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 Sweet Spot Construction, brings unprecedented power to the sport of racquetball.
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.
Kane Waselenchuk solidified his standing as the No. 1 player on the IRT by doing what no other man has done before—win back-to-back US OPENs.

Cheryl Gudinas earned her second US OPEN title. Swain and Huczek battled it out in the semi's and a 15-year-old made quite a splash.

Despite a strong effort by the U.S., Mexico's juniors were able to come away with their third straight world title on their home turf.
Package Blowouts!!

$89.95  
Save $45
More Game Racquet, Twinpack Bag, Classic Pro Gloves & Lightning XX String

$99.95  
Save $60
Pure 1 Light Pro Racquet, Pure 1 Shadow Bag, Ovation Gloves & Liquid String

$124.95  
Save $40
HEAD iX 160 Racquet, Megablast Super Combi Bag, Radical Glove, & Megablast Shield Eyewear

Guaranteed Lowest Prices!

747 Buckley Road • San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Mon-Thurs 6am-9pm • Fri 6am-6pm • Sat 8am-5:30pm • Sun 9am-5:30pm PST

Check out our website for the latest racquet & shoe reviews
Authorized Dealer • 24-Hour Secure Online Ordering
24 U.S.R.S.A. Master Racquet Technicians • Gift Certificates Available

www.racquetballwarehouse.com • 800.824.1101
"IT'S ONLY AS GOOD AS IT'S FOUNDATION"
The Choice Hotels US OPEN. Anyone that has ever attended the US OPEN will testify that it is by far the biggest, best, and most prestigious tournament that has ever been established. Each year the tournament gets bigger and more extravagant and this year was no exception. It is easy to see the improvements, but what many aren’t able to see is the amount of time and work that goes behind the scenes to make it all happen.

US OPEN Event Director Doug Ganim is the person most responsible with creating and maintaining the tournament. Not a day goes by without Doug working on something to do with the US OPEN. It isn’t like it is his only job. Doug has several other business ventures besides the US OPEN, but it is definitely his passion and what he spends the majority of his time working on. He makes at least eight trips a year to Memphis to work on various aspects of the tournament and although he may not seek it, he definitely deserves the recognition. What other major event director could be seen cleaning up trash at 2:00am each night after the last matches?

I usually arrive in Memphis about a week before the tournament begins, about the same time that USAR Executive Director Jim Hiser and Heather Fender arrive. Jim and Heather arrive from the airport, say “Hello” to everyone and then aren’t seen for several days. Sightseeing around the Blues capital? Hardly. The reason that we don’t see them for awhile is that they are holed up, working ridiculous hours on the draw. The US OPEN has the most divisions and participants of any tournament, yet Jim and Heather spend just as much time, if not more, on making sure that the seeding for the men’s 24-D division is as correct as the Open divisions. All this before their “real” work begins at the start of the event.

Doug, Jim, Heather, and I aren’t the only ones to arrive in Memphis days before the tournament begins. Doug has assembled a great staff over the years and, like the tournament, it gets bigger and better each year out of necessity. There are banners to be hung, bags to stuff, shirts and medals to organize, carpet to be laid, bleachers to set up, etc., etc. Nothing beats putting up the starbursts (those stretchy things you see hanging from the ceiling) at 3:00am on Sunday night. Nobody complains, nobody slacks off, everyone is focused on making each year the best tournament ever conducted.

Of course, with a staff this large, and all of the responsibilities that they perform throughout the week, it would be impossible to give everyone the credit and recognition that they deserve. Please, read through the list of staff at this year’s OPEN and if you enjoyed the tournament, make sure that you thank them next time you see them. If I omitted anyone’s name by mistake, I am truly sorry because I know that you have earned the right to have it included.

TURNAMENT COMMITTEE
Heather Fender
Dr. Fred Heros
Jim Hiser
Kay McCarthy
Dino Tashie

TOURNAMENT DEPARTMENT MANAGERS
Jan Choate
CJ De Groff
Otto Dietrich
Sara Greenlee
Ryan John

Tournament Committee:
Chris Jorgenson
Chuck “City” Meredith
Willie Tilton
Pete Ulliman

Support Staff:
Rick Anderson
Mike Boatman
Martha Butler
Mike Ceresia
Kevin Chan
Mike & Susan Coy
Don Dennelsbeck

Karen Denu
Rafael Diaz
Lee Forbes
Karen Fuller
Suzanne Gail
Ricardo Gonzalez
Steve Graham
Oscar Gutierrez
Mike Jameson
Mandy Jenkins
Brenda Kyzer
Bill Milbach
Jeff Nelson
Tom Pendleton

Tournament Support Staff:

Dan Rhoades
Shawn Royster
Sean Steele
Sandy Stephens
Geoff Thomsen
U of M Journalism
Debbie Ulliman
Charles Valentine
Tracie Valentine
Leo Vasquez
Merle Walker
Adam Weimer
Travis Woodbury
Jim & Burtie Zimmerer

GOOFY's in the Mag
In your November/December edition, pages 58-59, you have a player demonstrating a bunch of exercises (Shoulder Strengthening Drills...Elli style). I do not want to see one of these GOOFYS wearing a backward cap. When they grow up put them in your magazine; not before.

Regards,
Ulf Hellsten
Wilmington, NC

We enjoy hearing from you! Whether it be positive, negative, or somewhere in between, we are interested in your opinions at RACQUETBALL Magazine. To send a letter to the editor for publication in RACQUETBALL Magazine, please send your name, address, and telephone number along with your comments to:

Sound Off!
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

Or via e-mail to:
RJohn@USRA.org
Subject line - Sound Off!
Sure to cause discussion, and probably a little controversy, here are the Top 10 events of 2004 as compiled by RACQUETBALL Magazine.

10. Catlin Gable earning their first USAR National High School team championship

9. Alabama earning the 2004 USAR National Intercollegiate team title in just their first year of existence

8. Cheryl Gudinas earning her fourth straight LPRA season ending rankings title

7. Jackie Rice and Kim Russell recording their third straight USAR National Doubles title

6. Mexico winning their third straight IRF Junior World Cup

5. Kane Waselenchuk earning the IRT season ending rankings title by winning the last three stops of the season

4. Mike Dennison and Shane Vanderson upsetting everyone to earn the IRF World Doubles title

3. Rhonda Rajsich upsetting Cheryl Gudinas in the final of the 2004 USAR National Singles Championships

2. The US sweeping the IRF World Championships for just the second time in history

1. After five IRT rankings titles and four US OPEN titles, Sudsy Monchik retires from the sport
Each year brings new challenges and 2005 will be no exception. In 2004, the association concentrated on improving member services and in doing so implemented a new on-line membership system, on-line sanctioning system, and magazine format. By the time you receive this publication we will have initiated our new ranking system. The challenges for 2005 are diverse as the sport finds itself at a pivotal point in its development.

**A list of challenges for 2005**

- How to develop better relationships with club owners and programmers.
- How to involve the recreational player in racquetball’s overall development plan.
- Marketing of the whole sport, Pro and Amateur, to one sponsor.
- Creation of another mega event similar to the US OPEN.
- Expanded television coverage.
- Marketing of celebrities that play racquetball
- Greater influence into the collegiate and high school club and league programs.
- Better utilization of the portable court to market our sport.
- A reorganization of the sport under one umbrella, utilizing one marketing firm, one financial arm, and one PR company to promote all facets of the sport.
- Find enough finances and manpower to accomplish the above.
2005 Motorola Pro Nationals and USA Racquetball Regional Qualifier
*Grand Slam event with US OPEN portable Court*
Over $35,000 prize money
April 20 – 24th, 2005

Schaumburg Tennis Plus
1416 Payne Rd.
Schaumburg, IL 60193

Event information and Entry forms:
1-800-234-5396

Pro Tour Draw
Event Director Dave Negrete
Play starts Wednesday
www.irt-tour.com

Amateur Draw
USA Racquetball
Play starts Thursday
www.usaracquetball.com
On behalf of USA Racquetball, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Players Helping Players Campaign. Since its launch in 2003 the Campaign has raised over $165,000. Your support of the association has helped USA Racquetball maintain and improve many of its services.

Since the campaign's inception, USA Racquetball has implemented a new on-line membership system, an on-line sanctioning system, a new ranking system and finalized plans for a tournament management system that will be offered to all sanctioned events. The association has also sanctioned over 1100 events, and directed competition for over 6000 players at national tournaments. US Teams have competed in five International events, winning over 50 individual medals, over 1100 events, and directed competition for over 6000 all sanctioned events. The association has also sanctioned for a tournament management system that will be offered to implemented a new on-line membership system, an on-line sanctioning system, a new ranking system and finalized plans continued support throughout 2005.

With the increasing costs of insurance and other operating expenses, the challenge to raise enough funds to support our programs continues. Although it is difficult to continually ask for support, it is your contributions that help make the difference and allow USA Racquetball to maintain services to its members. We need your contributions and ask for your continued support throughout 2005.

Total Donations: $165,000
The good news about Wilson racquetballs is traveling fast. Twice as many players are using a Wilson ball this year as last year. Top players Derek Robinson and Christie Van Hees have switched. Several state governing bodies have switched. The entire LPRA tour has switched. Isn't it time you switched to Wilson?
"Encore"

On a brisk morning in Memphis, Kane Waselenchuk was fidgeting around the gates of Graceland while the photographer changed lenses. Curious onlookers stared at the blonde haired Canadian who was strumming his racquet like a guitar while fully decked out in a king’s robe and crown.

"Hello," he responded to their inquisitive gazes. "I’m here to take over for Elvis."

Although maybe not quite ready to take over as the King of Rock & Roll, Kane has anointed himself as defacto ruler of the racquetball world. His tear through the Choice Hotels US OPEN draw should have squashed any doubts as to who is the best player in the game today. Some are even ready to make claim that we are witnessing the greatest to ever step on the court.

Of course it will take a few more US OPEN’s, and no less than five more IRT rankings titles, to give credence to this claim, but there seems to be no slowing down the Canadian Wonder. Just a year and a half ago his career seemed to be over as he struggled to find a cure for his inner ear problem. Now he has an IRT rankings title under his belt, a new wife, and the claim of becoming the first man to win back-to-back US OPEN titles.

"We came here to set this party off right..."

Kane showed up in Memphis on Sunday, a full three days before the tournament began, relaxed and ready to get the tournament started. Whereas most people tend to train even harder before a big tournament, Kane took some time off and hit the links rather than the courts.

"I kind of kept my mind off of the tournament until I got there," he said. "(Former IRT Pro) Tim Doyle came down and we played some golf. I really took some time off leading up to the OPEN."

The time off prior to the event seemed to serve Kane well. He seemed confident as usual, but had an underlying urge to begin his defense.

"My main motivation was to become the first to win it two years in a row," he explained after the tournament. "It’s not just about winning anymore, it’s about setting records."

Kane went through the early rounds as expected. He took out USAR Board Member Lance Gilliam in the round of 64, 11-4, 12-10, 11-1, then handled hard-hitting Brian Fredenberg in the round of 32, 11-4, 11-1, 11-2. With another straight-game win against Juan Herrera, 11-5, 11-9, 11-2, Kane was into the quarterfinals.
“Times up, games over, you lose, I win. ‘Bout to show these knuckleheads how to do this here.”
Kane continued to roll through the draw as the tournament wore on, seemingly to get even better with each match.
Mike Guidry had been cruising through the tournament as well. Guidry had recorded three straight-game wins, while dishing out three donuts, before he met up with Kane in the quarterfinals. The story remained the same, however, as Kane dispatched the tour veteran in three, 11-5, 11-3, 11-3.

Next up was No.4 Rocky Carson who had also yet to relinquish a game during his trek to the semifinals. That didn’t matter much to Kane as he took to the court.
Different opponent, same story, Kane in three, 11-6, 11-4, 11-2.

“That’s why we always save the best cut last...”
The win against Carson put Kane into the final against Cliff Swain, arguably the best to ever play the game. Kane had been compared to Swain several times during his career. They both are left-handed and possess a devastating serve. Kane has admitted that he looked up to Swain, among others, as he grew up playing racquetball.

“I respect all those guys. Sudsy, Jason, Cliff, even like Tim Doyle and John Ellis,” he said. “I basically grew up watching those guys.”

“I respect them off the court and even on the court. But someone has to lose, either you or me, and it’s not going to be me.”

It definitely wasn’t going to be Kane losing in the final and he seemed to save his best for last against Swain. Using his drive serve, which was backed up by his power from anywhere on the court, Kane recorded his record setting win with an exclamation point in the last game, 11-1, 11-3, 11-0.

“I feel like it’s probably one of the greatest things that I have accomplished in my short racquetball career,” Kane said of the win, but he downplayed the fact that he won all of his matches in straight games. “I think winning back-to-back is pretty good, but beating everyone in straight games is really irrelevant.”

“Oh yeah, New Year, next phase begin...”
As the New Year begins, it is apparent who the player to beat will be as the season hits its midway point. After his performance thus far, it seems as if Kane may be unstoppable as he attempts to win yet another back-to-back title - the season ending IRT rankings title. The other players on the tour are going to have to scramble to find a weakness, and find it fast, if they want to have a chance to dethrone him.

What will it take to defeat Kane while he is seemingly at the top of his game? Most in the sport agree that Kane is the only one who can stop Kane. After being prodded several times for an answer, Kane reluctantly gave his take on what it will take for someone to beat him.

“It’s going to take me being off of my game and the other player playing his best,” he said. “I think I am still going to win whether I play good or average. That is the type of confidence that I am playing with now.

Get Your Hands Up for the Doctor!

Many are familiar with the story of Kane’s inner-ear problems. He began to feel dizzy and ill in September of 2002, which affected his performance and even forced him to skip tournaments.

After seeking medical help from several different medical practitioners to no avail, it seemed as though his career was over before it even began.

Then Kane found out about the Shea Ear Clinic and made an appointment to visit with Dr. John Shea. Dr. Shea diagnosed Kane with positional vertigo and informed him that it could be cured. After undergoing minor surgery to fix the problem in June of 2003, Kane was able to resume his playing career.

The Shea Ear Clinic just happens to be down the road from The Racquet Club of Memphis and Dr. Shea was on hand to watch Kane earn his second straight US OPEN title. During the trophy presentation Kane was sure to thank the doctor for enabling him to reach the heights that he has.

QUICK STATS

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Games Won</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Games Lost</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points For</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points Against</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. Margin of Victory</td>
<td>7.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GUDINAS WINS SECOND US OPEN

So much for Cheryl Gudinas’ so-called US OPEN jinx. Just three years ago, Gudinas’ history at racquetball’s premiere event was one of close calls and could-have-beens, but not anymore. With her second US OPEN title in three years, she now owns as many as any other woman.

During her matches at last year’s US OPEN it was evident that Gudinas wasn’t 100%. She believed that she suffered from plantar fasciitis, but she later learned that she actually had a broken bone in her foot. Gudinas didn’t make up excuses for her performance at the OPEN and was still able to finish the season ranked No.1 despite losing out on the increased ranking points that the US OPEN has to offer.

Although much healthier after resting between seasons, Gudinas still feels some effects of her injury from last season, though mostly it as affected her training schedule.

“I haven’t been able to strength train and my knees are beginning to feel the effects of that,” she explained. “During the next month and a half after the US OPEN I will have a chance to get back to where I want to be.”

But first she had to get through this year’s OPEN and catching up on her missed training before the event was not an option.

Gudinas’ journey through the US OPEN draw began with qualifier Linda Moore in the round of 32. Although she felt that she could have played better in her match with Moore, the scores showed that she had things under control throughout as she won, 11-3, 11-3, 11-2.

