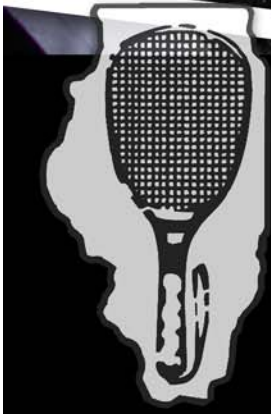


ISRA NEWS



**Season
Starts
off with
a BANG!**



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From the **PRESIDENT**

Racquetball, as it turns out, is a universal language.

Currently I am spending sixty percent of my time working in Central Illinois. I am living in a hotel and working in a different office and with different clients than normal. Anybody who travels for work knows that living in a hotel can get old. And it can be lonely. Usually you end up spending more time working than you should, and you either don't eat dinner at all or you eat alone.

My experience has been different because of racquetball. Sandy Camp is one of my coworkers in Peoria. She was helping out several weeks ago at the fall tournament at Landmark. I asked her to tell some people that I was interested in playing racquetball while I am working there. When I arrived in my office the next Tuesday, there was an envelope containing guest passes, compliments of John Snarr, awaiting me and an e-mail message inviting me to come and play.

Since that day I have played once or twice a week with Pam Schubach, Jim Maroon and Joann Kempthorne as well as a host of others. There are lots of players at the club every night. We start out with one group but others drift in

and out of matches as people come and go. I'm still not completely used to the panel walls, but I'm having a great time.

So, back to the part about racquetball being a universal language. Racquetball is obviously the thing we have in common. I've known some of the people there a long time but probably more as competitors or participants in tournaments. This experience has turned them from acquaintances into friends. Each night after we play, we share snacks and stories. I have met a lot of new people, too, and learned what they do in their "real" lives. These are people I probably wouldn't know if not for racquetball.

We're at the beginning of a new racquetball season. Travel leagues and tournaments are in full swing again. I've seen some "retired" players come back to the game recently. They stopped playing for different reasons – injuries, tired of playing tournaments or whatever – but maybe came back because they know that the people they will encounter on the court all have something in common – they speak the language of racquetball.

I hope everyone has as much fun this season as I am having right now. I'll see you on the courts!

Laurel

On the Cover

Background Photo: All-Lucite court debuts outdoors in Denver

Upper Right: IVAD VIPs Mark Coleman, Ruben Gonzalez, Keith Minor and Rick Seaberg

Lower Right: IRF Worlds in Ireland: Cheryl Gudinas Holmes with Yazmine Sabja (Bolivia)

Lower Left: Slam it for Susan Coordinators Lola Markus, Nancy and Dave Kronenfeld, and Janet Leet



Watch Out Cheeseheads, Here Come the Flatlanders!

NMRA Racquetball Championships

On Wednesday, July 15th over 200 "senior citizens" converged on the Wisconsin Athletic Club in West Allis, Wisconsin to compete in hundreds of racquetball matches. This round robin event featured men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles. The format is 2 games to 15 with bonus points awarded for games and matches won. Playoffs began on Saturday for divisions with two or more flights of players.

Illinois had 22 entrants and 11 came home with medals. Bolded names below signify Double Medalists!

Men's Singles

Dennis Healy, 55+, Bronze; Dennis McKee, 60+, Silver; Pat Taylor,

65+, Silver; **John O'Donnell, Jr.**, 75+, Silver

Men's Doubles

T.J. Ferro & Jim Elliott (SC), 55+, Gold; Jim Harper & Steven Lavorgna (NJ), 65+, Bronze; **John O'Donnell, Jr.** & Victor Sacco (NY), 75+, Silver; Phil Dziuk & Mike Martin (CO), 80+, Silver

Women's Singles

Brenda White, 55+, Bronze

Women's Doubles

Brenda White & Marcia Richards (CO), 50+, Gold, Nancy Kronenfeld & Joan Vande Kieft, 55+, Silver; **Lola Markus** & Pauline Kelly, 65+, Gold

Mixed Doubles

Nancy Kronenfeld & Robert Born (MN),

55+, Bronze; **Lola Markus** & Don Milkie (WI), 75+, Gold

Congratulations to everyone who won, played or just enjoyed the camaraderie. Next July the event will be close to home again – the NMRA tourney will be held in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois! You can find more information on the NMRA website at www.nmra.info.

ONE LAST NOTE: The Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Association (WS/MRA) will be going to Canoga Park for their 20th Annual National Championships, January 16-18, 2009.

— Nancy Kronenfeld

CHICAGO'S
LEGENDARY
DEEP DISH
PIZZA



Legendary pizza that improves cross court shots!
Available in your grocer's freezer.

15th Summerfest Open

**The Glass Court Swim & Fitness,
Lombard
July 25-27, 2008
Tournament Director:
Doug Halverson**

What a great turnout at Summerfest. We're going to have to stop calling it "that lazy little summer tournament" because it's certainly not little anymore (153 players this year) and with the size of the draw and everything going on, neither players nor volunteer staff members could attach the word "lazy" to their weekend's activities!

