

ISRA

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NEWS

Official Publication of the Illinois State Racquetball Association



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From the **PRESIDENT**

I am sitting on an airplane in Des Moines as the sun is coming up, headed home after a couple of days of business meetings in Des Moines and the surrounding area.

As I am sitting here, I am thinking about what our racquetball lives would be like if airplane travel didn't exist. One of my favorite parts of playing racquetball has always been the people I have met along the way -- people from all over the United States or even from other countries. Air travel has made it possible to attend training camps in Colorado Springs, national championship tournaments in Houston and LA, doubles tournaments in Phoenix and senior/master tournaments in Albuquerque.

Each of those experiences has created many friendships and memories. Jim Hiser would tell us at the beginning of each training camp to cherish the time together because this exact group will never be together again. And he was right, the combinations of people change with each experience. There are always some overlaps, but also some additions and deletions. Often times, I have attended the same event multiple times because there are certain people I know I will reconnect with there.

The Albuquerque tournament classifies people into age groups by five-year increments. That was a good way to really get to know and make friends with people who share similar experiences. One year there were 16 women in my division, and three of us had been born on the same exact day!

On the Cover...

*ISRA Annual Awards recipients
Greg Hasty, Kelly Gremley, ISRA
President Laurel Davis,
John O'Donnell, Jr.,
Cheryl Kirk, Nathan Gupta.*

Photo by Mike Davern.



How often will you ever encounter an experience like that?

Of course, flying doesn't get everybody to all events. Some people prefer to drive. Many people remember Ron Johnson, one of our early Illinois Hall of Famers. Ron was afraid to fly. Every year he would tell us that this was the year he was going to fly to Houston for Nationals. And most years, when he arrived, it was by car.

Closer to home, I observe sometimes that people won't participate in a racquetball event because Peoria is too far, or Schaumburg is too far, or there is too much traffic to drive to Lombard on a Friday night. What if those people would expand their geographic horizons as it relates to racquetball? They might find more competition, make more friends or be part of a unique group that will never be gathered again.

Whatever your mode of transportation, take advantage of the new season of tournaments that is coming up and expand your geographic horizons if you can. The play and the competition is great, but the friends you make along the way are even better!

Laurel

P.S. Congratulations and welcome to new ISRA Board Members Todd Burris and Jonelle Dubois. The calendar for the 2014 - 2015 racquetball season appears on page 17 of this newsletter.

ISRA FAMILY NEWS

New ISRA Racquetball Family Member!

Welcome to little Mary Alexxia Madrigal, daughter of Oscar and Maritza Madrigal. Alexxia made her appearance at 9:47 pm on January 6, 2014, at Little Company of Mary Hospital. She weighed in at 6.6 pounds and 19.5 inches. Alexxis' racquetball debut was at Glass Court this spring with her mommy and daddy in tow. Congratulations to this beautiful new family!



Happy Anniversary, Superstars!

So it seems Dave Milazzo is a celebrity even *beyond* the racquetball world. The June 15, 2014, Life+Style section of the Chicago Tribune featured an article about Dave and Shelly's 20th wedding anniversary. Well, maybe this is not such an unusual bit of news until you learn that they got married on June 18, 1994, while standing on home plate at Wrigley Field! Dubbed "a very rare occurrence" by a Cubs representative, the Milazzos' wedding venue was made possible by the fact that Shelly was at the time the marketing coordinator for the Cubs. "They said if we promised to keep it quiet, then we could do it." The article goes on to say that 200 wedding guests (sworn to secrecy) ran around the bases and the outfield before the ceremony. Dave was quoted in the article,



Courtesy of Milazzo Family and Chicago Tribune

"Our priest Father Kurt Olson was a huge Cubs fan. ... He was standing on home plate with the microphone, and as he was talking, it was echoing throughout the whole P.A. system when he was saying the vows. ... It was surreal." Guess where Dave and Shelly celebrated their 20th anniversary? Yep, and the Cubbies won! P.S. Dave adds, "A fun part of the Wrigley wedding was that Dave, John, and Dennis Negrete were ushers!"



Women's Travel Season Ends

With a longer season due to weather make-up dates, the ISRA Women's Travel League ended with a final night of play and the traditional party at Glass Court on Monday, April 28. Congrats to the winning team: Ellen Somberg (Captain), Marla Cusano, Cheryl Kirk, and Letty Maldonado. The next season will start up again in October on Monday evenings, alternating between Glass Court and Schaumburg Tennis Plus.

ISRA Referee Certification Program May 2014 Status Report from John O'Donnell, Jr.

Since the inception of the program in January 2013, 55 players (including 11 juniors) have attended clinics. Thirteen individuals have taken the referee test and to date, seven have passed.

Of the seven who have attended clinics and passed the written exam, five have completed the requisite number of refereed and observed matches and are now Certified Level 1 referees. They are Todd Burris, Jerry Fronczak, Andy Pitock, Ellen Somberg, and Joan Vande Kieft.

Each has received printed certificates and wallet cards to document this achievement. Congratulations to everyone who have become certified or taken steps to do so.

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MEET THE BOARD

Dolores Lamberson



Name: Dolores Lamberson. And don't spell it Delores – cause that will *really* tick me off. This would answer the question, "What is your pet peeve?"...if anyone were to ask that!

Hometown: La Grange, IL

Family: My husband Tom Lamberson, and we have three little girls – Nadia (7), TillieMinnieAnnie (4) and Bugsy (3). Beautiful furry little kitties. We are an integrated family, three white and two black. We all get along.

Occupation/Employer: ERP Solution Architect at Edward Hospital. I have been in computers and programming for so long, we used to carve the code into stones. But right now I do work on the payroll, benefits, financials, time capture, and materials management systems, architecting magic out of sticks and stones. I own up to being a geek and enjoy what I do.

How/when did you start playing racquetball?: In the '80's, I played with friends without having a clue as to how the game was played. At college, I needed a filler class and through friends found out that gym classes counted just as much as math, engineering, logic, and programming, so I took racquetball and learned that you are supposed to hit the ball low and away from your opponent, not to them. Who knew?? I found a whole

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ISRA FAMILY NEWS *cont. from page 3*

July 7, 2014

Colorado Springs, CO – USA Racquetball has announced that Cheryl Gudinas has been named the Interim Head Coach of the U.S. Junior National Team. Coach Gudinas will take over the reigns after longtime Head Coach Kelley Beane stepped down for personal reasons.

"We are very pleased to have a proven champion like Cheryl lead our young players in international competition," remarked Larry Haemmerle, USA Racquetball President. "At the same time, we thank Coach Beane for her great work and accomplishments over the past 15 years with the Team."

Gudinas, who resides in Naperville, IL, is a 21-year veteran of the U.S. National Team and has competed in dozens of international championships all around the world. Her many accomplishments include three World Championships singles titles and singles Gold Medals in two Pan American Games. She has served as an Assistant Coach of the U.S. National Junior Team for the past 15 years.

Most recently, Gudinas led the U.S. Junior National Team delegation to the 2013 IRF Junior World Championships in Sucre, Bolivia, where the Team finished third overall.

"I'm excited to lead this group of promising young players through Junior Training Camp and into the Junior World Championships in Cali, Colombia," remarked Gudinas. "We will work hard and strive to bring the Gold Medal to the United States."

Gudinas will serve as Interim Head Coach throughout the remainder of 2014 and lead the Junior National Team through its annual Training Camp at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs later this summer and the IRF World Junior Championships to be held in Cali, Colombia, in October. Assistant Coaches include Jen Meyer (Grand Junction, CO), Nick Montalbano (West Islip, NY), and Jody Nance (Stockton, CA).