“It’s good to ease your way into the tournament,” she said. “I’m also still getting used to playing on the portable court because the ball returns much slower after coming off of the front wall.”

Gudinas definitely seemed to have the courts of Memphis under control in her second match against Amy Foster. She came out firing in the first game, handing Foster a donut, 11-0. The second and third games were much of the same as Gudinas methodically put away point after point to advance into the quarterfinals, 11-0, 11-2, 11-5.

Gudinas faced Chilean superstar Angela Grisar in what most saw as her first true test at the OPEN. Grisar’s game has improved dramatically over the past season as she has risen to No.8 in the LPRA rankings. On her way to facing Gudinas, Grisar took out two up-and-coming players in Da’Monique Davis and Carola Loma, both in straight games.

Gudinas once again started the match hot, winning the first game, 11-2. Grisar stepped things up in the second to knot things up with an 11-8 win before Gudinas was able to once again kick it into high gear to finish the match strong by winning the third and fourth games, 11-2, 11-1, respectively.

Next up was Gudinas’ doubles partner Kristen Walsh. Walsh had been having a great tournament to this point. She battled it out with Mexican Nancy Enriquez, winning a close five-gamer, 11-5, 11-8, 7-11, 11-4, then took out former US OPEN champion Kerri Wachtel in four, 11-5, 11-9, 6-11, 11-6. Unfortunately for Walsh, she sustained an ankle injury against Wachtel that hindered her movement against Gudinas. The result was a one-sided affair with Gudinas coming out on top, 11-6, 11-1, 11-1.

“I’m glad I won today,” Gudinas said following the match. “But had I lost, Kristen is a class act and I would have been proud of her.”

Now there was just one person left between Gudinas and her second US OPEN title - defending Champion Rhonda Rajisch. Rajisch has been playing with much more confidence after earning the US OPEN title a year ago and then stunning everyone by defeating Gudinas in the final of the 2004 USAR National Singles Championships.

Rajisch’s trip to the final of this year’s US OPEN was not an easy task. She defeated Lupita Torres in...
"This is not how I wanted to win this match," Rajsich said afterwards. "Christie made me play tough. She pushed me every rally. I want her to rest and get better."

As the final began, Gudinas kept to her M.O. of getting off to a fast start. She took the first two games of the match, 11-8, 11-5, but then Rajsich began to make things interesting by mixing up her shots and better anticipating Gudinas’. Rajsich took the third game, 11-8, to stay alive and force a fourth game.

The fourth game, although full of appeals by both players, was one of the most entertaining of the tournament. The players battled back and forth, Rajsich with her patented dives and Gudinas with her high percentage shot making. Rajsich pulled up lame at one point with an injury to her groin and Gudinas’ foot also appeared to be giving her trouble, yet both players battled through their injuries with little complaint. After nearly an hour, it was Rajsich that was able to stave off yet another elimination game to win, 14-12, and the players headed to a decisive fifth game.

After such a close and exciting fourth game, the fifth seemed rather anticlimactic. Although great rally’s continued into the final game, Gudinas seemed to be on the winning end of the majority. Rajsich began to skip the ball more than she had in the previous games and Gudinas was able to take advantage of her mistakes to win, 11-3.

“I am so glad that this is over," Gudinas addressed the crowd. "I fear Rhonda because she’s unpredictable and an incredible athlete.”

Gudinas, 37, not only was able to quiet the critics that seem to pop up every season, but she was able to do so on a court and in an environment that she has had trouble with in the past. The fact that some may still point out that Gudinas has won only two US OPEN titles is a testament to the standard that she has set. When all is said and done, Cheryl Gudinas will go down as one of the best woman players to ever step onto a racquetball court.

---

The US OPEN Intern Program

The Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships once again teamed up with the University of Memphis Journalism Department in a joint effort to promote the tournament. This was the fifth year that the US OPEN has worked in conjunction with the university’s journalism department and its chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

In 1999, the program was started by Event Director Doug Ganim and Dr. Rick Fischer, associate professor of the University of Memphis Journalism Department, in an attempt to give the students hands-on experience in a real life setting while working to increase exposure of the racquetball tournament.

“We are pleased to offer students the opportunity to work in an actual major sporting event media operation,” said Ganim. “The hands-on experience will help to prepare them for the workplace after college.”

The students are each assigned at least two top professional athletes to cover for the tournament under the supervision of the media manager. The students are then responsible for contacting the athlete’s local media, issuing press releases, and providing digital images for the media if needed.

“The program has become an integral part of our media operations,” said Ryan John, US OPEN media manager. “We would not be able to attain the type of coverage that we are accustomed to at the US OPEN without their help.”

Former US OPEN intern Mandy Jenkins served as US OPEN Intern Manager and USA Shooting Media Director Sara Greenlee worked her second US OPEN, this time as editor of The Daily Racquet.
The Match of the Tournament...Cliff Swain versus Jack Huczek

In a match that may be talked about for years to come, Cliff Swain defeated Jack Huczek in a thrilling five-game match on the stadium court.

GAME 1

Swain began the match by taking a 7-1 lead over Huczek. It seemed that Swain was able to win every long rally during the first game, which is exactly the opposite that many would have predicted at the onset. Huczek was able to muster a three-point run of his own to pull within three at 7-4, but this game belonged to Swain and he went on to take the first, 11-4.

GAME 2

Swain started the second game where he left off in the first. He seemed more focused than he has since he won his last US OPEN in 2001. He forced Huczek into making many uncharacteristic mistakes and built an early 5-2 lead. Huczek was drive serving to this point, but then switched back to his lob serve. Seemingly more calm and relaxed, Huczek erased Swain's early lead and then took the lead himself at 7-6. The players traded points back and forth until Huczek closed out the second game, 11-9, on a backhand skip by Swain.

GAME 3

This time it was Huczek that took an early lead in the game, 4-1, before Swain found himself squarely in the "Zone." He seemed to get to every ball and made every shot for the rest of the game. Huczek started to lose his composure and began making remarks to the crowd which only bolstered Swain's support and confidence. Swain didn't give up anymore points and only lost serve three more times the entire game en route to an 11-4 win.
GAME 4
The fourth game began with a series of sideouts, something that the crowd would see a lot of as both players refused to give each other anything. The players were tied at 3-3 and 5-5 before Huczek began to find his groove. With Swain looking a little restless, Huczek began hitting his passes more crisp and just out of reach of the veteran. Huczek rolled off five straight points to earn a 10-5 lead before closing it out, 11-6.

GAME 5
Just when Swain seemed to be getting tired at the end of the fourth game, he fought back in the fifth to take a 3-0 lead. Huczek was unfazed and rattled off six straight points of his own to go up 6-3. Again, another momentum swing brought the two players to a deadlock at 7-7 and again at 8-8. Swain went up 10-8 by executing two magnificent jam serves that Huczek was only able to poke at. After a well taken timeout, Huczek scored another point to pull within one, but Swain fittingly ended the match with an ace to Huczek’s forehand, 11-9.

The match finished in exactly two hours and those who were lucky enough to be in attendance were treated to an unbelievable display of racquetball. Be sure not to miss what US OPEN Event Director Doug Ganim dubbed “an instant US OPEN classic” when it airs on The Tennis Channel this March.

ALL GROWN UP
15-year-old Paola Longoria made quite a splash in just her second US OPEN appearance. The junior from San Luis Potosi, Mexico earned a series of upsets before succumbing to defending champion Rhonda Rajsich in the quarterfinals.

After earning her way through qualifying rounds, Paola found herself up against No.6 Adrienne Fisher in the round of 32. Paola not only defeated Fisher, but defeated her in impressive fashion, 11-7, 11-2, 11-3. Next up was fellow countrywoman Suzy Acosta, whom she dispatched in four games, 14-12, 11-6, 4-11, 11-6.

Some may have been intimidated to go up against the top players on tour at such a young age, but not Paola. “I am not intimidated because I don’t think that it is impossible to win against them.”

Paola had to face her favorite player on the LPRA tour in the quarterfinals - Rhonda Rajsich. Rajsich was so impressed with the youngster’s play that she asked Paola to sign a ball for her after the match. Paola obliged by signing, “Rhonda, You are an excellent player. Next US OPEN I will win against you. Your friend, Paola.”

“Watch out for that one,” Rhonda responded. “It’s really refreshing to see someone so young play so tough.”

Paola began playing racquetball about seven years ago when her father, Fabian Parrilla, took her to their local club. She competed at the US OPEN last year, but failed to get out of the first qualifying round. This season, in just two tour stops she has not only succeeded in getting through the qualifiers, but has made two quarterfinal appearances.

Although she has aspirations of participating in more tour stops, Paola informed us that her schooling comes first and she would miss too many exams if she competed full-time on the tour. For now her goals are to make the Mexican National Adult Team and do well at the 2004 IRF World Junior Championships this December in her hometown, which she did by winning the girl’s 14-.
Once again the US OPEN has teamed with The Tennis Channel to bring the US OPEN to homes nationwide. This year the coverage has been increased to show the IRT draw from the quarters on and the LPRA and Legends Tour finals. Please call your local cable provider and ask them to include The Tennis Channel in their programming package if they don’t already do so.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 6</td>
<td>Men’s Quarterfinal #1</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 9</td>
<td>Men’s Quarterfinal #1</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 12</td>
<td>Men’s Quarterfinal #1</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 13</td>
<td>Men’s Quarterfinal #2</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 16</td>
<td>Men’s Quarterfinal #2</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 19</td>
<td>Men’s Quarterfinal #2</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 20</td>
<td>Men’s Quarterfinal #3</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 23</td>
<td>Men’s Quarterfinal #3</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 26</td>
<td>Men’s Quarterfinal #3</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 27</td>
<td>Men’s Quarterfinal #4</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 2</td>
<td>Men’s Quarterfinal #4</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 5</td>
<td>Men’s Quarterfinal #4</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 6</td>
<td>Men’s Semifinal #1</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 9</td>
<td>Men’s Semifinal #1</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 12</td>
<td>Men’s Semifinal #1</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 13</td>
<td>Men’s Semifinal #2</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 16</td>
<td>Men’s Semifinal #2</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 19</td>
<td>Men’s Semifinal #2</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 20</td>
<td>Men’s Final</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 23</td>
<td>Men’s Final</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 26</td>
<td>Men’s Final</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 27</td>
<td>Women’s Final</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 30</td>
<td>Women’s Final</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 2</td>
<td>Women’s Final</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 3</td>
<td>Legends Final</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 6</td>
<td>Legends Final</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 9</td>
<td>Legends Final</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2004 Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships

Urquidi and Russell Pair to Win St. Jude Pro-Am Doubles

Although the 2004 Choice Hotels US OPEN officially began on a Wednesday, things got underway the evening before with the 9th annual Pro-Am Doubles tournament. Thirty-two lucky amateurs donated $250 apiece for the opportunity to play in a single elimination doubles challenge with a top professional as their partner. The tournament raised $8,000 for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Hector Urquidi from Juarez, Mexico paired up with LPRA touring pro and four time USAR National Double champ Kim Russell to defeat the team of Brian Shwer of Memphis and No.2 ranked IRT pro Jack Huczek, 17-15.

"Donating the money to St. Jude feels even better than winning the tournament because it is a good and noble cause," Urquidi said. "So I feel good all the way around."

"I think it’s awesome that they do this fundraiser for St. Jude," Russell echoed. "I also think that it is a great thing for the amateurs to get to play on the portable court with the pros in front of a large crowd. It gives them the opportunity to see how it is for us to play at an event such as this."

With the match tied at 14-14, US OPEN Event Director Doug Ganim, who assumed referee duties for the final, turned the decision over to the fans as to whether or not the match was to end with a win-by-one or win-by two score. The enthusiastic crowd chose win-by-two and were treated to a few extra points by the players.

Although Shwer, a four-time participant in the Pro-Am Doubles, was on the short end of the score in the final, he still enjoyed the overall aspect of the tournament.

"It’s great to be able to make a contribution to St. Jude and to play with someone of that caliber is incredible," he said. "It’s the fourth time that I have played in this tournament and I appreciate that Jack put forth a real effort out there. These pros don’t have to do this with such a big tournament starting tomorrow, but Jack went out there and did."

Donations from the Pro-Am Doubles Tournament, combined with several other fundraisers throughout the week including a silent auction, popcorn sales in the village by Wilson, competitors donating their referee fees, and other private donations from players and fans helped to raise the total amount that the Choice Hotels US OPEN has raised for St. Jude to $121,778.
2005 Choice Hotels 9th US Open Racquetball Championships

Presented by USA Racquetball • The Racquet Club of Memphis: Memphis, Tenn. • November 17-21

FINAL RESULTS

Man's 1ST: Kane Waselenchuk (Edmon ton, Alberta) def. Cliff Swain (Bainbrae, Mass.) 15-14, 15-7, 15-1


Man's 3RD: Debra Tiilinger (Siui, Calif.) def. Linda Moore (Madison, Neb.) 15-1, 15-1

Man's 4TH: Janet Myers (Charlottesville, N.C.) def. Wendy Collins (Bellingham, Wash.) 15-12, 15-10

Man's 5TH: Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. JoAnn Johnson (Bellingham, Wash.) 15-1, 15-4

Man's 6TH: Gill Schaefer (Randlestown, Md.) def. CaCe Pakalsi (Toms, N.J.) RR

Man's 7TH: Gilsa Piscarca (Newberg, Ore.) unchallenged

Man's 8TH: Lola Mardus (Park Ridge, III.)

WOMEN'S AGE + SKILL

Woman's 24-A: Ana Mazar (Avon, Conn.) def. Sharricka Darnall (Ed Dorado Hills, Calif.) 15-14, 15-8

Woman's 24-B: Sharon Jackson (Shelbyville, Ind.) unchallenged

Woman's 24-C: Haley Martin (Martinsville, Va.) def. Lily Berry (Upper Arlington, Ohio) 12-2, 15-11

Woman's 25A: Paula Sald (Clanton, Mich.) def. Maria Vera (Hampton, Ga.) 15-3, 15-10

Woman's 25B: Marcia Lameze (Miami, Tenn.) def. Tracey Careovali (Tulalip, Wash.) 15-11, 15-9

Woman's 25C: Tia Leeland (West Bloomfield, Mich.) def. Marilyn Blom (Nasb, Miss.) 15-10, 15-4


Woman's 25B: Grace Javerscy (Kansas City, Mo.) def. Cheryl Kirk (Naperville, Ill.) 15-4, 6-15, 11-3

Woman's 25C: Laural Burrows (Miami, Fla.) def. Lisa Lee (McDonough, Ga.) 15-14, 12-15, 11-7


Woman's 25B: Grace Javerse (Kansas City, Mo.) def. Cheryl Kirk (Naperville, Ill.) 15-4, 15-3

Woman's 25C: Tia Leeland (West Bloomfield, Mich.) def. Marilyn Blom (Nasb, Miss.) 15-10, 15-4

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Woman's Open: Chris Coy (Ely City, Ohio)/Brian Frensbury (The Colony, Texas) def. Ben Croft (Lake Bluff, Ill.)/Charles Pratt (Portland, Ore.) 15-10, 15-8

Woman's 2ND: Darrel Miller (Union Grove, Wisc.)/Ron Miller (Union Grove, Wisc.) def. Johnny Hodson (Topeka, Kan.)/Darrin Wells (Ozawkie, Kan.) 15-12, 15-11


Woman's 4TH: Chuck Evans (Louisville, Ky.)/Kevin Hubert (Louisville, Ky.) def. Mike Davis (Little Rock, Ark.)/Ike Kibler (Little Rock, Ark.) 15-6, 15-7

Woman's 5TH: Scott Collins (Woodstock, Ga.)/Scott Connoy (Concord, R.I.) def. Dave Eagle (Vandalia, Ohio)/David Westan (Miami, Fla.) 15-6, 15-11

Woman's 6TH: Denny Vincent (Blacklick, Ohio)/Thumus Ried (Chandler, Ariz.) def. Richard Bocanegra (Boca Raton, Kan.)/Jim Bume (Kansas City, Mo.) 9-15, 14-11, 11-7

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Man's 1ST: Kane Waselenchuk (Edmonton, Alberta) def. Cliff Swain (Braintrave, Mass.) 15-14, 15-7, 15-1


Man's 3RD: Debra Tiilinger (Siui, Calif.) def. Linda Moore (Madison, Neb.) 15-1, 15-1

Man's 4TH: Janet Myers (Charlottesville, N.C.) def. Wendy Collins (Bellingham, Wash.) 15-12, 15-10

Man's 5TH: Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. JoAnn Johnson (Bellingham, Wash.) 15-1, 15-4

Man's 6TH: Gill Schaefer (Randlestown, Md.) def. CaCe Pakalsi (Toms, N.J.) RR

Man's 7TH: Gilsa Piscarca (Newberg, Ore.) unchallenged

Man's 8TH: Lola Mardus (Park Ridge, III.)

