Season Finale Issue!
- Pro Nationals
- U.S. Nationals
- Canadian Nationals

John Ellis vs. Kane Waselenchuk

INSIDE — U.S. OPEN Entry
PLUS ...
- Intercollegiates
- Meet Ray Schultz
- Annual Award Winners
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I'm a big fan of the "print vehicle" (go figure) as a delivery method for just about every type of information I can imagine. I like getting real mail; I like to send cards for no reason. I don't use a PDA and there are chunks of time in my schedule where it seems that my entire life is held together by small scraps of paper. Everywhere. I've simply got to write things down. It's either that, or the lobotomy that I've been saving up for ...

At the same time, I'm fond of the immediacy offered by the internet (hey, it prints?!?) and the flexibility of news delivery at the speed of an upload, rather than going through all that icky film, paper and ink ... and anthrax! Nothing makes me happier than being able to say "it's on page 52, in the magazine" or "it's on the website" in answer to just about any question. Between the two forms, I'm pretty much covered, and I'm just as likely as anyone to flip through physical pages of a back issue, or resort to surfing, to find some critical bit of information. And I know where all the bodies — um, facts and figures — are buried, too ... so if it's published, I can find it. Somewhere.

So, where is this heading? Hopefully, direct to your own laptop (where the cat sits) or to your desktop (where the PC sits). In a move designed to "lighten the load" on state organizations, the USRA board recently approved a modified "publication requirement" which will allow your neighborhood association to replace up to two quarterly newsletters per year with a dynamic, frequently-updated, knock-your-socks-off website. Both the print and internet components of the requirement will continue to be underwritten by your fees (one-third of all membership monies stay with state associations), so we think it's doable. I tried to sneak our operation into the mix, but they caught me ...

So, rather than being able to simply count how many state newsletters are being printed annually, we'll be looking for virtual watchdogs to check out the cyber-environment of your racquetball community. We'll do the physical count (1-2, 1-2), but you'll have to help us track the websites. The basics? A tournament calendar, a comprehensive state club list with contact names/numbers, a board list, rankings, standard newsletter content/tournament reporting, links to USRA sites and membership sign-ups. Better? Online registrations and drawsheets, opt-in player databases ("find a player" service), archives of state championship winners, award records, historical data, tips & instructional from local players ... in short, virtually everything that's fit to print!

State websites will have to be updated at least quarterly, but it will ultimately be the users who will have the best feel for what is needed, and what's working. Compare the two methods: print and internet, and see which form you use the most to gather information that will help your game, and keep you playing. We're counting on you to give feedback to both your state association, and the national office, on your findings. Ready ... set ... surf!
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U.S. OPEN .......................... Insert & Inside Back Cover

... on the cover ... Top-ranked Canadian Kane Waselenchuk bears down on a forehand against John Ellis at the Pro Nationals. Ellis went on to win it [story, page 21]. Photo: John Foust.

... this page ... Krystal Csuk earned her first appointment to the U.S. National Team with her upset win over defending champ Kristen Walsh at the Intercollegiate Nationals in April. [story, page 17]. Photo: Mike Lawrence.
Pulling Together

Martin and Tony Gonzalez, of Illinois, both qualified for Nationals. I congratulated them and said I was looking forward to good results since they were both nationally ranked. Martin then confided in me that he had qualified before but could never afford the trip to Houston for a full week.

Knowing Martin and Tony were too modest to ask for sponsorship on their own, the club members started a collection, but we had to work fast. Within a few days we had collected over $600 but that wasn’t near enough to send both of them to Houston. Since both Martin and Tony work at Bally’s Health and Fitness Club I decided to contact Bally’s corporate management to see if they could help. They were happy to hear about Martin and Tony and decided to help defray the costs as well.

Special thanks to Tom Negrete of the Bloomingdale Racquetball Club, Illinois, for housing Martin and Tony during the regional tournament.

Bottom line on all this is: Bally’s won by sponsoring their own personnel at a national level and hopefully this will generate new sponsors. The Bally’s Matteson club members won by being able to take part in sponsoring two of their own members at such a high athletic level. Martin and Tony won by being able to compete at a national level — finally! Racquetball fans everywhere can also win if they follow this example and can generate their own sponsorships.

The result? Even though Tony had one of the largest brackets (64 in Men’s B) he was still able to fight through to the finals. Martin apologized for not doing as well as his brother; he was only able to battle for third place in Men’s 30+ A/B.

Martin also told me that his story was circulated around the tournament and many players told him they were going to go back to their own clubs and start similar sponsor programs to generate new interest in our sport. [Pictured L-R: Tony, Al & Martin]

Getting Together

I just wanted to thank you for publishing the picture I submitted in the March-April issue of the magazine. It was titled “Separated at Birth?” and was a picture of tournament regulars Kirk Yoo and Claude Wiggins. I just learned this past weekend that because of that picture Claude has been re-united with some of his old military friends he had lost touch with. He received calls from old friends in Hawaii, Kentucky, and Georgia that saw his picture in the magazine and had no idea where he was living now. He was very grateful for the chance to connect again with these old friends and I just wanted to pass that on to you.

Lynn Stephens • North Carolina

Correction

The credit line for last issue’s cover photo was inadvertently dropped from the contents page... leaving the photographer’s name a mystery. The shot of 2001 champions Cheryl Gudinas and Jack Huczek was taken by Cecil Haynes (pictured at right), and the page three photo of the downtown YMCA came from USRA staffer Tyler Ohlbrecht. Sorry for losing that type (I hate when that happens!) — Editor.

Comeback “Kids”

There is an exclusive “club-within-a-club,” non-organization in the racquetball community. They don’t have meetings, do not pay dues, don’t vote in new entrants, or issue membership cards. They do not ordinarily identify themselves as part of an exclusive group, nor do they seek any notoriety. The initiation fee, however, is a real doozy.

During a break in a recent doubles match I casually asked one of the other players “How are the knees doing since the operation?” “They’re feeling a lot better now” chimed in all three, catching me completely off guard. At the Texas regional, all four of us had competed in our respective divisions, along with a young fellow smashing his way to the top of his division on a prosthetic leg, and a couple of other dual-knee surgical veterans. At the national “Finals” (where all eight were playing) I had the pleasure of competing against a fellow whose quick movements to all corners of the court while handing me a serious drubbing (for which I plan to even the score), never offered the barest hint that a hip replacement had been a part of his...
Ektelon, the brand that has crowned the most National Champions, would like to congratulate Mike Guidry and the rest of the Team Ektelon players for their National Singles Championship!

Team Ektelon, the most distinguished and premier team in racquetball!

### 2002 Ektelon Champions

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- **Ruben Gonzalez** - Men’s 45 Singles
- **Roger Wehrle** - Men’s 60 Singles
- **Kerri Wachtel** - Women’s 25 Singles
- **Elaine Albrecht** - Women’s 30 Singles
- **Susan Pflaher** - Women’s 45 Singles
- **Arthur Schmeiser** - Men’s 24 - C/D
- **Pete Chmielewski** - Men’s 50 - A/B
- **Kyle Smith** - Men’s 60 - A/B
- **Matthew Anderson** - Men’s Elite
- **Marcy Laramee** - Women’s 24/25 - C/D
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First and Four ... After a grueling week of celebrating dual anniversaries at the 2002 Ektelon USRA National Singles Championships, it was Mike Guidry and Cheryl Gudinas who came away with the grand prizes – a first-ever national singles title for southpaw Guidry, and the fourth in a series of such victories for Gudinas. For the event itself, it was a 35th anniversary, after it all began in 1968 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For the venue, it was the 20th straight year that National Singles had returned to Houston, Texas. For the over 650 entrants to this year’s Finals, it was another chance to take home a national title.

Men’s Open
After two preliminary rounds in the men’s open U.S. Team qualifying division, Dan Llacera kicked things off at high noon with his upset defeat of fourth seeded Chris Wright, in straight games of 15-12, 15-4, in the round of 16.

Last fall, Llacera and partner Brian Pointelin, caught everyone by surprise in Las Vegas at National Doubles when they defeated the second seeded team of Adam Karp and Brett Harnett on their way to a finals appearance and U.S. National Team spots. Could Houston shape up to be Llacera’s new Vegas?

“It does seem a lot like Vegas to me,” he explained. “Before I serve I even imagine seeing Brian in the box.”

With the win, Llacera joined three other players in the top half of the bracket to make it into the quarterfinals. Jack Huczek, Michael Bronfeld, and Adam Karp all won in straight games – not so amazing, given that they hold five national singles crowns between them. Bronfeld and Karp have each won back-to-back national titles and Huczek seemed set on accomplishing the same feat with a repeat win this year.

The other huge upset of the day came in the bottom half of the bracket at the hands of Josh Tucker, who defeated perennial semifinalist and third seeded Dan Fowler in a thriller. Tucker took the first game 15-12 only to see Fowler knot things up by winning the second game with an identical score. In a tiebreaker at a national championship, experience is usually the edge, but it was Tucker who stepped up his play in the final game to win 11-7.

Qualifying Round
The quarterfinal round in Houston is perhaps one of the biggest rounds in racquetball – win, and you are assured a spot on the U.S. National Team – lose, you have another year to think about what you could have done differently.

But there was not as much pressure on Huczek and Guidry, who had already earned their spots on the team for wins at National Intercollegiates and National Doubles, respectively. For them, it was just another step towards the championship. But Llacera, already on the team for his silver medal finish at National Doubles, felt the need to reaffirm that he belonged there, by double-
... it's gudinas qualifying at National Singles. “You have to back up your play,” he said. “I don’t want it to seem like a fluke.”

Shane Vanderson had recently lost his spot on the team in April when he was defeated at intercollegiates by Huczek in what USRA Executive Director Jim Hiser said was “one of the best matches I have seen in some time.” After losing to Huczek a tiebreaker, Vanderson was quoted, “Just wait until Houston.” Bronfeld and Karp were also trying to regain spots lost on the team. Both have been on the team several times; Karp last qualified in 2000 and Bronfeld in 1999.

Then there was Jason Thoerner and Josh Tucker — neither had ever qualified for the team before, so it was guaranteed that at least one rookie would be appointed at the close of their match.

The first game between them was a seesaw battle as the two exchanged several lead changes and big shots, but it was Tucker who edged out the win, 15-14. The second game was all Thoerner as he seemed to find his rhythm — and his drive serve. “I played more consistent in the second game,” Thoerner explained. “I hit my passes deeper and also started drive serving better.”

After Thoerner won the second game 15-7, Tucker quickly took a 3-0 lead in the tiebreaker, before Thoerner battled back to first tie the score, then take a 3-point lead himself at 6-3. At that point Tucker took a blow to the ear on the follow through of a Thoerner backhand. After an injury timeout, and treatment from Curtis “Spazz” Smith, a shaken Tucker returned to the court. Even with a series of sideouts, Thoerner only gave up one more point on the way to earning the 11-4 victory.

Although excited about his U.S. Team appointment Thoerner stated he wasn’t satisfied with his performance in Houston just yet. “My goal is to win the tournament. I haven’t been training for this just to make the team.”

Huczek faced two-time champion Adam Karp and played nearly flawlessly in the first game, walking away with it 15-1. Karp made it a match in the second, but Huczek was just too much and won 15-12. Another two-time champion, Michael Bronfeld, ended Llacera’s bid to double-qualify in straight games 15-8, 15-5. Guidry, shooting the ball at every opportunity, ended Vanderson’s hopes of re-qualifying for the team, also in straight games, 15-9, 15-11. “He’s a good shooter and rips the ball real well,” Guidry said after the match. “I just wanted to keep the pressure on him so I went offensive every time I could.”

2002 Ektelon 35th National Singles Championships
Presented by Head/Penn Racquet Sports
Coverage by Ryan John • Photos by John Foust

“I just try to treat every tournament as a separate challenge ... Next year isn’t going to get any easier.”
Semifinals

The top half pitted current and former champions Huczek and Bronfeld, and the bottom half had Guidry taking on Thoerner, both of them shooting for their first title.

Huczek came in as a heavy favorite to repeat, but the pressure is always more on the hunted than the hunter. Nobody knows that better than Bronfeld, who overcame the pressure in 1995 to win his second straight. Huczek, however, quickly erased any speculation that the pressure might be getting to him by swiftly defeating Bronfeld in the first game 15-2.

But only minutes later, it was easy to see how Bronfeld had won back-to-back titles in Houston by the way he came out for round two. Unfazed by the previous game, he took advantage of every missed opportunity by Huczek. The score stayed close until the two found themselves knotted at 8-8, and Huczek then took a timeout to re-think his strategy. It turned out to be a great call on his part; Bronfeld was only able to score one more point and Huczek earned his second straight finals appearance by winning game two 15-9. “In the first game I came out hot and with a lot of intensity. I started the second game slower and with less intensity,” Huczek explained. “Tomorrow I am going to try to stay focused and play with high intensity the entire match.”

Thoerner came out in the first game against Guidry just as he’d stated, showing no signs of being satisfied with just a semifinal appearance, and quickly taking a 7-2 lead on Guidry. “He was hitting well and I felt a little flat,” Guidry said. Guidry quickly turned the tables and Thoerner saw his lead evaporate just as quickly as it was built. In fact, Guidry went on a tear and scored 13 unanswered points to take the first game 15-7.

Guidry didn’t cool off in the second, either. He stayed focused and jumped out to an 11-3 lead, which took him to match point at 14-6. Thoerner then woke up and began to get his drive serve in. Every time Guidry would have a chance to close out the match, six times in all, Thoerner would come up with the big shot to keep himself in it.
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With Thoerner taunting Guidry after every rally it suddenly became a two-point game at 14-12. Finally on his sixth match point Guidry was able to close it out. "I started to get a little tight and he started to relax and hit some shots," Guidry said after the match. "I went into the match expecting it (the taunting). His serves are what actually started bothering me."

**The Final**

Going in, the final was a rematch of last year's semifinal, in which Huczek easily handled Guidry in straight games 15-5, 15-6. Both of the players knew that this was a new year and Guidry seemed like a new Guidry. Known for flying around the court making great gets, he performed as expected, but also hit the ball more aggressively and with more power than before.

The first game was played at an awesome pace, one that oddly seemed to suit Guidry more so than the younger Huczek, who was uncharacteristically error-prone. Guidry jumped out to an 8-3 lead before Huczek called a timeout that didn't help much, followed by Guidry extending his lead to 14-6. Again he had trouble closing out the game as the two players exchanged seven side outs before Huczek ran four straight points to close the gap at 14-10. Guidry then appeared to win the first game, but Huczek appealed a non-hinder call and it was overturned. With both players moving well, three more hinders were called on game point before Guidry finally reached 15-10.

As fast as the pace had been in the first game, Huczek slowed it to a crawl in the second after finding himself down 6-1. Ironically it was Huczek who tried to speed up the pace in the finals last year against the notoriously slow and controlled Rocky Carson. The slowdown began to work for Huczek as he erased Guidry's lead and took his own at 13-10. Guidry pulled within one at 13-12, but Huczek wasn't ready to give up his title just yet and forced a tiebreaker by winning the second game 15-12.

"He slowed down the game and switched up his serve, which was a good call on his part," Guidry said. "I just tried to stay aggressive, but not too aggressive to where I would make stupid mistakes."

Where the first game may have been too hot and the second too cold, the tiebreaker was just right. Would Huczek earn his spot in the records by becoming the eighth player to win back-to-back national titles or would Guidry be able to overcome the odds to take home his first? The players were tied at 1-1, 2-2, and 3-3 before Guidry built the largest lead of the game at 8-4. Huczek brought the match closer at 9-7, but Guidry quickly moved to match point. Again he had trouble closing it out and Huczek came up with big shots when he needed them to pull within one point at 10-9. On his sixth try (again) Guidry got the monkey off of his back and earned his first national title 11-9.

"It's always been a goal of mine and something that I am very proud of, especially at my age," Guidry said after the match. "I probably don't have a lot of years left." Guidry, who turned 32 the following Tuesday, should talk to his doubles partner Ruben Gonzalez, who turns 50 in July, about just how many years he has left.

**Still drawing a crowd** ... Marty Hogan rests between games of his Men's 30+ quarterfinal against Julio Junki. It was "standing room only" to watch one of the sport's legends.
**Women's Open**

Play began in earnest for the women in the second day of competition, as all of the top seeds saw action. By the end of the day two of them would narrowly escape elimination and another wouldn't be so lucky.

Wachtel, current U.S. OPEN champion and the No.6 seed, was nearly upset by Jo Shattuck after dropping the first game 15-11. Shattuck nailed shot after shot, but ran out of steam as Wachtel came back in the second and the tiebreaker to advance 15-5, 11-2.

Seventh seeded Kristen Walsh also escaped an upset by Malia Bailey. Walsh won a close first game 15-13 but then Bailey put on a show in the second by serving up a “donut” to Walsh 15-0. Walsh quickly put the second game behind her and handed back a twinkie to Bailey in the tiebreaker, defeating her 11-1.

Fifth seeded Rhonda Rajsich wasn't so lucky in the round of 16 when she lost to Elaine Albrecht in a close match that went to a tiebreaker. Albrecht had played a number of LPRA stops this past season and recorded some big wins, but none were as big as the one against Rajsich. After splitting the first two games, the match went into overtime — a plus for Albrecht, since Rajsich was nursing an ankle injury from pro nationals only a few weeks before. Rajchic gave it a shot but Albrecht's game was on and she advanced into the quarterfinals with an 11-9 win.

**The Team Cut**

All of the players in the quarterfinals had previously been on the national team although some, like Wachtel and Albrecht, hadn't served for nearly 10 years. Walsh just recently lost her spot to Krystal Csuk at the U.S. Intercollegiate Championships and wanted desperately to regain it in Houston. Rice, Fenton, and Hallander are long-time team veterans but needed wins to remain on the team.

Gudinas and Russell were the only two players without the added pressure of re-qualifying, since they’d won U.S. National Doubles Championships as partners. As opponents, neither had anything but a win in mind. Russell, known for her doubles play, came out hot and took the first game 15-10. Gudinas, one of the most mentally-tough players on the circuit, turned things around in the second to win 15-6. The tiebreaker began close, but Gudinas pulled away to win it 11-6.

“One of Wachtel’s goals after winning the U.S. OPEN was to compete for the U.S., and she was only one win away from earning a spot on the team and getting that chance. Fenton set a goal two years ago (after a back injury) that she would win a national and a world title in 2002. Only one of them would be able to continue toward their goal after this particular playoff. The first game was all Wachtel and it looked as though she might end the match quickly, after a 15-7 first game win. But the experienced Fenton replied with a 15-12 win, then continued to carry the momentum into the tiebreaker and to an 11-6 advance.

