



First Half 2018 | VOL 36 NO 1

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

COURTSIDE

- ISRA Annual Awards and Hall of Fame Induction
- ISRA Board of Directors Annual Meeting and Elections
- Movin' On Up - 2017/18 Season
- Event Coverage Galore!





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On the COVER

Annual Awards/Hall of Fame Induction

Dolores Lamberson, Susan Mueller, Alok Mehta,
ISRA President Laurel Davis, HOF Inductee Tim Sweeney,
Michael Fornero (not shown, Jeremy Dixon)

Photo by Mike Davern



From the PRESIDENT

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, participating in those activities that aren't very easy for us to enjoy during most of our racquetball season – golf, swimming, baseball, bicycling, summer festivals, and more.

I have some sad news regarding our ISRA Hall of Famers.

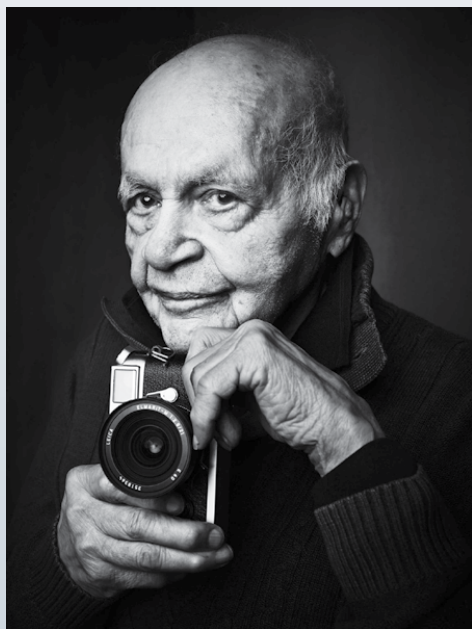


Photo by Sandro Miller

Art Shay

Art Shay, 2012 Hall of Fame inductee, passed away on April 28. Art was a famous sports photographer. In the late '70s and early '80s, he was instrumental in promoting racquetball through his photography, having come up with the idea of cutting a hole in the front wall of a racquetball court to take photos of the players from that unique angle. He was the only photographer able to depict racquetball in its purest photographic form by capturing beads of sweat dripping off a competitor, the muscle striations of a player's legs, the joy on the faces of many in victory. Art was also a player and the founder of the "Fruit Juices," a group of Chicago area players who met and started playing on Sunday mornings more than 30 years ago.

On June 28, John O'Donnell, Jr. lost his wife of 44 years, Arlene. John was inducted to the ISRA Hall of Fame in the Class of 2006 and he is a current ISRA Board member. Over the years, Arlene frequently attended tournaments to watch and support John. She was a very sweet woman and we all enjoyed getting to know her. Our thoughts go out to John and their children on the loss of a special woman.

In other news, congratulations go out to our Annual Awards winners and our 2018 Hall of Fame inductee, Tim Sweeney. (See article on page 6.)

We recently held the ISRA Annual Meeting. We have had some changes on our board roster. Michelle Halverson and Marla Cusano have retired from the Board and their positions as treasurer and secretary, respectively. I would like to thank them for their service to the Board and to the racquetball players of Illinois. They were great volunteers and took their jobs seriously. Dolores Lamberson is assuming the treasurer's role and new board member Barb Vagedes is taking over the secretary duties. (See article on page 11.)

Finally, Dan Jaskier has volunteered to assume the role of travel league coordinator for the Men's Travel Leagues. The ISRA Travel Leagues have been in existence for more than 30 years...pretty much in the same format as they originally started. Dan will be looking to mix things up and to make changes that will draw more players back to the ISRA Travel League. I don't know all the details yet, but I will be looking forward to hearing what he has planned. You should be excited, too!

I hope to see many of you at Summerfest, the first tournament of the 2018-2019 racquetball season. Enjoy your summer, and we will see you all on the courts soon.

Laurel



Photo courtesy of John O'Donnell, Jr.

Arlene and John O'Donnell, Jr.

Courtside News

Landmark Peoria Inducts Hall of Famers

by Laurel Davis, ISRA President

Five racquetball players and contributors were recently inducted into the Landmark Racquet & Health Club Hall of Fame. Bob Schwab was the first member of that Hall of Fame in 2010. Landmark's spring tournament was renamed the Robert E. Schwab Memorial Tournament in 2012, in memory of Bob who gave so much to Peoria racquetball. This latest induction ceremony occurred at that tournament in April.

Inductees included Kurt Mankle, Terry Sutton, Mike Vicary, and Racquet for the Cure co-directors Jim Maroon and Pam Schubach.

John Snarr, Landmark's Racquetball Director, said, "It's not just players we wanted to recognize, but ambassadors of the sport and those who performed service to the club. We've been blessed with so many volunteers over the years that would help with the tournaments and support the club and the sport."

Congratulations to ALL!

Men's 2018 Travel League -- It's A Wrap!

On April 13th, Glass Court hosted the Travel League Awards Party where the winners were crowned:

Men's A 1st place - Lattof YMCA; 2nd place - Glass Court

Playoffs were won by Lattof YMCA, 166 - 158.

Men's B/C Division 1st place - Center Court; 2nd place - LA Fitness South Elgin

Playoffs were won by Center Court, 158 - 108

The same two teams played the final in each division.

Thanks to everyone for their participation, and congrats to the winners! Look for exciting new formats for the league in the 2018-19 season.

The ISRA warmly thanks Board Member Pam Grace who has administrated and coordinated this league for more than 22 years. Pam will be passing the baton to Dan Jaskier when the new season begins.

LA Fitness South Loop Initiates Racquetball Leagues

by Bill Roberts, ISRA North Zone VP

LA Fitness South Loop proved eager and willing to promote inaugural inter-club leagues that began June 17th. There are currently two divisions: B-Open (10 players) and Beginner-C (13 players). Per LA Fitness protocol, games are to 11 points, and the leaders and winners of the leagues are determined by the greatest percentage of points won over cumulative scores. This way, everyone gets more games in one night and plays multiple opponents. The prize for division winners is a free entry to Glass Court's Summerfest at the end of July!

This is a perfect setup for Elite players to practice their tiebreaker skills for tournament play. The Beginner-C players have been having a blast, and the beauty of all of this is that people in the club have wandered over to see the action on the courts. Seeing the fun, some have joined the league! Three additional players signed up in the first week!

Coming soon is a challenge match with LA Fitness Alsip where the best 8-10 players from each club will face off for bragging rights!



Photo courtesy of Vickie Onesti

The ISRA Women's League concluded their season on March 12th after six months of spirited individual competition and tons of camaraderie!

ISRA Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

February 24, 2018, was a special day for a special Illinois racquetball player. That was the day that Tim Sweeney became the 31st player inducted into the Illinois State Racquetball Hall of Fame. There was a great crowd in the house (Glass Court) for the induction, including Tim's family, other Illinois Hall of Famers, some of Tim's former rivals and some of his supporters...especially friend and mentor Dave Negrete. Dave made the formal introduction and regaled the crowd with stories about Tim and his prowess on the court. The presentation included props, including racquetball magazines featuring Tim and a racquet that Tim used to win many tournaments.

Tim started playing racquetball in 1982 when he was 15 years old at Killshot in Bloomingdale. He took on a job as "towel boy" there and soon became proficient as a Junior Illinois player while also wrestling and playing hockey for Glenbard North High School. Athletics have always been part of his life as evidenced by the fact that he now has a 3 handicap in golf!

Tim came of age in 1987 by beating Sean Moskwa for the ISRA State Open Championship. In 1988 he was 3rd in the U.S. Nationals and qualified to play on the U.S. Team. Competition in Illinois was some of the toughest in the nation in the late 80s. Tim often met in the finals against rivals Sean Moskwa, Jack Newman, Kelvin Van Trease, as well as Denny McDowell and Bobby Deuster who were near the end of their competitive careers.

Tim's accomplishments are too numerous to list here, but he amassed a collection of achievements that no other player ever has. He is the only player in racquetball history to win:

- 1) State Championships (1987, 2000-2001)
- 2) Regional Championships
- 3) National Singles and Doubles Championships
- 4) Pro Stop (1991, Woodfield)
- 5) Pan American Championships (Played in 3 – '88, '92 and '94 – won two of them)
- 6) 4 NCAA National Championships (1991 – 1995)

Congratulations, Tim! You are where you belong.

