

ISRA

MID-YEAR 2015 | VOL. 33 NO. 2

NEWS

Official Publication of the Illinois State Racquetball Association



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From the **PRESIDENT**

"To downplay or misrepresent one's ability in a game or activity in order to deceive (someone)..." is one of the published definitions of "sandbagging."

Using that definition, is it sandbagging to play down a skill level when you go to a tournament outside of your geographic area where other players may not know you? Is it sandbagging to play down a level at a national tournament?

I sometimes hear that "they" say you should play down a level at the big tournaments. I always wonder who "they" are who say this. Some events have an "Elite" level for State Open players to participate in that will eliminate the necessity of playing against professional players. That seems fair. But is it fair for an Open player to drop down to the A division? Or for a B player to drop down to the C division? That probably leads to more wins for the player dropping down, but what does it do to the player who practices for the tournament, spends the money to get there, enters the proper division, and loses an opportunity to win?

I have never sandbagged in a tournament. I won an A tournament draw of 32 players many (many) years ago and moved up to Open. I have played Open or a straight Age group division in every tournament I have played since then. I can take getting pummeled by Chris Evon or Debbie Tisinger in an Open/Age division, but I don't think I could feel good about winning a division that I legitimately did not belong in. And, even worse, what if I lost?

Recently all USA Racquetball members received an article entitled "Why Rules Matter." The subject of the article was some new, longer racquets that have entered the marketplace but do not conform with the racquet rules for competitive play. To quote the opening paragraph of the article:

There is nothing more important to a sport than its rules. Rules ensure that



the sport played by one person is the same as that played by another. This simple dynamic allows for fair play.

Racquetball rules cannot be applied on a "one off" basis. The eligibility rule is as important as the racquet rules and the racquet rules are as important as the official size of the court, the ball specifications, the scoring rules, and so on, and so on, and so on. Maintain your integrity and the integrity of the game by playing by the rules.

As we enter the heart of our tournament season, here are some news tidbits:

- The above-mentioned racquets are ineligible for Travel League or Tournament play and will not be allowed
- Start tracking the progress of the competition now! It won't be long before we start asking for nominations for the ISRA Annual Awards
- Use the Tournament Calendar on page 22 to plan your weekends
- Thanks to Pam Schubach for her service on the ISRA Board of Directors. Pam's experience and insight has been welcome. She is retiring from the Board (at least for now) and will be missed!

And, thanks to Samuel Gomez for agreeing to take Pam's seat on the Board in order to continue representation for Central Illinois. Welcome, Sam!!

See you on the courts,

Laurel

EDITOR'S CORNER

by Cheryl Kirk

Greetings, Team Illinois! This issue marks my 50th as the ISRA Newsletter editor, with the first being in November 2002. While it's cool to have #50 under my belt, I want to recognize Mary Jo Downen of TypaGraphics who is the real engine behind this effort of many years. She has been producing the newsletter a lot longer than I have, since 1987 (!), having previously worked with ISRA Editors Bill Piggott, Geoff Peters, and Mike Davern.

It was pretty expensive "back in the day" when newsletters were produced hard copy and mailed out. When technology allowed for an online approach, the newsletter morphed from a black-and-white piece into living color with tons of photos, and it no longer mattered how many pages it turned out to be.

Enquiring minds want to know, so here's what a typical newsletter-building effort looks like: I generate a planning document and send it to contributors, then I begin to pull together photos and articles. This takes a fair amount of time. Once everything is set, it all gets sent over to Mary Jo, who formats it and works all kinds of magic to make the content fit appropriately and professionally. She sends me the first draft...I send back edits...she sends the second draft...I send back more

edits...third draft...just a few more edits...and usually the fourth draft "puts the puppy to bed." It's not easy being Mary Jo. When it comes to writing, editing, proofing (okay, and just about everything else), I have this CDO thing going on (that's like OCD but with the letters in alphabetical order as they should be). Would you believe Mary Jo and I have only met face to face ONCE in 13 years? Part of the reason is because if she sees me in person, she'll likely go for my throat. I'm that annoying. All kidding aside, Mary Jo, thank you for helping the ISRA to produce our newsletter year after year. You are a treasure!

A note from Mary Jo: Cheryl is far too kind and gives me FAR too much credit! In reality, her attention to detail makes my job seem easy! Cheryl is a pleasure to work with, professional in every way. I couldn't ask for a better client than Cheryl and the ISRA, I feel truly blessed to have had this long-term relationship, and hope to serve the ISRA for many years to come.



Mary Jo working on the current edition of the ISRA Newsletter. Photo by Ron Downen.

On the Cover...

Team Illinois Celebrates at National Singles L to R: Bill Roberts, Cheryl Kirk, Keith Minor, Kit Lawson, Ray Redelman, Cheryl Gudinas
Photo by Sara Roberts

ISRA FAMILY NEWS

Jeremy Dixon Represents JTI at Nationals

Jeremy Dixon of Downers Grove, accompanied by his dad/coach Barry, traveled to Stockton, California, in late June as the sole representative of Junior Team Illinois at the 2015 USA Racquetball National Junior Olympic Championships. In the Boys 16 Gold, Jeremy won his first-round match to place him in the Round of 16 where he then played very respectably against eventual US Junior Team member Kevin Vazquez (FL). Dropping to Boys 16 Blue, Jeremy finished in the quarterfinals of that division. He also partnered with Russell Chavez II (TX) in the Boys 16 Doubles where they met up with a 2014 US Junior Team first-round buzz saw (Elkins/Diaz of California) but emerged as the Boys 16 Doubles Consolation champs. Nice showing, Jeremy!



