RHONDA ROCKS!
and Shocks in Upset Win For Her First National Title

PLUS:
• Instruction
• Tour Coverage
• National Doubles Entry Form
And more!

U.S. Racquetball Association
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED
1-800-325-9326

Geoffrey Peters
3259 N Clifton Ave
Chicago IL 60657-3818

Huczek Roars to Second Championship

SPECIAL 8 PAGE U.S. OPEN ENTRY FORM/TICKET APPLICATION PULL OUT!
The greatest unforced error is not owning one HEAD brings the Liquidmetal revolution to the sport of racquetball. Due to its unique "liquid" atomic structure, Liquidmetal material provides 29% more power than Titanium. Liquidmetal technology, together with HEAD’s new Total Sweetspot Construction, brings unprecedented power to the sport of racquetball.

Liquidmetal®
Pure Energy, Perfect Power.

29% More Power than Titanium
Racquets made with conventional material deform on ball impact, resulting in energy loss. This means less power is available for your return. Liquidmetal’s unique "liquid" atomic structure does not deform on impact. This racquet utilizes all the energy your swing generates for a return shot with pure energy and perfect power. How perfect? Test results show Liquidmetal delivers 29% more power than Titanium.

Total Sweetspot Construction
Total Sweetspot Construction (TSC) TSC has a unique corrugated structure that extends the sweetspot throughout the entire racquet head for torsional stability and maximum power.
USA Racquetball (USAR) is the National Governing Body for the sport of racquetball, recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee and is committed to excellence and service to our members. We provide opportunities for members and enthusiasts to actively participate in the sport, through sanctioning of events, administration of programs and development of competitive teams.

Vision Statement

To provide racquetball opportunities in the sport of racquetball for all levels of participation through:

Objectives:

- **MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT** - USAR values its members and will strive to provide the best possible member services at all levels.
- **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT** - USAR believes that racquetball is a lifetime endeavor and the benefits of health, recreation, and competition should be available to everyone. USAR will strive to expand its membership in order to share these benefits with as many players and supporters as possible.
- **PROMOTION OF THE SPORT** - in order to sustain a strong player base USAR will promote the numerous benefits of participation through mass marketing efforts.
- **COMPETITIVE SUCCESS** - USAR strives to maintain America's position as the number one racquetball nation in the world. Success at the elite levels has a positive influence on every other facet of our sport.
- **SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS** - USAR values its relationship with sponsors and will continue to maximize benefits and exposure.
Junior Olympics

Jack Huczek (pictured above) and Rhonda Rajsich were able to end the 2003-2004 season on a high note by claiming titles.

Ben Croft and Adrienne Fisher repeated as 18-Junior Champs as players earned appointments to the team that plans on regaining the World Cup.

U.S. OPEN Insert

Be sure to tear out your special eight-page 2004 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Entry Form/Ticket Application.
I
-A
Y
W
A
R
K
O
L
D
E
A
L
I
R
E
D
E
A
R
I
N
A
R
C
Q
U
E
T
B
A
L
S
R
E
C
T
B
L
A
A
L

d
y
j
u
v
I

\W
i
n
-
W
o
r
l
d
R
a
c
q
u
e
t
b
a
l
Ch
a
m
p
i
o
n
J
a
c
k
Huczek

A
shaway
S
tr
i
ngs
M
a
k
e
Y
o
u
W
i
n
L
i
k
e
W
o
r
l
d
R
a
c
q
u
et
b
a
l
Ch
a
m
p
i
o
n
J
a
c
k
Huczek

A
shaway
S
tr
i
ngs
M
a
k
e
Y
o
u
W
i
n
L
i
k
e
W
o
r
l
d
R
a
c
q
u
et
b
a
l
Ch
a
m
p
i
o
n
J
a
c
k
Huczek

P
l
a
y
A
s
haway
T
o
W
i
n
A
shaway
S
tr
i
ngs
M
a
k
e
Y
o
u
W
i
n
L
i
k
e
W
o
r
l
d
R
a
c
q
u
et
b
a
l
Ch
a
m
p
i
o
n
J
a
c
k
Huczek

A
shaway
S
tr
i
ngs
M
a
k
e
Y
o
u
W
i
n
L
i
k
e
W
o
r
l
d
R
a
c
q
u
et
b
a
l
Ch
a
m
p
i
o
n
J
a
c
k
Huczek

A
shaway
S
tr
i
ngs
M
a
k
e
Y
o
u
W
i
n
L
i
k
e
W
o
r
l
d
R
a
c
q
u
et
b
a
l
Ch
a
m
p
i
o
n
J
a
c
k
Huczek

A
shaway
S
tr
i
ngs
M
a
k
e
Y
o
u
W
i
n
L
i
k
e
W
o
r
l
d
R
a
c
q
u
et
b
a
l
Ch
a
m
p
i
o
n
J
a
c
k
Huczek

A
shaway
S
tr
i
ngs
M
a
k
e
Y
o
u
W
i
n
L
i
k
e
W
o
r
l
d
R
a
c
q
u
et
b
a
l
Ch
a
m
p
i
o
n
J
a
c
k
Huczek

A
shaway
S
tr
i
ngs
M
a
k
e
Y
o
u
W
i
n
L
i
k
e
W
o
r
l
d
R
a
c
q
u
et
b
a
l
Ch
a
m
p
i
o
n
J
a
c
k
Huczek

A
shaway
S
tr
i
ngs
M
a
k
e
Y
o
u
W
i
n
L
i
k
e
W
o
r
l
d
R
a
c
q
u
et
b
a
l
Ch
a
m
p
i
o
n
J
a
c
k
Huczek

A
shaway
S
tr
i
ngs
M
a
k
e
Y
o
u
W
i
n
L
i
k
e
W
o
r
l
d
R
a
c
q
u
et
b
a
l
Ch
a
m
p
i
o
n
J
a
c
k
Huczek

A
shaway
S
tr
i
ngs
M
a
k
e
Y
o
u
W
i
n
L
i
k
e
W
o
r
l
d
R
a
c
q
u
et
b
a
l
Ch
a
m
p
i
o
n
J
a
c
k
Huczek
EDITOR'S NOTE

Sometimes, during the excitement of change and the new challenges and responsibilities that we incur during change, we can lose sight of the people, places and things that have brought us to this point. Those of you that have read the past two issues of the magazine may have read (on more than one occasion) that USAR has had to make some difficult staff changes at the national office. One of those staff changes was the release of Linda Mojer.

Linda first began working for the then AARA in 1984. She worked out of her home in Florida as a press officer for all major AARA events. She also edited the four pages that the AARA was allotted in National Racquetball Magazine. When National Racquetball folded in 1989, Luke St. Onge, then the Executive Director of the AARA, decided to revive the old association magazine and hired Linda to take on the task. She made the move from her home in Florida out to Colorado Springs.

The first edition of RACQUETBALL Magazine, then Racquetball USA, came out as a February-March issue. It was 32 pages printed on newspaper. There were two other issues that came out that year. The next year Linda upped the quality of the magazine to a full-color glossy edition that we are more accustomed to. She also began the bi-monthly format that we are still using as our model today.

In addition to her duties as Managing Editor of the magazine, Linda was the Associate Executive Director, Director of Communications, Designer and Developer of the website (which she implemented), and was responsible for all design and graphics in the magazine. She was also in charge of on-site coverage and promotion of tournaments, both national and international, including two Pan American Games, six IRF World Championships, and eight U.S. OPENs.

Linda completed everything with extra special attention to detail. She never hesitated to put in long hours if the task at hand called for it and it was nothing to drive past the office at 10:00pm on a Sunday night and see Linda’s car in the parking lot. I remember speaking with Doug Ganim at a tournament in Ohio after I had applied for a position with USAR and he informed me that the job wouldn’t be easy, that Linda would push me everyday, and that ‘she does more work in one day than most people do in a week.’ Anyone that knows Doug knows what a compliment that is.

I have been often asked if it was hard to work for Linda. Often times it was, but not for the reasons that people think. Linda put amounts of pressure on me that I wasn’t accustomed to, but she knew that I could handle it even if I didn’t. She would push me to my breaking point, but never past it, and that ‘she does more work in one day than most people do in a week.’ Anyone that knows Doug knows what a compliment that is.

I have been often asked if it was hard to work for Linda. Often times it was, but not for the reasons that people think. Linda put amounts of pressure on me that I wasn’t accustomed to, but she knew that I could handle it even if I didn’t. She would push me to my breaking point, but never past it, and that ‘she does more work in one day than most people do in a week.’ Anyone that knows Doug knows what a compliment that is.

Linda will be greatly missed by the racquetball community and surely appreciated wherever she ends up. Without her there might never have been a RACQUETBALL Magazine. I know that I never would have made the journey from Ohio to Colorado and I also know that I wouldn’t have been able to succeed without her patience, guidance, and support in the time that I worked as her assistant. She was my boss, my mentor, and will always be my good friend.

COUNTDOWN

10. year between USAR National Doubles titles for John Ellis. He won in 1993 with Eric Muller and then again last year with Adam Karp

9. years old. The age of Lauren Stanley when she competed at the USAR National Singles Championships this year making her the youngest competitor in the event

8. USAR National Open Doubles titles Jackie Rice has won; the most of any player

7. straight age-division National Singles titles for Ruben Gonzalez who also won the men’s open title in 1996

6. former boys’ 18- Junior Olympic singles champions finished ranked in the top 20 of the IRT last season

5. former girls’ 18- Junior Olympic singles champions finished ranked in the top 20 of the LPRA tour last season

4. players have earned three 18- Junior Olympic singles titles (Adrienne Fisher, Jack Huczek, Elkova Icenogle, Michelle (Gilman) Gould.)

3. players have captured the U.S. OPEN and USAR National Singles titles in the same season (Michelle Gould ’95-’96, Cheryl Gudinas ’02-’03, Rhonda Rajsich ’03-’04.)

2. USAR National Open Singles titles for Jack Huczek this year’s champion.

1. 1.054 million people play racquetball more than 25 times per year (source: SGMA report)
ABOUT THE MAG...
I feel like a lone voice in the wilderness after reading the enthusiastic comments regarding your new format in the most recent magazine. However, I find it very difficult to read the magazine with the over-the-top graphics, colors, type faces, etc. everywhere I look. I thought it with the first edition, and have confirmed it with the second. A little of all of that is probably a good thing, but making what is good reading difficult to read is not. This might be a personal peeve of mine, but I also find it totally unprofessional to have typos showing up in print in this day of the spell checker - and there are some! I would also like to see you identify the people in the pictures you publish, including the cover.

I believe the substance of the new magazine is great; just make it so it is easier to read!

Thanks for your consideration.
Tawn Wolfe
Washougal, Wash.

I am thrilled that USA Racquetball has upgraded the magazine and improved the look and the format. I enjoy reading articles about international racquetball as well as the juniors and the college section. I also value the instruction given by all the top professionals and coaches.

The article about World Outdoor Racquetball was also a nice addition and good timing since our sport is on the rise. I look forward to playing in my first outdoor event in 2005.

Being a big sports fan here in Texas, I read a lot of sports articles and magazines, and I appreciate the effort and the professionalism of the new look.

I can't wait to get my next issue!
Leo R Vasquez
AmPRO Instructor
Houston, TX

INTERCOLLEGIATE ERROR
I just received my first issue of Racquetball in the mail today. As the sixth player for Pennsylvania State University's women's racquetball team, I had the pleasure of attending the 2004 USA Racquetball National Intercollegiate Championships. This was my first year of competitive play, and hence, I was pretty pleased to win second in my women's singles division and third in my division of women's doubles.

However, on page 15 of your magazine, under the women's final team results, I don't understand why you list "6. Tami Barrows (Brigham Young) def. Meredith McGee (North Carolina) 15-2, 15-10."

Why isn't the final match for first and second place that Tami and I played there instead? I actually beat Meredith McGee by forfeit and she thereby placed third overall. I feel like your magazine implies that she won second by losing to Tami Barrows in that match.

I'm just curious and trying to save face with my family.

Thank you for your time!
Sincerely,
Lindsay K. Griffel
University Park, Pa.

*Editors Note: There was an error in reporting the correct final result for women's No.6 singles. The correct final should read - Tami Barrows (Brigham Young) def, Lindsay Griffel (Penn State) 15-1, 15-3. We apologize for the mistake.

To send a letter to the editor for publication in RACQUETBALL Magazine, please send your name, address, telephone number, and the letter to:
Sound Off!
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
or e-mail to RJohn@usra.org
subject line - Sound Off!
Or e-mail to: RJohn@USRA.org
Subject line: Sound Off!
Frank Taddonio  
*Outgoing President, USA Racquetball Board of Directors*

As I depart for my new adventure overseas, Jim Hiser asked me to write something about my experience as President over the last year. I don’t know if I can really say anything that you all don’t already know and understand, but I’ll give it a shot.

I can say that my learning curve was very steep all year and one of the most important lessons I learned is that we have an extremely hard working and dedicated staff at the national office led by absolutely the best Executive Director of any National Governing Body (NGB).

I also learned that our organization continues to be in serious financial trouble and it’s something that did not just happen over night. There just isn’t positive cash flow to an organization such as ours which makes daily operations, as well as all of the events and activities we desire, extremely difficult to perform. This is the reason we have had to make some very difficult decisions over the last year concerning personnel and other issues. This is also one of the reasons we hired a marketing director who started some very productive programs but unfortunately decided to leave us. The important lesson from that episode is that we, USA Racquetball, definitely need a competent marketing individual who can attract sponsors who are able to support us financially. The financial situation is so serious that we need everyone’s assistance to get the organization back on its feet. This brings me to my most important point I want to make.

My observation is that there are way too many individuals in our sport who are very capable of contributing in a variety of ways yet sit idly by while others are scrambling each and every day to move our sport forward. Of course, it would be very helpful if members would contribute financially or find someone who is willing and able to do so. If not financially capable, then members need to find other ways to contribute to the organization. This really doesn’t matter how large or small the contribution, just that the effort is made – introduce someone to the sport, buy a friend a membership, start a junior program. What we need at this point in our sport’s history is what I would call ‘pride of ownership’. We must all invest in Racquetball! We must stop sitting back and allowing a small group of enthusiastic members carry the weight for the entire membership. Also, we need to grow our sport by contributing however we can. Let’s not continue to have the national office staff work so diligently while we all sit by idly doing little to nothing for the sport we all love.

I hope to return in a year to jump back into racquetball and contribute in my own way as well. Thanks, in advance, for all you are about to do!

Randy Stafford  
*President, USA Racquetball Board of Directors*

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as the new President of USA Racquetball for the upcoming year. I would like to echo what Frank is wrote in his farewell letter, as we have lots of challenges ahead and encourage everyone to do their part to help us help racquetball. I would also like to say “Thank you, Frank” for a job well done at a most critical time in our sport. There were lots of loose ends in many areas that had not been addressed but are now put in writing, giving us many answers and new guidelines that we can follow for years to come.

"The financial situation is so serious that we need everyone’s assistance."

One area that has been completely overhauled and improved is our Hall of Fame. We have also started a new online program that will enhance service to members in all areas. This will be up and running by the time you have received this issue and we will all benefit greatly with these new programs. We have also found that a marketing director can definitely be a success for racquetball. During this past year we were able to sell our sport to companies outside of our industry with success. We will continue this effort by hiring a new marketing director within the next year. These are just a few of the paths and improvements that were taken during Frank’s tenure as president and we thank him for his efforts.

This next year will be filled with many challenges and we will have opportunities to move forward with our sport. It is these opportunities that I will be looking to take advantage of in the near future. We will hire a new marketing director, as we know this area is vital to our sport and we will work diligently to solve our cash flow crunch and financial situation. As Frank stressed, this financial problem did not happen overnight and will take time to solve.

Let me say this; during the two years of my service on the board we have made great strides towards rectifying our financial situation. We have made many changes within our organization to insure a balanced budget. By changing our spending habits, as well as making some very difficult staff changes, we are going to win this battle. Yes, we still have a cash flow problem and yes, we still have a very large debt, but over the past year we have reduced it a significant amount and will continue down this path.

In the next year we will focus on many areas, some of which include online services, fund raising, memberships, marketing and establishing stronger ties with our industry partners. With just a little help from everyone I believe that we can do wonders with our organization. We will turn this organization into an engine that can promote racquetball and provide services that our states and members need. These are just a few of our goals. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns or wish to offer any assistance to aid us the upcoming year.
Broke?
We Gotcha Covered
Huge Selection • Guaranteed Lowest Prices

New 2004/05 Racquets
Now in Stock!!

E-Force
E-force Radium 150
E-force Radium 170
E-force Radium 190
E-force Tyranny 160
E-force Tyranny 175

Ektelon
Ektelon DPH 2500
Ektelon DPH 2.100 Light
Ektelon Dominant
Ektelon MORE Dominant
Ektelon MORE Attack

Wilson nLite
Wilson nPower
Wilson XT SPEED
Wilson XT TOUR
Wilson XT ROK

ProKennex
ProKennex Infinity 165
ProKennex Infinity 175
Pure 1 Shadow 170
Pure 1 Shadow 180

Hurlbut

Head Liquidmetal 170
Head Liquidmetal 180
Head Liquidmetal 190
Head Megablast 175
Head Megablast 185
Head Megablast 195

racketballwarehouse.com • 800.824.1101
WOW! It is evident by the nearly $14,000 increase from last issue that players have stepped up to the plate and showed that they care about their sport. Donations have ranged from as small as $3 to as generous as the $25,000 Anonymous donation listed below, but they all add up and every dollar counts towards helping USA Racquetball continue to operate.