Photo credit: Geoff Thomsen

MEET THE BOARD *cont. from page 4*

new understanding and enjoyment of the game, and an easy A. I did it again the next quarter! I never knew there were tournaments or clubs and leagues and things, so I didn't play again for many years. When I started dating Tom, we discovered that he played and found a club where he could get back into the game, but I couldn't find any women players until we found the mecca that is Glass Court. I first got on the court with Char Borre so she could evaluate how far toward the bottom I needed to start; the answer was all the way at the bottom. I started in leagues there, moving through the various levels. The passion for the sport of some of the women I have met (Sharilyn Pope and Marlene Sparrow are two notables) has been astounding. They were brave enough to allow me on the court with them while I learned to play doubles. They continue to play any time they can and they enjoy it and have caused me to learn the love of the game in addition to the competitive side. I started in tournaments, and just can't quit.

Board service: I knew there were meetings being held around the running of all things racquetball, and I endeavored to find out who was involved and where did they meet? Hmm, how could I infiltrate...? I started volunteering at tournaments and liked getting to know the players as they checked in or were being assigned courts. I then talked the Board members into allowing me to join the Auxiliary Board and started attending some of the meetings. A year ago, I was able to coerce them into inviting me to join the Board. At first, I did nothing. It was great. I went to meetings, they supplied some food and drinks. This was the life. Then, they had someone working on re-vamping the website. This sucked me in. I volunteered to help with some of the posting of info to the website. I got involved with the posting of the Travel League results. Then I volunteered to monitor the winners of tournaments, and I now get to decide who moves up and when...or, it may be more like, I get to follow the established rules and notify players when they have earned the right to move up. This is news that most people are pretty happy to hear, so this is a good duty to have. But really, it has been a huge learning experience about what it takes to run the "club" that we are, to get the tournaments scheduled and run, and to get players onto courts. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes, and there are several people who really give a lot of themselves to making sure that this sport and the opportunity for tournaments can continue. My favorite part of being on the Board is to, in some little way, help that happen. The game is great, the people in it are great, and I really hope it can continue and we can get more players involved.

Outside hobbies: The things I enjoy when I am not playing racquetball, or drilling, or practicing, or watching others play, include golf, bike riding, boating, reading while Tom fishes, golfing, working jigsaw puzzles, Sudoku, playing piano, taking vacations, swimming, painting, and golfing. My mom used to get mad at me for doing too much, i.e. burning the candle at both ends, but that is what I find myself doing. I can't help it!

Anything else to share?: Anyone who has been on a court with me has probably figured out that I am slightly competitive. This translates over into almost everything I do. When I do my Sudoku, I need to see the number at the end. If I am not faster than 86% of those not using hints or pencils, I feel the need to try another game to make sure I am not slipping. Sad but true. I like to laugh and I enjoy getting others to laugh, even if it is about me. But, most importantly, I am an exceptionally shy person who really hates to reveal things about myself to others. So...when you are finished reading this, please burn your copy and forget whatever you have read, except the part about my enjoying racquetball and hoping to get others to love it just as much. Right now, I am working on recruiting my physical therapist. I just found out she is trying to find people to play racquetball with. Hmm, perhaps a little trade is in the offing...

Editor's Note: The part of the story where Dolores mentions infiltration and coercion is a bit of a stretch. Actually, her fellow Board members feel pretty smug about "sucking her in," and we couldn't be happier to have a person with Dolores' expertise, heart, and sense of humor on the ISRA Board!



ISRA HALL OF FAME

and Annual Awards

by Marla Cusano

The ISRA Board of Directors was honored to recognize and induct into the ISRA Hall of Fame two outstanding racquetball champions, Herb Grigg and Bill Lyman, at the 2014 State Singles Championships. These two individuals have contributed so much to the sport.

The ISRA Hall of Fame induction ceremony took place on the evening of Saturday, April 5, 2014, in front of family, friends, and several established Hall of Fame members at The Glass Court Swim & Fitness in Lombard, Illinois. Attendance was free to the public and the turnout was standing room only. The ISRA Annual Awards were bestowed upon the winners just prior to the Hall of Fame ceremony.

Laurel Davis acted as Emcee, and Mike Davern memorialized the event in photographs.

ISRA Hall of Fame – 2014 Inductees

Herb Grigg traveled from state to state in the '70s through the '90s playing racquetball in the Men's Open and Age divisions and won many, many tournaments nationally, regionally, and in Illinois. He faced many competitive partners like Marshall Waldo and Bruce Nelson at state and national tournaments. Herb would travel from Rockford where he lived to the Chicagoland area to play in pretty much every tournament there was on the calendar. Although some of the older records are hard to find, we were able to uncover some of Herb's accomplishments over the years: winning the ISRA State Singles Men's 35+ Advanced divisions in 1986, 1989 and 1990, winning the Men's 40+ in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1995, and many more, including one National 45+ title in 1991, all contributing to his well-deserved induction into the ISRA Hall of Fame.

Bill Lyman's contribution to racquetball can be summed up in one powerful sentence – he has won 38 titles through his play at State, Regional and National tournaments from the years 1980 through 2014, and he continues to play regularly. Also, Bill in his past has been a Junior Travel League coach, USRA Most improved Player, US Olympic Festival North Team Staff member, Illinois Junior National Team Coach, four-time team member of the Chicagoland Travel League

Championships, four-time ISRA Player of the Year, an ISRA Governing Board member for 15 years, co-tournament director of many state doubles and singles tournaments as well as many club tournaments, and the Club Racquetball Pro at Oak Park YMCA, Naperville Courts, Wheaton Sports Club, Oak Park Athletic Club, Lifetime Fitness, and Oak Park Tennis & Fitness.



*2014 Hall of Fame Inductees
Herb Grigg and Bill Lyman*

After Laurel introduced Bill and Herb, they both addressed the audience to speak about their love of not only the sport but of the people they have met along the way that support and play racquetball. Herb traveled all the way from Tampa, Florida, to attend the ceremony, but his wife, Patti, was unable to make the long trip. However, she was able to attend by way of Skype and watched both her husband and Bill receive this prestigious award. Bill had the crowd laughing over his many racquetball stories and thanked many of his partners he's had along the way, including his long-time doubles partner, Chris Evon, who was in attendance.

ISRA Annual Awards

The winners for the 2013/2014 season were:

John O'Donnell, Jr., 2014 Distinguished Service Award; Gregory Hasty, Male Player of the Year; Kelly Gremley, Female Player of the Year; Cheryl Kirk, Most Improved Player of the Year; and Nathan Gupta, 2014 TJ Ferro Junior Award.

John O'Donnell, Jr. serves as the ISRA Board of Directors South Zone VP and has been a member of the Board for the past two years. John has single-handedly brought the ISRA Referee Certification

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*ISRA Hall of Famers welcome Grigg and Lyman
Marshall Waldo, John O'Donnell, Jr., Chris Evon, Gay Kenna Mason, Cheryl Gudinas, Art Michaely*

ISRA BOARD MEMBER

and Officer Election Held

The Annual Meeting of the ISRA Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014. As with all ISRA meetings, this meeting was open to the membership. ISRA Board Elections were held, with the following results.

Board positions are staggered two-year terms. This year, there were ten open seats. The following individuals were re-nominated to the Governing Board by the Nominating Committee: Patrice Calvi, Doug Halverson, Michelle Halverson, Cheryl Kirk, John O'Donnell, Jr., Geoff Peters, Joe Silius, and Lynne Weisbart. Additionally, Todd Burris and Jonelle Dubois were nominated by the Committee to the Governing Board for a first term.

Per ISRA Bylaws (posted on www.illinoisracquetball.com), the above slate was accepted automatically since there were no opposing nominations. All Board member appointments were effective July 1, 2014.

In officer elections, the results were: Cheryl Kirk is Vice President and Michelle Halverson was re-elected Treasurer. Geoff Peters was appointed North Zone VP and Doug Halverson resumes the West Zone VP position.

The ISRA continues to welcome volunteers who would like to join the Auxiliary Board and become more involved in supporting racquetball on the state level. We are pleased to announce that Lisa Mayer and Barb Vagedes have recently joined the Auxiliary Board.

