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Milco (Mascot of the Pan American Games) and Rhonda Rajsich
Photo By Renée Isherwood

ON THE COVER

National Junior Olympic Championship All-Americans Photo by KSpography
Insert: Pan American Team Photo by Renée Isherwood

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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.

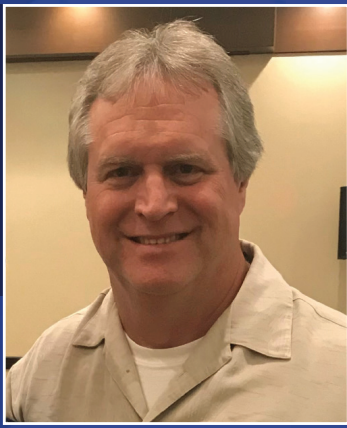
While the process for qualifying for doubles on the US Team is the same, the singles qualification procedure is determined by performance on a weighted scale at three qualifying events:

- 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.



FROM THE
Executive Director | By Mike Wedel

National Headquarters

Putting State Rebates To Good Use

Did You Know...

By being a member of USA Racquetball, you are automatically a member of your State Association. A portion of your USAR membership fee is sent to the state you belong to as a quarterly rebate with the intention of providing support on a local level. USA Racquetball works with state associations in different ways based upon their needs and programming. If you want to help racquetball in your area, contact your state Board members and offer to get involved. They would love to have new enthusiastic volunteers to help with junior programs, local tournaments, clinics, and local club support and programming.

I have been involved with the Kansas Racquetball Association (KRA) for many years in various roles and currently as vice president. The Kansas Board of Directors has seven members, and we meet by phone once a month. Some of the meetings are only about fifteen minutes, but in others we get into a detailed discussion on ways we can work to grow the sport. One example is our junior program. I have heard great things about junior programs supported by other state associations, and it's encouraging and exciting to know that it is a priority. Everyone on our Board is passionate about junior programming. We have several people working with clubs to get more kids involved and playing. We have realized success with this and have rewarded the kids with equipment and "Team Kansas Racquetball" shirts.

We also use our rebate money in a couple other ways that help us support local racquetball. We pay for background checks for Board members and tournament directors. I encourage all states to work with USA Racquetball to make sure they are compliant with SafeSport training and background check requirements. SafeSport compliance (training and background checks) must be current in order to qualify for state rebates.



Another way the KRA leverages rebate money is to fund USA Racquetball memberships for our junior players. We want to encourage them to play competitively and enjoy the game so they will tell their friends! If we can eliminate one small barrier by paying the membership fee, it is a win for everyone.

I am not suggesting that this is how every state association should use their rebate money, but these are thought starters.

How is my state association working to grow racquetball? How can I help USA Racquetball and my state association grow racquetball? I know there are some great state associations doing incredible work in racquetball. For those, CONGRATULATIONS and keep up the great work. For those that are struggling, you are warmly invited to contact the USA Racquetball office and we will be happy to help you. We can give you contacts to other states for idea sharing. One of the best ways to collaborate and discuss best practices for states is to attend USA Racquetball State Association conference calls. We encourage ALL state association Board members or representatives to call in, not just the officers. The next meeting is October 8th at 5:00 MT. If you are not receiving the call-in information, please notify the office or bring your email address current in the R2 system. The more people on the call, the more ideas can be contributed, including those about how various states use their rebate funds.

None of Us is as Good as All of Us. - Ray Kroc



Photos Courtesy of Kansas Racquetball Association



Board of Directors Update

By Dan Whitley

You may have noticed via email or online that USA Racquetball is seeking individuals to serve on our Board of Directors. Our Election Committee is already promoting the March 2020 election. All of the information is on our website. If you or someone you know would be a good fit, please consider (or encourage them to consider) submitting a statement of interest by October 23!

This past spring, our Board of Directors made a shift from working as an operational board into functioning as a strategic board. We have four primary areas we are focusing on:

- **Membership.** What makes membership collection easier for members and event directors? How can we better define our value proposition for our membership?
- **Events (Indoor and Outdoor, State, and National).** We recommend event directors sanction their events early. Longer lead times will encourage participants to “save the date” and make travel plans. We challenge our states to try to add one more tournament onto their 2019-2020 tournament calendars. We are providing more support to the three WOR Outdoor National Championship events. In addition, National Singles is moving back to Texas! The event is also moving one week past Memorial Day weekend to June 3-7 in order to allow more to attend.
- **US Team.** We are looking at ways to improve the US Team as a whole. How can we improve across all areas; the players, coaches, and the qualification process? How can we become more competitive and establish a long-term plan to improve performance in international competition? How can we create more awareness for and better promote our team and top athletes? Most importantly, how do we provide support for our junior players and develop our them into our team of the future?
- **US OPEN.** We are working to ensure that the US OPEN will continue to have a home in Minneapolis and will remain Racquetball’s Premier Grand Slam Event for years to come!

The Board is working to share and communicate with our members more regularly and provide information about the initiatives and areas we are focusing on in our meetings. Please look for more frequent communication from our Board of Directors and staff in the 4th quarter of 2019.

If serving on the Board of Directors isn’t for you but you would still like to help USA Racquetball, please consider participating on a committee. Below is a listing of the names and email addresses for the primary contact or chairperson for each of our committees. Do not hesitate to reach out if you are interested in helping with any of these groups. Thank you to all the committee chairs for serving in their roles on their respective committees.

- Collegiate Committee, Brendan Giljum, brendangiljum@gmail.com
- Election Committee, Terry Rogers, rogersta@comcast.net
- Finance Committee, Steve Czarnecki, steve.czarnecki@gmail.com
- Hall of Fame Committee, Jim Hiser, hiserj@me.com
- High School Committee, Dan Whitley, dwhitley@vettasports.com
- Junior Committee, Carol Pellowski, CarolPellowski@msn.com
- Legislative Committee, Cheryl Kirk, cherylkirk@aol.com
- Marketing Committee, Mike Wedel, mwedel@usaracquetball.com
- Membership Committee, Mike Wedel, mwedel@usaracquetball.com
- National Events Committee, Mike Wedel, mwedel@usaracquetball.com
- Referee Certification Committee, Debbie Bryant, frfrmskpn@embarqmail.com and Lynn Stephens, racquetball@gmail.com
- Revenue Generation and Fundraising Committee, Geoff Peters, petersgeoff@hotmail.com
- Rules Committee, Otto Dietrich, usar.ask.otto@gmail.com
- Scholarship Committee, Dan Whitley, dwhitley@vettasports.com
- US Team Committee, Larry Haemmerle, unclelarry2all@yahoo.com
- Women’s Committee, Terry Rogers, rogersta@comcast.net
- WOR Committee, Michelle De La Rosa, michelle@keyracquetball.com and Darold Key, darold@keyracquetball.com



ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE CAN RAISE MORE THAN **\$30,000** FOR THE TEAMS!

Support the U.S. Adult and Junior National Teams with a tax-deductible contribution today. Your support is vital to the players and coaches as they prepare to represent the United States in international competition. Funds are primarily used for travel expenses, entry fees, and training.

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!

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

To become a benefactor for the 2018 Team USA Challenge, please contact USA Racquetball at 719-635-5396.

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\$100 or more will receive an **Electronic Travel Kit.**



\$250 or more will receive a Bag Tag and a **10 Piece BBQ Set.**



\$500 or more will receive an **Engraved Wine Gift Set.**



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USA Racquetball Names 2019-2020 Junior National Team

By Renée Isherwood | Photos By KSpography

The 2019 USA Racquetball National Junior Olympic Championship presented by Penn was competed in Portland, Oregon, the last week of June. With over 500 matches played, the best juniors from around the country gathered in the Pacific Northwest to earn spots on the U.S. Junior National Team that will compete at the IRF World Junior Championship in San Jose, Costa Rica, this fall.

Below are some highlights of the championship matches, and all results can be found by visiting <https://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=30664>.

Boys 10 & Under Doubles champions Nathan Rykhus and Ashton Guiraud duked it out in the 10 & Under Singles final, with Rykhus defeating his partner, 15-11, 15-3. On the Girls 10 & Under Singles side, there was a similar contest between doubles champions Andrea Perez-Picon and her doubles partner Aanshi Thakur, with Perez-Picon becoming a two-time National Champion this tournament. Perez-Picon also won a silver medal in the 12 & Under Singles after being defeated by Sonya Shetty, 15-7, 15-2. In the Boys 12 & Under, Joseph Marshall bested Angel Galvan in a somewhat lopsided match, 4-15, 15-2, 11-8. Galvan along with fellow Californian Eshan Ali captured gold in the Boys 12 & Under Doubles.

One of the arguably best junior matches of all time unfolded between Vedant Chauhan and Nikhil Prasad in the Boys 14 & Under Singles final. In a point-for-point battle in the second game, it was a display of fist pumps as Prasad forced a tiebreaker. The crowd grew for this amazing final game, cheering for both sides and appreciating great shots. Collective gasps and groans filled the bleachers as Prasad took the third game 11-5.

