



FALL/WINTER 2015-2016 | VOL 34 NO 1

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

COURTSIDE



- Annual Awards
- Hall of Fame Induction
- Events: Local/State/National/International

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On the COVER

Top – Hall of Fame 2016 Inductees: Dave Milazzo, Dr. Bob Troyer, Jack Newman

Bottom – ISRA Award Winners:
Alcides (and Erick) Gutierrez, Lynn Yeazell,
Eugene Coyle, Daniel Jaskier



From the **PRESIDENT**

*And now, the season end is near
And so we face the final curtain
My friends, I'll say it clear
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain*

*We had a great season
For all the right reasons
We all got to play
And we made it all the way*

*There are only a couple more
Tournaments in store
And then we will be done
And will have some summer fun*

*Regionals In April
Will bring Nationals in May
Then will follow Summerfest
And some rest before the Open play!*

Thanks to everybody who made the 2015-2016 ISRA Racquetball season a great one. We had good tournament participation, great volunteers and generous sponsors. Thanks to the ISRA Board of Directors for their hard work.

Congratulations to our Annual Award winners and to our special award recipient, Tony Cosmano. A big congratulations to our Hall of Fame inductees Dave Milazzo, Jack Newman, and Dr. Bob Troyer -- an impressive group!

Have fun and be safe this summer.

See you on the courts,

Laurel



Credit to songwriters Claude Francois, Marcelo Drumond Nova, Jacques Revaux, and Gilles Thibaut for the parody of "My Way" lyrics in the first stanza.

From the **EDITOR**

We hope you like the fresh new look of this ISRA publication! Perennially called the ISRA Newsletter (a serviceable but somewhat uninspiring title), due to its gradual growth and its updated appearance, we have decided that the new ISRA Courtside deserves a promotion to "eMagazine"!

Going forward as ISRA Courtside, our eMagazine staff will appreciate any news, ideas, or stories you'd like to share. Thanks to Mary Jo Downen of Typagraphics who has been producing issue after issue for over 20 years. She is great to work with and so good at what she does!

Have a great summer!

Cheryl



ISRA FAMILY NEWS

Fran Davis Racquetball Camp

The weekend of November 6-8, 2015, saw ten intrepid campers from four states converge on Glass Court for three days of racquetball instruction from Fran Davis, one of the game's premier coaches. Fran currently works with LPRT #1 and World Champion Paola Longoria and IRT #2 and 2015 Pan American Games gold medalist Rocky Carson. This was an opportunity for many local and regional players to learn from the best. Local teaching pros Andy Pitock and Marian Bala assisted during the classes and on-court instruction that began Friday evening and concluded on Sunday at noon with certificates of completion. Along the way, the class focused on stroke mechanics, shot selection, tournament preparation, and game strategy with multiple on-court sessions including video analysis that (frequently) pointed out the flaws (aka opportunities for improvement) in each player's game. Fran's camp has come to Glass Court annually for many years. All-in-all, a very worthwhile weekend that everyone who wants to improve their game should consider!

Fran will be bringing her camp back to Lombard in late October or early November. Check the ISRA website periodically for updates!

-- Geoff Peters



Charles "Chuck" Martarano

Ambassador to Racquetball | 1928-2016

Chuck Martarano was an ambassador to racquetball. He competed locally and nationally for many years before formal associations were formed, winning many titles along the way. For over 20 years Chuck ran a league of 16 pretty good players starting out at the Oak Park Court House, then moving to Melrose Park and ending up at Glass Court.

Chuck was not only an accomplished player but a mentor to many along the way, such as last year's inductee into the Hall of Fame, Billy Lyman.

The following story is told by Doug Peterson, a multiple State Champion:

"I had been playing racquetball for six months and thought I was pretty good. I went over to



the Oak Park Courthouse and saw Chuck playing. He saw me watching and invited me down to play. For the next hour he just ran me around the court until I could barely stand. I went back to my friends and told them that I just played a guy who must be the greatest player in the state. Chuck was a painter/wallpaper hanger by trade. Over the years Chuck helped by hiring more than a few friends who had lost their jobs. Chuck was a friend, mentor, and inspiration to many racquetball players."

During the 2015 Shamrock Shootout/IRT Tier 1 event, Chuck was honored by the ISRA and IRT as a great racquetball ambassador for over 50 years.

-- Paul Jepsen

Doc Sinno, Kane Waselenchuk, Chuck Martarano, Bob Randazzo, Ricky Rinella

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Howard Spaeth

Long-Time Member of Illinois Racquetball Community | 1938-2016

Howard W. Spaeth, 77, passed away peacefully in Chicago on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, after a long battle with heart disease and diabetes. Born May 13, 1938, Howard lived in Chicago throughout his life with fond memories of time in Lenox, Massachusetts; Canton, North Carolina; Monroe, New York; Terre Haute, Indiana; and countless hours flying in the blue skies in between. Survivors include his children, Susan Spaeth, Heidi Edwards (Scott), Howard Spaeth, Jr. (Carrie), Kathryn Spaeth Zajac (Paul) and Alexander Spaeth (Jaime). Howard was loved by Jane Spaeth, Patricia Spaeth, his sister, Virginia Spaeth, and his grandchildren. He was preceded in death by

his father, Dr. Ralph Spaeth, and mother, Dr. Erma Jaskulek. Howard will be remembered fondly for his life-long interest in aviation, robust storytelling skills about grandiose experiences, his excitement about the sport of racquetball, his love of classical music, his ginormous desire to always help others who needed his support, and above all the love he felt for his family. A private ceremony was held.

-- Excerpt from Family Obituary



Men's and Women's Travel Leagues Wrap Up

How quickly this season went by! The Women's Travel League held its season-ending celebration at Glass Court on Monday, April 11, with the following results:

1 – Ellen Somberg, Julianne Valentino, Susan Mueller, Vickie Onesti

2 – Karin McCauley, Joy DeShazer, Melissa Musick, Lynne Weisbart

3 – Laurel Davis, Cheryl Kirk, Pam Grace, Brigitte Willis

The Men's Travel League will celebrate the culmination of their season on Friday, April 29, at Glass Court. Here are this year's standings:

Men's Open: Glass Court-Naperville – Division and Playoff Winner

Men's A/B: Lattof YMCA – Division Winner

Men's A/B: Lattof YMCA – Division Winner

Men's B/C: LA Fitness South Elgin – Division and Playoff Winner

-- Pam Grace

continued on page 9



The Women's Travel League celebrated the holidays in December at Schaumburg Tennis Plus

Lynn and Jas

Piyush Sanghani, a member of Life Time Fitness, wrote recently:

"We have been members of Life Time Fitness in Romeoville, IL for 10+ years now. Thanks to Life Time, I got introduced to racquetball and have been playing the sport regularly. Watching me play in the league games every week, my daughter, Jasmine (Jas) eventually took on the sport about 2-3 years ago. She started training one-on-one with Racquetball League Coordinator Lynn Yeazell and has become a huge fan of the sport. As a matter of fact, that's how this dad and daughter bond every week - by hitting some balls in the gym.

"It would be remiss of me if I don't say a few words about Coach Lynn, who has been an inspiration for Jas on and off court in many ways. Jas' passion and love for the sport only continues to grow. It is amazing to see how their friendship has grown over the years and how the bond between these two is so special. Their connection is so strong that Jas insisted she be there to support Coach Lynn at the award ceremony in February when she was felicitated with the 2015 Female Player Of The Year by the Illinois State Racquetball Association (ISRA)."



New Addition to Che Family



This ISRA publication has followed the Che Family since before they were even a family! The proposal...the wedding...their first child...and now, introducing Avery's new baby brother! Everett Miles Che was born on February 19, 2016, weighing in at 6 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 19½ inches.

Hung says, "We really miss everyone at Glass Court, and although Dana doesn't play, we are both so very happy to share this wonderful news with our racquetball family. I always say that Avery is my future mixed doubles partner, and now with Everett, I have a future men's doubles partner...I'll be fully booked for the tournaments!"

Kirk Elected to USA Racquetball Board of Directors and Re-Appointed to PARC Executive Committee

In the recent USA Racquetball Board of Directors Election, ISRA Vice President Cheryl Kirk of Naperville, IL, was one of nine candidates for three available Board seats. Kirk was elected for a three-year term along with Jonathan Clay (NJ) and Dan Whitley (MO). This will be a third term for Kirk, who served from 2006-2012 with four of those years as president. Kirk commented, "I want to thank everyone who supported me in the election. I could feel good vibes from Team Illinois, and I'm deeply appreciative!"

