the introduction of oversized frames to the market in 1984." Reading on, the article ironically states: "increased ball speed may yet become a factor. If so, the USRA would consider slowing down the ball for sanctioned play." Speed it up? Slow it down? What's going on? Which is it? Is anyone else as confused as I am?

If the manufacturer of the green ball and the USRA Board of Directors truly want to know how we amateurs feel about using the green ball, just ask us!

Jo Kenyon • Tallahassee, Florida

FOLLOW-UP SPEECHES

At this point, I'd like to thank the USRA Board for nominating and awarding me with the 1997 John Halverson Award — along with my co-awardee Warren Riecke of Maryland. I cannot express in words how much this means to me. I was very surprised at the banquet, and I apologize for not expressing how I felt about receiving the award at that moment in time. I'm not very good at speaking in front of many people, but I would be doing the association, my friends, my mother and my students a grave injustice if I didn't thank them properly.

I've had quite a few challenges in my life on and off the court. I'm a very sensitive person and I always keep a lot bottled up inside me because I hate confrontations. I've always been thankful for the priceless friends I've made in and outside of racquetball who've guided me through sad, happy and times when sportsmanship and integrity needed fine-tuning.

So I'd like to thank my mother for hanging in there with me, even though she doesn't really know much about the game, but is still trying to wear every tournament shirt I've ever given her. If I told her I lost, she'd say "You win next time." When I'd tell her I won, she'd light up

Another Viewpoint

We appreciate that you have taken the time to voice your concerns regarding the rule change which — effective September 1, 1997 — will increase legal racquet length from 21 to 22 inches. As you may know, there are many issues involved in instituting rule changes. However, it is important to fully understand the process before making assumptions about how and why such decisions are made.

First, please realize that "voting" on rule changes is an opportunity by the membership to share their views with the Board of Directors. In turn, the Board makes its final decisions based on the recommendation of the Rules Committee — which uses the poll results as a guide. But constitutionally, the Board of Directors is charged with the sole responsibility for instituting rule changes. The Board has not been neglectful in that duty and if you review the changes over the past 10 years, you will note that most have been more procedural than rule-specific.

However, in regard to the change in racquet length, the Board faced a dilemma. Last fall, the majority of racquet manufacturers informed the USRA that they were introducing longer racquets in the Fall of 97, regardless of the current 21" rule. You may question those marketing decisions, but the fact remains that those particular choices are not the USRA's to make.

With this industry development, the USRA was placed in a no-win situation. The frames were going to be marketed, with or without USRA approval. Compounding the situation was the USRA's constitutional restriction regarding rules enforcement. Due to the "state's rights" issue (another discussion in itself), the USRA would have found itself in a position to enforce the 21" rule only at regional and national events. Imagine the potential reaction of regional or national entrants when told that the oversized frames they invested hundreds of dollars in, and played all season with, could not be used in making their bids for championship titles.

And here are some other facts that were considered in the deliberations. Some of the longer racquet frames had already been "field tested" on the pro tour for a year, where the IRT enforces no length rule at all. All state presidents were polled on the rule change and not one objection was noted. The rules committee voted 10 to 1 in favor of the change. Then, in an attempt to keep the playing field as level as possible, the USRA was able to negotiate with all of the manufacturers to limit the increase to no more than one inch, rather than adopt the pro's unrestricted "no length" rule.

It remains to be seen what the real outcome of all this will be. However, the USRA Board, with very little resources and manpower, elected to strike a compromise with the manufacturers — and not expend time and energy in opposition and continued enforcement of the 21" rule — IF playing consumers were indeed going to choose the larger frames to compete in qualified sanctioned events. It was decided that the USRA's time would be better spent in continuing to focus on the development and promotion of the sport as a whole.

And those very development and promotion efforts are beginning to show results. According to recently released figures from the Sporting Goods Manufacturer's Association [SGMA], racquetball participation jumped one-half million in 1996, increasing from 6.3 million players to 6.8 million. A separate study by the National Sporting Goods Association [NSGA] also confirmed an 11% increase in their participation numbers. This could be the beginning of the type of growth we've been waiting over a decade for... and we think the USRA, its' membership and the playing population worldwide is ready.

Luke St. Onge
USRA Executive Director
the room with a smile. And my sister Vernay, who passed away leaving me with the words “hang in there, do anything your heart desires.” I’d like to thank everyone I’ve taught, and all the club owners for letting me. There are many, many others but finally, I’d like to thank John Halverson. I’m sorry I never met you but I’ll do my best to live up to your honor. And I’m still figuring out if I’m dreaming or not...

Lorraine Galloway • Jamaica Estates, New York

A Time to Every Purpose ...

by Lynn Adams

To everything there is a season... And a time to every purpose under heaven... These words popped into my head as I sat at the annual banquet in Houston, where the USRA recognizes its outstanding athletes and contributors, and inducts individuals into the Hall of Fame. This year, I was honored to be in attendance as one of the first professional inductees to the Hall of Fame.

I realize that not all of you were at the banquet, so let me give you a little background. There was a sense of excitement and pride on the part of those who had worked so hard to put this banquet together. The night was historic in the sense that this was to be a formal, public merging of the amateur and pro games. The USRA (as the former AARA) had previously limited its Hall of Fame to only amateur player and contributor inductees.

In the spirit of growing the sport we all love so much, the USRA chose to embrace and promote the professional side of the sport by hosting the U.S. Open Championships last year in Memphis. I don’t know all of the reasons, but it was also decided that the Hall of Fame should be opened up to pros as well — and our sport is now even more unified.

Heather McKay, Marty Hogan, Mike Yellen, Dave Peck, Chuck Leve and myself were all chosen to be inducted together, and there we all sat (with the exception of Heather, who lives in Australia) with our proud families and friends, enjoying the glow that comes with the recognition of one’s accomplishments.

The next part of this commentary is somewhat hard to write, because I’m not particularly fond of controversy, but here goes. The evening had been fun and joyous. I was the first to speak, and I hope I imparted my feelings of love and gratitude at being a part of such a wonderful sport. I accepted on behalf of Heather as well, who — to this day — is the best female athlete I have every met, and one of the classiest people you could have the privilege of knowing. Dave Peck was boisterous, loud and happy in acknowledging his family, competitors, sponsors and friends who supported him through the years.

Unfortunately, this is where the fun stopped for me. Chuck Leve, who was instrumental in the initial organization of racquetball and the pro game, stood up and delivered a scathing report on the woes, problems and misguided avenues that racquetball has pursued. He criticized the Hall of Fame, the magazine, and pretty much told us all to go sit in the come for letting the sport of racquetball go down the tube. Afterward, he offered solutions to the problems, but by then we were all too busy picking ourselves up off the floor to hear them. It felt as if someone had knocked all the wind out of me.

Don’t get me wrong. I know we have problems in our sport. I know we have a lot of work to do to keep it current and thriving. Much of what Mr. Leve had to say was valid, but — as I started out with — there is a time and place for everything. It just didn’t seem appropriate to choose this particular moment to criticize and point out flaws.

It saddened me to talk to many of the people who work so hard and feel how deflated and depressed they felt afterward. What should have been a fun and celebratory evening had turned sour and empty. Perhaps Mr. Leve thinks this will ultimately turn out to be positive; that in order to grow, you must see ugly truths. This may be so, but I can’t help but think... “to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven…”

I would like to personally thank everyone involved in honoring us “old pros” at the USRA awards banquet. The slide show, played to “the way we were” was wonderfully moving. The special touches, from the blue ribbons to the laser entrances, were appreciated — and my daughter especially liked her special cow cookie!

In separate correspondence, Mr. Leve himself noted “While I know my speech might have been a bit like fingernails on a chalkboard, please know that I will be doing everything I can through my work and contacts at IHRSA to help achieve some of the improvements I believe the sport needs.”

July – August 1997
HOW DO YOU MAKE A PENN BALL BETTER?

To make a Penn ball any more durable, we'd have to change the game as you know it. That's why those who know choose only Penn.

AMERICA'S #1 SELLING BALL.
There are all kinds of luck in this world, especially in the "City of Lights." But it might have been a bit of bad luck that helped Andy Roberts edge the 1997 Foxwoods IRT Pro Nationals title from Sudsy Monchik at the Las Vegas Sporting House in late April.

Monchik, who lost to Cliff Swain in last year's finale, was challenged right off the mark by Joe Paraiso in the Round of 32. Paraiso forced the tour's No. 1 player into a deciding fifth game in their early round, in which Monchik won 11-7 to advance. From there, Suds rolled past James Mulcock (7-11), 11-2, 11-6, 11-5; Drew Kachtik 11-4, 11-3, 11-7; and John Ellis in the semifinals (12-14), 11-3, 11-4, 11-4.

The anticipated "all-Staten Island" semi-final match up between Monchik and long-time junior doubles partner Jason Mannino was foiled by #13 Tony Jelso, who upset #4 seeded Mannino (6-11), 11-9, 11-4, 11-7 in the round of sixteen. In the next round, after a pre-match game of H-O-R-S-E on the Sporting House basketball court in which most of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas basketball team plays, Jelso and Ellis put on a tremendous show for the capacity crowd in their quarterfinal.

Jelso, who lost the first game 11-2, stole games two and three by scores of 11-5, 11-9 before Ellis regrouped to finished out the match, winning the final two games 13-11 and 11-5. Later, Ellis started out strong against Monchik in their semi, taking a 14-12 first game win, but failed to hold onto his edge as he was shut out by Monchik in the remaining three, 11-3, 11-4, 11-4.
The bottom half of the bracket played out as seeded, where Cliff Swain, the 1995 and '96 Pro Nationals winner, cruised through his first three matches without dropping a game. The Boston native met pro tour veteran Mike Ray in the quarters and sent the #7 seed away with an 11-1, (7-11), (8-11), 11-5, 11-5 loss.

In the semis, Swain met up with the winner of the tour's "player who most resembles a linebacker" award — Andy Roberts. In actuality, Roberts was recruited by several Division I football schools to play tight end out of high school.

On the smaller field, Roberts had little trouble with his first four opponents — Oscar Macias, Jason Thoerner, Michael Bronfeld and Mike Guidry — to earn his berth in the semis of the pro nationals for the third consecutive year. There, the Swain-Roberts bout was perfection to behold, and ticket holders poured into their seats well before warm-ups and rarely moved after the first serve was driven.

Swain took games one and four by identical scores of 11-7, while the 6-foot-3, 215 lb. Roberts captured the middle games 11-7, 11-9, respectively.

Neither player would allow the other any breathing room in the fifth game, but Roberts eventually came out on top with an 11-9 win. "Cliff and I have had great matches for the past 10 years. There's no reason to expect anything but."

"He's a great player," Swain said of Roberts. "We always have great matches. It's best for the crowd that way."

Later, leaning on his car in the parking lot, a disappointed Swain explained why his tournament had come to an abrupt end. "I was missing too many easy shots, plain and simple. I missed too many free points."

Now the stage, or more aptly - the ring - was set for Roberts vs. Monchik (right).
Then, with the advantage at 10-9, Sudsy was set up with a perfect backhand plum for the match.

And blew it. Side out.

“He had a match point and skipped an easy ball,” Roberts said. “I knew, at that point, the match was mine.”

Indeed it was, as Roberts finished off the IRT’s top-ranked player 12-10, earning himself the 1997 Pro National title and a $15,000 first prize.

the women

Despite her own rash of recent injuries, Michelle Gould captured her seventh women’s pro title by defeating fellow U.S. Team member Jackie Para 11-1, 11-3, 11-6 at the Foxwoods WIRT Pro Nationals in Las Vegas.

After an undefeated WIRT season, the Boise, Idaho native showed some signs of wear early on by uncharacteristically losing the first game of early matches against Kerri Stoffregen in the round of 16, and then again to Lydia Hammock in the quarters. But in both instances, Gould rebounded to win; Stoffregen fell 11-7, 11-2, 11-5, while Hammock was blown out 11-0, 11-2, 11-4.

The other side featured #2 seeded Cheryl Gudinas and #3 Jackie Para. Gudinas advanced past Debbie Fiordino, Tammy Brockbank and Randi Friedman in straight games to reach the semifinals. Historically a runner-up to the top-ranked Gould at almost every pro stop, Gudinas defeated her first three opponents by an average game score of 11-3.

Coming into the tournament, Para had not finished beyond the semi in any of this season’s WIRT events. The El Cajon, Calif., native reached her final four spot by downing Lorraine Feeney, 11-6, 11-5, 11-4, in the round of 32, then ‘95 Pro Nationals champion Marci Drexler, 11-1, 11-5, 11-7, and unseeded Kersten Hallander, 11-13, 11-3, 11-3, 11-5.

Unlike the men, the women were scheduled to play their semifinals on Saturday morning and their final that evening, making for an exhausting day for Gould and Para. The fact that each semifinal match went to the maximum five games only compounded matters.

For the third consecutive round, Gould lost her first game. This time to #4 seeded Laura Fenton, 11-5.

During that first game, the defending tour champion pinched a nerve in her fore-arm when her racquet inadvertently took on a bit too much of the back wall.

“I couldn’t feel anything from my bicep to my hand,” Gould said following the match. “I was trying to swing with no feeling in my arm and that’s difficult. I can usually hit the ball off of one foot and rely on my arm for power, but I felt like I had no sense of control.”

From being on top of the tour for so long Gould has learned to play through difficult circumstances — and did.

Fenton fell in game two, 11-7, then clawed her way back to take the third, 11-9. But soon after starting the fourth game, Gould asked for, and was awarded, an injury timeout. A tactical move or not? Either way, it was apparent that Fenton was disturbed when a regulation timeout was not called.

“I let her get into my head,” the Lincoln, Neb., native said, “then I got really upset with myself and didn’t play well.”
Gould recovered to take games four and five, 11-3, 11-4, respectively, to advance into the finals.

"It's very heartbreaking," Fenton said of her narrow loss. "I feel I can beat her, but it's my own fault. I know she felt the pressure and I really had a rhythm going. Then I got tired and lost my focus. It's really frustrating."

The other semifinal featured a Paraiso-Gudinas contest.

The two had met on three occasions this season, each time in the semifinals and each was won by Gudinas in five games. So, after splitting games one and two, Gudinas pulled out the third, 11-7, and it came as no surprise that the Californian took game four to force a fifth and deciding game. It was how she did it that caught the capacity crowd off guard.

"She was serving really great in that fourth game," Gudinas said of her opponent. "I got beat 11-0. Her serves were literally "cracking out."

Paraiso agreed, saying, "I think I aced her on nine out the 11 points in game four. I was really focused."

Still hot, Paraiso stormed out to a 7-1 lead in the final game, only to see the tour's #2 ranked player launch a comeback to move into an 8-7 lead.

During her timeout, brother Joe Paraiso offered some advice. "He came back here and mentally slapped me around a little bit. That helped get my adrenaline flowin', it made me more focused."

Whatever he said worked like a charm, as Jackie returned to the court to win the last three points and the tiebreaker, 11-8.

As the finals have gone all season (with all but the first event in Annapolis, Md.) Gould claimed her title in a rather anti-climactic fashion — in straight games of 11-1, 11-8, 11-6.

"I've been playing her pretty well this season, except for the last few times," Paraiso said following the finals. "I just didn't focus well today. When I focus, I play very well against her."

When asked about the difficulty of playing, and winning, with the distraction of pain, Gould responded by saying, "Sometimes you need to block everything out and focus the best you can. You're not always going to play your best and things aren't always going to turn out the way you want them to. But you have to learn to deal with every situation that comes along."

Even in defeat, a gracious Paraiso agreed.

"My arm has tendonitis, and I've got rotator cuff problems, but everybody does [have injuries], and we all play our best out there. That's what makes a champion."
Pressure can be a delicate variable when it comes to athletics. Sometimes it helps an athlete focus more on the task at hand but, more often, it just weighs too heavily on one's shoulders.

Former pro tour veteran Dan Obremski opted for the "no-pressure" approach to win his first national singles title over former back-to-back champion Michael Bronfeld at the Ektelon 30th U.S. National Singles Championships in Houston. At the close of the six-day event, presented by Penn Racquet Sports and hosted by the Downtown YMCA, Obremski and Michelle Gould were crowned the 1997 open champions on Memorial Day.

For Obremski there had been only one other occasion that he found himself in a national singles final — in 1985, where he lost to four-time champion Ed Andrews 11-15, 15-7, 11-6. Then, the Pennsylvania native had been only 21.

Twelve years later, he returned... This time with racquetball as a passion, not a career... No pressure.

Obremski began his title run by defeating Scott Grunin, 15-9, 15-14, dropping a game to Bill Parodi before winning 8-15, 15-6, 11-2, then taking on Chris Wright in the round of 16 with a straight-game advance of 15-7, 15-7.

In the quarterfinals, Obremski went up against a motivated Kelly Gelhaus, who brought his own brand of pressure. Fighting to remain on the national team, Gelhaus needed to reach the semifinals to qualify for another one-year appointment. But after a strong opening bid and game one win of 15-11 by Gelhaus, it still wasn't in the cards. Obremski took the second 15-9, and the tiebreaker 11-5 to advance into the semis.

From the #7 spot, Adam Karp also needed to reach the semis for reappointment and had cruised by his first four opponents without losing a game. He defeated Orlando Cabana Jr, 15-2, 15-8, then Rob DeJesus 15-10, 15-9, James Lorello 15-7, 15-5, and fellow IRT journeyman Derek Robinson in the quarters 15-12, 15-9.

Karp, the highest ranking amateur on the professional tour at #11, appeared to be more than enough of a challenge for Obremski in their semi-final.

Leaping out to a quick 5-0 lead, Obremski stretched it to 13-4 before Karp even knew what happened.

The young Californian made a token comeback, but fell short, 15-10. Still in a racquetball "zone," Obremski continued his stellar play to win game two 15-7 and move into the finals for the first time in many moons.

"This is the second time [in the finals]," Obremski said with his award-winning smile. "The first time, I was young. I played against Ed Andrews. He was at the top of the pro game. It was very intimidating. I went into the finals with a lot of great matches and he just overwhelmed me. Kind of like Adam (Karp) was there today. He looked...
overwhelmed and I don’t know why. He’s on the pro tour and I don’t play. But when I looked back at his eyes, I could see that he didn’t have that killer instinct.”

Seemingly caught off balance, Karp had nothing to counter Obremski’s energy and precise shooting.

“He needed a weapon today, like a hard serve or a better lob,” Obremski said of Karp. “I think he was pushing too much from the backcourt, he gave me a lot of points.”

Obremski continued, “It’s good to be in this position [in the finals]. Before, I was trying to make a career out of racquetball, now I don’t really care. In fact, I didn’t even expect to go past the first or second rounds. I didn’t practice for this. I just came as the fitness consultant for Ektelon. Fortunately, I’m still in it.”

The top half of the draw featured two players with a total of three National Singles crowns between them — top-seeded defending champion Ruben Gonzalez and ‘94 and ‘95 title-holder, #4 seeded Michael Bronfeld.

After dispensing of Nick Xynidis 15-10, 15-3, Brian Fredenberg 15-12, 15-13 and James Mulcock 15-2, Gonzalez had re-qualified for Ektelon. Fortunately, I’m still in it.”

His veteran savvy was never more apparent than in his match against former junior team member and #9 seeded Mulcock. Down 13-7 in the first game, the Staten Island, N.Y., native outscored his much younger opponent 23-2 to finish out the match.

Coming up through the draw, Bronfeld rushed past Craig Rappaport 15-1, 15-13; current national Intercollegiate champion Brian Simpson 15-2, 15-10; and upstart Jason Thoemer 15-11, (13-15), 11-9.

The Thoemer-Bronfeld match was quite possibly the most exciting of the week.

After winning game one, Bronfeld was up 10-2 when young Thoemer came on.

Playing as if someone forgot to tell the unseeded Augusta, S.C., resident that he wasn’t supposed to win, Thoemer matched the former champion dive for dive and forced a third game with a 15-13 game two victory.

Bronfeld’s experience paid off, as the pride of Monterey, Calif., advanced into the semi-final following a narrow, drawn-out 11-9 third game win.

“It was a struggle,” Bronfeld said. “Jason is a real scrappy player. He was getting to a lot of balls. I had a big lead in the second game and let that get away. But it was a good win for me.”

Afterwards, the Bronfeld-Gonzalez semifinal was almost a let-down for the crowd, as the defending champion was eliminated quickly, 15-9, 15-6.

“I played great today,” Bronfeld said following his victory. “The first five points were a little shaky. I changed a couple of gloves, got one that felt.
good and then my serves started going in. That was the key. That got me moving and into the flow. The second game, I stayed cool, didn’t make a lot of mistakes and put the pressure on him.”

Finally, the stage was set for Bronfeld’s third national singles title bid. After taking the first game 15-10, Bronfeld was just six points away from the crown in the second, holding a 9-8 lead.


“I had to,” Obremski said of his vocals. “I wasn’t playing well, so I had to utilize intensity to come through it. That’s the only thing that kept me in there. I had to get vocal with myself. That’s the way I used to play on the tour. It took a little bit of the old Dan, but it worked.”

Game two fell Obremski’s way, with a close 15-13 win.

Bronfeld came back to score the first point of the tiebreaker, then never saw a lead again.

Obremski’s 11-4 victory in the final frame earned him the most coveted title in nearly every sport, that of national champion.

“He played well and moved well,” a dejected Bronfeld said. “He just played better than me today and deserved to win.”

Immediately following the title bout, Obremski was finally under pressure. He was hurrying to catch an afternoon flight home, which he had booked expecting an early departure from the tournament.