The Boys 16 & Under final between Antonio Rojas and Timmy Hansen finished in two with Rojas winning, 15-11, 15-14. Reigning champion Annie Roberts held off Heather Mahoney in three games to take the Girls 16 & Under Singles title, 8-15, 15-11, 11-9.

The Girls 18 & Under Doubles round robin finished Saturday night. With a second consecutive year of a three-way tie for first, it came down to a most-games-won scenario with Nikita Chauhan and Erin Slutzky upsetting defending champions Megan Carver and Hannah Carver. The Girls 18 & Under Singles final was a repeat of the 2018 National Junior Olympic Championship between Briana Jacquet and Nikita Chauhan, ending in the same outcome with Jacquet winning the title 15-7, 15-5. Jacquet's power dominated Chauhan's finesse. In the Boys 18 & Under Singles final, Micah Farmer started the match with fresher legs than Antonio Rojas, who won the Boys 16 & Under final just an hour earlier. In a tough first game, Rojas pulled out the win 15-13. Farmer and Rojas exchanged serves several times in game



Left: Action at the Multnomah Athletic Club
Below: Timmy Hansen in Boys 16 & Under Action



two, with Farmer going on two runs of three points and winning 15-13 to propel the match into a tiebreaker. The roar of the crowd traveled down the hallway as the ball had two crack backspins away from the players resulting in consecutive serve changes. Midway through the third game, Rojas regained the serve despite some incredible diving gets by Farmer and went on to win 11-4, claiming the Boys 18 & Under National title. Impressively, 15-year-old Josh Shea and his 18-year old partner Dylan Pruitt were National Champs in the Boys 18 & Under Doubles, defeating the silver medalists Ivan Hernandez and Cayden Akins, 15-3, 15-13.

Saturday night featured the Junior Awards banquet, held in Downtown Portland at the World Trade Center Plaza. As the sun was setting over the city, attendees celebrated World Cup Players of the Year Andrew Gleason and Heather Mahoney; Esprit Male and Female Players of the Year Nikhil Prasad and Ava Kaiser, and the outstanding sportsmanship of Lily Caldwell, both on and off the court.

USA Racquetball would like to thank the Multnomah Athletic Club for hosting this Championship, as well as all of our volunteers. A special thank you goes out to Noho's Hawaiian Café, Pastini's Pasteria, Rib City Catering, Bellagio's Pizza, Elephant's Deli, and Columbia Sportswear for supporting this event.

A great time was had by all in Portland, and USA Racquetball looks forward to seeing many of these competitors and families next year at the National Junior Championships, June 24-28, at The Meridian Club in Fullerton, California!



Above: Boys 18 and 16 & Under Singles Champions Antonio Rojas
 Left: Girls 18 & Under Singles Champion: Briana Jacquet
 Below Left: Esprit Male Player of the Year Nikhil Prasad with USAR Executive Director Mike Wedel
 Below: Girls 16 & Under Singles and Doubles Champion Annie Roberts



Results



BOYS SINGLES

18 & Under
16 & Under
14 & Under
12 & Under
10 & Under
10 & Under DB
8 & Under MB

Champion
Antonio Rojas
Antonio Rojas
Nikhil Prasad
Joseph Marshall
Nathan Rykhus
Alejandro Robles Picon
Kabir Sethi

Runner-Up
Micah Farmer
Cayden Akins
Timmy Hansen
Vedant Chauhan
Ashton Guiraud
Ayan Sharma

GIRLS SINGLES

Champion
Briana Jacquet
Annie Roberts
Heather Mahoney
Sonya Shetty
Andrea Perez-Picon
Addison Thomas
Natalia Canchola

Runner-Up
Nikita Chauhan
Heather Mahoney
Ava Kaiser
Andrea Perez-Picon
Aanshi Thakur
N/A
Addison Thomas

BOYS DOUBLES

18 & Under
16 & Under
14 & Under
12 & Under
10 & Under

Champions
Josh Shea/Dylan Pruitt
Timmy Hansen/Andrew Gleason
Vedant Chauhan/Josh Shea
Eshan Ali/Angel Eden Galvan
Nathan Rykhus/Ashton Guiraud

Runners-Up
Ivan Hernandez/Cayden Akins
Julius Ellis/Krish Thakur
Gattin Sutherland/Nikhil Prasad
Joseph Marshall/Advait Kartik
Geffen Kama/Vaishant Mangalampalli

GIRLS DOUBLES

Champions
Nikita Chauhan/Erin Slutzky
Alondra Canchola/Annie Roberts
Kareena Mathew/Ava Kaiser
Sonya Shetty/Ava Naworski
Aanshi Thakur/Andrea Perez-Picon

Runners-Up
Hannah Carver/Megan Carver
Julia Stein/Heather Mahoney
Arya Cyril/Esha Cyril
Sage Hartman/Lillian Ford-Crimi
Elizabeth Denler/Alea Guiraud

MIXED DOUBLES

18 and Under
16 and Under
14 and Under
12 and Under

Champions
Antonio Rojas/Briana Jacquet
Tess La Rue/Iain Dunn
Alondra Canchola/Julius Ellis
Advait Kartik/Ava Naworski

Runners-Up
Estefania Perez/Jose Perez
N/A
Hudson Farmer/Lily Caldwell
Ashlyn Carver/Victor Emilio Pinto Gonzalez

For complete results visit: <https://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=30664>

2019 USA RACQUETBALL JUNIOR ALL-AMERICANS

Cayden Akins
Eshan Ali
Ben Baron
Hannah Carver
Megan Carver
Nikita Chauhan
Vedant Chauhan
Arya Cyril
Esha Cyril
Elizabeth Denler
Shane Diaz
Julius Ellis
Micah Farmer
Angel Eden Galvan
Andrew Gleason
Alea Guiraud
Timmy Hansen
Ivan Hernandez
Briana Jacquet
Ava Kaiser
Geffen Kama
Advait Kartik

Heather Mahoney
Vaishant Mangalampalli
Joseph Marshall
Caleb Marshall
Joseph Marshall
Kareena Mathew
Ava Naworski
Andrea Perez-Picon
Nikhil Prasad
Dylan Pruitt
Annie Roberts
Antonio Rojas
Nathan Rykhus
Josh Shea
Sonya Shetty
Erin Slutzky
Julia Stein
Gattin Sutherland
Aanshi Thakur
Krish Thakur
Graciana Wargo



Top: Josh Shea in action
Right: World Cup Team
Photos by KSphotography



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2019 USA National Junior Training Clinic

Photo & Article Courtesy of Charlie Pratt

The 2019 USA Junior Team Clinic in Stockton, California, included 25 members and alternates of the 2019 Junior National Team, half of whom were from the Northern California area and the rest from out-of-state.

With the United States Olympic and Paralympic Training Center (USOPTC) not available due to the Pan American Games training schedule for a great number of other sports, it was the perfect time to bring a different approach to past training camps that have traditionally been held in Colorado Springs.

Instead of bringing the players to the coaches, this year the coaches went to the players! Stockton was a natural choice with so many national team members hailing from the surrounding area. The Ellis family was a huge support. Assistant Coach/Athletic Trainer Jody Nance also stepped up to the plate, helping organize the meals and hosting dinners at her home.

We owe a huge thank you to In-Shape Stockton West Lane for hosting the clinic. In-Shape has nine racquetball courts, which is several more than we had in Colorado. This provided the option to invite other players to participate that were not on the World Cup Team. We had a total of 10 World Cup players, 10 Esprit Cup players, and five additional players. The age range was 7–19. This was a huge opportunity for the younger players to be around the older players and train with them. It was also a great chance for the older players to give back and to mentor the younger ones.

To get the players ready for racquetball, each morning began with a twenty-minute warm-up outside on the tennis courts before moving into the club for thirty minutes of footwork training. Then it was time for five minutes of on-court warm-ups that simulated the same amount of time as in International Racquetball Federation rules. Side-to-side, ceiling ball, and down-the-line drills came next. Since many of these drills can be accomplished with players of all levels, the younger players were at times mixed in with the older players.

Time to play! With nine courts and 25 players, most courts were doubles. However, since some of the players are only competing in singles at the upcoming IRF World Junior Championships, we created those scenarios as well.

Tony Carson is the newest addition to the USA Junior Team coaching staff. Last year, Tony was interested in being a part of the coaching staff but couldn't commit the time. This year he happily accepted, and we are thrilled to have him. Tony brings over 20 years of racquetball experience, including about eight years on the International Racquetball Tour (IRT), where he was ranked as high as #6; three years on the USA Adult National Team; and many years in other sports at a very high level.

Each day after lunch, the World Cup Team split off for specific training objectives with the coaches, such as weight training by Robbie; spin class by Jody; and circuit training by Tony. We ended each day with some variation of yoga, core training, and stretching.

On the final day of the clinic, we had a small tournament. It was a round robin format, separated into World Cup and Esprit Cup groups. Once the round robin was complete, we seeded the players into a draw. It was a fun way to end a tough week of training.

We thank the community of Stockton for all their support, as well as the parents of the athletes for everything they did to get them there. Our goal was that the athletes would have a great experience and learn training techniques to enrich their racquetball futures. All indications are "mission accomplished."