Any member who would like to lend time and talent in support of Illinois racquetball should contact Laurel Davis (laurelmdavis@comcast.net) or any ISRA Board member.

*Signed,
The ISRA Nominating Committee
Marla Cusano (Chair), Pam Grace, and Rick Seaberg*

ISRA HALL OF FAME *and Annual Awards* cont. from page 4

Program to life, conducting Rules & Referee Clinics at many tournaments over the past 18 months. Because of his efforts, we now have five certified referees, with a number of others studying and endeavoring to become certified. John contributed time, expertise, and financial resources toward the success of this program, traveling from Central Illinois to Peoria and Lombard. His work ethic and dedication to excellence is second to none.

Greg Hasty has a competitive record of 24-0 since July 2012. He has won many tournaments, including the 2012 US Open in the 65+ division (without losing a game!). He won the 2013 MO Regional Qualifier with the Pros IRT Tier 1 event in 65+, again with no games lost. He won gold medals at the 2013 USAR National Singles in California and the 2013 IRF World Seniors Championships in New Mexico. Greg is a true champion with many more wins than could be listed here under his belt.

Kelly Gremley has been active in Illinois racquetball for a number of years and competes at local, state, and national levels. She has won many tournaments, including the RFTC Peoria Women's Open Doubles with partner, Brenda White; Summerfest Women's Open/A Singles; US Open Mixed Elite Doubles with Tony Domelle, and the Red Swan Open (IRT) in Women's Open Singles. At the time of her nomination, she was ranked #6 in Illinois, #94 in the US, and #36 on the LPRT.

Cheryl Kirk has improved her game in thought, power, and action. She has been training with Andy Pitock for a number of years and her court sense, anticipation,

movement, power, and shot selection have improved her skills to enable her to compete in higher skill divisions. She has won first place in a number of tournaments, competing in Open and A doubles divisions, both Mixed and Women's. Cheryl played in the Open flight on the winning team of the 2013-14 Women's Travel League.

Nathan Gupta was chosen out of 27 applicants to win the TJ Ferro Award for 2014. The TJ Ferro Award is sponsored by the Illinois State Racquetball Association in memory of Thomas J. (TJ) Ferro who helped to found Junior Team Illinois. Each year, the winner is awarded a \$250 scholarship intended to be used to supplement the cost of his or her education. Nathan Gupta was chosen based on his racquetball participation, sportsmanship, scholastic achievement, and community service. Steve Goodman and Barry Dixon were on hand to present the award to Nathan.

Dan Jaskier, Manager of Glass Court, was present to receive two honorary plaques this year given by the ISRA Board of Directors for hosting the 2014 State Doubles and 2014 State Singles Championships. Illinois racquetball is thriving today due in great part to Glass Court, and we couldn't be more grateful.

At the end of a wonderful evening of catching up and recognizing our many winners, cake and beverages were served in the Lounge area at Glass Court. Be on the lookout for worthy recipients of the 2014/2015 awards – nomination time will be here again in the blink of an eye!

ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE!

USA Racquetball Leadership Conference

**Colorado Springs, CO
May 2-4, 2014**

In May of this year, four ISRA Board members (Marla Cusano, Cheryl Kirk, Geoff Peters, and Pam Schubach) represented Illinois at the 2014 USA Racquetball Leadership Conference held in Colorado Springs at the USOC Olympic Training Center. The Leadership Conference is a great way to measure our State's accomplishments in relation to the other states as far as growing memberships, programs offered, management of tournaments, etc.

This year the conference was held over three days, and the main purpose was USA Racquetball and State Associations working together for the sport of racquetball. It provided a forum for racquetball leaders across the country to participate in dialogue on key issues and to learn from each other.

A few topics covered were...

Insurance Matters by Kevin Joyce, a discussion of why insurance is necessary and what is available to the State organizations as well as USAR.

Ryan Rodgers of R2Sports was there to present additional ways to use the R2 Sports website and to answer any questions that the attendees had in using the system. The R2Sports system has completely changed the way tournaments are organized and managed.

Emily Davis, MNM, of Emily Davis Consulting presented the Art, Science and Joy of Volunteer Leadership. She provided a wealth of information on when, what, where and how to organize and run a not-for-profit organization.



Cheryl Kirk, Marla Cusano, and Pam Schubach at the USOC Training Center (not pictured – Geoff Peters)

Our own Geoff Peters and Cheryl Kirk, along with Dave Ellis and Steve Czarnecki, updated the group on the USAR Adult National and Junior National Teams as well as the Team USA Challenge fundraising initiative.

My strong takeaway from this leadership conference is that *all of us*, not just the ISRA Governing Board, need to be involved in growing the sport, whether it be by finding and teaching juniors how to play, to running tournaments and leagues, becoming a certified referee, advertising, fundraising, and just simply making a personal commitment to work towards spreading the word of what a great sport racquetball is for long-term health and life benefits. What better way to work out than to play a fun game and burn sometimes up to 500 calories an hour!

I feel honored that the ISRA and its membership made it possible for the four of us to attend and learn from this experience.

-- Marla Cusano

THE KILL SHOT

Kids Corner

by Steve Goodman

Our Junior Team Illinois Program was excellent this year. We had many new players come into the program and participate routinely in practices and tournaments. We expect even more participants next year. We are starting to see more juniors coming in from out of state as well for local tournaments. Our sport is starting to grow in Juniors divisions nationwide!

Two of our players participated in the USA Racquetball Junior Nationals Tournament held in a suburb of Denver, Colorado, in late June. We'll report on Michael Fornero's and Jeremy Dixon's experience in the next issue of the ISRA Newsletter. We thank the ISRA Board and the Just for Jordan event for sponsoring both players to help fund their trip.



Photo by Mike Davern

Michael Fornero and Jeremy Dixon

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MOVIN' ON UP!

2014-2015 Season

Racquetball success equates to greater challenges! These individuals/teams won at least one full-draw division during the 2013-2014 season and recently received "The Letter" (suitable for framing) notifying them of their new eligibility. Congratulations, and good luck to all in the coming year!

- Dolores Lamberson, Eligibility Committee Chair

Men's Open

Thomas Bassett, Summerfest
Ryan Fosco, Turkey Shoot
Moses Elias, St. Valentine's Day Massacre
Sriram Ravindram, Shamrock Shootout
Oscar Corona, ISRA State Singles

Men's A

Benjamin King, Summerfest
Keith Yaklovich, Bob Schwab Memorial
Kregg Raducha, Turkey Shoot
Matt Reeser, St. Valentine's Day Massacre, Shamrock Shootout, ISRA Midwest Regionals
Stefan Bernal, March Invitational
Rogelio Ruiz, ISRA State Singles

Men's B

Nikhil Iyer, Summerfest
Todd Greenstein, Fall Brawl
John Mateu, Turkey Shoot
Andrew Heritch, March Invitational
Levester Dean, Shamrock Shootout
James McLaughlin, ISRA State Singles

Men's C

Eugen Gheorghiu, Summerfest
Roberto Rivas, Fall Brawl
Dave Schubert, Turkey Shoot
Jerry Kee, Shamrock Shootout
Jeremy Dixon, ISRA State Singles

Men's Open Doubles

Tom Neal / Shane Jackson, ISRA State Doubles
Calvin Price / Jim Stowell, March Invitational

Men's A Doubles

David Singer / Jake Ryan, US Open
Bill Wolf / Jeffrey Hill, ISRA State Doubles

Mixed Open Doubles

Mike Davern / Jonelle Dubois, Shamrock Shootout

THE KILL SHOT Kids Corner *cont. from page 9*

"Meet our Racquetball Families" (Photos courtesy of Junior Team Illinois/Steve Goodman)

We are starting to see a trend with Moms and Dads, Sons and Daughters playing and competing in tournaments. It is great to be a part of this!



