

RACQUETBALL



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RECAP**

**JUNIOR
NATIONALS**
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All-Americans at the National Junior Olympic Championships
Photo By: Sabath Trejo Roldan

ON THE COVER

Rocky Carson, Sudsy Monchik, Charlie Pratt, and David Horn all captured medals during the IRF World Championships
Photos By Raaj Mohan

SUBMISSIONS

Racquetball Magazine welcomes submissions from our members and readers. Propose article ideas by email to: magazine@usaracquetball.com. All submissions are subject to editing.

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USA RACQUETBALL MISSION STATEMENT

USA Racquetball, recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the National Governing Body for the sport, is committed to our members and the growth of racquetball from recreational play to international competition.

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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS & TEAM QUALIFYING

All future National Championship details remain tentative until entries are published.

U.S. NATIONAL TEAM QUALIFYING

In an effort to help ensure that the top American racquetball players have an equal and fair opportunity to qualify for the U.S. National Team, USA Racquetball adopted changes to the qualification process which began with the 2017-2018 U.S. National Team.

While the process for qualifying for doubles on the US Team is the same, the singles qualification procedure is determined by performance on a weighted scale at three selection events:

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

To learn more and for complete details, please visit: <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-racquetball/programs/team-usa>.

HAVE
NEWS?!

SEND YOUR PHOTOS AND NEWS ITEMS TO
MAGAZINE@USARACQUETBALL.COM TO
BE CONSIDERED FOR A FUTURE ISSUE.



Board of Directors...

Update!

Over the summer, the Board of Directors was busy concentrating on several exciting initiatives. Several USA Racquetball members have expressed curiosity about how the Board operates and what we've been working on. We are actively striving to communicate more routinely and timely, and you will see a lot of information being conveyed in the coming weeks and months. Please realize that while we are glad to be more transparent regarding meetings and projects in the works, we cannot share confidential information regarding personnel matters. With that said, we can share almost everything else, so here's an update!

National Events Committee: Following National Singles, we formed a National Events Committee. This group, chaired by Mike Wedel, will work to determine the best venues for our National Championships; schedule the events for 2019; and survey the membership on preferences for championships. The combination of this committee's expertise coupled with membership outreach should provide more exciting championships for all in 2019. The next project this committee will tackle is to assemble tournament directors from around the country to establish a panel of experts to provide best practices for tournament directors around the country. This includes R2 tips and tricks, hospitality and giveaways, event scheduling and formats, and, for some, how to run your first tournament. Pretty exciting to have so many ambassadors working together to grow USA Racquetball events!

Marketing Committee: Our new Marketing Committee is being driven by Board member and Athlete Representative Aimee Ruiz. This group will develop and implement initiatives and activities to drive awareness around USA Racquetball, increase engagement amongst current members, and attract new players and members. This creative group will be improving our marketing via new content and fresh approaches in our magazine and on our website and on social media. They will generate enhanced promotion of our national events and the US Team. This group will be recognizing and sharing the stories of our athletes and contributors.

Executive Director Search Committee: The Board of Directors formed this committee in early August and partnered with an experienced talent acquisition professional to serve as a consultant and lead the process toward finding a new executive director. We posted the position on numerous websites and generated 60+ applications. The top applicants participated in an email survey and were phone screened. From there, finalists met in person with our committee for a panel interview. It's been an extremely thorough process, and we should be appointing a new executive director soon.

Current Staff: Over the last couple of months, the USA Racquetball office has been managed by one staff member. I want to recognize Renée Gundolff for her commitment to USA Racquetball and for her efforts over the last few months. She has done a remarkable job, and we are lucky to have her as part of our team. If you see or speak with Renée, please tell her how much you appreciate her! Thank you, Renée!

US Open: Doug Ganim has done another amazing job this year organizing and preparing for the US OPEN. We are so lucky to have him at the helm of this incredible event. The US OPEN is a remarkable spectacle that you have to see to believe! Thanks to all of the sponsors and volunteers who support this event and make it possible. The entire Board of Directors will be volunteering at the US OPEN. If you see any of us, please don't hesitate to reach out and talk with us. We serve on the Board as advocates of the members, and we are here to help.

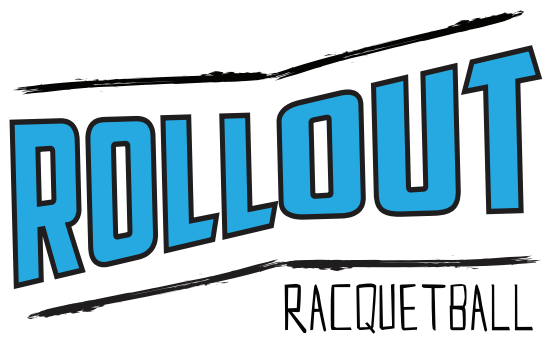
WOR: Greg Lewerenz, Mike Coulter, Vic Leibofsky, Hank Marcus, Aimee Ruiz, and I have been meeting to work to ensure that USA Racquetball can help sustain the phenomenal culture of the outdoor racquetball community and enhance support for outdoor racquetball championships. USA Racquetball is proud to support the 3WallBall Sports Festival this September. Outdoor racquetball provides limitless options to grow our sport, and this event in particular is a true outdoor showcase. Mike Coulter and 3WallBall have brought together USA Racquetball, WOR, the IRT, the LPRT, and the MRF for a one-of-a-kind outdoor racquetball championship!

Collegiate Committee: This committee is active again! Thanks to Brendan Giljum and Rob Van Schalkwyk for helping drive this initiative. They are committed to getting more players participating at Intercollegiate Nationals and growing the number of college racquetball teams and players. If you know of any schools that could use help starting a program, or if you would like to start a program at your school, do not hesitate to reach out to Brendan and Rob.

Membership Committee: Board member Scott Fish is the chairperson for this committee. They are looking at ways to grow numbers via enhanced membership value, membership options, and support for state associations. This group is exploring the possibility of getting state association board members to form a subcommittee to provide support to developing state associations. Communication between states and connecting people is critical to assisting state boards with their challenges. Scott is also working with R2 Sports to provide more reports and analytics for each state to help them retain and grow their membership base and promote event sanctioning. This committee has a lot on its plate. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Scott.

What's up next? USA Racquetball needs to establish a format for junior racquetball programs that is replicable around the country. There are exceptional programs in California, Oregon, and Missouri that can be replicated and put "in a box" for others to experience the benefits of their best practices. Junior programming is one of the best ways to build the next generation of players and US Team members. If a format or curriculum can be provided, it makes it that much easier for racquetball ambassadors to implement and get rolling. This also grows the number of racquetball coaches. The USAR Board of Directors look forward to leading and partnering with state associations and other interested entities to spearhead the growth of junior racquetball in the United States.

Thanks for your interest in the work of the USA Racquetball Board of Directors!



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Donations of \$100 or more, made in 2018 to the TEAM USA CHALLENGE, will be matched by the group of generous Team Benefactors at right, who have each pledged up to \$2,500 to support the cause. With your support, the USA Racquetball family can raise more than \$30,000 for your U.S. National Teams!

TEAM USA CHALLENGE BENEFACTORS

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Under the TEAM USA CHALLENGE, donations will be used to support direct travel costs of U.S. Junior and Adult National Team Members.

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Juniors Compete in Des Moines

2018 USA Racquetball National Junior Olympic Championships

Presented By: Penn & Catch Des Moines

By Cheryl Kirk

The 2018 USA Racquetball National Junior Olympic Championships were held in Des Moines, Iowa, June 20-24, 2018. Over 140 junior players from 22 states attended this event that was competed at the Wellmark YMCA in Downtown Des Moines. These young athletes vied for coveted spots on the U.S. Junior National Team that will represent the United States at the 2018 IRF World Junior Championships in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, in November.

The Wellmark YMCA was the perfect place for the National Junior Olympic Championships. The clean and modern facility boasts a new Olympic-sized pool, superior machines and weight room, basketball courts, and last but certainly not least, eight excellent racquetball courts. The staff could not have been nicer and more helpful.

This Junior event is run in Olympic format to ensure players get to compete in at least three matches in their respective age divisions. Players begin in the Gold section of their divisions but drop down to Blue, Red, or White based on which round they lost. Medals are awarded in each of these divisions. Parents and coaches beamed with pride as players received their medals and had their pictures taken in front of the championship banner.

The Girls 18 & Under Singles Gold division semifinals was highlighted by veteran US Junior Team members Briana Jacquet (TX), Nikita Chauhan (CA), and Graciana Wargo (FL), and joined by Elyse Duffié (MO). Briana and Nikita advanced to the finals where Briana took the gold, 13-15, 15-1, 11-4.

In the Girls 18 & Under Doubles, the three-team round robin was a three-way tie, as close as it gets. Hannah Carver and Megan Carver (WA) won the gold and a spot on the US Junior Team. Elyse Duffié/Erin Slutsky (both of MO) and Briana Jacquet/Graciana Wargo took silver and bronze respectively.

In the Boys 18 & Under Singles Gold division, a field of 24 was narrowed down over the course of the week to semifinalists Ricardo Diaz (CA), Dane Elkins (CA), Dylan Pruitt (MD), and Cayden Akins (TX). In the final, it was Diaz over Elkins, 15-6, 15-3.

The Boys 18 & Under Doubles saw Elkins and Diaz as a team vs. Lucas Shoemaker (IA)/Michael Fornero (IL) and David Marsden (TX)/Micah Farmer (TX) vs. Julian Singh (CA)/Sahil Thakur (CA). Elkins/Diaz defeated Marsden/Farmer in the finals, 15-7, 15-3.



Left: Girls Just Wanna Have Fun!

Photo By Leo R. Vasquez

Below: Cheryl Kirk, Jean Harbeck, Dan Horner, Tyler Peterson, Justin

Reichter, & Don McCormick

Photo By Sabath Trejo Roldan



The excitement didn't stop with the Boys and Girls 18 & Under divisions as the 16-, 14-, 12-, 10-, and 8- divisions saw intense action as well.

The Brothers Thakur (Sahil and Krish, CA) did plenty of damage. Sahil not only took the bronze with Julian Singh in the Boys 18-Doubles, he captured the 16- Singles and teamed up with Krish to win the 16- Doubles. Krish was a semifinalist in the 14- Singles as well. Timmy Hansen (FL) won the 14- Singles and partnered with Andrew Gleason (IA) for gold in the 14- Doubles.

Over on the girls' side, Annie Roberts (OR) won the 16- Singles and the 16- Doubles (with Nikita Chauhan, CA). Veteran US Junior Team members Heather Mahoney (CA) and Julia Stein (PA) battled it out in the 14- Singles with Heather claiming the gold. Heather and Julia won the 14- Doubles together (three-team round robin), never dropping a game.

So, the division winners and runners-up in the 18-, 16-, and 14- comprise the US Junior World Cup Team, and those in the 12- and 10- have earned their spots on the US Junior Esprit Team. It's on to the IRF World Junior Championships in San Luis Potosí, November 3-10, 2018!

USA Racquetball would like to thank our generous sponsors who helped provide such a great experience for all players: Penn, Catch Des Moines, Rollout Racquetball, Smitty's, Jimmy John's, Long John Silver's, Chick-Fil-A, Hop-A-Lot Rentals, XTream, Iowa Neurology Research, Ashworth Awards, Red Iron Brand Solutions, RockTape, and Ashaway Racket Strings.

We also offer up much gratitude to the parents and families of the players who contribute time and resources so that the kids can have this experience. They provide memories for life.

Special recognition goes to the Local Organizing Committee - Dan Horner, Don McCormick, and their fabulous team of Iowa volunteers - who were as organized and efficient and hardworking as any we've ever experienced. One example of many: when it was time to "tear down" at the conclusion of the event on Sunday, two white boards listed all of the many tasks that were needed to morph the players' village back into basketball courts. No one needed to continually direct the volunteers on what to do next; the volunteers looked at the white boards, did what was needed, and erased them line-by-line. It was so well done.

A great time was had by all in Des Moines, and USA Racquetball looks forward to seeing many of these competitors and families next year (location and date to be announced soon)!



Above: 18 & Under Singles Champions Briana Jacquet & Ricardo Diaz

Photo By Leo R. Vasquez

Below: Checking out the drawsheets

Photo By Leo R. Vasquez

Right: Coaches Jen Meyer, Jody Nance, & Charlie Pratt

Photo By Don McCormick



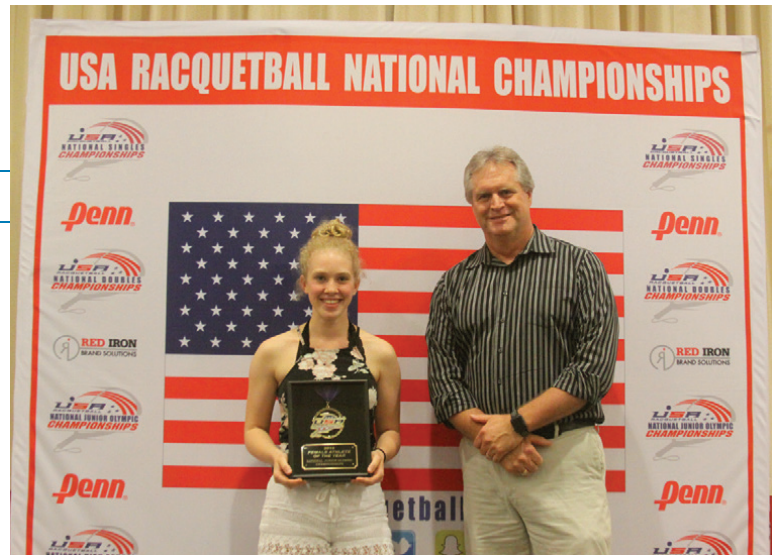
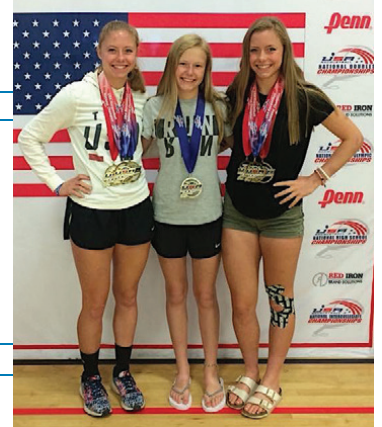


	BOYS SINGLES		GIRLS SINGLES	
	Champion	Runner-Up	Champion	Runner-Up
18 & Under	Ricardo Diaz	Dane Elkins	Briana Jacquet	Nikita Chauhan
16 & Under	Sahil Thakur	Cayden Akins	Annie Roberts	Erin Slutzky
14 & Under	Timmy Hansen	Nikhil Prasad	Heather Mahoney	Julia Stein
12 & Under	Nikhil Prasad	Benjamin Horner	Ava Kaiser	Kareena Mathew
10 & Under	Eshan Ali	Ace Akins	Lillian Ford-Crimi	Alexis Guiraud
10 & Under DB	Gael Trejo	Cooper Briggs	Ishika Prasad	Mehar Julka
8 & Under	Ashton Guiraud	Caleb Marshall	Alea Guiraud	Aarya Shetty
8 & Under MB	Ayan Sharma	Cooper Briggs	Enya Sharma	Natalia Canchola

	BOYS DOUBLES		GIRLS DOUBLES	
	Champions	Runners-Up	Champions	Runners-Up
18 & Under	Dane Elkins/Ricardo Diaz	David Mardsen/Micah Farmer	Hannah Carver/Megan Carver	Elyse Duffié/Erin Slutzky
16 & Under	Krish Thakur/Sahil Thakur	Vedant Chauhan/Josh Shea	Annie Roberts/Nikita Chauhan	Arya Cyril/Esha Cyril
14 & Under	Andrew Gleason/Timmy Hansen	Vedant Chauhan/Josh Shea	Julia Stein/Heather Mahoney	Arya Cyril/Esha Cyril
12 & Under	Gatlin Sutherland/Nikhil Prasad	Benjamin Horner/Krish Maini	Ava Kaiser/Kareena Mathew	Ava Naworski/Sonia Shetty
10 & Under	Ace Akins/Eshan Ali	Ashton Guiraud/Nathan Rykhus	Mollie Hansen/Jordan Ellis	Elizabeth Denler/Lillian Ford-Crimi

	MIXED DOUBLES	
	Champions	Runners-Up
18/16 and Under	Taylor Shaw/Dane Elkins	Alondra Canchola/Julius Ellis
16 and Under	Camila Gomez/Cody Elkins	Ava Kaiser/Joseph Marshall
14 and Under	Alondra Canchola/Julius Ellis	Hudson Farmer/Lily Caldwell
12 and Under	Angel Eden Galvan/Sonya Shetty	Adrian Perez/Advait Kartik
10 and Under	Jordan Ellis/Nathan Rykhus	Ace Akins/Ashlyn Carver

For complete results visit: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=21877>



2018 USA RACQUETBALL JUNIOR ALL-AMERICANS

Cayden Akins
 Ace Akins
 Eshan Ali
 Alondra Canchola
 Megan Carver
 Hannah Carver
 Nikita Chauhan
 Vedant Chauhan
 Arya Cyril
 Elizabeth Denler
 Shane Diaz
 Ricardo Diaz
 Elyse Duffié
 Dane Elkins
 Jordan Ellis
 Lillian Ford-Crimi
 Angel Galvan
 Andrew Gleason
 Alexis Guiraud
 Ashton Guiraud
 Mollie Hansen

Timmy Hansen
 Benjamin Horner
 Briana Jacquet
 Ava Kaiser
 Heather Mahoney
 Krish Maini
 Kareena Mathew
 Ava Naworski
 Nikhil Prasad
 Dylan Pruitt
 Annie Roberts
 Nathan Rykhus
 Josh Shea
 Sonya Shetty
 Erin Slutzsky
 Julia Stein
 Gatlin Sutherland
 Krish Thakur
 Sahil Thakur
 Gael Trejo
 Graciana Wargo



Top: Hannah, Ashlyn, & Meghan Carver

Photo By Leo R. Vasquez

Middle: Annie Roberts & USA Racquetball Vice President Mike Wedel

Photo By Don McCormick

Right: Selfie Time!

Photo By Sabath Trejo Roldan



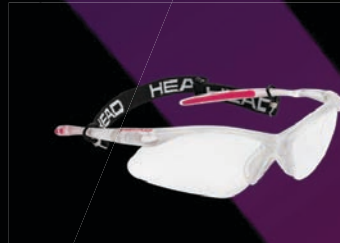
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2018 USA National Junior Training Camp

Article & Photos By Renée Gundolf

Team members and alternates of the 2018 Junior National Team were invited to attend the Junior National Team Camp in Colorado Springs in July to prepare for the IRF World Junior Championships. Staying at the Hotel Elegante', the Junior Team trained at the Pikes Peak YMCA and the United States Olympic Training Center.

The fifteen athletes who attended were put through an intense daily regimen beginning with morning practice at the Pikes Peak YMCA in downtown Colorado Springs. They also participated in other training exercises including a three-mile evening run around Prospect Lake at Memorial Park, morning stretching and yoga, a spin cycle class led by Team Trainer Jody Nance, and a day of conditioning at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. The coaching staff -- Head Coach Charlie Pratt, Jody Nance, and Robert Collins -- provided excellent training that emphasized mental preparedness. Players attended lectures facilitated by the coaching staff each evening.