Tim wasn't the only one in the limelight at the Annual Awards and Hall of Fame presentation. Prior to the Hall of Fame ceremony, ISRA President Laurel Davis presided over the Annual Awards ceremony. Mike Davern, a Governing Board member, took photos. 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. Laurel gave special recognition to Board officers Marla Cusano (Secretary) and to Michelle Halverson (Treasurer) who retired from the Board June 30. Marla and husband Kerry Spix moved to Florida and are enjoying grandchildren and lots of golf. Michelle, who never played racquetball herself, decided it was time to hang up her

abacus. Their participation on the Board will be missed immensely!

The winners of the ISRA Annual Awards were announced. The 2017 Most Improved Player was Jeremy Dixon. Jeremy was unable to attend so his father, Barry, accepted the award in his place. The 2017 Female Player of the Year Award was awarded to Susan Mueller, the 2017 Male Player of the Year Award to Alok Mehta (a Three-Peat, as he also won in 2009 and 2016), and the 2018 Distinguished Service Award to Dolores Lamberson. Michael Fornero was the recipient of the 2018 TJ Ferro Scholarship Award.

Each recipient delivered comments of appreciation, and certificates were presented to the ISRA members who received



Photo by Mike Davern

Dolores Lamberson, Susan Mueller, Alok Mehta, Laurel Davis, Tim Sweeney, Michael Fornero

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ISRA Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony continued from page 6



Photo by Mike Davern

Departing Board officers Marla Cusano and Michelle Halverson



Photo by Mike Davern

Marian Bala, Cheryl Kirk, and Jeff Grace congratulate TJ Ferro Award recipient Michael Fornero

award nominations: Vickie Onesti, Daniel Barrera, Nadeem Sharifuddin, Dolores Lamberson, Susan Mueller, Eugene Coyle, Peter McCauley, Christopher Anton, Todd Burris, Diane Bunker, Geoff Peters, and Joe DeArmas.

After the Hall of Fame induction ceremony, the ceremony attendees retired to the Glass Court lounge (or a court if they had a match) and enjoyed connecting with friends and consuming cake. A good time was had by all.

-- Laurel Davis

continued on page 8



Photo by Mike Davern

Award Nominees Todd Burris, Susan Mueller, Vickie Onesti, Christopher Anton, and Dolores Lamberson

Illinois State Racquetball Association Hall of Fame

Sue Carow (2000)

Ron Johnson (2001)

Revie Sorey (2003)

Lola Markus (2006)

John O'Donnell, Jr. (2006)

Diane DeArmas (2009)

TJ Ferro (2009)

Cheryl Gudinas (2010)

Dave Negrete (2011)

Marshall Waldo (2012)

Chris Evon (2012)

Art Shay (2012)

Gay Kenna Mason (2013)

Art Michaely (2013)

Alan Shetzer (2013)

Phil Simborg (2013)

Tom Street (2013)

Herb Grigg (2014)

Bill Lyman (2014)

Nancy Kronenfeld (2015)

Dennis McDowell (2015)

John Negrete (2015)

Jean Sauser (2015)

David Milazzo (2016)

Jack Newman (2016)

Robert Troyer (2016)

Alvin Barasch (2017)

Leo and Susan Klimaitis (2017)

David Olson (2017)

2018 Inductee

Tim Sweeney



ISRA Hall of Famers congratulate Tim Sweeney: Marshall Waldo, Dave Olson, Bill Lyman, Gay Kenna Mason, Tim Sweeney, John O'Donnell, Jr., Art Michaely, Dave Milazzo, Jack Newman, Dave Negrete, Cheryl Gudinas

Photo by Mike Davern

KILLSHOT Kids' Corner

In the blink of an eye, another JTI season is in the record books. Coaches Marian Bala, Carolyn Vazquez, Andy Pitock, and Michael Fornero are pleased with the improvement shown -- everyone worked hard and, by all observations, they had a great time this season. It's nice to see friendships develop as the season unfolds.

Thanks to parents for bringing the players to Glass Court most Sunday mornings for warm-ups, drills, instruction, and play! Some moms and dads also pitched in to help with drills, and a few more moms brought goodies to practices to energize and fortify.

Warm thanks from the JTI families and coaches go to Dan Jaskier of Glass Court who was a gracious and accommodating host throughout the season.

Juniors participated in State Singles and USAR Regionals where there were many matches to be played, some against good friends Lucy and Jackson Jeys from Iowa as well as Devin Mehta and Zachary Slade from here in the Chicagoland area.

Michael Fornero was the recipient of this year's TJ Ferro Scholarship Award. Michael received a cash award and a plaque at the ISRA Awards Ceremony on Saturday night of State Singles. After comments by Marian Bala, Jeff Grace, and Cheryl Kirk,

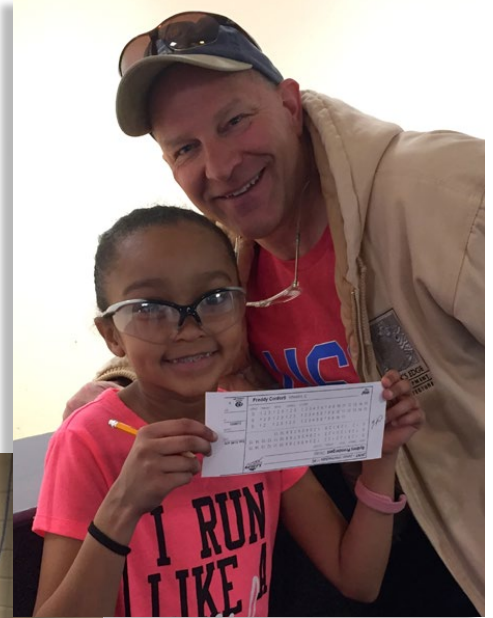
Michael delivered some nice comments of his own, expressing gratitude to family, friends, and coaches for his racquetball success. (See photo on page 7.)

We had a great turnout for the Junior Clinic at the Shamrock Shootout, conducted by pros Ben Croft, Thomas Carter, Adam Manilla, and Jose Diaz. Geoff Peters taped items to the walls of the glass court, and the kids had the chance to try to hit something for the win -- fun stuff!

The end-of-season party in April included competition, a killer lunch with tons to eat, a fun raffle (tickets free for the players), and a short meeting to thank the coaches, parents, and players for a great season.

In June, Michael Fornero and Freddy Conforti competed in the 2018 USA

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Fred Conforti coached new referee Mackenzie Prendergast



Juniors medaled at ISRA State Singles!

Junior Team Illinois 2017-2018

**Freddy Conforti
Brandon Gollins
Matthew Gollins
Nathan Gollins
Erick Gutierrez
Axel Lopez
Spencer O'Dea
Mackenzie Prendergast
Sydney Prendergast
Santiago Sanchez
Montserrat Torres**

Killshot Kid's Corner continued from page 9

Racquetball Junior Nationals in Des Moines, and each brought a couple of medals back to Illinois! (Full coverage of Junior Nationals will appear in the next issue of *ISRA Courtside*.)

So now it's time to focus on 2018-19! We hope everyone will be back, and we warmly invite kids to join us in early October as JTI gears up again. For more information, write to cherylkkirk@aol.com.

-- Cheryl Kirk



Bobby Horn inspired a record number of "towel kids"!



Iowans Lucy and Jackson Jeys (center front and rear) joined JTI players at USAR Regionals.



Pros Ben Croft, Adam Manilla, Jose Diaz, and Thomas Carter hosted the Shamrock Shootout Junior Clinic!

Annual Meeting and Election of ISRA Board Members

The ISRA Board held its Annual Meeting on June 12, 2018. 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 a number of open seats on the Board for this year's election.

The Board slate consisted of the following individuals:

- Current Board members Todd Burris, Jonelle Dubois, Doug Halverson, Cheryl Kirk, John O'Donnell, Jr., Geoff Peters, Bill Roberts, and Joe Silius.
- New Board nominees Arun Baskaran, Alcides Gutierrez, Barbara Vagedes, and Carolyn Vazquez.

There were no additional director nominations received from the membership, and the Board slate was accepted automatically. All terms commenced on 7/1/18. Adjustments

were made in the terms of some Board members to ensure balanced election slates in future years.

In a closed session of the Board, Geoff Peters was reappointed to the office of ISRA Vice President, Barbara Vagedes was elected as Secretary, and Dolores Lamberson was selected Treasurer.

New members of the Auxiliary Board this year are Dan Jaskier and Eric Jensen.

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 (laurelmdavis1@gmail.com) or any ISRA Board member. Come out and support Illinois Racquetball!

*Signed,
The ISRA Nominating Committee
John Thorson (Chair), Pam Grace, Dolores Lamberson*



John Thorson, Cheryl Kirk, Laurel Davis, and Doug Halverson thanked Marla Cusano and Michelle Halverson for their years of ISRA Board service



Farewell and good luck, Marla and Kerry (front). We're going to miss you!