The US Junior Team athletes will continue with intense training regimens until the first week of November when many will travel to San José, Costa Rica, to represent their country in the IRF World Junior Championships. GO TEAM USA!



2019 WORLD CUP TEAM ROSTER

Ben Baron	Timmy Hansen	Annie Roberts
Alondra Canchola	Ava Kaiser	Antonio Rojas
Nikita Chauhan	Heather Mahoney	Josh Shea
Vedant Chauhan	Kareena Mathew	Erin Slutzky
Micah Farmer	Nikhil Prasad	Graciana Wargo
Andrew Gleason	Dylan Pruitt	

2019 ESPRIT CUP TEAM ROSTER

Eshan Ali	Ashton Guiraud	Nathan Rykhus
Elizabeth Denter	Joseph Marshall	Sonya Shetty
Angel Galvan	Ava Naworski	Aanshi Thakur

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 José, Costa Rica.

Also competing in Esprit divisions in Costa Rica will be Alea Guiraud, Advait Kartik, Caleb Marshall, Adriana Perez, and Aarya Shetty.

The NMRA Goes to Chicago

By Mike Grisz, NMRA Secretary



NATIONAL MASTERS RACQUETBALL

Big Success

The National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA) tournament team just completed an exciting summer round-robin event at The Glass Court Swim & Fitness Club in Lombard, Illinois, and the Westmont Park District Fitness Center in Westmont, Illinois. We had our largest tournament attendance in four years, and the event was on schedule, competitive, and collegial—all the usual hallmarks of an NMRA tournament. We had over 50 first-time players and 40 Illinois players. Perhaps you caught some of our livestreaming on our National Masters Racquetball Association Facebook videos page. They are still available, and we hope you Like and Share the matches to your Facebook page.

Lots of Gold

Congratulations to Tyrone Gilmore, Lars Cole, Jean Halahan, and Alok Mehta for winning two events. Special congratulations as well go to Jon Singer of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, who won the 80+ singles, and to John O'Donnell, Jr. of Champaign, Illinois, who won the 85+ singles and the 75+ doubles with his young partner, Alberto Palacios of Chicago.

Hall of Fame

Bill Baker of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, was inducted into the NMRA Hall of Fame as a Lifetime contributor. Bill's wife, Pearl, put together an amazing video for the occasion. Phil Dziuk from Champaign, Illinois, was also inducted into the HOF posthumously in a moving presentation by John O'Donnell, Jr., a Hall of Famer and fellow Champaign resident. (NMRA President Cindy Tilbury adds: "Mike Grisz was also inducted into our NMRA Hall of Fame as a player, and we enjoyed pictures and newspaper articles from Mike's 40-year racquetball career supplied by his wife and fellow NMRA Board member Karen Grisz.")

Fundraiser

During the Saturday night banquet at the Embassy Suites Lombard, we had a fundraiser and silent auction to raise money for Junior Team Illinois and Team USA. Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez reports that the ISRA plans to use the \$1,600 to help defray families' travel expenses for some of the kids to compete in future Junior National Championships. We are proud of our generous NMRA players and guests!

Thanks

We want to thank Geoff Peters, Cheryl Kirk, Dan Jaskier, Rick Ricksecker, the ISRA volunteers, and the entire staff at Glass Court and the Westmont Fitness Center for their help in putting on such a successful tournament. They have invited us back again, and we can't wait to make those arrangements!

Next Events

Our next event is in Atlanta, Georgia, at Recreation ATL on December 6 through 8 in our Doubles Only event. Then it's on to St. Louis, Missouri, for the NMRA National Championship slated for the first week of April 2020 at the Vetta Sports Club - Concord.

Announcements

Our Board voted to create an NMRA Lifetime membership option that can be purchased for \$750 (or turn 80, when the Lifetime membership becomes \$0). It is a donation to the organization, and we would love for our donors to be Lifetime members.

Watch our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/nationalmastersRB/> and the www.nmra.info website for more exciting announcements in 2020 as we approach our 50th anniversary year!



Left: Keith Minor - Men's 50+ Singles Gold

Right: John O'Donnell, Jr. & Alberto Palacios - Men's 75+ Doubles Gold

Photos By Cindy Tilbury

PAN AMERICAN GAMES

Lima, Peru | August 2-10, 2019



The Pan American Games are the pinnacle of sporting events for Racquetball. As member of the Pan American Sports Organization (PASO), the Pan American Racquetball Confederation (under the IRF) showcased the best of the best in Lima, Peru.

Arrivals

Team USA was met at the Lima airport by the staff of the USOPC. Gathering luggage, the team loaded into a city-type bus for the hour ride to the Athlete Village in Villa El Salvador. After arriving, accreditations were activated, and the Team was led to the Team USA apartment building where keys were distributed and everyone crashed at 3 a.m. after a long day of travel.

There were several bumps in the road, literally and figuratively, regarding transportation between the Athlete Village and Venue. It took an hour each way to travel back and forth to the venue, but with traffic it was often much more, with the longest trip clocked at 2 hours and 37 minutes.

Setting the Stage

As Team USA practiced at the venue at Callao, Coach Debbie and Renée represented the United States at the IRF/PASO Coaches' meeting. It was encouraging to hear Francisco Lee of the Pan American Sports Organization say that racquetball is seen as an "emerging sport, a growing sport, with more people following and more practicing. It is growing!"

IRF President Osvaldo Maggi shared that of the 18 countries in the Western Hemisphere with racquetball teams, 14 were represented in Lima. Thirty men and thirty women competed in the nine-day program that saw athletes vying for medals in six divisions: Women's and Men's Singles, Doubles, and Team competitions.

Coach Dave Ellis was eager for the first day of competition, saying, "All of our players are focused and ready for the first matches. Our five Team USA players possess so much talent and experience. The players are giving each other confidence simply by being a part of such an impressive group."

Article & Photos By Renée Isherwood

US Team Delegation to the 2019 Pan American Games

Jake Bredenbeck, Minnesota: #1 Singles
Charlie Pratt, Oregon: #2 Singles
Rocky Carson, California/Charlie Pratt: Doubles

Kelani Lawrence, Virginia: #1 Singles
Rhonda Rajsich, Arizona: #2 Singles
Kelani Lawrence/Rhonda Rajsich: Doubles

Dave Ellis, California – Head Coach
Debbie Tisinger-Moore, California – Assistant Coach
Brent Huff, Arizona – Team Trainer
Renée Isherwood, Colorado – Team Leader
Mike Wedel, Kansas – Executive Director, USA Racquetball



Individual Competition

The competition began with three days of round robin pool play where the top two in each pool advanced to the main draws for the Singles divisions. Jake, Charlie, Kelani, and Rhonda all advanced to their main draws. All teams advanced in the Doubles divisions.

Beginning the women's main draw, Rhonda advanced in the first round and moved into the quarters vs. Adriana Riveros of Colombia. Rhonda had a difficult time keeping her feet under her on the wet floor, never quite getting set. Riveros won in two, 15-10, 15-10.

The men's main draw commenced with Charlie playing Dominican Republic's Luis Perez, who won the first game 15-13. "Luis is a big guy, with lots of reach, speed, and power," noted Coach Dave. Charlie took the second game 15-10, forcing the tiebreaker. Charlie fell behind but found a serve that gave Luis trouble, giving USA the win, 11-5. Moving into the quarters an hour later, Charlie faced Conrado Moscoso of Bolivia. He struggled against the Bolivian and lost in two games, 7-15, 7-15.

In Kelani's first match of the main bracket, she went head-to-head with Carla Muñoz of Chile. Kelani took the first game 15-10 but lost in the second, 11-15. Down in the tiebreaker 3-7, Kelani made her way back with z-serves and drive serves to the backhand and won 11-7. Advancing to the quarterfinals, Kelani played the #1 seed, Maria Jose Vargas of Argentina. In the first game, Kelani jumped out to a 4-0 lead. Maria settled down and took control of the game, winning 15-9. In the second game, Kelani again took a quick lead at 8-0, and Vargas quickly called a timeout. Vargas came back with ten unanswered points, blasting low drive serves to the backhand. A war ensued, back and forth, and while the outcome was a loss for Kelani (13-15), there were many compliments on her level of play.

Rhonda and Kelani started the day against Jenny Daza and Angelica Barrios of Colombia. "I thought they played very well. They served consistently and gelled together," remarked Coach Debbie. Rhonda and Kelani won 15-9, 15-4, advancing to the semifinals and capturing Team USA's first racquetball medal of the Games. Their second match against Paola Longoria and Samantha Salas of Mexico was a rematch from the preliminary round. "We faced a very experienced team that forced us to be on the defensive," explained Coach Debbie. "When the opportunities were there, we did not execute." The United States lost 6-15, 1-15.