Also, at the Pan American Racquetball Championships in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, Kirk ran uncontested for the position of Secretary at the Pan American Racquetball Confederation (PARC) General Assembly on March 22nd. Joining her in the accompanying photo are (L to R), Gerardo Fajardo (Honduras; Central America VP), Juan Manuel Gutierrez (Colombia; South America VP), Jack McBride (Canada; North America VP), Marcelo Gómez (Costa Rica; President), Osvaldo Maggi (Argentina; Executive Vice President), Marie Gomar (Guatemala; Women's Development VP); Cheryl Kirk (United States; Secretary). Not pictured: Daniel De La Rosa (Mexico; Athlete Rep) and Luke St. Onge (Secretary General).



Notice of Annual Meeting and Election of ISRA Board Members

The ISRA Board will hold its Annual Meeting on June 7, 2016. As with all ISRA meetings, this meeting is open to the membership. The Annual Meeting is particularly important since all members attending have a vote in the election of the ISRA Board of Directors. If you plan to attend, please contact Marla Cusano at marcusano@comcast.net for time and location.

Board positions are staggered two-year terms. This year, there are nine open seats.

The following individuals are being re-nominated to the Governing Board:

Todd Burris, Jonelle Dubois, Doug Halverson, Michelle Halverson, Cheryl Kirk, Geoff Peters, John O'Donnell, Jr., and Joe Silius

According to Article IV, Section IV.2 of the ISRA Bylaws (ratified by the ISRA Board of Directors in December 2013 and posted on the ISRA website):

Additional Director candidates must be nominated in writing by one or more ISRA/USAR members, endorsed by signed petition of at least 50 members, and received by the President prior to May 1. If there are any additional Director nominations, the President shall first verify that the nominee is in agreement to run and serve and shall give notice of said nomination to the public via the ISRA website and email communication on or before May 15 but in no case fewer than 30 days before the Annual Meeting date.

The election shall take place at the Annual Meeting in June, by ballot, with only members present voting. If there are no additional nominations, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be accepted automatically.

ISRA President Laurel Davis' email address is laurelmdavis@comcast.net.

Additionally, any ISRA member who wishes to help improve the quality of racquetball in Illinois and familiarize themselves with Board processes is welcome to join the Auxiliary Board. Come support Illinois Racquetball!

Signed,

The ISRA Nominating Committee

Marla Cusano (Chair), Samuel Gomez, and Dolores Lamberson



Doug Halverson (West Zone VP)



Marla Cusano (Secretary and Nominating Committee Chair), Laurel Davis (President), Pam Grace (Travel League Coordinator), Dolores Lamberson (Eligibility and Webmaster), Cheryl Kirk (Vice President and eMagazine Editor)



Geoff Peters (North Zone VP)

ISRA ANNUAL AWARDS AND HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

On Saturday, February 27, 2016, the Illinois State Racquetball Association held its 2016 Hall of Fame Induction and 2015/2016 Annual Awards Ceremony. It was held during the ISRA State Singles Racquetball Championships that were taking place at the Glass Court Swim & Fitness Club in Lombard, Illinois. The ceremony was conducted in the gymnasium and was emceed'd by ISRA President Laurel Davis.

Prior to the beginning of the ceremony, the three new inductees and their families were invited to dinner in the Glass Court's lounge. Afterward, everyone moved to the gymnasium and the ceremony was begun by recognizing the sponsors of the tournament: Anthony's Pizza (Tony Cosmano), Glass Court Swim & Fitness (Dan Jaskier & Joe DeArmas), Kirsten's Danish Bakery (Paul & Kirsten Jepsen), Little Debbie (Joe & Janet Eminger), Pro Penn, and Professional Insurance Producers (Nancy & Dave Kronenfeld). Special thanks went out to the Board of Directors of the ISRA and to the ISRA members who devoted their time to making this event happen.

Winners of the ISRA Annual Awards were announced, followed by a short speech by each of the award winners. The winners of the 2015/2016 Annual Awards were:

Distinguished Service Award – Dan Jaskier; Male Player of the Year – Eugene Coyle; Female Player of the Year – Lynn Yeazell; and Most Improved Player of the Year – Alcides Gutierrez Bernal. Certificates of nomination were also given to Cheryl Kirk, Dolores Lamberson, and John Puccio for Distinguished Service; Antonio Vazquez for Male Player; Karen McCauley for Female Player; and Anthony Cosmano, Jeff O'Hern, Michael Fornero, and Vicki Onesti for Most Improved Players of the Year.

Junior player Matthew Gollins received the 2016 TJ Ferro Junior Scholarship Award. Matthew was present to accept his award and thanked his coaches, his parents, and the ISRA for choosing him as the recipient of this prestigious recognition.

A special award of gratitude was presented to Tony Cosmano for his outstanding contributions to the Illinois racquetball community.

The 2016 ISRA Hall of Fame inductees were David Milazzo, who has had a very lengthy and extraordinary career playing racquetball in the State of Illinois for 46 years and is still



Doug Halverson and Laurel Davis thank Tony Cosmano for his many contributions

competing at the top level in his age group in State, Regional, Masters and National tournaments; Dr. Robert Troyer, one of the most accomplished players in Illinois, having won over 20 titles in State, Regional, and National Masters tournaments; and Jack Newman, who began playing racquetball at the age of 13, received a full scholarship in racquetball to attend Memphis State University, and who went on to be consistently nationally ranked among the top 10 to 20 pro-level athletes (ranked 5th in 1993). Each inductee was introduced by an individual of their choosing and went on to deliver entertaining and inspiring comments about their racquetball careers.

The new inductees join the ranks of our previously inducted ISRA Hall of Famers: Sue Carow, Ron Johnson, Revie Sorey, Lola Markus, John O'Donnell, Jr., Diane DeArmas, TJ Ferro, Cheryl Gudinas, Dave Negrete, Marshall Waldo, Chris Evon, Art Shay, Gay Kenna Mason, Art Michaely, Alan Shetzer, Phil Simborg, Tom Street, Herb Grigg, Bill Lyman, Jean Sauser, John Negrete, Nancy Kronenfeld, and Dennis McDowell.

This very special evening culminated with cake and beverages served in the lounge area and, of course, the re-commencing of matches to determine the 2016 State Champions!

-- Marla Cusano



ISRA Hall of Famers Marshall Waldo, Gay Kenna Mason, Nancy Kronenfeld, Lola Markus, Dave Milazzo, Bill Lyman, Jack Newman, Art Michaely, and Bob Troyer

WHAT *Racquetball* MEANS TO ME

By Joy DeShazer

Age: 40

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Occupation: Teacher Aide at Milne Grove Elementary School

Family: By way of foster care, I am raising and adopting four boys: Drayson, 5; Andres, 6; Dradyn, 7; and Jose, 8.

Years in racquetball: 10

Home club: Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard, IL

What influenced you to start playing racquetball?

Growing up, I always saw myself as an Olympic track & field athlete, however my dreams were cut short in college as I didn't really understand how to pursue and accomplish that goal. Upon returning home from school, and wanting very much to continue in fitness, I began working at Bally Total Fitness where I met Martin Gonzalez, who as we all know is a phenomenal left-handed racquetball player. Daily he played racquetball on his lunch break and eventually introduced me to the game. I thought that this would be a great way for me to stay active and still cater to my competitive nature.

What are your goals in racquetball this year?

My word for 2016 is "consistency": in my daily routine, nutrition, workouts, lessons, and practicing. I believe consistency will take me to another level on the court, and hopefully my scores and results will reflect my improvement.

What makes you love this sport?

In 2006, after I stepped back from racquetball for some years to attempt to pursue running again, I came across footage of Rhonda Rajsich and Kerri Wachtel on racquetballonline.tv. IT. WAS. AMAZING! I said to myself, "I want to do that!" I had no idea that professional racquetball even existed. It was in that moment that I knew that racquetball was my sport, and I made the decision to do what I could to do it well.

What is your philosophy on life?

"But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus--the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God." -Acts 20:24

What was your most memorable moment in racquetball?

In November 2006 I played in my very first tournament in Indiana at the Omni. I believe I signed up for the novice division where I lost 15-2, 15-0. At that moment I had a decision to make: quit or get better. The tournament director felt so bad for me that he introduced me to Carolyn Watkins so I could have a "shoulder to cry on." Well, Carolyn invited me to watch her match. She was a beast! I decided that I was going to find a coach and start



training. That memorable moment helped me make a decision and led me to begin training with Joe Silius who gave me a great foundation and, more importantly, believed in me. Then I had the honor of working with the great Cheryl Gudinas who taught me that this game is not only physical, it also takes mental toughness. Currently, Andy Pitock is consistently reminding me to set goals and that every time I step on the court, it is an opportunity to practice.

