Jason Mannino Leaps into the Record Books ...

Jumping for Joy!

INSIDE! ... Exclusive Coverage of the Promus U.S. OPEN
- Pull-out Rules Poster
- The Century's Best & Worst • IRT & WIRT
- Sudsy's Service Return
- Roberts' Passing Tips
- Instruction from Fran Davis & Lynn Adams
- Wilson High Schools & E-Force Intercollegiates Tournament Info
- and much more!
SHOW ME THE POWER.

Power rules the game of racquetball. Nobody knows that, or proves it, better than Sudy 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 leader, blows the competition away again.

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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.

www.headusa.com
... on the cover
Jason Mannino makes his way to the top, with his first Promus U.S. OPEN title. Photo: Mike Boatman.

... this page
Two-time champ Jackie Paraiso shows off some of her championship form. Photo: Vicki Hughes.

Vol. 11, No. 1
January – February 2000

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Well, it's that time again ... the start of a new year. That, combined with all the excitement surrounding the start of another hundred years, forces me to admit that I've sorta got a little "Buzz Lightyear" thing going on here (but it could just be the coffee) ...

So in terms of "and beyond ...!" the USRA has been on the receiving end of a series of pitches by companies looking for sport content for their websites over the past twelve months. WorldSport.com and Ticket2sports.com have already contracted with us to develop content for a major international site — and an internet broadcast offering (respectively) in the coming year. Additional projects to provide online instructional, sanctioned event registrations, and portal services are also in the works. Granted, I'm not sure exactly where all of this is headed, but it certainly is gratifying to see that internet media moguls seem to view racquetball as a viable source of material for narrow-casting use. It seems that, by committing to a website presence when we did ('96), we've been able to effectively "level the playing field" among our peer sport organizations. We found that several of these projects came to us as a result of web-searching — and finding — www.usra.org and www.racqmag.com. So we've learned a lot in just a few short years, not the least of which has been that what racquetball has to offer is just as good — if not better — than anything else on the cyber-market.

This year's Promus U.S. OPEN featured "nearly-live" internet coverage with Ed Arias' "racq-cam" from atop the sound-staging scaffold. People online ate it up. Last year (amid complaints about not being able to follow the ball in any televised coverage, no matter how big the screen ...), Ed uploaded some videoclips that ran on a 1" square RealPlayer on the monitors of countless surfers, and they couldn't get enough. Our website statistics from Excell.net show a routine jump in viewer numbers whenever a new companion e-version of the magazine is due [I try to get it out on the first day of the issue month, fyi], and the very thought of not having our national tournament draws online throughout any given event is enough to fill my inbox with emails expressing flabbergasted disbelief and disappointment.

So, yes, we got game. Not only on the courts that we all know and love, but also within the framework of the virtual reality that we face in Y2K. Buzz and I are ready!

---

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January – February 2000
Derek Robinson and Robin Levine win with Ashaway string in their racket.

Play like a Pro – String with Ashaway

PowerKill™ • DuraKill™ • Killfire™ • SuperKill™ • MonoKill™
OFFICIAL STRING OF THE USRA
No Surprises
Kudos to Jim Hiser for a fine effort in forming the draw sheet of the century. However, I was disappointed that he simply went with the higher seed in every match but one throughout the 32's and 16's. Every tournament has its share of surprises and this one would be no different. Furthermore, the one upset he does offer is a skip ball. Not only could Serot dive and go get the ball as well as Kachtik, but he was a better shooter. Steve would have taken Drew down in three quick ones. One other glaring head scratcher: Sudsy #2 over Swain. With all due respect to Suds' march through the tour this year, the one upset he does offer is a skip ball. Not only could Serot dive and go get the ball as well as Kachtik, but he was a better shooter. Steve would have taken Drew down in three quick ones. One other glaring head scratcher: Sudsy #2 over Swain. With all due respect to Suds' march through the tour this year, I enjoyed the "draws" of the greatest players of all time, the old hands. I liked Hogan and Swain in the final. For the women, leaving Peggy Steding out of the final eight was the only "slight" I could discern. In that one, I liked Lynn and Michelle in the final. But the piece that gave me the most thought and the most discomfort was the "best of" and "worst of" lists.

I found the omission of Bob Kendler and Chuck Leve's initial USRA and pro tour formations in the "best of" to be perplexing. Also, the development of a reliable ball cannot be overlooked. I go back far enough to remember the on-going "mystery" we used to experience in the initial days of the faster balls. They were often "out of round," and the bounce was unreliable from can-to-can. Penn should be credited for elevating the ball standards to what we now enjoy.

I also have never been comfortable "affixing" blame for racquetball decline's to any one particular "entity," especially ranking the failure of the clubs as #1. Your very own Executive Director admitted recently that the AARA/USRA in its current form has ignored grassroots programs at these very clubs. In its simplest terms, the best explanation for the decline in racquetball for me came from Tom Kite ... yes, the professional golfer. When asked about the rise in golf's popularity, he simply noted that it is due to the fact that baby boomers can't play racquetball anymore because it is too hard on their bodies. Golf, he noted, is much easier in that way. This explanation has gone a long way for me in ridding myself of the "search for blame" that I have personally engaged in to try to explain the loss of popularity of our great game of racquetball. Please accept my congrats on the last issue.

Jim Woolcock
Davison, Michigan

More BYU Accolades
In regard to the "People and Places" segment in the magazine, I would like to recognize Sylvia Sawyer and Roger Flick, along with Dennis Fisher, for the accomplishments of the BYU racquetball team over the past several years. I was a member of the team when it was Sylvia and Roger who were responsible for the early successes. Under their direction, we won our first national championship and that winning streak has continued through the past few years. I am no longer a member of the BYU team, but I believe that Sylvia and Roger need to be recognized for the hard work they did and for the many successes of the BYU team.

Christine McAlpine
Provo, Utah

Baby Boomers
It is becoming increasingly obvious to me that the sustaining force in racquetball today is found in the senior brackets. Your November-December issue points out strong competition in the upper ages. Tournaments for seniors are still well-attended and the level of competition is excellent.

I recently competed in the Senior Olympics in Orlando which featured competitors from 50 years of age through 80 — over 250 men and women. Ektelon-sponsored players were abundant, and players like Mary Low and Earl [Acuff] gave proof that the golden age of racquetball lives on!

Bob Pavaleck
Bristol, CT

Round-About
Your latest issue of the magazine was one of the best in recent times. I enjoyed the "draws" of the greatest players of all time, men and women. You nailed down the final eight to a man — I liked Hogan and Swain in the final. For the women, leaving Peggy Steding out of the final eight was the only "slight" I could discern. In that one, I liked Lynn and Michelle in the final. But the piece that gave me the most thought and the most discomfort was the "best of" and "worst of" lists.

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Jim Woolcock
Davison, Michigan

Safety Line?
Watching closely at four sanctioned tournaments has prompted me to wonder why they don't just delete the dotted safety line. I saw numerous obvious and blatant violations, from novice to open, and it wasn't called once. My own theory, besides ignorance on the part of the referee, is that so many people knowingly violate the line they won't call it on others. If the rule isn't going to be enforced, save the paint. Erase the lines, drop the rule, and then sit back and watch the injuries that result.

If it is to be enforced, maybe it should be written so that everyone knows that you can't "camp" in the zone, can't break the zone, or can in no way, with body, shoes or racquet, encroach the zone before the ball has bounced. It's obviously a peeve of mine since I have been hit a couple of times and have had several near misses due to ignorance, or total disregard, of the rule.

Gene Colberg
Redwood City, CA

I Appeal!
Was I bummed that Cliff Swain lost the US Open? You bet. Was I disappointed that the match was decided on an obvious double bounce? Absolutely. Clearly Jason Mannino knew it was a double bounce along with 300 spectators sitting on the side of the court.

January – February 2000
January – February 2000

usra regional events 2000

2000 ektelon adult regional qualifiers [level 4] ... nationwide
Qualifying Competition is REQUIRED to participate in the 2000 Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles in Houston, Texas — no exceptions (regardless of age)! Whether or not you plan to go on to Houston, you'll want to take part in the largest, single nationwide event of the year! By doing so, you'll accumulate high-level ranking points plus earn seeding consideration at "The Finals"! WAIVERS: All legitimate waivers of qualifying competition at any of these events must be approved prior to the scheduled regional weekend. All waivers must be directed to – and approved by – the USRA Headquarters. Individual regional tournament directors may not approve exclusions from play, for any reason.

April 7-9
Lakewood Athletic Club
Denver, Colorado
Marianne Alonzi 303-422-5703
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Chicago, Illinois
Geoff Peters 773-935-9685

April 14-16
Spectrum Club
Canoga Park, California
Deb Tisinger 818-999-5944
Southern Athletic Club
Atlanta, Georgia
Liz Lyon 770-923-5400
Merritt Athletic Club
Baltimore, Maryland
Terri Brauer 410-315-7900
Cedardale Health & Fitness Club
Haverhill, Massachusetts
Bill Gargan 603-367-8533
Central Courts
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Mike Locker 612-609-3940
Missouri Athletic Club West
St. Louis, Missouri
Jen Yokota 314-731-2668
Hall of Fame Fitness Center
Canton, Ohio
Doug Ganis 614-890-6073
Cascade Athletic Club
Portland, Oregon
Connie Martin 503-665-4142
Northwest Athletic Club
Houston, Texas
Annie Muniz 713-432-0881

May 5-7
Orlando Tennis & Racquet Club
Orlando, Florida
Van Dubolsky 352-373-1004

ADDITIONAL RECOGNIZED QUALIFYING EVENTS [for 45+ entrants only]... 35+ & 40+ players in the following events must still take part in one of the regional qualifiers shown above in order to compete at National Singles].

Jan. 21-23
Women's Senior Master Championships
Baltimore, Maryland
Gail Schafer 410-887-1244
Feb. 16-19
NMRA Masters Singles
Fountain Valley, California Ron Pudduck 734-426-8952

2000 e-force intercollegiate regional events [level 4] ... optional for seeding
Feb. 11-13
Northeast Collegiate Regionals
Albany, New York
Pat Bernardo 518-438-3935
Feb. 25-27
Southeast Collegiate Regionals
University of North Carolina
Brad Cox 919-933-9807

2000 junior regional qualifiers [level 3] ... at all state championships
Former junior regional qualifying requirements have been replaced with the stipulation that HEAD Junior Olympic entrants must first compete in a recognized Level 3 State Championship in order to qualify for the 2000 event. Although there are no longer separate regional qualifying tournaments for juniors, all other stipulations remain in force — you must compete in (not merely enter) the qualifying state event, age requirements, etc.

Do I blame the referee, Dan Llacera, for awarding Jason the point and the match on that double bounce? No way. Do I blame Jason Mannino for taking the double bounce? Absolutely not. I blame all the players that make up the International Racquetball Tour. They are the people who voted to have no line judges for their matches.

Is there any other sport that you only have one set of eyes judging the match? There is a lot of money and ranking points riding on every match. The players are just not going to overturn calls regardless of the situation.

Ruben Gonzalez is the only exception to the rule. He is still the only male pro player in the history of the sport to overturn calls, even on match point.

Ruben happens to be the mentor and teacher of Jason. He taught him almost everything he knew. However, he didn't teach him everything or Jason would have played the match point over again. Don't blame Jason though, because none of the other pro players would have turned it over either.

Jason played awesome during the entire weekend. It is too bad that such a great match had to end so tastelessly. Jason had his chance to always be remembered as the 1999 US Open Champion that overturned his first match point on a bad call, and then won the match on another spectacular diving roll out. Do I blame Jason? Absolutely not.

Terri Graham
Chicago, IL

Correction: National Doubles results should have listed Barbara Allen and Carol Zier as the second place finishers in the Women’s 25+ A/B division. The final round-robin match of the event was published in the last issue, but the actual final playoff was: W25+ A/B: Esther McNany (Gales Ferry, Conn.)/Kim Skerry (Warwick, R.I.) def. Barbara Allen (Glensville, N.Y.)/Carol Zier (Schenectady, N.Y.) 15-12, 5-15, 11-5. Congratulations, to all these finalists.
Lesson 1.

With Hyper Carbon, all things are possible.

Hyper Carbon™ is the lightest, stiffest, strongest material ever used in racquets. And only Wilson has it. Hyper Carbon is 4-times stiffer, 4-times stronger and 65% lighter than titanium.

The Hyper 150g is the lightest racquetball racquet ever made. The maneuverability is amazing. Yet the incredible stiffness of Hyper Carbon and the trampoline effect of Power Holes™ technology create awesome power. With no vibration. And don't worry about arm fatigue. The head-heavy Hammer Design® lets you generate maximum swing speed with no extra effort. I've never played anything like the Hyper 150g.

With all due respect, Cliff, the Hyper Air Hammer™ is the most powerful racquet in racquetball. The combination of Hyper Carbon and the 180-gram head heavy design really shortens the distance to the front wall. But the flexibility of Power Holes keeps the ball on the strings a split second longer, so you can control all that power. Players who hit first and ask questions later should get ready to rock.

When you buy either of these sensational Hyper Carbon racquets, you get "The Mind of a Champion", Wilson's new video starring Cliff and Derek, ABSOLUTELY FREE! That's a $19.95 value.
Lesson 2.
All gloves are not created equal.

The next time you buy a racquetball glove take this quiz:
1) Is the glove made of premium SensiTouch™ Cabretta sheepskin leather?
2) Does it have a seamless one-piece palm and thumb to reduce bunching and blisters?
3) Does it feature dive protection on the knuckles and along the two outside fingers?
4) Is it great looking with lots of color?

(Hint: If you didn’t answer “Yes” to all 4 questions, buy the new Rage glove from Wilson.)

Lesson 3.
Performance and style are not mutually exclusive in a racquetball shoe.
(That means you can have them both in the same shoe.)

And this is the shoe — the Slash DST™ Mid. DynoSphere Technology™ in the midsole cushions your foot on impact, while DST inserts in the forefoot and heel absorb any and all shock. The gum rubber outsole holds like an all-weather tire. And the styling? Let’s just say the Slash DST Mid is a winner with attitude.

Lesson 4.
Stop dreaming about a protective eyeguard that looks like sunglasses.

It’s here. It’s Vents. And it’s the hottest thing in racquetball eyewear. But even though Vents are hot, you’re not. Thanks to a unique ventilation system that increases airflow, Vents keep you feeling cool during the hottest action. And looking cool all the time.

Lesson 5.
Bag the old excuses... and the new equipment.

Once you move up to Hyper Carbon, you'll need this new All Gear Bag. It features a full length racquet pocket, zippered inside wet pocket, three accessory pockets and a detachable glove cord. There's a place for everything — except excuses. You won't need those now.