It is an exciting time in our sport as new programs are being implemented and developed on a daily basis to increase the benefits offered to our members. Although we are less than $18,000 from our original goal of $75,000, the race isn’t over yet and more donations are needed in order to get over the hump, especially in the “lean” summer months when income from tournaments is nearly non-existent. So be sure to do your part and let USAR continue to develop more programs that will benefit the sport and you - the member.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPEN LEVEL ($500 &amp; up)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous - $25,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous - $7,950</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELITE LEVEL ($1000 &amp; up)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Randy Stafford - $2,600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Vohland - $1,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie Muniz - $1,206</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lance Gilliam - $1,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie Muniz - $1,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Stelma - $1,175</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Adolf - $1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shari Coplen - $1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Fennell - $1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Martin - $1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Meltzer - $1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Parodi - $1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Stelma - $1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A LEVEL ($500 &amp; up)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doug Ganem - $658</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill &amp; Michelle George - $500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B LEVEL ($250 &amp; up)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don Chisolm - $400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Coates - $250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillip Cohen - $250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Sanderson - $250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Woolcock - $250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C LEVEL ($100 &amp; up)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jr. Team Colorado - $180</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Ferguson - $175</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Garner - $175</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Mike Guidry - $175                          |   |
| Jeff Elder - $100                           |   |
| Pete Dean - $100                            |   |
| Sandra Dennison - $100                      |   |
| Lorraine Galloway - $100                    |   |
| Dave George - $100                          |   |
| Lee Graff - $100                            |   |
| David Hendricks - $100                      |   |
| Joe Houch - $100                            |   |
| Jack Hughes - $100                          |   |
| Dick Kincade - $100                         |   |
| Joe Lambert - $100                          |   |
| Stephanie Munger - $100                     |   |
| Geoff Peters - $100                         |   |
| Curt Rettke - $100                          |   |
| Amos Rosenbloom - $100                      |   |
| Carl Savickas - $100                        |   |
| David Stark - $100                          |   |
| Frank Taddonio - $100                       |   |
| Alan Tilliver - $100                        |   |
| Sam Wildofsky - $100                        |   |

| 2004 TOTAL DONATIONS: $58,380               |   |
2004
CHOICE HOTELS
US OPEN
RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

November 17-21, 2004
Memphis, Tennessee

Kane Waselenchuk
2003 Champion

Rhonda Rajsich
2003 Champion

Call 800.234.5396 ext. 120 Today for
Ticket and Entry Information
The 2004 37th USA Racquetball National Singles Championships presented by Penn Racquet Sports took place May 26-31 at the Downtown Houston YMCA for the 22nd straight year. Before the tournament began there was controversy in the men's draw with people once again questioning whether or not pros should play in the event. Defending Champion Rocky Carson, No.4 on the IRT, and Jack Huczek, No.2 on the IRT, were heavily favored to reach the finals. Five-time defending champion Cheryl Gudinas also seemed a sure bet to record her sixth straight National Championship, but Rhonda Rajsich, the sports new big match player had other ideas.

READY, SET...HERE WE GO!!!
Play kicked off on Wednesday with a bang. Although most of the top seeds advanced with little or no trouble, there was an upset and a few close calls to boot.

Carson, started the tournament strong and needed little time to dispatch Dan Whitley, 15-7, 15-2. Huczek also breezed through his first-round match against hometown competitor Leo Vasquez 15-1, 15-0. Huczek, the current IRF World Singles champion and Pan American Games gold medalist, was feeling good about his chances from the start.

"It was good to have a couple of weeks off since my last tournament," Huczek said. "I feel good and I am feeling confident about my game."

There was an upset in the first round as Zach Miller knocked off No.6 Mitch Williams in a tiebreaker. Miller surprised the crowd when he took the first game 15-10. It looked as though Williams was back on track after winning the second game easily, 15-4. But Miller wasn't done yet and completed the upset in the third, 11-5.

THE 16's
Carson got past Brian Fredenberg in straight games, 15-8, 15-8, with the same type of play that vaulted him to a career-high No.4 ranking on the IRT.

"I'm playing with a lot of confidence and a lot of patience for the most part," Carson said. "I also feel comfortable on the court, which is important."

Huczek stayed on track, but had trouble in the first game against the hard-hitting Dennison and was down 11-10 at one point in the first game. But he was able to find his stroke in time to win in straight games, 15-11, 15-10.

Hometown favorite Jim Minkel earned a career best quarterfinal appearance after defeating Miller, who had earlier eliminated the No.6 seed, 15-9, 15-13. Minkel, a real estate agent when not on the court, especially enjoyed the win in his hometown.

"Obviously, to win at home with all of the players I interact with all the time is great," Minkel said. "It's a nice boost to have everyone in your hometown rooting for you."

THE QUARTER'S
The upsets stopped on Friday as the top four seeds all advanced to the semifinals, thus each earning one-year appointments to the U.S. National Team. The same four players made the semifinals last year so in reality, they just extended their current tenure.

After easily winning the first game, Carson was able to hold off a strong run by Thoerner in the second to complete a two game sweep, 15-4, 15-14.

"He (Thoerner) played much better in the second game," Carson said after the match. "He didn't put a lot of pressure on me in the first game and was missing shots."

Thoerner agreed with Carson's assessment of the match. "I had no mental focus in the first game. I had a game plan, but I didn't follow it," he explained. "I had three really poorly executed serves at the end of the second game that could have made the difference."

Carson's opponent in the semifinals would be Vanderson whose match with No.5 Chris Crowther went much the same as Carson's match. Vanderson dominated the first game, 15-5, and then struggled to a win in the second, 15-14.

"Yeah, I missed a few shots in the second game and Chris started to make his," Vanderson said. "But you only need to win by one."

Huczek continued to roll in the bottom half of the draw, defeating Tucker in straight games, 15-4, 15-12. Huczek felt that his game was coming along as the tournament progressed, but also that he still had room for improvement.

"I wasn't very sharp today so I was fortunate that Josh wasn't on his game," Huczek said. "But I feel fresh and feel like I am moving pretty good. I just need to concentrate on my shots more than I did today."

Huczek's next opponent would be Guidry who defeated hometown favorite Jim Minkel in an All-Texas showdown.
Guidry felt that his experience may have played a role against Minkel, who was making his first quarterfinal appearance at the National Championships.

"I think it may have made a difference because it's a big tournament and there is a lot of pressure," Guidry said. "Jim skipped a lot of balls for me, but I felt like I was moving well and serving well."

THE SEMI'S

Although it was the same four players in the semifinals as it was a year ago, the match-ups were different. Last year Carson faced Guidry and Huczek faced Vanderson, this year those were flip-flopped with Carson against Vanderson and Huczek versus Guidry.

Carson looked to be in trouble early against Vanderson in their match as Vanderson started out like a man on a mission rolling to a 15-7 win. Carson changed things around in the second, however, and defeated won just as easily, 15-6.

"It was a mixture of a few things," Carson said of his turnaround. "I was able to find a serve that was effective - a half-lb z-serve to the forehand. He also missed some easy shots in the second and I started to make the shots I was missing in the first."

Carson ran away with the tiebreaker after building a quick 9-0 lead. To Vanderson's credit, he never gave up and earned four points before succumbing, 11-4.

Even with the large lead in the breaker, Carson didn't feel safe. "I just wanted to get out of there because I know how he can get," he said. "He has the capability to catch fire like he did in the first."

The first game between the two former champions Huczek and Guidry was a back and forth battle with Huczek squeaking out the win, 15-14. Huczek stepped his game up a notch in the second game and won 13-7 to secure the final that everyone predicted from the onset.

"I think we both played pretty solid in the first game, even though we both missed some shots at the end," Guidry said.

"I was in total control of the match," Huczek said when asked if the close first game made him uneasy. "He was getting points but it was because of things that I was doing, not because of what he was doing."

THE FINALS

The finals took over two and a half hours to complete as the players rarely strayed more than a few points from each other. Not all of the action was fast, however, as play was slowed by numerous appeals by both players.

Huczek struck first by narrowly defeating Carson 15-14 in the first game. Carson came out strong and built an early 6-1 lead, but Huczek battled back to tie things up at 7-7 before building a 10-7 lead of his own. Carson stayed on his heels, finally catching up at 14-14 before Huczek closed it out following a long series of sideouts.

The second game was played just as closely as the first and featured 13 lead changes and ties. Carson held the biggest lead of the game at 9-5, but Huczek erased the deficit and proceeded to take his own lead at 13-11. Carson got back on track to score the last four points of the game to win, 15-13.

Huczek built an early lead in the tiebreaker, 7-2, but Carson was able to tie things up by grinding out points, 7-7. The players were then tied at 8-8 and 9-9 before Huczek ended the match by scoring two unanswered points, 11-9.

"Both of us had flashes of brilliance today and we also had times when we didn't look that good," Carson said after the match. "We are both position players and try to force our opponents into making bad shots. I just wasn't able to capitalize on his mistakes at the end of the match."

"I felt like I played ok even though I was streaky at times," Huczek said. "I felt like I played better and better as the tournament went along and I was able to accomplish my goal of winning the tournament by hitting drive serves." Hitting drive serves is something that Huczek is not known for but a part of his game he has vowed to improve.

Huczek felt vindicated after finishing second for the past two years. "The last two years I think that I have outplayed my opponents, but they were able to squeak it out in the end," he said. "I know that if I play consistent then I will win a majority of the time."

LADIES UP

The women began on Thursday with five-time defending champion Cheryl Gudinas starting off well as she attempted on to set the mark for consecutive national women's open championships. She cruised past Heather Dunn, 15-0, 15-1. Besides Gudinas there were several other players thought to have a shot at the title. No.2 Laura Fenton had finished second for the past two years, No.3 Rhonda Rajisch, the defending U.S. OPEN champion, had recorded her best year on the LPRA Tour, in addition to No.4 Kerri Wachtel and No.5 Kristen Walsh, all hoping to dethrone the reigning champ.

THE PARTIES

Besides incredible racquetball, The Finals are known for its great parties. Things kicked off Wednesday evening with the VIP Reception to honor all past national champions. Thursday featured the Head/Penn Cash Whirlwind where participants could try their luck at a series of casino games including blackjack, slots, craps and a cash whirlwind machine. Friday evening began with the IRT/LPRA reception followed by the Ektelon Sports Festival, which offered boxing, mechanical bull riding, putting, and other challenging activities. Saturday was the annual awards banquet themed "A Starry Night of Racquetball" and showcased the best performers of the year along with Hall of Fame inductions. Evening activities came to a close on Sunday evening with the Farewell in the Bar, which gave players a chance to say "So long" to old and new friends alike.
THE "ELITE" CHRIS COY
We have been following Chris Coy for some time now, yet he continues to amaze us. This time he won the men's Elite division at the U.S. National Singles Championships. Many of us know Chris' story; he was born with cancer and, due to complications that came with the disease, was forced to have part of his left leg amputated at the age of five. Chris hasn't let that slow him down as he racks up titles.

In fact, Chris prefers to play a fast-paced game. Many opponents come into the court with a game plan set to move Chris around the court. Little do they know, they are playing right into his hands. "People sometimes try to run me around the court, but that's what I want," he said. "I like to run around and make the game as fast as I can."

Chris knows that next year will be tougher as he moves into the open division. "I want to make it as far as I can in opens next year, but I know I am going to have to set my standards a little higher." Chris also wants to compete on the IRF tour and position himself in the top 20 someday.

Chris also recently competed in the 2004 U.S. Junior Olympics where he earned his second U.S. Junior National Team appointment by finishing second to Zach Apperson in boys' 16- singles.

U.S. MILITARY ON HAND
Members of the U.S. Military came dressed in their best for the annual awards banquet on Sunday night. They were honored for their service to our country in a special announcement during the banquet. Several earned medals on the court, rather than the battlefield, over Memorial Day. On behalf of USA Racquetball and its members, we salute you and your commitment to our freedom.

THE QUARTERS
Gudinas led the way as the women's field was narrowed down to the final four. She easily defeated her former doubles partner Russell in straight games, 15-5, 15-2.

"It appeared that she had trouble with my z-serve and I knew that she wouldn't attack my lob, so that was my plan." Gudinas said. "I also tried to keep everything away from her forehand."

After defeating her former doubles partner, Gudinas was set to face her current doubles partner Walsh who scored the only upset of the day against Wachtel, 15-11, 15-13.

"I went in relaxed and with no expectations because sometimes I tend to put too much pressure on myself," Walsh said. "I was just having fun and when I have fun I usually play well."

"I left the ball up a lot and Kristen got to everything," Wachtel said after the loss. "She forces you to make errors because you know in the back of your mind that she's going to get to everything."

Fenton stayed on track to make her third straight final appearance by getting past the youngster Fisher. Fenton continued to struggle with an injury that occurred with Fisher.

"I had to fight through a match that I didn't play well, but I found a way to win," she said. "For me it doesn't matter who I play, but how I play. If I play well then I feel like I can beat anyone."

Fenton would face Rajsich, who had been quietly advancing through the draw. Rajsich defeated No.6 Kersten Hallander in two close games, 15-12, 15-11, and seemed very collected during her matches.

"I don't feel like I have started to play my best racquetball yet, but I am doing what I need to do to win my matches," she said. "I feel like I am improving each round and I look forward to my match with Laura tomorrow."

THE SEMI'S
Gudinas set up her chance at history by making her sixth straight finals appearance after defeating Walsh in straight games. The match wasn't very close, despite the effort of Walsh, who was diving on nearly every rally.

"Cheryl didn't really miss any shots today, so you have to give her credit," Walsh said. "But I wasn't hitting my shots, moving well, or serving well, so it was lopsided."

"Unfortunately she made some mistakes that I was able to capitalize on," she continued. "She had a big win yesterday against Kerri and sometimes it's a little hard when you are young to continue at that level."

Whereas Gudinas was making her sixth finals appearance, Rajsich found herself making her first after defeating Fenton in the semifinals. It wasn't so much that Rajsich upset Fenton, but the way she went about it. She showcased all her athletic ability en route to a 15-9, 15-2 win.

"The win against Laura was largely due to the fact that I went in there with a game plan and executed it instead of waiting for it to happen," Rhonda said of her performance. "I wanted to keep her moving and use the whole court. I didn't want to give her too many set-ups because she will put them away."

Fenton was disappointed after the loss, but not displeased with her play this week. "Rhonda's a great player and that's the bottom line. She didn't miss too many shots today," she said. "I was lucky to get through yesterday and I'm happy at that fact."

THE FINALS
With Gudinas attempting to become the first woman to win six consecutive titles and Rajsich trying to build upon a dream season there was a lot riding on the women's open final. The crowd was poised for an epic battle and the players did not disappoint.

Rajsich took the first game 15-13, mainly due to the execution of her offensive shots. She controlled center court and kept Gudinas off balance. Gudinas also seemed to be struggling to find a serve that was effective.

"With most people I can do the same thing over and over again, but with her I
can't do that," Gudinas explained. "You need to bring mistakes out in Rhonda because she is going to hit some great shots. That's just her style."

Gudinas brought out a few mistakes by Rajsich in the second game, despite grimacing in pain several times due to a foot injury that she was trying to fight through. Gudinas won't admit that the injury affects her play, only that it has affected her training. Rajsich, however, didn't vary from her style of play and almost made a late game run, but Gudinas was able to hold her off to win, 15-12.

In the tiebreaker Gudinas took an early 5-1 lead that Rajsich quickly erased before building a three-point lead of her own, 9-6. Gudinas then rattled off four straight points to take a 10-9 lead, just one point from victory. Rajsich regained serve on a controversial call in which her ball appeared to have skipped. The referee and line judges both called the shot good and Rajsich proceeded to close out the match, 11-10, to cap off the best season of her career.

"It was a fun match and Rhonda played great," a disappointed Gudinas said after the match. "I remember when she used to make mistakes, but she doesn't make many now."

"I kind of live and die by my own sword," Rajsich said of her aggressive game style. "It's funny to me when people say that I play a low-percentage type game because for me it isn't low percentage. That is how I play."

So in perhaps one of the biggest upsets in years, Rajsich ended Gudinas' national title streak at five while joining her and Michelle Gould as the only females to hold both the U.S. OPEN and USAR National Singles titles at the same time.

"It feels great," Rajsich said of holding both titles. "It makes me wish that all of our tournaments had this much riding on them. I guess it takes a big tournament for me to flourish."

For a complete list of results and drawsheets please visit: www.usaracquetball.com
SHANE WOOD
Joe Sobek Outstanding
Contributor Award

The Joe Sobek Outstanding
Contributor Award is for athletes,
coaches, officials and administrators who
have demonstrated, over the course of
the preceding year, an outstanding
commitment to the sport of racquetball.
That commitment may include special
development projects, fundraising,
successful administrative
ventures at the state level, or
torrential program
achievements in
coaching, instruction or
reefereeing.

Dan Davis
Presidential Award

The annual Presidential Award is open to
state presidents of recognized USA Racquetball state
affiliate organizations who have exhibited
outstanding organizational performances in the
preceding year, including
the areas of membership
growth, tournament
administration and
reporting, special
development projects,
fundraising, publication
projects or other
exceptional program
achievements.
Chris Evon
John Halverson Fair Play Award

The John Halverson Fair Play Award is for athletes, coaches, officials and organizations exhibiting noteworthy performances in the categories detailed following. Act of Fair Play: For an exceptional gesture of fair play carried out during the year by an athlete, a team member, or the spectating public. Career: For a sports career which has consistently shown a spirit of fair play and has been extended into commendable activities at the service of the sport or society. Promotion of Fair Play: For the fruitful and lasting endeavors of an athlete, leader, instructor, or organization to promote fair play.

Terry Ann Rogers Peggy Steding Award
(Female Age Group Athlete of the Year):

An outstanding female athlete, age 35 and over, is chosen on the basis of a calendar year performance record.

Gene Pare
Bud Muehleisen Award
(Male Age Group Athlete of the Year):

An outstanding male athlete, age 35 and over, is chosen on the basis of a calendar year performance record.
The new E-Force Radium and Tyranny are made in a radical new way—from two hand-laid carbon graphite tubes (instead of one) joined at the outside by a graphite bridge, creating a deep channel on the inner frame.

**INCREDIBLY STABLE FRAME**
These tubes are structurally stronger. Combining the two strong tubes with the Stabilizer Bridge creates an amazingly stable frame/hitting surface.

**LONGEST STRINGS**
The deep inner channel plus strings throught the handle allow every string to be the longest possible unrestricted in free space. The longest strings, plus maximum frame stability, create greater stringbed deflection and incredible power.

**INCLUDES E-FORCE’S EXCLUSIVE PATENTED LONGSTRING® ADVANTAGE**

**Longest Mainstrings—22” LongString**
The mains extend unrestricted in free space 22” from the outer edge of the racquet tip all the through the handle.

**Longer Cross-Strings—10.5”**
Crosses extend unrestricted in free space a full 10.5” to the outside edges of the frame.

**INCREDI BLY STABLE FRAME + MORE STRINGBED DEFLECTION**
A performance breakthrough never before seen. Longest strings and increased frame stability result in devastating new power advantages.
INCREDIbLY POWERFUL.

MORE POWER, MORE CONTROL, BIGGER KILL ZONE, MORE TOUCH

MORE POWER from Longer Strings
The longer the strings, the greater the stringbed deflection and the greater the power. The combination of new Dual-Cylinder Technology with exclusive patented E-Force LongString Technology creates the longest strings possible by allowing every string to extend unrestricted in free space to the outside edge of the frame. The strings cannot be longer.