2018 ISRA State Doubles Championships

January 26-28, 2018

Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard

Tournament Director: Laurel Davis

The 2018 version of the ISRA State Doubles was held on a nice (yes, I said "nice") weekend in January at Glass Court. I think we were punished later (maybe in May) by some of the nice weather we had during what is typically the coldest part of the year.

Players numbering 112 entered the State Doubles tournament. Seventy of them played in two divisions and the other 42 played in one. I am sure you will be surprised (not) to hear that 87% of the players were male. Where have all the women gone?? There were 15 of us, total.

Based on input from players, some divisions were played in a single day allowing those players to have the rest of their weekends for a second division or some other activity. The

experiment was a success, and we plan to work on more creative scheduling going forward.

Here are some additional statistics. There were 18 divisions, 11 of which were round robins. The 112 players hailed from 66 towns and cities across Illinois. One team, Cristian Moreno and Henry Conforti, had an especially successful tournament. They won the Men's A draw (16 teams) and were rewarded with the opportunity to play in the Men's Open going forward. Congratulations, Cristian and Henry!

Brent Huff and Keith Minor took the title in Men's Open. Kelly Gremley and Shane Jackson won Mixed Open, and Karin McCauley and Nancy Amaro won the Women's division.

We had volunteers from B (Bala) to Z (Zidek). They included: Marian Bala, **Todd Burris, Marla Cusano, Mike Davern,**

continued on page 13



A rose between several thorns... Janet Eminger with Dave Milazzo, Dave Olson, John Mason, and Dennis McKee

Movin' On Up – 2017-2018 Season

Racquetball success equates to greater challenges. These individuals/teams won at least one full-draw division during the 2017-2018 season and recently received "The Letter" (suitable for framing) notifying them of their new eligibility. Congratulations, and good luck to all in the coming year!

-- Dolores Lamberson, ISRA Eligibility Chair

Men's Open

Adam Mills, Summerfest

Antonio Vazquez, Turkey Shoot

Frank Wrobel, ISRA State Singles

Daniel Terrazas II, Shamrock Shootout

Men's A

Christopher Anton, Turkey Shoot

Todd Burris, Shamrock Shootout

Richard DeArmas, Petition

Men's B

Daniel Barrera, Summerfest

Paul Nijensohn, Turkey Shoot

Helder Dos Santos, Shamrock Shootout

Men's C

Anthony Giacalone, US Open

Men's Open Doubles

Cristian Moreno / Henry Conforti, ISRA State Doubles

Timothy Klein / Pierce Johnston (WI), Shamrock Shootout

2018 ISRA State Doubles Championships continued from page 12

Jeremy Dixon, Michael Fornero, Jeff Grace, **Pam Grace, Doug Halverson, Dolores Lamberson**, Dave Milazzo, Liz Molitor, **Joe Silius**, Dave Singer, and Jim Zidek, along with my co-tournament directors **Cheryl Kirk** and **Geoff Peters**. Thanks to all for helping us make the tournament a success. Please note that the names in **bold** are members of the ISRA Board of Directors Governing Board.

We could never put on a great tournament without sponsors. The sponsors for State Doubles included Glass Court (Dan Jaskier and Joe DeArmas), Penn Racquet Sports, Response Graphics & Embroidery (Lynn and Kevin Yeazell), Little Debbie (Janet and Joe Eminger) and Al's Pizzeria. Thanks to all!

One last comment regarding State Doubles. Recently someone mentioned how much fun it was to move the tournament between Glass Court and Landmark Health & Fitness in Peoria. I told the group that I would find out if another tournament in Peoria was a possibility. At this point, the possibility seems doubtful. I played at Landmark recently and found that they have repurposed about half of the courts. I don't think there have been any permanent modifications to the courts, but it would take some work to be able to play on them. Looking at those courts and thinking of all the good times we have had there made me kind of sad...and it made me grateful, too. The friends I have made in Peoria and the events I have participated in there are all very memorable!

-- Laurel Davis



Men's 30-40+ champs Fernando Javier Rivera and Basilio Salazar

continued on page 14



Cristian Moreno and Henry Conforti, Men's A winners, punched their ticket to Men's Open



Ray Redelman, Men's 50+ Silver (Slide on over there Henry...you abandoned Ray!)

2018 ISRA State Doubles Championships continued from page 13



Medalists Alcides Gutierrez and Arnold Ortega



Women's Doubles winners Karin McCauley and Nancy Amaro

RESULTS | 2018 ISRA State Doubles Championships

Division/#: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (6): Brent Huff/Keith Minor; Brian Berkelhamer/Fernando Javier Rivera; Anthony Cosmano/Cheryl Gudinas, Alok Mehta/Andrew Price

Men's AA (2): Alcides Gutierrez/Jeremy Dixon; Danny Ortega/Michael Fornero

Men's A (16): Cristian Moreno/Henry Conforti; Jake Ryan/David Singer; James Zidek/Juan Martinez, Howard Chan/Hung Che

Men's B (10): David Singer/Jeffrey Hill; Chris Choi/Wayne Lorenz; Mark Buckley/Porfirio Villalobos, Anthony Giacalone/Tony Reiting, Jr.

Men's C Group 1 (3): Nadeem Sharifuddin/Parkash Mohanty; Jesus Lopez/Porfirio Villalobos; Carlos Canessa/Daniel Barrera (3rd)

Men's C Group 2 (3): Jose L. Arteaga/Stephen Lindstrom; Anthony Giacalone/Paul Nijensohn; Bob Diorio/Rick Lafine (3rd)

Men's C Playoff (2): Jose L. Arteaga/Stephen Lindstrom; Nadeem Sharifuddin/Parkash Mohanty

Men's 30+/35+/40+ (4): Basilio Salazar/Fernando Javier Rivera; Brian Berkelhamer/Jorge Ortiz; Alcides Gutierrez/Arnold Ortega (3rd)

Men's 50+ Group 1 (3): James Schlicher/John Thorson; Greg Cilano/Todd Parker; Roberto Rivas/Tony Reiting, Jr. (3rd)

Men's 50+ Group 2 (3): Henry Conforti/Ray Redelman; Douglas Halverson/Geoff Peters; Lee Kagan/Louis Martino (3rd)

Men's 50+ Playoff (2): James Schlicher/John Thorson; Henry Conforti/Ray Redelman

Men's 55+ (3): Lee Frick/Tom Neal; Bruce Young/Jim Hillman; George Steffens/Mitchell Becker (3rd)

Men's 60+ (3): Dave Olson/Dennis McKee; Dave Milazzo/Frank Milazzo; Bill Mega/Carl Sick (3rd)

Men's 65+ (4): Dave Olson/Dennis McKee; Joe Silius/Joe Vallender; Bill Mega/Carl Sick (3rd)

Men's Combined 100+ (7): John Mason/Keith Minor; Cristian Moreno/James Zidek; Andy Pitock/Eric Jensen, James Schlicher/John Thorson

Men's Age A (5): Howard Chan/Hung Che; Jake Ryan/Jeffrey Hill; Ravi Yenduri/Matt Reeser (3rd)

Men's Age B/C (4): Chris Choi/Richard Seaberg; Jose L. Arteaga/Stephen Lindstrom; Justin Mrowicki/Mason Kimberley (3rd)

Women's Open/A/55+A (5): Karin McCauley/Nancy Amaro; Susan Mueller/Barbara Vagedes; Cheryl Kirk/Dolores Lamberson (3rd)

Mixed Open (3): Kelly Gremley/Shane Jackson; Antonio Vazquez/Cari Mory; Dolores Lamberson/Michael Fornero (3rd)

Mixed A/B/C (3): Jerry Kee/Melissa Musick; Edith Seaman/Thomas George; Jim Ingolia/Lurine Barnes (3rd)

Mixed 45+ (3): Karin McCauley/Peter McCauley; Jim Hillman/Lynn Yeazell; Matt Reeser/Melissa Musick (3rd)

Mixed 50+/60+ (3): Andy Pitock/Cheryl Kirk; Allen Bell/Susan Mueller; Andrea Scott/John Mason (3rd)

2018 ISRA State Singles Championships

February 23-25, 2018

Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard

Tournament Directors: Cheryl Kirk and John Thorson

They came from 52 Illinois cities and towns from Addison to Winnetka (alphabetically speaking) -- 89 players total (48 competed in 1 division; 41 in two divisions). How many of each gender, you wonder? There were 69 men and 20 women (22% women, which is a little better than we normally enjoy. Cool.). Eight juniors competed, ranging in age from 9 to 16.

