



First Half 2017 | VOL 35 NO 1

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

COURTSIDE



- ISRA Annual Awards and Hall of Fame Induction
 - Annual Meeting and Election of ISRA Board Members
 - Movin' On Up
- ...and Event Coverage Galore!

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A black and white photograph of two professional tennis players, Paola Longoria and Rocky Carson, standing side-by-side. Paola Longoria, on the left, is wearing a dark athletic top with a white logo and is holding a green Penn HD ball in her right hand. Rocky Carson, on the right, is wearing a white athletic top with a dark logo and is holding a blue Penn HD ball in his right hand. Both players are looking directly at the camera with serious expressions. The background is dark and out of focus.

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Paola Longoria

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Rocky Carson

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On the COVER

Photo by Mike Davern

Hall of Fame inductee Dave Olson (far left) with ISRA President Laurel Davis (third from left) and Award winners (L to R) Michael Fornero, Montserrat Torres, Cheryl Kirk, Karin McCauley, and Alok Mehta



From the **PRESIDENT**

Happy Summer! I hope you are all enjoying the summer, because before you know it, it will be over!

This is the time of year when I like to thank all of the previous year's volunteers for their work on your behalf. The ISRA Board of Directors did an excellent job over the 2016-2017 season. Tournament participation was strong, and we had a long string of tournaments that were well attended.

We hosted the 28th Annual Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Association (WSMRA) National Championships tournament in January. Cheryl Kirk and I served as tournament directors, and the men of the ISRA Board ran the tournament so that all of the women on the Board could enjoy the event. It was a great time!

There were state tournaments, Glass Court tournaments, the Pro Stop at the Shamrock Shootout, and more. We also had a Women's Travel League, a Men's Travel League, and Junior Team Illinois. None of those things would have happened without the volunteer efforts of your ISRA Board of Directors plus other non-board volunteers like Marian Bala, Diane Bunker, Liz Molitor, John Thorson, and Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez. This list is not complete. Please thank anybody you catch in the random act of volunteering and show them your appreciation.

Board members also had to go back to school this year. In accordance with a new U.S. Congressional law and the U.S. Olympic Committee's mandate, USA Racquetball requires all State Board members to complete SafeSport Training, which includes a background screen. USA Racquetball is audited for compliance with the SafeSport mandate. Each Board member had to dedicate some time working through the SafeSport training. It contains several modules that instruct people on topics like dealing with conflict at an event and how to behave with children. It was a good exercise. ISRA members can feel confident that the group leading the state organization includes people of integrity.

We recently held elections for the 2017-18 Board of Directors. John Puccio has resigned from the Board due to a move to Arizona. I would like to thank John for his service to the Board. He is a volunteer who helped at many tournaments prior to joining the Board. I was appreciative of the ideas he contributed as a Board member. Hopefully he will stop by to see us occasionally in the future.

To fill that spot, John Thorson has joined the Board of Directors. John brings his passion for racquetball and is interested in continuing to grow the game at a grassroots level. Welcome to the Board, John! We look forward to your participation.

Summerfest kicks off the new tournament season! I hope you will all take advantage of the opportunity for a summer tournament and a nice pool party!

See you on the courts,

Laurel



From the **EDITOR**

I hope you enjoy this issue -- it's a record 39 pages this time around!

Please help me with some fun content going forward:

1. Are you part of a racquetball couple? What's your story?
2. Have you ever had dreams about racquetball (having to play around furniture on an assigned court, etc.)? Tell us about it!
3. What has been your best racquetball moment ever?

Write to me at cherylkkirk@aol.com and you might experience your 15 minutes of fame in a future issue of ISRA Courtside!

Cheryl

ISRA Annual Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

by Marla Cusano

The Illinois State Racquetball Association held its Annual Awards and Hall of Fame Ceremony on Saturday, April 1, 2017, in conjunction with the ISRA State Singles Racquetball Championships. The ceremony took place in the gymnasium of the Glass Court Swim & Fitness Club in Lombard to accommodate the large number of family and friends attending. ISRA President Laurel Davis presided over the ceremony with photos taken by Mike Davern, a Governing Board member. As part of her opening remarks, Laurel acknowledged the many ISRA Board members who were in attendance and thanked them for their commitment to the racquetball players of Illinois.

First, the winners of the ISRA Annual Awards were announced. The 2016 Most Improved Player was Michael Fornero. Marian Bala and his friend and fellow racquetball player John Puccio made the presentation. Michael said a few words, thanking his parents and his coaches for all their support and guidance. Michael has advanced to the Open level in under two years.

The 2016 Female Player of the Year Award was awarded to Karin McCauley, the 2016 Male Player of the Year Award to Alok Mehta, and the 2017 Distinguished Service Award to Cheryl Kirk. Each recipient delivered comments of appreciation, and certificates were presented to the ISRA members who had been nominated for each of the awards.

Montserrat Torres, 9, won the TJ Ferro Junior Award, presented to her by Cheryl Kirk and Marian Bala. Montserrat thanked her parents and coaches and the ISRA for selecting her as the recipient.

Hall of Fame inductees for 2017 were David Olson, Alvin Barasch, and Leo and Susan Klimaitis. Due to Leo and Susan's inability to attend the event, they will be recognized in a future ceremony. Dave Olson, who has had an amazing racquetball career, provided the audience with some great racquetball stories and memories from his past and present. Alvin Barasch's son, Jay Barasch, was present to address the audience at his father's posthumous induction. Alvin was a past ISRA President, won the Distinguished Service Award in 1988, and was a tournament director as well as a player and a sponsor.

ISAR Annual Awards Criteria

The Female and Male Players of the Year and Most Improved Players are selected using the following criteria: accomplishments in the sport of racquetball, number of years played, sportsmanship, and contributions to the sport.

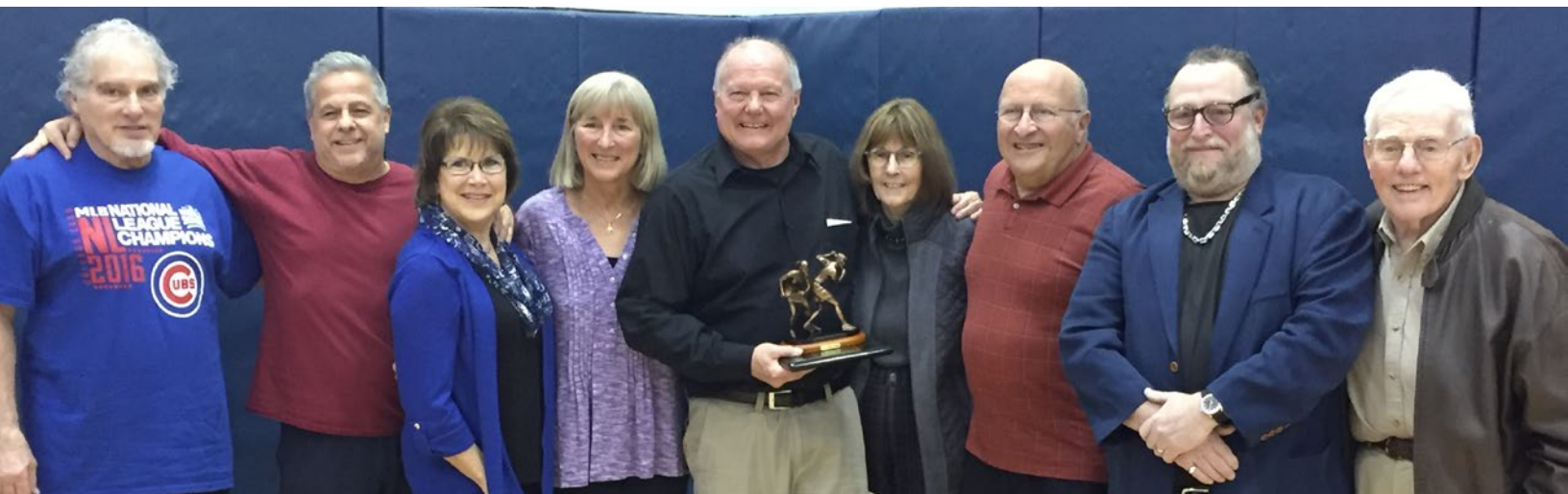
The Distinguished Service Award is awarded to an individual based on his or her contributions to the sport of racquetball, quality of service, and accomplishments benefiting the sport and its players.

The TJ Ferro Award was created in memory of JTI Founder, TJ Ferro, in 2010. This award is open to all junior members of the ISRA. The players are asked to fill out an application to include their activities and involvement in playing racquetball, sportsmanship, scholastic achievement, and community service.



Above: ISRA Award nominees Todd Burris, Dolores Lamberson, Susan Mueller, and Diane Bunker with ISRA President Laurel Davis (center)

Below: ISRA Hall of Famers Marshall Waldo, Dave Milazzo, Gay Kenna Mason, Nancy Kronenfeld, Dave Olson, Jean Sauser, Art Michaely, Jay Barasch (representing Alvin Barasch), and Bob Troyer



What Racquetball Means to Me: Alok Mehta

Tell us about your hometown, occupation, age, family, years in racquetball and home club?

While these questions may seem simple, for me they are a bit of a challenge. Having immigrated to the U.S. from India on my own at the age of 19, I consider myself "world citizen."

To me, home is where your heart is. My heart has been in many places;

thus, I have many homes. I grew up in Jaipur (known as the "Pink City" of India), and many of my family and friends are still there. I came to the U.S. about 30 years ago and started playing soon after that. I lived in the Boston area for about 15 years, so I consider Boston a home as well. Now, home is Chicagoland, where I have numerous friends and have been blessed with other things in life, including an exciting career. I work as Chief Technology Officer for a financial asset management company.

As for my age, given I am a computer geek, I will let you figure it out. The binary representation of my age is 110001.

I play at several clubs in the Chicago area, including LA Fitness-Lakeview, LA Fitness-Canal Street, YMCA Northbrook, and Union League Club. I think the Y provides me the most home-like feeling.

What influenced you to start playing racquetball?