WOMEN'S AGE + SKILL

Woman's 24-A: Ana Mazar (Avon, Conn.) def. Sharricka Darnall (Ed Dorado Hills, Calif.) 15-14, 15-8

Woman's 24-B: Sharon Jackson (Shelbyville, Ind.) unchallenged

Woman's 24-C: Haley Martin (Martinsville, Va.) def. Lily Berry (Upper Arlington, Ohio) 12-2, 15-11

Woman's 25A: Paula Sald (Clanton, Mich.) def. Maria Vera (Hampton, Ga.) 15-3, 15-10

Woman's 25B: Marcia Lameze (Miami, Tenn.) def. Tracey Careovali (Tulalip, Wash.) 15-11, 15-9

Woman's 25C: Tia Leeland (West Bloomfield, Mich.) def. Marilyn Blom (Nasb, Miss.) 15-10, 15-4


Woman's 25B: Grace Javerse (Kansas City, Mo.) def. Cheryl Kirk (Naperville, Ill.) 15-4, 6-15, 11-3

Woman's 25C: Tia Leeland (West Bloomfield, Mich.) def. Marilyn Blom (Nasb, Miss.) 15-10, 15-4

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Woman's Open: Nancy Enriquez (Chihuaahua, Mexico)/Samantha Salas (Monterrey, Mexico) def. Sylvia Kenyon (Houston, Texas)/Phyllely Morris (Denton, Texas) 15-14, 15-9, 11-8

Woman's 2ND: Wanda Collins (Bellingham, Wash.)/Ann Johnson (Bellingham, Wash.) def. Cheie Sato (Min City, Jap.)/Seki Yoshimura (Kamboja, Jap.) 15-12, 15-11

Woman's 3RD: Laurell Burrows (Miami, Fla.)/Suzan Simonos (Miami, Fla.) def. Cheryl Kirk (Washington, Ill.)/Trina Wehrer (Highland Park, Ill.) 8-9 not. (fin.)

Woman's 4TH: Tori Davis (Stockton, Calif.)/Michelle Robinson (Stockton, Calif.) def. Lily Berry (Upper Arlington, Ohio)/ Burdine Zimmerer (Hamilton, Ohio) 15-5, 15-6

Woman's 5TH: Debra Bryant (Sneads Ferry, N.C.)/Lorraine Galanow (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.) def. Kim Allen (Ruston, La.)/Beth Sacco (River Ridge, La.) 15-10, 15-11

Woman's 6TH: Elaine Dexter (Pleasanton, Calif.)/Debbie Chaney (Indianapolis, Ind.) def. Janet Myers (Charlotte, N.C.)/Karen Key (Gilbert, Ariz.) 15-8, 15-13

MIXED DOUBLES

Mixed A/B: Sadie Hall (Memphis, Tenn.)/Andrew Groos (Kennewick, Tenn.) def. Wanda Collins (Bellingham, Wash.)/James Deich (Bellingham, Wash.) 15-6, 15-9, 15-10

Mixed C/D: Balt Stewart (Parksville, Ky.)/Richard Rydman (Frankfort, Ky.) def. Alex Fernandez (Miami, Fla.)/Dwayne Butler (Miami, Fla.) 15-7, 15-10

Mixed 3a: Chris Kress (Dania Beach, Fl.)/Kevin Bony (Miami Gardens, Fl.) def. Claudia Ramirez-Casselberry, Fl./Roberto Cantos (Winter Park, Fl.) 12-15, 15-11, 11-6

Mixed 4a: Debbie Chasy (Indianapolis, Ind.)/David Watson (Miami, Fla.) def. Shari Coplin (St. Louis, Mo.)/Patrick Gibson (Pitt. Worth, Texas) 15-6, 15-5
There were a few surprises that took place at the 2004 Master Spas Milwaukee Open beginning in the first round when local product Kyle Veenstra upset No.3 Jason Mannino in straight games. Veenstra stayed in, and eventually won, the first game by making virtually all of his set-ups. Backed by his hometown fans, Veenstra continued to gain momentum, eventually winning the match, 11-7, 11-6, 11-3.

The next upset occurred in the quarterfinals when No.2 Jack Huczek was taken out by No.7 Derek Robinson. Robinson showed no ill effects from an injury that he suffered after diving headfirst into the wall during his previous match against Josh Tucker. Huczek was plagued by unforced errors in this one and Robinson pulled it out in four games, 7-11, 12-10, 11-5, 11-7.

**SEMIFINALS**

**Swain vs. Robinson**
Swain ended Veenstra’s tournament quickly in the quarterfinals, 11-1, 11-1, 11-1, and continued to roll against Robinson in the semifinals by serving the ball with authority. Robinson tried mixing up his serves and changing his shot selection, but had little success. Swain won in straight games, 11-1, 11-4, 11-1, to earn a spot in the final.

**Waselenchuk vs. Beltran**
Waselenchuk seemed to come out a little lethargic in the first game and Beltran took full advantage of it, winning game one with ease, 11-3. Waselenchuk used the break between games to regroup and find the much needed motivation to turn on his game. A different Waselenchuk showed up for the second game as he dominated center court and began to hit his serves at a blistering pace. It proved to be too much for Beltran and Waselenchuk moved into his fourth final of the season, 3-11, 11-1, 11-3, 11-9.

**FINAL**

**Waselenchuk vs. Swain**
The final was all Waselenchuk as he lit up the court with some great drive serves to both sides. Swain was never able to get his serve going as he had done in his previous matches and, although he was able to put up a fight in the second game, Kane took it in straight games.

**Final**
Kane Waselenchuk def. Cliff Swain 11-4,12-10,11-0.
2004–05 International Racquetball Tour Score Card

New Orleans: Kane Waselenchuk def. Jack Huczek 11-3, 10-12, 11-3, 6-11, 11-9
Stockton: Cliff Swain def. Alvaro Beltran 12-10, 11-3, 6-11, 11-3
Casper: Kane Waselenchuk def. Jack Huczek 9-11, 11-7, 11-2, 11-0
Chicago*: Kane Waselenchuk def. Jack Huczek 11-9, 9-11, 11-4, 11-3
Milwaukee: Kane Waselenchuk def. Cliff Swain 11-4, 12-10, 11-0
Memphis*: Kane Waselenchuk def. Cliff Swain 11-1, 11-3, 11-0

IRT Quick Q & A

Q: What is the IRT?
A: The International Racquetball Tour (IRT) is the governing body of men’s professional racquetball. Their mission is to promote the men’s professional game, and the game of racquetball in general, at the highest level throughout the world. The IRT is where the real competition is played. The IRT offices are located in Chicago where Commissioner Dave Negrete resides.
A Tour of Latin America . . . LPRA Style

BY KERRI WACHTEL

During the past few seasons a new trend in the LPRA has become evident. The “Latina Chicas” have arrived and some are definitely capable of making an impact.

Mexico leads the way by boasting the largest contingent of players. They also have been able to organize a full tour stop, which is known as one of the best on tour. The players always seem cheerful although many of them need to put forth a substantial effort in order to raise enough funds to cover the costs of international airfare to polish their already great skills by playing in professional events. The Federacion Mexicana de Racquetball (FMR) helps to support players by funding many player’s trips to the US OPEN each year. Their efforts merited special recognition at this year’s US OPEN as the FMR became the first recipient of the LPRA Special Recognition Award.

Also meriting special recognition at this year’s US OPEN was emerging young star Paola Longoria. Longoria, just 15-years-old, earned a quarterfinal appearance after fighting through two qualifying rounds and upsetting No.6 Adrienne Fisher and No.13 Susy Acosta. Longoria finally fell to her idol Rhonda Rajsich in straight games, but was still impressive enough to prompt the No.3 player in the world to ask for an autograph.

One of those left in Longoria’s wake was fellow countrywoman Susy Acosta. Acosta has been a fixture on the LPRA for several years and always delights the crowd with her great outfits and bubbly personality.

Acosta’s doubles partner, Rosy Torres, has recently taken a break from singles, but made an appearance in the LPRA draw at the US OPEN. Not only is Torres an excellent player, but also is instrumental behind the scenes. She serves on the IRF Executive Board and is the main organizer of the Annual Rosarito Beach Open. Nancy Enriquez, Lupita Torres, Marcela Moreno (yes, Javier’s sister), Samantha Salas, and Eleni Guzman are a few of the other Mexican players that have competed in events this season and any one of them are capable of making an impact.

Mexico isn’t the only Latin American country to make an impact on the tour. The Dominican Republic has given us Claudine Garcia. Garcia was making her way up the rankings two years ago before being sidelined with a torn ACL during the 2002 Pro Nationals. She unsuccessfully attempted to rehab her knee, before ultimately opting for surgery. A successful recovery, along with her recent move to Texas, will no doubt have Garcia back on track this season.

The Chilean players have been improving rapidly and leading the way for them is Angela Grisar. One of the fittest players on tour, Grisar earned LPRA Rookie of the Year honors at this year’s US OPEN. Ranked out of the top 20 just a year ago, Grisar is now a solid No.8 and looks to move even higher as the season plays on.

The LPRA’s newest full-time competitor is Bolivia’s Carola Loma. Loma has temporarily left Bolivia for Stockton where the family of U.S. Head Coach Dave Ellis not only helps her to hone her racquetball skills, but her English skills as well! She has now crept into the top 20 on tour with no signs of slowing down.

Of course, these are just a few of the Latin American players and countries that have been represented on the LPRA tour in the past season. And Latin America isn’t the only region that has seen a growth among female players. Asia was well represented with players competing from Japan and Korea and it is only a matter of time before one of the European ladies competes in an LPRA event. It is all of these players that make the LPRA a truly international tour and a great tour.

**2004-2005 LADIES PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SEASON RANKINGS**

(Through Memphis)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Last Issue</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>600 Cheryl Gudinas</td>
<td>Lisle, IL</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>555.75 Christie Van Hees</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>312.5 Rhonda Rajsich</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>261.75 Kerri Wachtel</td>
<td>Cincinnati, OH</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>244 Kristen Walsh</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, UT</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>158 Tammy Brown</td>
<td>Boise, ID</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>132.75 Adrienne Fisher</td>
<td>Centerville, OH</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>110.75 Angela Grisar</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>87.25 Brenda Kyzer</td>
<td>Lexington, SC</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>86 Kersten Hallander</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>77.5 Diane Moore</td>
<td>Griffith, IN</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>73.5 Johanna Shattuck</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>70 Karen Morton</td>
<td>Erie, PA</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>64.25 Susy Acosta</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>45.78 Krysal Cusk</td>
<td>Naperville, IL</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>44.5 Kelley Fisher</td>
<td>Centerville, OH</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>35 Paola Longoria</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>33.75 Ramona Vodvandar</td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>33.75 Gerti Stoffregen</td>
<td>Cincinnati, OH</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>33.5 Carola Loma</td>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2004-05 LADIES PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCORE CARD & SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rosarito Beach</td>
<td>Christie Van Hees def. Kerri Wachtel</td>
<td>11-9, 11-6, 11-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gaithersburg</td>
<td>Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel</td>
<td>11-6, 9-11, 11-6, 11-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Memphis</td>
<td>Cheryl Gudinas def. Rhonda Rajsich</td>
<td>11-6, 8-11, 12-14, 11-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jan. 27-30</td>
<td>Stockton, CA</td>
<td>InShape Sports Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb. 10-13</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>Southern Athletic Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Feb. 24-27</td>
<td>Clinton, SC</td>
<td>Clinton YMCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>March 4-6</td>
<td>Miami, FL</td>
<td>University of Miami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mar. 11-15</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td>Downtown YMCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>April 21-24</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>Schaumburg Tennis Plus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For information concerning LPRA events, contact Chris Wachtel at 513-383-0219, send e-mail to cwachtel@ladiesproracquetball.com, or visit www.LadiesProRacquetball.com
Past, Present, Future

BY BRIAN POINTELIN
PHOTO BY GEOFF THOMSEN

The Past:
November proved to be a great month as two Legends events were held. The first took place in Sarasota followed by the US OPEN in Memphis.

Joe Copolla held a phenomenal event in Sarasota featuring Cliff Swain, Dave Peck, Marty Hogan, Mike Ray, Woody Clouse, Ruben Gonzalez, Scott Oliver and Corey Brysman. The event raised proceeds benefiting the Salvation Army and Florida hurricane victims. Even tennis legend Martina Navratilova made an appearance while Rhonda Rajsich played a doubles match with Shari Coplen. The stop was definitely a success and drew over 200 players from across the state.

Oh yeah, and there was some good racquetball. Gonzalez and Clouse squared off in the quarterfinals in perhaps the match of the tournament. Gonzalez won 11-9 in the breaker as both players threw their bodies all over the floor during almost every rally. The finals had Hogan and Swain facing one another for the title, but in the end, a sore arm and a tough drive serve by Hogan left Swain longing for Memphis.

Speaking of Memphis, the US OPEN was the only title Marty Hogan couldn't get his hands on - until this year. After overpowering Dave Peck in the semifinals, Hogan was set to face defending champ, Ruben Gonzalez in a re-match of the 2003 final. Gonzalez came out smoking in the first game, but Hogan began drive serving in the second to even things up and force a tie-breaker. In the breaker, it was all Hogan as he pounded drive serves and kept Gonzalez guessing during the rallies. Finally, at long last, Hogan was able to raise the US OPEN Champions Cup.

The Present:
The months of January and February are jam packed with Legends events.

January 14-16: The first event of the New Year will kick off in Cleveland at the Severance Athletic Club. Event Director Merle Walker has put together an incredible schedule of events, including a “Big D” Roadshow, a serving clinic by the “King of Swing” Cliff Swain, and also a junior clinic by Marty Hogan. For a full schedule, tournament information and results, you can check out www.clevelandracquetball.com/open.

January 28-30: The Tour heads south to Dallas, Texas and the Maverick Athletic Club. Known for their amazing tournaments and their southern hospitality, Leo Vasquez and staff have a great time planned.

February 4-6: What could be better than fun in the sun?? About playing racquetball in sunny Coral Springs, Florida? The tour will be making a repeat appearance in Coral Springs where the charity of choice, at the time of writing, will again be the Salvation Army. Dean Katchel and staff always put on great events and the Legends are ecstatic to go back in the spring.