*The Dixons
Barry and Jeremy*



*Vickie Onesti, Ethan, and
Sebastian Rohn*



*Connor Hepburn
(not pictured: Barry Hepburn)*



Lisa Mayer and Cameron Kalish



*The Sanchez Family
Raul, Emily, Santiago,
and Norma Angelica*



*The Goodmans
Sam, Steve, and Jason*



*The Gollins Family
Nathan, Matthew and Steve*

There are several more families involved, and in future publications we will endeavor to include their family pictures as well!

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THE KILL SHOT Kids Corner *cont. from page 10*

TJ Ferro Scholarship Award

Congratulations to Nate Gupta for winning this award, sponsored by our ISRA Board and Membership. Nate is a very deserving recipient who truly exemplifies our strong commitment to racquetball, sportsmanship, academics, and community service.

The monetary award will fund Nate's summer school college program.

Tournament Participation

ISRA State Singles Championships

Congratulations to Jeremy Dixon for winning Men's D (we believe he is one of the youngest players to ever win Men's D in Illinois!)

The tournament was well attended by many of our junior players.

Junior Division Results included:

10U - 1st Place Nathan Gollins, 2nd Place Connor Hepburn, 3rd Place Santiago Sanchez
12U - 1st Place Matthew Gollins, 2nd Place Sebastian Rohn, 3rd Place Emily Sanchez
14U - 1st Place Matthew Gollins, 2nd Place Cameron Kalish, 3rd Place Ethan Rohn

NIU - Northern Illinois University –

One-day event held at Glass Court
Jeremy Dixon and Jason Goodman participated in this competitive round robin format.

The Oakmoor Spring Classic - Des Moines, Iowa

Jeremy Dixon - 1st Place in Men's B Singles
Michael Fornero - 2nd Place in Men's B Singles
Jeremy and Michael also won Men's B Doubles

Shamrock Shootout - a well-attended event by our group of Juniors, who played and competed at a great level. Our kids showed great improvement from the start of the season. Junior division results included:

12U Double Bounce - 1st Place Nicholas Gelino, 2nd Place Trevor Gelino

Also participating - Joshua Ortiz, Emily Sanchez, and Santiago Sanchez



Photo by Mike Davern

Nathan Gupta and Barry Dixon

USAR Regionals – held at Glass Court Our Junior Division Results:

14U - 1st Place Tim Kuypers (IN)
12U - 1st Place Matthew Gollins
10U - 1st Place Benjamin Horner (IA)

We had several juniors play in multiple divisions that led to some great matches: Nathan Gollins, Ethan Rohn, and Sebastian Rohn.

Many Thanks to...

Glass Court for their continued support of our Juniors program.

Marian Bala for her continued support and teaching of our juniors. Marian volunteers her time on Sundays and is quickly becoming a swing guru of our sport!

All the dads who participated, coached, and played with our kids all season.

For additional information about the upcoming 2014-2015 season, please contact:

Barry Dixon – (630) 881-4639
Barry.Dixon@acuitybrands.com

Steve Goodman – (708) 819-3067
goodman055@comcast.net

29th Annual **SHAMROCK SHOOTOUT** IRT Tier IV

**Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
Tournament Directors:
Doug and Michelle Halverson**

This perennial favorite did not disappoint! With a fabulous turnout of 170 players, men's skill division players hit the courts on Thursday evening. By Sunday, winners had emerged in 29 divisions with players having competed from Illinois, Indiana, South Dakota, and Texas.

In the Men's Pro/Open division of 14 competitors, Keith Minor took top honors after Juan Herrera suffered a foot injury at 2-2 in the third game. Renee Roux captured the Women's Open, defeating Janet Eminger in the final, 10, 10. Men's, Women's, and Mixed Open champs were, respectively, Zach Archer/Jorge Ortiz, Lynn Yeazell/Rebecca Bowman (IN), and Brent Huff/Rebecca Bowman.

Glass Court, Doug, and Michelle thank the sponsors who provided a great experience for the players: Anthony's Pizzeria (Tony



DeDe Munro, Julianne Valentino, and Karin McCauley



Mixed A Champs Mike Davern and Jonelle Dubois

Cosmano), Kirsten's Danish Bakery (Kirsten and Paul Jepsen), Little Debbie (Joe and Janet Eminger), Head Penn, and Response Graphics & Embroidery (Lynn and Kevin Yeazell).

Of course, no quality event would be possible without the cadre of dependable volunteers who give their time and service so many times throughout the year: Marian Bala, Tristan Bush, Mike Davern, Laurel Davis, Peggy Fornero, Lori Good, Jeff Grace, Pam Grace, Michelle Halverson, Cheryl Kirk, Dolores Lamberson, Eric Mathews, Liz Molitor, Geoff Peters, John Puccio, Kathy Ruzycki, Rick Seaberg, Dave Singer, John Thorson, Jim Wehrli, Lynne Weisbart, Joey Eminger, and Lynn Yeazell.

Check out the results on the next page...

-- Cheryl Kirk

continued on page 13

29th Annual **SHAMROCK SHOOTOUT** *cont. from page 13*



Courtesy of Ric Marroquin, these beautiful little faces make tournaments even more special. And, a couple of the older girls are beginning to learn how to work the tournament desk!



RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Pro/Open (14): Keith Minor; Juan Herrera; Geoff Goldblatt, Jorge Ortiz

Men's AA (7): Shane Longest; John Thorson; Moses Elias, Frank Carrano

Men's A (14): Sriram Ravindran; Ric Marroquin; John Mateu, Matt Beals (IN)

Men's B (17): Matt Reeser; Ed Libby; Brian Lien, Joe Eminger

Men's C (22): Levester Dean; Jerry Kee; Tony Costello, Hector Herrera

Men's D (21): Jerry Kee; Jeremy Dixon; Joseph Zegarlinski, Rick Lafine

Men's 30+/40+ (6): Basilio Salazar; Moses Elias; Chris Liljestrand, Sriram Ravindran

Men's 35+/45+ Int. (9): Nikhil Iyer; Joseph Zegarlinski; Randy Ems, Eduardo Esparza

Men's 45+/50+ (7): John Thorson; Cedric Bell; Blair Wagner, Eric Battaglia

Men's 55+ (7): Jim Schenck II (IN); Jim Hillman; Joseph Vallender, Frank Bunker

Men's 60+ (4): Jerry Fronczak; Platt Hill; Bill Roberts (3rd)

Women's Open (6): Renee Roux; Janet Eminger; Ellen Somberg, Kathleen Ruzyski

Women's AA (3): Ellen Somberg; Karin McCauley; Diane Bunker

Women's A (4): Julianne Valentino; Joy Herth; Mary Crambes (3rd)

Women's B (5): Stacy Olszewski; Amy Anderson; Diane Soderborg (3rd)

Women's C/D (3): Melissa Musick; Vickie Onesti; Amanda Hayes (3rd)

Men's Open Doubles (7): Zach Archer/Jorge Ortiz; Brent Huff/Shane Longest; Clint Hickman/Juan Martinez III, Todd Sauerbrun/Geoff Goldblatt

Men's A Doubles (9): Alcides Gutierrez/Arnold Ortega; Antonio Vazquez/Mitch Becker; Chris Liljestrand/Dan Jaskier, Kerry Spix/Jeff Grace

Men's B Doubles (7): Scot Tennant/Matt Rowland; Tony Garcia/Jose Alberto Acosta; David Singer/Levester Dean, Bruce Young/Michael Mancuso

Men's C Doubles (7): Jeff Gilliam (IN)/George Parobek (IN); Michael Fornero/Jeremy Dixon; Antonio Ortiz (IN)/Keith Mershon (IN), Tony Costello/Rick Lafine

Men's 40+ Doubles (3): Basilio Salazar/Lee Frick; Cedric Bell/Eric Battaglia; Michael Hammel/John Puccio (3rd)