My college friends first introduced me to racquetball when I came to the U.S. in 1987 to pursue higher education. After my graduation from business school, I moved to Boston. I joined a gym in 1990 and sought out Ben Fisher (who was 75 years young at that time and the father of racquetball legend Phil Fisher). For the next year, Ben, who beat me consistently, introduced me to several top competitive players such as Bobby Chisholm, Joanne Pomodoro, Ike Laughinghouse, and Skip Barry. Each of these people continued to introduce me to tournaments and pro stops. After watching Cliff Swain and Cheryl Gudinas at pro stops in the 1990s, I knew racquetball was the sport for me because of requirements of amazing speed, quickness, and strength, plus it is always a full-body workout. Everyone I encountered was warm, friendly, funny and welcoming, which made me love racquetball right from the beginning.

What are your goals in racquetball for this year?

I have several racquetball goals this year. First, I want to support/promote racquetball at the international and domestic levels. Second, as the Team India running Captain,



I would like to qualify, lead, and make sure we have a solid team competing in the 2018 IRF World Championships. Third, I also want to support Junior racquetball in Illinois since young players are the future of the sport. Fourth, I want to make sure that my son Devin is exposed to racquetball in as positive manner as I was. Lastly, I want to continue to train hard and compete in the IRF World Seniors and the US Open along with as

many local tournaments as I can.

What makes you love this sport?

Besides keeping physically and mentally fit and reducing stress, racquetball has provided me with great opportunities to travel within the U.S. and internationally. As Team India Captain, I am blessed not only with the opportunity to represent my country of birth but also with the opportunity to travel and compete at the international level with world-class athletes. This has allowed me to learn from fantastic players and make friends around the globe. Above all, the most important reason I love this sport is the friendships it has given me in the form of coaches, trainers, players, and comrades.

What is your philosophy on life?

Because this is such a general question, I will take the liberty to address it broadly. In general, being humble, honest, grateful, and kind usually works in all aspects of life. As a parent, leading by example tends to provide encouragement without putting undue pressure on your kids. As a professional in the workplace, beyond having skills to do your job, integrity is the single most important thing. As a friend, I like to surround myself with people with positive energy, and I like to provide positive support to others. As an athlete, there is no substitution for hard work and discipline. We can also work smarter because we all have time constraints due to various commitments.

In the end, we are products of both nature and nurture. While there are many things we can influence, there are just as many things that we cannot and simply have to accept. I think being aware of what you can influence and what you cannot is critical.

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

There are so many wonderful memories, such as training

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and playing with top athletes in the sport, leading Team India at the IRF World Championships for our first gold medal, winning close matches, interviewing with the International Racquetball Federation in Colombia at the World Championships, winning various local, state, regionals, state, and international titles, and traveling for racquetball to Colombia, India, Canada, and Albuquerque.

However, the one that is on top is when my father was visiting me in Colorado in 2007. We had moved to Colorado in 2005. For two years, we hadn't unpacked. One afternoon, my father (who died about 10 years ago) was helping us unpack and found a box full of my racquetball trophies and medals from over the years. At first, he was disappointed that I hadn't shared those with him. But what really struck me was how for rest of that afternoon, he took each medal and trophy out of the box. One-by-one, he cleaned, polished, and arranged them all on the fireplace mantle. He was so proud of me. He was my biggest



*Team India at the IRF Worlds in Colombia (2016)
L to R: Thirumuragan Thyagarajan, Sriram Ravindran, Alok Mehta,
and Rajiv Varadarajan (with Colombian sign bearer)*

fan. I miss him dearly, but that memory of his love and pride for me is one of my most cherished. It would be hard to top that one.

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

I am pretty content with my life. I have been blessed with wonderful kids, professional success, racquetball success, and being able to travel. As for a racquetball goal, the ultimate experience for me would be for me one day to play doubles with my son Devin in a tournament.

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

I have been playing racquetball for a long time, and it is integrated into my life, heart, and soul. I will continue to support, promote, and play racquetball as long as I possibly can. The love for this sport does not spring from the numerous trophies and medals that I have collected over the years. It emanates from the people who have welcomed and supported me in the sport. They have been part of the journey and have helped to make me a world citizen.

I would genuinely like to thank following from the bottom of my heart for their support as a coach, family, supporter, or friend: my children - Devin, Amber and Rani, Dave Negrete, Tony Rosselli, Juan Herrera, Cliff Swain, Eugene Coyle, Cheryl Gudinas, Andrew Price, Tina Bragdon, Ike, Skip, Ben Fisher, Larry Weene, ISRA, IRF, RAI, Team India, E-Force, AFS, Grosvenor, my friends, and my family in India. I am sorry if I missed your name and you have been part of my racquetball life.



Jaipur, India -- The Pink City

KILLSHOT Kids' Corner

Junior Team Illinois (JTI) -- Season Ends With Pizza!

Glass Court Swim & Fitness was again the Home of Junior Team Illinois for the 2016-17 season. Thirteen kids (8 boys and 5 girls), ages 9-14, worked on their forehands, backhands, serves, and shot selection most Sunday mornings from mid-October through Regionals in April. Beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels of instruction ensured each player received proper training throughout the season.

USAR Regionals was the last day of the scheduled JTI season, and once players were finished competing and medals were awarded, a pizza-and-cake celebration concluded the season.



USAR Regionals -- April 2017

Illinois Junior Highlights

Shamrock Shootout -- Junior Clinic with the Pros

Bobby Horn, Robert Collins, José Rojas, and Markie Rojas hosted a Sunday morning 9:00 am clinic with 15+ juniors who were thrilled with their gifts and the attention of four of the best players in the world! (See Shamrock Shootout article on page 16.)

State Singles and Regionals

Nearly all JTI players turned out to play and earn medals at these two events in April. A great time was had by all!



Markie Rojas helps Sage with her racquet grip at the Shamrock Junior Clinic



ISRA State Singles -- April 2017

TJ Ferro Award

JTI player Montserrat Torres was the recipient of the TJ Ferro Junior Award at State Singles on April 1st.

Junior Nationals

See the article in this issue for more about Jeremy Dixon and Michael Fornero's experiences in California in late June! (Note: Next year's Junior Nationals will be right in our own backyard in Des Moines, Iowa!)

Thank You's!

JTI would not be possible without the dedication of our coaches and volunteers. Much gratitude goes to Marian Bala, Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez, Andy Pitock, and Michael Fornero.

Thanks so much to the moms and dad who brought the kids, helped out on the courts, and made sure refreshments were there each Sunday!

And last but not least, we could never fully express how much we appreciate Dan Jaskier and Glass Court for supporting JTI and their families.

JTI will gear back up in October, and we look forward to another fun-filled season!

-- Cheryl Kirk



Shamrock Junior Clinic -- familiar faces!

The Pride of Illinois Racquetball -- Jeremy and Michael!

JEREMY DIXON

"Junior Nationals is hands down my favorite tournament of the year and one that I always make sure I get to. This year it was held in Stockton, California, the week of June 21-25. It was my last since I recently turned 19, and I'm too old for junior events now. I traveled out a day before to meet my dad Barry who was there a day earlier than us with fellow Illinois player Michael Fornero and Coach Marian Bala. We got in and prepared for our first round matches the following morning.

"Arriving at the club the next day, you're instantly greeted by friends, many of whom you haven't seen since the Junior Nationals of the previous year. Lucky for me, I played the USAR Intercollegiate Nationals this year, so I got to see and play some of these people that week. My good friend and fellow collegiate player, Thomas Carter, who recently won the Intercollegiate National singles title, was also there all week and made it to most of my matches, so it was nice to see him and have his help as well. In singles, I won my first round but lost my second round match, so I found myself in the first drop-down bracket (Blue) where



Jeremy Dixon

I won my first two rounds to make it to the finals of that division, against Michael. If there is anyone who knows my game, it's Michael! He has been my practice partner for years, and there is no other person on the planet who has had more court time with me than him. He was having, in my opinion, the best tournament of his life, and I was concerned even if we were both in a consolation division. He was playing great all tournament, and I knew I couldn't take him lightly at all going into this match. He was in the lead several times and made some great comebacks, but I guess I felt a little fresher than he did and ended up with the win, 15-13, 15-12. Again, I can't stress how great of a tournament Michael had, and I know he's going to make an even bigger run next year. Moving to doubles, I played with my good friend Gavin Usher of Oregon, another collegiate player as well. He is a lefty and this was my second year playing with him. We ended up with the 3 seed in Boys 18 doubles and were really excited going into the week. We won our first round, lost our second round to a respectable team of players who both have had time on the U.S. Team, and ended up getting a third place finish in that division to round out the week.

"Overall, my experience at this event was as great as it usually is. As I said, it's great to catch up with friends and the feeling of this event is like no other. I would like to thank the people who supported me at this tournament including my friends from Baldwin Wallace University, Thomas Carter, Marian Bala, my parents, HEAD Racquetball, Ashaway Strings, the Illinois State Racquetball Association, and everyone from Illinois who sent encouraging words my way that week. It was a great way to go out at my last Junior Nationals, and now I look forward to three more years competing at Intercollegiates for Baldwin Wallace University!"

Editor's Note: Jeremy made an impressive showing at Intercollegiates this year as well. He placed first in Men's No. 5 Gold, and he and partner Kyle Ulliman took the Gold in the Men's Doubles #2 division.

MICHAEL FORNERO

Michael Fornero (who moved up to Men's Open in Illinois this past season) traveled to the USAR Junior Olympics at the end of June to compete in Boys 18- Singles and Boys 18- Doubles. After losing second

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Michael Fornero, Coach Marian Bala, and Jeremy Dixon

The Pride of Illinois Racquetball -- Jeremy and Michael! continued from page 9

round in the Gold singles division, Michael moved to the Blue division (Olympic format) and met his good friend Jeremy Dixon in the finals, losing 13-15, 12-15 -- Silver! Michael and his partner Russell Chavez II of San Antonio, Texas, also took Silver in the Boys 18- Doubles Consolation division. Michael writes about his experience:

"Junior Olympics 2017 was held in Stockton California. It was a rewarding experience that I was honored to be a part of. I had the pleasure of meeting many of the Head Penn sponsored players, and I was able to take part in a bowling social with all of the Head Penn sponsored players.