Lesson 6.
Just Get Hyper! It’s not the same old titanium racquetball anymore.

It has come to be known as racquetball's premiere event, and once again the Promus U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships lived up all expectations of being the most exciting pro-am tourney of the season. With nearly 650 players representing 23 different countries, The Racquet Club of Memphis, Wimbleton Sportsplex and the University of Memphis were abuzz with racquetball action from early in the morning until late in the evening for the first five days of December. The men and women's pro brackets drew much of the attention, as many wondered whether or not Sudsy Monchik and Jackie Paraiso would be able to defend their crowns.

**Coach Gets a Lesson in 64s**
On the first day of men's pro action, all the top seeds breezed through the round of 64 unscathed, with the exception of Jason Mannino and Adam Karp who each dropped a game to their early round opponents. Fourth-seeded Mannino had a slow start, losing the first game to Texas' Jim Minkel (who later won the Men's 30+ divi-
sion) 12-10, before quickly rebounding to take the next three. Karp started off hot against Jeff Hanno, winning the first two games easily, but slipping in the third with an 11-9 loss. Karp then quickly shut the door, 11-7.

But the most interesting play in the round of 64 did not involve any of the top seeds. Junior National Team Assistant Coach Todd O'Neil met his match in his first round against none other than one of his own players, 16-year-old Jack Huczek. The junior sensation quickly went up two games against his coach, 11-5, 11-0, before O'Neil was able to sneak in a game win at 11-5 in the third. In the end, youth overcame experience, as Huczek grabbed the fourth and final game, 11-8.

"It felt almost like a dream to beat someone who coached me," said Huczek. Although O'Neil wasn't all that thrilled about losing in his first round, he did gain confidence in coaching the up-and-comer at the World Junior Championships in late December.

by christie hyde

January – February 2000
32s Give Top-Seeds Trouble
Hometown-favorite Andy Roberts’ title quest in front of friends and family fell short once again this year — this time in the round of 32, at the hands of Ruben Gonzalez. Roberts, who had injured his foot in the preceding round against Shane Vanderson, jumped ahead quickly, winning the first game 11-1, but Gonzalez’ superb shot-making ability soon began to wear on the local hero.

Although Roberts kept the next three games close, he was unable to pull out another win, as 49-year-old Gonzalez rolled to the 1-11, 11-9, 11-9, 12-10 win. “My foot was not an excuse. I just got out-played,” Roberts said. “They were close games, but when it got down to the end, I just didn’t have it.”

Adam Karp’s run almost came to an abrupt end at the hands of none other than the man responsible for the tournament and Karp’s sponsorship contract. Karp was forced to go the distance against Doug Ganim, director of both the Promus U.S. OPEN and HEAD’s player program, in a heated five-game match.

Karp took the first game, 11-6, but a determined Ganim bounced back to take the next two 11-2, 11-9. Fish then tied it up in the fourth to force the tiebreaker. With Ganim up 9-7, Karp argued a screen on a pass with the referee. But instead of moving into match-point advantage, Ganim overruled the ref and opted to replay the rally, leaving the crowd questioning just how much he really wanted to eliminate Head’s number-two pro.

Later Ganim claimed it was a legitimate replay — even though accepted IRT practice doesn’t allow such input from the players. “It was an obvious call. The ball almost hit me, but he got it back to the wall anyway.”

Although Ganim did kill the ball to move into match point on the replay, he was unable to close, and Karp rallied back to take the match with 12-10. “I knew Doug was a good player, and if I opened the door, it would be a good match,” Karp commented after the match. “I wasn’t playing the best that I can, and it really could have gone either way. I’m just lucky I get to play on.”

Doubles Kick-Off
The Promus U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships kicked off a day early with the St. Jude Pro-Am Doubles Charity Tournament at The Racquet Club of Memphis. Each year this charity event pairs up 32 top pro athletes with an amateur partner for a single elimination doubles game to 15 points.

For the third time since the tournament’s inception, Memphis-native Dino Tashie captured the St. Jude Pro-Am Doubles title. In 1996 Tashie won with Derek Robinson, and in 1997 he took the opening crown with Mike Guidry. This year, his partner was pro Jeff Bell. The two bullied their way through the draw, defeating numerous top pros, including the likes of Jason Mannino, Derek Robinson and Doug Eagle.

Tashie and Bell met University of Memphis Head Racquetball Coach Larry Liles and his pro partner Sameer Hadid in the tournament finals. Although Liles has coached numerous national championship racquetball teams for the University of Memphis, he and Hadid could not overcome the powerful combination of Tashie and Bell.

“Council best part about this is where the money goes,” Tashie said. “It gets a little competitive at the end, but what makes this so fun is knowing you’re helping the kids at St. Jude’s.”

Although Jason Mannino and Jackie Paraiso walked away as the champions of the 1999 Promus U.S. OPEN, it was the children of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital that were the real winners. More than $24,000 was raised for St. Jude by fundraisers surrounding the U.S. OPEN, including the St. Jude Pro-Am Doubles Tournament, casino night, Party with the Pros and The Racquet Club of Memphis’ “500 Club” donor program.

L-R: LILES, TASHIE, HADID AND BELL. PHOTO. VICKI HUGHES.
Although Karp survived the siege by an unseeded challenger, two other top-16 players were not as successful. No.14 Louis Vogel fell to Mexico's Alvaro Maldonado, 11-4, 11-2, 4-11, 11-8, while No.15 Jeff Bell lost a tight match to James Mulcock, 11-9, 12-10, 14-12.

**Sweet Sixteen ... Not**
The round of 16 proved to be equally full of upsets as three more of the IRT's top-10 fell in five-game matches, starting with No. 7 Tim Doyle being overtaken by No.10 seed Rocky Carson. Although Doyle held a strong two game lead with 11-8, 12-10 wins, 20-year-old Carson had youth and stamina on his side. He crushed Doyle in the next two, 11-0, 11-2, to tie the match and force a tiebreaker. Although Doyle was able to muster a slight comeback in the fifth, he couldn't stop the younger pro, who took the match 11-5.

Fifth-seeded Derek Robinson was the next victim on the upset roster. After losing the first to No.12 Dan Fowler, Robinson managed to take the next two games, 11-9, 11-5. But Fowler refused to go down without a fight. With wife and companion WIRT touring pro Doreen cheering from the stands, Fowler closed the match with 11-8 and 11-2 wins.

By far the most exciting match of the round came late in the evening, when No.8 Mike Guidry took to the main exhibition court against doubles partner and good friend, Ruben Gonzalez. Although these two were set to battle for a quarterfinal spot, you would never have guessed it beforehand. The two sat munching Doo-Dads in a box seat while they waited for top-seed Sudsy Monchik to finish off Luis Bustillos so that they could take the court.

After their snack, Guidry took the first game, 11-5, before Gonzalez stepped up his game in the second to nudge Guidry to a narrow 12-10 win. Up against Guidry's short 2-0 game lead, Gonzalez was on fire. The two exchanged amazing gets on each rally, with dives, slides and gets that kept the crowd in awe. Despite a twenty-year age difference, Gonzalez was able to keep up with Guidry (known as one of the most athletic players on the tour) shot-for-shot on every rally as he took the third game 13-11.

The intensity of play did not let up in the fourth, which saw as much, if not more, acrobatics from both players. After one amazing rally, Gonzalez fell face first onto the court and just lay there. His opponent quickly joined him, stretching out on the boards at his side.

"I laid down next to him and said 'Rube, I'm exhausted. How about you?"' said Guidry.

"You were laying beside me?" Gonzalez joked afterward.

"I heard you, but I didn't have enough energy to lift my head to look at you."

Despite the exhaustion of both athletes, they continued to battle and Gonzalez managed to take the fourth 14-12, to force the tiebreak. With his protégé Sudsy Monchik leading the crowd's cheers for him, Gonzalez breezed to an 11-3 win. "I think I was unconscious during the fifth game. I was running backwards, the ball behind me, and somehow hitting a solid shot. I don't know how I did it. The shots were just all coming to me," Gonzalez said.

Following match point, the two players embraced at center court, showing the crowd their true mutual admiration for each other's skills. "The hug that we had..."
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at the end of the match was real. Some of these guys just 'high five' or say 'good match.' The hug is the kind of relationship we have. It says it all," Gonzalez added.

"As soon as the match was over I hugged him and told him he played phenomenal," Guidry said. "He outplayed me and he deserved to win. I have to say if I have to lose to anybody in the 16s, I couldn't have picked a better person."

**Masters of Quarters**

After the earlier round excitement, the quarterfinals shaped up into some interesting match-ups. Top-seed Sudsy Monchik was to meet his long-time mentor Ruben Gonzalez, while Adam Karp would go head-to-head with his Stockton roommate John Ellis.

But first Jason Mannino showed that he was not to be taken lightly by making quick work of Dan Fowler, 11-9, 11-0, 11-4, to advance. Cliff Swain then showed 20-year-old Rocky Carson why he has been in the top two for so long, by knocking off the young pro in three.

The California battle of the roommates offered the best showing of the night. After struggling early in the tourney, Karp came out in full force against Ellis and jumped out to an early game lead with narrow back-to-back 12-10 wins.

"I wasn't getting too confident after I got the two-game lead, because I knew neither one of us was playing too well at that point. I knew the match had a long way to go," Karp said.

However, he probably didn't realize just how long that might be. Although Karp served for match point in the third game, he stalled at 10 — which was just what Ellis needed to rally back and stay alive with a 12-10 win. Hot from that comeback, Ellis ran out to an 8-2 lead in the fourth, then held it to an 11-8 win. So with the match tied at two games apiece, house bragging rights were on the line. Karp jumped to a 9-3 lead, but once again hit a wall at 10 points, allowing Ellis to catch up and tie the game there, before going on to capture the match with a 12-10 win.

"If I'm going to lose to someone, at least it was the person I live with," Karp said. "Although I would have loved to have bragging rights to the house for a little while."

**Not Your Typical 16 Year Old**

What are the goals of today's 16 year olds? Graduating from high school. Getting a date for the prom. And in the world of racquetball? Winning at the Junior Olympic Championships or Junior World Championships. Getting a place on the U.S. Junior National Team. However, Jack Huczek isn't exactly your typical 16 year old. He wants all those things and more — like topping pro players and winning a men's open title. And he's doing it!

Huczek shocked the racquetball community at the Promus U.S. Open by bringing home gold medals in both the men's open and men's 24-and-under divisions. Although he is known as an excellent junior player that is poised to break even Sudsy Monchik's junior records, few expected him to burst into the elite-level so quickly.

Huczek, who holds 17 junior national titles, threw his hat into the ring for the top spot in the men's pro and open 24-and-under divisions at the U.S. OPEN. In the pro division, he defeated his own coach, U.S. National Team Assistant Coach Todd O'Neil, in the round of 64, and advanced to meet 12th-seed Dan Fowler. Although Huczek gave the top pro a run for his money, he fell to eventual-quarterfinalist Fowler, 11-3, 11-7, 11-8, in the round of 32.

But Huczek seemed unfazed by his IRT loss and moved on to focus on his amateur divisions. He quickly left an upset path of destruction through the men's open draw, with victims including IRT No. 11 Mike Locker, No. 15 Jeff Bell and Pan Am Games bronze medalist Rob Dejesus. His journey brought him to the open finals where he met Chris Crowther. Although Crowther put up a fight, Huczek would not be happy until the gold medal was around his neck, and he put away Crowther 15-11,15-12.

Many have compared Huczek to former-junior standout Sudsy Monchik, but Huczek doesn't care for the distinction. "Sudsy is Sudsy. I'm going to be the first Jack Huczek. Not 'comparable to Sudsy'," he's definitely on the right track to making Jack Huczek the next name on everybody's lips. — From material compiled by Harriet Bradley
Hall of Fame nominee Ruben Gonzalez was looking toward a late evening quarterfinal against protégé and defending champ Sudsy Monchik. But rather than relax, Gonzalez hit the court bright and early Friday morning to knock off another legend in the sport, Marty Hogan, in the open division. And that wasn’t all. Gonzalez then went on to play Jeff Bell that afternoon in the open quarterfinals. So in his third match of the day — his late evening pro quarterfinal — it was a tired Gonzalez who faced Monchik on the main exhibition court. Although he was able to put up a losing 11-8 battle in the first game, fatigue began to set in on the veteran, who fell 11-0, 11-3 in the final two games.

“If I had it to do over again, I wouldn’t have played the two open matches,” Gonzalez said in retrospect. “I was really tired from the late match last night [against Guidry] and then those two today.”

Despite putting away his mentor in straight games, Monchik held Gonzalez in the highest regard. “Anything you see out here on the court [from me] is all from him. He’s a great guy, and he’s genuine. In our terms, ‘Rubes is a stud’.”

Asked about giving his coach a doughnut, Monchik replied, “I couldn’t not do it. He doesn’t want me to goof around with him. He wants me to play to win, because that is what he taught me.”

**Surprise Semis**

Even after the draw’s share of upsets and excitement, few predicted what the semifinals would offer. John Ellis let frustration get the better of him in his semifinal match against Cliff Swain, so much so that referee Dan Llacera issued a technical which cost Ellis a point. Swain kept his calm to put away Ellis, 11-7, 11-3, 11-4, and advance to his third-straight U.S. OPEN final.

Ellis’ temperament was, by far, not the biggest surprise of the day. Best friends Sudsy Monchik and Jason Mannino met for the right to advance to the finals. As children, Monchik’s motivation to improve had been the fact that Mannino always beat him. Eventually those roles reversed and it’s been Monchik who has dominated, not only Mannino, but all takers in both the amateur and pro ranks.

But Monchik would not dominate Mannino this time. Hot off his quarterfinal win over Dan Fowler, Mannino came out blasting to win the first game, 11-8. Monchik managed to come back in the second with an 11-9 reply, but Mannino was on fire and Monchik...
High Flying Final

Jason Mannino and Cliff Swain were set to battle it out in the finals. Swain seeking a second U.S. OPEN title; Mannino primed for his first pro victory in over a year. Prior to the match, Mannino was very frank about what it would take to defeat him. “Cliff will not beat me in the front court. Nobody can beat me in the front court. If they want to beat me, they have to kill from the backcourt, and they have to pull me back there too. There is no mystery to my game.”

Swain agreed that — on paper — defeating Mannino should be simple. But you can’t always make your racquet get with the game plan. Although Swain led for much of the first game, Mannino rallied back to tie it at 8-8, before putting it away 11-8. Swain bounced back in the second game to win 11-4, and his momentum carried over into the third, where he ran up a 7-0 lead. But Mannino answered with a hot streak and rattled off nine unanswered points to go up by one game, with an 11-8 win.