Men's 100+ Doubles (6): Dave Bachar/Tom Utterback; Antonio Vazquez/Mitch Becker; Matt Rowland/Scot Tennant, Jim Schenk II (IN)/Jeff Hotler (IN)

Women's Open Doubles (6): Lynn Yeazell/Rebecca Bowman (IN); Janet Eminger/Nancy Amaro; Judy Sands/Marcia Warren, Renee Roux/Ellen Somberg

Women's A Doubles (4): Lynne Weisbart/Dolores Lamberson; Lisa Mayer/Deanna Munro; Pam Grace/Mary Crambes (3rd)

Mixed Open Doubles (6): Rebecca Bowman (IN)/Brent Huff; Alok Mehta/Nancy Amaro; Cheryl Kirk/Geoff Goldblatt, Lynn Yeazell/Martin Gonzalez

Mixed A Doubles (8): Mike Davern/Jonelle Dubois; Alcides Gutierrez/Laurel Harper; Deanna Munro/Glen Bero, Jerry Fronczak/Dolores Lamberson

Mixed B/C Doubles (4): Tony Garcia/Melissa Musick; Lisa Mayer/Porfirio Villalobos; Joshua Hafliger/Viri Del Bosque (3rd)

Men's 39 & Under (5): Steven Wiseman; Cameron Kalish; Ethan Rohn (3rd)

Juniors 12 & Under 2-Bounce (5): Nicholas Gelino, Trevor Gelino, Santiago Sanchez, Emily Sanchez, Joshua Ortiz

2014 ISRA STATE SINGLES

Championships

Glass Court Swim & Fitness – Lombard
April 4-6, 2014
Tournament Director: Cheryl Kirk

Even with a later date than the traditional February event, ISRA State Singles had a satisfying turnout of 121 players (97 men, 24 women). State Champs were awarded medals in 28 divisions, with Keith Minor and Ellen Somberg capturing the Men's Open and Women's Open honors.

Providing a quality tournament, Illinois-style, means a delicate balance between "the red and the black." Sponsors make such a big difference both to the finances of the ISRA and to the experience for the players. For ISRA State Singles, our gratitude goes to: Professional Insurance Producers (Nancy and Dave Kronenfeld), Anthony's Pizza (Tony Cosmano), Kirsten's Danish Bakery (Kirsten and Paul Jepsen), Response Graphics & Embroidery (Lynn and Kevin Yeazell), Awards & Fine Gifts, Penn, Alberto Palacios, and Rick Seaberg.

Heartfelt thanks goes to the tournament volunteers who pitch in so often to ensure a great experience for the players of Illinois: Amy Anderson, Marian Bala, Marla Cusano, Mike Davern, Laurel Davis, Lori Good, Jeff Grace, Pam Grace, Doug Halverson, Michelle Halverson, Dolores Lamberson, Lisa Mayer, Dave Milazzo, Liz Molitor, John O'Donnell, Jr., Geoff Peters, John Puccio, Lora Reeser, Kathy Ruzycki, Rick Seaberg, Dave Singer, Joan Vande Kieft, and Lynn Yeazell.

(Speaking of volunteers, notice that in the articles of this newsletter, there are so many names that appear again and again. If you might like to join this family of contributors, please talk with any ISRA Board member. A little bit of donated time lightens everyone's load!)

Back at the tournament, anecdotally, I'll share a story with a caveat: **DON'T THINK ABOUT TRYING THIS YOURSELF.** Apparently, Tina Hernandez and Julianne Valentino couldn't play their Women's Age division round robin match at their scheduled 10:30 pm Saturday time, so they got creative. Independent of anyone else's (aka the tournament desk's) knowledge, they began their match on a (temporarily) open court. When they were ousted from that one,

they found another court, remembered the score, and finally finished their match on lord-knows-how-many courts. Then it was "forgiveness vs. permission" time. *Warning: this could be considered humorous or extremely annoying, depending upon the mood of the tournament director.*

Thanks to all who came out to play State Singles (yes, including Tina and Julianne) – we appreciate you and hope you had a great time!

-- Cheryl Kirk



Photo Credit: Mike Davern

*Tournament Director Cheryl Kirk with Dream Team Volunteers
Jeff Grace and Dave Milazzo*

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2014 ISRA STATE SINGLES *cont. from page 14*



*Women's Open Finalists
Ellen Somberg and Kelly Gremley*



Julianne and Tina placing blame... "It was HER idea!"



*Men's 60+ medalists
Steve MacInnis
and Dave Olson*

continued on page 16

2014 ISRA STATE SINGLES *cont. from page 15*



*Men's AA Champ Jeff Holmgaard
and granddaughter Sophie*



Men's A State Champion Oscar Corona



*Juniors turned out in force!
(See Kids Corner, p. 11)*

continued on page 17

RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (16): Keith Minor; Geoff Goldblatt; Jorge Ortiz, Zach Archer

Men's AA (8): Jeff Holmgaard; Sriram Ravindran; Richard DeArmas, Fernando Javier Rivera

Men's A (17): Oscar Corona; Antonio Vazquez; Ryan Fosco, Sriram Ravindran

Men's B (17): Rogelio Ruiz; Rick Seaberg; Shane Jackson, Roberto Rivas

Men's C (16): James McLaughlin; Raymond Morandi; Anthony Cosmano, Hector Herrera

Men's D (14): Jeremy Dixon; Anthony Cosmano; George Ipe, Sam Goodman

Men's 25+/35+ (4): Fernando Javier Rivera; John Puccio; Moses Elias (3rd)

Men's 25+ (3): Fernando Javier Rivera; Moses Elias; Richard DeArmas (3rd)

Men's 35+ (1): John Puccio

Men's 40+/45+ (4): Alok Mehta; John Thorson; Tom Neal (3rd)

Men's 40+ (2): Alok Mehta; Eric Battaglia

Men's 45+ (2): John Thorson; Tom Neal

Men's 50+ (11): Dave Milazzo; James Jones; Cedric Bell, Tim Dern

Men's 55+ (4): Tim Dern; James Jones; Michael Burns (3rd)

Men's 60+/65+ (8): Steve MacInnis; Dave Olson; Joe Vallender, Frank Milazzo

Men's 60+ (6): Steve MacInnis; Dave Olson; Frank Milazzo (3rd)

Men's 65+ (2): Joe Vallender; Pat Taylor

Men's 65+Int/70+/80+ (3): Pat Taylor; Bill Wasserman; John O'Donnell, Jr. (3rd)

Men's 65+ Int. (1): Bill Wasserman

Men's 70+ (1): Pat Taylor

Men's 80+ (1): John O'Donnell, Jr.

Men's 35+A/40+A/50+A (6): Alcides Gutierrez; Antonio Vazquez; Ray Redelman, John Mason

Men's 35+A (2): Alcides Gutierrez; Shane Jackson

Men's 40+A (1): Antonio Vazquez

Men's 50+A (3): John Mason; Ray Redelman

Men's 55+A/60+A/65+A (5): Ray Redelman; John Mason; Bill Roberts, Platt Hill

Men's 55+A (2): Ray Redelman; John Mason

Men's 60+A (2): Platt Hill; Bill Roberts

Men's 65+A (1): Bill Wasserman

Men's 35+Int/40+Int (4): Nazeer Chaudry; Rogelio Ruiz; Hung Che (3rd)

Men's 35+Int (3): Rogelio Ruiz; Hung Che; Rhino Dotson (3rd)

Men's 40+Int (1): Nazeer Chaudry

Men's 45+Int (5): Eduardo Esparza; George Ipe; Roberto Rivas, James Davis

Men's 50+Int/55+Int/60+Int (6): Pat McGrath; Ray Meisner; Bernie Buston, Randy Ems

