Adam Karp
Onward & Upward!
With three consecutive major titles to his credit this season, where to next?
SHOW ME THE POWER.

Power rules the game of racquetball. Nobody knows that, or proves it, better than Sudsy Monchik. And now, with the introduction of the new HEAD Ti. Series Titanium racquets, revolutionary power is at your fingertips. Only HEAD combines Titanium technology with the Power Of Light. HEAD, the technology leader, blows the competition away again. And you will too.

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HEAD has revolutionized racquet technology by developing an exclusive process where ultra-strong Titanium is woven with ultra-light high modulus graphite to create the ultimate composite. The result is a stronger, stiffer construction that yields power never before seen in racquetball. All our new Ti. Series Titanium racquetball racquets feature clear windows in the throat area where you can see the Titanium/Graphite composite in action.
It’s no secret ... I love to play racquetball, but I don’t necessarily want to work at it. You know—train ... practice ... drill— that sort of thing. It irritates me just to think about it, although I know it would be just great for my game ... not to mention lowering my frustration level. But on the whole, I’m altogether convinced that my basic goodness as a person should see me through just about any situation, on the court or off. I work hard (okay, I’ll admit—it’s mostly at other things) so I expect that, if I maintain a good attitude, I should come out on top in most of my endeavors. Kind of an “order of the universe” type thing. I fail to see the connection between my losing and other people spending all that time trying to improve their skills.

Titanium. A gimmick? I don’t think so. A revelation I can keep to myself? Probably not. If it’s already mainstream enough for golf and tennis, the lid’s definitely off in racquetball. Yep. Too many other people have already found out about it. Before my new frame arrived, my personal experience was simply that “titanium” was just one of those metallic shades that was very difficult to match on press. Now it’s my best friend.

Before I changed my mind about “grey,” I had a nasty tendonitis that threatened what little power I had left from the previous season. Now that I’ve made a few changes and adapted to my newly designed equipment, my recovery time between games is much faster and I’m willing to speculate that I’m pretty close to “as good as it got” before the injury.

Normally I’m skeptical. I’ve seen a lot of bells and whistles over the years. But now I’m having trouble getting my frame back from people who “just want to hit for a minute ...!” So ladies, if you’ve never been accused of being a power player, but you’d like to be, the “new physics” of titanium could be your answer. Unless, of course, you’re in my age group and we’re destined to meet this season! If that’s the case, forget I said anything ...
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ON THE COVER
What's next for two-time world doubles champion Adam Karp? Can he defend both his current national doubles and singles crowns in the coming season? And what about the pro tour? He was focused in Bolivia, as he warmed up in front of photographer John Foust, and partner Bill Sell looked on. Story, page 8.
More Tournament Input

As a tournament director of Lakewood Athletic Club in Colorado, I would like to offer my thanks to Sandy Reep for her ideas on how to improve tournaments. I have felt for a long time that these issues needed to be addressed and I would like to offer my suggestions from a club management and tournament director's point of view.

Regarding the price of the event — it is difficult to justify charging a minimal price for an event. From a management viewpoint, it’s not cost effective to simply “break even” on a event. A club has to make a justifiable profit on a tournament in order to make it worthwhile. The direct costs are significant, plus the added wear and tear on a club, inconvenience to the members, and workload for the staff are enormous.

Sponsors — It is very difficult to get money from sponsors, but they are often very willing to give food or product. I usually try to give racquetball equipment to the winners and/or something useful, in place of a trophy.

Racquetball has been very good to our family — it has provided a job for me; given us friends who are the greatest; offered travel around the country that we would not otherwise have done if we’d not been involved; and provided us with a sport that we can all take part in for the rest of our lives.

Marianne Alonzi
Lakewood, Colorado

This is a follow up to my letter in the last issue of RACQUETBALL where I complained about the cost of tournaments, especially if you lose in the first round. I suggested that all non-cash division be double elimination so that people that just came to play always are guaranteed two matches.

I just played in another tournament in the Spectrum Club in Canoga Park. To my surprise all divisions were drop down, which meant if you lost the first round you “drop down” to a consolation round and get at least one more match. It is not quite double elimination, but might actually be better. Everyone still gets at least two matches and if you lose the first match, you get to play in a match that actually means something and might even win a trophy.

I told the tournament director, Debbie Tisinger, that I thought this was a wonderful idea. She told me that she read my letter in RACQUETBALL and agreed with me and that is why she had adopted the drop-down for all divisions.

So I would like to thank Debbie and the Spectrum Club and I hope other tournament directors read this and decide to do the same thing. It makes the tournaments more fun for everyone and doesn’t take glory away from the winners of the non-drop down division.

Howard Wilczynski
Canyon Country, California

Fun for All

I participated in the Low Country Racquetball Tournament held in Charleston, SC at the St. Andrews Family Rec Center recently. The tournament was a pleasure to play in. The entire tournament was well organized, the food was great, and it stayed on schedule almost the entire weekend. Even one of the air conditioner units went out, but the staff did their best to cool the courts that were affected.

Everyone at the tournament was very nice and hospitable. I have been to many tournaments and have seen the way players and referees act most of the time. 95% of the time they seem to have a chip on their shoulder and will argue everything! They usually are not honest about calls either (skips, double bounces, etc.). I would have to say that it was a breath of fresh air to see so many honest racquetball players at one place!

If all tournaments were run like this one and the players and referees had this same attitude, I believe that many more people would attend and participate in racquetball tournaments. Thank you for an enjoyable weekend!

Steve Thompson
Statesboro, Georgia

Dream Come True

I just wanted to say a real big “thank you” to everyone who is involved with this fine organization. On March 8th of this year I had the opportunity to achieve a dream that I have had for seven years: to play at my state tournament. Considering that I work shift work with never the same two days off for more than two weeks at a time I though that going to states was just a dream. To have become a state champion has changed my life in more ways that I could ever express. The self-confidence, the admiration of thousands of people and most importantly being able to go on to the dreams and goals that I have set for myself! The people who put on our state tournament did a most remarkable job. And I want to thank all of you at the USRA for making my dreams come true.

My new dream: to bring out the best in others and help them achieve their goals. Thank you and God bless,

Sandy M. Harris
Dubois, Pennsylvania

The Finals

I wanted to share with you my pleasure with National Singles. As you know, I dislike singles, as doubles is the real racquetball. However, I enjoyed Houston more than any other tournament I’ve attended in the last 10 years. It’s [something] that every player should experience at least once. In fact, it was so much fun that I will attend in 1999 if my schedule permits. Both the USRA and YMCA staffs are to be congratulated — they went out of their way to make people comfortable.

Graig Shaak
Gainesville, Florida

I missed the National Singles Championships in Houston this year... very much! And, as of May 25, I’ve received a number of “how come” calls and I, have called many others; primar-
ily about their sights and perception about this tournament. Each and every one was pleased or delighted with the format, presentation, decorations and obvious efforts made toward improvement. Congratulations! I have, in my shy and bashful way, professed complete faith in the ultimate success of racquetball. We are continuing to move forward and I, for one could not be more pleased.

Joe W. Lambert
Dallas, Texas

Cover Girls ...

Thanks for the cover story on Michelle Gould [May/June] ... very good reading! And you made me the talk of my club seeing my name in RACQUETBALL. But please note: I know I'm old but I'm only 48 years at this time. [A typo listed Hayden as 78 ... Editor]

D.C. Hayden
Chicago, Illinois

Thank you for featuring me on the cover of RACQUETBALL [July/August]. Your support of me, as well as the other women, is appreciated! Hopefully, the increased coverage of the women will enable women racquetball players, both current and future, to have a more plentiful tour, better sponsorships, and to encourage younger women to continue their racquetball pursuits. Keep up the good work!!

Robin Levine
Sacramento, California

"Lined-Up"

Mary-Low and I were pleased to see that the editorial staff maintained their sense of humor (in putting together "The Finals" article) in the May-June issue of RACQUETBALL [giving the Acuffs long odds in the Open ...]. We would be very thankful if we could get one or two points playing against Dan and Michelle. I'm sure they both know you were joking and had a good laugh. Keep up the good work and we will see you at the next big tournament.

Earl C. Acuff
Asheville, NC

CORRECTIONS: On page 63 of the July/August edition, in the Santa Barbara tour note, the citation reading "Foxwoods Resort & Casino's Mike Coulter" ... should have read "Mike Holder." Apologies to both Michaels!
THE POWER. THE STRENGTH. THE ATTITUDE. THE WHOLE PACKAGE.

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Often the longest journeys in life begin with one simple step forward...

Current U.S. National Singles champion Adam Karp understands this concept all too well. For years, Karp's "simple steps" have led him closer and closer to the pinnacle of U.S. racquetball.

He's upwardly mobile. A round of 16 finisher in 1995 at the U.S. National Singles Championships, Karp went another round better the following year, reaching the quarterfinals in '96. Then a semifinal in '97, and finally the championship round and national title in May of this year. But, until recently, racquetball glory and stardom seemed to cling to those nearest Karp rather than himself.

He's a quick study. At the 1991 U.S. Junior Nationals in Burnsville, Minn., Karp was busy winning the boy's 18-and-under blue division while current pro John Ellis was defeating Sameer Hadid for the gold title. Even in doubles, Karp and partner Eric Wong fell to Ellis and Eric Muller for the national crown.

He's an underdog. The racquetball world was treated to a glimpse of Karp's potential in '95 when he upset Dan Fowler to win the gold medal at the U.S. Olympic Festival in Colorado Springs. But, for the next three years, the Australian-born Californian took a lower profile while he honed his talents in doubles.

He's an MVP. Along with long-time doubles legend Bill Sell, Karp captured the '95 and '97 U.S. National Doubles titles, the '96 Tournament of the Americas crown, the '98 Pan Am Trials championship and the gold medal at the '96 and recent '98 World Championships. At each international event, Karp helped the U.S. team capture the overall team crown. However, despite his substantial contributions to the team, others always seemed to bask in the glory.

At the '96 World's in Phoenix, it was Todd O'Neil and Michelle Gould who captured the World Singles Championships and, therefore, earned most

by Kevin Vicroy

September – October 1998
of the limelight. Karp and Sell’s first world title was pushed to the background.

Adam Karp — the ultimate team player! His teammates and coaches certainly won’t argue. As the current national singles champion, Karp had the option of playing singles at this year’s World Championships. It was his choice. But he knew that by playing doubles, the U.S. Team would be even stronger.

He’s ... under-rated? Has the “Fish” earned the respect of his peers and racquetball fans in general?

“Yea ... I mean, people know,” Karp said of winning the national title. “On the pro tour, that kind of stuff doesn’t really impress ‘em. But, right now, after winning National Singles, I’m starting to get some (respect).”

He’s philosophical. If Karp would have played for – and won – the world singles crown in Bolivia, might he have gained in reputation? When asked what he thought his chances would have been had he played singles, the Fish admitted, “The way I’m playing right now, I would have loved my chances. I would have loved playing singles up there in the altitude (over 8,000 feet) . . . it would have suited my game pretty well. The ball stays up and – I usually get a lot of balls anyway – but I would have gotten even more in that altitude.”

He’s switching gears. Without any specific plans or time frames in which to turn pro, the 26-year-old Karp is focusing on two goals this season: 1) finish the IRT in the top five, and 2) win the Pan American Games. Even if he duplicates last season’s double-gold feat of winning both the National Doubles and Singles, Karp says that he will compete in singles at the Pan Am’s.

His stock is rising. As one of the hottest young players in the world, currently ranked 10th on the pro tour, the Fish may have a Pan American Games gold medal in his future. Like his earlier march to USRA acclaim, his pro rankings are on the move. His trend thus far? He finished the 1994-95 IRT season ranked 13th, the 95-96 season at 12th, the 96-97 season at 11th and last season at 10th ...

With a few more simple steps forward — and upward — it looks like ‘Fish’ could be the IRT’s blue-plate special, right on schedule, no later than 2007. Or perhaps sooner ...
Longest mainstrings in racquetball create the most powerful racquets ever made.

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

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

### Why E-Force Racquets Are More Powerful

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racquet</th>
<th>Maximum Length Mainstrings</th>
<th>Combined Length 10 Center Mainstrings*</th>
<th>E-Force Advantage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-Force 22&quot; LongString Racquets</td>
<td>21.5&quot;</td>
<td>201.5 in</td>
<td>Over 38% more mainstring length than all other competitor racquets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longest Competitor Racquets</td>
<td>15.3&quot;</td>
<td>146.6 in</td>
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*Combined length of the 10 center mainstrings—effective hitting area

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When a racquet's shape is maintained at ball impact, control is maximized. Conversely, when the racquet shape is distorted—usually by off-center hits—control is lost.

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1. **Elimination of 100 string holes**
   - The Control Wrap frame removes 100 string holes—one entry and one exit hole at each of the 50 string contact points. This vastly decreases frame distortion while increasing frame stability and durability.

2. **Exclusive Cylinder Rail™ construction**
   - Cylinder Rail construction also limits frame distortion, further maximizing control. This is achieved by combining a stiff graphite/titanium tube with a rigid structural support. The structural support limits racquet distortion at ball impact, while allowing the necessary straight back-and-forth racquet flex.

New String/Bumper System

Before Control Wrap, the strings penetrated the frame, turned at a sharp 90-degree angle, ran a half-inch, then re-entered at a sharp 90 degrees. The Control Wrap frame is different. It directs the strings over longer distances around the frame and into the string bed at softer angles. Local stresses on the strings are reduced. Ball responses and the player’s feel for the ball are enhanced.
At the start of every summer vacation, a handful of juniors break away from the pack to exhibit fleeting glimpses of future excellence in racquetball.

Last year, it was Mark Bloom's Phoenix-like flight to the boy's 18-and-under singles title. Also shining brightly was Rhonda Rajsich, who proved that no girl under 18 years of age could come close to defeating her in '97.

This year's bumper crop of up-and-comers converged at the Ektelon 25th U.S. Junior Olympic National Racquetball Championships, presented by Penn Racquet Sports, in late June to start their own show. Held at the Multnomah Athletic Club, the "summer-tour" event attracted over 300 young athletes, including up-and-coming champions Rocky Carson and Brooke Crawford.

**Can't touch This**
Possibly the most promising young player to come through the junior ranks was California's Rocky Carson, who became a man among boys in the 18-and-under singles division. Top-seeded Carson hardly broke a sweat in straight-game defeats over Chuck Stivison, 15-2, 15-2, and Mark Warner, 15-1, 15-5, in the first two rounds. His next two matches were equally short and low-scoring, as he downed Nebraska's Andy Tucknott 15-4, 15-1 and Colorado's Willie Tilton 15-4, 15-4 to earn his finals spot.

His title opponent, Ryan Staten of Dodge City, Kan., had earlier put away Jeff Garner, 15-3, 15-9, and rival Josh Tucker, 15-9, 15-10, in the quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively. Last year, Staten had defeated Tucker, the current National High School champ, in the 16-and-under final.

But if No.3 seeded Ryan had held out any hope of coming close to Carson, it was soon put to rest as
he found himself at the tail end of the second game of their match — without a single point to his credit. Carson cruised past No. 3 Staten in the 18-and-under final, 15-5, 15-0, before Ryan knew what hit him.

Also winning their respective titles with Carson-ease were Ohio's Shane Vanderson (16-and-under) and Jack Huczek of Michigan (14-and-under). Vanderson downed Scott Foster 15-8, 15-5 in the 16's finale, while Huczek took the 14's with a 15-8, 15-3 victory over Oregon's Bart Crawford – Brooke's brother. For Vanderson, it was his seventh national juniors singles crown. Huczek upped his total to eight ... in a row.

**Crawford keeps her Edge**

On the girl's side, the competition was a bit stiffer. Brooke Crawford of Oregon was the top seed, while rival Sara Borland played second fiddle. The two battled for last year's 16-and-under crown, along with this year's National High School Championship, with Crawford winning both.

After moving past the early competition with relative ease, the two met in the finals as expected. Unfortunately for Borland, the result was the same as the past two meetings. Crawford took the title with a 15-10, 15-6 victory.

"Coming into this tournament, I felt very little pressure on me to perform well," Crawford said. "So I felt that I could come in here with no pressure, perform my best and not feel the tension that a lot of other kids felt."

Meanwhile, there were a few young girls making marks of their own. Second-seeded Crystal Csuk of Illinois upset Utah's Kristen Walsh 15-13, 15-13 for the 16-and-under championship. Ohio's Crystal Winfrey earned the bronze medal, then went on to defeat Molly Law for the 14-and-under title, 15-6, 15-9.

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We lengthened the hitting surface, optimized the string pattern, loaded it with more KINETIC mass, strengthened the racquet using Titanium (Ti Micro Mesh) and lightened the frame for better maneuverability. Power, Control, Precision, Vibration Damping - This racquet has NO limits.

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Kinetic Ti Diamond 15g Kinetic Ti Diamond 5g
**1998-99 U.S. JUNIOR NATIONAL RACQUETBALL TEAM ROSTER SET**

Following the Ektelon 25th U.S. Junior Olympic National Championships, a new qualifying procedure named the following young athletes to the 1998-99 Junior Team USA roster. Earlier in the season, two high school champions had been appointed.