US Junior Team attendees were Cayden Akins (Texas), Hannah Carver (Washington), Megan Carver (Washington), Ricardo Diaz (California), Elyse Duffié (Missouri), Dane Elkins (California), Andrew Gleason (Iowa), Timmy Hansen (Florida), Heather Mahoney (California), Annie Roberts (Oregon), Nikhil Prasad (California), Erin Slutzky (Missouri), Julia Stein (Pennsylvania), Krish Thakur (California), and Sahil Thakur (California). Ricardo Diaz of Stockton, California, and Annie Roberts of Gresham, Oregon, were elected Team Captains by their fellow team members, while Dane Elkins was named the Camp MVP by the coaching staff.



“It was actually a tough choice for MVP, with so many deserving players. They all worked hard, listened well, and asked great questions,” Coach Charlie said as the coaches discussed who would receive the honor. “In the end, the coaches were most impressed with Dane’s work ethic,” said Coach Charlie. “He took the feedback and instruction well and served as a great example for his fellow teammates.” The Team Captains and Camp MVP were honored at the Team dinner which was held at Whirlyball.

Coach Charlie had this to say about the Team after camp: “I came to this camp for seven years, and coming as a coach is a totally different story. More than anything, it’s a lot of fun being around the Team and the camaraderie. We showed them some off-court workouts at the Olympic Training Center. There was a lot of racquetball this time -- a lot! Last year we did a good number of workouts, but this year the kids really wanted to play. This year’s team is very athletic. Our biggest takeaway was how athletic they already are. We easily spent 12 hours over the four days on the courts. Everyone worked so hard; it’s their competitive nature. We have a lot of athletes and hard workers. As a coach, you can’t ask for much more of your players than to give everything they have, and everyone did!”

USA Racquetball thanks the local restaurants that provided meals to the US Junior National Team Camp: WhichWich, Pita Pit, Jimmy John’s, Texas Roadhouse, and Qdoba. Thank you to the local business Intermodal Interventions, Inc. that sponsored the Team dinner.

To support the Team in their quest to bring home gold, please consider a donation to the Team USA Challenge at www.usaracquetball.com/donate. Donations provide direct athlete funding.

2018 WORLD TEAM ROSTER CUP

Cayden Akins	Dane Elkins	Erin Slutzky
Ricardo Diaz	Andrew Gleason	Julia Stein
Hannah Carver	Timmy Hansen	Krish Thakur
Megan Carver	Heather Mahoney	Sahil Thakur
Elyse Duffié	Annie Roberts	Graciana Wargo

2018 ESPRIT TEAM ROSTER CUP

Ace Akins*	Lillian Ford-Crimi*	Kareena Mathew*
Eshan Ali*	Elizabeth Denler*	Nikhil Prasad*
Brandon Ausucua	Benjamin Horner*	Sonya Shetty
Renata Ausucua	Ava Kaiser*	Gatlin Sutherland*

The World Cup and Esprit Cup Team Rosters list the athletes who will be representing Team USA at the upcoming IRF World Junior Championships in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. *Denotes Point Earners



USA RACQUETBALL

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Racquetball Movers and Shakers

Elaine Dexter and Nikita Chauhan -- Promoting Racquetball in Northern California

By Cheryl Kirk

The trip to the USAR National Singles Championships this past May in Pleasanton, California, inspired this dual-sided feature about two special people who are caretakers of racquetball in different but complementary ways at ClubSport Pleasanton.

The bridge between being a USAR Ambassador/Facility Partner on paper and the reality of making things happen at a club is one that is built through hard work, coordination, attention to detail, and, most importantly, constant positive connection with current and future players. Clubs that make an investment in someone with the skills and passion to create and maintain strong court sports programs have the very best chance of creating something very special for their members.

ELAINE DEXTER -- PROGRAMMER EXTRAORDINAIRE



Elaine Dexter

Elaine Dexter personifies the phrase “Programming is Everything.” The more I spoke with her, the more impressed I became with the attention and effort she devotes to growing racquetball, handball, and paddleball at ClubSport. Supporting all three sports are critical to court usage, i.e. keeping courts from being re-purposed to other (non-playable) uses. It seems like clubs with courts can choose a downward spiral or an upward spiral; Elaine gives an excellent example of how to create the latter -- something that must happen across the country to save courts and keep racquetball alive for the next generation of players.

How many years have you been a racquetball instructor/director? I began a junior racquetball program at my previous club, Schoeber’s Athletic Club, in the mid 90’s. Once I began instructing junior players, I felt I needed certification so I took the course available at that time which was PARI. It was a weekend course and the clinician was Fran Davis. Schoeber’s was a “real” racquetball club, originally with 15 courts reducing to eight when it finally closed its doors. This club was located less than five minutes from ClubSport Pleasanton. How great that would have been to have two clubs with plenty of courts within five minutes of each other! Once moving over to ClubSport Pleasanton, I became certified through AmPRO. This last year both Ken Stone (my husband

and fellow instructor) and I became USAR-IP certified in order to coach at the IRF World Juniors in Minneapolis.

What has kept you interested and motivated? My interest in racquetball continued to grow with all the various national and local tournaments I played throughout the years and the success I achieved in these events. I did have a very good high-level group of players to play and compete with at Schoeber’s and then subsequently at ClubSport. I do play less frequently now, and rarely in tournaments, so my interest has been primarily running the racquetball program at ClubSport and working with our junior players.

What does a typical day look like for you at ClubSport Pleasanton?

I give lessons many days and oversee and run all the leagues and any racquetball-related events and activities. On most weekends we hold beginning, advanced beginning, and intermediate junior clinics and practice days for the junior players. I do have other responsibilities at the club beyond the racquetball program, but my passion is for that part of my job.

What are your current racquetball programs and activities? We have ongoing leagues that are very well populated, usually seven different levels of singles and two levels of doubles. Our intermediate and advanced juniors also participate in our leagues. We have a challenge ladder that is popular and it is online as well as posted in the hallway. I run junior racquetball camps (beginners) in the summer, which are very popular. We hold a juniors-only tournament each year as well as an outdoor tournament in the summer (we have three outdoor long wall courts.) During the year we have various socials, and at Thanksgiving we have a paddleball shootout. We do have some regular paddleball players who play throughout the year, but at the shootout many of our racquetball players who never play paddleball participate, so the event is quite successful.

How do you recruit players to participate?

Once players have participated in any activity, they are part of my distribution list, which I have categorized into many parts so I can reach members separately depending upon their interest. I offer (with Ken) a free member clinic each month on the first Tuesday evening. I bring racquets and eye guards for everyone. It is advertised at the club, and any new member is invited to attend. Also, any members who indicate any interest in our various sports programs



are sent to me via email from our sales and membership department. I contact them and meet many of them at the club where I can go over our programs in person. Many members are looking for activities for their kids, so they, too, are sent to me. Once their children become part of our junior racquetball program, I then urge parents to attend the free clinic so they can learn the rules and something more about the game. Many parents start playing while we have junior practices and clinics. If any league or ladder players were active or semi-active and have dropped off, I contact them to see what they are currently doing at the club and also to make sure they are still members.

How do you connect with the recreational players? Most of our adult players are recreational players. They do not play tournaments but mainly participate in our member-only programs. Our leagues are large and competitive, and they are divided into groups where the players get very good games at whatever level they play. These leagues are like actual tournaments to them. Of course, we do have tournament players at our club, too, and they are aware of what is going on in California and across the country for racquetball. These players watch WRT, IRT, and LPRT online, et al., so they don't need the "push" that the new players need to stay interested in racquetball.

Do you have a racquetball staff? I run the program, and we do have a racquetball staff. Pablo Fajre works with our advanced juniors along with Carlos Contreras. Their training program is primarily for national and world attendees and includes racquetball drills, play, and strength training. Ken and I run all the junior clinics on several weekend days per month, and we work with all the beginning juniors, the advanced beginners, and the intermediate junior players. Mark (Ninja) Nomura also works part time maintaining and updating the hallway posters and racquetball signs, and managing court reservations and blocking courts for leagues and racquetball events at the club.

Have there ever been suggestions to remove courts? If so, how were you able to prevent it? There had been talk of removing court(s) when I first began working at ClubSport. I told them that I would create a successful program but would need all of the courts. We had nine when I first got there, but they were in process of removing one and had planned to remove at least two. That was halted after I pleaded my case. Since then there has been little-to-no suggestion of removing any courts, I think primarily because of our extensive junior program. Racquetball promotes and retains family memberships, which are valuable to the club. Our courts are used only for racquetball, paddleball, and handball.



Estefania Perez, Elaine Dexter, and Nikita Chauhan



Nikita Chauhan | Photo By Gallemore Photography

NIKITA CHAUHAN - TEAM PLAYER BY MULTIPLE DEFINITIONS

Nikita Chauhan, 17, has leveraged her own experience with racquetball at ClubSport Pleasanton toward making a difference to friends in her high school. She has founded the only high school club in California (to date) and plans for her brother Vedant, 14, to keep it going when she graduates and heads off for college next year.

How long have you played? How did you get started? I have been playing for about six years now. My dad, Anuj, a former squash player, introduced my brother and me to the sport as a family activity. I was apprehensive at first, but as I got to playing it was pretty fun. Ever since then, I've been playing and slowly started to play at tournaments.

What has your racquetball career looked like so far? I have been to six Junior Nationals from ages 11-16. I won the Gold for 12U and 14U singles and doubles. I won 2nd place in 16U last year and made it onto the US Junior Team. I have qualified for the US Junior Team each year for the last four years, and I have traveled to the IRF World Junior Racquetball Championships in Cali, Colombia; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; San Luis Potosí, Mexico; and Minneapolis, USA.

How has racquetball impacted your life? Racquetball has impacted my life in many ways. It has helped me manage my time better so that I can balance school, racquetball, and other commitments. It has also taught me the importance of hard work and dedication and being able to set up goals for myself and having the discipline needed to execute the process of achieving those goals. I've also learned how to take losses like forgetting the loss of a point and quickly moving on to fight for the next one. I've also learned that it's not all about the competition. My biggest takeaway from racquetball has been the experiences—the friendships and life-long memories I've made through the sport.

Tell us about the support you receive from your family, friends, and coaches. I receive limitless support from my family, friends, and coaches. I want to thank Clubsport Pleasanton for having such a nice facility (without which I wouldn't have had this opportunity) and Elaine Dexter not only for coaching me but also running a very effective racquetball program. She is tireless in her energy and enthusiasm to promote the junior program and the sport. I also want to thank other coaches - Pablo Fajre and Jim Winter-ton - for helping me become a better player on and off the court. I especially want to thank my mom Kirti, my dad Anuj, and my brother Vedant for supporting me, as well as Bobby Horn for giving tips and being so encouraging.

What about your work at your high school to form a team? I became president of the Racquetball Club at my high school and got my friends to join it, involving them with sharing responsibilities of the club with the objective of creating awareness about racquetball and encouraging others to join. My ultimate goal was to get people to learn what racquetball is and essentially take a team to the National High School Championships and have fun. Today, the club has grown to 40 members. This year, Dougherty Valley High School, San Ramon, represented at the National High School Championships in Portland and placed 11th in the nation. Currently, ours is the only high school racquetball club in California.

Tell us the story about National High Schools! Four members of the Racquetball Club went to Portland to represent Dougherty Valley High School at the National High School Championships. Kashish

Pandey, Reema Sreenivasan, Mansi Jain and I played singles and doubles, and each of us won a medal in our divisions. It was a great experience (it was my first High Schools as well). We all had a lot of fun socializing with other high schoolers from across the country. It gave us a sense of competitive pride to represent our school and bring home some medals. We can't wait to go next year!

What advice do you have for high school players who want to get friends involved and start a team? Start a club at your school and have frequent practices. Further involve the members by sharing responsibilities. I think the most important thing to keep in mind is to make sure they have fun and remember they don't have to be super good. You'd be surprised how much their games improve with just a couple practices. This increases awareness of how awesome racquetball is!

What are your longer-term racquetball goals? I want to continue playing and be actively involved in promoting racquetball by introducing new players and helping them learn about the sport. And of course, I am hoping for racquetball to be part of the Olympics soon!

How will racquetball fit into your life at college and beyond? I want to play racquetball at college, preferably one with a good racquetball program, but if it doesn't have one, I'd like to create one there. I want to continue playing as an adult and compete at other National tournaments.



Dougherty Valley High School Racquetball Team
Kashish Pandey, Reema Sreenivasan, Nikita Chauhan, and Mansi Jain

Ashaway Extends Special Offer to USA Racquetball Members

Buy One Set of Ashaway's new MultiKill® 17, Get One Free. Good Until Year End 2018

By Steve Crandall
Vice President, Ashaway Sales & Marketing

Ashaway Racket Strings has extended a special offer to members of USA Racquetball. From now through the end of 2018, members who buy one set of Ashaway's new MultiKill® 17 string can get a second set free. Recently introduced, MultiKill 17 is a polyurethane (PU) based, multifilament nylon string designed to add toughness and durability for players who like to really cut and spin the ball.

"As the Official String of USA Racquetball, we are delighted to be able to make this offer to USAR members," said Ashaway's Steve Crandall, "and to spread the word about our innovative new PU-based string. Give the free set to a friend, string an extra racquet, save it for a Christmas stocking. We're even including free shipping."

MultiKill 17 is the first Ashaway string to utilize the company's innovative polyurethane-based technology. The string combines a high tenacity multifilament nylon sheath with a specially formulated polyurethane resin that bonds the string into a single matrix. This gives the string added strength, especially on off-center hits near the edge of the frame, and it improves tension holding ability. The natural adhesive properties of the polyurethane surface adds grip while the 17-gauge construction maximizes power. At the same time, the string retains nylon's soft feel and comfortable playability.

This offer is only available directly from Ashaway Racket Strings. For more information, email info@ashawayusa.com or call 1 (800) 556-7260 with your USAR membership number.

Ashaway's MultiKill 17 strings are black in color and 1.25 mm in diameter. They come in 40 ft. individual packages or 360 ft. reels. Recommended string tension is up to 40 lbs.



National Masters Racquetball Association Announces Reduced Entry Fees By NMRA President Cindy Tilbury

Although our three NMRA tournaments per year are not like usual local weekend tourneys, we have potential players who look at our entry fees and decide not to play. If they have not played in our events, they aren't sure they will get the full value from an NMRA event. After they try us, it is a different story. Despite all that, we wanted first-timers to feel comfortable trying our all-round-robin, self-refereed, four-day events ... so we are offering something new!

We lowered the entry fees. They are now \$85 for the first division and \$25 for the second, and we are still offering our 80+ players complimentary entry fees. This does not cover our costs, which include a banquet dinner, court rental, a great jacket or souvenir, and great food all weekend. How do we do it? We have some of the greatest, most generous sponsors in racquetball who support our vision of offering top-quality events for 40+ players. Without them, this action would be creating financial problems for us.

We now hope that local players and traveling players will no longer have an excuse to skip our special brand of tournaments and that they will join the NMRA family of 40+ players. The next two events appear below, and then we are working to get back to the East Coast:

- November 30-December 2, 2018, in Tucson, Arizona. Doubles only divisions, Friday/Saturday/Sunday.
- Late March 2019 in San Antonio, Texas*. Singles and doubles divisions, Wednesday through Saturday. (*This is tentative until agreements are signed.)

Please contact me with questions at 303.888.4461 (text or voice) or via email at cindy.tilbury@att.net. We hope to see you at an NMRA event very soon!

Recap: Warren, New Jersey - In May, the NMRA had its first-ever tournament at the Warren Health & Racquet Club in Warren, New Jersey, where local contact Jonathan Clay eased our path to make this happen with the club and local suppliers. There were almost 50 first-time NMRA players, including former pros Todd O'Neil and Dottie Fischl Kelly. Many of our 2011 Allentown players came across the border to join us again for some great competition and camaraderie. The weather was beautiful after a tough spring and winter in the Northeast. We hope to be back again in the next few years to take advantage of the great courts and the proximity to New York City. Thank you to all of our sponsors in the area—especially BMCLogo.com for the donated gym bags and HEAD/Penn for the balls and giveaways that enabled us to raise \$2,500 for junior racquetball causes in the area. Peggy Prentiss worked tirelessly to round up local grocery stores and banks to become donors. Warren Health & Racquet Club is a rare gem, and we are so lucky to now include it on our list of NMRA host venues. Thanks to all of the players and sponsors who supported our Spring 2018 Championships!



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

XIX IRF World Racquetball Championship, San José, Costa Rica



By Cheryl Kirk | US TEAM LEADER

The US Team arrived in Costa Rica two days before competition began and commenced on a whirlwind of practices and meetings that included a US Team meeting, a drug-testing educational session, and opening ceremonies.

Pat Ellis, who we firmly agreed is Dave's exponentially better half (Dave thinks so, too), was with us as Team Mom. Sudsy's wife Veronica Sotomayor and sweet little Juliana (4 months) were there also, with the interesting and cool twist that Veronica was competing for her home country of Ecuador. Juliana (aka Jules) appeared to take the middle road and seemed happy for both parents as they logged wins. Smart kid...

Also joining the delegation as US Team cheerleaders were Ceci Pratt (Charlie's wife), Deb Pratt (Charlie's mom), Debra and Tommy Nichols (Sudsy's sister and brother-in-law), Kara Keegan-Nichols (Sudsy's niece and goddaughter), Lorena Malo (Sudsy's mother-in-law), and Kelly North (great guy and avid racquetball fan from Ohio).

A Proud and Solemn Moment for Team USA

Tim Prigo wrote an IRT article in the Spring issue of *Racquetball* magazine where he described a very special event, The John Pelham Memorial Pro Kennex Tournament of Champions at the Multnomah Athletic Club (MAC) in Portland, Oregon. John Pelham was a 22-year-old Army specialist serving a tour of duty in Afghanistan when he made the ultimate sacrifice for his country in February 2014. He was a racquetball player from Beaverton, Oregon, who, just five days before his death, posted on social media, "I can't wait to play racquetball again." Following his death, John's father, Wendall Pelham, took up the spirit of activism and service that had fueled his son's life. Wendall created the non-profit Live Like John Foundation to raise awareness for Gold Star Families and to help returning veterans adjust to civilian life.

US Team Member Charlie Pratt won that tournament. At the team meeting Thursday morning, Charlie brought red, white, and blue wristbands for everyone in memory of John Pelham. The wristbands bear the message Live Like John, 11/9/1991 - 2/12/2014. The Team was honored to wear their wristbands throughout the tournament and to create a photo in memory of John.