MORE POWER from Reduced Frame Twist/Distortion
The combination of two strong tubes – spanned by the Stabilizer Bridge – creates an amazingly solid structure. This reduces distortion and twisting in unwanted ways at ball impact. More energy is transmitted to the ball – for more power.

BIGGER KILL ZONE
Because the strings are longer — and the frame is more stable — the kill zone is much bigger.

MORE CONTROL
The Stabilizer Bridge holds the two tubes in position so that the frame does not twist or distort. Pinches, kills, passing shots. The ball goes where you want it to go.

LONGEST STRINGS = AND MORE POWER

E-FORCE HAS THE LONGEST STRINGS*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Longest</th>
<th>E-Force Competitor</th>
<th>E-Force Advantage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mainstring*</td>
<td>22&quot;</td>
<td>16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Center Mainstrings*</td>
<td>172&quot;</td>
<td>121&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cross-Strings (Longest possible – crosses extend from outside edge to outside edge of frame.)

* strings unrestricted in free space

www.e-force.com
What’s up Cliff? Part 1

Interview with Cliff Swain

Cliff Swain is arguably the greatest player in the 35-year history of professional racquetball. He has finished the season ranked No.1 six times. The 2003-2004 season was both disappointing and frustrating for him. The 38-year-old Swain is looking to break a 2 1/2 year winless drought and reassert himself at the pinnacle of the game. Also, he is in the middle of the swirling hurricane between the IRT and the Legends Tour. Mike Ceresia sat down with him to discuss his plans in part 1 of a two part segment.

RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE: What do you do in the off season to prepare for next year?

CLIFF SWAIN: I start the off-season by taking a couple of weeks off to do whatever I feel like doing. This allows any little nagging injuries to heal, but primarily it's a mental break. I then start training at a place called Mike Boyle's Strength and Conditioning here in Massachusetts. I work with about a dozen or so other pro athletes, mainly NHL players; Hal Gill from the Boston Bruins and Chris Clark from the Calgary Flames are a couple of the pros. It's extremely intense - four days a week, from 7-10am. It's closely monitored, expert training that covers all areas including strength, speed, endurance, and agility training. My favorite part of it is that by 10am my "workday" is over, and I'm free.

RM: What do you like to do in your time away from the game?

CS: I like to spend time with my family and play golf and hockey. You know, "Work hard, play hard."

RM: It has been more than two seasons since you have won an IRT stop. How does this sit with you? Can you win again on this tour?

CS: It doesn't sit well at all. I am in unfamiliar territory that I am not at all comfortable with. But I am prepared to do something about it. I've been distracted off the court and have also allowed myself to be distracted on the court as well. Both will change. Physically, I am exactly where I want to be. This summer, I will work just as hard on the mental part of the game. I've never been big on predictions, especially regarding myself, but I will tell you this - next season I will lose less and I will DEFINITELY win again.

RM: Your serve has always been the cornerstone of your game, but last year it was rarely the weapon it once was. What will you change to make this your main weapon again?

CS: In my opinion, the cornerstone of my game has been my constant, relentless mental effort, more so than my serve or any of the other obvious weapons. Playing one point at a time, match after match, takes a great deal of mental fortitude. When you are not where you need to be mentally to compete against hungry, young athletes with a strong desire to impress, it can appear the deficit is a physical problem. Anyone trying to be the best they can be understands exactly what I mean. If you have something on your mind, you can feel slow or weak, you can fatigue easily, and you might even appear like you don't care. When there are things on your mind other than the task at hand, the task itself suffers regardless if it's a positive distraction or a negative one. On the other hand, when your mind is free and clear you feel lightning quick and strong and everything feels effortless. To me this is the hardest thing about playing as I've gotten older. When I was eighteen I had few things to think or really worry about. Racquetball was the first thing on my mind each day. Now there are other concerns - relationships, finances, losing a family member, buying homes. These events are all a part of life, but as you age, they occur more frequently and consistently, they become more in the forefront, and it becomes more difficult to stay focused on any one thing. But, that's what I love about what I do - it's a constant learning process. This off-season I will put a great deal of effort into ensuring that there are as few distractions as possible for the start and duration of the season, so that ALL of my weapons will be weapons once again.

RM: You put on about 20 pounds of muscle in the past 12 months. Most athletes are looking for a way to stay light as they age. What was your thought process and how do you feel it has affected your game?

CS: My average weight over the last few years has been 185 lbs. This year my high was 199 lbs., and my movement was a good as ever. The weight gain was somewhat easy to do. I worked out just as hard but differently. I did less cardio on the days I lifted, and I ate more carbs. The rallies are a bit different these days; more balls are hit higher and heavier and in the middle of the court. I feel my added strength has helped me adapt to these changes. Again, my problems lately (with the exception of a couple of minor injuries) are from the neck up, not the other way around.
RM: Tell us about the Legends Tour.

CS: It has been great for the game and great fun for me in which to participate. The guys that I play against are the greatest players and entertainers ever. When a tournament is over, the spectators leave satisfied and that's what is most important. My Providence College roommate, Scott Hirsch, has given to the game in a way that I have never seen. I hope the Legends continue to be embraced. It's great for the sport of racquetball.

RM: Your game has changed a lot since you joined the IRT 20 years ago. You have made major changes to your backhand mechanics and grip. The stroke resembles a Gustavo Kuerten type stroke. Your backhand was already one of the best, why did you make these changes?

CS: I am always trying to improve every aspect of my game including my backhand. And I do think it could use some tweaking, but I think it's my overall confidence that will improve all aspects of my game next year. It's basically the same answer to your question about my serve.

RM: Let's switch gears. The IRF World Championships are like the Davis Cup of Tennis. Each country has sent their best players except for the US men on occasion. Why haven't you played this event over the years? Would you like to represent your country in International Competition?

CS: I have never been invited and I'm not sure why, but I would love to represent the United States in any way possible.

Part 2 in next issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2004–2005 International Racquetball Tour Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 26-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 7-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 20-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 28-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 4-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 14-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 20-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 27-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 27-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 10-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 18-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 24-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 17-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 4-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28-May 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* - denotes "Grand Slam" event

For information concerning any IRT events, contact IRT Commissioner Dave Negrete at 630-430-1IRT (1478), send e-mail to negretz@mindspring.com, or go to www.irt-tour.com
Interview with Christie Van Hees

Christie Van Hees orchestrated a stunning return to the LPRA last year. A three-year self-imposed hiatus was tossed aside as the unranked Van Hees ascended to a season ending ranking of No.2. This rise included victories in the last two events of the season. She feels she has replaced Cheryl Gudinas as the player to beat and can’t wait for next season to start. She is the best Canadian women’s player since the inimitable Heather McKay. We discussed the comeback and outlook with her recently.

RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE: It has been an eventful couple of years for you. What did you do in your time away from racquetball?

CHRISTIE VAN HEES: There was a lot of speculation why I stepped away when I did. The truth is I was spent and wanted to see what life was like without racquetball. I graduated university at exactly the same time and moved home to my parent’s farm. After about a year and a half of mellowing out, hanging with my dog, my boyfriend and riding my horse, it was time to move on. I was fortunate enough to be accepted to an internship program and spent eight months volunteering in Barbados at the Barbados Olympic Association promoting Olympic Ideals Education programs in schools. I remember these years very fondly.

RM: What brought you back to the game?

CV: A lot of what I experienced during that time made me realize how much I loved sports in general. Training my horse and seeing her win races really kept me, and still keeps me, competitive. I kind of feel like I have this great gift, and was fortunate enough to find it early on, so I better use it to the best of my ability.

RM: Your game seems to be better at this point than when you left. What do you attribute the improvement to?

CV: I am healthier physically and mentally. I take myself less seriously than I used to. Ironically I am more serious about specific priorities in life. I have found out that being happy means that my family comes first, then me, and then my close friends. That’s the perfect equation right now. As long as I stick close to these things I feel good. I used to beat myself up over the littlest things and now I am just so much more confident with who I am. The support from Wilson and Crew West has contributed to my success this season. I have always been fortunate to be involved with great companies.

RM: Where do you live and what do you do when you are not involved with racquetball?

CV: Specifically, Dawson (my dog) and I live in a one bedroom loft in the downtown metropolis of Kelowna, B.C., a town of about 100,000; half of which are over 70 and the other half of which are transient hippies. We are known for our wine, our orchards and a World Champion racquetball player. When I am not playing racquetball I am doing one of two things - riding my horse at mach speeds in the mountains or stirring things up with my larger than life friend Jimmy...both are risky.

RM: You are poised for a dominating season next year. Do you feel you have overtaken Cheryl Gudinas as the player to beat?

CV: I think the end of the season is an indicator of things to come. I was number one when I left in 2001 which means I was beating Cheryl back when I had my head on upside down. With Wilson behind me and being stronger physically and mentally I would like to think the cards are in my favor.

RM: How do you feel about the state of the LPRA?

CV: Looking at the team that Claude Crocker has put together I feel confident that great things are yet to come. Along with Claude and his efforts, we are seeing support from Wilson and the ball, which is great, as well as the players taking the sport more seriously. You have Tammy Brown, Kerri, Rhonda and Kristen to name a few and I feel we really push each other.

RM: You have had some issues with Racquetball Canada and in fact will not be competing at this year’s World Championships. This is a catastrophic event for Canadian Racquetball. What brought this situation about?

CV: Without airing too much dirty laundry...their actions in February of 2004 really conjured up some negative feelings. Like I said, I am a much more confident person than I was in the earlier years. I have certain beliefs that I stand by and being fair is one of them. I played for Canada for six years, won two World Championships and it was great. I’ve moved on.

RM: You had a key victory at the 2000 World Championships Team Event over Cheryl Gudinas. How did it feel to be a member of the first team to win the World Cup other than the US?

CV: My teammates keep thanking me for my victory that clinched the title but as a team player I like to think that each of us played an integral part. (laughs) On a serious note there wasn’t a greater team to be apart of at the time. Kane was just coming along, the Green/Ceresia team was still alive. There was a dynamic there that I’m
not sure can be recreated. But then again, I’m out of the picture now. I am just proud I was a part of it. Now that I think about it I never saw that cup during the reign. I’ll have to phone Racquetball Canada on that one.

RM: What will you work on this summer to improve your game?
CV: I started training again about two weeks ago and feel great. My best friend is an accomplished fitness competitor so I’m taking a lot of advice from her on my diet. Besides a patio on a hot summer day, my diet tends to be my biggest weakness. I just plan on being in great shape coming into the season, and try to remain healthy throughout. If I feel great physically then I am more confident and the more confident I am the better I play... period.

RM: We heard you received some advice at the 2004 U.S. OPEN, the sight of your racquetball revival. What advice did you get?
CV: Well after my match with Kim Russell I sat down with a good friend of mine who hadn’t seen me play in three years and asked him what he thought. With all the positivity (sic) and support you could imagine he told me I should “take two weeks off and then quit”. It’s amazing after that comment I could muster the mental fortitude to continue on to the finals. But this is the type of thing I am prepared for now, the ups and downs, the criticism. I told him there were bigger plans for me.

RM: What are your specific goals for the next two or three seasons in racquetball?
CV: I never thought in a million years I would be fortunate enough to play racquetball for a living and here I am 10 months after being laid off from my last job and I have my own place, a new vehicle and plenty of
time to spare for my horse and my dog. All three of us couldn’t be happier. It’s enough motivation for me to train hard and be as successful at this career as I possibly can.

RM: Your parents have been very instrumental in your success. What did they teach you that helped you become the person and the player that you are?
CV: My whole family plays such a big role in my life. I have two older brothers who are my best friends. They are hard-workers and the life any party. They each have enough charisma to kill a person. I believe I learned the importance of competition from them. What they should’ve taught me is how to stay away from guys like them!

RM: Do you work away from racquetball?
CV: Well let’s see, the last job I had the hours sucked but the upside was the pay was really bad. To be honest there are the working types and the marrying types and I don’t think I’m either.
LEGEND’S TOUR HIRES NEW COMMISSIONER

A little of the old mixed in with something new, who thought that was only for wedding traditions? The Legend’s Tour has a new Commissioner and he’s based out of Salt Lake City. After adding numerous events to the schedule last year, and the ever-growing responsibility of coordinating these events, the Legend’s Tour has hired former IRT Stringer, Brian Pointelin.

Pointelin, who had been the stringer on the IRT since the spring of 1999, has decided to head in another direction with racquetball. “I came to a realization that I was never going to be a top 10 player on the IRT, but I wanted to remain in racquetball and do something positive with the sport. Working with such great names and players as Marty Hogan, Dave Peck, Ruben Gonzalez, Cliff Swain, and others, is such an exciting job for me”, Pointelin said.

Pointelin, played his way onto Championships teaming up with the LPRA and these events, the Legend’s Tour has hired former U.S. National Team in direction came to a realization that I was very emotional about BPointelin@aol.com or go to from Hank Marcus when he finally lost in the finals in Vegas March 17-20 San Francisco, California friction between the Legend’s to the defending champions, March 31-April 3 Boston, Massachusetts Tour and the IRT “I am not happy to be able to work with such great players, giving the fans, especially the older generation, a sense of how great these “old guys” can still play.”

“This brings tremendous energy and an unequaled love for the game to the position”, said Legend’s Tour Founder, Marty Hogan. “I’m extremely confident Brian will be a huge success in his new position and we at the Legends Tour feel very excited and fortunate to be working with someone of Brian’s caliber.”

With a schedule of approximately 15 events for the 2004-2005 season, it should be one full of drama and action. The Tour will have stops from Puerto Rico to Honolulu and a variety of places in between. “We have a pretty good schedule this year, ranging from coast to coast and we are looking forward to going to Honolulu again this year. I know we are teaming up with the LPRA and the IRT for some of the events, and we are pretty excited about that”, Pointelin said.

And as for the supposed friction between the Legend’s Tour and the IRT? “I am not sure what the friction was in the past for sure, I just know that both Tours should be working together to grow the sport for everyone”, Pointelin commented. “I was too naïve and inexperienced to learn from Hank Marcus when he was running the tour, but I consider him a great friend and thankful for what he offered me. I have learned a lot from Dave Negrete too though, he was one of my mentors and a great friend, he took care of me while I worked for the IRT. I am very appreciative of everything he did for me and taught me.”

As for the transition from Court time to Court-side?? “I have some very dear friends on the IRT in Sudsy, Jason, Kane, Rocky, and Llacera, not that I don’t like the other guys. It is hard to leave that tour and go a different route because I still enjoy playing on that level somewhat”, Pointelin said. “I am hoping that I can do a good job from the start and take my college degrees and now put them to use in the Sports Marketing that we so desperately need in this sport.”

Brian can be reached at bpointelin@aol.com.
The competition began with mixed doubles where Liza Higa and Matt Robinson defeated Jennelle Mercadante and Mike Garrity in the final. In the A Doubles final David Tedeschi and Robby Johnson beat John Whitty and John Whitty, Jr. Sunday started right off with the first WOR Military division, which was turned into a family affair. In the final, Bobby Narmore and Robert Narmore Sr. defeated Ryan Narmore and Robert Narmore, Jr. The Junior division final was one of the most exciting matches of the weekend with John Whitty, Jr. & Richard Narmore defeating Lily Anne Felton & Robby Collins in a 11-9 tiebreaker.

Then the big boys took to the court as the Open division started play. Twelve teams battled for the top spot, WOR ranking points, and island supremacy. California's top ranked team of Rob Hoff and Gary Martin did not disappoint the crowd as they won a great match in the final against Hawaii's Big Rod Felton and Scott Bauman The match lasted so long that the final points were played in the dark! The winners received more then a trophy as they were invited to be guest judges at the tournament party's bikini contest!

RESULTS:

OPEN Rob Hoff/Gary Martin def. Rod Felton/Scott Bauman
MIXED Liz Higa/Matt Robinson def. Jennelle Mercadante/Mike Garrity
JUNIOR John Whitty Jr./Richard Narmore def Lily Anne Felton/Robby Collins

MOD Winners: Big Rod Felton, Rob Hoff, Gary Martin, Scott Bauman, Robert Martinez

The event is one of the largest outdoor tournaments in the country and has players from across the U.S. and Canada.
Canadian Nationals

Most of the 2003 champions successfully defended their titles at the 2004 Canadian Senior National Racquetball Championships at the Cedar Springs Health and Racquet Club in Burlington, Ontario.

In men’s, Mike Green won his third consecutive National Championship in singles. He defeated Brian Istance, in the final. In the semi-finals, Green beat Vincent Gagnon, while Istance defeated Mike Ceresia.

Green also won the doubles title with Tom O’Brien as they beat Istance and Kris Odegard in the final. In the semi-finals, Green and O’Brien beat Eric Desrochers and Tim Landeryou while Istance and Odegard beat defending champions François Viens and Corey Osborne.

Lori Jane Powell won her third National Championship in singles by beating Jennifer Saunders, in what was a repeat of the 2003 final. In the semi-finals, Powell beat Amanda Dunn, and Saunders defeated Josee Grand’Maitre.

Belgium

Belgian Open: Deboutte wins his first ERT event

Niklaas Deboutte won his first European Racquetball Tour (ERT) tournament last weekend, in his hometown of Antwerp. He beat Dutchman Edwin Schipper in the men’s open final. Deboutte will be on the Belgian team for the IRF World Championships this summer in Anyang, Korea.

Mexico

Copa Country 2004

Successfully finished

Lupita Torres and Alvaro Beltran both won their singles and doubles finals during the 2004 Copa Contry Tournament. Torres won the Women’s Doubles with Paola Longoria (U14 World Champion), while Beltran succeeded with Gil Mejia.

Japan

Open 2004

Hirotake Usami and Toshiko Sakamoto are the winners of the Men’s and Women’s Open finals during the 2004 Japan Open in Tokyo on May 1-5. A total of 316 players have participated in this annual event.

Holland

Pascal Matla wins Dutch Nationals

Pascal Matla from Zoetermeer won the Dutch National Championships 2004 in his hometown. By defeating Michiel van der Holst in the finals, he claimed his sixth title in eight years. Pascal qualified for the top singles spot on the National Team while Michiel will compete in Doubles at the 2004 World Championships.

