INSIDE the WPRO

PLUS:
• National Singles
• Junior Olympics
STACK THE DECK in your favor with HEAD's new line of amazing new YOUTEK power racquetball racquets featuring revolutionary d3o technology. With three different lightweight frames to choose from, HEAD arms you with the state of the art technology you need to overpower every opponent. Don't gamble with your success on the court, and get your hands on a Blackjack, Full House, or Royal Flush today!
USA Racquetball is the National Governing Body for the sport of racquetball, recognized by the United States Olympic Committee, and is committed to excellence and service to our members. We provide the infrastructure and organization for racquetball. We also provide competitive opportunities for members and enthusiasts through our coordination of racquetball organizations, development and administration of rules and programs, sanctioning of events and development of teams for international competition.

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

Objectives:

- **MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT** - USAR values its members and will strive to provide the best possible member services at all levels.

- **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT** - USAR believes that racquetball is a lifetime endeavor and the benefits of health, recreation, and competition should be available to everyone. USAR will strive to expand its membership in order to share these benefits with as many players and supporters as possible.

- **PROMOTION OF THE SPORT** - in order to sustain a strong player base USAR will promote the numerous benefits of participation through mass marketing efforts.

- **COMPETITIVE SUCCESS** - USAR strives to maintain America's position as the number one racquetball nation in the world. Success at the elite levels has a positive influence on every other facet of our sport.

- **SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS** - USAR values its relationship with sponsors and will continue to maximize benefits and exposure.
Junior Racquetball is in CRISIS

Attendance at the recent Junior Nationals in Minneapolis indicates that junior racquetball is in a crisis situation. In order to determine possible reasons for the current situation, members of the Junior Committee met with parents and coaches to discuss the situation. Although no one fact seemed to surface as the major cause for the decline, the following factors appear to be contributing issues:

- Economic conditions make it difficult for families to attend events.
- Many clubs do not allow juniors under fourteen years old to play.
- There exists huge competition from other school sports.
- Lack of support from state associations stalls junior development. In most states, no one person has responsibility for organizing and maintaining a viable junior program.

Leadership seems to be the one overriding critical success factor. Although USA Racquetball earmarked considerable funds for junior development in 2010, few states applied for these grants. This indicates that many states either simply do not have leadership to spearhead the project; do not have the resources to even make use of the funds and thus do not apply; or have no particular inspired interest in junior racquetball development.

The consensus of opinion is that without national and state leadership, junior programs will not develop.

USAR is making a committed effort to contact every state to determine the reasons for the lack of involvement. I encourage every person interested in junior racquetball to contact their state organization, ask questions, get involved, and volunteer to help initiate a plan to get new juniors involved in racquetball.

The statement, "Juniors are the future of our sport," is no cliché – it’s a fact.
One serve vs. two... following are excerpts from a recent message from IRT President Jason Mannino discussing their recent rule change, back to two serves effective 9/9/10. (For Jason's full article, visit www.irt-tour.com.)

“After considering over twenty proposed rules changes designed to increase fan excitement and enjoyment, the IRT Board of Directors recently voted to bring two serves back to the pro game.” (Here Jason provided some historical texture surrounding the IRT’s move to one serve that occurred back in 1990.)

“Many people believed switching to one serve would increase the importance of the rally and round out the game.”

(But) “While one serve emphasized the rally, it also led to a lob serve generation of players. They are excellent at hitting accurate lob serves, and they are equally skilled at returning lob serves. While the rallies are still exciting, there are actually fewer rallies! Who would have thought that going to one serve would lead to fewer rallies?

“It is impossible to know what the unintended consequences will be of the rule change, but we think it’s going to be exciting. The change undoubtedly will help some players and hurt others. ... When a player falls behind in a match, maybe having two serves will offer a greater opportunity to mount a comeback. We think fans will love seeing the return of the crack ace and powerful serve and shoot game styles.”

Jason, I agree — it’s an exciting change... looking forward to the coming season!

Will USAR also change to two serves for Open divisions? Well, because the International Racquetball Federation has a one-serve-for-Open rule, USA Racquetball has felt it makes sense to follow suit. For the sake of consistency, though, and for the reasons Jason Mannino highlights above, Jim Hiser and I agree that we would indeed like to see Open divisions go to two serves. We’ll be engaging in dialogue with the IRF on this.

As far as USA Racquetball’s own proposed rule changes of the past season, after taking into account the input of our members, the Board of Directors discussed each one and voted in Houston at our Annual Meeting. National Rules Commissioner Otto Dietrich published this on USARacquetball.com: “The Board of Directors approved the rule limiting the length of the wrist cord; rejected the ‘one serve for all open AGE divisions’; and decided to revisit the penalty for “serving out-of-order” in light of some newly offered factors.” (On the latter, see the current poll on the website.)

On the verge of the new season, I want to put in a plug for volunteerism and support. There are so many ways we can each make a difference in this world, and so many worthwhile organizations are hoping for donations of time and money to keep their objectives moving forward. As we move into 2010/2011 season, please consider keeping USA Racquetball on your personal list of worthwhile organizations. To fulfill our mission of keeping this great sport alive and well for future generations, my favorite quote, “None of us is as good as all of us” (Ray Kroc) comes heavily into play. In demonstration of this concept, Jack Huczek, our Board VP, is currently organizing the committees as we do each year right about now. If you have business skills and expertise - or just plain old passion for this sport - and would like to participate, specific committee information is available on the website. Please contact Jack, Jim Hiser or me if you have interest in participating on a USAR committee. Keep in mind, too, that our state associations are always looking for great folks to help out.

To all the volunteers out there, and to all of those who have provided financial support in any amount, large or small, please accept my gratitude and that of the Board of Directors and USAR Staff. You are deeply appreciated.

By the time you read this, the IRF World Championships in Korea will be in the record books. But as this article is emerging from my mind and heart today, I simply have to end with this:

Carson, Croft, Gudinas, Huczek, Paraiso, Rajsich, Ruiz and Williams -- we’re so proud of you!

GO TEAM USA!!
ROJAS: I’VE GOT NEXT!

The 2010/2011 season is looking good for the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) and its fans, as well as for up-and-coming rookie Jose Rojas of Stockton, CA. He is one of a number of new faces likely to shape the tour over the next few years. Less than two years ago, the 20-year-old turned his sights on his ranking and by the end of last year’s 09/10 season had climbed to #10 in the world. By most accounts, this talented college junior has not only “arrived” but is running ahead of schedule, focused on elevating his ranking even higher in the upcoming season as he continues to successfully balance academics and the pro tour.

In September 2008 at the Motorola World Championships, Rojas decided to make his move in the pro ranks after dominating juniors internationally since he was a small child. It was there in Denver that he demonstrated his readiness for the pros by getting past three rounds of veterans to the round of sixteen before #4 Alvaro Beltran stopped him. Six months later at the Canoga Park Open, while still a teenager, Rojas again stunned the competition with consecutive wins over IRT’s #6 and #5 players, Shane Vanderson and Jason Mannino, before Rocky Carson put the brakes on his run.

Such early composure has drawn some initial comparisons between Rojas and the sport’s biggest names. While also still in their teens, Sudsy Monchik and Kane Waselenchuk took a leisurely four tries in the pro division to reach the semifinals. Maybe the pressure of such comparisons was a distraction to Rojas at his next pro event in San Diego, where he lost in the Round of 64 to Mexico’s Polo Gutierrez. However, apparently undaunted, he finished the 2008/09 season with U.S. Intercollegiate and Junior National titles and returned in ’09/10 to make the sixteens in every appearance. His season was punctuated by an impressive quarterfinal showing at the 2009 U.S. Open.

Rojas is highly touted in part due to his extensive achievements as a junior, and he has spent most of his life in what has turned out to be successful preparation for a grand entrance to the pro level. In addition to his obvious physical and mental gifts, he has been getting excellent training and support for years. He was introduced to the game at age six by his dad Miguel Rojas, from whom he has received continual guidance and encouragement. Around that same time, he began working on game fundamentals with Coach Jody Nance, an experienced and successful junior instructor in Stockton. Rojas still has Nance’s support, enhanced by close mentor relationships with Coaches Dave and John Ellis and physical fitness trainer Jessie Serna. All play a large day-to-day role in Rojas’ professional training.

Coach Dave Ellis, whose influence now spans three generations of successful pros, speaks highly of Rojas, saying, “Jose brings to the IRT a lot of experience, tremendous skill, and personal charm. He comes to the pro tour with the support of his coaches and his friends from his hometown. His game is reaching new levels, as it must to be able to compete with the professional talent that is the IRT. Yet, in spite of his success as a junior, he remains very humble and very approachable.”

For the time being, in breaking into the top ten, Rojas has already made it to a level many players aspire toward for years but do not achieve. In doing so at such an early age, he has increased his opportunity for continued success and record-breaking in the sport. But like any rookie, he is going to have to work his way up an intimidating ladder of veterans as well as compete against a field of diverse incoming competitors. It will take some time to see what percentage of his initial promise is realized, but so far, especially for Rojas and the IRT fans, the prospects are good.

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**International Racquetball Tour 2010-2011 Schedule**

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<td>August 27-29</td>
<td>WPRO TEXAS OPEN IRT SATELLITE - DALLAS TX</td>
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<td>September 9-12</td>
<td>GHOST OF GEORGETOWN - KANSAS CITY, KS</td>
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<td>September 15-19</td>
<td>CALI COLOMBIA GRAND SLAM - CALI, COLOMBIA</td>
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<td>November 5-7</td>
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<td>January 27-30</td>
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<td>LEWIS DRUG ProAm - SIOLUX FALLS, SD</td>
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<td>February 4-6</td>
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<td>February 11-13</td>
<td>KEYSTONE CLASSIC - WINNIPEG, CANADA</td>
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<td>February 17-20</td>
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<td>TORNADO ALLEY OPEN - WICHITA FALLS, TX</td>
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<td>February 24-27</td>
<td>SAN DIEGO OPEN - SAN DIEGO, CA</td>
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<td>LEAMINGTON RACQUETBALL CLASSIC - LEAMINGTON, CANADA</td>
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<td>March 17-19</td>
<td>SALT LAKE CITY ProAm - SALT LAKE CITY, UT</td>
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<td>March 18-20</td>
<td>NORTHWEST OPEN - BELLINGHAM, WA</td>
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<td>March 24-27</td>
<td>ST. LOUIS OPEN - ST. LOUIS, MO</td>
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<td>April 1-3</td>
<td>TOPEKA OPEN - TOPEKA, KS</td>
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<td>April 7-10</td>
<td>SOUTH CAROLINA OPEN</td>
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<td>April 14-17</td>
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<td>April 28-May 1</td>
<td>ALISO VIEJO ProAm - ALISO VIEJO, CA</td>
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<td>May 5-6</td>
<td>BOSTON ProAm - BOSTON, MA</td>
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<td>May 6-8</td>
<td>CANADIAN RACQUETBALL CLASSIC</td>
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<td>May 12-15</td>
<td>COSTA RICA OPEN - SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA</td>
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<td>July 22-24</td>
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Dates subject to change. Check [http://irt-tour.com](http://irt-tour.com) for the latest updates.
"The only proper way to check for a broken ball is to squeeze it by hand."

If the "racquet" is called a "racquetball racquet," then why not call the ball a "racquetball ball"?

I'm just being silly.

While the ball manufacturers try to prevent premature breakage, every now and then a ball is bound to break. At this year's U.S. National Singles Championship, a "broken ball" issue arose that puzzled the players and the referee. I thought that sharing the outcome of this issue might prove interesting to those who want to know more about the finer rules of the game.

The specific situation in Houston involved a rally that had just concluded. The player who won the rally called a time-out and both players immediately left the court. When they returned to the court, one of them picked up the ball and started hitting it again before the referee called the score. But the ball broke during one of his strokes. A question arose about the previous rally — does it stand or is it replayed?

Because both players and the referee were unsure, I was called in. I referred them to Rule 3.13(f) that states "(f) Broken Ball. If there is any suspicion that a ball has broken during a rally, play shall continue until the end of the rally. The referee or any player may request the ball be examined. If the referee decides the ball is broken, the ball will be replaced and the rally replayed. The server resumes play at first serve. The only proper way to check for a broken ball is to squeeze it by hand. (Checking the ball by striking it with a racquet will not be considered a valid check and shall work to the disadvantage of the player or team that struck the ball after the rally.)"

Since you cannot break a ball by squeezing it with your hand, but you can break it with the force of a racquet hit...this rule makes good sense.

There are some other "broken ball" situations that may also warrant your attention, since their resolution is slightly different under certain circumstances.