Wachtel’s longtime friend, Albrecht, had already upset the fifth seed, now had set her sights on fourth seeded Hallander. Hallander won the first game 15-12 and Albrecht did her one point better in the second 15-11. In the end it was Hallander that overcame Albrecht’s strong upset bid, and crowd support from a throng of Ohioans rooting for Albrecht, to advance into the semifinals for the second straight year.

To close out the team round, only Rice didn’t need a tiebreaker to advance; she beat Walsh in straight games of 15-6, 15-8.

**Semifinals**

It was a repeat lineup of the same four players who’d reached the semifinals last year but the pairings were switched. This year Gudinas would face Hallander, and Rice was set to go against Fenton.

First up was second seeded Rice against third seeded Fenton. Both players were trying to capture their first national singles championship and have faced each other several times in the past trying to get there.

Fenton set the tone on the first rally of the match. After receiving an odd bounce from a Rice pass, Fenton...
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adjusted her shot and hit a winner between her legs. From that sideout she put together a run of four straight points on her way to a commanding 9-2 lead. Rice fought to even things up, but Fenton went on to take the first game easily 15-7.

Fenton again started out fast in the second game, serving an ace to start play, and jumped out to an early 3-0 lead. This time it was Rice who's hand would get hot as she scored seven unanswered points to take a 7-3 lead. Fenton fought back and tied it up at 11-11, and after exchanging serve four more times, Fenton took the lead for good on her way to a 15-13 win that put her into the finals.

"I felt like I played with a lot of intensity and focus," Fenton said after the match. "I hit a wall (in the second game) but kept working at it until I eventually got through it."

Gudinas, not a fan of tiebreakers, came out looking to end the match in two. She jumped out to a quick 11-3 lead despite great diving gets by Kersten, who pulled within three points at 11-8. But that was as close as she would get as Gudinas closed it out and positioned herself for a fourth national crown on Sunday.

Gudinas felt that winning the first game was the key to the match. "Whoever doesn't win a 15-14 game is going to come onto the court for the next game depressed. I think that is what happened to Kersten at the beginning of the second game."

One more Time
The finals were actually anti-climactic as Fenton began to experience renewed pain in her back and arms from her accident two years ago. "I felt good all week until today," Fenton said after the match. "You have to have all of your tools physically and I didn't. I am not taking anything away from Cheryl. She is a great player."

As much as Fenton was feeling bad, Gudinas was feeling just fine, which didn't make for a good combination on the court. "I think I played my best today," Gudinas said. "I was a little uptight because I felt like I hadn't been playing as well as last year, especially after watching the way Laura played all week."

Gudinas won the match 15-6, 15-5 to become only the second woman to ever win four straight national singles championships. The other person is Michelle Gould who holds the record with five in a row. At 35, Gudinas has the record in her mind but knows that it won't be a walk in the park to get there. "I just try to treat every tournament as a separate challenge," she explained. "Next year isn't going to get any easier."
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OPEN U.S. TEAM QUALIFIER
Men's Open: Mike Guidry (Carrollton, Texas) def. Jack Huczek (Rochester, Mich.) 15-10, 12-15, 11-9
Women's Open: Cheryl Gudinas (Lisle, Ill.) def. Laura Fenton (Overland Park, Kan.) 15-6, 15-5

MEN
Men's A: Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.) def. Kipp Atwell (Denham Springs, La.) 15-12, 15-6
Men's B: Carlos Ramirez (Miami, Fla.) def. Tony Gonzales (Sterger, Ill.) 15-11, 13-7
Men's C: Harold Beshaw (Ulitza, Pa.) def. Richard Martin (Houston, Texas) 15-12, 15-10
Men's D: David Aguierre (Alta Loma, Calif.) def. David Sadler (Livingston, TN) 13-15, 15-14, 11-5

AGE DIVISIONS
Men's 24+: Andres Ramirez (Winter Park, Fla.)
Men's 80+: Robert McAdam (Crowley, Texas)
Men's 40+: Tom Travers (Westlake, Ohio) def. Don Alt (Ft. Myers, Fla.) 15-10
Men's 50+: Mitt Layton (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.) 15-12, 15-13
Men's 55+: Ronald McEwee (Huntsville, Ala.)
Men's 60+: Roger Wehrle (Flowery Branch, Ga.)
Men's 70+: Don Alt (Ft. Myers, Fla.) def. Joe Lambert (Plano, Texas) 15-2, 15-13
Men's 75+: Duane Russell (Lansing, Mich.)
Men's 80+: Arturo Burtuel (Flt. Worth, Texas)

WOMEN
Women's Elite: Alime Roehler (Sterling, N.J.)
Women's A: Leah Upshaw (Evans, Ga.) def. Janel Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) 11-15, 15-10, 11-3
Women's B: Elizabeth Shaia (Victoria, Texas) def. Sara Noyes (Boynton Beach, Fla.) 15-3, 11-5
Women's C: Ann Barnes (Cantebury, Conn.) def. Helen Shockey (Shaker Heights, Ohio) 15-14, 15-6
Women's D: Jennifer Sisler (Houston, Texas) def. Victoria Pickard (Orlando, Fla.) 13-15, 15-9, 15-5
Women's 24+: Ada Fisher (Dayton, Ohio) def. Janel Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) 11-15, 15-10
Women's 25+: Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.) def. Enrique Loaiza (Mission Viejo, Calif.) 15-10, 11-9
Women's 30+: Vicente Alie (Marietta, Ga.)
Women's 35+: Arturo Burtuel (Flt. Worth, Texas) def. Enrique Loaiza (Mission Viejo, Calif.)
Women's 40+: Frank Gomila (Madeville, La.)
Women's 45+: Felix Atwell (Denham Springs, La.)
Women's 50+: Walt Charlton (Norman, Okla.)
Women's 55+: Peter Mills (Fort Worth, Texas) 15-11, 11-5
Women's 60+: Sharon Hasting-We lty (Corvallis, Ore.)
Women's 65+: Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.)
Women's 70+: Mary Low Aucutt (Dayton, Ohio) unchallenged

AGE + SKILL
Men's 24+: Andres Ramirez (Winter Park, Fla.) def. Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.) 15-10, 15-11
Men's 25+: Arturo Burtuel (Flt. Worth, Texas) def. Enrique Loaiza (Mission Viejo, Calif.)
Men's 26+: Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.)
Men's 30+: Vicente Alie (Marietta, Ga.)
Men's 35+: Felix Atwell (Denham Springs, La.)
Men's 40+: Frank Gomila (Madeville, La.)
Men's 45+: Felix Atwell (Denham Springs, La.)
Men's 50+: Walt Charlton (Norman, Okla.)
Men's 55+: Peter Mills (Fort Worth, Texas)
Men's 60+: Sharon Hasting-We lty (Corvallis, Ore.)

AGE DIVISIONS
Women's 24+: Adrenne Fisher (Dayton, Ohio) def. Janel Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) 11-15, 15-10
Women's 25+: Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.)
Women's 30+: Arturo Burtuel (Flt. Worth, Texas) def. Amy Foster (Fairlawn, Ohio) 15-6, 14-15

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huczek & csuk take intercollegiate crowns

The Texas A&M student recreation center in College Station, Texas hosted nearly 200 of the nation's best intercollegiate racquetball players, representing over 30 colleges and universities, at the E-Force 30th USRA Intercollegiate Championships in mid-April. One-year appointments to the U.S. National Team were up for grabs for the winners of the men's and women's No.1 singles champions, as well as national championship trophies to the best division I and division II squads.

Freshman Jack Huczek from Oakland University became the new men's intercollegiate champion by defeated defending champion Shane Vanderson of Baldwin Wallace in one of the most exciting matches of the year. Both players went all out the entire match with recurring ovations from the crowd.

Vanderson came away with a victory in the first game 12-15 but Huczek evened the match by taking the second 15-10. The tiebreaker promised to be exciting and the players didn't let the crowd down. Huczek took an early 2-0 lead but Vanderson scored two of his own to even the match. The players traded points and leads with spectacular play that had the crowd on it's feet. "That is some of the best racquetball I have seen in a long time," said Jim Hiser, USRA Executive Director. After being tied at 2-2, 3-3, and 4-4, Huczek took control of the match and moved ahead 7-4. The players then traded seven side-outs before Vanderson managed to pull within one at 7-6. That was as close as he would get as Huczek closed out the match 11-6.

"I stayed composed and eventually started moving and hitting my shots," said Huczek after the match. "I was fortunate the match went my way." When asked how he felt about not earning a spot on the U.S. National team Vanderson replied with a sly smile, "I'm looking forward to Houston." Houston is where the U.S National Singles Championships are played in May and a chance for four more players to earn spots on the U.S. National team.

2002 E-Force 30th National Intercollegiate Championships
Presented by Head/Penn Racquet Sports
Coverage by Ryan John • Photos by Mike Lawrence

July – August 2002
Increased stringbed deflection creates greater power. New Launch Pad Technology increases stringbed deflection 38.5%. This new level of power is made possible by:

- Elimination of deflection-constraining cross-strings
- Improved MLS 32.5" Maximum LongString® Technology
- New Wishbone Frame

**38.5% MORE DEFLECTION**
New Launch Pad Technology
Power comes from increased stringbed deflection. Launch Pad Technology is the unsurpassed power achieved by means of a 38.5% increase in stringbed deflection—38.5% more deflection than in any previous racquet (including E-Force)!

Launch Pad is made possible by combining the elimination of deflection-constraining cross-strings with improved MLS 32.5” Maximum LongString Technology and the new Wishbone Frame.

Improved MLS 32.5” Maximum LongString®
Longer strings increase stringbed deflection and power. E-Force mainstrings extend a full 22” in free space from the outside edge of the racquet tip through the racquet handle. Similarly, the cross-strings extend from the frame's outside edges (through oversize 9mm string holes) the full 10.5” racquet width. The strings are longer than in all other racquets, creating maximum stringbed deflection and unbeatable power.

New Wishbone Frame
Launch Pad stringbed deflection and power are increased by a 3-part fin system that stiffens the frame and allows the elimination of deflection-constraining cross-strings. Located in the throat, the fins also improve control and durability by eliminating twisting and torque.
Another freshman, Krystal Csuk of Baldwin Wallace College won the women's No.1 singles championships over another defending champion, Kristen Walsh of the University of Utah. Ironically, Csuk took over Baldwin Wallace's No.1 singles position after Walsh transferred to Utah to be closer to her family. Csuk shocked the crowd, and perhaps Walsh, in the first game by jumping out to a 14-0 lead. Walsh managed a point but that was all as Csuk won 15-1. The second game was almost as lopsided but it was Walsh who came out on top 15-4.

The tiebreaker looked like it was going to be another blowout when Csuk again jumped out to an early 9-3 lead. Walsh dug deep and pulled within a point at 9-8 but it was Csuk's day and she came away with an 11-9 win that earned her a spot on the U.S. National team. "I played out of my mind in the first game but I knew that she is so mentally tough that she would come back in the second," said Csuk. "I am just really excited to be on the (U.S. National) team."

Team Titles

Although none of the singles players were able to repeat as champions in 2002, Baldwin Wallace College was able to hold onto its Division I overall team championship title. Baldwin Wallace, located in Berea, Ohio, won by a commanding 708 points over second place BYU. They also won the men's title by edging out the University of Southern Colorado and finished second by 35 points in the women's overall to BYU.

Find daily site reports, expanded results and drawsheets @ www.racqmag.com > "event coverage"

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E-Force 30th National Intercollegiate Championships
College Station, Texas: April 3-7, 2002

**Men's Singles**

U.S. Team Qualifier/#1: Jack Huczek (Oakland University) def. Shane Vanderson (Baldwin Wallace College) 12-15; 15-10; 11-6

#2: Andy Hawthorne (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Jeffrey Garner (University of Memphis) 15-4; 15-3

#3: Justin Arms (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Mike Lawrence (University of Memphis) 15-11; 15-9

#4: Lee George (University of Southern Colorado) def. Jared Daniels (Bingham Young University) 15-10; 15-10

#5: Brandon Burgess (University of Southern Colorado) def. Manab Khatol (Arizona State) 15-12; 15-4

#6: Jason Zivleti (Arizona State) def. Tom Dolan (Bryant College) 15-7; 15-12

Women's Singles

U.S. Team Qualifier/#1: Krystal Csuk (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Kristen Walsh (University of Utah) 15-1; 4-15; 11-9

#2: Adva Buzi (University of Texas) def. Paige Harris (Bingham Young University) 15-6; 15-14

#3: Sarah Morrison (Penn State University) def. Laura Bryan (Bingham Young University) 15-8; 15-11

#4: Eileen Sanchez (Bingham Young University) def. Elle Summers (Baldwin Wallace College) 15-0; 15-11

#5: Marci Mangelson (BYU) def. Cari Weinbrenner (Penn State) 15-5; 15-14

#6: Karin Christiansen (BYU) def. Tiff Baker (Baldwin Wallace) 15-3; 15-0

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**Doubles**

Men's Doubles #1: Andy Hawthorne/Shane Vanderson (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Cesar Carrillo/Phillip Gerber (University of Memphis) 15-4; 15-12

Men's Doubles #2: Dan Beaudry/John Lawrence (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Brandon Burgess/John Brewster (University of Southern Colorado) 15-10; 15-5

Men's Doubles #3: Abram Pasley/Rick Warner (Arizona State) def. Brandon Burgess/John Kupzyk (University of Southern Colorado) 15-10; 15-3; 11-0

Women's Doubles #1: Krystal Csuk/Elle Summers (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Adva Buzi/Keely Franks (University of Texas) 15-11; 15-10

Women's Doubles #2: Paige Harris/Eileen Sanchez (Bingham Young University) def. Tracy Cervoski/Amanda Christiansen (Baldwin Wallace College) 15-4; 15-14

Women's Doubles #3: Karen Christiansen/Marci Mangelson (Bingham Young University) def. Traci Cervoski/Amanda Christiansen (Baldwin Wallace College) 15-4; 15-5

Mixed Doubles #1: Krystal Csuk/Andy Hawthorne (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Lisa Bogwat/Mark Salinas (Sacramento State) 15-7; 15-6

Mixed Doubles #2: Amanda McCorkich/Justin Arms (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Paige Harris/Jared Daniels (BYU) 15-8; 15-11

Mixed Doubles #3: Joseph Earl Linnell/Elle Summers (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Megan Hentschel/Dee Moretz (Penn State) 15-1; 15-3

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**TEAM RESULTS**

OVERALL TEAM

Baldwin Wallace ........ 2261
BYU ........... 1553
Arizona St. ........ 1046.5
Penn St. ........... 1017
Bryant .............. 784
North Carolina ........ 711.5
Texas Austin ........ 571.5
Texas A&M ........... 534.5
Southern Missouri St. .... 528
Nevada .............. 255.5
Sacramento St. .......... 252.5
Nichols College .......... 235
Clarkston ............. 234
Utah St. ............. 146

MEN'S TEAM

Baldwin Wallace .......... 1407
Southern Colorado .......... 1345
Memphis .......... 1194
Arizona St. ........ 710
North Carolina .......... 705.5
North Carolina .......... 664
Bryant .......... 454
Penn St. .......... 362
Oakland ........ 350
Texas A&M ........... 288
California Berkeley ........ 253
Southern Missouri St. .... 205
Sacramento St. .......... 140
Nichols College .......... 127
Texas Austin .......... 121.5
Clarkston .......... 108.5
Texas-San Antonio .......... 106
RPI .......... 83
Southern Missouri St. .... 77.5
Utah Valley St. .......... 51
Missouri Western St. .... 51
Utah St. .......... 22
Nevada .......... 15.5

WOMEN'S TEAM

Baldwin Wallace .......... 889
BYU .......... 854
Penn St. .......... 655
Texas Austin .......... 450
Arizona St. .......... 336.5
Bryant .......... 330
Southern Missouri St. .... 323
Texas A&M .......... 246.5
Nevada .......... 240
University of Utah .......... 210
Sacramento St. .......... 175
Clarkston .......... 125.5
Utah St. .......... 124
Nichols College .......... 108
North Carolina .......... 6
To end the 2001-02 season for the IRT, the men came to Los Caballeros knowing that Cliff Swain had already locked up the season championship -- but they were still ready to stake a claim on the last stop title of the season. Then, with Swain’s injury withdrawal from the event, one of the main attractions became Sudsy Monchik’s return to action after a seven-month stint on injured reserve while he recovered from a broken foot sustained just days before the U.S. OPEN.

In unfamiliar territory (having to advance through qualifying rounds, after losing his ranking position due to the long layoff), Sudsy squared off against Jason Mannino in the round of 16’s. This time last year, a match-up of this caliber would have been, at least, a semi or a final. So why would Sudsy put himself through qualifying at the last stop of the year? “I wanted to protect my place in history and I wanted to test out my foot,” he explained, perhaps referring to his desire to stop Cliff from winning an unprecedented sixth pro title before he was able to.

On paper, the Mannino-Monchik match-up looked as though it could have been one of the best round of 16 matches ever, but it didn’t pan out that way. Jason advanced easily over Sudsy in straight games of 11-6, 11-2, 11-2. “My mindset was a little different and the reason I came out to play changed a little bit,” Sudsy said after the match. “Besides that, Jason’s great. He killed me.”

Sudsy insists that although he may have felt a little rusty at this event, he’ll be ready to go next season. He’s been working hard to come back stronger than ever. When asked if the long layoff would make him hungrier next season he didn’t hesitate with his answer, “Oh yeah, it already has.”

Quarterfinals

After getting out of the gate slow, Jason kicked things into high gear against Derek Robinson, who had won the first game 11-5 before Jason took the next three 11-6, 11-4, 11-4. John Ellis didn’t have any trouble getting up to speed in his match against Mike Green. He controlled the first two games, 11-3, 11-2, and held Green off in the third, 11-9, to complete the sweep. Perhaps it was a little revenge for Green’s five game win over Ellis two weeks earlier in Greensboro.

Semifinals

Mannino has stated publicly that he’d rather face Jack than have to play against Kane in a tournament, and he has good reason: Kane defeated Jason in three straight. “He does everything well,” Jason said after their match. “He was serving very well and we were playing on concrete courts, which don’t help me when he’s hitting the ball so hard.”

Even though the match only went to three games, it was by no means a cakewalk for Kane. The first two games were tight at 11-8 and 11-9, before Kane domi-
Had Jason slumped when he realized that he wasn’t playing for the No. 1 spot anymore? After hearing that Cliff wasn’t going to play, thus locking up the top spot, he’d said that he “couldn’t put it into words” how he felt, but didn’t feel like it affected his play. “I would like to think that I could play through that.”