Upcoming IRF Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NMRA International Masters Invitational</td>
<td>West Allis, WI</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRT Pro Certification Course</td>
<td>Snou</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRF 12th World Championships</td>
<td>Anyang</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Tornaio Nacional Singles</td>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Tornaio Nacional Doubles</td>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRF 16th World Senior Championships</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Japan Open</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Japan Team Competition</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Japan Team Competition</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch Nationals</td>
<td>Zoetermeer</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tornaio New Generation</td>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torneo abierto de Zacatecas</td>
<td>Zacatecas</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Tornaio Nacional Singles</td>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Hamborg Open</td>
<td>Hamburg</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Tornaio Nacional Dobles</td>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Singles Tournament</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Senior Singles</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37th U.S. National Doubles</td>
<td>Tempe, AZ</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Shift your game into high gear with racquetballs that are fast (Ultra Blue), faster (Titanium), and fastest (Pro Penn). Play the world's #1 selling balls, just like 5-time Pro World Champion Sudsy Monchik, and make quick work of your next opponent. Now you know.

World's #1 Selling Racquetball* | www.pennracquet.com
LASTING IMPRESSIONS
Eau Claire Athletic Club - Owners, members and the people of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Someone explained the experience as “returning to the 80’s” Everyone was helpful, extremely friendly and went out of his or her way to make sure every visitor experience was memorable. A great place to hold an event!

THE VALUE OF COACHING
Consistent exposure to a coach can make a difference! Zach Apperson from Ohio decided to solicit the expertise of U.S. Team member Shane Vanderson to not only prepare for the event but also coach him during the event. The result - Apperson won his division, which qualified him for his first U.S. Junior Team appointment.

CALIFORNIA REBOUNDS
California was once the premier state for junior racquetball, but in recent years they have not finished near the top of the team standings. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Jody Nance, Karen McDonough, and Lisa Hjelm, and outstanding performances by Ismael Aldana and Jose and Marco Rojas, California placed third in the overall state team competition.

18'S NOT AS EASY AS EXPECTED
Both 18-and-under champions, Ben Croft and Adrienne Fisher, were expected to easily defend their national titles. Surprisingly, both players were pushed to tiebreakers not once, but twice. Croft was tested by rapidly upcoming Jared Torres in the semifinals and also by upset minded Charlie Pratt in the finals. Adrienne Fisher was forced to comeback from a 7-0 deficit in the tiebreaker against Elise Wilson in the semi's and then needed to put on her best serving exhibition of the season to defeat Jesi Fuller in the in finals.

BIGGEST UPSET
A tie between Charlie Pratt's semifinal victory over fellow Oregonian Dan Sheppick and Holly Hettesheimer's and Samantha McGuffey's victory in Girls' 16-doubles. After a disappointing loss in the first round at the Junior World Championships and then in the final of the National High School Championships, many wondered if Pratt could recover. Unfortunately for Dan Sheppick, Charlie recovered with a vengeance and easily defeated Dan 15-5, 15-5. Scouting reports have indicated the two had trained together and that Dan was easily controlling Charlie, but in this match Charlie was in complete control.

In doubles Holly and Samantha upset National and World champions Ashley Leggett and Ashley Willhite on their way to claiming the girl's 16- national doubles title.
After much teasing and dares, Heather Fender took to the dance floor with 10-and-under player Jose Diaz. The two set the stage for a fun filled evening that featured numerous juniors and parents.

The Vargas' from Colorado made it a family event - Anthony, Connie, Elizabeth, Isaac, and Samuel - helped lead Colorado to seventh place in the overall state team competition.

After 18 years of supporting and developing racquetball in the Wisconsin area, Carol Pellowski and family will be moving to Grand Junction, Colorado. Carol was the major promoter in bringing the Junior National event to Wisconsin and has long been instrumental in the success of Wisconsin junior racquetball.

Many parents and junior supporters started their daily routine with 7am Junior Council meeting to discuss future plans for junior development. Major discussions were set around the Junior USA Team and future site selection for the event.

Heavily favored to reach the finals, Dan Sheppick from Portland Oregon was upset in the semi's by training partner Charlie Pratt. Although disappointed in not qualifying for singles on the US Junior Team during his final year of Junior Racquetball, Dan displayed the class and sportsmanship expected of the US Junior Team captain.

National Champion Ben Croft seemed "speechless" after being selected as the National Junior Male Athlete of the Year. Ben received consistent ribbing from his buddies as he searched for the words to express his appreciation for the award.
2004 USA Racquetball
Junior Olympic Championships
June 23-27: Eau Claire Athletic Club
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

FINAL INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

SINGLES

Boys' 18: Ben Croft (Lake Bluff, Ill.) def. Charlie Pratt (Portland, Ore.) 15-7, 8-15, 11-0
Boys' 16: Zachary Apperson (Zanesville, Ohio) def. Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.) 15-10, 15-12
Boys' 14: Ismael Aldana (Stockton, Calif.) def. Jose Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) 15-6, 15-11
Boys' 12: Taylor Knoth (Milwaukie, Ore.) def. Jake Bredenbeck (St. Croix, Minn.) 15-7, 11-15, 11-8
Boys' 10: Chase Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Marco Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) 15-5, 15-11
Boys' 8: Adam Manilla (Centennial, Colo.) def. Zachary Pellowski (Eau Claire, Wis.) 15-3, 15-3
Boys' 8 MB: Sean Cooper (Palm Harbor, Fla.) def. Conlan Berry (Columbus, Ohio) 15-10, 15-7, 11-6

Girls' 16: Ashley Willhite (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Kara Mazur (Avon, Conn.) 15-7, 15-9
Girls' 14: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Brittany Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) 10-15, 15-8, 11-6
Girls' 12: Danielle Key (Gilbert, Ariz.) def. Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) 15-13, 15-11
Girls' 10: Lauren Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.) 15-4, 15-8
Girls' 8: Abbey Lovely (Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio) def. Elizabeth Vargas (Aurora, Colo.) 15-2, 15-1
Girls' 8 MB: Elizabeth Vargas (Aurora, Colo.) def. Danielle Falvey (Madison, Wis.) 11-8, 11-10
Girls' 6 MB: Jessica Varner (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Erika Manilla (Centennial, Colo.) 11-6, 11-3

DOUBLES

Boys' 18: Ben Croft (Lake Bluff, Ill.)/Dan Sheppick (Portland, Ore.) def. Brady Hernandez (Tuscaloosa, Ala.)/Shane Karmelin (Dacula, Ga.) 15-9, 15-13
Boys' 16: Zachary Apperson (Zanesville, Ohio)/Allan Crockett (Birmingham, Ala.) def. David LaForest (Queens, N.Y.)/Richard Sledzik Jr. (Brockton, Mass.) 15-11, 3-15, 11-8
Boys' 14: Ismael Aldana (Stockton, Calif.)/Jose Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) def. John Craig Chisholm (Marlborough, Mass.)/Jerome Jackson (Norwood, Mass.) 15-6, 15-4
Boys' 12: Taylor Knoth (Milwaukie, Ore.)/Jorge Knoth (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Joseph Lee (Baton Rouge, La.)/Dylan Reid (Milwaukee, Wis.) 15-9, 15-3
Boys' 10: Jose Diaz (Stockton, Calif.)/Marco Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) def. Sam Reid (Medford, Ore.)/Chase Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) 15-4, 15-9

Girls' 18: Adrienne Fisher (Centerville, Ohio)/Jesi Fuller (Albuquerque, N.M.) def. Kelley Fisher (Centerville, Ohio)/Elise Wilson (Bristol, Conn.) 15-12, 15-11
Girls' 16: Holly Hette (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Samantha McGuffey (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. Jennifer Fenton (Overland Park, Kan.)/Kara Mazur (Avon, Conn.) 15-6, 15-12
Girls' 14: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Brittany Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Taryn Herboth (Carmichael, Calif.)/Monique Horyza (Orangevale, Calif.) 15-10, 15-4
Girls' 12: Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.)/Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Taryn Herboth (Carmichael, Calif.)/Monique Horyza (Orangevale, Calif.) 15-4, 15-4
Girls' 10: Lauren Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.)/Chase Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.)/Marco Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) 15-10, 15-4

Mixed 18: Adrienne Fisher (Centerville, Ohio)/Dan Sheppick (Portland, Ore.) def. Da'Monique Davis (San Antonio, Texas)/Shane Karmelin (Dacula, Ga.) 15-14, 15-7
Mixed 16: Ashley Willhite (Klamath Falls, Ore.)/Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.) def. Samantha McGuffey (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Zachary Apperson (Zanesville, Ohio) 15-11, 3-15, 15-6
Mixed 14: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Ismael Aldana (Stockton, Calif.) def. Victor Davis (San Antonio, Texas)/Shane Karmelin (Dacula, Ga.) 15-14, 15-4
Mixed 12: Danielle Key (Gilbert, Ariz.)/Jeremy McGlothlin (Milwaukee, Wis.) def. Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Taylor Knoth (Milwaukee, Wis.) 15-6, 15-5
Mixed 10: Lauren Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.)/Chase Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.)/Marco Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) 15-10, 15-4

Oregon was able to capture an amazing 13th consecutive national team championship. Ohio and California seem to be catching up, but Oregon will have home court advantage next year when the tournament takes place in Portland.

FINAL TEAM RESULTS

1. Oregon 1196
2. Ohio 1078.5
3. California 989
4. Louisiana 712
5. Wisconsin 501
6. Illinois 393
7. Colorado 299

Event Sponsor
2004
CHOICE HOTELS
US OPEN
RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

November 17-21, 2004
Memphis, Tennessee

Presented by:

Kane Waselenchuk
2003 Champion

Rhonda Rajsich
2003 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 from the IRT, LPRA, and LEGENDS Tours compete for the largest prize-money purse in the sport — $64,000+. 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 THE TENNIS CHANNEL. In addition, over 600 amateur division players will compete in age and skill divisions for every level. Special events include the Saturday evening Grand Gala “PARTY WITH THE PROS”, Players Village complete with concessions and live entertainment, International/VIP Reception, Pro-Am Doubles Tourney for St. Jude, IRT Champions Clinic, All-Star Skills Challenge, Player’s Dance Party, 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), Ridgeway Baptist Rec. Center (10 minutes from The Racquet Club) and SIX50 TotalClub (15 minutes from The Racquet Club). Complimentary shuttle service between all four facilities will be provided.
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.

Dramatic player introductions complete with laser light shows and booming music will treat racquetball fans to a total entertainment experience. The crystal clear LUCITE acrylic walls will make you feel like you are in the court with the players.

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 Wednesday night International/VIP Reception and Thursday late-night "get together" at the Fox & Hound Sports Bar (next door to 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 ninth Annual Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Grand 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, 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 $35 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.
**PRO MATCH SCHEDULE**

- **Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude**
  - Tuesday: 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

- **Men’s & Women’s Pro Qualifying**
  - Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- **Men’s round of 64**
  - Wednesday: 4 p.m. - 11 p.m.

- **Men’s round of 32**
  - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- **Women’s round of 32**
  - Thursday: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.

- **Men’s round of 16**
  - Thursday: 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

- **Women’s round of 16**
  - Friday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- **Men’s quarters**
  - Friday: 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.

- **Women’s quarters**
  - Friday: 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

- **Women’s semi #1**
  - Legend’s semi #1/Men’s semi #1
    - Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- **Women’s semi #2**
  - Legend’s semi #2/Men’s semi #2
    - Saturday: 2:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

- **Legend’s finals/Women’s finals/Men’s finals**
  - Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**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 18th 3 p.m. - 10 p.m., Wednesday, November 17th 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., Thursday, November 18th 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., and Friday, November 19th 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**SKILL LEVEL CERTIFICATION**

Skill-level entrants (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 five event. 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.

**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 must purchase a ticket to be admitted to the Saturday evening Grand Gala “PARTY WITH THE PROS”. Seating is limited, therefore it is strongly recommended that you purchase tickets in advance. ABSOLUTELY NO VIEWING FOR PRO MATCHES WILL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT A TICKET. Last year’s ticket packages sold out four weeks in advance, so don’t delay!

**HOSPITALITY**

Limited hospitality for all players will be available at The University of Memphis, Six.50 TotalClub, and Ridgeway Baptist Rec. Center only. The Racquet Club of Memphis features a four-star restaurant for your dining pleasure, as well as the Player Village with a cash bar and limited concessions offered.

**SILENT AUCTION & PRO/AM DOUBLES CHALLENGE**

For the benefit of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital a silent auction will be held during the event featuring Olympic Memorabilia and sporting goods equipment from the industry’s best manufacturers. Checks, cash, VISA and MasterCard are welcome. In addition, Tuesday evening, November 16th, 32 lucky amateurs will have the opportunity to play in a single elimination (one game to 15) doubles challenge with a top professional player as their partner. All proceeds will be donated to St. Jude, and each amateur player will receive an autographed racquet from their pro partner. Call (614) 890-6073 if you are interested in participating as spots are limited. Pro/Am Doubles for St. Jude – $250 donation.

**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 $110,000 for St. Jude!
TRAVEL AND LODGING
Northwest Airlines, United Airlines, and AVIS have joined the U.S. OPEN to offer special discounted airfares and rental cars to the 2004 U.S. OPEN. Please follow the information below to obtain these special rates:

Northwest Airlines
Discount: 10% off any published fare with 30+ days advanced purchase. 5% off published fares 0-30 days.
Instructions: Must call NWA Group Reservations Desk at (800) 328-1111 and mention WOLRD FILE #NSC7F

United Airlines
Discount: 5%-10% off published fares.
Instructions: Must call Olympic Travel Desk at (800) 841-0460 and mention USA Racquetball account #511 SM.

Avis Rent-A-Car
Discount: Special low weekly rates on all car classes.
Instructions: Must call AVIS group reservations desk at (800) 331-1600 and mention AWD# J996315.

Hotels
When making hotel reservations, you must mention the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Discounted rates are good for up to four people per room. You must make reservations by October 26th for these special rates. Regular shuttle service will be available between all four clubs throughout the event. In addition, free shuttle service will be provided from the main host hotels (Comfort Inn & Suites and Sleep Inn) 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 & SUITES*
   (main host hotel)
   2575 Thousand Oaks Blvd.
   (901) 365-2575
   Rate: $69
   -12 minutes to Racquet Club

2. SLEEP INN *
   (main host hotel)
   5119 American Way
   (901)363-4800
   Rate: $69
   -12 minutes to Racquet Club

3. QUALITY INN & SUITES
   1541 Sycamore View Rd.
   (901) 386-4600
   Rate: $69
   -15 minutes to Racquet Club

4. HAWTHORN SUITES
   1070 Ridge Lake Blvd.
   (901) 682-1722
   Rate: $94
   -5 minutes from Racquet Club
   -private hotel shuttle available

5. THE RACQUET CLUB
   5111 Sanderlin Rd.
   (901) 765-4400

6. SIX50 TotalClub
   6161 Shelby Oaks Dr.
   (901) 388-6580

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

8. RIDGEWAY BAPTIST REC. Ctr.
   2500 Ridgeway Rd.
   (901) 761-1113

* Only the COMFORT INN & SUITES and The SLEEP INN will have regular free shuttle service to The Racquet Club every half hour.

For additional nearby hotels please contact the US OPEN headquarters at 800-234-5396 ext 0 or e-mail us at hfender@usra.org

Cheryl Gudinas
LPRA #1
PRIZE MONEY

over $64,000!

RULES/FORMAT
All amateur divisions will be played according to official USA Racquetball 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 17th). All divisions (pro and amateur) will use the ProPenn (green) ball. Consolation will not be offered due to court time restrictions.

RANKING POINTS
Amateur: The top-eight finishers in all divisions will receive USA Racquetball 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.

OFFICIATING
All players will receive $5 for each amateur 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, ComfortSuites, Quality, Clarion, Sleep Inn, Econo Lodge, MainStay Suites, and Rodeway Inn brand names. For more information on Choice, visit the company’s web site at www.choicehotels.com.

CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS

Men’s Pro
2003 - Kane Waselenchuk
2002 - Sudsy Monchik
2001 - Cliff Swain
2000 - Sudsy Monchik
1999 - Jason Mannino
1998 - Sudsy Monchik
1997 - Cliff Swain
1996 - Sudsy Monchik

Women’s Pro
2003 - Rhonda Rajsich
2002 - Cheryl Gudinas
2001 - Kerri Wachtel
2000 - Christie Vanhees
1999 - Jackie Paraiso
1998 - Jackie Paraiso
1997 - Michelle Gould
1996 - Michelle Gould

Legends
Ruben Gonzalez

Ruben Gonzalez
2003 Legends US Open Champion

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS
Event Director:
Doug Ganim

Floor Manager:
Pete Ulliman

Executive Committee:
Dr. Jim Hiser, Kay McCarthy, Heather Fender, Dr. Fred Heros, Dino Tashie

Pro Commissioners:
Dave Negrete (IRT), Claude Crocker (LPRA), Brian Pointelin (LEGENDS)

www.choicehotelsusopen.com
## PRO MATCH TICKET APPLICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Total ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Men's &amp; Women's Pro Qualifying, Wednesday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men's round of 64 Wednesday, 4 p.m.-11 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Men's round of 32 Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women's round of 32 Thursday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Men's round of 16 Thursday, 4 p.m.-9 p.m. (All-Star Skills Challenge 7 p.m.)</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>Women's round of 16 Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men's quarters #1, #2 Friday, 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>Men's quarters #3, #4 Friday, 5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women's quarters Friday 4 p.m.-7 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td>Women's semi #1/Legends Semi #1/Men's semi #1 Saturday, 10:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>Women's semi #2/Legends semi #2/Men's semi #2 Saturday, 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8</td>
<td>Women's finals/Legend's finals/Men's finals Sunday, 11:00 a.m.-3 p.m.</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BEST VALUE ($75 savings)

Ticket Package (includes all sessions listed above – only available in advance) $79

Ticket for Dinner Gala “PARTY WITH THE PROS” (free for all player participants) Saturday, 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. $35

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
- OR -
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 ________

**Total** $_________

*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) may be available starting at $2,400. Call (614) 890-6073 for availability.*
# ENTRY FORM

Name ____________________________________________ Birthdate ________________ Age ________________
Address __________________________________________ City/State/Zip _________________________
Phone (day) ________________________________ (night) ________________________________ Fax ________________
USA Racquetball Membership Number ___________ Expiration Date ____________ E-Mail ______________________
Home Club ______________________________________

---

Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events: (3 events permitted if at least 1 is a doubles divisions):

Check one: Men's ☐ or Women's ☐

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Divisions*</th>
<th>Skill + Age Divisions*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can only A ☐ B ☐</td>
<td>24 &amp; under A ☐ B ☐ 35+ C ☐ D ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE from C ☐ D ☐</td>
<td>24 &amp; under B ☐ C ☐ 45+ A ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>this group D ☐</td>
<td>25+ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ 55+ A ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25+ B ☐ C ☐ 55+ B ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35+ A ☐ B ☐ 55+ C ☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Open & Age Divisions

- OPEN ☐ 40+ ☐ 65+ ☐
- 24 & under ☐ 45+ ☐ 70+ ☐
- 25+ ☐ 50+ ☐ 75+ ☐
- 30+ ☐ 55+ ☐ 80+ ☐
- 35+ ☐ 60+ ☐

---

Doubles & Mixed Doubles Divisions*

| Open ☐ C ☐ 50+ ☐ MX A/B ☐ MX 30+ ☐ |
|---|---|---|---|
| A ☐ 19+ ☐ MX C/D ☐ MX 40+ ☐ |

*REQUIRED 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.