With the match on the line, Swain and Mannino had a heated battle in the fourth, with the lead exchanging hands five times. And though things had turned ugly early, referee Dan Llacera took his share of lumps as he tried his best to see what could only be seen by two-thirds of the gallery along the right side glass — or roughly 600-or-so fans. Mannino tied it up at 8-8 before

was obviously off his game. Chattering non-stop to the ref, himself, Sudsy and to the delighted fans, Mannino found himself in the rare position of actually being the crowd favorite for a change. He joked, cajoled, dove, recovered and dove again. At the same time, Sudsy’s normally brash-but-upbeat attitude took a nosedive as he sensed the change in atmosphere. For his part, Mannino simply seemed to enjoy launching himself through the third and fourth games,11-5,11-3, to take the match and advance to his first pro-stop finals in over a year.

“Mentally, I started not being around. Things started happening. I feel like I lost focus,” a crushed Monchik said. “I played the worse match of my life at a big tournament, and Jason played the best I’ve ever seen him play.”

Although Mannino was excited by his win over the number-one player, he admitted it was only one win in a long string of losses to Monchik. “One win does not capitalize a career. The win, although great, really only means that I did it one time. Its tough to stay at the level Sudsy plays at for so many tournaments in a row. My game style just got to him today. It was my day. Who says that tomorrow it wouldn’t have been his?”
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taking the lead by spending as much time in the air and on the floor as he did upright. At one point, he even joked that a hinder call on one of his dives should have been an avoidable — since he would have rolled out the shot anyway. And he might have; he was just that lucky, that Sunday.

At 10-8 the pressure was on Swain and both players had kept the rally alive for far too long. Cliff made what seemed to be a great shot which Jason — as he had routinely done throughout the match — dove for. As he stretched into the front court along the left sidewall, it appeared that the ball might have taken its second bounce just before getting to his racquet. Or not. Either way, the ball barely rebounded off Jason's strings, dribbled off the front wall and the point was called good. The right side gallery went wild, Cliff was stunned, and Jason Mannino had won his first Promus U.S. Open title.

"Jason caught me off my game, and I have to give him credit for that. I wanted to play my game and stay on my toes, and I didn't do that," Swain later said.

An ecstatic Mannino could hardly control his excitement. "My goal is to be number one, and this was a big step for me in that direction. I still have a long way to go, with good players in front of me, but I'm on the right track."

Talking About ...
From the moment the women's pro draw was announced, it became the hot topic of conversation for almost everyone at the Promus U.S. Open. Missed pro stops by Laura Fenton and Christie Van Hees had dropped the two into a shared #15 ranking position on the WIRT, and given poor seedings to both. The result was some earlier-than-expected face-offs, and some unexpected advances.

The round of 32 opened with fifth-ranked Michelle Lucas falling to Canadian national champion Josee Grand'Maitre, 11-8, 11-7, 10-12, 11-7, who later went on to win the Women's Open division. Canadian teammate Lori-Jane Powell went the distance to advance against Denver's Johanna Shattuck in a long five-game set, as did Phyllis Morris over Denise Mock, and Jennifer Dering past Angela Burth. Of the remaining top seeds, all took their wins in straight games, with the exception of No.8 Janet Myers, who dropped a game to Mexico's Johana Rivera.

On Friday, it was the bottom-heavy round of 16 that held the most interesting matches where, in a rematch of the U.S. National Singles Championships finals, Laura Fenton faced Cheryl Gudinas for a quarterfinal slot. A similar early round, high-stakes playoff was set between third-seeded Robin Levine and reigning 1998 world champion Christie Van Hees.

Both Levine and Van Hees had traveled to Memphis determined to make the finals. Levine, who has since hinted at retirement, was looking for her first Open berth, while Van Hees was set on avenging last year's silver medal finish to Jackie Paraiso. Levine squeaked out the first game, 11-9, but fell victim to her own frustrations, which she vocalized frequently on the court, throughout the next three games. The unseeded Van Hees was able to keep her cool to put Levine out of her misery, 11-8, 11-7, 11-3.

National singles champion and Pan Am Games gold medalist Gudinas opened up her match against Fenton with an 11-4 first-game win, before Fenton battled back to take the second 13-11. Each picked up another game, with Gudinas taking the third 11-7 and Fenton the fourth 11-4, to force the tiebreaker.

During a rally in the fifth game, Fenton ran for a ball and felt a pop in her lower back. She attempted to continue play, but called an injury timeout with Gudinas up 5-0. After suffering from lower back problems all week, she had finally succeeded in dislocating something in her lower back. Determined to finish out the match, she returned to the court briefly, but succumbed to pain after a few more short points and retired from the match at 8-0.
"I'm an athlete, so I refuse to quit," Fenton said. "I wanted to finish that match. Quitting in the last game was one of the hardest things for me to do, but I can feel a nerve being pinched in my back. The pain was too great for me to run or dive for the balls. I had to admit that I'm hurt, and I didn't want to make it any worse."

**International Quarters**
The quarterfinals ended up having an international flavor, as Canadians Christie Van Hees and Josee January went head-to-head for a semifinal spot. Although Grand'Maitre had captured the Canadian national singles title, Van Hees had not competed at that tourney. Youth quickly overcame experience, as Van Hees advanced to the semifinals with the 11-3, 12-10, 11-4 win.

Mexico's Susana Acosta served up yet another upset by knocking off No.4 Kersten Hallander, 11-7, 7-11, 12-10, 11-9. In the blonde-vs-brunette battle, both leggy contestants drew their share of spectators, but the crowd chatter later focused on a gutsy call by referee
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Grand'Maitre for the match. The left-handed Acosta earned her spot among the top-four on an avoidable hinder when Hallander found herself caught dead-to-rights in the path of Acosta's forehand setup.

The top seeds had far less trouble, as Jackie Paraiso and Cheryl Gudinas both advanced easily with wins over Janet Myers and Kim Machiran, respectively.

**Sweet Semifinal Revenge**

In the early round match up between Canada's Christie Van Hees and Cheryl Gudinas, the stage was set for a rematch of the 1999 Pan Am Games gold medal playoff last summer, which Gudinas won after a controversial "racquet up" call in the tiebreaker. Seeking revenge, Van Hees bore down to get it in three straight games of 11-5, 11-9, 11-7.

"This feels so sweet," Van Hees remarked after her win. "There were a lot of issues involved in that match, and I definitely think I made it clear what reality is."

Gudinas took her loss gracefully. "I know what was going through Christie's mind. Everybody put a big emphasis on this rematch. Of course she was fired up after the Pan Ams. I didn't play badly though, she just served really well."

Defending-champion Jackie Paraiso continued to roll through the top half of the draw, by making quick work

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**Side Court Action**

*by Christie Hyde*

At this year's Promus U.S. Open, court six had its share of activity, including Doug Ganim giving Adam Karp a run for this money, Jack Huczek capturing the men's open title, Derek Robinson being upset by Dan Fowler and top-seeded Kersten Hallander losing to Mexico's Susana Acosta. But there was even more hustle taking place on the "side court" opposite the right glass wall, where 11 students from the University of Memphis Department of Journalism were feverishly working on making sure the media knew all about the great racquetball action going on in Memphis.

The students — all members of the Public Relation Student Society of America (PRSSA) — were participating in an internship program with the U.S. Open, under the direction of USRA Public and Media Relations Coordinator Christie Hyde. Each student was assigned three athletes (two pros and one amateur) for whom they were responsible for the research and preparation of all hometown media efforts, which included sending results and press releases to the athletes' hometown newspapers, radio and television stations.

The response? The student work was able to generate phenomenal results from hometown media outlets — from daily results in newspapers across the U.S. to radio interviews in Canada. Long after the racquetball courts had grown quiet each evening, the media room was still abuzz with activity (often as late as 3:00am) as students transcribed interviews, faxed press releases, and made follow-up phone calls. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and their efforts did not go unnoticed, as numerous players commented on how excited they were to have their accomplishments shared with friends and family back home.

The 11 hardworking students who pioneered this partnership with the University of Memphis were: Adam Badrain (Memphis), Harriet Bradley (Memphis), Natalie Garthright (Memphis), Leslie Grandberry (Munford, Tenn.), Forsyth Kenworthy (Memphis), Wendy Lindsey (Memphis), Kirsten Marks (Clarksville, Tenn.), Therese Pramick (Clarks Summit, Pa.), Courtney Sikes (Memphis), Kathy Walker (Whiteville, Tenn.) and Molly Watkins (Germantown, Tenn.).

Special thanks from all the players and staff of the Promus U.S. Open goes out to these students and PRSSA faculty advisor Dr. Rick Fischer for all their hard work. Although many of the students had never played racquetball before, all fell in love with the sport and can't wait to come back next year — even after graduation!
of Susana Acosta, 11-0, 11-1, 11-2 to set up a rematch of last year's finals between herself and Van Hees.

To the Bitter End
Christie Van Hees came into the women's pro finals feeling calm and relaxed, but emotionally and physically taxed by the tough draw she had battled through. She had been set against both the No.2 and No.3 players enroute to the rematch playoff. On the other hand, Jackie Paraiso seemed to breeze into the finals, after abbreviated advances through a draw that many viewed as a walk in the park.

Nonetheless, Van Hees ran out to a 10-3 lead in the first game before Paraiso was able to muster a comeback, to pull within two points at 10-8. But after Van Hees called a timeout, she was able to return to the court and put away the game, 11-8. Hot from that first game win, the world champion ran up another early lead in the second, but was unable to hold off Paraiso's rally this time, as the defending champ took the second game 13-11.

Paraiso's momentum carried her to an 11-1 win in the third game, but Van Hees was not going down without a fight, and ran up another 10-3 lead in the fourth game, before putting it away with 11-5 and setting up the tiebreaker. There, Van Hees' fatigue was no match for Paraiso's excellent shot making and it was over in no time, as Paraiso grabbed her second Promus U.S. Open title with the 11-2 win.

"It feels great to win my second-straight title," Paraiso said. "Christie played a great match. I just had to focus on each game."

Although Van Hees fell short in her goal, she felt good about her performance. "If I can go out and take Jackie to a tiebreaker when I come through a draw of terror, I know I'm right there [on the verge of earning the number-one spot]."

TOP: JACKIE PARaisO KEEPS LEFTY SUSANa ACOSTA IN BACK COURT DURING THEIR SEMI. BOTTOM: PARAISO TEES OFF ON A FOREHAND AGAINST CHRISTIE VAN HEES IN THEIR FINAL. PHOTOS: MIKE BOATMAN.
PROMUS 4TH U.S. OPEN RESULTS
IRT & WIRT PRO TOUR SINGLES
Men’s PRO .... Jason Mannino, San Diego, CA def. Cliff Swain, Braintree, MA 11-8, 4-11, 11-8
Women’s PRO .... Jacqueline Paraiso, El Cajon, CA def. Christie Van Hees, BC 8-11, 13-11, 11-1, 5-11, 11-2

MEN’S SINGLES
Men’s Open .... Jack Huczek, Rochester Hills, MI def. Chris Crowther, Riverside, CA 15-11, 15-12
Men’s A .... Andy Babinchack, Grand Forks, ND def. Sam Ryder, Menomonee, WI 8-15, 15-6, 11-6
Men’s C .... Gilbert Sais, Victorville, CA def. Garry Carter, Napa, CA 15-6, 14-15, 11-8
Men’s D .... Sid Harshavat, Palatine, IL def. Joe DeRoche’, Chicago, IL 15-11, 15-7

Men’s 24+ .... Jack Huczek, Rochester Hills, MI def. Brad Hansen, Ames, IA — forfeit
M24- A/B .... Justin Jones, Cincinnati, OH def. Brad Jantz, Kenosha, WI 13-15, 15-11, 11-10
M24- C/D .... Brandon Cortese, Kentwood, MI def. Sid Harshavat, Palatine, IL 15-5, 15-11
Men’s 25+ .... Sameer Haddad, Sacramento, CA def. Eugene Coyle, Palatine, IL 15-6, 15-8
M25 C/D .... Emmanuel Drege, Richardson, TX def. Joe Marfone, Memphis, TN 13-5, 15-14

Men’s 30+ .... Jim Minkel, Houston, TX def. Jim Frautsch, Prior Lake, MN 15-11, 15-6
Men’s 35+ .... Tim Hansen, Boynton Beach, FL def. Scot Consoli, Orlando, FL 15-8, 15-3
M35+ A/B .... Ron Fowler, Decatur, CA def. Edward Fink, Houston, TX 9-15, 15-12, 11-5

Men’s 40+ .... Jeff Hanno, Watertown, NY def. Terry Fluharty, Orlando, FL 15-11, 15-6
M45+ C/D .... Donald Acklin, Phil., PA def. Eddie LoCost, Colleyville, TX 15-11, 15-8

Men’s 50+ .... Mitt Layton, Jacksonville, FL def. Ed Remen, Apex, NC 15-3, 15-7
Men’s 55+ .... Ray Huss, Springboro, OH def. Horace Miller, Chicago, IL 15-9, 15-6
M55+ A/B .... Ken Foster, Lewisville, TX def. Tom Fehsel, Chicago, IL 15-4, 15-5, 11-2
M55+ C/D .... Leo Kouremetis, Kodak, AK def. Jim Ralphy, Murray, KY 7-15, 15-5, 11-8

Men’s 60+ .... Bob Webster, Northport, AL def. Rex Lawler, Terre Haute, IN 15-10, 12-15, 11-10
Men’s 65+ .... Jerry Holly, North Ridge, CA def. Joe Lambert, Dallas, TX Def (unex)
Men’s 70+ .... John O’Donnell, Champaign, IL def. Hugh Groover, Searcy, AR 5-15, 15-9, 11-4
Men’s 75+ .... Earl Acuff, Asheville, NC def. Hank Richard, Swannanoa, NC 15-10, 15-3
Men’s 80+ .... Earl Acuff, Asheville, NC def. George Spear Sr., Venice, FL 15-6, 15-7

GALLERY — Top: Jackie Paraiso & Jason Mannino. Above: (L) Andy Babinchack; (R) Ron Fowler.
### WOMEN'S SINGLES

#### Women's Open
Josee Grand'Maitre, Longueuil, Quebec def. Lisa Hjelm, Citrus Heights, CA 14-15, 15-8, 11-3

#### Women's A
Akiko Saito, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa def. Brenna Bibbrough, Eugene, OR 15-6, 15-6

#### Women's B
Kelley Fisher, Centerville, OH def. Nathania Stewart, Doraville, GA 15-13, 4-15, 11-4

#### Women's C
Lynn Hiorns, Aurora, IL def. Vicki Leetch, Siloam Springs, AR 15-5, 4-15, 11-3

#### Women's D
Jamie Johnson, Berea, OH def. Ramona Vonordarza, Boca Raton, FL 14-15, 15-9, 11-8

#### Women's A
Akiko Saito, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa def. Brenna Bibbrough, Eugene, OR 15-6, 15-6