"Being introduced to the US Team players really made me want to work harder to strengthen my game. The support among all the top junior players in the nation made me feel proud to be a racquetball player. I met people from Texas, Florida, Colorado, California, Iowa, and Wisconsin. It was fun getting to play people my own age and see how I measure up against the kids in my age division.

"I look forward to playing more tournaments to further my experience. I hope to have the opportunity to play racquetball in college next year after graduation from high school.

"Thank you to everyone who has supported me through the past few years. I am extremely grateful to Cheryl Kirk, Andy Pitock, Jeff Grace, and all the staff at my home club, The Glass Court Swim & Fitness in Lombard, for allowing me to grow to make racquetball the sport I love the most.

"Lastly, I would like to thank my coach Marian Bala for working me so hard and teaching me the strategies and discipline that has allowed my game to become stronger and stronger every year. She has been a great influence in my life, and I am lucky to have her as my coach and good friend."



Photo courtesy of Peggy Fornero

Team Head parties in Stockton!

Annual Meeting and Election of ISRA Board Members

The ISRA Board held its Annual Meeting on June 6, 2017. As with all ISRA Board meetings, this meeting was 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.

Board positions are staggered two-year terms. There were six open seats on the Board for this year's election. The Board slate consisted of the following individuals, all of whom were current Board members: Marla Cusano, Mike Davern, Laurel Davis, Pam Grace, Dolores Lamberson, and Rick Seaberg. There were no additional Director nominations received from the membership.

In a closed session of the Board, Laurel Davis was reappointed to the office of ISRA President and Marla Cusano continues as Secretary of the Board.

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. Contact Laurel Davis (laurelmdavis@comcast.net) or any ISRA Board member. Come out and support Illinois Racquetball!

Signed,

The ISRA Nominating Committee

Joe Silius (Chair), Jonelle Dubois, Cheryl Kirk

Board of Directors Update

John Puccio, longtime volunteer and supporter of Illinois racquetball tournaments and travel league, has relocated to Arizona as of the end of June. John Thorson has agreed to occupy the vacated seat on the ISRA Board of Directors. Thanks to Pooch for his many contributions over the years, and welcome J.T.!



June 14th Men's Travel League Gathering (plus Vickie) at Glass Court -- Farewell to Pooch (Rear, 4th from left)

Movin' On Up – 2016-2017 Season

Racquetball success equates to greater challenges. These individuals/teams won at least one full-draw division during the 2016-2017 season and recently received "The Letter" (suitable for framing) notifying them of their new eligibility. Congratulations, and good luck to all in the coming season!

-- Dolores Lamberson, ISRA Eligibility Chair

Men's Open

Arun Baskaran, Summerfest
Michael Fornero, Fall Brawl, Shamrock Shootout
Levester Dean, ISRA State Singles

Men's A

Nikhil Iyer, Fall Brawl
Michael Ryan, Turkey Shoot
Todd Parker, Shamrock Shootout
Roberto Rivas, ISRA State Singles
Juan Martinez, Petition

Men's B

Eugen Gheorghiu, Summerfest
Christopher Anton, Fall Brawl
Daniel Terrazas II, Shamrock Shootout
Mike Uchida, ISRA State Singles

Men's C

Selam Totonchi, Shamrock Shootout

Men's Open Doubles

John Puccio/James Zidek, ISRA State Doubles
Michael Fornero/Anthony Cosmano, Shamrock Shootout

Men's A Doubles

Gallagher Garcia/José Garcia, ISRA State Doubles
Daniel Terrazas II/Valentinas Presniakovas, Shamrock Shootout

Mixed Open Doubles

John Puccio/Jonelle Dubois, Fall Brawl



Photo Credit -- From the Internet: artist appreciated but unknown!

2017 ISRA State Doubles Championships

Glass Court Swim And Fitness - Lombard, IL
February 24-26, 2017
Tournament Director: Laurel Davis

One hundred twenty players from 67 Illinois towns and cities converged to participate in 31 divisions at ISRA State Doubles. That's a lot of numbers. In addition to 120 players, 67 towns and cities, and 31 divisions, the women were outnumbered by the men by 98 to 22. That's 4.45 men for every woman! Thirty-nine players played in one division, 72 played in two divisions, and 9 hearty souls (or crazy people) played in three divisions!

With all of that play, there wasn't much time to leave the club in search of food. Long-time tournament sponsor, Anthony's Pizza (Tony and Anthony Cosmano), made sure that no one went hungry. Other sponsors included Liz Molitor, Head Penn Racquet Sports, Response Graphics & Embroidery (Lynn and Kevin Yeazell), and The Glass Court Swim & Fitness (Dan Jaskier and Joe DeArmas).

The following volunteers contributed their time and effort into making sure that everything ran smoothly and that players had a great time:

Amy Anderson, Marian Bala, Todd Burris, Marla Cusano, Jonelle Dubois, Lori Good, Pam Grace, Doug Halverson, Michelle Halverson, Cheryl Kirk, Dolores Lamberson, Liz Molitor, Geoff Peters, John Puccio, Bill Roberts, Rick Seaberg, and Joe Silius. YOU ARE AWESOME!! Thanks for your help.

With Keith Minor sidelined due to knee replacement surgery, the Men's Open Division was up grabs. The new team of Jorge Ortiz and Michael Fornero won the tournament. Congratulations to Jorge and Michael!

After two knee replacement surgeries, Joe Silius returned to the court and won the Men's 60+ division with David Lilly. They had to beat a strong Milazzo/Milazzo team to win the title.

Another notable win was Jim Zidek and John Puccio in the Men's A. It is a good thing John decided to relocate to

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Three Teams -- Six Medals!
Gallagher Garcia, Argyll Piansay, Antonio Vazquez, Bruce Young, Hung Che, José García

2017 ISRA State Doubles Championships continued from page 13

Arizona. If not, he would have to be out searching for yet another partner in order to continue his dominance in Men's A!

Alok Mehta had good success in the Mixed divisions, teaming up with Cheryl Gudinas to win Mixed Open and with Karin McCauley to win Mixed 40/45+. Or, maybe he just picked good partners! Congratulations to all!

It was a great weekend of fun racquetball. For the ladies, here is my challenge – let's improve that ratio of 4.45 men/woman for next year's tournament!!

For a complete look at the draws, go to: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=20083>

-- Laurel Davis

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Matt Reeser and Sue Mueller, Mixed 45+ Champs



Janet Eminger and Liz Molitor -- Silver!



Doug Halverson celebrates the Big Five-O!



Jim Schlicher and John Thorson -- Gold in Memory of Carole Marie Harris (John's mom)

2017 ISRA State Doubles Championships continued from page 14



*Puccio, Zidek, Dubois --
Partners in Success!*

2017 ISRA STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS | RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinal

Men's Open (6): Jorge Ortiz/Michael Fornero; Alok Mehta/Andrew Price; Anthony Cosmano/Cheryl Gudinas, Shane Jackson/Jack Johnson

Men's AA (3): Eric Mathews/Geoff Goldblatt; Eric Van Marion/Alcides Gutierrez; Shane Jackson/Jack Johnson (3rd)

Men's A (15): James Zidek/John Puccio; Anthony Cosmano/Michael Fornero; Antonio Vazquez/Luis Monsreal, Andrew Stoltmann/Angelo Moca

Men's B (12): Gallagher Garcia/José Garcia; Allen Bell/Mark Buckley; Anthony Giacalone/Glen Bero, Jeff Holmgaard/Jeff Miller

Men's C (6): Daniel Terrazas II/Valentinas Presniakovas; Henry Gutierrez/Paul Nijensohn; Bilal Muhammad/Rashid Muhammad, Jose L Arteaga/Stephen Lindstrom

Men's 25+/40+ (4): Basilio Salazar/Jorge Ortiz; Danny Ortega/Eric Van Marion; Shane Jackson/Tom Neal (3rd)

Men's 25+ (1): Danny Ortega/Eric Van Marion

Men's 40+ (3): Basilio Salazar/Jorge Ortiz; Shane Jackson/Tom Neal; Alcides Gutierrez/Arnold Ortega (3rd)

Men's 50+ (5): David Bachar/Thomas Utterback; Cedric Bell/Tim Dern; Jerry Kee/Juan Martinez (3rd), Bernie Bustos/Jairo Torres (4th)

Men's 55+ (8): Lee Frick/Tom Neal; James Schlicher/Rajesh Sondhi; Dave Milazzo/Steven Lloyd, George Steffens/Mitchell Becker

Men's 60+/65+ (3): David Lilly/Joe Silius; Dave Milazzo/Frank Milazzo; Bill Roberts/Dennis McKee (3rd)

Men's 60+ (2): David Lilly/Joe Silius; Dave Milazzo/Frank Milazzo

Men's 65+ (1): Bill Roberts/Dennis McKee

Men's Combined 100+ (6): John Thorson/James Schlicher; Lee Frick/Basilio Salazar; Cedric Bell/Eric Battaglia, Andy Pitock/Eric Jensen

Men's 40/45/55 A (6): Bruce Young/Hung Che; Antonio Vazquez/Argyll Piansay; David Coyner/Peter McCauley, Bill Roberts/Dennis McKee

Men's 40+A (2): Bruce Young/Hung Che; Jack Johnson/Randal Ashton

Men's 45+A (2): Antonio Vazquez/Argyll Piansay; David Coyner/Peter McCauley

Men's 55+A (2): Mike Davern/Richard Seaberg; Bill Roberts/Dennis McKee

Men's 35/45 Intermediates (3): Jose Alberto Acosta/Ranferi Salgado; Henry Gutierrez/Paul Nijensohn; Glen Bero/Tom Barr (3rd)

Men's 35+ Int (1): Glen Bero/Tom Barr

Men's 45+ Int (2): Jose Alberto Acosta/Ranferi Salgado; Henry Gutierrez/Paul Nijensohn