“At the time [his pro tour days], the Tournament of Champions was my biggest win, because that was my career.” a jubilant Obremski said while packing his gear, “I’ve never won this tournament, didn’t expect to win and didn’t really prepare. Mentally I did, because I put no pressure on myself.”

“When I was playing the pro tour, I had so much pressure. I had to support my family by playing. You’re thinking about every point, your kids are at home and you need to make money to keep your ranking up. Here, there was no pressure.”

“Everybody said that I look so much better now because I’m having fun,” the new champion said. “I’m playing like I did when I first started. On the pro tour, I was miserable. When that kind of pressure’s on you, it tough to play loose. Right now, it’s a blast.”

Not a younger anymore, Obremski put into perspective what this tournament meant to him.

“I’m lucky to have the opportunity to do this at 33-years old. I beat four guys who are on the pro tour, for me, that’s more of a victory than the actual title itself.”

And on the Low Pressure Front ...

Believe it or not, top-seeded defending champion Michelle Gould won a record-setting eighth women’s open title without dropping a game. Was anyone surprised? Not even her opponents.

The Boise, Idaho native reclaimed her crown with a 15-1, 15-9 final victory over a familiar opponent, her doubles partner and #2 seeded Cheryl Gudinas. It was Gould’s
third consecutive national singles championship, after losing only one final in the past nine years.

Playing at what she claimed to be “about 70%,” Gould destroyed the early competition, giving up no more than five points in any one game.


Due to heavy rain, the courts were extremely humid and had become rather treacherous at times.

“It was the first time that I ever played racquetball and roller skated at the same time,” Gould said of her quarters match.

Meeting Gould in the semifinals was Nebraska Laura Fenton, who earned a re-appointment to the U.S. National team with her “final four” finish.

Fenton fought through a tiebreaker against Dallas’ Phyllis Morris to advance into the round of sixteen, winning 15-6, 14-15, 11-1. The Women’s International Racquetball Tour’s (WIRT) #4 ranked player then pounded Lydia Hammock 15-1, 15-7 and downed Malia Bailey in three games of 11-15, 15-7, 11-0 to earn the right to challenge the mighty Gould for her finals spot.

Meanwhile, Gudinas and Jackie Paraiso moved through their half of the draw to meet in the other semifinal match.

Gudinas, ranked #2 on the women’s pro tour, struggled by former pro great Janell Marriott, 15-6, 15-6, in the round of sixteen and then breezed past Elaine Mardas, 15-8, 15-1. Following a first round injury default by Gladys Leonard, #4 seeded Paraiso blasted an outmatched Jen Yokota, 15-2, 15-4.

At high noon on Sunday, Paraiso and Gudinas drew their respective racquets and prepared for their semifinal battle.

Jumping out to a 5-1 lead, Gudinas couldn’t hold off the former pro champion and lost her lead midway through game one. However, down 7-5, Gudinas came back to take the first game 15-9.

Game two, unfortunately for Paraiso, fell into the same mold, ending with a 15-9 loss.

“Both games, I was down,” Gudinas said following the match. “Both times, I took a timeout and I felt that made a big difference. I was taught if you lose three rallies in a row, you should take a timeout. I try to go by that.”

Regarding Jackie’s play, Gudinas stated, “She’s probably playing the best of anyone here, recently. I don’t feel she played as well as she could have today.”

Just one month earlier, Fenton had given Gould all she wanted at the Pro Nationals. But, in the other semifinal, what a difference a month can make. Gould crushed Fenton in straight games, giving up only four points ... total, to take her 15-1, 15-3 win.

“I felt pretty good,” Gould said. “I keep trying to tell myself that I’m not playing that well, but everybody is telling me that I am. I’ll compromise.”

When asked about her nagging injuries, the top seed replied positively, “You know that you can’t
rely on some of the things that you normally do. So you have to put it together from the get go."

As they have for practically every tournament this season, the world's top two women took to center court for the open final.

Gould opened by dominating the first game with a string of ace serves and proceeded to win handily, 15-1.

“There was nothing I could do.” Gudinas said of her near “skunking” in game one.

Of her picture-perfect serves, Gould recalled “They felt really good. I've been serving well all week, so I felt pretty confident that they would work for me again today.”

But the second game opened with a bit of an unexpected twist.

Gudinas' own serves started to work, leading to a quick 7-2 lead for the challenger. But, as expected, Gould bounced back.

“She adjusted to my serves and I'm just not confident in my drive,” Gudinas said. “I've got to work on that still. I thought, “If I can stay with this, maybe I can grab this game and see what happens. But she adjusted too quickly.”

Down 7-2, Gould hadn't given up more than five points all week long. But her recovery was quick and complete, as she rallied to take the second game, and her title, 15-9.

“I think I went to the Bahamas for a little bit,” Gould explained of her game two drought. “I stopped stepping into balls, stopped rotating and Cheryl served some effective serves that kept me off balance and off guard. Her strategy worked well."

Having been outscored 13-2 to end the match in which she only called one timeout, Gudinas was asked what happened to her “three lost rallies and call a timeout” theory.

““You only have so many timeouts,” she said laughingly.

**EKTELEON 30TH USRA NATIONAL SINGLES — FINAL RESULTS**

**Men's Divisions —** Open: #6 Dan Obremski (Pittsburgh, Pa.) def. #4 Michael Bronfeld (Monterey, Calif.) 10-15, 15-13, 11-4; All-Skill: Ralph Cuesta (Hialeah, Fla.) def. Steve Tillatson (El Cajon, Calif.) 15-12, 15-3; All-Age: #1 Rob Dejesus (Clovis, N.M.) def. #2 Willie Tilton (Colo. Springs, Colo.) 15-11, 15-3; 25+: #6 Rich Baer (Lake Ronkonkomo, N.Y.) def. #4 Mike Locker (St. Paul, Minn.) 15-7, 15-5; 30+: #3 Gregg Feck (Coppell, Texas) def. #8 Brad McCunniff (Cedar Falls, Iowa) 15-9, 15-6; 35+: #4 Tim Hansen (Boynton Beach, Fla.) def. #2 David Watson (Miami, Okla.) 15-7, 15-8; 40+: #4 Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.) def. #3 Mitt Layton (Jacksonville, Fla.) 15-10, 15-4; 45+: #1 Mitt Layton (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. #6 Jim Luzar (Brookfield, Wis.) 15-9, 15-12; 50+: #1 Ed Remen (Apex, N.C.) def. #10 Scott Rudoni (Monterey, Calif.) 15-8, 15-7; 55+: #1 Bobby Sanders (Cleveland, Ohio) def. #3 Roger Wehrle (Flowerly Branch, Ga.) 15-9, 15-8; 60+: #9 Jerry Stolmann (Mequon, Wis.) def. #6 Ron Maggard (Lake Tapawingo, Mo.) 15-11, 15-4; 65+: #3 Otis Chapman (Cleveland, Ohio) def. #1 Victor Sacco (Norwood, N.Y.) 2-15, 15-4, 11-9; 70+: #11 Finton Kilbride (Toronto, Ontario) def. #1 Victor Sacco (Norwood, N.Y.) 15-6, 15-5; 75+: #1 Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) def. #2 Robert McAdam (Crowley, Texas) 15-13, 15-2; 80+: #1 George Spear

**Women's Divisions —** Open: #1 Michelle Gould (Boise, Idaho) def. #2 Cheryl Gudinas (Lisle, Ill.) 15-1, 15-9; All-Skill: #10 Yselenia Delbusto (Miami, Fla.) def. Therma Ruhlen (Richmond, Va.) 12-15, 15-11, 11-10; All-Age: #1 Kerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. #3 Shannon Feaster (Wash., D.C.) 15-9, 15-6; 25+: #1 Elaine Mardas (Columbus, Ohio) def. #2 Jen Yokota (Hazelwood, Mo.) 11-15, 15-11, 11-6; 30+: #1 Lorraine Galloway (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.) def. #2 Debra Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) 15-13, 15-13; 35+: #2 Debra Tisinger def. #1 Mary Bickley (Pittsburgh, Pa.) 15-6, 13-15, 11-1; 40+: #2 Mary Bickley (Pittsburgh, Pa.) def. #1 Janell Marriott (West Warwick, R.I.) 15-14, 6-15, 11-4; 45+: #4 Janet Myers (Charlotte, N.C.) def. #2 Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) 15-11, 15-9; 50+: #1 Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. #3 Agatha Falso (Boca Raton, Fla.) 15-14, 15-7; 55+: #2 Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) def. #1 Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.) 15-8, 15-2; 60+: #1 Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.) def. #2 Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) unchallenged; 70: Mary Low Acuff unchallenged.
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Sudy Monchik
#1 ranked professional racquetball player in the world.

Cliff Swain
#2 ranked professional racquetball player in the world.
Christie Van Hees dominated the women's field at the 1997 Canadian Nationals. Van Hees played serve-and-shoot racquetball in winning the women's title over fellow British Columbia native Debbie Ward by scores of 11-2, 11-4 and 11-2.

"It was one of the best matches of my life," said the elated 19-year-old champion. En route to the final Van Hees beat Amanda MacDonald and Lori-Jane Powell, each in three games.

Ward, who is better-known for her doubles game, disposed of defending champion Josee Grand'Maitre in the first round and Lucie Guillemette in the semis. Ward delivered clutch play at the end of both of these five-game wars.

Meanwhile, Mike Ceresia of Ontario stunned the partisan Winnipeg throng with a straight game victory over home town defending champion and 1994 World Singles champion Sherman Greenfeld. In a rematch of last year's final Ceresia dominated this match 11-7, 11-10 and 11-2.

Ceresia said the second game was critical. "It was the key game, Sherman's in fantastic shape and if he gets the momentum he's hard to stop." Greenfeld lost leads of 7-2 and 10-7 at that point in the match.

Ceresia advanced to the final by beating Brian Istace in four games and Simon Roy in a two-hour battle 6-11, 11-4, 6-11, 11-3 and 11-2. Greenfeld did not drop a game on his trek to the final as he defeated Andrew Kane and Jacques Demers in three straight games apiece.

In doubles, Simon Roy and Mike Ceresia captured their third straight title, with a '96 rematch victory over Tom O'Brien and Mike Green in three games. For the women, Vicki Shanks and Debbie Ward edged Lucie Guillemette and Josee Grand'Maitre in five games to capture the women's crown.

Supreme Racquet Courts was the host club this year — and made the Winnipeg Nationals a huge success. The event kicked off with a racquetball manufacturers trade show and closed with a first class banquet at the Delta Winnipeg.

A special thank you to club manager Ron Brown, Brent Jervis of the Manitoba Racquetball Association, Al Lasko who designed a first-class program under extremely trying times, and the throng of volunteers who came together to make this year's event a winner.
PEIHLER MOTORS PRO-AM
Penfield Racquet Club
Rochester, NY
East Coast here we come again!!! The tour traveled back to Mannino's old stomping ground.

Round of 16 Highlights
Fresh from an afternoon off, all of the top seeds advanced with relative ease. Mike Ray went to four games with Tony Jelso, but won 11-8 in the fourth. John Ellis dropped the first game to Dan Fowler, but took the next three in a hurry, and Kachtik beat Karp in four after dropping the first game. Continuing the trend, Jason Mannino lost the first game of his match against Kelly Gelhaus, then came on to win in four. Roberts put the skids on George Delaney with a straight game win.

Quarterfinal
After making quick work of Mike Green in the preceding round, Sudsy Monchik faced lefty Mike Guidry in the quarterfinal, where both players were put on a clinic in court coverage. Suds won the first and then lost an "extra innings" game 16-14. All that did was fire up Monchik as he went on to win the next two games easily.

Next up was Jason Mannino vs. Mike Ray. Ray has had trouble lately with guys who can get to every shot he hits, and even though he won the first, Jason took the match in four. On the bottom half, John Ellis played a very sharp match in his straight game upset of #2 seeded Cliff Swain, while Andy Roberts struggled in the first but came on to beat Drew Kachtik in four games.

Upset Semifinals
The semi's had the David and Goliath match up of Roberts and Ellis. Well, as the story goes, David wins ... I mean John wins. In fact, Andy looked shell shocked as Ellis cruised to a three game victory. Then, it happened. I don't know how long the streak ran, but Mannino broke it. Jason beat the number one player in the world in four games of 12-10, 3-11, 11-9, 11-9. Mannino looked tough as he got every ball and hit some clutch shots against long-time junior doubles partner Monchik to earn his second trip to a final this season. Now he had one more match to win.

ELLIS VS. MANNINO
This was no match, this was a war!! The match lasted two hours plus, and the players traded games into the fifth. Ellis won the odd games 11-7 and 11-9 and Mannino won the even games 11-9 and 11-9. This was a tight match all the way through. Ellis jumped out to an early lead in the fifth, but Mannino would not be denied as he clawed his way back into the match with some great splats and of course incredible diving gets. Jason Mannino won the fifth game tiebreaker 13-11 to win his first ever pro tour event.

It's nice to see someone besides the top three get a win here and there. (No offense, guys!)

Photo above: John Ellis (foreground) vs. Andy Roberts (finishing a backhand).

FOXWOODS PRO CLASSIC
Boston Athletic Club
Boston, Massachusetts:
Oh, Boy!!! Boston in March!!! Actually the weather wasn't so bad, it's the street construction that really gets to you. The IRT traveled back to the home of Cliff Swain, and the eastern seaboard city greeted the rest of us with open arms.

Round of Sixteen Highlights
The round of sixteen held an unkind greeting for Rafael Filippini courtesy of Cliff Swain, and the eastern seaboard city greeted the rest of us with open arms.

Quarterfinal
After his win over Mike Ray in the previous round, #9 seeded Dan Fowler started strong against top-ranked Sudsy Monchik. Fowler took the first game by hitting lots of kills, but after a while Monchik dialed in and went on to win the next three 11-9, 11-2, 11-5. The next match-up was Drew Kachtik and Jason Mannino, two of the tour's big boys. Mannino dropped the first game, but prevailed in four, squeaking the fourth 14-12. Andy Roberts served up a storm to advance with a routine win over John Ellis, 11-3, 11-6, 11-4.

The last match was the crowd favorite (surprise, surprise) between hometown hero Cliff Swain and Mike Guidry. The two traded games into the fifth, Swain winning the first 11-5 and the third 11-6, and Guidry winning game two 11-4, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22
Introducing the most powerful racquets in the game:

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New LongString 22" Anarchy.

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The new 22" Bedlam™ and 22" Anarchy™ racquets increase power not just by lengthening the overall racquet. 22.0" LongString Technology adds a full inch to each center main...eight new power-producing inches of mainstring length. With the ten center mains now totalling 201.5 inches, compared to 145 in the nearest competitor racquet, E-Force LongString Technology gives you the power to dominate in all aspects of your game.

Ten centermost mainstrings are at least 56 inches longer than those in all other racquets. See chart.

- Oversize racquet mainstring length
- 16.2" LongString Technology—Chaos™
- 21.0" LongString Technology—Mayhem
- 22.0" LongString Technology—Bedlam & Anarchy

Why longer mainstrings deliver more power.

As racquet frames evolved, longer mainstrings resulted in huge increases in power. The quadraform head shape out-powered the teardrop (and throat-pieces became obsolete). The midsize out-powered the quadraform. The oversize outpowered the midsize. 16.2", 21.0" and now 22.0" LongString Technology outpowered the oversize. Why do longer mainstrings and racquet bow length generate more power? It's the same principle as the bow and arrow. For an equal amount of effort, longer mainstrings and bow length 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.

Why E-Force Racquets Are More Powerful

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<tr>
<th>Racquet</th>
<th>Bow Length*</th>
<th>Max Length Mainstrings</th>
<th>Combined Length 10 Center Mains</th>
<th>The E-Force Advantage</th>
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<td>Mayhem (E-Force)</td>
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<td>Chaos (E-Force)</td>
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<td>Frenzy (E-Force)</td>
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Racquets w/o Throat Piece

- Maximum length overall:
  - 15.5 in.
  - 14.5 in.
  - 13.5 in.

- Typical length:
  - 15.4 in.
  - 14.3 in.
  - 13.8 in.

Racquets with Throat Piece

- Standard throat:
  - 13.1 in.
  - 12.3 in.
  - 11.7 in.

- Wrapped throat—Hexelon:
  - 11.9 in.
  - 11.1 in.
  - 10.6 in.

The E-Force Advantage

- Over 39% more mainstring length
- Over 33% more mainstring length
- Over 33% more mainstring length

* Bow length—maximum possible distance between top and bottom mainstring connection points
** Comparison of combined length of ten center mainstrings
Semi-final Upset Bid
The semi-finals pitted an upset-minded Mike Guidry against Andy Roberts. Guidry looked surprisingly fresh after the previous day's win and eliminated Roberts in four games of 8-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-7. The other match featured the familiar sights of Jason Mannino diving and Sudsy Monchik curving shots in from both sides. The two are always entertaining, and this match lived up to its billing, with Monchik winning in four 11-1, (2-11) 11-8, 11-2.

MONCHIK VS. GUIDRY
The Monday night final had a good crowd in spite of Swain's absence. Monchik had his share of trouble with the red-hot southpaw, Mike Guidry, who won the second and third games of the match. But showing his true colors, Sudsy pulled it together and came back to win games four and five. The title of Foxwoods Pro Classic went to Monchik, winning 11-7, 1-11, 11-13, 11-6, 11-7.

Round of 16 Highlights
Joe Paraiso was at it again, this time knocking off #9 seeded Woody Clouse in three straight. Even in defeat, Michael Bronfeld looked tough in his four game match against Monchik. Dan Fowler took out Mike Guidry in four after losing the first game 6-11, while Mannino dropped the first game 14-12, 11-5, (5-11), 11-5. Swain and Jelso dropped game two to Kachtik/Ceresia but won the match in four.

The long and short of the Semifinals
Semi-final action featured fast-paced rallies between Monchik/Doyle and Swain/Jelso. Clifford and Tony won the first two games and were up in the third, but Tim and Sudsy stormed back to win games three, four and five to advance into the finals. In a much quicker match-up, John Ellis and Adam Karp looked flat and O'Neil/Robinson took full advantage to win in straight games of 11-8, 11-6, 11-3. This win earned them a spot in center court with Monchik/Doyle.

Tony Filippini Real Estate Pro-Am
2001 Sports Center
San Diego, California
The end of the season rush continued as the tour shifted a little southwest of Vegas to San Diego. This event would be the second of four in a row, with the end in sight. The scramble for points and season-ending ranking positions was heating up.

Round of 16 Highlights
Joe Paraiso was at it again, this time knocking off #9 seeded Woody Clouse in three straight. Even in defeat, Michael Bronfeld looked tough in his four game match against Monchik. Dan Fowler took out Mike Guidry in four after losing the first game 6-11, while Mannino dropped the first game 14-12, 11-5, (5-11), 11-5. Swain and Jelso dropped game two to Kachtik/Ceresia but won the match in four.

Cliff Swain beat James Mucock in three games, and Ruben squeaked out another tiebreaker, this time against Mike Ray with an 11-9 win in the fifth. Doug Eagle conta-
used his banner weekend with a 12-10 win over Kachtk in the fifth.

**Standard Issue Quarterfinals**

Joe almost did it again, only narrowly losing to Monchik 12-10, 12-10, 11-5. Sudsy was slowed by a bad ankle, but Paraio proved he can play with the best. Jason Mannino cruised past Dan Fowler in three quick ones, and Ruben's luck ran out against Roberts and Andy looked very sharp in a three game win. Speaking of luck running out, Swain cruised in three over Doug Eagle.

**Future Cellular SBBS WIRT Pro AM Rad Super Series Continental Athletic Club – Columbus, Ohio by Cheryl Gudinas**

With the close of the WIRT season upon us, the Continental Athletic Club welcomed the women's pros to Columbus, where some needed to work hard to solidify their positions for the home stretch.

**Round of 16 Opener**

This was to be Shigemi Yasuda's final tournament here in the states for the rest of the season, but she still had to face Michelle Gould in the first round. Michelle hadn't shown any chinks in her armor all season, and didn't here as she sent Shigemi home to Japan with a straight game loss. Kersten Hailand, who could states for the rest of the season, but she still had to face Michelle Fenton breezed her luck against #4 seeded Laura Fenton, after beating Fenton out on the west coast earlier this spring. But Fenton breezed through this time though, with straight game wins of 11-7, 11-7, 11-8.

Molly O'Brien worked hard from the start, when Randy Friedman pushed a five game tiebreak by taking the first two games, 11-5, 11-7, before Molly recovered to take the next three. Lynne Coburn was also motivated by a strong opening bid by Lydia Hammock, who won the first game of their match before Coburn won the next three. Advancing in three were: #2 Gudinas over Marcie Drexler; #3 Jackie Paraio over Shelley Ogden; #7 Marcy Lynch over Doreen Fowler; and Elaine Mardas logged an upset over #8 Janet Myers.

By-the-Book Semifinal Round

* Bartender—the usual. That's right. The semi's stacked up like clockwork: #2 Swain versus #3 Roberts and #1 Monchik versus #4 Mannino. Cliff played tough in the first, winning a close 14-12 game. This seemed to take the air out of Andy's sails, and he lost the next two 11-5, 11-7. Jason Mannino was doing his best to run Sudsy around on his bad ankle, and he did get the match to go five. But Mannino looked exhausted by the end of the fourth, and Monchik won in the fifth game 11-7, hitting some monster forehands to close it out.

We're glad to see Marci Drexler make more appearances on the tour again. Still a bit streaky, she adds a lot of fire to the tour, and if she continues to come around and regain some tournament toughness, may find herself in the top four real soon. Look out for the overheads!