XIX IRF World Racquetball Championship San José, Costa Rica

US Team and Staff

David "Bobby" Horn, California: #1 Singles
Charlie Pratt, Florida: #2 Singles
Rocky Carson, California/Sudsy Monchik,
New York: Doubles

Rhonda Rajsich, Arizona: #1 Singles
Sheryl Lotts, Ohio: #2 Singles
Rhonda Rajsich/Sheryl Lotts: Doubles

Dave Ellis, California -- Head Coach
Brent Huff, Arizona -- Team Trainer
Cheryl Kirk, Illinois -- Team Leader

Setting the Stage

There were 18 countries participating at the IRF Worlds -- Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, USA, and Venezuela.

A total of 34 men and 26 women competed in singles and doubles divisions. The format was round robin/pool play for the first three days, the results of which created the seeding for the main rounds that began on Wednesday of the second week.

Wrapping Up the First Phase

After long days in the club, Dave's nightly routine was to sit down to write an account of what had transpired that day for the Daily Blog. Before the team dinner on Monday night (8/13/18), he provided this account:

"Six matches today for Team USA and so happy we had six wins. Bobby Horn started us off early this morning with a match against Moon Gyun Kim from Korea. The Korean player was tough in the sense that he was able to get to a lot of Bobby's shots and then do something with them. Bobby kept him on the move throughout and in the end proved to be too tough with scores of 15-7, 15-4. Bobby was really anxious to play today after getting a bye yesterday.

"Rhonda Rajsich drew Naomi Wakimoto from Japan. Rhonda was way too much and won easily by scores of 15-2, 15-3. After the match, the Japanese contingent presented her with a decorative fan, and Rhonda later used it to help cool off Charlie Pratt during one of his timeouts.

"Speaking of Charlie, our #2 singles player drew Venezuela's Luis Felipe Zea. They played on court 6, known for its strange lighting as the right side wall faces outside with a slightly translucent shield covering the right side wall, and the floor is completely white (as are the walls and ceiling). Charlie dominated his earlier matches, and the first game today was no exception. In the second game, however, he had a significant lead only to experience some great shots and some perfect lob serves into the back left corner by the Venezuelan, along with a few skips by Charlie himself. All of a sudden, he was behind 12-11. Charlie then used both sides to hit well-placed nick serves that resulted in setups, allowing him to close out the match.

"Fourth up for Team USA was Sheryl Lotts. Sheryl continues to feel increasingly comfortable on the court, and it is showing throughout her play. She received one six-word instruction, 'Warm up your serves with intensity.' Our gal brought a variety of well-placed serves against her Venezuelan opponent and won easily in two games.

"Of great interest to all is the doubles team of Sidsy Monchik and Rocky Carson. The two veterans have an average age of 41, but their play reflects efforts of two twenty-five-year-olds. Sidsy's classic backhand is as it once was, a stroke that all-



Sheryl Lotts, referee German Coppolecchia, and Lilian Zea (Venezuela)
Photo By Cheryl Kirk

owed him to finish the professional tour in first place five times. Rocky continued to push forward to cover all slightly less-than-perfect kill shots by their Venezuelan opponents. The guys complement each other like "ham and eggs."

"Rhonda and Sheryl had the battle of the day with their play against a very good Korean doubles team. Mi Ok An is a strong, powerful player who is very aggressive. Jin Young Seok is stable and is a battler. Team USA won the first game, but Korea was too much in the second game. Tiebreaker at hand, and it was all USA. Sheryl got setups with tough wallpaper serves down the right side that earned five quick points. Rhonda served backhand semi-hard Z serves that came in high but not off the back wall. The left side player finally moved all the way to the left side wall to cut them off. Rhonda alertly served the ball straight at her and the adjustment paid off. Donut time as Team USA won 11-0."

Algunas Historias (Some Stories)

Dave continued in the next Daily Blog, "On Monday night, the eve of the free day, we had our traditional team dinner, and all enjoyed the delicious food provided by the Sushi restaurant near the hotel. An activity there was to tell a memorable moment relating to racquetball. Within the group of veterans on the delegation, many had trouble limiting their stories to just one. Here are just a few of the moments: Cheryl mentioned having the entire US Team Delegation watching and rooting for her during the 2017 trip to Costa Rica; Rocky winning an outdoor tournament with a good friend; Rhonda playing on an aircraft carrier during a military racquetball tournament; Sidsy going to St. Jude Children's Hospital during an early US Open; Brent defeating a player that had been an earlier idol; Charlie winning an IRT Tier 1 in his hometown; Bobby winning the US National Singles Championship with family watching; Pat executing a backhand for the first time; Sheryl winning a doubles LPRT tournament in Mexico with Rhonda."

Sudsy Monchik, Veronica Sotomayor, Pat Ellis, & Baby Juliana
Selfie Courtesy of Rocky Carson



More US Citizens/Residents at Worlds

There were a total of 19 athletes, staff, and family/guests attached to the US Delegation. There were additional folks who reside in the US at the IRF Worlds in Costa Rica as well. Among them were Luke St. Onge (IRF Secretary General), Gustavo Farell (IRF staff/floor manager), Tim and Terra-Leigh Baghurst (IRF streaming and social media support), Laura McCormick (streaming), Aaron Booker (playing for Puerto Rico), Shai Manzuri (playing for Argentina), and Alok Mehta, Yash Doshi, Thirumurugan Thiyagarajan, Sumeet Kamat, and Raaj Mohan (representing India), and J. Josey. Tom Travers and Fran Davis were there as coaches for the Guatemalan team (Tom) and Paola Longoria (Fran).

Finals Matches in San José

And suddenly it was Saturday! The finals were the culmination of seven days of competition in San José.

Results

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

Women's Team: Mexico, Guatemala, Bolivia, Argentina

Men's Team: Mexico, USA, Colombia, Bolivia

Overall Team (Combined): Mexico, USA, Bolivia, Guatemala

Men's Singles: Rodrigo Montoya (Mexico) def. Charlie Pratt (USA), 15-14, 15-9

Women's Singles: Ana Gabriela Martinez (Guatemala) def. Paola Longoria (Mexico), 8-15, 15-6, 11-6

Women's Doubles: Yasmine Sabja/Valeria Centellas (Bolivia) def. Monserrat Mejia de la Torre/Alexandra Herrera (Mexico), 8-15, 15-14, 11-2

Men's Doubles: Alvaro Beltrán/Daniel De La Rosa (Mexico) def. Rocky Carson/Sudsy Monchik (USA), 10-15, 15-9, 11-2



Rhonda Rajsich
Photo By Raaj Mohan

US TEAM RESULTS

Men's Singles – Charlie Pratt - Silver

Men's Singles - David Horn - Bronze

Men's Doubles – Rocky Carson and Sudsy Monchik– Silver

US Men's Team – Silver

US Overall Team – Silver



Players Vied for IRF Medals
Photo By Raaj Mohan

To view the preliminary rounds and the main draws for all of the divisions, visit www.internationalracquetball.com and click on Group Draws and Results.

The US Adult Team sends regards and encouragement to the US Junior Team as they prepare for the IRF World Junior Championships to be competed in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, November 3-10, 2018.

THANK YOU

The US Team Delegation wishes to deliver much gratitude to those who made this event so truly memorable:

The Local Organizing Committee, headed by Marcelo Gómez, for putting on this very successful event. The work behind the scenes to host a tournament of this magnitude is extensive. This was compounded by the fact that they had fewer than two months to pull it off. Due to an unforeseen set of circumstances, locations in China, Colombia, and Mexico fell through, leaving the IRF with no host country in the third week of June. Enter Marcelo and his group of sponsors and volunteers. They stepped forward and, in an extremely organized fashion, hosted a smooth and enjoyable event. Congratulations for a job very well done! From the hotel to the transportation, the awards, the coordination, this experience was completely first class.

Level 3 referees from seven countries were in Costa Rica to officiate all matches. The IRF has invested extensively to ensure that the athletes themselves never have to referee after playing. A warm thank you goes to German Coppolecchia (Argentina), Adrian Macrino (Argentina), Felipe Arenas (Colombia), Francisco Gomez (Colombia), Fabian Torres (Colombia/Costa Rica), Pablo Freer (Costa Rica), Andres Montero (Costa Rica), Raaj Mohan (India/USA), Ricardo "Tucky" Gonzalez (Mexico), Eleni Guzman (Mexico), Jaime Martell (Mexico), Ivan Valdez (Mexico), and Alejandro Morales (Mexico/Canada).

IRF staff members who ran the event over seven days of competition: Gustavo Farell (USA), Mauro Grandio Buzeleh (Argentina), Pablo Berriel (Argentina), and Maria de los Angeles Sarria (Colombia).

Pablo Fajre for bringing live streaming of quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals action, and Tim Baghurst and Laura McCormick for providing many hours of entertaining commentary. A shout-out goes to Terra-Leigh Baghurst who took a great many photographs including one of the Bolivian women after their win that appeared on the front page of a Bolivian newspaper!

The staff of the Hyatt Place/Pinares who were friendly, efficient, and responsive to all requests. We can't say enough about their service attitude and professionalism.

The shuttle drivers who worked many long hours transporting players back and forth between the club and the hotel in extremely challenging traffic.

The management and staff of the Indoor Club for providing a superior facility for this competition.

The Team USA cheerleaders who were there for every match, living every point as if they were out there playing themselves. In order of appearance, they were: Pat Ellis, Veronica Sotomayor and baby Juliana, Kelly North, Lorena Malo, Tommy, Debbra, and Kara Nichols, Deb Pratt, and Ceci Pratt. Loved having you there with us!

USAR Official Apparel Sponsor Rollout Racquetball (Jonathan and Carolyn Clay) -- the US Team looked great in the Rollout 2018 Team USA apparel line. Go to <http://wearrollout.com> to order what the team wears!

USA Racquetball sponsor RockTape for providing superior materials for our trainer Brent Huff to use in service to the US Team.

IRF sponsors E-Force and Gearbox who contribute significantly to these international events.

All the individuals who made contributions large and small...every bit counts! The Team USA Challenge (Team Behind the Team) on www.usaracquetball.com provides the opportunity for racquetball players to support the US Adult and Junior Teams with their participation at international competitions.

Last but not least, Renée Gundolff for her work behind the scenes to book flights and arrange insurance coverage for Team USA, and Leo Vasquez who stopped whatever else he might have been doing as soon as a blog and photos were ready for posting (even in the wee hours!).

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? -- DOTTIE FISCHL KELLY

By Aimee Ruiz



Where Are They Now? is a column in *Racquetball* magazine that features past pros from both the men's and women's tours throughout the years. What have they been up to since they stepped away from playing professionally? What do they think of today's game and the players who are currently competing?

Let's check in with Dottie Fischl, former pro player and US National Team Member.

When was your last year on tour, and what have you been up to since then?

My last year playing racquetball on tour was 1992. During my time away from racquetball, I spent a lot of time coaching and working with my kids' sports teams. I also went back to college. When my son went to Kutztown (Pennsylvania) University, he started a racquetball club that I ended up coaching. This gave me the motivation to start playing again.

Can you tell us a bit about your family? How old are your children and how do they occupy themselves?

My son Matt is 25 and a graduate of Kutztown University. He is a Pennsylvania state trooper. My daughter Erin, 23, is a graduate with two degrees from Lehigh Valley Community College. She is an administrative assistant and is also a country singer/songwriter who performs regionally on the East Coast. Erin has performed the national anthem for teams in the NBA, NHL, and MiLB, as well as other sporting events. I currently manage her career and travel with her to most of her engagements.



You recently competed at the NMRA National Championships in Warren, NJ. What was it like getting back on the court and competing?

It was so much fun getting back to the competitive part of the sport again. The longevity in our sport is amazing, and the competition in Warren was incredible. I met many players who became top competitors after I stopped playing. That was the fun part, being able to meet all these new incredible players. I really look forward to playing more tournaments in the near future.

Who was a player you looked up to when making your start on the tour?

The players I looked up to when I was beginning were Cindy Baxter, Marcy Lynch, Lynn Adams, Caryn Russell McKinney, and Fran Davis (who is incredible with her coaching and teaching abilities). Among the men, I looked up to Ruben Gonzalez, Dan Obremski, and Jim Winterton (for his knowledge of the game as a coach and player). I began playing when I was fourteen years old and teaching when I was seventeen years old. I learned a lot by observing their style, shots, knowledge, and professionalism on the court.



Do you watch any of the current women pros play, and what do you find different about the game now than when you played?

Yes, I have watched Aimee Ruiz, Cheryl Gudinas, and Jackie Paraiso-Larsson play in videos. They all have put so much time and effort into the sport. With the younger players, I notice their aggressiveness and consistency in serving. More drive serves are used, and if you don't have that perfect lob, short hopping has improved tremendously.

Is there anyone in today's game you are most impressed with or who has a game style that is similar to yours?

Among the women, I love watching and following Paola Longoria. Her speed and consistency is amazing! I am also impressed with Kelani Bailey and her abilities as she advances in her career in racquetball. I also admire Rhonda Rajsich for her tenacity and athletic ability. I have watched Aimee Ruiz since she was a little girl, and her consistent and incredible forehand and dominance in the doubles game is so impressive. With the guys, Sudsy Monchik, who I've known since he was a junior player, impresses me as well. His athletic ability and focus is amazing. Kane Waselenchuk is another incredible player to watch.

Is there anyone you still communicate with from your days on tour?

Thanks to my kids introducing me to Facebook, I have contact with many of the men and women I played with in the past. We all still support each other, cheering our kids on in their successes as they grow up and especially when losses of family members occur. I feel like we have not lost touch, and look forward to a reunion some-day.

Was there one win that sticks out the most to you in your career?

Competing and winning a gold medal at the Pan American Championships with Cheryl Gudinas was a very special moment and win. The opportunity to win a gold medal as a US National Team Member was one I will always remember.



What would you say was one of your biggest strengths on the court?

My ability to short hop from all those years of playing one-wall. I also always had a strong backhand.

Your racquetball achievements are very impressive. Which of your accomplishments meant the most to you?

I would say having been a member of the US National Team. It was an honor to represent my country.

What would you say to someone who wants to break into that next level and begin playing the pro tour full time?

Train hard, drill hard. Respect your opponents. I have learned over the years that making excuses will get you nowhere. Top professional athletes are able to come back from their losses by knowing how to train, accepting their defeats, and working

on their weaknesses. One of my weaknesses as an athlete was that I hated to lose. Once I had kids, I learned rather quickly that losses and failures are a stepping-stone to the next level.

You just have to get out there and work on the weakest part of your game to make it stronger. Looking back now, I would tell a competitor in any field that it is not always about winning -- it is more about being as good as you can be and appreciating the gift that you were given to excel. Everyone wants to be the best, but as I look back on my career, I wish I had appreciated the fact that I was able to compete at such a high level instead of being disappointed that I had not won the entire tournament.

Which do you enjoy more, racquetball or pickleball? (No pressure here!)

Now that I am sponsored by Gearbox, I am playing both sports. Racquetball is and always will be my favorite and top sport. Pickleball has helped me with some new shots in my racquetball game. It has given me more finesse, and helps with my control game. I enjoy them both!



Left: Dottie during her years on the pro tour

Photo By Leon Priole

Top Right: Dottie in back row center of DP Leach Ad

Photo By DP Leach

Right: Dottie playing outdoor racquetball

"If the three-person panel cannot agree as to what play is being appealed, then no appeal should be allowed."



By Otto Dietrich, USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner

There are a few aspects of the appeal process where the players and referees must be extra careful in addressing the line judges. When called upon, the line judges are there to simply signal whether they agree with the referee's call, disagree with the referee's call, or, perhaps, have no opinion at all (because they aren't sure or didn't see the play). Line judges need to be very attentive and the referee must be extremely careful in describing his call to ensure a correct outcome. While this generally seems like it should be a rather simple process, problems can arise.

Most calls are rather clear-cut in that they have only two alternative outcomes. For example, "My call was that Jim's last shot skipped." The line judges can easily express their opinions about the accuracy of the referee's call by visibly, but silently, signaling that with a thumb up for agreement, a thumb down for disagreement, and a palm down for no opinion. Remember to always picture the referee as always having his thumb up since he made the call being appealed. Then simply view the process as being a three-person panel where the majority carries the weight and with no majority resulting in a replay of the rally.

So far, the process seems pretty elementary. But here are some possible areas of confusion:

First, any calls that may have more than two possible outcomes such as when he calls a "penalty hinder." The three possible outcomes here are that (1) it was a "penalty hinder" or that (2) it was only a "replay hinder" or that (3) it was no hinder at all. So how can a simple hand signal be used to indicate which of the three outcomes the line judge is ruling on. A skilled referee can avoid this confusion by more clearly wording his call thusly, "My call was that it was a replay hinder rather than a penalty hinder." In that manner, it will be more evident to

the line judges about the specific call they are expressing an opinion about. Of course, a skilled line judge faced with the problem outlined above should first ask a referee who does this to clarify what his call was.

Second, a referee should only state what HIS call was and never, ever include what the appealing player thought the call should have been. For example, if



a referee were to say something like, "I called a penalty hinder, but Bob (the appealing player's opponent) thought it should be a replay hinder," it could easily create confusion. This unfortunate wording of the referee's call could produce an erroneous outcome or misunderstanding. Why? Because such a wording expresses not only the referee's call but also the appealing player's opinion and thus the line judges might be unsure about precisely what the referee wants them to agree or disagree with -- your (the ref's) call or the opponent's opinion.

And note that the opponent's opinion was the last thing heard from the referee and thus is likely the foremost idea planted in the line judges' minds. In such a situation, one or both line judges might end up putting their thumbs down to show that they each disagreed with Jim's opinion (which actually means they agreed with the referee) and therefore should have had their thumbs up instead. Seeing two thumbs down might

2018 USA Racquetball National Junior Olympic Championships
Photo By Leo R. Vasquez

cause the appealing player to think that he WON the appeal when that is probably not the proper outcome at all. The reality is that the three-person panel likely all agreed with each other, i.e. that in this case it was a penalty hinder. So, the appealing player actually LOST the appeal. Again, a skilled line judge, hearing such a poorly worded appeal, should

DO YOU HAVE A RULES/REFEREEING QUESTION?

Be sure to email it to me at ODietrich@usaracquetball.com and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of *Racquetball Magazine*. I will personally answer every question I get, no matter how simple or complex it may be!

Always Play by the Rules

... I encourage you to go online where you can find, review, and/or download them at:
teamusa.org/USA-Racquetball/How-To-Play/Rules.

first ask the referee to clarify what HIS call was.

Third, the referee must be certain that all three as well as the appealing player are addressing the very same play. If not, then the resulting decision and eventual outcome could be erroneous. I sometimes hear referees state an appeal far too broadly, saying something like, "I called all of the 'gets' during that rally as being good." So, what if one line judge thought that the player's second "get" was two bounces, but the other line judge thought that fifth "get" was two bounces? So, each would each put their thumbs down causing the appealing player to win that appeal even though a more proper outcome would have been perhaps no call at all since each of those two are obviously separate "gets," and only one of the three-person panel thought there was an error. This is the reason why players are advised to raise their off hand during the rally to denote the exact moment when something happened that they think should have been called to stop play. This allows them to more easily refer to that exact play should they opt to make an appeal after the play ends. The rules say that if the three-person panel cannot agree as to what play is being appealed, then no appeal should be allowed.