**1998-99 JUNIOR TEAM USA**

**Boy's Team**
- Finish/Qualifier
  - Rocky Carson (Santa Maria, Calif.)
  - Ryan Tilton (Dodge City, Kan.)
  - Willie Tilton (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
  - James Ford (Riverton, Wyo.)
  - Shane Vanderson (Dublin, Ohio)
  - Scott Foster (Pleasanton, Calif.)
  - Matthew McElhiney (Bradenton, Fla.)
  - Stephen Lewis (Kennewick, Wash.)
  - Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills, Mich.)
  - Bart Crawford (Klamath Falls, Ore.)

**Girl's Team**
- Finish/Qualifier
  - Brooke Crawford (Klamath Falls, Ore.)
  - Katie Gould (Huntington Beach, Calif.)
  - Kristen Kovar (Lincoln, Neb.)
  - Lauren Duetsch (Houston, Texas)
  - Crystal Winfrey (Powell, Ohio)
  - Molly Law (Denver, Colo.)

**WERE THEY HAPPY ABOUT IT? You bet! Kristen Kovar** – “I accomplished my goal. I’m very happy.”

**Kristal Cusk** – “Making the Junior Team is something that I’ve wanted to do for a long time. Now that I’ve finally made it, I feel like I’ve accomplished all of my goals.”

**Matthew McElhiney** – “It feels good to make the team, because I didn’t make it last year. I’m real happy and look forward to helping out.”

**Crystal Winfrey** – “After the win that put me in the finals, I was pretty shocked. After is had sunk in, I realized what an honor and privilege it was to make the U.S. Team.”

**Molly Law** – “I didn’t realize that I’d made the Junior Team until at least an hour after I won my 14’s semifinal match. As soon as it sunk in, I was extremely excited and somewhat nervous. I’m really looking forward to representing the U.S. at the (Junior) World’s.”

**Lauren Duetsch** – “I just found out that I made the team and I’m really excited. I’ll work as hard as I can.”

**Junior Olympic RESULTS ... continued from page 14**

**BOY’S 18:**
      - [1] Tyler Hollingsworth, Salem, Ore./Dan Sheppick, Portland, Ore., def. David Key, Baton Rouge, La./Drew Toland, Parkin, Ark., 15-9, 15-5; BOY’S 10:
        - #2 Chris Coy, Elk City, Okla./David Lewis, Aurora, Colo., def. #1 Nick Arturo, Anchorage, Alaska/Andrew Grissom, San Jose, Calif., 8-15, 15-12, 11-10.

**GIRL’S 18:**
- #1 Sara Borland, Bettendorf, Iowa/Katie Gould, Huntington Beach, Calif., def. #3 Brooke Crawford, Klamath Falls, Ore./Kristen Walsh, Salt Lake City, Utah, 15-12, 5-11; GIRL’S 16:
  - #1 Sara Borland, Bettendorf, Iowa/Kristen Walsh, Salt Lake City, Utah, 15-11, 11-15; GIRL’S 14:
    - #1 Jeni Fuller, Albuquerque, N.M./Kimberly Irons, Dublin, Ohio, def. Amy Hollingsworth, Salem, Ore./Tiffany Sheppick, Portland, Ore., 15-11, 11-5, 11-3; GIRL’S 12:
      - #2 Derai Darling, Seaside, Ore./Jesi Fuller, Albuquerque, N.M., def. #1 Kelley Fisher, Dayton, Ohio/Cari Mittitsky, Flushing, N.Y., 15-12, 15-12; GIRL’S 10:
        - #3 Shannon Inglesby, Portland, Ore./Brittany Legget, Klamath Falls, Ore., def. #1 Rebeca Kopf, Babylon, N.Y./Kara Mazur, Avon, Conn., 15-6, 15-10

**MIXED 18:**
- #3 Sara Borland, Bettendorf, Iowa/Stephan Lewis, Kennewick, Wash., def. #1 Liana Kenwood, Beaverton, Ore./Josh Tucker, Joplin, Mo., 15-9, 15-11; MIXED 16:
  - #2 Krystal Cusk, Naperville, Ill./Adam Taylor, Shelbyville, Ind., def. #1 Kristen Walsh, Salt Lake City, Utah/Jason Kenwood, Beaverton, Ore., 15-10, 15-9; MIXED 14:
    - #1 Crystal Winfrey, Powell, Ohio/Jack Huczek, Rochester Hills, Mich., def. #2 Kimberly Irons, Dublin, Ohio/Cory Martin, Kenosha, Wis., 15-10, 13-15, 11-7; MIXED 12:
      - #1 Derai Darling, Seaside, Ore./Dan Sheppick, Portland, Ore., def. #3 Jesi Fuller, Albuquerque, N.M./Nicholas Rowley, Mesa, Ariz., 15-7, 15-12; MIXED 10:
        - #1 Ashley Willhite/Cody Drago, Klamath Falls, Ore., def. #3 Sarah Moyle/Scott Rieders, Beaverton, Ore., 15-5, 15-11

**TEAM RESULTS**
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For those who follow such things, the story is familiar. A lanky, 18 year old qualifier caused a stir by winning a pro stop in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Later that same season, he shook the sport by defeating Marty Hogan and Mike Yellen in succession to win the Ektelon Nationals. Over the next decade and a half, this Boston southpaw finished atop the pro rankings, left the sport to pursue professional tennis, returned to collect dozens more pro titles and capture the number one ranking four more times. His game style, a lethal combination of speed and power, set the standard for future generations of young players.

Yes, Cliff Swain’s visage earned a spot in the lineup of racquetball’s Mount Rushmore long ago. Some, in fact, have proclaimed Swain the “greatest of all time” — a distinction that bears some weight given his accomplishments in racquetball’s short history. In what other sport have so many legends had the opportunity to compete against each other?

In the mid-90’s, it was difficult to dispute that Swain was the best of the best. He ruled the IRT by crushing a talented group of contemporaries ... players who, in another time, may have attained greatness, but in the Swain era merely played supporting roles. Challengers could neither handle his offensive attack nor match his intensity. By 1995, Swain’s reign seemed secure and few doubted that he would tie and surpass Yellen’s record of five number one finishes. Then came Sudsy Monchik.

Monchik, much like Swain in the 80’s, exploded onto the scene. In just his fifth professional event, Monchik unnerved seasoned pros by winning the 1994 Pro Nationals. Still, despite Monchik’s alarming rise in the rankings and the trail of top ten players he left in his wake, Swain seemed comfortable with an heir-apparent. After all, even with Monchik’s irreverent, smash-mouth style and big time talent, Swain handled him with ease for most of the 1995 season. Yet, Monchik had no interest in biding his time as just another Swain bag-carrier.

Toward the end of the 1995 season, Monchik broke through with consecutive wins over Swain in Phoenix and Las Vegas. Although 1996 saw a three-horse race, with Andy Roberts and Monchik offering strong challenges, Swain was poised to finish number one for the fifth time. With his destiny in his own hands, Swain only needed to reach the finals to lock up the number one ranking. But Mike Ray bounced Swain out of the pivotal tournament in the semi-finals! Monchik went...
THIS RACQUET WON'T CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

(UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOUR LIFE IS RACQUETBALL).

Cliff Swain
World's #1 Racquetball Player
5-Time Pro World Champion

THE T22 TITANIUM WITH POWER HOLES.

(CHANGE IS GOOD).

Wilson
on to win, snatch the number one ranking and abruptly end Swain’s run.

When Monchik easily retained the number one ranking in 1997, Swain’s legend was tainted. Was he still one of the greatest ever? Without question. Even without a fifth title, Swain’s credentials put him on par with Hogan and Yellen. But in a league of his own? Did he rank ahead of Hogan, who had left an indelible footprint on the sport — unmatched by any player before or after? Had he risen above Yellen, who had five consecutive number one finishes and been retired by apathy rather than by defeat? The answer is unclear, but one consideration would have to be the fact that Swain had been upended by the first legitimate challenger from the “next generation.” Had he never recovered the number one ranking and faded away in complacency, like Hogan and Yellen before him, Swain’s place in history would be tarnished.

So, rather than leaving it to the commentators, Swain made his own history. With the rumors of his demise greatly exaggerated, Swain embarked on a mission in 1998 to dethrone Monchik. He delicately tweaked his game — improved his court positioning, cut off the lob serve with greater confidence and effectiveness, and added a few lobs of his own to his service repertoire. While the changes might seem mundane to the average observer, they required maturity and a leap of faith for a top professional with years of success using a proven formula. After early skirmishes with Monchik, Swain overtook the number one ranking with a convincing victory before hundreds of fans at the ’97 U.S. Open and never looked back. Now with his fifth title in hand, Swain simply stands a cut above the rest.

The gravity of Swain’s accomplishment cannot be understated. He is the only player in history to lose his number one ranking to a rival and recapture it — and in Monchik, Swain found a rival of a caliber he had never faced in a decade of competition. Other player’s styles had occasionally divined game plans to mute and frustrate Swain’s attack, but none of these were sustainable over the long haul. Monchik was the first (and to date, only) player to challenge Swain on his own terms. Finally, there was a player with the athleticism and court skills to go stroke for stroke, dive for dive, and toe-to-toe with Swain. Without Monchik in the picture, Swain might have enjoyed an eight or ten year streak atop the rankings. Yet, if not for a challenger with Monchik’s talents, Swain would never have had the opportunity to demonstrate the depths of his talent or the magnitude of his greatness.
Derek Robinson and Robin Levine win with Ashaway string in their racket.

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OFFICIAL STRING OF THE USRA
MONCHIK & VAN HEES WIN SPALDING TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

Hosting the tour’s eight finest male and female players promises a season-ending event at which you can expect to see professional tour veterans in the prime of their careers as champions. And that is exactly what the Multnomah Athletic Club delivered at the Rose Festival Racquetball Championships, presented by National Fibromyalgia Research Association and U S West Communications in June. Young stars of the sport emerged in front of sold-out crowds the entire week. A tour veteran at all of 23, Sudsy Monchik cruised through the IRT’s top-eight field to win his first Spalding Tournament of Champions. The WIRT draw featured the most upsets, as well as a coming-out party for 19-year-old Canadian Christie Van Hees, who won her first pro event as a kick-off to becoming a world champion.

In what has become a 27-year tradition, the Rose Festival Racquetball Championships offer something for every level of interested fan. Over 350 amateurs vied for titles in the Oregon State Racquetball Championships, while the pros battled for over $15,000 in prize money at the Spalding Tournament of Champions. As the finale of the pro tour season, the event is “exclusive” in that players must earn their berths on the basis of their finishes at over 20 stops throughout the year.

Over the years the fans have come to know the players and pick their favorites. This was especially true of Monchik, who burst onto the pro scene four years ago by winning this event in his rookie season. Monchik is a crowd favorite with his exciting power game and diving ability. He also has a loyal following among all the junior players who sit right by the backwall and scream throughout all his matches. Monchik thrilled fans, cruised through the draw, and entertained the crowd at every turn. In the finals against fourth-ranked Andy Roberts, Monchik won the first game, 11-9, then proceeded to make up a 7-point deficit to take the second game 12-10, and close with a big finish at 11-1 in the third.

In the WIRT event, with #1 ranked Michelle Gould out with an injury, the field appeared to be wide open for the remaining top four. But that was before Canada’s Christie Van Hees started her run. Invited as one of the top amateur players in the Northwest, Van Hees opened with a straight game win over #4 Lydia Hammock. Later Van Hees admitted that the first win gave her the confidence that she could win every match. Next up for Christie was #1 Jackie Parasio, who she beat in four tough games by making every big shot. Van Hees then found herself in the finals against #2 seeded defending champion Cheryl Gudinas. Over 600 spectators were packed in for the finals and they saw a great match. The two battled for over two hours as the momentum shifted back and forth until Van Hees finally claimed her first tour victory with a five-game match win, 9-11, 11-5, 11-5, 6-11, 11-9.

TOURNAMENT NOTES: Saturday night was highlighted by the pro finals and awards banquet. But the real highlight was the casino night that followed the banquet which raised money for National Fibromyalgia Reserach Association and the Oregon Junior Racquetball Association. With the great prizes and the pros as celebrity blackjack dealers everyone was a winner. The pros put on a number of junior dinners on Saturday helping each player get ready for the up-coming Junior Nationals also hosted this year by the MAC.

Grand prize winners! Terry Bisbee and his son Luke, of Littleton, Colorado, won the U S West “racquetball’s better here™” sweepstakes, which included airfare, lodging and VIP tickets to the IRT/WIRT Tournament of Champions in Portland. They are shown here being congratulated by U.S. West’s Robin Anderson.
In some sports you just protect yourself.

Now you can protect yourself in style with impact-resistant fashion eyeguards from Leader. Our Vegas and Newport designs feature anti-fog, anti-scratch, shatterproof protection. And they give you unobstructed peripheral vision so you won’t miss a beat on the court.

Don’t just protect yourself... do it in style with Leader.

In others you can do it with style.
TOUR UPDATE

IRT PLAYER AWARDS: The following awards are presented each season. These awards are voted on by the top 16 ranked IRT professionals for the 1997-98 season just completed;

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: CLIFF SWAIN
MOST IMPROVED: DEREK ROBINSON
SPORTSMANSHIP: MIKE RAY & JAMES MULCOCK
ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: DOUG EAGLE

IRT NAMES NEW OFFICIALS: The IRT named its refereeing staff for the 1998-99 season when it announced that Kelly Kerr and Dan Llacera will be handling the officiating on the tour for the coming season. Kerr is a veteran of 2 years refereeing the pros and Llacera trained last season and has proven himself to the players in the toughest of situations.

1998-99 IRT & WIRT OFFICIAL PRODUCTS:

IRT OFFICIAL PRODUCTS
Official Ball: Pro Penn
Official Glove: Pro Penn
Official Footwear: Ektelon
Official Grip: Tacki-Mac
Official Racquetball Bag: HEAD
Official String: Babolat
Official Stringing Machine: Babolat
Official Apparel: Courtesy Sports IRT
Official Magazine: Killshot
Official Product Guide: Courtesy Sports
Official Eyeguard: Leader
Official Internet Site: www.irt-tour.com
Official Credit Card: IRT Visa

WIRT OFFICIAL PRODUCTS
Official Ball: Pro Penn
Official Glove: Pro Penn
Official Footwear: Ektelon
Official Grip: Tacki-Mac
Official Racquetball Bag: HEAD
Official String: Babolat
Official Stringing Machine: Babolat
Official Magazine: Killshot
Official Product Guide: Courtesy Sports
Official Eyeguard: RAD
Official Internet Site: www.irt-tour.com
Official Credit Card: WIRT Visa

Player Notebook

THE [FORMERLY] DISABLED LIST: The off-season provided a much-needed six weeks of rest and recovery for a number of the pros including most of the top guns. Going into the summer, five of the top eight players were trying to recover from nagging injuries or rehabbing from surgery. Here's a quick update • Cliff Swain had his knee scoped immediately following the U S WEST Pro-Am in Phoenix last May, missing the Tournament of Champions. Swain will be 100% for the start of the season. • Sudsy Monchik separated his right shoulder in a collision with Swain in the March finals of the Goleta Valley Pro-Am in Santa Barbara. Monchik used the off-season to rest it and will be back at 100%. • John Ellis has battled a sore shoulder for most of the second half of the season and used the summer to rest and get healthy. • Andy Roberts rested his bad knees and is looking forward to the coming season • Mike Guidry had his shoulder scoped prior to the Tournament of Champions. His recovery has been quick and he expects top be 80-90% at the start of the season. • Michelle Gould, who missed both the WIRT Tournament of Champions and the International Racquetball Federation World Championships, is expected to return to the tour after several months of rest and re-hab from a series of injuries and complications suffered last season.

KACHTIK BACK: Dallas' Drew Kachtik – one of the IRT's toughest competitors and a former National Champion – is back after over a year's absence from the tour. Kachtik has already committed to the IRT Pro Doubles in Las Vegas, playing with Rookie of the Year Doug Eagle, and plans to be at the New Orleans stop.
'98-99 racquetball factbook

- how to get started
- how to spectate
- how to play fair
- your ranking
- skill levels
- sport history
- hall of fame
- athlete awards
- international recordbook
- media services and much more!

USRA
1998-99 annual factbook

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All-Time Record Books
Results for all USRA National Singles, Doubles, Intercollegiates, Junior Olympics, High Schools, and U.S. OPEN events now appear in the annual Recordbook, published in the March/April edition of RACQUETBALL.

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The United States Racquetball Association is a not-for-profit corporation designed to promote the development of competitive and recreational racquetball in the United States. The association offers member institutions and individuals an opportunity to participate and contribute to the development and growth of the sport. For information about joining the association, call or write:

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Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921
Tel: 719/635-5396
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www.usra.org or www.racquetball.org

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On the Cover
Florida's Robert Morgan and Janet Myers of North Carolina mix it up on the portable glass court in Memphis. The two took part in the Benefit Pro-Am Doubles event which preceded the 1997 Promus U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Photo: Vicki Hughes

F-2 facts

the annual factbook ... a special publication of RACQUETBALL
Racquetball - once dubbed "high speed tennis in a box" - is the fastest-paced racquet sport in the world. At the elite level, service speeds alone can reach 180 mph - and each shot exchange revs up the tempo. Even at a slightly more moderate local level, heated rallies and diving retrievals by weekend warriors give added meaning to the term "blue streak."