Jeremy and Barry Dixon



Geoff and his Michigan outdoor buddies

ISRA Travel Leagues

The season is underway for both the Men's and Women's Leagues with two totally different structures. Both will run through Spring 2016.

Men's Open teams this year include Glass Court, LA Fitness Naperville, Schaumburg, Westmont, and LA Fitness Joliet. Men's A teams are Glass Court, Lattof YMCA, LA Fitness Naperville, and Westmont. Rounding out the league are the B teams: LA Fitness Elgin, Courts Plus, Glass Court, LA Fitness Naperville, Center Court, and Oak Lawn PD. Teams travel between the various clubs to compete.

On the Women's side, the entire league competes on Monday evenings, alternating between Glass Court and Schaumburg Tennis Plus. There are six teams totaling 27 players (several split a position) that face off each week in two flights, singles and doubles.

April Wedding

Anthony Cosmano and Melissa Tenerelli were married on April 25, 2015, in the

company of their parents, Anthony and Lisa Cosmano and Nick and Sandra Tenerelli. They were attended by Best Man Nathan Yankala and Maid of Honor Krystal Tamm. After the ceremony at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Naperville, a reception followed at The Carlisle in Lombard.

Anthony is a restaurant owner of Anthony's Pizza in Berwyn. Melissa is in Tradeshaw Display Sales at Orbus in Woodridge. Now for the important detail: does Melissa like racquetball? Replied Anthony, "She doesn't play, but she enjoys watching me in tournaments!" Congratulations, Anthony and Melissa, see you on (or near) the courts!

Mr. Peters Gravitates to Outdoor

Geoff takes an occasional walk on the outdoor side when he's in Detroit on business by visiting the Belle Isle gang. It's a great way to some exercise on the road! Geoff is lamenting the end of Michigan's short outdoor season.



Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Cosmano

Photo courtesy of Geoff Peters

Photo courtesy of Anthony Cosmano

ISRA Board

Member & Officer Election Held

The Annual Meeting of the ISRA Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2015. 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 seven open seats. The following individuals were re-nominated to the Governing Board by the Nominating Committee: Marla Cusano, Mike Davern, Laurel Davis, Pam Grace, Dolores Lamberson, Pam Schubach, and Rick Seaberg.

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, 2015.

In officer elections, the results were: Laurel Davis is President and Marla Cusano was re-elected Secretary.

While John O'Donnell, Jr. and Pam Schubach at that time remained in their respective positions as Zone VPs for the South and Central Zones, Pam Schubach (Peoria) stepped away from the Board in October due to work and family responsibilities. Samuel Gomez (Peoria/Bloomington) has assumed Pam's Board seat effective October 20, 2015.

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.

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
Todd Burris (Chair), Cheryl Kirk, and Geoff Peters*

MOVIN' ON UP

2014-2015 Season

Racquetball success prepares players for greater challenges. These individuals/teams won at least one full-draw division during the 2014-2015 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!

For a full scoop on ISRA Eligibility Rules, go to: http://www.illinoisracquetball.com/?page_id=80.

-- Dolores Lamberson, Eligibility Committee Chair

Men's Open

Carlos Reyes, Turkey Shoot
Eric Van Marion, ISRA State Singles
Arnold Ortega, Shamrock Shootout
John Moscato, USAR Regionals
Scott Esker, Air Force March Mayhem

Men's A

Jesus Rojas, Summerfest
Todd Greenstein, Fall Brawl
Jake Ryan, US Open
Jerry Kee, Turkey Shoot
Jeremy Dixon, ISRA State Singles
Lakshman Potluri, March Invitational
Frank Wrobel, Shamrock Shootout
Tony Costello, USAR Regionals

Men's B

Ravi Kishore Yenduri, Summerfest
Roberto Rivas, Turkey Shoot; USAR Regionals
Michael Fornero, ISRA State Singles
Kevin Martin, Shamrock Shootout
Glen Bero, Petition

Men's C

Allen Bell, Summerfest
Cody Jones, Turkey Shoot
Anthony Cosmano, ISRA State Singles
James Davis, Shamrock Shootout

Women's Open

Emily Fauser, ISRA State Singles

Men's Open Doubles

Chris Liljestrand/James Camasto, ISRA State Doubles

Men's A Doubles

David Singer/Lee Frick, US Open
Hung Che/Matt Pritchard, ISRA State Doubles

Mixed Open Doubles

Chris Liljestrand/Lisa Mayer, Turkey Shoot, ISRA State Doubles
Frank Valentino/Julianne Valentino, Shamrock Shootout

What Racquetball Means to Me

by Cheryl Gudinas

Age, hometown, occupation, years in racquetball, home club, and family?