Here are a few questions and answers I recently received:

John B. wrote: I have two questions. When my mixed doubles partner and I are receiving the serve:

1. If the opponent has started the serve motion, can my partner and I trade places to receive the serve before the ball crosses the service line, short line, or receiving line?
2. If the opponent has NOT started the serve motion, can my partner and I trade places to receive the serve before the ball crosses the service line, short line, or receiving line?

I can't find a rule reference that answers either.

I responded: Actually, the receiving team in doubles can move and even stay in motion throughout the whole service mo-

tion. Some teams even receive in an "I" formation in the center of the receiving area with either partner taking whatever serve is made to them. Since there is only one person serving (like in singles), one of the receivers is generally able to return the server's serve (also like in singles). Thus, since there is no position restriction at all on the receivers, a rule addressing this can't be found anywhere in the rulebook.

Steve H. asked: When a ball is legally hit from the front wall directly to the back wall and bounces only once but then hits the front wall again before bouncing twice, can the ball be legally played off of the front wall before the second bounce?

I replied: The ball can legally be played off of the front wall, and if it isn't, you will lose that rally just as soon as the ball touches the floor a second time! By the way, this was the specific issue that stimulated my intense interest in the rules and reffing almost 40 years ago. Please read Rule 3.13(e).

Jane D. asked: My friends and I have a disagreement concerning a short serve. They say the receiving team can choose to return the short serve and put the ball in play, but I say that if the serve is short it cannot be played. Which one of us is correct?

I answered: Your friends are mistaken. A good (playable) serve must cross over the short line on the fly after touching no more than one side wall and then touch the floor before contacting the back wall. Of course, the receiver can return the ball before it bounces. Short, long, and other types of fault serves cannot be played. The rally ends as soon as they become fault serves. Always ask your friends to show you in writing any rule that you know or think to be untrue. The rulebook is always the best way to settle disagreements!

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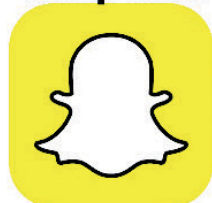
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CONTINUING THE Making of a Champion



■ By Fran Davis (The Coach) • Diana McNab (Sports Psychologist) • Dan Obremski (Fitness Expert)

Let's continue "Making You a Champion" using the core principles of "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" as you build your championship racquetball game one assessment at a time.

In this issue I am going to discuss "Journaling," a concept people ask me about all the time.

I can't stress enough how important it is to have a journal as it helps you keep track of what you are doing both in your practices and in your tournaments/leagues. This helps you accomplish your objective of improving your game as it keeps you focused and on task.

There are two types of journals I recommend keeping:

1. A journal of your training
2. A journal of your tournaments/league play

First of all, what is a journal? A journal is keeping precise records of what is going on, how you performed, and how you felt before/during/after your training session or your tournament. Most people are familiar with doing this type of exercise because they have kept diaries all their lives at home (which is just another form of a journal) or have had to keep journals for school or logs for work.

The reason why you want to keep a racquetball journal is so you can re-create successes and minimize failures. Let's look at a few examples:

A. Training Schedules

1. If you won a tournament or performed well at an event, you can train EXACTLY the same way you trained prior to that event...letting history repeat itself.
2. Conversely, if you lost at a tournament or performed poorly, you can change or adjust your training accordingly so that history does not repeat itself.

B. Tournament/League Play

1. If you won a match or performed well during a match, you could jot down your opponent's strengths and weaknesses and what you did that worked or didn't work and use it to re-create another victory.
2. If you lost a match or performed poorly during a match, you could also jot down your opponent's strengths and weaknesses and look at what worked or didn't work and see where you could adjust.

Keeping a racquetball journal will take your game to another level. Just ask some of the top pros like Paola, Rocky, Jason or Sudsy, to name a few. They all keep some form of records (a journal), and some are more detailed than others. There is no way the pros (or you!) could remember everything that happened, so leave nothing to memory and write things down.

Now let's take a quick look at what I recommend in these two journals:

A. Training Journal - Days, times, duration, results, and how you felt during:

1. Drilling Sessions



Rocky Carson, Fran Davis, and Paola Longoria at the IRF World Championships
Photo Courtesy of Rocky Carson

2. Aerobic & Anaerobic Workouts
3. Footwork Drills
4. Nutrition
5. Mental Skills

B. **Tournament Journal** - Days, time, scores, results at tournament, who you played, and how you felt. Use the following eight areas for you to gather information on you AND on your opponent:

1. Stroke Mechanics
2. Court Position
3. Shot Selection
4. Serves
5. Return of Serve
6. Footwork
7. Emotional State
8. Type of Player

Fran Davis coaches Paola Longoria (8X #1 LPRT, 5X World Champion, 4X Pan American Champion, 8X US Open Champion), Rocky Carson (#2 IRT, 5X World Champion, 2X Pan American Champion, US Open Champion), and juniors Jordan Cooperrider (9X Junior National Champion and USA Junior National Team), Wayne Antone (4X Junior National Champion and USA Junior National Team), and Mitchell Turner (3X Junior National Championship and USA Junior National Team), Fran's other credentials include Hall of Fame 2004, Woman of the Year 2009, former US Team National Coach, and Master Professional (USAR-IP).

Championship Racquetball

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- Video Tape Analysis / Play the Pro
- Camp Manual/ T-Shirt / Penn Racquetballs

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- One on One Training
- Video Analysis w/Voice Over
- Training Schedules / Drilling Sessions
- Assist in Reaching Your Goals

Books

- Core Principles discussed
- Advance your skills, tactics and toughness for a winning game

Video

- Learn to vary serves / returns
- Learn the perfect strokes
- Improve shot selection/court position
- Game plans/Strategies a must

Jason Mannino
#1 Pro Player 2003

Rocky Carson
#1 Pro Player 2008
& 2018

Paola Longoria
9X #1 Pro Player

Fran's Credentials

- 30+ Years Camp Experience
- 2004 Hall of Fame
- U. S. National Team Coach 1989-1996, 2002
- Coaches Rocky Carson & Paola Longoria.
- USAR-IP Master Professional

Jason's Credentials

- #1 IRT Professional Player 2003
- 2X U.S. Open Champion
- IRT Most Improved Player 1998
- IRT Rookie of the Year 1996

2018 / 2019 Camp Schedule: Weekend Training Camps

October 19-21 Portland, OR
(Intermediate-Advanced, email me for details)
November 9-11 Fullerton, CA
January 25-27 Edmonds, WA
(Seattle, WA area)

February TBD
March 22-24 Long Island, NY
(NYC area)
April 5-7 Las Vegas, NV

May TBD
Fall/Winter TBD Dallas/Houston, TX
TBD Florida
TBD Chicago, IL
TBD Salt Lake City, UT
TBD Pennsylvania
TBD Hawaii
TBD San Francisco, CA

Week Long Training Camps

TBD SOUTHERN, CA CAMP
(w/Rocky Carson...Intermediate to Advanced Camp)

TBD MEXICO
(w/Paola Longoria . . .Intermediate to Advanced Camp)

Contact me for Dates/Locations as well as bring a camp to YOUR City/State



Fran Davis - A Healthy Racquet, Inc.
1037 NE 65th St. #343
Seattle, WA 98115
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www.FranDavisRacquetball.com

Presented by
featuring Fran Davis and Jason Mannino



PRACTICE WITH PURPOSE

By Toni Bevelock Delos Santos

We have all heard the saying, “*practice makes perfect.*” If you want to be good at anything, you have to put in the time and practice. Most players have to work full-time while juggling a family and a social life. Finding the time to devote to drilling and playing matches to get ready for a tournament is challenging. So how can you ever get better??

Well, let’s move on to the saying by legendary coach Vince Lombardi, “*Practice does not make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect.*” Instead of looking at how much time you wish you had, let’s make the most of the time that you do have. An example of this would be: your drive serve is falling short and you want your drive serve to be effective.

1. You can spend two hours working on your drive serve only to have the same thing happen next weekend, which is incredibly frustrating, **or**
2. You can spend one hour working on your drive serve and next weekend you are getting weak returns and a handful of aces, which is incredibly rewarding!

What??? Well that doesn’t make sense, let me re-read that! How is that possible? Isn’t two hours of practice better than one? What is the difference?

The **difference** lies in **THE QUESTION**. Ask yourself, “*When I am serving really well, what am I doing?*” Let’s say that the answer is, “I am dropping the ball out farther and following through with my swing.” So, instead of focusing on your serve **not going** in and getting frustrated, you are now focusing on **what it takes to serve well** consistently. The blueprint for what you are working on when you are practicing your serve has been laid out. This will make your practices more efficient, and it will also get you into the mindset of adjusting to get the results you want during the match by going toward what works when you are successful. Now, you can enjoy more free time and be able to improve your game by “**practicing with purpose!**”

About Toni: Toni Bevelock Delos Santos, former National Racquetball Champion, has an extensive background in sports and fitness. Toni has a unique gift of relating to athletes of all ages and skill levels. She partners with teams, coaches, and facilities across the nation, including Athletic Republic, Matchpoint Tennis Academy, Tony Zuniga Baseball, Winterton Racquetball, Elite Pitching Performance, Tustin Western Little League, and Orange County Nutrition Coaching. Toni is available for coaching thru FaceTime or in-office appointments. For more information on 90% Mental: <http://www.tonidellossantos.com/services/> or contact Toni at tonimentalgame@gmail.com.

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Markie Rojas

Markie Rojas

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THE MILITARY RACQUETBALL FEDERATION (MRF) CONTINUES ITS SUPPORT OF OUR ACTIVE AND DISABLED SERVICE MEMBERS

The MRF continues to bring racquetball visibility to our service members as we host demos and Racquetball Rehabilitation Clinics (RRCs) throughout the country.

Recently the MRF was invited to set up and present at the Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This allowed the MRF to show all branches of the military what we are all about. It was a unique and rewarding experience and one that will serve the MRF well as we continue our mission.

On another note, we hosted an outdoor demo for veterans at Orchard Beach, New York, in the Bronx, and an eight-week clinic will follow for veterans interested in continuing. Thanks to all our New York volunteers who helped make this a success. In addition, Malia Bailey hosted the Military Classic in Chesapeake, Virginia, for military and civilians, and a great time was had by all.

As a lead up to the MRF Championships, we hosted the MRF Warm-Ups at Fort Hood. The Tournament Director for both events is our Texas MRF liaison, JoAnna Reyes. JoAnna has volunteered her time to make both tournaments events to be remembered for years to come.

The MRF would like to give a special thank you to RacquetWorld and HEADPenn for their continued support of our events!



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THE INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR'S 2017 - 2018 SEASON



By Kelly R. Diesel
Photos Courtesy of IRT

The professional sport of racquetball is continuing to climb back into the national sports spotlight, and a major contribution of that growth is due to the International Racquetball Tour (IRT). The IRT is the largest international governing body of professional racquetball, and its 2017-2018 season just finished with some groundbreaking results.

This past IRT season made monumental steps forward in terms of both growing the sport and showcasing its athletes. The IRT was featured on the popular ESPN show, Sportscenter, on the show's "Top Ten Plays" segment. The Tour made it onto Sportscenter more than five times this past season, a daily feature that highlights the "Top Plays" in sports. Reaching prime time television and being featured on the Nation's #1 sports network is something that the sport of racquetball hasn't seen in many years.

The Tour also created more opportunities this season for the amazing athletes that dedicate their lives to this sport. The IRT increased the number of Tier 1 events from nine to 13 this past season, which created more prize money for the players. Over \$100,000 was raised in prize money this season, an amount that more than doubles the total from last year's season.

Growing prize money and opportunities for the players is something that is always difficult when it comes down to running the Tour, according to IRT Commissioner Andy Kulback. "The place we (IRT) always struggle with the most is finding more money for the players," Kulback said. "This season the Tour did a really good job reaching out to players and providing them with opportunities to play at all of the Tier 1s, gaining them more exposure and getting a lot of money together for those Tier 1s."

As the Commissioner of the Tour, Kulback hears a lot of feedback from players, fans, investors, and sponsors about their opinions on how the IRT is performing. Now that the season is over and everyone has formed their opinions, Kulback said the majority of those opinions are positive ones.

"With the feedback that I've received, I think we had a successful season," Kulback said. "The players seemed to be happy with the tournaments and prize money, investors and sponsors seemed pleased, but of course there's room for improvement."

Finding ways to make even more money for the players and improving the experience for the fans are two things Kulback would like to implement next season. IRT investor Dean Baer agrees with Kulback that there are some things the Tour could improve upon for next season.

"A personal goal of mine is to get the Tour to have a Tier 1 event outside the United States - that would be big for me," Baer said. "I represented the IRT in Costa Rica this past season, and I can't wait to get the Tour even further than we've already come!"

Exposing these great racquetball athletes to the world is what the IRT is all about, according to CEO John Scott. Putting racquetball back in the public eye and promoting the great athletes who play the game were the two goals Scott wanted to accomplish after buying the Tour. After completing his first year as the Tour's CEO for the 2017-2018 season, Scott said he knows racquetball is heading in the right direction, and it's moving fast. "This past season the racquetball community showed some great strides, and it's measurable," Scott said. "As far as viewership goes, the IRT had the highest reach that it's ever had, and the prize



IRT Commissioner Andy Kulback

money for the players has more than doubled from last season. Without these phenomenal athletes and these amazing passionate fans, we wouldn't be where we are today. With the help of our investors and sponsors, we aim to take the IRT even further in the coming years."

Scott wants to thank IRT Commissioner Kulback for his help this past season. The fans and the players are also huge recipients of gratitude from Scott, along with all the Tour's investors and sponsors throughout the years.

The 2018-2019 International Racquetball Tour season began in early August and there are already 15 Tier 1 events scheduled, two more than this past season. The professional sport of racquetball and the strong community that supports it are scaling new heights every season, and the IRT doesn't see a stopping point anytime soon.

ARBUCKLEMEDIA Joins The IRT

The Tour continues to add new partners during its off-season and is proud to announce its newest addition: Arbuckle Media.

Arbuckle Media, an award-winning digital branding and marketing agency based out of Nova Scotia, has partnered with the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) in an effort to increase the accessibility of the sport to all fans. With the help of new emerging technologies, Arbuckle Media aims to get every racquetball fan, even the ones who don't know they're fans yet, more involved in the action.

Joel Arbuckle, residing in Nova Scotia, started smaller-scale branding projects when he was in high school for some extra cash and some fun. By 2014, Arbuckle started Arbuckle Media and began working with bigger organizations on some larger-scale marketing and branding projects.

"Increasing the overall reach of the Tour to its audiences across the globe is something we want to help with," Arbuckle said. "We also want to work on finding more ways to blend the 'live' experience with the 'online' experience. We have some ideas that we'll be implementing this upcoming season."

Arbuckle Media has worked, or continues to work, with over 50 different organizations, including an American non-profit service dog organization in Texas called Patriot Paws. Patriot Paws and their partner, the Texas Rangers professional baseball team, hired Arbuckle Media to help spread word of Patriot Paws at the Rangers' stadium.

Arbuckle contacted IRT CEO John Scott after hearing Scott on the "Ask GaryVee Show," hosted by ESPN Hall of Fame Broadcaster Linda Cohn. Scott said that after talking with Arbuckle, he realized that working together would be a good step in the right direction for the business of the Tour.

"Arbuckle Media will help grow our exposure of the Tour by taking over some of the social media duties as well as continuing to increase our viewership on our online platforms like the IRT site, Twitch, YouTube, Facebook, etc.," Scott said.

"Working with an organization that has great experience with current market trends and digital media sales is of absolute importance to the Tour. We can't grow the IRT without finding new opportunities to reach the masses."

As part of the agreement with Arbuckle Media, the IRT will be going through a re-branding process that will include a new IRT logo. Look for that new logo in the Tour's August newsletter, and get ready for the exciting changes happening around the fastest sport in the world!



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STRONG FINISHES for LPRT 2017-2018 Season



By LPRT and Restrung Magazine
Photos By Restrung Magazine

Samantha Salas Solis celebrates her victory at the Battle of the Alamo

Three exciting events closed out last season for the LPRT with battles in Texas, Colorado, and Kansas. Players fought hard for positions in the top 10 singles rankings as well as top spots in doubles.

Samantha Salas Solis was the big story at the Battle of the Alamo in San Antonio. The event was only Salas' third in her return to the LPRT after missing most of the season due to recovery and rehab from shoulder surgery (in summer 2017). Salas, focused on a trip to the final, did not drop a game in her first three rounds. In the final, facing off against #1 ranked player Paola Longoria, Salas pulled off one of the most impressive victories in recent memory. Down two games to Longoria, Salas won the next three games and dominated in game #5.

Longoria and Salas joined forces to win the Alamo's women's pro doubles title. Together they form a dominant team that competes both professionally and internationally. Longoria and Salas have a record of 56-4 together since they teamed up in 2013.

Our deepest gratitude goes to Alamo Tournament Director Mike Cantu and his amazing volunteers, as well as to the sponsors who made the event possible! They worked tirelessly all weekend to run three sites and multiple divisions while always making the LPRT feel like special guests. Check out all of the event details, pictures and draws here: <https://www.lprtour.com/battle-at-the-alamo-2018>.

The World Open Doubles Championship in Denver, Colorado, was a doubles-only event that featured some of the best teams in the world. Players from both the men's and women's professional tours teamed up to compete at the downtown Denver Athletic Club. As anticipated, the matches were fast-paced and action-packed.

The women's pro doubles draw saw the #1 team of Paola Longoria and Samantha Salas solidifying their claim as the world's best. In the final match, it came down to #1 versus the #2 seed team of Alexandra Herrera and Monserrat Mejia. Herrera and Mejia form a talented and interesting team. Herrera has been a mainstay in the top of the singles rankings, and Mejia is the current Mexican and World 18 & Under champion. The final match went tiebreaker with the #1 seeds prevailing.

The mixed pro doubles division turned out to be thrilling for both fans and athletes. Of the 18 total matches, 11 went to tiebreakers. The team of Adriana Riveros and Mario Mercado, who both represent Colombia internationally, teamed up to hit Denver as the #1 seeds. They proved worthy of the seeding as they passed several powerhouse teams to make the final. Michelle and Daniel De La Rosa came into Denver seeded 11th. The De La Rosas also battled through a tough draw to make it to the finals and prevailed as champions in Denver. They communicated well, with Daniel as a power source who was legitimately backed up by Michelle who often proved un-passable during rallies.

Thank you to Jim Hiser and his dedicated crew for hosting the doubles event. His vision of an event that featured the best doubles teams in the world highlighted a new energy in the sport. Thank you to Debbie Beldring and the DAC and to all of the generous sponsors who made the event possible. Congratulations to all of the teams that put on a great show. Check out the event review and draws here: <https://www.lprtour.com/world-doubles-championships-2018>

With her final win of the season in Kansas, Paola Longoria has continued to hold on to the #1 position in dominant fashion. Longoria's Teamroot.com Classic championship now leaves her with 89 titles on tour. Paola went into Kansas already having secured her 9th consecutive season in the #1 spot. In the final, Paola met Frédérique Lambert. Frédérique was the only player who managed to take a game from Longoria. For Lambert, it really did come down to the last event of the season for her bid to end the year with the #2 ranking.