More specifically, if the ball is broken when the server serves (and before the receiver hits it), then after the ball is replaced and only THAT particular serve is repeated. By that, I mean if the ball broke on the "second" serve, then the server only gets another "second" serve. But if, instead, the ball breaks on either the return of the serve or at any time during the rally, then after the ball is replaced, the server serves again beginning with his "first" serve — even if that return or the rally was begun on a "second" serve.

Look for further clarification of this rule in September.

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://usra.org/Rulebook.aspx. As soon as the new rule limiting the wrist cord and the penalty for serving out-of-order goes into effect on September 1st, you will be able to see the latest rules on-line, even though new rulebooks may not have been printed by then.

Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email ODietrich@usra.org and not only will I answer it, but you just might find it featured in an upcoming issue of Racquetball.
Let's start to Build Your Championship Racquetball Game one assessment at a time so we can make sure you are always completing the "Sports Triangle" we explained in the Winter 2010 issue of this magazine.

Hopefully you've had a chance to take all four assessments we covered in the Spring 2010 issue: Racquetball Skills, Mental Skills, Fitness Skills, and Nutrition Skills, so you can gauge where you are in your game. These scores will clearly tell you what level of player you are in each area. With this information, you will now know what you have to work on in order to start down the road to Becoming the Champion you want to be.

Now let's get started on "Making You a Champion" by Building Your Championship Racquetball Game.

**Percentage Shot Selection:**
By taking the right shot at the right time, making your opponent run the furthest distance to get to the ball, and hitting the most effective shot in that given situation based on where you are on the court and your ability level; the BALL's height/speed and angle, YOUR OPPONENT's position; and The SCORE; you are using what we call "Percentage Shot Selection." Hitting a percentage shot generally puts your opponent in the most difficult position to score and may even force him to hit off balance causing lots of unforced errors.

Jason Mannino states it simply:
"Taking the correct shot has a domino effect on many different areas. For instance, on the return of serve if a player can be offensive enough with a passing mentality, then that will keep the server off balance and put him deeper in the court in a position to cause more unforced errors. On the contrary, if a player is too offensive off of the return of serve with a kill mentality, he will likely be susceptible to unforced errors himself and that will help keep the server in the front court in scoring opportunity. These return of serves help determine which serves will be effective. The same holds true during the rally; you want to use shots that make your opponent run the furthest distance to the ball, keeping him off balance and deeper in the court, causing more mistakes. Skating the "offensive line" is very difficult as there is little space between too offensive and not offensive enough."

Now, let's take a quick look at some other sports where "percentage shot selection" works, too.

1 - Basketball - If you had one second left in a game and you were down by one point would you want to take a lay-up, a foul shot or a three-pointer? Obviously, a lay-up is the highest percentage of all three shots and you'd have a GREATER chance of scoring and winning the game.

2 - Football - If you were down by two points with three seconds left, would you want to hit a field goal from two yards, 20 yards or 40 yards out? Obviously, from two yards out as it is the highest percentage chance that you'd score and win the game.

3 - Golf - If you were putting on the green and you were down by a stroke would you want to putt when you were inches away from the hole or a few feet? Obviously, you would want to be inches from the hole as the percentages are higher and you'd have a greater chance of getting the golf ball in the hole.

4 - Racquetball is NO DIFFERENT. If the score is 14 to 14 and you are serving and you can win the game on a kill or a pass shot, always go for the pass as that is the highest percentage shot - it has the most room for error. This mentality will win you more games/matches.

**Mental Skills**

The Art of Visualizing
The #1 technique in maintaining mental toughness is visualization. It is the art of creating images in your mind of perfect technique and performance and allowing these images to become imprinted into your muscle memory. The best athletes do this naturally without even knowing it. Every athlete needs to understand that this is the key to perfecting consistent performance.

Your MIND is an amazing instrument. It does not know the difference between a vividly imagined picture and reality. The right side of your brain thinks in pictures, not words. Every image you create in your mind sends a 30% neural-electrical response to the exact muscles that you are using in the image. All of this is done instantaneously. It is truly amazing.

Below are the four steps of how to visualize for the deepest and most accurate visualization session.

Step #1 - Nostril Breathing
Step #2 - Relax Muscles
Step #3 - Clear Your Mind
Step #4 - Emotional Calmness

There are two ways to visualize; through your own eyes and through a camera view. Top level professional athletes are able to do both, which is a byproduct of their focus.

Jason puts it this way:
"I ALWAYS visualize EACH and EVERY DAY, several times a day. To me it is imperative so I can perform at my VERY BEST. When I visualize it is positive, such as...I win the point; I serve successfully to force a weak return; I raise my arms in victory. I like to visualize playing both players that are feeding into me in a tournament so that I am not surprised at which one I have to play, and visualizing on the other player may help me combat the unexpected."
**FITNESS SKILLS**

**Speed and Power**

SPEED can be defined as getting from point A to point B as quickly as possible; in other words, “moving faster.” There are five kinds of speed:

- Speed # 1 Starting Speed
- Speed # 2 Foot Speed
- Speed # 3 Hip Speed
- Speed # 4 Backpedal Speed
- Speed # 5 Change of Direction Speed

In our book *Championship Racquetball* (due for release by the end of 2010), these five speeds are covered in detail and we offer specific exercises for each. Just know you have to be proficient in all five in order to be the best player you can be and become a champion. We will also teach you not only how to get faster, but move more efficiently, another key to success. You will learn sprint exercises, ladder drills, backward moving, slalom drills with cones, shuffle drills and much, much more.

POWER is represented by speed over time. In other words, how quickly and with what certain force can you move? Or in sports, we think of “explosion” when we think of power. We will also teach you from the book how to develop more power by using lunges, crossover steps, the medicine ball and safe box jumps.

Note: You can gather information online to get started. Try www.SpeedQuest.com.

Jason says:

“I train ‘sport specifically,’ so most of my routines are simulations of what I do on the court such as explosive short step drills, moving in multiple directions, jumping, stretching, plyometrics, and core training. My typical speed/power workouts are usually under an hour. In our book, *Championship Racquetball*, we break down how many days a week you should be doing these workouts, but it is based on what ‘training schedule’ and during what ‘time of the season’ you are working out. But the bottom line is, speed and power workouts are a must and should be part of your training if you want to become that champion that lies within you.”

**Dehydration**

Dehydration is undoubtedly the #1 cause of poor performance. Even if you become slightly dehydrated, you instantly lose power, speed and accuracy. Your brain, muscles and all neural-electrical connections need enough body water and fluids in order to perform at their best. Therefore you want to make sure you drink plenty of water...the best for hydration.

Start with hydrating your body with at least 60-100 oz. of water each day. If you stay hydrated, you will have better co-ordination, reflexes, power, speed, accuracy and timing; your focus and concentration will be sharper.

According to Jason:

“I carry around a gallon jug everywhere I go. I start to hydrate two days before each match and I drink 12 oz. of water each hour before as well as after my match. I know I am drinking enough when I live in the bathroom.”

**NUTRITION SKILLS**

Hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction. Or, buy my video if you can’t make a camp at this time. Also, my racquetball book and on-line coaching program will be released Fall 2010. For details go to www.FranDavisRacquetball.com.

Fran Davis coaches Jason Mannino (#4 IRT Pro Player) and Paola Longoria (#1 WPRO Pro Player). She is one of the Master Instructors of the new USA Racquetball Instructor Program.

Diana McNab is a renowned sports psychologist who has worked with many Olympic and professional athletes such as two-time Olympian and X-Games Half Pipe Snowboarding Champion Gretchen Bleier, three-time Canadian Olympic Team Skier Emily Brydon as well as NHL hockey players and other elite athletes in many sports.

Dan Obrenski developed the FASTFIT Training System twelve years ago with an emphasis on helping athletes develop all of their movement skills. FASTFIT is an acronym for “Fitness Agility Speed Training For Individuals and Teams.” He is a member of the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame and has won several national and world championships.
Wow, what a week! The 2010 Junior Olympic National Championships conducted in Minneapolis are over and in the record books, and all we can say is, AWESOME! There were quality matches in every division as U.S. Junior Team appointments and National Championships were up for grabs. Bragging rights for “top state” were also on the line. This year’s tournament had a surprisingly low turnout as only 154 players made the trip to Minnesota. The USAR Junior Committee is very interested in your input on this issue. If you have any thoughts on this situation, please feel free to email us at usarjuniorzone@gmail.com. We are working as hard as we can to find the solution to this challenge, and your opinion is very valuable.

The state competition was won by Oregon; they scored a whopping 620 points, which brings me to the subject of this month’s article: Creating a Team Atmosphere. Every state has a group of kids that travel around to local tournaments and for the most part end up playing each other time after time. Soon, a “pecking order” is established and then the problems can start. Kids naturally want to succeed at their endeavors and when things begin to seem futile they tend to go in a different direction rather than try to get better. This is generally more true with the younger kids than it is with the older ones; however, it still exists, and this is where the “Team” concept can help.

For starters, come up with a team name. Here in Michigan we use either Junior Team Michigan, which is the one used for general tournaments, or Michigan Mafia, which is used for the team we take on the road. Both of these have logos that I made up using the logo maker software I like so well. I have created stickers and bag tags for both and hand them out to the kids. These can be made for a low cost so it doesn’t become a burden, and kids love to place the stickers on everything.

Once you have the name, start getting the kids and parents on board. Come up with a simple schedule of one-day events that are geared only to the team kids. Recruit some of your adult open players to help with simple instruction. Most times they are very willing and the kids already look up to these players so they will really listen to what they have to say. These “training days” will help get the kids together in a non-competitive environment which helps cool off any big rivalries that may have started to build. Don’t be afraid to ask your local racquet manufacturer representatives for free prizes. Stuff like headbands and t-shirts are usually available for the asking.

As soon as you have your core group established, try to work with the parents to develop a schedule of tournaments they can all attend locally. If you have older kids, get them to start entering the adult divisions. This will create the leaders of the team and get the other kids to start cheering and lending support to their teammates, kind of a David and Goliath thing. It gives the kids a common goal and strengthens the team as a whole. Try to pick one tournament a year as a travel event, either your area Regional tournament or the Junior Nationals. In these situations, the whole team will be rooting for each other as you take on kids from outside your state, and one other thing will happen: your players and the other players will seek each other out and begin to build the friendships that we come to know so well in this game.

Don’t be afraid to try fundraising for this type of event. In Michigan, we’re able to get the support of our adult players without a problem, in fact many of them remember their days on previous junior teams and will readily help out; all you need to do is ask. State associations can be another source of funding; some have money set aside for helping out junior programs.

This has been a very quick and condensed synopsis of the team concept. Remember it only takes a couple of kids to start. Once you get going, others will want to be involved. Always take time to talk to new parents and don’t assume that they understand what is going on. Be patient and help them feel comfortable with what is happening. You never know when you may be talking to your next big supporter. Email us at usarjuniorzone@gmail.com with any question or comments you have related to the team concept or to junior development in general. If you need help developing a team logo, we will be more than happy to do what we can to get you started. Who knows, maybe you will become the next “Oregon!”
At the National Singles awards banquet in Houston over Memorial Day weekend, soon-to-be-retiring Master Chief Kevin Brylski struck an impressive image in his “choker” whites as he announced Kimo Hansen as the 2010 recipient of the 2010 MRF Outstanding Achievement Award.

Kimo has served in the U.S. Army for 22 years, with three tours of service in the Middle East on Apache helicopters. His pride in serving his country is matched only by his infectious enthusiasm for racquetball. Kimo is an inspiration to the MRF for his boundless energy and drive to bring as many folks into this sport as he can.

The MRF chose Kimo in recognition of his diligent work on the Iron Horse Open event in Texas, raising over $2,000 for the families of the shooting victims at Fort Hood, Texas this past November. Kimo is also appreciated for the example he sets as we work towards building additional base chapters. On behalf of the MRF, congratulations to Kimo Hansen.
The 22nd Annual Women's Senior/Masters National Racquetball Championships will be held Jan 14-16, 2011 at the Highlands Ranch Recreation Center in Littleton, CO (Denver area). This is the first time that the tournament will be in Colorado and we plan to be “Rockin’ the Rockies”! This will be a great tournament at an outstanding facility. Bring some friends! Plan to come early or stay late for some skiing. You will have fun, meet new friends and play a lot of racquetball. You are never out of the draw at this singles round-robin tournament. The tournament is for all women 35 and over, and we offer Open/A and B/C (intermediate) divisions for all age groups.

Many extra events are planned for the 2011 tournament. The annual “Fun Doubles to Benefit Breast Cancer Research” will be the afternoon of January 13th. This provides a great opportunity to get used to the courts and the altitude. Wilson Racquetball plans to sponsor a clinic by a top WPRO during the tournament. There will be time for sightseeing in the Denver area. In addition, the tournament organizers have planned an exciting post-tournament ski trip to the Breckenridge ski area.