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

In life, open a shelter/soup kitchen for homeless youth.

In racquetball, win the US Open Racquetball Championship, of course!

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

Racquetball has given me lifelong friendships and relationships with individuals from all walks of life that I might not have known otherwise. I learn from every person I am on the court with and always strive to be an example to those around me...a work in progress.

Over the past five years, I have had a hand in raising 26 foster children. I don't think I could have kept my sanity if not for racquetball. There are some with whom I've shared the highs and lows, the ups and downs, the struggles and the victories of this journey, and I am very appreciative of their friendship and support.

At the end of it all, the people are the reason I have remained in this sport. There is no other sport where we have such open access to pros and former pros where it's so easy to glean wisdom and knowledge. Grateful every day.

United HealthCare U.S. Open Racquetball Championships

**Life Time Fitness -
Target Center**

Minneapolis, MN

10/7/2015 - 10/11/2015

Tournament Director: Doug Ganim



David Marrero (TX), Cliff Swain (MN), Brian Berkelhamer (IL), and Mike Ladge (CA) battle in Men's 45+ Doubles

Pro Results

Men's Singles: Kane Waselenchuk (USA) vs. Daniel De La Rosa (MEX), 5, 8, 3

Women's Singles: Paola Longoria (MEX) vs. Rhonda Rajsich (USA), 7, 5, -9, 9

Men's Doubles: Kane Waselenchuk/Ben Croft (USA) vs. Jake Bredenbeck/Jose Diaz (USA), 0, 5

Women's Doubles: Paola Longoria/Samantha Salas Solis (MEX) vs. Alexandra Herrera/Monserrat Mejia (MEX), 10, 2

Team Illinois Medal Count – 27

1st: Bero, Minor, Mory (3), O'Hern, Vazquez

2nd: Coyle (2), Del Rio, Lopez, Satorius, Young

3rd: Bero, Berkelhamer (2), Frick, Giacalone, Miller, Mills, Onesti (2), Rivera, Ryan, Seaberg

4th: Fauser, White

Team Illinois Divisions/Results

38 players (31 men, 7 women)

Brian Berkelhamer, Men's Doubles 19+ 3rd (Fernando Javier Rivera), Men's Doubles 35+ (Arturo Burrue, TX), Men's Doubles 45+ 3rd (David Marrero, TX)

Glen Bero, Men's 35+C 1st, Men's Doubles A (Matt Reeser), Mixed Doubles C (Vickie Onesti) 3rd

Tony Cosmano, Men's 55+, Men's Doubles 55+ (Dave Milazzo)

Eugene Coyle, Men's 40+, Men's 45+ 2nd, Mixed 40+ 2nd (Marie Gomar, Guatemala)

Josue Del Rio, Men's C, Men's 24-C 2nd, Men's C Doubles (Jesus Lopez) (Joy DeShazer)

Joy DeShazer, Women's B, Women's Doubles A (Emily Fauser), Mixed A (Matt Reeser)

Roberto Dunaway-Torres, Men's B, Men's 40+

Eduardo Esparza, Men's B, Men's 45+B, Mixed B (Emily Fauser)

Emily Fauser, Women's 35+A 4th, Women's A Doubles, Mixed B (Eduardo Esparza)

Lee Frick, Men's A Doubles (David Singer), Men's 45+ Doubles (David Singer), Men's Centurion A Doubles 3rd (Jake Ryan)

Anthony Giacalone, Men's D 3rd, Men's 45+C



Berkelhamer goes vertical to avoid Swain's forehand bullet!

continued on page 15

24th Annual Turkey Shoot Open/IRT Pro Stop

Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard, IL

11/19/2015 - 11/22/2015

Tournament Directors – Doug and Michelle Halverson

Stats

States (6): Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, Wisconsin
Divisions: 21

Participants: 152 players (124 men, 28 women) with 105 playing two divisions



Father/son team Jose and Gallagher Garcia captured Men's B/C Doubles

Volunteers

Marian Bala, Mike Davern, Laurel Davis, Jeremy Dixon, Michael Fornero, Jeff Grace, Cheryl Kirk, Dolores Lamberson, Liz Molitor, Geoff Peters, John Puccio, Matt Reeser, Joe Silius

Sponsors

Anthony's Pizza
Kirsten's Danish Bakery
Head Penn

Movin' on Up...

These players earned their way into the next higher division at the beginning of the 2016-17 season after full-draw victories at this event:

Jeremy Dixon won Men's A
Levester Dean won Men's B
Anthony Cosmano won Men's C
Stephen Lindstrom won Men's D

Congratulations to all!

Highlights

Men's Open: Brian Simpson def. Keith Minor, forfeit due to injury

Men's AA: Clint Hickman def. Eric Van Marion in four games

Women's 35+/40+: Diane Bunker defeated four competitors in the five-player round robin to capture first place

Men's Open Doubles: Eugene Coyle/Keith Minor def. Trevor Snyders/Shane Longest

For a full view of the draws, please go to:

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/divisions/listAllDivs.asp?TID=16678&sortBy=defaultOrder>



Doug Halverson and Dan Jaskier congratulate IRT Pro Consolation Winner Clint Hickman



Joe Silius and Jeff Grace man the desk

Results on page 15

RESULTS

Division(# entered): First; Second; Semifinal

Men's IRT Pro (16): Brian Simpson (IN); Keith Minor; Andrew Price, Brad McCuniff (IA)

IRT Pro Consolation (7): Clint Hickman; Eric Van Marion; Brad Hansen (IA), Alok Mehta

Men's A (15): Jeremy Dixon; Frank Wrobel; Matt Reeser, Jesus Rojas

Men's B (15): Levester Dean; Jesse Ortiz; Raghu Varan Sriram, Michael Fornero

Men's C (22): Anthony Cosmano; Eugen Gheorghiu; James Davis, Bruce Young

Men's D (16): Stephen Lindstrom; Daniel Barrera; Mike Russo, Jonathan Turcich

Men's Novice (5): Gustavo Lopez; Nicholas Hung; Kyle Szczupider (3rd)

Men's 30/40/45+ (5): Ryan Griffin (IN); Fernando Javier Rivera; Antonio Vazquez

Men's 50/55+ (11): Tom Horton; John Moscato; Tom Lamberson, Tony Cosmano

Men's 60/65+ (5): Dave Olson; Ray Redelman; Joe DeArmas, Bruce Nelson

Men's Open Doubles (8): Eugene Coyle/Keith Minor; Trevor Snyders/Shane Longest; Jorge Ortiz/Oscar Madrigal, Brad McCuniff (IA)/Brad Hansen (IA)

Men's A Doubles (12): Danny Ortega/Frank Wrobel; James Zidek/James Camasto; Jesus Rojas/Tony Garcia, Levester Dean/Tony Costello

Men's B/C Doubles (9): Jose Garcia/Gallagher Garcia; Anthony Cosmano/Michael Fornero; Rodrigo Diaz/Jairo Torres, Hung Che/Bruce Young

Men's 40+ (3): Antonio Vazquez/Tom Neal; Michael Hammel/John Puccio; David Coyner/John Puccio (3rd)

Men's Combined 100+ (8): Dave Bachar/Thomas Utterback; James Zidek/James Camasto; John Moscato/George Pappas, Andy Pitock/Eric Jensen

Women's A/B (4): Susan Mueller; Kim Reimschisel (IN); Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez (3rd)

Women's 35/40+ (5): Diane Bunker; Ellen Somberg; Karin McCauley (3rd)

Women's Open/40+ Doubles (6): Cari Mory/Laurel Harper; Diane Bunker/Karin McCauley; Rebecca Bowman/Lynn Yeazell, Nancy Amaro/Janet Eminger

Women's A/B/C Doubles (4): Julianne Valentino/Cheryl Kirk; Lisa Mayer/Pam Grace; Vickie Onesti/Susan Mueller (3rd)

Mixed Open/40+ Doubles (7): Rebecca Bowman (IN)/Adam Taylor (IN); Thomas Utterback/Janet Eminger; Andy Pitock/Cheryl Kirk, Alcides Gutierrez/Nancy Amaro

Mixed A/B/C Doubles (8): Matt Beals (IN)/Laurel Harper; Joy DeShazer/Matt Reeser; Jerry Kee/Vickie Onesti, Jeremy Dixon/Lisa Mayer