#### Women's B
Kelley Fisher, Centerville, OH def. Nathania Stewart, Doraville, GA 15-13, 4-15, 11-4

#### Women's C
Lynn Hiorns, Aurora, IL def. Michelle Hoagland, Rosemount, MN 15-6, 15-8

#### Women's D
Madeleine Edwards, Memphis, TN def. Laura Woodbury, Arlington, VA 15-7, 15-12

#### Women's 30+

#### Women's 35+
Debra Tisinger, Canoga Park, CA def. Holly Remen, Apex, NC 15-4, 15-12

#### Women's 40+
Debra Tisinger, Canoga Park, CA def. Linda Moore, Madison, NE 15-2, 15-5

#### Women's 45+

#### Women's 50+
Shelley Ogden, Cincinnati, OH def. Sharon Huczek, Rochester Hills, MI 15-2, 15-2

#### Women's 60+
Jo Kenyon, Tallahassee, FL def. Lola Markus, Park Ridge, IL 15-8, 15-9

#### Women's 65+
Jo Kenyon, Tallahassee, FL def. Lola Markus, Park Ridge, IL 15-7, 15-12

#### Women's 75+
Mary Low Acuff, Asheville, NC unchallenged

### DOUBLES

#### Men's Open
Alvaro Beltran/Javier Moreno def. Sameer Hadid/Shawn Rostery 15-8, 14-15, 11-6

#### Men's A
Steven Arizmendi/Jeffrey Huang def. Donnie Hendricks/Mike Sole 15-12, 6-15, 11-7

#### Men's B
Bill Sewell/David Sturm def. James Coleman/Vic Rivers 15-8, 7-15, 11-3

#### Men's C

#### Men's 30+

#### Men's 40+
Joe Aut/Bill Lyman def. Larry Cashion/Bill Greaney 15-8, 15-13

#### Men's 50+

#### Men's 60+
Michael Barnes/Ken Foster def. Donald Bates/Carl Tabar 15-8, 5-15, 11-8

#### Women's A

#### Women's B

#### Mixed A
David Barnes/Ester McNany def. Tadayoshi Kawai/Akiko Saito 11-15, 15-9, 11-9

#### Mixed B

#### Mixed C

#### Mixed 30+
Jim Leveque/Cintya Salazar def. Vincent Griffin/Debra Stefandel 15-6, 4-15, 11-4

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** The 5th Promus U.S. OPEN is scheduled for November 15-19, 2000 (the week before Thanksgiving).

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*January – February 2000*
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Athletic Ability • Bret Harnett – broke all records at USOTC • Marty Hogan – ‘Superstar’ proud of his fitness • Dan Obremski – ranked in top 10 in nation in our sport • Laura Fenton — all around athlete

Mental Game • Mike Yellen – why he was picked as the century’s best • Andy Roberts – adapts to any situation • Jerry Hilecher, Steve Stranemo – compensated for physical deficiencies with mental strenght • Jackie Paraizo — great concentration in tough spots

Ten Most Powerful People in 20th Century Racquetball ...

• Charlie Drake – controversial promoter and driving force behind an unrivalled pro tour • Luke St. Onge – re-structured amateur association and guided international development – must take some responsibility for sport’s domestic decline in the 90s • Marty Hogan – popularized the game in 80s – but stubborn independence caused disruption and fractionalization • Norm Peck – directed Ektelon during growth years – oversized racquets changed the sport but divided the industry • Chuck Berry ... brains behind early pro tour and court club development – more persistent leadership may have helped in 80s. • Robert Kendler – developed first professional tour – less politics could have resulted in greater development • Doug Ganin – promotional ideas helped popularize sport – closeness to sport may have resulted in acceptance of ideas • Bud Muehleisen – brought popularity to sport as icon, mentor, instructor, player, and developer • Hank Marcus – resuscitated the pro tour and attempted to ‘professionalize’ the sport • Every Club Owner/Manager – all reaped benefits during boom years, but failed to promote or hire full time programmers/instructors to sustain sport popularity. Must share major responsibility for not being more aggressive in their court club promotions.
Diving for a killshot, returning a photon drive serve, or scrambling for a tough pass shot, your Leader eyeguards give you the edge. The Leader in performance eyewear.

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Sudsy has never “toured” the court as much as he did in this match. Forced to hit his backhand splat from shoulder high, it was only a matter of time until Yellen capitalized on Sudsy’s “showmanship.” Yellen always played his best in the crucial matches and was inevitably able to find some way to win. Sudsy plays tough when ahead, but fights himself for the pressure points in the pressure games. Over time, Sudsy will learn how to handle the pressure of “big events,” but as of now, he is still learning.

Yellen’s ability to keep Sudsy on his heels, moving backward, forcing Sudsy to hit what other players feel are impossible shots (but to Sudsy are usually routine) allows Yellen to work his game plan. Yellen’s footwork (maybe the best ever) always seems to put him in the right place at the right time, and thus ready to execute the right shot. Unable to overpower Yellen, Sudsy is left with his speed and uncanny shot-making ability. Unfortunately for Suds, he always seemed to be hitting off-balance, leaving Mike the opportunity to end the rally with his pinpoint passes and patented backhand pinch. At least for now, it’s brain over brawn as Yellen captures the Player of the Century crown in five games — but watch for Sudsy in the 21st Century title playoff!
women’s draw of the century!
... and the winner is ...

lynn adams
7-11, 11-8, 10-11, 11-5, 12-11

Heather started the match fast, playing a percentage game and mixing up her reverse pinches and passes very well, then controlled center court to take the first. Lynn came back pumped up and started playing most of her shots to Heather’s forehand. Heather fell behind and started shooting and passing from the deep right side, allowing Lynn to capitalize on setups. The third game was a war, with both players having figured out what was working for each of them, which led to incredible shot-making and rallies. The tiebreaker was an amazing test of wills, with both players executing on offense, covering shots and killing at every opportunity, yet mixing in low, hard passes which found Heather out of position much of the game.

The tiebreaker was an amazing test of wills, with both players executing on offense, covering shots and killing at every opportunity. Heather stuck to her basic game plan, and was extremely effective in executing her drive serves and reverse pinches. Heather tried to control center court, which she needed to do to win, but Lynn began mixing up her serves and shots – which proved to make all the difference. Lynn won this amazing match, 12-10 in the fifth.
New Frames from Ektelon

Ektelon recently launched two new racquets: the Power Ring Ultralite™, Ektelon's lightest racquet ever, and the Triple Threat Deliverance™ featuring a unique weighting system that provides the ultimate balance of power and control.

Key technology in the Deliverance is a weighting system featuring Triple Braid™, a combination of woven titanium, copper and carbon that's placed in three critical racquet locations: 10 o'clock, 2 o'clock and the bottom of the handle. This produces an expanded sweet spot in every direction, stability for increased power and control and reduced shock to a player's arm for better, longer and stronger play. The Triple Threat Deliverance™ frame has a suggested retail of $260.

The lightest racquet in Ektelon's history, the Power Ring Ultralite offers maneuverability without sacrificing power. The 22" Longbody design of the racquet provides increased reach and power, while the patented PowerWEB™ design creates a larger sweet spot through the unique stringing design. The Power Ring Ultralite has a suggested retail of $240.

"Our new racquet introductions address the needs of today's players. We provide expanded sweet spots on maneuverable, powerful frames," said Sharlene Sones, product manager for Ektelon.
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3 — PLAY REGULATIONS

Rule 3.1 SERVE

The server has two opportunities to put the ball into 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 1 and 2 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 games in the first two games, another coin toss will take place and the winner of the toss will have the option to serve or receive.

Rule 3.2 START

The server may not start the service motion until the referee has called the score or "second serve." The server is started from any position within the service zone. (Certain drive serves are an exception. See Rule 3.6.) Neither the server nor any part of either foot may extend beyond either line of the service zone when initiating the service motion. Stepping on, but not beyond, the lines is permitted. However, when completing the service motion, the server may step beyond the service (front) line provided that some part of both feet remain on or inside the line until the served ball passes the short line. The server may not step beyond the short line until the ball passes the short line. See Rule 3.9(a) and 3.10(i) for violations.

Rule 3.3 MANNER

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

Rule 3.4 READINESS

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

Rule 3.5 DELAYS

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

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

(b) Serves while the receiver/team is signaling "not ready" is a fault serve.

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

Rule 3.6 DRIVE SERVICE ZONES

The drive serve lines will be 3 feet from each side wall in the service zone. Viewed at a time, the drive serve line divides the service area into a 3-foot and a 17-foot section that apply only to serves. The player may drive serve between the body and the side wall nearest to where the service motion begins only if the player starts and remains outside of the 3-foot drive service zone. In the event that the service motion begins in one 3-foot drive service zone and continues into the other 3-foot drive service zone, the player may not hit a drive serve at all. (a) The drive serve zones are not observed for cross-court drive serves, the hard-Z, soft-Z, lob or half-lob serves.

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

Rule 3.7 DEFECTIVE SERVES

Defective serves are of three types resulting in penalties as follows:

(a) Dead-Ball Serve. A dead-ball serve results in no penalty and the server is given another serve without having to hit a prior ball.

(b) Fault Serve. Two fault serves result in an out (either a sideout or a handout).

(c) Out Serve. An out serve results in an out (either a sideout or a handout).

Rule 3.8 DEAD BALL SERVES

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

(a) Court Hinders. A serve that takes an irregular bounce because it hit a wet spot or an irregular surface on the court is a dead-ball serve.

(b) Broken Ball. If the ball is determined to have broken on the serve, a new ball shall be substituted and the serve shall be replayed, without canceling any prior fault serve.

Rule 3.9 FAULT SERVES

The following serves are faults and any two in succession result in an out:

(a) Ball Faults. A foot fault results when:

1. The server does not begin the service motion with both feet in the service zone.

2. The server steps completely over the service line (or part of the foot on or inside that zone) before the served ball crosses the short line.

(b) Short Service. A short serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, before the ball touches the back wall, hits the floor or on or in front of the short line either with or without touching a side wall.

(c) Three Wall Serve. A three-wall serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, on the rebound, strikes both side walls before touching the floor.

(d) Ceiling Serve. A ceiling serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and then touches the ceiling with or without touching a side wall.

(e) Long Serve. A long serve is a served ball that first hits the front wall and rebounds to the back wall before touching the floor (with or without touching a side wall).

(f) Bouncing Ball Outside Service Zone. Bouncing the ball outside the service zone as a part of the service motion is a fault serve.

(g) Illegal Drive Serve. A drive serve in which the player fails to hit the 17-foot drive service zone outlined in Rule 3.6.

(h) Screen Serve. A served ball that first hits the front wall and on the rebound passes so closely to the server, in doubles play, that it prevents the receiver from having a clear view of the ball. (The receiver is obligated to take up good court position, near center court, to obtain that view.)

(i) Serving before the Receiver is Ready. A serve is made while the receiver is not ready as described in Rule 3.5(b).

Rule 3.10 OUT SERVICES

Any of the following results in an out:

(a) Two Consecutive Fault Serves. See Rule 3.9.

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

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

(d) Fake or Ball Serve. Any movement of the racquet toward the ball during the serve which is noncontinuous, e.g., making a false move in an attempt to deceive the receiver. If a ball serve occurs, but the referee believes that no deceit was involved, the option of declaring "no serve" and having the server perform another legal serve may be exercised.

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

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

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

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

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

Rule 3.11 RETURN OF SERVE

(a) Receiving Position

1. The receiver may not enter the safety zone until the ball bounces or crosses the receiving line.

2. On the fly return attempt, the receiver may not strike the ball until the ball breaks the plane of the receiving line. However, the receiver's follow-through may carry the receiver or the racquet past the receiving line.

3. Neither the receiver nor the racquet may break the plane of the short line, except if the ball is struck after rebounding off the back wall.

4. Any violation by the receiver results in a point for the server.

(b) Defective Serve. A player on the receiving side may not intentionally catch or touch a served ball (such as a player's racquet, body, or uniform) unless the server has made a call or the ball has touched the floor for a second time. Violation results in a point for the server.

(c) Legal Return. After a legal serve, a player receiving the serve must strike the ball on the fly or after the first bounce, and before the ball touches the floor the second time; and return the ball to the front wall, either directly or after touching one of the side walls, the back wall or the ceiling, or any combination of those surfaces. A returned ball must touch the front wall before touching the floor.

(d) False Return. The server must return a serve in a point for the server.

(e) Other Provisions. Except as noted in this rule (3.11), the return of serve is subject to all provisions of Rules 3.13 through 3.15.

Rule 3.12 CHANGES OF SERVE

(a) Outs. A server is entitled to continue serving until one of the following occurs:


2. Two Consecutive Fault Serves. See Rule 3.9.

3. Failure to Return Ball. Player or team fails to keep the ball in play as required by Rule 3.11.

4. Avoidable Hinder. Player or team commits an avoidable hinder which results in an out. See Rule 3.15.

5. Sideline. Retiring the server in singles is called
Rule 3.13 RALLIES

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

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

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

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

1. The ball bounces on the floor more than once before returning it.
2. The ball does not reach the front wall on the fly.
3. The ball is hit such that it hits into the gallery or wall opening or else hits a surface above the normal playing area of the court that has been declared as out-of-play. See Rule 2.1(a).
4. A ball which obviously does not have the velocity or direction to hit the front wall strikes another player.
5. A ball struck by one player on a team hits that player or that player’s partner.
7. Switching hands during a rally.
8. Failure to use a racquet wrist safety cord.
9. Touching the wall with the body or uniform.
10. Carrying or slinging the ball with the racquet.

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

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

(f) Broken Ball. If a player swings and the ball has been broken during a rally, play shall continue until the end of the rally. The referee or any player may request the ball be examined. If the referee decides the ball is broken, the ball will be replaced and the rally replayed. The server resumes play at first serve. The proper way to check for a broken ball is to squeeze it by hand. (Checking the ball by hitting it with a racquet will not be considered a valid check and shall work to the disadvantage of the player or team which struck the ball after the rally.)

(g) Play Stoppage

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

(h) Replay. When a rally is replayed for any reason, the server resumes play at first serve. A previous fault serve is not considered.

Rule 3.14 DEAD-BALL HINDERS

A rally is replayed without penalty and the server resumes play at first serve whenever a dead-ball hinder occurs. This rule describes conditions under which a hinder might be declared avoidable and result in loss of the rally.