Both the Men's and Women's Open champions (who experienced significant injuries and subsequent surgeries last year) battled to victories in the finals. Keith Minor took Men's Open with Eric Van Marion the runner-up. The Women's Open winner was Emily Fauser with Gisela Gomez in second place. Congrats to Keith and Emily for their grit and perseverance in returning victorious to the courts!

We tried a few new approaches to tournament administration to see how they would be received. Regarding the traditional tournament shirt souvenir, instead of including it in the entry fee, we reduced the entry fee and offered three ala carte options for separate purchase -- a long sleeved dri-fit, a short sleeved dri-fit, and a lightweight hoodie. Everyone seemed fine with this overall. The learnings? Some definitely want a shirt and some don't care (likely the ones who've played

tournaments for years and have enough shirts to sink a battleship).

For those aforementioned players who indeed have more shirts than they could ever wear, Claudia and Montserrat Torres staffed our tournament shirt exchange table. Bring a shirt(s), take a shirt(s) -- or just clean out your drawers at home and deposit shirts at the table. Shirts left at the end of the weekend were boxed up and delivered by Marian Bala to the Pacific Garden Mission to assist Chicago's homeless.

We went with a \$5 per division refundable referee fee. The funds go straight back to the players when they referee (including \$10 for USAR-certified refs). This ensures that single elimination divisions get paid referees. I'm beginning to think that "winners ref or find a suitable replacement" is a good way to go for multiple reasons, including that everyone gets a referee in a good mood. Some round robin players might feel that since they don't get referees, they shouldn't be charged. I'd like to offer that throwing a quality tournament is not an inexpensive proposition, and not losing money is a good thing for everyone -- because we can continue to offer events at a great club, sustain players with delicious meals, provide quality medals, and continue the ISRA's longstanding practice of offering State Doubles and Singles competitions. (P.S. Many

continued on page 16



Divas With Injuries players identify their qualifications for this division: Liz Molitor, Julianne Valentino, Laurel Davis, Marla Cusano, Pam Grace, Mary Crambes

2018 ISRA State Singles Championships continued from page 15

thanks to the referees who gave back their fees - \$90 in total - to Illinois Juniors!)

Thinking aloud on the subject of referees, what are the feelings out there about going with a self-refereed concept for state championship events? There are pros and cons, right? Please write to me at cherylkkirk@aol.com and share your thoughts.

Back to State Singles...

The weather cooperated wonderfully -- and we are grateful for many years of good luck in not having a winter storm come through with the corresponding challenges that could present themselves. Um...I fervently hope that I have not jinxed the coming season! Everyone, cross your fingers.

Marla Cusano's guacamole appeared in gratifying and sublimely delicious quantities, and we enjoyed it with mixed feelings, knowing that Marla and her guac-making gift were departing for Florida in short order.

Speaking of Marla (et al.), the ISRA Board women brainstormed one afternoon and came up with a new state championship division: Divas With Injuries (DWI). This single elimination division with dropdown consolation featured one game to 15 (only). Rules of this experimental undertaking included that each player had to wear a brace or groan audibly at least once during the match; had to have been complaining of the injury for at least a month; and the tournament director reserved the right to disqualify if a player did not appear to be injured sufficiently. A beverage of choice in the bar was offered afterward for anesthetic effect.

The ISRA gratefully acknowledges the contributions of these sponsors and providers who helped make this tournament a success: Dr. Ernesto Tan, Molitor Athletic Fields (Liz & Dave Molitor), Al's Pizzeria, Little Debbie (Janet & Joe Eminger), Mitchell's Ice Cream (Dave Milazzo), Pro Penn, Glass Court



Montserrat and Claudia Torres staffed the shirt exchange table!



Men's 70+, 80+, and 85+ medalists, respectively: Ernesto Tan, Jack Angelus, and John O'Donnell, Jr.

Swim & Fitness (Dan Jaskier & Joe DeArmas), Awards & Fine Gifts, Inc., Chicago Marriott Suites Downers Grove, and Response Graphics (Lynn & Kevin Yeazell).

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: Marian Bala, **Todd Burris**, **Marla Cusano**, **Mike Davern**, **Laurel Davis**, **Jonelle Dubois**, Michael Fornero, Jeff Grace, **Pam Grace**, **Doug Halverson**, **Michelle Halverson**, Dan Jaskier, **Dolores Lamberson**, Kit Lawson, Dave Milazzo, Liz Molitor, Susan Mueller, **John O'Donnell, Jr.**, **Geoff Peters**, Andy Pitock, **Bill Roberts**, **Rick Seaberg**, Claudia Torres, Montserrat Torres, Carolyn Vazquez...and the staff members of Glass Court!

*Note: **Bold** denotes ISRA Board of Directors*

ISRA State Singles is the traditional venue for the ISRA Annual Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies. See page 6 in this issue of *ISRA Courtside* for a full account of the festivities on Saturday night of the event.

Newly crowned State Champions and runners-up appear on page 18, and visit <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=22466> for a full look at the results!

-- Cheryl Kirk

continued on page 17

2018 ISRA State Singles Championships continued from page 16



Men's Open Champion Keith Minor



Emily Fauser took gold in the Women's Open



Chris Choi, Men's 45A Gold!



Arun Baskaran -- Gold in 35+, Silver in Men's AA

2018 ISRA State Singles Championships continued from page 17



Misael Corral - Men's 45+ Intermediate winner



Georgina Marin (Women's B Gold) and Gisela Gomez (Women's Open Silver and Women's A Gold)

RESULTS | 2018 ISRA State Singles Championships

Division/#: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (13): Keith Minor; Eric Van Marion; Eric Mathews, Fernando Javier Rivera

Men's AA (5): Clint Hickman; Arun Baskaran; Frank Wrobel

Men's A (21): Frank Wrobel; Antonio Vazquez; Roberto Rivas, Todd Parker

Men's B (14): Daniel Terrazas II; Thomas Zielecki; Richard Seaberg, Bruce Young

Men's C (11): Jesus Lopez; Daniel Barrera; Paul Nijensohn, Luis Ornelas

Men's D (5): Thomas George; Luis Ornelas; Ryan Urbaniak (3rd), Tom Trecker (4th)

Men's 25+ (4): Eric Van Marion; Eric Mathews; Dave Milazzo (3rd)

Men's 35/40+ (3): John Thorson; Arun Baskaran; Roberto Dunaway-Torres

Men's 35+ (1): Arun Baskaran

Men's 40+ (2): John Thorson; Roberto Dunaway-Torres

Men's 50+/55+ (4): Alok Mehta; John Thorson; Cary Slade

Men's 50+(3): Alok Mehta; John Thorson; Cary Slade

Men's 55+ (1): Tom Horton

Men's 60+/65+ (4): Dave Olson; Ray Redelman; Mike Davern

Men's 60+ (3): Ray Redelman; Mike Davern; Jim Hillman

Men's 65+ (1): Dave Olson

Men's 70+/80+/85+ (3): Ernesto Tan; John O'Donnell, Jr.; Jack Angelus

Men's 70+ (1): Ernesto Tan

Men's 80+ (1): Jack Angelus

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

Men's 40A/45A (7): Chris Choi; Daniel Jaskier; Jairo Torres, Todd Parker

Men's 40 A (1): Daniel Jaskier

Men's 45A (6): Chris Choi; Jairo Torres; Todd Parker, David Combs

Men's 50A / 60A (6): Antonio Vazquez; Juan Martinez; Roberto Rivas, Ed Esparza

Men's 50A (5): Antonio Vazquez; Juan Martinez; Roberto Rivas, Ed Esparza

Men's 60A (1): Geoff Peters

Men's 35 Int/40 Int/45 Int (5): Misael Corral; Glen Bero; Paul Nijensohn (3rd), George Ipe (4th)

Men's 35 Int (1): Victor Perez

Men's 40 Int (1): Glen Bero

Men's 45 Int (3): Misael Corral; Paul Nijensohn; George Ipe

Women's Open (7): Emily Fauser; Gisela Gomez; Brenda White, Janet Eminger

Women's AA (4): Janet Eminger; Susan Mueller; Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez, Lynn

Yeazell

Women's A/B (5): Georgina Marin; Gisela Gomez; Pat Kwasigroch (3rd), Edith Seaman (4th)

Women's A (3): Gisela Gomez; Pat Kwasigroch; Edith Seaman (3rd)

Women's B (2): Georgina Marin; Julie McGreal

Women's 50+/55+/60+ (3): Janet Eminger; Susan Mueller; Brenda White (3rd)

Women's 50+ (1): Janet Eminger

Women's 55+ (1): Susan Mueller

Women's 60+ (1): Brenda White

Women's Divas With Injuries (6): Liz Molitor; Laurel Davis; Mary Crambes, Julianne Valentino

Women's Divas With Injuries Consolation (4): Marla Cusano; Pam Grace

Juniors

Boys 16-: Spencer O'Dea

Boys 14-: Zachary Slade

Boys 12-: Santiago Sanchez; Devin Mehta

Girls 12-: Sydney Prendergast

Boys 10-: Axel Lopez

Girls 10-: Montserrat Torres; Mackenzie Prendergast

Shamrock Shootout and Tier I Pro Stop

presented by KWM Gutterman

March 15-18, 2018

Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard

Tournament Directors: Dan Jaskier, Geoff Peters, Doug Halverson, Cheryl Kirk

OMG! The 33rd Annual Shamrock Shootout was a wide-open event from start to finish! When current IRT World #1 Kane Waselenchuk had to forfeit the week before the event due a lingering injury, the entire Professional field became energized – especially given the historical precedent of upsets at this event!