The doubles final pitted two dynamic teams that make waves internationally. Paola Longoria and Samantha Salas have won more titles together than any other combination on tour. Kansas proved to be no different as they took the Teamroot.com Classic title. Maria Jose Vargas and Natalia Mendez battled through tough matches to make the final. These two train intensively together and are profoundly influencing the high level of play on the Ladies Professional Racquetball Tour.

A sincere thank you goes to Randy Root and Teamroot.com for this incredible season-ending event at the wonderful Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City in Overland Park, Kansas. Check out the great photos and review of the Kansas event at: www.lprtour.com/teamroot-classic.



Above: Daniel & Michelle De La Rosa, Tournament Director Jim Hiser, Adriana Riveros, and Mario Mercado.

Left: Battle of the Alamo Tournament Director Mike Cantu with Paola Longoria & Samantha Salas Solis
Below: Natalia Mendez, Maria Jose Vargas, Tournament Director Randy Root, T.J. Baumbaugh, Paola Longoria, and Samantha Salas Solis



The Summer Heats Up

at the 2018 WOR Championships presented by Pro Kennex

By Geoff Osberg
Photos By Stephen Fitzsimons

This year's 2018 Outdoor Championships presented by Pro Kennex was another great tournament at Marina Park in Huntington Beach, California. This year we saw a newly crowned Men's Pro Singles Champion in Luis Avila who beat a very tough challenger, Brandon Davis in a tough tiebreaker final.

The doubles final saw two-time defending champions Rocky Carson/Jesus Ustarroz facing off against the aforementioned Brandon Davis and former pro doubles champion Josh Tucker. Nobody was really sure who would win this one. Brandon and Josh seemed to roll through most teams, and Rocky and Jesus had some very tough matches to reach the finals themselves. Brandon/Josh came out hot and put constant pressure on Rocky/Jesus all match long, just taking it to them for the win in two and producing another first-time champion in Brandon Davis.

We might have to start calling the CPRT doubles division the Medina/Sostre division, as Gabe Medina/Robert Sostre once again won, defeating Mike Peters/Rick "Soda Man" Koll in two games, 15-14, 15-14.

The Mixed Pro Doubles saw Greg Solis/Janel Tisinger beat the very good team of Jackie Paraiso-Larsson and Emmett Coe. (Emmett played a ton of ball all week and won the Men's Pro Doubles in Paddleball as well).

The Women's Pro Doubles was a win for the comeback team of Michelle De La Rosa/Carla Muñoz, prevailing over Aimee Ruiz/Janel Tisinger in the round robin of five.

The tourney had lots of great matches as usual with some players stepping up and having great results like Mike Baham, Lou Orosco, Bobby Friedman/Tony Burg, the already-mentioned Luis Avila, and Brandon Davis. Congratulations to HOF Inductee Greg Solis for his accomplishment and speech (along with the ring from Andy Sr.), and kudos to Mike Coulter on receiving the Greg Sheffield Award.

Thanks to Gary Martin and Jim "Jimbo" Banuelos for the great food prepared all week for players and spectators alike. Also, Jesus and I would like to thank the tournament staff for doing such an incredible job year after year: Dorcy Norton, Mary Schoumaker, Lou Orosco, Stephen Fitzsimons, and Marie Pachuca. We would also like to thank the sponsors who help to make this event happen: Pro Kennex, Melissa's, Roundabout, Penske Toyota, Dr. Duddey, Splathead, HEAD/Penn, Gearbox, Coca-Cola, 3WB, Ustarroz Construction, DOGZ, Rollout, and Alberto's.

The year 2019 promises to produce yet another great WOR Championships, and we look forward to seeing all of you outdoor and indoor players in beautiful Huntington Beach, California, next July!



Clockwise: from top center
Men's Pro Singles Champion Luis Avila
Women's Pro Doubles Champions Michelle De La Rosa & Carla Muñoz
Women's A/B Singles Victoria Rodriguez & Briana Jacquet
Men's Pro Singles Runner Up Brandon Davis
Men's Pro Doubles Champions Brandon Davis & Josh Tucker



US OPEN RECORD BOOK OF CHAMPIONS (SINGLES)



PROFESSIONAL TOUR CHAMPIONS

IRT MEN

2017	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2016	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2015	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2014	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2013	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2012	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2011	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2010	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2009	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2008	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2007	Rocky Carson (Calif.)
2006	Jason Mannino (Calif.)
2005	Kane Waselenchuk (Can.)
2004	Kane Waselenchuk (Can.)
2003	Kane Waselenchuk (Can.)
2002	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)
2001	Cliff Swain (Mass.)
2000	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)
1999	Jason Mannino (Calif.)
1998	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)
1997	Cliff Swain (Mass.)
1996	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)

IRT Men's Pro Doubles

2017	Ben Croft (Ga.) / Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2016	José Rojas (Calif.) / Marco Rojas (Calif.)
2015	Ben Croft (Ill.) / Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2014	Ben Croft (Ill.) / Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)

LPRT Women's Pro Doubles

2017	Paola Longoria (Mexico) / Gabriela Martinez (Guatemala)
2016	Paola Longoria (Mexico) / Samantha Salas (Mexico)
2015	Paola Longoria (Mexico) / Samantha Salas (Mexico)
2014	Paola Longoria (Mexico) / Veronica Sotomayor (Ecuador)

USA RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONS

Men's Open

2017	Dylan Reid (Oregon)
2016	Mario Mercado (Colombia)
2015	Adam Manilla (Colo.)
2014	Coby Iwaasa (Canada)
2013	Andree Parrilla (Mexico)
2012	Carlos Keller Vargas (Bolivia)
2011	Daniel De La Rosa (Mexico)
2010	Vincent Gagnon (Canada)
2009	Vincent Gagnon (Canada)
2008	Gilberto Mejia (Calif.)
2007	Alejandro Landa (Texas)
2006	Gil De Los Rios (Mo.)
2005	Gilberto Mejia (Calif.)
2004	Agustin Tristan (Mex.)
2003	Polo Gutierrez (Mex.)
2002	Josh Tucker (Mo.)
2001	Jack Huczek (Mich.)
2000	Jack Huczek (Mich.)
1999	Jack Huczek (Mich.)
1998	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)
1997	Aaron Embry (Calif.)
1996	Joel Bonnett (Mich.)

Women's Open

Jenny Daza Navia (Bolivia)
Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
Gabriela Martinez (Guatemala)
Susana Acosta (Mexico)
Maiko Sato (Japan)
Veronica Sotomayor (Calif.)
Frederique Lambert (Canada)
Nancy Enriquez (Mexico)
Krystal Csuk (Ill.)
Veronica Sotomayor (Calif.)
Jen Saunders (Canada)
Diane Moore (Ind.)
Adrienne Fisher (Ala.)
Angela Grisar (Chile)
Angela Grisar (Chile)
Brenda Kyzer (S.C.)
Lori Jane Powell (Canada)
Lori Jane Powell (Canada)
Josee Grand'Maitre (Canada)
Lydia Hammock (Calif.)
Lori Jane Powell (Canada)
Christie Van Hees (Canada)

Age Divisions

Men's 24-

2017	Set Cubillos (Colombia)
2016	Set Cubillos (Colombia) Andrea Martinez Gonzalez (Guatemala)
2015	Edwin Galicia (Guatemala) Maria Renee Rodriguez (Guatemala)
2014	Cristian Chavez (Ecuador) Maria Renee Rodriguez (Guatemala)
2013	Andrés Gómez (Colombia) Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
2012	Sebastian Franco (Colombia) Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
2011	Joel Barshaw (Oregon) Mariana Paredes (Venezuela)
2010	Roland Keller (Bolivia) Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
2009	Alex Ackermann (Texas) Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
2008	Jansen Allen (Texas) Cristina Amaya (Colombia)

Women's 24-

Maricruz Ortiz (Costa Rica)
Andrea Martinez Gonzalez (Guatemala)
Maria Renee Rodriguez (Guatemala)
Maria Renee Rodriguez (Guatemala)
Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
Mariana Paredes (Venezuela)
Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
Cristina Amaya (Colombia)

LPRT WOMEN

Paola Longoria (Mex.)
Paola Longoria (Mex.)
Paola Longoria (Mex.)
Paola Longoria (Mex.)
Paola Longoria (Mex.)
Paola Longoria (Mex.)
Paola Longoria (Mex.)
Rhonda Rajsich (Calif.)
Rhonda Rajsich (Calif.)
Paola Longoria (Mex.)
Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)
Christie Van Hees (Can.)
Christie Van Hees (Can.)
Cheryl Gudinas (Ill.)
Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)
Cheryl Gudinas (Ill.)
Kerri Wachtel (Ohio)
Christie Van Hees (Canada)
Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
Michelle Gould (Idaho)
Michelle Gould (Idaho)

2007	Chris Coy (Okla.)	Kara Mazur (Conn.)
2006	Armando Lando (Texas)	Sharon Jackson (Ind.)
2005	Charles Pratt (Ore.)	Da'Monique Davis (Ala.)
2004	Alejandro Herrera (Fla.)	Da'Monique Davis (Ala.)
2003	Travis Woodbury (Va.)	Janel Tisinger (Calif.)
2002	Ben Croft (Ill.)	Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)
2001	Mitch Williams (N.C.)	Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)
2000	Andy Hawthorne (Ill.)	Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)
1999	Jack Huczek (Mich.)	Aimee Roehler (Pa.)
1998	Jeff Bloom (Texas)	Aimee Roehler (Pa.)
1997	Jeff Bloom (Texas)	Shannon Feaster (D.C.)
1996	Rocky Carson (Calif.)	Amanda McDonald (Can.)

Men's 25+

2017	Destry Everhart (Alabama)
2016	Joel Cassens (Minn.)
2015	Nick Hand (Fla.)
2014	Andrew Gale (Utah)
2013	Dennis Myers (N.C.)
2012	Andres Ramirez (Fla.)
2011	Andres Ramirez (Fla.)
2010	Bryan Casser (Iowa)
2009	Francisco Gomez (Colombia)
2008	Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)
2007	Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)
2006	Jason Bledsoe (N.C.)
2005	Matthew Davenport (Mo.)
2004	Cesar Carillo (Tenn.)
2003	Dale Valentine (Calif.)
2002	Dale Valentine (Calif.)
2001	Kyle Veenstra (Wis.)
2000	Dale Valentine (Calif.)
1999	Sameer Hadid (Calif.)
1998	Mike Locker (Minn.)
1997	Kevin Graham (N.D.)
1996	Mike Locker (Minn.)

Women's 25+

Cindy Burman (Mo.)
No division
Donna Ryder (Ireland)
No division
Youngcock Lee (Korea)
Emily Coonse (Idaho)
No division
Sarah Warhaffig (Colo.)
No division
No division
Carolyn Peddle (Can.)
Shannon Feaster (Md.)
Shannon Feaster (Md.)
Shannon Feaster (Md.)
Claudia Ramirez (Fla.)
T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
Debra Bryant (N.C.)
No division
Mukai Youku (Japan)
Michelle Wiragh (Md.)
Michelle Wiragh (Md.)

Men's 30+

2017	Andrés Gómez (Colombia)
2016	Garrett Tyler (Utah)
2015	Mike Harmon (Fla.)
2014	John Goth (Minn.)
2013	John Goth (Minn.)
2012	John Goth (Minn.)
2011	John Goth (Minn.)
2010	Kevin List (Fla.)
2009	Andres Ramirez (Fla.)
2008	Dale Valentine (Calif.)
2007	Cary Slade (Ill.)
2006	Andy Gross (Ga.)
2005	Aaron Metcalf (Fla.)
2004	Brian Fredenberg (Texas)
2003	Eric Williams (N.C.)
2002	Brian Fredenberg (Texas)
2001	Dale Valentine (Calif.)
2000	Kevin Graham (Wis.)
1999	Jim Minkel (Texas)
1998	Lance Gilliam (Texas)
1997	Dan Llacera (Del.)
1996	John Amatulli (Ind.)

Women's 30+

No division
No division
Michelle Sikorski (Co.)
No division
Shannon Feaster (Md.)
No division
No division
Tracey Hawthorne (Ohio)
T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
Vallana Perrault (Minn.)
Vallana Lundstrom (Pa.)
Vallana Lundstrom (Minn.)
Claudia Ramirez (Fla.)
Etsuko Noda (Japan)
Heather Dunn (Mass.)
Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
Lori Lepow (Fla.)
Shigemi Yasuda (Japan)
Debbie Tisinger (Calif.)
Kersten Hallander (Fla.)

Men's 35+

2017	Jonathan Goth (Minn.)
2016	Jonathan Burns (Fla.)
2015	Kevin List (Fla.)
2014	Aaron Granberg (Minn.)
2013	Aaron Metcalf (Fla.)
2012	Aaron Granberg (Minn.)
2011	Wesley Miller (Fla.)
2010	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)
2009	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)
2008	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)
2007	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)
2006	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)
2005	Mariana Paredes (Hawaii)
2004	Chris Wright (Mo.)
2003	Jimmy Lowe (Alaska)
2002	Jim Minkel (Texas)

Women's 35+

Rebecca Bowman (Ind.)
No division
No division
T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
Vallana Perrault (Minn.)
Bernadette Zimmerman (Texas)
T. J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
No division
Tammarian Rogers (Wash.)
No division
No division
Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
Kelley Beane (N.H.)
Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)

US OPEN RECORD BOOK OF CHAMPIONS (SINGLES)



Men's 40+ (CPRT est. 2006)		Women's 40+	
2017	Jeff Stark (Calif.)		Felicia Green (Ga.)
2016	Jeff Stark (Calif.)		Vallana Perrault (Minn.)
2015	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)		T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
2014	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Tammarrian Rogers (Wash.)
2013	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Tammarrian Rogers (Wash.)
2012	Woody Clouse (Colo.)		No division
2011	Woody Clouse (Colo.)		Cindy Conine (Fla.)
2010	Woody Clouse (Colo.)		Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2009	Woody Clouse (Colo.)		No division
2008	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Kelly Beane (N.H.)
2007	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)		Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2006	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2005	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2004	Scott Cullins (Ga.)		Anita Maldonado (N.Y.)
2003	Jimmy Lowe (Alaska)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2002	Scott Cullins (Ga.)		Kim Machiran (Mo.)
2001	Tim Hansen (Fla.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2000	Tim Hansen (Fla.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
1999	Jeff Hanno (N.Y.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
1998	Steve Wattz (Calif.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
1997	Terry Fluharty (Fla.)		Linda Moore (Neb.)
1996	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Linda Moore (Neb.)

Men's 45+		Women's 45+	
2017	Jeff Stark (Calif.)		Jennifer Dering (N.Y.)
2016	Jeff Stark (Calif.)		Tammarrian Rogers (Wash.)
2015	Keith Minor (Ill.)		Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2014	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)		Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2013	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)		Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2012	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2011	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)		Laura Fenton (Calif.)
2010	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Anita Maldonado (N.Y.)
2009	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Laura Brandt (Fla.)
2008	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2007	Scott Cullins (Ga.)		Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2006	Scott Cullins (Ga.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2005	Richard Mordachini (Miss.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2004	Miguel Santiago-Cruz (Texas)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2003	Miguel Santiago-Cruz (Texas)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2002	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Linda Moore (Neb.)
2001	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Meena Evans (N.C.)
2000	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)
1999	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Meena Evans (N.C.)
1998	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)
1997	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Shelley Ogden (Ohio)
1996	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Janet Myers (N.C.)

Men's 50+		Women's 50+	
2017	Doug Ganim (Ohio)		Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2016	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2015	Doug Ganim (Ohio)		Laura Brandt (Fla.)
2014	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Laura Fenton Kovanda (Ohio)
2013	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Janice Kennedy (Ga.)
2012	Richard Eisemann (Texas)		Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2011	Ivan Sanchez (Texas)		Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2010	Daniel Pischke (Wash.)		Linda Moore (Neb.)
2009	Edward Fink (Texas)		Kelly Kirk (Minn.)
2008	Glenn Bell (Texas)		Linda Moore (Neb.)
2007	Patrick Gibson (Texas)		Linda Moore (Neb.)
2006	Thomas Travers (Fla.)		Linda Moore (Neb.)
2005	Greg Campbell (Ore.)		Marsha Berry (Ky.)
2004	Howard Walker (Texas)		Janet Myers (N.C.)
2003	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Marsha Berry (Ky.)
2002	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)
2001	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Nancy Kronenfeld (Ill.)
2000	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
1999	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Shelley Ogden (Ohio)
1998	Rick Fusari (Fla.)		Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
1997	Rick Fusari (Fla.)		Margaret Hoff (Ill.)
1996	Ed Remen (Va.)		Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)

Men's 55+		Women's 55+	
2017	Brian Phillips (S.C.)		Laura Brandt (Fla.)
2016	Brian Phillips (S.C.)		Robin Whitmire (Georgia)
2015	Tim Hansen (Fla.)		Janet Tyler (Fla.)
2014	Wes Snead (N.C.)		Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2013	Ivan Sanchez (Texas)		Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)

2012	Mike Grisz (Texas)		Linda Moore (Neb.)
2011	Mark Gilmore (Texas)		Jill Mitchell (Calif.)
2010	Jim Luzar (Wis.)		Elaine Dexter (Calif.)
2009	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
2008	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
2007	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Terry Rogers (Calif.)
2006	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Janet Myers (N.C.)
2005	R.E. Montague (Pa.)		Susan Kieffer (Minn.)
2004	Ed Remen (N.C.)		Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
2003	Greg Hasty (Ill.)		Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
2002	Dwayne McKnight (Md.)		Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
2001	Ed Remen (N.C.)		Nidia Funes (Calif.)
2000	Ed Remen (N.C.)		Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)
1999	Ray Huss (Ohio)		No division
1998	Warren Reuther (La.)		No division
1997	Glenn Allen (Va.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1996	Les Barbanell (N.J.)		Nancy Kay Butts (Wis.)