(a) Situations

1. Court Hinders. The referee should stop play immediately whenever the ball hits any part of the court that was designated in advance as a court hinder (such as a vent grate). The referee should also stop play immediately whenever the ball takes an irregular bounce as a result of contacting a rough surface (such as court light or vent) or after striking a wet spot on the floor or wall (and (i) when, in the referee’s opinion, the irregular bounce prevents the rally from continuing.)
2. Ball Hits Opponent. When an opponent is hit by a return shot in flight, it is a dead-ball hinder. If the opponent is struck by a ball which obviously did not have the velocity to reach the front wall, it is not a hinder, and the player who hit the ball will lose the rally. A player who has been hit by the ball can stop play and request a dead-ball hinder be made immediately and acknowledged by the referee. Note this interference may, under certain conditions, be declared an avoidable hinder. See Rule 3.15.
3. Body Contact. If body contact occurs which the referee believes was sufficient to stop the rally, either for the purpose of preventing injury by the offensive player or to prevent the offensive player from being able to return the shot, the referee shall stop play immediately whenever the ball hits any part of the body of the player being interfered with. The referee shall declare this a dead-ball hinder if it is believed the holdup was intentional and subject to acceptance and approval of the referee. (The referee will grant a dead-ball hinder if it is believed the holdup was reasonable and the player would have been able to return the shot. The referee may also call an avoidable hinder if warranted.)
4. Screen Ball. Any ball rebounding from the front wall so close to the body of the defensive player that it prevents the offensive player from having a fair chance of seeing the ball. (The referee should be able to see the ball clearly and have an unobstructed view of and swing at the ball."
5. Safety Holdup. Any player about to execute a return who believes that striking the opponent with the ball or racquet is likely, may immediately stop play and request a dead-ball hinder. This call must be made immediately and subject to acceptance and approval of the referee. The referee will grant a dead-ball hinder if it is determined that the call was reasonable and the player would have been able to return the shot. The referee may also call an avoidable hinder if warranted.)

6. Other Interference. Any other unintentional interference which prevents an opponent from having a fair chance to see or return the ball. Example: When a ball from another court enters the court during a rally or when a referee's call on an adjacent court obviously distracts a player.

(b) Effect of Hinder. The referee’s call of a hinder stops play and voids any situation which follows, such as the ball hitting the player. The only hinder that may be called by a player are described in rules (2), (3), and (6) above, and all of these are subject to the approval of the referee. A dead-ball hinder stops play and the rally is replayed. The server receives two serves.

(c) Responsibility. While making an attempt to return the ball, a player is entitled to a fair chance to see and return the ball. It is the responsibility of the side that has just hit the ball to move so the receiving side may go straight to the ball and have an unobstructed view of the ball at the time the server receives the ball. However, the receiver is responsible for making a reasonable effort to move towards the ball and must have a reasonable chance to return the ball for any type of hinder to be called.

Rule 3.15 AVOIDABLE HINDERS

An avoidable hinder results in the loss of the rally. An avoidable hinder does not necessarily have to be called by a player. Avoidable ball hinders are described in Rule 3.14. Any of the following results in an avoidable hinder:

(a) Failure to Move. A player does not move sufficiently to allow a shot at the ball on the front wall as it passes directly to the front wall at an angle that would cause the ball to rebound directly to the rear court opening. The ball is dead-ball hinder when a player moves in such a direction that it prevents the opponent from taking either of these shots.

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

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

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

(e) Moving into the Ball. Deliberately pushes or shoves opponent during a rally.

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

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

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

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

Enforced in sanctioned tournaments:
Rule 3.16 TIMING OUTS
Rule 3.17 TECHNICAL FOULS AND WARNINGS

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**Rule 2.1 COURT SPECIFICATIONS**

The specifications for the standard four-wall racquetball court are:

(a) **Dimensions.** The dimensions shall be 20 feet wide, 40 feet long and 20 feet high, with a back wall at least 12 feet high. All surfaces shall be in play, with the exception of any gallery opening, surfaces designated as out-of-play for a valid reason (such as being of a very different material or not in alignment with the backwall), and designated court hinders.

(b) **Markings.** Racquetball courts shall be marked with lines 1 1/2 inches wide as follows:

1. **Short Line.** The back edge of the short line is midway between, and is parallel with, the front and back walls.
2. **Service Line.** The front edge of the service line is parallel with, and five feet in front of, the back edge of the short line.
3. **Service Zone.** The service zone is the 5' x 20' area bounded by the bottom edges of the side walls and by the outer edges of the short line and the service line.
4. **Service Boxes.** The service boxes are located at each end of the service zone and are designated by lines parallel with the side walls [see 4.2(b)]. The edge of the line nearest to the center of the court shall be 18 inches from the nearest side wall.
5. **Drive Serve Lines.** The drive serve lines, which form the drive serve zone, are parallel with the side wall and are within the service zone. The edge of the line nearest to the center of the court shall be three feet from the nearest side wall.
6. **Receiving Line.** The receiving line is a broken line parallel to the short line. The back edge of the receiving line is five feet from the back edge of the short line. The receiving line begins with a line 21 inches long that extends from each side wall. These lines are connected by an alternate series of six-inch spaces and six-inch lines. This will result in a line composed of 17 six-inch spaces, 16 six-inch lines, and two 21-inch lines.
7. **Safety Zone.** The safety zone is the 5' x 20' area bounded by the bottom edges of the side walls and by the back edges of the short line and the receiving line. The zone is observed only during the serve. See Rules 3.10(i) and 3.11(a),
I finally got through my bag of tricks to show you my magical service game over the last three issues, breaking down my drive serve, lob serve and then my variety of serves. I hope you have taken some time in adding these tips into your game, so when you step up to the serving box you can create an additional weapon, as I do so well on the tour.

In this article I will focus in on my magical return of serve, considered one of the best in the game and feared by most players. Think about it ... if the server doesn't know what to serve to you because they are already worried about your flawless return game, look at the pressure you've created right out of the blocks. Don't take this area lightly because a great return of serve — coupled with a great serve — just allows the pressure on your opponent to keep mounting. Combined, the return of serve and serve is worth 50% of the points scored in any match, so please pay close attention.

The purpose of the return of serve is to move the server out of center court and put them in the most difficult position to score. By moving the server out of the middle and deep in the court (35' and back) you are able to keep them from shooting effectively and consistently.

The national average of shooting effectively and consistently from 25' and up is only 30%. What do you think the percentages are from 35' and back? Higher or lower? Obviously the deeper you drop back into the court, the lower the percentage of shooting effectively and consistently, maybe down to 15-20% from 35' and back. So, with this information the receiver’s job boils down to one thing, and one thing only: to get the server out of the middle and keep them deep.
Let's examine all the possible options of the basic return of serves and then discuss the best choices:

**KILL** ... If you make it you score a point. If you miss it you either leave the server up front to score or you skip it. No time for you to move into center court.

**PINCH/SPLAT** ... Same as kill.

**PASS** ... If you make it, you pull the server out of the middle and score a point at the same time. If you miss it high you have still pulled the server out of the middle and have them running back to hit the ball. If you miss low you wind up killing the ball for a point. The pass gives you time to move into center court.

**CEILING** ... If you make it, it pulls the server out of center court and brings them deep. If you miss it, it still pulls the server out of the middle and gives you plenty of time to move into center court.

With these options, and knowing the percentages, the most logical returns of serve are the passes and the ceiling shot.

With the technical part of my magical return of serve covered, let's address what is your best choice of shots of the return of serve. Your shot selection depends on:

1. How the server relocates out of the box
2. How well the serve was hit
3. Your position and your ability level
4. Ball height, speed and angle coming at you:
TRICK #3: The Swing

- Notice my racquet head drops to below shoulder level and my back is facing the right side wall and my right shoulder is pointing toward the front wall.
- Non-hitting arm is coming through for balance.
- Upper body erect.
- As I step at a slight 45 degree angle the weight shifts to a more even distribution and my belly button is now facing the side wall.
- Knees still bent.
- Feet a little wider than shoulder width apart because of the step, back foot starts to pivot and back leg is at 90 degree angle.

TRICKS #4 & #5
Contact Point & Follow-Through

From this point on, everything remains the same as I illustrated in my magical backhand article, so review the March/April 1999 issue to brush up!
TRICK #1: Ready Position

- Stand an arms length from the back wall (approximately 3 feet)
- Be in the down-and-ready position
- Feet wider than shoulder width apart
- Knees flexed
- Weight on balls of feet ready to push off — not flat-footed
- Body low, cat like, ready to explode to the ball
- Racquet in a relaxed backhand grip, up and ready, wrist cocked
- Eyes on ball

- Ball waist high and lower — shoot to pass unless you are off-balance or jammed and then go up
- Ball chest high and higher — go to the ceiling unless you are an advanced player and can execute overheads or sidearm passes.

Percentages — remember that the percentages for shooting the ball effectively from deep in the court (where you are) are maybe 15-20%. Don’t be foolish and go bottom board because you’ll skip more than you make and give up easy points to the server.

TRICK #2: Crossover Step

- Pivot right foot
- Left foot crosses over straight ahead for forehand, ending at a 45-degree angle
- ERP (early racquet preparation) is a must — racquet should be up before your opposite foot hits the floor.

The return of serve is a critical part of the game both at my level as well as yours. It sets the tone and tempo of the match. Remember it’s my job to get Cliff Swain out of the service box so I can gain control of center court and force him to hit from deep in the court where the error percentages are much higher. It’s your job to get your opponent out of the service box as well! Remember that passes and ceilings accomplish this goal.

Well, now you have got it — my magical return of serve and magical serves. These areas are the pressure cookers at the professional level just like anywhere else. Trust me, if you spend extra time practicing these parts of the game you will undoubtedly bring your game up a level or two. I did — and who can question the #1 ranked pro player in the game today? I’m living proof this works: don’t delay, start today.

See you next issue for my magical court position!
TRICK #3: The Swing

- Notice as the swing begins, my racquet head drops to shoulder level (or slightly below), it's cocked back and my back is facing the left back corner as my hitting shoulder is pointing to the right back corner.
- Non-hitting arm is coming through for balance.
- Upper body erect.
- Leading with elbow.
- As I step toward the front wall the weight shifts to a more even distribution and the belly button is now facing the sidewall.
- Knees still bent.
- Feet a little wider than shoulder width apart because of the step, back foot starts to pivot and back leg is at approaching 90 degree angle.

TRICKS #4, #5
Contact Point & Follow-Through
From this point on, everything remains the same as I illustrated in my magical forehand article, so review the May/June 1999 issue to brush up!

forehand return of serve
By Andy Roberts

In the last year of attending tournaments and conducting clinics, I've been amazed at the utter erosion of the passing game. My guess is that everyone is so enamored with the killshot and the power game that the pass shot, as an option, has become obsolete. But from beginner to pro, you must have a good passing game to round out your skills.

What is the definition of a passing shot? A passing shot normally has two forms: 1) down-the-line, and 2) cross court. The down-the-line pass travels the length of the sideline and bounces twice before reaching the backwall. The cross court ends up on the opposite side of the court from where it is struck (and farthest away from your opponent).

The pace at which you strike the ball dictates the height at which you aim on the front wall. For a power player hitting a pass, contact with the front wall will be lower than for a control player — because the goal is simply depth, and for the ball to bounce twice before the backwall.

What is the importance of the passing game? The passing game opens up the court and forces your
1. With Ruben closer to the right wall (and covering down the line), Andy chooses a cross-court pass to move Ruben to the left and back.

2. With Ruben closer to the left wall (and covering the cross-court), Andy chooses a down-the-line pass to move Ruben to the right and back.

3. Look at foot position. Ruben is set up to take the down-the-line pass with his forehand.

4. Ruben opens his body toward the front wall, to take the cross-court shot.

opponent to cover the entire court as they run down your shot. I always try to establish my passing game early, similar to a football team establishing the run. Once the passing game is established it tends to 1) slow down quicker players due to indecision about which of your shots to cover; 2) take the pressure off you by not forcing you to execute low percentage rally ending shots.

A key component to any game plan is to create pressure for your opponent. An easy way to achieve this is by hitting passing shots and forcing your opponent to play balls from the deep court. By doing so, their percentage for taking a bad shot increases, while you are camped in excellent court position. Also, a passing game creates confidence since, when executing passing shots, there is no danger of skipping the ball! Remember, most amateur players skip 7-10 times per game. If you can lower that single statistic you will immediately improve your game.
Remember the general objective of racquetball is to hit the ball where your opponent is not and force them to run the farthest to reach and return the ball. When I talk to large groups I try to impress upon them the importance of learning all the different shots in the game, as well as the angles. Learn to manipulate the ball so that you can force your opponent into certain areas of the court, or to force them to execute a shot you can anticipate.

Racquetball is like chess, you must perform a series of moves and counter moves to achieve success. To achieve the success you must have a well developed game plan. And one important aspect of any game plan is a good passing game.

5. With Ruben closer to the left wall (and covering down the line), Andy chooses a cross-court pass to move Ruben to the right and back.

6. With Ruben closer to the right wall (and covering the cross-court), Andy chooses a down-the-line pass to move Ruben to the left and back.

7. Look at foot position. Ruben is set up to take the down-the-line pass with his backhand.

8. Ruben opens his body toward the front wall, to take the cross-court shot.
Q: & A ... Q & A

I want to be able to hit a splat shot but I can't seem to make that really neat noise that the other guys make when they hit a splat. What am I doing wrong?

Are you sure that noise isn't coming from your opponent's battle with something he ate at lunch? Sorry ... First, a splat is a type of a pinch shot, with the distinguishing factor of making a wonderful noise when it hits the front wall.

There are five key components to hitting a splat shot. If you skip any one of the steps, you won't hear that wonderful noise ... so let's look at the components of hitting a splat shot.

#1 The ball has to be close to the side wall
In order to compress the ball enough to hit a splat shot, the ball should be no farther away from the side wall than about a foot. If the ball is farther away than that, you'll be able to hit a wide angle pinch, but not a splat. The ball must be very close to the side wall in order to create the necessary angle.

#2 Chest and feet face the side wall
Your body can't be open, facing the front wall, if you want to hit a splat. You need to generate as much drive and power as possible, and that comes from hitting the ball sideways, like hitting a line drive in baseball.

#3 Step into the ball
This is a continuation of step #2. You want to be able to drive your legs, your hips, your shoulders, your chest, your torso, everything you've got, into the shot. If the ball gets too deep or behind your body, you won't be able to hit a splat. Keep your body behind the ball and step into the shot.

#4 Striking the side wall 3-5 feet in front of yourself
For the ball to travel the path of a splat shot, you need to hit the side wall in the correct area. If you are facing the side wall (step #2) look at the spot 3-5 feet in front of yourself. That is the area to which you want to aim in order to hit a splat shot.