**Quarterfinal DejaVu**

In this round, it was Fenton who struggled against the scrappy Molly O'Brien, who played the best we've seen so far this year. O'Brien's fitness kept her steady, but it was Fenton who earned the last shot of the fifth game superstiebreaker that had everyone going wild, 12-10. This was the match of the tournament.

All of the seeds held true in this round, with straight game wins by Gould over Elaine Mardas; Paraio over Lynne Coburn and Gudinas over Marcy Lynch.

**Top Four Lineup**

Gudinas appeared to be on a mission of her own in Columbus. After a semifinal loss at the previous stop in Roanoke, there was some urgency to get back on track and regain her confidence and groove. Against Jackie Paraio, another player who has been consistent all season, Gudinas had her sights set on breaking through to the finals — even after dropping game one 4-11. In a match full of shifting momentum, Gudinas didn’t quite find her groove until games four and five, where her fire and emotion finally kicked in. She went on to win in the fifth and find herself in yet another final with Gould. Michelle had taken a shorter route, with a straight game win over Fenton in the remaining semifinal.

**GOULD VS. GUDINAS**

It was just another typical day for Gould, although Gudinas pressed her a bit in the middle of the match, taking a four point lead, but was still unable to grab the game. One may wonder if Gudinas sometimes feels a certain sense of contentment in simply making it into a final with Gould, since she doesn't seem to call up the same intensity as she shows against other, earlier round opponents. Gould took the the match win, and another title, in three straight games of 13-11, 11-2, 11-2.

Photo left: Michelle Gould reaches “full extension” stretching out for a backhand. Photo: Courtesy Molly O'Brien.
### 1996-97 Season Wrap-Up

#### Men's International Racquetball Tour FINAL SEASON RANKINGS

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NOTE: Changes to rules and regulations in Sections 1, 2, and
3 must adhere to published rule change procedures.
Remaining sections may be altered by vote of the USRA Board
of Directors.
FYI RULE CHANGES:
Effective September 1, 1997

The racquet's maximum length has been increased to 22 inches. [See Rule 2.4(a) – on page 27]

If you hit the ball out-of-court (or just out-of-play), you lose the rally. This also includes hitting the serve out-of-court. [See Rule 3.13 (c) 3 – on page 29]

In officiated tournament play [with line judges] ... Players may now appeal every call or “non-call” by the referee (except for technical fouls and forfeitures) whenever line judges are used. [See “Officiating” section B.7 Appeals, citation (a) – on page 37]

The referee can declare a “sideout” when their call of encroachment is overturned, AND the return of serve was considered irretrievable. For example ... You short-hop a return and roll it out. The ref says you were over the safety line and you appeal. You win your appeal and, instead of a replay, you get to keep your rollout. Side out. You serve. [See “Officiating” section B.8 Outcome of Appeals, citation (e) – on page 37]

OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS

1 — THE GAME

Rule 1.1 TYPES OF GAMES
Racquetball is played by two or four players. When played by two, it is called singles and when played by four, doubles. A non-tournament variation of the game that is played by three players is called cutthroat.

Rule 1.2 DESCRIPTION
Racquetball is a competitive game in which a strung racquet is used to serve and return the ball.

Rule 1.3 OBJECTIVE
The objective is to win each rally by serving or returning the ball so the opponent is unable to keep the ball in play. A rally is over when a player (or team in doubles) is unable to hit the ball before it touches the floor twice, is unable to return the ball in such a manner that it touches the front wall before it touches the floor, or when a hinder is called.

Rule 1.4 POINTS AND OUTS
Points are scored only by the serving side when it serves an irretrievable serve (an ace) or wins a rally. Losing the serve is called a sideout in singles. In doubles, when the first server loses the serve it is called a handout and when the second server loses the serve it is a sideout.

Rule 1.5 MATCH, GAME, TIEBREAKER
A match is won by the first side winning two games. The first two games of a match are played to 15 points. If each side wins one game, a tiebreaker game is played to 11 points.

2 — COURTS AND EQUIPMENT

Rule 2.1 COURT SPECIFICATIONS
The specifications for the standard four-wall racquetball court are:
(a) Dimensions. The dimensions shall be 20 feet wide, 40 feet long and 20 feet high, with a back wall at least 12 feet high. All surfaces shall be in play, with the exception of any gallery opening, surfaces designated as out-of-play for a valid reason (such as being of a very different material or not in alignment with the backwall), and designated court hindens.

(b) Markings. Racquetball courts shall be marked with lines 1 1/2 inches wide as follows:
1. Short Line. The back edge of the short line is midway between, and is parallel with, the front and back walls.
2. Service Line. The front edge of the service line is parallel with, and five feet in front of, the back edge of the short line.
3. Service Zone. The service zone is the five-foot area between the outer edges of the short line and service line.
4. Service Boxes. The service boxes are located at each end of the service zone and are designated by lines parallel with the side walls. The edge of the line nearest to the center of the court shall be 18 inches from the nearest side wall.
5. Drive Serve Lines. The drive serve lines, which form the drive serve zone, are parallel with the side wall and are within the service zone. The edge of the line nearest to the center of the court shall be three feet from the nearest side wall.
6. Receiving Line. The receiving line is a broken line parallel to the short line. The back edge of the receiving line is five feet from the back edge of the short line. The receiving line begins with a line 21 inches long that extends from each side wall. These lines are connected by an alternate series of six-inch spaces and six-inch lines. This will result in a line com-

Cover: Javier Moreno at the Tournament of the Americas. Photo: Alex Aguirre Terrazas.

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Rule 2.2 BALL SPECIFICATIONS
(a) The standard racquetball shall be 2 1/4 inches in diameter; weigh approximately 1.4 ounces; have a hardness of 55-60 inches durometer, and bounce 68-72 inches from a 100-inch drop at a temperature of 70-74 degrees Fahrenheit.

(b) Only a ball having the endorsement or approval of the USRA may be used in a USRA-sanctioned tournament.

Rule 2.3 BALL SELECTION
(a) A ball shall be selected by the referee for use in each match. During the match the referee may, based on personal discretion or at the request of a player or team, replace the ball. Balls that are not round or which bounce erratically shall not be used.

(b) If possible, the referee and players should agree to an alternate ball, so that in the event of breakage, the second ball can be put into play immediately.

Rule 2.4 RACQUET SPECIFICATIONS
(a) The racquet, including bumper guard and all solid parts of the handle, may not exceed 22 inches in length.

(b) The racquet frame may be any material judged to be safe.

(c) The racquet frame must include a cord that must be securely attached to the player's wrist.

(d) The string of the racquet must be gut, monofilament, nylon, graphite, plastic, metal, or a combination thereof, and must not mark or deface the ball.

(e) Using an illegal racquet will result in forfeiture of the game in progress or, if discovered between games, forfeiture of the preceding game.

Rule 2.5 APPAREL
(a) Lensed eyewear designed for racquetball, and which meets or exceeds ASTM F803 or Canadian (CSA) impact standards, is required apparel. This rule applies to all persons, including those who may affect the referee.

(b) Clothing and Shoes. The clothing may be of any color; however, a player may be required to change wet, extremely loose fitting, or otherwise distracting garments. Insignias and writing on the clothing must be considered to be in good taste by the tournament director. Shoes must have soles which do not mark or damage the floor.

(c) Equipment Requirements During Warm-up. Approved eyeguards must be worn and wrist cords must be used during any on-court warm-up period. The referee should give a technical warning to any person who fails to comply and assess a technical foul if the player continues to not comply after receiving such a warning.

3 — PLAY REGULATIONS

Rule 3.1 SERVE
The player or team winning the coin toss shall have the option to either serve or receive at the start of the first game. The second game will begin in reverse order of the first game. The player or team scoring the highest total of points in games 1 and 2 shall have the option to serve or receive first at the start of the tiebreaker. In the event that both players or teams score an equal number of points in the first two games, another coin toss will take place and the winner of the toss will have the option to serve or receive.

Rule 3.2 START
The server may not start the service motion until the referee has called the score or "second serve." The service motion begins, the ball must be bounced on the floor in the zone and be struck by the racquet before it bounces a second time. After being struck, the ball must hit the front wall first and on the rebound hit the floor beyond the back edge of the short line, either with or without touching one of the side walls.

Rule 3.3 MANNER
After taking a set position inside the service zone, a player may begin the service motion—any continuous movement which results in the ball being served. Once the service motion begins, the ball must be bounced on the floor in the zone and be struck by the racquet before it bounces a second time. After being struck, the ball must hit the front wall first and on the rebound hit the floor beyond the back edge of the short line, either with or without touching one of the side walls.

Rule 3.4 READINESS
The service motion shall not begin until the referee has called the score of the second serve and the server has visually checked the receiver. The referee shall call the score as both server and receiver prepare to return to their respective positions, shortly after the previous rally has ended.

Rule 3.5 DELAYS
Except as noted in Rule 3.5 (b), the referee may call a technical foul for delays exceeding 10 seconds.

(a) The 10 second rule applies to the server and receiver simultaneously. Collectively, they are allowed up to 10 seconds after the score is called to serve or be ready to receive. It is the server's responsibility to look and be certain the receiver is ready. If a receiver is not ready, they must signal by raising the racquet above the head or completely turning the back to the server. (These are the only two acceptable signals.)

(b) Serving while the receiving player/team is signalling "not ready" is a fault serve.

(c) After the score is called, if the server looks at the receiver and the receiver is not signalling "not ready," the server may then serve. If the receiver attempts to signal "not ready" after that point, the signal shall not be acknowledged and the serve becomes legal.

Rule 3.6 DRIVE SERVICE ZONES
The drive serve lines will be 3 feet from each side wall in the service zone, dividing the service area into two 17-foot service zones for drive serves only. The player may drive serve between the body and the side wall nearest to where the service motion began only if the player starts and remains outside of the 3-foot drive service zone. In the event that the service motion begins in one drive service zone and continues into the other drive service zone, the player may not hit a drive serve at all.

(a) The drive serve zones are not observed for cross-court drive serves, the hard-Z, soft-Z, lob or half-lob serves.

(b) The racquet may not break the plane of the 17-foot zone while making contact with the ball.

(c) The drive serve line is not part of the 17-foot zone. Dropping the ball on the
The following serves are faults and any two in succession result in an out:

**Fault Serve**

(a) Foot Faults. A foot fault results when:
- 1. The server does not begin the service motion with both feet in the service zone.
- 2. The server steps completely over the service line (no part of the foot on or inside the service zone) before the served ball crosses the short line.
- (b) Short Service. A short serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, on the rebound, hits the floor on or in front of the short line either with or without touching a side wall.
- (c) Three Wall Serve. A three-wall serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and floor, or the rebound, strikes both side walls before touching the floor.
- (d) Ceiling Serve. A ceiling serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, on the rebound, strikes both side walls before touching the floor.
- (e) Long Serve. A long serve is a served ball that first hits the front wall and rebounds to the back wall before touching the floor (with or without touching a side wall).
- (f) Bouncing Ball Outside Service Zone. Bouncing the ball outside the service zone as a part of the service motion is a fault serve.

**Defective Serve**

(a) Court Hinders. A serve that takes an irregular bounce because it hit a wet spot or an irregular surface on the court is a dead-ball serve. Also, any serve that hits any surface designated by local rules as an obstruction rather than being out-of-play.
- (b) Broken Ball. If the ball is determined to have broken on the serve, a new ball shall be substituted and the serve shall be replayed, not cancelling any prior fault serve.
- (c) Fault Serve. Two fault serves result in an out (either a sideout or a handout).
- (d) Out Serve. An out serve results in an out (either a sideout or a handout).

**Dead-Ball Serve**

Dead-ball serves do not cancel any previous fault serve. The following are dead-ball serves:

(a) Foot Faults. A foot fault results when:
- 1. The server does not begin the service motion with both feet in the service zone.
- 2. The server steps completely over the service line (no part of the foot on or inside the service zone) before the served ball crosses the short line.

(b) Missed Serve Attempt. Any attempt to strike the ball that results in a total miss or in the ball touching any part of the server's body. Also, allowing the ball to bounce more than once during the service motion.

(c) Touched Serve. Any served ball that on the rebound from the front wall touches the server or server's racquet, or any ball intentionally stopped or caught by the server or server's partner.

(d) Fake or Balk Serve. Any movement of the racquet toward the ball during the serve which is non-continuous and done for the purpose of deceiving the receiver. If a balk serve occurs, but the referee believes that no deceit was involved, the option of declaring "no serve" and having the serve replayed without penalty can be exercised.

(e) Illegal Hit. An illegal hit includes contacting the ball twice, carrying the ball, or hitting the ball with the handle of the racquet or part of the body or uniform.

(f) Non-Front Wall Serve. Any served ball that does not strike the front wall first.

(g) Crotch Serve. Any served ball that hits the crotch of the front wall and floor, front wall and side wall, or front wall and ceiling is an out serve (because it did not hit the front wall first). A served ball into the crotch of the back wall and floor is a good serve and in play. A served ball that hits the crotch of the side wall and floor beyond the short line is in play.

(h) Out-of-Court Serve. An out-of-court serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, before striking the floor, either goes out of the court or hits a surface above the normal playing area of the court that has been declared as out-of-play for a valid reason [See Rule 2.1(a)].

(i) Safety Zone Violation. If the server, or doubles partner, enters into the safety zone before the served ball passes the short line, it shall result in the loss of serve.

**Rule 3.11 RETURN OF SERVE**

(a) Receiving Position
- 1. The receiver may not enter the safety zone until the ball bounces or crosses the receiving line.
- 2. On the fly return attempt, the receiver may not strike the ball until the ball breaks the plane of the receiving line. However, the receiver's follow-through may carry the receiver or the racquet past the receiving line.
- 3. Neither the receiver nor the racquet may break the plane of the short line, except if the ball is struck after rebounding off the back wall.
- 4. Any violation by the receiver results in a point for the server.
- (b) Defective Serve. A player on the receiving side may not intentionally catch or touch a served ball (such as apparently long or short serve) until the referee has made a call or the ball has touched the floor for a second time. Violation results in a point.
- (c) Legal Return. After a legal serve, a player receiving the serve must strike the ball on the fly or after the first bounce, and before the ball touches the floor the second time; and return the ball to the front wall, either directly or after touching one or both side walls, the back wall or the ceiling, or any combination of those surfaces. A returned ball must touch the front wall before touching the floor.
- (d) Failure to Return. The failure to return a serve results in a point for the server.
- (e) Other Provisions. Except as noted in this rule (3.11), the return of serve is subject to all provisions of Rules 3.13 through 3.15.

**Rule 3.12 CHANGES OF SERVE**

(a) Outs. A server is entitled to continue serving until one of the following occurs:
- 3. Failure to Return Ball. Player or team fails to keep the ball in play as required by Rule 3.11 (c).
All of the play which occurs after the successful return of serve is called the rally. Play July-August 1997 rules:

Rule 3.13 RALLIES
All of the play which occurs after the successful return of serve is called the rally. Play shall be conducted according to the following rules:

(a) Legal Hits. Only the head of the racquet may be used at any time to return the ball. The racquet may be held in one or both hands. Switching hands to hit a ball, touching the ball with any part of the body or uniform, or removing the wrist safety cord during a rally results in a loss of the rally.

(c) Effect of Sideout. When the server (or serving team) receives a sideout, the server becomes the receiver and the receiver becomes the server.

Rule 3.13 (a) through (c) result in a rally being declared a sideout. If the server serves, and the ball is returned, the rally continues.

(b) Sideout. Retiring the server in singles is called a sideout.

(c) Effect of Sideout. When the server (or serving team) receives a sideout, the server becomes the receiver and the receiver becomes the server.

Rule 3.13 RALLIES

(a) Legal Hits. Only the head of the racquet may be used at any time to return the ball. The racquet may be held in one or both hands. Switching hands to hit a ball, touching the ball with any part of the body or uniform, or removing the wrist safety cord during a rally results in a loss of the rally.

(b) One Touch. The player or team trying to return the ball may touch or strike the ball only once or else the rally is lost. The ball may not be carried. (A carried ball is one which rests on the racquet long enough that the effect is more of a sling than a throw.)

(c) Failure to Return. Any of the following constitutes a failure to make a legal return during a rally:

1. The ball bounces on the floor more than once before being hit.

2. The ball does not reach the front wall on the fly.

3. The ball is hit such that it goes into the gallery or wall opening or else hits a surface above the normal playing area of the court that has been declared as out-of-play. See Rule 2.1(a).

4. A ball which obviously does not have the velocity or direction to hit the front wall strikes another player.

5. A ball struck by one player on a team hits that player or that player's partner.


7. Switching hands during a rally.

8. Failure to use a racquet wrist safety cord.

9. Touching the ball with the body or uniform.

10. Carrying or slinging the ball with the racquet.

(d) Effect of Failure to Return. Violations of Rules 3.13 (a) through (c) result in a loss of the rally. If the serving player or team loses the rally, it is an out. If the receiver loses the rally, it results in a point for the server.

(e) Return Attempts. The ball remains in play until it touches the floor a second time, regardless of how many walls it makes contact with — including the front wall. If a player swings at the ball and misses it, the player may continue to attempt to return the ball until it touches the floor for the second time.

(f) Broken Ball. If there is any suspicion that a ball has broken during a rally, play shall continue until the end of the rally. The referee or any player may request the ball be examined. If the referee decides the ball is broken, the ball will be replaced and the rally replayed. The server will get two serves. The only proper way to check for a broken ball is to squeeze it by hand. (Checking the ball by striking it with a racquet will not be considered a valid check and shall work to the disadvantage of the player or team which struck the ball after the rally.)

(g) Play Stoppage

1. If a foreign object enters the court, or any other outside interference occurs, the referee shall stop the play immediately and declare a dead-ball hinder.

2. If a player loses any apparel, equipment, or other article, the referee shall stop play immediately and declare an avoidable hinder or dead-ball hinder as described in Rule 3.15 (i).

(h) Replays. Whenever a rally is replayed for any reason, the server is awarded two serves. A previous fault serve is not considered.

Rule 3.14 DEAD-BALL HINDERS
A rally is replayed without penalty and the server receives two serves whenever a dead-ball hinder occurs. Also, see Rule 3.15 which describes conditions under which a hinder might be declared avoidable and result in loss of the rally.

(a) Situations

1. Court Hinder. The referee should stop play immediately whenever the ball hits any part of the court that was designated in advance as a court hinder (such as a vent grate). The referee should also stop play (i) when the ball takes an irregular bounce as a result of contacting a rough surface (such as court light or vent) or after striking a wet spot on the floor or wall and (ii) when, in the referee's opinion, the irregular bounce affected the rally.

2. Ball Hits Opponent. When an opponent is hit by a return shot in flight, it is a dead-ball hinder. If the opponent is struck by a ball which obviously did not have the velocity or direction to reach the front wall, it is not a hinder, and the player who hit the ball will lose the rally. A player who has been hit by the ball can stop play and make the call though the call must be made immediately and acknowledged by the referee. Note this interference may, under certain conditions, be declared an avoidable hinder. See Rule 3.15.

3. Body Contact. If body contact occurs which the referee believes was sufficient to stop the rally, either for the purpose of preventing injury by further contact or because the contact prevented a player from being able to make a reasonable return, the referee shall call a hinder. Incidental body contact by the offensive player clearly will have the advantage should not be called a hinder, unless the offensive player obviously stops play. Contact with the racquet on the follow-through normally is not considered a hinder.

4. Screen Ball. Any ball rebounding from the front wall so close to the body of the defensive player that it prevents the offensive player from having a clear view of the ball. (The referee should be careful not to make the screen call so quickly that it takes away a good offensive opportunity.) A ball that passes between the legs of a player who has just returned the ball is not automatically a screen. It depends on whether the other player is impaired as a result. Generally, the call should work to the advantage of the offensive player.

5. Backswing Hinder. Any body or racquet contact, on the backswing or on the way to or just prior to returning the ball, which impairs the hitter's ability to take a reasonable swing. This call can be made by the player attempting the return, though the call must be made immediately and is subject to the referee's approval. Note the interference may be considered an avoidable hinder. See Rule 3.15.

6. Safety Holdup. Any player about to execute a return who believes that striking the opponent with the ball or racquet is likely, may immediately stop play and request a dead-ball hinder. This call must be made immediately and is subject to acceptance and approval of the referee. (The referee will grant a dead-ball hinder if it is believed the holdup was reasonable and the player would have been able to return the shot. The referee may also call an avoidable hinder if warranted.)
Rule 3.15 AVOIDABLE HINDERS

An avoidable hinder results in the loss of the rally. An avoidable hinder does not necessarily have to be an intentional act. Dead-ball hinders are described in Rule 3.14. Any of the following results in an avoidable hinder:

(a) Failure to Move. A player does not move sufficiently to allow an opponent a shot straight to the front wall as well as a cross-court shot which is a shot directly to the front wall at an angle that would cause the ball to rebound directly to the back corner farthest from the player hitting the ball. Also when a player moves in such a direction that it prevents an opponent from taking either of these shots.

(b) Stroke Interference. This occurs when a player moves, or fails to move, so that the opponent returning the ball does not have a free, unimpeded swing. This includes unintentionally moving in a direction which prevents the opponent from making an open, offensive shot.

(c) Blocking. Moves into a position which blocks the opponent from getting to, or returning, the ball; or in doubles, a player moves in front of an opponent as the player's partner is returning the ball.

(d) Moving into the Ball. Moves in the way and is struck by the ball just played by the opponent.