Men's 50+Int (3): Bernie Buston; Stephen Smith; Arnie Walker

Men's 55+Int (1): Randy Ems

Men's 60+Int (2): Pat McGrath; Ray Meisner



Pam Grace and Marla Cusano

Women's Open (6): Ellen Somberg; Kelly Gremley; Kathy Ruzycki, Liz Molitor

Women's AA (2): Karin McCauley; Letty Maldonado

Women's A (7): Joy Herth; Dolores Lamberson; Julianne Valentino, Mary Crambes

Women's B (3): Joy Herth; Viri Del Bosque; Marlin Ortiz (3rd)

Women's C/D/Novice (3): Melissa Musick; Vickie Onesti; Angelica Sanchez (3rd)

Women's C (1): Melissa Musick

Women's D (1): Vickie Onesti

Women's Novice (1): Angelica Sanchez

Women's 40+/50+ (6): Liz Molitor; Ellen Somberg; Karin McCauley, Lynn Yeazell

Women's 40+ (3): Lynn Yeazell; Karin McCauley; Letty Maldonado (3rd)

Women's 50+ (3): Liz Molitor; Ellen Somberg; Laurel Davis (3rd)

Women's 60+ (3): Kathy Ruzycki; Joan Vande Kieft; Mary Crambes (3rd)

Women's 50+A/55+A/60+A (5): Julianne Valentino; Valentina Hernandez; Lynne Weisbart (3rd)

Women's 50+A (2): Julianne Valentino; Marla Cusano

Women's 55+A (1): Valentina Hernandez

Women's 60+A (2): Lynne Weisbart; Pam Grace

Juniors 14 & Under (3): Matthew Gollins; Cameron Kalish; Ethan Rohn (3rd)

Juniors 12 & Under (4): Matthew Gollins; Nathan Gollins; Sebastian Rohn (3rd)

Junior Girls 12 & Under (1): Emily Sanchez

Juniors 10 & Under (3): Nathan Gollins; Connor Hepburn; Santiago Sanchez (3rd)

USA Racquetball Midwest REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
April 25-27, 2014
Tournament Director: Geoff Peters

USAR Regionals saw 92 players converge on Glass Court seeking titles in the last championship event of the 2013-2014 season. Like many of the other tournaments this year, participation was greater than 2013, with an increase of over 50%! Perhaps it was the long, cold, cruel, Chicago winter, but everyone was still in an indoor state of mind as we were only a couple of weeks removed from the last measurable snowfall of the year when play started Friday night!

This year's event included a sizable junior contingent as Benjamin Horner (Iowa) traveled in from Iowa, and Tim Kuypers (Indiana) traveled in to capture the Boy's 10 & Under and 14 & Under titles respectively, while Matthew Gollins ensured respectability for the hometown crowd by taking the Boy's 12 & Under championship. Becki Bowman returned from Indiana and won both the Women's Open (over Cari Mory and Letty Maldonado) and Mixed Doubles (with partner Brent Huff), while Jorge Ortiz took his first Regional Open title over Alok Mehta while also winning the Men's 35+. Alok also took the Men's 45+ as he tuned up for the upcoming World Championships in Canada during the month of June, having been named to India's National Team.



Jorge Ortiz – Double Gold!



*Tournament Director Geoff Peters congratulates
Men's 45+ Champ Alok Mehta*

Some of the other players were setting their sights toward the USAR National Singles Championships in Fullerton, CA, in late May as they ran the table in Lombard. These included James Jones who took Gold in the Men's 50 and 55+ divisions, Ray Redelman with a Championship in the Men's 55A+, and Pat McGrath in Men's 60B+.

Our Men's Doubles teams played their way through multiple round robin matches with Jim Schlicher/John Puccio prevailing in the Men's Open/40+ and Antonio Vazquez/Luis Monsreal in the Men's A/B. On the women's side, Joy Herth, Melissa Musick, and Viri Del Bosque took the Women's A, B, and C divisions respectively.

continued on page 19

USAR Midwest **REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS** *cont. from page 18*

For a tournament souvenir in this Olympic year, the tournament staff selected a nylon wind-breaker with an embroidered USA Olympic Team logo. A number of players were looking to purchase additional jackets for family or friends during the event, and we plan to have excess jackets available for purchase at Summerfest at the end of July.

Each Champion received a large Olympic-style medal consistent with all of the other Regional Championships held around the country. As you can see from the pictures – they wear them proudly!

Thank you to Dan Jaskier, the entire Glass Court staff, the ISRA Board (especially Cheryl Kirk, Doug Halverson, Michelle Halverson and Laurel Davis), and our entire volunteer team* for making this a great tournament with which to end the local season!

-- Geoff Peters



*Julianne Valentino and Dolores Lamberson
(with TD photo bomb)*



Medalists Three: Jim Schlicher, John Puccio, and Frank Carrano



*New Mixed A Team –
Lisa Mayer and Stefan Bernal*

continued on page 20

Thanks to Our Regionals Volunteers!

*Amy Anderson
Marian Bala
Becki Bowman
Marla Cusano
Mike Davern
Laurel Davis
Jeff Grace*

*Doug Halverson
Michelle Halverson
Cheryl Kirk
Lisa Mayer
Dave Milazzo
John Puccio
Bill Roberts
Barb Vagedes*

RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (7): Jorge Ortiz; Alok Mehta; Oscar Corona, Moses Elias
Men's AA (3): James Schlicher; Frank Carrano; Oscar Madrigal (3rd)
Men's Elite (4): Brent Huff; John Thorson; Eric Battaglia (3rd)
Men's A (11): David Cieslewicz; Antonio Vazquez; Ric Marroquin, James Camasto
Men's B (11): Matt Reeser; Tony Costello; Bernie Bustos, Roberto Rivas
Men's C (8): Tony Costello; Bernie Bustos; Scott Demonte, Robert Dreger
Men's D (7): Arnie Walker; Scott Demonte; Jeremy Dixon, Joshua Hafliger
Men's 35+/40+/45+/50+ (8): Alok Mehta; Jorge Ortiz; Oscar Corona, James Jones
Men's 35+ (2): Jorge Ortiz; John Puccio
Men's 40+ (2): Oscar Corona; Eric Battaglia
Men's 45+ (2): Alok Mehta; Brian Omelian (WI)
Men's 50+ (2): James Jones; Tom Griffith (WI)
Men's 55+ (9): James Jones; Tim Dern; Tony Cosmano, Dave Milazzo
Men's 60+/80+ (3): Platt Hill; Bill Roberts; John O'Donnell, Jr. (3rd)
Men's 60+ (2): Platt Hill; Bill Roberts
Men's 80+ (1): John O'Donnell, Jr.
Men's 40+A/45+A/50+A (5): Ric Marroquin; James Camasto; Ray Redelman, Drake Deavours (IN)
Men's 40+A (1): Ric Marroquin
Men's 45+A (3): James Camasto; Brian Omelian (WI); Tony Reiting, Jr. (3rd)
Men's 50+A (2): Ray Redelman; Drake Deavours (IN)
Men's 55+A/60+A (3): Ray Redelman; Drake Deavours (IN); Bill Roberts (3rd)
Men's 55+A (2): Ray Redelman; Drake Deavours (IN)
Men's 60+A (1): Bill Roberts
Men's 45+B/50+B/60+B (3): Jeffrey Hill; Pat McGrath; Joe Rohde (3rd)
Men's 45+B (1): Jeffrey Hill
Men's 50+B (1): Joe Rohde
Men's 60+B (1): Pat McGrath
Men's 45+C/55+C (4): Arnie Walker; Roberto Rivas; Stephen Gollins (3rd)

Men's 45+C (3): Roberto Rivas; Stephen Gollins; Bilal Muhammad (3rd)

Men's 55+C (1): Arnie Walker

Women's Open (3): Rebecca Bowman (IN); Cari Mory; Letty Maldonado (3rd)

Women's A/B (4): Joy Herth; Marlin Ortiz; Melissa Musick (3rd)