February 17-20: Fun in the sun, to the slopes and snow in Salt Lake City, Utah we go. Hopefully the snow stays away so the old men can play. There is a weekend of activities planned with skiing optional.

The Future:
The Legends Tour is very excited to be headed to San Francisco March 17-21 during the IHRSA Convention. With media sessions, personal appearances by players at the Convention, and autograph sessions, the focus of the week will be completely on the game of racquetball and helping to promote the sport to a multitude of companies, and outside sources. We are very excited about the opportunity to show off the sport and potentially help it grow.

Please note the following schedule changes:
Denver: Event in January has been re-scheduled for September
Honolulu: Has been cancelled.

For more information or changes, you can check out the following websites:
www.legendsrbtour.com or www.topseedathletics.com, or you can e-mail the Legends Tour Commissioner, Brian Pointelin at bpointelin@aol.com

2004-2005 Legends Tour Season Rankings
(as of 12/15/04)

1. Marty Hogan St. Louis, MO
2. Cliff Swain Braintree, MA
3. Ruben Gonzalez Staten Island, NY
4. Corey Brysman Miami, FL
5. Dave Peck Austin, TX
6. Mike Ray Hilton Head, SC
7. Derek Robinson Denver, CO
8. Gerry Price Sacramento, CA
9. Ben Koltun St. Louis, MO
10. Woody Clouse Denver, CO

For more information concerning Legends Tour events contact Brian Pointelin at BPointelin@aol.com
As far as we at WOR can tell, there is only one person who has attended every Outdoor National over the last 30 years! Martha McDonald of Gainesville, Florida is legendary in outdoor circles and continues to travel and play with her husband Greg and sons Jack and Chris. Martha and Greg are cornerstone’s of outdoor racquetball in the Southeast and Martha spent years as a women’s pro player in the 70’s. She has always been an outdoor enthusiast and many of her best indoor shots were developed on the hot, humid, outdoor courts of Florida.

Martha and Greg have won numerous Mixed National Outdoor Championships throughout the years and, at the 2004 Outdoor Nationals, they were recognized with a special player recognition award. Tournament sponsor Rob Hoff presented the award for their 30 years of involvement in outdoor racquetball. All of us at WOR are honored and excited to have people like the McDonalds involved with our organization.

WAIKIKI BEACH COMBINES RACQUETBALL AND FOOTBALL IN FEBRUARY EVENT

The 2005 Hawaiian Outdoor Open - A WOR Super Series Event
February 10-12, 2005
Tournament Director: “Big Rod” Felton, 808-255-6968, Felton@aloha.net

It is one of the most beautiful beaches in the world and WOR is heading back in February with the NFL! The Hawaiian Outdoor Open, February 10-12 is not only one of the most popular events on the WOR tour, but this year will be held during the NFL’s Pro Bowl week. The event is the ultimate vacation with great racquetball right on the beach at Fort Derussy, lots of sun, and the Pro Bowl all while it is snowing throughout much of the country. This WOR Super Series event offers divisions of all levels of play and features the big name stars of the outdoor game from California, New York, and Florida including Marty Hogan. Big Rod Felton is the island’s greatest host and all the events in Hawaii are great play on and off the court!

A vacation package is available through Campbell Cruises and Tours that includes both the NFL Pro Bowl and the Hawaiian Outdoor Open. The tour runs from February 7-14. For more information contact Pam Gray of Campbell Cruises & Tours at (800) 586-7245 or log onto www.campbellcruises-tours.com

WOR NATIONALS
MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR THE OUTDOOR NATIONALS!

Make plans now to attend the biggest outdoor tournament of the year - The WOR Allstate- Ektelon 31st Outdoor Nationals, July 8-10, 2005 at the beautiful Golden West College in Huntington Beach, California. The event is the highlight of the WOR season with singles and doubles divisions for every level of play including the marquee Pro Singles and Pro Doubles. 2004 Pro Singles National Champion Rocky Carson, as well as 2004 Pro Doubles National Champions Greg Solis and Craig Lane will be on hand to defend the most prestigious titles in outdoor racquetball. They will be joined by players from throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The WOR Nationals features food, fun, music, and activities for every age. Disneyland and the beach are close and discount rates at the Hotel Huntington Beach are available for all players & spectators.

Mark your calendar and plan on some So-Cal sun and fun at the WOR Nationals. Check the WOR website or with WOR National Tournament Director Robert Martinez (Robert@WorldOutdoorRacquetball.com) for more info.

VENUE FEATURE

One of the most exciting parts of WOR getting started is the tremendous number of outdoor facilities we are finding. Check out the pics below of the Tennis Learning Center in Boca Raton, Florida. This is the future home to a large WOR event and one of the best outdoor facilities in the country! It features 12 lighted 3-wall courts in addition to a water park, soccer fields, basketball courts, and nineteen tennis courts.
International Scene

World Championships on TV
The IRF has just received airing dates from The Tennis Channel for the broadcast of the XII IRF World Championships from Anyang, Korea. There are four separate broadcasts covering men's and women's singles and doubles. Each broadcast is two hours long with times to be announced in December.

Episode #1: March 6th, 10th and 12th
Episode #2: March 13th, 17th and 19th
Episode #3: March 20th, 24th and 26th
Episode #4: March 27th, 30th and April 2nd

Dominican Republic

Social Program Combined With Racquetball Classes
As part of racquetball development in the Dominican Republic, a social program for juniors taking racquetball classes has been created. During this program, the juniors will be taking part in an Odontological evaluation. This program assures the health of the juniors taking racquetball classes while at the same time offering support to the families of those juniors by the racquetball community.

Ireland

Double Gold for Skehan and O'Hagan
Junior Skehan (Touraneena) and Ruairi O'Hagan (Fermoy) were double gold medal winners at the All-Ireland Junior Championships in Castlebar. Skehan won the Under 17 and Under 21 titles while O'Hagan won the Under 15 and Under 17 titles. Other champions were Katie Kenny (Castlebar), Majella Haverty (Castlebar), Karen Cliffe (Touraneena), Daire Gargan (Kingscourt) Sean Conron (Touraneena), and Triston Hickey (Touraneena).

Farrell Causes Upset at Munster Open
Joe Farrell of Arklow was the winner of the Men's Open at the 2004 Munster Open held in Fermoy, Ireland. Farrell upset top seeded Noel O'Callaghan in the final, 15-14, 12-15, 11-9. Susan Neary took home the women's open title and Vincent Fitzgerald earned the men's B/C crown. Don Lawlor (Killkenny) and Niamh Coffey (Touraneena) earned the men's and women's novice titles, respectively.

Belgium

O'Callaghan wins Belgian Open
Noel O'Callaghan (Ireland) was the winner of the 2004 Belgian Open in Antwerp. He defeated Peter DeJong (Netherlands) in straight games to earn the title. O'Callaghan later teamed up with club mate John Comerford to win the Open doubles, defeating Bart Wouters (Belgium) and Bjorn Jensen (Germany) in the final.

France

2005 French Open Site and Dates Announced
The 2005 French Open will be held in Paris at the Forest Hill City Form Club January 15-16, 2005. Do not miss this major European event and contact Alex du Fresne to enter at alexracquet@wanadoo.fr.

Upcoming IRF Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canadian National Team Selection - Doubles</td>
<td>January 14-16</td>
<td>Calgary, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th German National Championships</td>
<td>January 28-30</td>
<td>Hamburg, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 English National Championships</td>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>Alconbury, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian National Team Selection - Singles</td>
<td>February 4-6</td>
<td>Victoria, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Open</td>
<td>February 25-27</td>
<td>Dutch Open, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th Pan American Racquetball Championships</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>Caracas, Venezuela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia Open</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Halifax, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 23rd German Open</td>
<td>April 1-2</td>
<td>Hamburg, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd English Open</td>
<td>April 1-3</td>
<td>Hendlesham, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Junior National Championships</td>
<td>April 23-25</td>
<td>Winnipeg, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arklow Irish Open</td>
<td>April 26-30</td>
<td>Arklow, Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Japan Open</td>
<td>April 29-May 2</td>
<td>Tokyo, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perhaps one of the most complete sport venues in the world, Los Loma Athletic Club in San Luis Potosi Mexico provided the perfect setting for the first Junior World Championships to be held outside the United States. Eight full back glass wall courts, including two with sidewall exhibition glass, and amphitheater seating behind all courts, provided spectators and players with great visibility and viewing.

Over 340 juniors, representing 12 countries, competing in one of the largest Junior World Championships in years. Countries represented were Canada, Mexico, United States, Venezuela, Australia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Cuba, England, and Puerto Rico. Increased participation from Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Guatemala indicated the success of their junior programs.

Perhaps this was the most outstanding competition of Ben’s junior career. Heckled and intimidated by fans, Ben kept his composure and concentration to defeat Mexico’s Agustin Tristan in the semis and Gilbert De Los Rios in the finals. This was sweet revenge for Ben who was beat by Agustin in the Pro division at the US Open.

It was obvious that Ashley has worked hard on her game since June. Although she was defeated in the round robin competition by Canada she was able to bounce back and defeat the same girl in the gold medal match. Shane Wood described Ashley as “one of the toughest competitors on the team” and “a player who gives everything she has at all times”.

Almost but not quite! Jesi saved her best performance of the year for the World Championships but was unable to hold a tiebreaker lead to capture the title. Jesi defeated one of Mexico’s strongest players Nancy Enriquez in the semis and after Adrianne Fisher’s disappointing performance in the semis Jesi found herself in the finals against Samantha Salas of Mexico. Jesi’s strong performance in the finals established her as a future up and coming collegiate and perhaps adult US Team player.
Adrienne Fisher losing in the semis of the juniors? Was it Possible? It seems since Adrienne has left Ohio and entered college her game has struggled. She was forced to win two tough tiebreaker matches at Junior Nationals just to qualify and lost in the first round of the US Open to 15-year-old Paola Longora of Mexico. Once referred to as the next Michelle Gould it is obvious that Adrienne needs to recommit herself to a more disciplined training and conditioning program in order to be successful the rest of this season.

Mexico has definitely established itself as the team to beat in junior racquetball. With their well-established junior racquetball centers, and continual exposure to good coaching the Mexican juniors have a very strong and deep junior racquetball program.

Without a strong US club and state commitment to develop and work with juniors (similar to Oregon's program) the current trend of Mexico being number one may not change for many years.

---

**RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Cup</th>
<th>Espirit Cup</th>
<th>Friendship Cup</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Mexico</td>
<td>1. Mexico</td>
<td>1. Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. USA</td>
<td>2. USA</td>
<td>2. Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Canada</td>
<td>3. Ecuador</td>
<td>3. USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**THE COACHES**

**Kelley Beane**
Dedicated, motivated and great organizer. Without her leadership the team would struggle to exist.

**Cheryl Gudinas**
Positive image provides mental toughness and strategic expertise. Great to have a World Champion as role model.

**Shane Wood**
Tireless, unwavering dedication to promote junior racquetball. Excellent ability to analyze opponent's weakness.

---

**Jack Huczek**
Another example of a World Champion giving back to the sport. Role model for discipline and off-court preparation.

**Jen Myers**
No one better to work with our young players 12 and under. Patient, understanding and compassionate.

---

**Event Sponsor**

**EKTelon**

Proud Sponsor of the 2004 USA Junior Olympic Team. Good Luck in Mexico!
The USA Racquetball Board of Directors recently awarded scholarships to seven collegiate athletes that applied for scholarship. The scholarship committee reviewed the list of applicants and determined the award recipients.

The scholarship program began in 1990 and has granted awards to 61 athletes totaling $37,750. The National Masters Racquetball Association and Women’s Senior Masters Racquetball Association are two of the primary contributors for this award although there remains a growing list of individual donors. Proceeds from the fund are used to issue awards to athletes who obtain, complete and submit applications by the June 15, 2005 deadline.

To obtain an application please contact USAR or go to: www.usra.org and search “Scholarship” under the sitemap/index.

**Scholarships**

- **Erik Becker**
  - (University of Missouri - Columbia)
- **Da’Monique Davis**
  - (University of Alabama)
- **Mathew Karmelin**
  - (University of Alabama)
- **Philip Mathews**
  - (University of Illinois)
- **Nicholas Pagano**
  - (Saint Louis University)
- **Brandon Stanley**
  - (Louisiana State University)
- **Janel Tisinger**
  - (El Camino Real)
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
Racquetball players, as well as all active representatives of the game should be aware of what printed resources about the sport of racquetball are out there. This will allow them to refer beginner players, or those merely interested in the game to yet another source from which to read and learn about racquetball. The more ‘sources’ players and representatives know about, the greater he or she becomes a symbol of leadership for local players regardless of geography. In essence, YOU become their resource!

Much has been written about racquetball since Joe Sobek invented the game in 1949 some fifty-four years ago. But despite what has been put in books or manuals, many have learned the game through exposure by simply going to their gym, or a YMCA, or local recreation center. For some, however, who have no gym close to them, and do not have racquetball played in their area, the game must be learned another way. For those interested in learning what the sport was and where it came from, this meant reading and learning about the sport in books without ever stepping on to a court.

Fortunately, almost any large bookstore will provide a variety of books to read on the sport. Patrons who make their way to the sports books section will find publications about racquetball, although not in high numbers; i.e. most sports sections in book stores will stock several volumes of books on our national team sports like baseball, football, basketball, hockey and soccer. As America’s biggest and most popular sports these naturally take up the bulk of the space on the shelves. Others like boxing, boating, golf, tennis, squash, badminton and handball fill nearly all of the remaining shelves. All of these aside there are always some books on America’s newest and fastest growing sport - Racquetball!

The books that have been written about racquetball provide a wealth of information about the game ranging anywhere from how it had its humble beginning and how it is played, to what kind of equipment is used and where tournaments are held. One can easily learn much about the sport by simply reading about it. The two books I have listed below are excellent and provide an in depth understanding about what racquetball is and how it should be played. I will be reviewing several other books in the months ahead that will appear in upcoming issues. Look for them and be sure to tell your friends about them!

**REAL RACQUETBALL**

Authors: Tom Travers and Dr. Tim Miller Ed. D.
BIO: Both authors have been players, teachers and coaches for over 40 years
- Tom Travers coached the US Team 1997-2002 and is 6 Time National Champion
- Dr. Tim Miller is a 5 Time Collegiate Champion Team Coach and was recognized in 2001 by the US Olympic Committee as ‘Racquetball Development Coach of the Year’

With illustrative pictures of both Tim Doyle and Cheryl Gudinas and others throughout the book, **Real Racquetball** focuses on ways to improve fitness, player skills and strategies in order to play better, and be a more effective player when competing. In addition to this, there is also a high focus given to ways to win matches and overcome continued losses to the same players over and over again. Several professional players in this regard have provided their keen insight on how they strategize, and how they adjust their game in order to win more. Chapters on ‘Shots and Their Mechanics’, ‘Serve Philosophy and Mechanics’, and ‘Training’ are the longest chapters together making up thirty-five pages, which is approximately one-third of the 120 page book. The standard chapters such as how to play the game, how to learn more about forehand and backhand mechanics, and how to practice, are presented in a well-organized fashion. There are also three chapters devoted to the history of the game, basic rules, as well as a full nineteen pages devoted to the 2003-2004 official rules of the game. The chapter on ‘Equipment’, provides why equipment really can make a difference when playing competitively. Racquets, eyewear, shoes, balls, sweatbands, shock absorbers, gloves and strings are discussed. Along these lines, the authors recommend that “In order to become a better player, get a quality racquet,” and coin the phrase that in this regard, “You get what you pay for.” Many will agree that although it does not make up the entire game the Serve and Return of Serve are absolute essentials to competitive racquetball success. Further, put into percentages, it would not be difficult to build the argument that these two activity-skills represent more than half, or 50% of the game. It goes without saying that if one’s serve, or return of serve is ineffective, that player stands a poor chance of winning. Thus, the attention given in two chapters entitled ‘Serve Philosophy and Serve Mechanics’, and ‘Return of Serve Philosophy and Technique’ are excellent and in my opinion two of the very best out there. Overall, this publication is clearly one of the finest available.