Obviously disappointed, Jason fell just short of the No. 1 ranking at season’s end, but he was still proud that he had finished higher than in any other year. “I am happy that I was able to reach a plateau that I didn’t reach before.” And how does he see next year shaping up? “I think it will be very similar to this year, but with throwing Sudsy in the mix.” He went onto say, “A couple of good calls, a couple of bad calls, or a couple of ace serves could decide the champion next year.”

Ellis and Beltran were matched up in the other semifinal match to see who would get to face Kane for the title. Ellis took the first two games rather easily 11-5, 11-4. Alvaro stepped it up to take one in the third, 11-8, but Ellis was just too much and closed out the match in four, 11-4. “I think he wasn’t playing as well as he could,” Ellis said, “and I think it was one of my better matches of the tournament.”

The Finals
For the third straight year, Ellis was in the finals at Pro Nationals — he won it two years ago, but lost it last year to Mannino in a five-game thriller. This year he would have to face one of the fastest rising stars on the tour — Kane Waselenchuk. Ellis started out hot, winning the first two games 11-8, 11-5, before Kane started to play some incredible racquetball and copied the scores with identical wins of his own 11-8, 11-5. “I felt that I really let that third game slip away,” Ellis said. “He played solid in the fourth.”

Season stats, on top of the title, were up for grabs in the fifth, as Ellis attempted to earn his first finals win, on his third try, while Kane worked for a second tour victory that could possibly put him ahead of Ellis in the final rankings. The game was close and ended with another “8” to complete the full house, but it was Ellis who scored point 11. “In the fifth game I got a little tired and I think it made me focus a little more on my drive serve,” Ellis said after the match. “I think being a veteran of the tour for 10 years helped me out at the end of that match.”

Again working against a lock on the season’s top spot for tour leader Cheryl Gudinas, the rest of the field were jockeying for ranking position that would determine their seeding for the last stop of the season in McLean, Virginia. For U.S. and Canadian athletes in the draw, the tournament could also be used as a tune-up for their respective National Championships, which were right around the corner.

One of the biggest upsets in the round of 16 was Denise Mock’s comeback victory over No.6 seeded Kristen Walsh, who had won the first two games of the match 15-12, 15-10 and looked like she was on her way to a three game sweep. Somehow, Mock turned her game around and won the second and third games 15-12, 15-13, then followed-up with the longest game of the tournament. Neither player backed off, and the rally scoring system used by the LFRA made the game that much
Super Jack Huczek Racks up Another Milestone with Ashaway SuperKill® II

18-year-old Jack Huczek is the youngest National Racquetball Champion we’ve ever had. The young phenom is quick to acknowledge the big supporting role Ashaway SuperKill II racquetball string played in his success.

“SuperKill II gives me the power, feel and control I need to play consistently game after game. Because of Ashaway’s constant dedication to superior quality I’m able to focus 100% on my game with complete confidence in my string.”

Jack Huczek, 2001 US Racquetball Champion
9-Time Jr. World Racquetball Champion
more intense. Mock was finally able to scrape out the victory to complete the tiebreaker upset 19-17.

Lori-Jane Powell, seeded ninth, moved closer to bumping Kim Russell out of the eighth spot in the rankings when she defeated her in four games, 15-12, 15-11, 8-15, 15-12. Tenth seed Susy Acosta got past No. 7 Claudine Garcia after an injury forfeit. "I was running to get a ball up towards the front wall," Susy explained after the match. "I turned around and she was laying there on the ground." Garcia took the full fifteen minutes allotted for an injury timeout but it wasn’t long enough. When she came back onto the court to give the match another try, her knee couldn’t bear weight and she was forced to forfeit. Although at press time she is seeking a second opinion; the preliminary diagnosis was a torn ACL.

Quarters
Even though Susy advanced into the quarters by way of a forfeit, she had been playing well before it happened — tied with Claudine at a game apiece and 5-5 in the third. Susy was ready to prove that it wasn’t a fluke and that she had regained some of her old form. In order to make her point, she would have to advance past U.S. OPEN champion Kerri Wachtel.

In that playoff, Kerri won the first game 15-7, before Susy began to play much better, edging out the next two 15-13, 17-15. Wachtel, who is able to stay on an even keel during her matches, didn’t let the close losses bother her and tied the match up at two games apiece, with a fourth game win, 15-12. In the fifth, Acosta took advantage of mistakes to earn a berth in the semifinals by winning the decisive game 15-11. “I felt good play-

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**2001-2002 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCORECARD**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Loser</th>
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<tr>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>Cliff Swain def. Jason Mannino</td>
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<td>3-11, 11-9, 11-7, 12-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>Jason Mannino def. Alvaro Beltran</td>
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<td>11-2, 10-12, 11-6, 11-5</td>
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<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Kane Waselechuk def. John Ellis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memphis</td>
<td>Cliff Swain def. John Ellis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Cliff Swain def. Jason Mannino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>Jack Huczek def. Cliff Swain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coral Springs</td>
<td>Jason Mannino def. Jack Huczek</td>
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<td>11-5, 11-8, 11-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>Cliff Swain def. Jason Mannino</td>
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<td>11-9, 10-12, 5-11, 11-7, 12-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greensboro</td>
<td>Jason Mannino def. Cliff Swain</td>
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<td>Pro Nationals</td>
<td>John Ellis def. Kane Waselechuk</td>
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**2002-2003 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE**

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<td>August 22-25</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>Summer Cooler</td>
<td>Elmwood Fitness Center, 504-553-0119</td>
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<td>September 5-8</td>
<td>Stockton, CA</td>
<td>Pro Am</td>
<td>In Shape Fitness Club, 209-472-2100</td>
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<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>RacquetballCatalog.com ProFest</td>
<td>Family Fitness Racquet Club</td>
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<td>September 26-30</td>
<td>Chihuahua, Mexico</td>
<td>Halloween Classic</td>
<td>Athletic Club of Bloomington, 630-893-9577</td>
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<td>October 10-13</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Choice 7th U.S. OPEN</td>
<td>Racquet Club of Memphis, 901-765-4400</td>
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<td>November 20-24</td>
<td>Memphis, TN</td>
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<td>January 30 - Feb. 2</td>
<td>Coral Springs, FL</td>
<td>Harold McKahand Memorial Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Pro Nationals</td>
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For information concerning any IRT events, contact Dave Negrete at 630-430-IERT [1478] or send e-mail to negretz@mindspring.com, or go to www.irt-tour.com.
INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SEASON RANKINGS

[Season End — Through Pro Nationals, 05/2002]

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RECORD BREAKER

By winning his sixth season ending title, Cliff Swain separated himself from every other pro who has ever played the game — surpassing Sudsy Monchik, Mike Yellen, and Marty Hogan who each have five. “It feels great,” Cliff said in a telephone interview. “I was already satisfied with what I had done throughout my career, not content, satisfied, but this feels great.”

As stated in the last issue of RACQUETBALL, Cliff didn't need to play in Pro Nationals to keep his #1 ranking and set a new record for season wins. The piece also stated that Cliff wouldn't back down from a challenge, and although he ended up not competing, he didn't exactly back down either. Cliff aggravated an existing abdominal tear before the tournament began and that, combined with a newly injured groin, kept him out of the season finale. “I have been battling the injury all season long but I have never said anything because that is not what I do.”

For those who harbor doubts about the injury, RACQUETBALL wanted to give Cliff a chance to sound off for the skeptics. “I have mixed emotions about it. Partially I am insulted by anyone questioning it. Three or four years ago I had the option of not coming (to the final event). If I didn't go then I would [have retained] my #1 ranking, but I went, lost to Mike Ray early, Sudsy won the tournament, and I finished #2 by just 10 points. But I was 100% then so I went and played. This time I wasn't.”

The same situation occurred with Sudsy two years ago. I am just curious why it (the doubting) wasn't brought up then. I just hope that people know from watching me for 20 years what kind of player I am. I show up everyday, injured or not, and play without complaint.”
RAJSICH TURNED HER ANKLE PRIOR TO FACING HALLANDER IN THE QUARTERS

ing against Kerri. It was actually the first time that I have ever beat her,” Susy remarked. “I think she missed some shots that she usually doesn’t, but I have to recognize that I played well against her.”

Rhonda Rajsich and Kersten Hallander have been battling back and forth in the rankings all year, shifting between the No.4 and No.5 spots. At it again, they treated the crowd to another grueling five-game battle, after trading wins in the first four, until Kersten was able to close out the match in the fifth, 11-7, to advance.

Semifinals
The semifinals pitted tour star Cheryl Gudinas against Kersten and frequent finalist Jackie Rice against the renewed Acosta. Cheryl, who had won her earlier match in straight games over Lori-Jane Powell, split the first two games against Hallander, but seemed to get stronger as the match went on. She went on to win the third and fourth games 15-6, 15-10 to advance to her fourth straight finals appearance. She’d been successful in all of them, to date.

Jackie, who had also advanced in straight games over Denise Mock, would face an upset-minded Susy Acosta. Jackie won the first 15-8, but Susy again surprised the crowd by taking the second 15-13. But that was when Susy’s magic ran out, and Jackie was able to overtake the match, winning the next two games easily, 15-4, 15-7. “I felt like I played OK at this tournament,” Susy said. “After playing bad for so long it was about time for me to do well.”

The Finals
A final between Gudinas and Rice is something that fans have grown accustomed to. In fact, it was the fourth time this season that they had faced each other for a title; only one other final hadn’t featured at least one of them.

Jackie stated that she felt better than she had in some time (since breaking her ankle last summer), and she showed it in the first two games of the match with 15-6, 15-10 wins. “I was serving well and moving well,” Jackie said of the first two games. “I noticed that when I was able to set my feet right, I was hitting my shots crisp and where I wanted them.”

Cheryl suddenly found herself in a deep hole that didn’t know how to get out of it. She knew it would be hard to win three straight against an opponent like Jackie, especially with the LPRA scoring system. That is when Chris Wachtel, on hand to support wife Kerri, offered some sideline advice and encouragement. “Chris reminded me between the second and third games, that I win three-straight games all of the time,” Cheryl explained. “He also told me not to forget about the sissy serve ... ” (a backhand half-lob that Kerri used effectively in her win over Jackie at the U.S. OPEN).

Cheryl used Chris’s advice and took the third game 15-11. The fourth game was a different story as Jackie’s
Ektelon's NEW Tour Series helps you catapult into action with superior quickness, traction, support, and stability. The Tour Series, featuring Ektelon's first women's specific shoe, delivers ultimate comfort and performance with its genuine Nubuck leather upper and Endurance Plus gum rubber outsole. All Tour Series shoes feature Ektelon's exclusive Natural Foot Shape® (NFS), which mirrors the shape of your foot instead of creating unnecessary bulk like shoes rounded at the toes. Try them out for yourself!
play edged back up to where it had been in the first two games. With the advantage at 16-15, Cheryl thought she hit the game winner but the call was overturned on appeal and Jackie tied things up at 16-16. Cheryl, known for her mental toughness, came back to win the next two points to force a decisive fifth game. “I knew she had to have it in her mind that she blew a 2-0 lead and now found herself in a fifth game” Cheryl thought, going into the tiebreak.

“It was tough losing the fourth game and I was a little bummed,” Jackie said. “But I knew that I had to go out there and give it a shot in the fifth even though my ankle began to get a little tired on me.”

Cheryl brought momentum into the fifth and went on to win 15-10 for her fourth straight tournament title. “The more the match went on the better my serves got and the more my confidence grew,” said Cheryl. “I would have to say that this is one of the best matches that I have played because of the difference in how I felt between the first two games and how I felt in the last game.”
### Ladies Professional Racquetball Association Season Rankings

[Season End — Through Pro Nationals, 05/2002]

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Although there is still one stop left in the LPRA season Cheryl Gudinas has locked up the season #1 ranking for the second straight year. In fact, Cheryl has had the season title in her pocket for some time now. She would have had to not play in the last two pro-stops and either Kerri Wachtel or Jackie Rice would have had to win each of those to take Cheryl's spot in the rankings.

Cheryl once again dominated the LPRA tour, winning eight of eleven stops thus far. She is currently building on a streak of four straight wins. With the season #1 already hers, we asked Cheryl what motivates her as the season comes to a close.

"I just hate losing. I want to keep playing consistent," she replied.

"Besides, who wants to end the season with a not-so-hot showing?" Cheryl seems to have no trouble staying focused towards the end of her championship seasons — last year she closed it out with four straight wins. This year's season could end with five ...
by Doug Ganim

Sports like tennis and golf have flourished for years with the support of major corporate sponsors and the executives who manage them. Since so many senior level corporate executives personally play tennis and/or golf, they're often willing to listen to promoters who pitch opportunities to sponsor events in their favorite sports. But outside that comfort zone – even though sports marketing has become a proven way for corporations to win over loyal customers – the number and variety of sport “properties” can be overwhelming.

So despite the fact that racquetball is enjoyed by millions, we’ve been unable to solicit and attract major corporate support. For whatever reason, we have not found those senior level executives who enjoy the game themselves and can recognize the clear benefits of involvement. One notable exception to this unfortunate rule is a very special man from Memphis, Tennessee named Raymond E. Schultz.

Ray, as his friends call him, has been quietly supporting racquetball from behind the scenes for over 15 years and has made it clear, on more than one occasion, that he does not want to be publicly recognized. For the most part, we’ve honored that wish, but after his most recent heroic feat of “saving” the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships from postponement in 2002, I decided that enough was enough. It was time to introduce Raymond E. Schultz!

So who is Ray Schultz and what has he done for the sport? Well let’s start with the first half of that question. Ray Schultz is the retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Promus Hotel Corporation, one of the world’s premier lodging companies, with well known brands such as Embassy Suites, Hampton Inn, Hampton Inn & Suites, Homewood Suites, and Doubletree Hotels. He is also a man who has enjoyed a year love affair with the sport of racquetball for over 25 years. He is a self-proclaimed “addict” and even now, at the age of 68, tries to play two to three times per week.

Ray Schultz graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Labor Management Relations and successfully completed the ROTC Air Force pilot training program. He then flew jets for five years before taking a corporate job with IBM, where he developed the world’s first computerized reservation system for Holiday Inn and later took a management post with the Holiday Inn Corporation. During his 14 years there, he led key functions in the areas of hotel development, franchising, technology, and marketing. In 1969 Holiday Inn purchased Harrah’s Entertainment and became the Promus Companies.

In 1983 he introduced the country to a new lodging concept – Hampton Inns. Now one of the worlds most recognized hotels brands, Hampton Inns has become one of the crown jewels of Ray Schultz’ stellar business career. In 1989 he introduced the first unconditional service guarantee in the lodging industry and then in 1995, after a Promus Companies spin-off reorganization, he became the first CEO of Promus Hotel Corporation. Under Ray Schultz’s leadership Promus Hotel Corporation flourished to over 1,300 hotels and 200,000 rooms. In 1998 Ray Schultz retired and in addition to serving on several corporate and non-profit boards he now enjoys duck hunting, fly fishing, golf, and of course, racquetball!

Ray’s love for the sport started back in the mid 60’s during his years with IBM. Back then he would get together with some of his corporate cohorts for weekly spirited competition and a good workout. He later became more proficient at the game (reaching the Men’s B skill level) with a special knack for playing doubles. Many of his regular playing partners from 15 years ago are still going at it today including racquetball friends like Larry Liles, Phil McNeil, Al Brown, Joe Mirable, Greg Meadows, Bill Vaughn, Olin Atkins, Bill Douglas, and Larry Karbain. These days the group gets together at Chickasaw Country Club in Memphis for weekly doubles play.

Ray formed a friendship with Memphis’ own Andy Roberts and became one of Andy’s biggest fans, following his career closely as he rose up through the amateur and professional ranks. Andy also took the time to work with Ray on the courts, helping him to become a better...
Introducing Harrow Racquetball

Harrow Racquetball, a division of Harrow Sports, is a dynamic organization with a mandate to grow racquetball through Pro Shops across North America. Harrow products will be available in PRO SHOPS ONLY. The goal is to re-enforce the strength of the Pro Shop in the clubs and offer clubs an additional revenue stream. Furthermore, we have designed a unique Harrow Racquetball Credit Program as an added benefit to Pro Shops.

Harrow products, starting with the Torment racquet, are distinctive in both appearance and design. The Torment racquet is a high modulus graphite power machine that features a micro stringing pattern for maximum playability and head light balance for tremendous acceleration through the ball. The Torment II is a heavier, more flexible version of Torment, weighing in at 195 grams. Coming soon... the Rasp. In addition, the complete product line includes Harrow string, apparel, bags, gloves, Puma indoor court shoes and Rudy Project eyewear.

We are very excited to be involved in the resurgence of racquetball. Players will enjoy our products because they are both innovative and effective. Also, Pro Shops and Clubs will find Harrow eager to create and strengthen the relationship by taking an active role in the future of the Clubs and subsequently the game.

Mike Ceresia,
Sales and Marketing Manager
Harrow Racquetball

### Torment
175 grams

**Endorsed by Mike Ceresia**
- 4-time IRF world champion
- 11-time Canadian national champion
- Winningest player in world championship history

---

**Promotion**

**Harrow’s Pro Shop Opening Package**

Identify your club’s top adult player and top junior player, and we’ll send them each a FREE Torment or Torment II racquet and 2 FREE Harrow shirts. Your Pro Shop will receive a FREE Torment racquet and 6 Torment or Torment II racquets at 10% off wholesale!
Immediately announced that he wanted to receive a complete sponsorship package for title sponsorship of the U.S. OPEN and that his inclination was to take the Hampton Inn Pro-Am and turn it into the Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Of course, that is exactly what happened and now the U.S. OPEN has grown into the largest and most prestigious racquetball event in the world.

Although Ray Schultz has been the single largest supporter the sport has ever had (nearly $1 million in financial support over the last 15 years) his story of support does not end there. In 1998 Hilton Hotel Corporation purchased Promus Hotel Corporation and Ray Schultz retired. Hilton supported the existing contract with the USRA for the U.S. OPEN and then in 2001 announced that they would not be renewing. In January of 2002 I went to Ray Schultz to explain our dire situation and that if a new title sponsor was not found very quickly the event would have to be canceled. We brainstormed some ideas for potential new sponsors including a possible presentation to Choice Hotels International, one of the largest hotel companies in the world. Ray Schultz knew many of the senior executives at Choice and made a couple of phone calls to get us a presentation meeting. Within 90 days, a three-year agreement was signed for the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships!