In the end, Andree Parrilla of Mexico won his first Tier One event on Sunday afternoon by besting first-time finalist David “Bobby” Horn of Stockton, California, with Samuel Murray of Canada and Daniel De La Rosa of Mexico as the semifinalists. The many upsets throughout the event set up a season-ending scramble for final positioning that showcased many of the up-and-coming IRT Stars of the Future!

This was the first year that the Shamrock Shootout offered a Men’s IRT Pro Doubles purse, and the turnout for this event was solid. In the end, Sebastian Franco and Mario Mercado took the IRT Doubles vs. Alejandro Landa and Samuel Murray.

With the Men’s Open Champion receiving \$1,000, and with payments to the semifinalists as well as a dropdown AA division, there were 31 entries in the Open (won by Jose Diaz over Gerardo Franco). Erick Cuevas Fernandez, the IRT Rookie of the Year, came back from a tough first round loss to Adam Taylor of Indiana to take the Men’s AA bracket and prize money.

Congratulations go to Daniel Terrazas II (Men’s A), Todd Burris (Men’s B), and Helder Dos Santos (Men’s C) for winning full draw events, as well as Brenda Laime from Bolivia who bested Daniela Molina of Mexico in the Women’s Open championship. Full tournament results are available at: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney.asp?TID=24709> which shows almost 35,000 visitors to-date!

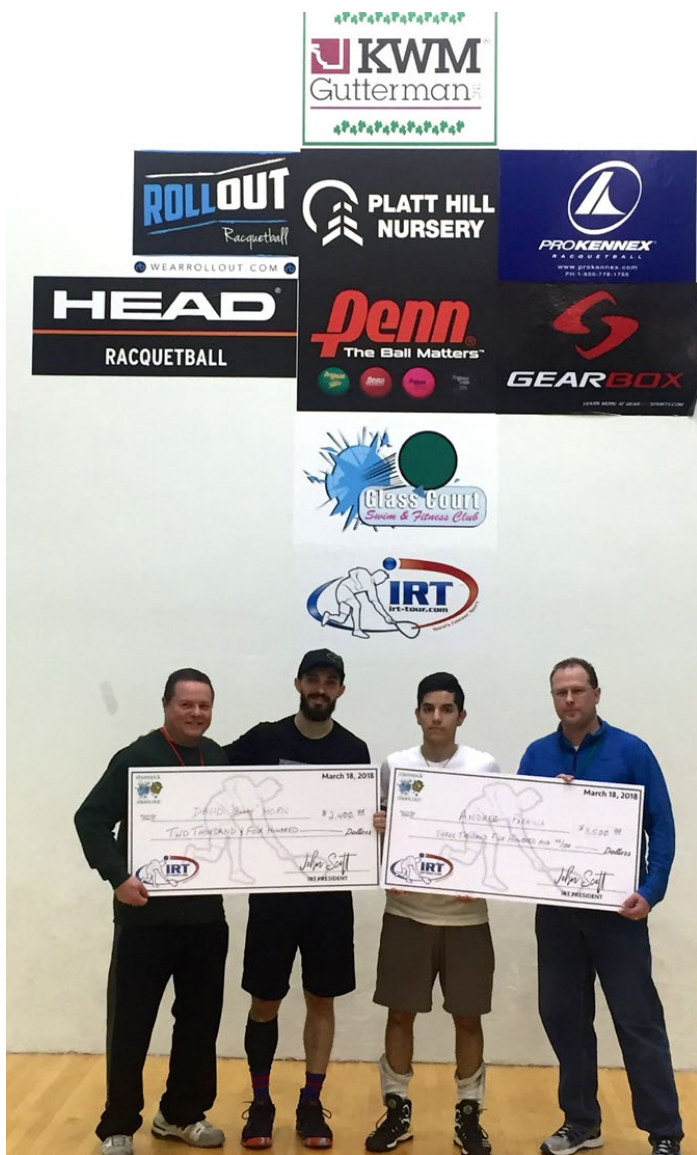
By the numbers, we had 189 competitors in 26 divisions with 150 men and 39 women. Six countries and 18 U.S. states were represented. Players totaling 128 competed in two or three divisions (the third one had to be Men’s Pro), and 61 players played in a single bracket and spent the rest of their time watching the IRT Pros and other matches!

The silent auction raised over \$700 for Junior Racquetball in Illinois, and on Sunday morning we had a great clinic for Junior Team Illinois that featured four IRT Pros including Ben Croft who was in town for the event and lost in a very close tiebreaker in the IRT Pro Quarterfinals despite not having played a competitive singles event in two full seasons. Thomas Carter, Jose Diaz, and Adam Manilla were there helping at the Junior Clinic, too.

A special thanks to our presenting sponsor, Keith Minor and KWM Gutterman, as well as Platt Hill Nurseries (Platt Hill), Rick Seaberg, Papa Nicholas Coffee (Jim Schlicher), Chicago Spectro (Geoff Goldblatt), Alok Mehta, Baird & Warner (Wayne Lorenz), Jam Trucking (Bob Randazzo), Eduardo’s Pizza (Dave

Milazzo), Benistar (Brian Berkelhamer), Taco Burrito King (Danny Ortega), Newman Schimel (Jack Newman), Little Debbie (Janet Eminger), Anthony’s Pizza (Tony Cosmano), and Jose Arteaga, who all stepped up to make it possible. In addition, we had very important donations from a wide range of players who wanted to make sure that we continued to host a pro event in Chicago. Our thanks go out to Melissa Musick, Rob Dreger, Sue & Leo Klimaitis, Laurel Davis, Liz Molitor, Mike Davern, Eric Jensen, Vickie Onesti, Cheryl Kirk and Kit Lawson, and

continued on page 20



Glass Court’s Joe DeArmas and Dan Jaskier congratulate Men’s Pro finalists Bobby Horn and Andree Parrilla

Shamrock Shootout and Tier I Pro Stop continued from page 19

John Thorson – many of whom also volunteered their time and energy to make the event run on time all weekend.

Speaking of running the event – it truly does take a village! At the risk of forgetting someone, we extend our thanks to Michael Fornero, Liz Molitor, Laurel Davis, Rich and Jane Winters, Jeff and Pam Grace, Marla Cusano, Marian Bala (doing yeowoman duty on hospitality), Michelle Halverson, Amanda Podlesak, Dave “the King” Singer, Dolores Lamberson, Sue Mueller, Jonelle DuBois, Joe Silius, Kathi DeArmas, Joe DeArmas, Doug Brown, Deb Peters, Bill and Sara Roberts, Todd Burris, Jesus Lopez, Lori Good, and Ms. VIP Lounge Laura Brown. Let’s not forget our Junior Team Illinois players who served as the Court Kids during the quarterfinals, semifinals and finals – in return for the best seats in the house and a chance to interact with their idols! And – to the best Operations Director in the business, with her stamp on everything – Cheryl Kirk.