Speed and power aside, in its basic form, racquetball shares strategies with other racquet sports. Like tennis, a player retrieves each shot on one bounce. Unlike tennis, points are scored only by the server. Like squash, the walls are used to strategically place the ball, and the player, in scoring position. Unlike squash, the lower the shot, the better.

To begin, the server takes up position between two solid lines at mid-court which mark the service zone. The service motion is limited to that area and the ball is put into play after contacting the racquet, the front wall and passing into the back court. On that course, the ball can touch one side wall, but no more. If it hits the ceiling, the back wall, or a second sidewall before bouncing, a fault serve is called. A serve which does not carry beyond the mid-court service line is 'short' and is also a fault. In everyday play, the server is given two opportunities to put the ball into play. In U.S. National Team qualifying events and international competition, only one serve is allowed.

Once the ball is in play, there is no limit to the number of walls that can be used for shot variations in a rally. A low side-wall-to-front-wall shot is called a pinch shot, and a slow series of high ceiling-front-wall combinations is a ceiling ball rally. In a game, players earn points or win the serve by ending the rally. Good shots hit the front wall so low they can't be returned before the second bounce. Errors, or skipped balls, contact the floor before reaching the front wall.

So, once you're hooked and want to study the play-by-play action, remember these basics:
1) keep your eye on the ball
2) only the server scores points
3) players must retrieve the shot on one bounce;
4) the ball must reach the front wall to remain in play.

1949 Joe Sobek invents racquetball in Greenwich, Connecticut. He designs a "strung paddle racket," combines the rules of handball and squash and calls his variation "paddle rackets."

1950 The sport gains a following among cross-over handball enthusiasts. Robert Kendler, president of the U.S. Handball Association (USHA), takes an interest in the game, both as a player and a promoter.

1960 Increasing popularity of the game attracts new players in all age groups. Administrative structure begins to evolve.


1969 Paddle rackets renamed RACQUETBALL. International Racquetball Association (IRA) incorporated. Ken Porco named IRA Executive Secretary. First IRA National Singles held in St. Louis, Missouri.

1970 First metal racquet introduced by Bud Held and Ektelon. Robert Kendler elected President of IRA. 50,000 amateur players estimated in the U.S. First IRA National Singles held in St. Louis, Missouri.

1971 National Singles Championships held in Salt Lake City. Aluminum alloy frames introduced.

1972 Inaugural issue of RACQUETBALL Magazine published in November. First Pro Tour formed. Chuck Leve named IRA Executive Secretary. fiberglass frames introduced. National Singles held in Memphis, Tennessee.
Robert Kendler leaves IRA to form National Racquetball Club pro group ... DeWitt Shy named IRA President .... Myron Roderick named Executive Director of IRA .... New age groups established in Juniors, Masters and Golden Masters .... National Singles held in St. Louis, Missouri.

Membership requirement established for all sanctioned tournaments .... IRA holds first pro tournament .... IRA membership cost was $3.00 per year .... Number of amateur players in the U.S. jumps to 3 million .... National Singles held in San Diego, California.

Tom McKie named IRA Executive Director .... IRA offices move to Memphis, Tennessee .... Official IRA patch issued .... Muehleisen, Porco and Sellers leave IRA board after five years .... Canadian Wayne Bowes wins Men's International Open Singles.

U.S. Racquetball Association (USRA) founded as rival amateur organization .... William Tanner takes over as IRA President .... IRA headquarters move to Dallas, Texas .... IRA membership fees double to $6.00 per year .... Seamco 444 becomes the official racquetball of the IRA .... National Singles held in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Racquetball becomes an American fitness rage .... Tom McKie resigns as IRA Executive Director .... IRA headquarters move back to Memphis, Tennessee .... National Singles held in Southfield, Michigan.

IRA re-organized in Denver .... Luke St. Onge takes over as IRA Executive Director .... Bob Folsom named as President .... National Singles held in Denver, Colorado.

Open ball policy adopted .... International Amateur Racquetball Federation

One of the many benefits of competing in USRA sanctioned events is the potential for earning state and national ranking points that add up to give you good seeding position in future events, and identify you as being among the top players in your field. With a really good season, you might even find yourself listed in the "National Top Ten" published in RACQUETBALL.

Reaching the quarterfinal round, or higher, in a sanctioned event earns you points toward a season record that is maintained over a trailing twelve month period. Points accumulate for one year, and are automatically deleted in the thirteenth month. For example, points earned in September of 1998 will drop from your record in October of 1999.

If you compete in sanctioned events regularly, you can quickly accumulate points that will steadily move you up in the state and national rankings. On the other hand, you can compete less often but still earn big points by finishing well in higher level regional and national events. Refer to the chart above to see the value of your wins at different event levels.

So you’ve done well — now what happens? It’s the responsibility of the tournament director to document your win before points can be credited to your season record. This is done when official results are received in the national office containing the full, correct name of each quarterfinalist. At the moment, no registered psychics are on staff in the national office, so only official written results are accepted.

Mis-spelled or abbreviated names often end up splitting a season record instead of adding up to a high ranking position. For example, it’s possible to have 250 points divided into five open tournaments wins (at 50 points apiece) for Allan, Allen, Alan, Alain and A. Player!
If you think your season record is short some points, first check with the tournament director to confirm that the official results have been sent in to the national office. Then cross-check your own records, list your recent wins, and call the national office at 719/635-5396 to find out your position and point total.

While ranking points and seeding positions are interrelated, they are not one and the same. Seeding is done using ranking information, and is meant to insure the best draw possible.

It's just not fair to have the two best players in a division play each other in the first round. (In a round of 16, the first match should be #1 vs. #16, as shown below). Once it is determined who the top two players are, they should be placed far enough apart in the draw (top & bottom) to guarantee that, barring any upsets, they will face each other in the finals, and not before. After all, the final is meant to be the most exciting match of the tournament ... between the best players.

In preparing a draw, it is important to consider as much background information about the players as possible. Most events are seeded according to a set of criteria that include a player’s results in the previous year’s event (if it is ongoing), any recent results, state and national ranking points and “common sense.”  

Common sense includes — what to do when a player changes age brackets during the year; players who compete on the pro tour while maintaining their amateur status; former pros: personal knowledge of the players (do they play lots of tournaments to earn points, but rarely win them?) — plus many other variables.

For example, the top ranked player in your area may not automatically retain the #1 seed position when you consider the last-minute entry of a four-time national champion from out of town. It’s all relative.

While tournament directors and seeding committees rarely manage to please all of the people all of the time, many use these widely-accepted, standard guidelines to establish a fair draw.

---

1980 Keith Calkins becomes Board President .... Han van der Hiejden of Holland becomes IARF President .... Boron and graphite frames introduced .... Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) and pro tour founded .... National Singles held in Miami, Florida.

1981 World Games I and First Racquetball World Championships held in Santa Clara, California .... U.S.A. wins first World Cup title over six other countries ....Penn introduces the “Ultra Blue” racquetball.

1982 AARA accepted as member of the U.S. Olympic Committee .... USRA organization folds .... RACQUETBALL Magazine sold .... AARA signs racquet sponsorship with Diversified Products .... Penn named official ball .... Paul Henrickson elected Board President .... National Singles held in Buffalo, New York.

1983 AARA headquarters relocate to Colorado Springs .... U.S.A. dominates first IARF Regional Games .... Downtown YMCA in Houston, Texas established as long-term National Singles site.

1984 First National Elite Training Camp held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs .... U.S.A. wins World Championships over 13 countries in Sacramento, California .... Ektelon introduces and test markets the oversize racquet frame .... Match rules changed from 21 points to 15 per game, with 11 point tiebreaker.

1985 Racquetball is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) .... World Junior Racquetball Championships added to Junior Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida.
1986 Mandatory eyeguard rule passed. Twenty countries compete at III World Championships in Orlando, Florida. U.S.A. ties with Canada to share World Cup. Pan American Racquetball Confederation (PARC) formed. AARA membership dues increase to $10.00 per year. Van Dubolsky named Board President.


1988 U.S. National Team wins IV World Cup over 22 countries. AARA televises its National Championships for the first time. IARF drops the word "amateur" from its title and logo. SGMA releases study setting the number of U.S. amateur players at 10 million.

1989 Racquetball granted full member status within USOC. As 38th sport, racquetball makes premiere U.S. Olympic Festival appearance in Oklahoma City. Random drug-testing of athletes instituted. First World Seniors/Masters Championships held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. First AARA instructional video produced. AARA membership fees increase to $15.00 per year.

1990 U.S.A. wins V World Cup in Caracas, Venezuela, over 28 countries. AARA produces and televises five national championships on cable television. Keith Calkins named Board President. AARA resumes publication of RACQUETBALL Magazine after 12 years.

1991 AARA televises ten national events on cable sports channels. U.S. Team Alumni Association is formed. Junior Team USA takes its first international title at the Junior World Championships. Racquetball placed on the schedule for the Pan American Games in 1995.

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### Basic Ratings

Ratings reflect skill levels, and differ from rankings and seedings. The following, recognized player classifications have been developed by the certified instructors and clinicians of the American Professional Racquetball Organization (AmPRO).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level &amp; Experience</th>
<th>Technique/Ability</th>
<th>Competition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pro</strong></td>
<td>... May retain amateur eligibility if all prize money is deposited with the USRA and applied against expenses.</td>
<td>... Plays on the Pro Tour and in Pro/Am Tournaments. Is allowed to play all tournaments that offer prize money.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open</strong></td>
<td>... Rated higher than an A player. Probably coaches or gives lessons.</td>
<td>... Plays in most tournaments, local, state, regional and national levels. Has completed clinics, maybe an Elite Camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td>... Trains regularly, backhand &amp; forehand strokes are near equal. Good depth of knowledge, with high shot percentage, no apparent weaknesses. Has perfected the rolloff and now re-kills opponent's attempted offensive shots.</td>
<td>... Can and probably does compete in sanctioned tournaments. May seek to participate in an USRA Elite Camp and either has a coach or is seeking a coach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong></td>
<td>... Has good knowledge of court strategy &amp; positioning in offense &amp; defense situations. Is able to select the proper shot most of the time. Still inconsistent but improving. Is developing patience and is able to accept tactics from better players.</td>
<td>... Shows interest in private racquetball lessons and instructional camps. Participates in most club events, like club tournaments, leagues, and round robin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
<td>... Level of knowledge is rising and can execute most shots with some precision. Can safely attempt ceiling, pinches, pass shots, and an occasional roll.</td>
<td>... Has taken a lesson and/or attended a racquetball clinic. Has begun entering small tournaments and has an extra racquet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong></td>
<td>... is in the process of learning, safety rules, forehand and backhand strokes. Experiments with serves, backwall shots, angles and passing shots.</td>
<td>... Is ready to start participating in club leagues and friendly competition.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The annual factbook ... a special publication of RACQUETBALL.
The United States Racquetball Association and RACQUETBALL magazine are pleased to offer the following, abridged “Everyday Racquetball Rules” for your use in learning some of the finer points of the game. This summarized, basic version is designed for the everyday, recreational player. In competition, many additional rules would be enforced by your referee. Where sections have been omitted, their contents have been noted so that you can refer to them in the official rulebook, which is published annually in the July/August issue of RACQUETBALL. But for day-to-day spirited competition, the following gives you the basic information you’ll need to enjoy safe, fair matches.

**basic everyday rules**

### I. THE GAME

#### TYPES OF GAMES
When two play, it’s called singles and when four play, it’s doubles. A non-tournament game played by three players is called cutthroat.

#### POINTS AND OUTS
Points are scored only by the serving side. 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.

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

### II. COURTS & EQUIPMENT

#### COURT SPECIFICATIONS
The four-wall racquetball court is 20 feet wide, 40 feet long and 20 feet high, with a back wall at least 12 feet high. Courts are marked with 1 1/2 inch wide lines (short line, service line, drive serve lines, and receiving line) that indicate the service zone, service boxes, and receiving zone.

#### RACQUET SPECIFICATIONS
The racquet, including bumper guard and handle, may not exceed 21 inches in length. The frame may be any material judged to be safe, with a thong that securely attaches it to the player’s wrist, and string that does not mark the ball.

#### APPAREL
In sanctioned tournament play, lensed eyewear designed for racquetball (which meets or exceeds ASTM F803 or Canadian [CSA] impact standards) is REQUIRED. Players who require corrective eyewear also must also adhere to this rule. Protective eyewear must be worn as designed and may not be altered. Shoes must not mark or damage the floor. Approved eyewear must be worn and wrist thongs must be used during warm-up.

### III. PLAY REGULATIONS

#### SERVE
The server has two opportunities to put the ball into play. In tournament play, the player or team winning the coin toss has 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 one and two will 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. In everyday play, the “lag” or courtesy “you serve” will determine the first server.

1992 U.S.A. wins VI World Cup in Montreal over 33 countries .... National Singles celebrates 10th year at the Downtown YMCA in Houston ....

1993 AARA celebrates its 25th Silver Anniversary .... National offices move to new building in Colorado Springs.

1994 U.S.A. wins VII World Cup in San Luis Potosi over 27 countries .... New Skill Level National Championship introduced .... Competitive license fees increase to $20.00 per year .... IRF adopts “one serve” rule in international competition ... Van Dubolsky elected Board President.

1995 Racquetball makes its debut in the Pan American Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina – U.S. National Team “sweeps” medal count .... Instructor certification program renamed the American Professional Racquetball Organization [AmPRO].

1996 Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships debut in Memphis with pros and amateurs in a single event, played on a specially-constructed “made for TV” glass court .... First live coverage of racquetball finals broadcast at World Championships in Phoenix .... U.S. wins VIII World Cup team title .... Nationwide regional weekend established .... AARA debuts two websites on the internet ....

1997 The AARA changes its name to the United States Racquetball Association, adopts new logo .... National Singles and Doubles Championships celebrate 30th anniversaries ..... USRA rule change allows oversized frames 22” in length.

1998 U.S. wins IX World Cup team title, over 32 opponent countries in Bolivia .... Otto Dietrich elected Board President .... Skill Level competition added to National Singles & Doubles Championships ....
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Celebrating its IX World Championships, racquetball recently drew teams from 32 countries – on five continents – to compete in Cochabamba, Bolivia. From modest beginnings in 1979 with only 13 charter countries, the International Racquetball Federation has grown to over 91 member federations worldwide — of which 40 are officially recognized by their respective National Olympic Committees.

Racquetball is also a full medal sport in these IOC approved multi-sport competitions: the Pan American Games, Central American Games, Central American/Caribbean Games, the World Games, World Masters Games, Fire and Police Games, and the Maccabiah Games. The U.S. Open utilizes a state-of-the-art portable court and is featured on ESPN. Over 10,000,000 players practice the sport worldwide. Few sports have gained such recognition in such a short period of time. Come celebrate with us — the IX World Championships in Cochabamba!

The more things change ...

... the more they stay the same. The adage held true at the 1998 Ektelon IX IRF World Championships where, for the first time, Canadians swept the men’s and women’s individual singles world titles with wins by Sherman Greenfeld and Christie Van Hees. Also unprecedented was Mexico’s appearance in the men’s doubles finals, along with a follow-up, second-place finish in the men’s team competition, thanks to outstanding “double-duty” by Luis Bustillos in both singles and doubles. As event hosts in Cochabamba in mid-July, “Team Bolivia” attained its highest overall team finish in history with a fourth-place spot.

It may have been an entirely different squad of U.S. Team athletes, but they held their own in defending the World Cup team title against all challengers. Despite improved performances by several European, Asian and Central and South American countries, the United States remained steady to capture its ninth consecutive team crown in as many years.
MEN'S SINGLES

Earlier in the "international" season, Canada's No. 1 player and '94 world champion Sherman Greenfeld defeated USA's top player Dan Obremski at the Pan Am Trials in Winnipeg. For that, he earned the draw's top seeding, and cruised past his first three opponents: Honduras' Roberto Nassar, Miguel Santiago of Puerto Rico and Gerardo Gil of Bolivia in straight games. All without showing any sign of being affected by Cochabamba's altitude (at 8,430 feet).

From the No.2 spot, Dan Obremski handed two-game losses to Kenny Adebidi of Nigeria and Colombia's Juan Manuel Gutierrez in early round play, before slugging his way through a tiebreaker against Colombia's top hitter, Felipe Gomez, 15-7, 14-15, 11-3.

Greenfeld opened the quarterfinal action with a 15-7, 15-14 win over a late-surge Fabian Balmori. Then, Canadian teammate Mike Ceresia, seeded fifth, upset USA's Ruben Gonzalez in a quirky tiebreaker. It wasn't poor shotmaking that stalled Gonzalez, but a small towel that fell from the back of his shorts at 8-9 in the tiebreaker. During the rally, the fourth-seeded Gonzalez was trying to tie it up at 9-9 when one of his ever-present handtowels fell to the floor — resulting in an avoidable hinder and side-out. Ceresia, whose thumb was cramping, took advantage of the mishap and eventually came out on top, 11-8.

The next match-up pitted 19-year-old Rocky Carson of the U.S., against 20-year-old Luis Bustillos. Carson, the current 18-and-under world and U.S. national champion, performed with great poise in front a crowd of close to 600 and defeated Bustillos 15-6, 15-12. "Any win at this tournament is big," said Carson, who replaced an injured Michael Bronfeld just days before the team left for Bolivia. "I'm just thrilled. I played about good as I could play against Luis."