Women's Open/Age (9): Cari Mory/Kelly Gremley; Liz Molitor/Janet Eminger; Lynn Yeazell/Laurel Davis, Diane Bunker/Karin McCauley

Women's Open/Age Consolation (3): Edith Seaman/Lurine Barnes; Cheryl Kirk/Julianne Valentino; Deanna Munro/Dolores Lamberson

Mixed Open (6): Alok Mehta/Cheryl Gudinas; Kelly Gremley/Shane Jackson; Geoff Goldblatt/Lynn Yeazell, Cari Mory/Antonio Vazquez

Mixed A (7): John Puccio/Jonelle Dubois; Gallagher Garcia/Gisela Gomez; Glen Bero/Deanna Munro, Melissa Musick/Tony Garcia

Mixed 40/45+ (5): Alok Mehta/Karin McCauley; Matt Reeser/Susan Mueller; Juan Martinez/Letty Maldonado (3rd), Kevin Yeazell/Lynn Yeazell (4th)

Mixed 40+ (2): Alok Mehta/Karin McCauley; Juan Martinez/Letty Maldonado

Mixed 45+ (3): Matt Reeser/Susan Mueller; Kevin Yeazell/Lynn Yeazell; Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez/Joe DeArmas (3rd)

Mixed 50/55+ (4): Thomas Utterback/Janet Eminger; Andy Pitock/Cheryl Kirk; Liz Molitor/David Bachar (3rd)

Mixed 50+ (2): Thomas Utterback/Janet Eminger; Liz Molitor/David Bachar

Mixed 55+ (2): Andy Pitock/Cheryl Kirk; Diane Bunker/Frank Bunker

Waselenchuk Continues Domination At The Shamrock!

Shamrock Shootout

Glass Court Swim & Fitness

March 16-19, 2017

Tournament Directors: Geoff Peters, Doug Halverson, Dan Jaskier



In honor of St. Patrick's Day, the Glass Court Swim & Fitness Club in Lombard hosted the 32nd Annual Shamrock Shootout featuring an IRT Tier One Men's Tour Stop in addition to over \$5,000 in prize money for amateur events! The weekend featured an impressive draw of 216 competitors, green beer, a DJ, and access to all of the Pro matches for the amateur players.

This was the third year in a row that local sponsors stepped up to ensure that Chicago could continue to host a Tier One event at Glass Court: KWM Gutterman (Keith Minor), Platt Hill Nursery (Platt Hill), Papa Nicholas Coffee (Jim Schlicher), Rick Seaberg, Professional Insurance Producers (Nancy & Dave Kronenfeld), JAM Trucking (Bob Randazzo), Kirsten's Danish Bakery (Paul Jepsen), Anthony's Pizza (Tony and Anthony Cosmano), Coldwell Banker (Eric Jensen), Cheryl Kirk & Kit Lawson, CPR for Life (Vickie Onesti), Taco Burrito King (Danny Ortega), Dreger Law Service (Rob Dreger), Little Debbie (Janet & Joe Eminger), Response Graphics (Lynn & Kevin Yeazell), Newman Schimel (Jack Newman), Illinois State Racquetball Association (ISRA), USA Racquetball, Comcast (David Walker), Gearbox, Penn, Racquetball Warehouse (Ben Croft), John & Arlene O'Donnell, Alok Mehta, John Thorson, Jim Hillman, Liz & Dave Molitor, Susan B. Klimaitis Foundation (Leo & Sue Klimaitis), Jen Sinclair Johnson, Geoff & Deb Peters, Mike Davern, Jose Arteaga, and Chicago Spectro Service Laboratory (Geoff Goldblatt)

In the IRT Pro division with a total of 36 pros entered, every player ranked in the top 15 on tour was present and accounted for! Top-ranked Kane Waselenchuk repeated as champion with a straight-games victory over first-time finalist Andree Parrilla (Mexico).

Waselenchuk defeated Samuel Murray (Canada), Marco Rojas (California), and Alvaro Beltran (Mexico) on the road to the finals for a third consecutive win in Chicago. Parrilla upset



Rocky Carson in an exciting 5th game in the semifinals and defeated Justus Benson (Wisconsin) in three games; Daniel De La Rosa (Mexico) in a five-game heart-stopper; and Alejandro Landa (Mexico) in four games during his march to Sunday's final match.

The Pros also participated in a special Junior Clinic on Sunday morning at 9 am (yes, 9 am) where over 15 juniors had a chance to win some prizes and take home a few autographs, pictures, and swag! Special thanks go to Robert Collins, Bobby Horn, Markie Rojas, and José Rojas for making the kids feel special! In addition, members of Junior Team Illinois (JTI) served as ball boys/girls for the Glass Court matches on Saturday and Sunday!

continued on page 17



Shari Coplen and Geoff Peters -- Spirit o' the Irish

Waselenchuk Continues Domination At The Shamrock! continued from page 16

John Scott from eNet Live and the IRT Network live-streamed the event all weekend, and we saw several thousand additional fans join us online for the Pro matches. This was our first time seeing a Glass Court event on Facebook Live as well, and players seemed to like it. On Saturday night, DJ Greg Vazquez kept the Glass Court Lounge busy until the early morning hours...but what happens in Chicago, stays in Chicago, so you'll have to come next year and find out.

On the amateur side of the draws, we had players from 16 states and 7 countries represented! David (Bobby) Horn defeated Mario Mercado to take home \$1,000 in the Men's Open division, while Cheryl Gudinas rode her hometown crowd to a win over Masiel Rivera in the Women's Open. In some of the other "cash" divisions – Masiel teamed with Mauricio Zelada to take the Mixed Open over expectant parents Samantha Simmons and Sebastian Franco; Liz Molitor/Nancy Amaro defeated Laurel Harper/Cari Mory in the Women's Open Doubles; and Bryan Crosser/Jake Bredenbeck took out Thomas Carter/Kyle Ulliman in the Men's Open Doubles. Of significant note, Michael Fornero staked his claim to competing in Men's Open by beating Frank Wrobel in a Men's A bracket of 26 players and also winning the Men's A Doubles with Anthony Cosmano. In all, trophies were awarded to 25 division winners by the conclusion of play late Sunday afternoon.

The Glass Court Team would like to thank IRT Commissioner Jason Mannino, ISRA President Laurel Davis, Operations Director Cheryl Kirk, and the entire volunteer team: John Puccio, Dave Singer, Abby Singer, Alexa Puccio, Jason York, Michael Fornero, Jeff Grace, Joe Silius, Jeremy Dixon, Dave Milazzo, Liz Molitor, Michelle Halverson, Shari Coplen, Jeremy Dixon, Lori Good, Marla Cusano, Marian Bala, Basilio Salazar, Bill Roberts, Sara Lyons, Frank Wrobel, Elizabeth Curtner, Kerry Spix, Pam Grace, John Thorson, Jerry Kee, Dolores Lamberson, Matt Reeser, Montserrat Torres, Santiago Sanchez, Emily Sanchez, and Joshua Ortiz. Everyone came together for a very long weekend to make this event a success for everyone!

-- Geoff Peters

<http://www.r2sports.com/website/event-results.asp?TID=20314>

Editor's Note: The ISRA and the players of Illinois owe a huge debt of gratitude to Geoff Peters, Dan Jaskier, and Doug Halverson who, for three years, have done the heavy lifting (often literally) in putting together this fantastic event. From gathering sponsors to spearheading the tournament layout of Glass Court to attending to myriad details, the Shamrock Shootout is a labor of love on behalf of Illinois Racquetball and the entire sport!

continued on page 18



Team Guatemala: a little perplexed by St. Patrick's Day but good sports all the same!
L to R: Hanzel Martinez, Edwin Galicia, Christian Wer, Juan Jose Salvatierra

Waselenchuk Continues Domination At The Shamrock! continued from page 17



Dave Olson and Alberto Palacios



Thomas Zielecki and Jeffrey Hill



*Men's Pro Awards Presentation
L to R: Geoff Peters, Jason Mannino, Andree Parrilla, Kane Waselenchuk, Dan Jaskier*



Laurel Harper and Cari Mory

Waselenchuk Continues Domination At The Shamrock! continued from page 18



Junior Clinic with the Pros!

SHAMROCK SHOOTOUT | RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinal

Men's Pro (37): Kane Waselenchuk (TX); Andree Parrilla (Mexico); Rocky Carson (CA), Alvaro Beltran (Mexico)

Men's Open (35): David Horn (CA); Mario Mercado (Colombia); Gerardo Franco (Mexico), Samuel Murray (Canada)

Men's AA (15): Fernando Javier Rivera; Ferd Samson (MI); Jeremy Dixon, Jorge Ortiz

Men's A (26): Michael Fornero; Frank Wrobel; John Dowell (MO), John Helfert

Men's B (20): Todd Parker; Tim Klein; Carlos Canessa, Timothy St. Clair

Men's C (28): Daniel Terrazas; Nadeem Sharifuddin; Peter Riegler, Brad Statfield

Men's D (12): Selam Totonchi; Bob Diorio; Brad Statfield, Ryan Urbaniak

Men's 35+/45+ (7): Basilio Salazar; Ferd Samson (MI); Cary Slade, John Thorson

Men's 55+ (13): Keith Harper; Tom Neal; Jeff Hotler (IN), Dave Milazzo

Men's 65+ (8): Joe Vallender; Dave Olson; Bruce Nelson, Platt Hill

Men's 45+INT (2): Joe Rohde; Ray Meisner

Men's Open Doubles (13): Bryan Crosser (IA)/Jake Bredenbeck (MN); Thomas Carter (PA)/Kyle Ulliman (OH); Bruce Young/Marco Rojas (CA), Fernando Javier Rivera/Jorge Ortiz

Men's A Doubles (15): Michael Fornero/Anthony Cosmano; Bruce Young/Danny Sardina (AZ); Gallagher Garcia/José Garcia, Chris Liljestrand/John Puccio