(e) Pushing. Deliberately pushes or shoves opponent during a rally.

(f) Intentional Distractions. Deliberate shouting, stamping of feet, waving of racquet, or any other manner of disrupting one's opponent.

(g) View Obstruction. A player moves across an opponent's line of vision just before the opponent strikes the ball.

(h) Wetting the Ball. The players, particularly the server, should insure that the ball is dry prior to the serve. Any wet ball that is not corrected prior to the serve shall result in an avoidable hinder against the server.

(i) Apparel or Equipment Loss. If a player loses any apparel, equipment, or other article, play shall be immediately stopped and that player shall be called for an avoidable hinder, unless the player has just hit a shot that could not be retrieved. If the loss of equipment is caused by a player's opponent, then a dead-ball hinder should be called. If the opponent's action is judged to have been avoidable, then the opponent should be called for an avoidable hinder.

Rule 3.16 TIMEOUTS

(a) Rest Periods. Each player or team is entitled to three 30-second timeouts in games to 15 and two 30-second timeouts in games to 11. Timeouts may not be called by either side after service motion has begun. Calling for a timeout when none remain or after service motion has begun, or taking more than 30 seconds in a timeout, will result in the assessment of a technical foul for delay of game.

(b) Injury. If a player is injured during the course of a match as a result of contact, such as with the ball, racquet, wall or floor, an injury timeout will be awarded. While a player may call more than one timeout for the same injury or for additional injuries which occur during the match, a player is not allowed more than a total of 15 minutes of rest for injury during the entire match. If the injured player is not able to resume play after total rest of 15 minutes, the match shall be awarded to the opponent.

1. Should any external bleeding occur, the referee must halt play as soon as the rally is over, charge an injury timeout to the person who is bleeding, and not allow the match to continue until the bleeding has stopped.

2. Muscle cramps and pulls, fatigue, and other ailments that are not caused by direct contact will not be considered an injury. Injury time is also not allowed for pre-existing conditions.

(c) Equipment Timeouts. Players are expected to keep all clothing and equipment in good, playable condition and are expected to use regular timeouts and time between games for adjustment and replacement of equipment. If a player or team is out of timeouts and the referee determines that an equipment change or adjustment is necessary for fair and safe continuation of the match, the referee may grant an equipment timeout not to exceed 2 minutes. The referee may allow additional time under unusual circumstances.

(d) Between Games. The rest period between the first two games of a match is 2 minutes. If a tiebreaker is necessary, the rest period between the second and third game is 5 minutes.

(e) Postponed Games. Any games postponed by referees shall be resumed with the same score as when postponed.

Rule 3.17 TECHNICAL FOULS AND WARNINGS

(a) Technical Fouls. The referee is empowered to deduct one point from a player's or team's score when, in the referee's sole judgment, the player is being overtly and deliberately abusive. If the player or team against whom the technical foul was assessed does not resume play immediately, the referee is empowered to forfeit the match in favor of the opponent. Some examples of actions which can result in technical fouls are:

1. Profanity.
2. Excessive arguing.
3. Threat of any nature to opponent or referee.

4. Excessive or hard striking of the ball between rallies.

5. Slamming of the racquet against walls or floor, slamming the door, or any action which might result in damage to the court or injury to other players.

6. Delay of game. Examples include (i) taking too much time to dry the court, (ii) excessive questioning of the referee about the rules, (iii) exceeding the time allotted for timeouts or between games, (iv) calling a timeout when none remain, or after the service motion begins, or (v) taking more than ten seconds to serve or be ready to receive serve.

7. Intentional front line foot fault to negate a bad lob serve.

8. Anything the referee considers to be unsportsmanlike behavior.

9. Failure to wear lensed eyewear designed for racquet sports [See Rule
2.5(c)] is an automatic technical foul on the first infractions, plus a mandatory timeout to acquire the proper eyewear, will be charged against the offending player. A second infraction by the player during the match will result in an automatic forfeiture of the match.

(b) Technical Warnings. If a player’s behavior is not so severe as to warrant a technical foul, a technical warning may be issued without the deduction of a point.

(c) Effect of Technical Foul or Warning. If a referee issues a technical foul, one point shall be removed from the offender’s score. No point will be deducted if a referee issues a technical warning. In either case, a technical foul or warning should be accompanied by a brief explanation. Issuing a technical foul or warning has no effect on who will be serving when play resumes. If a technical foul occurs when the offender has no points or between games, the result will be that the offender’s score becomes minus one (-1).

RULE MODIFICATIONS

The following sections (4.0 through 11.0) detail the additional or modified rules that apply to variations of the singles game described in Sections 1 through 3.

4.0 — DOUBLES

The USRA’s rules for singles also apply in doubles with the following additions and modifications:

Rule 4.1 DOUBLES TEAM

(a) A doubles team shall consist of two players who meet either the age requirements or player classification requirements for playing in a particular division of play. A team with different skill levels must play in the division of the player with the highest level of ability. When playing in an adult division, the team must play in the division of the younger player. When playing in a junior age division, the team must play in the division of the older partner.

(b) A change in playing partners may be made so long as the first match of the postponed team has not begun. For this purpose only, the match will be considered started once the teams have been called to the court. The team must notify the tournament director of the change prior to the beginning of the match.

Rule 4.2 SERVE IN DOUBLES

(a) Order of Serve. Each team shall inform the referee of the order of service which shall be followed throughout the game. The order of serve may be changed between games. At the beginning of each game, when the first server of the first team to serve is out, the team is out. Thereafter, both players on each team shall serve until the team receives a handout and a sideout.

(b) Partner’s Position. On each serve, the server’s partner shall stand erect with back to the side wall and with both feet on the floor within the service box from the moment the server begins the service motion until the served ball passes the short line. Violations are called foot faults. However, if the server’s partner enters the safety zone before the ball passes the short line, the server loses service.

(c) Changes of Serve. In doubles, the side is retired when both partners have lost service, except that the team which serves first at the beginning of each game loses the serve when the first server is retired.

Rule 4.3 FAULT SERVE IN DOUBLES

(a) The server’s partner is not in the service box with both feet on the floor and back to the side wall from the time the server begins the service motion until the ball passes the short line.

(b) A served ball that hits the doubles partner while in the doubles box results in a fault serve.

Rule 4.4 OUT SERVE IN DOUBLES

(a) Out-of-Order Serve. In doubles, when either partner serves out of order, the points scored by that server will be subtracted and an out serve will be called. If the second server serves out of order, the out serve will be applied to the first server and the second server will resume serving. If the player designated as the first server serves out of order, a sideout will be called. The referee should call “no serve” as soon as an out-of-order serve occurs. If no points are scored while the team is out of order, only the out penalty will have to be assessed. However, if points are scored before the out of order condition is noticed and the referee cannot recall the number, the referee may enlist the aid of the line judges (but not the crowd) to recall the number of points to be deducted.

(b) Ball Hits Partner. A served ball that hits the doubles partner while outside the doubles box results in loss of serve.

Rule 4.5 RETURN IN DOUBLES

(a) The rally is lost if one player hits that same player’s partner with an attempted return.

(b) If one player swings at the ball and misses it, both partners may make further attempts to return the ball until it touches the floor the second time. Both partners on a side are entitled to return the ball.

5.0 — MODIFICATIONS FOR THE “ONE SERVE” GAME

The USRA’s standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the following:

Rule 5.1 ONE SERVE

Only one serve is allowed. Therefore, any fault serve is an out serve, with a few exceptions.

Rule 5.2 SCREEN SERVE

If a server is called a screen, the server will be allowed one more opportunity to hit a legal serve. Two consecutive screen serves results in an out.

Rule 5.3 SERVE HITS PARTNER

In doubles, if a serve hits the non-serving partner while standing in the box, the server will be allowed one more opportunity to hit a legal serve. Hitting the non-serving partner twice, results in an out.

Rule 5.4 CONSECUTIVE FAULTS

In doubles, either (i) a screen serve followed by hitting the non-serving partner or (ii) hitting the non-serving partner followed by a screen serve, results in an out.

6.0 — MULTI-BOUNCE MODIFICATIONS

In general, the USRA’s standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the modifications which follow.

Rule 6.1 BASIC RETURN RULE

In general, the ball remains in play as long as it is bouncing. However, the player may swing only once at the ball and the ball is considered dead at the point it stops bouncing and begins to roll. Also, any time the ball rebounds off the back wall, it must be struck before it crosses the short line on the way to the front wall, except as explained in Rule 6.2.

Rule 6.2 BLAST RULE

If the ball caroms from the front wall to the back wall on the fly, the player may hit the ball from any place on the court—including past the short line—so long as the ball is still bouncing.

Rule 6.3 FRONT WALL LINES

Two parallel lines (tape may be used) should be placed across the front wall such that the bottom edge of one line is 3 feet above the floor and the bottom edge of the other line is 1 foot above the floor. During the rally, any ball that hits the front wall (i) below the 3-foot line and (ii) either on or above the 1-foot line must be returned before it bounces a third
100% cotton heavyweight T-shirts. Available with designs and colors shown. Adult sizes M-XXL.

*Add $2.00 for XXL sizes.

Extra heavyweight preshrunk 100% cotton short sleeve henley. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

*Add $2.00 for XXL sizes.

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

*Add $2.00 for XXL sizes.

90/10 Cotton/Poly 9 oz. sweatshirt. Available with USRA or USA embroidered logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

*Add $2.00 for XXL sizes.
Witness racquetball's only "Grand Slam," the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships presented by Samsung and American Express. See all of the top pro players in the world, like Sudsy Monchik, Cliff Swain and Michelle Gould, compete for the largest prize money purse in the history of the sport. Experience the thrill of dramatic player introductions featuring booming music and laser light shows. Be there to see the world's first truly "made-for-TV" portable stadium racquetball court. Stroll through the U.S. OPEN Hospitality Village and see what's new from the world's top racquetball manufacturers in the Industry Trade Show. Party the nights away with your favorite pros and racquetball fans from throughout the country.

Welcome to the Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships—featuring the top male and female professionals in the world competing for the largest prize money purse in the history of the sport—$53,000+. The event will be nationally televised and will feature the "made-for-TV" portable racquetball court. In addition, over 550 amateur players will compete in age and skill divisions for every level. Special events include the "PARTY WITH THE PROS," an industry trade show, Hospitality Village complete with concessions, live entertainment, and fan fair activities. The event will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The professional matches will be held at The Racquet Club of Memphis. The Racquet Club is a world-class health club and dining facility featuring indoor and outdoor tennis courts, racquetball courts, elegant banquet and meeting rooms, locker rooms with all the amenities, state-of-the-art fitness center, executive health club, four-star restaurant, pub with dance floor, outdoor swimming pool, and much, much more. The Racquet Club is no stranger to hosting world class sporting events as they are the annual site for the acclaimed Kroger St. Jude Tennis Championships, an annual stop on the ATP Tour, which has hosted such top name players as Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, Michael Chang, Todd Martin and many more of the world's top men's tennis players.

Amateur divisions will be played at The University of Memphis Recreation Center (10 minutes from The Racquet Club) and Wimbledon Sportsplex (15 minutes from The Racquet Club). Complimentary shuttle service between all three facilities will be provided on a regular basis.
PRIZE MONEY $53,000+

<table>
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PARTIES, PARTIES AND MORE PARTIES

That's right! For those of us who like to enjoy our evenings, the U.S. OPEN promises a solid week of non-stop fun, kicking off with a Tuesday evening Reception Party and Wednesday night Pro Autograph Party in the Hospitality Village at The Racquet Club. And that's only the beginning! On Thursday and Friday evenings, the action moves to the "Pub" nightspot at the The Racquet Club of Memphis, which will feature a DJ spinning the hottest tunes for your dancing pleasure. Free munchies will be served each night. Mingle with the Pros and racquetball fans from throughout the country.

Saturday evening will top off the party calendar with the gala racquetball bash of the year—the second Annual U.S. OPEN "PARTY WITH THE PROS." Over 1,500 racquetball fans are expected to turn out at The Racquet Club Party Center for an evening of live entertainment featuring one of Tennessee's hottest dance bands. Elegant ice carvings, extravagant hors 'deouvres, huge dance floor, live auction for St. Jude, a cash bar, a multi-media slide show, and all the top racquetball pros in the world will make the evening one to remember. The cost for guests and tournament spectators is $25 per person. Players participating in the U.S. OPEN will be admitted free.

HOSPITALITY VILLAGE

The nerve center of the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships will be the U.S. OPEN Hospitality Village. Many activities are scheduled to take place in the Hospitality Village including an extensive industry trade show, hard-hitting contests, pro autograph signing sessions, live stage with entertainment, concessions, cash bars, and restaurant style seating. Admission is free for all spectators and players.

MADE-FOR-TV PORTABLE RACQUETBALL COURT

One of the most exciting aspects of the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is that the first truly "made-for-TV" portable racquetball court will be used for all feature matches! The unique construction of the court allows stadium seating for 800+ in addition to court-side luxury boxes for sponsors and VIPs. From the quarterfinals on, all men's and women's pro matches will take place on the stadium court. Dramatic player introductions, complete with laser light shows and booming music, will treat racquetball fans to a total entertainment experience.

CO-SPONSORS

Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships - (800) 284-5396
**PRO MATCH SCHEDULE**

- **Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude**........... Tuesday, 5pm-10pm
- **Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying**........ Wednesday, 8am-3pm
- **Men's round of 64**.......................... Wednesday, 4pm-11pm
- **Men's round of 32**.......................... Thursday, 11am-3pm
- **Women's round of 32**......................... Thursday, 2pm-6pm
- **Men's round of 16**.......................... Thursday, 6pm-10pm
- **Women's round of 16**......................... Friday, 11am-3pm
- **Men's quarters**.............................. Friday 4pm-9pm
- **Women's quarters**............................ Saturday 10am-noon
- **Men's semi #1/Women's semi #1**........... Saturday 2pm-4:30pm
- **Women's semi #2/Men's semi #2**........... Saturday 5pm-7:30pm
- **Women's finals/Men's finals**............... Sunday 12:30pm-3pm

**PLAY BEGINS/STARTING TIMES**

Players must be prepared to play as early as 8 a.m. on the following dates. Requests for special starting times must be indicated on the entry form. Every effort will be made to accommodate special requests, however no guarantees can be made. Starting times are available after 5 p.m. on Monday, November 10th by calling The Racquet Club at (901) 765-4428.

- **Wednesday**
  - Nov. 12 th: All Pro’s, Men’s Open, A, B, C, D, under 25, under 25 A/B,
  - 45+ C/D, 55+ A/B, 55+ C/D

- **Thursday**
  - Nov. 13 th: Men’s 50+, 55+,
  - 25+ C/D, 30+, 35+, 35+ A/B, 35+ C/D, 40+, 45+, 45+ A/B, 45+ C/D

- **Friday**
  - Nov. 14 th: Men’s 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+,
  - Women’s 30+, 55+, 55+ A/B, 55+ C/D, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+

**MEMBERSHIP**

All players must be current members of the USRA. If you are not, a membership can be purchased at the event ($20 per year). In addition, all players entering the pro draws must be current members of the IRT/WIRT Players Association or join at the event.

**CHECK-IN**

All player registration will take place at The Racquet Club of Memphis. Check-in is required prior to participating in the event. Hours for registration are:
- Tuesday Nov. 11th 3pm-10pm,
- Wednesday Nov. 12th 8am-10pm,
- Thursday Nov. 13th 8am-9pm,
- Friday Nov. 14th 8am-9pm,
- Saturday Nov. 15th 8am-3pm.

**SKILL LEVEL VERIFICATION**

All players entering skill divisions (i.e. A, B, 35 C/D, etc.) must either have their skill level verified by an AMPro clinician prior to the event (have certification card) or submit the enclosed verification form with entry. All information submitted will be subject to verification by the state association president in your home state. Players must compete in the same skill divisions as they have played in during the three-month period prior to the U.S. OPEN.
The long hot game begins...

LONGBODY

It's not your standard game anymore.
The Long Rangers

Michelle Gould
The #1 pro since 1990. Winningest player in racquetball history.

Drew Kachtik
Former #1 ranked pro. Consistently ranked in the top 8.

Mike Guidry
Top 5 ranked pro. National and World Juniors Champion.

Andy Roberts
Former #1 ranked pro. Winner of 24 pro titles.

Cheryl Gudinas
The #2 ranked pro. Three-time Olympic Festival Gold Medalist.
Meet the true innovators of the game. The Ektelon touring pros who developed the Ektelon Game Face. The most technologically-savvy, hard-driving bunch on court. They are the first to recognize a breakthrough idea. The first to say the standard just isn’t good enough anymore. The first to play long.

Will you play longer?
Ektelon is an official sponsor of the USA Racquetball Association.

The Ektelon Pros (left to right): Ruben González, Dan Fowler, Andy Roberts, Kelly Gelhaus, Michelle Gould, Drew Kachtik, Mike Guidry and Cheryl Gudinas.

The Ektelon LongBody™ racquets

Ektelon is an official sponsor of the United States Racquetball Association.

USRA

One Sport System Plaza, Bordentown, New Jersey 08505
1-800-4-EKTELON • www.ekelon.com

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Tickets for Pro Matches

Everyone will be required to purchase tickets for pro matches (see ticket application). All non-players must purchase a ticket to be admitted to the Saturday evening "PARTY WITH THE PROS". Seats are limited, therefore it is strongly recommended that you purchase tickets in advance. ABSOLUTELY NO VIEWING WILL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT A TICKET. Last year’s event sold out 8 weeks in advance, so don’t delay!

Travel and Lodging

The United States Olympic Travel Desk and United Airlines join the USRA in offering you the lowest possible airfares to the U.S. OPEN. For reservations, call UNITED AIRLINES Olympic Travel Desk at (800) 841-0460 between 8:30am and 8pm EST, weekdays. Be sure to reference the special USRA account number - 511TD. For rental cars, use Alamo by calling 1-800-327-9633 and receive a FREE souvenir U.S. OPEN poster.

When making hotel reservations, you must mention the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Rates are good for up to 4 people per room. Make reservations by Oct. 10, 1997 for these special rates.

1. Embassy Suites
   1022 S. Shady Grove Road
   Memphis, TN 38120
   (901) 684-1777
   Rate: $119 per night

2. The Ridgeway Inn
   5679 Poplar Ave.
   Memphis, TN 38119
   (901) 766-4000
   Rate: $92

3. HomeWood Suites
   5811 Poplar Avenue
   Memphis, TN 38119
   (901) 763-0500
   Rate: $114-$159

4. Hampton Inn- Poplar
   5320 Poplar Avenue
   Memphis, TN 38119
   (901) 683-8500
   Rate: $78

5. East Memphis Hilton
   5069 Sanderlin Ave.
   Memphis, TN 38117
   (901) 767-6666
   Rate: $92

6. University of Memphis
   630 Echles St.
   Memphis, TN 38117
   (901) 678-2816

7. Hampton Inn-Poplar
   5320 Poplar Avenue
   Memphis, TN 38119
   (901) 683-8500
   Rate: $78

8. The Racquet Club of Memphis
   5111 Sanderlin Ave.
   Memphis, TN 38117
   (901) 765-4400

9. The Ridgeway Inn
   5679 Poplar Ave.
   Memphis, TN 38119
   (901) 766-4000
   Rate: $92

10. HomeWood Suites
    5811 Poplar Avenue
    Memphis, TN 38119
    (901) 763-0500
    Rate: $114-$159

11. Hampton Inn- Poplar
    5320 Poplar Avenue
    Memphis, TN 38119
    (901) 683-8500
    Rate: $78

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    5069 Sanderlin Ave.
    Memphis, TN 38117
    (901) 767-6666
    Rate: $92

13. University of Memphis
    630 Echles St.
    Memphis, TN 38117
    (901) 678-2816

Regular shuttle service will be available between all three clubs throughout the event. In addition, transportation will be provided from each host hotel to The Racquet Club during select morning and evening hours. No parking is available at the University of Memphis, so players must use the shuttle.

Hospitality

Limited hospitality for amateur players will be available at University of Memphis and the Wimbledon Sportsplex only. However, The Racquet Club of Memphis features a four-star restaurant for your dining pleasure, as well as an extensive Hospitality Village with limited concessions offered throughout the tournament.

St. Jude Hospital

The Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is proud to name St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital as its designated charity. Founded in 1962 by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, St. Jude is dedicated to the successful treatment of diseases that afflict children. Having treated more than 13,000 patients from 47 states and 53 countries, the hospital has been established as a world leader in the treatment of catastrophic childhood illnesses.

Silent Auction & Pro/Am Doubles Challenge

For the benefit of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the U.S. National Racquetball Team, a silent auction will be held during the event featuring Olympic Memorabilia and racquetball equipment from the industry’s best manufacturers. Checks, cash, American Express, VISA, and MasterCard are welcome. In addition, Tuesday evening November 11th, 32 lucky amateurs will have the opportunity to play in a single elimination (1 game to 15) doubles challenge with a top professional player as their partner. All proceeds will be donated to St. Jude, and each amateur player will receive a pro autographed racquet from their partner. Call (614) 890-6073 for more information as spots are limited. Cost - $250.

Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships - (800) 28-5396
RULES

All amateur divisions will be played according to official USRA rules, including the mandatory use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards. Pro divisions will use IRT/WIRT rules. For all age divisions, players must meet the proper age requirement as of the first day of the tournament (Nov. 12th). All divisions (pro and amateur) will use the ProPenn (green) ball.