-- Geoff Peters

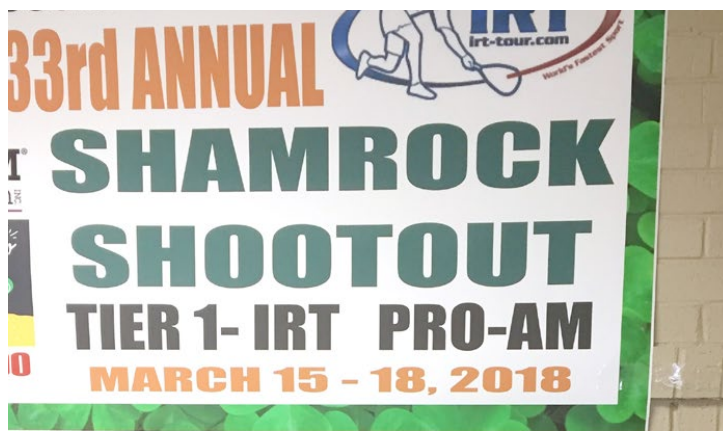
continued on page 21



Check-in leprechauns Jonelle Dubois and Pam Grace



Tournament Director Geoff Peters looking very fetching indeed



Mixed 50+ Silver medalists Cari Mory and Antonio Vazquez



Liz Molitor and Jeff Grace -- always there for Illinois Racquetball

Shamrock Shootout and Tier I Pro Stop continued from page 20



Susan Mueller and Dolores Lamberson with pro Sebastian Franco



*Women's Open Doubles Champs
Brenda Laime and Cheryl Gudinas*



*Tournament Director Doug Halverson congratulates
Women's AA winner Kristin Coulter*



Queen of the Green -- Laurel Davis

continued on page 22

Shamrock Shootout and Tier I Pro Stop continued from page 21

Men's C gladiators Daniel Barrera and Jose L. Arteaga

RESULTS | Shamrock Shootout and Tier I Pro Stop

**Note: from Men's A on, if no state or country is designated, assumed to be IL*

Division (# entered): 1st; 2nd; Semifinals

Men's IRT PRO (29): Andree Parrilla (MEX); David Horn (USA); Samuel Murray (CAN), Daniel De La Rosa (MEX)

Men's IRT Pro Doubles (9): Sebastian Franco/Mario Mercado (COL); Alejandro Landa (MEX)/Samuel Murray (CAN); Alvaro Beltran/Daniel De La Rosa (MEX), Felipe Camacho (CRC)/Jansen Allen (USA)

Men's Open (31): Jose Diaz (USA/CA); Gerardo Franco (MEX); Andree Parrilla (MEX), Nick Riffel (USA/CO)

Men's AA (14): Erick Cuevas Fernandez (MEX); Peter Appel (USA/VA); Michael Fornero (USA/IL), Eric Mathews (USA/IL)

Men's A (26): Daniel Terrazas II; Chris Webb (OH); Todd Greenstein, Juan Martinez

Men's B (17): Todd Burris; Eugen Gheorghiu; Robert Dreger, Joe Eminger

Men's C (16): Helder Dos Santos; Jose L. Arteaga; Ivars Blums (FL), Daniel Barrera

Men's D (6): Chris Sommer; Bill Pelen; Krish Maini (WI), Spencer O'Dea

Men's 30+/35+ (9): Alok Mehta; Dean Baer (NY); Danny Ortega, Dave Milazzo

Men's 45+ (4): John Thorson; Terry Kisling (MN); Blair Wagner (3rd)

Men's 55+ (10): John Mason; Drake Deavours (IN); Jerry Kee, Jeff Hotler (IN)

Men's 65+ (3): Joe Vallender; Platt Hill; James Caristi (IN) (3rd)

Men's 35INT/45INT (10): Misael Corral; Ivars Blums (FL); Jeff Simonis (MI), Roberto Dunaway-Torres

Men's Open Doubles (4): Eric Van Marion/Keith Minor; Fernando Javier Rivera/Michael Fornero; Danny Ortega/Set Cubillos (COL)(3rd)

Men's A Doubles (14): Pierce Johnston (WI)/Timothy Klein; Daniel Terrazas II/Bruce Young; Jerry Kee/Jairo Torres, Matt Beals/Tony Domelle (IN)

Men's B/C Doubles (13): Gary Stone/Jeffrey Hill; Jose L. Arteaga/Tony Garcia; Stephen Lindstrom/Valentinas Presniakovas, Nils Mogensen/Peter Riegler

Men's Doubles Combined 80/85/100 (6): Tony Cosmano/Anthony Cosmano; James Schlicher/John Thorson; Dan Jaskier/Keith Mecklenburg, Gary Stone/Scot Tennant

Women's Open (8): Brenda Laime (BOL); Daniela Molina (MEX); Masiel Rivera (BOL), Cari Mory

Women's AA (3): Kristin Coulter; Emily Fauser; Julia Stein (3rd)

Women's B/C/D (4): Jennifer Kwong; Kathleen Longtin; Carmen DeSadier (3rd)

Women's Open/A Doubles (8): Brenda Laime (BOL)/Cheryl Gudinas; Daniela Molina (MEX)/Masiel Rivera (BOL); Lynn Yeazell/Rebecca Bowman (IN), Kelly Gremley/Sara Jeys (IA)

Women's Combined 100+ Doubles (3): Susan Mueller/Dolores Lamberson; Barbara Vagedes/Carolyn Vazquez; Cheryl Kirk/Julianne Valentino (3rd)

Mixed Open Doubles (6): Diane Moore (IN)/Adam Taylor (IN); Brad Hansen (IA)/Kelly Gremley; Alok Mehta/Sara Jeys (IA), Kristin Coulter/Miguel Riollano

Mixed A Doubles (4): Pierce Johnson (WI)/Stephanie Banks (WI); Ed Esparza/Emily Fauser; Richard Seaberg/Vickie Onesti (3rd)

Mixed 40+ Doubles (3): Kim Reimschisel (IN)/Terry Kisling (MN); Barbara Vagedes/Jeff Hotler (IN); Susan Mueller/Peter Riegler (3rd)

Mixed 50+ Doubles (3): Juan Martinez/Nancy Amaro; Antonio Vazquez/Cari Mori; Janet Eminger/Keith Kareiva (3rd)

2018 USA Racquetball Regional Championships

April 21-22, 2018
Glass Court Swim & Fitness,
Lombard
Tournament Director: Geoff
Peters

The 2018 USA Racquetball Regional Championships closed out the 2017-2018 competitive season in Illinois with a draw of 66 players on April 21st and 22nd.

Congratulations to Keith Minor in capturing the Regional Championship while most of the field splintered into 19 separate divisions of play across the 55 men and 11 women. Complete results are



Carlos Ibarra and his fan club



Anand Agarwal -- Men's 35A champ

available at: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=24710>

We had nine (9) junior players! Congratulations to Santiago Sanchez, Axel Lopez, Freddy Conforti, Sydney Prendergast, and Lucy Jeys (IA) who took home Gold Regional Medals, Jackson Jeys (IA) and Montserrat Torres who took home Silver Medals, and Mackenzie Prendergast and Erick Gutierrez who won Bronze Medals!

Thank you to our volunteers. We couldn't do it without you -- Marian Bala, Laurel Davis, Michael Fornero, Jeff Grace, Pam Grace, Doug Halverson, Cheryl Kirk, Dolores Lamberson, Andy Pitock, Matt Reeser, Rick Seaberg, Carolyn Vazquez, Jim Zidek, and the Glass Court staff.

Thank you also to Janet and Joe Eminger for the Little Debbie snacks; Dave Milazzo for the great ice cream from Mitchell's; Claudia Torres for cupcakes and goodie bags; Luz Lopez for chocolate covered strawberries, and Norma Sanchez for cookies.