I'm 48, live in Naperville, and my occupations are Personal Trainer, Vet Assistant, Pro Tour Player (32 years). I play out of Glass Court. Family is pretty much my mom Pat and my dad Bill, with cousins nearby, and Aunt Joy and Uncle Lou. Two doggies – Diego and Newman.

What influenced you to start playing racquetball?

I was in the choir freshman year. There was a senior in the a cappella choir that I found out worked at a club. I thought he was pretty cool, so I joined the club to hang around him. But he never knew who I was at all!

What are your goals in racquetball for this next season?

My goals include winning National Doubles with my partner Sharon Jackson and trying to win my ninth national title at National Singles, which no one has ever done. Rhonda (Rajsich) tied me last year with eight but there were only four or five girls the last two years in the division. This year the numbers will be up again because it has become an important national team qualifier, whereas last year it was not. I would consider winning it this year a real accomplishment with a full draw. Not to take away anything that anyone else has done, but all of my eight national titles were with full draws. There was maybe one year where I had a bye into the quarterfinals, but every other year I had to play at least four matches to win the whole thing.

What makes you love this sport?

It's really the training that I had to do to get to be #1. I really enjoyed that, and more importantly, I enjoyed winning so that I could show all the people who helped me that their assistance paid off. I miss my strength and conditioning coach, Tim Lang, who was there with me during my time as #1. Sadly, he's not training anymore. I miss the days of training with Tim at DePaul University. I'd give anything to go back to that time.

What is your philosophy on life?

To surround yourself with an excellent support system and to treat all living things with kindness and compassion. The one thing that I think everyone knows I'm about is loving animals, and there's just too much abuse and cruelty in the world. I strive to do the best I can to make that stop although I realize that it won't. But I would like to bring awareness to young children so that over time the world becomes a better place.



What was your most memorable moment(s) in racquetball?

Probably the two times I won the US Open, especially the first time in 2002. I also loved all of the national events in Houston. That became my home-away-from-home, and I miss it tremendously. Nationals has never been the same since we left Houston. I also am very proud

of my performance in the 2011 Pan American Games. I had a torn meniscus and knew that I was going to have surgery as soon as I got home. Coach Jim Hiser had it set up perfectly so that I could perform my best, and I ended up with a bronze medal after making it through a tough draw, ultimately losing to Paola Longoria.

What is one thing you would like to do that you have not done yet?

There are a lot of things that I'd like to do that I haven't done. I'd like to go back and get my Masters degree in Sports Leadership. I just have to put in the time. I'd like to take a nice non-racquetball vacation, something that I haven't done since 2002.

What else would you like your racquetball colleagues to know about you?

Being on the US National Team has always been my favorite thing in my career. I think it's safe to say that I played my heart out for the team more than anybody that I can remember, and I did it for the longest amount of time. That's something I'm very proud of, and I feel fairly confident that what I was able to accomplish over 22 years, consecutively, will be hard to beat. And it's not just the titles that I won but also the passion and heart that I put into it year after year for such a long time. This is my 23rd year on the team. I missed last year due to injury, and it was heartbreaking.

You're now the US Junior Team Head Coach. Thoughts?

I was sad that my best friend, Kelley Beane, had to step down last year as Head Coach. I thought about stepping down myself when she left but realized that I didn't want it to go into someone else's hands if I wasn't sure they would run it the way that Kelley ran it for 12 years. We created a dynamic where everybody we brought on board had the same values and taught the same way in terms of putting the athlete as a person first and the game second. In addition, there were no coaches ever working with us who were in it just to better their reputations as coaches. The philosophy on our staff has always been to make the kids better people, and prepared people, for life, not just to get them to win titles. Titles are secondary.



Photo courtesy of Cheryl Gudinas

Junior Team Illinois (JTI)

The JTI 2015-16 season began Sunday, October 11, at Glass Court and will run through March. JTI Head Coach Marian Bala along with Andy Pitock and several assistants will be working with the group each week to teach fundamental racquetball skills.

Seventeen students aged 6-15 registered for the new season. One fee includes instruction, USA Racquetball membership, a JTI t-shirt, and a pizza party at the end of the season. The cost is \$85 for Glass Court members and \$150 for non-members. Students need a racquet, protective eyewear, court shoes, and a glove (if desired).

After registration and a brief parents' meeting on the 11th, players were assessed for their initial skill levels and divided into Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced groups. They will meet each Sunday at 10 am, 11 am, and 12 pm, respectively.

Don't we all wish we had started this early? There's room for more! Contact Cheryl Kirk at cherylkirk@aol.com for details.

The ISRA wishes to thank Steve Goodman and Barry Dixon who ran JTI for the past 8-10 years. They did a great job in continuing the legacy of junior racquetball in Illinois!

-- Cheryl Kirk



Photo by Barry Hepburn

Team Illinois Represents

at National Singles

2015 USA Racquetball National Singles Championships
5/20/2015 - 5/24/2015

Highlands Ranch Rec Center, Denver, CO
Tournament Director – Peggie Tellez

With mountains in the backdrop, albeit masked by clouds most of the week, the 49th National Singles got underway with 377 players from 36 states competing in 70 divisions (age, skill, age/skill, Juniors, and Heroes), including 10 doubles divisions. Doubles division winners are not considered national champions – that's reserved for National Doubles – but it's nice to have opportunities for additional court time.