Carson's semifinal opponent would be teammate and former pro tour veteran Obremski, who had advanced past Argentine Shai Manzuri, who couldn't play through an injured knee and had retired. Against Carson, Obremski's drive serve was almost invisible in the thin Bolivian air as he took the first game 15-8. The young Californian rebounded in the second, but couldn't hold on and fell 15-13.

"Dan started getting his drive serves in consistently," Carson said of the match's deciding factor. "When the ball is traveling at 160 (m.p.h) at this altitude, it never seems to stop."

After splitting the first two games of their all-Canada semi, Greenfeld raced out to a quick 9-3 lead in the third. Suddenly, a fiery Ceresia earned a sideout, ignited his offense, and cut the lead to 9-4 ... 9-5. After releasing emotional outbursts into the left corner of the front wall, Ceresia closed the margin further to 9-8 ... 9-9 ... then took the lead at 10-9. But Greenfeld managed a sideout, then tied the match at 10-10, forcing a timeout by Ceresia.

Re-entering the two-wall glass exhibition court, Greenfeld searched out Obremski on the sidelines and winked as if he knew it was over and that the two rivals would meet again later that afternoon. Back on the receiving end of a trademark backhand cut-serve for the match, Ceresia bravely shot the return and skipped it.

"Well, that's racquetball," Ceresia said when asked why he shot the final return. "When it's close, you've got to go for your shot and I went for it. I missed it and that's the way it goes. I did my best and that's all there is to that."

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1. greenfeld 2. obremski 3. carson
Nothing came easy in the finals... particularly a seat. An estimated crowd of over 700 hung from the balconies, bleachers and covered the floor surrounding the court. Obremski opened with two quick aces, only to be answered by a Greenfeld version. And in spite of three consecutive short-serve calls, the '97 U.S. national champion held the largest lead of game one at 12-9. But Greenfeld clawed his way back to a slim 14-13 advantage before Obremski gained a sideout and aced the Canadian once again to knot the match at 14 all.

Serving for the game, a patented "Dan O' Missile" was launched into the left corner for an apparent ace. Unfortunately for Obremski, the serve was called short and line judges failed to overturn the call on appeal. Two non-U.S. players seated near the service line stated that the serve was good by "six inches to a foot." Nonetheless, the call stood and Obremski skipped his next return of serve to give game one to Greenfeld.

A 4-0 second-game lead by Greenfeld motivated Obremski, who answered by going up 7-6 and finishing out the second stanza 15-9. As the two players entered the court for the tiebreaker, it was apparent that the Bolivian fans had chosen a favorite. To their delight, Greenfeld built a 5-1 lead on a backhand crack ace. The lead grew to 8-1 before Obremski closed the gap to 8-4. But Greenfeld fought back to reach match point at 10-4, where a skipped return by Obremski allowed Greenfeld to claim his second World Championship ring.

The capacity crowd rose to its feet to deliver a heartfelt ovation while Greenfeld, overtaken by emotion, crouched in the front-left corner. The two-time champ returned to his feet and saluted the gracious crowd which, in turn, roared with appreciation.

When asked why he thought the Bolivians favored him, Greenfeld jokingly said, "I'm just a nice guy... No, I think they watch me play and they see that you can play a game at a high level and still be fair and not get upset about situations. I had a better match today than any other in the tournament. I played well to the crowd... I get pumped up because I don't want to upset them. I want them to see a quality match whether I win or lose and I think they did."

Disappointed at losing his chance to be world champ, Obremski was a little less than pleased with the outcome.

"He's (Greenfeld) a crafty player and puts away the setups. If I have my serve taken away from me by whomever -- whether it's him returning or other entities -- what can I do? That's my strength. I live or die by the drive serve. In my mind, I won the second game and should have won the first. I just didn't capitalize. He capitalized and I didn't. He just played better."

1. vanhees 2. hallander 3. levine

WOMEN'S SINGLES

When Michelle Gould won her first world singles championship in 1992 she was a mere 21 years old. As Canada's reigning national champion and the tournament's #2 seed, 20-year-old Christie Van Hees had, early on, set her sights on becoming the youngest world singles champ in history.

In that spotlight, Van Hees opened play with straight-game thumpings of Argentina's Veronica Rivero and Chile's Angela Crisar. The bracket's top seed, Robin Levine of the USA did the same against 16-year-old Elma Gibney of Ireland and Bolivia's Maria Fernanda. The only seeded player absent from the quarterfinals was Canada's Lucie Guillemette, who was upset by Japan's Hiromi Maeda in a round of 16 tiebreaker.

Levine opened the quarterfinal action with a convincing 15-4, 15-8 win over Mexico's No.1, Lupita Torres. Fifth-
seeded Kersten Hallander, who was a last-minute replacement on the USA roster, upset fourth-seeded Lori-Jane Powell of Canada 13-15, 15-8, 11-4 in her quarters contest.

"It feels really good — that's the No. 2 Canadian," Hallander said of her first international victory. "I've seen her (Powell) play before and thought it would be a good match . . . and it was."

The bottom half of the women's bracket featured almost-identical North American wins. Third seed Cheryl Gudinas of the USA put away Maeda 15-4, 15-4, while Van Hees pointed Japan's remaining team hopeful, Naomi Wakimoto, to the exit with a similar 15-4, 15-5 win.

Monday morning's semifinal matches were, well ... unpredictable. Levine, the current U.S. National Champion, played sluggishly and never seemed to get on track. Hallander's stellar play toppled Levine fell from the top spot with a 15-7, 15-10 defeat.

"She (Hallander) took advantage of the opportunities and put them away," Levine said. "I, on the other hand, even when I had opportunities, either skipped them or screwed them up. I really didn't do anything with anything. I wasn't there mentally and she took advantage of every opportunity she had.

In the other semifinal, the Vegas odds might have favored Gudinas — slightly. Van Hees had beaten the tour veteran only once . . . a few weeks earlier at the WIRT Tournament of Champions. Would that single victory provide enough confidence for the Canadian to repeat — or motivate Gudinas?

Well, Van Hees took control early and never fell into jeopardy as she stayed focused and captured a 15-8, 15-10 victory and — like Hallander — earned her first-ever world finals appearance. "I was just keeping aggressive and mixing up my serves," the young Canadian said. "I know Cheryl has a great will to win and I just had to follow along and keep up the pace."

When asked whether the Portland win over Gudinas was a factor, Van Hees said, "It was like a milestone. I've played Cheryl many times and she's always beaten me. Beating her in Portland gave me so much more confidence coming into this tournament."

The final match opened with Van Hees jumping out to a 6-1 lead, then Hallander cut the deficit to one — down 9-8. Again, Van Hees stretched the lead. This time to game point at 14-9. Hallander kept plugging away, fighting off three game points and eventually tying the contest at 14-14. After a sideout and a Hallander timeout, Van Hees took game one on a crushing forehand down the line.

Game two was equally tight with Van Hees going up 6-2 before Hallander reeled off seven-consecutive points on her backhand serve to take a 9-6 advantage. Van Hees tied the match at 11-11, then nosed ahead to 13-12. Following a timeout, Hallander botched a ceiling ball ... 14-12. After a sideout and a Hallander skip, Van Hees returned to the service box for the match. With Gould-like power, the youngster from Kelowna, British Columbia exploded an ace into the back left corner for the match. She then fell to her knees. World Singles Champion at 20-years-old and only the fifth woman in history to earn the coveted title.

"After the (WIRT) Tournament of Champions, I was feeling very confident, relaxed and just really wanted to play the game," Van Hees said after signing dozens of autographs for the racquetball-crazed Bolivian fans. "She (Hallander) was serving really, really well and I give her that. I haven't seen any other women — here or on the tour — use that serve and it's great. I just seemed to have that extra 'oomph' today."

DOUBLES - MEN & WOMEN

In doubles action, the men's and women's U.S. Teams pummeled a defenseless group of challengers. Reigning World Champions Adam Karp and Bill Sell rolled their way past teams from Honduras 15-5, 15-9, Argentina 15-4, 15-0 and Venezuela 15-3, 15-1 to earn their finals spot. Meanwhile, twin sisters and defending world champions Joy MacKenzie and Jackie Paraiso took out Argentina 15-2, 15-0, then handled Mexico 15-8, 15-11 in the semifinals.

The bottom half of each draw, full of tandems fighting for second place, was expected to produce two Canadian duos to challenge Karp, Sell and the twins. However, the second-seeded Canadian men's team of Mike Green and 16-year-old Kane Wasiunku sputtered against a fired-up Mexican pair of Javier Moreno and Luis Bustillos and eventually lost 15-12, 15-14. For Mexico, the win resulted in a debut appearance in a world finals.

Twice as nice ... Josee Grand'Maitre and Debbie Ward, the Canadian women's duo, were close to an early exit during their quarterfinal match
against the Bolivian squad of Maria Fernanda and Paola Nunez. The young Bolivians abused Ward in the first game with a barrage of “wallpaper” lob serves against the right glass. Nunez never seemed to let up against her right-side opponent and the Bolivian crowd was delighted by an 15-4 first-game win. Although still appearing a bit off-kit, the Canadians fought back to take the second stanza 15-13. In the tiebreaker, the Bolivians ran out of steam and eventually fell 11-4.

An upset tiebreaker win over third-seeded Japan 14-15, 15-14, 11-4 in the quarters put the Chilean team of Loreto Barriga and Angela Grisar in position to give the Canadians a strong test. Unfortunately for Chile, the exam was a little too tough as Ward and Grand'Maitre entered the finals with a 15-9, 15-11 victory.

The twins opened Monday’s finals with a quick and painless 15-7, 15-4 thumping of Canada. Especially difficult for the Canadian team were MacKenzie’s and Paraiso’s service games.

“I was drive serving really well – nice and hard,” Paraiso said after winning her fourth world doubles crown (the second with her sister). “Joy was jam-serving and they couldn’t see it – neither of them could get to it.”

Ward couldn’t help but agree, saying, “Their serves have always been very good and well-executed. They’re just a very strong team and they play very, very well together. They know each other, obviously because they are twins. They’ve got something genetic over us.”

One more time...

Karp and Sell took to the court to defend their world championship belt and raced out to a 7-0 lead on the youthful Mexicans. The two California natives then stretched to leads of 9-2, 11-3, 14-4 and finally closed out the game 15-9. Game two ventured down the same path ... turning a 4-3 lead into 12-3.

At 13-6, with Bustillos serving, Karp (a.k.a. The Flying Fish) took to the air and continued the rally with a terrific get near the front wall. Unfortunately for the Fish, he then became the front wall. As the crowd shrieked, shot after shot rocketed toward and past Karp. The current U.S. National Singles Champion dodged and dipped and finally made his way back to mid-court ... where his reflexes continued the rally with another amazing shoestring save. Three shots later, the Fish hit a winner down the line and the crowd gave the 26-year-old a standing ovation.

“Things loved it,” Karp said of the crowd-pleasing rally. “I don’t know if I actually loved it, I could just see myself getting a big welt somewhere. It’s just part of the game. If it was them up there, I’d have been aiming too ... I knew they were aiming at me.”

The Mexicans could only manage one more point as Karp and Sell captured game two 15-7, thus retaining their world champion status. For Karp, the win was a satisfying one.

“We pulled out the first game and were way up in the second,” Karp said. “If we’re playing well, with the kind of games we have, it’s tough to beat us. People are just going to have to flat-roll the ball. I’m going to get a lot of balls and Bill’s not going to make too many mistakes. We don’t beat ourselves.”

For partner Sell, the difference in the match was streaks, saying, “The ball’s moving a million miles an hour and you’re going to have your shots. It’s just whoever settles down and gets on a nice streak.”

According to Moreno, “Against Canada (in the semifinals), we played our game and with these guys, we couldn’t do it. With the speed of the ball, I couldn’t get setup for a good shot.”

Even with the loss, Moreno and Bustillos made Mexican racquetball history with the first-ever finals appearance. “I feel bad that we lost, but also very happy at the same time,” Moreno said after the match. “I thought I was going to be World Champion with Nacho (Luis Bustillos).”

Top: Early in the week, IRF Executive Vice-President Keith Calkins conducted a junior clinic for young Bolivian team hopefuls. Middle: A fully-stocked pro shop kept all 32 teams well-equipped throughout the event. Bottom: Guatemala’s Ximena Gonzalez and Elissa Beltranena get some coaching from USA’s Rocky Carson. Photos: IRF.
WORLD CUP TEAM PLAYOFF
Following a relaxing Tuesday in which most of the athletes could be found in and around the pools of Cochabamba's five-star Hotel Portales, the team event shifted into high gear. In a whole new format (head-to-head competition between countries with full teams) the pressure now switched to the defending world champion Canadian men's and USA women's squads. Both had appeared less-than-bulletproof during the first-half of the tourney.

MEN'S TEAM COMPETITION
In the men's draw, the USA blanked Belgium and Germany in the first two rounds with identical 4-0 match scores – sweeping all three singles positions and the doubles contest. The Canadian men's squad took out Korea and Australia in the same manner. Third-seeded Mexico also swept through the competition, defeating Guatemala and Bolivia with identical 4-0 marks.

It was fifth seed Venezuela, led by top player Fabian Balmori, who registered the lone upset of the quarterfinals by disposing of No. 4 seeded Japan 4-0. Balmori accounted for two of Venezuela's match wins as he defeated Soichi Sakai at the No. 1 spot 15-3, 15-12 and then teamed with Jorge Hirsekorn to down the Japanese doubles team 15-8, 15-6.

Next, Mexico and Canada squared off in what began to take shape as a knock-down, drag-out semifinal. Newly-crowned world champ Sherman Greenfeld held off Alvaro Beltran 15-9, 15-12 for the No. 1 singles match win. Mexico rebounded with Alvaro Maldonado defeating Brian Istance 15-10, 15-12 at the second spot. Then "Nacho" Bustillos took over.

After splitting the first two games versus Canada's No. 3 Mike Ceresa, 15-10, 9-15, Bustillos charged past the fiery Canuck to take the tiebreaker 11-6 and give Mexico a 2-1 advantage going into the doubles match.

The win, plus the current tiebreaking system, provided this scenario for the final match: A win in doubles and Mexico would advance into Saturday's finals. If the Canadian team of Mike Green and Kane Waslenchuk won in two-straight games, the Canadian men's team would advance via the first tiebreaking factor, which is games won throughout the head-to-head competition. A tie-breaking third game would mean the competition would boil down to the total points scored by each team in the head-to-head match.

The Green-Waslenchuk duo came out of the gates strong and took game one, 15-6. However, Nacho and partner Javier Moreno, who had beaten the Canadian tandem earlier in the tournament, finished the second game victorious, at 15-11. With the U.S., Mexican and Canadian coaches frantically tallying each team's points on the sidelines, it was concluded that whichever team won the tiebreaker would earn the right to play in the finals.

Nacho, who fought off leg cramps early in the match, couldn't miss and Moreno was as confident as ever. The result was another victory over Canada, 11-6, and Mexico's first-ever appearance in the world team finals. "I feel great," Bustillos said. "I'm really happy and my parents are going to be happy too."

On the top-half of the bracket, the U.S. team found itself in an awkward position, with an unexpected loss in the lead-up match. Top player Dan Obremski was crushed by Venezuela's No. 1 Balmori, 15-2, 15-1. Fortunately for U.S. Team coach Jim Winterton and his staff, the USA rebounded and won the final three matches and advanced into the finals with a 3-1 win.

In the final head-to-head men's team competition between the U.S. and Mexico, Rocky...
Carson opened with a 15-14, 15-7 win over Bustillos on the main exhibition court.

"Nacho played well and my serves weren't really clicking in that first game," Carson said. "I came out in the second game and hit a couple of good lob serves then went to my drive serve. That's when it started to feel routine."

Next up was 47-year-old Ruben Gonzalez against Mexico No. 2 Alvaro Maldonado. Meanwhile, Obremski and Beltran were squaring off on the main court. Gonzalez outlasted the younger Maldonado 15-11, 15-11 to give the USA a 2-0 advantage.

Obremski's 15-6 first-game win clinched the men's team title — but Beltran eventually won the match with wins in the second and third games, 15-11, 11-6. But it was too little, too late. The doubles match was forfeited to the USA and the Americans officially won the title with a 3-1 match-play victory.

WOMEN'S TEAM
The USA women's team made short work of its successful crown defense. Following 4-0 wins over Chile and Bolivia, the U.S. women were faced with familiar Canadian rivals in the finals. The women of the Great White North had defeated Puerto Rico and Japan by identical 4-0 scores to reach the playoff.

Before entering the finals, the match-up was closer than expected, considering the uncharacteristically poor play of USA's Robin Levine (No. 1) and Cheryl Gudinas (No. 2) in the earlier individual competition and the stellar play of Canadian star Christie Van Hees.

Before the match began, Canadian coach Carol Mulholland stated, "Christie's (match versus Levine) is a must win — Christie over Robin and L-J (Lori-Jane Powell) over Cheryl (Gudinas). Those are the two keys. If we can get those, and Lucie (Guillemette) plays as well as she has against Kersten, I think it will be a good match. I don't think we're going in as the underdog."

That optimism spilled over into the first match as Guillemette stormed back to defeat Hallander in a tiebreaker, 7-15, 15-10, 11-5.