Men's 60+		Women's 60+	
2017	Len Knudsen (Fla.)		No Division
2016	Dave Azuma (Ariz.)		Wanda Collins (Wash.)
2015	Mark Baron (Va.)		Karen Simon (Fla.)
2014	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)		Marsha Berry (Ky.)
2013	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Wanda Collins (Wash.)
2012	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)		Wanda Collins (Wash.)
2011	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Kathleen Ruzycski (Ill.)
2010	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Joan Vande Kieft (Ill.)
2009	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)		Shirley Parsons (Colo.)
2008	Greg Hasty (Ill.)		Merijeane Kelley (Calif.)
2007	Jim Hiser (Colo.)		CeCe Palaski (N.M.)
2006	Ed Remen (N.C.)		CeCe Palaski (N.M.)
2005	Ed Remen (N.C.)		Nidia Funes (Calif.)
2004	Jeff Leon (Fla.)		Gail Schaefer (Md.)
2003	Dan Jones (Ga.)		Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)
2002	Glenn Allen (Va.)		Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
2001	Warren Reuther (La.)		Gail Schaefer (Md.)
2000	Ron Hutcherson (Ind.)		No division
1999	Bob Webster (Ala.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1998	Lee Graff (Ore.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1997	Jerry Stoltmann (Wis.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1996	Jay Krevsky (Pa.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)

Men's 65+		Women's 65+	
2017	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)		Brenda White (Ill.)
2016	Russ Montague (Penns.)		Terry Rogers (Nevada)
2015	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)		Laurie Kitchen (N.Y.)
2014	Tony Alfaro (Calif.)		Combined - See Women's 60+
2013	Gregory Hasty (Ill.)		No division
2012	Gregory Hasty (Ill.)		Terry Rogers (Nev.)
2011	Jeff Leon (Panama)		Merijeane Kelley (Calif.)
2010	Donald Gunderson (Wis.)		No division
2009	Robert Lattanzio (Calif.)		CeCe Palaski (N.M.)
2008	Mitch Milewski (N.H.)		Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)
2007	Patrick Taylor (Ill.)		Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)
2006	Patrick Taylor (Ill.)		Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)
2005	Leland Rients (Minn.)		No division
2004	Ron Hutcherson (Ind.)		Gloria Piscoran (Ore.)
2003	Rex Lawler (Ind.)		No division
2002	Lee Graff (Ore.)		No division
2001	David Lund (Mich.)		No division
2000	Jerry Holly (Calif.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1999	Jerry Holly (Calif.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1998	Joe Lambert (Texas)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1997	John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)		Lola Markus (Ill.)
1996	J.D. Driver (Mich.)		Lola Markus (Ill.)

Men's 70+		Women's 70+	
2017	Robert Lattanzio (Calif.)		No division
2016	Robert Lattanzio (Calif.)		No division
2015	Dave Zabinski (Minn.)		No division
2014	Robert Lattanzio (Calif.)		Combined - See Women's 60+
2013	Jeffrey Leon (Fla.)		Marion McBride (Canada)
2012	Gordon Kelly (Fla.)		Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2011	David Zabinski (Minn.)		Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2010	David Zabinski (Minn.)		No division
2009	Howard Nellor (Fla.)		Shirley Barron (Ky.)
2008	Dave Lund (Mich.)		Shirley Barron (Ky.)
2007	Lee Graff (Ore.)		No division
2006	Dave Lund (Mich.)		No division



Due to space limitations, amateur doubles divisions could not be reported in this issue.
Photos By Restrung Magazine

US OPEN RECORD BOOK OF CHAMPIONS (SINGLES)



2005	Paul Banales (Ariz.)	No division
2004	Jerry Holly (Calif.)	Lola Markus (Ill.)
2003	Don Alt (Ohio)	No division
2002	Joe Lambert (Texas)	No division
2001	Joe Lambert (Texas)	Lola Markus (Ill.)
2000	John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)	No division
1999	John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)	No division
1998	Joe Lambert (Texas)	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1997	Joe Lambert (Texas)	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1996	Earl Acuff (N.C.)	No division

Men's 75+

2017	Alberto Palacios (Ill.)	Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2016	David Zabinski (Minn.)	No division
2015	Donald Sperber (Fla.) - 75/80 Combined	No division
2014	David Zabinski (Minn.)	No division
2013	Jack McBride (Canada)	Shirley Barron (Kent.)
2012	Jerry Holly (Calif.)	No division
2011	Jerry Holly (Calif.)	No division
2010	Jerry Holly (Calif.)	No division
2009	Jerry Holly (Calif.)	Lola Markus (Ill.)
2008	John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)	No division
2007	John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)	Lola Markus (Ill.)
2006	Fred Wiegand (Texas)	Lola Markus (Ill.)
2005	John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)	No division
2004	Robert Miller (S.C.)	No division
2003	Joe Lambert (Texas)	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2002	Joe Lambert (Texas)	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2001	Earl Acuff (N.C.)	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2000	Dick Kincade (Colo.)	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1999	Earl Acuff (N.C.)	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1998	Nick Sans (Calif.)	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1997	Earl Acuff (N.C.)	No division
1996	Earl Acuff (N.C.)	No division

Men's 80+

2017	Robert Sullins (Texas)	No division
2016	Francis Florey (Colo.)	No division
2015	No division	No division
2014	No division	No division
2013	John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)	No division
2012	John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)	No division

Skill Divisions

Men's Elite

2017	Juan Francisco Cueva (Ecuador)	Maricruz Ortiz (Costa Rica)
2016	Andrew Clarke (New Mexico)	Michele Morissette (Canada)
2015	Jose Ubilla (Costa Rica)	Valerie Fallu (Canada)
2014	Nicolas Bousquet (Canada)	Danielle Drury (Canada)
2013	Alejandro Romo Garcia (Mexico)	Sofia Soley (Costa Rica)
2012	Andres Acuna (Costa Rica)	Melania Sauma (Costa Rica)
2011	Kurtis Cullen (Canada)	Natalie McCann (Minn.)
2010	Rob Carey (Minn.)	Melissa McElfresh (Calif.)
2009	Andres Ramirez (Fla.)	Jocelyn Loredo (Mex.)
2008	Roland Keller (Bolivia)	Jessica Parrilla (Mex.)

Men's A

2017	Timmy Hansen (Fla.)	Erin Boadway (Ariz.)
2016	Javier Martinez (Guatemala)	Felicia Green (Ga.)
2015	Ricardo Gomez Barandela (Venezuela)	Maria Riquelme (Chile)
2014	Juan Francisco Cueva (Ecuador)	Kaneshia Madison (Ga.)
2013	Craig Herr (Ala.)	Hollie Scott (Wash.)
2012	Jose Ubilla (Costa Rica)	Alexis Iwaasa (Canada)
2011	Nick Hand (Flo.)	Michele Morissette (Canada)
2010	Missael Leija (Mexico)	Natalie McCann (Minn.)
2009	Chase Robison (Tex.)	Madeleine Edwards (Tenn.)
2008	Eric Vought (Ohio)	Ashley Loyd (Tenn.)
2007	Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)	Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
2006	Cesar Castillo (Venezuela)	Jennifer Lynch (Mass.)
2005	Allan Hernandez (Texas)	Shannon Inglesby (Ore.)
2004	Darrel Miller (Wis.)	Fabiola Marquez
2003	Joe Klibowitz (Wis.)	Harumi Kajino (Japan)
2002	Andres Ramirez (Fla.)	Claudia Ramirez (Fla.)
2001	Joey Lakowske (Ore.)	Candi Hostovich (Va.)
2000	Cory Martin (Wis.)	Robyn Perrin (Tenn.)
1999	Andy Babinchak (N.D.)	Akiko Saito (Japan)

Women's 75+

2017	Marquita Molina (Calif.)	No division
2016	No division	No division
2015	No division	No division
2014	No division	No division
2013	Shirley Barron (Kent.)	No division
2012	No division	No division
2011	No division	No division
2010	No division	No division
2009	Lola Markus (Ill.)	No division
2008	Lola Markus (Ill.)	No division
2007	Lola Markus (Ill.)	No division
2006	Lola Markus (Ill.)	No division
2005	No division	No division
2004	No division	No division
2003	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	No division
2002	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	No division
2001	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	No division
2000	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	No division
1999	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	No division
1998	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	No division
1997	No division	No division
1996	No division	No division

Women's 80+

2017	No division	No division
2016	No division	No division
2015	No division	No division
2014	No division	No division
2013	No division	No division
2012	No division	No division

Women's Elite

2017	Maricruz Ortiz (Costa Rica)	Michele Morissette (Canada)
2016	Michele Morissette (Canada)	Valerie Fallu (Canada)
2015	Valerie Fallu (Canada)	Danielle Drury (Canada)
2014	Danielle Drury (Canada)	Sofia Soley (Costa Rica)
2013	Sofia Soley (Costa Rica)	Melania Sauma (Costa Rica)
2012	Melania Sauma (Costa Rica)	Natalie McCann (Minn.)
2011	Natalie McCann (Minn.)	Melissa McElfresh (Calif.)
2010	Melissa McElfresh (Calif.)	Jocelyn Loredo (Mex.)
2009	Jocelyn Loredo (Mex.)	Jessica Parrilla (Mex.)
2008	Jessica Parrilla (Mex.)	

Women's A

2017	Erin Boadway (Ariz.)	Felicia Green (Ga.)
2016	Felicia Green (Ga.)	Maria Riquelme (Chile)
2015	Maria Riquelme (Chile)	Kaneshia Madison (Ga.)
2014	Kaneshia Madison (Ga.)	Hollie Scott (Wash.)
2013	Hollie Scott (Wash.)	Alexis Iwaasa (Canada)
2012	Alexis Iwaasa (Canada)	Michele Morissette (Canada)
2011	Michele Morissette (Canada)	Natalie McCann (Minn.)
2010	Natalie McCann (Minn.)	Madeleine Edwards (Tenn.)
2009	Madeleine Edwards (Tenn.)	Ashley Loyd (Tenn.)
2008	Ashley Loyd (Tenn.)	Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
2007	Cristina Amaya (Colombia)	Jennifer Lynch (Mass.)
2006	Jennifer Lynch (Mass.)	Shannon Inglesby (Ore.)
2005	Shannon Inglesby (Ore.)	Fabiola Marquez
2004	Fabiola Marquez	Harumi Kajino (Japan)
2003	Harumi Kajino (Japan)	Claudia Ramirez (Fla.)
2002	Claudia Ramirez (Fla.)	Candi Hostovich (Va.)
2001	Candi Hostovich (Va.)	Robyn Perrin (Tenn.)
2000	Robyn Perrin (Tenn.)	Akiko Saito (Japan)
1999	Akiko Saito (Japan)	

1998	Jason Jansen (N.Y.)	Jennifer Hunter (Tenn.)
1997	David Guentert (Kan.)	Deb Fiordilino (N.Y.)
1996	Daniel Pischke (Wash.)	Michele Kinaan (Calif.)

Men's B

2017	Ethan Janson (Wash.)	Graciana Wargo (Fla.)
2016	Tyler Peterson (IA)	Heather Mahoney (Calif.)
2015	Brett Eksuzian (Mass.)	Jennie Jones-Huggins (Kentucky)
2014	Jake Ryan (Ill.)	Maria Munoz (Ecuador)
2013	Juan Francisco Cueva (Ecuador)	Sara Leon (Calif.)
2012	Diego Pimentel (Dom.Republic)	Kaneshia Madison (Ga.)
2011	Jay Mathis (Ga.)	Kathryn Iwaasa (Canada)
2010	Jerry Everts (Wash.)	Therese Zadnik (Minn.)
2009	David Walker (Tenn.)	Elizabeth Selaya (Mo.)
2008	Armando Vasquez (Calif.)	Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
2007	Chase Stanley (La.)	Sarah O'Brien (Ga.)
2006	Joseph Lee (La.)	Melissa McElfresh (Fla.)
2005	Alan Martin (Tenn.)	Holly Hettesheimer (Ohio)
2004	Erik Becker (Mo.)	Lori Good (Ill.)
2003	Brandon Stanley (La.)	Shannon Inglesby (Ore.)
2002	Erik Beltran (Canada)	Diana Courtney (Mich.)
2001	Andres Ramirez (Fla.)	Kyoko Hirobayashi (Japan)
2000	John Dill (Texas)	Rosario Kelley (Texas)
1999	Brian Shwer (Tenn.)	Kelley Fisher (Ohio)
1998	Jon Albright (Tenn.)	Akiko Saito (Japan)
1997	Anthony Borden (Texas)	Kristen Kovar (Neb.)
1996	Sam Ryder (Wis.)	Yesenia Delbusto (Fla.)

Women's B

2017	Graciana Wargo (Fla.)	Heather Mahoney (Calif.)
2016	Heather Mahoney (Calif.)	Jennie Jones-Huggins (Kentucky)
2015	Jennie Jones-Huggins (Kentucky)	Maria Munoz (Ecuador)
2014	Maria Munoz (Ecuador)	Sara Leon (Calif.)
2013	Sara Leon (Calif.)	Kaneshia Madison (Ga.)
2012	Kaneshia Madison (Ga.)	Kathryn Iwaasa (Canada)
2011	Kathryn Iwaasa (Canada)	Therese Zadnik (Minn.)
2010	Therese Zadnik (Minn.)	Elizabeth Selaya (Mo.)
2009	Elizabeth Selaya (Mo.)	Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
2008	Cheryl Jones (Minn.)	Sarah O'Brien (Ga.)
2007	Sarah O'Brien (Ga.)	Melissa McElfresh (Fla.)
2006	Melissa McElfresh (Fla.)	Holly Hettesheimer (Ohio)
2005	Holly Hettesheimer (Ohio)	Lori Good (Ill.)
2004	Lori Good (Ill.)	Shannon Inglesby (Ore.)
2003	Shannon Inglesby (Ore.)	Diana Courtney (Mich.)
2002	Diana Courtney (Mich.)	Kyoko Hirobayashi (Japan)
2001	Kyoko Hirobayashi (Japan)	Rosario Kelley (Texas)
2000	Rosario Kelley (Texas)	Kelley Fisher (Ohio)
1999	Kelley Fisher (Ohio)	Akiko Saito (Japan)
1998	Akiko Saito (Japan)	Kristen Kovar (Neb.)
1997	Kristen Kovar (Neb.)	Yesenia Delbusto (Fla.)
1996	Yesenia Delbusto (Fla.)	

Men's C

2017	Cristhian Rigu (Fla.)	Chris Cerny (Ind.)
2016	Tim Hansen (Fla.)	Laurie Welsh (Fla.)
2015	John Lager (Mich.)	Rei McCormick (Iowa)
2014	Nicholas Zhindon (Ecuador)	Kelly Johnson (Minn.)
2013	Carlos Acuna (Costa Rica)	Paulina Sempértegui (Ecuador)
2012	Dawud Akbar (Ga.)	Kelly LeBlanc (Ga.)
2011	Craig Sadowski (Minn.)	Yolet Mendez (Venezuela)
2010	Christian Longoria (Mexico)	Raelene Ostberg (Minn.)
2009	Jesus Lara (Fla.)	Emily Brickell (Tenn.)
2008	Gregorio Machado (Ven.)	Julia Mouser (Calif.)
2007	Sebastian Franco (Colombia)	Jackie Wray (Ohio)
2006	Chase Stanley (La.)	Tia Lecland (Mich.)
2005	Dayan Yamin (Fla.)	Rita Stewart (Ky.)
2004	Steven Short (La.)	Tori Davis (Calif.)
2003	Barry Cruthirds (Mich.)	Janice Bell (Ga.)
2002	Brandon Stanley (La.)	Tomoko Muromachi (Japan)
2001	Bryan Shaw (Mo.)	Petra Allen (Colo.)
2000	Drew Toland (Ark.)	Dyan Anderson (Md.)
1999	Gilbert Said (Calif.)	Lynn Hiorns (Ill.)
1998	Phil Gebert (S.C.)	Rhonda Kochis (Okla.)
1997	Marc Clayton (Ohio)	Terry Truvillion (Mich.)
1996	Kazushige Oikawa (Japan)	Heather Elliott (Fla.)

Women's C

2017	Chris Cerny (Ind.)	Laurie Welsh (Fla.)
2016	Laurie Welsh (Fla.)	Rei McCormick (Iowa)
2015	Rei McCormick (Iowa)	Kelly Johnson (Minn.)
2014	Kelly Johnson (Minn.)	Paulina Sempértegui (Ecuador)
2013	Paulina Sempértegui (Ecuador)	Kelly LeBlanc (Ga.)
2012	Kelly LeBlanc (Ga.)	Yolet Mendez (Venezuela)
2011	Yolet Mendez (Venezuela)	Raelene Ostberg (Minn.)
2010	Raelene Ostberg (Minn.)	Emily Brickell (Tenn.)
2009	Emily Brickell (Tenn.)	Julia Mouser (Calif.)
2008	Julia Mouser (Calif.)	Jackie Wray (Ohio)
2007	Jackie Wray (Ohio)	Tia Lecland (Mich.)
2006	Tia Lecland (Mich.)	Rita Stewart (Ky.)
2005	Rita Stewart (Ky.)	Tori Davis (Calif.)
2004	Tori Davis (Calif.)	Janice Bell (Ga.)
2003	Janice Bell (Ga.)	Tomoko Muromachi (Japan)
2002	Tomoko Muromachi (Japan)	Petra Allen (Colo.)
2001	Petra Allen (Colo.)	Dyan Anderson (Md.)
2000	Dyan Anderson (Md.)	Lynn Hiorns (Ill.)
1999	Lynn Hiorns (Ill.)	Rhonda Kochis (Okla.)
1998	Rhonda Kochis (Okla.)	Terry Truvillion (Mich.)
1997	Terry Truvillion (Mich.)	Heather Elliott (Fla.)
1996	Heather Elliott (Fla.)	

Men's D

2017	Anthony Giacalone (Ill.)	Elenute Nicola (Iowa)
2016	Jesus Lopez (Ill.)	Marina Yurik (Minn.)
2015	Gerald Stigall (Minn.)	Nawal Moatassef (Ohio)
2014	Darryl Lewis (Ga.)	Jessica Kisling (Minn.)
2013	Jose Miramontes (Mexico)	Maria Munoz (Ecuador)
2012	Nils Mogensen (Ill.)	Jennie Jones-Huggins (Ga.)
2011	Richard Naidenoff (Venezuela)	Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)
2010	Ricardo Ruiz Matus (Chile)	Graciela Gonzalo (Fla.)
2009	Leon Rivera (Mich.)	Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)
2008	Fernando Padron (Mex.)	Sabrina Martinez (Ven.)
2007	Kerry Clark (Ariz.)	Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)
2006	Angel Munoz (Ven.)	Brenda Granados (Mex.)
2005	Fabian Caballero (Fla.)	No division
2004	Carlos Duran (Dom.Rep.)	Tia Lecland (Mich.)
2003	Jeff Van Horn (Pa.)	Ashley Loyd (Tenn.)
2002	Joseph Lee (La.)	Janice Bell (Ga.)
2001	Tom Tierney (Texas)	Viviana Reveron (Venezuela)
2000	Bryan Shaw (Mo.)	Marcelo Moreno (Mexico)
1999	Sid Harshavat (Ill.)	Jamie Johnson (Ohio)
1998	Lance Hudson (S.C.)	Dominique Winfrey (Ohio)
1997	Joe Schmitz (Ark.)	Rhonda Lindenman (Okla.)
1996	Leonard Toth (Texas)	Terry Truvillion (Mich.)