- I have been AMRO certified at this level by: ANRO Certified Instructor (name required)

- 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)

- I competed at this level (but did not win the division title) at the: ___ 2003 U.S. OPEN, or the ___ 2004 USAR National Singles

---

PRO Men's (IRT) ☐ ☐

**Women's (LPRA) ☐ ☐

Legend's (by invitation only) ☐ ☐ ☐

** The Men's Pro draw will begin in the round of 64 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. The Women's Pro draw will begin in the round of 32 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. Players wishing to enter the amateur Open division must enter it directly as a second event.

---

WAVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release and all rights and claims that I may have against the USA Racquetball, IRT, LPRA, Ganim Enterprises, Choice Hotel Corporation, The Racquet Club of Memphis, Club Six50, Ridgeway Baptist Church, The University of Memphis, and all other U.S. OPEN sponsors, or their respective agents for any and all injuries I may suffer as a result of participation in this event. By registering to participate in this event, I release all rights to the use of event photographs/videos in which my image appears.

Participant Signature ________________________________ (parent if under 18) Date ________________________

---

** ENTRY FEES **

Players may enter a maximum of two events: (3 events permitted if at least 1 is a doubles division). 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 $23 service charge ($10 for declined credit cards). Phone entries will be accepted through the entry deadline with a $10 service charge and a major credit card by calling the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN headquarters at (800) 234-5396 ext. 120. Maximum amateur draw is 600 players. Once filled, all additional entries received will be returned with refund.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount Per</th>
<th>Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Event (Amateur Divisions/Pro's)</td>
<td>$95-$105</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Event</td>
<td>$48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Event</td>
<td>$48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA Racquetball Membership</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Fee/Phone Entry</td>
<td>$20-$10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Party with the Pro's ticket</td>
<td>$35 each</td>
<td>Quant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visa/MC ___________________ Exp. Date ____________
Cardholder's Name (print) ____________________________________________
Signature __________________________________________________________

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) 635-0685

---

ENTRY DEADLINE:

All entries must be received by Wednesday, Nov. 3rd and/or postmarked by Friday, Oct. 29th. No refunds will be given after the entry deadline. All entries received after the entry deadline will be assessed a $20 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, souvenir 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!

To enter by phone call:

(800) 234-5396 ext. 120
Since 1982 we have provided peace of mind to hundreds of thousands of our members. In addition to the protection offered you though our Healthcare and Legal Services, we offer savings on Hotels and Resorts, Theme Parks, Golf, Car Rental, Restaurants and more. IAB Membership provides peace of mind and protection from Healthcare and Legal emergencies that tend to happen in day-to-day life and that could be extremely costly to you without our benefits and services. The IAB member’s passport provides for healthcare benefits through our referral network, which includes over 500,000 Hospitals, Physicians, Pharmacies, Dentists, Vision Care, Hearing and more. The members’ passport also entitles you to Legal Services with over 22,000 participating attorneys. These emergency services are available to you 24 hours a day no matter where you are.

IAB membership also guarantees your leisure and entertainment dollar will go farther. With it you have the freedom to access savings on Car Rental, Restaurants, Golf Courses, Hotels and Resorts even Theme Parks.

So learn how IAB membership can give you the freedom from stress and worry about Healthcare and Legal emergencies and provide you with additional savings on recreational time with your loved ones!

For more information visit www.iabbenefits.com
Most racquetball courts in the United States are located in college athletic facilities. When these facilities get old, colleges either remodel the old facility or build a new one. When buildings get remodeled or constructed, existing space utilization gets heavily weighted. Therefore, it is important that racquetball courts show high utilization on college campuses, so that the space allocated for these courts will remain during remodeling, or is included in new construction.

One way to increase court utilization is to develop club programs on college campuses. Fortunately, starting a racquetball club program is oftentimes not very difficult. However, developing and achieving criteria for success is more difficult. In this article, I will discuss three factors that are important in getting a club program initiated.

**ACCESS TO A FACILITY**

Obviously, if you attending a small college not situated in an area that has racquetball courts, it would not make much sense to start a collegiate program. Ideally, a racquetball program would develop on a campus with a resident facility that students have access to throughout the day. It is sometimes difficult to get collegiate players to commit to specific practice times because of their varying academic and work schedules. Players may choose one time during the day to drill, and then choose another time to schedule match play. It is important that they have a partner to drill with, a partner to play against and a court that is available to them when they need it.

**THE SPONSOR AND/OR COACH**

Finding a sponsor and/or coach is very important. Oftentimes, the collegiate sponsor needs to be affiliated with the institution. In the case of my college, the club sponsor must be a faculty member. Paperwork, such as applications, constitutions and mission statements need to be filled out for the club to be officially recognized by the college. Once the club is recognized it is then eligible for funding.

Ideally, the club sponsor will take an active role in its development. My advice is to find a sponsor who is enthusiastic and enjoys the sport. It is also better to have an established member of the college community as a sponsor than a new member to that community.

**FINDING PLAYERS**

Fortunately, there is no shortage of students on college campuses. Getting students to play one of the most fun and fitness minded games ever invented should not be that big of a deal. The student leaders, usually officers in the club, should take much of the early responsibility in getting students to play and to become club members. At our college, members of the racquetball club commonly invite their friends to join them on the court. If racquetball classes are taught, then students attending those classes would be logical recruits for the racquetball club. In addition, athletes, interested in a good cross-training activity are also good recruits. The baseball coach at our college encourages his players to cross-train in racquetball during the fall semester.

As I previously stated, getting a club started is not too difficult. Be sure that the students have access to a facility, a good sponsor, and a core of students to recruit from and your club will be off the ground and ready to go in no time. Getting a new club to become successful, however, is more difficult. Establishing guidelines for making a club program successful will be described in the next issue of Racquetball Magazine.

As always, if you are interested in starting a racquetball club at your College or University and are having trouble finding how to get started, please contact Shane Wood, Chairman of the United States Collegiate Council at racquetballchamp@hotmail.com or (508) 479-6597. Shane is also the Director of the Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference (ECRC) and would love to assist anybody interested in forming a collegiate racquetball league in your area.
Here's How You Can Earn a High School National Championship

So you want to win the High School National Championship? Here is how one team did it.

Three years ago, Katie Ferguson was a freshman at the Catlin Gabel School in Portland, Oregon and wanted to play high school racquetball. She first talked a parent and a teacher into becoming coaches. Katie then convinced a few of her friends, who had never played before, to give racquetball a try.

Her next step was to approach her school to ask for support. She was lucky enough to get backing from the athletic department (usually the activities or club route is best). After the second year, the school believed in racquetball as a real sport and the players now receive PE credits and sports letters for their participation.

She then needed the cooperation of an athletic club. Her home club was too difficult so she went to another club that was close to school and arranged a special “High School Membership” of $25 per month during the winter months. Katie was able to persuade the club to set aside two courts for two hours after school on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays when the courts were not being used much.

Katie then joined the Oregon High School Racquetball League. She was very lucky to live in a state with an existing high school program. This gave her team other high school teams to compete with.

In its third year of existence, Catlin Gabel won the National High School Team Championship...

The first year there were seven players who stuck with the team. The next year the team got stronger. And this year, although some players had graduated, more were recruited.

And in its third year of existence, Catlin Gabel won the National High School Team Championship, competing against 52 other schools from across the country. They earned six All-America awards. The team was made up of 13 players, only two of which had ever played racquetball before joining the team. The school is small (only 246 students) and the sport was new to most, but they worked really, really hard, and they achieved their goal of a National Team Championship.

Practices began and all of the new players were taught the sport. Some dropped out, some became fanatics and started playing in tournaments year around. The boys learned to play the sport - even mixed doubles and how to be good partners. The girls got good enough and brave enough to beat some of the boys. The players talked their friends into giving the sport a try. Katie even talked her sister, Elizabeth, who had retired from racquetball, into joining the team.

You can do it, too. How can we help?
Email John Ferguson (in Oregon at feruson85@comcast.net) or Dan Whitley (in Missouri dwhitley@vettasports.com) with questions.
by Otto Dietrich
USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner

WHAT'S THE CALL?

Garry Carter from Napa Valley, California, refereed some of the Open matches at this year's National Singles Championship. While Garry seems to know the rules quite well, he did encounter an appeal situation that I had to clarify for him. I thought others might well benefit if I'd share that clarification in this article.

For some years now, almost everything that the referee calls or doesn't call is appealable when line judges are used. The only exceptions are technical fouls and match forfeitures.

why players should raise their hand during a rally—to denote exactly what "get" or "shot" they might appeal when the rally is over.

Now, on to the issue that seemed to "trip up" Garry at Nationals. Certain appeals can involve more than one possible call and outcome. A perfect example of this is when the referee stops a play by calling "replay hinder". In this instance, it could be that the appealing player (1) thought there was NO hinder at all or (2) that a penalty hinder (formerly avoidable) should have been called instead. So, which of those is being appealed? You can see that it IS NOT sufficient for the referee to simply say "I called a replay hinder and there's an appeal."

"... it is critical that the issue being appealed is made very clear to all parties and especially the linejudges."

The best way for a referee to word an appeal is to (1) identify the specific play (shot, get, etc.) that is being appealed and then (2) state what YOUR (the ref's) call was on that play. No other info need be stated. In fact, giving any additional data about the appeal, like "who made the appeal" or "what that person thinks the call should have been", could easily result in a "failure to communicate" and possibly adversely affect the outcome of the appeal.

In wording the appeal, it is critical that the issue being appealed is made very clear to all parties and especially the linejudges. The outcome might be skewed if both aren't thinking of the same play when they rule on your call. This is the very real reason

Instead, after first clarifying exactly what the player is appealing, the referee should say something like either "That replay hinder I called was NOT a penalty hinder" or else "I called a replay hinder rather than allow the play to continue." Either way, the referee should follow with the words "There's an appeal." Then, and only then, should the line judges give their signals—without looking at each other.

I suggested to Garry that he gain more real experience using line judges. Anyone who refs often using linejudges will soon learn the finer points to precisely wording some of the more tricky appeal situations so there is no doubt about what the appeal is or how it needs to be described to the linejudges!

Always "Play by the Rules" and, if you don't have a copy, I encourage you to find and review them on-line at: http://www.usra.org/usra/pub&ref/Rulebook.htm.

Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at ODietrich@usra.org and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of Racquetball.
It is amazing how many clubs offer new members one, two or even a series of Free Personal Training Appointments or some type of ‘Easy Start’ Program to start them on their way to a successful Fitness Program upon joining. On the other hand, clubs which have racquetball want those people to just join and begin playing the sport without any guidance.

It is extremely important that all racquetball members (especially those new to the sport) be given the same opportunity. One of the simplest programs to offer is to offer each new member a free introductory lesson or series of lessons. Conducting the lessons in a group setting is even better because they will have the opportunity to meet others interested in racquetball. By offering this fringe benefit to the new member, you are helping to guarantee that they will stay actively involved in the club (and continue to be dues paying members).

But not just anyone can take these people to the courts. You need someone that knows the game, but more important, someone who is infectious with their love for the game and has a personality that will make them want to come back and play. For example, look at your top aerobic class instructors. It really doesn’t matter at what time these people teach, their classes are always full because the members are dedicated to the instructor and their personality.

The cost of the lesson(s) can be expensed against the Membership Initiation Fee, or it can be budgeted in the racquetball P & L’s each year for these lessons. This is especially important because after their initial contact with the Membership Director, a Racquetball Director or Instructor will help with the retention of the member. If the Racquetball instructor gets the new member initiated into the club through personal contact, phone calls, and getting to know their name, they can more easily promote the upcoming lessons, leagues, round-robin plays, and so on. It will then be well worth the investment of the Lessons Fee since they will become longtime dues paying members.

If your new member is coming from another club or city and is beyond the Beginner or Intermediate stage, another option would be to give them a 30-minute private lesson or a pass for a friend of theirs to take the lessons instead.

If you don’t have anything in place now at your club, don’t wait any longer. Get your new members actively involved in the sport. Every week the Racquetball Director should get the new list of members from the Membership Director(s) and call or send a letter inviting them to become involved in your next set of Free Intro Lessons. You can go one step further and during the first lesson offer a discount for a purchase of their racquetball equipment. Or better yet, most of the racquetball companies these days have a great value pack of a racquet, eye guards and a can of balls, which you can sell to your members at a very reasonable price and still make some money. Let the players know that the racquet will be great for the first 6 months to a year and then they will be ready to upgrade to a new racquet. They can save the old racquet for a guest or their kids. And...the best time for getting new members to get their friends to join too is when they first join. Give these people a guest pass or two to bring in their friends to play racquetball with them.

Connie can be reached at: Connie@CascadeAthleticClubs.com
When considering how to approach mental training, it's important to understand that physical and mental training are inseparable. For example, structuring your physical practice and training depends on assessing your needs and goals and then creating a plan. This is a mental exercise. Conversely, your attitudes and beliefs, which are mental qualities, influence your ability to execute your plan as well as your ability to perform in competition. Here are my 'Top Five Tips'.

1. Always consciously connect mental and physical training by being focused during practice sessions. If your mind wanders, stop and take a break and then continue. Short periods of very focused practice are better than hours of mindless repetition.

2. Create realistic situations in practice. Practice particular shots, setups, and serves in sets of 5 or 10 and keep score of how many you execute correctly. Have a goal for what you are trying to achieve. Imagine crucial situations, like a 14-14 first game, and execute a particular shot or serve to win the game.

3. Simulate match play in practice. Designate a particular partner or league match and play it exactly the way you would in competition; warm up properly, take time outs, play 2 out of 3 games, have all your proper gear, etc. If necessary, add some incentive by playing for bragging rights, money, breakfast, beer:)

4. Goals are important so create goals and write them down. In practice or play, however, focus on something other than your goal, like shot selection or execution. The surest way to feel pressure is to have your goal (winning?) front and center in your brain during play.

5. Keep a journal; record training sessions, note feelings and observations, write down new things you learn, and record your matches. This will become a wealth of information as you plan your strategy for competition.

Give these tips a try and watch your performance dramatically improve!

Marcy is a NASM Certified Personal Trainer, ICF Certified Personal Coach, and a Certified Nutrition Consultant. She can be reached at www.marcylynch.com.
QUESTION: Fran what is ERP?

ANSWER: ERP stands for Early Racquet Preparation, one of the most critical parts of both the "forehand and backhand strokes". The idea is to get your racquet up as soon as the ball hits the front wall (or sooner) and you know if it's to the forehand or backhand side. Racquet up means your elbow should be in line with your shoulder and racquet pointing up to the ceiling.

The reason for ERP is the same reason a batter has his bat up in baseball before the pitch is even thrown. All the batter has to do when his bat is up is swing at the ball. He does not have to lift his bat up and then swing which takes much more impeccable timing and leads to more mistakes.

The same principle applies in racquetball. If the hitter gets their racquet up early, as soon as the ball hits the front wall (or sooner), all they have to do is swing at the ball. They do not have to lift up their racquet and then swing which also takes much more impeccable timing and leads to more mistakes...inconsistency.

Think about it...in baseball the batter is 60 feet away from the pitchers mound and the average pitch is around 85-90 mph. In racquetball the receiver is usually between 25-40 feet from the front wall with the ball traveling in excess of 100 mph...much faster than a pitcher in baseball and a much shorter distance.

So ERP in racquetball is just as important as having your bat up in baseball, if not more so.

ERP is also a critical part of the "return of serve" because once again the ball could be traveling an excess of 100 mph off the serve. So as a receiver, as soon as you begin your crossover step to get square to the sidewall (forehand or backhand...doesn't matter) you want your racquet up. Your racquet should be up before your foot even hits the ground. Now you are ready to return serve with the best odds of returning the serve cleanly and consistently.

In summary, remember to prepare early so you will make less mistakes and be more consistent...that is the name of the game. Ask pros like Jason, Sudsy, Rhonda or Cheryl...ERP is a MUST.

Come learn about ERP first hand either at one of the Instructional Camps or on the Instructional Video...
www.FranDavisRacquetball.com
No doubt about it, our sport is one of the most exciting, demanding sports out there. One thing that makes it very exciting is when players dive for un-gettable balls and either, keep the ball in play by hitting it to the ceiling, hitting a great pass shot into the back wall or actually hitting an offensive shot for a winner. Some of the best divers of today's game are Adam "The Flying Fish" Karp, Rhonda Rajsich, Sudsy Monchik and Jason Mannino.

As one of the few women who dive for a ball, I often get asked, "do you practice diving?" Or, "whatever possessed you to dive?" Well, I don't practice diving but, when I first started playing racquetball back in college, not really knowing what I was doing, I did throw myself onto the floor a few times thinking people did practice diving. Thankfully, nobody was watching, because I really didn't do it right. I guess though, that diving those few times, and seeing other players doing it, did inspire me to dive later on when I became an open level player. Now, don't get me wrong. Proper court positioning is still of utmost importance in our game. In fact, I remember Steve Strandemo saying, "a player should never have to dive if they have good footwork and proper court positioning." Well, I agree with that but, as I said above, diving is to get those UN-gettable balls. It puts increased pressure on your opponent to hit better shots which a lot of times results in them skipping balls and giving you free points. Even if you aren't an open level player, here are a few suggestions that will help you to trigger that "Get Horizontal!" side of you.

Diving comes from explosiveness in the legs. Plyometrics* builds the body's explosive power. Starting the dive is very similar to a Track and Field Standing Long Jump. See photo #1. Bend you're your knees and, instead of thrusting the body upwards and keeping your feet underneath you, you actually jump and thrust your upper body forward.

After thrusting your upper body forward, you sort of get into a one handed push-up position with your non-racquet hand cushioning your impact with the floor and your racquet hitting the ball simultaneously. See photo #2. After hitting the ball, your racquet hand goes to the floor still holding your racquet, then you have both hands to push off the floor and help you get back up to play the next shot. Be careful not to crush your fingertips under your grip. You may want to try this at home first and dive onto a nice cushy bed. When you are ready, try it on the court.

Don't get me wrong. Diving isn't for everybody. Know your body's limitations. If you know you can do it then I hope these suggestions help you to put that "Get Horizontal!" aspect into your game. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Kersten@teamektelon.com.