After a first-round win vs. Colombia's Mario Mercado and Sebastian Franco, 5-15, 15-7, 11-7, Charlie and Rocky's battle with Mexico's Javier Mar and Rodrigo Montoya began. "Mar was shooting lights out," commented Coach Dave. "He was just incredible, killing balls from everywhere." Rocky and Charlie won the first game, 15-11, but fell in the second, 9-15. The



Kelani Lawrence & Rhonda Rajsich

tiebreaker went back and forth with serves exchanged but few points scored. Both Rocky and Charlie made diving gets, behind-the-back saves, and between-the-legs returns. Mexico edged out the United States to win 11-8, resulting in another bronze medal for the U.S.

The individual portion of the Pan American Games competition concluded and medals were awarded. With two bronze medals for the U.S. (both for doubles), it was time for the team portion of the competition.

Team Competition

The Men's and Women's Team earned a bye in the first round of the Team competition, which was formatted as a "best of three," so if a country wins the first two scheduled matches, the third is not competed.

In Women's #2 Singles, Rhonda took her revenge against Adriana Riveros of Colombia. "Rhonda played her game, moving well and setting up shots," Coach Debbie said. "By mixing up her serves, Rhonda was able to keep Adriana on the defense and out of position. While Rhonda had great matches against Frédérique Lambert (Canada) and Monserrat Mejia (Mexico) earlier in the tournament, she played her best, thus far."

Jake played his good friend Felipe Camacho of Costa Rica in Men's Singles #2. "Jake was hitting on all cylinders," stated Coach Dave. "Jake's movement is so instinctively sound. Coupled with his mach speed serves, the match was one-sided." Jake won 15-5, 15-6, with an ace serve to close it out.

The second group in the draws were the Doubles teams, with the women starting first. Kelani and Rhonda battled Cristina Amaya and Adriana Riveros of Colombia. "The more Kelani and Rhonda play together, the more they click," said Coach

Debbie. “Kelani’s good coverage allowed Rhonda to shoot.” Coach Debbie’s game plan kept Team Colombia from getting situated. Though Riveros shot well, tying the game at 9-9, Team USA held on to win 15-12. In the second game, Rhonda served an ace to make it 14-11, and Team USA took the match 15-12, 15-11, advancing to the semifinals and guaranteeing another trip to the podium.

Charlie and Rocky closed out the day against Felipe Camacho and Andres Acuna of Costa Rica. “Acuna is one of the best players in the tournament and proved it by killing ball after ball in the left corner,” Coach Dave observed. Team USA built a big lead (11-0), but the Costa Ricans fought back to cut the lead (14-10). Rocky and Charlie held off seven game point attempts to take Game 1, 15-14. Despite winning, a strategy adjustment was in order, and Charlie and Rocky won the second 15-7, advancing to the semifinals and securing another medal for Team USA.

In the semifinals of the Team competition, the Singles #1 position led off, pitting Rocky against Bolivia’s Conrado Moscoso, and what a match it was! Rocky got frustrated with the way Moscoso could kill the ball in the front left corner all game. The Bolivian took the first game, 15-7. “Conrado hit amazing shots, achieving numerous kills and a little bit of luck with cracks,” Coach Dave noted. Rocky’s z-serves cooled Moscoso off a little in the second, keeping him on defense. Rocky made a lot of gets that he put up to the ceiling. Rocky voiced on a timeout, “If this guy is going to get me, he’s going to do it from the back left corner.” Conrado appeared to tire and began leaving his shots up, providing setups for Rocky. Rocky won the second game 15-8 and forced the tiebreaker. The tiebreaker continued the same way, and Rocky edged out Moscoso, 11-6.

Kelani started the day for the Women’s team, taking on Paola Longoria of Mexico. While Kelani’s z-serves earned her a few points, Paola dominated the first game, 15-5. In the second game, Paola had amazing serves causing Kelani to wait too long to return, and she did not score.

The Men’s second match featured Charlie and Rocky against Bolivia’s Conrado Moscoso and Roland Keller. With their coverage patterns intact, Team USA controlled the first game, winning 15-12. “Team USA continued to dominate in the first half of Game 2, but the Bolivians got a hot hand,” commented Coach Dave. “Various adjustments were made, but nothing helped through the rest of Game 2 (6-15), nor the tiebreaker.” Team USA lost 6-11, causing the third match to have to be played between Jake and Carlos Keller.

The women took on Paola Longoria and Samantha Salas of the Mexico for the third time this tournament. Team USA certainly evolved in their chemistry and court coverage,

Rhonda Rajsich, Referee Sergio Acuña, and Frédérique Lambert



Closing Ceremonies



Colombia (Mario Mercado & Sebastian Franco), Referee Tucky Kravitz, and USA (Rocky Carson & Charlie Pratt)

Results

Mexico adapted to the changes well. Team USA brought a different kind of pressure today, but Mexico was ready for anything and executed with confidence and consistency. Team USA lost 15-5, 15-4, finishing with the Women's Team Bronze.

Carlos started against Jake with four crack aces and three more points besides to go up 7-0 in the first game. Jake played hard to even out the game but lost 11-15. In the second game, Carlos again jumped to a lead. Jake kicked into high gear and went ahead 13-10, only to sustain an injury to his back. After managing to win the second game, Jake struggled in the tiebreaker. Keller won 11-2, handing the Men's Team a Bronze medal.

Closing Ceremonies

On Sunday, August 11, the US Racquetball Team joined approximately 190 other members of Team USA to participate in the Closing Ceremonies of the 2019 Pan American Games, marching in the Parade of Nations. It was a thrilling moment to walk out into a packed stadium of 40,000 and see our faces up on the big screen. To be surrounded by other members of Team USA, all having the honor of representing our country, was a moment we'll never forget.

For a full account of the US Team's experiences at the 2019 Pan American Games via photos and daily blogs, visit <https://go.teamusa.org/2zVJ2ey>

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

Women's Team:

- 1 - Mexico
- 2 - Argentina
- 3 - USA /Bolivia

Men's Team:

- 1 - Bolivia*
- 2 - Colombia
- 3 - USA/Mexico

*This was the first time in the history of Racquetball at the Pan American Games that two South American countries vied for Team Gold. It was also the first Gold medal ever won in a Pan American Games, in any sport, by Bolivia, and the President of the Bolivian Olympic Committee presented the medals.

US TEAM RESULTS (INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM COMPETITIONS)

Men's Doubles – Rocky Carson/Charlie Pratt – Bronze

Women's Doubles - Kelani Lawrence/Rhonda Rajsich - Bronze



Dave Ellis, Renée Isherwood, Brent Huff,
and Debbie Tisinger-Moore

THANK YOU

Team USA extends its appreciation and gratitude to so many individuals who made this experience unforgettable. With too many to mention by name, we thank the professional and accomplished USOPC staff as well as PARC President Marcelo Gomez, IRF President Osvaldo Maggi, and the efficient and friendly IRF staff with particular gratitude to Mauro Grandio. Thank you to the eighteen referees hailing from seven countries including the United States, Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina, Colombia and Costa Rica. Special recognition goes to Lorne Alston of the U.S. State Department for his care and assistance and to PASO's Bruno Semino who managed the racquetball venue at Callao in such excellent fashion.

USAR Official Apparel Sponsor Rollout Racquetball -- the US Team looked great in the Rollout 2019 Team USA apparel line. Go to <http://wearollout.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.

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, Leo Vasquez who stopped whatever else he might have been doing as soon as a blog and photos were ready for posting.



2019 PAN AMERICAN GAMES

LIMA

RACQUETBALL HIGHLIGHTS

Number of Sports

39

9 days of Racquetball
6 medal divisions

- 8 countries earned medals - Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico and the United States.
- Bolivia's Men's Team won their first Gold medal in any sport in 52 years of Pan Am Games competition.



14 Countries competed in Racquetball.



Racquetball had 30 women and 30 men competing.



Team USA brought home the bronze in Men's & Women's Doubles, as well as Men's & Women's Team.



Racquetball was the only sport allowed to self-stream multiple matches via social media.



Paola Longoria was elected along with four other athletes by 1,838 of their peers to an eight-year term on the Pan Am Sports Athlete Commission. She is the only non-Olympic sport athlete to be elected to the Commission.

Photos Courtesy of Renée Isherwood at USA Racquetball

Top: Natalia Mendez (Argentina), Miico (Mascot of the Pan American Games), and Rocky Carson
Middle: The Village
Left: Jake Bredenbeck, Referee Felipe Arenas, and Felipe Camacho



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About the U.S. Center for SafeSport

By Ju'Riese Colon, CEO of the U.S. Center for SafeSport

Sports can be a core part of our lives. They teach teamwork and discipline, build self-esteem and confidence, strengthen our bodies, sharpen our minds, and foster lifelong friendships. But unfortunately, sports aren't always positive for every athlete. For some, it can result in lifelong trauma and scars that may never heal.

It seems like every day there is an article about a school, religious institution, sports league, or youth-serving organization that has failed to protect their members from abuse. In many instances, their failures were systemic, impacted thousands, and went relatively unchecked for years. While this may sound bleak, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

As a nation, we have made the statement that abuse will no longer be tolerated and that we all have a commitment to protect youth, prevent victimization, and demand accountability, especially in sport. Of course, this will take work, but together we can create a safe sport culture and a community of athletes, coaches, trainers, parents, and others that are committed to the safety and well-being of athletes.