RANKING POINTS

Skill Divisions: The A, B, C, & D divisions represent official divisions of the USRA National Skill-Level Championships. Winners of this Level 6 event will be recognized as national champions in their respective skill levels. All modified/combined age and skill divisions (35 A/B, 45 C/D, etc.) do not offer ranking points.

Open and Age Divisions: Open and age division competitors will receive Level 5 ranking points.

Professionals: On the IRT/WIRT tours, prize money determines the level of ranking points associated with a given event. The U.S. OPEN is the largest prize money event of the season for both the Women and the Men and will therefore be worth more ranking points than any other professional tournament this season.

OFFICIATING

All players will receive $5 for each amateur match they referee.

PROMUS HOTEL CORPORATION

The U.S. OPEN is very pleased to have the Promus Hotel Corporation as its title sponsor. Promus is the parent company of Hampton Inn, Embassy Suites, Hampton Inn & Suites, and Homewood Suites. Recognized around the world as a premier developer and management firm of hotel properties, Promus Hotel Corporation has experienced incredible growth.

With well over 700 hotels worldwide and opening new properties every month, Promus is a jewel in the hotel industry. As a publicly traded company, Promus Hotel Corporation's stock has consistently outperformed the hotel industry indexes.

Lead by C.E.O. Ray Schultz, a long-time racquetball fan and player, Promus is poised to continue its explosive growth rate well into the next century.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Director: Doug Ganim
Executive Committee: Margo Daniels, Jim Hiser, Marty Austin, Kay McCarthy, Martha Butler

Professionals: Hank Marcus, Molly O'Brien

For More Information Call the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships Headquarters at (800) 284-5396.
**PRO MATCH TICKET APPLICATION**

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**BEST VALUE ($25 savings)**

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**TOTAL**

Tickets will not be mailed in advance. They can be picked up at the U.S. OPEN will-call desk, located at The Racquet Club (ID is required). Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets in advance to be guaranteed a seat.

A very limited number of 4 person court-side box seats (with table service) are available starting at $1,500. Call (614) 890-6073 for availability.

AmEx*/Visa/MC # ____________________________ Exp. Date ________
Cardholder's Name (print) ____________________________ Signature ____________________________
Street Address ____________________________ City ____________ ST ____________ Zip ____________
Home Phone ____________ Work Phone ____________

*Use your American Express Card and receive a free souvenir U.S. OPEN Poster.

Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships - (800) 284-5396
**ENTRY FORM**

Name _________________________ Birthdate ____________ Age ____________
Address ________________________________________________________
Phone (day) ________________________ Phone (night) __________________________
Seeding Information (i.e National Ranking, State Ranking, Recent Results, etc.)

**ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:**
- Limited hospitality, free access to Hospitality Village and fan fair activities at The Racquet Club, souvenir PROMUS HOTELS U.S. OPEN shirt, U.S. OPEN Souvenir Program, ticket to the Sat. evening “PARTY with the PROS”, plus much, much more!
- Entries must be received by Sat. Nov. 1. No refunds will be given after the entry deadline.
- All late fees and additional entries received will be returned with refund.

**ENTRY DEADLINE:**
All entries must be received by Sat. Nov. 1. No refunds will be given after the entry deadline. All late fees and additional entries received will be assessed a $15 late fee if space is still available in the tournament.

**ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:**
Limited hospitality, free access to Hospitality Village and fan fair activities at The Racquet Club, souvenir PROMUS HOTELS U.S. OPEN shirt, U.S. OPEN Souvenir Program, ticket to the Sat. evening “PARTY with the PROS”, plus much, much more!

Have you enclosed your Pro Match Ticket Application and payment for tickets? Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets to be guaranteed a seat. One check can be written for entry fees and tickets. Last year’s event sold out 8 weeks in advance!

To enter by phone call: (800) 284-5396

---

**Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events:**

Check one: Men’s _______ or Women’s _______

**Skill Divisions (a.k.a. The Skill Level National):**

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**Open & Age Divisions:**

- OPEN: 40+ □ 45+ □ 50+ □ 55+ □ 60+ □ Wheelchair □

**Seeding Information (i.e National Ranking, State Ranking, Recent Results, etc.)**

- **ENTRY DEADLINE:** All entries must be received by Sat. Nov. 1. No refunds will be given after the entry deadline. All late fees and additional entries received will be assessed a $15 late fee if space is still available in the tournament.

**ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:**
- Limited hospitality, free access to Hospitality Village and fan fair activities at The Racquet Club, souvenir PROMUS HOTELS U.S. OPEN shirt, U.S. OPEN Souvenir Program, ticket to the Sat. evening “PARTY with the PROS”, plus much, much more!

Have you enclosed your Pro Match Ticket Application and payment for tickets? Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets to be guaranteed a seat. One check can be written for entry fees and tickets. Last year’s event sold out 8 weeks in advance!

To enter by phone call: (800) 284-5396
100% Cotton denim jacket with two front flap pockets and two side welt pockets. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

DJ-USRA $69.00
DJ-USA $69.00
*Add $4.00 for XXL sizes.

80/20 heavyweight pique fleece half-zip pullover with two inseam pockets. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

FP-USRA $66.00
FP-USA $66.00
*Add $4.00 for XXL sizes.

Denier polyester sport bag with three outside pockets. Detachable shoulder strap. USRA or USA embroidered logo. 20"X10"X10"

SB-USRA $40.00
SB-USA $40.00

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

CP-USRA $17.00
CP-USA $17.00

100% Cotton button-down collar shirt with left chest pocket. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

DS-USRA $39.00
DS-USA $39.00
*Add $4.00 for XXL sizes.

Seed stitch crew neck sweater. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

CNS-USRA $60.00
CNS-USA $60.00
*Add $4.00 for XXL sizes.

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

WU-USRA $99.00
WU-USA $99.00
*Add $4.00 for XXL sizes.

MAIL TO:
USRA
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________
CITY ___________________ STATE ____ ZIP ____________

ITEM COLOR S M L XL XXL TOTAL PIECES UNIT PRICE SUBTOTAL

SUBTOTAL

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Questions? Call (719) 635-5396

FAX your order to: (719) 635-0685

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CARD # ________ EXP DATE ________

SIGNATURE

Add $6.95 Shipping and Handling for first three pieces. Add $1.00 per piece additional for orders more than three pieces.
time. However, if the ball hits below the 1-foot line, it must be returned before it bounces twice. If the ball hits on or above the 3-foot line, the ball must be returned as described in the basic return rule.

Rule 6.4 GAMES AND MATCHES
All games are played to 11 points and the first side to win two games, wins the match.

7.0 — ONE-WALL AND THREE-WALL MODIFICATIONS

In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the modifications which follow.

Rule 7.1 ONE-WALL
There are two playing surfaces—the front wall and the floor. The wall is 20 feet wide and 16 feet high. The floor is 20 feet wide and 34 feet to the back edge of the long line. To permit movement by players, there should be a minimum of three feet (six feet is recommended) beyond the long line and six feet outside each side line.

(a) Short Line. The back edge of the short line is 16 feet from the wall.
(b) Service Markers. Lines at least six inches long which are parallel with, and midway between, the long and short lines. The extension of the service markers form the imaginary boundary of the service line.
(c) Service Zone. The entire floor area inside and including the short line, side lines and service line.
(d) Receiving Zone. The entire floor area in back of the short line, including the side lines and the long line.

Rule 7.2 THREE-WALL WITH SHORT SIDE WALL
The front wall is 20 feet wide and 20 feet high. The side walls are 20 feet long and 20 feet high, with the side walls tapering to 12 feet high. The floor length and court markings are the same as a four wall court.

Rule 7.3 THREE-WALL WITH LONG SIDE WALL
The court is 20 feet wide, 20 feet high and 40 feet long. The side walls may taper from 20 feet high at the front wall down to 12 feet high at the end of the court. All court markings are the same as a four wall court.

Rule 7.4 SERVICE IN THREE-WALL COURTS
A serve that goes beyond the side walls on the fly is an out. A serve that goes beyond the long line on a fly, but within the side walls, is a fault.

8.0 — WHEELCHAIR MODIFICATIONS

Rule 8.1 CHANGES TO STANDARD RULES
In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed, except for the modifications which follow.

(a) Where USRA rules refer to server, person, body, or other similar variations, for wheelchair play such reference shall include all parts of the wheelchair in addition to the person sitting on it.
(b) Where the rules refer to feet, standing or other similar descriptions, for wheelchair play it means only where the rear wheels actually touch the floor.
(c) Where the rules mention body contact, for wheelchair play it shall mean any part of the wheelchair in addition to the player.
(d) Where the rules refer to double bounce or after the first bounce, it shall mean three bounces. All variations of the same phrases shall be revised accordingly.

Rule 8.2 DIVISIONS
(a) Novice Division. The novice division is for the beginning player who is just learning to play.
(b) Intermediate Division. The Intermediate Division is for the player who has played tournaments before and has a skill level to be competitive in the division.
(c) Open Division. The Open Division is the highest level of play and is for the advanced player.
(d) Multi-Bounce Division. The Multi-Bounce Division is for the individuals (men or women) whose mobility is such that wheelchair racquetball would be impossible if not for the Multi-Bounce Division.
(e) Junior Division. The junior divisions are for players who are under the age of 19. The tournament director will determine if the divisions will be played as two bounce or multi-bounce. Age divisions are: 8-11, 12-15, and 16-18.

Rule 8.3 RULES
(a) Two Bounce Rule. Two bounces are used in wheelchair racquetball in all divisions except the Multi-Bounce Division. The ball may hit the floor twice before being returned.
(b) Out-of-Chair Rule. The player can neither intentionally jump out of the chair to hit a ball nor stand up in the chair to serve the ball. If the referee determines that the chair was left intentionally it will result in loss of the rally for the offender. If a player unintentionally leaves the chair, no penalty will be assessed. Repeat offenders will be warned by the referee.
(c) Equipment Standards. To protect playing surfaces, the tournament officials will not allow a person to participate with black tires or anything which will mark or damage the court.
(d) Start. The serve may be started from anywhere within the service zone. Although the front casters may extend beyond the lines of the service zone, at no time shall the rear wheels cross either the service or short line before the served ball crosses the short line. Penalties for violation are the same as those for the standard game.
(e) Maintenance Delay. A maintenance delay is a delay in the progress of a match due to a malfunction of a wheelchair, prosthesis, or assistive device. Such delay must be requested by the player, granted by the referee during the match, and shall not exceed 5 minutes. Only two such delays may be granted for each player for each match. After using both maintenance delays, the player has the following options: (i) continue play with the defective equipment, (ii) immediately substitute replacement equipment, or (iii) postpone the game, with the approval of the referee and opponent.

Rule 8.4 MULTI-BOUNCE RULES
(a) The ball may bounce as many times as the receiver wants though the player may swing only once to return the ball to the front wall.
(b) The ball must be hit before it crosses the short line on its way back to the front wall.
(c) The receiver cannot cross the short line after the ball contacts the back wall.

9.0 — VISUALLY IMPAIRED MODIFICATIONS

In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the modifications which follow.

Rule 9.1 ELIGIBILITY
A player's visual acuity must not be better than 20/200 with the best practical eye correction or else the player's field of vision must not be better than 20 degrees. The three classifications of blindness are B1 (totally blind to light perception), B2 (able to see hand movement up to 20/600 corrected), and B3 (from 20/600 to 20/200 corrected).
Rule 9.2 RETURN OF SERVE AND RALLIES
On the return of serve and on every return thereafter, the player may make multiple attempts to strike the ball until (i) the ball has been touched, (ii) the ball has stopped bouncing, or (iii) the ball has passed the short line after touching the back wall. The only exception is described in Rule 9.3.

Rule 9.3 BLAST RULE
If the ball (other than on the serve) caroms from the front wall to the back wall on the fly, the player may retrieve the ball from any place on the court—including in front of the short line—so long as the ball has not been touched and is still bouncing.

Rule 9.4 HINDERS
A dead-ball hinder will result in the rally being replayed without penalty unless the hinder was intentional. If a hinder is clearly intentional, an avoidable hinder should be called and the rally awarded to the non-offending player or team.

Rule 10.1 ELIGIBILITY
An athlete shall have a hearing loss of 55 db or more in the better ear to be eligible for any NRAD tournament.

10.0 — DEAF [NRAD] MODIFICATIONS
In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the National Racquetball Association of the Deaf [NRAD] modifications which follow.

Rule 10.2 SCHEDULING
(a) If possible, all draws shall be made at least 2 days before the tournament commences. The seeding method of drawing shall be approved by the USRA.

(b) At USRA National events, the draw and seeding committee shall be chaired by the USRA's Executive Director, National Tournament Director, and the host tournament director. No other persons shall participate in the draw or seeding unless at the invitation of the draw and seeding committee.

(c) In local and regional tournaments the draw shall be the responsibility of the tournament director.

11.0 — PROFESSIONAL MODIFICATIONS

International Racquetball Tour [IRT] & Women's International Racquetball Tour [WIRT]

In general, competition on both the International Racquetball Tour [IRT] and Women's International Racquetball Tour [WIRT] will follow the standard rules governing racquetball established by the USRA, except for the modifications which follow. Modifications for both professional tours are consistent, with one exception as noted in Rule 11.4.

Rule 11.1 GAME, MATCH
All games are played to 11 points, and are won by the player who scores to that level, with a 2-point lead. If necessary, the game will continue beyond 11 points, until such time as one player has a 2-point lead. Matches are played the best three out of a possible five games to 11.

Rule 11.2 APPEALS
The referee's call is final. There are no line judges, and no appeals may be made.

Rule 11.3 SERVE
Players are allowed only one serve to put the ball into play.

Rule 11.4 SCREEN SERVE
In IRT matches, screen serves are replayed. In WIRT matches, two consecutive screen serves will result in a sideout.

Rule 11.5 COURT HINDERS
No court hinders are allowed or called.

Rule 11.6 OUT-OF-COURT BALL
Any ball leaving the court results in a loss of rally.

Rule 11.7 BALL
All matches are played with the Penn Pro ball. The first, third, and fifth (if necessary) games of the match are started with a new ball.

Rule 11.8 TIMEOUTS
Each player is entitled to one 1-minute timeout per game.

Rule 11.9 TIME BETWEEN GAMES
The rest period between games is 2 minutes, with the exception of the break between game four and a fifth game tiebreaker, which is 5 minutes.

Rule 11.10 EQUIPMENT

TIMEOUTS
A player does not have to use regular timeouts to correct or adjust equipment, provided that the need for the change or adjustment is acknowledged by the referee as being necessary for fair and safe continuation of the match.

A.2 CONSOLATION MATCHES
(a) Each entrant shall be entitled to participate in a minimum of two matches. Therefore, losers of their first match shall have the opportunity to compete in a consolation bracket of their own division. In draws of less than seven players, a round robin may be offered. See A.6 about how to determine the winner of a round robin event.

(b) Consolation matches may be waived at the discretion of the tournament director, but this waiver must be in writing on the tournament application.

(c) Preliminary consolation matches will be two of three games to 11 points. Semifinal and final matches will follow the regular scoring format.

A.3 SCHEDULING
(a) Preliminary Matches. If one or more contestants are entered in both singles and doubles, they may be required to play both singles and doubles on the same day with little rest between matches. This is a risk assumed on entering two singles events or a singles and doubles event. If possible, the schedule should provide at least 1 hour of rest between matches.
(b) Final Matches. Where one or more players has reached the finals in both singles and doubles, it is recommended that the doubles match be played on the day preceding the singles. This would ensure more rest between the final matches. If both final matches must be played on the same day or night, the following procedure is recommended:

1. The singles match be played first, and;
2. A rest period of not less than 1 hour be allowed between the finals in singles and doubles.

A.4 NOTICE OF MATCHES
After the first round of matches, it is the responsibility of each player to check the posted schedules to determine the time and place of each subsequent match. If any change is made in the schedule after posting, it shall be the duty of the tournament director to notify the players of the change.

A.5 THIRD PLACE
Players are not required to play off for 3rd place. However, for point standings, if one semifinalist wishes to play off for third and the other semifinalist does not, the one wishing to play shall be awarded third place. If neither semifinalist wishes to play off for third then the points shall be totaled, divided by 2, and awarded evenly to both players.

A.6 ROUND ROBIN SCORING
The final positions of players or teams in round robin competition is determined by the following sequence:

a. Winner of the most matches;
b. In a two way tie, winner of the head-to-head match;
c. In a tie of three or more, the player who lost the fewest games is awarded the highest position.

1. If a two-way tie remains, the winner of the head-to-head match is awarded the higher position.
2. If a multiple tie remains, the total “points scored against” each player in all matches will be tabulated and the player who had the least “points scored against” them is awarded the highest position. Note: Forfeits will count as a match won in two games. In cases where “points scored against” is the tiebreaker, the points scored by the forfeiting team will be discounted from consideration of “points scored against” all teams.

A.7 COURT ASSIGNMENTS
In all USRA sanctioned tournaments, the tournament director and/or USRA official in attendance may decide on a change of court after the completion of any tournament game, if such a change will accommodate better spectator conditions.

A.8 TOURNAMENT CONDUCT
In all USRA sanctioned tournaments, the referee is empowered to forfeit a match, if the conduct of a player or team is considered detrimental to the tournament and the game. See B.5(d) and (e).

B.1 TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT
All USRA sanctioned tournaments shall be managed by a tournament director, who shall designate the officials.

B.2 TOURNAMENT RULES COMMITTEE
The tournament director should appoint a tournament rules committee to resolve any disputes that the referee, tournament desk, or tournament director cannot resolve. The committee, composed of an odd number of persons, may include state or national officials, or other qualified individuals in attendance who are prepared to meet on short notice. The tournament director should not be a member of this committee.

B.3 REFEREE APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL
The principal official for every match shall be the referee who has been designated by the tournament director, or a designated representative, and who has been agreed upon by all participants in the match. The referee's authority regarding a match begins once the players are called to the court. The referee may be removed from a match upon the agreement of all participants (teams in doubles) or at the discretion of the tournament director or the designated representative. In the event that a referee's removal is requested by one player or team and not agreed to by the other, the tournament director or the designated representative may accept or reject the request. It is suggested that the match be observed before determining what, if any, action is to be taken. In addition, two line judges and a scorekeeper may also be designated to assist the referee in officiating the match.

B.4 RULES BRIEFING
Before all tournaments, all officials and players shall be briefed on rules as well as local court hinders, regulations, and modifications the tournament director wishes to impose. The briefing should be reduced to writing. The current USRA rules will apply and be made available. Any modifications the tournament director wishes to impose must be stated on the entry form and be available to all players at registration.

B.5 REFEREES
(a) Pre-Match Duties. Before each match begins, it shall be the duty of the referee to:

1. Check on adequacy of preparation of court with respect to cleanliness, lighting and temperature.
2. Check on availability and suitability of materials to include balls, towels, scorecards, pencils and timepiece necessary for the match.
3. Check the readiness and qualifications of the line judges and scorekeeper. Review appeal procedures and instruct them of their duties, rules and local regulations.
4. Go onto the court to make introductions; brief the players on court hinders (both designated and undesignated); identify any out-of-play areas (see rule 2.1(a); discuss local regulations and rule modifications for this tournament; and explain often misinterpreted rules.
5. Inspect players' equipment; identify the line judges; verify selection of a primary and alternate ball.
6. Toss coin and offer the winner the choice of serving or receiving.

(b) Decisions. During the match, the referee shall make all decisions with regard to the rules. Where line judges are used, the referee shall announce all final judgments. If both players in singles and three out of four in a doubles match disagree with a call made by the referee, the referee is overruled, with the exception of technical fouls and forfeitures.

(c) Protests. Any decision not involving the judgment of the referee will, on protest, be decided through due process as set forth in the constitution of the USRA. For the purposes of rendering a prompt decision regarding protests filed during the course of an ongoing tournament, the stages of due process will be: first to the tournament desk, then to the tournament director, and finally to the tournament rules committee. In those instances when time permits, the protest may be elevated to the state association or, when appropriate, to the national level as called for in the USRA constitution.
(d) Forfeitures. A match may be forfeited by the referee when:

1. Any player refuses to abide by the referee’s decision or engages in unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. Any player or team who fails to report to play 10 minutes after the match has been scheduled to play. (The tournament director may permit a longer delay if circumstances warrant such a decision.)

A game will be forfeited by the referee for using an illegal racquet as specified in Rule 2.4(e).

(e) Defaults. A player or team may be forfeited by the tournament director or official for failure to comply with the tournament or host facility’s rules while on the premises between matches, or for abuse of hospitality, locker room, or other rules and procedures.

(f) Spectators. The referee shall have jurisdiction over the spectators, as well as the players, while the match is in progress.

(g) Other Rulings. The referee may rule on all matters not covered in the USRA Official Rules. However, the referee’s ruling is subject to protest as described in B.5 (c).

B.6 LINE JUDGES

(a) When Utilized. Two line judges should be used for semifinal and final matches, when requested by a player or team, or when the referee or tournament director so desires. However, the use of line judges is subject to availability and the discretion of the tournament director.

(b) Replacing Line Judges. If any player objects to a person serving as a line judge before the match begins, all reasonable effort shall be made to find a replacement acceptable to the officials and players. If a player objects after the match begins, any replacement shall be at the discretion of the referee and/or tournament director.

(c) Position of Line Judges. The players and referee shall designate the court location of the line judges. Any dispute shall be settled by the tournament director.

(d) Duties and Responsibilities. Line judges are designated to help decide appeals. In the event of an appeal, and after a very brief explanation of the appeal by the referee, the line judges must indicate their opinion of the referee’s call.