Host Clubs

Highlands Ranch Rec Center (the main club, with 10 courts) hosted the competition along with the Littleton Family YMCA (4 courts) and Centennial Life Time Fitness (5 courts). Eight courts with glass-back walls surrounded the Players' Village at Highlands Ranch, where live streaming, the tournament desk, manufacturers' booths, merchandise, and meals all contributed to the energetic atmosphere.

Team Illinois

Seven hailing from our state competed in Denver:

Cheryl Gudinas, Women's Team Qualifying (Silver)
Brent Huff, Men's 35+ (Bronze), Men's Elite
Cheryl Kirk, Women's 50+A (Gold; 4th in combined division), Mixed Centurion A, (Bronze, with Chris Poucher, GA)



Brent Huff

Keith Minor, Men's 45+, Men's 50+ (Gold)
Geoff Peters, Men's 50+A, Men's 55+
Ray Redelman, Men's 50+A, Men's 55+
Bill Roberts, Men's 60+, Men's 60+A

Cheerleaders Tamarah Huff, Kit Lawson, and Sara Roberts were on hand to support their spouses.

Highlight: Keith Minor bested long-time rival Jimmy Lowe (HI), 15-2, 15-12, to capture the Men's 50+ Gold!

Awards/Hall of Fame

The culmination of all the off-court activities (Colorado Rockies Game, Ladies' Night Out, etc.) was the Annual Awards and Hall of Fame Induction on Saturday night. Although a storm threatened the festive atmosphere on the rooftop bar of a local restaurant, USAR staffers quickly pulled in the electronic equipment, and the ceremonies continued virtually uninterrupted. Those recognized were:

USA Racquetball Hall of Fame Induction: Sudsy Monchik
Male Athlete of the Year: Jake Bredenbeck (AZ)
Female Athlete of the Year: Rhonda Rajsich (AZ)

continued on next page



Geoff Peters and Ray Redelman

Team Illinois Represents continued from previous page

Bud Muehleisen Male Age Group Award:
Jimmy Lowe (HI)
Peggy Steding Female Age Group Award:
Cindy Tilbury (CA)
State Presidential Award: Dan Whitley (MO)
Joe Sobek Outstanding Contribution Award:
Cheryl Kirk (IL)

U.S. Team

In the Men's and Women's U.S. Team Qualifying Divisions, Jake Bredenbeck (AZ) def. Marco Rojas (CA), 15-8, 15-11 while Rhonda Rajsich (AZ) def. Cheryl Gudinas, 15-7, 15-5. All four players earned spots on the 2015-16 US Team.

While the mile-high altitude was challenging for those who hail from "lower" parts of the country, the general consensus seemed to be that Denver is a fine location for National Singles. Late breaking news is...it's Denver in 2016! Now if they could just do something about that pesky altitude...

-- Cheryl Kirk



Jason Thoerner interviews Cheryl Gudinas after the finals



Photo by Ken Fife, courtesy of USA Racquetball

*USA Racquetball Annual Award Winners
Dan Whitley, Cindy Tilbury, Rhonda Rajsich, Jake Bredenbeck,
Cheryl Kirk, Jimmy Lowe*

22nd Annual Summerfest Open

Glass Court Swim & Fitness – Lombard

7/24/2015 – 7/26/2015

Tournament Directors: Doug and Michelle Halverson

What makes the middle of the summer fun and exciting? The annual Summerfest tournament! This tournament is set up to be fun and exciting and (somewhat) relaxing throughout the weekend. Self-refeing, barbeque, sand volleyball, and a swimming pool make for a wonderful backdrop to competitive racquetball. It is so much fun that players come from across the country and from coast to coast to participate. This year's tournament offered 20 brackets of competition for 98 players coming from six states including California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and North Carolina.

In this first tournament of the new season, a few of the winners are already on their way to moving up. Alcides Gutierrez won the Men's A Singles; Adam Mills won the Men's B Singles; and Carlos Ibarra won the Men's C Singles. A great start to the new season!

No tournament can be a success without an enthusiastic and dedicated group of volunteers. Thanks go out to this year's team including Marian Bala, Todd Burris, Marla Cusano, Laurel Davis, Jeff Grace, Pam Grace, Michelle Halverson, Dolores Lamberson, Geoff Peters, and John Puccio.

Great food was available all weekend, and the weather cooperated beautifully for the pool party on Sunday!