Men's B Doubles (13): Daniel Terrazas/Valentinas Presniakovas; Allen Bell/Bernie Bustos; Paul Shafar/Scot Tennant, David Singer/Jeffrey Hill

Men's C Doubles (9): Jeffrey Hill/Thomas Zielecki; Peter Riegler/Nils Mogensen; Miguel Angel Perez/Daniel Barrera, Stephen Lindstrom/Jose L. Arteaga

Men's Centurion Doubles (5): Jose Martinez (IN)/Martin Gonzalez; Basilio Salazar/Lee Frick; James Schlicher/John Thorson (3rd)

Women's Open (7): Cheryl Gudinas; Masiel Rivera (CA); Rebecca Bowman (IN), Samantha Simmons (MD)

Women's AA (2): Julia Stein (PA); Susan Mueller

Women's A (5): Julia Stein (PA); Julianne Valentino; Amy Anderson (3rd)

Women's B/C (4): Pat Kwasigroch; Edith Seaman; Viri Del Bosque (3rd)

Women's Open Doubles (3): Liz Molitor/Nancy Amaro; Laurel Harper/Cari Mory; Lynn Yeazell/Rebecca Bowman (IN)(3rd)

Women's A/B Doubles (4): Edith Seaman/Lurine Barnes; Letty Maldonado/Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez; Deanna Munro/Vickie Onesti (3rd)

Mixed Open Doubles (8): Masiel Rivera (CA)/Mauricio Zelada (Bolivia); Samantha Simmons (MD)/Sebastian Franco (Colombia); Kamyron Meeks (VA)/Kelly Gremley, Alok Mehta/Rebecca Bowman (IN)

Mixed A Doubles (6): John Puccio/Jonelle Dubois; Chris Liljestrand/Deanna Munro; Melissa Musick/Tony Garcia, Jerry Kee/Laurel Harper

Mixed 40+/50+ Doubles (6): Tom Lamberson/Dolores Lamberson; Andy Pitock/Cheryl Kirk; Susan Mueller/Robert Dreger, Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez/Joe DeArmas

ISRA 45th Annual State Singles Championships

Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard

March 31-April 2, 2017

Tournament Director: Cheryl Kirk

Just on the verge of spring, ISRA State Singles and Glass Court hosted 104 players from 58 Illinois cities and towns. The 45th Annual State Singles is in the record books!

Stats

players -- 104

men -- 85 (81.7%)

women -- 19 (18.3%)

division -- 24

Juniors -- five girls and three boys competed in 14-, 12-, and 10-.

Eugene Coyle took Men's Open this year with Mike Snarr the runner-up. The Women's Open champ was Liz Molitor with Janet Eminger in second place.

Due to their performance in full draw divisions (12 for men), three players earned their Movin' On Up letter to the next higher division in the 2017-18 season: Levester Dean to Men's Open, Roberto Rivas to Men's A, and Mike Uchida to Men's B.

We welcomed five new tournament players: Deepak Karuppannan Raja and Andres Sanchez in Men's Novice, Megan Tuttle in Women's B, and Ann Leenheer and Carmen DeSadier in Women's D.

Awards/Hall of Fame

ISRA State Singles is the traditional venue for the ISRA Annual Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies. See page 5 in this issue of ISRA Courtside for a full account of the festivities on Saturday night of the event.

Thanks to Our Sponsors!

The ISRA gratefully acknowledges the contributions of our State Singles sponsors:

Rick Seaberg, Nancy and Dave Kronenfeld, Little Debbie (Joe & Janet Eminger), Mitchell's Ice Cream (Dave Milazzo),

Denise and Tony Giacalone, Glass Court Swim & Fitness (Dan Jaskier & Joe DeArmas), Pro Penn, Awards & Fine Gifts, Inc., Response Graphics (Lynn & Kevin Yeazell)

Volunteers Rock!

Many thanks to these volunteers who contributed their time and efforts over the course of this very busy weekend! We see these names appear over and over again in *ISRA Courtside* articles and on posters at the club during tournaments. Team Illinois players who enjoy competing owe a debt of gratitude to these volunteers -- they make everything possible!

Amy Anderson, Marian Bala, Todd Burris*, Marla Cusano*, Mike Davern*, Laurel Davis*, Janet Eminger, Michael Fornero, Lori Good, Jeff Grace, Pam Grace*, Doug Halverson*, Michelle Halverson*, Dolores Lamberson*, Kit Lawson, Dave Milazzo, John O'Donnell, Jr.*, Geoff Peters*, Andy Pitock, John Puccio*, Sriram Ravindran, Matt Reeser, Bill Roberts*, Rick Seaberg*, Joe Silius*, John Thorson*, Barb Vagedes, Julianne Valentino, Carolyn Vazquez...and the Staff Members of Glass Court!

* Denotes ISRA Board of Directors

Thanks to Our Hospitality Providers!

These wonderful people helped make this tournament a DELICIOUS success:

Dolores and Tom Lamberson, Taco Burrito King (Danny Ortega), Marla Cusano and Kerry Spix, Laurel Davis, Janet Eminger, Lori Good, Norma and Raul Sanchez, Claudia and Jairo Torres

And we can't forget the valuable help we received the night of the Annual Awards in getting chairs downstairs to the Glass Court basketball gym! Thanks to Devin Mehta, Madison Reeser, Montserrat Torres, Santiago Sanchez, and Bruce Nelson.

Check out the results below, and for a complete look at the draws, visit:

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=20084>

-- Cheryl Kirk



Men's 70+/85+: Tom Doherty, John O'Donnell, Jr., and Alberto Palacios

ISRA 45th Annual State Singles Championships continued from page 20



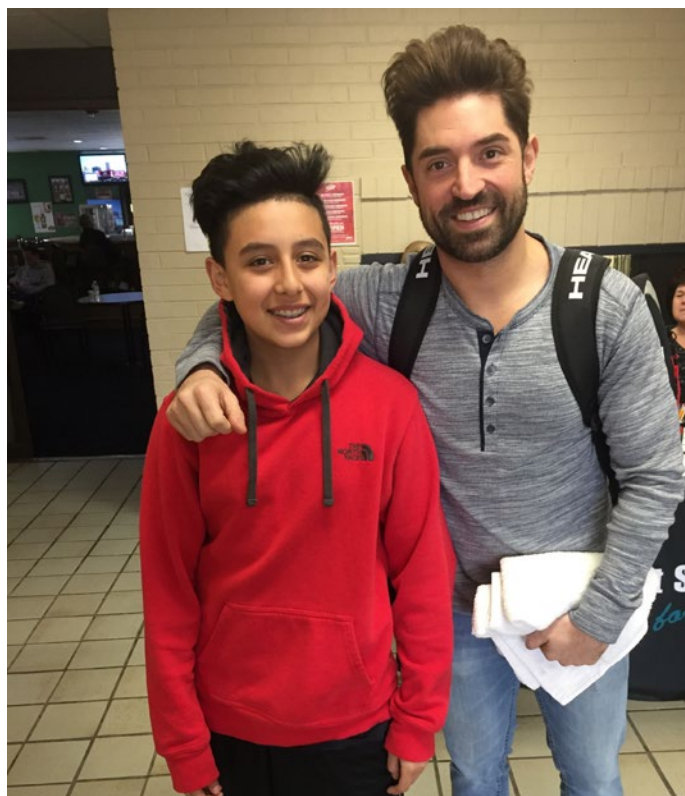
Women's D - Anne Leenheer and Carmen DeSadier



Men's Novice - Deepak Karuppannan Raja and Andres Sanchez



Men's B - Eugen Gheorghiu and Roberto Rivas



...and an unexpected windstorm blew through Glass Court on Sunday morning! Jorge Ortiz IV and Anthony Cosmano

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ISRA 45th Annual State Singles Championships continued from page 21



Eugene Coyle and John Mason



Mike Snarr



Levester Dean

continued on page 24

ISRA 45th Annual State Singles Championships

continued from page 23



Good & Sweet!
(Thanks, Lori!)

ISRA 45TH ANNUAL STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS | RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinal

Men's Open (11): Eugene Coyle; Mike Snarr; Alok Mehta, Fernando Javier Rivera

Men's AA (7): Antonio Vazquez; Anthony Cosmano; Arun Baskaran, Jorge Ortiz

Men's A (15): Levester Dean; Christopher Anton; Ed Esparza, Bernie Bustos

Men's B (14): Roberto Rivas; Eugen Gheorghiu; Todd Burris, Nikhil Iyer

Men's C (16): Mike Uchida; George Ipe; Thomas Zielecki, Daniel Barrera

Men's D (11): David Kang; Selam Totonchi; Deepak Karuppannan Raja, Nicholas Hung

Men's Novice (2): Deepak Karuppannan Raja; Andres Sanchez

Men's 25+ (3): Adam Mills; Anthony Cosmano; Frank Wrobel (3rd)

Men's 35+/40+ (4): Mike Snarr; Jorge Ortiz; Sriram Ravindran (3rd)

Men's 35+ (2): Sriram Ravindran; Fernando Javier Rivera

Men's 40+ (2): Jorge Ortiz; Mike Snarr

Men's 45+/50+ (4): Alok Mehta; Tom Neal; Antonio Vazquez (3rd)

Men's 45+ (2): Alok Mehta; Antonio Vazquez

Men's 50+ (2): Tom Neal; Juan Martinez

Men's 55+ (8): Tom Neal; Dave Milazzo; Tim Dern, John Mason

Men's 60+/65+ (8): Joseph Vallender; Ray Redelman; Dave Olson, Jim Hillman

Men's 60+ (2): Ray Redelman; Jim Hillman

Men's 65+ (6): Joseph Vallender; Dave Olson

Men's 70+/85+ (3): Alberto Palacios; John O'Donnell, Jr.; Tom Doherty

Men's 70+ (2): Alberto Palacios; Tom Doherty

Men's 85+ (1): John O'Donnell, Jr.