(e) Signals. Line judges should extend their arm and signal as follows: (i) thumb up to show agreement with the referee’s call, (ii) thumb down to show disagreement, and (iii) hand open with palm facing down to indicate “no opinion” or that the play in question wasn’t seen.

(f) Manner of Response. Line judges should be careful not to signal until the referee announces the appeal and asks for a ruling. In responding to the referee’s request, line judges should not look at each other, but indicate their opinions simultaneously in clear view of the players and referee. If at any time a line judge is unsure of which call is being appealed or what the referee’s call was, the line judge should ask the referee to repeat the call and the appeal.

(g) Result of Response. If both line judges signal no opinion, the referee’s call stands. If both line judges disagree with the referee, the referee must reverse the ruling. If one line judge agrees with the call and one disagrees, the referee’s call stands. If one line judge agrees with the call and one has no opinion, the call stands. If one line judge disagrees with the referee’s call and the other signals no opinion, the rally is replayed. Any replays, with the exception of appeals on the second serve itself, will result in two serves.

B.7 APPEALS

(a) Appealable Calls and Non-Calls. In any match using line judges, a player may appeal any call or non-call by the referee, except for a technical foul or forfeiture.

(b) How to Appeal. A verbal appeal by a player must be made directly to the referee immediately after the rally has ended. A player who believes there is an infraction to appeal, should bring it to the attention of the referee and line judges by raising the non-racquet hand at the time the perceived infraction occurs. The player is obligated to continue to play until the rally has ended or the referee stops play. The referee will recognize a player’s appeal only if it is made before that player leaves the court for any reason including timeouts and game-ending rallies or, if that player doesn’t leave the court, before the next serve begins.

(c) Loss of Appeal. A player or team forfeits its right of appeal for that rally if the appeal is made directly to the line judges or, if the appeal is made after an excessive demonstration or complaint.

(d) Limit on Appeals. A player or team may make three appeals per game. However, if either line judge disagrees (thumb down) with the referee’s call, that appeal will not count against the three-appeal limit. In addition, a potential game-ending rally may be appealed without charge against the limit—even if the three-appeal limit has been reached.

B.8 OUTCOME OF APPEALS

Everything except technical fouls and forfeitures can be appealed. The following outcomes cover several of the most common types of appeal, but not all possible appeals could be addressed. Therefore, referee’s discretion and common sense should govern the outcomes of those appeals that are not covered herein:

(a) Skip Ball. If the referee makes a call of “skip ball,” and the call is reversed, the referee then must decide if the shot in question could have been returned had play continued. If, in the opinion of the referee, the shot could have been returned, the rally shall be replayed. However, if the shot was not retrievable, the side which hit the shot in question is declared the winner of the rally. If the referee makes no call on a shot (thereby indicating that the shot did not skip), an appeal may be made that the shot skipped. If the “no call” is reversed, the side which hit the shot in question loses the rally.

(b) Fault Serve. If the referee makes a call of fault serve and the call is reversed, the serve is replayed, unless if the referee considered the serve to be not retrievable, in which case a point is awarded to the server. If an appeal is made because the referee makes no call on a serve—thereby indicating that the serve was good—and the “no call” is reversed, it will result in second serve if the infraction occurred on the first serve or loss of serve if the infraction occurred on the second serve.

(c) Out Serve. If the referee calls an “out serve,” and the call is reversed, the serve will be replayed, unless if the serve was obviously a fault too, in which case the call becomes fault serve. However, if the call is reversed and the serve was considered an ace, a point will be awarded. Also, if the referee makes no call on a serve—thereby indicating that the serve was good—but the “no call” is reversed, it results in an immediate loss of serve.

(d) Double Bounce Pickup. If the referee makes a call of two bounces, and the call is reversed, the rally is replayed, except if the player against whom the call was made hit a shot that could not have been retrieved, then that player wins the rally. (Before
awarding a rally in this situation, the referee must be certain that the shot would not have been retrieved even if play had not been halted). If an appeal is made because the referee makes no call thereby indicating that the get was not two bounces, and the "no call" is reversed, the player who made the two bounce pick-up is declared the loser of the rally.

(e) Receiving Line Violation (Encroachment). If the referee makes a call of encroachment, but the call is overturned, the serve shall be replayed unless the return was deemed irretrievable in which case a sideout (or possibly a handout in doubles) should be called. When an appeal is made because the referee made no call, and the appeal is successful, the server is awarded a point.

(f) Court Hinder. If the referee makes a call of court hinder, the rally is replayed. If the referee makes no call and a player feels that a court hinder occurred, that player may appeal. If the appeal is successful, the rally will be replayed.

B.9 RULE INTERPRETATIONS
If a player feels the referee has interpreted the rules incorrectly, the player may require the referee or tournament director to cite the applicable rule in the rulebook. Having discovered a misap­plication or misinterpretation, the official must correct the error by replay­ing the rally, awarding the point, calling sideout, or taking other corrective measures.

C — ELIGIBILITY & NATIONAL EVENTS

C.1 PROFESSIONAL
A professional is defined as any player who has accepted prize money regardless of the amount in any professional sanctioned (including IRT/WIRT) tournament or in any other tournament so deemed by the USRA Board of Directors. (Note: Any player concerned about the adverse effect of losing amateur status should contact the USRA National Office at the earliest opportunity to ensure a clear understanding of this rule and that no action is taken that could jeopard­ize that status.)

(a) An amateur player may participate in a professional sanctioned tournament but will not be considered a professional (i) if no prize money is accepted or (ii) if the prize money received remains intact and placed in trust under USRA guidelines.

(b) The acceptance of merchandise or travel expenses shall not be considered prize money, and thus does not jeopardize a player's amateur status.

C.2 RETURN TO AMATEUR STATUS
Any player who has been classified as a professional can re-establish amateur status by requesting, in writing, this desire to be reclassified as an amateur. This application shall be tendered to the Executive Director of the USRA or a designated representative, and shall become effective immediately as long as the player making application for reinstatement of amateur status has received no money in any tournament, as defined in C.1, for the past 12 months.

C.3 USRA ELIGIBILITY
(a) Any current USRA member who has not been classified as a professional (See C.1) may compete in any USRA sanctioned tournament.

(b) Any current USRA member who has been classified as a professional may compete in any event at a USRA sanctioned tournament that offers prize money or merchandise.

C.4 DIVISIONS
(a) Open Division. Any player with amateur status.

(b) Adult Age Divisions. Eligibility is determined by the player's age on the first day of the tournament. Divisions are:

- "All-Age" (unrestricted, including juniors)
- 25+ - Junior Veterans
- 30+ - Veterans
- 35+ - Seniors
- 40+ - Veteran Seniors
- 45+ - Masters
- 50+ - Veteran Masters
- 55+ - Golden Masters
- 60+ - Senior Golden Masters
- 70+ - Advanced Golden Masters
- 75+ - Super Golden Masters
- 80+ - Grand Masters
- 85+ - Super Grand Masters

(c) Junior Age Divisions. Player eligibility is determined by the player's age on January 1st of the current calendar year. Divisions are:

- 18 & Under
- 16 & Under
- 14 & Under
- 12 & Under
- 10 & Under
- 8 & Under (regular rules)
- 8 & Under (multi-bounce rules)
- 6 & Under (regular rules)
- 6 & Under (multi-bounce rules)

C.5 DIVISION COMPETITION BY GENDER
Men and women may compete only in events and divisions for their respective gender during regional and national tournaments. If there is not sufficient number of players to warrant play in a specific division, the tournament director may place the entrants in a comparably competitive division. Note: For the purpose of encouraging the development of women's racquetball, the governing bodies of numerous states permit women to play in men's divisions when a comparable skill level is not available in the women's divisions.

C.6 USRA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
(a) Adult Regional Tournaments
1. Regional tournaments will be conducted at various metropolitan sites designated annually by the USRA and players may compete at any site they choose.

2. A person may compete in any number of adult regional tour­naments, but may not enter a championship division (as list­ed in C.4) after having won that division at a previous adult regional tournament that same year.

3. A person cannot participate in more than two championship events at a regional tournament.

4. Any awards or remuneration to a USRA National Championship will be posted on the entry blank.

5. One-serve rules (see Rule 5.0) will be used in all open divi­sions at USRA National and Regional Championships. Their use is optional at other tournaments.

(b) Junior Regional Tournaments. All provisions of C.6(a) also apply to juniors, except:

1. Regional tournaments will be conducted within the follow­ing regions which are identified for the purposes of junior com­petition:

   - Region 1 — Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut
   - Region 2 — New York, New Jersey
   - Region 3 — Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware,

   1997-98 RULEBOOK • How to play racquetball, USRA policy manual & more ...
Championships. Consolation events will be offered for all divisions. 

It will be conducted on a different date than all other National Championships, and include both pro and amateur competitive divisions.

D — PROCEDURES

D.1 RULE CHANGE PROCEDURES

To ensure the orderly growth of racquetball, the USRA has established specific procedures that are followed before a major change is made to the rules of the game. These procedures are:

1. Proposed rule change proposals must be submitted in writing to the USRA National Office by June 1st.
2. The USRA Board of Directors will review all proposals at its October board meeting and determine which will be considered.
3. Selected proposals will appear in RACQUETBALL Magazine — the official USRA publication — as soon as possible after the October meeting for comment by the general membership.
4. After reviewing membership input and the recommendations of the National Rules Committee and USRA National Rules Commissioner, the proposals are discussed and voted upon at the annual Board of Directors meeting in May.
5. Changes approved in May become effective on September 1st. Exception: changes in racquet specifications become effective 2 years later on September 1st.
6. Proposed rules that are considered for adoption in one year, but are not approved by the Board of Directors in May of that year, will not be considered for adoption the following year.

C.7 U.S. NATIONAL SINGLES AND DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

The U.S. National Singles and Doubles Tournaments are separate tournaments and are played on different dates. Consolation events will be offered for all divisions. One serve rules (see Rule 5.0) will apply in all Open divisions.

(a) Competition in an Adult Regional singles tournament is required to qualify for the National Singles Championship.
1. Exception: Men of the age of 55 and over (55+), and women age 45 and over (45+), are not required to qualify for the National Singles Championship.
2. Exception: Any player who competes in either a Junior or intercollegiate regional preceding the National Singles, will not be required to compete in an Adult Regional event.
(b) The National Tournament Director may handle the rating of each region and determine how many players shall qualify from each regional tournament.
(c) If a region is oversubscribed, a playoff to qualify players in a division may be conducted the day prior to the start of a National Championship.

C.8 U.S. NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

It will be conducted on a different date than all other National Championships and generally subject to the provisions of C.7.

C.9 U.S. NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

It will be conducted on a different date than all other National Championships. Consolation events will be offered for all divisions.

C.10 U.S. NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

It will be conducted on a different date than all other National Championships. Consolation events will be offered for all divisions.

C.11 U.S. OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

It will be conducted on a different date than all other National Championships, and include both pro and amateur competitive divisions.

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To be or not to be ... a couch potato.
That is the question!

Racquetball is a game that anyone can play and enjoy. You say enjoy?! You mean having fun? But working out can't be fun!

The great part about having fun playing racquetball is that the by-product is that you will get a great workout, relieve stress, and burn up a significant amount of calories. So, what are your excuses for not playing?

I don't know where to play ...
Last year's article - Racquetball 101 will let you know where you can play. Also, let your fingers do the walking. Look in your local phone book and call to check the facilities that have racquetball courts. Also, you can call the USRA at (719) 605-5396 and get their listing of clubs that offer racquetball along with the IHRSA's list as well.

I don't belong to a health club because they're too expensive to join ...
The business climate today is very competitive and the health club business is no different. What this means to you is that you can find very good prices on memberships and be able to pick a club that will fit your budget. If for some reason you still can't find a club at the right price, there are the numerous universities, recreation centers, churches, as well as outdoor courts that are very inexpensive or free.

I don't know how to play ...
When checking on which club to join, ask if they have a teaching pro who offers free introductory racquetball clinics. The majority of the clubs with racquetball courts will have this type of program. The Pro will teach you the rules, strokes, positioning, and many other techniques that will get you started. From there, you just have to get into the court and play. Your attitude should be to have fun and get a great workout. Please remember that you are just beginning to learn how to play the game. Don't be too hard on yourself if you don't hit the ball where you want. Racquetball is an easy game to learn, however it's a very difficult game to perfect. Also, read the different instructional articles available. This is one of the fastest ways to learn and get different ideas on how to play.

I don't have the equipment ...
No problem. Most clubs will have rental equipment or demo frames. You can also purchase a racquet, eyewear and racquetballs for around $25-30.

I don't have a partner ...
Again, when choosing which club to join, ask if they have a teaching pro that not only conducts free introductory racquetball clinics, but also runs leagues, round-robin or shuttles.

I can hear the excuses coming already, "I'm just beginning to play racquetball, why would I play in leagues or any of these other programs?"

Or, "I want to have fun, isn't this too intense for me?" The answer is "no" to both of those excuses because there are different levels of play. The program director or Pro will evaluate your current skill level and place you in the appropriate league. This will give you the opportunity to meet new people to play, improve your game, learn new shots, burn calories ... a whole new beginning!

Only men play ...
It's true that a large percentage of racquetball players are men but that doesn't mean that women can't compete and win with men as their opponents.

Racquetball is an equalizer. You don't have to be a certain height or weight to be able to compete. I have had many women players say to me that they love beating men in racquetball. Why not make it you?

Racquetball is the sport that allows you the opportunity to burn calories, relieve stress, and get a wonderful workout in while having fun!

So, enough excuses ... get up off that couch and get started!!!
Whether you are an amateur recreational player playing in leagues and pick-up games, or an amateur competitive player playing in tournaments, or even an elite/pro athlete playing on the U.S. Team or Pro Tour ... you have all, one way or another, experienced choking, slumps and burnout. No one is exempt.

But look — you’re in good company:
- Michele Kwan, the 1996 National and World Champion Figure skater choked at the 1997 U.S. National Championships and lost the title to Tara Lipinski.
- Robin Levine, a former U.S. National Team Member choked at the 1995 Pan Am Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina and lost to Cheryl Gudinas in the semi's. Robin had never lost to Cheryl before.
- In professional baseball you hear about “batting slumps” all the time, season after season.
- Jason Mannino, the #4 ranked player on the IRT, was mentally burned out after four back-to-back pro stops — from Vegas to San Diego to Phoenix to Milpitas — with no breaks.
- Michael Bronfeld, '94 & '95 U.S. National Champion, was mentally burned out after playing four pro stops in a row, then choosing Houston as the fifth in the series.

At this point let’s now define choking, slumps and burnout and then later we’ll share with you how to prevent and cure these unwanted feelings.

**Choking**

is when an athlete is mentally, physically or emotionally out of the “NOW!” It is when “fear” takes over and making a mistake leads to failure or an injury. Choking usually comes from trying too hard; pressing or pushing too much mentally (too much psychic energy); or physically (too much arousal); or emotionally (not grounded) — and you get out of the moment of the game. The ideal performance state is to be “one” with yourself, the ball and the game — with no thoughts or distractions. Choking is when one's timing and coordination is off. The mind overtakes the body and mis-shots occur.

**Slumps**

mean that an athlete is out of “sync” with their body and mind. Their heads are saying one thing and their bodies are doing another. Either there is a technical flaw in their skills that needs to be corrected or their strategies need to be analyzed. It is often fatigue, over-competition, travel, lack of practice time, a hidden stress in their lives that is bubbling to the surface, negative self-talk, lack of team harmony/communication or coach/athlete relationship problems.

**Burnout**

is caused by putting too much pressure on yourself for too long under too many high intensity competitions, in essence, your “wiring is fatigued” and your motivation is gone. You, your training, and your sport needs a break.

**Prevention and Cures**

Each individual athlete is unique and different. Due to their personality, body and sport type all will handle the situations differently...let’s take a look:

A “Vata” personality is a thinker, worrier and constantly analyzes the situation. Their problem is that they push too hard and eventually crash and burn. They need to relax — have days off and recovery cycles.

A “Pitta” personality is the most competitive and can burn out mentally and physically if allowed to get too hot, over-train or get angry and hostile. All “pittas” care about is winning. As a result of this, they must keep training and competitions fun and learn to enjoy the process. They need to get creative in their training and always keep a balanced life. They must drink a lot of water and keep their bodies from overheating. Often “pittas” quit their sport because they get so disillusioned and burn out, only to return after they cool off.

The “Kapha” personality is laid back and often a procrastinator. If they are pushed too hard by their coach or too many competitions, they fatigue and withdraw. A “kapha” needs to eat good, low-fat nutritious foods, exercise and train daily and see the camaraderie and enjoyment in the sport.

Relax! Have fun! Stay in the Now! Go with the Flow! Smile! Life is your school and everyday is your curriculum. It is “how” you approach the game that will make all the difference in the world. Right Attitude=Success!!!

Good luck!
Everyone knows that greater racquet length increases power. But it's greater length plus greater mass that maximizes power. So instead of merely lengthening the handle, Wilson engineers developed Stretch Technology, which completely redesigns the entire racquet to increase both length and mass.

Stretch racquets combine a sleek and aerodynamic 22" frame with an expanded 107-square inch hitting area to deliver 10% more power, a larger sweet spot and 8% greater reach. It's like driving in a whole new gear.

But don't take our word for it. Check out all of the new longer racquets. You'll see that Stretch Technology takes the extra inch an extra mile.

Your game is too important to settle for just an ordinary longer racquet.

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AIR HAMMER 9.9 STRETCH
Program Your Members for Success
by Mary Lyons
Certified Professional Instructor

Within every club or racquetball facility, there are two distinct groups of members - new members and existing members.

By programming specifically for these two groups you will not only insure the success of your racquetball program but you will increase the overall membership return rate in member referrals, plus increase participation in other club programs - both critical to the overall long-term success and profitability of your club.

Studies have proven that the cost of bringing new members into a club is much higher than the cost of keeping existing members.

Programming the New Member
It is very important that every new member is serviced to the best of the club’s ability. This includes, first and foremost, that each new member feel welcome to the club and secondly that they get involved in club programs and meet other members so that they gain a sense of belonging. Every new member should receive the following three “services” upon joining your club.

1. A welcome letter from the Racquetball Director
This letter should be sent within the first two weeks of the new member joining your club and should include:

- a listing of the racquetball staff including program directors and instructors
- a listing of the programs offered at your club and how the new member can get involved in them
- an outline of the instructional programs offered - group and private and the costs involved
- a member profile to be filled in and returned to you
- a list of the many benefits of playing racquetball along with some encouraging words about getting started right away

This letter may also contain a coupon for a discount on lessons or upcoming programs, a pro-shop or racquet repair discount coupon or a guest pass to bring a friend.

2. A call from the Racquetball Director
This call is best made 7-10 days after the welcome letter is sent and gives you the opportunity to personally introduce yourself to the new member and answer any questions they might have about the club or about the racquetball programs offered.

3. An Introductory Lesson
This will depend upon the playing experience of the new member and may be a one hour “never-ever” orientation to the sport for first time players or may be a series of group lessons that include a half hour lesson with a half hour of play.

The more experienced player may only need to speak with, or be observed by, an instructor so that their skill level can be evaluated. New members at all skill levels should be given a list of potential playing partners as soon as possible so that they can begin to take part in the programs you offer and become involved, active racquetball members of your club.

Programming Existing Members
Studies have proven that the financial – as well as personnel – costs of bringing new members into a club is much higher than the cost of keeping existing members. Therefore, it is critical to the success of your club and your program that you do not let existing members drop out due to boredom or inactivity.

It is important to keep these members active, happy and involved. Though it is true that these members...
need less “hand holding” than the new member, we still cannot forget about them. We need to maintain their membership through leagues, group and private lessons, clinics, round-robins and social activities.

In addition, satisfied members are the best source of referrals for your club and your programs and are very likely to introduce their friends and neighbors to the club.

For some members, weekly activities such as league play and scheduled round-robins provide regular, organized play with guaranteed competition. Others prefer to schedule their own games but may like to play on a challenge court for variety.

In addition to these “regular” programs, a series of monthly or bi-monthly drill classes or clinics will give your members an opportunity to learn something new and, in turn, improve their racquetball skills. Socials and Mixers are another excellent way to add a bit of spice to the member’s regular diet of racquetball. These can involve singles, doubles or mixed doubles play and may include snacks, dinner and drinks and/or dancing, games or karaoke for fun.

To ensure the success of your racquetball program and the profitability of your club, remember to target your programs toward these two distinct groups of members.

1997 AmPRO Instructor Clinics

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1997 AmPRO Programmer Clinics

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For additional information, or to schedule your own clinic, please call Michelle Gould, AmPRO Executive Director at (208) 362-3844.
As the new racquetball season begins, I'm very happy to announce the publication of a revised rulebook for the sport. It's certainly changed enough from previous editions that I highly recommend that you take a few minutes to read it.

The new rules — effective September 1
As you probably know by now, the racquet's maximum length has been increased to 22 inches. In addition to the longer racquets, the appeal process now allows for every call or “non-call” by the referee (except for technical fouls and forfeitures) to be appealed if there are line judges. If you hit the ball out-of-court (or just out-of-play), you lose the rally immediately. This also includes hitting the serve out-of-court.

Another, less apparent change now allows the referee to declare a “sideout” in those instances where the receiver is called for encroachment, but that call is overturned on appeal and the referee considers the return of serve to have been an irretrievable shot.

Rules & Modifications vs. Policies & Procedures
But if you've already looked at the revised rulebook, I'm sure that you'll notice that we have also completely re-organized it too. You'll find that all of the basic singles rules for actually playing the game are now in the first three sections of the book. While there is still some mention of doubles teams and partners in these three sections where appropriate, nearly all of the special rules affecting doubles play are now contained in a separate follow-up section devoted solely to doubles.