U.S. Open *continued from page 13*

Cheryl Gudinas, Women's LPRT Pro, Women's Doubles LPRT Pro (Sharon Jackson, GA)

Alcides Gutierrez, Men's A, Men's Doubles A (Danny Ortega)

Shane Jackson, Men's Doubles A (Tom Neal), Men's Doubles 19+ (Josh Paul, IA), Men's Centurion B Doubles (Gary Mammele)

Leo Klimaitis, Men's 65+, Men's 65+A

Jesus Lopez, Men's D 2nd, Men's 35+C, Men's Doubles C (Josue Del Rio)

Dave Milazzo, Men's 55+, Men's Doubles 55+ (Tony Cosmano)

Frank Milazzo, Men's 60+

Horace Miller, Men's 65+, Men's 70+ 3rd

Adam Mills, Men's B, Men's 24B/25B 3rd

Keith Minor, Men's 45+ 1st, Men's 50+

Cari Mory, Women's 35+A 1st, Women's Doubles A 1st (Rebecca Bowman, IN), Mixed A 1st (Antonio Vazquez)

Bilal Muhammad, Men's D, Men's 45+C

Tom Neal, Men's 55+A (Gary Mammele, IN), Men's Doubles A (Shane Jackson), Men's Centurion A Doubles (Gary Mammele, IN)

Jeff O'Hern, M35+C, M55+C 1st, Men's Centurion B Doubles (Randy Puebla)

Vickie Onesti, Women's C, Women's Doubles B 3rd (Julie Dillon, MN), Mixed C 3rd (Glen Bero)

Danny Ortega, Men's B, Men's Doubles A (Alcides Gutierrez)

Valentinas Presniakovas, Men's C, Men's Doubles C (Bruce Young)

Randy Puebla, Men's 55+B, Men's 60+, Men's Centurion B Doubles (Jeff O'Hern, IA)

Matt Reeser, Men's A, Men's Doubles A (Glen Bero), Mixed A (Joy DeShazer)

Fernando Javier Rivera, Men's 25+ Men's 35+, Men's Doubles 19+ 3rd (Brian Berkelhamer)

Jake Ryan, Men's 40+, Men's Centurion A Doubles 3rd (Lee Frick)

Joyce Satorius, Women's B, Women's 55+B 2nd

Richard Seaberg, Men's B, Men's 35+B 3rd, Men's Doubles B (Bill Bearden, TX)

David Singer, Men's Doubles A (Lee Frick), Men's Doubles 45+ (Lee Frick)

Antonio Vazquez, Men's 45+A, Men's Doubles A (Kyle Smith, IN), Mixed A 1st (Cari Mory)

Brenda White, Women's 60+ 4th

Bruce Young, Men's 45+C 2nd, Men's Doubles C (Valentinas Presniakovas)



2016 WSMRA 27th Annual National Championship

**Tucson Racquet & Fitness Club -
Tucson, AZ
January 15-17, 2016
Tournament Director: Cindy Tilbury
by Cheryl Kirk**

Excerpts from this article used with permission of USA Racquetball

Let's begin with the stats for this year's long-awaited WSMRA championship: 77 participants, 11 divisions, 21 U.S. states plus Guatemala (Marie Gomar, a frequent participant, makes this an international event!). This largest and longest continually running event for women players in the world features a self-refereed format with plenty of court time: all round robins/pool play with playoffs, 2 games to 11 with bonus points for game and match wins. This is the second year that doubles divisions have been offered, a very popular addition.

Here's a quick rundown of how this event unfolded...

Thursday: fun doubles and raffle for Racquet for the Cure followed by player orientation meeting

Friday/Saturday/Sunday: singles and doubles competition; silent auction benefiting the USAR scholarship fund and the WSMRA

Saturday: Banquet, DJ Mark Mann

Sunday: Finals and awards

Much gratitude goes out to Tournament Director Cindy Tilbury, Desk Coordinator Joe Williams, and WSMRA Tournament Committee members Terry Rogers, MeriJean Kelley, and Paula Sperling. Volunteers Linda Moore, Ric Shorrock, Vickie Onesti, Marie Gomar, Nidia Funes, Carol Gellman, Pat Meyer, and Kathy Yurrick helped ensure a smooth-running event.

Sponsors included Wilson Sporting Goods; Malibu Ladies Racquetball Camp; Sun-Rise Baking Co., Tom Rossier, Tucson; Ric Shorrock Photography, Tucson; King Label, Phoenix;

Dr. Mary Lee Amerian, Los Angeles; Splatshotz Apparel, Minneapolis; and generous individual donors.

Team Illinois Rocks!

Illinois is consistently recognized by the WSMRA as the #1 state in participation. The 16 players from Illinois made up over 20% of this event. You could always find Illinois players on the courts! A fair amount of weeping could be overheard since three of us were "celebrating" milestone birthdays the week of the event – Julianne Valentino (55), Cheryl Kirk (60), and Nancy Kronenfeld (65). Just kidding about the weeping – everyone knows racquetball players like to move to the next age bracket and become "the youngest" once again, right?

continued on page 17

Team Illinois Results

Diane Bunker, 55+ (4th), 45+ Doubles with Karin McCauley (3rd in PP; SF)

Mary Crambes, 55+B/C (2nd), 55+ Doubles with Sue Goodwin (WA) (3rd in PP; SF)

Margaret Hoff, 65+ Doubles with Kendra Tutsch (WI) (3rd)

Pauline Kelly, 75+ (2nd)

Cheryl Kirk, 60+ (5th), 55+ Doubles with Julianne Valentino (5th in PP)

Nancy Kronenfeld, 65+ Doubles with Shirley Parsons (CO) (1st)

Dolores Lamberson, 55+ Doubles with Janice Vosika (WY) (2nd in PP; QF)

Lola Markus, 65+ Doubles with Barbara Taylor (CO) (7th)

Lisa Mayer, 45+ Doubles with Deanna Munro (4th in PP)

Karin McCauley, 45+ (3rd), 45+ Doubles with Diane Bunker (3rd in PP; SF)

Susan Mueller, 45+B/C (3rd), 45+ Doubles with Vickie Onesti (4th in PP)

Deanna Munro, 45+ Doubles with Lisa Mayer (4th in PP)

Vickie Onesti, 45+B/C (4th), 45+ Doubles with Susan Mueller (4th in PP)

Barbara Vagedes, 65+ (2nd), 55+ Doubles with Lynne Weisbart (6th in PP)

Julianne Valentino, 55+B/C (4th), 55+ Doubles with Cheryl Kirk (5th in PP)

Lynne Weisbart, 55+B/C (7th), 55+ Doubles with Julianne Valentino (6th in PP)

For a full look at the draws:

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/divisions/listAllDivs.asp?TID=14034&sortBy=defaultOrder>

Caption, Photo on page 14

*The Illinois "Sassy Sixteen"
(well, some more than others...)*

*Standing: Lisa Mayer, Pauline Kelly, Lola Markus,
Susan Mueller, Diane Bunker, Dolores Lamberson,
Karin McCauley, Julianne Valentino, Barbara Vagedes,
Nancy Kronenfeld, Lynne Weisbart, Mary Crambes*

*Kneeling: Cheryl Kirk, Deanna Munro,
Vickie Onesti, Margaret Hoff*

Photo by Tina Marchie

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!

The ISRA and Glass Court have been named as the local organizing committee (LOC) and site of the **2017 28th Annual WSMRA Championship!** Laurel Davis and Cheryl Kirk, along with a formidable team of Illinois women, will direct and coordinate the event. We're already beginning to identify the host hotel, lock down volunteers (men!), and search for local and national sponsors. Contact Cheryl at cherylkkirk@aol.com for more information!



ISRA State Doubles Championships

The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
January 29-31, 2016
Tournament Director: Laurel Davis

The first big state-wide event of 2016 is in the record books as we crowned over 20 State Doubles champion teams. Tournament Director Laurel Davis wishes to thank all of the sponsors and volunteers who made the weekend possible; the 125 intrepid competitors who played their hearts out; and, of course, Dan Jaskier, Joe DeArmas, and their staff who make Glass Court one of the top tournament facilities in the country.

The ISRA gratefully acknowledges the contributions of these sponsors who helped make the 2016 ISRA State Doubles Championships a success: Anthony's Pizza (Tony Cosmano), Kirsten's Danish Bakery (Paul & Kirsten Jepsen), Little Debbie (Joe & Janet Eminger), Molitor Athletic Fields (Liz and Dave Molitor), and Pro Penn.