Men's 25+A/40+A/45+A/50+A (8): David Coyner; Levester Dean; Anand Agarwal, Jeff Holmgaard

Men's 25+A (1): Anand Agarwal

Men's 40+A (1): Daniel Jaskier

Men's 45+A (4): David Coyner; Levester Dean; Jairo Torres, Ed Esparza

Men's 50+A (2): Jeff Holmgaard; Jeff Miller

Men's 55+A/60+A (7): John Mason; Bernie Bustos; Jerry Kee, Joe DeArmas

Men's 55+A (4): John Mason; Bernie Bustos

Men's 60+A (2): Joe DeArmas; Bill Roberts

Men's 25+Int/40+Int/45+Int (5): Rishi Saripalle; Tom Barr; Thomas Zielecki (3rd), George Ipe (4th)

Men's 25+ Int.: Rishi Saripalle; Ryan Urbaniak

Men's 40+ Int.: Tom Barr

Men's 45+ Int.: Thomas Zielecki; George Ipe

Men's 50+Int/55+Int/60+Int (7): Roberto Rivas; Eugen Gheorghiu; Rick Rueger, Joe Rohde

Men's 50+ Int. (1): Roberto Rivas

Men's 55+ Int. (4): Eugen Gheorghiu; Rick Rueger; Joe Rohde

Women's Open (4): Liz Molitor; Janet Eminger; Diane Bunker (3rd)

Women's A (5): Gisela Gomez; Julianne Valentino; Letty Maldonado (3rd), Megan Tuttle (4th)

Women's B (3): Megan Tuttle; Melissa Musick; Edith Seaman (3rd)

Women's D (3): Ann Leenheer; Carmen DeSadier; Angelica Sanchez (3rd)

Women's 40+/45+/50+/55+ (4): Diane Bunker; Karin McCauley; Susan Mueller

Women's 40+ (1): Letty Maldonado

Women's 45+ (1): Karin McCauley

Women's 50+ (1): Susan Mueller

Women's 55+ (1): Diane Bunker

Juniors 10 and Under (4): Adina Ortiz; Montserrat Torres; Devin Mehta (3rd)

Juniors 12 and Under (2): Santiago Sanchez; Sydney Prendergast

Juniors 14 and Under (2): Emily Sanchez; Jorge Ortiz IV

2017 USA Racquetball Regionals - Illinois

April 22, 2017

**Glass Court Swim And Fitness - Lombard, IL USA
Tournament Directors: Geoff Peters, Dan Jaskier,
Cheryl Kirk**

The USA Racquetball Regional Racquetball Championships saw a light draw of 56 players competing at Glass Court in Lombard seeking titles in the penultimate event of the 2017-2018 Illinois tournament season.

The tournament was scaled back to a single-day schedule, Saturday only, requiring many back-to-back matches, particularly for those in round robin divisions. Thank you to all of our players and volunteers for helping the tournament to stay on time, and yes, everyone was tired at the end of a very long day!

Most of the players appreciated the fact that Dave Milazzo and Mitchell's Ice Cream continued to allow players to avail themselves of the best premium ice cream in Chicagoland at the Mitchell's Ice Cream umbrella cart in the Glass Court Lounge. This was particularly well received by our junior players and certain tournament staff members – you know who you are! Matthew Nuttall and John Esposito journeyed in from Indiana and Arizona respectively; we appreciate having them join us for the day!



Daniel Barrera, James Jones, Miguel Angel Perez



Thomas Zielecki and Geoff Peters

All champions and medalists received large Olympic-style medals consistent with all of the other Regional Championships held around the country. As you can see from the pictures, they wear both their tournament shirts and medals proudly!

Congratulations to Alok Mehta who capped off a great season of play by taking the Men's Open title over Alcides Gutierrez!

We want to give special thanks to our junior competitors in seven age divisions, many of whom were finishing their JTI season with Coaches Marian Bala, Andy Pitock, and Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez. See the results on the next page... Upon completing Regionals matches and medals presentations, a pizza-and-cake party broke out in the Glass Court lounge!

Thank you to Dan Jaskier, the entire Glass Court staff, the ISRA Board, and our volunteers - especially Cheryl Kirk, Doug Halverson, Michelle Halverson, Marla Cusano, Bill Roberts, Liz Molitor, Sue Mueller, John Puccio, Michael Fornero, Laurel Davis, Marian Bala, Lori Good, Andy Pitock, Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez, and all the other volunteers who stepped up, for making this a great event!

Good luck wishes go to John Puccio who recently moved to Arizona, just in time to experience record-breaking heat! But it's a dry heat... Pooch will be back later this year to play in the Fall Invitational and/or the Turkey Shoot, so sad goodbyes were not necessary!

*-- Geoff Peters
continued on page 27*



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2017 USA Racquetball Regionals - Illinois continued from page 25



John Esposito, Jerry Kee, Jairo Torres, Dennis Clarke



Alcides Gutierrez and Gisela Gomez

2017 USA RACQUETBALL REGIONALS - ILLINOIS | RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinal

Men's Open (8): Alok Mehta; Alcides Gutierrez; Frank Wrobel, Jorge Ortiz

Men's AA (4): Antonio Vazquez; Roberto Rivas; Matthew Nuttall (IN)

Men's Elite (2): Roberto Rivas; Matthew Nuttall (IN)

Men's A (8): David Coyner; Thomas Zielecki; Bernie Bustos, Michael Kowalczyk

Men's A Consolation (3): Jairo Torres; Geoff Peters; Ed Esparza

Men's B (7): Nadeem Sharifuddin; Brad Simon; Rick Seaberg, Jesse Ortiz

Men's B Consolation (4): Eugen Gheorghiu; Robert Dreger; Rick Seaberg, Rishi Saripalle

Men's C (6): Daniel Barrera; Robert Dreger; Hector Herrera, Miguel Angel Perez

Men's C Consolation (3): Thomas George; John Esposito (AZ); Hector Herrera

Men's D (3) RR: Thomas George; Connor Hepburn; Adam Coyner (3rd)

Men's 30+/40+ (3): Alcides Gutierrez; Matthew Nuttall (IN); Daniel Barrera

Men's 30+ (2): Matthew Nuttall (IN); Daniel Barrera

Men's 40+ (1): Alcides Gutierrez

Men's 45+/50+/60+ (6): Alok Mehta; James Jones; Juan Martinez, Antonio Vazquez

Men's 45+ (2): Alok Mehta; Antonio Vazquez

Men's 50+ (1): Juan Martinez

Men's 60+ (3): James Jones

Men's 45+/50+/60+ Consolation (1): Geoff Peters

Men's 30+B/55+B/65+B (4): Rishi Saripalle; Eugen Gheorghiu; Ernesto Tan (3rd)

Men's 30+B: Rishi Saripalle

Men's 55+B: Eugen Gheorghiu; Rick Seaberg

Men's 65+B: Ernesto Tan

Men's 40+C/60+C (3): Hector Herrera; Miguel Angel Perez; John Esposito (AZ) (3rd)

Men's 40+C (2): Miguel Angel Perez; John Esposito (AZ)

Men's 60+C (1): Hector Herrera

Men's Doubles A/B 40+ (7): James Zidek/John Puccio; Andy Pitock/Eric Jensen; Frank Wrobel/Michael Kowalczyk, Bernie Bustos/Ed Esparza

Men's Doubles Consolation (3): Jairo Torres/Jerry Kee; Dennis Clarke/John Esposito (AZ); Jesse Ortiz/Joe De Armas

Mixed Open/A/50 Doubles (5): Andy Pitock/Cheryl Kirk; Alcides Gutierrez/Gisela Gomez; David Coyner/Edith Seaman, Jerry Kee/Laurel Harper

Mixed Open/A Doubles Consolation (2): Jerry Kee/Laurel Harper; Robert Dreger/Susan Mueller

Boys 14-: Connor Hepburn; Matthew Gollins; Jorge Ortiz IV

Boys 12-: Santiago Sanchez; Nathan Gollins

Boys 10-: Erick Gutierrez; Devin Mehta; Brandon Gollins

Girls 14-: Emily Sanchez

Girls 12-: Adina Ortiz; Sydney Prendergast

Girls 10-: Montserrat Torres

Girls 8-: Mackenzie Prendergast

NPRA Tournament of Champions

May 6, 2017

Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard

Tournament Directors: Bill Bearden and Cheryl Kirk

As NPRA President Bill Bearden offers so descriptively, "This event was held to help raise funds for two Chicago police officers who were recently shot during their course of duty. Players crossed state lines from Iowa, Indiana, and Texas to help support this cause that featured divisions in singles, doubles, and most especially a Heroes division. As customary in every NPRA event, the players were provided food and drinks while they in turn provided the entertainment! NPRA events are always self-officiated. Sportsmanship and camaraderie are the only two requirements for participation."

It was Glass Court's honor to host this event here in Illinois. Thirty-four participants (23 men and 11 women) came to play in nine divisions ranging from Heroes (public service/first responders) to men's and women's singles and doubles, including consolation in single elimination divisions. The courts were busy all day long: hospitality was plentiful, and everyone departed tired but happy.

Much gratitude goes to our active military and first responders who competed: Bill Bearden (Texas), Gene Daigle (Texas),



Brett Chidester, Levester Dean, Gallagher Garcia, and Josh Paul (Iowa). Seldom have we felt so completely SAFE and SECURE at a racquetball event!

A shout out to Chris Cerny who drove over from Indiana early that morning, played all day, and (thankfully) stayed

continued on page 29

Heroes! Gene Daigle, Bill Bearden, Levester Dean, Josh Paul, Gallagher Garcia, Brett Chidester



NPRA Tournament of Champions continued from page 28

overnight nearby before making the trek back home. That's a racquetball gal for ya!

Thanks to the volunteers who pitched in to make the event run smoothly: Marian Bala, Eric Battaglia, Michael Fornero, Lori Good, Jeff Grace, Dan Jaskier, Geoff Peters, Jim Zidek, and the wonderful Glass Court staff.

Sponsors make the world go 'round, and we thank Rick Seaberg, Brenda White, Kit Lawson, Glass Court, Gearbox, and Penn for their generosity. Over \$1,000 was raised to support the two Chicago officers injured in the line of duty.