* For information on Plyometrics, go to www.google.com and type in "Plyometrics."
Many racquetball players have a difficult time creating a "flat" swing. They bend at the waist and not at the knees, reaching for a ball to hit rather than swinging at it. If you have ever seen the best players in the world, one of the first things you recognize is how low they get to the floor when contacting the racquetball. Even at 6'4" I realize the only way to hit it low is to get low. A good rule of thumb, whatever height you contact the ball with the strings will probably be how high or low it will be when it hits the front wall. To create the perfect flat, swing look at the pictures below. And by the way, you need to keep your eye on the ball too!!!

DO

Notice how my racquet is in perfect position to go through the swing. Remember to bend your knees!

DON'T

Stand straight up with no knee bend.
CREATE A SMOOTH, FLAT SWING USING ONLY A TABLE AND DIXIE CUPS!!!

**DO**

Drive through your shot while finishing strong and looking at your target. ROLLOUT!!!!!!

Hit through your shot following the flat table.

**DO**

Keep you knees straight and "reach" for the ball with a pendulum motion.

**DON'T**

Big D RoadShow...
Coming to a city near you!

Check out:
www.bigdracquetball.com
for upcoming dates and locations.
In this issue I am going to tackle something I have never done before. In the past I have only written about the physical mechanics of the game like strokes, serves, return of serves, ceiling ball, etc. Today I want to address HINDERS because at the camps I do with Fran Davis we get question after question pertaining to the rules of the game.

First off there are two categories of HINDERS. We will discuss both today:

1. Rule 3.14 REPLAY HINDERS (formerly "dead-ball" hinders)
   A rally is replayed without penalty and the server resumes play at first serve whenever a replay hinder occurs. Also, see Rule 3.15 which describes conditions under which a hinder might be declared a penalty hinder and result in loss of the rally.

2. Rule 3.15 PENALTY HINDERS (formerly "avoidable" hinders)
   A penalty hinder results in the loss of the rally. A penalty hinder does not necessarily have to be an intentional act. Replay hinders are described in Rule 3.14.

I am not going to cover every situation in each of these categories, only the most common ones that come up over and over again. Let's take a closer look:

**Example One**

*Rule 3.15 (a) Failure to Move* (PENALTY HINDERS)
... A player does not move sufficiently to allow an opponent a shot straight to the front wall as well as a cross-court shot which is a shot directly to the front wall at an angle that would cause the ball to rebound directly to the rear corner farthest from the player hitting the ball. Also when a player moves in such a direction that it prevents an opponent from taking either of these shots.
*Rule 3.14 (a)(2) Ball Hits Opponent (REPLAY HINDERS)
... When an opponent is hit by a return shot in flight, it is a replay hinder (unless it is a penalty hinder or the ball would have obviously not reached the front wall).

Rocky clearly moves out of the way of Sudsy’s down-the-line and cross court shots, which he has to do. If Sudsy elected to pinch into the corner and hit Rocky that would be a “replay hinder” - not a “penalty hinder”.

Example Two
*Rule 3.15 (b) Stroke Interference (PENALTY HINDERS)
... This occurs when a player moves, or fails to move, so that the opponent returning the ball does not have a free, unimpeded swing. This includes unintentionally moving in a direction which prevents the opponent from making an open, offensive shot.

Rocky fails to move or moves slightly, but it still does not give Sudsy a free, unimpeded swing at the ball.

Rule 3.14 (5) Backswing Hinder (REPLAY HINDERS)
... Any body or racquet contact, on the backswing or on the way to or just prior to returning the ball, which impairs the hitter’s ability to take a reasonable swing. This call can be made by the player attempting the return, though the call must be made immediately and is subject to the referee’s approval. Note the interference may be considered an penalty hinder. See Rule 3.15.

Rocky has sufficiently moved out of the way which gives Sudsy the ability to take a reasonable swing.

It is very important to know these rules when you are playing so you can stand up to the referee and make sure he or she is calling the match correctly and strictly by the rules. Often players do not know the rules precisely and you can get into situations that can cost you dearly and you might even lose points or a match because of it.

Imagine if you drove a car and did not know the rules of the road...it would cost you too.

I recommend you start with these rules and understand them because these situations occur quite frequently. For more detailed information on rules go to www.USARacquetball.com

See you at one of the Instructional Camps or in our Instructional Video... www.FranDavisRacquetball.com
National Team

Did You Know?  Mike Guidry
Name  →  Mike Guidry
Nickname  →  Guids

National Team Appointments  →  12
Most Recent Qualifier  →  2004 National Singles Championships (Semifinalist)
Sponsors  →  Pro Kennex, Suave
Occupation  →  Sports Sales Agency, Nike
Date of Birth  →  May 28, 1970 (age - 34)
Birthplace  →  Odessa, Texas
Hometown  →  Carrollton, Texas
Current Residence  →  Carrollton, Texas
Biggest Influence  →  Dave & Gregg Peck
Strengths  →  Quickness, Forehand
Training Schedule  →  Weights - 4x's per week,
Cardio - 6x's per week, Court time - 2-3x's per week
Goals  →  Win World Championships in August, National Doubles in October,
Stay Competitive on the Pro Tour and Continue to play for the US

Did You Know?  Kristen Walsh
Name  →  Kristen Walsh
Nickname  →  Walshy

National Team Appointments  →  4
Most Recent Qualifier  →  2004 National Singles Championships (Semifinalist)
Sponsors  →  Head, Ashaway, Python, Crew West
Occupation  →  Full-time student
Date of Birth  →  May 5, 1982 (age - 22)
Birthplace  →  Salt Lake City, Utah
Hometown  →  Salt Lake City, Utah
Current Residence  →  Salt Lake City, Utah
Biggest Influence  →  Mother, Marianne
Strengths  →  Quickness and Speed
Training Schedule  →  Weights - 3-4x's per week, Cardio - 4-6x's per week, Court time playing 2-3x's per week, drilling, 2-4x's per week
Goals  →  To be No.1 in the World, and to win the big events.

Did You Know?  Kristen played basketball, softball, and volleyball in high school and is an avid snowboarder - when racquetball permits.

Mike earned an academic scholarship to the University of Texas - Arlington to study Pre-med, but opted to continue his racquetball career instead.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Jesi Fuller</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nickname</td>
<td>Fuller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>E-Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>University of New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Birth</td>
<td>August 14, 1985 (age - 18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthplace</td>
<td>Albuquerque, New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hometown</td>
<td>Albuquerque, New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Residence</td>
<td>Albuquerque, New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biggest Influence</td>
<td>Mother, Karen Fuller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengths</td>
<td>Quickness, Mental Toughness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goals</td>
<td>To do well on the LPRA tour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favorite Junior Memory</td>
<td>Winning an 11-9 tiebreaker over Mexico at World Juniors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favorite Song</td>
<td>Girls Just Want to Have Fun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favorite Pastime</td>
<td>Shopping</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Ismael Aldana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nickname</td>
<td>Ishy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>Head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>Edison High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Birth</td>
<td>January 26, 1989 (age - 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthplace</td>
<td>Stockton, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hometown</td>
<td>Stockton, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Residence</td>
<td>Stockton, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biggest Influence</td>
<td>Parents, Ismael &amp; Yolanda Aldana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengths</td>
<td>Backhand, Forehand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goals</td>
<td>To compete on the IRT and reach No.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favorite Junior Memory</td>
<td>Playing my first Junior Nationals in Oregon and earning a gold medal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favorite Song</td>
<td>Cradle of the Filth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favorite Pastime</td>
<td>Just having fun, playing video games</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These coaches were honored at a banquet hosted by the United States Olympic Committee for their outstanding accomplishments during the 2003-2004 season.

**JIM WINTERTON**
National Coach of the Year

Jim Winterton started his coaching career in 1973. After graduating from Brockport State College, where he played football for three years, he began coaching in the Rochester area. After four years of coaching football, he began pursuing his own competitive career in racquetball. Winterton was ranked as high as third in his age group. He got there by learning a regimen of weight training and footwork. In 1984, Winterton was invited to teach at the Elite Training Camp in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Since 1984 he has taught at this camp and has had the resources of top Olympic coaches and staff. He also has helped teach speed camps with Scott Phelps, the USA Racquetball speed coach and consultant.

Winterton has worked with the Dallas Cowboys and the Milwaukee Bucks as well as other professional and college teams. He was named coach of the year in racquetball in 1995 and 1999. He was USA Racquetball head coach from 1990 to 1999, and recently returned for another three-tournament stint, from May of 2002 and ending after the Pan American Games in August of 2003. His record during his tenure as USA team coach is an impressive 27 team wins and no losses. Winterton brings a fun approach to conditioning that includes high motivation and energy to the workouts. He will make the athletes work, laugh, and most importantly improve.

**MICHAEL VON GERICTHEN**
Developmental Coach of the Year

Little did Michael Von Gerichten know that his interest in kids and racquetball would have such a positive and rewarding outcome. He feels so fortunate that two things he loves doing have played out for the benefit of so many people.

Von Gerichten started the program nine years ago at Kirkwood High School. At the time his son, Andrew, was looking for something to do between cross-country and track seasons. He gathered six friends together and they formed their first boys' team. They took their defeats admirably, reminding the players it was, after all, their first year and they were competing against teams of athletes with two or three years more of experience. Fortunately they listened and had such a positive attitude that they added a second team - and then a third. In the fourth year they added a girls' team.

In the brief time that Von Gerichten's teams have been competing, his athletes have enjoyed individual successes, but he has always stressed, "It is a team thing." Winning is fun, but it is not the only reason to play. You compete to learn good values. His student athletes represent the community, the school, and themselves. The coaches strive to get the best out of each player's ability, but it is their sportsmanship and respect for the game that he pushes the most.

**SHANE WOOD**
Volunteer Coach of the Year

Shane Wood started playing racquetball at the age of three, coached for many years by his father, Topper. Thirteen National Championships and twelve World Championships later, Wood still has the same passion and love for the sport as he did 25 years ago.

In March of 1997, while competing at the U.S. National Intercollegiate Championships, Wood sustained a traumatic head injury that would put him out of competition for a couple of years. It was at that point that he found his true passion for the sport in coaching and teaching.

On top of the current Junior Program that he already had in place in Massachusetts, Wood founded a racquetball program at a small private college in Massachusetts, Nichols College. He has been coaching there for 10 years now. In their first year of inception, this small college traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, for the U.S. National Intercollegiate Championships, competed against Division I schools and won the National Title.

He also took over the Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference (ECRC), which is a college racquetball league in the northeastern part of the country. Wood, now the executive director of the league, has built the league to a new level of participation, performing numerous clinics and activities to gain interest from new student athletes all over the northeast.

As a member of the U.S. Junior National Team for five years, Wood has used that experience to also become assistant coach of the team, representing the U.S. in World Championships against countries from all over the world.

Wood is also in the process of forming a high school racquetball program within the New England area to try and attract more future stars to the sport.

He truly shows his love for the sport, as he does all of this, including well over 100 clinics, lessons and exhibitions a year, as a volunteer, while sharing time with a full-time job.
Leo Klimaitis is an admitted racquetball addict. He became hooked on playing the game some 30 years ago and his passion has continued to expand. He is one of the major sponsors of the Chicago Halloween Classic and is heavily involved with the IRT. Mike Ceresia recently caught up with Leo and discussed his love affair with the game.

**RACQUETBALL Magazine:** You started playing racquetball some 30 years ago. How did you get involved and what attracted you to the game?

**Leo Klimaitis:** In 1972, my newly minted brother-in-law told me I was getting fat and suggested we try racquetball. The greatest gift ever given me came via an insult! I will be forever grateful. We rested wooden racquets at the Benton Harbour, Michigan YMCA and I took my first steps on the road to addiction...it seemed so simple. Just shoot the ball where your opponent isn't. I'm still trying to prove that theory.

**RM:** What is it about the game that still gets you pumped up to play?

**LK:** Sometimes I win, then I get arrogant enough to think I can win again. But it is beyond my own game now. The social aspect is 90% of the enjoyment. I know the horses in the contests. I like watching who does what to whom, enjoy hanging around with them. Then there is always that first look at the draw sheet at the beginning of a tournament. The anticipation, the hopes and how about for the health of it.

**RM:** When did you become involved with sponsoring tournaments? What benefits do you derive from these sponsorships?

**LK:** About a dozen years ago for three reasons. Dave Negrete, Dave Negrete and Pat Taylor. At that time Dave was hosting two pro stops a year. I met Dave a long time ago when he was a pro player and I was a struggling ‘D’ player. In other words I was a nobody. He amazed me with the warmth and respect he accorded me and my ilk. This was a stark contrast to other higher ranked players.

Obviously, Dave has quite a stable of sponsors. I am a Johnny-come-lately. I had never seen the pros play because the seats were so hard to come by in a limited venue. Pat Taylor, one of his other major sponsors, noticed me standing on my toes trying to get a glance at the action and offered me one of his seats. I thought I had landed on Mars! I had never seen play like that before and I was hooked. I was determined to never be on the outside looking in and have the ability to offer seats to others who may not otherwise have an opportunity to watch such a spectacle up close.

Howard Miller is the other major sponsor in the Chicago area. Howard, Pat and some other sponsors I’ve met are my models. They have a quiet, unassuming and modest manner. They are involved for the love of the game played at the highest level on earth.

The other benefit was getting to know the pros. They are all so different with a variety of talents, tools and personalities on and off the court.

**RM:** What is your position with the IRT? The IRT has been successful in growing the brand. What do you feel the IRT needs to take the Pro Game to a more prominent role?

**LK:** The IRT is a non-profit entity created by the players for the players. It has a seven member board. I am one of the At-Large Directors and serve at the pleasure of the players. Democracies can be messy but the number of stops and prize money has increased and the trend is positive.

The IRT needs more money and more exposure. It is a chicken and egg situation that can grow either way.

The players are producing incredible racquetball and by and large exhibiting cohesion. The board is exploring possibilities of the players having a direct stake in the brand. They could be involved in more than just winnings. They could experience the hurdles, the legalities and ultimately the equity.

**RM:** The Chicago Halloween Classic has been an IRT staple for some 20 years. Where do you see this event headed now that it is a Grand Slam?

**LK:** The Classic is being stepped up this year. The portable court, more local media exposure and more venues are part of the new event. Our goal is to earn the legitimate title of Racquetball’s second ‘Grand Slam’. Doug Ganin and USA Racquetball have done a spectacular job with the U.S. OPEN and have given us a model to try and emulate. We have a strong foundation that features the richest purse and the wildest parties and are extremely excited about the new format.

**RM:** A few years back you were crowned with a new nickname—WC. Would you like to expand on this?

**LK:** Basically, it is a way to turn ‘World Champion’ into a euphemism for toilet. With friends like these...but it is understandable. I had a long-planned vacation with my wife Sue. We were headed to Paris.

Picture this one! A total stranger calls (Gary Mazaroff) two days before the vacation and tells my wife, “Tell Leo he’s in the tournament”. “Which one?” she asked inquisitively. “The World Seniors in Paris!” Wow, ‘Nuclear winter’ was no longer just a theory of mine.

I had simply called Gary in case our itinerary allowed me to drop in and catch a glimpse of the action.

To encapsulate, there was some very intense back and forth. Sue going forth and me back-peddling. Some serious negotiating with me fending off projectiles with a chair...then she acquiesced! Frank Rios of Guam and I won the 50+. What a souvenir! There has not been another World Senior Doubles, so Frank and I are still the reigning champs.

The banquet night at a small French Village is one of Sue’s best memories of France. Without Sue’s support, and that of my daughters, Karla and Kristy, the level of our financial contributions to all spheres of racquetball would be nominal. She has been the greatest spouse to benefit racquetball and the love of my life for 32 years.

**RM:** You consider yourself lucky to have been involved with the game. There are many players that feel the same way. What do you think your generation of players can do to enhance the future of our game?

**LK:** Be positive, build the sport with words and deeds, be generous with your time and/or money. As gratifying and beneficial as the sport has been to you, it is nothing compared to the rewards of making a difference. Our sport is intimate and too exclusive. We can induce more interest and get more people to take a look at all this great game has to offer. The end result will be a benefit to them a benefit to you and ultimately a benefit to the game.

Keep preaching and spread the faith.
EAGLE SIGHTING

After a two-year hiatus, former U.S. Team member Eagle was seen at the USAR National Singles Championships in Houston—but not as a competitor. Eagle was at the event to meet with U.S. coaches, team members, and others involved with racquetball to share insights and discussions on the integration of yoga into racquetball. Eagle believes that bringing yoga into the sport will enhance the performance and benefits of those who participate in its practice.

“The benefits of the integration of yoga and racquetball are dynamic in that they allow the individual to move more freely, accelerate their recovery rate, and hone their ability to stay in the zone.”

Although Eagle studied yoga prior to a 1991 auto accident, in which he incurred spinal injuries, he intensified his studies during his recovery. His training led him to the final of the 2000 USAR National Singles Championships and a berth on the U.S. National team. When his contract with Head was up in 2001, Eagle chose to retire from the sport and concentrate on yoga. He has split time between living in Hawaii and Southern India where he studies the Science of Ashtanga Yoga as taught by 89-year-old Sri K. Pattabhi Jois of Mysore, India.

“All of the yoga that has caught on recently in the U.S. is basically an offshoot of this 5,000 year old system,” he explained.

Eagle wanted to let people know that although he has been away from the sport he intends to return and share with others what he has learned. His plan is to integrate Eastern yoga practices in Western sports performance, particularly racquetball. He is currently spending another six months studying in India under the Ashtanga Master, with a return scheduled for January. Look for a column beginning early next year in RACQUETBALL by Eagle that will teach players how to combine yoga into their training. For more information visit www.EagleYoga.com.

FUND FOR LANOSGA

Jeremy Lanosga, 17, is the kind of kid we all love to have around our clubs. He is always willing to help out in anyway and eager to learn the game of racquetball. He progressed from a beginner to the 2004 B Regional Champion in just a few short years. Jeremy spent countless hours on the courts, honing his game, and was willing to play a pick-up game with anyone at anytime. One of his dreams was to compete at the USAR National Singles Championships and, with the help of the Colorado Racquetball Association, had raised enough money to travel to Houston for the tournament this year. But then tragedy struck.