This one was special and it was hard. None of us could ever have imagined a Glass Court tournament without Diane DeArmas, the club's president and our dear friend, who passed away in May. Understandably we were feeling pretty emotional going in. Her name and the name and spirit of the club are synonymous, and it will always be so. Joe DeArmas,

Dan Jaskier, Richard DeArmas, Carrie Jaskier Spaeth and Jennifer Jaskier Suwanski, along with several handfuls of grandkids, were all there to honor the memory of their wife and mother. Dignified, on the upswing and pitching in even in light of their very recent devastating loss, Diane would have been so proud.

It helped that so many out-of-state players came in again to make this event pop. Junior players extraordinaire from over Ohio-and-Indiana-way made the trip on their way out to racquetball camp, stopping by once again to keep Illinois Open players on their toes.



Three generations: Kelly Carson and dad Tom Shanahan were cheered on by Tara Carson



Check-in volunteers Tristan Bush and Lori Good



Soon-to-be-married pro players Juan Herrera & Krystal Csuk

continued on page 5



15th

SUMMERFEST OPEN *continued from page 4*



*Women's B/C Doubles runners-up
Vanessa Chorne and Maritza Ortega*



There's the wind-up...John Thorson at the dunk tank!

Participants arrived from New Mexico, North Carolina, Virginia, and Missouri as well...and we must mention the loyalty of the Peoria players who often drive the three hours to join us. The draw was punctuated also by several ranked pros – Andy Hawthorne, Juan Herrera, Keith Minor, and Krystal Csuk – who fared quite well in the standings.

TD Doug Halverson and his wife/ R2Sports expert Michelle always man-

age a great event. They wish to thank all the volunteers and the Glass Court staff for their efforts in producing yet again that famous hospitality that keeps players coming back year after year.

And, from all of us, many thanks and much encouragement to Joe and Dan for their dedication to the ISRA, the players and our sport.

—Cheryl Kirk

RESULTS

Division (# entered): First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (25): Andy Hawthorne (OH); Keith Minor; Alex Ackermann (IN), Juan Herrera

Men's AA (14): Vinny Carvallo; Alok Mehta; Tony Gonzalez, Richard DeArmas

Men's A (13): Tom Lamberson; John Richier; Dave Coyner, Matt Sochacki

Men's B (15): Ed Zak; Aaron Pace; Gary Dyrek, Kenny Brown

Men's C (30): Oscar Madrigal; Ronald Dim; Glen Bero, Dan Kennedy

Men's D (7): Bob Richmond ; Matt Lane; Ron Gerona, Adam Jania

Men's 24-/30+ (4): Vinny Carvallo; Brent Huff; Eddie O'Leary (VA) (3rd)

Men's 35/40+ (10): Mike Vicary; Alok

Mehta; Cary Slade, Bob Riley (NC)

Men's 45+ Int. (5): John Geatros; Jim Wehrli; Larry Schum, Enrique Rodriguez

Men's 50/55+ (11): Dave Milazzo; Bob Riley (NC); Jim Hillman, TJ Ferro

Women's Open/A (17): Sharon Jackson (IN); Krystal Csuk; Lily Berry (OH), Sheryl Lotts (OH)

Women's Open/A dropdown (8): Nancy Schum; Laurel Davis; Marcia Warren, Patrice Calvi

Women's B/C (9): Jill Grube; Mary Crambes; Rhonda Mundhenk, Joyce Satorius

Men's Open Doubles (14): Andy Hawthorne (OH)/Juan Herrera; Keith Minor/Kevin Brylski; Chad McGuffey (OH)/Danny Lavelly (OH), Alex Ackermann (IN)/Adam Taylor (IN)

Men's A Doubles (8): Brett Crawley/Robert Littledale; Michael Mulcahy/Tom Lamberson; Dean Hamiti/Scott Fauque, Jeff Grace/Kerry Spix

Men's B Doubles (7): Matt Sochacki/Peter McCauley; Tom Ness/Kenny Brown; Bob Randazzo/Paul Jepsen, Frank Valentino/

JohnGeatros

Men's C Doubles (10): Oscar Madrigal/ Jose Alberto Acosta; Mariusz Kwiatkowski/Mike Roberts; Tom Barr/ Glen Bero, Dan Kennedy/Jerry Dawson

Women's Open/A Doubles (7): Sharon Jackson (IN)/Lily Berry (OH); Krystal Csuk/Patrice Calvi; Renee Roux/Lynn Yeazell, Tracy Hawthorne (OH)/Sheryl Lotts (OH)

Women's Doubles B/C (3): Dolores Lamberson/Julianne Valentino; Vanessa Chorne/Maritza Ortega; Joy DeShazer/Carrie Martin

Mixed Open/A Doubles (12): Trevor Snyders/Sharon Jackson (IN); Andy Hawthorne (OH)/Tracy Hawthorne (OH); Dave Milazzo/Liz Molitor, Joe Silius/Krystal Csuk

Mixed A/B Doubles (9): Cheryl Kirk/Jim Wehrli; Kerry Spix/Marla Cusano; Marcia Warren/Paul Jepsen, Frank Valentino/Julianne Valentino

Croft defeats Coyle to take the

Dog Days Open!

**The Southlake Club, Mundelein
August 9, 2008**

**Tournament Director:
Cindy Flores-Mocarski**

Ben Croft of Lake Bluff, currently ranked #7 on the International Racquetball Tour, defeated local favorite Eugene Coyle of Palatine to claim the \$200 first place prize at the Sixth Annual Dog Days Open Racquetball Tournament. Over 50 players competed in this annual summer event with Croft capturing the Men's Singles title and teaming up with his father Bob, who teaches racquetball at Southlake and coaches Ben, to take the Men's Doubles title over a brother/brother combination, Southlake members Dave and Frank Milazzo.