-- Geoff Peters

continued on page 24

2018 USA Racquetball Regional Championships continued from page 23



Men's 50+ Gold -- Alok Mehta



Double medalists Matt Reeser, Susan Mueller, and Jim Zidek



"Partner Partner" Eric Jensen, Andy Pitock (Common Denominator), and Cheryl Kirk



Men's A/B Doubles winners Jake Ryan and Dave Singer

continued on page 25

2018 USA Racquetball Regional Championships continued from page 24

RESULTS | 2018 USA Racquetball Regional Championships

*Division/#: First; Second; Semifinals***Men's Open (11):** Keith Minor; Eugene Coyle; Clint Hickman, Andrew Gleason (IA)**Men's AA (1):** Frank Wrobel**Men's Elite Group 1 (3):** Sara Jeys (IA); Matthew Nuttall (IN); Ed Esparza**Men's Elite Group 2 (3):** Alcides Gutierrez; Andrew Gleason (IA); Nadeem Sharifuddin**Men's Elite Playoff (2):** Alcides Gutierrez; Sara Jeys (IA)**Men's A (8):** Jake Ryan; Ed Esparza; Nadeem Sharifuddin, Gallagher Garcia**Men's A Consolation (4):** Carlos Ibarra; Roberto Dunaway-Torres; Jairo Torres, Thomas Zielecki**Men's B (8):** Misael Corral; Daniel Barrera; Eugen Gheorghiu, Robert Dreger**Men's B Consolation (4):** Ernesto Reyes (MI); Rick Svabek; Jesus Lopez, Hector Herrera**Men's C (6):** Ernesto Reyes (MI); Paul Nijensohn; Stephen Lindstrom, Anurag Singh**Men's C Consolation (2):** Rick Rueger; Frederick Conforti**Men's 50+ (2):** Alok Mehta; Eugene Coyle**Men's 25A/45A Group 1 (3):** Matt Reeser; Ray Redelman; Eugen Gheorghiu**Men's 25A/45A Group 2 (3):** Anand Agarwal; Roberto Dunaway-Torres; Gallagher Garcia**Men's 25A/45A Playoff (2):** Anand Agarwal; Matt Reeser**Men's 25+A (1):** Gallagher Garcia**Men's 35+A (1):** Anand Agarwal**Men's 40+A (1):** Roberto Dunaway-Torres**Men's 45+A (3):** Matt Reeser; Ray Redelman; Eugen Gheorghiu**Men's 50+A (4):** Carlos Ibarra; Juan Martinez; Rick Svabek (3rd)**Men's 60+A (4):** Drake Deavours (IN); Platt Hill; Michael Olmsted (WI)(3rd)**Men's Age Singles B/C (4):** Paul Nijensohn; Rick Rueger; Frederick Conforti (3rd)**Men's 45+B (1):** Paul Nijensohn**Men's 55+B (1):** Rick Rueger**Men's 40+C (1):** John Esposito (AZ):**Men's 50+C (1):** Frederick Conforti**Men's A/B Doubles (7):** David Singer/Jake Ryan; James Zidek/Juan Martinez; Jairo Torres/Jerry Kee, Daniel Jaskier/ Frank Wrobel**Men's A/B Doubles Consolation (3):** Chris Choi/Richard Seaberg; Carlos Canessa/Daniel Barrera; Jesus Lopez/Misael Corral**Men's 40+ Doubles (2):** Andy Pitock/Eric Jensen; James Zidek/David Singer**Women's Open/40+ Doubles (3):** Dolores Lamberson/Susan Mueller; Carolyn Vazquez/Vickie Onesti; Barbara Vagedes/ Cheryl Kirk**Women's Open/A Doubles (1):** Dolores Lamberson/Susan Mueller**Women's 40+ Doubles (2):** Carolyn Vazquez/Vickie Onesti; Barbara Vagedes/Cheryl Kirk**Mixed Doubles Open/A/50+ (3):** Andy Pitock/Cheryl Kirk; Matt Reeser/Susan Mueller; Jairo Torres/Vickie Onesti**Mixed 50+ (1):** Andy Pitock/Cheryl Kirk**Mixed Open/A (2):** Matt Reeser/Susan Mueller; Jairo Torres/ Vickie Onesti**Junior Boys 14- (1):** Santiago Sanchez**Junior Boys 12- (3):** Axel Lopez; Jackson Jeys (IA); Erick Gutierrez**Junior Boys 10- (1):** Freddy Conforti**Junior Girls 12- (1):** Sydney Prendergast**Junior Girls 10- (3):** Lucy Jeys (IA); Montserrat Torres; Mackenzie Prendergast



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Women's Senior Masters 29th Annual Championships

January 12-14, 2018

Tucson Racquet & Fitness Club, Tucson, Arizona

Tournament Directors: Cindy Tilbury and Linda Moore

by Cheryl Kirk

Excerpts reprinted courtesy of USA Racquetball. See full article in the Spring 2018 issue of Racquetball magazine.

This largest and longest continually running event for women players in the world features a self-refereed format with plenty of court time. The round-robin format ensures play on every day of the three-day tournament. Women players competed in singles and doubles age divisions -- eight round robins, one double round robin, and three pool-play-with-playoff formats.

Sixty-seven players (ages 35-77) competed, and 39 of those entered both singles and doubles. Those individuals were promoted to "amazon status" (not the retailer) as a result. Twenty-one states were represented, and Marie Gomar from Guatemala made this an international event!

The Tucson Racquet & Fitness Club provided the perfect setting for this competition – eleven excellent courts, outstanding restaurant, full spa and workout facilities, pool, pro shop, friendly staff...what's not to love?

Much gratitude goes out to Tournament Directors Cindy Tilbury and Linda Moore and to WSMRA Tournament Committee members Terry Rogers, Meri Jean Kelley, and Paula Sperling. Volunteers Lois Palmer, Carrie Reitmeier, Brent Johnson, Nidia Funes, and Carol Gellman helped ensure a smooth-running event.

Team Illinois

Eleven Team Illinois players enjoyed the camaraderie, the competition, and a brief respite from the cold back home. We are proud that we continued our streak of bringing the most players to this event. California and



Team Illinois Traveled to Tucson!

Arizona followed with eight and seven, respectively. Check out Team Illinois results...

Margaret Hoff - WD 65+ w/Karen Peterson AZ

Pauline Kelly - WS 75+ (1st), WD 75+ w/Marquita Molina CA

Cheryl Kirk - WS 60+, WD 55+ w/Pat Thieman NM

Nancy Kronenfeld - WD 65+ w/Diana Matthews NE (1st)

Pat Kwasigroch - WS 60+

Dolores Lamberson - WD 55+ w/Susan Mueller

Patricia Moser - WD 65+ w/Barbara Vagedes

Susan Mueller - WS 55+, WD 55+ w/Dolores Lamberson

Barbara Vagedes - WS 65+, WD 65+ w/Patricia Moser

Julianne Valentino - WD 55+

Brenda White - WS 65+, WD 65+ w/Renee Fish FL (SF)

For full results, visit <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=21574>.

-- Cheryl Kirk



Photo courtesy of WSMRA

WSMRA Players - 67 Strong!

2018 National Doubles Championships

**Arizona State University, Sun Devil Fitness Center
Tempe, Arizona
February 7-11, 2018**

Stats

players 343
men 254
women 89
divisions -- 59

US Team Qualifying Singles

Rhonda Rajsich (AZ) def.
Kelani Bailey (VA) -- Forfeit

Rocky Carson (CA) def. Charlie
Pratt (FL) -- 15-5, 13-15, 11-7

US Team Qualifying Doubles

Kelani Bailey (VA)/Sharon
Jackson (GA) def. Rhonda
Rajsich (AZ)/Sheryl Lotts (OH)
-- 15-10, 11-15, 11-8

Rocky Carson (CA)/Sudsy Monchik (MN) def. David "Bobby"
Horn (CA) and Mauro Daniel Rojas (CA) -- 15-14, 15-8

Team Illinois Divisions and Results

Jeffrey Hill Men's 40+B w/Jake Ryan (Silver), Men's B w/Jake
Ryan

Brent Huff Men's Elite w/Walter Ramos, Jr. CA (Gold), Mixed
35+ w/Rebecca Bowman IN (Silver), Mixed Elite w/Laura Goo
AZ (Bronze)

Cheryl Kirk Women's 50+A w/Susan Mueller (Silver), Women's
A w/Susan Mueller (Pewter)

Keith Minor Men's 40+ w/Jeff Stark CA (Silver), Men's 45+ w/
Jeff Stark CA (Gold), Men's Centurion Open/Elite w/Jeff Stark
CA (Silver)



*Stephanie Bankes' racquet connected with
Susan Mueller's head! Everyone's okay!*

Cari Mory Women's 30+Elite w/Cindy Tilbury CA (Gold),
Women's Elite w/Cindy Tilbury CA (Silver)

Susan Mueller Women's 50+A w/Cheryl Kirk (Silver), Women's
A w/Cheryl Kirk (Pewter)

Argyll Piansay Men' Centurion A w/Antonio Vazquez

Michael Reinhofer Men's 30+B w/Matthew Bond AZ (Gold),
Men's B w/Matthew Bond AZ

Jake Ryan Men's 40+B w/Jeffrey Hill (Silver),
Men's B w/Jeffrey Hill

Antonio Vazquez Men's Centurion A w/Argyll
Piansay

Team Illinois Medal Count

Gold -- 4
Silver -- 8
Bronze -- 1
Pewter -- 2

Exciting News!

We'll be back in Arizona next February for a little bit of warmth and Arizona magic. 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. A mid-winter trip to Arizona is good for the soul!