Ray Schultz remains a humble man who seeks no recognition for the incredible contributions he has made and continues to make, to the sport he loves. However, I felt it was time for the racquetball community to learn a little bit about the man that has worked hard behind the scenes to make sure our sport has continued to move forward. If you attend this year’s Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, look for Ray right behind the stadium court watching the pro’s battle it out for the title. He is not only a player, but an ardent and loyal fan. Ray Schultz is truly racquetball’s guardian angel!

On July 2, Ray and his wife Erin celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. They have three children (Greg, Rick, and Elizabeth) and three grandchildren (Karl-13, Karin-10, and Larkin-3). Those who know Ray best describe him as a devoted family man with a heart as big as Montana (Big Sky is where he and his wife spend their summers!). The people that worked for him at Promus Hotel Corporation revered him as a compassionate and inspirational leader.

Ray’s habit of giving back to the sport began over 17 years ago when he annually donated to the University of Memphis racquetball team. After Hampton Inn was up and running as a major national brand, Ray would often get the team free rooms to use while traveling to tournaments throughout the country. In 1987 Schultz stepped forward to become the title sponsor of the Hampton Inn Pro-Am, a major men’s professional event on the IRT’s annual circuit. The event was considered by many as one of the season’s premier tourneys and Ray Schultz made sure the tournament had the financial support it needed for nine full years.

Then, in 1996, the USRA approached Ray Schultz with the news that the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships was going to be coming to Memphis and that it would be the sports first ever “Grand Slam” event. We asked Ray if he would mind shifting the date of the Hampton Inn Pro-Am so that both tournaments could be held in Memphis without conflict. He imme-
RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

November 20-24, 2002
Memphis, Tennessee

Cliff Swain
2001 champion

Kerri Wachtel
2001 champion

Entry Form and Ticket Application
www.choicehotelsusopen.com
IT'S RACQUETBALL'S PREMIER EVENT...AND YOU'RE INVITED!

Witness racquetball's only "Grand Slam"—the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. See all of the top players in the world, like Sudsy Monchik, Cliff Swain, Jason Mannino, Cheryl Gudinas and Kerri Wachtel compete for the largest prize-money purse in the sport—$45,000+. Experience the thrill of dramatic player introductions featuring booming music and laser light shows. Stroll through the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Player Village and see what's new from the world's top racquetball manufacturers. Party the nights away with your favorite pros and racquetball fans from throughout the world.

Be there to see the world's only "made-for-TV" portable stadium racquetball court. The event will be nationally televised (tape delayed) on ESPN2. In addition, over 600 USRA Division players will compete in age and skill divisions for every level. Special events include the Grand Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS", an Industry Trade Show, Player Village complete with concessions, live entertainment, International/VIP Reception, Pro-Am Doubles Tourny, HOLLYWOOD Casino Night, and fan fair activities. The event will benefit St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

The professional matches will be held at The Racquet Club of Memphis, a world-class health club and dining facility featuring racquetball, tennis, locker rooms with all the amenities, state-of-the-art fitness center, swimming pool, four-star restaurant, elegant banquet and meeting rooms, pub with dance floor, and much, much more. The Racquet Club is no stranger to hosting world-class sporting events, as they are the annual site for the acclaimed Kroger St. Jude Tennis Championships, a stop on the ATP Tour, which has hosted such top name players as Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and Andy Roddick. Amateur divisions will be played at The University of Memphis Recreation Center (10 minutes from The Racquet Club) and Wimbledon Sportsplex (15 minutes from The Racquet Club). Complimentary shuttle service between all three facilities will be provided regularly.

MADE-FOR-TV PORTABLE STADIUM RACQUETBALL COURT

One of the most exciting aspects of the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is that the world's only "made-for-TV" portable racquetball court will be used for all feature matches! The unique construction of the court allows stadium seating for more than 1,000, in addition to courtside luxury boxes for sponsors and VIPs.

From the quarterfinals on, all men's and women's pro matches will take place on the stadium court. Dramatic player introductions complete with laser light shows and booming music will treat racquetball fans to a total entertainment experience.

www.choicehotelsusopen.com
PARTIES, PARTIES AND MORE PARTIES

That’s right! For those of us who like to enjoy our evenings, the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN promises a solid week of non-stop fun, kicking off with a Tuesday evening Welcome Party, Wednesday night International/VIP Reception, and Thursday HOLLYWOOD Casino Night in the Player Village at The Racquet Club. And that’s only the beginning! On Friday evening, the action moves to the “Pub” nightspot at The Racquet Club of Memphis, which will feature a DJ spinning the hottest tunes for your dancing pleasure. Mingle with the pros and racquetball fans from throughout the world.

Saturday evening will top off the party calendar with the gala racquetball bash of the year – the seventh Annual Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Grand Dinner Gala."PARTY WITH THE PROS". More than 1,000 racquetball fans are expected to turn out at The Racquet Club Party Center for an evening of live entertainment featuring one of Tennessee’s hottest dance bands. Elegant ice carvings, extravagant hors d’oeuvres and desserts, huge dance floor, silent auction for St. Jude, cash bar, multi-media slide show, and all the top racquetball pros in the world will make the evening one to remember. The cost for guests and tournament spectators is $30 per person. Players participating in the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN will be admitted free!

CHOICE HOTELS PLAYER VILLAGE

The nerve center of the event will be the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Player Village. Many activities are scheduled to take place in the Village, including an extensive Industry Trade Show, pro autograph signing sessions, live stage with entertainment, concessions, cash bar, informational seminars, and plenty of seating to kick back and relax. Admission is free for all spectators and players.

Sudsy Monchik
3-time US OPEN champion
PRO MATCH SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5 p.m.-10 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s &amp; Women's Pro Qualifying</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8 a.m.-3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s round of 64</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4 p.m.-11 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s round of 32</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s round of 32</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1 p.m.-7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s round of 16</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5 p.m.-9 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s round of 16</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s quarters</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3 p.m.-8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s quarters/Legend’s semi’s</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9 a.m.-12 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s semi #1/Women’s semi #1</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s semi #2/Men’s semi #2</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legend’s finals/Women’s finals/</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.-3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s finals</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

MEMBERSHIP
All players must be current members of the USRA. If you’re not, a membership can be purchased at the event ($30 per year). In addition, all players entering the pro draws must be current members of the IRT/LPRA Players Association or join at the event ($10).

OPENING ROUNDS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Nov. 20th</td>
<td>Singles, Doubles</td>
<td>5 p.m.-10 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Nov. 21st</td>
<td>Singles, Doubles</td>
<td>5 p.m.-10 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHECK-IN
All player registration will take place at The Racquet Club of Memphis. Check-in is required prior to participating in the event. Hours for registration are: Tuesday, November 19th 3 p.m.-10 p.m., Wednesday, November 20th 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Thursday, November 21st 8 a.m.-9 p.m., and Friday, November 22nd 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

SKILL LEVEL CERTIFICATION
Skill-level entrants (to A, B, C, D divisions) must be AMPro certified at that level or be approved by the state director or representative as being legitimately competitive in the entered skill division at a level below that of tournament directors will use these benchmarks to determine eligibility for skill competition, and reserve the right to re-classify or disqualify players when/if they are improperly placed. NOTE: Players in Age+Skill must meet the same criteria for corresponding skill levels in “Age+A/B” & “Age+C/D” divisions.

TICKETS FOR PRO MATCHES
Everyone will be required to purchase tickets for pro matches — see ticket application or call (800) 234-5396 ext.120. All non-players may purchase a ticket to be admitted to the Saturday evening Grand Dinner Gala “PARTY WITH THE PROS”. Seating is limited, therefore it is strongly recommended that you purchase tickets in advance. ABSOLUTELY NO VIEWING WILL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT A TICKET! Last year’s ticket packages sold out four weeks in advance, so don’t delay! A very limited number of four-person courtside luxury box seats (with table service) are available starting at $2,200. Call 614-890-6073 for availability. Last year’s event sold out four weeks in advance, so don’t delay!

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

ST. JUDE HOSPITAL
The Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is once again proud to name St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital as its designated charity. Founded in 1962 by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, St. Jude is dedicated to the successful treatment of diseases that afflict children. Having treated more than 13,000 patients from 47 states and 53 countries, the hospital is a world leader in the treatment of catastrophic childhood illnesses. During the past five years the Choice Hotels U.S. Open has raised over $80,000 for St. Jude!

www.choicehotelsusopen.com
TRAVEL AND LODGING
Travelennium and Northwest Airlines join the USRA in offering you the lowest possible airfares/rental car rates to the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN. For reservations, call Travelennium at (800) 844-4924. Be sure to reference the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. When making hotel reservations, you must mention the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Rates are good for up to four people per room. You must make reservations by October 29, 2002 for these special rates. Regular shuttle service will be available between all three clubs throughout the event. In addition, transportation will be provided from the main host hotel (Comfort Inn-East) to The Racquet Club every half hour. No parking is available at The University of Memphis, so players must use the shuttle.

1. COMFORT INN-EAST*
   (main host hotel)
   5877 Poplar Ave.
   Memphis, TN 38119
   (901) 767-6300
   Rate: $69

2. COMFORT INN-Sycamore View
   1335 McRee St.
   Memphis, TN 38134
   (901) 372-2700
   Rate: $69 - $79

3. THE RACQUET CLUB OF MEMPHIS
   5111 Sanderlin Ave.
   (901) 765-4400

4. WIMBLETON SPORTSPLEX
   6161 Shelby Oaks Dr.
   (901) 388-6580

5. UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
   630 Echles St.
   (901) 678-2816

* Only the COMFORT INN-EAST will have regular shuttle service to The Racquet Club (every half hour)

CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men's Pro</th>
<th>Women's Pro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001 Cliff Swain</td>
<td>Kerri Wachtel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 Sudsy Monchik</td>
<td>Christie Vanhees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999 Jason Mannino</td>
<td>Jackie Paraiso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998 Sudsy Monchik</td>
<td>Jackie Paraiso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997 Cliff Swain</td>
<td>Michelle Gould</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996 Sudsy Monchik</td>
<td>Michelle Gould</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cheryl Gudinas
LPRA #1
PRIZE MONEY
over $45,000!

RULES/FORMAT
All USRA divisions will be played according to official USRA rules, including the mandatory use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards. Pro divisions will use IRT/LPRA rules. For all age divisions, players must meet the proper age requirement as of the first day of the tournament (November 20th). All divisions (pro and USRA) will use the ProPenn (green) ball. Consolation will not be offered due to court time restrictions.

RANKING POINTS
USRA: The top-eight finishers in all divisions will receive USRA ranking points. This is a Level 5 event.
Professionals: On the IRT/LPRA tours, prize money determines the level of ranking points associated with a given event. The Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN is the largest prize money event of the season.

OFFICIATING
All players will receive $5 for each USRA division match they referee. Players losing a match in the pro divisions are required to referee with no fee paid.

CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL
We are very pleased to have Choice Hotels International as our title sponsor for the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Choice Hotels International (NYSE: CHH) is one of the world’s largest lodging franchisors, franchising more than 5,000 hotels in 46 countries under the Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality, Clarion, Sleep inn, Econo Lodge, MainStay Suites, and Rodeway Inn brand names.
For more information on Choice, visit the company’s Internet site at www.choicehotels.com.

Jason Mannino
IRT #2

Men’s Pro-$28,800
1st $8,000 16’s $500
2nd $4,000 32’s $300
Semis $2,000
Qtrtrs $1,000

Women’s Pro-$15,000
1st $4,000 Qtrtrs $750
2nd $2,200 16’s $400
Semis $1,300

Men’s & Women’s Open Singles
1st $350 Semis $85
2nd $175

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS
Executive Event Director:
Doug Ganim

Floor Manager:
Pete Ulliman

Executive Committee:
Jim Hiser, Dave Negrete, Kay McCarthy, Martha Butler, Ed Arias, Heather Fender

Pro Commissioners:
Dave Negrete (IRT), Ed Wilis (LPRA)

For More Information, Call the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championship
Headquarters at (800) 234-5396, ext. 120

www.choicehotelsusopen.com
PRO MATCH TICKET APPLICATION

SESSION #1:................................. $14
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying Wednesday, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Men's round of 64 Wednesday, 4 p.m.- 11 p.m.

SESSION #2:................................. $14
Men's round of 32 Thursday, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Women's round of 32 Thursday, 1 p.m.- 5 p.m.

SESSION #3:................................. $14
Men's round of 16 Thursday, 5 p.m.- 9 p.m.

SESSION #4:................................. $15
Women's round of 16 Friday, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Men's quarters #1,#2 Friday, 3 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.

SESSION #5:................................. $15
Men's quarters #3, #4 Friday, 5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.

SESSION #6:................................. $12
Women's quarters (all), Legend's semi's Saturday, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.

SESSION #7:................................. $16
Men's semi #1/Women's semi #1 Saturday, 12:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

SESSION #8:................................. $16
Women's semi #2/Men's semi #2 Saturday, 3:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

SESSION #9:................................. $28
Legend's finals/Women's finals/Men's finals Sunday, 11:00 a.m.- 3 p.m.

BEST VALUE ($66 savings)
TICKET PACKAGE (includes all sessions listed above - only available in advance!) .................. $76

Ticket for Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS" ............................................. $30
(free for all player participants) Saturday, 8 p.m.- 12:30 a.m.

Processing fee (must be paid to process your order) ............................................. $4

Make check payable or use credit card and mail to:
Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906

To order your tickets by phone call: (800) 234-5396 ext. 120
or fax this completed form to: (719) 635-0685

Visa/MC # ________________________________ Exp. Date __________
Cardholder's Name (print) ____________________________________________
Signature __________________________________________________________
Name to hold tickets under __________________________________________
Street Address _____________________________________________________
City ______________________ ST __________ Zip ___________
Home Phone ______________________ Work Phone _____________________
E-Mail ______________________ Fax _________________________________

Tickets will not be mailed in advance. They can be picked up at the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Will Call Desk, located at The Racquet Club (I.D. is required). Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets in advance to be guaranteed a seat.

A very limited number of four-person courtside luxury box seats (with table service) are available starting at $2,200. Call (614) 890-6073 for availability.
**ENTRY FORM**

Name ___________________________ Birthdate __________ Age __________
Address ___________________________ City/State/Zip ___________________________
Phone (day) _______ (night) _______ Fax _______
USRA Membership Number ___________ Expiration Date ___________ E-Mail ___________

Seeding Information (2001 U.S. OPEN, 2002 States, Regionals, Nationals) ___________
Home Club ___________________________

| Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events: (3 events permitted if at least 2 are doubles divisions): |
| Check one: Men's  ☐  or Women's  ☐  |
| Skill Divisions*  | Skill + Age Divisions*  |
| Can only enter ONE  |  |
| A ☐  | 24 & under A/B ☐  | 35+ C/D ☐  |
| B ☐  | 24 & under C/D ☐  | 45+ A/B ☐  |
| from this group  |  |
| C ☐  | 25+ A/B ☐  | 45+ C/D ☐  |
| D ☐  | 25+ C/D ☐  | 55+ A/B ☐  |
| 35+ ☐  | 55+ C/D ☐  |

**USRA DIVISIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open &amp; Age Divisions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10+ ☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 &amp; under ☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>25+ ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30+ ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35+ ☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doubles &amp; Mixed Doubles Divisions*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open ☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>☐</td>
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</table>

**REQUERIED Skill Verification Form**

Please indicate below your eligibility for competition in the skill level you have selected. This information will be verified and re-classification may take place if deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director:

_B_ I have been AMPRO certified at this level by: 
AMPRO Certified Instructor (name required) ___________
_B_ I have recently competed in this skill category in my state, and have been approved for participation in this category at a Level Five event by the state director or designated representative shown below: 
(name required) ___________
_B_ I competed at this level (but did not win the division title) at the: 
____ 2001 U.S. OPEN, or the ____ 2002 USRA National Singles

Participation Signature ___________________________ (parent if under 18) Date ___________

**ENTRY FEES**

Players may enter a maximum of two events (3 events permitted if at least 2 are doubles divisions). Consolation will not be offered due to court time restrictions. Players in multiple divisions may play back-to-back matches. Returned checks will be assessed a $25 service charge ($10 for declined credit cards). Phone entries will be accepted through the entry deadline with a $20 late fee if space is still available in the tournament. All entries must be received by Wednesday, Nov. 6th and/or postmarked by Friday, Nov. 1st. No refunds will be given after the entry deadline. All entries received after the entry deadline will be assessed a $30 late fee if space is still available in the tournament.

**ENTRY DEADLINE:**

All entries must be received by Wednesday, Nov. 6th and/or postmarked by Friday, Nov. 1st. No refunds will be given after the entry deadline. All entries received after the entry deadline will be assessed a $30 late fee if space is still available in the tournament.

**ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:**

Limited hospitality, free access to Player Village and fan fair activities at The Racquet Club, souvenirs Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN shirt, Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Souvenir Program, ticket to the Saturday evening Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS", plus much, much more!

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

Make check payable and mail to: 
Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships 
1685 West Uintah • Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906 
or FAX this completed form to (719) 635-0655

To enter by phone call: 
(800) 234-5396 ext. 120
It's that time again! The 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships official Entry Form and Ticket Application is located in the center of this issue ... be sure to pull it out and read about all the exciting things planned for this year's event.

If you've never attended the U.S. OPEN, make plans now to treat yourself to the ultimate experience our sport has to offer. Can't commit to competition? You can still make weekend plans (we recommend Thursday evening) and catch the majority of the marquee pro matches and the two largest parties. Whether you play or not, here are a few tips to you may want to keep in mind.

Tip #1: ENTER EARLY! The event has completely sold out in each of the last three years. We cap the draw at 700 total entries and last year we had to turn away nearly 50 people. Don't get shut out. Send in your entry today.

Tip #2: ORDER TICKETS NOW! You must have a ticket to view any of the pro matches, and although the Stadium Court seats over 1,000 the event is a sell-out from the quarters on. No-shows can free up some session tickets “at the door” but it’s risky to wait. By far, the best deal is to purchase the ticket package for unlimited viewing for all pro matches for the entire week — this guarantees you a seat — but ticket packages are sold only in advance!

Tip #3: ENTER TWO EVENTS. Court time restrictions (and the large draw) do not allow us to offer consolation divisions, so we strongly recommend that you enter two divisions so that you are guaranteed at least two matches. Although players are limited to just two divisions, there are a couple of exceptions. First, if you would like to play “up” into the Men's or Women's Pro draw (perhaps just for the experience?) you can still play in two amateur divisions, for a total of three events. Second, if two of your divisions are doubles, you can play in any third event you choose. For these two exceptions only, a third event fee is the same as a second event fee.