Both Tom Travers and Dr. Tim Miller have done a very fine job making point after point on the importance of staying fit, and improving court skills and strategies in order to play better and win more often. If your interest is in winning then this book is a definite must read! This publication is available at most nationally recognized bookstores (Borders, Barnes & Noble, etc).
Tom Rall has been playing Racquetball since 1972, is a freelance writer for Racquetball Magazine and other sports publications. He has served on several State Racquetball Boards and is an avid Racquetball enthusiast and promoter of the game. Tom was a 'Second Alternate' on the 1972 Olympic Diving Team, is on the Ektelon Advisory Staff, is an AMPRO Certified Instructor, holds 10 National Racquetball Titles, and was a former #1 Ranked player. He is also writing his first book on Racquetball, which is due out in 2005.
By Shane Wood, Chairman, USAR Intercollegiate Council

Shane Wood recently had a chance to pick the brains of two of the most successful Intercollegiate racquetball players of all time. Kristen Walsh won three National Intercollegiate titles while competing for Baldwin Wallace College and the University of Utah. Jack Huczek has gathered in three of his own National Intercollegiate titles and is attempting to win a fourth this year for Oakland University in Michigan.

Racquetball Magazine: As an elite athlete in the sport of racquetball, what influenced your decision to play in the National Intercollegiate Championships?

Kristen Walsh: The main reason I play racquetball is because I have fun doing it and I’m competitive. Collegiate Nationals was one of the most fun tournaments I’ve ever played because of the camaraderie of everybody in attendance. It was a tournament I could be around kids my own age and compete as not only an individual, but as a team. There is something to be said of the extra support you get when competing as a team versus an individual. Collegiate Nationals also serves as a qualifier for the U.S. Adult National Team, so that definitely helped influence my decision to play a little bit.

Jack Huczek: Being in College is something that I take a lot of pride in. To do all the things that I want to do, I have to take classes full-time all year round. I realize that you’re only in College once, and being eligible to compete at Collegiate Nationals is something that I have earned the privilege to do and I wanted to take that opportunity while I can.

RM: Balancing racquetball, schoolwork and social time is an issue that everybody in collegiate sports has had to deal with at one time or another. By taking your game to the level that you have obviously required a very disciplined schedule. How have you been able to handle the amount of time that you put into racquetball, while still maintaining schoolwork and social life? What advice can you give to other student athletes that are having the same issues?

KW: Balancing racquetball, schoolwork, social time and other extra-curricular activities is definitely an issue I have to deal with. I think the best advice I could give to other student athletes with the same issues is to decide what your priorities are first. I love the sport, but I also realize that I won’t be making a living with it anytime soon because there isn’t that much money right now in women’s racquetball. So my first priority is school. I make sure I have time to study and get my homework done and then I can schedule my other activities. Sometimes everything else suffers when I have a big test because I will spend a lot of time studying. Yes, evening practicing racquetball is affected by my schoolwork! My second priority, racquetball, gets scheduled in pretty much every day with playing and working out. I still spend time with my boyfriend and go out with friends and have a good time, but I’m a little more conscientious of going to bed at a decent hour so I can get up to work out the next morning. That is sometimes an impossible task because I’m the worst morning person EVER! (Interviewers Note - after spending a week with Kristen at the U.S. Junior Team Camp in Colorado, with our runs scheduled at 6:30 in the morning, I second that comment) I do have my lists of things I need to get done after I’m done working out or going to class. I even have time to do other things I love such as snowboarding, playing the piano and playing basketball and volleyball with friends.

JH: Even before College, in High School and earlier, I learned very quickly how to balance my schedule while playing several sports, as well as racquetball. My parents deserve the credit in teaching me how to plan my schedules and find time during the days to do the things that need to get done. Simply stated, if you are devoted and dedicated, you will find the time. The excuse, “I just don’t have the time” just doesn’t cut it for me. I used to get up before 5:00 every morning to be at the gym to get to the point that I’m at. I would have liked to sleep in, but you don’t always get to do the things you want to do, you just find a way to get it done. I have worked in College to set up a schedule so I can do things, such as racquetball, that I want to do. My advice would be that if you want to have success, choose which area of your life will have to take a second priority. Don’t get caught with the “I don’t have time” excuse. That’s very easy to do.

RM: Jack, while I believe it’s fantastic that these student athletes get a chance to see racquetball at its highest level and an asset to have you participate in Collegiate Racquetball, as you know, there are many critics out there that believe you should not be playing in Collegiate Nationals, or any amateur events for that matter, given your Pro Ranking. What are your thoughts on that subject?

JH: I don’t feel that anybody should EVER be hindered from playing any type of event given they’re following the rules that are already in place. If there’s a problem with the system, then people should approach the rules and policies that are set, not the athlete following them. It means even more when it’s Collegiate Racquetball because it’s something that you only get a chance to experience once in your lifetime. I take a lot of pride in putting in the work to earn this opportunity and I’m not too sure why I, or any athlete in the same situation, would be questioned about participating in events that I’ve worked so hard to have the chance to play.

RM: Kristen, talk a little bit about the chance to be able to play with your mother at last year’s Collegiate Nationals.

KW: It’s always so funny to see the look on peoples’ faces when I say my mother and I won Collegiate Nationals. A year and a half ago my mom decided she was going to get her masters degree at the University of Utah. I told her she had better be ready to compete in her first Collegiate Nationals with me. It was fun helping my mom get ready to play and to see her get nervous and excited about the tournament. It was cool to be on the other side at this tournament to coach her through matches and be a nervous wreck watching from outside the court. Now I know how some parents leave racquetball tournaments with a few more gray hairs than they came with! It was definitely an experience both of us will remember forever. How many people can say they won collegiate national doubles with their mom or dad as a partner? It meant a lot to me to be able to play with the woman that introduced me to the game and with someone that is such a great role model for me as a person.
By the time you read this, the 2004 IRF Pro Kennex World Junior Racquetball Championships will have concluded in San Luis Potosi, Mexico and we will all know whether the United States was able to regain the World Cup and the Espirit Cup. In this column, however, I would like to talk about the team itself.

Back in early August, they gathered at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs for their weeklong camp with coaches Kelley Beane, Cheryl Gudinas, Kristen Walsh, and Shane Wood. At the initial meeting, they reelected Adrienne Fisher and Dan Sheppick as captains. As the camp went on it was obvious that this year felt different. Despite the fact that the team members come from all over the country their closeness was apparent. It could be seen in their eyes that they all were very committed to working their hardest at this camp and the Junior Worlds ahead.

Adrienne Fisher (Ohio) is a natural leader for this team and has earned a spot on the squad in all six years that she has been eligible. She is also the reigning 18- girl’s singles World Champion and double-qualified for this year’s team by winning the girl’s 18- Junior Olympics with Jesi Fuller as her partner.

Jesi Fuller (New Mexico) not only qualified in doubles with Adrienne Fisher, but finishes second to Fisher in the girl’s 18- singles Junior Olympics. Jesi is making her third appearance on the team and is half of the reigning girl’s 18- World Champion doubles team.

Ben Croft (Illinois) was able to repeat as the boy’s 18- Junior Olympic singles champion and also paired with Dan Sheppick to earn the boy’s 18- Junior Olympic doubles title. Ben is attempting to repeat his performance a year ago when he was able to win the boy’s 18- World Singles Champion.

Charlie Pratt (Oregon) is making his third appearance on the team. Usually known for his doubles with partner and current High School Champion, Joey Lakowske, Charlie put together a very strong tournament at Junior Nationals before losing to Ben in a tiebreaker for the title.

Dan Sheppick (Oregon) rounds out the boy’s 18- team members and earned his fourth appointment on the team by teaming up with Ben Croft to win the boy’s 18- Junior Olympic doubles title.

Ashley Wilhite (Oregon) leads the way in girl’s 16- singles as the 2004 Junior Olympic champion. This marks her second appearance on the team.

Kara Mazur (Connecticut) made the camp in 2003 as a third place finisher and used that experience to take second in girl’s 16- singles and makes her first appearance on the team.

Holly Hettesheimer (Ohio) and Samantha McGuffey (Ohio) are making their first appearance on the team after surviving a tough test in the doubles at Junior Nationals. That experience should serve them well in the hostile environment predicted for Junior Worlds.

Zach Apperson (Ohio) earned his first appearance on the team in a big way by double-qualifying in the boy’s 16- by winning both the boy’s 16- Junior Olympic singles title then teaming with Alan Crocket for the boy’s 16- doubles crown.

Alan Crockett (Alabama) also double-qualified as he not only teamed with Apperson for the doubles title, but finished second to his partner in the boy’s 16- singles division.

Shannon Inglesby (Oregon) and Brittany Leggett (Oregon) are making their second appearance on the team.

And for the second straight year, they have double qualified. The only difference is that this year Shannon beat Brittany in the girl’s 14- Junior Olympic final.

Ismael Aldana (California) and Jose Rojas (California) also double-qualified for the team by dominating both the singles and doubles at the Junior Olympics. For Ismael, this is his second appearance on the team, while Jose is making his first appearance.

So, now you know their names, it’s time to learn a little something about them as people. Last May, a junior player from Colorado, Jeremy Lanosga, was paralyzed in a climbing accident. When the team came out to Colorado Springs in August for their training camp, they were offered the opportunity to have an afternoon off on Friday, their last full day of camp, or they could go and visit Jeremy while he was on an outing from his hospital. This team, despite the fact that only a handful of the players even knew Jeremy, voted unanimously to spend part of that Friday afternoon with Jeremy. That visit was an extremely selfless act by these young people, but it lifted Jeremy’s spirits immeasurably. I cannot thank them enough for that gesture, but I can tell you that I am proud that they represent the United States!
If you look on pages 27 thru 38 of the last issue of RACQUETBALL Magazine you will discover the complete text from the newly updated USAR rulebook. In it you will find not only the USAR's rules, but also those of the IRT, LPRA, and WOR rules!

I encourage you to read it thoroughly and carefully, if you haven't already done so, and then pull it out and carry it with you the next time you go to your favorite racquetball courts.

There are a number of rule clarifications and wording changes contained therein. Prime examples are terms "Deadball" and "Avoidable" hinders which are now re-named as "Replay" and "Penalty" hinders respectively. Moreover, there is one particular rule addition that everyone should pay close attention to. Wording was added to Rule 3.16(a) which now gives the referee the authority to assess a timeout even if the player doesn't call for one as he walks off the court and automatically assess additional timeouts or possibly a technical foul (loss of a point) if more than 30 seconds is taken when only one timeout has been called. Be sure to read this rule carefully to get the precise details.

NICK BLASZAK FROM PORTLAND, OR, asks; In doubles, the right-side opponent sometimes hits a shot at the same time his partner on the left side, where I am playing, is taking up the exact position on the court that I think I need to be in to prepare to return his partner's shot. This happens quite often and we just "play it over". The "blocking" [Rule 3.15(c)] is all I can find about this, but it speaks of "moving" and, in this case, my opponent claims that he is entitled to his "spot" since he is already there and not "moving" as is described in the rule. That's why we play it over rather than enforce the prescribed penalty hinder. What do you think?

What you're addressing here is another rule that has had some clarifying wording added to indicate that any type of hindrance (includes moving or failing to move) by the non-hitting partner is "blocking" and, therefore, can be a penalty hinder. That's what your example sounds like to me, but I'd have to see it to be sure. I say that because some hinders sort of "just happen" and I certainly am not advocating wholesale application of this rule to every single instance of contact involving the non-hitting partner. But hopefully it is now a bit clearer that the doubles player who is not involved with either the on-going or pending shot cannot interfere with play without being penalized.

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.
Yes, you should carry racquetball equipment...
It’s a source of profit and service

**Racquetball ‘Sells’**

*BY CONNIE MARTIN*

---

**Carry Popular Racquets, Have Demos and Special Order the Rest**
You do not need to stock every brand and model. For racquets, carry what you know will sell and special order the rest.

**Carry Necessary Accessories**
You should at least stock everyday accessories such as balls, gloves, eye guards and grips. There is nothing worse than a member coming to your club needing to purchase these items, but can’t because you are either out or don’t carry them.

**Check It Out**
As a Pro Shop Manager, I have learned that whether I am in a club, whether it be mine or another, I am constantly looking at what the players are wearing before, during and after they play. I also check out what type of accessories they are using. Visual observation is very important in selling pro shop items. In order to know what to sell, you need to know what people are buying.

**Price Competitively**
Check out other local clubs and pro shops, sporting good stores and discount stores to see what their prices are. It is important to price competitively in order to maintain confidence and loyalty. It is very hard sometimes to compete with on-line companies, but it can be done by offering service and no shipping charges.

**Remember that if you don’t sell anything, you don’t make anything.**

Even if your profit margin is small, you will make money on pro shop sales and provide a service to your members.

If you provide quality service you will have a customer for the duration of their membership.

Connie can be reached at: Connie@CascadeAthleticClubs.com
For more programming ideas, visit www.playracquetball.org
Every sport has its etiquette. Although often unspoken, your etiquette defines your status within the sport. Knowing proper etiquette separates a veteran from a newbie. Take golf for instance. Try talking while someone ahead of you is teeing off. The hard stare from everyone within earshot sends a pretty clear message. Then there’s tennis. Everyone is polite in tennis. There’s not a lot of screaming and yelling. Even when your opponent ‘misjudges’ a line call, you’re expected to accept it.

So what about racquetball? Just in case you hadn’t stopped to think about it, here are some basic dos and don’ts.

**DONT’S**

- Don’t punch a court wall in anger. If you really must vent, at least don’t use your racquet hand. And avoid smashing the racquet on the wall - at $250 - $300 a pop, who can afford such an outburst?
- Don’t smile when you’ve tagged your opponent in the back of the leg and the welt is starting to form.
- Do NOT wear tube socks, shirts with holes, or really short shorts. Enough said.
- Don’t play doubles with your spouse or partner. Remember, you have to go home with them.

**DO’S**

- Do tell your opponent when they’ve made a good shot. You’ll lull them into complacency. They’ll think you’re actually a pretty nice person and soon their killer instinct will fade.
- Do call double bounces on yourself. It’s inevitable that you will need that favor back somewhere in the match - and if it isn’t reciprocated, the anger you’ll feel is worth a point or two.
- Do upgrade your racquet more often than every 20 years.
- Do hang multiple gloves on the outside of your racquetball bag. The more gloves you have, the more ‘victims’ you portray to the world.

One more bit of advice. Be nice to everyone you see at a tournament. You never know who might be refereeing your matches. I guarantee if you follow these simple rules, you will always be seen as a real racquetball player!

Marcy is a NASM Certified Personal Trainer and Flexibility Specialist, ICF Certified Personal Coach, USAR Certified Racquetball Coach and Ampro Clinician, and a Certified Nutrition Consultant. She can be reached at www.marcylynch.com.
When is the best time during a game to take a timeout?

I think all of you at one time or another have seen yourself in one, if not all, of the following situations:

A. It's 10-10 in the second game and you've come up to serve for the fifth time without being able to score.

B. You just hit a shot you thought was good and the ref called it a skip ball at a crucial time in the match and you are furious.