Following the doubles section is a series of special sections which describe the various rule modifications designed to accommodate special playing circumstances, such as one-serve, multi-bounce, wheelchair games and the pro tours. Then, totally separate from the rules for playing racquetball, you'll find all of the policies and procedures governing competition, such as tournament policies and referee procedures.

I sincerely hope that you'll find this revised rulebook an improvement over past editions and that it helps make your game more enjoyable! But if there are any questions that remain, remember you can always ask Otto: “What's the Call?”

---

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July-August 1997
Power or control? Novice, intermediate, or advanced? The type of player you are, and your level of skill, should influence your choice of racquet string. Try this methodology to select the right string for your game.

Novice — Analysis: You mis-hit the ball frequently, so you need a string that delivers power even when you’re way outside the sweet spot. Finesse is out of the question. You may also feel your game doesn’t justify spending a lot on equipment.

Recommendation: Use the most common type of string: a multi-stranded monofilament, often called “tournament nylon.” Nylon has good resiliency, so it delivers a lot of power. It’s also very economical. Use a thinner gauge (around 17) if you need maximum power; go thicker (16) if durability is more of an issue.

Intermediate — Analysis: Your swing is more “grooved,” and you’ve started to develop a style as a power or a control player. Either way, both power and control are improving. It’s time to think carefully about the right string to maximize your potential, and spend a bit more, if necessary, to get there.

Recommendation: If you’re a power player, the power now comes mainly from your swing, not your string. String breakage is beginning to be a problem, so you should give up a little power to gain durability. You could stick with heavier-gauge nylon, or step up to a 17-gauge nylon/18-gauge Kevlar® hybrid. The nylon crosses will provide enough power for your game, while the Kevlar mains add strength and durability.

If you’re a control player, you still rely mainly on the racquet for power, but you also want a stiffer stringbed to enhance ball control. You could go with a thin nylon and string it up tight. Or, if you’re willing to pay a little more to improve your skills faster, consider a Zyex®-cored string for its superior “dynamic response” — in other words, power and stiffness combined.

Advanced — Analysis: Players at this level are more powerful and have better control than intermediates — period. At the risk of sounding confusing: An advanced control player is more powerful than most intermediate power players; and an advanced power player has better control than any intermediate control player. But even so, within the field of advanced competitors, younger players tend to be more oriented toward power, while older players tend to emphasize control and strategy.

Recommendation: String breakage is a real problem for advanced power players. The incredible tensile strength of Kevlar is a necessity, but Kevlar alone is too stiff for any player. It must be combined with other materials for some playability. You’ve got two choices: a Kevlar-cored string with a more resilient overwrap; or a 17-gauge nylon/17-gauge Kevlar hybrid. The first is the strongest option, the second offers better playability.

Advanced control players can rely on the same choices as intermediate control players: a thin-gauge tournament nylon, or a Zyex-cored model. But now you can increase tension further, both because you’re more powerful, and because your increased skill lets you place shots with great precision.

See the table at left for a summary. First find yourself in the left column. Then check the second column for the kind of performance that’s most important to you; and read to the right for a description of the type of string you should look for.
On the Court for Kids
by Sue & Barry Hendricks –Scottsdale, Arizona

In one of the most unusual racquetball tournaments ever held, the “On the Court For Kids” first annual racquetball fundraiser was a “smashing” success. Local, state and national champions routinely lost to Novice and Class D, C, and B level players. And the beneficiary of this mayhem was Camp Sunrise, a camp for kids with cancer. Over $8,000 was raised, primarily through entry fees, donations and a spirited auction of sports memorabilia, travel packages, dinners at local restaurants, and a variety of other goods and services.

Each player was given a nickname on the draw sheets. Top players were subjectively handicapped by the tournament directors to create an even playing field against less skilled players. These handicaps included playing with frying pans, swim fins, and tennis and squash racquets instead of regulation racquetball racquets. Other handicaps were imposed when necessary and included the wearing of handcuffs or an eye patch, hitting with the off-hand, wearing one size 16 shoe to reduce court coverage, and carrying a huge stuffed animal which impeded backhand shots and exhausted all players burdened with it. As an additional twist, players were dressed (often cross-dressed) in sport coats, outdated dresses and hats that further hindered their effectiveness and added a generous dose of slapstick to the proceedings.

Perhaps the most unusual feature of the tournament involved the discretionary powers of the referees who instituted their own set of rules (in no understandable format) for each match. Points were deducted for an array of violations, such as having a middle name, jumping, hitting a good shot, or poor color coordination of clothing. And this tournament actually featured participants volunteering to referee without payment!

Laughter was the prevailing element all weekend as good players were handicapping each other and selecting outrageous costumes for their own opponents to wear. For many, it became a challenge to overcome the myriad handicaps and continue to play well.

The event was inspired by Ms. Estie Moss, a friend of the local racquetball community, who recently contracted cancer. The winners were all those who participated and enjoyed themselves so that Camp Sunrise can continue to give hope and love to the kids stricken with cancer and to their families who support them.
1997 REGIONAL CHAMPIONS
Listed alphabetically by city...


- **Liburn, Georgia** — Men’s Open: David Sable; A: Mike Ginn; B: Scott O’donnell; C: Kevin Brand; D: Jen Gil; 18+: Mark Hurst; 25+: David Smith; 30+: Doug Dicks; 35+: David Lockridge; 40+: Gary Glogger; 45+: Jim Harvey; 50+: Wayne Vincent; 55+: Warren Reuther; 60+: Gene Fox; 65+: Clement McIntosh; 70+: Hank Richard; 75+: Hank Richard; 80+: George Spear. Women’s Open: Women’s Open; 18+: Virginia Carpenter; B: Barbara Bowd; C: Nathania Stewart; D: Kathleen Noal; All-Age: Kim Herold; 25+: Kim Herold; 30+: Regina Collins; 40+: Vicki Luque; 45+: Debbie Chany; 50+: Kathleen Noal; 60+: Gail Graham.

- **Manchester, New Hampshire** — Men’s Open: Eric Muller; A: Jack Scordas; B: Dick Holt; C: Sam Serrano; C: John Fera; D: Dave Aldrich; All-Age: Mike Patalano; Jr.: Matt Moccia; Jr.: Andy Teixeira; 25+: Josh Messina; 30+: David Barnes; 35+: Chuck Gates; 40+: Chuck Gates; 45+: Isaac Laughinghouse; 50+: Bill Flannery; 55+: Don Harrington; 60+: Frank Trask; 65+: Frank Trask; 70+: Mike Warlick; 75+: Mike Warlick; 80+: Mike Friend; 8-multi: Mike Friend; 90+: Mike Friend; 10-multi: Mike Friend; 11-multi: Mike Friend; 12-multi: Mike Friend; 13-multi: Mike Friend; 14-multi: Mike Friend; 15-multi: Mike Friend.


- **Las Vegas, Nevada** — Men’s Open: Michael Bronfeld; A: Jose Medina; B: Gabriel Medina; C: Arturo de Pablo; C: Arturo de Pablo; All-Age: Mike McPhee; 24+: Scott Foster; 25+: Dave Genevey; 30+: John O’Donnell; 35+: Joe Hassett; 40+: John Adalpe; 45+: Luis Guerero; 50+: Jerry Holly; 55+: Vince Lemer; 70+: Ossie Schulz; 75+: Ossie Schulz; Women’s Open: Women’s Open; 16+: Natasha Elmore; 18+: Katie Gould; 25+: Stephanie Bird; 30+: Kim Machiran; 40+: Linda Moore; 45+: Patricia Weaver; 50+: Annabelle Kovar.

- **Fayetteville, New York** — Men’s Open: Brandon Shoemaker; A: Marc Derhart; B: Jay Horvill; All-Age: Craig Spencer; 6-multi: John Sanderson; 8-multi: Alfonso Madrid; 8-: Mark Beaudry; 10-: Jeff Whel; 14-: Joel Worthington; 16-: Jake Kersten; 18-: Mike Eddens; 20-: Matt Atwood; 25+; Lee Beckwith; 35+: Mark Helton; 40+: Tom Rall; 45+: Gary Mazarooff; 50+: Mark Morse; 55+: Terry Dees; 60+: Dick Manson; 65+: Michael Martin. Women’s Open: Jo Shattuck; A: Berta Hamilton; B: Connie Wong; C: Stelley Steller; D: Erica Beaupre; All-Age: Kathy Klein; B: Kimberly Tice; 8-: Frances Nolan; 12+: Fieri Sullie; 14+: Melanie Mueler; 16+: Megan Bab; 25+: Jo Shattuck; 30+: Haley Wahongi; 35+: Marianne Walsh; 40+: Martha Bailey; 45+: Madelon Ichchom.


- **Fayetteville, New York** — Men’s Open: Anthony DeFusto; A: Charles Emmel; B: Matt Malowski; C: James Coles; D: Matt McDonald; 10-: Matthew Emmel; 12-: Dan Klemperer; 14-: Bobby Tanto; 16-: Fred Tanto; 18-: Scott Grunin; 25+: Anthony DeFusto; 30+: Pat Bernardo; 35+: Steve Hachey; 40+: Mike Bull; 45+: Bruce Shafer; 50+: Neil Shapiro; 55+: Herman Neumeier; 60+: Ron Crawford. Women’s Open: Women’s Open; A: Nicole Schultz; B: Pat Bentz; C: Stephanie Lynch; D: Barb Platt; Novice: Kastle Arturo; All-Age: Nicole Schultz; 25+: Nicole Schultz; 30+: Carol Bastien; 35+: Kim Wilkerson; 40+: Carol Davis; 45+: Charlette Loyola; 50+: Donna Johnson; 60+: Susan Embry.
Junior Team Profile: Rocky Carson
Rocky Carson is the name of the future for racquetball. His amazing racquet skills, strong court presence, and competitive spirit have moved him to the top of junior racquetball. Watch for this senior basketball and baseball star at Valley Christian Academy in Santa Maria, California to be one of the names of the future in racquetball.

At the age of 17, Rocky's racquetball resume is packed with numerous national and world titles. Beginning in 1990, Rocky scored his first junior national title in the 10 and under singles. Rocky returned to championship form in the 1992 Junior Nationals winning the 12 and under singles and placing second in doubles with partner Tyler Siggins. Rocky won his third national title at the 1993 Junior Nationals playing in the 14 and under singles, and placed third in doubles with Siggins. The next year was a carbon copy repeat, with Rocky winning the 14 singles and third in doubles.

Rocky had an excellent year in 1995. In May, he earned his first title at the adult National Singles in Houston by winning the Men's A division. In June, Rocky won his fifth junior national singles title in the 16 and under and placed third in the 18-doubles with Richie Wagner. After being named to the 1995-96 Junior Team USA, Rocky won two junior world titles (16 singles and doubles).

Continuing his solid improvement in 1996, Rocky reached new heights. After placing second at the National High School Championships, Rocky proceeded to win his sixth junior national title in the 16's and placed second in the 18-doubles. Also at the Junior Nationals, Rocky was awarded the Male Junior Athlete of the Year award. Competing in the U.S. Open Championships in Memphis, Rocky won the men's 24 and under division for his eighth national title. In December 1996, Rocky concluded the year competing for Junior Team USA at the Junior World Championships where he won the 18 and under world singles title.

This year, Rocky hopes to add to this already lengthy list of accomplishments at the National Singles, the Junior Nationals, the U.S. Open, and the Junior World Championships.

Rocky's tremendous ability and winning attitude has resulted in an already amazing eight national titles and three junior world titles. Look for Rocky Carson to continue his improvement and rise to the top of the racquetball world.

Summer Vacation - Team Style
Members of Junior Team USA will split up into three squads to travel abroad for goodwill tours to promote junior racquetball in Canada and Puerto Rico in mid-July. Sara Borland, Brooke Crawford, James Ford, Lianna Kerwood and chaperone Jen Yokota will take off for Montreal; Maggie DeBord, Rhonda Rajsich, Tyler Siggins, Willie Tilton, Shane Vanderson and chaperone Caro Pellowski will visit Saskatoon; and Erin Brannigan, Kori Grasha, Sadie Gross, Melissa Harmon, Ryan Staten and "team mom" Gina Staten will tour Puerto Rico.

On August 15-21, Junior Team Trials will be held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. At this camp, 44 juniors who qualified through the initial junior team application process will be trying out for the team. Sixteen athletes will be selected and will represent the U.S. at the Junior World Championships in December.
The Right Way
For Seniors
To Cross The Bar

Study after study shows that active seniors live happier, healthier, longer lives – or does it just seem that way?

If you are interested in finding out what 3,500 senior athletes (50 and above) from all over the United States and a dozen foreign countries think about it, join them at the eleventh annual Huntsman World Senior Games in St. George, Utah, October 13-24, 1997.

Competition includes cycling, softball, swimming, tennis, bowling, racquetball, track and field, basketball, golf, horseshoes, table tennis, triathlon (individual and team), basketball free throw and 3-point shoot, mountain biking, bridge, volleyball and roadracing events.

Huntsman World Senior Games
Eleventh Anniversary

St. George, Utah – October 13-24, 1997

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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82 West 700 South, St. George, UT 84770
TOURNAMENT INFORMATION ...

• ENTRY DEADLINE: Entry must be received by Wednesday, OCTOBER 1, (postmarked no later than Sept. 29). All entries are final, with absolutely no refunds after the deadline date. • ENTRY FEE: $65.00 First Event (includes referee fee), $35.00 Second Event. A third event is allowed ONLY in the MIXED 55+ through 85+ divisions, for a $15.00 fee. • LATE FEES: If any entries are accepted after the deadline, an additional $15.00 late fee will be assessed (payment made at tournament check-in will be processed as a late entry and surcharged).

• STARTING TIMES: Starting times will be available on-site after 5:00 pm on Monday, October 13. Please do not call the national office for starting times! ... Call 602/285-2929.

• OFFICIATING: $5.00 of each entry fee will be paid back to you for every match you referee. Director of Referees: Otto Dietrich.

An official event of the
1997 30th U.S. NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

October 15-21
City Square Sports Club
100 West Clarendon
Phoenix, Arizona 85013
602/285-2929

Be prepared to start play on:

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All Mixed Divisions

lodging: The Lexington Hotel [602/279-9811] is located in the same building as the tournament facility. Rate: $78.00/night for up to four persons per room.

Quality Hotel & Resort [602/248-0222] is located two blocks from the club. Rate: $80.00/night.

Hilton Suites [602/222-1111] offers two-room suites, including full cook-to-order breakfast and two hours of complimentary cocktails each evening for $149.00/night. You must make your reservations by September 20 AND mention National Doubles to receive these tournament rates.

• TRANSPORTATION: The airport is 20 miles from the club/hotel and transportation is defined as anyone who has accepted prize money in the preceding 12 months, regardless of amount, in any IRT/WIRT pro-sanctioned tournament or any other events so deemed as professional events by the USRA Board of Directors. Membership: A USRA competitive license membership is required of all participants. At registration, entrants must present a current membership card, a receipt, or a cancelled check indicating recent enrollment as proof of membership, or purchase a competitive license membership on site.

Drug Testing: The U.S. Olympic Committee's Drug Testing Program will be used at this event. A positive result for an IOC banned substance will be cause for disqualification from this event, and for loss of eligibility for a minimum of six (6) months by the USRA. Only OPEN players will be tested. By registering to compete, you are consenting to the drug test on a sample of your urine, and subject to its penalties if found positive for a banned substance. Testing is mandatory; non-compliance will result in the same penalty as a positive drug test. For more information about specific medications call the Drug Hotline at 1-800-233-0393.

Need to know ...

Rules: USRA Official Rules will govern competition, including the mandatory use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards. In open divisions, only U.S. citizens may compete, and only one serve is allowed. Age Requirement: For age division competition, players must meet the age requirement as of the first day of the tournament.

Amateur Status: Only amateurs may participate. A professional is defined as anyone who has accepted prize money in the preceding 12 months, regardless of amount, in any IRT/WIRT pro-sanctioned tournament or any other events so deemed as professional events by the USRA Board of Directors.

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Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City/State __________ Zip ________
Phone (Day) __________ (Evening) __________
Occupation ____________________________
Employer ________________________________
Birthdate __________ Age ________
Partner __________ Division ________________
*Third division for MIXED competition in 55+ through 85+ ONLY
Partner __________ Division ________________
NOTE: Regional doubles competition is not required for competition at national doubles. However, for seeding purposes, you may cite any regional doubles titles or accomplishments below.

Regional ______________ Div. & Finish __________________

EQUIPMENT SURVEY
Racquet __________________ Glove __________
Eyeguards __________________ Shoes __________
Sponsor ____________________________

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 USRA, Ektelon, Penn Racquet Sports, the City Square Sports Club, 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 USRA/USOC guidelines, and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Participant Signature & Date
(Parent/Guardian if entrant is under 18)

ENTRY FEES AND PAYMENT
First event .................... ($65.00) __
Second event .................... ($35.00) __
*Third event (in MIXED 55+ through 85+ ONLY) .................... ($15.00) __
USRA Competitive License
Membership fee .................... ($20.00) __
Late fee .................... ($15.00) __
Tax deductible donation to U.S. Team .................... $ __
TOTAL DUE: .................... $ __

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

MC/Visa ____________________________ Exp. __________

Signature ____________________________

MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY AND FEES TO:
USRA NATIONAL DOUBLES
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY:
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1997
(Postmarked no later than September 29)

RACQUETBALL Magazine
changing times • by Luke St. Onge

Board Report - A three-day meeting of the USRA Board of Directors was held in Houston during Nation Singles, where newly-elected board members Otto Dietrich - Ga. (elected with 48% of the votes); Annie Muniz - Tx. (36%); and Carlton Vass - S.C. (38%) were welcomed. Other highlights of that meeting follow.

Financial • Approved, in concept, an action plan which stipulates that the USRA maintain a 10% financial reserve, based upon budget, to be in place within three years. • Voted unanimously to discontinue the practice of offering any/all complementary entries into national events, effective June 1, 1997. • Approved the 1997-1998 USRA budget with noted revisions.

Competitions & Programs • U.S. Open - Approved a resolution stating that amateur events will remain a part of the U.S. Open; Approved a resolution that, for the men and women pros, all non-prize-money benefits will be distributed equally; Approved an additional $2,500 toward the women's prize purse and approved the concept that in future U.S. Open's, the women's prize money will not be allocated at less than 50% of the men's. • Approved support and sanction for the Tournament of the Americas to be held Easter Week in Houston 1999. • Approved the following locations for selected national events: High Schools – 1998-St. Louis; 1999-Oregon; 2000-St. Louis; Intercollegiates – 1998-Phoenix; Singles – 1998-Houston, Texas.

• Intercollegiate Nationals — A thorough review of the intercollegiate program was undertaken, with the following recommendations accepted: 1) Regional qualifiers will remain mandatory for 1998, with the added possibility of conducting them in conjunction with established, existing tournaments; 2) Charged the national staff with revamping the current program to make it viable, enabling the sport and the USRA to access the college market. The first phase will concentrate on the competitive program plan to be implemented within the current USRA fiscal year (May 97 - June 98). • Adapted unanimously the USRA/Ektelon Boys and Girls Club program of recirculating used racquetball racquets to a one-wall developmental program to promote racquetball to disadvantaged and inter-city children. • Approved April as Racquetball Month.

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$200 -- $500 WEEKLY

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Ask your stringer for the Ashaway string designed to improve your game—and support the USRA at the same time.

**Ashaway's Newest Racquetball Strings.**

**Killfire™** has 18 gauge Kevlar® mains and 17 gauge SuperKill crosses for a superior blend of playability and durability.

**Killfire™ XL** substitutes 17 gauge Kevlar mains to provide optimum durability for chronic string breakers.

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16 gauge composite string with a central core of Zyex® fibers for optimum power and resiliency. Recommended for players who want to maximize power in their game.

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Both available in a variety of colors. Recommended for players of all skill levels.

Derek Robinson wins with KillFire in his racquet.