Many thanks to the volunteers without whom this, and all events, would be possible:

Marian Bala, Marla Cusano, Jeff Grace, Pam Grace, Doug Halverson, Michelle Halverson, Cheryl Kirk, Dolores Lamberson, Dave Milazzo, Liz Molitor, Geoff Peters, John Puccio, Lora Reeser, Matt Reeser, Kathy Ruzycki, Joe Silius, David Singer, and Barb Vagedes.

Special congratulations go to our Open Division Champions:

Eugene Coyle/Keith Minor - Men's Open

Ellen Somberg/Liz Molitor - Women's Open

Kristin Coulter/Miguel Riollano - Mixed Open

Results are posted below. For a complete look at the draws, click on this link:

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/divisions/listAllDivs.asp?TID=17006&sortBy=defaultOrder>

-- Geoff Peters and Cheryl Kirk

Results on page 19



Valentinas Presniakovas and Carlos Salas, Jr. (Men's C)



Alcides Gutierrez and Eric Van Marion (Men's AA)



Julianne Valentino, Laurel Harper, Danny Ortega, and Chris Liljestrand (Mixed A)



Kristin Coulter and Miguel Riollano (Mixed Open)

RESULTS

Division(# entered): First; Second; Semifinal

Men's Open (7): Eugene Coyle/Keith Minor; Fernando Javier Rivera/Jorge Ortiz; Eric Mathews/Shane Longest, Geoff Goldblatt/James Schlicher

Men's AA (3): Alcides Gutierrez/Eric Van Marion; Keith Harper/Tom Horton; George Pappas/Jeremy Dixon (3rd)

Men's A (15): James Camasto/James Zidek; Chris Liljestrand/David Coyner; Jeremy Dixon/Glen Bero, Gallagher Garcia/Jose Garcia

Men's B (11): Bruce Young/Hung Che; Greg Cilano/Todd Parker; Gallagher Garcia/Jose Garcia, Brian Balch/David Singer

Men's C (3): Carlos Salas, Jr./Valentinas Presniakovas; Joseph Rohde/Randal Ashton; Bilal Muhammad/Rashid Muhammad (3rd)

Men's 25+/35+/45+ (4): Eric Mathews/Shane Longest; Shane Jackson/Tom Neal; Alcides Gutierrez/Eric Van Marion (3rd)

Men's 40+/50+ (4): Cedric Bell/Tim Dern; Jorge Ortiz/Keith Harper; John Puccio/Mike Hammel (3rd)

Men's 55+ (5): Lee Frick/Tom Neal; James Schlicher/Rajesh Sondhi; John Mason/John Moscato (3rd)

Men's 60+ (3): Dave Olson/Dennis McKee; Platt Hill/Ray Redelman; Bill Roberts/Frank Milazzo (3rd)

Men's Combined 100+ (7): Keith Minor/Tony Cosmano; David Bachar/Thomas Utterback; James Camasto/James Zidek, Basilio Salazar/Lee Frick

Men's 25+A/40+A (3): Antonio Vazquez/Danny Ortega; Daniel Jaskier/Jeffrey Grace; Jack Johnson/Randal Ashton (3rd)

Men's 45+A/50+A/55+A (5): Anthony Dieckmann/James Wehrli; Dave Olson/Dennis McKee; Bill Roberts/Geoffrey Peters (3rd)

Women's Open (4): Ellen Somberg/Liz Molitor; Cari Mory/Laurel Harper; Kristin Coulter/Pam Schubach (3rd)

Women's A/B (6): Cheryl Kirk/Julianne Valentino; Deanna Munro/Lisa Mayer; Dolores Lamberson/Lynne Weisbart, Barbara Vagedes/Brigitte Willis

Women's 35+/45+/55+ (4): Brenda White/Ellen Somberg; Laurel Davis/Lynn Yeazell; Joann Kempthorne/Pam Schubach (3rd)

Mixed Open (8): Kristin Coulter/Miguel Riollano; Jorge Ortiz/Laurel Harper; Geoff Goldblatt/Lynn Yeazell, Kelly Gremley/Shane Jackson

Mixed A (12): Chris Liljestrand/Julianne Valentino; Danny Ortega/Laurel Harper; Jerry Kee/Vickie Onesti, Deanna Munro/Glen Bero

Mixed B (4): Allen Bell/Lisa Mayer; Carl Carman/Viri Del Bosque; Robert Dreger/Susan Mueller (3rd)

Mixed 35+/40+ (4): Alcides Gutierrez/Nancy Amaro; Brent Huff/Lynn Yeazell; Basilio Salazar/Diane Bunker (3rd)

Mixed 50+ (3): Liz Molitor/David Bachar; Janet Eminger/Thomas Utterback; Kevin Yeazell/Laurel Davis (3rd)

Mixed 55+ (4): Ellen Somberg/Jim Hillman; Andy Pitock/Cheryl Kirk; Kerry Spix/Marla Cusano (3rd)



Jim Schlicher and Rajesh Sondhi (Men's 55+ Silver)



*Ouch. Just ouch.
Melissa Musick, John Mason, Janet Eminger, Liz Molitor*



*Marlin Ortiz, Laurel Harper, Marian Bala
(This used to be a family publication.)*

USA Racquetball National Doubles Championships



Gold medalist Brent Huff

February 10-14, 2016
Sun Devil Fitness
Center, Tempe, AZ

Finals – US Team Qualifying Doubles

Men's: Jake Bredenbeck (MN)/
 Jose Diaz (CA) def. Rocky
 Carson (CA)/Jansen Allen (TX)
 15-14, 15-11

Women's: Aimee Ruiz (NJ)/
 Janel Tisinger (CA) def. Rhonda
 Rajsich (AZ)/Sheryl Lotts (OH)
 15-12, 12-15, 11-10

Jake, Jose, Aimee, and Janel
 now have the opportunity
 and the right to play on the
 US Team at the upcoming IRF
 World Championships in Cali,
 Colombia, in July 2016.

Finals – US Team Qualifying Singles

Wait...singles divisions at
 National Doubles?? Exactly.
Racquetball magazine explains
 this phenomenon:

While the process for qualify-
 ing for the Team as a doubles
 team is generally the same, the
 singles selection procedure is
 determined by performance
 at three Selection Events,

including:

- 2015 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Pro Division
- 2016 U.S. Team Singles Qualifying Division at USA Racquetball National Doubles Championships
- 2016 U.S. Team Qualifying Division at USA Racquetball National Singles Championships

Men's: Rocky Carson (CA) def. José Rojas (CA)
 15-8, 3-15, 11-8

Women's: Rhonda Rajsich (AZ) def. Sharon Jackson (GA)
 15-13, 15-5

Team Illinois Results

12 participants: 8 men, 4 women

Below are Illinois results, naming partners, of course!
 Many medals were won – congratulations to all!

Eugene Coyle

Men's 40+, John Amatulli (IN), 4th
 Men's 45+, John Amatulli (IN), 4th

Ben Farnsworth

Men's 45+-65+C, Paul Gordon, 1st
 Men's C, Paul Gordon, 3rd

Paul Gordon

Men's 45+-65+C, Ben Farnsworth, 1st
 Men's C, Ben Farnsworth, 3rd

Cheryl Gudinas

Women's US Team Qualifying, Sharon Jackson (GA)
 Women's US Team Singles, 3rd

Brent Huff

Men's Elite, Dale Millhollin (CA)
 Mixed 25+-40+, Mae Chin-Varon (CA), 2nd Mixed
 40+
 Mixed Elite, Becki Bowman (IN), 1st

continued on page 20



Geoff Peters supported the national association

USA Racquetball National Doubles Championships continued from page 19

Cheryl Kirk

Mixed 50+A, Geoff Peters, 2nd pool play
Mixed B Centurion, Steve Czarnecki (CO), 2nd pool play
Women's 40+-60+ Elite, Susan Hendricks (AZ), 1st Women's 60+ Elite

Nancy Kronenfeld

Mixed 65+-75+, Joe Lee (HI), 1st Mixed 65+
Women's 60+-75+, Shirley Parsons (CO), 1st Women's 65+

Keith Minor

Men's 40+, Jeff Stark (CA), 1st
Men's 45+, Jeff Stark (CA), 1st
Mixed 25+-40+, Aimee Ruiz (NJ), 1st

Cari Mory

Mixed A, Antonio Vazquez, 2nd pool play
Women's Open/Elite, Becki Bowman (IN), 3rd

Danny Ortega

Men's A, Antonio Vazquez, 1st
Mixed A, Kim Reimschisel (IN), 2nd pool play

Geoffrey Peters

Men's Centurion Open, Joey Logan (FL)
Mixed 50+A, Cheryl Kirk, 2nd pool play

Antonio Vazquez

Men's A, Danny Ortega, 1st
Mixed A, Cari Mory, 2nd pool play

Full view of draws:

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/divisions/listAllDivs.asp?TIID=14383&sortBy=defaultOrder>



Photo by Roby Partovich

*Joe Lee (Hawaii) and
Nancy Kronenfeld,
gold in Mixed 65+*



Cari Mory and Antonio Vazquez (Mixed A)

State Singles is in the Record Books!