C. The crowd is against you and you have lost your focus.

D. You just had a long rally and you are out of breath.

E. Your glove is wet and the racquet is slipping out of your hand.

People always ask me what they should do in the above situations. My answer every time is - TAKE A TIMEOUT! A time out is a pause in the action.

Just as the strokes, the serve, and the return of serve are tools of the game, consider the TIMEOUT as another tool in your arsenal of weapons when you enter the court.

I just got back from The US Open and watched a classic semi-final match between Cliff Swain and Jack Huzek and they both used their timeouts wisely. Let's take a look:

Example 1: Jack was down 1-7 then came up to serve, scoring three points in a row to make the score 4-7. Cliff finally gets a side out and before he got up to serve he called a timeout. He did it to regroup and get refocused. It worked as he went from 7-4 to 10-4. Excellent time out.

Example 2: Jack and Cliff were in the fifth game...the tiebreaker. They had battled back and forth for the entire game. At 8-8 Cliff scored two big points to make it 10-8. Jack immediately called a timeout in hopes of changing the momentum and tempo of the game. He came back after the timeout and earned a side out to get another opportunity to serve and score. He did just that and made it 9-10. A smart timeout.

At this point I'd like to share with you several opportunities of when it would be a good time to take a TIMEOUT:

- You are physically tired.
- Your shots are not working and you want to regroup.
- Your game plan is not working and you want to check it and make adjustments.
- You are too excited and need to calm down and refocus.
- Your opponent is on a roll and you want to change their momentum.
- You need fluids (water and electrolytes).
- You need to change equipment.
- You are upset with the referees call and need to let it go and focus on the now not the past.

When the game is over you should not have ANY time outs remaining, especially if you lost the game... because that means you did not do everything in your power to change the momentum of the match so you could give yourself the best opportunity to win. Remember, there is no point in saving your time outs...they are not redeemable at a later date, nor do they carry over to the next game. If you don't use them you lose them. So use them every chance you get...THE PROS DO!!!

Jason Mannino

"I use it to take a break and get a pause in the action because things are not going my way. I look at the problem, evaluate it and try and fix what is wrong."

Kane Waselenchuk

"I primarily use them to calm me down or change the tempo."

Christie Van Hees

"I use them to change the tempo of the game or when my shots aren't working."

Rhonda Rajsich

"Time outs are critical for me. I use them usually for three main reasons. To mentally regroup and evaluate what is going on in the match, to calm down after a bad call by the ref, and I also like to put a wrench into my opponent's momentum. After my opponent scores anywhere from two to four points in a row I take a time out."

Kristen Walsh

"To me a time out is a momentum stopper as well as a chance for me to fix the shots I am missing."

I think this gives you some food for thought about "TIME OUTS". If you look at any other sport like football, baseball, soccer, etc. they use time outs as well. PLEASE I urge you to give this a try because I know it will make a difference in your game.

Hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction or the next best thing buy our video if you can't make a camp at this time. Go to www.FranDavisRacquetball.com for details on both the video and camps.

"...consider the TIMEOUT as another tool in your arsenal of weapons when you enter the court."
A COMMON MISTAKE
&
HOW TO FIX IT... ELLISTYLE

Picture this; you force your opponent into the backcourt with a nice ceiling ball and you get great center court position. You’re ready to track down any shot they hit. Your opponent does exactly what you want and tries to force a 39’ Sudsy Monchik style backhand splat. Of course they leave the splat up and for a quick second you have a “setup”. Next thing you know, you’re hitting your shot cross-court right back to your opponent. Why???? I see this play at every level and believe me, I’m guilty way too often!!

I’ll tell you why this ill-advised cross-court shot happens so often. It’s a product of improper footwork. The result most often allows your opponent to stay in the rally and likely have an opportunity to gain the advantage when they should basically be behind the eight ball. The correct shot is obvious, DOWN THE LINE (DTL)!! It’s getting into the position to effectively hit the DTL that is difficult. Check out these photos to see the mistake happen and then the simple drill to help you make the necessary shot selection change.

Here’s an example of how the mistake happens. Notice how I don’t have my lead leg rotated over enough so that I’m facing the right side wall and able to hit the ball down the line. I leave the left foot pointing cross-court which will automatically force my shot to go cross-court. The only way to adjust the shot is to add a lot of wrist action. That wrist action will cause inaccuracies to the DTL, most notably a floater off the side wall right back to your opponent near center court with you in the way. Sound familiar?
Here's a simple drill to help you change your bad habit of going cross court off of your opponent's left-up splat/pinch. Add this drill to your practice routine, as it will take time to make the correct movements second nature. Remember, it's always easier on your body to not move as much, but that won't get you far in your racquetball life.

Basically the drill is not much different from what happens while playing. It's always easier to work on this drill with a practice partner. Have your partner leave you a splat setup and focus on rotating your body all the way over so that your shoulders are squared up to the sidewall. Likewise, your rear should end up facing the opposite sidewall instead of the back wall. Start the drill by making the setup easy so that you have more time to move your feet. As you get better, hit the setup a little harder or lower. Eventually you want the drill to be as close to actual game speed as possible and you can even continue by finishing the rally. Make the change and I promise you'll execute these setup opportunities at a higher percentage.
George Henshaw is the Assistant Head Coach/Offense for the Tennessee Titans. He is also an avid racquetball player. He still remembers a tip he learned from a top pro years ago. In order to win, “you have to make your lay ups”.

Derek Robinson uses basketball as a cross trainer for racquetball. He firmly agrees that in order to be a top racquetball player, you must be able to make your set ups!

What does shooting a basketball have to do with improving your racquetball game? EVERYTHING! In basketball, teams that don’t make the lay ups usually don’t win. The same is true for racquetball players. If your goal is to be successful in the A or Open divisions, you have to make your lay ups. Which means, you have to make your set ups! Take the time to practice those shots your opponent “gives” to you each match. Front court set ups, back wall set ups and ceiling set ups.

When practicing, set goals, be specific about the type of shot you want to hit, and repeat the shot over and over.

**BIG D’S ROADSHOW...**

Coming to a city near you!
Check out: www.bigdracquetball.com for upcoming dates and locations.
TOSSING THE BALL

PURPOSE:
- Increase Core Stabilization
- Strengthen abdominal and back muscles
- Developing these muscle groups will allow you to maintain good posture and good form, which will translate into more powerful and accurate shots – even when you are tired! A strong core also helps prevent lower back injuries.

TIPS:
1. Begin your toss from low and across your body.
2. Toss the ball so your partner must lunge to the side to make the catch.
3. When tossing and catching, be sure you are stable and balanced.
4. Minimum of 10 repetitions on each side.
Today I am going to discuss with you "The One Step vs. the Two Step" motion on the low, hard, power serves such as the drive, the Z, the jam, etc. No matter which one you use, (the one or the two step motion) you want to make sure you step into your serve, a key part of the service motion. When you step into your serve it generates power by allowing you to use your hips very similar to the forehand mechanics, see the Sept./Oct. 2004 issue.

When do you use a One Step or a Two Step Serve?

1-One Step . . . Beginner to Low Intermediate
2-Two Step . . . Intermediate all the way up to the Pros.

Let's take a closer look at my "Magical Footwork" for both:

**TRICK 1 READY POSITION**

**ONE STEP**
- My back foot is right on the short line, not over the line
  a. For righties - right foot on the short line
  b. For lefties - left foot on the short line
- Feet are side by side, shoulder width apart
- Racquet up
- Eyes on the ball

**TWO STEP**
- My feet are right on the short line, not over the line
- Feet are one in front of the other
  a. For righties - left foot in front of the right foot and the feet can be close together like mine or a little further apart
  b. For lefties - right foot in front of the left foot and the feet can be close together like mine or a little further apart
- Racquet down
- Eyes on ball

**TRICK 2 1st STEP/RACQUET**

**ONE STEP**
- Step toward the front wall with your lead foot
- Ball is released
- Racquet begins to come down
- Eyes on the ball
- Weight relatively even

**TWO STEP**
- I step toward the front wall with my back foot
  a. For righties - right foot
  b. For lefties - left foot
- Ball is released
- Racquet comes up
- Eyes on ball
TRICK 3 2ND STEP/SWING

ONE STEP  
N/A

TWO STEP
- Step toward the front wall with your front foot (not at an angle - it locks your hips)
  a. For righties - left foot
  b. For lefties - right foot
- Racquet comes down close to contact point
- Eyes on ball

TRICK 4 CONTACT POINT

ONE STEP
- Back foot near short line
- Legs are lined up
- Racquet at full extension and parallel to the floor
- Same as forehand

TWO STEP
- Back foot a little in front of the short line because of the step
- Legs are lined up
- Racquet at full extension and parallel to the floor
- Same as forehand

TRICK 4 FOLLOW THROUGH

ONE STEP
- Feet lined up
- Weight even
- Racquet pointing to the back wall

TWO STEP
- Feet lined up
- Weight even
- Racquet pointing to the back wall

As you can see "The One Step and the Two Step" are virtually the same except for an added step, which is used to generate more power...a key element in the low, hard power serves. The harder you hit the ball, but still remaining balanced, the less reaction time you give your opponent...a positive for you.

I recommend you start out using the one step motion because it is less complicated and much simpler. As you gain racquet control and experience begin experimenting with the two step motion because the benefits of gaining power are a huge plus. Kane, Cliff and I are all known to have the “big serve”. We hit in excess of 160 mph which creates problems for our opponents to return the serve.

Take it slow and don’t get frustrated...it is worth the wait to move from a “one step serve” to a “two step serve”. Good luck!

Please I invite you to attend one of the camps with Fran Davis to learn this first hand or in the meantime pick up one of our videos, “Building Your Racquetball Dream House” with Fran, Jason and myself. It has ALL of this in depth in chapter 7...Serves. Go to www.FranDavisRacquetball.com for details.
Since assuming the role of IRT Commissioner in May of 2001, Dave Negrete has helped to increase the amount of prize money, number of tour stops, and overall exposure of the sport. One of the truly “Good Guys” in the sport, Negrete, 44, resides just outside of Chicago with his wife, Kathy, and two children, Julia (13) and David (10).

**RACQUETBALL** Magazine: How were you chosen as Commissioner of the IRT?

**Dave Negrete:** I was chosen by the players and by (former IRT Commissioner) Hank Marcus. I had actually talked to Hank about helping out with the tour before the player split in 2001. After the split I believe that they chose me because of my familiarity with the players and the sport and the I ran a successful pro stop in Chicago for so long.

**RM:** What changes have taken place in your tenure?

**ON:** Well, the whole tour has changed. The tour is no longer owned by any one person; that is the first big change. A Board of Directors was added and prize money has increased as well as the number of stops. The tour is now ultimately run by the players and it was never like that before.

**RM:** What additional changes do you wish to make?

**ON:** Obviously to generate more money is the primary one. With more money, additional “Grand Slam” events would be possible. We would like to generate enough money that someone the graduates High School or College would have the opportunity to make a living solely off prize money earned in professional tournaments. They make their living now by being professional racquetball players, but that involves conducting clinics and getting sponsors, rather than being able to rely solely on prize money. I want the clinics and sponsorships to be the bonuses and the prize money to be the meat of their income. It’s the opposite of that now.

**RM:** What are some of the challenges involved with balancing a family and your busy tournament schedule with the IRT?

**DN:** The challenge for me is the travel. I’m not used to traveling so much. I have to be sure I don’t miss my kids stuff like school functions and their games. That’s the hard part, but it’s a once in a lifetime opportunity so you make it work.

**RM:** What is your least favorite part of being Commissioner?

**DN:** Probably my least favorite part of the job is having to draw the line between friendship and business; especially since I was friends with most of the guys on tour when I took the job. Oh, and the politics. (laughs)

**RM:** What is your favorite part?

**DN:** Going to the different cities and bringing the greatest players in the world to these places then hearing, “That was incredible!” when we leave. I like to hear how great our guys are, both on and off the court. I love being a part of that. It’s great to bring in players like Kane, Jack, Jason, Rocky, and Alvaro, to name a few, and seeing people freak out about them.

**RM:** Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

**DN:** I’d love to see myself 10 years from now at the top of a sport that has been hidden, have an office with a staff, and be running a professional business in a professional sport.

**RM:** 20 years from now?

**DN:** Retired, sitting on a beach with a big Arturo Fuente cigar in my mouth, listening to the highlights of little Mannino, little Monchik, little Ganim, and little Negrete battling it out on SportsCenter.
Simply the Best Eyeguards...

New Rad "Oxygen"
New Improved Turbos (9 Colors)
Turbo "Flag" & "Patriot"
Turbo Ambers/Triumphs/Super LX
Jr./Ladies Interchangeables
Sunglasses/Protective Hardcases

DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME
800-456-4305
FAX: 775-587-5515
python2@mindspring.com

#1 CHOICE OF PROS & AMATEURS

"It’s a Fact... nothing does grip like a Python." — #1 Jack Huczek

Dynaflex Gyros
“Glow-in-the Dark” Pythons
Python Anti-Fog Spray
Python Posttrac Shoe Spray
Zone Strings
Dry Grip

Pythons/Python Wraps/Wristizers/Gyro
Zone Strings/Undershield/ProKennex/Rad

... Python Logo Patches Available...

Python Racquetball.com
"Check out our website"

RACQUETBALL RACQUETS — STRUNG

EKTHELON

E-FOCE

AIR DRIVE
AIR LAUNCH
AIR SCREAM
DPR 1500
DPR 2500 LITE
MORE ATTACK ATTITUDE CALL
MORE DOMINATE CALL
OUTRAGE
POWER AIR POWER
POWER RING ULTRALITE
TRIPLE THREAT DEFLIANCE
HORNET WARRIOR
I 165
I 160
I 220
LX 190
LX 220
MegaBLAST 170
MegaBLAST 180
MegaBLAST 195
TI 220
TI 180 FZ
TI 190 FZ
HEAD

Power Ring Pro

ASIA & OCEAN

LARGEST SELECTION PHOTOS & DESCRIPTIONS
24-HOUR SECURE ON-LINE ORDERING

Call 410-687-6400
www.holabirdsports.com

HOLABIRD SPORTS

1981 FACTORY AUTHORIZED DEALER
CALL 410-687-6400

ONLY AT HOLABIRD
ONE LOW $4.95 SHIPPING CHARGE — LIMIT QUANTITY
48-HOUR SHIPPING

INQUIRIES WELCOME

1-800-875-3701
www.lawlersports.com

Complete Pro Shop Line!
VISA, MasterCard, DISCOVER accepted

Pythons/Racquets/Balls

Lawler Sports

RACQUETBALL MART

1-800-875-3701

HUDSON SPORTS

1981 FACTORY AUTHORIZED DEALER
CALL 410-687-6400

ONLY AT HUDSON
ONE LOW $4.95 SHIPPING CHARGE — LIMIT QUANTITY
48-HOUR SHIPPING

INQUIRIES WELCOME

1-800-875-3701
www.hudbardsports.com
Did You Know? → Jason served as an assistant coach for the U.S. at the 2003 Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Did You Know? → Jackie competes in a soccer league and recently was in the winning side of her family’s annual game.

National Team Appointments → 2
Most Recent Qualifier → 2004 National Doubles Championships (2nd with Mitch Williams)
Sponsors → Head/Penn
Date of Birth → October 15, 1973 (age - 31)
Birthplace → Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Hometown → Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Current Residence → Atlanta, Georgia
Biggest Influence → Grandparents, Hazel and Joe Cottage
Strengths → Mental toughness and forehand
Training Schedule → Cardio - 3x’s per week (2 hours), Weights - 3x’s per week, Court time - 4x’s per week
Goals → To bring back the Pan American Championships to the U.S. and to finally win National Doubles with Mitch Williams.