"I feel like I helped a lot," Guillemette said of her win. "Since I was the first to play today, this has given us a lot of confidence and a big advantage."

But that's when the Canadian party ended and the U.S. Team began its mop-up. To say that Gudinas defeated Powell in the No. 2 singles contest would be a grave understatement. Dismantled would be more accurate, with final scores of 15-3, 15-2 and a match point ace.

"I watched Kersten and she played well, but unfortunately it didn't turn out the way she wanted it to," a rejuvenated Gudinas said after the match. "I wanted to play every point so I just put the No. 23 (Michael Jordan) socks on and went...I told everybody in our team meeting the other day that I wasn't leaving here without the gold medal."

The U.S. singles players continued to flex their muscles as Levine took the recently crowned World Champion, Van Hees, to the cleaners. Levine stormed out to a 9-0 lead in the first game. Van Hees called a timeout. Levine then pushed the advantage to 10-1, 13-4 and eventually 15-4.

Somewhat stunned, Van Hees regrouped nicely to grab a 4-0 lead in the second set. Van Hees held leads of 7-4 and 9-7 before coming down with an ankle injury. Following a 15-minute injury timeout, Van Hees came back and took the 10-9 lead that would turn out to be her last. Levine garnered six of the last eight points to win the game 15-12.

"This was definitely the best I've played the whole time I've been here," a relieved Levine said while gathering her equipment. "Before, I felt like I was making a fool out of myself."

The two-game win clinched the women's team and overall titles. Still, the Twins wasted little time in defeating the Canadian duo 15-2, 15-12, just as they had only days earlier in the individual title round.

Top: Bolivian team coach Jeff Leon talks over strategy with #2 player Gerardo Gil [photo: IRF]. Middle: The Mexican doubles team of Javier Moreno and Luis Bustillos get some encouragement from coach Martin Padilla. Bottom: U.S. assistant coach Tom Travers (left) and head coach Jim Winterton make some observations. Photos: John Foust.
INDIVIDUAL WORLD TITLES


TOP FINISHERS

Men's Singles
1. Sherman Greenfeld, Canada
2. Dan Obremski, United States
3. Rocky Carson, United States
4. Mike Ceresia, Canada
Quarterfinalists: Fabian Balmori, Venezuela
Ruben Gonzalez, United States
Luis Bustillos, Mexico
Shai Manzuri, Argentina

Women's Singles
1. Christie Van Hees, Canada
2. Kersten Hallander, United States
3. Robin Levine, United States
4. Cheryl Gudinas, United States
Quarterfinalists: Lupita Torres, Mexico
Lori-Jane Powell, Canada
Hiromi Maeda, Japan
Naomi Wakimoto, Japan

Men's Doubles
1. Adam Karp/Bill Sell, United States
2. Luis Bustillos/Javier Moreno, Mexico
3. Mike Green/Kane Waslenchuk, Canada
4. Fabian Balmori/Jorge Hirsekorn, Venezuela
Quarterfinalists: Daniel Maggi/Shai Manzuri, Argentina
Bunya Hasegawa/Hiroshi Shimizu, Japan
Pablo Fajre/Andres Vilches, Chile
Trevor Hayter/Achim Loot, Germany

Women's Doubles
1. Joy MacKenzie/Jackie Paraiso, United States
2. Josee Grand'Maitre/Debbie Ward, Canada
3. Loreto Barniga/Angela Grisar, Chile
4. Susy Acosta/Lupita Torres, Mexico
Quarterfinalists: Virginia Pacheco/Veronica Rivero, Argentina
Elna Gibney/Karen Grumbridge, Ireland
Hiromi Miyamoto/Ayumi Uchiyama, Japan
Maria Fernanda/Paula Nunez, Bolivia

WORLD CUP TEAM TITLES

MEN'S TEAM COMPETITION FINAL
United States-3, Mexico-1
Men's No. 1 - Alvaro Beltran, Mexico, def. Dan Obremski, United States, 9-15, 15-12, 11-8
Men's No. 2 - Ruben Gonzalez, United States, def. Alvaro Maldonado, Mexico, 15-11, 15-11
Men's No. 3 - Rocky Carson, United States, def. Luis Bustillos, Mexico, 15-14, 15-7
Men's Doubles - Adam Karp/Bill Sell, United States, def. Luis Bustillos/Javier Moreno, Mexico, by injury forfeit

WOMEN'S TEAM COMPETITION FINAL
United States-3, Canada-1
Women's No. 1 - Robin Levine, United States, def. Christie Van Hees, Canada, 15-4, 15-12
Women's No. 2 - Cheryl Gudinas, United States, def. Lori-Jane Powell, Canada, 15-3, 15-2
Women's No. 3 - Lucie Guillemette, Canada, def. Kersten Hallander, United States, 7-15, 15-10, 11-3

TOP TEAM FINISHERS

MEN
1. USA
2. Mexico
3. Canada
4. Venezuela
5. Bolivia
6. Japan
7. England
8. Australia
9. Colombia
10. Chile
11. Argentina
12. Korea
13. Guatemala
14. Belgium
15. Ireland
16. Holland
17. Honduras
18. Guam
19. Ecuador
20. Nigeria
21. Greece
22. Belize
23. Puerto Rico
24. Vietnam
25. Peru
26. Costa Rica
27. Jamaica
28. El Salvador
29. India
30. Tonga

WOMEN
1. USA
2. Canada
3. Japan
4. Bolivia
5. Mexico
6. Venezuela
7. Chile
8. Puerto Rico
9. Argentina
10. Guatemala
11. Ireland
12. Guam
13. India
14. Jamaica
15. Holland
16. Laos
17. Korea
18. Belgium
19. Honduras
20. Ecuador
21. Nigeria
22. Greece
23. Belize
24. Vietnam
25. Peru
26. Costa Rica
27. Jamaica
28. El Salvador
29. India
30. Tonga
31. Laos
32. Haiti

W-8 • world ix

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WU-USA $99.00
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TOTAL
• **START**
The serve is started from any place within the service zone with the exception of certain drive serves. (See “Drive Service Zones”) Stepping on, but not over, the lines is permitted. The server may not step over the short line until the ball passes the short line.

• **MANNER**
The player begins the service motion with any continuous movement which results in the ball being served. The ball must be bounced and hit before it bounces a second time.

• **DRIVE SERVICE ZONES**
The drive serve lines are three feet from each side wall in the service box. The player may drive serve between the body and the nearest side wall only if the player starts and remains outside of the 3-foot drive service zone, and the racquet does not break the plane of the zone while making contact with the ball. The drive serve zones aren't observed for crosscourt drive serves, and hard-Z, soft-Z, lob or half-lob serves.

• **SERVE IN DOUBLES**
At the beginning of each doubles game, when the first server is out, the team is out. Thereafter, both players on each team serve until the team receives a handout and a sideout. On each serve, the server's partner must stand erect with their back to the side wall and both feet on the floor within the service box until the served ball passes the short line.

• **DEFECTIVE SERVES**
There are three types of defective serves: 1) a dead-ball serve which results in no penalty and the server is given another serve (like a wet spot or broken ball), 2) any fault serve (foot fault, short, long, screen, three-wall, etc.), and 3) an out serve which results in an out (double fault, server hits self with serve, etc.)

• **RETURNS**
Once a “good serve” puts the ball into play, the receiver may not enter the marked safety zone until the ball bounces or crosses the plane of the dashed receiving line—particularly in making an on-the-fly return attempt. After “legal” contact with the ball (after the bounce, or behind the line), the receiver’s follow-through may carry the racquet or the body past the receiving line. Failure to return a serve results in a point for the server.

• **SIDEOUT**
A server continues to serve until an out serve, OR two consecutive fault serves, OR one player hits partner with an attempted return, OR two consecutive fault serves, OR two consecutive fault serves, OR one player hits partner with an attempted return (in doubles), OR a player or team loses a rally, OR a player or team commits an avoidable hinder. In singles, retiring the server is a sideout. In doubles, the side is retired when both partners have lost service.

• **RALLIES**
Play initiated after the successful return of serve is called the rally. Play stops when: the ball is carried (resting on the racquet long enough that the effect is more of a sling or throw than a hit); the ball caroms off a player’s racquet into a gallery or wall opening without first hitting the front wall; a ball obviously doesn’t have the velocity or direction to hit the front wall and strikes another player; an avoidable hinder occurs.

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. In singles, 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. In doubles, 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.

• **HINDERS**
There are two types of hinders, 1) a dead-ball hinder which is replayed without penalty (court hinders, body contact, safety holdup, screens, etc.) and 2) avoidable which result in the loss of rally by the offender (these are not necessarily intentional, but clearly take away an offensive shot from your opponent, like blocking, making distracting noise, or playing so close as to be hit by the backswing, etc.). If your court position or manner takes away an offensive shot from your opponent, the right thing to do is call an avoidable hinder on yourself.

Remaining sections of the official rules which aren't presented here cover the following modifications to standard play: ONE SERVE • MULTI-BOUNCE • ONE WALL & THREE WALL • WHEELCHAIR • VISUALLY IMPAIRED • DEAF • PROFESSIONAL.

In the Official Rulebook, COMPETITION POLICIES & PROCEDURES covers the function and duties of tournament directors in conducting tournament play.
At no time should the physical safety of the participants be compromised. Players are entitled – and expected, to hold up their swing – without penalty, any time they believe there might be a risk of physical contact. Any time a player claims to have held up to avoid contact – even if being overly-cautious – they are entitled to a hinder (the rally is replayed with penalty).

**basic self-officiating**

**First and foremost in fair play without a referee:**

**SAFETY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY PLAYER WHO ENTERS THE COURT!**

- **SCORE**
  Since there is no referee or scorekeeper, it is important for the server to announce both the server’s and receiver’s score before each first serve.

- **DURING RALLIES**
  During rallies, it is the hitter’s responsibility to make the call. If there is a possibility that a skip ball, double-bounce, or illegal hit occurred, play should continue until the hitter makes the call against their own shot. If the hitter does not make the call and goes on to win the rally, and the opponent thought that one of the hitter’s shots was not good, they may appeal to the hitter by pointing out which shot was thought to be bad and request that the hitter reconsider. If the hitter is sure of the call, and the opponent is still sure the hitter is wrong, the rally should be replayed. As a matter of etiquette, players are expected to make calls against themselves any time they are not sure. Unless the hitter is certain the shot was good, it should be replayed.

- **SERVICE**
  **Fault Serves.** The receiver has the primary responsibility to make these calls, though either player may make the call. The receiver must make the call immediately, and not wait until the ball has been hit to gain the benefit of seeing how good a return they have made. It is not an option play. The receiver does not have the right to play a short serve just because it could be a set-up.

  **Screen Serves.** When there is no referee, the screen serve call is the sole responsibility of the receiver. If the receiver has taken the proper court position, near center court, does not have clear view of the ball the screen should be called immediately. Receivers may not call a screen after attempting to hit the ball or after taking themselves out of proper court position by starting the wrong way. The server may not call a screen under any circumstances and must expect to play the rally unless a call is made by the receiver.

**Other Situations.** Foot faults, 10-second violations, receiving zone violations, and other calls may require a referee. However, if either player believes an opponent is abusing any of the rules, be sure there is agreement on what the rule is, and a clear understanding that the rules should be followed.

- **HINDERS**
  Generally, the hinder should work like the screen serve — as an option play for the hindered party. Only the person going for the shot can stop play by calling a hinder, and must do so immediately — not wait to see how good a shot they can hit. If the hindered party believes they can make an effective return in spite of some physical contact or screen that has occurred, they may continue to play.

- **AVOIDABLE HINDERS**
  Since avoidable hinders are usually unintentional, they can occur even in the friendliest matches. A player who realizes that they have caused such a hinder should simply declare the opponent to be the winner of the rally. If a player feels that the opponent caused such a hinder, but the opponent does not make the call, the offended player should point out that an avoidable hinder occurred. However, unless the opponent agrees that an avoidable hinder occurred, it should not be called. Often just pointing out what appears to have been an avoidable hinder will prevent the opponent from such actions on future rallies.

- **DISPUTES**
  If either player, for any reason desires to have a referee, it is considered common courtesy for the other player to go along with the request, and a referee suitable to both sides should be found. If there is no referee, and a question about a rule or rule interpretation comes up, seek out the club pro or a more experienced player. Then, after the match, contact your state racquetball association for an interpretation.

To purchase a complete, unabridged copy of the official rules, contact the USRA at 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921. Tel: 719/635-5396, Fax: 719/635-0685, or access them online at www.usra.org.
1997 Lynn Adams (Illinois)
    Marty Hogan (Missouri)
    Chuck Leve (Illinois)
    Heather McKay (Australia)
    Dave Peck (Texas)
    Mike Yellen (Michigan)
1996 Mary Low Acuff (North Carolina)
    Keith Calkins (California)
    Johnny Hennen (Tennessee)
    Gary Mazaroff (New Mexico)
1994 Jo Kenyon (Florida)

contributors

JOE SOBEK OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR AWARD

Named for racquetball's founder, the Joe Sobek Outstanding Contributor Award is for athletes, coaches, officials and administrators who have demonstrated, over the course of the preceding year, an outstanding commitment to the sport of racquetball.

1997 Randy Stafford (Tennessee)
1996 Otto Dietrich (Georgia)
1995 Margo Daniels (California)
1994 Mary Lyons (Florida)
1993 Bill & Mary Walker (California)
1992 Alfredo Lamon (Colorado)
1991 Fran Davis (New Jersey)
1990 Jo Kenyon (Florida)
1989 Gary Mazaroff (New Mexico)
1988 Linda Mojor (Florida)
1987 Connie Peterson-Martin (Oregon)
1986 Ivan Bruner (Wisconsin)
1985 Ed Martin (California)
1984 Mike Arnott (Indiana)
1983 Al Seitelman (New York)
1982 Maureen Henrickson (Massachusetts)
1981 Paul Henrickson (Massachusetts) &
1981 Ed Martin (California)
1977 Sam Caizza (Pennsylvania)
1974 Marilyn Rankin (Canada)
1973 DeWitt Shy (Tennessee)

presidential

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

The annual Presidential Award honors outstanding commitment and achievement by a State Association President in the preceding year, including membership growth, tournament administration and reporting, special development projects, fundraising, successful administrative ventures, publication projects or other exceptional program achievements.

1997 Charlie Munroe (Massachusetts)
1996 Geoff Peters (Illinois)
1995 Jen Yokota (Missouri)
1994 Tammy Fromel (Washington)
1993 Julee Nicola (Pennsylvania)
1992 Annie Muniz (Texas)
1991 Doug Ganim (Ohio)
1990 Penny Missirlian (Nebraska)
1988 Sheri Armstrong (Colorado)
1987 Les Dittrich (Minnesota)
1986 George & Toni Deaver (Utah)
1985 Lance Bloom (New Hampshire)

Hall of Fame

1997
    Lynn Adams (Illinois)
    Marty Hogan (Missouri)
    Chuck Leve (Illinois)
    Heather McKay (Australia)
    Dave Peck (Texas)
    Mike Yellen (Michigan)
1996
    Mary Low Acuff (North Carolina)
    Keith Calkins (California)
    Johnny Hennen (Tennessee)
    Gary Mazaroff (New Mexico)
1994
    Jo Kenyon (Florida)

1992
    Jim Austin (Texas)
1991
    Cindy Baxter (Pennsylvania)
    Ed Remen (Virginia)
1989
    Charlie Garfinkle (New York)
    William Schmidtke (Minnesota)
    Luzell Wilde (Utah)
1988
    Robert J. Kendler (Illinois)
1982
    Gene Grapes (Pennsylvania)
    I.R. Gurner (Kentucky)
1974
    Charlie Brunfield (California)
    Joseph Sobek (Connecticut)
    Peggy Steding (Texas)
    Bud Muehleisen (California)
1973
    Larry Lederman (Wisconsin)

Halverson embodied the highest level of integrity, sportsmanship and dedication to racquetball. In his memory, the John Halverson Fair Play Award has since been awarded only when the occasion calls for the highest recognition of fair play and enthusiasm for the sport.