Women's D

2017	Elenute Nicola (Iowa)	Marina Yurik (Minn.)
2016	Marina Yurik (Minn.)	Nawal Moatassef (Ohio)
2015	Nawal Moatassef (Ohio)	Jessica Kisling (Minn.)
2014	Jessica Kisling (Minn.)	Maria Munoz (Ecuador)
2013	Maria Munoz (Ecuador)	Jennie Jones-Huggins (Ga.)
2012	Jennie Jones-Huggins (Ga.)	Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)
2011	Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)	Graciela Gonzalo (Fla.)
2010	Graciela Gonzalo (Fla.)	Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)
2009	Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)	Sabrina Martinez (Ven.)
2008	Sabrina Martinez (Ven.)	Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)
2007	Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)	Brenda Granados (Mex.)
2006	Brenda Granados (Mex.)	No division
2005	No division	Tia Lecland (Mich.)
2004	Tia Lecland (Mich.)	Ashley Loyd (Tenn.)
2003	Ashley Loyd (Tenn.)	Janice Bell (Ga.)
2002	Janice Bell (Ga.)	Viviana Reveron (Venezuela)
2001	Viviana Reveron (Venezuela)	Marcelo Moreno (Mexico)
2000	Marcelo Moreno (Mexico)	Jamie Johnson (Ohio)
1999	Jamie Johnson (Ohio)	Dominique Winfrey (Ohio)
1998	Dominique Winfrey (Ohio)	Rhonda Lindenman (Okla.)
1997	Rhonda Lindenman (Okla.)	Terry Truvillion (Mich.)
1996	Terry Truvillion (Mich.)	

Combined Age + Skill Divisions

Prior to 2003, skill divisions were played in A / B and C / D brackets. Those wins are incorporated into the higher skill level records.

Men's 24- A		Women's 24- A	
2017	Andrew Gleason (Iowa)	Erin Boadway (Ariz.)	
2016	Jay Ferrer (Fla.)	No division	
2015	Alejandro Santos (Venezuela)	No division	
2014	Set Cubillos (Colombia)	Ana Velez (Ecuador)	
2013	Cristian Chávez (Ecuador)	Nawoo Kim (Korea)	
2012	Jose Ubilla (Costa Rica)	No division	
2011	Jordan Barth (Minn.)	Michele Morrisette (Canada)	
2010	Clint Mehta (Texas)	Kelly Gremley (Ind.)	
2009	Christian Wer (Guatemala)	Mariel Salcido (Calif.)	
2008	Sebastian Franco (Col.)	Vivianna Reveron (Texas)	
2007	Miguel Wiggins (N.M.)	Cristina Amaya (Col.)	
2006	Jorge Nassar (Mass.)	Haley Rollins (Ga.)	
2005	Jansen Allen (Texas)	Sharon Jackson (Ind.)	
2004	Luis Reveron (Venezuela)	Kara Mazur (Conn.)	
2003	Alberto Donado (Mexico)	Laurie Fisk (Mo.)	
2002	Juan Rivas (Mass.)	Keely Franks (Texas)	
2001	Joey Lakowske (Ore.)	Kelley Fisher (Ohio)	
2000	Shannon Kohl (Mich.)	Kelley Fisher (Ohio)	
1999	Justin Jones (Ohio)	Brenna Bilbrough (Ore.)	
1998	Nantille Boards (Tenn.)	Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)	
1997	Andrew Babinchak (N.D.)	Kristen Kovar (Neb.)	
1996	Alain Pujolar (Fla.)	Vallana Perrault (Minn.)	

Men's 24- B		Women's 24- B	
2017	Esteban Rodriguez (Costa Rica)	Graciana Wargo (Fla.)	
2016	Srikara Peelukhana (Minn.)	No division	
2015	Brett Eksuzian (Mass.)	No division	
2014	No division	Ivana Sempertegui (Ecuador)	
2013	Juan Francisco Cueva (Ecu)	Maria Renee Rodriguez (Gua)	
2012	Diego Pimentel (Dominican Republic)	No division	
2011	Felipe Arenas (Colombia)	No division	
2010	Jordan McKnight (Fla.)	Liane Bissonnette (Canada)	
2009	Gregoria Machado (Ven.)	Rachel Smith (Colo.)	
2008	Armando Vasquez (Calif.)	No division	
2007	Chase Stanley (La.)	Monica Escobar (Guatemala)	
2006	David Perez (Fla.)	No division	
2005	Teobaldo Fumero (Costa Rica)	No division	
2004	Jansen Allen (Texas)	Sharon Jackson (Ind.)	
2003	Carlos Olvedo (Mex.)	Sarah Hettesheimer (Ohio)	

Men's 24- C		Women's 24- C	
2017	Anthony Efsthathiadis (Fla.)	No division	
2016	Yash Maini (Wisc.)	No division	
2015	Cole Hartman (Minn.)	No division	
2014	Nicholas Zhindon (Ecuador)	No division	
2013	Carlos Ochoa (Ecuador)	Maria Munoz (Ecuador)	
2012	Jorge Puche (Colombia)	No division	
2011	Jared Schnee (Texas)	Sarah Duchi (Calif.)	
2010	Justus Benson (Wis.)	Beatris Mendez Gandica (Venezuela)	
2009	Fernando Padron (Mexico)	No division	
2008	Andres Acuna (Costa Rica)	Sabrina Martinez (Ven.)	
2007	Sebastian Franco (Colombia)	No division	
2006	Chase Stanley (La.)	Abbey Lavelly (Ohio)	
2005	Roberto Santander (Venezuela)	No division	
2004	Steven Short (La.)	Haley Rollins (Ga.)	
2003	Joshua Jeter (Tenn.)	Danielle Joliff (Mo.)	
2002	Brandon Stanley (La.)	Holly Hettesheimer (Ohio)	
2001	Bradley Butler (Tenn.)	Wesley Toland (Ark.)	
2000	Drew Toland (Ark.)	Kiromi Iida (Japan)	
1999	Brandon Cortese (Mich.)	No division	
1998	Rex Fisher (Ohio)	No division	
1997	Shannon Kohl (Mich.)	Kristie Gisiner (Mo.)	
1996	Fabrizio Avelar (Fla.)	No division	

Men's 25+ A		Women's 25+ A	
2017	Frank Wrobel (Ill.)	No division	
2016	Nic Koch (N. Dakota)	Stephanie Bankes (Wisc.)	
2015	Andy Wiegand (Minn.)	Heather Olson (Texas)	
2014	Kyle Smith (Ind.)	Heather Hojat (Texas)	
2013	Kipp Atwell (La.)	Heather Hojat (Texas)	
2012	Bryan Shaw (Mo.)	Rebecca Bowman (Ind.)	
2011	Quentin Mieux (Fla.)	Penny Hietala (Colo.)	
2010	Andrew Kulback (Ohio)	Yayoi Nagasue (Japan)	

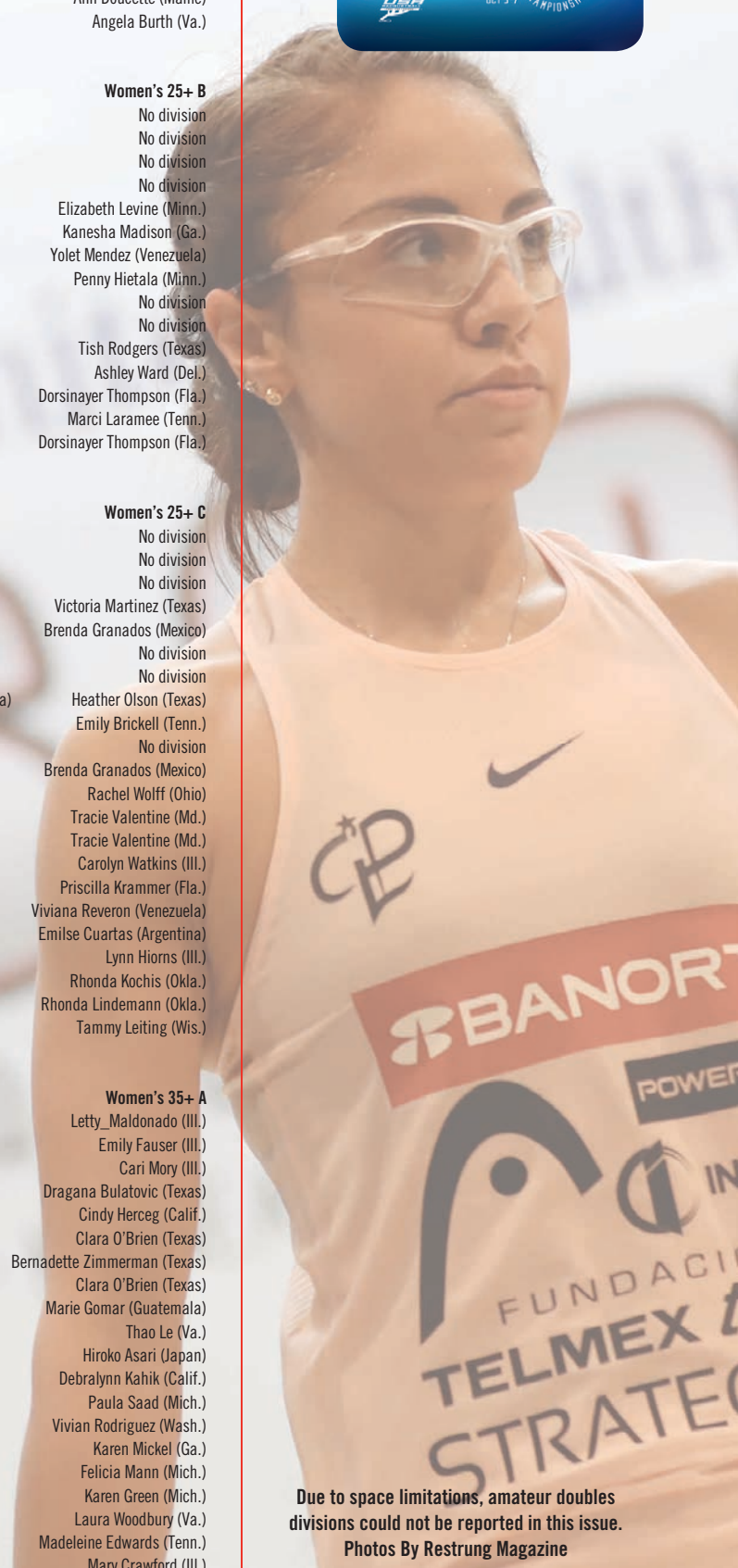
2009	Ryan Graham (Wis.)	No division	
2008	Jose Roldan (Fla.)	Karen Simon (N.Y.)	
2007	Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)	No division	
2006	Francisco Perez (Fla.)	Kimberly Glansberg (Calif.)	
2005	Brent McDade (Tenn.)	No division	
2004	John St. Pierre (Fla.)	Paula Saad (Mich.)	
2003	Jeff Marmer (Ohio)	Felicia Mann (Mich.)	
2002	Jason Linnell (Va.)	Hilary Anderson (Ohio)	
2001	John Halpin (Conn.)	Nathania Stewart (Ga.)	
2000	Corbin Dirks (N.C.)	Vivian Gomez (Fla.)	
1999	Bob Jackson (Miss.)	No division	
1998	Tony Rosales (Alaska)	Jill Nelson (Ill.)	
1997	John Ledig (Fla.)	Ann Doucette (Maine)	
1996	Ken Blalock (Texas)	Angela Burth (Va.)	

Men's 25+ B		Women's 25+ B	
2017	Kurt Ross (N.D.)	No division	
2016	Srikara Peelukhana (Minn.)	No division	
2015	Brett Eksuzian (Mass.)	No division	
2014	Nic Koch (N.D.)	No division	
2013	Samuel Gomez (Ill.)	Elizabeth Levine (Minn.)	
2012	Jason Korbol (Minn.)	Kaneshia Madison (Ga.)	
2011	Steven Koshiol (Minn.)	Yolet Mendez (Venezuela)	
2010	Christopher Conrad (Calif.)	Penny Hietala (Minn.)	
2009	Jesus Lara (Fla.)	No division	
2008	Joshua Purdy (Fla.)	No division	
2007	Mauro Barbosa (Fla.)	Tish Rodgers (Texas)	
2006	Aaron Lovinger (Ga.)	Ashley Ward (Del.)	
2005	Jason Levoy (Fla.)	Dorsinayer Thompson (Fla.)	
2004	Jeff Johnson (Mich.)	Marci Laramee (Tenn.)	
2003	Carlos Ramirez (Fla.)	Dorsinayer Thompson (Fla.)	

Men's 25+ C		Women's 25+ C	
2017	Alexander Bratt (Col.)	No division	
2016	Yash Maini (Wisc.)	No division	
2015	Cole Hartman (Minn.)	No division	
2014	Aby Thottiyil (Texas)	Victoria Martinez (Texas)	
2013	Adam Paulson (Minn.)	Brenda Granados (Mexico)	
2012	Dawud Akbar (Ga.)	No division	
2011	Rudy Olivares Jr. (Texas)	No division	
2010	Fernando Rodriguez (Venezuela)	Heather Olson (Texas)	
2009	Yuri Machuca (Md.)	Emily Brickell (Tenn.)	
2008	Dennis Yamin (Ven.)	No division	
2007	Josh Gibson (Tenn.)	Brenda Granados (Mexico)	
2006	Tyler Scott (Calif.)	Rachel Wolff (Ohio)	
2005	Jeff Nungesser (Tenn.)	Tracie Valentine (Md.)	
2004	Felton Cox (Bahamas)	Tracie Valentine (Md.)	
2003	Robert Goldsmith (Fla.)	Carolyn Watkins (Ill.)	
2002	Filipe Veracochea (Texas)	Priscilla Krammer (Fla.)	
2001	Sid Harshavat (Ill.)	Viviana Reveron (Venezuela)	
2000	John Halpin (Conn.)	Emilse Cuartas (Argentina)	
1999	Emmanuel Drege (Texas)	Lynn Hiorns (Ill.)	
1998	Richard Wells (Ill.)	Rhonda Kochis (Okla.)	
1997	Jesus Inigo (Fla.)	Rhonda Lindemann (Okla.)	
1996	No division	Tammy Leiting (Wis.)	

Men's 35+ A		Women's 35+ A	
2017	John Nelson (Minn.)	Letty Maldonado (Ill.)	
2016	Bill Hall (Texas)	Emily Fauser (Ill.)	
2015	Noel O'Callaghan (Ireland)	Cari Mory (Ill.)	
2014	Bryan Shaw (Mo.)	Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)	
2013	Ted Rohlwing (Minn.)	Cindy Herceg (Calif.)	
2012	Kipp Atwell (La.)	Clara O'Brien (Texas)	
2011	Andy Wiegand (Minn.)	Bernadette Zimmerman (Texas)	
2010	Paul Krueger (Wis.)	Clara O'Brien (Texas)	
2009	Andrew Kulback (Ohio)	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)	
2008	Marco Mijares (Ga.)	Thao Le (Va.)	
2007	Ray Cordero (Colo.)	Hiroko Asari (Japan)	
2006	Rod Van Dyke (Fla.)	Debralynn Kahik (Calif.)	
2005	Mark Davis (Fla.)	Paula Saad (Mich.)	
2004	Edward Fink (Texas)	Vivian Rodriguez (Wash.)	
2003	Oscar Barraza (Mex.)	Karen Mickel (Ga.)	
2002	Stanley Shaw (Mass.)	Felicia Mann (Mich.)	
2001	David Marrero (Puerto Rico)	Karen Green (Mich.)	
2000	Bill DiGregorio (N.J.)	Laura Woodbury (Va.)	
1999	Ron Fowler (Ga.)	Madeleine Edwards (Tenn.)	
1998	Don Sanderson (Utah)	Mary Crawford (Ill.)	

US OPEN RECORD BOOK OF CHAMPIONS (SINGLES)



Due to space limitations, amateur doubles divisions could not be reported in this issue.
Photos By Restrung Magazine

US OPEN RECORD BOOK OF CHAMPIONS (SINGLES)



1997 Gavin Higgins (Tenn.)
1996 Geoff Hunter (Fla.)

Men's 35+ B

2017 Kurt Ross (N. Dakota)
2016 Ken Kirkpatrick (Fla.)
2015 Paul Dingwitz (Mass.)
2014 John Starks (Mo.)
2013 Tom Janke (N.D.)
2012 Hector Garcia (Mexico)
2011 Lorne Renouf (Canada)
2010 Jerry Everts (Wash.)
2009 Rich Mattheis (Mo.)
2008 Ricardo Gutierrez (Mex.)
2007 Robert Cole (Okla.)
2006 James Campbell (Va.)
2005 Stephen Rapp (Mo.)
2004 Barry Cruthirds (Miss.)
2003 Rom Resendez (Calif.)

Men's 35+ C

2017 Cristhian Rigu (Fla.)
2016 Mark Anderson (Minn.)
2015 Glen Bero (Ill.)
2014 Roberto Marcillo (Ecuador)
2013 Jorge Bacallao (Fla.)
2012 Jim Unterberger (Minn.)
2011 Richard Naidenoff (Venezuela)
2010 Rudy Olivares, Jr. (Texas)
2009 Leon Rivera (Mich.)
2008 David Wiles (Tenn.)
2007 Daniel Russell (Tenn.)
2006 Jacques Boisvert (Can.)
2005 Jeffrey Van Horn (Pa.)
2004 Gonzalo Castillo (Texas)
2003 Bill Pobega (Ohio)
2002 Jeff Johnson (Mich.)
2001 Garry Carter (Calif.)
2000 Jeff Bell (Conn.)
1999 Kery Hughes (Tenn.)
1998 Juan Soto (S.C.)
1997 Peter Kochis (Okla.)
1996 Preston Gaster (N.C.)

Men's 45+ A

2017 Terry Kisling (Minn.)
2016 Mark Crowther (Nebra.)
2015 Ted Rohlwing (Minn.)
2014 Giovanni Luciano (Minn.)
2013 Ryan Rowlands (Texas)
2012 Jerry Lis (Mo.)
2011 Kipp Atwell (La.)
2010 Ryan Rowlands (Texas)
2009 Alan Nichols (Ga.)
2008 Charlie Andrews (Tenn.)
2007 Andrew Kulback (Ohio)
2006 Edward Fink (Texas)
2005 Derek Kazakos (Fla.)
2004 Paul Whitten (Calif.)
2003 Edward Fink (Texas)
2002 Sal Perconti (Fla.)
2001 David Gross (S.D.)
2000 Ernesto Cisneros (Mexico)
1999 Steve Conn (La.)
1998 Walter McDade (Tenn.)
1997 Robert Hantske (Md.)
1996 Thomas Rall (N.Y.)

Men's 45+ B

2017 Allen Klecker (Minn.)
2016 Timothy Pladson (Minn.)
2015 Rick Moses (Calif.)
2014 Kurt Ross (N.D.)
2013 Tom Janke (N.D.)
2012 Daan Klem (Minn.)
2011 Terry Delaney (N.D.)

Lori Edmonds (Neb.)
Rose Cornelius (Calif.)

Women's 35+ B

Cindy Hoops (Minn.)
Esmeralda Graham (Louis.)
Jennie Jones (Kent.)
Joy Herth (Ill.)
Nancy Davis (Mo.)
Nancy Davis (Mo.)
Nancy Davis (Mo.)
Tracie Valentine (Md.)
No result
No division
Beth Gainer (Pa.)
Eva Alle (Ga.)
Lynn Yeazel (Ill.)
Sue Hunt (Miss.)
Jeannette Clark (Can.)