In other divisions of play, John Puccio defeated Dean Hamiti, 13, 13, to take the Men's A division; Antonio Vasquez played a great tournament culminating with a hard-fought win in the finals, defeating Rick Nielson in the Men's B; in Men's C, Gerry Kudanian bested Mike Roberts to take home first place. One of the most closely matched divisions was Men's A Doubles where longtime partners Scott Fauque and Dean Hamiti prevailed over Juan Arteaga and Tony Medina, again in a tie-breaker after splitting the first two games 9 and 9. In the Men's B Doubles, Southlake members Pat McGrath and Jesus Aguirre took home the

gold over Joe Garay and Jesus Rojas, their first match of the day proving to be the most critical in their round robin division.

This year the ladies came north as well, and Joan Vande Kieft outlasted Cari Mory in a close tie-breaker to take the Women's Singles crown while the husband/wife pairing of Tom and Dolores Lamberson celebrated their upcoming first anniversary by besting Antonio Vasquez and Cari Mory in an 11-6 tie-breaker to win the Mixed Doubles.

The Sixth Annual Dog Days Open at the Southlake Club was sanctioned by USA Racquetball and the Illinois State Racquetball Association.

Play started at 9:00 am and continued nonstop

through 8 pm! Tournament Director Cindy Flores-Mocarski and her staff, along with Carol Flores and the incomparable Lupe on the grill, made sure that everyone had enough beer, brats and burgers to keep themselves fortified during a long day and evening of racquetball. Our thanks to everyone who helped out to make the day a success!

- Geoff Peters



RESULTS

**Division (# entered): First; Second;
Semifinals**

Men's Open (8): Ben Croft; Eugene Coyle; Brent Huff, Dave Milazzo

Men's AA (4): Geoff Goldblatt; Keith Wiener; Antonio Rosselli

Men's A (8): John Puccio; Dean Hamiti; Deepak Panduranga (VA), Scott Fauque

Men's B (8): Antonio Vasquez; Rick Nielson; Juan Arteaga, Jesus Rojas

Men's C (4): Gerald Kudanian; Mike Roberts; Brian Bevers (3rd)

Women's A (4): Cari Mory; Joan Vande Kieft; Jane Arnold (3rd)

Men's Open Doubles (4): Ben Croft/Bob

Croft; Eugene Coyle/Geoff Goldblatt; Geoff Peters/Doug Halverson (3rd)

Men's A Doubles (4): Dean Hamiti/Scott Fauque; Juan Arteaga/Tony Medina; John Puccio/Steve Jungmann (3rd)

Men's B Doubles (4): Jesus Aguirre/Patrick McGrath; Jesus Rojas/Joe Garay; David Bennett/Rick Nielsen (3rd)

Mixed A Doubles (6): Tom Lamberson/Dolores Lamberson; Antonio Vasquez/Cari Mory; Alberto Palacios/Jean Vande Kieft, Pam Grace/Jeff Grace

20th International Racquetball Federation

World Senior Racquetball Championships

New Mexico Sports & Wellness Clubs

Kirtland Air Force Base

August 26-30, 2008

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Ah, New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment! WSRC President Paula Sperling and WSRC Executive Director Gary Mazaroff led their Council in producing a stellar event, their 20th! Though this was my first time attending, I'm told it's fantastic every year. Thanks to Paula, Gary, the entire WSRC Council — Joe Gellman, Carol Gellman, Edwina Waddington, Jane Bentley, Felicia A. Duran, Luke St. Onge — and a slew of volunteers always at the ready.

Paula reported that 140 players completed the tournament – 102 men and 38 women (37%!), not including the players who played mixed doubles only (40 teams). With eleven men's divisions, nine women's and eight mixed, those volunteers were kept hopping at all three tournament clubs.



*Lola Markus, Frank Milazzo, Cheryl Kirk, Dave Negrete, Leo Klimaitis, Keith Minor, and Dave Milazzo
Not pictured: Joe Quirke and Michael Goodyear*

Nine members of Team Illinois traveled to Albuquerque (a gorgeous place, if you've never had the pleasure): Michael Goodyear, Cheryl Kirk, Leo

Klimaitis, Lola Markus, Dave Milazzo, Frank Milazzo, Keith Minor, Dave Negrete, and Joe Quirke (representing Ireland). Results are below.

For those of you lucky enough to be 35 and over, consider this tournament – a wonderful way to round out the summer!

— Cheryl Kirk

Team Illinois Divisions/Results

Keith Minor, Men's 35+, 1st place
Dave Negrete, Men's 45+, 3rd place
Dave Milazzo, Men's 50+, 1st place
Frank Milazzo, Men's 55+, 3rd place
Joe Quirke, Men's 60+,
Leo Klimaitis, Men's 60+
Michael Goodyear, Men's 60+
Lola Markus, Women's 65+ and
Women's 75+ (1st)
Cheryl Kirk/Peter McMillin (NM),
Mixed 50+
Lola Markus (IL)/Ralph Waddington
(NM), Mixed 75+



Meanwhile, back at the club...