#5 Hit it HARD
Here's the simple truth ... if you can't hit the ball with power, you can't hit a splat. When you hit the ball flat and hard into the side wall, it compresses. When it hits the front wall it opens up and makes that wonderful splat noise. Consequently, no power, no splat.

Good luck making "the neat noise."
Q: & A...

How do I add consistency to my shots?

Perfect practice makes perfect. The correct repetition of the same stroke, shot, serve or mental rehearsal will improve your consistency. By repeating the same motion over and over again you are creating what is called muscle memory.

Your body is like a computer: feed it the right type and amount of information, it will spit out the right information on command. The major differences between a novice player and a professional player is their execution and consistency level. Of course, shot selection and court position also play a major role (as we have previously discussed), but you must be able to hit the shot correctly before thinking about where to place it and where to position yourself afterward.

Drilling is a major part of becoming the best you can be. There are no shortcuts or pills. In order to achieve your goals you must put in some quality practice time on the court besides playing. A good gauge for practice is for every hour you play, practice 15 minutes. Obviously, the more quality time you put in, the quicker you will achieve consistency into practice and then eventually it will filter into your game.

A Five – Step Approach to Drilling

1. Shadow Hitting - stand in front of a mirror and practice your correct form and technique.

2. Drop and Hit - be square to the side wall and drop the ball at full extension from your body, step and hit.

3. Toss, Turn and Hit - face the front wall with a good and ready position (legs spread, bent, down and racquet in middle of stance), then toss the ball, right or left, pivot and take a cross-over step. Make sure when the cross-over leg begins its motion your racquet comes up (early racquet preparation), ready to stroke the ball.

4. Set-Up and Hit - set up every shot imaginable that would happen in a game and practice it over and over again (hundreds of times).

5. Run, Set-Up and Hit - it's the same as set up and hit, but this time you place yourself on one side of the court or the other or far enough away from the ball so you can simulate the game more closely.

Keep in mind you must first learn to crawl before you walk or run. Take it one step at a time, be diligent and remember .... Drilling can lead to success if done correctly and often. You must pay your dues ... all champions do! Good luck.
changing times by Luke St. Onge

I am most happy to inform you that through the efforts of the USRA “Bring a Friend to Racquetball” promotion, we now have 440 new members signed up. Over 900 cans of balls were sent out along with 500 prizes of gloves, eyeguards, racquets, and racquetball clothing. To cap off the membership drive, a drawing was held at the Promus U.S. Open in Memphis, where Adam Kane of Michigan was selected as the grand prize winner of two United Airline tickets anywhere United flies in the continental U.S. The final drawing was made during the semi-finals in front of a crowd of 1,200 spectators.

We're already working on a follow-up promotion for 2000 [see page 30] which will run through May and end with another airline ticket drawing at “The Finals” in Houston. It is the goal of the USRA to grow its membership by 15% by May. Can we do it? We think so, but only with your help and participation. Racquetball is your sport — help it grow by spreading the word and signing up new members!

This issue is filled with glowing reports on the Promus U.S. Open . . . deservedly so! Doug Ganim and his staff are to be congratulated on taking this event to another new level. The Open has brought back a unity and enthusiasm for racquetball that has been missing for many years. The energy from the Open has been passed on to all of the USRA's marquee events.

In Memphis I had the chance to observe not only the pro matches, but many of the amateur events, as well. Once again I noticed — as did many of our current sitting Board members — that many players opt to use cross-over products from major manufacturers that contribute nothing to the sport of racquetball. Look at the pages of this publication to see exactly which manufacturers are committed to putting something back into the sport. If the “Nikes,” and “Reeboks” can maintain a fair market share — without promoting their product lines through sponsorship and advertising directly via racquetball’s major events and media — why should they put anything into the sport? They can let all the other, racquetball-specific equipment makers carry the burden, while they benefit from those competitors’ efforts.

If you were a business under siege by a competitor trying to undermine you or take your floor space (like spinning or kick-boxing) would you support that industry? Of course not! Yet every time a player selects a non-racquetball-specific product from a company that does not support racquetball directly, that's exactly what happens. Your dollars go toward spinning, kick-boxing, or the next fad that threatens your court floor space. It's like shooting yourself in the foot.

So let's start this year out right and support those who are dedicated to the racquetball industry. We can — and should — send the message that we are loyal consumers. If we can succeed in making that simple statement, those “other” equipment makers may even begin to take notice of racquetball as the viable market that it easily can be — and they'll follow suit by supporting events and perhaps even sponsoring a player or two. Maybe you?

Jon Root and Glenn Norman of Omega Networks finalize an internet broadcasting contract with USRA Executive Director Luke St. Onge. The company will produce both competitive and instructional internet content for racquetball in 2000 @ ticket2sports.com
Tim Radder: In Memoriam
Submitted by Rene Hehemann

On Saturday evening of October 16, Tim Radder passed away in London, England at the age of 36. The previous day Tim, accompanied by his girlfriend Wendy Hackett (general-secretary of the Great Britain Racquetball Federation) and his brother Erik, had taken the ferry from the Netherlands to England. Tim and Wendy had decided to spend the rest of their lives together in England, and they and Tim's brother were moving his things to his new destination in a small van.

In the late afternoon of the first day after unpacking, Tim decided to show his brother around London town. In the four years Wendy and Tim had known each other, Tim had visited England six times each year and knew his way around the capital. But Tim was not feeling well that day, which he explained in part by having had a busy two days. When the brothers returned home early that evening, Wendy saw right away that Tim was not looking good. She advised him to go to bed early, but after about half an hour Tim woke up having trouble breathing. A doctor and an ambulance were called, but his heart could not overcome his asthma attack and he passed away that night. Tragically, his future in England with Wendy had lasted less than 24 hours.

Tim began playing racquetball in 1980, when he was a sixteen-year-old who attended the opening of Racketcenter De Leyens in Zoetermeer and was immediately caught by our sport. He became one of the very first members of the club and remained active there until four days before going to England. On that last Tuesday evening, Tim solemnly swore to return regularly to Zoetermeer, see his friends and play racquetball.

Over the years Tim had been a regular traveller to tournaments around Europe, occasionally accompanying the national team to European Championships and once attended the 1992 World Championships in Montreal. He always helped out as much as he could — it was his way of making friends around the world. He assisted with the Floridae Tournament, the World Games, and when national teams from the USA and Canada came to visit the Netherlands, he was always around.

When Tim was present, there was never a dull moment. He was always cheerful and with the way he played with words, he frequently got people wrong-footed and in a laughing mood. With these wordgames and cheerful mood, he also had been hiding the asthma that later claimed his life. I vividly remember the tournament in the early eighties, when Tim and I went to Switzerland and England and the great time we had. Four years ago he met Wendy during the European Championships in Ireland, and the two had grown closer and closer. To my knowledge, they were the first European racquetball-couple.

On the day of Tim's cremation, over 140 family, relations, friends and colleagues came to pay their last respects. He leaves a huge emptiness in the lives of racquetball friends from Belgium Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands and world-wide. For his family and Wendy, this is an incredibly tragic loss. But Tim will always be remembered — especially on the last weekend in May, when the Gemini Open will be played (his initiative!). There I hope to see that the main award in the Men's Open in this event, will be named in his honor. For myself, I will always remember that Tim taught me the ropes of racquetball. I thank him for being my friend.

Japan Nationals
Submitted by Yasushi Tanahara

At the Men's 20th & Women's 18th Japan National Racquetball Championship, more than 400 players participated at the regional qualifiers, and 72 men and 32 women who survived those elimination matches gathered at Sports Club Together in Fukuoka city. This was the first National to be held in Kyushu, the southern end of Japanese Islands, and many local racquetball fans enjoyed watching the heated matches of top players. There were also two newspapers that covered the event.

In the men's division, No.2 seeded Hasegawa defeated the former
national champion Sakai to win his first national title in his 15 years of racquetball career. Also, Yasuda won her long awaited first title in the women’s division. Both players got the ticket to the world championship which will be held in Mexico next year.

**Men’s result:** Bunya Hasegawa def. Shoichi Sakai; 3. Tadayosi Kawai; 4. Yoshihiko Higasi

**Women’s result:** Shigemi Yasuda def. Yoko Mukai; 3. Etuko Noda; 4. Toshiko Sakamoto

**University of Southern Colorado Takes Mexico!**

From material by Richard Krinsky & Harvey Brannigan

Eight members of the USC men’s collegiate national champion racquetball team were invited in late September to play in a dual meet against a team of Mexican all-stars composed of members of the Mexican National and Pan-Am teams in Chihuahua, Mexico.

The much-heralded tournament was scheduled as an inaugural event for the grand opening of a new court facility in Chihuahua. The USC team visited the Governor of Chihuahua’s office on Friday morning, followed by formal opening ceremonies later that afternoon and match play beginning at 5:00 PM. The finals were played on Saturday evening followed by a banquet and the awarding of the Friendship Cup.

Each team member played two singles and one doubles match. Players were seeded 1-8 and paired against opponents of the same ranking. The USC squad won the tournament with victories in ten of the singles matches and five of the doubles. The new facility had glass back walls with stadium seating for 250 people per court, and all of the matches were sold out.

The trip to Chihuahua was a homecoming of sorts for four of the USC players who are from Chihuahua; Luis “Nacho” Bustillos, Sam Menache, Erwin Bernal, and Jesus “Chucho” Gutierrez. Bustillos played for Mexico in the Pan-Am games this summer and the other three players are either past or present members of the Mexican Junior National Team.

The USC team was led by top player Erin Brannigan, a junior from Sandpoint, Idaho. According to USC coach, Richard Krinsky, “Brannigan had a great tournament.”

He defeated the long time Mexican National Champion Alvaro Maldonado in straight games, 15-8, 15-8 on Friday, then defeated the No.2 ranked Mexican, Enrique Esarza, 15-10, 15-11 on Saturday. He wrapped up the event by teaming with Bustillos to defeat the Mexican doubles team of Maldonado and Esarza, 15-10, 14-15, 11-10. Next year the Mexican Team will travel to Pueblo, Colorado to attempt to recapture the Friendship Cup.

**European Racquetball Tour & Websites**

The European Racquetball Federation has announced the first European Racquetball Tour, with a new schedule, new rankings and two web sites dedicated to its promotion. Two top European players — Pascal Matla from Holland (calendar and rules commissioner) and Philippe Lecomte from France (rankings and results commissioner) — will be working on this major project. They would be pleased to share ERT news with other websites, and promote European Racquetball with results, rankings, news, pictures from their events.

Contact them online via:
- Pascal Matla
  k.matla@worldonline.nl
  http://home.worldonline.nl/~kmatla/index.htm
- Philippe Lecomte
  Racquetball.Plus@wanadoo.fr
  http://assoc.wanadoo.fr/racquetball.plus/summary.htm
Sadie Weds

On August 14, former Junior Team member and national titlist Sadie Gross became Mrs. Scott Hall in her hometown of Yankton, South Dakota. The newlyweds will reside in Memphis, where Sadie is completing the MBA program at the University of Memphis. The groom is a Memphis native who works as a sales representative and financial planner in the west Tennessee region.

College Athletes Start Season

by Pat Bernardo

The ECRC (Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference) got its season underway at the University of Maryland this year, where over 130 collegiate players from all over the east coast gathered for this weekend meet. The Men's #1 finals saw Daniel Escobar from the University of Georgia against Jason Sylvester from Penn State. Mr. Sylvester took the crown. In the women's division it was an all Penn State finals with Bridget Todd playing Kelly Lyon. Ms. Todd came away the winner. Penn State swept up the team competition to boot!

With twelve courts, over 300 matches and a heavyweight championship fight all to finish before high noon on Sunday, we have Paula Pero and the University of Maryland to thank! At least, for me, it was no sweat! Complete ECRC team standings, 1999-2000 schedule and other information can be found at www.Racquetworld.com/ECRC/

Cohen's New Look Dared on Denver Radio Station

Prior to the Colorado State Doubles Championships, Joe Cohen made a special appearance on a Denver radio station. While on the show, 49-year-old Cohen explained that his partner at the championships would be 13-year-old Tim Bjorkman. In an earlier tournament, the duo made it to the semifinals, but the nationally-ranked junior was used to winning tournaments, and was ready to lose his older partner until Cohen sweetened the pot. As part of the pair's agreement to play together at State Doubles, Cohen agreed to shave his beard (which he'd worn for 21 years), plus dye his hair blonde and spike it.

Baby, Baby, Baby!

Baby fever has hit the racquetball circuit. Former-racquetball all-star Michelle Gould and her husband Rod are expecting their first child in mid-January. IRT player Derek Robinson and his wife Tina are expecting their first child not long into the new year as well. Top-ranked IRT player Sudsy Monchik was spreading the good news at the U.S. OPEN that he and wife Lisa just found out they will be expecting a bundle of joy this summer, as well.

Dave and Lisa Peck had a first-rate Thanksgiving, with the birth of their first child, son Grayson. Dave's announcement read: "Here is why we are giving "thanks." His name is Grayson Heuer Peck, born on 11/16/99, weighing in at 7.5 lbs - 19 inches long. Laura is doing great and Grayson is surviving Dad being a spaz." Congratulations and best of luck!
January

At U.S. National Doubles Championships, Jeff Conine labeled with what kind of surgery plus the dates. Every part of my body that had surgery was Shining Armor to protect my body from any more injuries. Every part of my body that had surgery was labeled with what kind of surgery plus the dates.

Look Who's In The News...

At U.S. National Doubles Championships, Jeff Conine showed the city of Baltimore that he can hit something other than baseballs. Jeff and his wife Cindy were the focus of much of the media's attention at the championships, with the two being highlighted on both local and national television. Jeff also made a guest appearance on a Baltimore sports radio show during the tournament. The U.S. OPEN was the highlight of much of the Memphis media's attention, as well as media across the country. Thanks to a hard-working group of interns from the University of Memphis, newspapers from across the country were running U.S. OPEN results daily (see page 22). Their efforts even crossed the border northward, where U.S. OPEN athletes were featured guests on radio sports shows. In Memphis, Jason Mannino and Sudsy Monchik assisted with one of WHBQ-AM 560's sports call-in shows. During a live remote, Mannino and Monchik took calls throughout a two-hour broadcast. Monchik was also busy making the rounds of Memphis radio stations. He made an appearance on WMC-AM 790 sports call-in show, and WEGR-FM 102.7 morning show, where his lively spirit had him dishing out the dirt as fast as the hosts could take fun shots at him. All five of the local television stations were also giving daily reports on the U.S. OPEN. CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX and UPN all had camera crews in attendance daily during the event. Michael Eves, with ABC-affiliate WPTY, also did a special piece on Jason Mannino and his battle back from a life-threatening car accident. Once again this year, ESPN was on hand to tape the finals of the U.S. OPEN, which will be broadcast in early February on ESPN2... Jo Kenyon was the topic of a feature article in the Tallahassee Democrat after winning yet another title at the World Senior Championships in Albuquerque, N.M.