Tip #4: STAY AT THE HOST HOTEL. The official host hotel is the Comfort Inn East located just two miles from The Racquet Club of Memphis. In addition to supporting our title sponsor, you'll have the convenience of the complimentary shuttle, running every half hour from the hotel to The Racquet Club and back. We've also reserved every room in the hotel for this event, so everywhere you turn will be fellow players and fans from around the globe!

This hotel will fill up very fast so call to book your room immediately. Contact information for the hotel is located in the Entry Form and be sure to mention Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN for the special rate. If the hotel becomes booked before you have a chance to get a room, call the U.S. OPEN headquarters at (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 for list of overflow hotels available in the area.

Tip #5: BRING NICE CLOTHES AND YOUR DANCING SHOES! One of the really fun parts of attending the U.S. OPEN is experiencing the many evening social activities offered, especially the Grand Gala — The Party with the Pro’s. Racquetball or casual attire is not allowed at this bash so “dress to impress” will be the rule!

Tip #6: LAST FLIGHT OUT ON SUNDAY. Make sure you book the very latest flight you can get home on Sunday. The Men’s Pro final is the last match of the tournament and you won’t want to miss it. A packed house, booming music, laser light show introductions and the ESPN camera’s make this an experience like no other in the sport. The match usually ends around 3:30 pm so any evening flight will do. Can’t get a late flight out? Consider going home Monday morning. It will be worth it!

Keep these tips in mind when making plans to attend the 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN and you’ll have the inside track. Lastly, if you really want to experience everything the event has to offer and you have a few bucks laying around earmarked for “presents for myself” here are a couple of ideas to treat yourself to the ultimate VIP weekend.

PRO-AM DOUBLES FOR ST. JUDE: On the Tuesday night before the U.S. OPEN begins, a special fundraiser is held for the event’s designated charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Have you ever dreamed of playing doubles with one of the best pro players in the world as your partner? Well, here’s your chance. For a $250 donation to St. Jude you’ll be one of 32 lucky amateurs to be paired up with top ranked men and women pros. The evening will be fully catered and each amateur player will receive an autographed racquet from their pro partner. This popular event has sold out each of the last six years, so call (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 to request a Pro-Am Doubles Entry. The first 32 paid entrants will get the spots.

VIP LUXURY BOX SEATING. If you really want to go first class, consider purchasing a four-person, courtside VIP Luxury Box. Most are already reserved for event sponsors, but a very limited number are available for individual purchase. The cost is $2,200 for the week and includes four “gold” All-Access credentials, a four-person stadium courtside Luxury Box with your name on it (table service included), and unlimited access throughout the week to the fully catered PRO/VIP Hospitality Room (only top 16 ranked pro’s, event sponsors, and VIP’s allowed). If you are interested, please call (614) 890-6073 to check Luxury Box availability for the 2002 U.S. OPEN.

Don’t delay! Send in your Entry Form and Ticket Application for the 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN TODAY!
In the July/August 1999 installment of this series, I introduced my “Power Drive Serve.” The key word in the title still says it all — “Power.” Power is translated to reaction time ... the harder someone hits the ball, the less time their opponent has to react. The problem is that power alone will not work forever, because once someone is dialed in to the speed of the ball and where it is going they can eventually adjust.

It’s like a power hitter in baseball. If the pitcher only threw fast balls, the batter would soon adjust. So a good pitcher has to learn variety: a change up, slider, knuckleball, etc. to keep the batter guessing. By creating variety the pitcher makes his fastball more effective. The same is true for my “Power Drive Serve.” If that’s the only serve I had ... even though I hit it at 180+ mph ... Jason, Cliff and John would adjust.

As a result, I had to create variety in my service game. By creating this variety of serves I have made my “Power Drive Serve” more effective. So today I am going to teach you my “Drive Z Serve” — a new serve in some ways, but just a variation of the basic power drive serve in others.

The Drive Z Serve is hit exactly like the Power Drive Serve except for the contact point. The ready position, the step, the swing and the follow through are all the same. What that does is creates deception — a key ingredient in a great service game. This deception is created by one major element: the ball toss. The two-step motion I taught you earlier should be exactly the same no matter whether you are drive serving to the right or left, z-serving or jam-serving: the ball toss is what will change ever so slightly, by a matter of inches. It will appear in the same spot, off the front foot, but the server will drop it off the big toe for the drive to the right, off the little toe for the drive to the left, off the heel for a z-serve, etc. The element of surprise and keeping your opponent off balance is the key to forcing a weak return or an un-returnable, ace serve. If they have no idea where the ball is going or which serve is coming you have got them where you want them ... guessing!

With the one-two punch of power and deception you are on your way, but now add variety (height, speed, angle, and type of serve) and you are there ... right where I am. I have terrorized the IRT over the last five years with this exact same service philosophy. If it works for me at my level, it’s going to work for you at your level — no questions asked.
Let's dissect how I hit my magical “Drive Z Serve” ...

Trick #1: The Ready Position — Feet aligned on the back (short) line, one behind the other. • Left foot in front of right foot (for righties) and right foot in front of left foot (for lefties) to create a two-step approach into the ball for more power. • Start low - knees bent and slightly bent at the waist. • Weight evenly distributed (50/50). • Racquet down. • Concentrate - eyes on ball.

Trick #2: The Step — Back foot moves first, by taking a short step. • Racquet comes up. • Hold the ball at full extension from your body to get ready to drop the ball off front leg after second step. • Stay low - knees and waist slightly bent. • Weight slightly on front foot (60/40), but pretty even.

Trick #3: The Swing — Front leg takes second step, straight ahead or at a slight angle. • Ball dropped off the heel of the front leg at full extension. • Racquet begins its downward motion (leading with elbow and wrist cocked back - just like the forehand - no different). • Hips begin to open (just like the forehand - no different). • Stay low - knees and waist slightly bent. • Weight slightly on front foot, but beginning to pull back (55/45). • Eyes on ball.

Trick #4: Contact Point — Legs are in line with each other, weight back to even (50/50). • Ball is hit off the heel of my front foot, closer to my body to get a good angle on the racquet, rather than at full extension off the big toe of my front foot. • Racquet comes through flat and level with tremendous wrist snap. • Hips continue to open. • Stay low - knees and waist still slightly bent. • Contact point is ankle high. • Shoot the ball flat, no spin. • Eyes on ball.

Trick #5: Follow Through — Legs are in line with each other, front toe pointed to right corner and back toe rotated around - completed balanced. • Racquet completely around, pointing to back wall. • Hips completely open and rotated through. • End low - knees still bent, but upper body more erect. • Eyes on the front wall, tracking the ball, then head will rotate around to follow the ball as it passes behind your back.

The magic of the serve speaks for itself, it sets the tone to the match, so please give it all you’ve got. I do and look where it’s taken me — right to the top. You too can be on the top of your service game by trying this very philosophy and then coming to see me at one of my camps with Fran Davis and I can show you firsthand how it’s done. Good Luck!
In the last issue we went over how to make the most out of your drilling sessions. If you don’t have that issue, be sure to get one so your practice times are efficient and effective!

Now we’re ready to give you specific hints as to how to improve your sidewall-front-wall game. Pay attention, take the time to mark the court, and pinch, pinch, pinch!

**STEP 1: MARKING THE COURT**
This can be done with any type of tape that stands out and is easy to remove. [Photo #1.]

**STEP 2: DROP AND HIT**
Stand so you will contact the ball near the X closest to the sidewall. Since the ball will be so close to the sidewall, this is a perfect opportunity for a splat. Aim for the X on the sidewall closest to you. Drop and hit 10 shots and be aware of the path of the ball.
Progress to all of the X's on the floor, aiming for the corresponding X on the sidewall. The further you move from the sidewall, the closer to the corner you aim. [See photo #2, #3, #4 with Derek at different marks].

**STEP 3: PINCH POINTERS**
As we mentioned in the previous article, it is important to set goals and strive for hitting the perfect shot as many times as possible (refer to the 10, 10, 10 drill). After you get the feel for the shots by dropping and hitting, you can set yourself up off the front wall, off the back wall or from the ceiling.

The perfect pinch: Your goal is to hit shots that hit the side wall first, and hit the front wall low enough so the ball bounces twice before it hits the opposite side wall. Proper preparation: As you are setting up for the pinch, always turn sideways and raise your racquet. You want your elbow to be at about the height of your shoulder. Step into the ball by stepping on a diagonal towards the side wall. This allows for good trunk rotation with maximum control. [See photo #5: Derek’s racquet preparation].

Contact: Good execution depends on good extension. As you drive your arm down, lead with your elbow, and straighten (extend) your arm away from your body as you make contact. If you contact the ball too close to your body with a bent arm, the ball will “float” to the sidewall, causing the shot to be high and ineffective. Snap your wrist at contact to allow for a flat, solid shot. Contact the ball slightly behind the midline of your body. Do not allow the racquet head to drop below your wrist. Swing flat and level for more consistent shots. Keep your head down and allow for a natural follow through.

**STEP 4: WHEN TO PINCH**
- Pinch when your opponent is behind the 5’ line (hash marks).
- Pinch when your opponent is positioned close to a sidewall (pinch to the wall your opponent is close to, so the ball travels away from them).
- Pinch on return of serve, if you notice your opponent is off balance and/or moving backwards without stopping to get set.
- In the front court, remember the rule of thumb: “Never re-pin a pinch.”

Want to learn more? Coming soon ... The Wilson Road Show with Big D! Derek’s Traveling Road Show will hit over 50 cities this year, and will include a pro exhibition, clinic, tips on how to choose the best racquet for your playing style, and product demos. For information on events in your area go to: www.bigdracketball.com
How do you develop a service game strategy? I know it's crucial...

A game plan strategy for your service game is no different than developing a game plan for your overall match, either singles or doubles. Remember, a game plan is "a plan of action" determined by your strengths and weaknesses coupled with your opponent's strengths and weaknesses [see March/April 2002]. You do this by looking at, and analyzing, the eight areas listed in that previous article.

For our purposes, I'm going to focus in on #4 Serves, which assesses your strengths and weaknesses on your serves, as well as your opponent's strengths and weaknesses on their serves. With that information I can teach you how to develop a winning service game strategy that works.

What you need to do first and foremost is analyze your opponent...

- Are they a power or control player?
- Are they a tall or short player?
- Do they have a weak backhand or forehand?
- Do they have any injuries - knee problems?
- How's their footwork?
- Are they in or out of shape?
- Are they a righty or lefty?

With this information gathered you could come up with a precise service game strategy. Then refer to the chart at right for more tips.

Keep in mind that - as a rule - most of your opponents will not fit neatly into only one of these categories, but will be a combination of types. Using the information from the chart, you can come up with a more detailed game plan, as needed.

I would recommend spending quite a bit of time on this area because the serve is the most important part of the game. In sanctioned USRA competition, it's the only time you can score a point. It's the only time you can hit the ball out of your hand, whereas during a rally the ball is coming at you from different angles, with different speeds, and possibly with spin. The serve sets the tone of the match and you are in total control.
Take advantage of the time you are serving and come up with a winning "game service strategy."

I invite you to attend one of my camps where we cover this in detail.

Smarter Head, Better Game — by Fran Davis • "Service Strategy"

email your questions to: fran@frandavisracquetball.com

Q: How do you develop a service game strategy? I know it's crucial...
Here I’d like to correlate early racquet preparation to a batter’s stance in baseball and softball. The only difference between a batter and a racquetball player is a batter has two hands on the bat and we have one hand on the racquet. See photos 1 and 2 for forehand, 3 and 4 for backhand.
the side wall uncontrollably or maybe even skip because the swing is so late. Having your racquet back will also prepare you for any unexpected bounces of the ball.

A batter is squared up to home plate just like we are squared up to the sidewall [see photos on previous page]. A batter has the elbow of their dominant arm as high as their shoulder and notice how the wrist of the dominant hand is cocked.

These are key to hitting more powerful shots with the momentum from the swing and the snap of the wrist. In addition, a batter has the majority of their weight on the their back foot and they step into the ball in much the same way that we step into a racquetball shot. Lastly, see how a batter looks over their shoulder at the oncoming pitch. This is very similar to how we look at an oncoming ball.

In the next couple of weeks, look at yourself in a mirror with proper forehand and backhand racquet preparation several times. Doing this allows you to visualize a picture of yourself when you are on the court.

E-mail me at kersten@kersten.com if you have any questions or would like to share some of the successes you have experienced because of early racquet preparation.

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Winning Racquetball: Ready, Set, Action!
by Marcy Lynch

Now that you've set your goals (May/June 2002) and aligned them with your vision and purpose (March/April 2002), the next part of the plan is to decide which 'action steps' need to be taken and to create the time necessary for taking the steps. Action steps are the 'to do' list. How many times a week will you practice and/or play? What kind of crosstraining will you do and when will you do it? What dietary changes must you make? Who will be your training/practice partners? What changes do you need to make in your schedule to make room for the time it will take to put into your game?

It's tempting to think that once you have set the goal, action will naturally follow. I think the biggest challenge most people face when attempting to work toward a goal is the amount of time it actually takes to do the work. There is no way to add more tasks onto a list that is already full without also adding stress.

Once you have determined which actions you want to take, you must first let go of the activities you do that are less of a priority or that don't contribute in any way to your goal. A lot of us fill up our lives with so many plans and activities, that we no longer remember why we decided to do them in the first place. Or, we agree to take on responsibilities for fear of what others will say if we say 'no'.

What currently takes up your time that does not directly lead to the achievement of your goal? What can you eliminate or say 'no' to? Do not underestimate that fact that working toward a goal takes time. Time is a commodity. We all are given the exact same amount of it and it is up to us how we 'spend' it. It is not always easy to make decisions about where to put our time, which is why we set goals. We must ask ourselves the question, "does this detract from or contribute to my goals?" by way of evaluating whether something is worth doing or not. Then we must have the courage to include what contributes and let go of what does not.

Make a list of all the things you currently are doing with your time and ask yourself what you can eliminate or delegate to someone else. In addition, make a list of all the backlogged 'stuff' that needs attention. Spend the next month checking off the items on the list by either doing them or asking/hiring someone to do them for you.

Now you've made some time and space to 'take action'. Be very careful with what you add back in, as it is easy to fill up the time again.

In conclusion, in order to achieve your goals, you must be taking action steps toward them. If you are unable to take any action because you are already 'too busy', then you must learn to clean up and clear out your mental and physical space before there can be any room to take new action.

Marcy is the Nutrition and Mental Training Coach for the US National Racquetball Team. To subscribe to Marcy's free e-newsletter, or to schedule a "Winning Racquetball" workshop at your club, send an e-mail to marcy@marcylynch.com, or visit www.marcylynch.com. ©Marcy Lynch, the Fitness Coach 2002.
Training: Nutrition for Optimal Performance
by Tim Scheett, Ph.D

If you listen to the news, for any length of time, you’ll sooner or later hear that we need to be health conscious with our diet choices. This, of course, is a true statement! However, what we all must remember is that there are extremists out there who will tell you that eating certain foods is unhealthy – so before you decide to take their opinion as gospel – it’s a good idea to get a second opinion from a qualified person in the field.

Now let’s talk about nutrition and racquetball — are there any special foods that have to be consumed in order to play well? The answer is a simple: no, no and no! A simple, well balanced diet including protein, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, minerals and water is all that is required to provide all the adequate nutrients for a healthy person. And no — a double burger with fries does not qualify! However, if you are engaging in a fitness program designed to increase muscle mass, strength or power it would be advantageous to increase the amount of protein and anti-oxidants consumed. Additional protein will aid in muscle growth and the anti-oxidants help protect the body from damage occurred during exercise.

A few important things to remember about eating for performance include: 1) choose foods which will not cause gastrointestinal (stomach) upset, such as acidic foods or juices and spicy foods as these types of foods increases the amount of stomach acid that is released; 2) avoid large meals since they require considerably more time to digest and, more importantly, will cause an increase in insulin released into the bloodstream. Insulin is used by the body to remove glucose (sugar) from the blood, and a large spike in insulin, which occurs following a large meal, will actually lower your blood sugar and cause you to feel tired and sluggish. 3) To optimize performance, it’s advisable to eat your pre-game meal 3-5 hours prior to competition, which will give your stomach time to empty before game time; 4) if you have to play first thing in the morning, it’s advisable to eat a small amount of bland food which will quiet morning stomach pains (and, well, what’s better than a bagel in the morning?); 5) it is advisable to avoid high glycemic index foods (i.e. sugar, candy, potatoes, white bread) as these foods will induce a large insulin spike and will actually lower your blood sugar levels.

Finally, even with these tips about optimizing game day nutrition for performance, you should remember that — no matter what you eat the day of your game – it is what you ate the day before that will have had sufficient time to be digested and absorbed and thus available for use as energy during competition.

As always, if you have questions you would like to have addressed in future columns, just send me an email at timscheet@hotmail.com.

Training: Muscular Imbalance
by Aaron Haydu, D.C.

Humans are amazingly adaptive to the stresses of daily life. When our activities require repetitive or sustained postures or motions, then the muscular system can develop imbalances that can affect pain and certainly alter athletic performance. It is important to understand that certain muscles or groups of muscles are more prone to become overactive (the postural muscles) and others tend toward underactivity (the phasic muscles). Identification of these muscles and their altered patterns are important to your athletic endeavors, by maximizing the effectiveness of the muscular system.

Individuals involved in a sport that requires repetitive motions (like racquetball) or have professions that require a prolonged activity (sitting at a desk) are more prone to these patterns. Muscles that tend toward overactivity are; the calf, hamstrings, groin, hip flexors, low back, pectorals, and upper trapezius (shoulders). These muscles respond well to stretching and relaxation techniques. Muscles that tend toward underactivity are; the gluteals, abdominal, lower trapezius, and the muscles in front of the shins and neck. These groups can be treated with strengthening or muscle facilitation exercise designed to keep them active and strong. Your doctor or athletic trainer can recommend exercises that best isolate these muscles.
There are many consequences of muscular imbalance, all of which will certainly affect our athletic performance. Muscle imbalance causes uneven distribution of pressures on the joints, leading to premature wear and possible arthritis. It will limit range of motion in some joints, and make others too mobile. It will alter the correct movement patterns that we were born with, making our motions ineffective and potentially painful. Finally, it can change the ability of the body to respond to balance, coordination, and stability; all important factors in sports.