Motorola IRT World Championships

presented by Verizon Wireless

Denver, Colorado
September 17-21, 2009
Tournament Director:
Dave Negrete

Breathtaking – that’s the only word I can summon to describe what I felt seeing the portable court for the first time, outside for all the world to see! Congratulations to Dave Negrete & Co. on this historic event. It was great fun to engage spectators in conversation, from those who “use-ta” play to those who had no idea what was going on but knew it looked really cool. Dave Negrete and Dan Aderhold’s vision is to get racquetball out where it can be seen, and this was Victory #1. The repeat performance is

scheduled for Chicago’s Navy Pier, May 6-10, 2009. This is our chance to continue the momentum begun in Denver and get out there to promote our sport.

Back to the tournament...the amateur draws as well as some of the pro matches were held at the Denver Athletic Club, where eight members of Team Illinois competed and represented us very well indeed. Our guys, with divisions entered and results, were:

Eugene Coyle, Men’s Open and Men’s 35+ (2nd)
Ben Croft, Men’s Pro
Juan Herrera, Men’s Pro Qualifier
Leo Klimaitis, Men’s 60+ (3rd)
John Mason, Men’s 50+ (3rd) and Men’s

A Doubles (2nd with Dennis Negrete)
Keith Minor, Men’s Pro Qualifier; made it into the Men’s Pro draw, losing to Shane Vanderson in the Round of 16, (6),1,6,10.
Dennis Negrete, Men’s 35+ (QF) and Men’s A Doubles (2nd with John Mason)
Jason Thoerner, Men’s Pro (QF)

The Men’s Pro division ended up in a showdown between Rocky Carson and the newly-retired Kane Waselenchuk. Kane took the title, 6,6,(8),(8),1 before a packed outdoor crowd on the 16th Street Mall.

— Cheryl Kirk



Spectators crowded around to view the history-making IRT action in Denver

2nd Annual

Illinois Vest-a-Dog (IVAD) Racquetball Fundraiser



Kim & Rick Seaberg

**Norris Center, St. Charles
October 3-5, 2008
Tournament Director:
Rick Seaberg**

...Ruben Gonzalez is in the server's box, serving 11-10 in the crucial tiebreaker against Keith Minor. He starts his service motion, a high nick lob serve to Keith's backhand...

What is this? A thrilling match-up on the CPRT (Classic Pro Racquetball Tour)? No! It was the highlight of a weekend filled with highlights at the 2nd Annual Illinois Vest-a-Dog Racquetball Fundraiser – a three-game exhibition between special guest Ruben Gonzalez and Illinois' very own racquetball king Keith Minor. More on this in a moment...

There were 47 entries in the tournament, up from 39 last year. The tournament has gone "national" and

even "international" in scope this year. In the draws were Steve Pace, Aaron's father (in town from Washington state to celebrate his granddaughter's first birthday) and Kevin McNamara, an exchange student at Northwestern who hails from Ireland! Wear those Illinois shirts proudly at home, guys!

In addition to the long distance entrants, we were pleased to have several "first timers" to the tournament scene, including Melissa Kwak and Jennifer Dadlow (both Women's C) and Gary Stone and Jeff Hill (both Men's C).

Ruben Gonzalez was on hand to personally greet the tournament competitors as they checked in and each player was presented with a one-of-a-kind Ruben Gonzalez autographed

ball, a headband, and an Ektelon wristband. Thank you, Ruben, for being such a gracious person, and thanks to Ektelon for all of the goodies!

This three-day tournament was packed with action all day and into the evenings. Results are on page 11...for a complete look, go to <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=4432>.

The IVAD Racquetball Fundraiser Event actually started on Wednesday with a clinic for a dozen or so with the legendary Ruben.

Ruben's visit was the brainchild of Mark Coleman, born during the last Pro Nationals tournament. Mark worked out the details and arranged to have Ruben come in to help kick off the racquetball season at the Norris Center with his clinic. When Mark told Ruben that the clinic was timed with the IVAD tournament, Ruben in his inimitable, gracious style, volunteered to stay the entire weekend to participate in the tournament festivities! This is what makes racquetball such a great sport. How many Hall of Famers in any other sport would extend themselves that much?

With Ruben's presence in the bag, Mark began working on a "worthy adversary" for Ruben to compete against in an exhibition match dur-

continued on page 10



Who let the dog out?

2nd Annual

ILLINOIS VEST-A-DOG *continued from page 9*

ing the tournament. Unveiling world class racquetball skills to so many new faces in the tournament was a huge hit. Ruben and Keith entertained the standing-room-only crowd with a tremendous display of shot making and shot retrieval, eliciting many oohs and aahs from the appreciative crowd. Not only did Ruben and Keith dazzle with their abilities, they did it in a highly entertaining fashion. A special thank you to Keith Minor who came out to support not only the sport but a great cause as well.

As if that wasn't enough, immediately following the exhibition match, Ruben went out to watch one of the several K9 demonstrations by the Park Forest K9 units. When the officers asked for volunteers to don the "bite suit" and take on the dogs, Ruben followed in Christine Coleman's (Mark's daughter's) footsteps and took his turn in the suit to take on the dogs! After keeping a dog at bay with only the suit between some sharp canine canines and Ruben's "golden" arm, Ruben wound up sweating perhaps more than during his match with Keith!