It will also take dedicated professionals to not only investigate allegations of abuse, but to also educate the community on the importance of prevention, how to recognize red flags, and better understand mandated reporting. Thus, the U.S. Center for SafeSport was born. Authorized by Congress, the Center's mission is to make athlete safety and well-being the centerpiece of our nation's sports culture through abuse prevention, education, and accountability. The Center believes that every athlete should be:

- Safe: Protected from emotional, physical and sexual misconduct;
- Supported: Enjoy welcome, respectful environments where diversity is actively embraced; and
- Strengthened: Use the skills they've learned in sport to contribute to the well-being of their communities.

The Center opened its doors two-and-a-half years ago, and its authority extends to the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and recognized National Governing Bodies (NGBs), including local clubs, national teams, and those in between – representing about 14 million athletes, coaches, trainers and others involved in sport.

Since March 2017, the Center has trained more than 800,000 people to recognize red flags, understand appropriate boundaries, and report allegations of abuse. The Center provides comprehensive training online and in-person, and it engages athletes, coaches, and others to understand their responsibility to report abuse and misconduct. Through its investigative process, the Center has resolved more than 1,700 matters, finding violations in 551 cases and rendering 285 people permanently ineligible to participate in sports under the USOPC's and NGBs' umbrella. More important than the numbers are the real people behind them. Every report comes from a real person, which is also why the Center doesn't share details or the names of claimants – their privacy and safety is of the utmost importance.

Investigations and Accountability

Our team of subject matter experts develops best practices, policies, and trainings, and they regularly consult with researchers and leading organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network. Investigators have a wealth of experience and include former prosecutors, FBI, NCIS, child protection services, Title IX, and other fields, making them uniquely qualified to conduct thorough and effective investigations. Many of the Center staff have also competed and coached and care deeply about the integrity of sports and the well-being of its participants.

The Center's processes and policies (available [here](#)) define abuse, and clearly outline how the Center investigates allegations and how those accused can participate in the process to defend themselves. It's important to keep in mind that the Center is not a government entity, has no law enforcement authority, and imposes no legal penalties. While its policies and processes are transparent, safeguarding the identities of those that come forward and disclose is critical. To ensure people continue to report abuse, they need to be able to do so free from fear of retaliation and harassment.

Upon receiving an allegation of abuse, the Center reaches out to individuals that have been accused and provides details about the allegations and explains the process to ensure all parties understand that they can offer evidence and witnesses, retain an advisor, such as a lawyer, and appeal any decision the Center issues. Throughout the process, investigators interview both parties and witnesses and review relevant evidence, such as photos and text messages, well before issuing any decisions.

At any time throughout the process, the Center may issue temporary sanctions out of an abundance of caution. Temporary measures are common tools in other institutions, similar to administrative leave for teachers, police officers, and other professionals facing charges of misconduct. It's important to note that temporary measures do not represent a finding of misconduct and that measures can always be appealed through independent arbitration.

What Coaches and Participants Should Know

Education and outreach are key to preventing abuse – and it starts by acknowledging that these are incredibly difficult subjects to discuss, but too important to avoid. There are many important concepts that everyone in Olympic and Paralympic sports should know to protect themselves and their loved ones, including how to recognize red flags, the importance of setting boundaries, and how to report.



Recognizing Red Flags

Those who wish to harm a child don't typically do it out of the blue. There are often signs of trouble well ahead of a child being victimized, which is why it's so important that athletes, coaches, parents, and others involved in sport learn to recognize red flags, understand what grooming looks like, and know the rules for interacting with youth. The SafeSport Core Training is a great starting point for anyone in sport, and it is a requirement for participants, including coaches, adult athletes, and medical professionals. Parents are also encouraged to download the Parent Toolkit and have their youth athletes complete the age-appropriate Youth Athlete Training course. Each course focuses on a variety of topics, including the SafeSport code, safety policies, and signs of grooming – critical components to the safety and well-being of athletes.

Research shows us that people are far more likely to be abused by someone they know and trust rather than a stranger, such as a family member, neighbor, or coach. Their position, standing in the community, or unrestricted access to groups of youth makes it far easier to manipulate or "groom" youth and those around them, including their families and other trusted adults. Signs of grooming can include, but are certainly not limited to, having private, one-on-one interactions with youth; giving special treatment or giving gifts; or talking about sex or other inappropriate topics. It's important to note that grooming is often accompanied by other red flag behavior such as willfully breaking rules and violating policies meant to protect youth, like having private, uninterrupted contact with youth. That's why it's so very important that all participants be trained on recognizing the signs and how to report if abuse is suspected.

Reporting

It's critical that people understand their personal, ethical, and legal responsibility to report abuse. While mandated reporting laws differ from state to state, all participants under the SafeSport Code are required to report knowledge or suspicion of child abuse to local authorities and to the Center. Reporting is simple, can be done by phone or online, and can be done anonymously at <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>. It's important to remember that reporters don't have to be 100% certain that abuse is occurring to make a report nor is it recommended that a reporter attempt to investigate on their own. Reporting to local authorities and to the Center ensures that every report will be taken seriously, that the correct agency investigates, and the child's safety needs are addressed quickly.

What Else Should Be Reported?

While sexual abuse is often the first thing people think of when referring to "athlete abuse," it's important to remember that the Center investigates cases of physical and emotional abuse as well. But what does that really include?

We know that the demands of training and competition can be fierce. As such, coaches and teammates often push athletes to be better, faster, and stronger – but sometimes it can go too far. Sometimes it escalates to hitting, kicking, punching, slapping, shaking, or pulling hair. Sometimes it includes forcing athletes to compete in unsafe conditions, withholding breaks or water, or forcing athletes to play through harmful injuries or illness. And while these types of physical abuse can leave marks, emotional abuse leaves scars that are often unseen. Although rarely reported, emotional abuse typically escalates over time and occurs when a person is subjected or exposed to behavior that may result in psychological trauma, including anxiety, chronic depression, eating disorders, or post-traumatic stress disorder. Emotional abuse can take a variety of shapes, include bullying, name-calling, and shaming, often leaving athletes feeling expendable. And while emotional abuse doesn't always violate the law, it certainly violates the SafeSport code, endangers an athlete's safety and well-being, and should be reported to the Center.

Our Shared Responsibility

We all have a responsibility to ensure athletes have a safe and positive experience in sport. Athletes at all levels of competition deserve to participate in sports that are free from sexual, physical and emotional abuse. That's why the U.S. Center for SafeSport was created. And while the Center makes more and more progress every day, it will take a team to eliminate abuse in sports. We all have to do our part to recognize the signs, set and follow appropriate boundaries, and report abuse – it's the only way we will ensure athlete safety.

To learn more, register for training, or report abuse, visit www.USCenterForSafeSport.org

USA Racquetball By-Laws - Article XIX -- Safe Sport

USA Racquetball, a National Governing Body under the auspices of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee fully supports the safe sport rules and regulations of the USOPC as well as the rules, policies, and procedures of the independent U.S. Center for SafeSport, the organization designated by the USOPC to investigate and resolve safe sport violations. USA Racquetball complies with and is bound by the safe sport rules, policies, and procedures of the U.S. Center for SafeSport and to submit, without reservation or condition, to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport for the resolution of any alleged violations of those rules, policies, and procedures.

While USA Racquetball highly encourages all of our members to go through the SafeSport Training, the current list of covered individuals includes staff, contractors, national board members, state board members, high school coaches and council members, collegiate coaches and council members, and tournament directors (the latter effective 7/1/19).

For more information about USA Racquetball's commitment to and compliance with SafeSport, visit <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-racquetball> and click on the SAFESPORT tab.



U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT: RESPONSE AND RESOLUTION PROCESS

REPORT RECEIVED

By phone:
720.531.0340

OR

Website:
[uscenterfor-safesport.org/
report-a-concern](https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern)

REPORTING AND INTAKE

1. Is the alleged misconduct covered under the SafeSport Code? **AND**
2. Was the alleged misconduct committed by a participant within the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee?

NO

Center does not have jurisdiction, makes necessary referrals.

YES

Alleged Sexual Misconduct
Center has exclusive jurisdiction, will address and resolve.

Alleged Emotional and Physical Misconduct
Center has discretionary jurisdiction, may address or may refer to relevant NGB for resolution.

NO

NGB handles all other SafeSport Code violations.

YES

Intake process: Preliminary information gathering and initial contact with involved parties. Interim measures may also be imposed as necessary, and if so, Respondent may request an interim measures hearing at any time.

REFERRED FOR FORMAL RESOLUTION

ADMINISTRATIVE CLOSURE:
Insufficient information to move forward

INFORMAL RESOLUTION

INVESTIGATION

1. Assign a trained investigator.
2. Conducts interviews, gathers all relevant information and evidence.
3. Prepares formal investigation report for Director's Decision.



Respondent takes accountability for misconduct, Center resolves.

INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT

NOTICE OF DECISION

If a sanction is assigned, the Respondent may request arbitration.