Women's A (2): Joy Herth; Marlin Ortiz

Women's B (2): Melissa Musick; Viri Del Bosque

Women's C/D (5): Viri Del Bosque; Melissa Musick; Vickie Onesti (3rd)

Women's C (3): Viri Del Bosque; Melissa Musick; Edith Seaman (3rd)

Women's D (2): Vickie Onesti; Vicki Adamczyk

Men's Open/40+ Doubles (5): James Schlicher/John Puccio; Martin Gonzalez/Oscar Madrigal; Bill Wolf/Jake Ryan (3rd)

Men's Open Doubles (2): Martin Gonzalez/Oscar Madrigal; John Thorson/Samuel Gomez

Men's 40+ Doubles (3): James Schlicher/John Puccio; Bill Wolf/Jake Ryan; Jose Alberto Acosta/Ranferi Salgado (3rd)

Men's A/B Doubles (4): Antonio Vazquez/Luis Monsreal; Alcides Gutierrez/Arnold Ortega; Jake Ryan/Jeffrey Hill (3rd)

Women's A/B Doubles (3): Dolores Lamberson/Julianne Valentino; Barbara Vagedes/Cheryl Kirk; Joy Herth/Marlin Ortiz (3rd)

Mixed Open/Elite Doubles (5): Brent Huff/Rebecca Bowman (IN); Alcides Gutierrez/Letty Maldonado; Lynn Yeazell/Martin Gonzalez (3rd)

Mixed A Doubles (5): Dolores Lamberson/Glen Bero; Cheryl Kirk/Daniel Jaskier; Barbara Vagedes/Doug Halverson (3rd)

Mixed B/C Doubles (3): Eduardo Esparzo/Vickie Onesti; Melissa Musick/Tony Garcia; Joshua Hafliger/Viri Del Bosque (3rd)

Boys 14 & Under (5): Tim Kuypers (IN); Matthew Gollins; Ethan Rohn (3rd)

Boys 12 & Under (5): Matthew Gollins; Benjamin Horner (IA); Nathan Gollins (3rd)

Boys 10 & Under: Benjamin Horner (IA); Nathan Gollins

JUST FOR JORDAN

A Tribute to the Ambassador of Our Sport

Upon vowing the last *Slam it for Susan* would be October 2012, I didn't know unfortunate circumstances would cause me to change my mind and rename the event. Jordan Kahn could not attend the event in 2012; his cancer had returned and he needed multiple transplants. When Jordan passed away, I knew I had to host an event in his honor. Jordan supported, participated, and embellished the spirit of *Slam It for Susan*. In October 2011, he snatched one of the pink wigs and played in it all evening!

This past April we ran *JUST FOR JORDAN* in memory of Jordan Kahn who was a great ambassador of racquetball and racquetball instruction. As usual, challenge courts were set up for Men's, Women's, and Mixed Doubles, and the 48 participants had lots of playing time. Pink Hope Balls were donated by Wilson Sporting Goods and given out to every participant. Pat Dohr, Gretchen Michaely, and Dave & Nancy Kronenfeld were checking in all the players and giving them goodie bags stuffed with many treats including a Susan G. Komen shirt.

Thanks to Chris Evon and Wilson Sporting Goods, Geoff Peters, Pam Grace, Dave Kronenfeld, and Laurel Davis, there were plenty of items donated for the silent auction. Also, huge thanks to Rick Colletti for donating



Mike Allen, Nancy Kronenfeld, Janet Leet, and Roland Kim

Photo Credit: Mike Zarnek



Art Michaely and Jordan Kahn (October 2011)

Photo Credit: Mike Zarnek

awesome pizza from his restaurant Colletti's as he has been so generous to do every year of this event and to Sam Sanghavi from Indian Groceries & Spices for making wonderful samosas for everyone to enjoy.

When the night was over, almost \$2,000 had been raised. Donations in memory of Jordan were made to Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Lattof YMCA, and ISRA Junior Racquetball. I am very grateful for the support we received from all of you this year. This was a very special event remembering a racquetball comrade who loved and promoted our sport. We all miss Jordan and his unique style of serving between his legs!

-- Nancy Kronenfeld

Note: High time we recognized Mike Zarnek for his photographic captures of Lattof YMCA events – thank you for the great photos, Mike!

TEAM ILLINOIS PLAYERS MEDAL

at National Singles 2014

USAR National Singles Championships Presented by Penn and Ektelon
The Meridian Sports Club - Fullerton, CA
May 21-25, 2014



Ray Redelman

Congratulations to Team Illinois players at USA Racquetball's National Singles!

At the season-ending National Singles competition, nine players competed and five medals came home to Illinois.

Team Illinois participants were:

Gold: Ray Redelman, M55+B
Silver: Brent Huff, Men's Elite; Pat McGrath, Men's 60+B, Keith Minor, Men's 40+
Bronze: Cheryl Gudinas, Women's Team Qualifying

Nice job to quarterfinalists James Jones, M50+ and Ray Redelman, Men's 50+A.

Cheryl Gudinas, Women's US Team Qualifying (3rd)
Brent Huff, Men's 35+, Men's Elite (2nd)
James Jones, Men's 50+ (QF), Men's 55+
Letty Maldonado, Women's B
Pat McGrath, Men's 60+B (2nd)
Keith Minor, Men's 40+ (2nd), Men's 45+ (4th)

Geoff Peters, Men's 50+A (4th), Men's 55+A
Ray Redelman, Men's 55+A (QF), Men's 55+B (1st)
Pat Taylor, Men's 70+

On the National scene, players vied for places on the US Team. The first and second places in the qualifying divisions each earned a spot on the Team and will be competing at IRF Worlds and/or the PASO Pan American Sports Festival this summer:

Men's Team Qualifying: Jake Bredenbeck def. David "Bobby" Horn, 15-14, 15-12
Women's Team Qualifying: Rhonda Rajsich def. Janel Tisinger, 15-10, 15-4

Part of National Singles each year is the bestowing of awards and entrance of inductees into the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame.

We're proud to report that our own Cheryl Gudinas is the 2014 recipient of the John Halverson Fair Play Award for her honorable conduct during a playoff match vs. teammate Rhonda Rajsich at the 2013 World Games in Cali, Colombia, last August.

Visit www.usaracquetball.com for the full story on USAR Award winners, Hall of Fame inductees, and tournament results.



Pat McGrath



Cheryl Gudinas

-- Cheryl Kirk

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL

From an Illinois Perspective

Team Illinois has been well represented at International competitions this year!

April 9-20, Cheryl Kirk and Brent Huff traveled with the US Team to Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, for the Pan American Racquetball Championships (not to be confused with the Pan American Games played every four years and coming around again in 2015).

Cheryl serves on the Boards of the International Racquetball Federation and the Pan American Racquetball Confederation, and she is also Press Officer for the IRF. In addition to these duties, Cheryl also serves as US Team Leader, seeing to myriad details to ensure that the team's trips go smoothly and that the athletes can give 100% focus to playing well for their country.

Brent is US Team Athletic Trainer. He uses vacation time to serve the team and is invariably MVP in the eyes of



*Brent Huff and Cheryl Kirk with
US Team Head Coach Dave Ellis*

the coaches and athletes. The fact that Brent is a racquetball player himself is invaluable to the team in making sure they are properly cared for before, during, and after their matches.

In Bolivia, the US Team, consisting of Dave Ellis, Head Coach, Rhonda Rajsich, David "Bobby" Horn, José Rojas, and Janel Tisinger, brought home the gold in Men's Singles (José), silver in Men's Doubles (José and Bobby), and the overall silver in the team competition.

Also from Illinois and playing for Puerto Rico were Fernando Javier Rivera and Letty Maldonado.