The WSMRA is an organization dedicated to promoting racquetball as a lifetime sport. Our members are women 35 and over who want to compete at a high level and have fun at the same time. We sponsor our yearly national tournament of self-refereed, round robin play within age groups. All matches in the tournament count in the current USAR ranking system. At this event, you will not only find yourself competing against some of the best women players in the country, but you will have a great time doing it. We stress fun, friends and good sportsmanship. The WSMRA is continuing its long-time partnership with our national sponsor, Wilson Racquetball.

For more information, pictures, results, entry forms and the flyer for the 2011 tournament (including ski trip information), please visit our web site at www.wsmra.com or contact Kendra Tutsch at kdtutsch@wisc.edu.

Please Note: Entry forms will NOT be mailed out this year. Please enter at R2Sports (www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=7190) by January 7, 2011 or download the entry form and have it postmarked by January 5, 2011. We look forward to seeing you in beautiful Colorado!
On November 24, 2007, racquetball lost one of the truly good guys in any sport. A long-time indoor and outdoor racquetball player and ambassador, Greg Sheffield served as National Racquetball Director for LA Fitness. He was loved by all who knew him.

As a player, Greg Sheffield was the epitome of sportsmanship and class. In his honor, a new annual tradition was established: The Sheffield Award.

The inscription on the plaque says:

“Presented to the Outdoor Racquetball Player Who Exhibits Honor, Integrity and True Love for Growing the Game”

This year’s winner is Geoff Osberg of Hollywood, California. One year ago Geoff accepted the volunteer position of WOR State Director in California. In that role, Geoff has been unwavering in his efforts and a true ambassador for outdoor racquetball.

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**2010 WOR NATIONAL TEAM**

**SINGLES**

1. Men’s Pro Singles Rocky Carson CA  
2. Men’s Open Singles Andy Hawthorne OH  
3. Men’s A Singles David Chirco MI  
4. Men’s B Singles Kyle Merritt CA  
5. Men’s C Singles Tony Marchegiano CA  
6. Men’s 40+ Singles Rob Mijares FL  
7. Men’s 50+ Singles Brad Quarty CA  
8. Women’s Pro/Open Singles Paola Longoria TX  
9. Women’s A Singles Engracia Powell FL  
10. Junior Boys 18+ Singles Jose Diaz CA  
11. Junior Boys 14+ Singles Robby Mijares FL  
12. Junior Boys 12+ Singles Evan Wargo FL  
13. Junior Boys 10+ Singles Evan Wargo FL  
14. Junior Boys 8+ Singles Vinny DiSalvo FL  
15. Junior Boys 8+ Multi-Bounce Vinny DiSalvo FL  
16. Junior Girls 10+ Singles Graciana Wargo FL  
17. Junior Girls 8+ Singles Graciana Wargo FL  
18. Junior Girls 8+ Multi-Bounce Graciana Wargo FL

**DOUBLES**

19. Men’s Pro Doubles Mike Peters CA  
20. Men’s Open Doubles Yelandi Rivero FL  
21. Men’s A Doubles Jose Canizares FL  
22. Men’s B Doubles Richard Perez CA  
23. Men’s C Doubles Tony Marchegiano CA  
24. Men’s 40+ Doubles Mark Maupin Rob Mijares (Tie) FL  
25. Men’s Centurian Open Doubles Greg Lewerenz MI  
26. Women’s Pro Open Doubles Rhonda Rajsich AZ  
27. Women’s A Doubles Lan Huy Nh Engracia Powell (Tie) FL  
28. Mixed Pro Open Doubles Yoonie Garcia FL  
29. Mixed Elite Doubles Roland Grassl Debra Garrett-Woods (Tie) CA CA  
30. Mixed A Doubles Engracia Powell FL  
31. Mixed B Doubles Gary Wargo Kathleen Wargo (Tie) FL FL  
32. Junior Boys 14+ Doubles Robby Mijares FL  
33. Junior Boys 12+ Doubles Evan Wargo FL
Nominations for the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame are due November 1, 2010. The Racquetball Hall of Fame is maintained to recognize and honor those athletes and contributors who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in competition, or in the development, leadership and advancement of the sport. The award is based upon years of consistent excellence in one or more of the following areas:

**COMPETITOR**
In either an amateur or professional field, the person must have influenced other competitors with his or her performance through any or all of the following: high performance standards, sportsmanship and fair play, competitive techniques, persistent and inspirational leadership.

**CONTRIBUTOR**
The person must have made a significant and noteworthy contribution that has left a lasting, positive effect on the advancement of the sport. The person’s efforts should have been devoted to the sport and organization of racquetball.

**NOMINATION CRITERIA**

**Contributor or Competitor.**

1. **Age Limit:** Candidate must be 40 years of age or older.

2. **Contributor:** Nominees must have been involved in racquetball at a state, regional, or national level for a minimum of ten (10) years.

3. **Competitor:**
   - **Professional:** Professionals may be nominated, once they have been retired from professional tour play for three (3) years or longer.
   - **Amateur:** Nominees must have exhibited outstanding performance at the national level in either singles or doubles play over an extended period of time.

4. **Eligibility:** Staff members or members of the respective IRT/WPRO/USAR Boards of Directors shall not be eligible for nomination until three years following their last employment by or service to one of the above associations.

The person presenting a nomination must obtain and submit a resume and complete a cover letter. This one-page cover letter should accurately summarize the resume.

If your cover letter and resume is in digital form, you may deliver it via email, or you can mail your package to both individuals listed:

**USAR Hall of Fame**
Eddie Meredith
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
emeredith@usra.org

AND

**USAR Hall of Fame**
Jim Easterling
321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911
djeasterling@earthlink.net

Please include your name, address, email, phone numbers, etc. in case we need to contact you for any additional information.
Ektelon is being recognized as the most reliable racquetball brand worldwide.

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FAREWELL HOUSTON
THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

by Leo R Vasquez

For the 28th consecutive (and final) year at the Downtown YMCA in Houston, the country's best racquetball players competed in the 2010 USA Racquetball National Singles Racquetball Championships presented by Head/Penn Racquet Sports. After many eventful and memorable matches over the years this was going to be the last National Singles at the historic YMCA. The venue will close and the new YMCA will not have enough courts to host the event. Read on to find out about our new location and host club...

**Wednesday** began as 177 matches kicked off the first day of competition for most of the larger divisions. There were 535 players competing in 77 divisions separated by age, skill, and age-skill. Military divisions were also offered. To accommodate the nearly 1,100 matches throughout the tournament, The Met Club and the Houston Center Club hosted players as well. The Dr. Pepper/Snapple Match of the Day was in the Men's 45+ where Bryan Titus (Suwanee, GA) defeated Matthew Christensen (Denver, CO), 15-2, 7-15, 11-10.

**Thursday** saw three generations of the Hicks family (Vine Grove, KY) take to the courts. Larry (dad), Jason (Larry's son) and Ray (Jason's 12-year-old son) all played matches that day, creating more special memories in Houston.

On top of a full week's worth of spirited competition, players also enjoyed special activities all week long beginning Thursday with the "Ladies' Night Out" party hosted by USAR President Cheryl Hawthorne, 14-15, 15-7, 11-2. The women escaped defeat over Rhonda Rajsich (Fountain Hills, AZ), 9-15, 15-13, 11-5. The "Cinderella Run" by Janel Tisinger continued as she defeated #4 Kerri Wachtel (Cincinnati, OH), 13-15, 15-11, 11-7.

At the Saturday night annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony, all were asked to wear their favorite countrywestern attire in salute to the great state of Texas. Three new members were inducted into the USAR Hall of Fame: Davey Bledsoe, Bret Harnett, and Larry Liles. Hall of Famers Jim Austin, Jim Winton and Fran Davis were on hand to witness the induction.

The Hyatt Grand Ballroom was filled with players and sponsors as awards were presented throughout the evening. Tom Fuhrmann and Leo Vasquez hosted the program as awards were given out to athletes of the year, contributors and career achievers: Aimee Ruiz and Jack Huczek (Athletes of the Year), Kimo Hansen (Inaugural Military Racquetball Achievement Award), Bob Frazier (Alabama; Presidential Award), TJ Ferro (posthumously: John Haiverson Fair Play Award), Malia Bailey (Peggy Steding Award), Frank Taddonio (Dr. Bud Muehleisen Award), and Randy Stafford (Joe Sobek Contributor Award).

Col. Ben Marshall (93) and Warren Bailey (11) were recognized as the oldest and youngest athletes at the event, at 82 years and 1 day apart! Michelle Sikorski was recognized as the John LoMonaco Memorial Grant winner (see article this issue). The night ended with a special video presentation of farewell to Houston, and Dick Bagby and Peyton Dorsett presented a generous monetary gift to USA Racquetball as they were thanked for their assistance in Houston over these many years.

**Sunday** was the day where national champions would be crowned and good-byes would be in abundance. With so many matches still being played, emotions ran high as the final day came to a close. Jimmy Lowe set the tone by grabbing two gold medals, in the Men's 40+ and Men's 45+ divisions. Following in Jimmy's footsteps were John O'Donnell, Jr. winning the Men's 75+ and the Men's 80+ divisions. Drew Finke won the Men's 25-A and Men's A divisions. Kolten Wencus won the Men's 24-C and Man's D. Tracy Hawthorne won the Women's 24-A and Women's A. Kelley Gremley took two, Women's 24-B, and Women's B, and Kelani Bailey won the Women's 24- and Women's Elite.

The Men's U.S. Team Qualifying division ended with Rocky Carson winning his fifth (and record breaking) U.S. National Singles title, defeating Jack Huczek in the finals. Cheryl Gudinas captured her 8th U.S. National Singles title, defeating Janel Tisinger in the finals of the Women's U.S. Team Qualifying division. Gudinas has tied Michelle Gould for most U.S. National Singles Women's Open/Team Qualifying titles.

Mark your calendars for next year as the USAR 44th National Singles Championships will be held at the Meridian Sports Club in Fullerton, CA. The event dates will be May 25-30, 2011.
2010 USA Racquetball National Singles Racquetball Championships

Award Winners

Jack Huczek - Male Athlete of the Year Award

Randy Stafford - Joe Sobek Outstanding Contribution Award

Kimo Hansen - MRF Award

Bob Frazier - Presidential Award

Malia Bailey - Peggy Steding Female Age Group Award

Frank Taddono - Bud Muenleisen Male Age Group Award

Aimee Ruiz - Female Athlete of the Year Award

TJ Ferro (deceased) - John Halverson Fair Play Award

Kimo Hansen - MRF Award
2010 USA RACQUETBALL NATIONAL SINGLES RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
HALL OF FAME

Larry Liles (r), presented by Charlie Mazzone

Bret Harnett (r), presented by Hank Marcus

Davey Bledsoe (r), presented by Randy Stafford

Davey Bledsoe, Larry Liles, & Bret Harnett
2010 USA RACQUETBALL NATIONAL SINGLES RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

MCs Leo Vasquez and Tom Fuhrmann

BEN MARSHALL AND WARREN Bailey
OLDEST AND YOUNGEST PLAYERS

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ITALIAN GRILL.
HEAD/PENN AMERICAN IDOL, MECHANICAL BULL
AND CASINO PARTY
Results 2010 USA Racquetball Championships

Men's Singles US Team Qualifying - Single Elimination
1st: Rocky Carson III - YMCA Saddleback, Ladena Ranch, CA
2nd: Jack Hucul - TriCity Club, TX
3rd: Andy Hawthorne - LifeCenter Mac, Sven, OH
4th: Chris Crawford - LA Fitness, Riverside, CA

Men's Singles Open - Single Elimination
1st: Anthony Herrera - Lynn Racquet and Health Club, Grand Junction, CO
2nd: Allan Crockett - University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, Birmingham, AL

Men's Singles Elite - Single Elimination
1st: Adam Ackerman - Dallas, TX
2nd: Raymond Muesas - Las Vegas Recreational Center, Albuquerque, NM
3rd: Mike Gaffney - Firewood, Bridgetown, NJ
4th: Brad Schoppe - Davison Athletic Club, Searsville, MI

Men's Singles A - Single Elimination
1st: Drew Finke - Concord Sports, St. Louis, MO
2nd: Paul Aludes - LA Fitness, Olympia, WA
3rd: Beno Petkovich - Bally, Colonie, NY
4th: Mike Patulano - HealthEast Providence, Warwick, RI