ISRA State Singles Championships February 26-28, 2016 Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard, IL Tournament Director: Cheryl Kirk

Cooperative weather, dedicated volunteers, generous sponsors, and competitive spirits contributed to a quality experience at Glass Court, February 26-28, for the 122 players (including 8 juniors) who entered 28 divisions. A number of new State Champions are "movin' on up" as a result of their performances, including Jeremy Dixon, Anthony Cosmano, Carl Carman, Eduardo Acosta, and Susan Mueller.

Our sponsors allow us to provide first-class hospitality to Team Illinois. Much gratitude goes to Anthony's Pizza (Tony Cosmano), Glass Court Swim & Fitness (Dan Jaskier & Joe DeArmas), Kirsten's Danish Bakery (Paul & Kirsten Jepsen), Little Debbie (Joe & Janet Eminger), Pro Penn, and Professional Insurance Producers (Nancy & Dave Kronenfeld).

To think of running a tournament without dedicated and skilled volunteers is unthinkable. It just simply couldn't be done. Thanks so much to Marian Bala, Todd Burris, Marla Cusano, Mike Davern, Laurel Davis, Jeremy Dixon, Janet Eminger, Michael Fornero, Jeff Grace, Pam Grace, Doug Halverson, Michelle Halverson, Dolores Lamberson, Kit Lawson, Eric Mathews, Geoff Peters, Andy Pitock, John Puccio, Sriram Ravindran, Bill Roberts, Rick Seaberg, Joe Silius, John Thorson, and the Staff Members of Glass Court!

Congrats to all the winners, and thanks to everyone who competed! Check out the results below and view the draws at: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/divisions/listAllDivs.asp?TID=17007&sortBy=defaultOrder>



Cheryl Kirk and Laurel Davis congratulate Men's Open State Champion Keith Minor



Gisela Gomez: new on the scene. Gold in Women's C!



Roberto Rivas and Rick Seaberg (Men's 50+A)



Susan Mueller (Women's A Gold)

-- Cheryl Kirk

Results on page 21

RESULTS

Division(# entered): First; Second; Semifinal

Men's Open (24): Keith Minor; Geoff Goldblatt; Clint Hickman, Juan Martinez III

Men's AA (6): Fernando Javier Rivera; Ryan Fosco; Antonio Vazquez, John Puccio

Men's A (19): Jeremy Dixon; Jesus Rojas; Adam Mills, Danny Ortega

Men's B (15): Anthony Cosmano; Jairo Torres; Allen Bell, Carlos Salas, Jr.

Men's C (24): Carl Carman; Brett Chidester; Hector Herrera, Steven Lindstrom

Men's D (15): Eduardo Acosta; Daniel Sanchez; Bijesh Balakrishnan, Daniel Barrera

Men's 25+/35+ (7): Eric Van Marion; Fernando Javier Rivera; Sriram Ravindran, Eric Mathews

Men's 40+ (4): Jorge Ortiz; Basilio Salazar; Alcides Gutierrez (3rd)

Men's 45+ (8): John Thorson; Alok Mehta; Cary Slade, Antonio Vazquez

Men's 50/55+ (11): Dave Milazzo; Tom Neal; Tim Dern, John Moscato

Men's 60+ (4): Dave Olson; Ray Redelman; Joseph Vallender (3rd)

Men's 65+/75+ (3): Joseph Vallender; Bruce Nelson; Patrick Taylor

Men's 65+ (2): Joseph Vallender; Bruce Nelson

Men's 75+ (1): Patrick Taylor

Men's 25A/35A (5): Danny Ortega; Rogelio Ruiz; Anand Agarwal (3rd)

Men's 25+A (4): Danny Ortega; Anand Agarwal; Adam Mills (3rd)

Men's 35+A (1): Rogelio Ruiz

Men's 40+A/45+A (3): Blair Wagner; Levester Dean; Matt Reeser (3rd)

Men's 40+A (1): Matt Reeser

Men's 45+A (2): Blair Wagner; Levester Dean

Men's 50+A/55+A (5): John Mason; Jerry Kee; Richard Seaberg (3rd)

Men's 50+A (2): Richard Seaberg; Roberto Rivas

Men's 55+A (3): John Mason; Jerry Kee; Bill Roberts (3rd)

Men's 40+/45+ Intermediate (3): Eduardo Esparza; Roberto Dunaway-Torres; George Ipe (3rd)

Men's 40+ Intermediate (1): Roberto Dunaway-Torres

Men's 45+ Intermediate (2): Eduardo Esparza; George Ipe

Men's 50+ Intermediate (3): Richard Seaberg; Roberto Rivas; Louis Hersheyway (3rd)

Men's 55+/60+ Intermediate (4): Hector Herrera; Paul Friedman; Joe Rohde (3rd)

Men's 55+ Intermediate (3): Hector Herrera; Paul Friedman; Joe Rohde (3rd)

Men's 60+ Intermediate (1): Keith Wiener



Top: Eric Van Marion (Men's 25+/35+ Gold) and his biggest fan



Anand Agarwal and Danny Ortega (Men's 25+A)

ISRA State Singles Championships | Results continued from page 21



Father and son medalists – Alok and Devin Mehta

Women's Open (8): Ellen Somberg; Janet Eminger; Liz Molitor, Lynn Yeazell

Women's AA (4): Diane Bunker; Laurel Davis; Emily Fauser, Brenda White

Women's A (9): Susan Mueller; Mary Crambes; Brigitte Willis, Julianne Valentino

Women's B (6): Susan Mueller; Gisela Gomez; Brigitte Willis, Vickie Onesti

Women's C (2): Gisela Gomez; Emily Sanchez

Women's 35+/50+ (3): Janet Eminger; Liz Molitor; Emily Fauser (3rd)

Women's 35+ (1): Emily Fauser

Women's 50+ (2): Janet Eminger; Liz Molitor

Women's 55+/60+ (3): Ellen Somberg; Diane Bunker; Brenda White (3rd)

Women's 55+ (2): Ellen Somberg; Diane Bunker

Women's 60+ (1): Brenda White

Women's Age A (5): Mary Crambes; Julianne Valentino; Vickie Onesti (3rd)

Women's 35+A (1): Jen Johnson

Women's 50+A (1): Vickie Onesti

Women's 55+A (1): Julianne Valentino

Women's 60+A (2): Lynne Weisbart; Mary Crambes

Junior Boys 16-: Matthew Gollins

Junior Boys 14-: Trevor Gelino; Jorge Ortiz IV

Junior Girls 14-: Emily Sanchez

Junior Boys 12-: Connor Hepburn; Nathan Gollins

Junior Boys 10-: Santiago Sanchez; Devin Mehta

Junior Girls 10-: Adina Ortiz



Men's C finalists Brett Chidester and Carl Carman



Levester Dean (Men's 45+A Silver)

Bob Schwab Memorial

Landmark Racquet & Health Club – Peoria

March 5, 2016

Tournament Directors: Samuel Gomez, Kurt Mankle, and John Snarr

The Bob Schwab Memorial, replacing the Landmark Spring Invitational, hosted 42 players from Central and Southern Illinois.

Mike Snarr continued his undefeated record, besting Tom Neal in the Men's Open final. Adam Mills won the Elite/AA, defeating Anand Agarwal in tie breaker. Big congratulations go to RJ Mercer, Alexis Khazzam, and Ernesto Reyes for their victories in Men's A, B and C, respectively.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Paul H. Herzog – Mass Mutual; Dave Angevine – Green Chevrolet; Jim Stowell – Robert W. Baird & Co.; Stephen P. Kelly, Ken Brackett – GEMCO Echo Engraving Services; John Richier – Midwest Urological Group; Stan Ulrich – Ulrich Chevrolet in Washburn; and Head/Penn Racquetball.