ARBITRATION

Center issues a Decision as to whether a violation of the SafeSport Code occurred, and if so, assigns a sanction.

DECISION IS FINAL

RESOLUTION



The Story of the Five-Foot Lines (Now Three-Foot Lines)

By Jim Hiser

Although most players know the rules regarding the three-foot service line, only a few know the real history of these lines.

The World Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO) tested and used these lines after they were created and used in Michigan's Super Seven Racquetball Series. The American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA - now USA Racquetball) then adopted them.

During a men's professional event in Davison, Michigan, there was a match between Jerry Hilecher and Steve Strandemo. Jerry was a master of creating different service motions and various movements to deceive his opponents but also would take advantage of the rules and weak referees at every opportunity.

Jerry would stand as close to the sidewall as the rules would permit and hit a drive serve between him and the sidewall. His movement toward the center court after he hit the serve would often trick the referee into thinking that there was plenty of room for the receiver to see the ball while in reality it was often challenging for the receiver to see the ball. Steve became very frustrated during the match and continuously asked the referee for a screen, but he rarely received the call.

After the match, Steve approached me (I was the tour director at the time) and recommended we do something to help resolve the issue of screen serves. We discussed adding lines in the service box that would restrict the server and allow the receiver a better view of the ball. In order to test the proposed rule, I decided to implement the rule in my Super Seven Series in Michigan.

The initial lines were actually five feet from the sidewall. After a couple of events, we decided the five-foot lines were too restrictive and moved the lines to four feet. That placement was also determined to be too restrictive, so we moved the lines to three feet. The three-foot lines worked perfectly. Also, they were visually more acceptable since they created boxes equidistant from the sidewall and the service box lines.

Soon after this, the rule was implemented by the WPRO and later adopted by the AARA (now USA Racquetball) for nationwide use.

A Note From UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Event Director Doug Ganim



Dear Racquetball Enthusiasts Around the World,

I will be retiring as the Executive Director of the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Racquetball Championships after the 2020 event, which will mark the 25th Anniversary of racquetball's largest and most prestigious tournament.

USA Racquetball, the National Governing Body for the sport of racquetball in the United States, owns the US OPEN and has already begun planning to prepare for the transition in 2021. I will be assisting USAR in whatever way I can to make sure that the US OPEN continues to be a major event in our sport. Due to the extremely high cost structure of running the tournament in its current format, however, it is quite possible that the tournament will be re-imagined for 2021 and beyond.

Why am I announcing this so early? I fully realize that it is expensive to attend the US OPEN, especially for our hundreds of international players and guests. It is also a major time commitment away from work, family, and life in general. I wanted to give you all enough notice to make sure you plan in advance to attend in 2020. My staff and I are planning on making the last event under my directorship an incredibly special tourney!

It was just over 25 years ago when I huddled in a room with Jim Hiser and Luke St. Onge to map out the vision for what we hoped would become the world's greatest racquetball tournament. The journey has been incredible, and I will have MANY, MANY special people to thank in 2020 when I wrap things up. I hope you will attend the 2020 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN so we can all fully celebrate the incredible sport of racquetball together!

Respectfully,

Douglas J. Ganim
Director, US OPEN Racquetball

“ ... if a player's shot is hindered, then it is a hinder regardless of whether he actually takes the shot or not.”

By Otto Dietrich, USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner

Some Internet posts I've seen on a few racquetball websites/pages (that will go unnamed) are a cause of concern. One was about what a screen serve is. The answer is simple, and it is found in Rule 3.9(i) that lists three elements. One is proper positioning of the receiver, another is the ball passing close to the server or his partner in doubles, and finally is that that “closeness” must impair the receiver's view of the ball. Note that no certain distance from the server is specified, there's no mention of where the ball hits the backwall being a screen serve, and that if there is no impairment, then it's not a screen, no matter how close it may pass by the server or the server's partner. Obviously, lots of reasonable judgment is needed for the referee to get it right. So, a wise player should always ask the referee to explain how he plans to make this critical call before the match begins.

The other rather “troublesome” post found at an Internet site is a video showing a player (who's standing very near the right rear corner of the court) hitting the ball but failing to move from that spot until just before the ball becomes playable nearby and then moving between the offensive player and the ball just as he was trying to hit it – impairing his view. This was a penalty hinder that unfortunately went uncalled by the referee. Even though the offensive player signaled for “a hinder” to be called, it was denied. A review of the comments posted at this website showed that some did get the penalty hinder call right, but several other comments said it should have been a replay hinder and some said it was not a hinder at all, incorrectly suggesting that since he didn't “hold up,” he accepted the resulting outcome. That reasoning is wrong because if a player's shot is hindered, then it is a hinder regardless of whether he takes the shot or not.

Okay, that's enough on that subject. Now here are a few questions and answers

about the rules of racquetball I have addressed lately:

Ed G. asked: Is there an international rule (or any rule) where the server who is in control of the match also now has the privilege of gaining good court position before the ball crosses the line? And, is there a rule on the horizon for amateurs or professionals that will give the server the advantage of coming out of the box early to give him/her the advantage of good court position?

I responded: As far as I know, both the International Racquetball Federation (IRF) and the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) currently permit the server

and wins, then during the third match is injured and drops out of the tournament, what happens to the remaining matches and the matches played? I have always forfeited the unplayed matches and left the played ones to stand as played. But I've had several people question this – most thinking that all matches should be forfeited as if the players were never in the division. However, that seems unfair if they played and won 4 of the 5 matches and had to forfeit the final match. Is this covered in the rulebook?

I replied with: That IS in the rulebook as the last sentence of Policy A.6 under the umbrella of “Round Robin Scoring”. Specifically, what it says is this: “For



and the server's partner to depart the service box as soon as the server strikes the ball. That USAR rule was put in place years ago as a safety issue designed to separate the players from one another on the return of serve.

Mike W. asked: In a six-person round robin, if a person plays two matches

the purposes of determining place, a forfeited match should be treated as a match won in two games by a score of (0,0).” Some people do feel that if a player is scheduled to play four round robin matches in a division and forfeits any one of them by a no-show, then they ought to be dropped from the event.

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.

To cite one example (of many possible scenarios), let's say my first round robin match is on Friday evening, but I can't get off work in time for it. If I forfeit that one match by a no-show but I still can make the rest of my Saturday and Sunday matches, should I be ejected from the event/tournament? Talk amongst yourselves...but the rule stands as above, at least at this point in time.

Tom H. sent me this: The receiver hits the ball in the air behind the receiving line, but his follow-through takes him into the safety zone. Good hit or not?

Here is what I told him: That's a good, legal return of serve, but only if the actual racquet/ball contact occurs after the ball completely crosses the receiving line. If it occurs before that point, then the server scores a point.

Wendy H. said that: My boyfriend and I love to play racquetball. He likes to bounce the ball behind him and hit it with the racquet behind his back for the

serve. Once the ball is in play, it follows all the rules as far as wall contacts and line clearances. Is that a legal serve?

Here is what I told her: It is perfectly legal as long as he pauses briefly, that is, comes to a "set position" immediately before he serves the ball. In other words, he can't make a "quick surprise serve" out of it, and it should be apparent which bounce on the floor is the one that is going to be part of his serve. See Rule 3.3.



Heather Mahoney and Micah Farmer at the recent National Junior Olympic Championship
Photos by KSphotography

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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 "Developing a Drill Session Before Entering the Court to Maximize Your Time," a concept people ask me about often.

The skill should happen automatically because your muscles have memorized that motion from the practice and drill sessions you have done thousands of times.

The ancient Romans had a saying: "Repetition is the mother of retention."

1. Here are a few examples of Drill Sessions, but be creative, too, and make up your own:

- One-hour session—Can be divided into two 30-minute segments, four 15-minute segments, or six 10-minute segments.
- 30-minute session—Can be divided into two 15-minute segments, or one 20-minute and one 10-minute segment.
- Work your own amount of time and divide into your own segments.

During each segment, practice a different skill and keep track of results. For intermediate players, attempt 15 and see how many you get correct. What's your percentage? For advanced players, attempt 20 and see how many you get correct. What's your percentage?

2. What you practice and drill is based on what's working and not working in your leagues, tournaments, shootouts, or pickup games at the club. You must pay close attention so your sessions are centered on correcting your weaknesses and reinforcing your strengths.

3. How long you drill is based on your goals, commitment level, and desires. At a minimum, we recommend drilling for 15 minutes per week for every hour you play per week. So, if you play three times per week, your drill session should be 45 minutes. Keep in mind that some practice no matter how minimal, is better than no practice at all. Also, the quality of your practice sessions is more important than the quantity of your practices. Our motto is "Don't just do it, do it right."

Rocky Carson and Paola Longoria prepared for the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru, so they could achieve their goals of winning their event in their respective divisions, Men's Doubles and Women's Singles/Doubles.

Paola has had a very successful season as the #1 LPRT Pro Player and 4X Pan American Games Champion. Rocky has also had a successful season finishing as the #2 IRT Pro Player and 2X Pan American Games Medalist.