National Team Appointments → 28
Most Recent Qualifier → 2004 National Doubles Championships (1st with Kim Russell)
Sponsors → Currently negotiating
Occupation → Club Pro/Director LA Fitness
Date of Birth → September 14, 1966 (age - 38)
Birthplace → Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Hometown → El Cajon, California
Current Residence → Ramona, California
Biggest Influence → Parents, June and Rudy Paraiso
Strengths → Agility, Speed, and anticipation
Training Schedule → Cardio - 5x’s per week, Weights - 5x’s per week, Court time - 3x’s per week
Goals → Stay on the U.S. National team for as long as she can, win the Pan American Games in 2007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior National Team Appointments</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most Recent Qualifier</td>
<td>2004 Junior Olympics (2nd boy’s 18- singles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sponsors</strong></td>
<td>Wilson, Splat Gear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>School</strong></td>
<td>Colorado State University - Pueblo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of Birth</strong></td>
<td>April 17, 1986 (age - 18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birthplace</strong></td>
<td>Portland, Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hometown</strong></td>
<td>Portland, Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biggest Influence</strong></td>
<td>Joey Lakowske and Ben Croft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strengths</strong></td>
<td>Mental focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goals</strong></td>
<td>Win the 2005 IRF World Junior Championships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite Food</strong></td>
<td>Sushi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite Actor/Actress</strong></td>
<td>Tom Hanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite Music</strong></td>
<td>Rap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nominations for the USA Racquetball Annual Awards are due by February 28, 2004. These awards are based on the preceding year.

- **Joe Sobek Outstanding Contributor Award:** This award is based on an outstanding commitment to the sport of racquetball.

- **Presidential Award:** This award is given to the State President who has exhibited outstanding organizational performances in their state.

- **John Halverson Fair Play Award:** This award is for anyone who had an exceptional gesture of fair play carried out during the year or for anyone who has a sports career which has consistently shown a spirit of fair play over the years.

- **Peggy Steding Award (Female Age Group Athlete):** Any outstanding female athlete, age 35 and over, is chosen on the basis of their performance record for the preceding year.

- **Bud Muehleisen Award (Male Age Group Athlete):** Any outstanding male athlete, age 35 and over, is chosen on the basis of their performance record for the preceding year.

If you know someone who falls into one of the categories mentioned above, please nominate them for one of the awards.

For more information or to nominate a person contact Jim Easterling via e-mail at djeasterling@earthlink.net or mail to:

Awards Winners
321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911

Please send your name, phone number, nominee’s name, phone number, what category he or she belongs in, and some facts about the nominee.

What happens when Derek Robinson’s Big D Road Show meets up with John Ellis’ Ellistyle Experience? The players of Green River and Rock Springs, Wyoming get to find out every year. December 3rd-5th marked the 2nd Annual Sweetwater Pro Racquetball Camp. The camp is held at the beautiful Green River Recreation Center, which has four courts and is located next to the city’s only high school. This year’s event had 13 players in attendance.

If you’re wondering what makes this camp so special besides the fact that two of professional racquetball’s most active clinicians come together. It’s the city of Green River and their willingness to provide this event at the city’s expense. The players attending have a minimal cost for the weekend camp but that amount only covers the catered food that is brought in for the campers. The cost to bring in Derek and John is handled by Green River. Green River’s city activities director and avid racquetball player, Lisa Maes is responsible for putting this together. Lisa believes that exposing the small cities of Green River and Rock Springs to pro racquetball players and instructors will be the spark that keeps racquetball growing in the two cities. One thing is for sure; most of the campers would never have an opportunity to see pro racquetball first hand if this camp didn’t happen. Kudos to Green River!!
Ruben Gonzalez has been playing professional racquetball for more than 25 years. He was inducted into the Racquetball Hall of Fame in 2000, while still an active top-10 player on the International Racquetball Tour. He also competes regularly on The Legends Tour.

But at his ninth US OPEN, Ruben chose to display the creativity and imagination that kept him at the top of his sport for so many years in a different form - his paintings.

For some time, Ruben had been interested in pursuing his passion for art. “This idea has been brewing for about six or seven years,” Ruben said. “I would come up with these ideas, but I never had an opportunity to actually carry through with them.”

That is until a few weeks before the US OPEN, when Ruben had some time off and took a trip to the city. The next thing he knew, he was walking into an art store, and making it happen.

“I didn’t really know a thing about what I needed to do. I didn’t know what kind of supplies to get, or anything, all I knew is what I wanted the final product to look like.”

Beginning with his first two pieces of art, which were auctioned off at the US OPEN - St. Jude Silent Auction, Ruben has officially launched this new line of original art. Of course, all proceeds from the auction went directly to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

If you missed your chance to bid on Ruben’s artwork at this year’s US OPEN be sure to inquire or place an order by e-mail at sales@rgball.com.

---

Luzell Wilde passed away on December 15, 2004 at the age of 87. He was born on October 25, 1917 in Carey, Idaho to Lawrence and Sadie Wilde. He married Georgia Hansen on October 2, 1946, who preceded him in death on July 17, 2001. Luzell took up the sport of racquetball at the age of 50 and won over 45 national championships while traveling with his wife 250,000 miles in a 25 year span. His accomplishments led him to the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame in 1989. In addition to being inducted into the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame, he was also inducted into the Masters International Hall of Fame (1996) and the Utah State Hall of Fame (1999). Centerville City honored him with a key to the city in 1989 and again in 2002 during his induction into the Centerville City Hall of Fame.

He is survived by his brothers Myron and Veldon Wilde; his children, Vicky Kimmel, Kayleen Seaver, Gordon L. Wilde, Marilyn Marsden; grandchildren, Brandy Guin Barningham, Andy Wilde, Kim and Kane.

---

Four-time USA Racquetball National Doubles champion Kim Russell and top ranked IRT pro Kane Waselenchuk were married December 4, 2004 in Naples, Florida. Kim and Kane were sent a sign of good luck by two dolphins frolicking in the ocean behind them as they took their vows. Kim wore a Maggie Sottero strapless, chapel length gown with a sequined body veil and crystal tiara. Kane wore a black Armani suit with red stripes. An endearing ceremony was performed by tournament regular Minister Leo Vasquez as 45 guests stood witness. Other racquetball guests included Ron Marr, IRT Commissioner Dave Negrete, LPRA pros Rhonda Rajsich and Jackie Rice, and Coach Jim Winterton. The couple honeymooned in Naples for a week and will honeymoon again this June in Hawaii.

Congratulations Kim and Kane!
Video
Presented by Fran Davis Racquetball
Featuring Sudsy Monchik & Jason Mannino

What's Included
- Be deceptive - vary serves to keep your opponent guessing
- Learn to hit the perfect backhand
- Think like the pros - improve shot selection
- Find out why game plans and strategies are a must
- Learn to be aggressive on return of serve
- Perfect practice makes perfect - have fun

Fran Davis
A Healthy Racquet, Inc.
4104 24th Street #426
San Francisco, CA 94114-3615
Phone: 415.821.FRAN (3726)
Fax: 415.520.5275

www.FranDavisRacquetball.com

Dream House

Special On-line Video Offer
www.FranDavisRacquetball.com
Mention National Racquetball Magazine under "Comments" section and receive a free can of Penn Balls.

VHS = $39.95 plus shipping & handling - 100 minutes
DVD = $49.95 plus shipping & handling - 120 minutes

Questions? video@FranDavisRacquetball.com

Fran's Credentials
- 20+ Year Camp Experience
- 2004 Racquetball Hall of Fame
- Olympic Gold Medalist National Coach of the Year 1997
- Coaches Jason Mannino and Sudsy Monchik

Camp Schedule
2004
November 12-14 Greensboro, NC
December 2-5 Aruba (Caribbean Island)

2005
January 14-16 San Francisco, CA
January 29-30 Detroit or Grand Rapids, MI
February 4-6 Indianapolis, IN
February 11-13 Seattle, WA
February 18-20 Laurel, MD
March 4-6 Minneapolis, MN
April 8-10 Portland, OR
April 15-17 TBA, Canada
May 6-12 TBA
May 13-15 TBA
May 20-24 San Diego, CA
May 27-31 TBA
April 10-12 TBA
April 24-28 Dallas, TX
April 30-May 7 San Francisco, CA
May 13-20 Las Vegas, NV

Fran Davis Racquetball camps are still available in the following cities:
Los Angeles, CA; Dallas, TX; San Francisco, CA; Las Vegas, NV; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Atlanta, GA; New York, NY;
Los Angeles, CA; Las Vegas, NV; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Atlanta, GA; New York, NY; and many more. Contact us for more information.

For more information on Fran Davis Racquetball camps, visit www.FranDavisRacquetball.com

www.FranDavisRacquetball.com

Racquetball Strings

America's Best Selling Stringer
"21 Years Running"

KLUPPERMATE
- Free stringing services, illustrated instructions and phone support by our factory certified racquet stringers
- The only stringing machine Made in the U.S.A.

Free stringing services, illustrated instructions and phone support by our factory certified racquet stringers

www.kluppermate.com 800.927.5547

Core Racquetball Training
US each or 2 for $34.95

www.coreracquetball.com

The Serve

www.coreracquetball.com

American Racquetball Association

www.ara.org
Did You Know?

- You can renew online
- You can Change your address online
- Your state can sanction events online
- You can purchase USA Racquetball merchandise online

Visit us online at www.usaracquetball.com
2005 18th USA National High School Racquetball Championships

Presented by

Propenn

U.S. Junior Team Qualifier
Gold Division Singles Champions will be appointed to the U.S. Junior National Team for one year!

Junior Olympic Qualifier - High School National entrants will qualify for the 2005 Junior Olympics in Portland.

MARCH 3 - 6
Vetta Sports - Concord
Event sponsor
12320 Old Tesson Road
St. Louis, Missouri

DEADLINE: Wednesday - February 16
POSTMARKED BY: Friday - February 11
DIVISIONS: Singles & Doubles
FEES: $45.00/1st event
      $30.00/2nd event
      $30.00/3rd event
STARTING TIMES: Available Wednesday - March 2
                 5:00 pm (Central Time) @ 314-842-3111 ext 3
CHECK-IN: Opens Thursday - March 3
PLAY BEGINS: Thursday - March 3

For an Official Entry Form please go to www.usaracquetball.com or call 719-635-5396 ext.0.
2005 33rd USA Racquetball National Intercollegiate Racquetball Championships

Presented by

Propenn

U.S. National Team Qualifier
Division #1 Gold singles winners will be appointed to the U.S. National Racquetball Team!

National Singles Regional Qualifier
Event entrants who compete in the Intercollegiate Nationals will qualify for the 2005 National Singles.

MARCH 30 - APRIL 2
Arizona State University
Student Recreation Center
Tempe, AZ 85287

DEADLINE: Tuesday March 8th
POSTMARKED BY: Wednesday - March 2nd
DIVISIONS: Team Singles & Doubles
FEES: $60.00/1st event
   $35.00/2nd event
   $35.00/3rd event (mixed doubles only)
STARTING TIMES: Available Monday - March 28th
   5:00 pm (central) @ 480-545-1363
CHECK-IN: Opens Tuesday - March 29th
PLAY BEGINS: Wednesday - March 30th