AmPRO Instructor Certification Clinic Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Host Club</th>
<th>City/State</th>
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<td>January 18-19</td>
<td>Pikes Peak Downtown YMCA</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, CO</td>
<td>Gary Mazaroff</td>
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<td>February 24-26</td>
<td>LA Fitness</td>
<td>Tempe, AZ</td>
<td>Joe Wittenbringer</td>
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<td>March 10-12</td>
<td>Ft. Myers Army Post</td>
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<td>March 14-15</td>
<td>Tyson's Sport &amp; Health</td>
<td>McLean, VA</td>
<td>Gary Mazaroff</td>
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For more information about conducting an AmPRO Instructor Certification clinic, or about becoming certified, please contact Gary Mazaroff [Director of AmPRO Instructor Certification] at 505/266-8960, email GMazaroff@usra.org, or contact any of the clinicians listed in the directory below — each of whom are qualified to offer clinics in your area.

Clinician Directory

- Dave George: California/Northern California, Nevada, 650-589-6904
- Jim Gillhouse: Colorado/Rocky Mountain, 719-471-0799
- Gary Mazaroff: Mexico/At Large, 505-266-8960
- Carol Pellowski: Wisconsin, 414-486-0914
- Ed Remen: North Carolina/Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, 919-363-4439
- Fielding Snow: Washington/Pacific Northwest, 206-363-0308
- Darryl Warren: California/Southern California, 310-530-9606
- David Watson: Oklahoma/Central States, 918-540-3503
- Joe Wittenbrink: Arizona, 480-883-1010
- Ken Woodfin: Texas, 281-280-8408

AmPRO Instructors! Check your online directory listing for accuracy! Follow links from www.usra.org | “AmPRO” | “Instructors” to see if we have your most recent contact information, then email us corrections, if needed!
HOODED SWEATSHIRT. Steel grey. 50/50, $40.00 M-XL [$44.00 XL]
Item #HS-01 (Genuine)
Item #HS-02 (Racquetball)

CREW NECK SWEATSHIRT. Steel grey, Sandalwood, Bluegrass. Heavyweight 95% Cotton, 5% poly.
$35.00 M-XL [$39.00 XXL]
Item #LS-03 (Genuine)
Item #LS-04 (United States)

TEES. 100% Cotton.
$16.00 M-XL [$18.00 XXL]
Item #TS-11 (Genuine) White, Ash
Item #TS-12 (United States) Navy, White, Ash
Item #TS-13 (USRA) Light Steel, White
Item #TS-14 (Racquetball) Purple, Forest, Black

SHORTS. 100% preshrunk cotton. Heather, Black. $20.00 M-XL. [No XXL] Item #SH-21

EMBROIDERED — FACING PAGE ...

ZIPPERED POLO SHIRT. White/Black, Leaf/Black. 100% Cotton. $30.00 M-XL [$32.00 XXL] Item #ZP-31

POLO SHIRT. White/Navy, White/Black. 100% Cotton. $39.00 M-XL [$41.00 XXL]
Item #BP-32

CREWNECK SHERPA FLEECE. Heather, Charcoal. 65% Cotton, 35% poly. $49.00
M-XL [$53.00 XXL] Item #FL-33

MICRO FIBER WIND SHIRT. Navy/white. $59.00 M-XL [$63 XXL] Item #WS-34

BASEBALL CAPS. Khaki/Ivy, Khaki/Navy
One size. $17 Item #BC-35
new for fall/winter!

remember to specify your logo choice when ordering embroidered items!

casual wear

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*Add $6.95 shipping/handling for first three pieces, plus $1.00 per piece thereafter. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery...

January – February 2000
WILSON 13TH
USRA NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARCH 3-5
The Concord Club
12320 Old Tesson Road
St. Louis, MO • 314-842-3111

• ENTRY FEES: $45.00/1st, $20.00/2nd, $15.00/3rd.
• DIVISIONS: Singles, doubles and mixed doubles. In
doubles, both players must be from the same school, except
in the non-championship mixed doubles event.
• ENTRY DEADLINE: Friday, FEBRUARY 18, (postmarked by
02/16).

• STARTING TIMES: 314-842-3111 after 5:00 pm (Central
Time) on Wednesday, MARCH 1. Do not call the national
office for starting times!
• PLAY BEGINS: Matches may be scheduled to begin as early
as 9:00 am on Friday, MARCH 3. Local players may be sched­
uled to begin play on Thursday evening.
• CHECK IN: Registration will be held at the club from 6:00
to 8:00 pm on Thursday, MARCH 2, plus all day on Friday.

• GROUND TRANSPORTATION: You must arrange your own
ground transportation on arrival at the airport. The host hotel
will provide shuttle service between the hotel and venue
during tournament hours.
• LODGING: Holiday Inn-South County Center [314-892-
3600] 6921 South Lindbergh Blvd. Rate: $68.00 per night for
up to four persons per room. Mention the High School
Championship to receive the special tournament rate.
• OFFICIAL BALL: Pro Penn.

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and Doubles #1,#2,#3. Women's Team—Singles
#1,#2,#3,#4, #5,#6 and Doubles #1,#2,#3. Only one
men's team and one women's team will be permitted
per school.
• ENTRY DEADLINE: Monday, MARCH 20 (postmarked
by 03/18). Entry fees and registrar eligibility form must
accompany entry.

• STARTING TIMES: Available by calling 480-894-2281
after 5:00 pm (Mountain Time) on Monday, APRIL 3. Do
not call the national office for starting times.
• PLAY BEGINS: 8:00 am Wednesday, APRIL 7. No
exceptions.
• CHECK-IN: Registration will be held at the club begin­
nning at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, APRIL 4.

• GROUND TRANSPORTATION: Both host hotels offer
shuttle service to and from airport.
• LODGING: Rodeway Inn-Tempe [480-967-3000] 1550
South 52nd Street. Rate : $75.00/night (includes conti­
nental breakfast). Comfort Suites [480-446-9500]
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Rate: $80.00/night (includes continental breakfast). You
must mention World Intercollegiates to receive these
special tournament rates.
• OFFICIAL BALL: Pro Penn.

... for complete entry forms, call 719-635-5396 or go online to:
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APRIL 14-16, 2000 Florida.
MAY 5-7, 2000 Seattle, WA.

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January – February 2000
January ...

**January 21-23**
- Alliance YMCA Rollout @ Alliance YMCA
- Big Chill @ Northwest Fitness Center
- Hall of Fame @ Central Courts
- Long Island Classic @ Sportset-R.V.C.
- Mitch Nathanson Classic @ Manchester Executive
- Smash Splash @ Green River Rec Center
- Super 6 @ Arizona Athletic Club
- Women's Senior/Master Association Championships [3].
  - Baltimore, MD
  - 410-655-7958

**January 22-23**
- Junior Stop #3 @ Pro Club
- Alaska State High School Champ @ The Alaska Club East [3]
  - Anchorage, AK
  - 907-337-9550
- Total Fitness 2000 @ Total Fitness Center
  - Ogden, UT
  - 801-399-5861

**January 27-30**
- Greeley Spa Shootout @ Conditioning Spa
  - Greeley, CO
  - 970-352-0974
- Delaware State Doubles @ Kirkwood Fitness & Racquet Club [3]
  - Wilmington, DE
  - 302-478-7919

February ...

**February 2-6**
- Fitness Center Invitational @ The Fitness Center
  - Gallup, NM
  - 505-722-5871
- February Fever @ Concord Sports Club
  - St. Louis, MO
  - 314-842-6363

**February 4-6**
- February Madness @ North Jeffco Racquet & Fitness
  - Arvada, CO
  - 303-403-2581
- Idaho State Doubles @ Fitness Inc [3]
  - Pocatello, ID
  - 208-233-8035

**February 5-6**
- Total Sports Annual @ Total Sports
  - Harrison TWP, MI
  - 810-463-2000
- St. Valentine's Day Massacre @ Redwood Multi-Purpose Center
  - West Valley City, UT
  - 801-887-2949
- February 9-13
  - Valentine Doubles @ The Alaska Club Midtown
    - Anchorage, AK
    - 907-337-9550
- February 11-13
  - Decathlon Pro-Am @ Decathlon Athletic Club
    - Bloomington, MN
    - 612-854-7171
  - Sportscenter Shootout 2000 @ Sportscenter Athletic Club
    - Lake Wylie, SC
    - 803-831-8331

February 16-18
- Alspor Open @ Rawlins Rec Center
  - Rawlins, WY
  - 307-328-4573
- February 16-19
- NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Invitational [5]
  - Fountain Valley, CA
  - 802-849-6298
- February 17-20
- Aurora City Open @ Colorado Athletic Club
  - Aurora, CO
  - 303-696-9313
- Tunt Michael Lanning Benefit @ Highway 100 Northwest A/C
  - Brooklyn Center, MN
  - 612-920-6652
- Mid-Winter Classic Doubles @ Fairbanks Athletic Club
  - Fairbanks, AK
  - 907-452-6801
- Missouri State Singles @ Missouri Athletic Club West [3]
  - St. Louis, MO
  - 314-539-4428
- Cortland College Shootout @ Cortland College
  - Cortland, NY
  - 315-782-1500
- Junior Regional @ Northwest Fitness Center [4]
  - Houston, TX
  - 713-432-0881
- Meadow City Racquetball Tournament @ Wilson Complex - NMHU
  - Las Vegas, NM
  - 505-454-0146
- Metro New York Open @ Sportset-R.V.C.
  - Rockville Centre, NY
  - 516-754-4564
- Washington State Singles @ Valley Athletic Club [3]
  - Tumwater, WA
  - 360-352-3400

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January – February 2000
February 19-21 7th Annual Winter Classic @ American Family Fitness Richmond, VA 804-330-3400
February 24-27 Lucent Quest Tournament @ McDermott's Athletic Club West Chester, PA 610-435-6200
February 27-27 Linnmar's Pro State Tournament @ Linnmar Athletic Colorado Springs, CO 719-598-4069
February 25-27 Midtown Racquetball Open @ Midtown Sports & Wellness Albuquerque, NM 505-897-2076
February 25-27 Adirondack Open @ Glen Falls Family YMCA Glens Falls, NY 518-793-3878
February 25-27 End of Winter Inspirational @ White Bear Athletic Club White Bear Lake, MN 651-426-1308
February 25-27 Fayetteville Classic @ The Sport Center Fayetteville, NC 910-864-3200
February 25-27 Grand Island YMCA Open @ Grand Island YMCA Grand Island, NE 308-381-2516
February 25-27 Vermont State Singles @ Racquet's Edge Essex Jct, VT 802-878-7033
February 25-27 Winter Classic @ La Camarilla Racquet & Fitness Scottsdale, AZ 480-730-8156
February 26-27 Players Club Challenge @ Players Club Warren, MI 810-774-6900
February 29-March 1 Spring Smash @ Marv Jensen Recreation Center South Jordan, UT 801-253-4404

March ...
March 3-5 Ball Buster @ Fitness Inc. Pocatello, ID 208-233-8035
March 3-5 Ewers Senior/Masters @ YMCA [3] Jefferson City, MO 573-635-4187
March 3-5 Maine State Doubles @ Racquetball International [3] Windham, ME 207-892-3231
March 3-5 Maryland/DC State Singles @ Merritt Athletic - Security [3] Baltimore, MD 410-987-0980
March 3-5 Omni 41 Amatulli Open @ Omni 41 Schererville, IN 219-865-6969
March 3-5 Pennsylvania State Singles @ Penn State University [3] State College, PA 610-892-6997
March 3-5 Quad West Spring Classic @ Quad West Clearwater, FL 727-335-4901
March 3-5 Rhode Island State Singles @ River Bend Athletic Club [3] Peace Dale, RI 401-789-9585
March 3-5 Scottsbluff YMCA Open @ Scottsbluff YMCA Scottsbluff, NE 308-231-2318
March 3-5 Wilson Doubles @ Central Courts Columbia Heights, MN 612-572-0330
March 3-5 Wilson 73rd USRA National High School Championships [6] St. Louis, MO 719-635-5396
March 4-6 Kidsport Mixed Doubles @ Sport 'N Scoops NY 315-782-1500
March 11-11 March Madness Open @ Shelby County Athletic Club Shelbyville, IN 317-897-5481
March 10-12 New York State Singles @ Court Club [3] Albany, NY 518-438-3935
March 10-12 Northeast Open @ Bellingham Athletic Club Bellingham, WA 360-676-1800
March 10-12 Pulse Athletic Club Open Greenfield, NC 252-756-9175
March 10-12 Texas State Singles @ Maverick Athletic Club [3] Arlington, TX 817-275-3348
March 15-19 17th Annual UCP @ Suburban Racquetball Club St. Cloud, MN 320-251-3965
March 15-19 Lucky Of The Heights @ Cottonwood Heights Rec Center Salt Lake City, UT 801-943-9673
March 17-19 Idaho State Singles @ 24 Hour Fitness [3] Boise, ID 208-377-0040
March 17-19 Green Mountain Open @ Racquet's Edge Essex Jct, VT 802-878-7033
March 17-19 Nebraska State Singles @ Sports Courts [3] Lincoln, NE 402-454-2765
March 17-19 Pro Kennex Saper Six Stop #6 @ Southview Athletic Club West St. Paul, MN 651-450-1660
March 18-19 St. Patrick's Day Classic @ Racket & Fitness Center Portland, ME 207-775-6128
March 18-19 St. Patrick's Festival @ Clovis Community College Clovis, NM 505-769-4153
March 18-19 Shapero Racquetball Open @ Shapes Family Fitness Center Watertown, NY 315-782-9348

upcoming 2000 national & international events ...
January 20-23 USRA Leadership Conference U.S. Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, CO 719-635-5396
January 21-23 Women's Senior/Master Racquetball Association Championship [5] Baltimore, MD 410-635-7958
March 3-5 Wilson 73rd USRA National High School Championships [6] St. Louis, MO 719-635-5396
April 5-9 E-Force 28th IFR World Intercollegiate Championships [5] TBA 719-635-5396
April 13-16 Ektelon USRA Regional Championships [4] Nationwide 719-635-5396
April 14-23 PARC Tournament of the Americas Cochabamba, Bolivia 719-635-5396

* For all sanctioned events [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2)
* Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date when expiration is shown as 02/00, you must renew your membership in the month of February in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.