All brackets can be viewed on R2Sports.com at <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=13524>

-- Dolores Lamberson



*Emily Fauser, Joy Herth, Geoff Peters,
Laurel Davis...and an extra hand??*

RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (19): Keith Minor; Eugene Coyle; Jorge Ortiz, Adam Taylor (IN)

Men's AA (2): John Thorson; Cristian Moreno

Men's A (16): Alcides Gutierrez; Matt Reeser; Todd Greenstein, Danny Ortega

Men's B (14): Adam Mills; Todd Burris; Jesse Ortiz, Bernie Bustos

Men's C (15): Carlos Ibarra; Anthony Cosmano; James Davis, George Ipe

Men's D (10): Jesus Lopez; Alex Parraguirre; Stephen Lindstrom, Anthony Giacalone

Men's 35+/40+/45+ (9): Eugene Coyle; Alok Mehta; Jorge Ortiz, Fernando Javier Rivera

Men's 45+ Intermediate (4): Eduardo Esparza; George Ipe; Keith Wiener (3rd)

Men's 50+ (8): Tom Utterback; Tom Neal; Tony Costello, Bob Riley (NC)

Men's 55+/60+/65+ (8): Tom Neal; Bob Riley (NC); Drake Deavours (IN), Ray Redelman

Men's A Doubles (11): Cristian Moreno/Danny Ortega; Arnold Ortega/Alcides Gutierrez; Benjamin King/Lakshman Potluri, Rebecca Bowman (IN)/Matthew Nutall (IN)

Men's B Doubles (4): Porfirio Villalobos/Ranferi Salgado; Jairo Torres/Rodrigo Diaz; Gilbert Oliveras/Jose Alberto Acosta (3rd)

Men's C Doubles (6): Valentinas Presniakovas/Carlos Salas, Jr.; Alex Parraguirre/Roberto Rivas; James Davis/Stephen Lindstrom, Porfirio Villalobos/Jesus Lopez

Men's 40+/Century Doubles (3): James Schlicher/John Puccio; Eric Jensen/Andy Pitock; Tony Cosmano/Keith Mecklenburg (3rd)

Women's Open/A Doubles (4): Rebecca Bowman (IN)/Lynn Yeazell; Vickie Onesti/Emily Fauser; Joy Herth/Lisa Mayer (3rd)

Mixed Open/40+ Doubles (6): Rebecca Bowman (IN)/Adam Taylor (IN); Janet Eminger/Tom Utterback; Emily Fauser/Eduardo Esparza, Lynn Yeazell/Dan Jaskier

Mixed A/B Doubles (6): Deanna Munro/Glen Bero; Lisa Mayer/Jerry Kee; Pam Grace/Jeff Grace, Barb Vagedes/Doug Halverson

Summerfest Open

continued from previous page



Jesus Lopez and a happy fan



Jerry Kee and Cristian Moreno

One-Day Landmark Shootout



RACQUET & HEALTH CLUB

Landmark Racquet and Health Club, Peoria, IL
August 1, 2015
Tournament
Directors: Samuel Gomez and John Snarr

Landmark hosted its first sanctioned one-day tournament, and it was a success! The courts were fast, the hospitality was great as always, and there was plenty of racquetball for everyone.

Mike Snarr won the Men's Open division as he continued his dominating performance in Peoria. He is now 12-0 since March 2014. Lakshman "Lucky" Potluri won Men's A. After a shaky start losing his first match in the pool play, Lucky came back strongly to win the rest of his matches. In Men's B/C, Carl Carman went 5-0 on his way to win the division.

Thanks to Jeff O'Hern (IA) and John Dowell (MO) for making this a multi-state event!

Landmark is planning on hosting more one-day shootouts in the future. Stay tuned for more tournament announcements.

-- Samuel Gomez

RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (8): Mike Snarr; Samuel Gomez; Tom Neal, John Richier

Men's A (6): Lakshman "Lucky" Potluri; Randy Puebla; Ananth Kini, Matthew Kaag

Men's B/C (6): Carl Carman; Sai Poluru; Doug Kerns, Joshua Hafliger

The Fall Brawl/IRT Pro Stop



Glass Court Swim & Fitness - Lombard

October 2-4, 2015

Tournament Directors – Jeff Grace, Cheryl Kirk, and Joey Logan

The 2015 Fall Brawl drew 116 players (95 men/21 women) from four countries (Bolivia, Colombia, India, and the U.S.) and nine states (Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Ohio, and Texas). Twenty-three divisions were competed: 11 men's singles, 5 men's doubles, 3 women's singles, 1 women's doubles, and 3 mixed doubles.

The "Main Event," the IRT Pro Division, was comprised of 14 world class athletes, including all four of the US Team members (Rocky Carson, José Rojas, Jake Bredenbeck, and Jansen Allen) who medaled this summer at the Pan American Games in Toronto, as well as Marco Rojas who made the team with his silver medal finish at National Singles in May. The sole non-US Team member to make it to the semifinals was Sebastian Franco of Colombia who lost to José Rojas in 3 games. After besting Marco Rojas

continued on next page

Bob Schwab Memorial Tournament

October 2-3, 2015

Landmark Racquet & Health
Club – Peoria

Tournament Directors –

Kurt Mankle, Samuel Gomez, and
John Snarr

Honoring Bob Schwab, a legend of Peoria racquetball, thirty-two players made the trip to Peoria for the annual Bob Schwab Memorial Tournament. Players like Shane Jackson, Adam Mills, Tom Neal, Josh Paul, and Brenda White used this two-day tournament as a tune-up for the 20th US Open in Minneapolis the following week.

Tom Neal took home the big prize at Landmark by winning Men's Open Singles. Anand Agarwal won Men's A Singles, and Rishi Saripalle won Men's B Singles.

Sincere thanks go to sponsors Robert W. Baird & Co. (Jim Stowell), Head/Penn Racquetball, Patsy Hasty, CPA, and RJS Reynolds Enterprises.