On May 10, 2004 Jeremy decided to take photographs of the sunset at the Garden of the Gods, just minutes from his house in Colorado Springs. While climbing the rocks of the park in search of the perfect shot, Jeremy plummeted over 50 feet, breaking his neck in the fall. He lay there by himself until well after dark with no feeling from the neck down. After he had not returned home that evening a family friend searched for, and discovered, Jeremy where he had fallen, but because of the terrain, rescuers were unable to bring Jeremy to safety until 1:00am when he was transported by Life Flight to Penrose Hospital. Jeremy has recovered limited movement in his arms, but still has no feeling in his legs and doctors have said it is still too early to tell if it will ever be regained. He is scheduled to return home towards the end of August to continue his recovery. He is the son of a single mother, Melody, and brother to five other siblings; four of which live at home. Jeremy and his family need your help in order to take care of medical costs and the special accommodations that will be needed to the house upon his return. There are two ways to contribute. Checks made out to “Jeremy Lanosga” will go towards his medical costs and those made out to “The Lanosga Family” will help with the changes in their home. All checks may be sent to: USA Racquetball - C/O Eddie Meredith - 1685 West Uintah - Colorado Springs, CO 80904. Eddie is serving as the liaison between the Lanosga family and the racquetball community and is also helping to get local construction companies to donate or lower their time and costs in getting their house ready.
Top IRT Pro Rocky Carson and his wife Jennifer are the proud parents of Jasmine Marie Carson. Little Jasmine was born May 17, just days before her dad was set to compete at the USAR National Singles Championships. She was born at Mission Viejo Hospital in Mission Viejo, California weighing 8lbs 15 oz and 20" in length. “We feel proud and blessed,” Rocky said of the birth. “We look forward to parenthood and raising our daughter in the best way that we know how.” Congratulations to the new parents!

INDUSTRY NEWS

Wilson's New Titanium Tour Ball Endorsed by LPRA

Wilson Racquet Sports introduces two new Racquetballs to the industry. The green Titanium Tour and blue Championship balls, feel lighter, and keep their true bounce after hours of play. The Titanium Tour ball plays slightly faster than the blue Championship, and is endorsed by several states and by the LPRA.

“We have no doubt consumers will love the playing characteristics of these new balls. The quality, paired with the innovative new square packaging, makes them different from any other ball in the industry,” said Terri Graham, Wilson, Business Director Indoor Racquet Sports.

Here is what consumers are saying about the Titanium Tour ball:

“Everyone I have given the Titanium Tour to loves it. It comes off the racquet very well, and none have broken after several matches of hard play.” Carter Green, VA

“This is the first tournament I have run where we had no ball breakage the entire weekend.” Mike Mojer, FL

The balls are now available in pro shops and sporting goods stores everywhere.

World Outdoor Racquetball Selects Crew West as Official Apparel

World Outdoor Racquetball (WOR) selected Crew West Athletics, Inc. as its Official Apparel for its upcoming season. WOR's aim is to bring outdoor players throughout the world into the mainstream of racquetball through affiliation with USA Racquetball. WOR and the outdoor game will be an important vehicle in the promotion and overall growth of the sport of racquetball.

Crew West will develop a distinct line of apparel for WOR players that will set them apart form others and will be performance oriented considering their playing conditions. Rich Barker, Owner of Crew West, views this relationship as an exciting step forward in the sport and in the opportunity for another class of athletes to experience Crew West.

"WOR is excited to have the opportunity to work with a company like Crew West in designing a line for outdoor players" commented Hank Marcus, WOR Executive Director.

“Crew West is known throughout the indoor game as the ultimate in racquetball apparel, it will only help the growth of outdoor play having Crew West involved.”
Come join us at racquetball’s premiere doubles competition, the USAR National Doubles Championships. The tournament is set to take place at the Arizona State University Student Recreation Center in beautiful Tempe, Arizona. The best doubles players from around the country will compete in divisions separated by age, skill, and age/skill, all vying for a national title.

Time between matches? Tempe has a lot to offer. You can pedal a boat or splash around on a kayak, buy that special something from a local merchant, sip coffee or dine on tasty cuisine at a sidewalk café, see a Broadway show at a theater designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, watch a funky local band, hike up “A” Mountain, or enjoy a round of golf at one of the many courses in the area. USA Racquetball has also planned several functions and activities throughout the week for players and fans alike.

The tournament also serves as a U.S. National Team Qualifier. The top two teams in both men’s and women’s open earn one-year appointments to the squad and have a chance to represent the U.S. in international competition.

Be sure to check out the entry form on the following page, pick your partner(s), and come join us for fun, excitement, and competition!
**2004 37th USA RACQUETBALL NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**voice:** 719-635-5396, **x120**  
**fax:** 719-635-0685  
**deadline:** wednesday, sept. 15

- **entry form — please print**

  Name ___________________ Gender: M | F  
  Address _____________________ ___________________  
  City/State ___________________ Zip ____________  
  Phone (Day) ___________________ (Evening) ____________  
  Email ________________________ ___________________  
  Occupation ___________________ Employer ___________________  
  Birthdate ____________ Age ____________  
  Partner ___________________ Division ____________  
  Partner ___________________ Division ____________  
  Partner ___________________ Division ____________  

  *A third division must be MIXED ... Please list any pertinent seeding information separately. NOTE: BOTH players must complete, submit and pay for their entry before a team will be placed in the draw.*

  **WAIVER:** I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the USA Racquetball, Head/Penn Racquet Sports, Arizona State University, or their respective agents for any and all injuries. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition, and can certify in writing that my protective eyeguard (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USA Racquetball Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to be subject to drug testing as administered according to the USARIUSOC guidelines, and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

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

  **REQUIRED SKILL LEVEL VERIFICATION** • 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.

  - I have been AmPRO certified at this level by: AmPRO Instructor (name required) ______________________  
  - I have recently competed in this skill category in my state, and have been approved for participation at a Level Six event by the state director or designated representative shown: __________________________ (name required).  
  - I competed at this level (but did not win the division title) at the ___ 2003 National Doubles, or the ___ 2003 U.S. OPEN.

  **CREDIT CARDS:** Identify your USA Racquetball MBNA credit card when you charge your entry, and get 10% off your fees. Only MBNA charges receive this discount!

  MC/Visa ______________________ Exp. ____________  
  Signature ______________________ USA Racquetball Visa?

  **divisions**

  **Both players on any team must meet all age division requirements and be certified to compete in skill divisions. Players may choose only one skill level (A,B,C,D) in any category.**

  **U.S. NATIONAL TEAM QUALIFIER**  
  - OPEN Division Qualifier (unrestricted)

  **Age Divisions** | **Skill Divisions (select one only)**
  --|--
  24- | A
  25+ | B
  30+ | C
  35+ | D
  40+ | 24- A B C
  45+ | 25+ A B C
  50+ | 35+ A B C
  55+ | 45+ A B C
  60+ | 55+ A B C
  65+ | 70+
  70+ | 75+
  75+ | 80+
  80+ | 85+
  85+ |

  **Mixed 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+
  - MX 60+
  - MX 65+
  - MX 70+
  - MX 75+
  - MX 80+
  - MX 85+

  **FEES & PAYMENT**

  **USAR Membership ............ $______**
  **USAR Membership Fee ........ ($30.00) ____**
  **First event ......................... ($85.00) ____**
  **Second event ...................... ($40.00) ____**
  **Third event ....................... ($40.00) ____**
  **Late fee (if accepted) .......... ($20.00) ____**
  **Telephone entry fee ........... ($10.00) ____**
  **Tax deductible donation ....... $______**
  **TOTAL DUE: ....................... $______**

  **MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY AND FEES TO:**  
  USA Racquetball NATIONAL DOUBLES  
  •1685 West Uintah Colorado Springs, CO 80904  
  EnTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 
  WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 15 (Postmarked by 09/10)
• how to enter

• ACCEPTANCE & FEES: On-time entries are not accepted without pre-payment and required signatures. Additional surcharges may include: $25.00 for returned checks, $10.00 for declined credit cards. If accepted, entries received after the deadline will be assessed an additional $20.00 late fee. No payments will be processed on site.
• DEADLINE: Entry must be received by Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 15, (postmarked no later than Sept. 12). Only pre-paid entries are placed into the draw; withdrawals will be subject to a $10.00 service fee; no refunds after the deadline date. Entries can be confirmed online, by following event links from www.usra.org and www.racqmag.com.
• EVENT ADMINISTRATION: USA Racquetball @ 719/635-3596, x129.

• travel & lodging

• THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TRAVEL DESK AND UNITED AIRLINES JOIN THE USA RACQUETBALL TO OFFER THE LOWEST POSSIBLE UNITED AIRFARES TO NATIONAL EVENTS. For reservations, phone United’s U.S. Olympic Travel Desk, 480/968-3451 or toll-free, at 800/553-1826 between 8:30 am and 8:00 pm MDT weekdays. Then reference the special USA Racquetball conference account number 509 xxv to receive your low fare! Your support of this program brings racquetball closer to becoming an Olympic Sport!
• LODGING: Holiday Inn Phoenix - Tempe/ASU {480-337-2801} $79.00 quad occupancy.
To secure the event rate, you must mention National Doubles when making your reservations before September 15.
• GROUND TRANSPORTATION: Ground transportation services are available from the airport. HERTZ is the official rental car sponsor – make your reservations by calling 800-654-2240 and referencing the meeting #02RD21779 for your special rate.

• starting times •
480-968-3451
Call for your starting TIME after 5:00 pm central on Monday, September 27.
Please do NOT call the national office for starting times, or online at www.usaracquetball.com

• official rules

• MEMBERS ONLY• This National Event is hosted for USA Racquetball members only. A USA Racquetball membership is required of all participants, and entrants may join with their entry or must be able to provide a current membership card number, a receipt, or a cancelled check as proof of recent enrollment.
• EYEWEAR• USA Racquetball Official Rules will govern competition, including the mandatory use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards. It is the player’s responsibility to make certain that their eyewear conforms with the standard specified in Rule 2.5(a). To be sure, find a complete online listing of ASTM eyeguards at www.usaracquetball.com [indexed under “eyeguards”] OR you may request a list from the national office by calling 719/635-3596.
• ELIGIBILITY• Only U.S. citizens may compete in the U.S. Team Qualifying Open divisions; all other age & skill divisions are open to U.S. citizens and residents. For age division competition, players must meet the age requirement as of the first day of competition.
• SKILL DIVISION CERTIFICATION• A, B, C, and D division entrants must meet the stipulations noted in the required skill verification form. NOTE: Players in Age+Skill must meet the same criteria for corresponding skill levels in “Age+A,B, or C” divisions. Tournament directors will use the verification form to determine eligibility for skill competition, and reserve the right to re-classify – or disqualify – players when/if they are improperly placed.
• DRUG TESTING• USOC Drug Testing will be used, and a positive result for an IOC banned substance will be cause for disqualification, and for loss of eligibility for a minimum of six (6) months by the USA Racquetball. Only OPEN players will be tested. Testing is mandatory; non-compliance will result in the same penalty as a positive drug test. For more information about specific medications call the Drug Hotline at 1-800-233-0393, or go to www.usantidoping.org.

• opening rounds•
Be prepared to play at 8:00 AM on the DAY shown next to your divisions. Due to the anticipated number of entrants, we can NOT accommodate special starting date/time requests.

OPEN U.S. TEAM QUALIFIER
Men (unrestricted entry) Women Wednesday .... OPEN .... Thursday

Men • AGE Divisions • Women
Thursday ..... 24+ ...... Thursday
Thursday ..... 25+ ...... Thursday
Wednesday ..... 30+ ...... Thursday
Wednesday ..... 35+ ...... Thursday
Wednesday ..... 40+ ...... Thursday
Wednesday ..... 45+ ...... Thursday
Wednesday ..... 50+ ...... Friday
Thursday ..... 55+ ...... Friday
Thursday ..... 60+ ...... Friday
Friday ..... 65+ ...... Saturday
Friday ..... 70+ ...... Saturday
Saturday ..... 75+ ...... Saturday
Saturday ..... 80+ ...... Saturday
Saturday ..... 85+ ...... Saturday

Men • SKILL Divisions • Women
Thursday ..... Elite ..... Thursday
*Wednesday ..... A ...... Wednesday
*Wednesday ..... B ...... Thursday
*Wednesday ..... C ...... Thursday
*Thursday ..... D ...... Thursday
Wednesday ..... 25+A,B,C ...... Thursday
Wednesday ..... 35+A,B,C ...... Thursday
Wednesday ..... 45+A,B,C ...... Thursday
Thursday ..... 55+A,B,C ...... Friday

• MIXED Doubles Divisions •
Mixed OPEN ...... Thursday
Mixed Elite ...... Thursday
*Mixed A ...... Wednesday
*Mixed B ...... Wednesday
*Mixed C ...... Thursday
*Mixed D ...... Thursday
Mixed 24- ...... Thursday
Mixed 25+ ...... Thursday
Mixed 30+ ...... Wednesday
Mixed 35+ ...... Wednesday
Mixed 40+ ...... Wednesday
Mixed 45+ ...... Wednesday
Mixed 50+ ...... Thursday
Mixed 55+ ...... Friday
Mixed 60+ ...... Friday
Mixed 65+ ...... Saturday
Mixed 70+ ...... Saturday
Mixed 75+ ...... Saturday
Mixed 80+ ...... Saturday
Mixed 85+ ...... Saturday

* - May only play one division
(if you play A - you may not play B)
www.racquetconnection.com
24 HOUR SECURED ON-LINE SHOPPING
E-MAIL: RACQUETCON@AOL.COM

1-888-822-2501

YOUR RACQUETBALL SUPERSTORE
WITH ALL MAJOR BRANDS
AT DISCOUNT PRICES
SAME DAY SHIPPING - DEMOS AVAILABLE
RACQUET CUSTOMIZATION BY:
GENE-GENE THE STRING'N MACHINE
1-386-788-7780 - INFO 1-386-788-7149 24HR FAX
2090 S. NOVA RD #AA 10 S.DAYTONA, FL 32119

WE BEAT ALL ADVERTISED PRICES....

Lawler Sports
RACQUETBALL MART
1-800-875-3701 www.lawlersports.com

Complete Pro Shop Line! VISA, MasterCard, DISCOVER accepted
Closeout Specials!

Add Power & Playability To Your Racquetball Game!
Have your racquet restrung by REX LAWLER
- A Certified Professional Racquet Stringer
- Over 25 years experience as a player
- Over 20 years experience stringing racquets
- A large string collection to choose from

297 W. Hanny Creek Drive, Terre Haute, IN 47802
Info: 812-235-3701 Fax: 812-235-4442
Email: lawersports@hometown.net

HOLABIRD SPORTS
SINCE 1981
FACTORY AUTHORIZED DEALER
CALL 410-687-6400

STAR ONLY AT HOLABIRD
ONE LOW $4.95 SHIPPING CHARGE—UNLIMITED QUANTITY
48 HOUR SHIPPING

www.holabirdsports.com
LARGEST SELECTION PHOTOS & DESCRIPTIONS
24-HOUR SECURE ON-LINE ORDERING

RACQUETBALL RACQUETS—STRING

E-FORCE
MORE ATTACK .... 134.95
MORE ATTITUDE .... 179.00
MORE DOMINANT .... 189.95
MORE THUNDER .... 99.00
POWER FAIR AIR STICK ... 124.95
POWER FAIR AIR POWER .... 99.95
POWER FAIR AIR ENERGY .... 99.95
POWER RING AIR TECH .... 99.95
POWER RING ULTRALITE NO COVER .... 99.95
QUANTUM-MD .... 24.95
TRIP E THREAT DELIVERANCE .... 99.95
HORNET .... 99.95
WARRIOR .... 99.95

WILSON
TRIAD 150 .... 144.95
TRIAD 160 .... 144.95
TRIAD 170 .... 129.95
TRIAD 180 .... 119.95
XT 145 .... 99.95
XT 165 .... 89.95
XT 185 .... 79.95
SPALDING SPECIALS:
PRO EXTREME .... 19.95
THE SQUASH COMP .... 19.95

ACCESSORIES—GRIPS, STRING & MORE

RACQUETBALL BALLS & CANS
EKTelon BLUE .... 10.95
EKTelon POWER PRO .... 13.95
PENN TITANIUM .... 10.95
PENN ULTRA .... 10.95
WILSON ULTRA .... 11.95
WILSON ULTRA TI .... 14.95

GLOVES
E-FORCE TOPRCH .... 9.95
E-FORCE CHILL .... 13.95
E-FORCE WEAPON .... 11.95
EKTelon CLASSIC .... 6.95
EKTelon CLASSIC PRO .... 4.95
MAXTACK EXTREME .... 10.95
MAXTACK PRO .... 10.95
POWER RING .... 9.95
NEWMAN PRO SQUASH-DUACK .... 12.95
HEAD SENSATION .... 12.95
HEAD WEST—LEFT .... 7.95
HEAD WEST—RIGHT .... 3.95
HEAD WEST PLUS .... 7.95
HEAD WEST 910 .... 8.95
PENN CABRETTA .... 6.75
WILSON COBRA .... 9.95

SPORT BAGS
E-FORCE BACK PACK .... 22.95
E-FORCE MID SPORTS BAG .... 23.95
E-FORCE LG. SPORT BAG .... 36.95
EKTelon BACK PACK .... 22.95
ATTACK .... 24.95
DOMINANT .... 29.95
Scream Back Pack .... 29.95
HEAD MEGASLASH BAGS CALL ....
SPALDING LG COURT CLUB 19.95

UNDER ARMOUR
CHECK OUR WEB SITE FOR ALL THE HOTTEST STYLES!

SHOP SHOWROOM OUTLET—PHONE—MAIL—FAX
ALL MAJOR TENNIS & SOFTBALL RACQUETS, BAGS, SHOES
& ACCESSORIES—LOWEST DISCOUNT PRICES EVER!