Men's Singles B - Single Elimination
1st: Gonzalo Castillo - LA Fitness, Eustis, Bedford, TX
2nd: Jerri Evans - Bally, Redwood, WA
3rd: Dina Protchenko - Bally, Bupa, OH
4th: Darioush Asafar - Courthouse Athletic Club, Salem, OR

Men's Singles C - Single Elimination
1st: Richard Rodriguez - University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, Tuscaloosa, AL
2nd: Heath Wanamaker - Westlake, Seattle, WA
3rd: Ralph Grahn - Schlessman - YMCA, Denver, CO
4th: Rick Morrison - Spectrum Forum, San Antonio, TX

Men's Singles D - Single Elimination
1st: Kollon Vavatas - Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
2nd: Curtis Pond - HealthTrax Fitness, Warwick, RI
3rd: Mitchell McCoy - Stephen F Austin State University Recreational Club, Nacogdoches, TX
4th: Gerald Oller - Las Vegas Recreational Center, San Jose, NM

Men's Military Singles Open A / Single Elimination
1st: Travis P. Passay - Langley AFB, Yorktown, VA
2nd: Troy VanDerheide - Houston AFB, Prairieville, LA
3rd: Rabbit Rogers - Idaho Athletic Club, Boise, Meridian, ID
4th: Mark Fiehman - Pentagon, Alexandria, VA

Men's Military Singles B / C - Single Elimination
1st: Michael Hall - Elmwood Fitness Center, New Orleans, LA
2nd: Ian Barnsley - MS Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, WA

Junior Singles 14/18 - Round Robin
1st: Roberto Labrador - William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA
2nd: William Craig - Triton Sports Center, San Antonio, TX
3rd: Ryan Kelly - Boston Athletic Club, Plymouth, MA
4th: Warren Bailey - Greenhouse North YMCA, Norfolk, VA

Men's Singles 24+ - Single Elimination
1st: Ian Allen - Colorado State University, Rice, TX
2nd: Matthew Barsan - California State University Fresno, Fresno, CA

Men's Singles 24- A - Single Elimination
1st: Anas Alsheh - University of Oregon, Salem, OR
2nd: Kenneth Green - Snyder Center, Biloxi, MS
3rd: Tyler Kendrick - Lockwood Martin Rec Center, Arlington, TX
4th: William Craig - Triton Sports Center, San Antonio, TX

Men's Singles 24+ B - Single Elimination
1st: Ian Allen - Courthouse Athletic Club, Salem, OR
2nd: Dima Protchenko - Bally, Issaquah, WA
3rd: Kevin Wynn - Auburn Racquet & Fitness, Meadow Ville, CA
4th: Will Gardner - LA Fitness Windwood, Alpharetta, GA

Men's Singles 24- C - Single Elimination
1st: Kollon Vavatas - Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
2nd: Mitchell McCoy - Stephen F Austin State University Recreational Club, Nacogdoches, TX
3rd: Andrew Fenton - William and Mary, Midlothian, VA
4th: Richard Rodriguez - University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, Tuscaloosa, AL

Men's Singles 25+ - Single Elimination
1st: Andy Hawthorne - LifeCenter Plus, Sven, OH
2nd: Marcelo Lapera - Houston, TX
3rd: Robert Bruner - YMCA - Downtown Houston, Houston, TX
4th: David Austin - LA Fitness Cherry Hill, Cherry Hill, NJ

Men's Singles 25+30+ - Single Elimination
1st: Drew Finke - Concord Sports, St. Louis, MO
2nd: Beno Shaw - JCC, Bel Air, MD
3rd: Mike Patulano - HealthEast Providence, Warwick, RI
4th: Jason Kennedy - LA Fitness, Rochester, MI

Men's Singles 25+ C - Single Elimination
1st: Teshawn Gartrell - LA Fitness, Irving, TX
2nd: Josh Green - Downtown Houston YMCA, Houston, TX
3rd: Justin McAden - TriCity AFB, Edmond, OK
4th: Sugavan Mollagurum - Skippy's Racquetball Club, Austin, TX

Men's Singles 30+ - Single Elimination
1st: Mike Orr - Sombrero Valley Racquetball & Fitness, La Jolla, CA
2nd: Jeff Bloom - Downtown Club at The Met, Houston, TX
3rd: Jason Sylvestor - NYC Health and Racquet, Hamlin, NY
4th: Raymond Mueses - Las Vegas Recreational Center, Albuquerque, NM

Men's Singles 30+ B - Round Robin
1st: Mike Cook - Northwest Athletic Club, Springdale, AR
2nd: Chris Poucher - LA Fitness, Atlanta, GA
3rd: Alonso Magno - Life Time Fitness, Houston, TX
4th: Drew Pappas - Carney Rec Center, Denver, CO

Men's Singles 30+ C - Round Robin
1st: Galahad Carreras - YMCA, Honolulu, HI
2nd: Heath Wanamaker - Westlake, Folsom, TX
3rd: Gerald Ortiz - Las Vegas Recreational Center, San Jose, NM
4th: Shown Wells - LA Fitness, Houston, TX

Men's Singles 35+ A - Single Elimination
1st: Dennis Negrete - LA Fitness, Schaumburg, IL
2nd: Bill Adams - LA Fitness, Sugarland, TX
3rd: Gustavo Torres - Houston, TX
4th: Mark Ruiz - Downtown Club At The Met, Kingwood, TX

Men's Singles 35+ B - Single Elimination
1st: Roger Hertzig - Humble, TX
2nd: Elo Tugo - LA Fitness, Houston, TX
3rd: John Khetche - LA Fitness, Wellington, FL
4th: Americo Ortega - Triton Sports Center, San Antonio, TX

Men's Singles 35+ C - Round Robin
1st: Brian Smith - LA Fitness, Farmers Branch, TX
2nd: Paul Gumbarg - Houstonian, Houston, TX
3rd: Lora McInnis - Jusay YMCA, Millwood, HI
4th: Keith Harper - Woodcreek Athletic Club, Tyro, TX

Men's Military Singles 40+ - Single Elimination
1st: Rabbit Rodgers - Idaho Athletic Club, Boise, Meridian, ID
2nd: Paul Juthues - LA Fitness, Olympia, WA
3rd: Ian Chin - Adelbert Gym, Nanaimo, BC
4th: Shawn Stone - Clinic Community College, Clovis, NM

Men's Singles 40+ - Single Elimination
1st: Jimmy Lowe - Houston, Wahiawa, HI
2nd: Richard Eamens - LA Fitness, Carrollton, TX
3rd: Bobby Ferrante - ASU Student Recreation Center, Glendale, AZ
4th: Keith Minor - LA Fitness, Channahon, IL

Men's Singles 40+ A - Single Elimination
1st: Jeffrey Walters - San Antonio, TX
2nd: Dennis Negrete - LA Fitness, Schaumburg, IL
3rd: Jeffery Eldad - Pentagon Athletic Center, Fort Washington, MD
4th: Chris Lamak - LA Fitness, Grand Prairie, TX

Men's Singles 40+ B - Single Elimination
1st: Jerry Evans - Bally, Redwood, WA
2nd: Richard Seaberg - LA Fitness, Northlake, Atlanta, GA
3rd: Michael Miller Jr - LA Fitness Northlake, Atlanta, GA
4th: Curtis Haines - YMCA - Downtown Houston, Houston, TX

Men's Singles 40+ C - Round Robin
1st: Curtis Ponder - Heatfrax Fitness, Warwick, RI
2nd: Lora McInnis - Jusay YMCA, Millwood, HI
3rd: Jon Coachman - LA Fitness - Klein, Houston, TX
4th: Keith Harper - Woodcreek Athletic Club, Truro, TX

Men's Singles 45+ - Single Elimination
1st: Jimmy Lowe - Houston, Wahiawa, HI
2nd: Jody Whiteman - Texas Health and Racquetball Club, San Marcos, TX
3rd: David Saboyski - LA Fitness, Atlanta, GA
4th: Keith Minor - LA Fitness, Channahon, IL
## Results 2010 USAR National Singles Championships

### Men's Age Singles 45+ A - Single Elimination
1st: Michael Keith Kaplan - Jewish Community Center/YMCA/THK MET/SCWC, Houston, TX
2nd: Rick Betts - Spectrum Club, Melfi, CA
3rd: Ian Chin - Adelphi Gym, Navarre, FL
4th: Gonzalez Castillo - LA Fitness, Euess, Bedford, TX

### Men's Age Singles 45+ B - Single Elimination
1st: John Shurert - Premier Fitness Center, Lubbock, TX
2nd: Bill Bearden - 24 Hour Fitness The Woodlands, The Woodlands, TX
3rd: Richard Seaberg - LA Fitness, North Aurora, IL
4th: Michael Dixon - 24 Hour Fitness, The Woodlands, TX

### Men's Age Singles 45+ C - Single Elimination
1st: William Coopwood - Downtown Houston YMCA, Pasadena, TX
2nd: Rick Morris - Spectrum Forum, San Antonio, TX

### Men's Age Singles 55+ A - Single Elimination
1st: Russ Montague - Lakewood, PA
2nd: Jim Bailey - Little Creek Naval Base, Norfolk, VA
3rd: Jim Hisc - Lynnra Racquet and Health Club, Colorado Springs, CO
4th: Russell Palazzo - YMCA, North Carolina, NC

### Men's Age Singles 55+ B - Single Elimination
1st: Rich Reed - Jewish Community Center/YMCA/THK MET/SCWC, Bellaire, TX
2nd: Mike Tandon - 360 Athletic Club, Calabasas, CA
3rd: John Patton - Healthtrax East Providence, Warwick, RI
4th: Don Schaefer - LA Fitness, Euess, Bedford, TX

### Men's Age Singles 60+ A - Single Elimination
1st: Donald Scheny - YMCA, Rochester, MI
2nd: Richard Gower - Davison Fitness, Wayne, MI
3rd: Michael Grosse - Rocky's Gym, Gunson, CO
4th: Wayne Harris - LA Fitness Roswell - West Marietta, GA

### Men's Age Singles 65+ A - Single Elimination
1st: Brad Parks - Rambler Fitness Center, Cibola, NM
2nd: Robert Lattanzio - Renaissance Club Sport, San Clemente, CA
3rd: Mickey Bell - Meridian Sports Club - Fullerton CA, Laguna Hills, CA
4th: Fredrick Roe - MarinFit Fitness, Santa Monica, CA

### Men's Age Singles 65+ B - Single Elimination
1st: John Ruston - LA Fitness, The Woodlands, TX
2nd: Carl Moody - Williams and Mary, Williamsburg, VA
3rd: Leon Stanley - Family Fitness Center, Hampton Cove, CA
4th: Lyric Pickard - Housto, TX

### Men's Age Singles 65+ C - Single Elimination
1st: Richard Gower - Davison Fitness, Wayne, MI
2nd: Ernesto Segura - Laredo Racquet Club, Laredo, TX

### Men's Age Singles 70+ - Single Elimination
1st: Joseph Capozzi - Club La Maison, Penn Valley, PA
2nd: Jim McPherson - Hot Springs Health & Fitness, Hot Springs Village, AR
3rd: Francis Ford - University of Wisconsin - Superior W, Superior, WI
4th: Leon Stanley - Family Fitness Center, Hampton Cove, AL

### Men's Age Singles 75+ - Single Elimination
1st: John O'Donnell Jr. - Fitness Center, Champaign, IL
2nd: Donald All - Dublin, OH
3rd: Jerry Holley - LA Fitness, Canyon Country, CA
4th: Charles Keiser - Life Time Fitness Center, Pittsburgh, OH
Results 2010 USAR National Singles Championships

Women's Singles C Group - 1 - Pool Play
1st: Nancy Davis - JCC, Saint Louis, MO
2nd: Leslie Book - Guadalupe Regional Wellness Fitness Center, Seguin, TX
3rd: Vanessa Smith - Babcock YMCA, Tampa, FL

Women's Singles C Group - 2 - Pool Play
1st: Andrea Feller - Ogden Athletic Club, Ogden, UT
2nd: Alonzo Dooley - New York, NY
3rd: Shelly Craig - Triton Sports Center, San Antonio, TX

Women's Singles C Group - 3 - Pool Play
1st: Cristina Cali - Elmwood Fitness Center, Hanahan, Metairie, LA
2nd: Rasa Smith - Spectrum Racquetball and Fitness, San Antonio, TX
3rd: Sherni Heard - Rhode Island College, Coventry, RI

Women's Singles C - Playoff
1st: Nancy Davis - JCC, Saint Louis, MO
2nd: Andrea Feller - Ogden Athletic Club, Ogden, UT
3rd: Cristina Cali - Elmwood Fitness Center, Hanahan, Metairie, LA