-- Cheryl Kirk



Triple Selfie -- Jake Ryan, Cheryl Kirk, Jeffrey Hill

2018 NMRA National Championships

Warren Health & Racquet Club, Warren, NJ

May 2-5, 2018

Tournament Director: Cindy Tilbury and Mike Grisz

Once you arrive at Newark's international airport and travel west for 15 minutes, you realize that the crowded East Coast stereotype isn't what New Jersey is all about. Sure, there's the Garden State Parkway and the New Jersey Turnpike (which I admit can be a little intimidating), but a trip west shows the true beauty of the state -- trees, hills, cities and towns of various sizes and ages. There's a lot of U.S. history there, and this was a fine trip to make for a lot of racquetball and a bit of sightseeing as well.

This NMRA event drew 107 players (82 men/25 women), 30 of whom competed in one division and 77 in two divisions. This equates to serious racquetball in divisions from 40+ to 85+. In racquetball, older doesn't equate to out of shape, that's for sure! These players are GOOD.

Twenty-eight states plus a player each from Canada and Guatemala made up this great group of competitors. Team Illinois was represented by Ray Redelman, Barbara Vagedes, and Cheryl Kirk:

Cheryl Kirk - Mixed 55+ w/Bob Wright IN (1st); Women's 60+ w/ Barbara Vagedes (3rd)

Ray Redelman - Men's 55+

Barbara Vagedes - Mixed 65+ w/Donald Schmitt CT (2nd); Women's 60+ w/Cheryl Kirk (3rd)

The NMRA's hospitality and special features make their tournaments a pleasure to attend: delicious meals including a very nice banquet; quality souvenir and medals; plenty of on-court action; sightseeing recommendations; gracious and hardworking volunteers; and excellent communication pre, during, and post event. I heartily recommend their events for the "over 40" crowd!

For a full look at the draws, visit: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=22262>

--Cheryl Kirk



Barb Vagedes and her partner (and more friends on the poster!)



In the parking lot...



Team Illinois in New Jersey



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180



160

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2018 USA Racquetball National Singles Championships

May 23-27, 2018
ClubSport Pleasanton
Pleasanton, California

Five Team Illinois players traveled to participate in this event that drew 221 players (180 males and 41 females). Age, skill, and age/skill divisions along with Heroes (first responder) divisions were offered.

Social events brought players together off the court, including Ladies Night Out and the Awards and Hall of Fame Induction banquet on Saturday evening. Inductees were James Hiser and Leo and Susan Klimaitis.

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

David "Bobby" Horn def. José Rojas, 15-14, 15-11

Rhonda Rajsich def. Kelani Bailey, 15-9, 15-7

Team Illinois

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

Cheryl Kirk: Mixed A Doubles with Geoff Peters

Leo Klimaitis: Men's 65+, Men's 70+

John Mason: Men's 60+, Men's 60+A (Silver)

Keith Minor: Men's 45+ (Gold), Men's 50+ (Silver)



USA Racquetball Board members in Pleasanton: Cheryl Kirk, Mike Wedel, Dan Whitley, Cindy Tilbury, Jonathan Clay, Terry Rogers

Geoff Peters: Men's 60+, Men's 60+A, Mixed A Doubles with Cheryl Kirk

Check out individual divisions and match results at <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=21878>

-- Cheryl Kirk



Rhonda Rocked!



Kirk and Peters teamed up in Mixed A

Pan American Racquetball Championships (PARC), Temuco, Chile

March 21-April 1, 2018

Excerpts reprinted courtesy of USA Racquetball. See full article in the Summer 2018 issue of Racquetball magazine.

The Pan American Racquetball Championships are significant for seeding for the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru, in 2019. A small but mighty delegation made the lengthy trip (in both time and distance) to Temuco, Chile, to represent the United States:

David "Bobby" Horn, California:
#1 Singles

Thomas Carter, Pennsylvania:
#2 Singles

Rhonda Rajsich, Arizona: #1 Singles

Janel Tisinger, California: #2 Singles

Bobby Horn/Thomas Carter:
Doubles

Rhonda Rajsich/Janel Tisinger:
Doubles

Dave Ellis, California -- Head Coach
Brent Huff, Illinois -- Team Trainer

Twelve countries competed:
Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and the United States. This is the first time this PARC event was competed in Chile since 2012 where it was held in Temuco as well.

Final Division Results (Gold, Silver, two Bronze)

Women -- **Rhonda Rajsich (USA)**, Paola Longoria (MEX), Ana Gabriela Martinez (GUA), Samantha Salas (MEX)

Men -- Carlos Keller (BOL), **David "Bobby" Horn (USA)**, Rodrigo Montoya (MEX), Andree Parrilla (MEX)

Women's Doubles -- Paola Longoria/Alexandra Herrera (MEX), Ana Gabriela Martinez/Maria Renee Rodriguez (GUA), Jenny Daza/Angelica Stefanny Barrios (BOL), Carla Muñoz/Josefa Parada (CHI)

Men's Doubles -- Rodrigo Montoya/Alvaro Beltran (MEX), Conrado Moscoso/Roland Keller (BOL), Samuel Murray/Nicolas Bousquet (CAN), Jose Daniel Ugalde/Juan Francisco Cueva (ECU)



Team USA in Temuco -- Rhonda Rajsich, Brent Huff, Thomas Carter, Janel Tisinger, Coach Dave Ellis, Bobby Horn

Overall Country Results

Women's Team - Mexico, Guatemala, **USA**, Argentina

Men's Team - Mexico, Bolivia, **USA**, Canada

Overall - Mexico, Bolivia, **USA**, Guatemala

Challenger -- United States tied for 4th in the team standings -- the team was Timothy Baghurst!

Draws are available for viewing at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qlqdiqyczwf0h8g/AACcM4Wfln3yR3vBDnfmPJTa?dl=0>

For a full account and pictorial coverage of this event, visit <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Racquetball/Features/2018/March/23/2018-Pan-American-Championships-Daily-Blogs>

-- Cheryl Kirk



**ISRA RACQUETBALL NIGHT
GUARANTEED RATE FIELD
AUGUST 8, 2018
7:10 PM**

CHICAGO WHITE SOX VS. NEW YORK YANKEES

**\$22.40 for the outfield
\$35.84 for the lower box seats**

Former Junior Team Illinois player and White Sox Executive Trevor Snyders has set up a site to purchase tickets:

<https://fevo.me/2NbBPeO>

Doug and Michelle Halverson will be leading the cheering!
Plan to wear both your White Sox gear as well as something with the ISRA/
Racquetball on it so that you will be easy to spot
when Doug wants to buy you a beer!

Be sure to livestream and post pictures from the game on the ISRA Facebook page when you attend!

SEE YOU THERE!

Your ISRA Board of Directors and the Chicago White Sox



2018-2019 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 27-29, 2018
25th Annual Summerfest Open
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

August 3-5, 2018
Windy City Outdoor Doubles
Rainbow Beach Courts
Chicago, IL
Joey Logan (773) 294-5129

August 28-September 1, 2018
34th Annual IRF World Senior Championships
Midtown Sports & Wellness
Albuquerque, NM
Gary Mazaroff (505) 321-1110

September 26-30, 2018
3 WallBall World Championships
Stratosphere Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, NV
Steve Lerner (614) 361-7162

October 3-7, 2018
24th UnitedHealthcare US OPEN
Life Time Fitness
Minneapolis, MN
Renée Gundolff (719) 635-5396

November 15-18, 2018
Turkey Shoot Open
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

November 30-December 2, 2018
NMRA Doubles Only Championship (40+)
Tucson Racquet & Fitness Club
Tucson, AZ
Cindy Tilbury cindy.tilbury@att.net,

January 18-20, 2019
30th Annual Women's Senior Masters
Championships
Athletic Society West Valley
Canoga Park, CA
Cindy Tilbury cindy.tilbury@att.net

January 25-27, 2019
ISRA State Doubles Championships
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Laurel Davis laurelmdavis1@gmail.com

Dates TBD
USAR National Doubles Championships
Tempe, AZ
Renée Gundolff (719) 635-5396

February 21-24, 2019
ISRA State Singles Championships
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Cheryl Kirk cherylkkirk@aol.com

March 14-17, 2019
Shamrock Shootout/IRT Pro Stop
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

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

All tournaments listed are sanctioned by USA Racquetball.

Illinois tournaments are highlighted in blue.

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

Mondays/Thursdays 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

\$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:

Dolores Lamberson at dolorlamberson3@att.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

2018 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, 2018.
- Deadlines are as follows:

- **Articles/Releases/Ads Due** November 30, 2018
- **Issue Publication Date** December 7, 2018
- **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:

Dolores Lamberson at
dolorlamberson3@att.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.