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  - 800 835-1055

- **California**
  - Courtesy Sports
  - 800 729-1771

- **Indiana**
  - The Racquetball Mart
  - 800 875-3701

- **Ohio**
  - Samuel's Tennisport
  - 800 543-1153

- **Pennsylvania**
  - Fromuth
  - 800 623-6414

- **Pennsylvania**
  - ATS
  - 800 866-7071

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Racquetball Magazine
Men's Open
1. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
2. Dan Oremski, PA
3. Michael Bronfeld, CA
4. Don Llacer, DE
5. Todd O'Neil, TX
6. Not a Member
7. Jimmy Lowe, AK
8. Mike Locke, MN
9. Brian Fredenez, TX
10. Tim Hansen, FL

Men's A
1. Ralph Cuesta, FL
2. Don Pischke, WA
3. Jeff Gal, NY
4. Dan Gong, CA
5. Mike Harmon, FL
6. Silvio Rastran, FL
7. Ken Fairchild, NJ
8. Scott Foster, CA
9. Sam Sullivan, CA
10. Billy Barker, OH

Men's B
1. Sam Ryder, WI
2. Craig Citti, IL
3. Not a Member
4. George Anthon, LA
5. Mike O'Donnoghue, DE
6. Fabrizio Avelar, FL
7. Hector Martinez, AR
8. Mark Bianchi, OK
9. Sam Serrano, MA
10. Cory Marth, WI

Men's C
1. Kevin Brand, SC
2. John Garcia, NM
3. Joseph Austin Jr., LA
4. Not a Member
5. Preston Gaster, NC
6. Marc Dehart, CO
7. Lynn Stephens, NC
8. Not a Member
9. Chris Underwood, GA
10. Scott Rensma, MA

Men's D
1. Leon Z Toth, TX
2. Jerry Gibson, TN
3. Jon Hardy, AR
4. Ray Meiner, IL
5. Bryan Jacoby, SC
6. Ryan Kinnaman, AR
7. Raymond Gong, CA
8. Nick Kritzler, IL
9. Joe Shemill, LA
10. Jim Smith, CA

Men's Novice
1. Josh Christopher, PA
2. Chris Poole Jr., AR
3. Rob Day, NY
4. Dan Fowler, GA
5. Eric Fritcheley, OH
6. Anu Lappen, PA
7. Scott Lubbers, MI
8. Jesse Wells, TX
9. Not a Member, AR
10. Steve Cerezo, DE

Men's All Age
1. Scott Grunin, NY
2. Mike Dennison, OH
3. Rob DeJesus, NM
4. Brian Simpson, IN
5. Nick Xynidis, FL
6. Willie Tilton, CO
7. Ryan Homma, WI
8. Matt Adesso, OH
9. Aaron Metcalf, FL
10. Jeffrey Carr, AL

Men's 25+
1. Mike Locke, MN
2. Rich Baer, CA
3. James Lorello, FL
4. Anthony Delusto, NY
5. Brian Pointin, CO
6. Adam Kemp, FL
7. Not a Member
8. John Cantrell, KS
9. Brian Fredenez, TX
10. Aaron Metcalf, FL

Men's 30+
1. Brad McCurrie, IA
2. Gregg Peck, TX
3. Dan Llacer, CA
4. John Barrett, PA
5. Lance Gillillam, CO
6. John Negrete, IL
7. John Scargle, FL
8. Not a Member
9. Pat Bernarda, NY
10. Not a Member

Men's 35+
1. Mitch Smith, PA
2. Dave Watson, OK
3. Tim Hansen, CA
4. Dave Eagle, OH
5. Gil Rodriguez, VA
6. John Scargle, FL
7. Joe Hasse, AZ
8. Jeff Hanno, CO
9. Not a Member
10. Not a Member

Men's 40+
1. Mitt Layton, FL
2. Terry Fluharty, FL
3. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
4. Gene Couch, FL
5. Mark Baran, VA
6. Steve Neighbors, ID
7. Ron Burnis, FL
8. Clee Melvin, MI
9. Gentry Kay, TX
10. Chuck Gates, NH

Men's 45+
1. Mitt Layton, FL
2. Gary Mazarror, NM
3. Darryl Warren, CA
4. Jim Luzar, WI
5. Terry Dye, TX
6. Not a Member
7. Rick Fusari, FL
8. Don Scates, TX
9. Greg Hasty, IL
10. Not a Member

Men's 50+
1. Ed Remen, VA
2. John Aldape, ID
3. Stan Lemon, TX
4. Tom McKie, TX
5. Ray Huss, OH
6. Dennis O'Brien, ID
7. Not a Member
8. Russ Deegan, FL
9. Scott Rudoni, CA
10. R.O. Carson, CA

Men's 55+
1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Les Barbarell, NJ
3. Warren Reuther, LA
4. Ron Hutcherson, PA
5. Roger Wehrle, CA
6. Bobby Sanders, OH
7. Luis Guerrero, CA
8. Rex Lawler, IN
9. Fred Letter, CA
10. Charlie Garrinckel, NY

Men's 60+
1. Paul Baranel, AZ
2. Jerry Holly, CA
3. Jerry Stolzmann, WI
4. Jack Dunsmaoor, MO
5. David Jordan, NJ
6. Ron Meegard, MO
7. Joe Lambert, TX
8. Don Alt, FL
9. Mike Jackson, CT
10. Hugh Morrison, IL

Women's Open
1. Michelle Gould, ID
2. Kersten Hallander, CA
3. Cheryl Cudinas, IL
4. Lydah Hammock, CA
5. Denise Mock, TX
6. Kori Grash, NY
7. Robin Rodriguez, AZ
8. Roz Petrocelli, MA
9. Elaine Mardas, MA
10. Maria Hartz, NY

Women's A
1. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
2. Michelle Kinaan, CA
3. Diane Weissbach, MA
4. Karen Schmidt, CA
5. Megan Bals, NE
6. Jeanette Coury, TX
7. Deborah Meston, VA
8. Carol Zimlinghaus, CO
9. Joanna Boyce, NC
10. Debbie Fiordiino, NJ

Women's B
1. Bonnie Mobley, TX
2. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
3. Belinda Dettman, FL
4. Kelly Goddard, VA
5. Alina Polak, FL
6. Sherry Wynn, OH
7. Grace jawsky, KS
8. Angie Davis, AK
9. Leslie Miller, IL
10. Bonnie Morrell, PA

Women's C
1. Heather Elliott, FL
2. Not a Member
3. Nathania Steward, GA
4. Kassie Herr, FL
5. Sheri Kinneman, AK
6. Josie Fuller, NM
7. Susan Huntsman, TX
8. Laura Gordon, CT
9. Juliana Fisher, NY
10. Becky Bostick, KY

Women's D
1. Terry Truvilion, MI
2. Kathleen Neal, GA
3. Enca Beausaha, CO
4. Gail Gabrysh, TX
5. Judy Mancuso, CA
6. Sharon Stevens, MA
7. Terri Hensch, FL
8. Cheryl Stamps, AR
9. Tricia Antolne, LA
10. Alicia Motza, CA

Women's Novice
1. Louise Rivera, FL
2. Kaste Arturo, AK
3. Lisa Barrett, PA
4. Not a Member
5. Linda Guiboutte, PA
6. Not a Member
7. Nikiti Winfrey, OH
8. Kelly Bruns, VA
9. Not a Member
10. Chris Parks, IN

Women's Age
1. Shannon Feaster, DC
2. Satie Gross, SD
3. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
4. Vanessa Tulano, NC
5. Erika Juhl, DE
6. Aimee Roehler, PA
7. Lorraine Steward, CA
8. Nicki Ward, PA
9. Not a Member
10. Chris Parks, IN

Women's 25+
1. Michelle Wiragh, WA
2. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
2. Elaine Mardas, MA
4. Jen Yokota, MO
Women's 30+  
1. Lorraine Galloway, NY  
2. Lydia Hammock, CA  
3. Not a Member  
4T. Bridget Barron, TX  
4T. Debbie Tisinger, CA  
4T. Terri Lawrence, FL  
5T. Lisa Paps, CA  
5T. Sherry Viscott, DE  
9T. Holly Desportes, NC  
9T. Stacy Sorey, CO

Women's 35+  
1. Debbie Tisinger, CA  
2. Denise Mock, TX  
3. Kim Machiran, MO  
4. Mary Beke, AZ  
4T. Mary Bickley, PA  
6. Roz Petronelli, MA  
7T. Not a Member  
7T. Janet Tyler, FL  
10. Carol Bestien, IL

Women's 40+  
1. Linda Moore, NE  
2. Not a Member  
3. Val Shevett, UT  
4. Susan Phiferi, FL  
4T. Michael Slickley, CA  
6T. Janice Shimabukaro, CA  
6T. Janell Marriott, Ri  
8. Karen Bouchard, FL  
9. Brenda White, IL  
10. Martha Bailey, CO

Women's 45+  
1. Janet Myers, NC  
2. Eileen Tuckman, FL  
3. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL  
4. Shelley Ogden, OH  
5. Gern Stoffregen, OH  
6. Debbie Chaney, IN  
7T. Renee fissh, Fl  
7T. Terry Ann Rogers, CA  
9. Karen Weins, FL  
10. Judy Sands, NJ

Women's 50+  
1. Agatha Falco, FL  
2. Gerri Stoffregen, OH  
3. Menjau Kelley, CA  
4. Pattie Schaf, IA  
5T. Nida Funes, CA  
5T. Margaret Hall, FL  
5T. Donna Johnson, ID  
8T. Not a Member  
8T. Carol Pellowski, SI  
10. Sharon Hasting-Welty, OR

Women's 55+  
1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR  
2. Marquita Molina, LA  
3. Jo Kenyon, FL  
4. Rose Stoltman, WI  
5. Nancy Butts, WI  
6. Annabelle Kowalski, NE  
7T. Mildred Gwinn, NC  
8. Pauline Kelly, IL  
9. Not a Member  
10. Nidia Funes, CA

Women's 60+  
1. Jo Kenyon, Fl  
2. Helen Dunsmoor, ID  
3. Susan Emberly, CA  
4. Kathy Mueller, MI  
5. Mary-Low Acuff, NC  
6. Jane Graham, GA  
7T. Norwia Carliit, US  
7T. Lola Markus, FL  
9. Naomi Eads, MO  
9T. Not a Member

Women's 65+  
1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC  
2. Mary-Low Acuff, NC  
3. Reta Harrington, WI  
4T. Paula McNeish, FL  
4T. Not a Member  
6T. Not a Member  
7T. Louise Kiss, NM  
7T. B.G. Railey, TX  
7T. Dorothy Zavetinski, WA

Women's 70+  
1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC  
1T. Mary-Low Acuff, NC  
3T. Beth Keene, TX  
3T. Roberta Schoenfield, NM  
5. Mary Lou Kackert, NM

Women's 75+  
1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC  
2. Bonna Quaakerbash, OR  
3. Christine Stephens, TX

BOYS  

Boy's 8 & Under  
1T. Mark Beaudry, CO  
1T. Alan Crockett, AL  
1T. Jamin Godwin, GA  
1T. Conner Reynolds, CA  
1T. Harrison Scoump, OR  
6T. Jalen Allen, TX  
6T. Nick Antro, AR  
7T. Bryce Miklovich, CA  
8T. Not a Member  
10. Colan Stock, OR

B8- Multi-Bounce  
1T. Justin Asuncion, MA  
1T. Mathew Machiran, MO  
3T. Andy Berntognoli, WI  
3T. Stephen Brandt, NM  
3T. Kenneth Green, GA  
3T. Colan Stock, OR  
7. Tim Tilton, CO  
8T. Not a Member  
9. Kevin Walsh, UT  
10. Brandon Calhoun, AK

Boy's 10-  
1. Eddie Mazur, CT  
2. Drew Tolkien, AR  
2T. Charlie Pratt, OR  
4. Matthew Emmel, NY  
6T. Joey Lakoske, WI  
6T. Matt Johnson, NM  
8T. Not a Member  
8T. David Lewis, CO  
9. Chris Coy, OK

Boy's 12-  
1. Clay Burris, FL  
2. Patrick Debold, NE  
3. Seth Parker, PA  
4. Andrew Kopf, NY  
5T. Brandon Shroemaker, OH  
6T. Brad Scoump, FL  
7. Adrian Anulewicz, CT  
8. Chris Meyer, OR  
9. Dan Sheppick, WI  
10. Omri Buzi, TX

Boy's 14-  
1. Bart Crawford, OR  
2. Bobby Tantalo, NY  
3. Matt Lobene, NY  
4. Michael Lawrence, FL  
5T. Joel Worthington, KS  
6T. Trevor Crowe, OR  
8. Matthew McFlinney, Fl  
9. Patric Macaruso, OR  
10. Jack Huczek, MI

Boy's 16-  
1. Jeffrey Garner, AL  
2. Red Tantalo III, NY  
3T. Marcus Hughes, GA  
3T. Mike Harmon, FL  
5. Nick Gumm, OR  
7T. Not a Member  
7T. Brad Jantz, WI  
7T. David Liakos, NE  
7T. Adam Tueller, UT

Boy's 18-  
1. Erin Brannigan, ID  
2. Jeffrey Garner, AL  
3. Brandon Henline, GA  
4. Rocky Carson, CA  
5. Larry Flee, Fl  
6. Willie Tilton, CO  
7T. Dustin Baker, PA  
7T. Stephen Mykalco, NY  
7T. Ryan Staden, KS  
10. Bucky Freeman, TX

GIRLS  

Girl's 8 & Under  
1. Brittany Leggett, OR  
1T. Jeni Epstein, NY  
3. Rebekah Kopf, NY  
4T. Sarah Moyle, OR  
4T. Ashley Willhite, OR  
6T. Brandi Alexander, LA  
6T. Shannon Inglesby, OR  
7T. Sharon Jackson, IN  
7T. Not a Member  
10. Brianna Elder, MD

G8- Multi-Bounce  
1. Brittany Leggett, OR  
2. Cara Mazur, CT  
3. Sarah Moyle, OR  
4. Melissa Garcia, NM  
5. Rebekah Kopf, NY  
6T. Jenny Eastin, NY  
6T. Shannon Inglesby, OR  
7T. Alicia Schmelling, OK  
8. Christine McCracken, NM  
10. Nicole Robinson, OR

Girl's 10-  
1. Jenny Hough, MD  
2. Ashley Leggett, OR  
3T. Katie Lyons, FL  
3T. Natalie Starken, WI  
3T. Brandie Hanson, OR  
6T. Nikki Winfrey, OH  
7T. Kimberly Walsh, UT  
8T. Adrienne Fisher, OH  
9. Kelley Fisher, OH  
10. Jessie Ballard, UT

Girl's 12-  
1. Curt Witt, KS  
2. Ashley Leggett, OR  
3. Katie Lyons, FL  
3T. Natalie Starken, WI  
4. Brandie Hanson, OR  
5. Nikki Winfrey, OH  
6. Honey Morse, IA  
7. Brittany Larson, OR  
10. Brandie Hanson, OR

Girl's 16-  
1. Brooke Crawford, OR  
2. Megan Bds, NE  
3. Meghan Guarini, MA  
4. Jennifer Slay, PA  
5. Crystal Cosk, IL  
6. Jennifer Bennett, UT  
7T. Danina Bloom, TX  
7T. Maggie Deardor, NE  
11. Evalone Elmore, AR  
7T. Annie Hennings, CA

Girl's 18-  
1. Rhonda Raisjic, AZ  
2. Brooke Crawford, OR  
3. Katie Gauld, MO  
4. laine Kerwood, OR  
5. Christina Lewendal, OR  
6. Melissa Harmon, FL  
7. Sara Boland, IA  
8. Kori Crashy, GA  
9. Erin Frost, OR  
10. Sadie Grass, SD

WHO'S "NOT A MEMBER"?  
Since ranking services are a benefit of USRA membership, it is the policy of RACQUETBALL to publish the "Top-Ten" national rankings of members only.

Ranking lists are reviewed prior to each publication to ensure that all named "top-ten" athletes in their respective divisions are current members of the USRA. This means that — in order to maintain a position in the published top-ten — it is the ranked athlete's responsibility to make sure that her/his membership is in good standing year-round.

If you suspect that you might be among the "not a member" group — you'll want to call the national office at 719/635-3396 to confirm your status before the next issue goes to press (no later than August 1st)
JULY

July 16
Georgia Games for Racquetball
Georgia Tech
Student Athletic Ctr
Atlanta, GA
404-636-7575

July 18
July Jam
Court House
Racquet $ Fitness
Vestavia Hills, AL
205-823-2120

The Way It Wuz ... Again
Schoeber's
Athletic Club
Fremont, CA
510-794-9495

July 19
Summer Shoot-Out North West
Fitness Center
Houston, TX
713-895-8688

Bluegrass State Games @ University of Kentucky
Seaton Center
Lexington, KY
606-288-6011

I Love Racquetball Series
Aspen Hill Club
Silver Springs, MD
301-598-4200

4th Annual Summerfest
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
630-629-3390

August

August 1
Nutmeg State Games
Downtown Health & Racquet
New Haven, CT
203-248-1869

Ektelon Summer Sizzler @ Hall of Fame Racquetball Club – Columbia Heights, MN
612-572-0320

August 9
Friendly's
Racquetballathon
Nautilus Fitness Center – Erie, PA
814-868-0072

One-Day State Doubles Warm-up
Quad West AC
Clearwater, FL
813-535-4901

August 15
Doubles Warm-up
Miami Racquet
Fitness – Miami, FL
305-225-2582

Summer Sizzler
Open @ Twin Arbors Athletic Club
Lodi, CA
209-334-4897

AUGUST

August 22
Beach Party Open
Nehr @ Newington
Newington, CT
203-248-1869

I Love Racquetball
Aspen Hill Club
Silver Spring, MD
301-598-4200

Florida State Doubles
South Florida Racquetball Club
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL
904-270-2224

August 26-30
IRF 9th World Senior Racquetball Championships
• Tom Young's • Athletic Club
Albuquerque, New Mexico
505-266-8960

SEPTEMBER

September 12
American Family Open @ American Family Fitness
Richmond, VA
804-330-3400

Fall Racquetball Classic @ Maverick Athletic Club
Arlington, TX
817-275-3348

Peter Peterson
Classic IX @ Hall of Fame Racquetball Club – Columbia Heights, MN
612-572-0320

September 18
Crystal City Pro-Am
Skyline Clubs @ Crystal Gateway
Arlington, VA
703-527-7785

September 19
Jesse James Shootout
Olympus Ath. Club
Northfield, MN
645-8007

August 29
Kil/shot Classic
Robious Sports & Fitness
Richmond, VA
804-330-2222

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USRA Approved Balls ••••••
• Ektelon • Penn (official) • ProKennex • Spalding • Wilson

July 25
Ballard Open
Olympic Athletic Club – Seattle, WA
206-783-0427

August 8
Bellways Championships
Bally Total Fitness-Greenbelt
Greenbelt, MD
703-527-7785

August 21
Utah State Junior Championships
Redwood Multi-Purpose Center
West Valley City, UT
801-974-6923

August 28
Stockton Pro-Am
West Lane Racquet Club
Stockton, CA
209-472-2100

Connecticut State Doubles @ Downtown Health & Racquet
New Haven, CT
203-248-1869

July – August 1997
**1997 USRA NATIONAL EVENTS**

**JULY 16-19**
- NMRA International Masters Invitational Singles/Doubles: Las Vegas
- IRF 9th World Senior Championships: Albuquerque

**AUGUST 26-30**
- Ektelon USRA 30th U.S. National Doubles Championships: Phoenix
- Promus Hotel Corporation 2nd U.S. OPEN Championships: Memphis
- IRF 9th World Junior Championships: Fountain Valley, CA

**OCTOBER 15-19**
- USRA 14th Annual Leadership Conference: Colorado Springs, CO
- Women's Senior/Master National Championships: Canoga Park, CA
- NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Invitational: Site TBA
- Pro Kennex USRA 11th National High Schools: St. Louis, MO
- E-Force USRA 29th National Intercollegiates: Phoenix, AZ
- PARC 12th Tournament of the Americas PAN AM Qualifier: Winnipeg, CAN

**NOVEMBER 15-19**
- Ektelon USRA Regional Qualifier Championships: Nationwide

**1998 USRA NATIONAL EVENTS**

**JANUARY 15-17**
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- E-Force USRA 29th National Intercollegiates: Phoenix, AZ
- PARC 12th Tournament of the Americas PAN AM Qualifier: Winnipeg, CAN

**OCTOBER**

**October 3**
- Magic City Classic
  - Courtsouth
  - Racquet & Fitness
  - Vestavia Hills, AL
  - 205-823-2120

**October 15-19**
- Ektelon USRA 30th National Doubles Championships
  - • City Square
  - • Sports Club
  - Phoenix, AZ
  - 602-285-2929
  - [Entry on Pg.55]

**October 15**
- Halloween Open
  - Healthworks
  - Wallingford, CT
  - 203-248-1869

**October 17**
- Atlanta Classic
  - Cars Challenge
  - Concours
  - Athletic Club
  - Atlanta, GA
  - 770-698-2000

**October 24**
- Tournament of Terror @ Sequoia
  - Racquetball &
  - Sequoia Club
  - Canoga Park, CA
  - 818-884-5034

**November 15**
- Froggy Open
  - Nautilus Fitness
  - Center – Erie, PA
  - 814-868-0072

**November 12-16**
- Promus Hotel Corporation 2nd U.S. OPEN Championships
  - The Racquet Club of Memphis
  - Memphis, Tennessee
  - 800-284-5396
  - [See entry brochure in center of magazine]

**Event Level & Description**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finish &amp; Point Awards</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
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<td>4 = Regional Championship</td>
<td>250</td>
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<td>5 = National Invitational</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>6 = National Championship</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>300</td>
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</table>

*In draws of 48 or more at a national championship, the 9-16th place finishers receive 50 points.
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Wilson
http://www.wilsonsports.com

USRA ONLINE
http://www.racquetball.org
http://www.usra.org
http://www.racqmag.com

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COURT DONORS approach $20,000 mark

Donations through June 9 total $19,756.00 — which still leaves us quite a way to go before we reach the home stretch (the goal is $75,000). Only then will we be able to have the permanent traveling plaque made up to accompany the court on its journeys. So, if you’ve already given and would like to increase your gift (and perhaps jump into a higher category), it looks like you have plenty of time before the final list is memorialized in its permanent form. Make your contribution to the cause in the gold, silver, bronze or patron donor category, and become one of our very special portable court “builders.” Call the USRA at 719/635-5396 to make your donation!

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Below: Delaware’s Sheri Viscount added a gift of $500.00 toward the portable court construction bill at the National Singles in Houston. USRA Board President Van Dubois accepted the check with the USRA’s thanks!
Ektelon's Game Face is a natural on court. NFS Indoor 1.5 with Natural Foot Shape™ that is — long-lasting comfort with quickness, traction, support and stability. The long hot game continues...