-- Samuel Gomez

RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (6): Tom Neal; Arun Baskaran; Scott Esker, Josh Paul (IA)

Men's Open Consolation (3): Josh Paul (IA); Adam Mills; Miguel Riollano

Men's A (7): Anand Agarwal; Graden Elledge; Bob Johnson, Kristin Coulter

Men's A Consolation (3): Carl Carman; Rishi Saripalle; Ben Farnsworth

Men's B (5): Rishi Sarapalle; Ben Brown; Alexis Khazzam; Nick Halabi; Joshua Hafliger

Men's 40+ Open/A (4): Kurt Mankle; Dennis Anderson; Calvin Price, Justin Mrowicki

Men's Open Doubles (4): Mike Snarr/Tom Neal; Calvin Price/Jim Stowell; Josh Paul (IA)/Shane Jackson (3rd), Jim Freaner/Samuel Gomez (4th)

Men's A Doubles (6): Bob Johnson/Adam Mills; Dennis Anderson/Anand Agarwal; Chris Martin/Douglas Gordon, Ben Farnsworth/Scott Esker

Mixed Open/A Doubles (4): Kristin Coulter/Miguel Riollano; Carl Carman/Katherine Grill; Georgia Russell/Samuel Gomez; Henry Hackman/Brenda White

The Fall Brawl/IRT Pro Stop continued from previous page



Danny Ortega (center) hangs with José and Marco Rojas

in the semis, Rocky Carson then defeated José in the final, 11-4, 11-8, 11-10.

Several local players tried their hand in the Pro division – Juan Martinez III, Andrew Price, Jim Schlicher, and Geoff Goldblatt – and while they did not advance past the first round, they earned IRT ranking points for their participation.

To our Awesome Volunteers, thanks SO MUCH for donating your time and expertise this weekend: Marian Bala, *Todd Burris, *Marla Cusano, *Mike Davern, *Laurel Davis, *Pam Grace, *Dolores Lamberson, Kit Lawson, Dave Milazzo, Sue Mueller, *Geoff Peters, Andy Pitock, John Puccio, Kathy Ruzycki, *Rick Seaberg, *Joe Silius... and the Management and Staff of Glass Court! (*denotes ISRA Board Members)

Results are below, and for a complete look at the draws, visit: <http://www.r2sports.com/website/event-results.asp?TID=15451>

-- Cheryl Kirk

continued on next page

RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's IRT Pro (14): Rocky Carson (CA); José Rojas (CA); Marco Rojas (CA), Sebastian Franco (Colombia)

Men's Open (15): Jake Bredenbeck (AZ); Mario Mercado (Colombia); Troy Warigon (MD), Sebastian Franco (Colombia)

Men's AA (5): Jairo Perez (Bolivia); Danny Ortega; Oscar Corona

Men's A (12): Jairo Perez (Bolivia); Yesid Basoberry Ordonez (Bolivia); Jeremy Dixon, Danny Ortega

Men's B (13): Michael Fornero; Roberto Rivas; Rick Seaberg, Todd Burris

Men's C (15): Anthony Cosmano; Thomas Zielecki; Eugen Gheorghiu, Joseph Zegarinski

Men's D (11): Tim Hanna; Daniel Barrera; Jesus Lopez, Anthony Giacalone

Men's 35+/45+ (6): Alok Mehta (IL/India); Sriram Ravindran; David Kerr, Jesus Rojas

Men's 50+ (4): Tom Utterback; Dave Milazzo; Tony Reiting, Jr., Cedric Bell

Men's 55+ (4): Ray Redelman; Mike Davern; Donald Szeszycki (IA) (3rd)

Men's 60+ (4): Jeff Grace; Bruce Nelson; Bill Roberts (3rd)

Women's Open (3): Adriana Riveros (Bolivia); Sheryl Lotts (OH); Masiel Rivera (MD) (3rd)

Women's 40+ (7): Joan Vande Kieft; Janet Eminger; Mary Crambes, Diane Bunker

Women's 40+ Consolation (3): Brigitte Willis; Susan Mueller; Vickie Onesti (3rd)

Men's Open Doubles (7): Eugene Coyle/Keith Minor; Geoff Goldblatt/Juan Martinez III; Cheryl Gudinas/Troy Warigon (MD), Adam Taylor (IN)/Brent Huff

Men's A Doubles (6): Sheryl Lotts (OH)/Masiel Rivera (MD); Jim Camasto/Jim Zidek; Jose Alberto Acosta/Gilbert Oliveras, Andrew Stoltmann/Dan Jaskier

Men's B Doubles (4): Anthony Cosmano/Michael Fornero; Carlos Salas, Jr./Valentinas Presniakovas; Gallagher Garcia/Jose Garcia (3rd)

Men's C Doubles (3): Jesus Lopez/Porfirio Villalobos; Mike Russo/Tim Hanna; Donald Szeszycki (IA)/Joe Rohde (3rd)

Men's Combined 100+ (6): Jim Camasto/Jim Zidek; Cedric Bell/Jim Schlicher; Andy Pitock/Eric Jensen, Dave Milazzo/Tony Cosmano