In the next issue, I will continue to assist in building your championship racquetball game one level at a time becoming by giving you the tools to make it a reality. Rocky and Paola and all my athletes' championship racquetball games stem from their focus on all three sides of the triangle working together so they can develop into top competitors. Without a shadow of a doubt, they know just how important it is to do the work.

They are living proof it works!



Paola Longoria & Fran Davis
Photo Courtesy of Fran Davis

Championship Racquetball

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Camps

- 13+ Hours of Instruction and Court Time
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- Lectures/Playing/Critiquing
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- Camp Manual/ T-Shirt / Penn Racquetballs

Coaching

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

Books

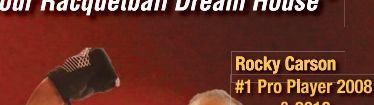
- Core Principles discussed
- Advance your skills, tactics and toughness for a winning game

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

2019 Camp Schedule: Weekend Training Camps

May 31-June 2	San Francisco, CA
September 6-8	Boston, MA
September 27-29	Minneapolis, MN
Fall TBD	Feasterville, PA (Philadelphia, PA area)
October TBD	Portland, OR
November 8-10	Fullerton, CA (So. CA)
TBD	Chicago, IL
TBD	Dallas, TX
TBD	Davie, FL
TBD	Indiana
TBD	Hawaii
TBD	Maryland/Virginia

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

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NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

San Marcos, TX
June 3rd - 7th

NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fullerton, CA
June 24th - 28th

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October 7th - 11th



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The Voice of the IRT

By Kelly R. Diesel



If you're a fan of the fastest sport in the world, then you've surely heard this phrase as the lights come on and the players hit the court: "Ladies and gentlemen, are you ready for some great racquetball action?"

Dean Baer, born and raised in Long Island, New York, captures your attention from the moment the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) goes live until the very last point is scored at the end of the weekend in the Sunday morning finals. Baer's energetic attitude during the play-by-play of the IRT broadcasts and his catchy but also sometimes questionable catch phrases have solidified his role as "The Voice of the IRT."

Baer grew up in Long Island and began playing racquetball as a kid in the City with friends and family. The fastest sport in the world wasn't exactly fitting for Baer, so he tried his luck with hockey shortly after that.

"At the time, racquetball was a touch sport and I didn't like the game. I started playing more hockey and took off with that," Baer said. "About 20 years later my brother asked me to come down to the gym and hit with him, and that was the first time I realized how much I missed racquetball. I started to play undercover."

The feeling Baer got from getting back into the racquetball world again can be described as "finding a missing puzzle piece to my life. It's something I missed so much more than I ever could have thought." Baer's undercover game started to improve, and with it, his confidence and love for the sport grew as well.

After finding a sponsor and entering more tournaments, Baer decided to sponsor

an IRT tournament in New York in 2012. After the tournament, Baer realized how much he enjoyed the preparation and responsibilities involved in putting on a tournament, even more than everything it took to prepare to play in a tournament. Baer joined the Tour's ownership group and became an official investor in the Tour, but he still wanted to do more.

"I realized how much more involved I could be with helping and sponsoring tournaments rather than playing in them," Baer said. "I still like to play, and I do enter some divisions at some tournaments and venues, but I enjoy my new position a lot."

Baer's position he mentioned is the official "Voice of the IRT" at all of the Tour's Tier 1 and Grand Slam events during the season. His first experience on the microphone came in 2018 in Lombard, Illinois, at the 33rd Annual Shamrock Shootout. As a sort of "trial run," Baer took the mic and called several matches that weekend in Lombard but didn't feel too confident afterward.

"I think I was pretty terrible at it," Baer said. "I was really trying to be someone else on the mic and call the match like previous commentators on Tour. It just didn't work for me. Fran Davis told me to be myself on the mic, and it was the best thing I could've done."

After taking Fran's advice, Baer said calling matches got a lot easier, it got a lot more fun, and he started to embrace this new opportunity in his life. Baer has been "The Voice" since March of 2018 and continues to call matches today. His concrete jungle accent and his quirky but catchy calls on the mic have IRT fans all over the world tuning in to see what's in store.

"Racquetball has given me opportunities to do some things and meet some people that I never thought would happen in my life," Baer said. "Things are going well, but planned enhancements on the production side have us excited for the future. It's a great team on the IRT Board and they do everything they can for the tour and its players."



Dean Baer & Mario Mercado
Photo By Ken Fife

Baer plans to be involved with the Tour as long as they'll have him. Whether it's calling more matches or taking care of other responsibilities for the IRT, he is up to the task. His strongest ambition for the IRT is to grow the sport and spread it through the United States to create a passionate fan base like he witnessed in last season's Grand Slam event in Bolivia. Fans lining up outside the doors and sitting on each other's laps to get a glimpse of the Tour's action, that's what Baer hopes to accomplish going forward!

IRT RANKINGS - AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Ranking	Player	Points
1	Kane Waselenchuk, Austin, TX	3012.98
2	Rocky Carson, Ladera Ranch, CA	3178.33
3	Alex Landa, Juarez, MEX	2231.18
4	Andree Parrilla, San Luis Potosi, MEX	2201.04
5	Alvaro Beltran, Tijuana, MEX	1956.01
6	Daniel De La Rosa, Gilbert, AZ	1859.00
7	Samuel Murray, Baie-Comeau, CAN	1414.00
8	Sebastian Franco, Cali, COL	1387.02

Ranking	Player	Points
9	Rodrigo Montoya, Chihuahua, MEX	1243.02
10	Mario Mercado, Cali, COL	1143.03
11	Jose Diaz, Stockton, CA	995.01
12	Jake Bredenbeck, Marine, MN	970.01
13	David Horn, Stockton, CA	870.02
14	Conrrado Moscoso, Sucre, BOL	724.22
15	Eduardo Portillo, San Luis Potosi, MEX	762.00
16	Jansen Allen, Rice, TX	667.02



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Longoria UNDEFEATED for the 2018-2019 Season

By LPRT
Photos By Restrung Magazine



Paola Longoria (Mexico) added to her already unbelievable record by not losing a single match for the 2018-2019 season and claiming yet another #1 season-end ranking. With the depth of talent on tour right now, winning 37 straight pro matches was no easy task. (Longoria missed the Bolivian American Iris Open event due to rehabbing a shoulder injury). Samantha Salas Solis (Mexico) fought her way to every final last season and earned her spot at #2. Maria Jose Vargas (Argentina) claimed spot #3, winning the first-ever Grand Slam in Bolivia and adding another tour victory to her résumé.

Three U.S.-based events closed out the 2018-2019 season. Each event was as unique as its location.

The LPRT made its way back to San Antonio, Texas, for the 2019 Battle at the Alamo. For the LPRT, going back to San Antonio is like visiting family. Mike Cantu and his team of volunteers host this event with great hospitality and an easy-going, fun atmosphere. Longoria reclaimed her Battle at the Alamo pro singles title. She lost to Salas in 2018 in a five-game upset but won this 2019 final in three straight games. This year players took a break from pro doubles in San Antonio, but its popularity is bringing it back to the Alamo schedule for 2020.

When the LPRT agreed to join the IRT for the Syosset Open in New York, Mixed Pro Doubles suddenly became the talk of the event. Along with both tours' pro singles draws, these powerful pro players paired off to create one of the year's most exciting draws. In the all-Mexico final, it was the #2 seeded team of Samantha Salas Solis and Daniel De La Rosa winning over the #8 seed Monserrat Mejia and Alvaro Beltran.

A true racquetball enthusiast and the sole sponsor for the Teamroot.com Classic, Randy Root ensures the Ladies Professional Racquetball Tour has a meaningful season finale. The Teamroot.com Classic grew to a Grand Slam in 2019 with a \$30,000 purse that attracted top pros representing five different countries. Thank you for your continued support, Randy, and we're grateful to the JCC of Greater Kansas for hosting us again this year.

Above: Paola Longoria victorious at the Battle at the Alamo
Below: ProAm Sponsor Doubles at the Syosset Open





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WOR Promoter Focus

By Dan Whitley



Recently I spoke with Mike Coulter, outdoor racquetball promoter and advocate, in advance of the 10th anniversary of the championship event he created: the Annual 3WallBall World Championships in Las Vegas.



Photo By Stephen Fitzsimons

Dan: For those not familiar with the phenomenal outdoor racquetball culture, they may not know of the 3WallBall World Championships in Vegas. So, what is 3WallBall?

Mike: I wanted to come up with a simple name. The game is played with 3 walls. We do have 1 wall, too, but the goal was to create a fun outdoor environment to host the event and not be enclosed on 4 walls indoors. We let the fans sit close and cultivate an interactive and inclusive environment. There are different sports having their outdoor championships at the same time across the all of the courts: racquetball, handball, paddleball, and 1 wall. 3WallBall is the culmination of great competition and friendships you can witness walking around the event! It's neat to see so many people having so much fun playing different sports they love while competing intensely for World Outdoor Championships.

Dan: You told me I had to see the event to believe it. You weren't kidding! It is amazing to see the overlapping cultures across the different sports and the layout of the impressive courts in person. What led you to build your own courts every year for the event?