Women's 35+ C

Diana Angulo
No division
Esmeralda Graham (Louis.)
No division
Felicia Green (Ga.)
Jennie Jones-Huggins (Ga.)
Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)
Becca Brinkman (Minn.)
No division
Nancy Davis (Mo.)
Nancy Davis (Mo.)
Laya Lee (Ga.)
No division
Laurell Burrows (Fla.)
Eunsook Kim (Korea)
Susan Simmons (Tenn.)
Jessica Hamlin (Fla.)
No division
Sharon Curran-Wilks (N.C.)
No division
Terri Truvillion (Mich.)
Kassi Herr (Fla.)

Women's 45+ A

Tricia Brown (N.C.)
Georgette Blomquist (Oregon)
Therese Zadnik Klecker (Minn.)
No division
Hiroko Asari (Japan)
Barb Hoffner (Minn.)
Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
Laura Woodbury (Va.)
Sandy Long (Texas)
Laura Natividad (Hawaii)
Chizuko Furuta (Japan)
Diane Chappel (N.Y.)
No division
Karen Green (Mich.)
Beth Sacco (La.)
Karen Green (Mich.)
Cheryl Kirk (Ill.)
Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
Margaret Hoff (Ill.)

Women's 45+ B

Laura Smith (Texas)
Anita Johnson-Pena (Texas)
Marsha Johnson (Georgia)
Esther Lozano (Calif.)
Robbie Mack (Wis.)
Zia Yang (Texas)
Therese Zadnik (Minn.)

2010 Steve Carroll (Minn.)
2009 Girish Vallabhan (Texas)
2008 Ron Wheeler
2007 Mark Candy (Mich.)
2006 Allen Lawrence (Miss.)
2005 Michael Nichols (Ark.)
2004 Rick Grace (Texas)
2003 Joerg Leinemann (Md.)

Men's 45+ C

2017 Michael Conforti (Minn.)
2016 Darrin McNally (Calif.)
2015 Ray Cornell (Colo.)
2014 Kevin Deyo (Colo.)
2013 John Provan (Calif.)
2012 Samir Muslic (Neb.)
2011 Ben Howell, III (Ala.)
2010 Darrin McNally (Ore.)
2009 John Peloso (Fla.)
2008 David Mimms (Ky.)
2007 Navin Deo (Ill.)
2006 Ed Garrison (Tenn.)
2005 Danny Borden (Ky.)
2004 Tom Gibbons (Can.)
2003 Terrance Holt (Ind.)
2002 Larry Knetzger (Ga.)
2001 Sez Ozden (Ga.)
2000 Garry Carter (Calif.)
1999 Donald Acklin (Pa.)
1998 Jack Morgenroth (Ohio)
1997 Peter Kochis (Okla.)

Men's 55+ A

2017 Kevin Barlia (Calif.)
2016 Stanley Sisson (Texas)
2015 Tom Neal (Ill.)
2014 Larry Matula (Texas)
2013 Rick Betts (Calif.)
2012 George Brewer (Wash.)
2011 Bill Stein (Minn.)
2010 Brad Cress (Texas)
2009 George Henshaw (La.)
2008 Kim Keltner (Mo.)
2007 Tyrone White (Ala.)
2006 Robert Steele (Va.)
2005 David Gross (Tenn.)
2004 Garry Carter (Calif.)
2003 Thomas Curran (Ohio)
2002 Leo Klimaitis (Ill.)
2001 Jerald Kriger (Va.)
2000 Paul Pearce (Texas)
1999 Ken Foster (Texas)
1998 Ken Foster (Texas)
1997 George Tashie (Tenn.)
1996 Jay Krevsky (Pa.)

Men's 55+ B

2017 Christopher Cooper (Calif.)
2016 Richard Seaberg (Ill.)
2015 Lamon Marchbanks (Minn.)
2014 Bob Mayo (Neb.)
2013 Ronald Harris (Texas)
2012 No result recorded
2011 Ray Redelman (Ill.)
2010 Chris Poucher (Ga.)
2009 Gary Buckmaster (Texas)
2008 George Henshaw (La.)
2007 Billy Askins (Texas)
2006 Darrell Crocker (Mo.)
2005 Billy Askins (Texas)
2004 Kenneth Foster (Texas)
2003 Garry Carter (Calif.)

Men's 55+ C

2017 Rob Nelson (Minn.)
2016 David Hurt (Oregon)
2015 Jeff O'Hern (Iowa)

Therese Zadnick (Minn.)
Elaine Ransom (Ariz.)
No division
Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
No division
Loretta Seager (Kan.)
Grace Jaworsky (Mo.)
Alyse Cori (Calif.)

Women's 45+ C

No division
Laurie Welsh (Florida)
Chris Cerny (Ind.)
Jackie Wray (Ohio)
Marsha Johnson (Ga.)
Kimberly Franklin (Ga.)
Denise Berto (Va.)
Rosa Smith (Texas)
No division
Elaine Ransom (Ariz.)
Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)
Tia Lecland (Mich.)
Tia Lecland (Mich.)
Deborah Reauso (Mich.)
Genie Martin (N.C.)
Jessica Hamlin (Fla.)
Jan Stelma (N.C.)
No division
No division
Martine Dormer (N.C.)

Women's 55+ A

Kathy Stellema (Mich.)
Cari Mory (Ill.)
No division
Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
Ly Abbott (Texas)
No division
Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
Kathleen Ruzycycki (Ill.)
Shirley Parsons (Colo.)
Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
Sandy Gross (Tenn.)
Susan Kieffer (Minn.)
Dee Stribling (N.C.)
Andee Glansberg (N.Y.)
Sharon Brockbank (Iowa)
No division
No division
No division
No division
Pauline Kelly (Ill.)
No division

Women's 55+ B

Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
No division
Dotti White (Texas)
Ly Abbott (Texas)
Dotti White (Texas)
Dotti White (Texas)
Susan Schatz (Minn.)
Susan Schatz (Minn.)
Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
No division
Marquita Molina (Calif.)
Marquita Molina (Calif.)
No division
No division

Women's 55+ C

No division
No division
Cindy Barnes (Georgia)

2014	Brian Rissinger (Pa.)	Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
2013	J. Hancuch (Minn.)	Joyce Satorius (Ill.)
2012	David Olson (Minn.)	Diane Martin (Ga.)
2011	Ron Berquist (Minn.)	No division
2010	Kevin Webb (N.C.)	No division
2009	David Roth (Tenn.)	No division
2008	Ronald Harris (Texas)	Kathy Krueger (Mo.)
2007	Navin Deo (Ill.)	Judy Huneycutt (Ark.)
2006	Alfredo Radillo (Mexico)	No division
2005	Bob Lampley (Miss.)	No division
2004	James Douglas Key (Ala.)	No division
2003	Charles Van Hoose (Mich.)	Patty Caldwell (Tenn.)
2002	Don Russell (Miss.)	Aurora Bocanegra (Kan.)
2001	Ben Brewster (Texas)	No division
2000	Willie Davenport (Va.)	No division
1999	Leo Kouremetis (Alaska)	No division
1998	Ralph Temple (Ga.)	No division
1997	Norman Copeland (Ala.)	No division

Men's 65+ A

2017	Dan Pansch (N.D.)
2016	Doug Hammonds (Calif.)
2015	David Wolfson (Georgia)
2014	Tony Alfaro (Calif.)
2013	Ron Miller (N.D.)

Men's 65+ B/C

2017	Jim Barrett (Ariz.)
2016	Randy Puebla (Ill.)
2015	Bruce Hollander (Fla.)
2014	George Goudie (Mich.)
2013	Leonard Sonnenberg (Calif.)

Women's 65+ A

No division
No division
No division
No division
No division

Women's 65+ B

No division
Lynda Howell (Canada)
No division
Marquita Molina (Calif.)
No division

Men's 65+ C

2013	Kyle Smith (Texas)
2012	Ron Miller (North Dakota)

Men's Military Singles

09-11	No division
2008	Justin James (Miss.)

Men's Heroes Singles - Open / A

2017	Paul Julbes (Wash.)
2016	Paul Julbes (Wash.)
2015	Gery Price (Calif.)

Men's Heroes Singles - B / C

2017	David Bandelier (Ariz.)
2016	David Bandelier (Ariz.)
2015	Adam Paulson (Minn.)

Women's 65+ C

No division
Kelly LeBlanc (Ga.)



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CALENDAR of EVENTS

For the latest in USA Racquetball Sanctioned Events, visit USARacquetball.com *Denotes WOR Sanctioned Event

Date	Event	City	State	Location	Email
Oct. 10 - Oct. 13	Huntsman World Senior Games	St. George	UT	St. George Rec Center	hwsg@seniorgames.net
Oct. 11 - Oct. 14	Jerry Bower Memorial	Salem	OR	Courthouse Athletic Club North	brianancheta1@yahoo.com
Oct. 12 - Oct. 13	Oklahoma State Doubles	Oklahoma City	OK	Northside YMCA	sportsline-fred@hotmail.com
Oct. 12 - Oct. 14	Fort Wayne Fall Classic	Fort Wayne	IN	Summit City Fitness	summerracquetball@gmail.com
Oct. 13	Ghostly Doubles	San Antonio	TX	Gold's Gym HCV	venitamitchell@hotmail.com
Oct. 13 - Oct. 14	Fresno Shootout for the Courts	Fresno	CA	Fit Republic	engee53@aol.com
Oct. 13 - Oct. 14	WOR Longwall Warmup	Davie	FL	Waterford Park	mija5599@comcast.net
Oct. 19 - Oct. 21	Inland Empire Championship Racquetball	Spokane	WA	Spokane Club - Downtown	premierracquet@gmail.com
Oct. 19 - Oct. 21	Texas State Doubles Championships	Arlington	TX	Maverick Athletic Club	leo@themav.com
Oct. 19 - Oct. 21	Glass Court Fall Shootout	Lombard	IL	Glass Court Swim & Fitness	dan@glasscourt.com
Oct. 19 - Oct. 21	USAR Free Membership Tournament	York	PA	Athletic Club Of York	membershipcentral@pa-racquetball.com
Oct. 20	Hope for a Cure Breast Cancer Shootout	Lilburn	GA	Recreation ATL	womensball@gmail.com
Oct. 26 - Oct. 28	Raleigh Fall Classic	Raleigh	NC	NC State University - Carmichael Gym	racquetballclub.ncsu@gmail.com
Oct. 26 - Oct. 28	Ghostly Classic	Herndon	VA	Wordgate Sport & Health	kdenu318@yahoo.com
Oct. 26 - Oct. 28	Boston Open	Peabody	MA	Latitude Sports Club	stewartsolomon2@gmail.com
Oct. 26 - Oct. 28	Life Time Austin Open	Austin	TX	Life Time Fitness - South Austin	jlmprok@yahoo.com
Oct. 27	Baton Rouge Fall Classic	Baton Rouge	LA	LSU Student Recreation Complex	al.schof@yahoo.com
Oct. 27 - Oct. 28	Dare 2 Dream Shootout	Stockton	CA	In-Shape Sport: West Lane	ellistyle@comcast.net
Oct. 27 - Oct. 28	Lifetime Fitness Galleria Doubles Weekend	Katy	TX	Life Time Fitness Galleria	michaelmagana2112@gmail.com
Nov. 2 - Nov. 4	Kitsap Splat!	Bremerton	WA	Kitsap Tennis & Athletic Center	rocco@kitsapsplat.com
Nov. 3	Mayhem in Mansfield	Mansfield	TX	Life Time Fitness	Jwilin@msn.com
Nov. 3 - Nov. 4	Aggieland Classic Fall 2018	College Station	TX	Texas A&M Student Recreation Center	jruiggiero99@tamu.edu
Nov. 3 - Nov. 4	WOR Florida Longwall Championship	Davie	FL	Waterford Park	mija5599@comcast.net
Nov. 3 - Nov. 4	Marigold Resources Quad City Open	Eldrige	IA	Eldridge Rec & Fitness	joshpaul1982@gmail.com
Nov. 10	Lone Star State Finals/Party	Round Rock	TX	Clay Madsen Recreation Center	dweiser@weiserinsurance.com
Nov. 10 - Nov. 11	Monterey Shootout	Monterey	CA	In-Shape Sport Monterey	ellistyle@comcast.net
Nov. 15 - Nov. 18	Turkey Shoot	Lombard	IL	Glass Court Swim & Fitness	dan@glasscourt.com
Nov. 16 - Nov. 18	Infusion Solutions Fall Classic Racquetball	Bellingham	WA	Bellingham Athletic Club	racquetball@bellinghamathleticclub.com
Nov. 16 - Nov. 18	Frank Burkholder Thanksgiving Classic	Nashville	TN	YMCA Downtown Nashville	joedersw@icloud.com
Nov. 17	Dale & Todd's WTF	Riverside	CA	Arlington High School	dale-valentine@hotmail.com
Nov. 17 - Nov. 18	Concord Turkey Shootout	Concord	CA	In-Shape Sport: Concord	ellistyle@comcast.net
Nov. 29 - Dec. 2	Pelham Memorial TOC	Portland	OR	Multnomah Athletic Club	brianancheta1@yahoo.com

CALENDAR of EVENTS



Date	Event	City	State	Location	Email
Nov. 30 - Dec. 2	NMRA Doubles-Only Tucson	Tucson	AZ	Tucson Racquet & Fitness Club	cindy.tilbury@att.net
Dec. 1 - Dec. 2	Florida Senior Games/State Champs.	Port Richey	FL	Richey Racquet Fitness Gym	jtrimble1255@gmail.com
Dec. 14 - Dec. 16	Rally Against Hunger	Peabody	MA	Latitude Sports Clubs	stewartsolomon2@gmail.com
Dec. 15 - Dec. 16	Shootout Of Champions	Stockton	CA	In-Shape Sports: West Lane	ellistyle@comcast.net



CSU Pueblo | Photo By Jim Hiser



OSU | Photo By Donna Durbin

This year, due to some confusion regarding criteria for Intercollegiates, USA Racquetball, with the assistance of the Collegiate Committee, has made the decision to name Colorado State University-Pueblo and Oregon State University as Intercollegiate Co-National Overall Champions. Congratulations to both of these outstanding teams on their successful programs and their performance at the USAR Intercollegiate Championships!



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Comparing PEEK, Nylon, and PU-Based Strings



Official String



Ever since we introduced our first polyurethane (PU) based string at the end of last season – MultiKill® 17 – people have been asking me to explain the difference between it and our Zyex® (PEEK) based strings like our PowerKill® and UltraKill® strings. I’ve gone over some of this before, but since traditional nylon multifilament, PU-based nylon multifilament, and PEEK multifilament strings comprise the largest proportion of strings in use today, the comparisons bear repeating. Besides, my mother always said she had to repeat things to me at least three times, and I think that’s good advice.

The first thing that needs to be said is that how a string plays and feels for you is much more important than how it technically compares to another string. This is not just to say that everybody is different – which is rather a cliché – but that the same string will really feel and play differently for different players. If this were not true, there would be only one string!

PEEK stands for polyether ether ketone, the chemical name for the Zyex brand polymer filaments we use in our string. PEEK is a very robust high-temperature engineering grade polymer noted for its toughness and durability. PEEK monofilaments and fibers have excellent abrasion resistance (over five times better than Kevlar). They also have better dynamic stiffness ratios than any other synthetic string material, giving them the ability to stretch and snap back quickly, returning energy and power to the ball (we call it “soft power”). Finally, PEEK has exceptionally low creep, which is the ability of a string to retain tension when strung in a frame, extending the life of the string.

As for nylon, I’d wager that nearly everyone who has ever played racquetball has used nylon strings at some point. Nylon has been the dominant material for racquetball string since the game first began, and it still remains very popular. Nylon strings are relatively inexpensive, they are quite responsive, and players love their “feel” and “playability.”

Nylon strings don’t spring back quite as quickly as Zyex, but depending on the design and gauge of the string, they can be either quite stretchy or quite stiff with dynamic stiffness ratings averaging around 190 lb./in. compared to Zyex at 145. Nylon’s main drawback is that it loses tension and wears more quickly than other string materials, leading to a shorter life in the racquet. It is also not as durable for power players.

Enter PU, or polyurethane, which is one of – if not the – most versatile polymers known, with some \$80 billion worth produced annually. Generally known for its toughness and abrasion resistance, when used in string it permeates the nylon sheath, chemically bonding the whole into a single, unitized matrix. Unlike UltraKill 17, which has a woven nylon wear layer over a PEEK multifilament core, MultiKill 17 has no separate wear layer, just the smooth PU surface. Because of the material’s natural adhesive properties, this surface helps grip the ball.

In adding PU to nylon, our intention was to add durability to the nylon for heavy hitters and to improve abrasion resistance, which would reduce notching and improve the life of the string. MultiKill 17 does these things very well. The added strength improves durability, especially on off-center hits near the edge of the frame. But what surprised us was that the PU also improved the tension-holding ability of the string while retaining nylon’s soft feel and comfortable playability.

Needless to say, we were very eager to get comments from our play testers when MultiKill 17 was ready, especially from our best-known player, Cliff Swain. After playing with nylon-based string for years, Cliff has become a strong advocate for our Zyex-based PowerKill 17, and even sells his Cliff Swain brand racquets factory-strung with it. So, when he tried PU-based MultiKill 17, the first thing he noticed was that it did not string as tight as his PowerKill. In fact, he said he had to string about 4 lbs. tighter – about 10% -- to get the feel he was used to. But once strung, he found the MultiKill also held tension better than a traditional multifilament nylon string. It did not “relax” as much after stringing and remained quite stable after that.

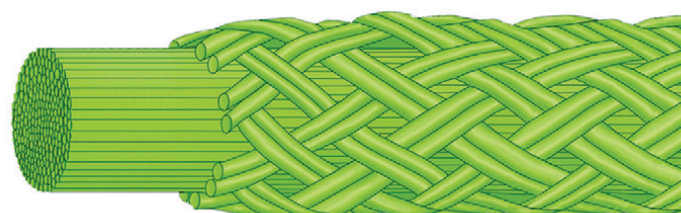
Cliff also noticed the PU seemed to add power to the string. “I love the playability, the dynamic stiffness, and the sharpness that I get with the Zyex strings,” he said, “but there is something about the polyurethane/nylon filament combination that also gives me excellent power. But it’s power of a different sort.”

We found that comment quite intriguing and will explore it at greater depth in next spring’s issue. We’ll also review the comments from several of our other well-known play testers.

MultiKill® 17



UltraKill® 17



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CLIFF SWAIN
Racquetball Legend

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- ▶ TOUGH AND DURABLE POLYURETHANE CONSTRUCTION



PowerKill® Pro

- ▶ OPTIMUM STRENGTH AND DURABILITY
- ▶ MAXIMUM POWER AND TOUGHNESS



PowerKill® 17

- ▶ OPTIMUM COMBINATION OF POWER AND CONTROL
- ▶ SUPERIOR STRENGTH AND DURABILITY



UltraKill® 17

- ▶ SUPERIOR COMBINATION OF POWER AND CONTROL
- ▶ ENHANCED FEEL AND CONTROL OF THE BALL



UltraKill® 18

- ▶ MAXIMUM SPIN AND FEEL OF THE BALL
- ▶ OPTIMUM PERFORMANCE IN 18 GAUGE



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Rocky Carson