The patterns can affect the upper and/or lower body, and symptoms can range from pain and stiffness to muscle spasms and weakness. The good news is that the problem can be corrected with careful attention to your daily activities. Keep in mind that the brain thinks in terms of whole muscle motions and not the use of individual muscles. This means that pain may not always be the first symptom of a developing pattern. Try to recognize a regional pain or symptom pattern that is consistent over a large body area (i.e. the hip, low back, and buttocks or the shoulder, neck, and upper back). This is characteristic of an imbalance problem and treatment may be necessary. Be sure that the treating physician is familiar with these patterns and don’t wait if you suspect a problem, as prolonged imbalance will be “learned” and repeated by your muscles.

Green and Saunders crowned Canadian Singles Champions

From Racquetball Canada Website

Jennifer Saunders was crowned Canada’s new racquetball queen, after defeating top-seeded defending champion Josee Grand’Maitre, of Longueuil, Quebec in the final of the Canadian championships, at Club Sani Sport, in Brossard, Quebec in May. The 25 year-old from Winnipeg dominated the encounter, winning in two straight games of 15-12 and 15-4.

“It’s something I’ve worked on for so long and it’s so unbelievable. I couldn’t imagine it could go any better,” she said, grinning, as she was swarmed by friends and supporters following her victory. Saunders also confirmed her spot on the Canadian squad for the World Championships.

“I have international experience and I played all the toughest girls so I’m going in with the purpose of bringing home the championship and maybe going on the podium,” she said.

Michael Green’s dream of claiming the top spot in Canada’s rankings also became a reality, after he defeated Brian Istace, of Calgary, in the title match of the men’s open singles division at the Canadian championships.

“I thought it would have come a lot earlier. It’s almost a surprise now, so I’m really happy. I kept Brian off-balance and I played a solid and smart game,” said the Hamilton native who also confirmed his spot on the Canadian squad for this summer’s World Championships.

The full composition of the men’s squad for the World Championships has yet to be determined. Current doubles player Mike Ceresia of Toronto has yet to confirm his commitment to the team, which pushes Green to choose between entering the singles or the doubles event.

“I’m gonna talk with the coaching staff and with the players to decide. It’s a terrible dilemma,” he said.

Canada’s number one player, Kane Waselenchuk, of Edmonton, was not at the Nationals with a severe injury to his playing hand, so his status is also “TBA” for the Worlds.

The women’s team is all set up for Puerto Rico. Jennifer Saunders will head the singles roster, along with Josee Grand’Maitre, of Longueuil, Quebec. Doubles champions Amanda MacDonald and Karina Odegard, from Saskatoon will also represent Canada at the Worlds.

Team Ecuador Revitalized

Submitted by Kim Harris

After several years of not competing internationally, Team Ecuador is finally back in the courts. A three-year economic crisis kept the team from traveling and competing like they had hoped, as the FERAC (Ecuadorian Racquetball Federation) and Olympic Committee were enduring financial difficulty. With the stability and improvements that have come from switching the country’s currency from the Sucre to the Dollar, Ecuador is beginning to bounce back and proving its determiniation to succeed.

For the first time in its history, the Ecuador National Soccer team has qualified to go to the World Cup. As a result of this victory, more and more Ecuadorian athletes are beginning to see that “Si se puede” (or “it can be done”), can be a way of life. Team Ecuador is striving to follow in the footsteps of the National Soccer team by making victory in world competition their main goal.

In March, the team competed in the Tournament of the Americas in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Seeing as the top teams in this tournament would be qualifying for the 2003 Pan-Am Games in the Dominican Republic, Team Ecuador did not want to walk away empty-handed. After many weeks of grueling training and prac-
tice, the players went to Bolivia with their heads held high, knowing they were more ready than they'd ever been to prove themselves worthy of a chance to compete at the Games. With 12 teams battling for the honor of representing their country, the Ecuador men's team finished in 7th place—a tremendous victory for a team that has been in the shadows for some years now. Technical Director, John Harris, was pleased with their placement and said "These guys are at a level we've never seen before and it's great to see them living up to their potential."

When asked about his impression of the Team's performance in Bolivia, Jorge Luis Cueva, the President of FERAC said "For me, our participation in Bolivia was a great success. We as a team went with just one goal—to qualify for the Pan-Am Games in 2003 and we accomplished that. It's a great joy for me, as the President, to see our country take a first step towards achieving our dreams."

With up and coming players such as Jose Luis Cueva, Gustavo Molina, and Santiago Ugalde, Ecuador is looking to take great strides as they prepare to compete in the World Championships. Ecuador's number one player, Jose Luis Cueva is excited about the opportunity and said, "After participating in the Tournament of the Americas in Bolivia, I now really have a hunger to be back in international competition. I'm really looking forward to competing in the World Championships in Puerto Rico so I can see where I stand against some of the best there are after eight hard months of preparation and practice."

We look forward to seeing more of our friends from Ecuador as we wish them all the luck in the world. "SI SE PUEDE!" Welcome back!

USA & Canada Dominate Pan Am Qualifier

Submitted by Tom Rall

Earlier in the spring, the designated Pan American Games qualifying event—the PARC 15th Tournament of Americas took place in Cochabamba, Bolivia. And while it was yet another year where American, Canadian and Mexican teams dominated the field, it was unlike the last four years that Canada placed a clear second to the U.S. In the absence of a tie-breaking procedure, this year marked the first time that the USA and Canada officially ‘tied’ for first place. It could be a clear wake up call for the U.S., and a call-to-arms for Team Mexico, which placed third, a position it has held for the last five years. In 1996, however, they placed a very strong second to the USA, and in that same year Canada, ironically, placed sixth. With these few exceptions over the last half-decade the teams who have finished strongest, either taking home the Gold, Silver or Bronze have been the USA, Canada and Mexico.

Some surprising statistics about the Tournament of Americas are that the players on the Women's Doubles team from Bolivia were the only two players in either the Men or Women’s finals that were not from the USA, Canada or Mexico. The good news is that not all players in the finals were only from the USA, Canada and Mexico. Also, there were no repeat Singles or Doubles winners at this year's event. And finally, only Bill Sell, USA (Orange County, California) holds the honor of being the only player in the history of this event to have won both the Singles and Doubles Gold Medals the same year—Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 1988!

For more detailed results, go to www.racquetballmagazine.com > "Event Coverage" > choose "2002 Tournament of the Americas" for in-depth online reports and team rosters.

on the road again ...

In February, International Racquetball Federation [IRF] Secretary General Luke St. Onge was invited to meet with IOC officials and make a presentation on behalf of racquetball. To commemorate the historic meeting, he is pictured with (L-R): IOC Sports Director Gilbert Felli, [St. Onge], IOC President Jacques Rogge, and IRF Executive Vice-President Erik Meyer.
Roberts inducted to Hall of Fame

This year’s USRA Hall of Fame inductee, Andy Roberts, was selected on the basis of his outstanding athletic accomplishments, spanning a career of nearly three decades.

One of the most dominant pro players of the 90’s, Roberts finished six seasons with a top five ranking — twice finishing in the No.2 spot (1993, 1995). With over 15 tour wins to his credit, Roberts was — and continues to be — a fearsome opponent. He finished with a top-10 season ranking on the tour as recently as 1999.

Early in his rise to prominence, Roberts worked his way up through the junior ranks, gaining a reputation that earned him a racquetball scholarship at the University of Memphis. While there, his three singles and two doubles crowns helped Memphis win two National Intercollegiate Championships.


Selected as the USRA Athlete of the Year twice (1988, 1990), Roberts was also appointed to the U.S. National team for eight consecutive terms (1985-1991), where he added Tournament of the Americas, and World Championship titles to an impressive resume.

Beckwith Wins ‘Fair Play Award’

Submitted by Tom Rall

Lee Beckwith, one of Colorado’s premier players in both the Open and Age Divisions was named the 2002 John Halverson ‘Fair Play Award’ recipient at ceremonies held in Houston in late May. Tom Rall nominated Lee based upon his observations during the Colorado State Championship, where Lee distinguished himself as having displayed outstanding sportsmanship during the entire tournament.

Athletes honored: At the USRA’s annual award banquet in Houston, Athlete of the Year awards were given to Cheryl Gudinas and Jack Huczek (above). Age group recognition went to Debbie Tisinger [Peggy Steding Award winner] and Ruben Gonzalez [Bud Muelheisen Award recipient] (below). On receipt of his award, Gonzalez used the platform to thank Russ Mannino with the presentation of a special gift clock to mark their long-term friendship. Photos: John Foust.
But it was during one match in particular that Lee showed what sportsmanship is all about, and also redefined court etiquette. Against an opponent he had played before, Mike McKlintock, Lee took a shot that could have ended the rally, but as luck would have it he instead over­ran it a bit and hit the ball slightly ‘off'; the ball traveled close to his body and passed just by him. Mike was positioned very close behind, but with both players ‘on the run,’ for it to be called an ‘avoidable' was nebulous at best. Both players stopped. As McKlintock entered the service box to serve again, Lee stopped him and said, ‘That shot was an avoidable. You could have killed that ball. I was in your way.’ With that, the first game ended with Lee losing 14-15 on a call he made against himself. He walked off the court a bit disappointed, only to receive a standing ovation! He may have lost the game, but he had won the respect of everyone watching.

The close second game played out much like the first: 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, and Lee made two more calls on himself, but this time won the game 15-13. The tiebreaker was filled with great gets, long rallies and even more amazing shots! At 8-8, Lee made another call on himself on a ‘get’. It was questionable. The referee, even the crowd thought he had gotten the ball. But Lee was true to himself and insisted ‘I didn't get that’, and handed the ball to his opponent.

With an exceptional display of fine sportsmanship, Lee won the match 11-10. Shaking hands, it was clear that Mike was in awe of Lee's behavior. The crowd, which had grown substantially since the first game, was now on its feet. There was loud applause. Lee Beckwith in his first round match at the Colorado State Championships had set the example for the rest of the players to follow.

Debra Tisinger is the Racquetball Coordinator and Club Professional who, along with her daughter, Janel and volunteer Ron Lam, managed all tournament scheduling. Debra certainly knows racquetball and was recently named the Peggy Steding Award winner by the USRA and is currently ranked No.1 in the Women's 35+ and 40+ divisions. Janel is ranked No.2 in Women's 24 and under and is on the U.S. Junior Team.

Meri­ean Kelley, NMRA Vice-President said, "that player reactions were so positive toward the staff, club and hospitality, the NMRA Board decided to return to the Spectrum next year for the 2003 National Championships. The LA setting, accommodations at the Hilton Woodland Hills, great food, and fine banquet facilities were other factors in this easy decision." The on-site Spectrum sidewalk café was a huge hit with players. Using special "NMRA tourney dollars"
players were able to order from a full menu or a luncheon buffet. Manager Jim Greene said his café's motto is: "The Inside Secret to Fitness" and that the big seller was the Smoothie/Shake offering. He estimated that over a thousand pounds of fruit were used for shakes during the tournament.

**Tourney Results**
A record 246 players plus 45 guests were on-hand for the competition and banquet. That's forty more players than the last tournament, which was also a record-breaker. Ron Pudduck noted that the membership of the organization has grown more than 150% during the last four years and now has to limit the number of entries. The fact that the championships were located on the West Coast seemed to have had little effect on where players came from. Ron noted that "34 states plus the District of Columbia were represented and that exactly half or 17 states were located east of the Mississippi River."


**MIXED DOUBLES:** Leslie Pawka-CA/ Mike Pawka-CA; Joy Desantis-CA/Ron Adams-CA; 65+: Lola Markus-IL/Roy Rudichuk-OK

**The Next Stop**
The NMRA's International Championships is set for July 17-20 in Champaign, Illinois using the University of Illinois' athletic facility. An AmpRO Clinic will be offered before the tournament on July 15-16. Ron Pudduck expects this to be another record breaker and suggests that players get their entries in early. Note: For more information about the NMRA or the tournament contact Ron Pudduck at 734-426-7522 or email at: ronpudduck@aol.com

**Minnesota did it Again**
by Barbara Wilson
Minnesota had the second largest contingent at this event, second only to California with 80 players. In attendance were Bob Englund of Minnetonka, in the 70+ singles and doubles; Harold "Cap" Hiles of Stillwater (70+ singles); Susan Kieffer of Nisswa (50_ doubles and singles); Don Larsen of Mount (60+ doubles); Lee Rients of Wilmar (60+ singles); Amos Rosenbloom of Edine (70+ doubles); Ralph Stillman of Minnetonka (70+ doubles and singles); and Dave Warner of Maple Plain (50+ doubles and singles).

Stillman and Englund came in fourth in the 70+ doubles division and Hiles and Rosenbloom came in eighth. Fingerman and Larsen finished third in the 60+ doubles.

**Building Michigan Junior Racquetball**
by Dale Brown
"We wanted to get a mess of kids together for a day of racquetball," said Twayne Howard, "To say that we got that done is something of an understatement." One of the organizers of the first-ever Mich-Illi cup — a one-day junior tournament featuring players from Michigan and Illinois — Howard was referring to the nearly 70 youngsters who gathered in Grand Rapids at the Orchard Hills club on February 23.

"Their kids are a little further along than ours in terms of tournament competition, but this was a fine chance for Michigan juniors to see what's possible," said Dale Brown, another of the

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Pictured: Debra Tisinger and Ron Pudduck welcome players to the Spectrum Club. Debra runs several major tournaments each year...one of which is the Tournament of Terror, (a Halloween event where wild costumes are the order of the day). She is holding up the souvenir shirt designed by her father who is a retired graphics designer.

Building Michigan Junior Racquetball
event organizers. The Illinois team boasted four players with top ten national rankings and those players in the boys' 10 through boys' 18 divisions carried the day for Illinois. Points were awarded to the top three finishers in six boys' divisions and three girls' divisions. "Although they took home the travel trophy, I was proud of the Michigan kids. We played hard and shook hands when the matches were over," said Brown.

Paula Spagnuolo, director of racquetball at several clubs in Grand Rapids, is excited about the emergence of junior racquetball as a sign of health for the sport. "Of the 35 or so players on the Michigan team, nearly 25 came from our program here in West Michigan," she said. "That gives us some idea of what we can do as we learn from successful programs in other states like Illinois, Ohio, and Oregon," Spagnuolo added. The Grand Rapids players where joined by a Detroit contingent coached by Lewis Forest and two players from Muskegon. "If we're to develop a truly state wide program, we'll need to pull in players from Lansing and the other areas where programs are developing," Brown said.

The Grand Rapids program has seen more than 170 young people come in to a Sunday clinic program over the past three years. Every Sunday they get together for free play, in-house tournaments, instruction, and (sometimes) pizza. Older members have supported the program with equipment and donations. Now several of the junior players are anticipating competition at the state tournament in April and at the nationals in June. "The Mich-Illi Cup was just one more step in our development," Brown said. "Our kids were really dazzled by the matching red shirts the Illinois players wore. I guess we'll have to get some blue ones for our bunch."

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**Not your Typical Match**

**by Philip Suarez, M.D.**

The 2002 Regional Qualifying tournament in San Antonio, Texas saw typical tough competition and great racquetball ... but it also featured a dramatic trauma that none of us anticipated.

I was in Dallas for the Texas Medical Association meeting from Wednesday until Friday, April 19th. From there, my wife, Trish, and I got in the car at noon and drove to San Antonio for the regional. After settling in, we went over to the courts only to discover that my first match opponent didn't show. I won that by forfeit. My second match, in Men's 45+ A/B was scheduled for 11:00 pm.

The match went on pretty close to the scheduled time against a fellow by the name of Rick Mogren. Rick and I have played before and know each other pretty well.

As the first game was winding down I was winning 12-10 and just won a long rally to take the score to 13-10. As I turned to get the ball, I saw Rick crumple to the ground. He collapsed on the court and quickly went into complete cardio-respiratory arrest! He had a massive M.I. right there on the court! I knew exactly what happened when I saw him go down...
I turned to the crowd watching and told them to call 911 and immediately dropped to my knees. I rolled him over; he was hyperventilating for a moment, then quit breathing altogether. Checked for pulse — nothing. He was, quite simply, dead right there on the court.

Immediately before starting the match he had said "Phil, I guess I'm getting old or something. I've been having chest pressure and pain for a few weeks now." I told him that we did not have to play but he insisted that he had a full cardiac work up in March and he was fine and wanted to play. Almost prophetically I jokingly told him before I served the first point - "now, Rick, if you go down in here I'm NOT giving you mouth-to-mouth!" He responded, "Good! I don't want you to give me mouth-to-mouth. Let me die instead!"

Well, I certainly ate my words.

As luck would also have it, Zelda Salas, the girlfriend of another Victoria player, just walked through the door when this happened. She worked as an EMT and promptly came in to help.

We started performing CPR right there on the court only after a few moments. Somehow I got the short straw and did the breathing! Zelda did the compressions, Trish timed and counted everything, and several other people were there ready to help. It was an absolute eternity till the EMS arrived — 13 minutes to be exact! After every breath I found myself looking over my shoulder hoping to see them. The final "four and FIVE" came all-too-quickly and it was time to blow again! Each time we checked for a pulse we got nothing.

When the EMS arrived they hooked up their monitor — he was still in a deadly heart rhythm without a true beat. They had the equipment to clear his airway and they shocked him once. His cardiac function returned immediately.

They then intubated him and started bagging him with oxygen.

They whisked him off to the hospital. Apparently by the time they got to the ER (only three minutes away) he was already fighting and pulled his tube out.

After the excitement settled down a bit, I showered and went to the ER, where Rick was confused but alert and stable. Another visit Saturday evening found him on the step-down ward on telemetry — doing perfectly fine! He had undergone a cardiac cath Friday night. They placed a stint and had done a balloon on two other cardiac artery narrowings.

Unbelievably, Rick was discharged from the hospital the next Monday! Apparently the cardiologist told him that he probably was going to have no permanent cardiac muscle damage! He also, thank God, had absolutely NO CNS (brain) injury from the event! A real win for us!!

Rick definitely has another lease on life! You hear about these scary things all the time — but I never thought it would happen to ME! YIKES!!

Every time I've been involved in a medical emergency I've had all my equipment there — tubing, suction, EKG monitors, operating rooms, etc. This time I only had my Ektelon racquet! Never have I seen such a thing, particularly with a relatively healthy 46 year old man!

There are a couple of take-home messages here. First, I guess, if you're going to have a massive heart attack and try to die on the court, you'd better be playing a doctor!

Second, everyone should be up on CPR and know how to immediately resuscitate someone if they go down. Looking around, I didn't see very many people who had a clue what to do. He surely would have been dead, or at least suffered severe brain injury, if efforts had been delayed at all.