1998 Andy Tucknott (Nebraska)
1997 Lorraine Galloway (New Jersey)
1997 Warren Riecke (Maryland)
1995 Chris Cole (Texas)
1994 Annie Muniz (Texas)
1993 Ralph Reeb (Ohio)
1992 David Hunter (Tennessee)

fair play

JOHN HALVerson FAIR PLAY AWARD

In the early 70's, John Halverson inspired a lifetime award in his name. A national masters champion,
# Athlete Awards

## Athletes of the Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Dan Obremski</td>
<td>Michelle Gould</td>
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<td>Michelle Gould</td>
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<td>Michael Bronfeld</td>
<td>Michelle Gould</td>
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<td>Michael Bronfeld</td>
<td>Robin Levine</td>
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<td>Chris Cole</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Tim Sweeney</td>
<td>Michelle Gilman</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Andy Roberts</td>
<td>Michelle Gilman</td>
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<td>Michelle Gilman</td>
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<td>Andy Roberts</td>
<td>Toni Bevelock</td>
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<td>Jim Cascio</td>
<td>Diane Green</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>Bill Schmidtke</td>
<td>Jan Pasternak</td>
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</table>

## Bud Muehlheisen Award

- 1997 | Mitt Layton (Fla.) | Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
- 1996 | Victor Sacco (N.Y.) | Eileen Tuckman (Fla.)
- 1995 | Bobby Sanders (Ohio) | Shelley Ogden (Ohio)
- 1994 | Ron Galbreath (Pa.) | Gerti Stoffregen (Ohio)
- 1993 | Johnny Hennen (Tenn.) | Susan Pfahler (Ohio)
- 1992 | Dave Peck (Texas) | Janet Myers (S.C.)
- 1991 | Paul Banales (Ariz.) | Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
- 1990 | Dave Kovanda (Ohio) |

## Peggy Steding Award

- 1997 | | |
- 1996 | | |
- 1995 | | |
- 1994 | | |
- 1993 | | |
- 1992 | | |
- 1991 | | |
- 1990 | | |

## Junior Athletes of the Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 1998 | Josh Tucker (Mo.) | Brooke Crawford (Ore.)
| 1997 | Rocky Carson (Calif.) | Sara Borland (Idaho)
| 1996 | Rocky Carson (Calif.) | Sadie Gross (N.D.)
| 1995 | Shane Wood (Mass.) | Vanessa Tulao (Tenn.)
| 1994 | Shane Wood (Mass.) | Shannon Feaster (D.C.)
| 1993 | Shane Wood (Mass.) | Tammy Brockbank (Idaho)
| 1992 | James Mulcock (N.M.) | Elkova Icenogle (Calif.)
| 1991 | Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.) | Elkova Icenogle (Calif.)

## Bud Muehlheisen Award

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- 1996 | Victor Sacco (N.Y.) | Eileen Tuckman (Fla.)
- 1995 | Bobby Sanders (Ohio) | Shelley Ogden (Ohio)
- 1994 | Ron Galbreath (Pa.) | Gerti Stoffregen (Ohio)
- 1993 | Johnny Hennen (Tenn.) | Susan Pfahler (Ohio)
- 1992 | Dave Peck (Texas) | Janet Myers (S.C.)
- 1991 | Paul Banales (Ariz.) | Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
- 1990 | Dave Kovanda (Ohio) |

## Peggy Steding Award

- 1997 | | |
- 1996 | | |
- 1995 | | |
- 1994 | | |
- 1993 | | |
- 1992 | | |
- 1991 | | |
- 1990 | | |

## Junior Boys

- 1998 | Josh Tucker (Mo.) | Brooke Crawford (Ore.)
- 1997 | Rocky Carson (Calif.) | Sara Borland (Idaho)
- 1996 | Rocky Carson (Calif.) | Sadie Gross (N.D.)
- 1995 | Shane Wood (Mass.) | Vanessa Tulao (Tenn.)
- 1994 | Shane Wood (Mass.) | Shannon Feaster (D.C.)
- 1993 | Shane Wood (Mass.) | Tammy Brockbank (Idaho)
- 1992 | James Mulcock (N.M.) | Elkova Icenogle (Calif.)
- 1991 | Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.) | Elkova Icenogle (Calif.)

## Junior Girls

- 1998 | | |
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## U.S.R.A. Media Services

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## Athlete Profiles & Photos

The USRA provides up-to-date biographical information on national team members, top level national champions, selected international athletes, and administrators. Photos of national team members can also be requested, and provided free of charge in most cases.

## Electronic Information

USRA press materials are regularly filed on the USOC Public Information and Media Relations office at 719/578-4529.

## Websites

Official USRA Internet sites can be found at the following domain names:
- http://www.usra.org
- http://www.racquetball.org
- http://www.racqmag.com

Email can be directed to staff members by using: first initial, last name@usra.org
all-time junior champions

WORLD CUP TEAM CHAMPIONS ... & Top Finishers
1984 United States, Canada ... 2. Canada; 3. Holland; 4. Mexico & Japan

WORLD SINGLES CHAMPIONS

MEN
1998 Sherman Greenfeld (Canada) ................. 2. Michael Gould (USA/Idaho)
1996 Todd O'Neil (USA/Texas) & Michelle Gould (USA/Idaho)
1994 Sherman Greenfeld (Canada) & Michelle Gould (USA/Idaho)
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MEN'S WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONS
1998 USA Adam Karp (Calif.) & Bill Sell (Calif.)
1996 USA Adam Karp (Calif.) & Bill Sell (Calif.)
1994 USA John Ellis (Calif.) & Eric Muller (Kan.)
1992 USA Doug Ganim (Ohio) & Eric Muller (Kan.)
1990 USA Doug Ganim (Ohio) & Dan Obremski (Pa.)
1988 USA Doug Ganim (Ohio) & Dan Obremski (Pa.)
1986 USA Jack Nolan (Ariz.) & Todd O'Neil (Vt.)
1984 USA Stan Wright (Calif.) & Steve Trent
1981 USA Mark Malowitz & Jeff Kwartler

WOMEN'S WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONS
1998 USA Joy Mackenzie (Calif.) & Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
1996 USA Joy Mackenzie (Calif.) & Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
1994 USA Laura Fenton (Neb.) & Jackie Gibson (Calif.)
1992 USA Malia Bailey (Va.) & Robin Levine (Calif.)
1990 USA Malia Bailey (Va.) & Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
1988 USA Diane Green (Fla.) & Trina Rasmussen (Calif.)
1986 CAN Carol McFetridge & Marion Sicotte
1984 USA Carol French & Malia Kamahoahoa (Va.)
1982 USA Mary Ann Cluess & Karen Borga

WORLD WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONS
1998 Rick Slaughter (USA/Tenn.)
1996 Chip Parmelly (USA/Calif.)
1994 Chip Parmelly (USA/Calif.)
1992 Chip Parmelly (USA/Calif.)
1990 Chip Parmelly (USA/Calif.)

all-time champions

WORLD SINGLES CHAMPIONS

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1986 USA Jack Nolan (Ariz.) & Todd O'Neil (Vt.)
1984 USA Stan Wright (Calif.) & Steve Trent
1981 USA Mark Malowitz & Jeff Kwartler

WOMEN'S WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONS
1998 USA Joy Mackenzie (Calif.) & Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
1996 USA Joy Mackenzie (Calif.) & Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
1994 USA Laura Fenton (Neb.) & Jackie Gibson (Calif.)
1992 USA Malia Bailey (Va.) & Robin Levine (Calif.)
1990 USA Malia Bailey (Va.) & Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
1988 USA Diane Green (Fla.) & Trina Rasmussen (Calif.)
1986 CAN Carol McFetridge & Marion Sicotte
1984 USA Carol French & Malia Kamahoahoa (Va.)
1982 USA Mary Ann Cluess & Karen Borga

WORLD WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONS
1998 Rick Slaughter (USA/Tenn.)
1996 Chip Parmelly (USA/Calif.)
1994 Chip Parmelly (USA/Calif.)
1992 Chip Parmelly (USA/Calif.)
1990 Chip Parmelly (USA/Calif.)
Men's 35+                        Women's 35+
1997 Gary Sanchez (N.M.) .......... Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
1996 Steve Lerner (Calif.) ....... Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
1995 Mike Martinez ( Calif.) ..... Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
1994 Mike Martinez ( Calif.) ..... Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
1993 Bobby Corcorran (Ariz.) .... Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
1992 Bobby Corcoran (Ariz.) ...... Gail Woods (La.)
1991 Gary Mazaro (N.M.) .......... Janet Myers (N.C.)
1989 Gary Mazaro (N.M.) .......... Eileen Tuckman (Fla.)

Men's 40+                        Women's 40+
1997 Dave Peck (Texas) .......... Susan Hendricks (Ariz.)
1996 Gene Couch (Fla.) .......... Taffy Wood (Canada)
1995 Mike Murphy (Calif.) ....... Shelley Ogden (Ohio)
1994 Jack Crowther (Calif.) ...... Agatha Falso (Fla.)
1993 Skip Deal (Calif.) .......... Agatha Falso (Fla.)
1992 Dave George (Calif.) ...... Nancy Kronenfield (Ill.)
1991 Darrell Warren ( Calif.) .. Janet Myers (N.C.)
1990 Fielding Snow ( Wash.) .... Carole Dattisman (Pa.)
1989 Dave Kovanda (Ohio) ....... Agatha Falso (Fla.)

Men's 45+                        Women's 45+
1997 Dave Kovanda (Ohio) ....... Judy Sands (N.J.)
1996 Dave Kovanda (Ohio) ....... Eileen Tuckman (Fla.)
1995 Mike Murphy (Calif.) ....... Shelley Ogden (Ohio)
1994 Jack Crowther (Calif.) ....... Agatha Falso (Fla.)
1993 Mike DiCicco (Ariz.) ...... Marshall Kharas (Ohio)
1992 Bill Wolfe (N.Y.) .......... Agatha Falso (Fla.)
1990 Jeff Leon (Panama) ....... Agatha Falso (Fla.)
1989 Ed Remen (Va.) ........ Linda Siau (Ariz.)

Men's 50+                        Women's 50+
1997 Dennis O'Brien (Idaho) ....... Agatha Falso (Fla.)
1996 Dennis O'Brien (Idaho) ....... Agatha Falso (Fla.)
1995 Mike Aubrey (Ariz.) .......... Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
1994 Mike Aubrey (Ariz.) .......... Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
1993 Jerry Davis (Ohio) .......... Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
1992 Fred Letter (N.J.) .......... Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
1991 Len Cortez ( Ariz.) .......... Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
1990 Jerry Davis (Ohio) .......... Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1989 Dario Mas (De.) ........ Kathy Mueller (Minn.)

Men's 55+                        Women's 55+
1997 Mike Aubrey (Ariz.) .......... Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
1996 Fred Letter (N.J.) ........ Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
1995 Gordon Kelly (Mich.) .... Marion Johnson (Texas)
1994 Gordon Kelly (Mich.) .... Marion Johnson (Texas)
1993 Art Johnson (Colo.) .......... Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1992 Paul Banales (Ariz.) .. .... Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1991 Paul Banales (Ariz.) ........ Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1990 Art Johnson (Colo.) .......... Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1989 Paul Banales (Ariz.) ........ Jo Kenyon (Fla.)

Men's 60+                        Women's 60+
1997 Paul Banales (Ariz.) ........ Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1996 Paul Banales (Ariz.) ........ Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1995 Paul Banales (Ariz.) ........ Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1994 Paul Banales (Ariz.) ........ Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1993 Paul Banales (Ariz.) ........ Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1992 Don Alt (Ohio) ............. Lola Markos (Ill.)
1991 Harvey Clar (Calif.) ...... Lola Markos (Ill.)
1990 Harvey Clar (Calif.) ...... Bridin Vi Maalagagain (Ireland)
1989 Phillip Dzvilk (Ill.) ...... Mary Lou Acuff (Va.)

Men's 65+                        Women's 65+
1997 Don Alt (Ohio) ............. Lola Markos (Ill.)
1996 Joe Lambert (Texas) ....... Dorothy Vezetinski (Wash.)
1995 Joe Lambert (Texas) ....... Dorothy Vezetinski (Wash.)
1994 John Bogasky (Va.) ......... Reta Harring (Wis.)
1993 Joe Lambert (Texas) ....... Phyllis Melvey (N.D.)
1992 Fintan Kilbride (Canada) ... Joann Jones (Conn.)
1991 Tony Duarte (Calif.) ....... Dorothy Vezetinski (Wash.)
1990 Art Goss (Colo.) .......... Betty Mowrey (N.M.)
1989 Art Goss (Colo.) .......... Eleanor Quackenbush (Ore.)

Men's 70+                        Women's 70+
1997 Joe Lambert (Texas) ....... Dorothy Vezetinski (Wash.)
1996 Dick Kincade (Colo.) ......... no division
1995 Tony Duarte (Calif.) ....... Marion Russell (Calif.)
1994 Glenn Melvey (N.D.) ...... Eleanor Quackenbush (Ore.)
1993 Nick Sans (Calif.) .......... Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1992 Nick Sans (Calif.) .......... Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1991 Earl Acuff (N.C.) ............ Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1990 Luzell Wilde (Utah) ....... Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1989 Luzell Wilde (Utah) ....... Mary Low Acuff (Va.)

Men's 75+                        Women's 75+
1997 Nick Sans (Calif.) .......... Eleanor Quackenbush (Ore.)
1996 Nick Sans (Calif.) .......... Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1995 Charley Russell (Calif.) .. Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1994 Earl Acuff (N.C.) ............ Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1993 Earl Acuff (N.C.) ......... no division
1992 Fred Felton (Texas) ......... no division
1991 Allen Shepherd (Md.) ....... no division
1990 Harmon Minor (Colo.) ....... no division
1989 John Pearce (Texas) ....... no division

Men's 80+                        Women's 80+
1997 George Spear (N.Y.) ....... Zelda Friedland (N.M.)
1996 Harry Steinman (Md.) ....... no division
1995 John Pearce (Texas) ......... no division
1994 John Pearce (Texas) ......... no division
1993 John Pearce (Texas) ......... Zelda Friedland (N.M.)
1992 Jack Daly (Va.) .......... Zelda Friedland (N.M.)
1991 no division ................ Zelda Friedland (N.M.)
1990 no division ................ Zelda Friedland (N.M.)
1989 Howard Cole (N.M.) .......... Zelda Friedland (N.M.)

BOYS 8- MB SINGLES            GIRLS 8- MB SINGLES
1997 Juan Sanchez (Mexico) ....... No division
1996 David Ortega (Mexico) ...... Eleni Guzman (Mexico)

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Returning the Serve

By Andy Roberts

To offer a good return of serve, you often must have more instinct than skill. These days the serve is usually traveling at such a high rate of speed that pure reaction – coupled with instinct – are necessities.

When I talk about instinct I mean that the server has all the advantages, so the receiver has to have a strong desire to win. You cannot sit in the back court and hope for a short or long serve, or a back wall set-up. You must attack! You must create indecision in your opponent – what can they serve you?

Beyond the basics, one way to attack is to learn to cut off lob serves. Without question, mastering the "short-hop" return is very difficult, but if you start practicing and incorporating this into games now, it can really improve your matches. Remember, keep it simple. Don’t try to kill the ball off the cutoffs ... the goal is to put your opponent in the deep court. Make the shot hard on your opponent, not yourself!

I think the following tips will help improve your overall performance.
starting position >>
The key to attacking the serve is having a good look at it! It's best to position yourself one arm's length away from the back wall in the center of the court – to start – but if that position doesn't optimize your field of vision, a slight movement to the left or the right would probably enhance your line of sight.
The correct posture to return serve should be a position which is going to allow you to move the quickest. A common problem is that the starting position is too vertical, which inhibits both quick movement side-to-side – as well as getting low on the ball. That is too much to think about and many times you don’t have enough time to establish good return posture. The best returners get a comfortable low position so they are ready to make one decision once they track the ball: forehand or backhand.

Another common mistake is chasing a sidewall-to-backwall serve into the corner. Give yourself plenty of room to swing at the ball when it comes off the backwall!
What makes these positions different? Notice Andy's right foot (and the shadow that he casts). His stance for the cross-court return is slightly more open—toward the front wall—allowing an easier cross-court angle on his backhand return.

^^ keep ‘em guessing

After you have correct posture and a good view of the ball comes rule #1. Punish your opponent for hitting weak serves! A weak serve normally comes in the form of a back wall set-up. If you are unable to capitalize on weak serves you will never be able to create pressure for the server.

Rule #2. Don’t hit the ball back to the server. It sounds simple, but very often this seems to become a big factor in the match. We know the server is going to be near the service box—therefore the return should be either down-the-line or cross-court. A down-the-line or cross-court will force the server to run backwards to hit the ball—and running backwards while trying to hit an offensive shot is very difficult at any level. But don’t be afraid to hit a pinch off the return every once in a while to keep the server guessing. If you decide to go defensive, a ceiling ball is fine. Just remember to keep the return simple, and whatever you do, don’t skip a return of serve!
It's the start of a new season, but I hate to practice! What can I do to improve my service game, dress up my training routines and still have fun?

If you look at the game of racquetball in very simple terms, you realize that when you are in the service box, you have a chance to win a point. If you are receiving serve, you have a chance to lose a point. Your next realization is, "Gosh, the serve and serve return are pretty important skills to master if I want to be an effective player."

Back in the old days, my favorite drill was the "serve & serve return drill." It requires two people and is a simple, two-shot drill: a serve and a return. That's it! No rallies, just a serve and a return.

The goal of this drill is simple: If you are the server, hit a serve that prevents your opponent from hitting a good return. If you are the receiver, hit a good kill, pass, or ceiling shot.

The drill is played to eleven points. If you are the server and your serve keeps the receiver from hitting a good return, you score the point. If you are the receiver and you hit a good kill, pass, or ceiling shot, you score the point.

One player will serve the entire eleven point game, while their opponent will be the receiver throughout the eleven points. When the game is over the players switch places.

The beauty of this drill is that it allows each person to focus totally on one skill. 100% of the server's focus is on hitting an excellent serve while the receiver only concentrates on hitting an effective return.

As with any drill, be picky and aim for perfection. For instance, you are the server and you leave a big, high setup off the back wall. The receiver skips the big, high setup. Play the point over. The server shouldn't score a point with a crummy serve!

As the receiver, define a good pass, kill and ceiling shot. If your return does not qualify, you lose a point.