-- Samuel Gomez



Tim Banasiak and Justin Mrowicki – Men's B/C Doubles Champs

RESULTS

Division(# entered): First; Second; Semifinal

Men's Open (10): Mike Snarr; Tom Neal; Samuel Gomez, Arun Baskaran

Men's AA (6): Adam Mills; Anand Agarwal; Lakshman (Lucky) Potluri, Dennis Anderson

Men's A (5): RJ Mercer; David Papke; Kristen Coulter (3rd); Carl Carman (4th)

Men's B (8): Alexis Khazzam; Ernesto Reyes; Ben Farnsworth; Justin Mrowicki

Men's B Consolation (4): Doug Kerns; Keith King

Men's C (8): Ernesto Reyes; John Glebas; Henry Hackman; Richard King

Men's C Consolation (4): Chris Dinardi; CP Simmons

Men's Open Doubles (3): Shane Jackson/Tom Neal; Kurt Mankle/Mike Vicary; Calvin Price/Jim Stowell

Men's A Doubles (6): Adam Mills/RJ Mercer; Anand Agarwal/Dave Angevine; Steve Funk/Stu Kinkade, David Papke/Xavier Pereira

Men's B/C Doubles (4): Justin Mrowicki/Tim Banasiak; Randy Kingery/Keith King; Rick Menzel/Steve Donarski (3rd); Ben Farnsworth/CP Simmons (4th)

Mixed Open/A (3): Kristin Coulter/Shane Jackson; Carl Carman/Katherine Grill; Pam Schubach/Jim Freaener



Tom Neal and Samuel Gomez, still looking fresh after their semifinal match

31ST Annual Shamrock Shootout and IRT Tier 1 Pro Stop

Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard, IL

March 10-13, 2016

Tournament Directors: Geoff Peters, Dan Jaskier, and Doug Halverson

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, The Glass Court Swim & Fitness Club in Lombard hosted the 31st Annual Shamrock Shootout featuring a Tier One IRT Men's Tour Stop in addition to over \$5,000 in prize money for amateur events! The weekend featured 185 competitors, green beer, a DJ, and access to all of the Pro matches for the amateur players. This was the second year in a row that local sponsors, including KWM Gutterman, Platt Hill Nursery, JAM Trucking, Kirsten's Danish Bakery, Professional Insurance Producers, Anthony's Pizza, Papa Nicholas Coffee, CPR for Life, Onesti Entertainment, Taco Burrito King, and Chicago Spectro Service Laboratory stepped up to ensure that Chicago could host a Tier One event at The Glass Court! In addition, a host of local players contributed to making the tournament a success as sponsors. These included Rick Seaberg, Liz Molitor, Jim Hillman, Ellen Somberg, Jennifer Johnson, John Thorson, Mike Davern, Alok Mehta, Tom Horton, Eric Jensen, Cheryl Kirk and Kit Lawson, and Bob Joly.

In the IRT Event, top-ranked Kane Waselenchuk repeated as champion with a 11-2, 11-4, 11-2 victory over #5-ranked Daniel De La Rosa in a rematch of the 2015 UnitedHealthcare US Open Finals.



*Watch out girls, evil leprechaun behind you!
Rei McCormick, Julia Stein,
and Marco Rojas*



Pro players Sebastian Franco, Marco Rojas, José Rojas, Jansen Allen, and Rocky Carson hanging out with a bunch of cool kids at the Junior Clinic



Shamrock Shootout *continued from page 24*

Waselenchuk defeated Alejandro Herrera, Marco Rojas, and Alvaro Beltran in the road to the finals for his eighth tournament win this season. De La Rosa outlasted José Rojas in four games and defeated Mauricio Zelada and Jake Bredenbeck, both of The Reaching Your Dream Foundation (RYDF), on his side of the bracket.

Fellow RYDF athletes Robert Collins, Sebastian Franco, and Mario Mercado also joined Zelada and Bredenbeck in this 31st annual Chicagoland area tournament. Bredenbeck started Friday's Round of 16s with a huge five-game upset of #2-ranked Rocky Carson and went on to defeat Jansen Allen to set up his semifinal with De La Rosa.

Quarterfinal, semifinal, finals action were live-streamed across the United States and numerous countries by John Scott and Rick Glazebrook of eNetLive.tv (IRT Network).

Several pro players participated in a special Junior Clinic on Saturday morning at 9 am (yes, 9 am!) where 21 juniors heard from Sebastian Franco, Jansen Allen, Marco Rojas, José Rojas, and yes, Rocky Carson, while having a chance to win some prizes and take home a few autographs, pictures, and swag!

On the amateur side of the draws, Felipe Camacho defeated Sebastian Franco, and Cheryl Gudinas defeated Sheryl Ann Lotts to take home \$1,000 each in the Men's and Women's Open divisions, while Jorge Ortiz/Oscar Madrigal and Kelley Gremley/Sheryl Lotts received cash prizes in the Men's and Women's Open Doubles. Masiel Rivera/Mauricio Zelada did likewise in the Mixed Open Doubles. In all, trophies were awarded to 25 division winners by the conclusion of play late on Sunday afternoon.

The Glass Court team would like to thank IRT Commissioner Jason Mannino, ISRA President Laurel Davis, ISRA Vice President and Operations Director Cheryl Kirk, and the entire volunteer team that came together for a very long weekend to make this event a success for everyone!

-- Geoff Peters

Shamrock Shootout/IRT Tier 1 Stats

Number of players 185
146 men, 39 women
60 in one division
125 in two divisions

Countries - 4
US, Mexico, Colombia, India

States - 19
Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii,
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan,
Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New York,
North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas,
Wisconsin



US Junior Team Coach Cheryl Gudinas celebrates success with Rei and Julia



Mixed A Champs Julianne Valentino and Jim Zidek



Rocky Carson assists Dolores Lamberson at the tournament desk

Shamrock Shootout | Results continued from page 25

Men's Pro - IRT Pro (24): Kane Waselenchuk (TX); Daniel De La Rosa (Mexico); Jake Bredenbeck (MN), Alvaro Beltran (Mexico)

Men's Open (28): Felipe Camacho (CO); Mario Mercado (Colombia); Sebastian Franco (Colombia), Andree Parrilla (Mexico)

Men's AA (9): Jorge Ortiz; Carlos Reyes (WI); Ethan Slutzky (MO), Oscar Madrigal

Men's A (18): John Provan (CA); Anthony Cosmano; Antonio Vazquez, Jesus Rojas

Men's B (13): Ravi Kishore Yenduri; Anand Agarwal; Todd Burris, Bernie Bustos

Men's C (18): Brad Simon; Evan Howard (IN); Daniel Mills, Jesus Lopez

Men's D (22): Jesus Lopez; Helder Dos Santos; Tom Trecker, Daniel Barrera

Men's Novice (2): Miguel Angel Perez; Joshua Ortiz (IN)

Men's 35+/45+ (6): Dean Baer (NY); Don McCormick (IA); Jesus Rojas, John Thorson

Men's 55+ (13): Tony Cosmano; Keith Harper; Dave Milazzo, Tom Neal

Men's 65+ (4): Joseph Vallender; Bob Riley (NC); Platt Hill (3rd)

Men's 35+/45+ Int. (8): Blair Wagner; John Provan (CA); Keith Wiener, Bernie Bustos

Women's Open (16): Cheryl Gudinas; Sheryl Lotts (OH); Janet Eminger, Masiel Rivera (MD)

Women's AA (7): Cari Mory; Karin McCauley; Mary Crambes, Susan Mueller

Women's A (7): Gisela Gomez; Brigitte Willis; Deanna Munro, Lynne Weisbart

Women's B (4): Rei McCormick (IA); Julia Stein (PA); Edith Seaman (3rd)

Men's Open Doubles (9): Jorge Ortiz/Oscar Madrigal; Danny Ortega/Mario Mercado (Colombia); Alcides Gutierrez/Eric Van Marion, Eric Mathews/Ethan Slutzky (MO)

Men's A Doubles (8): Bruce Young/Danny Sardina (AZ); Gallagher Garcia/Jose Garcia; Frank Wrobel/James Camasto, Jairo Torres/Tony Garcia

Men's B/C Doubles (7): Porfirio Villalobos/Ranferi Salgado; Chris Choi/Jairo Torres; Mark Buckley/Antonio Ortiz, Jose Arteaga/Tony Garcia

Men's Combined 100 (7): Brian Berkelhamer/Tom Horton; Dave Bachar/Thomas Utterback; Basilio Salazar/Lee Frick, James Camasto/James Zidek

Women's Open Doubles (7): Kelly Gremley/Sheryl Lotts (OH); Lynn Yeazell/Rebecca Bowman (IN); Karin McCauley/Nancy Kronenfeld, Ellen Somberg/Liz Molitor

Women's A/B Doubles (6): Julia Stein (PA)/Rei McCormick (IA); Dolores Lamberson/Joy DeShazer; Cheryl Kirk/Julianne Valentino, Amy Anderson/Gisela Gomez

Mixed Open Doubles (6): Masiel Rivera (MD)/Mauricio Zelada (MD); Adam Taylor (IN)/Rebecca Bowman (IN); Danielle Falvey (WI)/Geoff Goldblatt, Keith Harper/Laurel Harper

Mixed A/B Doubles (8): James Zidek/Julianne Valentino; Marco Rodriguez (WI)/Cheryl Kirk; Danny Ortega/Laurel Harper, David Coyner/Deanna Munro

Mixed 40+/50+ (4): Janet Eminger/Thomas Utterback; Basilio Salazar/Diane Bunker; Lynn Yeazell/Tom Neal (3rd)



Leprechaun gals Cheryl Kirk and Sheryl Lotts



Shamrock Shootout

Many thanks to these volunteers who are contributed their time and efforts!