For a complete look at the results and draws, visit:

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=20296>



Does this celery look dangerous to you??



*Dolores Lamberson, Sue Mueller,
Chris Cerny, Julianne Valentino*

NPRA Event Notes

- NPRA President Bill Bearden's wife Nancy (aka our fabulous event photographer) had an interesting run-in with TSA (airport security) during her trip to Chicago. The machine detected something suspicious in her carry-on bag, and officers pulled her aside to investigate. Searching...more searching...they pulled out a potentially lethal stalk of celery. Happily, the celery was declared harmless and therefore not confiscated. Nancy AND the vegetable made it unscathed to Glass Court. Close one!
- A number of women players competed in singles (4 player round robin) and doubles (5 team round robin), with three entered in BOTH! Instead of full matches, the decision was made to play two games to 15, no tiebreakers, so as not to trouble the first responders with medical issues on their weekend off.
- Tournament directors generally have trouble with people in self-refereed divisions/events bringing their scorecards back up immediately. We decided to capitalize on the situation and told everyone if they didn't bring their cards up right away, they would be promptly arrested by one of our participating police officers. And, they would be required to buy a round in the bar before being removed from the premises. It worked really well for a while...until one of the first responders became instead an offender and the whole concept fell apart.

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NPRA Tournament of Champions continued from page 29



Tournament Directors Bill Bearden and Cheryl Kirk



Dan Jaskier



Vickie Onesti, Amy Anderson, Chris Cerny



Jeff Grace and Michael Fornero

NPRA TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS | RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals; Quarterfinals

Red = First responders (Public Service)

Men's Heroes Singles (Public Service) - A (4): Josh Paul (IA); Levester Dean; Gallagher Garcia (3rd); Bill Bearden (TX) (4th)

Men's Open (9): Alok Mehta; Michael Fornero; Josh Paul (IA), Ben Schlichting (IA); Gene Daigle, Frank Wrobel, Arun Baskaran, Levester Dean

Men's AA (3): Arun Baskaran; Frank Wrobel; Levester Dean

Men's A/B (10): Dan Jaskier; Tony Costello; Eugen Gheorghiu, Jerry Kee; Jairo Torres, Bernie Bustos, Nadeem Sharifuddin, Brett Chidester

Men's A/B Consolation (4): José Garcia; Allen Bell; Bernie Bustos, Nadeem Sharifuddin

Men's 45+/50+ (3): Eric Battaglia; Juan Martinez; Tony Costello

Men's Open/A Doubles (4): Jeffrey Grace/Michael Fornero; Bill Bearden (TX)/Gene Daigle (TX); Jairo Torres/Jerry Kee (3rd); José Garcia/Gallagher Garcia (4th)

Women's A/B (4): Vickie Onesti; Amy Anderson; Chris Cerny (IN)(3rd); Viri Del Bosque (4th)

Women's Open/A Doubles (5): Dolores Lamberson/Susan Mueller; Chris Cerny (IN)/Julianne Valentino; Laurel Davis/Barbara Vagedes (3rd); Pam Grace/Cheryl Kirk (4th), Vickie Onesti/Viri Del Bosque (5th)

2017 USAR National Doubles Championships

Arizona State University, Sun Devil Fitness Center
Tempe, Arizona
February 8-12, 2017

Stats

players 378
 # men 293 (78%)
 # women 85 (22%)
 # divisions -- 57 plus 9 playoff divisions

Celebrations and Hospitality

Friday: Ladies Night Out

Saturday: 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Recognition

USA Racquetball (especially Nick Irvine) put in a lot of time and effort to identify food sponsors, and the happy result was that three meals every day were provided for all players at the event. Thanks to Executive Director Jason Thoerner, the USAR staff members, and the volunteers for the TLC throughout the week.

US Team Qualifying Singles

Rhonda Rajsich (AZ) def. Sharon Jackson (GA) -- 12-15, 15-2, 11-2

Rocky Carson (CA) def. David "Bobby" Horn (CA) -- 15-1, 15-7



Doug Carmichael, Cheryl Gudinas, Herb Laney

US Team Qualifying Doubles

Aimee Ruiz/Janel Tisinger (NJ/CA) def. Jacqueline Paraiso/Da'monique Davis (CA/TX) -- 15-5, 15-5

Rocky Carson/Jose Diaz (CA) def. José Rojas/Marco Rojas (CA) -- 4-15, 15-12, 11-10

Team Illinois

Divisions and Results

Doug Carmichael: Men's Doubles - 70+ (Herb Laney) -- Silver

Eugene Coyle: Men's Doubles - 45+ (John Amatulli, IN) -- Bronze, Men's Doubles - 50+ (John Amatulli, IN) -- Silver

Cheryl Gudinas: Women's Singles - US Team Qualifying

Jeffrey Hill: Men's Doubles - 40+ B (Jake Ryan) -- Silver, Men's Doubles - B (Jake Ryan) -- Pewter

Brent Huff: Mixed Doubles - 35+ (Rebecca Bowman, IN) -- Pewter

Cheryl Kirk: Mixed Doubles - 50+ A (Billy Cannon, AR), Women's Doubles - 60+ Elite (Susan Hendricks, AZ) -- Gold, Women's Doubles - B (Sara Sikorski, CO) -- Silver

Nancy Kronenfeld: Mixed Doubles - 65+ (Frank Taddonio, AZ) -- Silver, Women's Doubles - 65+ (Shirley Parsons, CO) -- Silver

Herb Laney: Men's Doubles - 70+ (Doug Carmichael) -- Silver

Keith Minor: Men's Doubles - 40+ (Jeff Stark, CA) -- Silver, Men's Doubles - 45+ (Jeff Stark, CA) -- Gold

Cari Mory: Women's Doubles - 35+ (Rebecca Bowman, IN) -- Silver, Women's Doubles - Elite (Rebecca Bowman, IN)

Geoff Peters: Mixed Doubles - 60+ A (Ann Draudt, TX), Mixed Doubles - Centurion+ A (Patrice Calvi, AZ)

Argyll Piansay: Men's Doubles - Centurion+ A (Antonio Vazquez)

John Puccio: Men's Doubles - 40+ A (Bruce Young), Men's Doubles - 50+ A (Bruce Young), Men's Doubles - Centurion+ A (Bruce Young)

Jake Ryan: Men's Doubles - 40+ B (Jeffrey Hill) -- Silver, Men's Doubles - B (Jeffrey Hill) -- Bronze

Antonio Vazquez: Men's Doubles - Centurion+ A (Argyll Piansay), Men's Doubles - Elite (Stefan Bernal, NV)

Bruce Young: Men's Doubles - 40+ A (John Puccio), Men's Doubles - 50+ A (John Puccio), Men's Doubles - Centurion+ A (John Puccio)

Team Illinois Medal Count

Gold -- 2
 Silver -- 11
 Bronze -- 2
 Pewter -- 2



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2017 USAR National Doubles Championships continued from page 31**Exciting News!**

Doubles players have been feeling sad this year with the announcement that ASU would be taking out racquetball courts to provide for other activities in the Sun Devil Fitness Center. The general feeling has been that there would not be enough courts to return for National Doubles and that a new venue would need to be identified. However, with the 10 remaining courts, USA Racquetball has determined that the number is sufficient and has contracted to return to Tempe next February. There may be a limit to the number of players who can be accommodated, so start thinking about a February trip to Tempe and sign up asap - February 7-11, 2017. It's on R2 already. From an Illinois gal who knows, a warm-weather trip to Arizona in mid-winter is good for the soul!

-- Cheryl Kirk



Brent Huff to Geoff Peters: "If you take plenty of vitamins, your hand won't fall off before your next match."



ASU Stadium Court (Rocky Carson)



Eugene Coyle and Ray Meisner

2017 USAR National Singles Championships

May 24-28, 2017

**Arizona State University Sun Devil Fitness Center
Tempe, Arizona**

Six Team Illinois players traveled to toasty Tempe (high 90's to 105+ degrees!) to participate in an event slightly (!) warmer than National Doubles in the same location in February. This event drew 243 players (201 males and 42 females). Age, skill, and age/skill divisions along with Heroes (first responder) divisions were offered, and the Military Racquetball Federation had a presence as well.

A number of social events brought players together off the court, including Ladies Night Out, a pool party at the host hotel, and the Awards and Hall of Fame Induction banquet on Saturday evening. Inductees were Tim Hansen, Bud Held, and Otto Dietrich.

In the U.S. Team Qualifying Division finals on Sunday, results were:

Rocky Carson def. David "Bobby" Horn, 15-8, 15-7

Rhonda Rajsich def. Jackie Paraiso-Larsson, 15-7, 15-9

All four have earned spots on the U.S. National Team.

Team Illinois

Representing Team Illinois in eight divisions (including one "for-fun" doubles division):

Eugene Coyle: Men's 45+ (Bronze); Men's 50+ (Bronze)

Cheryl Gudinas: Women's Singles - U.S. Team Qualifying

Tim Klein: Men's 24- (Bronze); Men's B

Ray Meisner: Men's 60+B

Geoffrey Peters: Chicago Men's Age Singles - 60+

Cheryl Kirk: Mixed Centurion A/B/C Doubles with Thurman Brooks (Missouri; Bronze)

Check out individual divisions and match results at <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney.asp?TID=20098>.



-- Cheryl Kirk

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John LoMonaco Memorial Grant Recipient -- Tim Klein!

Special congratulations go to Tim Klein as the recipient of the 2017 John LoMonaco Memorial Grant! Each year, an anonymous benefactor donates an all-expenses-paid trip to USAR National Singles in honor of his friend Mr. LoMonaco who passed away in May 2009. Tim's application earned the grant, and he made the most of his Arizona trip by refereeing multiple matches and attending a USAR Instructor Program clinic conducted by Coach Jim Winterton. Those of us who know Tim are not surprised that even with his busy life as a University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign student, he continually looks for ways to promote racquetball. Tim expands on his experience in Tempe:

"The 2017 National Singles Championships in Tempe was a fantastic and unforgettable experience! It had the close-knit community and atmosphere that I experience in my home state, but on a national scale. I love how everybody shares the same space; you have average-level amateur players only a few feet away from the world's top professionals.