I love this drill! My practice partner and I would do three sets of this drill (I serve 3 games, she serves 3 games) at least three times a week. It made a huge difference in my game and I felt a lot more confident, especially receiving serve. Put it to the test and you will see the difference in your game!

September – October 1998
Those Big, New Racquets with their Long, Long Strings

Unless you were recently rescued from a desert island, you've probably noticed a bunch of new racquet designs on the market. Spurred by a rule change that allows racquets up to 22" long, manufacturers have not been slow to introduce a whole crop of new, ultra-big models, many of them with unusual features that have ramifications for string selection and performance.

The basic idea is simple: larger racquet faces have longer main strings, which means more power. The manufacturers achieve this in different ways, but one common design trick is to extend the length of the racquet's throat, and concentrate the bottom ends of most or all of the main strings at or near the throat. This imposes a fan-like pattern to the stringbed, and has the effect of lengthening the mains—particularly the outermost ones, as compared to a racquet with a traditional square-grid string pattern. Racquets that utilize this design include: Wilson Air Hammer® 9.9 Stretch; Head Ti.175 XL; Ektelon Power Ring Pro LongBody™; and the whole E-Force line.

Jonah Bishop, owner of Racquet Sports Unlimited in Pittsburg, KS, and a professional stringer, reports that many skilled players prefer to use relatively stiff strings in these racquets. Otherwise, the ultra-long mains seem a bit too stretchy. But simultaneously, he's seen average stringing tensions drop from 35-40 lb. down to 30-35 lb. These two factors work against each other: the stiffer strings boost control and reduce power, while the lower tensions do the opposite.

"In terms of racquet performance, I don't see an entirely logical explanation for this," says Bishop. "We're getting into a subjective area of what feels best to the player."

In terms of durability, however, this setup makes sense. The larger racquets have very "open" string patterns (i.e., a lot of space between the strings), which means less support for each string. Stiffer strings tend to be more notch-resistant, and strings at lower tension are obviously less prone to break from over-stretching.

Jonah likes a hybrid string setup in these larger racquets, which is one way to combine durability and stiffness with good power. Stiff Kevlar® for the longer main strings, and more resilient nylon for the shorter crosses seem to provide good consistent response.

Here are a few more points of interest from Jonah:

- E-Force's Omen™ and Torrent™ models feature a new Control Wrap™ design, in which the strings wrap around the head of the frame rather than passing through holes and grommets. This reduces the tightness of the bend the string must take, which may promote longer string life.
- Ektelon's "Power Ring" design seems to produce main strings that are most nearly equal in length. This should promote consistent response across the face of the racquet.
- In E-Force's LongString™ design, on the other hand, there is great disparity between the length of the eight centermost mains, and the remaining outer ones. This doesn't seem to produce inconsistent response across the racquet face, however, so there's probably no need to set string tensions independently. Individual string tensioning is possible but difficult, and it adds cost to the stringing job.

Players who do their own stringing will find that the standard 36' coil of string may not be long enough for the new oversize frames. Some manufacturers have increased their sets to 40' to make up the difference.

You may find that your "old" stringing setup doesn't generate the best results on the new racquets. As always, it's a good idea to discuss your needs with your stringer, and experiment with different setups until you find the one that brings out your best.
The Fitness Coaching Corner
by March Lynch

As you may have noticed, the last two articles I have written have been a departure from the usual nutrition topics that I used to address. Instead, we're now going to focus on a different aspect of fitness/nutrition/performance. That aspect is about putting information into practice. Once you know what to eat, how to work out, and how to practice, the question becomes how do you take what you know and turn that into a lifestyle—something that produces results and stays with you. Some of my clients are absolute experts in nutrition and fitness. They have read all the books, tried all the diets, and have a tremendous amount of information at their fingertips. The struggle for them is doing what they know is ‘right’ to get the results they want. What I eventually hear from those most frustrated is, “I'll never be fit (lose weight, be a winner, etc.) because I’m weak, I don’t have any willpower.”

So let’s address the topic of willpower. First of all, understand that willpower doesn’t work. Willpower is a short term source of energy. You can say to yourself, “I will eat only vegetables and fruit and I know I will lose weight.” How long can you continue this regimen? A day, a week, a month, longer? Ultimately you will fail because your body cannot survive on fruits and vegetables alone. Your body’s innate survival mechanism will cause you to ‘fail’ and eat something else. Your brain was able to override your body for a limited period only. You cannot force yourself to do anything long-term which is not in agreement with your body’s innate intelligence. The whole concept of willpower assumes you can forever override your true nature.

Your true nature, intuition, inner knowing... these are names for a very powerful, more subtle form of energy that is naturally within you and therefore sustainable. Tapping into this source of energy drives your goals rather than using willpower to force them. The way to access this energy requires first of all acknowledging that it exists and then making the room for it to work for you. Making room may involve things that don’t seem remotely related to your goals. Relaxing, for example. Taking time to do nothing at all, or read a book, or take a bath. These may seem to contradict the supposed ‘effort’ it ‘should’ take to achieve a goal, yet may be the most important thing you can do toward achieving it.

For the next week or so make an effort to just notice when you are pushing (using willpower) to get things done and when you are ‘going with the flow’ (using your intuitive self) to accomplish something. Once you know and feel the difference, you will start to choose ‘flow’ over ‘push’ in many areas of your life.

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As always, I welcome your comments and feedback. You can reach me at Coach2u812@aol.com or send a letter to the magazine, care of Marcy Lynch. See you next issue!
1998 ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Reported by John R. Fuhrmann

Armed Forces racquetball was at its very best at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas! Reigning 1997 U.S. National ‘All Age’ Champion, Air Force Airman Rob Dejesus and U.S. National 35+ Champion, Army SSGT Jimmy Lowe led 70 of the military’s top racquetball players into the Armed Forces’ strongest-ever field of competitors to name champions in Open, 30+, and 40+, and Women’s Open and Seniors Divisions.

Amazing athleticism, eyepopping power, precision finesse racquetball and a week of grueling 95-degree court temperatures gave players and fans plenty to contend with, enjoy – and sweat about – throughout the spirited competition.

Round robin play in all divisions set initial seedings and pairings for the three day championship double elimination tournament.

The Winners
Open Division: Jimmy Lowe - Army
Army SSGT Jimmy Lowe and Air Force A1C Rob Dejesus battled in three spectacular matches. Dejesus’ 170 mph rocket serves and Lowe’s impressive court control and shot-making were tournament highpoints. Dejesus won match one in a two-hour 6-15, 15-6, 11-3 marathon. Lowe advanced to the showdown match by upending AF 1LT Tom Fuhrmann 15-10, 15-9 to win the losers’ bracket.

The cat-quick Lowe forced the double elimination “IF” match with a decisive 15-13, 15-3 win over Dejesus. Both Dejesus’ and Lowe dazzled the more than 200 spectators with bottom board rollouts, unbelievable dive gets and amazing splats. Lowe took the championship in a hard fought tiebreaker 15-13, 12-15, 11-8. Dejesus’ photon power serves and passes came up short against Lowe’s consistent forehand piches and frustrating around-the-wall defensive returns with both finalists fighting extreme heat and fatigue in the two hour finale.

Men’s Seniors Division: Miguel Santiago - Army
Army SFC Miguel Santiago rolled undefeated to the Seniors title. AF MSGT Duane Stevens took second...
place with a come back 7-15, 15-14, 11-7 win over U.S. Regional Champion, Army Major Roger Miller.

**Men's Masters Division:** Gil Rodriguez - Army

Army Lt Col Gil Rodriguez (Virginia Open Champion) won his third consecutive Masters' title. Showing the tournament's strongest backhand splats and near flawless shot-making, Rodriguez crushed a talented field. Rodriguez cruised to the finals before losing a game, where Army teammate SFC Jesus Moctezuma challenged Rodriguez in the finals by forcing a tiebreaker. Rodriguez rode backhand splat winners and cross court passes to a 15-11, 14-15, 11-15, 11-3 tiebreaker Masters' title.

**Womens' Open – Tina Bragdon**

**Women's Senior – Gladys Leonard**

AF Capt Tina Bragdon moved through a six player field undefeated to earn her second straight Armed Forces and AF Womens' Open titles. Army AFC Gladys Leonard showed consistency, power, and excellent conditioning in winning the Womens' Army and Seniors round robin event.

**EXCELL.NET Named Official Website Provider for USRA Sites**

Excell.Net - an Internet Service Provider located in Longmeadow, Massachusetts – was recently named as the official website provider for the USRA websites (including the RACQUETBALL magazine site). Excell.Net is owned/operated by Stan and Patty Shaw of East Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

Excell.Net has been in business since April of 1996. Patty Shaw manages the day-to-day activities of the business, performing most of Excell.Net's customer service functions. Patty also performs accounts payable and accounts receivable functions. Stan Shaw performs the technical tasks and assists Patty with customer service. Stan and Patty's two children, Melinda and Stan IV, also help out with the business, Melinda assists with customer service, and Stan IV assist Stan with website support.

Stan, Patty and Stan IV are all racquetball players who participate in most Connecticut tournaments, New England Regional tournaments – as well as some recent national tournaments. Excell.Net has the goal of being the #1 ISP in the racquetball world!
Netherlands Racquetball Recognized
Reported by Mike Mesecke
International Racquetball Federation
It was recently announced that the Netherlands Racquetball Association (NRA) officially has been recognized by its National Olympic Committee and the Netherlands Sports Federation. The NRA was founded in May 1978. After more than 20 years of hard work and efforts, Dutch Racquetball is taking a very important step in the development of racquetball in the Netherlands.

“I hope that this will give racquetball in the Netherlands some kind of boost and that it makes a name for our sport in the Netherlands,” said René Hehemann, General Secretary of the European Racquetball Federation (ERF). “I sincerely hope that other ERF members will establish this status shortly, as well.”

Intercontinental ...
Reported by Kevin Vicroy
International Racquetball Federation
Siblings Arwa and Eric Meijer of the Netherlands are half Dutch and half Bolivian. The Meijer’s mother, Giardenia Giocman, is full-blooded Cochabambina, while their father is from the Netherlands. The two met in Cochabamba and the rest is a cross-hemisphere love story.

“We were here last year and I desper­ately wanted to come back,” Eric said of his last trip to Cochabamba. “Now, with this tournament, it’s even better. I’ve played the best I can, but it’s been pretty tough.”

Arwa was equally as happy to be back in their mother’s home city. “I love it here . . . I want to live here,” she said. “I’ve got all my family here in one city. In the Netherlands, my family is in different cities so I don’t see them a lot.”

Eric and Arwa, both fluent in several languages including Dutch, Spanish and English, arrived in Bolivia two weeks prior to the start of the World Championships.

Athletes Receive $22,000.00 from the Canadian Olympic Association
Reported by David Hinton
Racquetball Canada
In documentation recently received from the Canadian Olympic Association it was revealed that Racquetball Canada athletes will receive a total of $22,000.00 in the 1998-99 fiscal year through two of their programs.

Vicki Shanks (North Vancouver, BC), Lucie Guillemette (Lac Beaufort, PQ), Michael Green (Hannon, ON) and Mike Ceresa (Burlington, ON) will each receive $4,000.00 through the COA Athlete Fund. These contributions represent four of the two hundred and seven (207) awards made by the Canadian Olympic Association through the program this fiscal year.

Paul Albert (Moncton, NB) and Amanda MacDonald will each receive $3,000.00 through the Canadian Olympic Association’s Petro-Canada Olympic Torch Scholarship Program. A total of one hundred and thirty-one (131) athletes are funded this fiscal year under this program.

1998 Canadian Junior National Championships: June 30 - July 4
Reported by David Hinton
Racquetball Canada
GIRLS DIVISIONS — SINGLES: Girl’s 18 and Under — 1. Karina Odegard (SK); 2. Julie Neubauer (AB); 3. Carolyn Peddle (NFLD). Red: Veronique Tetreault (QC); White: Janine Kelly (SK). Girl’s 16 and Under — 1. Karina Odegard (SK); 2. Veronique Guillemette (QC); 3. Genevieve Brodeur (QC); Red: Leah Mortensen (SK); White: Kelly Show (SK). Girl’s 14 and Under — 1. Cathleen Wachs (MB); 2. Stephanie Olezzy (MB); 3. Tiara Johnson (SK); Red: Alison Schlichemeyer (SK); White: Megan Daciuk (MB). Girl’s 12 and Under — 1. Brandi Jacobson Prentice (SK); 2. Tiara Johnson (SK); 3. Alison Schlichemeyer (SK); Red: Kaela Putaro (MB); White: Angela Denbow (MB). Girl’s 10 and Under — 1. Angela Denbow (MB); 2. Alicia Reid (MB); 3. Lyssa-Ann Landerville (QC). Girl’s 8 and Under — Alicia Reid (MB); 2. Lyssa-Ann Landerville (QC); 3. Cellidh Beveridge (NB). DOUBLES: Girl’s 18 and Under — 1. Genevieve Brodeur (QC); Veronique Guillemette (QC); 2. Leah Mortensen (SK); Erin Shaw (SK); 3. Carolyn Peddle (NFLD); Kathryn Hills (NB).

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French National Championships 1998: May 30-June 1 in Anglet, France

Reported by Mike Mesecke
German Racquetball Federation


Heidelberg Summer Slam 1998

Reported by Mike Mesecke
German Racquetball Federation

On the last weekend in July, the 6th Summer Slam in Heidelberg opened the 1998-99 European Racquetball season. With players from the USA, Germany, France and Spain, this annual event made a good beginning of a new RB season in Europe. Thanks to tournament director Bob Vogt and his crew.

Final results: Men's Open — 1. Michael Bowers (USA); 2. Antonio Bebia (Spain); 3. Eric Curtis (USA). Women's Open — 1. Ynez Slaymaker (USA); 2. Yvonne Kortes (Germany); 3. Judy LeFlore (USA). Men's Seniors — 1. Otto Cantizo (USA); 2. Bjorn Jensen (Germany); 3. Antonio Bebia (Spain). Men's Masters — 1. Donnie Crowe (USA); 2. James Johnson (USA); 3. Allen Snyder (USA). Men's Open B — 1. Russ Maziaka (USA); 2. Jeff Mackey (USA); 3. Julian Torres (USA). Men's Open C — 1. Hermann Bachmoier (Germany); 2. Howie Brewster (USA); 3. Tobie Paulsen (Germany).

Racquetball lost a great friend, supporter and benefactor when Scott Winters recently left Ektelon to advance his career in marketing. Scott started out in racquetball as a teaching professional, then later headed the USRA Junior Council in the mid-eighties, and hosted the 1985 Junior Nationals in Newport Beach, California. His marketing career moves landed him at several racquet manufacturers across the country before he was selected to take charge of the Ektelon division of Prince. Throughout his career, Scott has been a dedicated supporter of the sport and its growth worldwide — who managed many developmental projects by taking a personal and hands-on approach. We wish Scott every success and happiness in his new endeavor.

The IX World Championships are now history. The Bolivian Worlds were very special in every sense. The crowds at Opening Ceremonies; the Parade of Nations; the support of the Bolivian government through Mr. Juan Antonio Tehran of the Ministry of Sport; the LOC and their hundreds of volunteers, and the ever-present press corps coverage. All this, plus the competitive breakthroughs by the Bolivian, Venezuelan, and Mexican teams in the team competition; the visit by Bolivian President Gral. Hugo Banzer Suarez, who opened the Games; and the exhibition doubles match between IRF Executives and the Bolivian Vice President and the Sports Minister; the gorgeous venue at the Country Club Of Cochabamba with four new courts and an exceptional staff who worked 24 hours a day to be ready. And last, but certainly not least, President of the Bolivia Racquetball Federation, Jose Virreira who saw his dream and vision come to life — after working tirelessly for a full decade to make the '98 Worlds become a reality. To all, a well-deserved round of applause in gratitude!

BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT GRAL. HUGO BANZER SUAREZ PRESENTS THE BOLIVIAN FLAG AT OPENING CEREMONIES. TO HIS LEFT: JUAN ANTONIO TEHRAN OF THE BOLIVIAN SPORTS MINISTRY.
ENTRY FORM - Please Print . . .