Women's Singles D Group - 1 - Pool Play
1st: Jessica Shield - Rhode Island College, Warwick, RI
2nd: Ingrid Castillo - SMU, Bedford, TX
3rd: Cindy Lockworth - LA Fitness, Houston, TX

Women's Singles D Group - 2 - Pool Play
1st: Dragana Bulatovic - LA Fitness, Wylie, TX
2nd: Amanda Billstone - LA Fitness, Houston, TX
3rd: Samantha Simeone - Rhode Island College, Coventry, RI

Women's Singles D Group - 3 - Pool Play
1st: Dustie Baker - Landmark Racquet and Health, Washington, IL
2nd: Melissa Demirjian - Rhode Island College, Warwick, RI
3rd: Hilary Switzer - Rhode Island College, Woonsocket, RI
4th: Mary Loys - LA Fitness, Katy, TX

Women's Singles D - Playoff
1st: Dustie Baker - Landmark Racquet and Health, Washington, IL
2nd: Jessica Shield - Rhode Island College, Warwick, RI
3rd: Dragana Bulatovic - LA Fitness, Wylie, TX

Women's Age Singles 24+ C Group - Round Robin
1st: Kelani Bailey - Greenbrier North YMCA, Norfolk, VA
2nd: Danielle Key - LA Fitness, Gilbert, AZ
3rd: Viviana Lagana - Metropolitan Racquet Club, Houston, TX
4th: Else Wilson - Orange Hollow, Haninan, NY

Women's Age Singles W24/25A/30A/35A - Round Robin
1st: Bernadette Zimmerman - LA Fitness, Carrollton, TX
2nd: Christa Davis - LA Fitness, Richmond, TX
3rd: Michelle Skulski - Downtown YWCA Colorado Springs, Black Forest, CO
4th: Tracy Hawthorne - Baldwin Wallace College, Seven Hills, OH

Women's Age Singles W24/25S - Round Robin
1st: Kelly Grenke - Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
2nd: Johanna Rogers - Corpus Christi Athletic Club, Corpus Christi, TX
3rd: Tish Rodgers - Life Time Fitness, Wylie, TX

Women's Age Singles 24+ C Group - Round Robin
1st: Sherni Heard - Rhode Island College, Coventry, RI
2nd: Hilary Switzer - Rhode Island College, Woonsocket, RI
3rd: Ingrid Castillo - SMU, Bedford, TX

Women's Age Singles 24+ C Group - 2 - Pool Play
1st: Leslie Book - Guadalupe Regional Wellness Fitness Center, Seguin, TX
2nd: Jessica Shield - Rhode Island College, Warwick, RI
3rd: Melissa Demirjian - Rhode Island College, Warwick, RI
4th: Samantha Simeone - Rhode Island College, Coventry, RI

Women's Age Singles 24+ C - Playoff
Finalist: Sherni Heard - Rhode Island College, Coventry, RI
Finalist: Jessica Shield - Rhode Island College, Warwick, RI
Semi-Finalist: Hilary Switzer - Rhode Island College, Woonsocket, RI
Semi-Finalist: Leslie Book - Rhode Island College, Woonsocket, RI

Women's Age Singles W24/25D/30D - Round Robin
1st: Cristina Cali - Elmwood Fitness Center, Hanahan, Metairie, LA
2nd: Nancy Davis - JCC, Saint Louis, MO
3rd: Alonzo Dooley - New York, NY
4th: Dustie Baker - Landmark Racquet and Health, Washington, IL

Women's Age Singles W24/25A - Round Robin
1st: Christie Nolt - YMCA, Santa Maria, CA
2nd: Lynn Hayslett - Life Time Fitness, Naperville, IL
3rd: Mirti Villanueva - YMCA - Victoria, Victoria, TX
4th: Claire Nolen - Premier, Lubbock, TX

Women's Age Singles W24/25B - Round Robin
1st: Laurie Welsh - LA Fitness Wellington, Wellington, FL
2nd: Phyllis Clay - Clay Mardon Rec Ctr, Round Rock, TX
3rd: Melanie Jones - The Club at Woodbridge, Aberdeen, NJ
4th: Rosie Gonzales - Gold's Gym Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX

Women's Age Singles W24/25C/30C/35C - Round Robin
1st: Ingrid Johnson - LA Fitness - Barker Cypress, Houston, TX
2nd: Andrea Feller - Ogden Athletic Club, Ogden, UT
3rd: Shelly Craig - Triton Sports Center, San Antonio, TX
4th: Cindy Lockworth - LA Fitness, Houston, TX

Women's Age Singles 45+ - Round Robin
1st: Anita Makonado - Bega, NSW, NY
2nd: Laura Brandt - LA Fitness, Southwest Ranches, FL
3rd: Debbie Birding - Camaday Rec Center, Littleton, CO
4th: Lorraine Galloway - Hampstead, MD

Women's Age Singles 50+ Group - 1 - Pool Play
1st: Malia Bailey - Greenbrier North YMCA, Norfolk, VA
2nd: Anita Makonado - Bega, NSW, NY
3rd: Cindy Thibodeau - Littleton Family YMCA, Denver, CO
4th: Kathy Gumaer-Judd - Oakridge, Moores, CA

Women's Age Singles 50+ Group - 2 - Pool Play
1st: Chris Enon - Lifestart, Wheeling, IL
2nd: Linda Moore - Lincoln Racquet Club, Lincoln, NE
3rd: Karen Simon - Health First, Cortland, NY
4th: Janice Vesica - Teton Athletic Club, Riverton, WY

Women's Age Singles 50+ - Playoff
1st: Malia Bailey - Greenbrier North YMCA, Norfolk, VA
2nd: Chris Enon - Lifestart, Wheeling, IL
3rd: Anita Makonado - Bega, NSW, NY
4th: Linda Moore - Lincoln Racquet Club, Lincoln, NE

Women's Age Singles W50X/55X Group - 1 - Pool Play
1st: Sandy Rice - Kerrville Family Sports Center, Kerrville, TX
2nd: Donna Cooper - LA Fitness, Hurst, TX
3rd: Ann Druad - Maverick Athletic Club, Collegeville, TX
4th: Cheryl Kirk - Glass Court, Naperville, IL

Women's Age Singles W50X/55X - Playoff
1st: Debbie Roberson - Clay Mardon Rec Center, Austin, TX
2nd: Aiaga Roffey - Athletic Club, Grand Junction, CO
3rd: Barbara Jinks - Bill Bartley Branch Family YMCA, Burbankett, TX
4th: Marjeta Molina - What A Racket, Waco, CA

Women's Age Singles W50X/55X - Playoff
1st: Debbie Roberson - Clay Mardon Rec Center, Austin, TX
2nd: Sandy Rice - Kerrville Family Sports Center, Kerrville, TX
3rd: Donna Cooper - LA Fitness, Hurst, TX
4th: Aiaga Roffey - Athletic Club, Grand Junction, CO

Women's Age Singles W55X - Round Robin
1st: Rhonda Jenkins - Clay Mardon Rec Center, Austin, TX
2nd: Marcia Richards - Littleton Family YMCA, Littleton, CO
3rd: Diana Matthews - Sports Courts, Lincoln, NE
4th: Shirley Parsons - West Rio Blanco Rec Dist, Rangeley, CO

Women's Age Singles W55X/70X - Round Robin
1st: Marjeta Molina - What A Racket, Waco, TX
2nd: Lala Morkos - Linne YMCA, Park Ridge, IL
3rd: Mildred Galloway - YMA - Dover, Woodstock, NC
4th: Nida Fuentes - Petaluma Valley Athletic Club, Novato, CA

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LoMonaco Award Winner Michelle Sikorski
Enjoys First Trip to National Singles

In memory of John LoMonaco who passed away on May 5, 2009, an anonymous friend donated an all expenses paid trip to Houston to the winner of the John LoMonaco Memorial Grant. Twenty-one applicants vied for the honor, and Michelle Sikorski of Colorado was chosen the winner. Following are her reflections on this chance-of-a-lifetime National Singles experience.

My father and I started out with some timing issues in getting to the airport. Because of the mix-up, I had to fly standby to Houston. However, it didn’t dampen my spirits. It’s rare when fathers make mistakes, but it is amusing to watch them panic when they do. This was a rare father-daughter moment! Next time, my father will remember to set the alarm to “AM” rather than “PM.” When I finally made it to Houston on Wednesday, I was surprised by the heat and humidity — very different from Colorado Springs. It felt like I was pushing my way through the air, which I swear you could actually see. Boy was it great to get into air conditioning!

Arriving at the hotel and seeing all of the players was a thrill. I was definitely ready for some racquetball action. I checked in and was very pleased with the host hotel. I had a great room with a beautiful view of Houston!

I met up with Cheryl Kirk, USAR President, who walked me through the YMCA and told me a little about the history of the club and the National Singles Championships. Then it was time for some racquetball!

I was able to watch my father play in his first event and meet up with a few friends from home who were playing. We had 21 players turn out to represent Colorado! In getting advice on competing at the national level, Marcia Richards, President of the Colorado Racquetball Association and a good friend, summed it up by saying, “Every match is like the finals in a regular tournament.” I soon realized how right she was!

On Thursday, I watched more friends’ matches and some of my “competition.” I also competed in my first match. It’s funny that I train a certain way before tournaments and, as soon as I stepped onto the court here, all of the preparation went right out the window! It was exciting, nerve wracking, and very difficult to concentrate with the new pressures of competing at this level. My opponent was tough and I ended up losing. I wasn’t very happy, but I did enjoy the match. I felt a little better as my opponent was a solid player and a good sport. As I continued to play, I discovered that all of my opponents were tough but, win or lose; they were all incredible people and became my friends. I am excited to have met these tremendous women athletes. Getting that first round match behind me helped me to settle my nerves and made me more comfortable on the court.

Jo Shattuck, I started to play better. I had some amazing games and real battles, but everyone was respectful and honest on the court. I won a few matches, lost a couple, and received a National Championship Gold medal in my age division.

Saturday night was the formal dinner during which we listened to the Hall of Fame inductees. It was an excellent “event within the event,” with an abundance of good food. I was surprised to see pictures of the racquetball legends in such short shorts, knee high socks, and small racquets that really did exist! It was intriguing to see some of the history of racquetball presented and that the stories my dad had told me while growing up were not just myths. That evening topped off an already amazing experience and made the tournament the best event I have attended in my racquetball career. I can’t wait for the next one!

I was able to attend this fantastic event due to the generosity of an anonymous donor providing a grant in the memory of John LoMonaco. I talked to quite a few people who knew John.

They described him as a great player, good sport, and a friend to many of the racquetball players. I met Kevin Barlia, who was John’s last opponent. He shared that he always enjoyed playing John. He said John was mentally tough. When John would get a little frustrated on the court, he would usually work through it and play even better. A number of people shared their memories of John: how he may have disagreed with some of the referees’ calls but instead of arguing, he would play out the match and always thank the referees for their efforts. How fantastic his serve was. How he would cross his hands over each other and make sure his serve was.

On Friday, I watched more matches and saw a man I had never seen before. He shared that he always enjoyed playing John. He said John was always tough. When John would get a little frustrated on the court, he would usually work through it and play even better. A number of people shared their memories of John: how he may have disagreed with some of the referees’ calls but instead of arguing, he would play out the match and always thank the referees for their efforts. How fantastic his serve was. How he would cross his hands over each other and make sure his footwork remained the same for each serve. I feel I almost know John after meeting all of his good friends who were willing to share “John stories” with me.

This was truly a unique and rewarding experience providing me with memories that will last a lifetime. I am deeply grateful to the anonymous donor and to the selection committee for their faith in selecting me. I thank my father for his continual support as well as all of the many people I met, my numerous new friends, and the USAR staff for making this my most rewarding tournament experience ever!

I hope to see all of you next year in California… I had better start saving!

Editor’s Note: USAR and John LoMonaco’s anonymous friend are pleased to announce that this memorial grant will be repeated again for the first National Singles in Fullerton, CA in 2011. Watch for more information on www.usaracquetball.com. We suggest also that anyone on a state or organizational level who wishes to promote the sport; remember or honor a special person; and create an opportunity for a deserving player (adult or junior); might consider a grant process like this one. It creates a huge “win” for everyone!
Upgrade your current AmPRO membership and become a Certified Racquetball Instructor by successfully completing a USA Racquetball Instructors Program clinic.

Register now at www.usaracquetball.com and click on the "Enroll Now" link.