"Though I only won one out of four matches, I still enjoyed every part of the event. I had plenty of free time to socialize and meet new people from all over the country. I was star-struck when I first met Daniel De La Rosa at the Pro Kennex booth. Boldly, he challenged me to a game of squash. Admittedly, he won with little effort, but we had some good rallies! This example really characterizes the best of my adventures in Tempe and what I love about racquetball: good people and good fun."

Right: Tim Klein and Frank Senger (VA), immediately after their Men's B Singles match.

Photo courtesy of Tim Klein



Pan American Racquetball Championship

April 8-15, 2017
San José, Costa Rica
 by Cheryl Kirk

Excerpts reprinted by permission of USA Racquetball

The beautiful San José Indoor Club was the site of this year's Pan American Racquetball Championship. Six athletes made up Team USA. Bobby Horn (California) had the #1 Singles spot



with Charlie Pratt (Oregon/residing in Florida) occupying the #2 Singles position. Bobby and partner Jake Bredenbeck (Minnesota) were our Men's Doubles "force to be reckoned with." Rhonda Rajsich (Arizona) played #1 Singles, and Sharon Jackson (Georgia) competed in the #2 Singles slot. Rhonda, along with partner Sheryl Lotts (Ohio) comprised our Women's Doubles Dream Team.

Staff members Dave Ellis (Head Coach/California), Brent Huff (US Team Trainer/Illinois), and Cheryl Kirk (US Team Leader/Illinois) rounded out the official delegation.

Opening Ceremonies

Fifteen countries participated in the Parade of Nations at the Friday evening Opening Ceremonies: Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, United States, and Venezuela.

The Ceremonies were a big WOW! The President of Costa Rica, Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera, honored the event and our sport by attending the first part of the Ceremonies, which took place at The Indoor Club. He delivered stirring comments

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2017 USAR National Singles Championships continued from page 33



L to R: Kit Lawson, Brent Huff, John Puccio



Geoff Peters with Coach Dave Ellis overlooking the ASU Stadium Court

Pan American Racquetball Championship continued from page 34

to the athletes before needing to depart for his seventh engagement of the day. After the athletes' and referees' oaths were taken, unusual and delightful entertainment followed with a mime juggling act (reminiscent of Charlie Chaplin) and more juggling using internally lit clubs that were synchronized by the performers.

To the Courts!

The tournament format was round robin Saturday-Monday to determine main round seeding beginning on Wednesday and going through the second Saturday of this eight-day event (including the day off). The atmosphere at the Indoor Club was electric throughout the event. Spectators sat and stood in front of each court, many cheering loudly and chanting for their country's players and teams. Conversations between old friends and new took place everywhere. Add the pop of racquetballs against the walls and all of this resulted in a cacophony, loud but not unpleasantly so; the environment was so typically racquetball at a fever pitch.

U.S. Team members earned their way into three of the four finals matches on Saturday:

Women's Singles: Rhonda Rajsich defeated Paola Longoria (Mexico) 7-15, 15-13, 11-9

Men's Singles: Charlie Pratt lost to Alejandro Landa (Mexico), 10-15, 11-15

Men's Doubles: Jake Bredenbeck/Bobby Horn lost to Alejandro Landa/Polo Gutiérrez (Mexico), 15-10, 8-15, 4-11



Team USA Delegation -- PARC San José 2017



*Paola Longoria and Rhonda Rajsich
before the Women's Final*

**PARC Results -- U.S. Team****Open Divisions**

Rhonda Rajsich - Gold

Charlie Pratt - Silver

Jake Bredenbeck/Bobby Horn - Silver

Rhonda Rajsich/Sheryl Lotts - Bronze

Friendship Cup

A Singles - Tim Baghurst, USA - Gold

35 Singles - Tim Baghurst, USA - Gold

A Doubles (45+) - Marie Gomar, Guatemala/

Cheryl Kirk, USA - Bronze

Women's Team

1 - Mexico

2 - USA

3 - Guatemala

4 - Ecuador

Men's Team

1 - Mexico

2 - USA

3 - Bolivia

4 - Canada

Overall Team

1 - Mexico

2 - USA

3 - Bolivia

4 - Guatemala

The complete set of draws are available for viewing at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w5s4cdx824fyl28/AACB8OngnJ83efNa6hD5z5Pia/02-Open-Draws?dl=0>

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Pan American Racquetball Championship continued from page 35**US Team Supports Team Leader***by Cheryl Kirk*

Let's face it, the Friendship Cup A Doubles round robin wasn't the most compelling and nail-biting division to have been following in San José. It's for fun, exercise, camaraderie, and competition, and certainly it would be great to win, but this was not the Main Event by any means. Imagine my surprise when, after Marie Gomar and I began our match vs. Chile, I turned around and saw the entire US Team Delegation (all eleven) through the back wall glass. My heart was warmed, and not just because it was 90+ degrees F. on the court!

That said, one could certainly imagine there might be a certain amount of pressure involved here. Who among any of us has had six of the best players in the world watching you ALL AT THE SAME TIME? In 40 years of playing, this was a first. Between shots, I was thinking..."How was my follow-through? Why didn't I hit that harder? Should I have waited another split second to swing? Why did I go to the ceiling...again??"

All were gracious and supportive, including Head Coach Dave Ellis who I'm sure had a whole list of comments he could have offered!

**Reflections on Meeting a President***by Cheryl Kirk*

As the highest-ranking person on site with the International Racquetball Federation (Board Secretary), I had the honor of greeting Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera upon his arrival at Opening Ceremonies, along with PARC President Marcelo Gómez. The entourage (Marcelo, the President, the security detail, his aide from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and I) walked quite a ways through the club to get to the gym where the ceremonies were held. The entire way, club members and guests received handshakes and warm greetings from President Solís. The looks on faces were adoring -- what smiles! He is a popular president, down-to-earth and friendly. As we neared the gym, I tried to stay a respectful distance behind so that he could walk in front, but he gestured to me to walk next to him. I was touched by his courtesy and easy manner.

The group walked directly to the head table/dais, and I realized that when I asked my good friend and doubles partner Marie Gomar to hold my purse and backpack (since it wouldn't do to be laden down with stuff whilst greeting a president), I had not taken my speech out of the bag! It went with Marie to the back of the gym, and I was trying to chat with President Solís and answer his questions about the event while the back half of my brain was in a state of blind panic. How would I get my speech back before I was called to speak? Mind you, this is not something I could have delivered off the cuff because the comments were translated into Spanish as well (thanks to Marie).

As it happened, President Solís departed after delivering some wonderful comments and a gracious farewell. One speaker was before me then, so I left the table, walked around the perimeter of the gym, retrieved my document, and made it back in time to be introduced, maybe a minute later.

While my brain was melting down, it did occur to me that this might make a good newsletter story. So there you have it.





2017-2018 Tournament

CALENDAR

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

July 28-30, 2017
24th Annual Summerfest Open
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

August 4-6, 2017
Windy City Doubles
Rainbow Beach Courts
Chicago, IL
Joey Logan (773) 294-5129

August 29-September 2, 2017
33rd Annual IRF World Senior
Championships
Midtown Sports & Wellness
Albuquerque, NM
Gary Mazaroff (505) 321-1110

September 17-24, 2017
3 WallBall World Championships
Stratosphere Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, NV
Steve Lerner (614) 361-7162

September 27-October 1, 2017
WRT Life Time Fitness Pro Stop
Life Time Fitness
Orland Park, IL
John Wilinski (952) 994-6560

October 4-8, 2017
23rd UnitedHealthcare US OPEN
Life Time Fitness
Minneapolis, MN
Nick Irvine (719) 635-5396

October 19-22, 2017
Glass Court Fall Invitational
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Jeff Grace (630) 772-0244

November 4-5, 2017
Illini Invitational -- Racquetball/
Handball/Paddleball
University of Illinois -- IMPE
Champaign, IL
Tim Klein tklein5@illinois.edu

November 16-19, 2017
Turkey Shoot Open
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

December 1-3, 2017
NMRA Doubles Only Championship
(40+)
Pleasanton, CA
Cindy Tilbury (303) 888-4461

January 12-14, 2018
29th Annual Women's Senior
Masters Championships
Tucson Racquet & Fitness
Tucson, AZ
Terry Rogers (650) 245-8743

January 26-28, 2018
ISRA State Doubles Championships
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Laurel Davis (630) 476-6896

February 7-11, 2018
USAR National Doubles
Championships
ASU/Sun Devil Fitness Center
Tempe, AZ
Nick Irvine (719) 635-5396

February 22-25, 2018
ISRA State Singles Championships
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Cheryl Kirk (630) 215-4242

February 28-March 4, 2018
USAR High School Nationals
Portland, OR
Nick Irvine (719) 635-5396

March 14-17, 2018
USAR National Intercollegiates
Minneapolis, MN
Nick Irvine (719) 635-5396

March 15-18, 2018
Shamrock Shootout/IRT Pro Stop
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

March 28-April 1, 2018
NMRA National Championships
Warren, NJ
Cindy Tilbury (303) 888-4461

May 23-27, 2018
USAR National Singles
Championships
Location TBA

June 21-25, 2018
USAR Junior Olympics
Des Moines, IA
Nick Irvine (719) 635-5396

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 | Glen 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 issue of *ISRA Courtside*!

Many thanks,

Joe Silius
Advertising Editor

2017 ISRA Courtside 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, 2017.
- Deadlines are as follows:

- **Articles/Releases/Ads Due** 11/30/17
- **Issue Publication Date** 12/8/17
- **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



Scan/Email to:
mhalverson@comcast.net



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____
TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Business): _____
E-MAIL _____
BIRTHDATE _____

Adult competitor: \$50.00..... \$ _____
Junior competitor (age 21 and under): \$25.00 \$ _____

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