9220 PULASKI HWY., BALTIMORE, MD 21220
MON-FRI. 9:30-9 SAT. 9-3 SUNDAY CALL 410-487-6400
24 HR FAX 410-487-7311
MAIL OR PHONE—SHIP ANYWHERE CHARGES—MASTER-card,
VISA, DISCOVER OR AMEX—EX P. DATE OR SEND
MONEY ORDER OR CHECK, 3% ADD. SHIPPING CHARGE
OUTSIDE USA & APOS. MD. RESIDENTS ADD 5%, FREE CATALOG,

www.lawlersports.com

INDOOR SHOES
ARCS VTV OR WHAMM—CALL: EKTelon
TOUR—MD—MEN .... 48.95
TOUR—3/4 BLK—MEN .... 54.95
VENDETTA—LOW—M .... 39.95
VENDETTA—MD .... 49.95
HEAD GAME INDOOR:
LOW—BLACK—MEN .... 56.95
MD—BLK—WHT—M .... 59.95
Hi-TEC
ADRENALIN ULTRA XCEL—M .... 54.95
ADRENALIN ULTRA XCEL—L .... 54.95
ELITE 500—MEN .... 65.95
VECTOR KEL M—MD .... 49.95
NEW BALANCE
IT 445 0MM—DEE—MEN .... 45.95
CT 625 0MM WIDTHS—M .... 56.95
PRM CT GRAND—M .... 54.95
REEBOK COURT
MACGREGOR 0MM—XL .... 53.95
WILSON ZONE DST M—MD .... 64.95

EYEWEAR
BLACK KNIGHT
ACTION EYES .... 12.95
TURBO .... 15.95
E-FORCE CRYSTAL WRAP .... 16.95
E-FORCE DUAL FOCUS .... 19.95

WILSON
Triad 180 X5 .... 95
Triad 180 XS .... 85
Triad 200 .... 75
Wilson Triad .... 88

PRO-KENDEX
Kinetic Light 3—5/8 .... 65
Kinetic Ball 3—5/8 .... 65
Kinetic 20G 3—5/8 .... 15

HEAD
I. X 160 .... 89
I. X 180 .... 89
I. X 185 .... 79
I. X 185 3—5/8 .... 69
I. X 205 3—5/8 .... 55
I. X 175 XL 3—5/8 .... 69
I. X 220 3—5/8 .... 59
I. X 220 3—5/8 .... 59

RACQUETS
E-FORCE
- Bedlam X170 .... $119
- Bedlam X190 .... $99
- Bedlam 170 3—5/8 .... $89
- Bedlam 170 3—5/8 .... $89
- Bedlam 195 3—5/8 .... $79
- Bedlam 195 3—5/8 .... $79
- Bedlam 195 3—5/8 .... $79
- Bedlam 195 3—5/8 .... $79
- Bedlam X170 .... $89
- Bedlam X190 .... $89
- Bedlam 170 3—5/8 .... $89
- Bedlam 195 3—5/8 .... $79
- Bedlam 195 3—5/8 .... $69

EKTelon
- More Game SS .... $89
- TT Warrior SS .... $99
- TT Rebel SS .... $69
- TT Vendetta SS .... $69
- TT Hornet SS .... $59
- TT Deliverance SS .... $59
- P.R. UltraLite SS .... $59

Add Power & Playability To Your Racquetball Game!
Have your racquet restrung by REX LAWLER
- A Certified Professional Racquet Stringer
- Over 25 years experience as a player
- Over 20 years experience stringing racquets
- A large string collection to choose from

297 W. Hanny Creek Drive, Terre Haute, IN 47802
Info: 812-235-3701 Fax: 812-235-4442
Email: lawersports@hometown.net
USA Racquetball Top 10 National Rankings

**Men's Open**
1. Mitch Williams, NC
2. Jim Minkel, TX
3. Jack Huczek, MI
4t. Scott Reiff, MI
4t. Chris Zalegowski, NH
6. Shane Vonderheide, OH
7. Dave Lucera, DE
8t. Ben Craft, IL
8t. Brian Polizzi, UT
9. Skane Wood, MA

**Men's 24+**
1. Mitch Williams, NC
2. Chris Coy, OK
3. Marc Meccia, MA
4. Mike Harmon, FL
5t. Travis Woodbury, VA
5t. Charles Hughes, OH
7. Hal Rutherford, MO
8t. Brady Hernandez, LA
8t. Matthew Moccia, MA
9. Hisan Shimizu, UT

**Men's 25+**
1. Jason Sylvester, NY
2. Alain Pujolar, FL
3t. Jason Colangelo, MA
3t. Ricardo Sorto, NY
3t. Damian Zamarano, AZ
4t. Andrew Gross, GA
6t. Ryan Rodgers, TX
8t. Devin Cannady, NM
9t. John Collison, DE
10. Dale Valentine, CA

**Men's 30+**
1. Aaron Meticalf, FL
2. Tim Kirch, NY
3t. Mike Dennis, OH
3t. Raymond Maestas, NM
4. Chris Zelegowski, NH
6t. Pedro Aranda, TX
6t. Toby Devore, CA
7. Jim Scott, GA
9t. Ivan Perry, PA
10. Brian Pointelin, UT

**Men's 35+**
1. Jimmy Lowe, AK
2. Tim Kirch, NY
3. Dan Lucera, DE
4. Sam Tolsiyan, CA
5t. John Collison, DE
5t. Kelly North, KY
7. Keith Minor, IL
8. Alan Werner, IL
9. Scott Hamon, VA
10. David Barnes, RI

**Men's 40+**
1. Jimmy Lowe, AK
2. Dave Watson, OK
3. Scott Collins, GA
4. Rick Ferrin, CA
5. Sam Tolsiyan, CA
6t. Tim Hansen, FL
7t. John Barrett, PA
7t. Hart Johnson, MN
7t. Tom Mastroadonato, NY
10. Donnie Wood, KY

**Men's 45+**
1. Glenn Leib, PA
2. Mitch Smith, PA
3. Dave Milazzo, IL
4. Joe Hassey, NV
5. Glenn Bell, TX
6. Ruben Gonzalez, TX
7. John Greer, PA
8. Patrick Gibson, TX
9. Reinhard Zimmermann, NY
10. Greg Hedges, MI

**Men's 50+**
1. Russ Palazzo, CT
2. Frank Tandonio, AZ
3. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
4. Greg Mandell, IL
5. Mark Baro, VA
6. Mitt Layton, FL
7. Howard Walker, TX
8. Jim Luzar, WI
8. Russ Montague, PA
10. Dan Prater, FL

**Men's 55+**
1. Bill Walej, NJ
2. Greg Hasty, IL
3. Jim Hiser, CO
4. Ed Remen, NE
5. Tom McKee, TX
6. Charles Lew, NC
7. Richard Bocanegra, KS
8. Horace Miller, IN
9t. Terry Albritton, MO
9t. Gary Peterson, MN

**Men's 60+**
1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Dan Jones, GA
3. Mitch Milowski, IL
4. Chris Seppuras, CA
4t. Mickey Belah, CA
6. Dennis O'Brien, UT
7. Ron Hutchinson, IN
8. Pat Taylor, IL
9. Parris Grisier, NJ
10. Ed Sword, KY

**Men's 65+**
1. Lee Graff, OR
2. Harold Williamson, IL
3. Ron Adams, CA
4t. Michael Jackson, CT
4t. Rex Lawler, IN
5t. Dave Snyder, TX
6t. Earl Black, FL
7t. Jerry Northwood, AZ
9. Leon Stanley, AL
10. Dave Lund, MI

**Men's 70+**
1. Don Alt, OH
2. Paul Banales, AZ
3. Ken Karmel, NM
4t. Robert Miller, SC
4t. Jim Stahl, NY
6. Chuck Kaiser, MI
6t. Sean Reid, CA
6t. Ken Moore, CA
8. Ed Olah, IL
8. Frank Trask, ME

**Men's 75+**
1. Joe Lamber, TX
2. Duane Rosselli, MN
3. Victor Saccio, NY
4. Hank Richard, NC
5. Dict Kincade, CO
6. Carl Buschman, MI
7. Tony Lang, IL
8. Ken Yahino, IL
9t. Ray Gordon, ND
9t. Hugh Groover, AR

**Men's 80+**
1. Robert McAdams, TX
2. Sam Harney, PA
3. Hank Richard, NC
4. Earl Afuc, NC
5. Bill Matotan, NM
6. George Steinmetz, TX
7. J.W. Studak, TX
8. Irving Shuman, AZ
8. Cam Snowberger, SC
9. Don Goddard, MT

**Men's 85+**
1. Earl Afuc, NC
2. Ben Marshall, TX
3. Walter Gardner, UT

**Women's Open**
Rhonda Rajchel, AZ
Heather Dunn, MA
Shannon Feaster, MD
Diane Moore, IN
Claudia Ramirez, FL
Rachel Gellman, AZ

**Women's Elite**
Linda Moore, NE
Scianna Taragan, CA
Keely Franks, TX
Debra Bryant, NC
Cheryl Miosi, NY
Roz Petronelli, MA
Shari Coplen, MO
Mary Baca, NM
Sheri Berry, MO

**Women's A**
Genevieve Washington, OH
Holly Retzel, PA
Pat Sims, ME
Lisa Rousseau, CO
Sherika Darnell, CA
Dianne Pratt, VA
Hope Claw, PA
Sheri Zappa, NY
Deb Irvine, NH
Danielle Emerson, MD

**Women's B**
Peyton Myers, NC
Sima Hamilton, FL
Teri La Brte, NH
Sarah Campbell, UT
Robin Maestas, CO
Traci Weaver, TX
Danielle Emerson, MD
Danielle Faddoul, VA
Cheryl Kirk, IL
Melanie Hanson, UT

**Women's C**
Ashley Loyd, TN
Jean Lorch, NH
Victoria Pickard, FL
Karissa Sparks, DC
Erin Egan, IL
Maylen Gaspar, CO
Donita Watfils, DC
Janice Seel, GA
Reese Iejuna, FL
Dianne Meyere, OR

**Women's D**
Janet Christie, IL
Leila Gray, IL
Yvette Reyes, MD
Jane Scobi, NH
Kim Roy, NH
Jolene Sullivan, NH
Martha Robinson, NH
Carolyn Becker, CT
Melanie Jones, NJ
Ashley Loyd, TN

**Women's Novice**
Jodi Grillo, MA
Eliza Gettis, NH
Jaime Labelle, ME
Lauren Patalane, RI
Jacki Gallo, PA
Jaquehyn Rosado, CT
Mandy Wistenbrink, NM
Krista Gaffney, PA
Hope Armstrong, PA
Brenda Cadman, ME

**Women's 24+**
Janel Tisinger, CA
Kelley Fisher, OH
Jesi Fuller, NM
Peyton Myers, NC
DaMonique Davis, AL
Melissa Tinker, FL

**WOMEN'S 60+**

1. Marquita Molina, CA
2. Mildred Gwin, NC
3. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
4. Nidia Funes, CA
5. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
6. Donna Backus, MI
7. Gail Schaefer, MD
8. Gloria Fiscalan, OR
9. Pauline Kelly, IL
10. Joy Desantis, CA

**WOMEN'S 65+**

1. Iona Baldwin, MD
2. Anabelle Kover, NV
3. Minnie Toledo, CA
4. Marilyn Hagland, MN
5. Shirley Barron, KY
6. Ellen Kropp, WA
7. Ellen McAffee, UT
8. Tonya Hicken, AL
9. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
10. Matt Keddie, OH

**WOMEN'S 70+**

1. Lisa Markus, IL
2. Louise Kiss, NM
3. Sarah Foster, CA
4. Betty Bailey, KY
5. Annabelle Kover, NV
6. Conor Grammes, NC
7. Eric Marin, FL
8. Anthony Vargas, CO
9. Ian Bellissario, AR
10. Matt McAdam, CA

**BOY'S 8- MULTI-BOUNCE**

1. Luke Meyer, WI
2. Deryk War, WI
3. Miguel Nunez Jr, VA
4. Ralph Grillo, MA
5. Isaac Vargas, CA
6. Conor Grammes, NC
7. Eric Marin, FL
8. Anthony Vargas, CO
9. Ian Bellissario, AR
10. Matt McAdam, CA

**BOY'S 8- MULTI-BOUNCE**

1. Adam Manilla, CO
2. Zach Pollowski, WI
3. Sean Cooperfer, WI
4. Chris Vossburg, MA
5. Kyle Ulliman, OH
6. Conor Grammes, NC
7. Eric Marin, FL
8. Anthony Vargas, CO
9. Ian Bellissario, AR
10. Matt McAdam, CA

**BOY'S 9**

1. Adam Manilla, CO
2. Zach Pollowski, WI
3. Sean Cooperfer, WI
4. Chris Vossburg, MA
5. Kyle Ulliman, OH
6. Conor Grammes, NC
7. Eric Marin, FL
8. Anthony Vargas, CO
9. Ian Bellissario, AR
10. Matt McAdam, CA

**BOY'S 10**

1. Joel Boesa, CT
2. Tim Leon, FL
3. Chase Stanley, LA
4. Marco Rojas, CA
5. Erich Schubert, WI
6. C.J. Tracey, VA
7. Chris Vossburg, MA
8. Joey Barnows, CO
9. Jose Diaz, CA
10. Joseph Lee, LA

**BOY'S 12-**

1. Taylor Knot, OR
2. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
3. Brad Kirby, IA
4. Josh Smith, UT
5. Matthew Hunter, FL
6. Jans Fache, CT
7. Rion Ocampa, CA
8. Sam Vargas Jr, CA
9. Andrew Price, MI
10. Trevor Snyder, IL

**BOY'S 14-**

1. Isamal Aldana Jr, CA
2. Matt Keddie, OH
3. Danny Lavelle, OH
4. Hector Ramirez Jr, CA
5. Dusty Klein, VA
6. Andrew Gale, UT
7. Bruno Gunter, FL
8. Anthony Martin, UT
9. John Sanderson, UT
10. Allan Crockett, AL

**GIRL'S 12-**

1. Shannon English, OR
2. Sharon Jackson, IN
3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
4. Brittany Leggett, OR
5. Melissa Guiones, FL
6. Jacqueline Rosado, CT
7. Kelly Woycechee, IL
8. Jacki Gallo, PA
9. Gayle Thompson, PA
10. Lily Berry, OH

**GIRL'S 16-**

1. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
2. Ashley Willhite, OH
3. Kara Mazur, CT
4. Michelle Key, AZ
5. Sherrica Darnell, CA
6. Gabby Shurman, IA
7. Kimberly Walsh, UT
8. Elise Wilson, CO
9. Erin Egan, IL
10. Brittany Gonzalez, CO

**OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW**

This will be the last issue of RACQUETBALL using the "old style" ranking system. USA Racquetball has decided to move from a "participation" based ranking system to a "skill" based system. The advantages to the new system are numerous but the most obvious benefit is that players will receive a national ranking based solely on their performance against other players. Of course the system will take time to accumulate enough data to make the rankings valid but the hope is to eventually use these rankings for seeding at all national events.
Join USA Racquetball TODAY!

Membership #
Name
Address
City  State  Zipcode
Email Address

Select your membership type:
- Adult - $30
- Junior (18 or younger) $20
- Adult 2 year $40
- Lifetime $1,000
- Subscription only $20
- Address Change

Please provide your email address to receive an email confirmation that can be used as proof of membership until your membership card is received in the mail.

Please clip and mail along with payment to renew your membership today!

Don’t delay and renew today. Thank you for supporting USA Racquetball or sign up online today at www.usaracquetball.com

RRRrrrrrrR
RacquetballCatalog.com

Prowl with the cat to find top notch online shopping — with the best prices!

If you’re looking for the latest frames, accessories, shoes and apparel, by all the top manufacturers ... your hunt is over! Visit www.racquetballcatalog.com

Only $9.95 for two-day shipping to 48 continental states, on single racquets $150 and up. Rather order by phone? Call toll-free 866-4-GEAR-77 (866-443-2777) for fast, friendly, professional assistance.
In search of
LADY BYNG

I wasn't able to make it to Houston this year, but my spies tell me that "cheating" reached epidemic proportions in the men's open division. The question of whether it's cheating when a player "takes a call" has been debated for years. On its most basic level, "cheating" really only impacts one's opponent, however it is part of a larger problem facing our sport, namely that poor sportsmanship, referee abuse and general loutish behavior is a real turn off for tournament directors and sponsors.

Something should be done, but before we attempt to develop a solution, let's first establish what the problem is not. The problem is not "cheating" by the players. Cheating is playing with illegal equipment, deliberately wetting the ball before the serve, bribing an official or maybe using steroids - it is not failure to overturn an incorrect call by the ref. I recognize that many people disagree with me on this topic, and in fact, in the interest of full disclosure, I am biased given the small number of calls I overturned during my playing days. Nonetheless, I always found it inconsistent to argue that our professionals are real athletes and then in the same breath cry foul when players go along with incorrect calls. One of the most bizarre incidents I remember was during a round of 16 match between Sudsy Monchik and Rocky Carson at the 1999 IRT Foxwoods Casino Pro/Am in Boston. The crowd booted after Sudsy didn't overturn an obvious skip that the ref called "good". Sudsy then literally asked for a timeout to address the crowd and explain that good and bad calls even out over time, other players don't give up calls, etc. He called a timeout! What kind of a sport puts its athletes in such an awkward position? Can you imagine if Marat Safin or Andy Roddick ...never mind...it's too absurd even to pose it. Clearly racquetball is unique in putting the onus of both competing and judging on the athlete.

By Eric Muller

While we shouldn't hold the players accountable for taking calls, we absolutely must eliminate the referee abuse that occurs on the IRT. Given the 30+ year history of coarse behavior on the pro tour, this is no easy task. Nonetheless, if we ever want to attract meaningful outside sponsorship and not alienate fans, the abuse must end. In order to fix the problem, I suggest a carrot and stick approach. Let's create a year end bonus pool for the top 8 players who keep their emotions in check all season - sort of a Lady Byng Trophy with cash prizes. Let's also enact and enforce a strict rules regime with harsh monetary penalties for referee cruelty - regardless of the player's stature.

While we're at it, the manufacturers should be pressured to take a tougher stance with their sponsored players who get out of line.

In addition to ending the abuse, we also would bolster our events by improving the quality of officiating. The first step should be reinstating linesmen on the IRT. The early 90's rationale of eliminating linesmen in order to speed up play was good in theory but didn't quite work in execution. Providing an appeal may help to cut down on referee abuse as the player would have a mechanism to take action as opposed to futilely complaining about a missed call. Finally, if at all possible, current IRT players should not be officiating. Yes, current players are light years better than the cadre of highly certified, highly unqualified referees serving at USAR national events. However, there is an inherent conflict of interest in looking to your peers, competitors and friends to serve as unbiased arbiters. In an ideal world, the IRT would hire full time referees. However, we live in the real world with limited resources, and hiring a band of traveling officials is not happening anytime soon. Still, the current situation could be improved by identifying former pros living near events to serve as referees. Given the resurgence of former pros playing tournaments, I believe it is realistic to find qualified individuals.
Racquets are made of billions of carbon fibers linked together and heatshaped.

When a racquet is nCoded, nano-sized silicone oxide crystals permeate the voids between the carbon fibers.
Extends main string length increasing power level to 2500!

Main strings wrap around two Power Rings in the throat creating Ektelon’s most powerful racquet ever!

DPR 2500 Lite
Ultra Lightweight 170g

DPR 2500
Traditionally Weighted 190g

www.eketelon.com