Clinic Instructor and Dates:

**Coach Tom Travers - Fall, 2010**
- October 30-31
- TBA, Pembroke Pines, FL

**Coach Jim Winterton - Fall, 2010**
- October 8-10
- Hillsborough Racquet Club, Hillsborough, NJ
- October 29-30
- MAC, Grand Rapids, MI

**Coaches Winterton, Davis, and Travers - Fall, 2010**
- October 18-19
- US Open - Minneapolis, MN

**Coach Fran Davis - Fall, 2010**
- Clinics in San Francisco • San Diego or Los Angeles, CA • Portland, OR • Seattle, WA • Chicago, IL

**Coming Soon!! (Sept 15th)**

A new web site featuring educational information for all levels of players, instructors and coaches!!

**For the Recreational Player:**
Free on-line information regarding mechanics, physiology, strategy, etc.

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On-line module education with immediate feedback and testing certification.

**For the Coach:**
Up-to-date education and testing modules designed especially for high school and collegiate coaches.

**For the Clinician:**
Certifications and sanctioning of clinics accompanied by password protected access to educational information.

**For the Sport:**
The most complete instructional information featuring the sport’s top instructors and endorsed by the IRT, USOC and the USAR.

**Participating instructors:**
Jason Mannino, Shane Vanderson, Mitch Williams, Rhonda Rajsich, Cheryl Gudinas, Chris Evon, Jim Winterton, Tom Travers, Fran Davis, Andy Hawthorne, Anthony Herrera, Jo Shattuck, Kelley Beane, Shane Wood and many more.
The Finals
Taylor Knoth defeated Brad Kirch in a close and very exciting Boys 18 final. Taylor topped off a great year after having taken 2nd at Intercolliegiates.

Aubrey O'Brien edged out Danielle Key in a small round robin playoff for the Girls 18 title.

Outstanding Performance
Jordan Barth (MN) – won Boys 12 and Boys 10 – great talent, projects a bright future for U.S. Junior boys!

Outstanding Exhibit of Sportsmanship
Trevor Snyders (IL) called a carry on himself at 9-8 in a doubles tiebreaker. No other player or official saw the carry!

Most Improved
Brad Schopiear (MI) – lost in the semis, 12 and 11, to Boys 16 winner Marco Rojas. Great attitude, great serve, will continue to be a threat.

A Tie or Not?
A three-way tie in match wins came down to “points scored for and against” as Erika Manilla (CO) edged out Lexi York (OK) and Jordan Cooperrider (FL) in the Girls 12 Singles.

Girl Dominates!
Graciana Wargo defeated all her male opponents to win the combined Boys and Girls 8 Multi-bounce division.

Rewarding
The great venue at the University of Minnesota and the tremendous support of the LOC, especially Aaron Metcalf, Karen Bredenbeck, and Matt Johnson who helped organize and run the event.
2010 US Esprit Team (12- to 8-)

Boys 14 Singles
1- Jordan Barth
2- William Metherd

Girls 14 Singles
1- Erika Manilla
2- Lexi York

Boys 14 Doubles
1- Jordan Barth/Justus Benson

Girls 14 Doubles
1- Erika Manilla/Jordan Cooperider

Boys 10 Singles
1- Jordan Barth
2- Sebastian Fernandez

Girls 10 Singles
1- Victoria Leon
2- Kaitlyn Boyle

Boys 10 Doubles
1- Carter Simon/Sebastian Fernandez

Girls 10 Doubles
1- Kaitlyn Boyle/Victoria Leon

Boys 8 Singles
1- Antonio Rojas
2- Nick Bernel

Girls 8 Singles
1- Graciana Wargo

Junior Olympic Championship Results

Boy's Singles 18 and Under Gold - Olympic Format
1st: Taylor Knoth - University Of Oregon, Milwaukie, OR
2nd: Brad Kirch - Gold's Gym, Syracuse, NY
3rd: Dylan Reid - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR
4th: Nick Montalbano - Armitraj Fitness and Health, West Islip, NY

Boy's Singles 18 and Under Blue - Olympic Format
1st: Jade Hemiller - WCRC, Watertown, SD
2nd: Joshua Hungerford - East Side Athletic, Milwaukie, OR
3rd: John Lindsay - Oregon City, Oregon City, OR
4th: Emmett Coe - Sorrento Valley Racquetball & Fitness, Poway, CA

Boy's Singles 18 and Under Red - Olympic Format
1st: Ethan Wadsworth - Lockheed Martin Rec Center, Joshua, TX
2nd: Brad Falvey - Sussex, WI
3rd: Tyler Lanman - Club Sport, Danville, CA United States
4th: Kyle Lebow - Courthouse Athletic Club North, Salem, OR

Boy's Singles 18 and Under White - Olympic Format
1st: Lucas Arias - One On One Athletic Club, Ann Arbor, MI
2nd: A.C. Orozco - Fitness, Inc., Pocatello, ID
3rd: Andy Gonzalez - Fitness, Inc., Pocatello, Idaho
4th: Ryan Schopieray - CMU Racquetball Club, Swartz Creek, MI

Boy's Singles 16 and Under Gold - Olympic Format
1st: Marco Rojas - Franklin High School, Stockton, CA
2nd: Jose Diaz - Franklin High School, Stockton, CA
3rd: Brad Schopieray - Davison Athletic Club, Swartz Creek, MI
4th: Zachary Wertz - ELMwood Fitness Center, Harahan, LA

Boy's Singles 16 and Under Blue - Olympic Format
1st: Nicholas Riffel - Orchards Athletic Club, Loveland, CO
2nd: Tyler Kendrick - Lockheed Martin Rec Center, Arlington, TX
3rd: Ryan Charbonneau - Oregon City, Oregon City, OR
4th: Mitchell Hardin - YMCA, Findlay, OH

Boy's Singles 16 and Under Red - Olympic Format
1st: Raul Quintanilla - YMCA - El Paso, El Paso, TX
2nd: Jon Lanford - Bill Bartley Branch Family YMCA, Wichita Falls, TX 3rd:
Shahbaz Ahmed - The Club At Woodbridge, Piscataway, NJ
4th: Andy Ekblad - Great Falls High School, Great Falls, MT

Boy's Singles 16 and Under White - Olympic Format
1st: Tanner Gross - Racquetball Plus, Alexandria, MN
2nd: Sam Nguy - Spectrum Racquetball and Fitness, San Antonio, TX
3rd: Jacob Matthews - Gold's Gym, Bethel, NC
4th: Andrew Allen - Center Court Fitness Club, Grand Forks, ND

Boy's Singles 14 and Under Gold - Olympic Format
1st: Adam Manilla - Goodson Recreation Center, Centennial, CO
2nd: Sawyer Lloyd - Petaluma, CA
3rd: Spencer Shoemaker - YMCA, Findlay, OH
4th: Alex Winter - Sportime Fitness and Racquetball, Melville, NY

Boy's Singles 14 and Under Blue - Olympic Format
1st: Kyle Ulliman - Westerville Athletic Club, Westerville, OH
2nd: Shahbaz Ahmed - The Club At Woodbridge, Piscataway, NJ
3rd: Robert Hemphill - Fitness One, Festers, AL
4th: Jesse Mendoza - LA Fitness, Tucson, AZ

Boy's Singles 14 and Under Red - Olympic Format
1st: Jacob Matthews - Gold's Gym, Bethel, NC
2nd: Steven Boyle - Sunset Athletic Club, Beaveron, OR
3rd: Taner Burns - Oakmoor Health Center, Grimes, IA
4th: Sean Jacob - Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN
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Boy's Singles 14 and Under White - Olympic Format
1st: Thomas Carter - LA Fitness, Murrysville, PA
2nd: Brady Yelverton - LA Fitness, Garland, TX
3rd: Justin Kuhlman - LA Fitness, Mokena, IL

Boy's Singles 12 and Under Gold - Olympic Format
1st: Jordan Barth - Suburban Health Club, Cold Spring, MN
2nd: William Metheny - Goodson Recreation Center, Centennial, CO
3rd: Jake Birmel - Bellingham Athletic Club, Bellingham, WA
4th: Mauro Rojas - Stockton, CA

Boy's Singles 12 and Under Blue - Olympic Format
1st: Shahmir Ahmed - The Club At Woodbridge, Piscataway, NJ
2nd: Henry - YMCA, Georgetown, IN
3rd: Daniel Fishbein - Executive Health & Sports Center, Barrington, NH
4th: Brady Yelverton - LA Fitness, Garland, TX

Boy's Singles 12 and Under Red - Olympic Format
1st: Zachary D’Almeida - Rose Shores, Harrison Twp, MI
2nd: Caige Duryea - Coliseum Racquet Club, Dearborn Heights, MI
3rd: Evan Wargo - Clearwater YMCA, Clearwater, FL
4th: Braeden D’Almeida - Rose Shores, Harrison Township, MI

Boy's Singles 10 and Under - Pool Play
1st: Sebastian Fernandez - American Athletic Club, San Diego, CA

Boy's Singles 8 and Under - Round Robin
1st: Antonio Rojas - In-Shape Sport: West Lane, Stockton, CA
2nd: Nick Birmel - Bellingham Athletic Club, Bellingham, WA
3rd: Maxwell Tarrett - Omaha, NE
4th: Cole Hartman - Life Time Fitness, Hamel, MN

Boy's Singles Multibounce 6 and Under - Single Elimination
1st: Steve Jacob - Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN
2nd: Caden Krueger - Prairie Athletic Club, Sun Prairie, WI

Boy/Girl's Singles Multibounce 8 and Under - Round Robin
1st: Graciana Wargo - Clearwater YMCA, Clearwater, FL
2nd: Cole Hartman - Life Time Fitness, Hamel, MN
3rd: Steve Jacob - Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN
4th: Maxwell Tarrett - Omaha, NE
5th: Caden Krueger - Prairie Athletic Club, Sun Prairie, WI
6th: Julius Ellis - In-Shape Sport: West Lane, Stockton, CA

Boy's Singles 18 and Under - Round Robin
1st: Aubrey O'Brien - California Family Fitness, Auburn, CA
2nd: Danielle Key - LA Fitness, Gilbert, AZ
3rd: Amanda Lindsay - Oregon City, Oregon City, OR
4th: Lily Berry - Sawmill Athletic Club, Columbus, OH

Girl's Singles 18 and Under - Round Robin
1st: Aubrey O'Brien - California Family Fitness, Auburn, CA
2nd: Danielle Key - LA Fitness, Gilbert, AZ
3rd: Amanda Lindsay - Oregon City, Oregon City, OR
4th: Lily Berry - Sawmill Athletic Club, Columbus, OH

Girl's Singles 16 and Under Gold - Olympic Format
1st: Kelani Bailey - Greenbrier North YMCA, Norfolk, VA
2nd: Devon Pimentelli - Capuchino High School, San Bruno, CA
3rd: Samantha Simmons - Severna Park Racquetball And Fitness Club, Crofton, MD
4th: Mercedes Arias - One On One Athletic Club, Ann Arbor, MI

Girl's Singles 16 and Under Red - Olympic Format
1st: Courtney Chisholm - Wayside Racquet & Swim Club, Marlborough, MA
2nd: Elizabeth Simmons - Severna Park Racquetball And Fitness Club, Crofton, MD
3rd: Sara Leon - American Athletic Club, Chula Vista, CA
4th: Ayla Hall - Terre Haute, IN

Girl's Singles 14 and Under Gold - Olympic Format
1st: Abbey Lavely - Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
2nd: Kaitlyn Simmons - Severna Park Racquetball And Fitness Club, Crofton, MD
3rd: Sara Leon - American Athletic Club, Chula Vista, CA
4th: Ashley Boyle - Sunset Athletic Club, Beaverton, OR

Girl's Singles 14 and Under Red - Olympic Format
1st: Danielle Falvey - Fall River, WI
2nd: Molly Manning - YMCA - Mankato, North Mankato, MN
3rd: Ashley O'Brien - California Family Fitness, Meriden, CT
4th: Ashley Boyle - Sunset Athletic Club, Beaverton, OR

Boy's Doubles 18 & Under - Single Elimination
1st: Brad Kirch / Nick Montalbano - Syracuse, NY/West Islip, NY
2nd: Jake Bredenbeck / Taylor Knot - Marine On St. Croix, MN/Milwaukee, WI
3rd: Trevor Snyders / Joshua Hungerford - Woodridge, IL/Milwaukee, WI
4th: Dylan Reid / Joseph Lee - Portland, OR/Baton Rouge, LA
### Boys Doubles 18 & Under Consolation - Single Elimination
- 1st: Brad Falvey / Jade Hemiller - Sussex, WI/Watertown, SD
- 2nd: Alexander Korenic / Max Nieznermeier - Sun Prairie, WI/Janesville, WI
- 3rd: Calvin Godwin / Kieren Martin - Mount Vernon, WA
- 4th: Michael Kuhl / Chin Han Chen - Carson, CA