To top off Ruben's generosity, a signed Ruben Gonzalez Ektelon



Kevin McNamara, Keith Minor, Bob Dunlap and Kenny Brown

racquet was raffled off with proceeds going to the tournament charity. Everyone dug deep for the chance to win an autographed racquet from the Legend himself and \$240 was raised via the raffle.

As the tournament director, I cannot say enough about what a class act and tremendous person Ruben is. He didn't just "put in an appearance" at the tournament. He was there all night Friday and all day Saturday. He talked with anyone who approached him, took pictures with everyone, signed autographs, watched matches (believe me, there is nothing more intimidating than turning around and seeing Ruben watching you play – talk about performance pressure), and even reffed a match! If there had been dishes to wash, I bet

Ruben would have rolled up his sleeves. Ruben created a lot of good memories for a lot of people that weekend.

The aforementioned K9 demonstrations were arranged by Bryan Tubbs and were another big hit with the tournament attendees. Three K9 units came all the way from Park Forest to Saint Charles to demonstrate their drug and bomb sniffing capabilities, obedience commands, and as Ruben will attest, their ability to subdue the bad guys! The handlers and the dogs conducted at least three demonstrations for amazed and appreciative onlookers. In addition, they had a nice display inside the club to show everyone close up what a K9 vest looks like. Park Forest was returning a favor to the Illinois Vest-a-Dog organization for the four vests they have received over the years. Bryan, thank you for putting that together — it really helped everyone understand what Illinois Vest-a-Dog is all about!

As of the writing of this article, the tournament raised \$1,250 for Illinois Vest-a-Dog, with pledges still coming in. This brings the two-year

continued on page 11



Bela Seaberg: Happy Birthday, Dad!

2nd Annual

ILLINOIS VEST-A-DOG *continued from page 10*

total to \$3,028! This tournament would not have been possible without the dedication of Mark Coleman, Paul Shafar, and Kim Seaberg.

Thanks also to Bill Beebe for hosting Ruben; Cindy Flores-Mocarski for coming down to take care of everyone's stringing needs; Cheryl Kirk for arriving like the cavalry at just the right time to help keep the tournament running smoothly; and Geoff Peters for lending his support.

Please make sure you thank our sponsors by acknowledging and supporting them in any way possible: Norris Center for allowing us to take over the club for the week; Cheryl Kirk and Kit Lawson; Academy Evaluators; Coleman Land Company (Mark Coleman); Paul Shafar and family; Theme Machine (Matt Rowland); OEM Associates; Wilson Racquetball (thanks, Chris!); Ektelon (and Keith Brown); Geneva Fresh Markets; and Animal House

Vet Hospital (Dr. Sage and Dr. Ahman are the best – ask Bela Seaberg!).

— Rick Seaberg

Division (# entered): *First; Second; Semifinals*

Men's Open (4): Brian Berkelhamer; Jordan Kahn; Mike Davern (3rd), Kevin McNamara (4th)
Men's A (8): Dean Hamiti; Scott Fauque; Kevin McNamara (Ireland), Antonio Medina; Bryan Tubbs (Consolation)
Men's B (9): Jake Ryan; Kenny Brown; Jim Thurber, John Provan
Men's C (12): Dave Wielgus; Gary Stone; Jeffrey Hill, Jeremy Gould; John Burke (Consolation)



Sisters Melissa Kwak and Samantha Keca competed in Women's C

Men's 35+B/C (4): John Provan; Michael Zupke; Steven Pace (WA), John Burke

Women's C (3): Samantha Keca; Jennifer Dadlow; Melissa Kwak

Men's Open Doubles (4): Brian Berkelhamer/George Pappas; Antonio Medina/Antonio Vasquez; Bryan Tubbs/Kenny Brown (3rd); Jordan Kahn/Kevin McNamara (4th)

Men's A Doubles (3): Dean Hamiti/Scott Fauque; Mark Coleman/Matt Rowland; David Lilly/Robert Dunlap

Men's B Doubles (3): Jake Ryan/Jeffrey Hill; Dan Musgrove/Dave Wielgus; Matt Rowland/Mike Mulrooney

Men's C Doubles (3): Mike Carlton/Paul Shafar; Brian Lien/Dale Willenbrink; Aaron Pace/Steven Pace (WA)

Mixed Doubles (3): Dale Willenbrink/Jonelle Kohoutek; Carolyn Watkins-Vasquez/Peter Schmeichel; Bernadette Bland/Rick Seaberg



Brian Berkelhamer, Kevin McNamara, Ruben Gonzalez, Jordan Kahn and George Pappas

SLAM IT FOR SUSAN!

It's great to say the Des Plaines Lattof YMCA's Second Annual *Slam it for Susan!* was a bigger success than the first. There were over 50 participants, but while only four women played last year, there were over twenty playing in this year's fundraiser.

Once again it was a night for remembering Susan Mertes' love for the game and what a great sport she was. Challenge courts were organized for every level of racquetball enthusiast. This year we set aside two courts for women only. In this all-doubles event, the winners stayed on the court and were challenged by another doubles team. The losers got back in line to try again. Pink balls were flying — everyone who entered received a Pink Hope Ball donated by Wilson Sporting Goods.