Women's Open/A Doubles (4): Lynn Yeazell/Becki Bowman; Diane Bunker/Janet Eminger; Julianne Valentino/Cheryl Kirk (3rd)

Mixed Open Doubles (3): Adriana Riveros (Bolivia)/Yasid Basoberry Ordonez (Bolivia); Geoff Goldblatt/Lynn Yeazell; Adam Taylor/Becki Bowman

Mixed A Doubles (4): Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez/Howard Williams; Barbara Vagedes/Jeremy Dixon; Dan Jaskier/Lisa Mayer (3rd)

Mixed 40+ Doubles (5): Tom Utterback/Janet Eminger; Andy Pitock/Cheryl Kirk; Frank Valentino/Julianne Valentino (3rd)

The Fall Brawl/IRT Pro Stop continued from previous page



*Bilal Muhammad –
Tournament Regular!*



*Before the Finals...Jake Bredenbeck (ref), Joey Logan, José Rojas,
Cheryl Kirk, Rocky Carson, Jeff Grace*

Photo by Ray Redelman



*Party in the Lounge!
Front: Marian Bala, Rocky Carson, and Marco Rojas
Rear: Lynn Yeazell, Sheryl Lotts*



*Rocky Carson, IRT Pro Champ
("I'd rather be surfing...")*



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International Update

Pan American Games

Toronto, Ontario, Canada
by Cheryl Kirk, US Team Leader

(Note: Excerpts from the Fall 2015 Racquetball magazine article are reproduced here by permission of USA Racquetball)

The Pan American Games are racquetball's most prestigious international competition. Established by the Pan American Sports Organization (PASO), the inaugural Games were held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1951 and it remains a major quadrennial sporting event in the Americas today.

Earlier in the year, 16 countries competed in the Pan American Racquetball Championships (PARC) in the

Dominican Republic, where 12 qualified to compete in Toronto: Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, United States, and Venezuela. In total, 54 racquetball athletes made the journey to Toronto.



On arrival, athletes were escorted to a zoned Athletes' Village. In full service to the athletes and delegates, the Residential Zone was impressive in offering an Internet Cafe, lounge and meeting facilities, free-of-charge beverages via many conveniently placed coolers, concierge service, self-service laundry, Main Dining Hall (no charge), a multi-faith center, a polyclinic, transportation to competition venues, relaxation lounges and game

continued on next page



Photo by Steve Czarnecki, courtesy of USA Racquetball

*U.S. Team at the Pan American Games
Front: Jake Bredenbeck, José Rojas, Rocky Carson
Rear: Kim Russell-Waselenchuk, Dave Ellis, RO Carson, Jansen Allen, Michelle Key,
Brent Huff, Rhonda Rajsich, Cheryl Kirk*

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Rocky Carson

Pan American Games continued from previous page

rooms, a 24-hour fitness center, and an 18-acre park. The US Team consisted of Rocky Carson, Jake Bredenbeck, José Rojas, Jansen Allen, Rhonda Rajsich, Michelle Key, and Kim Russell-Waselenchuk. Dave Ellis and RO Carson coached the players. Team Illinois members Brent Huff (Athletic Trainer) and Cheryl Kirk (Team Leader) rounded out the support roster and stayed in the Athletes' Village with the team members and coaches.

It was a thrill to enter Hall C of the Exhibition Centre, Canada's largest facility for conventions, exhibitions and events, to be greeted by brand new portable racquetball courts that were primed to see their first action – ever! There was one all-glass show court as well as three match courts with panel walls and glass backs. Bleachers stretched across the back of the match courts and along the sides and back of the show court. (Once the Games were over, the courts were disassembled and then re-assembled at Racquetball Canada's new high performance facility in Regina, Saskatchewan. These courts were donated as a legacy from Toronto 2015.)

Pan Am Games Racquetball was actually three events in one, featuring two phases of individual competition followed by the team competition.

In successfully defending his Pan Am Games Gold Medal from 2011, Rocky Carson became the first man in Singles to win back-to-back Games. His two Pan Am Singles Gold Medals, combined with a record four World Championship titles, make him the most decorated man in the history of international racquetball.

The US Team finished the individual phase with two gold medals (Rocky Carson and the Men's Doubles team of Rojas and Allen) plus two bronze medals (Rhonda Rajsich and the doubles team of Rajsich and Russell-Waselenchuk). In the team competition, both the men's and women's teams captured silver.

An estimated 37,000 people were on hand to view the closing ceremonies show with Kanye West, Pitbull, and Serena Ryder at the Rogers Centre (home to the Toronto Blue Jays). The two-hour extravaganza featured a light show, fireworks, videos, dancers, and the Hamilton Children's Choir. A highlight of the ceremony was the passing of the PASO flag from the mayor of Toronto to the mayor of Lima, Peru, the site of the 2019 Pan American Games.