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City __________________ State ________
Country __________________ Zip ________
Phone (Day) ______________ (Evening) ________
Birthdate __________________ Age ________
Partner __________________ Division ________
Partner __________________ Mixed Division ________

Competition in a third division must be in mixed doubles.
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National Ranking ___________ Division ________
National Division ___________ Finish ________

Other Seeding Information ____________________________

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

Participant Signature & Date __________________________

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

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date __________________________

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September – October 1998
### MEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Player Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Jason Thoerner</td>
<td>SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Mike Locker</td>
<td>MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Dan Llocrea</td>
<td>DE</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Adam Karp</td>
<td>CA</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Todd O'Neill</td>
<td>TX</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Chris Cole</td>
<td>MI</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>David Hamilton</td>
<td>OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>John Davis</td>
<td>IA</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Chris Wright</td>
<td>MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Not a Member, AR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Men’s Open

1. Jason Thoerner, SC  
2. Mike Locker, MN  
3. Dan Llocrea, DE  
4. Adam Karp, CA  
5. Todd O’Neill, TX  
6. Chris Cole, MI  
7. David Hamilton, OH  
8. John Davis, IA  
9. Chris Wright, MO  
10. Not a Member, AR

#### Men’s A

1. Dave Bartscher, TX  
2. Jason Samora, OR  
3. Deion Gardiner, TX  
4. Rob Teren, OH  
5. Erik Leetch, AR  
6. Brent Walters, IN  
7. Al Schof, LA  
8. Joey Delfino, MA  
9. Mitch Williams, NC

#### Men’s B

1. George Anthon Jr., LA  
2. Danny Thompson, TX  
3. Ryan Rodgers, TX  
4. Jeff Gilkiss, MN  
5. Anthony Borden, TX  
6. Kent Wagner, SC  
7. Eric Zamudio, CA  
8. Mike Zeiger, TN  
9. Charlie Lee, LA  
10. Not a Member, FL

#### Men’s C

1. Lorne Fry, NC  
2. Marc Clybon, OH  
3. Hector Tenorio, TX  
4. Ray Meison, IL  
5. Armando Cabrera, NJ  
6. Paul Carroll, ID  
7. Twayne Howard, MI  
8. Bob Bulthuic, MN  
9. Not a Member, AR  
10. Larry Weene, MA

#### Men’s D

1. Joe Schmitz, AR  
2. Cara Keizer, MA  
3. Alamo Armijo, NM  
4. Lisa Barrett, PA  
5. Gene Reilly, NM  
6. Sableta Doss, NC  
7. Pam Durum, AK  
8. Rita Espinosa, NM  
9. Janice Heinemann, MO  
10. Debbie Pinto, KY

#### Women’s Open

1. Robin Levine, CA  
2. Aimee Roehl, PA  
3. Kersten Hallander, VA  
4. Janell Marriott, MI  
5. Not a Member, CA  
6. Kim Machir, MO  
7. Ines Queiros, CA  
8. Jacqueline Parrais, CA  
9. Kelly Kirk, MN  
10. Roberta Shattuck, IL

#### Men’s 45+

1. Gary Mazoroff, NM  
2. Matt Layton, FL  
3. Jim Luzar, WI  
4. Jerry Dice, TX  
5. Ruben Gonzalez, NY  
6. Rick Sorensen, MO  
7. Greg Hirsty, IL  
8. Mike Robinson, TX  
9. Russ Palazzo, CT  
10. Not a Member, AR

#### Men’s 50+

1. Rich Fusari, FL  
2. Bill Weilj, NJ  
3. Dennis O’Brien, ID  
4. Tom McKee, MI  
5. Greg Hasty, IL  
6. Ed Remen, MI  
7. Barry Hendricks, AZ  
8. Dave Warner, MA  
9. Stan Lemon, NC  
10. Not a Member, AR

#### Men’s 55+

1. Glenn Allen, CA  
2. Tom Reardon, IL  
3. Ron Colbreathe, PA  
4. Warren Reuther, LA  
5. Luis Guerra, CA  
6. Don Harrington, MI  
7. Pete Kiser, OH  
8. Jim Trammell, MO  
9. Bob Webster, AL  
10. Not a Member, AR

#### Men’s 60+

1. Rex Lawer, IN  
2. Jerry Stollmann, WI  
3. Paul Banales, AZ  
4. David Stiles, TX  
5. Lee Graff, OR  
6. Jerry Holly, CA  
7. Ron Puddick, MI  
8. Jimmy Brook, AZ  
9. Art Hackiss, RI  
10. Michael Jacob, CT

#### Men’s 65+

1. Charles Kaiser, MI  
2. Don Alt, FL  
3. John O’Donnell, IL  
4. Otis Chapman, OH  
5. Skip Harkett, TX  
6. Ray Mix, MO  
7. John Reid, CA  
8. Paul Banales, AZ  
9. Frank Trask, CA  
10. Clement McIntosh, CA

#### Men’s 70+

1. Joe Lambert, TX  
2. Richard Davis, TX  
3. Windell Hildebrandt, AZ  
4. Ali Acuff, NC  
5. Philip Dzikul, IL  
6. Ken Yahiro, IL  
7. Dick Kincade, CO  
8. Hark Richard, GA  
9. Duane Russell, CO  
10. Don Grieve, IL

#### Women’s Open

1. Robin Levine, CA  
2. Aimee Roehl, PA  
3. Kersten Hallander, VA  
4. Janell Marriott, MI  
5. Not a Member, CA  
6. Kim Machir, MO  
7. Ines Queiros, CA  
8. Jacqueline Parrais, CA  
9. Kelly Kirk, MN  
10. Roberta Shattuck, IL

#### Women’s B

1. Jane Tisinger, CA  
2. Esther McNary, CA  
3. Vivian Gomez, CO  
4. Kristen Kovar, NE  
5. Debbie Misiran, OH  
6. Kim Strachan, PA  
7. Not a Member, MA  
8. Sheri Kinneman, AR  
9. Barbara Allen, NY  
10. Kasi Herr, FL
### Rankings...

**Women's 35+**
1. Debbie Tisong, CA
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
3. Denise Mock, TX
4. Kim Machiran, MO
5. B.J. Ehrgot, CT
6. Mary Crawford, IL
7. Jodi Paul, PA
8. Paula Saad, CA
9. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
10. John Sanderson, UT

**Women's 40+**
1. Linda Moore, NE
2. Chris Evon, IL
3. Susan Pahl, FL
4. Susan Hendricks, AZ
5. Jodi Terry, TX
6. Val Sheveld, UT
7. Paula Carter, GA
8. Sherri Fedman, NY
9. Liz Mottol, IL

**Women's 45+**
1. Shelley Ogden, OH
2. Judy Sands, NJ
3. Terry Anger, CA
4. Janet Myers, NC
5. Brenda White, IL
6. Karen Tackett, LA
7. Nancy Kraner, IL
8. Debbie Chaney, IN
9. Renee Fish, FL
10. Janell Marriott, RI

**Women's 50+**
1. Merjean Kelley, CA
2. Mary Lou Purasus, NM
3. Pattie Schof, LA
4. Donna Ebner, MO
5. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
6. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
7. Jean Heckman, NY
8. Mary Jane Weidin, DE
9. Sharon Hastings-Weby, OR
10. Kendra Tutsch, WI

**Women's 55+**
1. Sharon Hastings-Weby, OR
2. Rose Stollmann, WI
3. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
4. Mildred Gwinn, NC
5. Nidja Funes, CA
6. Joy DeSantis, CA
7. Gail Schofer, MD
8. Pauline Kelly, IL
9. Catherine Stewart-Roache, NM
10. Jo Kenyon, FL

**Women's 60+**
1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Annette Kowar, NE
3. Susan Embry, WA
4. Jane Graham, GA
5. Lora Marks, IL
6. Kathy Mueller, MN
7. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
8. Naomi Fadis, MI
9. Norma Carlisle, UT
10. Susan Hendricks, AZ

**Women's 65+**
1. Lora Marks, IL
2. Pam Hunter, WI
3. Marilyn Haagard, MN
4. Loulisa Kiss, NJ
5. Audrey Thorton, OK
6. B.G. Ryan, KY

**Women's 70+**
1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
2. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA
3. Mary Lou Kackert, NM
4. Roberta Schloenfeld, OR
5. Beth Keene, TX
6. Tillee Davies, AZ

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

**Women's 80+**
1. Zelda Friedland, NM

**Boys**

B8 - Multi-Bounce
1. Erik Padwell, WI
2. Matt Keddie, NH
3. Sean Gracoglou, IN
4. Tim Tilton, CO

B8 - Multi-Bounce
1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Adam Anulawicz, CT
3. Nick Pratt, CO
4. Ben Croft, CO

Boy's 6 & Under
1. Not a Member, WI
2. Brad Falvey, WI
3. Ben Croft, CO

Boy's 8 & Under
1. Tim Tilton, CO
2. Matthew Pasciell, NM
3. Sean Gracoglou, IN
4. Avery Zuck, OR
5. Stephen Mycalo, NY
6. Tim Tilton, CO
7. James Ford, NY
8. Kyle Harris, MA
9. David Liakos, NE
10. James Marchetti, AK

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**Girls' 12**
1. Cari Miltisky, NY
2. Adrienne Fisher, OH
3. Jesi Fuller, NM
4. Deral Darling, OR
5. Kari Miltisky, NY
6. Nicki Winfrey, OR
7. Natalie Starken, WI

**Girls' 14**
1. Molly Law, CO
2. Crystal Winfrey, OH
3. Juliana Mayor, NY
4. Cari Miltisky, NY
5. Kimberly Irans, LA
6. Jenny Cary, OR
7. Jeni Fuller, NM
8. Erica Beaudry, CO
9. Amo Jo Hollington, WI
10. Kristen Walsh, UT

**Girls' 16**
1. Kristen Walsh, UT
2. Kristin Koval, NE
3. Melanie Mueller, CO
4. Crystal Winfrey, OH
5. Nicki Winfrey, OR
6. Lauren Deutsch, TX
7. Molly Law, CO
8. Anna Tsavidis, MA
9. Michelle Gonzalez, OR

**Girls' 18**
1. Brooke Crawford, OR
2. Sara Borland, IA
3. Megan Bals, NE
4. Kaile Gould, CA
5. Philis pope, AK
6. Emily Melgaard, ID
7. Dannielle Pimental, OR
8. Sarah Moyle, OR
9. Shanae Taylor, IN
10. Courtney Hill, NM

**G6 - Multi-Bounce**
1. Kaitlin Ingleby, OR
2. Amy Willhite, OR
3. Beca Macchion, MO
4. Tia Smith, OR
5. Kaitlyn Marchetti, NM
6. Stephanie Rojas, OR
7. Brittany Leggett, OR
8. Amber Hanson, OR
9. Sondra Payne, NM
10. Kara Mazur, CT

**G8 - Multi-Bounce**
1. Sharon Jackson, IN
2. Laura Van Der Veer, OR
3. Shanay Taylor, IN
4. Carol Payne, NM
5. Nikki Robinson, OR
6. Samantha Pimental, OR
7. Heather Collins, TN
8. Emily Melgaard, ID
9. Sarah Parrish, FL
10. Kristen Walsh, UT

**Event Level & Description**
- 1 = Closed State Tournament
- 2 = Open Tournament
- 3 = State Championship
- 4 = Regional Championship
- 5 = National Invitationals
- 6 = National Championship

**Finish & Point Awards**

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**Racquetball**

September – October 1998

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**Results**

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**JULY 15, 1998**

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**90** points.
**United States Racquetball Association**

**September ...**

September 18-20  
American Family Open @ American Family Fitness Center  
Richmond, VA  
804-330-3400

Blast It @ The Sports Center  
Fayetteville, NC  
910-864-3303

F.A.C. Fall Premier Classic @ Fayetteville Athletic Club  
Fayetteville, AR  
501-587-0500

Fall Valley Championships @ Merced Sports Club  
Merced, CA  
209-722-3988

Connecticut State Doubles @ Downtown Health & Racquet [3]  
New Haven, CT  
203-248-1869

City Championships @ Gold’s Gym  
Dewitt, NY  
315-446-0376

**September 23-27**  
Season Opener @ The Alaska Club East  
Anchorage, AK  
907-275-0349

Alpha Fall Kick Off @ Alpha Athletic Club  
Mechanicsburg, PA  
717-540-5111

NE Regional Doubles Championship @ Cedardale A.C.  
Haverhill, MA  
978-663-8640

Season Kickoff @ King George Racquetball Club  
Greenbrook, NJ  
732-356-6900

Western Cookout Open @ Claremont Club  
Claremont, CA  
909-625-6791

Texas State Doubles @ Northwest Fitness Center [3]  
Houston, TX  
713-895-8688

Sept. 30 - Oct. 4  
Magic City Classic Pro-Am IRT @ Prime Fitness  
Birmingham, AL  
205-324-4563

**October ...**

October 2-4  
Solano Open @ Solano Athletic Club  
Fairfield, CA  
707-429-4363

Thunderbolt Open @ Dan Gamel’s Health & Racquet  
Fresno, CA  
209-227-8405

Kentucky State Doubles @ Downtown YMCA [3]  
Louisville, KY  
502-231-3376

8th Annual Miller Lite Massacre @ Ozark Sports Club  
St. Smith, AR  
501-646-4022

October 7-11  
Fall Swing @ The Alaska Club Midtown  
Anchorage, AK  
907-275-0349

Splat Shot Pro-Am @ The Tournament House  
Riverside, RI  
909-682-7311

October 8-11  
Hurricane - Doubles Only @ Courts Plus of Jacksonville  
Jacksonville, FL  
910-346-3446

Wild West Shootout @ Downtown YMCA  
Fort Worth, TX  
817-332-3281

Louisiana State Doubles @ Heritage Sports Center [3]  
Metairie, LA  
504-814-2813

3rd Steve Chapman Memorial @ Quadrangle East A.C.  
Coral Springs, FL  
954-753-8900

October 14-18  
Ektelon USRA 31st National Doubles @ Merritt Athletic Club [6]  
Baltimore, MD  
719-635-5396

**October 14-18**  
ENTRY ON PAGE 59!

October 16-18  
Fall Classic @ Gold’s Gym  
Dewitt, NY  
315-446-0376

Sleepy Hollow Open @ Twin Arbors Athletic Club  
Lodi, CA  
209-334-4897

October 21-25  
Junior Jam @ The Alaska Club East  
Anchorage, AK  
907-275-0349

Cocoa Halloween Open @ Cocoa Club  
Hershey, PA  
717-540-5111

Great Pumpkin Open @ Midtown Athletic Club  
Sacramento, CA  
916-441-2977

Halloween Open @ HealthWorks  
Wallingford, CT  
203-248-1869

Paul Gorman Tournament @ Interbay-Glover YMCA  
Tampa, FL  
813-839-0210

Tournament of Terror @ Spectrum Club  
Canoga Park, CA  
818-884-5035

Oct. 30 - Nov. 1  
Gold’s Gym Olympics @ Gold’s Gym  
Dewitt, NY  
315-446-0376

**November ...**

November 4-8  
Wildest Turkey @ The Alaska Club Midtown  
Anchorage, AK  
907-275-0349

November 6-8  
Baystar Open @ Racquetball Plus  
Burlingame, CA  
415-697-9162

Central Penn Charity Weekend @ Central Penn Fitness  
Harrisburg, PA  
717-564-4171

Florida State Outdoor 4-Wall Championship @ Aurelia A/R  
Auburn, FL  
941-965-5544

Froggy Open @ Nautilus Fitness Center  
Erie, PA  
814-868-0072

NFL Tournament @ Northwest Fitness Center  
Houston, TX  
713-895-8688

Palm Desert Snowbird Open @ Palm Desert Golf Course  
Palm Desert, CA  
760-430-3060

November 11-15  
Promus Hotels 3rd US Open @ Racquet Club of Memphis [5]  
Memphis, TN  
800-756-5396

ENTRY INFORMATION ON INSIDE BACK COVER!

November 13-15  
Turkey Open @ Norwalk YMCA  
Norwalk, CT  
203-248-1869

November 14-15  
WNY Kick-Off Classic @ Bally Total Fitness  
Buffalo, NY  
716-639-0621

November 15-16  
Lehigh Valley Open @ Allentown Racquet Club  
Allentown, PA  
610-821-1300

November 19-21  
14th Annual Club Invitational @ Rollingwood Racquet Club  
Fair Oaks, CA  
916-988-1727

November 20-22  
Alpha Turkey Gobbler @ Alpha Club  
Mechanicsburg, PA  
717-540-5111

Holiday Cash Classic @ The Orlando Fitness & Racquet  
Orlando, FL  
407-645-3550

Texas Turkey Shoot @ Racquetball & Fitness  
San Antonio, TX  
210-344-8596

Turkey Shoot @ Sports Clubs of Asheville  
Asheville, NC  
704-252-0222
December 2-6  Christmas Classic @ The Alaska Club East ........................................ Anchorage, AK  907-275-0349
December 4-6  Connecticut Cup @ Downtown Health & Racquet ............................................... New Haven, CT  203-248-1869
December 5-6  Shoot-Out @ Maverick Athletic Club ............................................................ Arlington, TX  817-275-3348
December 11-13  Winter Classic @ Gold River Racquet Club ............................................. Gold River, CA  916-638-7001

January 29-31  Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles Championships ........................................ Houston, Texas  713-635-5396

April 30-May 1  Junior Region 8  ........................................... Southern Athletic Club – Atlanta, Georgia .................. Liz Lyon  770-923-5400
April 15-18  Prime Fitness ........................................... Salt Lake City, Utah ........................................... TBA  435-395-4428
April 15-18  Regional Qualifiers (see below) [4] ..................................................... Nationwide  719-635-5396


October 1998

• Bolded listings are USRA National Championships or International Racquetball Federation Events
• For remaining sanctioned events, [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2)
• Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... meaning that when expiration is shown as 09/98, you must renew your membership in the month of September in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.
UNITED STATES OPEN
RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS®

Supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

PRESENTED BY:

NationsBank

November 11-15
The Racquet Club of Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee

For Tickets Call
800-756-5396
In this game, if you're not quick, you're dead. And for two-time Pro World Champion Sudsy Monchik, killer quickness starts from the ground up with the high-torque traction of Head Sonic 500 Mid court shoe. Gum rubber outsoles, superior fit, lightweight materials, and performance styling that proves once and for all that a high-performance shoe can look good and kick butt.

Also available: Sonic 500 Low (shown above) and for ladies, the Sonic 400.