Back on the road again, June 11-22, the US Team competed in the IRF World Championships, a biennial event held this year in Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

continued on page 24



Team Illinois in Bolivia: Fernando Javier Rivera, Letty Maldonado, Cheryl Kirk, and Brent Huff

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL *cont. from page 23*

Brent and Cheryl along with Coach Ellis and RO Carson (Rocky's dad) were there in support of the team: Rocky Carson, José Rojas, Tom Fuhrmann, native Illinoisan Ben Croft, Rhonda Rajsich, Aubrey Kirch, Aimee Ruiz, and Janel Tlsinger.

Playing for Puerto Rico once again was Fernando Javier Rivera. Alok Mehta, captain and player for Team India, competed in his first international IRF competition.

The US Team delivered up gold once again as Rocky Carson won the Men's Singles and captured a record-breaking 4th World Championship. Rhonda Rajsich took the silver in Women's Singles, and José Rojas was bronze medalist in Men's Singles. On the doubles side, Aimee and Janel were silver medalists, and Ben and Tom took bronze.

The team competition is a composite of total points earned by all of a country's players, and the US Team's collective efforts won the Gold once again. In fact, in the history of the IRF World Championships, it was only in the year 2000 that the US has not brought home the Gold!

Family Reunion: So many of you know and remember Ben Croft from his Illinois growing-up days. Ben and his wife Sarah brought their infant son Hudson to Canada. Bob and Beth Croft (with granddaughter Annabelle) drove up to Burlington from Chicago and met their new grandson for the very first time!

Next up is the PASO Pan American Sports Festival in Guadalajara, Mexico, where six members of the US Team will compete in a week-long event. Cheryl and Brent will make that trip again in support of the delegation. GO TEAM USA!



Team India: Rajiv Vardrajan, Pratap Ballalasummudra, Sumeet Kamat, and Alok Mehta (Captain)



Ben Croft with "Team Baby" Hudson



The Croft Family Welcomes Hudson!

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL *cont. from page 24*



José and Rocky serve on adjacent courts at the IRF Worlds



Team USA Celebrates Gold with Staff and Cheerleaders!



2014-2015 Tournament

CALENDAR

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

August 25-30, 2014
30th IRF World Seniors
Racquetball Championships
Midtown Sports & Wellness
Albuquerque, NM
Gary Mazaroff

October 2-5, 2014
2nd Annual Fall Brawl/WRT Event
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Jeff Grace/Joey Logan
(630) 629-3390

October 3-5, 2014
Bob Schwab Memorial Tournament
Landmark Racquet & Health Club
Peoria, IL
John Snarr (309) 685-8360

October 8-12, 2014
20th Annual United Healthcare
US Open
Life Time Fitness Target Center
Minneapolis, MN

November 7-9, 2014
Fran Davis Racquetball Camp
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Dan Jaskier (630) 629-3390

November 20-23, 2014
Turkey Shoot Open/IRT Event
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Dan Jaskier (630) 629-3390

December 4-6, 2014
NMRA Doubles Only (40+)
Pleasanton, CA
Cindy Tilbury, cindy.tilbury@att.net
www.nationalmastersracquetball.org

January 3, 2015
One-Day Doubles Warm-Up
(Men's Divisions)
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Dan Jaskier (630) 629-3390

January 4, 2015
One-Day Doubles Warm-Up
(Women's/Mixed Divisions)
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Dan Jaskier (630) 629-3390

January 15-18, 2015
26th Annual Women's Senior Masters
Championships
Life Time Fitness
Minneapolis, MN
Kendra Tutsch

January 23-25, 2015
ISRA State Doubles Championships
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Laurel Davis
laurelmdavis@comcast.net

February 11-15, 2015
48th USAR National Doubles
Championships
ASU Rec Center, Tempe, AZ
Bob Bodor, www.usaracquetball.com

February 19-22, 2015
ISRA State Singles Championships
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Cheryl Kirk cherylkkirk@aol.com

February 25-March 1, 2015
29th USAR High School Championships
St. Louis, MO
Bob Bodor, www.usaracquetball.com

March 6-8, 2015
March Invitational
Landmark Health & Racquet Club
Peoria, IL
John Snarr (309) 685-8360

March 11-14, 2015 (tentative)
NMRA National Championship (45+)
Location TBA
Cindy Tilbury, cindy.tilbury@att.net
www.nationalmastersracquetball.org

March 12-15, 2015
30th Annual Shamrock Shootout/
IRT Event
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Dan Jaskier (630) 629-3390

March 25-28, 2015
USAR Intercollegiate
Championships
ASU Rec Center, Tempe, AZ
Bob Bodor
www.usaracquetball.com

April 24-26, 2015 (tentative)
USAR Midwest Regional
Championships
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Geoff Peters
petersgeoff@hotmail.com

May 20-24, 2015 (tentative)
USAR National Singles
Championships
Location TBD
Bob Bodor
www.usaracquetball.com

June 24-28, 2015
USAR Junior Olympic
Racquetball Championships
Stockton, CA
Bob Bodor
www.usaracquetball.com

Mid-July 2015 (TBA)
NMRA International
Championship (45+)
Denver, CO
Cindy Tilbury, cindy.tilbury@att.net
www.nationalmastersracquetball.org

July 24-26, 2015
23rd Annual Summerfest
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Dan Jaskier (630) 629-3390

Visit www.r2sports.com and/or www.illinoisracquetball.com
for more information on each of these sanctioned events.

All tournaments listed are sanctioned by USA Racquetball.

Illinois tournaments are highlighted in blue.

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

2014 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 should be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- These rates are in effect until December 31, 2014.
- Deadlines are as follows:

- **Issue Publication Date:**
10/10/2014
- **Articles/Releases/Ads Due:**
10/3/2014
- **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



Send to:

ISRA
603 E. Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148

Member Sport
U.S. Olympic
Committee



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Business): _____

E-MAIL _____

BIRTHDATE _____

Adult competitor \$50.00 _____

Junior competitor (age 21 and under) \$25.00 _____

Tax-deductible donation \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Tournament _____ Representativ _____ e

All memberships are annual. Check the USAR website for three-year and Lifetime membership rates.

Racquetball **CHALLENGE COURTS**

**Annerino
Community Center
Bolingbrook
Park District
(630) 739-0272**

Bolingbrook, IL
Sundays 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Mondays & Thursdays
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
\$2.00 Members and
Non-Members

**B.R. Ryall YMCA
(630) 858-0100**

Glenn Ellyn, IL
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. - 9:00
p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
FREE for YMCA Members
\$8 Non-Members

**Buehler YMCA
(847) 359-2400**

Palatine, IL
Thursdays 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
\$15.00 One-Day Guest Pass

**Courts Plus
(Elmhurst Park District)
(630) 833-5064**

Monday-Saturday
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Members \$2.00
Monday-Friday
\$3.00 Saturday

**Fitness Formula Clubs
Old Town
(312) 640-1235**

1235 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL
Tuesdays 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
\$20 for guests

**Forest View Racquet
and Fitness Club
(847) 640-2574**

Arlington Heights, IL
Thursday
6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
\$2.00 Members
\$5.00 Non-Members

**Heritage YMCA
(630) 420-6270**

Naperville, IL
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
\$4.00 Members
\$8.00 Non-Members

**Landmark Racquet
& Health Club
(309) 685-8360**

Peoria, IL
First and Third
Friday each month
6 :00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
\$5.00

**Life Center Health
and Fitness at the
Bartlett Park District
(630) 540-4848**

Bartlett, IL
Wednesdays
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Saturdays
7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
\$4.00 Members
\$6.00 Non-Members
\$9.00 Non-Residents

**Norris Rec Center
(630) 377-1405**

St. Charles, IL
Tuesday and Thursday
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
\$5.00 Members & Non-Members

**Schaumburg Park District
(847) 490-2505**

Schaumburg, IL
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
\$3.00 Members
\$9.00 Non-Members

**West Cook YMCA
(708) 383-5200**

Oak Park, IL
Wednesday
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Thursday 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Free to YMCA Members
\$9.00 Non-Members

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