Lola Markus, Margaret Hoff, Nancy Kronenfeld, Dave Kronenfeld and Janet Leet assisted Art Michaely in checking in the players and making sure everyone received a racquetball item donated by Wilson or a pink water bottle donated by Nancy Kronenfeld and Janet Leet. Dennis Negrete volunteered to string racquets and gave a generous donation to Susan G. Komen for the Cure from what he collected that evening. Thanks to Wilson Sporting Goods, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and Dennis Negrete, there were plenty of items donated. Also huge thanks to Rick Colletti and Vito Brunetti for donating awesome pizza from their restaurants, Coletti's and Giuseppe's.

When the night was over, \$2,200 was raised with \$1,400 donated to Susan G/ Komen for the Cure and \$800 donated to the Lattof YMCA in memory of Susan Mertes. We all miss Susan and know now this will be an annual event to remember her, so we expect to see you at the 3rd Annual Slam it for Susan!

— Nancy Kronenfeld

**2nd Annual
SLAM IT FOR SUSAN!**

OCTOBER 6, 2008
7:00PM – 10:00PM
Register that night
\$20 per entry

**DOUBLES
RACQUETBALL
CHALLENGE COURT**

**Bring your own
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**ALL MONEY TO BE DONATED TO SUSAN
G. KOMEN FOUNDATION IN HONOR OF
SUSAN MERTES**

**YMCA Travel Team Champion
died from breast cancer
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*You can make donations
in Susan's memory honor*

*Susan G. Komen
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1561 Birch
Arlington Hts. IL 60009*



Ladies from all over Chicagoland gathered at Lattof in Susan's memory

2008 ISRA Players of the Year

2008 Male and Female Players of the Year and Most Improved Player Award

Vote for your favorite male and/or female Player of the Year and Most Improved Player using the form below. Please include comments regarding your selection(s) using the following criteria:

1. Accomplishments
2. Number of years played
3. Sportsmanship
4. Improvement
5. Contribution to the sport of racquetball

Nominees must be USAR/ISRA members and may play at any level. Winners will be chosen by the ISRA Governing Board and will be honored at the ISRA State Singles Championships on February 28, 2009.

Players of the Year — past recipients: Chris Evon, Marshall Waldo (1988); Cheryl Gudinas, Rich Clay (1989); Pat Tarzon, Bill Lyman (1990); Laurel Davis, Ron Johnson (1991); Lola Markus, Bill Lyman (1992); Cheryl Gudinas, Andy Pitock (1993); Cheryl Gudinas, Greg Hasty (1994); Cheryl Gudinas, Horace Miller (1995); Dawn Gates, John Negrete (1996); Krystal Csuk, John O'Donnell, Jr. (1997); Mary Crawford, Greg Hasty, Sr. (1998); Terri Graham, Cary Slade (1999); Cheryl Gudinas, Bill Lyman (2000); Nancy Kronenfeld, Bill Lyman (2001); Liz Molitor, Ben Croft (2002); Liz Molitor, Dave Milazzo (2003); Krystal Czuk, Dave Milazzo (2004); Liz Molitor, Keith Minor (2005); Liz Molitor, Keith Minor (2006); Pat Taylor, Julie Vincent (2007).

Most Improved Player Award — past recipients: Robert Gates, Jr. (1998); Ben Croft (1999); Diane Bunker

(2000); Ubaldo Melo (2001); Angel Khamis (2002); Carolyn Watkins, Adrian Beltramino (2003); Geoff Goldblatt (2004 & 2005); Richard DeArmas (2006); Trevor Snyders (2007).

Act Now: Nominations must be received by January 16, 2009!

Submit your nominations to: Illinois State Racquetball Association, 1163 S. Grace St., Lombard, IL 60148; or email your nomination to Marla Cusano at marcusano@comcast.net. Your nomination(s) should include your name, address, day and evening phone numbers, the name of the nominee(s), and the reasons why that person(s) should receive the award, including a list of achievements. *Note: The more detailed your nomination (including tournament results), the better chance your nominee(s) will have!*

2008 ISRA Players of the Year & Most Improved Player NOMINATION FORM

Male Nominee's Name _____

Female Nominee's Name _____

Most Improved Player's Name _____

Include paragraph regarding your selection(s) (may use separate sheet of paper): _____

Name of ISRA member initiating nomination (please print): _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (night) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return by January 16, 2009 to:

ISRA c/o Marla Cusano
1163 S. Grace St., Lombard, IL 60148

or email nomination to: marcusano@comcast.net.

2009 Distinguished Service Award

2009 Distinguished Service Award

Nominations are being accepted for the 2009 ISRA Distinguished Service Award. Criteria for consideration include commitment to the sport of racquetball; quality of service; and accomplishments benefiting the sport and its players. Any ISRA member may make nominations. The winner, chosen by the ISRA Governing Board, will be honored at the ISRA State Singles on February 28, 2009.