Go out and take CPR! Until our sport gets on-site EMS staffing, each and every player at the competitive level should take it upon themselves to get this training. As it was shown in April of 2002 in San Antonio: something that simple can save another's life. And remember: nobody promises you tomorrow!

Philip Suarez is a practicing physician in Victoria, Texas and a member of the South Texas Team Ektelon.
Rumford — Dennison
Former two-time age-group champion Mike Dennison wed Carrie Rumford on April 13th, 2002. The two met at an Intercollegiate regional tournament while Mike was playing for Akron University and Carrie for Baldwin Wallace College. After dating for four years, she finally gave in and the two were married in Mike's hometown of Stow, Ohio. Several racquetball tournament regulars were in the wedding including Mike's best man and twin brother Dave, Chris Wachtel, Matt Adesso, Rob Teren, and Butch Simpson. Mike admits, "If it weren't for racquetball, I may have never met her." Carrie is employed as a Physical Education instructor at the Chagrin Falls Intermediate School and Mike is a mortgage broker for Diversified Lending, Inc. The couple plans to start a junior team of their own, so everyone beware of a kid shooting rockets off of his racquet in a court near you soon!

Schenker — Muller
Former, long-time U.S. National Team member, and world doubles champion Eric Muller tied the knot with Boston University classmate Lydia Schenker in mid-March. A non-racquetball player, the new Mrs. Muller is originally from New Jersey, and now teaches third grade in New York City. The wedding was held in New Jersey, and attended by cohorts Jack Huczek, Aaron Katz, and Sudsy Monchik [pictured].

Schagel — Mannino
Jason Mannino married Jennifer Schagel on February 9, after several years of courtship and, at press time, the pair were already expecting. The wedding was held at the Monte Carlo Hotel in Las Vegas, with the reception in a 2000 square foot suite at the Mandalay Bay Hotel. It included 40 members of their family and closest friends, including some of racquetball's top names: Mr./Mrs. Adam Karp, Mr./Mrs. Brian Mirich, Fran Davis, and Jeff Bloom.

Paraiso — Rice
Although it's almost time for the first anniversary, this behind-the-scenes photo still works. LPRA supporters at the wedding took some time to visualize some shots, in formal wear, with newlywed Jackie Paraiso Rice. L-R: Laura Fenton, Ramona Vonondarza, Jackie, and Kersten Hallander.
Winterton Re-appointed as U.S. Team Coach

After a two-year stint as head coach of the Mexican National Team, Jim Winterton is back coaching for the U.S. Winterton previously coached the U.S. squad for a full decade before stepping down to work with the U.S. Junior National Team. He was soon approached for, and accepted, the head coaching position for Mexico.

During his tenure, Winterton’s U.S. squads won the International Racquetball Federation World Championships in each of the years he was at the helm. His teams also brought home five Tournament of the Americas team crowns and swept the 1995 Pan-American Games, winning six gold medals and two silvers. In the 1999 Pan Am Games, his team almost repeated the feat by capturing six gold medals, a silver, and a bronze.

In his first World Championships as the head of the Mexican Team Winterton coached the men’s team world championships in both singles and doubles. In the process, his players made history by capturing the men’s team title, plus an individual World title for Alvaro Beltran in singles. It was the first time, ever, that Team Mexico players had placed so well, and it was also the first year that the U.S. did not come away with the overall World Championship team trophy.

Winterton is eager to get to work to make sure that doesn’t happen again at the World Championships this August in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His roster will have been named by the time this issue is delivered; look online at www.usra.org for updates!

Nick Sans: Athlete, Champion, and Friend to Many

by Tom Rall and Mickey Bellah

Sadly, after a long illness, one of racquetball’s most beloved members has passed away. For all of us who knew Nick Sans it is safe to say we enjoyed the pleasure of his quiet demeanor, his soft smile and his very keen sense of humor. He was indeed an easy man to like. As a man of principle, strong character and integrity he set an example for us all to follow. One described Nick as ‘...a man who had a great spirit, a tender heart and a very gracious approach to his fellow man.” Certainly Nick touched the hearts of many. We were lucky to have had him among us for so long. He was a good man, a good friend, and he'll be missed.

Nick managed to win several tournaments in his day, two of which were the National Singles Championship in Houston, and National Masters Singles Championship. As a player, he was both methodical and crafty, able to maneuver his opponents out of position and then take advantage of it, winning streaks of points at a time in a single game. Once ahead Nick was hard to beat. He won a lot of games, way, way more than he lost. And in the process he made several friends. Even the players he beat could not help but like him. The result was a man showered with friendships that lasted a lifetime.

We are always saddened by the loss of someone we once knew, especially a loved one. Nick was one who attracted and befriended many people from all walks of life, from company presidents and professional athletes in different sports, to surgeons, technological geniuses, inventors, politicians, writers, authors and scientists. He treated everyone the same, never talking ‘down’ to anyone and always carrying a quaint smile around with him wherever he went. We saw him frequently at our club — The Spectrum Club, Fullerton, California. Sometimes he joined us for doubles. Sometimes he just practiced. Always he was a joy to be with. Tom Rall described him this way:

'I met Nick in 1989 while getting some food served at one of the tournaments we were both playing in. He asked me to pass him the mustard and for the next thirteen years we talked every time we saw each other. Then we became members of the same club and were always talking about this or that, trying to be funny. He was a quiet, easy-going, yet sophisticated man whose smile and soft gray hair became his trademark. He was an honest man who embraced life with an open mind
and heart. He was always easy to talk to even though I knew he was a giant of a man intellectually. I also knew he was loved by many. Hearing of his passing saddened me, as I am sure it did others who knew him. All who knew him are saddened by Nick’s passing and express our sincere condolences to his family. We all will miss him.

Lynmar Named U.S. National Training Center

The Lynmar Health and Racquet Club and the U.S. Racquetball Association recently announced an agreement, in which the facility has been named the official national racquetball center for USRA’s elite training programs. Lynmar will become the venue for all elite events offered locally by the USRA, including national team training camps, junior elite camps, conferences, and major international racquetball events hosted by the USRA and the USOC.

Lynmar was the host venue for the Top-Three Challenge in 1991 (between the U.S., Canada and Mexico), which was nationally televised; and the U.S. Olympic Festival in 1995. The USRA’s elite racquetball camps have been held at the facility since 1984 and the club is seeking to expand in the future to become the premier racquetball tournament venue in the United States. Just minutes from the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Lynmar has hosted events from state championships to Ladies Professional Racquetball Association pro tour stops.

Racquetball on Kilimanjaro

Last fall, former USRA webmaster Curt Rettke stopped on his way up Mt. Kilimanjaro to try and pose with his USA Racquetball t-shirt. “The racquetball (photo) did not come out as well as I’d hoped … the USA shirt came out kinda bad because the 30 mph wind gusts made it tough to keep the shirt steady.” He survived his three-week trip [see more photos at www.rettke.org] just in time to return home and complete the real test – finish out the racquetball season, uninjured!

Board Elections

The board’s election committee released verified tallies in Houston, which identified the four successful candidates seeking election. By percentage of votes cast, Ed Willis (Va.) lead the list of board hopefuls by earning 45.5%, followed by Randy Stafford (Tenn.) with 44.2%, Stephanie Munger (Alaska) with 41.8% and Jim Garner (Ala.) with 37.5% [see photos & profiles in the March/April issue]. Each has now been named to a three-year appointment to the board. For the full board list, and new officer positions, go to www.usra.org > “Directories” > “Board of Directors.”

Our history books report that when asked to surrender, John Paul Jones (Revolutionary War) became famous for saying “I have not yet begun to fight” and General Tony McAlaffe, for his one word response of “Nuts” at the battle of the bulge (WWII). Both backed up their words with world renowned actions.

The actions of the few folks I’ve just mentioned (plus the legion of those I have not had the pleasure of competing against yet) also speak much louder than words of the courage, competitiveness, tenacity, and heart of the folks that make up our international racquetball community. Any of those “Comeback Kids” (ranging in age from 16 to 64), will recognize themselves when they read this, and know that their intangible, well-earned “Gumption Awards” have been presented (or at least acknowledged) here today.

And by the way, it’s nice to be back after a two and a half year layoff due to a little problem of my own.

Mike Lazarow • League City, Texas

July – August 2002
### ENTRY FORM — Ektelon 35th U.S. National Doubles Championships

Minneapolis, Minnesota: October 2-6, 2002

---

**Name** ____________________________ **Gender:** M | F

**Address** ____________________________

**City/State/Zip** _________________

**Phone (Day)** ___________ **(Eves)** ___________

**Email** ____________________________

**Birthdate** ________________ **Age** ______

**Employer** ________________ **Occupation** ______

**Partner** ________________ **Division** ______

**Partner** ________________ **Division** ______

**Partner** ________________ **Mixed** ______ *

*A third division is offered for Mixed Division play only. No consolation rounds offered.*

---

**Required Signature & Date**

---

**Required Skill Level Verification** • Please indicate below your eligibility for competition in the skill level you have chosen. This information will be verified and re-classification may take place if deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director.

- [ ] I have been AmPRO certified at this level by (name required):
  
  AmPRO Certified Instructor ____________________________

- [ ] I have recently competed at this level in my state, and been approved for participation at this level nationally by the state director or designated representative shown:
  
  (name required)

- [ ] I competed at this level (but did not win the division title) at the ___ 2000 National Doubles, or the ___ 2000 U.S. OPEN.

---

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**Divisions** • Both players on any team must meet all age division requirements and be certified to compete in chosen skill levels. Players may choose only one “red” skill division in any category.

**U.S. Team Qualifying OPEN Division**

- [ ] OPEN Team Qualifier (unrestricted entry)

---

**Age Divisions**

- [ ] 24-
- [ ] 25+
- [ ] 30+
- [ ] 35+
- [ ] 40+
- [ ] 45+
- [ ] 50+
- [ ] 55+
- [ ] 60+
- [ ] 65+
- [ ] 70+
- [ ] 75+
- [ ] 80+
- [ ] 85+

**Skill Divisions**

- [ ] ELITE (State Open)
- [ ] A
- [ ] B
- [ ] C
- [ ] D
- [ ] 24+ A/B
- [ ] 24+ C/D
- [ ] 25+ A/B
- [ ] 25+ C/D
- [ ] 35+ A/B
- [ ] 35+ C/D
- [ ] 45+ A/B
- [ ] 45+ C/D
- [ ] 55+ A/B
- [ ] 55+ C/D

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**Mixed Doubles Divisions**

- [ ] MX OPEN
- [ ] MX ELITE
- [ ] MX A
- [ ] MX B
- [ ] MX C
- [ ] MX D
- [ ] MX 24-
- [ ] MX 25+
- [ ] MX 30+
- [ ] MX 35+
- [ ] MX 40+
- [ ] MX 45+
- [ ] MX 50+
- [ ] MX 55+
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- [ ] MX 65+
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Entries must be received by Wednesday, September 18 (Postmarked by September 13)

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July 15-16
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Champaign, IL
Clinician: Gary Mazaroff
505-266-8960

July 19-21
Orlando Fitness & Racquet
Orlando, FL
Clinician: Mary Lyons
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July 19-21
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Clinician: Jim Winterton
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September 21-22
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Clinician: Gary Mazaroff

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Ranked #3 John Ellis, (Pro Kennex)
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August 2-4 Albany, NY
August 16-18(Doubles) San Francisco, CA
August 23-25(Singles) San Francisco, CA
September 20-21(mini) Coral Springs, FL
October 18-20 Laurel, MD
October 25-27 Portland, OR
November 15-17 Atlanta, GA
December 5-12 Aruba (Caribbean Island)
January 17-19, 24-26 TBA
February 14-16 TBA
March 7-9, 14-16, 28-30 TBA
April 4-6 TBA

This schedule is tentative due to IRT dates!
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PowerBar

Propenn
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>National Rankings</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>National Rankings</th>
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<tr>
<td>25+</td>
<td>A/B</td>
<td>Based on results processed by the national office as of 06/01/02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### MEN

**Men's 24+/A/B**

1. Andres Ramirez, FL
2. Chris Coy, OK
3. T. L. Lefler, DC
4. Martin Gonzalez, IL
5. Cesar Castro, TX
6. Jesse Keaveny, AK
7. Armando Amaro, WA
8. Chad Davies, OK
9. Bryan Jacoby, SC
10. Marcelo Laprea, TX

**Men's 35+/A/B**

1. John Dill, TX
2. Chris Salge, CA
3. David Marrero, FL
4. Angelo Penelli, PA
5. Jacob Chambers, KS
6. Rob Gruner, NY
7. Mark Blanch, OK
8. Eric Haelgen, MI
9. Matt Malerypto, MI
10. Jake Skinner, NM

**Men's 35+/C/D**

1. Jeff Courtwright, OK
2. Rudy Olivaros, TX
3. Garry Carter, CA
4. Paul Gomberg, TX
5. Michael Berube, FL
6. Terry Lambright, LA
7. Rick Falcone, IL
8. Sam Thomas, OK
9. George Church, TX
10. Bill Elder, OK

**Men's 40+/A/B**

1. Alfred Baco, CA
2. Edward Reed, CA
3. Jeff Elder, MD
4. Doug Hefbert, SD
5. David Stob, VA
6. Chris Evans, NM
7. Leo Formanski, IL
8. Bob Herman, WA
9. Jeff Toczyinski, MI
10. Edward Barlow, RI

**Men's 40+/C/D**

1. Sterling Altobell, CA
2. Jeff Johnson, MI
3. Michael Kaufman, GA
4. Keith Gardiner, VA
5. Tracy Diemi, WI
6. Wayne Bristol, CO
7. Joseph Oehl, IL
8. Lynn Stephens, NC
9. Oscar Vargas, TX
10. Anthony Korn, WA

**Men's 45+/A/B**

1. Frank Gamila, LA
2. John Patalano, RI
3. Dave Gross, SD
4. Tyrone White, AL
5. Keith Butts, TX
6. Robert Franke, CA
7. Tom Jacoby, NC
8. William Cannon, AL
9. Joel Mautavia, MI
10. Mark Pritchard, NM

**Men's 45+/C/D**

1. G Kyle Smith, TX
2. Howard Walters, CA
3. Larry Bizzarri, IN
4. Ben Brewster, TX
5. Robert Mosk, TX
6. Marc Scher, TX
7. Peter Kochs, OK
8. Ralph Ronnebaum, KS
9. Dean Hicks, MO
10. Ronald Maestas, AZ

**Men's 50+/A/B**

1. Peter Chmielewski, CA
2. Garry Carter, CA
3. Robert Franks, FL
4. Antonio Garcia, TX
5. Al Kohl, MI
6. John Kariol, IL
7. Jim Cullere, CA
8. Ron Perovich, MI
9. Dennis Rosenberg, PA
10. Joe Vellander, PA

**Men's 50+/C/D**

1. Walt Charlton, OK
2. Charles Van Hoose, MI
3. Bruce Cole, CA
4. George Jackson, TX
5. William Dodge, WA
6. Michael Grosso, CO
7. Gerald Howard, TX
8. Peter Kochis, OK
9. Howard Call, WA
10. Pete Sagasi, MA

**Men's 55+/A/B**

1. Jim Baker, TX
2. Terry Dees, CO
3. Ken Foster, TX
4. Robert Hill, TX
5. George Smuckel, IL
6. Willie Davenport, VA
7. Jerry Kriger, CA
8. Megan Kirt Notlem, MD
9. Bob Chapman, CA
10. Larry Kettridge, GA

**Men's 55+/C/D**

1. Mike Bennets, TX
2. Howard Walters, CA
3. Larry Bizzarri, IN
4. Ben Brewster, TX
5. Robert Mosk, TX
6. Marc Scher, TX
7. Peter Kochs, OK
8. Ralph Ronnebaum, KS
9. Dean Hicks, MO
10. Ronald Maestas, AZ

### WOMEN

**Women's 24+/A/B**

1. Kelley Fisher, OH
2. Nicole Whitney, NY
3. Keely Franks, MI
4. Jesi Fuller, NM
5. Jeni Fuller, NM
6. D'Amourique Davis, TX
7. Danielle Mathieu, MO
8. Rachel Mimsy, KY
9. Eva Alle, GA
10. Wesley Toland, AR

**Women's 25+/A/B**

1. Candi Houstovich, FL
2. Claudia Ramirez, FL
3. Nathanael Stewart, GA
4. Ramona Von Ordonarz, FL
5. Karen Denu, MO
6. Danielle Emerson, MD
7. Stephanie Cobb, MI
8. Dyan Anderson, MI
9. Catherine Bertucci, IL
10. Stephanie Bird, OK

**Women's 25+/C/D**

1. Marc Laramore, TN
2. Cheyenne Hayes, WA
3. Tanya Mcconaha, CA
4. Michelle Lexow, IL
5. Larissa Lillas, FL
6. Claudine Andolo, FL
7. Heidi Zilla, MO
8. Linda Bateman, AK
9. Melanie Stowell, FL
10. Kelley Wadlung, OH

**Women's 30+/A/B**

1. Esther McNary, CT
2. Sara Neyes, FL
3. Hilary Anderson, OH
4. Beatrice Jefferson-Benn, AZ
5. Sharon Chandler, WA
6. Judy Ostoich, PA
7. Catherine Bertucci, IL
8. Irene Delgado, NY
9. Karen Denu, MO
10. Jessica Hamlin, FL

**Women's 30+/C/D**

1. Joan Vande Kieft, IL
2. Ann Barnes, MS
3. Sue Benton, TN
4. Laura Davis, GA
5. Nancy Gager, NJ
6. Janet Christie, IL
7. Connie Coile, FL
8. Darlene Reddick, MO
9. Molly Hedgescock, NC

**Women's 35+/A/B**

1. Jayne Vandrata, CA
2. Karen Green, MI
3. Kathy Welker, IL
4. Rhonda Kochis, OK
5. Thao Le, VA
6. Jennifer Nelson, MN
7. Bonnie Sanderson, PA
8. Rebecca Polignone, MD

**Women's 35+/C/D**

1. Barbara Christensen, UT
2. Jessica Hamlin, FL
3. Gwenlindi Morris
4. Lori Powers, TX
5. Shari Gross, PA
6. Felicia Jackson, TX
7. Molly Hedgescock, NC

**Women's 40+/A/B**

1. Janice Kennedy, GA
2. Rosario Kelley, TX
3. Guinmo Matthes
4. Vivian Rodriguez, CA
5. Gino Cendoya, FL
6. Elaine Fisher, OH
7. Melody Gorno, MI
8. Ann Matto, FL
9. Joanna Reyes, TX
10. Ynez Staymaker, AK