### Girls Doubles 18 & Under - Round Robin
- 1st: Courtney Chisholm / Devon Pimentelli - Marlborough, MA/San Bruno, CA
- 2nd: Kelani Bailey / Mercedes Arias - Norfolk, VA/Ann Arbor, MI
- 3rd: Elizabeth Simmons / Samantha Simmons - Crofton, MD/Crofton, MD
- 4th: Ayla Hall / Sara Leon - Terre Haute, IN/Chula Vista, CA

### Boys Doubles 16 & Under Consolation - Single Elimination
- 1st: Adam Manilla / Sawyer Lloyd - Centennial, CO/Petaluma, CA
- 2nd: Spencer Shoemaker / Kyle Uttman - Findlay, OH/Westerville, OH
- 3rd: Robert Heriphill / Sean Cooper - Fosters, AL/Palm Harbor, FL
- 4th: Mauro Rojas / Jesse Mendoza - Stockton, CA/Tucson, AZ

### Boys Doubles 14 & Under Consolation - Single Elimination
- 1st: Connor Laffey / Conner Laffey - Salem, OR/Salem, OR
- 2nd: Spencer Shoemaker / Kyle Uttman - Findlay, OH/Westerville, OH
- 3rd: Robert Heriphill / Sean Cooper - Fosters, AL/Palm Harbor, FL
- 4th: Mauro Rojas / Jesse Mendoza - Stockton, CA/Tucson, AZ

### Boys Doubles 12 & Under Consolation - Single Elimination
- 1st: Jordan Barth / Justus Benson - Cold Spring, MN/Sun Prairie, WI
- 2nd: Jake Birmel / Ryan Francis - Bellingham, WA/Litchfield, NH
- 3rd: Mauro Rojas / Daniel Fishbein - Stockton, CA/Barrington, NH
- 4th: Carter Simon / Sebastian Fernandez - Sun Prairie, WI/San Diego, CA

### Boys Doubles 12 & Under Consolation - Single Elimination
- 1st: Brady Velvert / Nicholas Godowd - Garland, TX/Green Bay, WI
- 2nd: Jason Goodman / Sam Goodman - Wheaton, IL/Wheaton, IL
- 3rd: Braeden D’Almeida / Jeremy Dixon - Harrison Township, MI/Detroit, MI
- 4th: Justin (Cade) Foster / Sean Henry - Mobile, AL/Georgetown, IN

### Boys Doubles 10 & Under - Single Elimination
- 1st: Carter Simon / Sebastian Fernandez - Sun Prairie, WI/San Diego, CA
- 2nd: Justin (Cade) Foster / Sean Henry - Mobile, AL/Georgetown, IN

### Girls Doubles 18 & Under - Double Round Robin
- 1st: Aubrey O’Brien / Danielle Key - Auburn, CA/Gilbert AZ
- 2nd: Amanda Lindsay / Lily Berry - Oregon City, OR/Columbus, OH
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An International Flavor
The WPRO is eagerly anticipating its fifth full season since the reorganization of the women's professional game took place in 2006. At this point in time, there are seven Tier 1 events and three Grand Slam tournaments on the 2010-11 schedule. Compare this with the last year of the previous organization that had only four Tier 1 or above events. Indeed, the women's professional tour has been stabilized. The women may train with confidence that the events will take place. Junior girls see the women pros and realize that there is reason to continue the development of their game. The tour is financially sound and the show that the women put on is wonderful.

The Fight for #1
Among many things, the tour is proud of its international diversity, with ten of the top 32 ranked players coming from outside the United States. In 2008-09, four of the top ten players hailed from outside the United States, including #1 player Paola Longoria of Mexico. The WPRO and IRT will take part in a groundbreaking international event in Colombia during September of the coming season. The event will be offering double prize money, thus making it a Grand Slam on par with the US Open.
The upcoming season will begin on August 26th with the first Tier One stop in Dallas. The rivalry between Paola and Rhonda will be renewed from the onset. A big question for the upcoming season is what factor Cheryl Gudina will play with semifinal victories over the #2 player, whether it be Paola or Rhonda. Also, Samantha Salas has demonstrated strong showings in the last two tournaments. Her game appears to have matured significantly and, if she can play the entire tour, she will be vying for a top four finish. Kerri Wachtel is always a threat in any tournament. She is quick, hates the ceiling, hits good angles, and seldom skips the ball. The other women don’t look forward to playing her. Adrienne Fisher had a semifinal finish in New Orleans; she is always a threat.

How the Current Association was Formed

Historically, the WPRO arose from events that took place during the 2005-06 season. The previous governing body for the women’s pro tour, the Ladies Professional Racquetball Association (LPRA), was floundering due to a number of serious internal problems. At the US Open in November 2005, Brenda Kyzer and Christie Van Hees approached IRT Commissioner David Negrete and asked for his assistance. Dave agreed to assist and, working with a players’ council of top ranked players, several important decisions were made. Since the IRT was stable and functioning, Dave said, “Why reinvent the wheel?” It was decided that the new organization would follow the same basic model of the men’s tour. Next came the question of the commissioner - could Dave run both tours? Dave and the players’ council came to the mutual decision that it would be better to have a separate commissioner to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

In December 2005, Kristen Walsh visited relatives in the Washington DC area. While there, she decided to play some racquetball and called on an old friend, Shannon Feaster. Shannon asked about the women’s tour and information was provided that things were not going well. Shannon mentioned in an offhand remark that perhaps sometime in the future it would be fun to be involved in the leadership of the tour. In discussions of potential candidates, Kristen shared this remark with the council. It turned out that Shannon had business experience and when approached she was agreeable to exploring the possibility of taking the position. Dave, Brenda, and Christie interviewed Shannon at some length and subsequently offered her the position. On February 6, 2006, Shannon assumed the role of WPRO Commissioner.

Bylaws, rules, host guidelines and other operation procedures were passed from the IRT to the newly created WPRO. A Board of Directors was created that consisted of the commissioner, three players, and other influential members of the racquetball community. The Board is the policy-making body of the organization. Judging by results, sound decisions were made, as the WPRO continues to assume a more influential role in the racquetball community. The women’s tour has been stable under Shannon’s leadership, and it continues to increase the number of events each season. The WPRO proudly promotes women’s racquetball, women’s athletics, junior racquetball development, lifelong fitness, breast cancer research, the fight against childhood obesity, drug free athletics, and good sportsmanship and fair play on its professional tour.

The 2009-10 season featured the rivalry between Paola Longoria and the USA’s Rhonda Rajsich. Rhonda was off to a great start by winning the opener in Dallas and soon thereafter she won the US Open. Paola then went on a tear, winning the next five Tier I tournaments. The race came down to the last tournament in New Orleans. If Paola and Rhonda both reached the finals, then the winner of the match would be the year-ending #1 player. In spite of the promotion of this possibility, Cheryl Gudina began to come on strong toward the end of the season. In Pennsylvania, Cheryl defeated Rhonda in the semis. In New Orleans, Cheryl defeated a determined Samantha Salas of Mexico in a tough quarterfinal match, only to top this later in the day with a grueling five-game victory in the semis over Rhonda. Cheryl went on to win the tournament when Paola, up two games to zero, turned her ankle and withdrew shortly thereafter. But with Rhonda’s defeat in the semis, Paola had secured the #1 position.

Stay tuned for the 2010-2011 season – it’s going to be exciting!
#4 Kerri Wachtel:

My goal for the coming season is to do better than the season right after I had our twin girls. I always seem to play better after giving birth. I want to win some stops and finish in the top 3. Practicing and training are my "me time." My husband and my parents are wonderful for supporting me and caring for our children when I am training or when I am at a tournament. I have peace of mind knowing that the kids are well cared for and that they are having fun. I love the tour and I love being competitive. When I am at a tournament, the only thing on my mind is to do well in the next match. The only reason that justifies me being away from my family is that I do the best that I can.

This summer I am taking a Tri-Fit class 3 days/wk. It is perfect for racquetball training. It is six 10 minute segments, each divided up with 4 minutes of intense cardio, 4 minutes of lower body strength training, and 2 minutes of upper body strength training. I am playing about 4 times a week. On the days I am not playing or taking this class, I do the elliptical machines or run outside. Apart from racquetball and training, my day consists of playing with my kids, driving them around to activities, and hanging out with my family at night. The occasional nights out with Chris and friends are always much appreciated!

#3 Cheryl Gudinas:

During the summer, I'm going to rest throughout June and early July. I want to rest and rehab my knee. I'm not going to rest completely as I'll be swimming, weight training, and anything else I can do without aggravating the knee. I'll begin playing July 11th, and this will give me time to be ready for the World Championships in Korea, August 11-21. I have my sights set on winning a 4th world title which would break the current record. This will not be an easy task but I believe that I have a chance to make it happen.

I love the Chicago area and will never leave it for good. My parents are here and the city offers everything. I love animals, especially my two dogs. For fun, I like to fix things around the house. I also like to play golf, tennis and ping pong. I enjoy an evening out with friends. I work as a physical trainer for Health Trac Sports and
Wellness. What keeps me motivated to play? The latest thing was that I was seeded 5th in Racquetball Magazine’s “Draw of the Century.” I feel motivated to try to live up to that seeding. Also, I feel good about still being able to win now and then in spite of my age. It gives me a real sense of pride.

My goals for the upcoming professional season include continuing with the same intensity and desire with which I ended the season. I would like to break into the finals more consistently and make a run at ending the season with the #1 ranking. I am also already thinking about next season’s USAR Nationals and will be preparing for that as well. I plan to enter the upcoming season in the best shape of my career. Here's a news flash: I'll implement the McDiver when needed so watch out.

**#2 Rhonda Rajsich:**

(A tribute to Rhonda was written by her personal coach, Jim Winterton.) Rhonda Rajsich is not just another great athlete. She has to be one of the most recognized faces in our sport. A young girl from Ireland emails her and tells her she is writing a paper about women in racquetball and wants to interview her. Racquetball Alaska calls and wants to do a photo shoot. A contact from Hollywood calls and wants to do lunch. All of these requests receive a resounding, "Yes, no problem.” Her game has been described as “all or nothing,” “undisciplined,” and “athletic.” Yet she has earned three US Open titles, three USA National titles, one World title (she is the defending World Champion), and three year-ending #1 finishes in the professional ranks. Not bad for someone so undisciplined!

Rhonda began playing racquetball at the tender age of two. Her father had just begun to play and would leave Rhonda in child care. Rhonda would sneak out of child care and go down to the basketball courts to practice dribbling. When her dad was finished playing, she would go on the court and hit until they went home. Rhonda grew up torn between basketball and racquetball. She chose racquetball. She loves traveling the world and promoting our great sport. She counts winning the World Championship in 2008 in Ireland as one of her most memorable wins.

For those who do not know, Rhonda was brutally assaulted outside her home in California in May of that year, and unpredictably her rapid recovery and perseverance kept her in the competition. She will be pursuing once again the year end as the #1 ranked player with the same desire as always.

**#1 Paola Longoria:**

I'm enjoying the time off from both school and the pro season, and presently, I'm living in San Luis Potosi with my family. I am recuperating from the injury that I suffered in the last tournament of the 2009-10 season. Up to this point, my training sessions have been more or less designed so as not to reinjure my ankle. I will be participating in the Caribbean/Central American Games in mid July, so I have now increased the intensity of my work outs. After these games, which take place in Puerto Rico, I will participate in the World Championships which take place in Korea during the last part of August. Unfortunately, I will not be able to play in the WOR Nationals as the dates conflict with the Puerto Rico tournament. After the World Championships, I'll return to Monterrey to continue with the third year of my studies in the field of mechanical engineering administration.

Besides racquetball, I like to play tennis and squash. I also like to be with my family and my girlfriends. I like to go shopping and go out to the discos. I do this once in a while without compromising my training in the few moments of spare time that I have. I'm still in contact with the people from Univision, the Spanish language channel. They have proposed that I return to the program but for the moment my schedule is completely full with all the tournaments and soon with my classes. The idea of being
The Contenders
In Their Own Words: Email interviews produced some interesting reading by the year ending top 8 players:

#5 Adrienne Fisher: What do I do during the off season? I don’t usually do a whole lot. The season is so long and there isn’t usually enough time between tournaments to really take a break, so I take at least a month off from anything racquetball or training related. I’ve spent the last few summers working at the hotel during its busy season. I will start training and practicing again about a month and a half before the season starts. This summer, I am moving. I am focusing on finding a job here in Memphis. I am hoping that the time off from playing racquetball will let my elbow and shoulder recover from the strain of last season.