Distinguished Service Award – past recipients: Tom Street (1978); Bob Troyer (1979); Art Michaely (1980); Gay Kenna (1981); Jim Harper (1982); Jim Cartwright (1983); Alan Shetzer (1984); Clyde Senters (1985); Diane Gabrisko (1986); Geoff Peters (1986); Bill Feigen (1987); Alvin Barasch (1988); Judy Young (1989); Bill Roberts (1990); Al Danielwicz (1991); Bill Piggott (1992); Rich Clay (1993); Dave Negrete (1994); Lori Kaiser (1995); Brian Stuertz (1996); Diane DeArmas (1997); T.J. Ferro (1998); Laurel Davis (1999); Rich Clay (2000); Mike Davern (2001); Pam Grace (2002); Cheryl Kirk (2003); Patrice Calvi (2004); Geoff Peters (2005); Doug Halverson (2006); Laurel Davis (2007); Michelle Halverson (2008).

Act Now: Nominations must be received by January 16, 2009!

Submit your nominations to: Illinois State Racquetball Association, 1163 S. Grace St., Lombard, IL 60148; or email your nomination to Marla Cusano at marcusano@comcast.net. Your nomination(s) should include your name, address, day and evening phone numbers, the name of the nominee(s), and the reasons why that person(s) should receive the award, including a list of achievements. *Note: The more detailed your nomination (including tournament results), the better chance your nominee(s) will have!*

2009 ISRA Distinguished Service Award NOMINATION FORM

Nominee's Name _____

Include paragraph regarding your selection(s) (may use separate sheet of paper): _____

Name of ISRA member initiating nomination (please print): _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (night) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return by January 16, 2009 to:

ISRA c/o Marla Cusano
1163 S. Grace St., Lombard, IL 60148

or email nomination to: marcusano@comcast.net.

James B. Dvorak Award

Mr. James B. Dvorak was an individual who supported racquetball and especially loved to watch young people play. Through the generosity of the Dvorak family, a scholarship is awarded annually in Mr. Dvorak's memory to a deserving junior player (18 years of age and under) who exhibits high standards in the areas of racquetball participation, sportsmanship, com-

munity service and scholastic achievement. The \$500 scholarship is intended to be used to supplement the cost of the award recipient's education.

The 2008/2009 winner will be announced at the ISRA Annual Awards Ceremony at the ISRA State Singles Championships on February 28, 2009. Entries will be accepted through January 16, 2009.

Past winners include Kevin Schultz, Jake Sutton, Trevor Snyders, Geoff Goldblatt, and Vinny Carvallo.

To request an application, please email Junior Team Illinois (JTI) President Barry Dixon at bdixon@holophane.com. Remember, you must apply to be considered!

2009 ISRA Newsletter Advertising Rates

GUIDELINES:

- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include **product pricing**.
- All ads are assumed to be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- These rates are in effect until December 31, 2009.
- Deadlines are as follows:

- **Issue Publication Date:** 2/1/09
- **Articles/Releases/Ads Due:** 1/3/09

- **Ad rates:**

Full page: \$150/issue

Half page: \$75/issue

Quarter page: \$50/issue

Other sizes quoted on a case-by-case basis.

- For any questions or submission:



Send articles/releases to Cheryl Kirk at cherylkkirk@aol.com

Send ads to Joe Silius at jsilius@yahoo.com

Lend Your SUPPORT

Your membership in the ISRA has helped make our organization second to none.

Though we strive to make improvements to build and grow the sport for future success, we sometimes struggle to keep our heads above water as an organization. Our focus is not for the purpose of monetary gain but to generate enough funds to give back quality, first-rate programs, tournaments and events we can all be proud to participate in. Our volunteers who donate their time and/or money are greatly appreciated as are those who advertise in this ISRA Newsletter. For as little as \$25 for a business card size ad, we can help get your name out there to let everyone know what you do; for \$150, we can run your ad on a full page. Help Us Help You by getting your ad into the next ISRA newsletter.

Many thanks,
Joe Silius,
Advertising Editor

Attention ISRA MEMBERS!

Beginning with this issue, the ISRA Newsletter has transitioned to an electronic format. As you know, it is presently available on www.illinoisracquetball.com. We may, however, move to an email (members only) format in the near future. Please take the opportunity now to update your USA Racquetball membership profile, most especially supplying your current email address so you don't miss any issues of this cutting edge publication!

Please follow the steps below to update your profile:

1. Log into www.usra.org
2. Select Membership Login in the upper left hand box
3. Enter your six-digit USAR membership number and password*
4. Update the information in the profile
5. Click on Edit Contact Info
6. Log out

Now, wasn't that easy?

*If you don't know or have misplaced your membership number and/or password, contact Heather Izzett at hizzett@usra.org.

Thanks for taking the time...and be sure to visit www.illinoisracquetball.com for tournament schedule revisions and competition results.



Send to:

ISRA
603 E. Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148

Member Sport,
U.S. Olympic
Committee



COMPETITIVE LICENSE APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Business) _____

E-MAIL _____

BIRTHDATE _____

Adult competitor \$35.00 _____

Junior competitor \$20.00 _____

RACQUETBALL Magazine subscription only \$20.00 _____

Tax-deductible donation \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Tournament _____ Representative _____

All memberships are for one year, and include a subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine (six times/year) and the Illinois Newsletter (four times/year).