Marian Bala	Dolores Lamberson
Laura Brown	Kit Lawson
Doug Brown	Eric Mathews
Todd Burris	Liz Molitor
Marla Cusano	Geoff Peters
Laurel Davis	John Puccio
Joy DeShazer	Matt Reeser
Jeremy Dixon	Bill Roberts
Jonelle Dubois	Joe Silius
Michael Fornero	Abby Singer
Jeff Grace	Dave Singer
Pam Grace	Lynne Weisbart
Cheryl Kirk	Lynn Yeazell

XXVII IRF World Junior Racquetball Championships



Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic November 5-15, 2015

by Cheryl Kirk

Excerpts from this article used with permission of USA Racquetball

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, was the site of the 2015 event that annually brings together junior players, this year from 15 countries representing North, Central, and South America, Europe, and Asia. Participating countries were Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Korea, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the United States. Players numbering 184 competed in the Championships.

The US Junior Team Delegation to this event included twenty-seven players, five staff members, and 33 parents/siblings/friends. Staff members included Team Illinois' Cheryl Gudinas (Head Coach) and Cheryl Kirk (Team Leader) along with Jody Nance (CA), Jen Meyer (CO), and Jeff Conine (FL).

FORMAT

The event features seven full days of competition in three main categories: World Cup (18-, 16-, and 14-), Esprit Cup (12- and 10-), and Challenger Cup (divisions for players who did not qualify for

their national teams). Boys and girls competed in both singles and doubles divisions. The event was divided into two portions; a three-day round robin format that determined seeding for the final four days of medals rounds.

SEAN SWARNER PAID A VISIT

At the US Junior Team camp at the USOC Training Center in Colorado Springs in August 2015, Sean Swarner, a motivational speaker, author, and founder of the non-profit organization, The CancerClimber Association, inspired our junior athletes with stories of his challenges and accomplishments against all odds. Sean, a friend of Assistant Coach Jeff Conine and a resident of Breckenridge, Colorado, decided to take his involvement one step further and flew to the Dominican Republic both to visit his dad who lives there and at the same time support the US Junior Team at Worlds. Sean's book, *Keep Climbing: How I Beat Cancer and Reached the Top of the World*, is available on his website, seanswarner.com, and on Amazon as well.

TEAM ILLINOIS SUPPORTS THE US JUNIOR TEAM

Each year since 2012, including this year, the ISRA Board of Directors, on behalf of the players of Illinois, have voted to provide a meal for the US Junior Team (see photo accompanying this article). This and other similar donations make a big difference in boosting team camaraderie and assisting the families with the considerable expenses incurred in giving their junior players this valuable experience.

Caption: Above

US Junior Team Coaches Jody Nance, Cheryl Gudinas, and Jeff Conine lead a team discussion on Court 1 in Santo Domingo

continued on page 28

JUNIOR TEAM USA: MEDAL COUNT

Gold (4) – Jordan Cooperrider and Erika Manilla (Girls 16 Doubles), Akul Ramayani (Boys 12 Singles), Heather Mahoney (Girls 10 Singles), Josh Shea (Boys 10 Singles - White)

Silver (5) – Sam Bredenbeck/Jake Birnel (Boys 18 Doubles); Jordan Cooperrider (Girls 16 Singles); Wayne Antone/Kevin Vazquez (Boys 16 Doubles), Vedant Chauhan (Boys 10 Singles), Tommy Andraos (Boys 12 Singles Red)

Bronze (5) – Daniel Rojas (Boys 18 Singles), Lexi York (Girls 18 Singles), Mitchell Turner/Julian Singh (Boys 14 Doubles), Heather Mahoney/Julia Stein (Girls 12 Doubles),

Vedant Chauhan/Josh Shea (Boys 10 Doubles)

Congratulations to all!!

JUNIOR TEAM USA: OVERALL RESULTS

World Cup Boys 3rd / Girls 3rd / Overall 3rd

Esprit Boys 2nd / Girls 2nd / Overall 2nd

To view draw sheets and overall results, visit this web address:

<http://www.internationalracquetball.com/live-events.html>



US Junior Team thanks Team Illinois for dinner in Santo Domingo!

Pan American Racquetball Championships

San Luis Potosí, Mexico

March 19-26, 2016

Five US Team players and three staff members made up the delegation to this year's event that always takes place the week leading into Easter each year.

The US Delegation joined eleven other countries' delegations to compete at the beautiful La Loma Centro Deportivo. Those countries were Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

La Loma is truly a sports center, so much more than a club as we might traditionally think of one. This beautiful facility features an Olympic-sized pool, basketball gym, many tennis courts, huge weight room and tons of machines, running track, soccer field, eight racquetball courts, four squash courts, booth vendors and shops, a restaurant, and much more.

This eight-day competition (Saturday-Saturday) featured three days of round robin competition that determined the seeding of the main draw that took place Wednesday-Saturday of the week after the Tuesday off.

To recap US Team results:

Jake Bredenbeck – Silver
Michelle Key and Kelani Bailey – Silver
Jake Bredenbeck and Bobby Horn – Bronze
US Men's Team – 2nd place
US Women's Team – 3rd place
US Overall Team – 2nd place

Mexico placed first in every category, a very strong showing and a proud week for their team and their country.

Next up is the IRF World Championships in Cali, Colombia, this July. Be sure to check out www.internationalracquetball.com for streaming information and results as well as www.usaracquetball.com for US Team coverage including the Daily Blogs!

GO TEAM USA!!



US Team Delegation: Coach Dave Ellis, David "Bobby" Horn, Cheryl Gudinas, Jake Bredenbeck, Kelani Bailey, Michelle Key, Brent Huff, Cheryl Kirk

Eight-year-old JTI beginner Montserrat Torres, daughter of Jairo and Claudia, is a big fan of Paola Longoria, the #1 woman player in the world, whose hometown is San Luis Potosí, Mexico. Montserrat taped a video message to Paola at the Shamrock Shootout in Lombard, IL, and in late March at the PARC event in San Luis Potosí, Paola viewed the video and sent one back to Montserrat. What fun!



The Torres Family



Paola watches Montserrat's video



Cheryl films Paola's response



Mission accomplished: Montserrat views Paola's message!



Paola Longoria

PAOLA LONGORIA
#1 RANKED PLAYER
IN THE WORLD



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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

April 22-24, 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 Championships
Minneapolis, MN
www.usaracquetball.com

July 6-9, 2016

NMRA International Championships
Sunset Athletic Club
Portland, OR
John Winings
johnwinings@hotmail.com

July 16-23, 2016

IRF World Championships
Cali, Colombia
www.internationalracquetball.com

July 29-31, 2016

24th Annual Summerfest
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Dan Jaskier
(630) 629-3390

August 30-September 3, 2016

IRF 32nd World Senior
Racquetball Championships
New Mexico Sports & Wellness
Albuquerque, NM
Gary Mazaroff
gmampro@comcast.net

October 5-9, 2016

UnitedHealthcare 21st US OPEN
Racquetball Championship
Life Time Fitness Target Center
Minneapolis, MN
www.r2sports.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.

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 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

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 eMagazine. 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 eMagazine.

Many thanks

Joe Silius
Advertising Editor

2016 ISRA eMagazine 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** 9/2/16
- **Articles/Releases/Ads Due** 9/16/16
- **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
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Committee



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E-MAIL _____

BIRTHDATE _____

Adult competitor \$50.00 _____

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

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