For an Official Entry form and more information please go to www.usraracquetball.com or call 719-635-5396 ext 0.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Zip Code</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jo Kenyon</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>45429</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Ruben Gonzalez, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mary-Low Acuff</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>14023</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>David Hamilton, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Earl Acuff</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>33155</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Ron Hutcherson, IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jack Huczek</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>32590</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Mitch Williams, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Debra Tinsger</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>25110</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Joseph Lee, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Don Alt</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>25025</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Dario Mas, AZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Adrienne Fisher</td>
<td>AL</td>
<td>24475</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Marcia Richards, CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Lorraine Gallow</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>23395</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Erich Storey, IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Joe Lambert</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>23155</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>Roz Petrerroli, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Agatha Falso</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>22833</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>Jim Lizar, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Shane Vensderon</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>22140</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>Tommy Brown, ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sharon Hastings</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>21800</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Horace Miller, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Susan Pfahler</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>21733</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Malia Bailey, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Jimmy Lowe</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>21235</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Victor Saccy, NX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Kristen Walsh</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>20130</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Ron Galpar, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Lola Markus</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>19970</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Debra Derr, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>B.J. Ehrgott</td>
<td>CT</td>
<td>19590</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>Bobbi Haab, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Tim Hansen</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>19095</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Horace Miller, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Midrav Gwinn</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>18665</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Molly Law, CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Paul Banales</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>18380</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>Nidia Funee, CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Swirl Stoffregen</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>17845</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>Jesi Fuller, NM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Will Tilton</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>17600</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>Ray Huss, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Kersten Hubander</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>17198</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>Vanessa Tuleo, AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Giann Allen</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>16755</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Kim Machrian, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Mike Locker</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>16740</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>Bill Lynan, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Aimee Ruiz</td>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>16635</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>Brad Mcummilff, IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Dave Kovanda</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>16485</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>Cerry Millitary, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Shannon Feaster</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>16455</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Mary Bickley, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Kathy Mueller</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>16170</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Brian Frederbtx, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Heather Dunn</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>16198</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>Herb Grigg, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Mal Roberts</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>16068</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Pattie Schaf, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Linda Moore</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>16025</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>Sara Boland, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Rex Lawler</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>15925</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>Kim Machrian, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Cheryl Gudinas</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>15820</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>Ron Galpar, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Jeff Garner</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>15700</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>Kimbery Irons, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Doug Ganim</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>15531</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>Bill Lynan, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Don Alt</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>15582</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>Ron Galpar, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Charlie Garfinkel</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>15690</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Vickey Wolery, GA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Nick Saus</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>15213</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Bobbi Haab, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Mitch Smith</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>15003</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>Rosa Staton, KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Dan Llacara</td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>14950</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>Bobby Senders, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Rhonda Raschuis</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>14905</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>Shelley Tashris, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Michael Bronfeld</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>14845</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Keyley Beane, NH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Chris Coy</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>14840</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>Dennis O'Brien, UT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Rachel Gellman</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>14820</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>Brooke Crawford, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>C. Allen Shepherd</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>14810</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>Robert McAdam, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Marijean Kaley</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>14780</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>Michael Jackson, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Shane Wood</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>14770</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Laura Fenton, KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Janet Myers</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>14760</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>Drew Toland, AR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Sadie Hill</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>14765</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>Hobby senders, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Denise Mock</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>14740</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>Debbie Cheney, IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Martinae Molina</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>14390</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>Aaron Metcalf, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Dave Watson</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>14265</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>Allan Engel, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Joanne Pomodora</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>14175</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>Darryl Warren, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Kerri Wachtel</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>14035</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>Crystal Winfrely, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Ben Croff</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>13890</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>John Pearce, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Ed Remen</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>13885</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>Robert Reuther, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Rocky Carson</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>13775</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Sudsy Monkich, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Ed Garabedian</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>13751</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>Brian Simpson, IN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With a new national ranking program about to be launched, USA Racquetball would like to recognize the all-time point getters from the former point based ranking system. The following top 500 list shows the lifetime accumulation of points earned in all divisions played by both men and women.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>David Hunter</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>6280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sanjay LaForest</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>5790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Erik Ekman</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>5785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dan Gagne</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>5785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>T.J. Baumberga</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>5725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sarah Hettesheimer</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>5780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Elizabeth Brenner</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>5760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mat Kelly</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>5750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Zack Miller</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>5750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Rebeka Kopf</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>5730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Dave Milazzo</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>5725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Scott Fisher</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>5715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Dan Prater</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>5715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Al Schof</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>5715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Denny Vincent</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>5715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Lynne Weibart</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>5695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Laura Brandt</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>5688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Byron Williams</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>5685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Dianne Pratt</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>5680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Jansen Allen</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>5665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Andrew Grissom</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>5665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Jody Morris</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>5655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Dave Cardillo</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>5650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Terry Lauritsen</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>5650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Craig Czey</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>5630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Tyler Siggins</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>5630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>David LaForest</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>5620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Mary Keenan</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>5625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Joel Hastings</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>5610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Laura Brandt</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>5608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Dave Peck</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>5600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Russ Montague</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>5595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Matt Johnson</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>5585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Hal Spangenberg Jr.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>5585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Janet Chratie</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>5580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Rick Ferrin</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>5548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Dave Stigler</td>
<td>ME</td>
<td>5545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Tim Kirch</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>5520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Mark Bloom</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Dave Lund</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Dave Peck</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Russ Montague</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Matt Johnson</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Hal Spangenberg Jr.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Janet Chratie</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Rick Ferrin</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>5548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Dave Stigler</td>
<td>ME</td>
<td>5545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Tim Kirch</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>5520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Mark Bloom</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Dave Lund</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Dave Peck</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Russ Montague</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Matt Johnson</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Hal Spangenberg Jr.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Janet Chratie</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Rick Ferrin</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>5548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Dave Stigler</td>
<td>ME</td>
<td>5545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Tim Kirch</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>5520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Phone Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1-5</td>
<td>2005 Massacre @ Redwood Center</td>
<td>West Valley City, UT</td>
<td>801-974-6923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 3-6</td>
<td>Fifth Annual America's Cup @ Quadrangle Athletic Club</td>
<td>Coral Springs, FL</td>
<td>954-753-8900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 4-5</td>
<td>Racquet for The Cure @ Denver Athletic Club</td>
<td>Littleton, CO</td>
<td>303-738-9797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 4-6</td>
<td>Chuck Galkin Memorial @ Br Ryall YMCA</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn, IL</td>
<td>630-858-0100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hartsville Pro-Am Shootout @ Hartsville YMCA</td>
<td>Hartsville, SC</td>
<td>843-383-4547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Super Bowl Splat @ Olympus Athletic Club</td>
<td>Northfield, MN</td>
<td>507-645-8007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Whaley Children's Center Classic @ Davison Athletic Club</td>
<td>Davison, MI</td>
<td>810-287-3934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 5</td>
<td>Puyallup Junior Open @ Puyallup Recreation Center</td>
<td>Puyallup, WA</td>
<td>253-848-9493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Double Trouble Open @ Coca Court Club</td>
<td>Hershey, PA</td>
<td>717-540-5111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2005 New Jersey State Doubles @ Classic Athletic Club</td>
<td>Fairfield, NJ</td>
<td>973-389-9978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St Valentine's Day Classic @ Schaumburg Tennis Plus</td>
<td>Schaumburg, IL</td>
<td>630-430-1748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indy Open @ Noblesville Athletic Club</td>
<td>Noblesville, IN</td>
<td>317-879-8100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burnsville Hotshots @ Northwest Athletic Club</td>
<td>Burnsville, MN</td>
<td>952-435-7125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Groundhog Open @ Metro South Athletic Club</td>
<td>Brockton, MA</td>
<td>717-540-5111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sweetheart Doubles @ Sawmill Athletic Club</td>
<td>Columbus, OH</td>
<td>614-889-7698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13th Annual Winter Classic @ American Family Fitness</td>
<td>Richmond, VA</td>
<td>804-382-7663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2005 Kentucky State Singles @ Downtown YMCA</td>
<td>Louisville, KY</td>
<td>502-587-6700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sports Mall Challenge @ Sports Mall</td>
<td>Murray, UT</td>
<td>801-261-3426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aurora City Open @ Colorado Athletic Club-Aurora</td>
<td>Aurora, CO</td>
<td>303-696-9313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beaverton Classic @ Griffith Park Family YMCA</td>
<td>Beaverton, OR</td>
<td>503-644-3900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Five Seasons Super 7 Singles @ Five Seasons Country Club</td>
<td>Westlake, OH</td>
<td>440-871-2611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reno 7-up Open @ Double Diamond</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>775-234-9791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southern Ohio Championship @ Heights Health &amp; Racquet Club</td>
<td>Dayton, OH</td>
<td>614-890-6073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Schultz Classic @ The Sports Center</td>
<td>Fayetteville, NC</td>
<td>910-638-8008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10th Annual Palos Olympic Open @ Palos Olympic Health Fit</td>
<td>Palos Hills, IL</td>
<td>708-974-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2005 Washington State Singles @ Club Tbd</td>
<td>City Tbd, WA</td>
<td>360-303-2820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post-Holiday Racquetball Event @ Pojoaque Wellness Center</td>
<td>Santa Fe, NM</td>
<td>505-321-1110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Countryside YMCA Charity Tournament @ Countryside YMCA</td>
<td>Loveland, OH</td>
<td>513-332-1424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lifestyle Fitness Primetime @ Lifestyle Family Fitness</td>
<td>St Petersburg, FL</td>
<td>727-244-8239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Ohio Championship @ Solomon Athletic Club</td>
<td>Solon, OH</td>
<td>440-349-3349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OJRA Tour Stop #3 - Sunset @ Sunset Athletic Club</td>
<td>Portland, OR</td>
<td>503-330-0624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tornado Alley Racquetball @ Wichita Falls YMCA</td>
<td>Wichita Falls, TX</td>
<td>940-322-7816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2005 Illinois State Singles @ Chalet Fitness Center</td>
<td>Willow Springs, IL</td>
<td>630-325-6410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2005 Massachusetts State Juniors @ Caritas Health &amp; Racquet Club</td>
<td>Norwood, MA</td>
<td>978-927-3923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One Day Shootout @ Southern Athletic Club</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK</td>
<td>405-919-0375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**March**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 1-5</td>
<td>Luck of The Heights @ Cottonwood Heights</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, UT</td>
<td>801-974-6923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 4-6</td>
<td>Amatulli Open @ Omni 41</td>
<td>Schererville, IN</td>
<td>219-865-6969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 5-6</td>
<td>March Madness @ Courts Plus Fitness Center</td>
<td>Williston, ND</td>
<td>701-237-4895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 10-12</td>
<td>Southern Collegiate Racquetball Finals @ Atm</td>
<td>College Station, TX</td>
<td>817-966-1707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 19-13</td>
<td>2005 Massachusetts State Singles @ Boston Athletic Club</td>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
<td>978-927-3923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 19-27</td>
<td>2005 Pennsylvania State Singles @ Penn State University</td>
<td>University Park, PA</td>
<td>570-696-2642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 22-27</td>
<td>2005 Virginia State Singles @ Fort Lee</td>
<td>Richmond, VA</td>
<td>804-991-2129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 25-27</td>
<td>2005 Washington State Junior Champions @ Club Tbd</td>
<td>City Tbd, WA</td>
<td>360-676-1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 29-30</td>
<td>2005 Texas State Singles @ Maverick Athletic Club</td>
<td>Arlington, TX</td>
<td>817-275-3348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 11-13</td>
<td>Spring Doubles @ East Side Athletic Club</td>
<td>Milwaukie, OR</td>
<td>503-659-3845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 15-19</td>
<td>Edens March Madness @ Edens Athletic Club</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>773-286-6700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 15-19</td>
<td>Killshot for Cancer @ Waverly Oaks Athletic Club</td>
<td>Waltham, MA</td>
<td>508-881-3953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 15-19</td>
<td>Southview Slam #2 @ Southview Athletic Club</td>
<td>West St. Paul, MN</td>
<td>651-450-1660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 15-19</td>
<td>2005 Ohio State Singles @ Hall Of Fame Fitness Center</td>
<td>Canton, OH</td>
<td>614-890-6073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 15-19</td>
<td>Spring Smash @ Marv Jenson Fitness Center</td>
<td>South Jordan, UT</td>
<td>801-253-4404</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## March-April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 4-6</td>
<td>18th USAR National High School Championships</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
<td>765-478-3141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9-12</td>
<td>NMRA Masters National Championships</td>
<td>Canoga Park, CA</td>
<td>320-251-3965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18-26</td>
<td>PARC 18th Pan American Championships</td>
<td>Caracas, Venezuela</td>
<td>360-676-1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30 - April 2</td>
<td>33rd USAR National Intercollegiate Championships</td>
<td>nationwide</td>
<td>630-629-3390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14-17</td>
<td>USRA Regional Championships</td>
<td>nationwide</td>
<td>937-399-2360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25-30</td>
<td>38th USAR National Singles Championships</td>
<td>nationwide</td>
<td>419-433-2750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 22-26</td>
<td>32nd USAR Junior Olympic Championships</td>
<td>nationwide</td>
<td>403-738-9797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13-16</td>
<td>NMRA International Masters Championships</td>
<td>nationwide</td>
<td>440-871-2811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>USAR High Performance Training Camps</td>
<td>nationwide</td>
<td>503-330-0624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 30 - Sept. 3</td>
<td>19th IRF World Senior Championships</td>
<td>nationwide</td>
<td>320-251-3965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 28 - Oct. 2</td>
<td>38th USAR National Doubles Championships</td>
<td>nationwide</td>
<td>801-229-7118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 16-20</td>
<td>9th Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships</td>
<td>nationwide</td>
<td>508-588-3444</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 2005 USA Racquetball Regional Qualifiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 8-10</td>
<td>Sporttime of Syosset</td>
<td>Long Island, NY</td>
<td>718-429-8489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14-17</td>
<td>Midtown Sports &amp; Wellness</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>505-321-1110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Athletic Club</td>
<td>Charlton, MA</td>
<td>Miami, FL</td>
<td>770-923-5400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Courts</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>763-572-0330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solon Athletic Club</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
<td>614-890-6073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Mink Sports Complex</td>
<td>Cleveland, OH</td>
<td>Cleveland, OH</td>
<td>702-615-5051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vetta Sports Club of Concord</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
<td>314-842-6363 x3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Athletic Club</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK</td>
<td>918-541-0722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cascade Athletic Club</td>
<td>Gresham, OR</td>
<td>Gresham, OR</td>
<td>503-665-4142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severna Park Racquet &amp; Fitness</td>
<td>Millersville MD</td>
<td>Millersville MD</td>
<td>443-850-2648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schaumburg Tennis Plus</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>630-430-1478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20-24</td>
<td>Racquetball &amp; Fitness Clubs of San Antonio</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
<td>210-344-8596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21-24</td>
<td>Cedardale Athletic Club</td>
<td>Haverhill, MA</td>
<td>978-927-3923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* California Site TBA but may not be held
* Florida Site TBA but the date is set

For more information about the upcoming regional championships then please contact Kevin Joyce at 719/635-5096 ext. 123 or kjoyce@usa.org
US OPEN Redux

BY ERIC MULLER

FIVE GAMES! My Kingdom
for Five Games!
Poor, poor Doug Ganim. Every year the US OPEN produces some of the finest matches men’s professional racquetball has even seen - in the quarter’s and semi’s. Unfortunately, much to Doug’s chagrin, there has never been a five-game barn burner in the finals. As a result, the US OPEN television broadcasts, while always entertaining, lack the tension and excitement unique to a five-game battle.

True to form, the 2004 men’s final lasted three short games, however I believe Doug will have the last laugh this year because television audiences in select designated metropolitan areas will witness the sport’s most electrifying athlete playing the match of his career. Even better, all five games of the women’s final and several quarter and semi-final matches will be broadcast in their entirety on the Tennis Channel.

Think Globally,
Act Locally
Speaking of the Tennis Channel...one simple way for every racquetball fan to help our game grow is to contact their local cable or satellite provider to request the Tennis Channel. A growing number of cable MSO’s are offering the channel, but the big fish is Comcast and its 23 million subscribers. Apparently Comcast has run trials in select markets (e.g. Atlanta), but a system-wide rollout would dramatically increase racquetball’s exposure. If you’ve already contacted your provider, do it again. If you currently subscribe to the Tennis Channel, email a thank you note to your provider’s customer service department.

Event Coverage
As I was not able to attend the US OPEN in person this year, I was pleased to be able to follow the event on-line, and overall, I found the coverage to be reasonably updated. The draw sheets were usually updated, and I found the articles, particularly Mike Ceresia’s, to be entertaining. While there is always room for improvement, I think this is an area where the sport is making progress.

N.A.F.T.A.
To steal a line from one of Mike Ceresia’s articles from the US OPEN, the men’s draw featured “a baker’s dozen of Herrera’s” in the round of 32. This strong showing from the Mexican delegation was no fluke. Former USA Head Coach and Hall of Fame inductee Jim Winterton has been saying for 15 years that the Mexicans are coming, and I have to say that the old curmudgeon got it right. There is no doubt in my mind that Alvaro Beltran and Susy Acosta are merely the first in what will surely be a wave of Mexican players to become mainstays among the top ranks of the IRT and LPRA. I’m told the player with the most potential is Paola Langoria, a 15-year-old phenom who reached the quarters of the US OPEN with a surprisingly easy three-game upset over Adrienne Fisher in round of 32 and a win over Susy Acosta in the 16’s.

Strong junior development programs and tremendous enthusiasm are the secrets to the Mexican’s success. Droves of kids are introduced to the game each year in Mexico City and Chihuahua, and the energy at Mexican tournaments rival U.S. events from the late 1970’s. In coaching the U.S. Junior Team against the Mexican Junior Team almost a decade ago, I was impressed with the solid fundamental stroke mechanics and the fierce competitive drive of the Mexican players. In those days, it was only greater experience that allowed the U.S. to prevail in international competition. Now that the Mexicans are more seasoned, it would not surprise me in the least to see a decade of domination.

BUY
A beer for Shawn Royster the next time you see him. Shawn is one of the entrepreneurs who will lead racquetball to the next level. His Royster Productions filmed the US OPEN, and without his efforts and sponsorship of the sport, we would not have been able to fully maximize our opportunity with the Tennis Channel.

SELL
Your old racquetball racquets on eBay, and buy some new ones. With the holidays over, it is likely that you can get a good deal on some frames at your local Sports Authority or Wal-Mart.

HOLD
Sudsy Monchik’s early retirement. When Sudsy announced his retirement prior to the beginning of this season, there was still some hope of a rivalry and a joint “Kane-Huczek” era. This season, and symbolically, the 2004 US OPEN, removed all doubt as to whose era this will be. Many fans now believe that only Sudsy has the game to stay with Kane, and I know that he has received a flood of emails and phone calls imploring him to step into the breach. With Kane appearing more dominant than Sudsy was at his best and Cliff Swain’s resurgence, how could Sudsy’s competitive juices not be boiling?
PLAY ASHAWAY TO WIN

Ashaway Strings Make You A Winner Like World Racquetball Champion Jack Huczek

ASHAWAY-WORLDWIDE LEADER IN RACQUETBALL STRING
PowerKill®17 • PowerKill® Pro • SuperKill® 17 • SuperKill® II • SuperKill® XL MonoKill™ XL • KillFire® XL • KillFire® Pro

ASHAWAY RACKET STRINGS P.O. Box 549, Ashaway, RI 02804 • 800-556-7260 • Visit our web site at ashawayusa.com
INTRODUCING

EXTENDS MAIN STRING LENGTH INCREASING POWER LEVEL TO \(2500!\)

Power Rings in the throat creating Ektelon’s most powerful racquet ever!

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.ektelon.com