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- CLUB PRO

AVAILABLE AT: THE GLASS COURT, LOMBARD, IL 630-629-3390
SILVERLAKE COUNTRY CLUB, ORLAND PARK, IL 708-349-6940



2008-2009 Tournament **CALENDAR**

For updates or edits to the ISRA Tournament Calendar, please contact
Geoff Peters at (773) 251-4413 or at Petersgeoff@Hotmail.com

November 13th – 16th

The Turkey Shoot Open, \$\$
The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

November 14th – 16th

2008 All Military National Championship
Naval Base San Diego, CA
Contact: Steven Harper

December 6th

ProKennex One Day Ladies Tournament
Forest View Racquet Club,
Arlington Heights
Dave Negrete; (630) 430-1478
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

December 13th

One Day Christmas Blast
(Men's Doubles only)
Forest View Racquet Club,
Arlington Heights
Jim Thurber; (847) 640-2574
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

December 14th – 20th

20th IRF World Junior Championships
Tempe, AZ
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396

January 8th – 11th

ISRA State Doubles Championships, JR
The Glass Court Swim & Fitness,
Lombard
Cheryl Kirk; (630) 215-4242
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

January 16th – 18th

26th Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic
The Chalet, Willow Springs
Jeff Grace; (630) 462-9030
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

January 16th – 18th

WS/MRA National Championships
The Spectrum Club, Canoga Park, CA
Debbie Tisinger-Moore; (818) 884-5034
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

February 7th – 8th (tentative)

Lake County Open, \$, JR
Southlake Racquet & Fitness,
Mundelein
Cindy Flores-Mocarski; (847) 949-8180
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

February 11th – 15th

42nd USAR National
Doubles Championships
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

February 25th – March 1st

22nd USAR National
High School Championships
St. Louis, MO
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

February 27th – March 1st

ISRA State Singles
Championships, JR
The Chalet, Willow Springs
Laurel Davis; (630) 476-6896
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

March 11th – 14th

2009 NMRA
National Championships
The Spectrum Club,
Canoga Park, CA
Debbie Tisinger-Moore; (818) 884-5034
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

March 19th – 22nd

The Shamrock Shootout, \$\$
The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

April 1st – 4th

37th USAR National Intercollegiate
Championships
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

April 3rd – 5th

Spring Break Fool's Shootout
Forest View Racquet Club,
Arlington Heights
Jim Thurber (847) 640-2574
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

April 17th – 19th

USA Racquetball Regional Championships
The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
Laurel Davis; (630) 629-3390
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

May 6th – 10th

Fourth Annual IRT Motorola Pro Nationals
Presented by Verizon Wireless
Navy Pier, Chicago
Dave Negrete; (630) 430-1478

May 20th – 25th

42nd USAR National
Singles Championships
The Downtown YMCA, Houston, TX
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

June 24th – 28th

36th National Junior
Olympic Championships
Lansing, MI
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

June 26th – 27th

5th Annual Racquet for the Cure
Landmark Health and Fitness, Peoria
(Women's Divisions plus
Men's/Mixed Doubles)
John Snarr; (309) 685-8360

July 15th – 18th

2009 NMRA International Championships
Urbana, IL
John O'Donnell, Jr.; (217) 351-9093
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

July 24th – 26th

16th Annual Summerfest Open \$\$
The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390
Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

JR - Includes Junior Divisions

\$ - Prize Money in
Open Divisions

\$\$ - Prize Money in
Multiple Divisions

All tournaments listed are sanctioned by USA Racquetball

sponsored by



Racquetball

CHALLENGE COURTS

Buehler YMCA

(847) 359-2400

Palatine, IL

Thursdays

7-10 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. - Noon
\$15 One-Day Guest Pass

Landmark Health

and Racquetball

(309) 685-8360

Peoria, IL

First and Third

Friday each month

6 - 8 p.m.

\$5.00

Schaumburg Park District

(847) 490-2505

Saturday

8 - 10 a.m.

Sunday 6 - 8 p.m.

\$3 Members,

\$9.00 Non-Members

Courts Plus

(Elmhurst Park District)

(630) 833-5064

Monday-Saturday

8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

\$2.00 M-F,

\$3.00 Sat. Members

\$10.00 Non-Members

Life Center Health

and Fitness at the

Bartlett Park District

(630) 540-4848

Bartlett, IL

Wednesdays

7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Saturdays

7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

\$4.00 Members

\$6.00 Non-Members

\$9.00 Non-Residents

Silver Lake Country Club

(708) 349-6940

Orland Park, IL

Friday 7 - 10 p.m.

\$7.00 Members

and Non-Members

Forest View Racquet

and Fitness Club

(847) 640-2574

Arlington Heights, IL

Thursday

6:30 - 10:00 p.m.

\$2.00 Members,

\$5.00 Non-Members

Norris Rec Center

(630) 377-1405

St. Charles, IL

Tuesday and Thursday

7 - 9 p.m.

Friday

5 - 7 p.m.

Sunday

8 - 10 a.m.

\$5.00 Members

and Non-Members

The Southlake Club

(847) 949-8180

Mundelein, IL

Monday-Friday 5 - 8 p.m.

Saturday

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

\$10.00 for ISRA Members
(with membership card)

Heritage YMCA

(630) 420-6270

Naperville, IL

Saturday

9 - 10 a.m.

\$4.00 Members,

\$8.00 Non-Members

West Cook YMCA

(708) 383-5200

Wednesday 7 - 10 p.m.

Thursday 2 - 4 p.m.

Saturday 8 - 10 a.m.

Free to

YMCA members,

\$9.00 Non-Members

To add your club to this list, contact: **Marla Cusano** at marcusano@comcast.net