#6 Jo Shattuck: I finished strong in the second half of the 2009-2010 season with several quarter final finishes and then a semi–final finish in Laurel, MD. I plan to keep the subtle changes I’ve made in my game style, a few technical adjustments to my strokes, and a mental workout plan as well. I’ll also continue with the legwork and extensive MuDCAT training that I am doing. In the off-season, I force myself not to swing for 6 weeks, and this break keeps me fresh and hungry. This is difficult because I teach throughout the summer with my business.

on television attracts me a lot and hopefully in the future it will work out. I don’t have a boyfriend and it seems impossible to have one now because again there is not sufficient time. There are some suitors calling me and some day I’ll surprise everyone and have a boyfriend.

The start of the WPRO season will be upon us soon. I will continue with my training right into the pro season. One goal is to continue to maintain my level of play so that I can again finish the season as the number 1 ranked player. Another goal is to win the US Open for the second time. As far as my studies, I am very happy because the university and the teachers support me in every way. I am in the 5th semester of mechanical engineering administration and the truth is that it has been difficult to combine my studies with my game but thank heavens I am almost at the halfway point and I’m happy. In the future I want to work on a master’s degree in communications so that I can be prepared if I get the chance to work in the television industry.
www.racquetballacademy.com. In this stage of my career, my break includes plenty of prehab for my shoulder, hip and back to remain injury free. I'll begin training 6-8 weeks out from our season opener in Dallas. I love the tour and the WPRO. Self challenge is the thing. I've been playing competitively for 22 years. There is always something new to learn, and I challenge myself to continue. I've learned that balance in life is difficult to maintain. I seek to find a “balance within the imbalance.” By September of this year, I will have earned an MA in Sport Science. I'm currently studying behavioral neuroscience with hopes to apply it to performance enhancement. I'll be working in a brain imaging lab that studies the processes behind fatigue. I live in Denver and I love it. It's a great city, with young people that are very active and health minded. Here, nature is greatly appreciated.

#7 Keely Franks: My plans for the summer, apart from my work, consist of being outside as much as possible, ideally at the lake or at the pool. I love outdoor racquetball, especially in the Texas Summer Heat. I'll be traveling to Huntington Beach for the 2010 Racquetball Warehouse WOR Championships, which is absolutely one of my favorite events of the year! I will also continue training hard on and off the court to get ready for the 2010-2011 WPRO season. The season begins at the end of August in Dallas, Texas where my Dad and I will be hosting the event. A large portion of my free time this summer will be spent planning, preparing and raising funds for the event (any help is needed and greatly appreciated). I am looking forward to an exciting 2010-2011 WPRO Season this year. I love to travel, to compete and to meet new people and racquetball is a great escape from my work, even though I usually have to take work with me. I will continue working hard this summer to improve my game and work on my weaknesses, one at a time until I am perfect haha... Just kidding, but my motto is “Strive for Perfection, Learn from Defeat.”

Responding to a question, Keely said, “I would say one thing most people don’t know is that played third base for the University of Texas softball team as a four year starter with a trip to the College World Series my sophomore year and Regional appearances my junior and senior years. Later, I moved to Louisiana to be an assistant softball coach for Northwestern State University, a small Division I school. I returned to University of Texas the following year to pursue my master’s degree and that is when I started playing racquetball again after taking a 12 year hiatus from the sport. I love racquetball and look forward to playing it as long as my mind and body let me. I plan on winning the Women’s 80+ division in the future.

#8 T.J. Baumbaugh: During the summer, I continue to play some racquetball, but I also enjoy participating in other sports. So far this summer I've played tennis, squash, court tennis and golf. I also like to swim and bike. I spend quite a bit of time in the gym as well, and not just because I work there (I'm a Personal Trainer). I use the summer/off-season to try and improve my strength, so my lifting sessions increase in frequency and in weight. I do mostly functional training and core work, and, as I get closer to the start of the season, I include more speed and agility training as well. I enjoy the summer, especially the weather and being outdoors, but I also look forward to the next season. My goal for this year is to win a quarter-final match.
The WPRO has embarked upon fundraising drives on several levels. The goals of raising additional funds are:

1. Raise the amount of prize money awarded at a Tier I event. We want to award an additional $300 to the top eight finishers and an additional $200 to finishers 9-16. With additional prize money, participation will increase.

2. We need additional funds to support the streaming of our Tier I and Grand Slam tournaments. We have a great show. We want people to see it.

Contribution cards are being distributed in the hopes of finding individuals that would like to support the Women’s Pro Tour, even with small amounts. These cards can be found on the web site, www.wpro-tour.com. Please consider a donation to further solidify the effort to promote women’s racquetball.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Travis Mettenbrink Joins Prince/Ektelon Team of Indoor Sales Representatives

Prince is proud to announce the addition of Travis Mettenbrink to its team as the newest Indoor Sales Representative. Mettenbrink, will become the second dedicated Indoor Court Sales Representative for Ektelon Racquetball and Prince Squash joining Mike Orr who was appointed as the first indoor rep earlier this year for the territory of California, Nevada and Arizona.

“This sport has given me so much – providing me with a number of meaningful relationships. I am extremely proud to be part of the Prince/Ektelon family – a company that has given so much to the sport, and I will do what I can to give back to the sport I love so much,” said Mettenbrink.

Contact:
Aimee Ruiz
609-291-5996
aruiz@princetsports.com

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Camp Schedule

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2010
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October 15-17
November 6-7
San Francisco, CA
Sarasota, FL
San Antonio, TX
Atlanta, GA
Chicago, IL

January 21-23
January 29-31
February 4-6
March 4-6
April 29-May 1
2011
Las Angeles, CA
Las Vegas, NV
Seattle, WA
Ohio
Louisiana

Week Long Racquetball Fantasy Camps
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(Caribbean Island...Advanced Camp)
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Fran's Credentials
• 20+ Year Camp Experience
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• United States Olympic Committee National Coach of the Year 1997
• Coaches Jason Mannino and Sudy Monchik
• Coached Jrs. to over 20 National and World Titles
RACQUETBALL CHANGED HIS LIFE

by Mark Cotterman, Vice President of Business Development and Marketing, IRT

Yelandi Rivero was out for a fun day with his kids when everything turned upside down. As first reported by Gary Curreri, a freelancer for the Sun-Sentinel News in West Palm Beach, Florida, Yelandi flipped his ATV and ended up paralyzed from the waist down. His love of the sport gave him the motivation he needed to not only be able to walk, but to reach the top of the outdoor game, recently achieving #1 doubles status in the Open division. I caught up with Yelandi to hear more about his story...

Mark: You were severely injured a while back. Tell me about what happened, and what the doctors gave you as a prognosis.

Yelandi: I remember the date well: February 11, 2005. I decided to go out and spend some time with my family riding our ATVs when I went over on mine and broke my back. The first doctor said I would never walk again. I sought a second opinion, and the specialist said with the right surgery I could get back some feeling, maybe walk with a lot of rehab. So I had the surgery, spent two weeks on a ventilator, and had a lot of time to think things through. Would I walk again? If I did, then what? Could I do the things with my family I used to? Would I be able to play ball again?

Mark: That sounds like it was pretty scary and posed quite a challenge. But you did it. What was your recovery training like? What did you do to get back into fighting shape?

Yelandi: The first thing I did was refuse to sit in a wheelchair the hospital gave me! But more than the physical part, it was mental. Sitting in the wheelchair was an admission of weakness, of giving in to the injury. No way was I going to let that happen! But the hospital did work with me on a lot of rehab exercises, including some that made little sense to me. And over time, with lots of work and concentration, I could walk again.

Mark: Thank goodness for experts being good at what they do. How much of a role did racquetball play in your recovery?

Yelandi: A huge part. I’ve always loved the game and have played it since I was in my teens. The competitions to me are like a child being told he’s going to Disneyland. To see the guys out hitting as I was rehabbing was really hard, so I decided that was where I was going to be – on the courts again, competing, and winning. So day-by-day I kept pushing myself, and now here I am – playing at a high level in the game. As I’d said earlier, so much of this was mental, and the love of the sport gave me that mental edge to drive my body and mind to get to the place I needed to be to make a full recovery.

Mark: What are your plans going forward in racquetball?

Yelandi: I want to be at the top of my game and move into playing at the pro level. I can’t dedicate as much time as I want due to my work schedule, but every chance I get I’m out practicing. And I’m looking forward to entering as many tournaments as possible.

Mark: Given what you have been through, for all of the racquetball fans out there hearing your story, what would you like to say to them?

Yelandi: Don’t ever give up on anything in your life due to a setback. Don’t let people tell you “you can’t.” Be mentally strong, always. Racquetball gave me the focus I needed to do what I’m doing today, and for that I will always be grateful. This sport made a huge difference in my life.

This story has a familiar refrain. Those who know Jason Mannino’s story know that his was another dramatic “come from behind” tale. Jason was in a car accident that left him with multiple injuries and broken bones, including his back (in several places). Like Yelandi, doctors were not optimistic. It was months before Jason could walk, let alone pick up a racquet and play. And like Yelandi, Jason’s renowned mental toughness took him to new heights, allowing him to not only start to play again, but win many IRT events and secure a #1 professional ranking.

Racquetball gave Mark and Jason their reason to recover. And their mental strength, so crucial to high-level competition, allowed them to capitalize on their mutual goal – playing the great sport of racquetball.
EKTELEON INTRODUCES TWO NEW RACQUETS FOR SUMMER 2010

EXO3 Attack and EXO3 Ignite Feature EXO3 Technology to Suspend String Bed for Largest Sweet Spot and Ultimate Power in Customizable Frames

Ektelon has launched two new frames to its line of performance racquets this summer, the EXO3 Attack and EXO3 Ignite. Both feature the Company’s patented and revolutionary EXO3 technology, eliminating conventional grommet holes to literally lengthen the strings to the frame’s exterior edges and suspend them to create the largest functional hitting area of any racquets. This results in two frames that provide the largest sweet spot for ultimate power for competitive to recreational racquetball players worldwide.

Both racquets also offer weight and balance customization options with EXO3 Energy Bridges which can provide up to four different swing weight combinations per frame. Both are offered in SSR, SS and SM grip sizes.

Both EXO3 racquet models are now available at retail locations where Ektelon products are sold. For more information about EXO3 technology or the full line of Ektelon products, visit www.ektelon.com.

MISSOURI PREPARES TO NAME INAUGURAL GROUP TO STATE HALL OF FAME

The initiation of a racquetball Hall of Fame in Missouri is long overdue. Arguably, no other state has such a rich and expansive history in racquetball as Missouri. “If you look at the record books from all the major national events, you undoubtedly will find a champion from Missouri. It is extremely appropriate that we begin to acknowledge all these great players,” said Shari Coplen, co-founder of the Missouri Hall of Fame.

At one time, six of the top ten pros were from St. Louis. Pro players have included Marty Hogan, Jerry Hilecher, Steve Serot, Ben Koltun, Doug Cohen, the Gross brothers, Josh Tucker, Chris Wright, and outstanding female pro Rita Hoff. The top intercollegiate player of all time, Tim Sweeney, went to school at Southwest Missouri State and won numerous Missouri State titles. National Open winners include Jerry Zuckerman and the first female winner, Fran Cohen. Missouri also has numerous Junior National and High School National champions, not to mention many age division champions at numerous major events.

The first “class” to be on the ballot for players include Marty Hogan, Jerry Hilecher, Steve Serot, Rita Hoff, Jerry Zuckerman, Fran Cohen, Ben Koltun, Joe Zelzen, Chris Wright and Bruce Erickson. Members of the Missouri State Racquetball Association will vote for five nominees. Inductees will be honored at the State tournament in March. “This is an exciting time for Missouri racquetball,” stated Dan Whitley, president of the Missouri Racquetball Association.
MITCH WILLIAMS SIGNS MULTI-YEAR WILSON CONTRACT

Top touring racquetball player Mitch Williams has signed a multi-year contract to continue to endorse Wilson’s entire line of racquetball products.

Mitch has been with Wilson for the past three years and in that time he has climbed to #7 in the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) rankings. “I am pleased to continue playing and endorsing Wilson,” Williams said. “They have supported me so much in the last three years and I am excited to continue our relationship on the International Racquetball Tour.”

Williams recently won two national doubles titles including the 2010 USA Racquetball National Doubles Championships. He qualifies as a member of the U.S. Team and along with his Warlock BLX racquet will travel to Korea in August to compete in the IRF World Championships. “Mitch is a dynamic player with an aggressive style of play,” said Terri Graham, U.S. Business Director of Indoor Racquet Sports. “He is always a must-see match at events. We are proud of his accomplishments and look forward to many more championships added to his list of titles.”

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