For daily blogs and photos from the Games, visit:

<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Racquetball/Features/2015/July/16/2015-Pan-Am-Games>

For the complete Pan American Games article, visit:

<http://www.teamusa.org/usa-racquetball/racquetball-magazine>



Gold medalist Rocky Carson with proud dad/coach RO Carson





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International Update

2015 IRF World Senior Racquetball

Championships

Albuquerque, New Mexico

9/1/2015 - 9/5/2015

Tournament Director - Gary Mazaroff

(Note: Excerpts from the Winter 2015 Racquetball magazine article are reproduced here by permission of USA Racquetball)

Since 1985, the IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships, a self-officiated tournament loaded with competition and camaraderie, has called Albuquerque its home. This year, the popular late summer singles/mixed doubles event soared to new heights with the inclusion of men's and women's doubles divisions – something for everyone! A smooth arrival at Albuquerque International Sunport (ABQ) is the first step to an experience that, once attended, can never be missed again.

Players numbering 150, hailing from 13 countries and 18 U.S. states, plunged into a great five days of racquetball (and some tourism on the side). Six players represented Team Illinois, with two dually representing their home countries:

Eugene Coyle, Men's 45+ (Bronze)

Cheryl Kirk, Women's 55+ (Silver); Women's 50+ Doubles (Bronze) with

Yvonne Grinnell (NM); Mixed 50+ (Bronze) with Chris Poucher (GA)

Lola Markus, Women's 70+ Doubles (Gold) with Nidia Funes (CA);

Mixed 80+ (Gold) with Ralph Waddington (NM)

continued on next page

WSRC Countries 2015

Bolivia

Canada

Colombia

Guatemala

India

Indonesia

Ireland

Italy

Mauritius

Mexico

Nigeria

United Kingdom

United States



Team Illinois at the WSRC

Alok Mehta, Joe Quirke, Lola Markus, Cheryl Kirk, Eugene Coyle, John Mason

IRF World Senior Racquetball continued from previous page

John Mason, Men's 50+ (QF)
Alok Mehta (India), Men's 35+/40+ (QF), Men's 35+ Doubles (Gold) with Tim Baghurst (OK); Mixed 40+ Doubles (Gold) with Tina Bragdon (CO)
Joe Quirke (Ireland), Men's 70+ (Bronze), Men's 70+ Doubles (Silver) with Fredrick Roe (CA)

One would be hard-pressed to think of ways this event could be any better: a world class silent auction, door prizes, shuttle service, breakfast and lunch each day, final night banquet and awards, great medals. It offers the very best event book, everything you need including roster/contact information, maps, rules, last year's results, historic results – it's a work of art. The event format is either round robin or pool play: three games to 11 plus extra points for game and match wins. (Note: Okay, I just thought of something additional that could improve the event: assign someone to remind "some of us" that playing three divisions is...intense. But there's an incredible sense of pride in arriving upright, unaided, at the banquet after playing 19 matches/57 games in four days.)

The next WSRC requires your participation! For your calendar, the dates are August 30-September 3, 2016.

Please visit R2 Sports for complete results:
<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=13410>

-- Cheryl Kirk, IRF Board Member

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Joe Quirke: "I play for Ireland..."



"...and Team Illinois!"

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NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARCH 30 - APRIL 2, 2016 - TEMPE, AZ

NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

MAY 25 - 29, 2016 - DENVER, CO

NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNE 22 - 26, 2016 - MINNEAPOLIS, MN



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2015-2016 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 19-22, 2015

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

December 3-5, 2015

**NMRA 2015
Doubles Only
Championship (40+)
Meridian Sports Club
Fullerton, CA
Cindy Tilbury
cindy.tilbury@att.net**

January 15-17, 2016

**27th Annual
Women's
Senior Masters
Championships
Tucson Racquet
& Fitness Club
Tucson, AZ
Cindy Tilbury
cindy.tilbury@att.net**

January 29-31, 2016

**ISRA State Doubles
Championships
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Laurel Davis
laurelmdavis@comcast.net**

February 10-14, 2016

**USAR National Doubles
Championships
Sun Devil Fitness Complex
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ
www.usaracquetball.com**

February 24-28, 2016

**USAR High School Championships
Portland, OR
www.usaracquetball.com**

February 25-28, 2016

**ISRA State Singles Championships
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Cheryl Kirk cherylkirk@aol.com**

March 4-5, 2016

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

March 9-12, 2016

**NMRA National Championship
Vetta Sports Concord
St. Louis, MO
Cindy Tilbury cindy.tilbury@att.net**

March 10-13, 2016

**Shamrock Shootout/IRT Pro Stop
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Dan Jaskier (630) 629-3390**

March 30-April 2, 2016

**USAR Intercollegiate
Championships
Sun Devil
Fitness Complex
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ
www.usaracquetball.com**

**April 15-17, 2016
USAR**

**Midwest Regional
Championships
Glass Court
Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Geoff Peters
petersgeoff@hotmail.com**

May 25-29, 2016

**2016 USAR
National Singles
Championships
Highlands Ranch
Rec Center
at Northridge
Highlands Ranch, CO
www.usaracquetball.com**

June 22-26, 2016

**2016 USAR
Junior Olympic C
hampionships
Minneapolis, MN
www.usaracquetball.com**

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

2016 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, 2016.
- Deadlines are as follows:
 - **Issue Publication Date** 1/4/16
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Bolingbrook, IL
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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.
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\$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 Tennis Plus

(847) 884-0678
Schaumburg, IL
Wednesday: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
Sunday 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 Noon
\$3.00 Members
\$10.00-12.00 Non-Members
(based on residency)

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