January - February 2000
**men**

**Men’s Open**
1. Mike Locker, MN  
2. Adam Karp, CA  
3. Dan Lacerca, DE  
4. Michael Bronfeld, CA  
5. Brian Davis, LA  
6. Doug Ganin, OH  
7. Todd O’Neil, TX  
8. Dan Robison, UT

**Men’s A**
1. Barney Reuelva, TX  
2. David Gokie, CA  
3. Mike Cole, NH  
4. Sanjay Loforest, NY  
5. Travis Woodbury, WA  
6. Doug Brimm, TN  
7. Jeff Hamilton, OH  
8. Brian Mathieu, LA  
9. Eric Rieman, IL

**Men’s B**
1. Ryan Lindell, OR  
2. Eddie Pavloski, TX  
3. Angelo Perilli, PA  
4. Tony Garcia, CA  
5. Felix Marrero, LA  
6. Bill Boada, LA  
7. Dan Shupsky, FL  
8. Rob Bultinck, MN  
9. Joe Donner, FL  
10. Joe Bonavita, DE

**Men’s C**
1. Peter Michely, CA  
2. Donnie Crowe, LA  
3. Craig Sparks, AZ  
4. Matt Clark, IA  
5. Wes McDonald, LA  
6. J. Bruce Smith, CO  
7. Andy Silva, FL  
8. Arturo Burrell, TX  
9. Todd Christopherson, MN  
10. Eric Fitchkley, OH

**Men’s D**
1. Jerry Buchanan, LA  
2. Ryan Kinnaman, AR  
3. Garry Carter, CA  
4. David Eaton, OH  
5. Bradley Vaughan, NC  
6. Matt Straw, NJ  
7. Kris Robinson, KY  
8. Dan Robison, UT  
9. Emmanuel Drege, TX  
10. Mike Keddie, NH

**Men’s Novice**
1. Bobby Lovelle, OH  
2. Carlos Guzman, TX  
3. Chad Chaloux, NH  
4. Christopher Nichols, AR

**Men’s 45+**
1. Gary Moazazoff, NM  
2. Danny Vincent, OH  
3. Steve Silverman, SC  
4. Tom Weniger, CA  
5. Robert Gonzalez, NY  
6. Russ Polzera, CT  
7. Ed Garabedian, MA  
8. Jesus Motezuma, TX  
9. Dominic Palmieri, NY  
10. Tom Travers, OH

**Men’s 50+**
1. Bill Welaj, NJ  
2. Greg Hustly, IA  
3. Ed Remen, NC  
4. Jim Bailey, VA  
5. Tom McKie, TX  
6. Ron Galbreath, PA  
7. Fred Davis, CA  
8. Dave Arnold, NM  
9. Kevin Dorr, OR  
10. Mark Daigle, NY

**Men’s 55+**
1. Glenn Allen, VA  
2. Ray Huss, OH  
3. Warren Reather, LA  
4. Dennis O’Brien, ID  
5. Len Wilson, PA  
6. Ron Galbreath, PA  
7. Jim Trammell, MO  
8. G. Kyle Smith, TX  
9. Mickey Bellah, CA  
10. Bob Koe, TX

**Men’s 60+**
1. Lee Graff, OR  
2. Jim Wilking, UT  
3. Rex Lawler, IN  
4. Ben McCunniff, IA  
5. Grant Morrill, PA  
6. Jerry Holly, CA  
7. George Wade, MO  
8. Dario Mas, DE  
9. Jerry Northwood, CA

**Men’s 65+**
1. Don Alt, FL  
2. Not a Member, OH  
3. Not a Member, CA  
4. Paul Banales, AZ  
5. John O’Donnell, IL  
6. Dan Moxey, TX  
7. Robert Miller, SC  
8. Skip Kiphar, TX  
9. Bob Kleinschmidt, MN  
10. Mike Kesner, CA

**Men’s 70+**
1. Joe Lambert, TX  
2. Barney Friest, SD  
3. Philip Dziuk, IL  
4. Bill Reese, RE  
5. Victor Sacco, NY  
6. Chuck Matarano, IL  
7. Carl Buschner, MA  
8. Mal Roberts, FL  
9. Chuck Lake, VA  
10. Stan Fugate, FL

**Men’s 75+**
1. Nick Sans, CA  
2. Earl Auft, NC  
3. Robert McAdorn, TX  
4. Cam Snowberger, SC  
5. J. W. Studak, TX  
6. Al Romero, NM  
7. Bill Marston, NM  
8. Lake Westphal, AZ  
9. Myron Friedman, MD  
10. Carlton Appleby, CA

**Men’s Open**
1. Cheryl Kirk, IL  
2. Beth Rist, LA  
3. Janice Kennedy, GA  
4. Alice Anchen, FL  
5. T. Chris Auman-Wilks, NC  
6. Angela Cook, PA  
7. Gail Gobrysh, TX  
8. Stephanie Guthrie, GA  
9. Anne Debose, TX  
10. Lynn Hoorns, IL

**Women’s D**
1. Pamela Trent, MD  
2. Ramona Vanonderza, FL  
3. Samaria Bennett, TX  
4. Gretchen Gabor, NH  
5. Sunshine Dryer, OK  
6. Gennie Sainans, TX  
7. K. McCluskey-Romero, NM  
8. Lisa Crispin, CA  
9. Rita Derr, CO  
10. Sandy Jenkins, WI

**Women’s Novice**
1. Gretchen Gabor, NH  
2. Nancy Bennett, PA  
3. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH  
4. Kelly Parker, ID  
5. Genia Reilly, NM  
6. Elise Wilson, CT  
7. Anna Post, VA  
8. Theresa Alimena, OH  
9. Kim Baehmle, DE  
10. Lai Man Cheung, MA

**Women’s 24-**
1. Keni Stoffregen, IL  
2. Shannon Feaster, MD  
3. Anne Rector, NJ  
4. Sara Borland, IA  
5. Brooke Crawford, OR  
6. Megan Balf, NE  
7. Kristen Fritz, PA  
8. Christina Lewendal, OR  
9. Kristen Sutek, TX  
10. Sadie Gross, TN

**Women’s 25+**
1. Heather Dunn, CA  
2. Jo Schattuck, CO  
3. Jen Yokota, MO  
4. Lisa Marie Papp, PA  
5. Jennifer Derig, NY  
6. Not a Member, PA  
7. Lori Lepow, FL  
8. Kelley Beaney, NH  
9. Holly Remen, NC  
10. Esther McNamara, CT

**Women’s 30+**
1. Kim Russell, CA  
2. Lorraine Galloway, NW  
3. Michelle Lucas, VA  
4. Kelley Beaney, NH  
5. Lori Lepow, FL  
6. Micky Richer, CO  
7. Cheryl Conrad, IA

**Women’s A**
1. Esther McNamara, CT  
2. Janel Traseng, CA  
3. Sharon Steele, SC  
4. Not a Member, VA  
5. Shirley Parsons, CO  
6. Ann Hamill, PA  
7. Patrice Covi, IL  
8. Kathy Cornell, MD  
9. Kathy Roper, CO

**Women’s B**
1. Michelle Poage, AK  
2. Diane Taylor-Watman, VA  
3. Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA  
4. Kathy Welker, TX  
5. Rhonda Kochis, OK  
6. Renee Kemp, MD  
7. Charlotte Keachersperger, MA  
8. Catherine Radloff, IL  
9. Bette Miller, CO  
10. LaVonne Kohlhepp, WI

**January – February 2000**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women's 35+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Denise Mock, TX</td>
<td>2. Holly Remen, NC</td>
<td>3T. B. Jo Kenyon, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Lesley Kishigian, MI</td>
<td>2T. Brenda White, IL</td>
<td>4. T. Gerri Stoffregen, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Helen Marseo, NY</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Not a Member, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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| Women's 40+                           |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|                                |
| 1. Debbie Truax, CA                   | 2. Susan Pfahler, FL             | 6. Chris Evan, IL                |                                |
| 11. Sherri Feldman, NY                |                                | 10. Shari Ludwig, PA             |                                |

| Women's 45+                           |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|                                |
| 1. Karen Key, AZ                      | 2. Brenda White, IL              | 3. Not a Member, CA             |                                |
| 6T. Agatha Falso, FL                  | 7. Debbie Luttrell, TX           | 9. Nan Higgins, UT              |                                |
| 9. Linda Benzel, PA                   | 10. Marsha Berry, KY             |                                |                                |

| Women's 50+                           |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|                                |
| 5. Donna Ebner, MO                   | 6. Agatha Falso, FL             | 6T. Pottie Schof, LA            |                                |
| 6T. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR        | 8T. Sharon Huczek, MI           | 10. Mary Jane Weldin, DE        |                                |

| Women's 55+                           |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|                                |
| 1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR         | 2. Gail Schafer, MD             | 4T. Gerri Stoffregen, OH        |                                |
| 5. Marquita Molina, CA               | 6T. Mildred Gwinn, NC           | 6T. Nidia Funes, CA             |                                |
| 10. Louise Graham, WI                |                                |                                |                                |

| Women's 60+                           |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|                                |
| 1. Not a Member, NE                   |                                | 2. Jo Kenyon, FL                |                                |
| 2T. LaVonne Kohlsepp, WI              | 3. Susan Embry, WA              | 4. Miguel Martinez, AK           |                                |
| 5. Audrey Lenroot, WI                | 6T. Naomi Reid, MO              | 7T. Andrew Peterson, OR         |                                |
| 6T. Jean Tid, IL                      | 7. Joan Faith, CO               | 8T. Jordan Faith, CO            |                                |
| 11. T. Jo Kenyon, FL                  |                                | 12T. Brenda White, IL           |                                |

| Women's 70+                           |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|                                |
| 1. Reta Harring, WI                   | 2. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA       | 3T. Mary Lou Kackert, NM        |                                |
| 4T. Mary Lou Kackert, NM              | 5. Reta Harring, WI             | 6. Debbie Chaney, IN            |                                |

| Women's 80+                           |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|                                |
| 1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC                |                                | 2. Billy Wainwright, OR         |                                |
| 5. Lesley Kishigian, MI              |                                | 6. Nidia Funes, NM              |                                |
| 7. Debbie Luttrell, TX                |                                | 8. Mary-Low Acuff, NC           |                                |

| Boys 6 & Under                        |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|                                |
| 4T. Dan Rin, MN                      |                                | 7. Jordan Faith, CO             |                                |
| 8. Taylor Regier, OR                 |                                | 9. Not a Member, OR             |                                |
| 10. Brad Falvey, WI                  |                                | 11. Andrew Peterson, OR         |                                |

| Boys 8 & Under                        |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|                                |
| 3T. Matthew Hunter, FL               | 4. Calvin Godwin, FL            | 5. Shannon Ingleby, OR          |                                |
| 4T. Matthew Hunter, FL               | 5. Andi Moore, NY               | 6. Briana Elder, MD             |                                |
| 8. Taylor Regier, OR                 | 9. Mattie Riede, NH             |                                |                                |
| 9. Not a Member, OR                  |                                | 10. Not a Member, NE            |                                |
| 10. Brad Falvey, WI                  |                                | 11. Mary-Low Acuff, NC          |                                |

| Boys 10-18                            |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|                                |
| 10. Andrew Peterson, OR              |                                |                                |                                |

| Girls' 8 & Under                      |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|                                |
| 1. Wesley Toland, AR                 | 2. Stephanie Rojas, OR          | 3. Samantha Pimental, OR        |                                |

| Girls' 10-18                          |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|                                |
| 4. Shannon Ingleby, OR               |                                | 5. Jordan Faith, CO             |                                |

| Event Level/Description               |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|                                |
| 1 = Closed State Tournament          | 2 = Open Tournament             | 3 = State Championship         |                                |
| 4 = Regional Championship            | 5 = National Invitational       | 6 = National Championship      |                                |
| 1st = 1st Place Finisher             | 2nd = 2nd Place Finisher        | 3rd = 3rd Place Finisher        |                                |
| 4th = 4th Place Finisher             | 5th = 5th Place Finisher        | 6th = 6th Place Finisher        |                                |

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

January - February 2000
IRT Rankings
[Through 12/11/99]

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<th>Player</th>
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<td>John Ellis</td>
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<td>Jason Mannino</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Guidry</td>
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<td>James Mulcock</td>
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WIRT Rankings
[Through 12/11/99]

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<th>Player</th>
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<th>Last Year</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jackie Paraiso</td>
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<td>Cheryl Gudinas</td>
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<td>Christie Van Hees</td>
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<td>Kersten Hallander</td>
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<td>Janet Myers</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>19t</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>Sadie Hall</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>36t</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin Levine</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
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1999-2000 IRT SCORECARD & CALENDAR

New Orleans........Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain........6, 1, 6
Stockton........Sudsy Monchik def. John Ellis.........(7), 5, 8, 5
Albuquerque........Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik....7, 11, 8-2 (inj)
Chicago........Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain........8, 3, 5
Memphis........Jason Mannino def. Cliff Swain........8, (4), 8, 8
Lakewood........Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain........(9), 7, 6, 2

January 13-16......Denver, CO..............................Denver Athletic Club
January 20-23......Boston, MA..............................Ridge Athletic Club
February 10-13.....Fairfield, NJ............................46th Fitness
February 17-20.....Brooklyn Ctr, MN......NW Hwy 100 Racquet/Swim
February 24-27.....Rochester, NY..........................Penfield Racquet & Fitness
March 9-12.........Birmingham, AL............................TBA
March 23-26.......Santa Barbara, CA........Goleta Valley Athletic Club
April 26-30........Las Vegas, NV................Las Vegas Sporting House
May 11-14.........Seattle, WA...............................TBA
May 18-21........San Diego, CA.............................Sorrento Valley Fitness Club
June 1-4..............Portland, OR..........................Multnomah Athletic Club

1999-2000 WIRT SCORECARD & CALENDAR

Albuquerque..........Jackie Paraiso def. Cheryl Gudinas.........9, 9, 8
Memphis...........Jackie Paraiso def. Christie Van Hees (8), 11, 1, (5), 2
Lakewood...........Jackie Paraiso def. Cheryl Gudinas....(7), 3, 5, (10), 1

March 17-19.........Roanoke, VA..............................Roanoke Athletic Club
March 24-26.......Arlington, VA........Crystal Gateway Sport & Health
April 26-30........Las Vegas, NV................Las Vegas Sporting House
June 1-4..............Portland, OR..........................Multnomah Athletic Club

New Look! Leggy WIRT Pros Adopted the "Non-Pleated" Skirt Look in a Hurry. Above: Kersten Hallander Hides Her Serve at Her Hem; Right: Susana Acosta Covers The Court. Photos: Vicki Hughes.
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#1 ranked player in the world* & two-time Pro World Champion

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