**Women's 40+/C/D**

1. Sabrina Francis
2. Jean Leach, NH
3. Janice Bell, GA
4. Teresa Welch, TX

**Women's 45+/A/B**

1. Cheryl Kirk, IL
2. Joan Vande Kieft, IL
3. Cynthia Hugie, PA
4. Cece Palaski, CA
5. Marquita Molina, CA
6. Patricia Schol, LA
7. Laura Patterson, MI
8. Catherine Menjuy, NC
9. Janet Christie, IL
10. Molly Hedgescock, NC

**Women's 45+/C/D**

1. Diana Courtney, MI
2. Ann Barnes, MS
3. Sue Benton, TN
4. Laura Davis, GA
5. Nancy Gager, NJ
6. Janet Christie, IL
7. Connie Coile, FL
8. Darlene Reddick, MO
9. Molly Hedgescock, NC

**Women's 50+/A/B**

1. Joan Vande Kieft, IL
2. Lynn Thomas, TX
3. Patricia Schol, LA
4. Ronnie Wetzel, TX
5. Dorothy Che-Menjuy, IL
6. Cynthia Hugie, CT
7. Pat Kong, CA
8. Marquita Molina, CA
9. Veronica Yorks, MD

**Women's 55+/A/B**

1. Josie Hausermann, OK
### Men's Rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Rankings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jack Huczak, MI</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>24-34</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alex Brown, MI</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Scott Gilbertson, KY</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Michael Toomey, OH</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>55+</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>JoAnn Gilchrist, PA</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>24-34</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lisa Colangelo, CA</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Beth Rottman, WI</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Men's Open**
- 1. Jack Huczak, MI
- 2. Alex Brown, MI
- 3. Scott Gilbertson, KY
- 4. Michael Toomey, OH

**Men's 24-34**
- 1. Mitch Williams, NC
- 2. Brent Walters, PA
- 3. Michael Harmon, FL

**Men's 35-44**
- 1. Brian Frederking, TX
- 2. Brian Pointel, UT
- 3. Kelly North, KY

**Men's 45-54**
- 1. Jim Minkel, TX
- 2. Donald Sims, AE
- 3. Eugene Coyle, IL

**Men's 55+**
- 1. Jim Kennel, PA
- 2. John Barrett, PA
- 3. Jim Frautschi, MN

**Men's Elite**
- 1. Joe LoBiondo, TX
- 2. Terry Albright, MO
- 3. Samuel Harvey, PA

**Women's Rankings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Rankings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Adrienne Fisher, OH</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>24-34</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Janet Myers, NC</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Aimee Roehl, NJ</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Women's Open**
- 1. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
- 2. Laura Fenton, KS
- 3. Julie Hill, OK

**Women's 24-34**
- 1. Mary Buxton, PA
- 2. Linda Rents, IA
- 3. Warren Reuther, LA

**Women's 35-44**
- 1. Terry Albright, MO
- 2. Samuel Harvey, PA
- 3. Anna McAdam, TX

**Women's 45-54**
- 1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
- 2. Janet Myers, NC
- 3. Aimee Roehl, NJ

**Women's Elite**
- 1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
- 2. Janet Myers, NC
- 3. Aimee Roehl, NJ

---

**Notes:**
- Rankings are based on performance in recent tournaments.
- Age groups are categorized based on the participant's age at the time of the ranking.
- Men's and Women's categories are listed separately for clarity.

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**Additional Information:**
- Men's and Women's divisions are further divided into Open, 24-34, 35-44, 45-54, and Elite categories.
- Rankings are updated quarterly based on the latest tournament results.

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**Contact Information:**
- For more details, visit the official website at [Racquetball.org](http://Racquetball.org).
- Join the community on social media at [RacquetballOnline](https://RacquetballOnline).

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**July August 2002**
5. Susan Pfahler, FL
6. Susan Kieffer, MN
7. Janet Myers, NC
8. Val Shewfelt, UT
9. Shari Coplen, MO
10. Marianne Walsh, UT
11. Karen Weins, FL
12. T. Agatha Falso, FL
13. Linda Neel, OR
14. Lorraine Calloway, NY
15. T. Jo Penny, SC
16. Vivian Gomez, FL
17. T. Mackie Curley, SC
18. Brenda White, IL
19. Marsha So lanna Targaran, CA
20. Anita Maldonado, NY
21. Laura Fenton, KS
22. T. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
23. Kelley Beane, NH
24. Jackie Curley, SC
25. 1. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
26. 2. Lorraine Calloway, NY
27. 3. S o lanna Taragan, CA
28. 4. Anita Maldonado, NY
29. 5. Laura Fenton, KS
30. 6. T. Jo Penny, SC
31. 7. Brenda White, IL
32. 8. Marsha So lanna Targaran, CA
33. 9. T. Jo Penny, SC
34. 10. Vivian Gomez, FL
35. 11. T. Mackie Curley, SC
36. 12. Brenda White, IL
37. 13. Marsha So lanna Targaran, CA
38. 14. Laura Fenton, KS

Women's 35+
1. Debra Tisinger, CA
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
3. Solanna Targaran, CA
4. Anita Maldonado, NY
5. Felicia Mann, MI
6. Laura Fenton, KS
7. Laura Brandt, FL
8. T. Debra Bryant, NC
9. Alice Douglass, IN
10. Paula Saad, MI

Women's 40+
1. Debra Tisinger, CA
2. Malia Bailey, VA
3. Liz Mollot, IL
4. Marianne Walsh, UT
5. Peggy Stephens, KY
6. Meena Evans, NC
7. Chris Evan, IL
8. Shari Coplen, MO
9. Ellen Somberg, MI
10. Cy Evans, NM

Women's 45+
1. Meena Evans, NC
2. Susan Pfahler, FL
3. Marsha Berry, KY
4. Marcin Richards, CO
5. Linda Moore, NE
6. Karen Key, AZ
7. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
8. Val Shewfelt, UT
9. Brenda White, IL
10. Mary Keenan, CO

Women's 50+
1. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
2. Susan Kieffer, AK
3. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
4. Janet Marys, NC
5. Elaine Dexter, CA
6. Linda Cowalt, WI
7. Linda Neel, OR
8. Agatha Dalso, FL
9. Karen Wiens, FL
10. Sharon Huczek, MI

Women's 55+
1. Cece Pa laski, CA
2. MerJean Kelley, CA
3. Nida Runes, CA
4. Mary Lou Furas, NM
5. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
6. Margaret Hoff, IL
7. Agatha Dalso, FL
8. Paula Sperling, NM
9. Joy Dantas, CA
10. Shari Coplen, MO

Women's 60+
1. Sharon Hasting-Welby, OR
2. Mildred Cwinn, WI
3. Marquita Molina, CA
4. Sharon Welty, OR
5. Gloria P discussion, OR
6. Gail Schaefer, MD
7. Gail Schaefer, CA
8. Sylvia Sawyers, UT
9. Pauline Kelly, IL
10. Annabelle Kovar, NE

Women's 65+
1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Lola Markus, IL
3. Mary Low Acuff, NC
4. Naomi Eads, MO
5. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
6. Jo Penny, SC
7. Carol Brown, AZ
8. Jeanne Leben, AZ

Women's 70+
1. Lola Markus, IL
2. Rita Harring, WI
3. Betty Bailey, KY
4. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
5. Louise Kiss, NM
6. Mary Low Racket, N
7. Mary Low Acuff, NC
8. Mary Low Acuff, NC
9. Helen Dyshyer, PA

Women's 80+
1. Mary Low Acuff, NC
2. Helen Dyshyer, PA

BOY'S

B6- Multi-Bounce
1. Sam Reid, OR
2. Nicholas Fonseca, GA
3. Doug Brenner, OR
4. Matt McDermott, CO
5. Jackson Rogers, NM
6. Spencer Shorocks, OH
7. Jake Breeden, MN
8. David Nojorge, CA
9. Kyle Ullman, OH
10. Danny Lewis, PA

Boy's 6-
1. Jesse Van Valkenburg, UT
2. Gregory Shipman, UT
3. Brandon Golob, VA
4. Andrew Lee, KY
5. Marcos Rojas, CA
6. Keegan North, KY
7. Trent Chester, MI
8. Jose Diaz, CA
9. Nicholas Fonseca, GA
10. Josh Hirsh, FL

Girl's 8-
1. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
2. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
3. Annelise Albrecht, OH
4. John Polio, KY
5. Justine Fleck, IL
6. Jonathan Justice, NC
7. Zachary Apperson, OH
8. Chris Adams, CA
9. Nick Arturo, AK
10. Jake Breeden, MN

Boy's 14-
1. Anthony Martin, CA
2. Andrew Cate, UT
3. Joey Lakoswski, OH
4. Angel Khamis, IL
5. Brandon Ritschard, IL
6. Zachary Apperson, OH
7. Jermaine Brock, UT
8. Brandon Callihan, KY

Girl's 10-
1. Wesley Tolan, AR
2. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
3. Julia Negrete, IL
4. Izzy Vogn, IL
5. Angie Yates, UT

Event Level/Description | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5-8 | 9-16
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
Closed Club Event | 30 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 0
Open Tournament | 50 | 30 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 0
State Championship | 150 | 100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0
Regional Championship | 250 | 150 | 100 | 75 | 50 | 25
National Invitationl | 300 | 200 | 150 | 100 | 75 | 50
National Championship | 600 | 400 | 300 | 200 | 100 | 50

*In draws of 48 or more at Level Five or Level Six events, 9-16th place finishes earn points.
sanctioned event calendar sanctioned event calendar sanctioned event calendar

july...

July 17-20  NMRA International Champs @ University Of Illinois ........................................... Champaign, IL 217-351-9093
July 19-21  VA Commonwealth Games @ Sport & Health ...................................................... Vinton, VA 540-977-1200
July 20-21  Cornhusker State Games @ Sports Courts ........................................................... Lincoln, NE 402-454-2765
July 20      Hot Tamale @ Racquetball & Fitness ................................................................. San Antonio, TX 210-344-8596
July 20      NWFC Shoot Out @ NWFC ................................................................................ Hanson, TX 713-895-8688
July 25-27  LCC 3 Day Tournament @ Lincoln City Club ....................................................... Dallas, TX 214-827-9994
July 26-27  ARAC Doubles Open @ American River Athletic Club .......................................... Sacramento, CA 916-920-1933
July 26-28  Ballard Open @ Olympic Athletic Club ................................................................. Seattle, WA 206-789-5010
July 20-28  Quad West Summer Classic @ Quad West ......................................................... Clearwater, FL 727-535-4901
July 20      Summer Bluegrass Games @ University Of Kentucky ......................................... Lexington, KY 859-873-6496
July 20      Virginia State Games @ Arlington Sport & Health .............................................. Arlington, VA 703-522-1702
July 20      1st Annual Summer Slam @ Newman Fitness Center ......................................... Ft. Stewart, GA 912-964-8574
July 27-August 1 Beat The Heat @ Classic Athletic Club ....................................................... Fairfield, NJ 973-389-9978

august...

August 2-4  Colorado State Games @ US Air Force Academy ............................................ Colorado Springs, CO 719-635-5396
August 3    1st Annual Capital Classic @ Kentucky State University ..................................... Frankfort, KY 502-868-0107
August 10   Atlanta Grand Prix #3 @ Athletic Club Northeast ............................................. Atlanta, GA 404-784-5327
August 16-18 Another Leftover Tournament @ Worldgate Sport & Health ......................... Herndon, VA 703-527-7785
August 16-18 Gallatin Heatstroke @ Gallatin Civic Center .................................................. Gallatin, TN 615-451-5911
August 16-18 2002 FL State Doubles @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet .................................. Orlando, FL 407-880-7790
August 16-18 2002 Georgia State Doubles @ Southern Athletic Club .................................... Lilburn, GA 770-923-5400
August 17    Florida Challenge @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet .............................................. Orlando, FL 407-889-3861
August 22-25 NWFC Shoot Out @ NWFC ............................................................................... Houston, TX 713-895-8688
August 23-25 Best Of Texas @ Racquetball & Fitness ......................................................... San Antonio, TX 210-344-8596
August 24    Goodbye Summer Shootout @ Classic Athletic Club ........................................ Fairlief, NJ 973-389-9978
August 28-31 IRF World Sr. Racquetball Champ @ New Mexico Sport & Wellness ........... Albuquerque, NM 505-266-8960
August 29-31 LCC 3 Day Tournament @ Lincoln City Club .................................................. Dallas, TX 214-827-9994
Aug. 30 - Sept. 1 Harbor Island Labor Day Tourney @ Harbor Island Athletic Club ............ Tampa, FL 813-202-1950

september...

September 6-8  American Family Open @ American Family Fitness .................................... Richmond, VA 804-330-3400
September 7-8  Goucher Open @ Goucher College ............................................................... Baltimore, MD 410-337-6389
September 13-15 Outback Blast It! @ The Sports Center ....................................................... Fayetteville, NC 910-864-3303
September 13-15 Triple Crown Championships @ Maverick Athletic Club ......................... Arlington, TX 817-275-3340
September 13-15 2002 FRA Regional Doubles @ Quadrangle East Athletic Club .... Coral Springs, FL 305-753-8900
September 13-15 2002 GRA Regional Doubles @ Southlake Athletic Club ......................... Morrow, GA 770-968-1792
September 19-21 LCC 3 Day Tournament @ Lincoln City Club ............................................. Dallas, TX 214-827-9994
September 20-22  Aspen Hill Open @ Aspen Hill Club ....................................................... Silver Spring, MD 301-598-5200
September 21-22  Alpha Fall Kick Off @ Alpha Racquet Club ............................................. Mechanicsburg, PA 717-540-5111
September 21      No Frills Doubles @ Players Athletic Club ................................................. Warren, MI 586-774-6900
September 26-29 E-Force Health Strategies Invite @ Health Strategies ............................... Wichita, KS 316-651-8013
September 27-29 Fall Rally@ Olympus Racquet & Fitness .................................................... Sterling, VA 703-430-0666
September 27-29 Great Balls Of Fire @ University Of Miami Wellness Center .................... Miami, FL 305-284-1853
September 27-29 2002 Texas State Doubles @ NWFC ......................................................... Houston, TX 713-895-8688

• 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 08/02, you must renew your membership in the month of August in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.
For expanded calendar listings, refer to the online edition of RACQUETBALL at www.racqmag.com.
For online entries, go to www.usrarstore.com.
Save the “AA” for Batteries...

It’s been an issue for quite some time — the quantum leap between the “A” skill division and “Open.” Given the current climate on the pro tours and relaxed eligibility standards ... right down to where you live — an “Open” draw can feature a top seed that you’ve played (and beaten) every week for a year, or a vacationing pro from out of town. And if there’s cash involved, you can expect to see even bigger names, from further away, in any Open draw.

In response, the “Elite” division was developed and instituted several years ago, and is now a full-fledged, point-earning bracket of play across the board. If your state still offers “AA” as the stop-gap, your points are being compiled in “Elite” when the results come in. So urge your tournament directors to call it what it is — Elite!

A similar move to “broaden” the player base and give more competitive opportunities to skill level players was established with the addition of “Age + Skill” divisions. With an aging roster of players who are still at the top of their games, standard age divisions can also include pro tour regulars (like Ruben Gonzalez at 50!) who raise the bar a bit above average. Now it’s acceptable to offer “Age plus” A/B and C/D brackets at sanctioned events, and for players to earn ranking points for placing in them.

So now it’s time for everyone to get on track with a standardized “menu” of division offerings [shown at right]. “Intermediate” is not a recognized division; 23+ B/C is not a recognized division; “BB” is not a recognized division ... so if you’re playing in any of these mutations at a sanctioned event, your points aren’t being tallied because they just don’t “fit” the ranking structure. Don’t let your wins fall through the cracks — insist on “recognized divisions” at all your tournaments!

C.4 RECOGNIZED DIVISIONS
Title opportunities at national championships will be selected from the division lists which follow. Combined “Age + Skill” divisions may also be offered to provide additional competitive opportunities for non-open entrants.

For ranking consistency, state organizations and tournament hosts should select from these recognized divisions when establishing competition in all sanctioned events.

(a) Open Division. Any eligible player, as defined in C.1.
(b) Adult Age Divisions. Eligibility is determined by the player’s age on the first day of the tournament. Divisions are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age/Categories</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 &amp; Under</td>
<td>Varsity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25+</td>
<td>Junior Veterans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30+</td>
<td>Veterans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35+</td>
<td>Seniors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40+</td>
<td>Veteran Seniors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45+</td>
<td>Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50+</td>
<td>Veteran Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>Golden Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>Veteran Golden Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>Senior Golden Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70+</td>
<td>Advanced Golden Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>Super Golden Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80+</td>
<td>Grand Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+</td>
<td>Super Grand Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 &amp; Under</td>
<td>Veteran Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 &amp; Under</td>
<td>Golden Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 &amp; Under</td>
<td>Senior Golden Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 &amp; Under</td>
<td>Advanced Golden Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 &amp; Under</td>
<td>Super Golden Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 &amp; Under</td>
<td>Grand Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 &amp; Under (regular rules)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 &amp; Under</td>
<td>Senior Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 &amp; Under (multi-bounce rules)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(d) Skill Divisions. Player eligibility is determined by AmPRO skill level certification, or verification by a state association official, at the entered level. Elite*, A, B, C, D, Novice

(e) Age + Skill Divisions. Player eligibility is determined by the player’s age on the first day of the tournament, plus AmPRO skill level certification, or verification by a state association official, at the entered level. Such combinations may be offered as additional competition to players who do not fall into the “open” or designated skill levels of play. For example: 24-18/A, 35+ C/D, 65/A/8, etc.

*Given that unrestricted OPEN level play may include elite pro tour athletes, Elite level play can include state-level open, or “semi-pro” players — and therefore does not require “certification” of any type. Players in “lettered” divisions (only) must be able to verify their eligibility at the entered level of play.

2002 national calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2-10</td>
<td>IRF 11th World Championships</td>
<td>San Juan, Puerto Rico</td>
<td>719-635-5396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16-21</td>
<td>U.S. Junior Team Training Camp</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, Colorado</td>
<td>719-635-5396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21-26</td>
<td>High Performance Training Camp</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, Colorado</td>
<td>719-635-5396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28-31</td>
<td>IRF 14th World Senior Championships [5]</td>
<td>Albuquerque, New Mexico</td>
<td>719-635-5396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2-6</td>
<td>Ektelon USA 35th National Doubles Championships [6]</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
<td>719-635-5396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

July – August 2002
Cliff Swain
2001 champion

November 20-24, 2002
Memphis, Tennessee

Cliff Swain
2001 champion

Kerri Wachtel
2001 champion

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