Mike: I wanted to, essentially, create my own "nicer" club with my own oversight. I wouldn't be limited to the courts that an indoor club may have. If I needed more courts, I would build more courts. There are certain cost limitations, but the layout creates awesome engagement and a one-of-a-kind unique event experience with tremendous viewing.

Dan: Tell us more about the courts. How large could this event/festival become?

Mike: I have built as many as 21 courts in certain years for the event. The first year we only had nine! I could build 100 courts if necessary at the event! If it grew too big, we could move each sport to its own weekend, but it's so cool that they can all play together. Honestly, the event could move to different venues, too. It has the potential to be at colleges, hotels, conventions centers, or in shopping malls. We are pretty fortunate to have relationships in Vegas that allow us to have the lighting and generators to permit play 24/7 if we wanted to during the event. Our goal is to make the event better every year. We want everyone to have a great experience.

Dan: You have one of the unique racquetball championships that brings together so many organizations from within the sport; 3WB, USA Racquetball, WOR, IRT, LPRT, MRF, and CPRT. How are you working to retain and bring more players to 3WB in the future?

Mike: I try to have something for everyone. We promote women's divisions in the same way we do the men's. We present the top matches equally. We have the Classic Professional Racquetball Tour division for the former pros over 40. We offer a uniform division with reduced entry fees for firefighters, police, law enforcement, and military. We provide charity support for the Military Racquetball Federation and have a flag ceremony on Saturday night along with charity doubles and raffles. We offer a wheelchair division and have draws and reduced entry fees for juniors. We have 100 first place awards across all divisions and over \$30,000 in prize money. We have areas for state organizations or regions to set up their tents and hang out as a team or family all week. It's neat to see how many "state teams" travel together every year and create memories and traditions while building new and stronger friendships. The other sports, like paddleball and handball, have the same culture and similar events going on at the same time!

Dan: What was your racquetball background prior to 3WB?

Mike: I have been around racquetball for the last 38 years (I'm 56 now). First, I was a player. I've worked front desk jobs in clubs and was a general manager at one of the best clubs, the Las Vegas Sporting House, in the 90's. I ran leagues, shootouts, club tournaments, master's events, and pro stops. I ran the Pro Nationals in Las Vegas in the 90's. Our best year featured nearly 700 players and 84 players in the men's pro division plus a women's pro division. That was one of the greatest event weeks of my life until 3WB.

Dan: Where did the idea for 3WB come from?

Mike: Back then, I had only played outdoor racquetball a few times. Scott Winters, with Ektelon at the time, was always trying to get me to give outdoor events a try. I never had the time. Scott got Hank Marcus



involved and Hank began promoting outdoor. Hank had created the IRT and was working on the CPRT with me at the time, but he was also looking for a new challenge. We went to San Diego and conducted a charity outdoor racquetball demo on an aircraft carrier with Bret Harnett and Craig Lane. I was hooked! I thought that if Hank could build one court, I could build a bunch and essentially create my own temporary club to host an event. If I could partner with a hotel in Vegas, I knew I could make it a real world-class championship event. The location was going to be the trickiest part.

Dan: Is that how The Strat got involved?

Mike: Exactly. They were supporting indoor events and the CPRT. David Grolman was the Vice President of The Strat Hotel and was a huge racquetball supporter. I remember walking the property with him ten years ago and mapping this out. Having our event on the Vegas Strip outside The Strat has made it a one-of-a-kind event. Their support continues to this day and makes this event possible.

Dan: I know you are proud of the team you have worked with over the years. I realize it would be impossible to name everyone, but could you talk about some of the people who have played a role in helping establish and maintain this championship event?

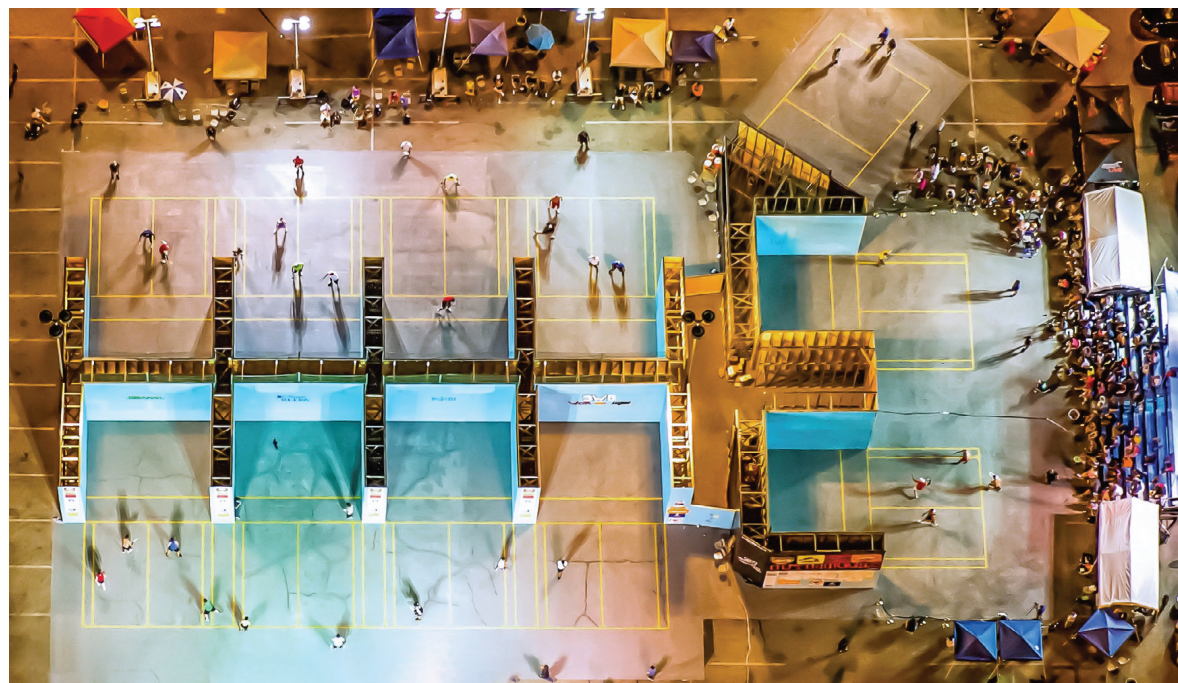
Mike: After that initial walk-through, we started to assemble a team to make this happen. First, we named Steve Lerner (our CPRT Commissioner) as the Event Director. He served in that function for the first six years. Hank Marcus connected with all of the racquetball organizations and companies to get the entire industry involved. I organized everything in Las Vegas and focused on the construction of the courts. Then I built a team that included Randy Lam (a longtime coordinator of racquetball events in the area) and Rick "Soda Man" Koll to help promote the event. Vic Leibofsky and Peggine Tellez have served as Event Directors over the last few years. I am fortunate to work with such awesome and supportive people. We've also been lucky to work with key people in the handball and paddleball communities, and we even had the event streamed on ESPN thanks to David Vincent and World Players of Handball. Thinking back, I've worked with hundreds of others that helped and were part of this team like Tom Moore, Tom Flores, Tom Flores, Javi Flores, Aaron Embry, Jim Owens, Heberto Gutierrez and his construction crew, Margo Daniels, Tony Riemma, Fabian Navarro, Rich Clark, and I could go on forever. We had 200 players our first year and have had enrollment exceed 700 in some years.

Dan: Randy Lam shared that over the years you've had players from 42 states and 13 different countries participate in the tournament. Players numbering 4,545 have competed in over 6,400 matches at your event over the last nine years. That's remarkable! What would you say to encourage someone to try outdoor racquetball and why they should play in your event specifically?

Mike: It's a fun atmosphere. There are no club restrictions. We build the "club" for the tournament a week prior to the event. It's an inclusive environment, everyone is welcome, and it's budget friendly. It's a racquetball family-friendly vacation on the Vegas Strip with great buffet meals each day! Stay on The Strat property and walk to the parking lot to play. There are 10 restaurants at The Strat and six bars and live shows on site, too! It's a great time, win or lose!

Mike Coulter is a 2019 inductee into the WOR Hall of Fame. In addition, Mike is a proud recipient of the 2018 Sheffield Award (WOR's top award to recognize efforts in growing outdoor racquetball).

Photos by Mike Augustin Photography



2019 Outdoor Championships at Huntington Beach

By Geoff Osberg | Photos By Stephen Fitzsimons

The 2019 Outdoor Racquetball Championships presented by Pro Kennex was a fun-filled event with incredible matches, great food, and an amazing party atmosphere. The tournament took place over the extended weekend of July 11-14 in beautiful Huntington Beach, California, hosted by tournament directors Geoff Osberg and Jesus Ustarroz.

This year's Men's Outdoor Pro Doubles Championship showcased Alvaro Beltran and Daniel De La Rosa playing lights-out racquetball to win their first-ever title at this event (after coming close in previous years) defeating the defending champions Brandon Davis and Josh Tucker, 15-3, 15-4.

In the Outdoor Pro Mixed Championship, Daniel De La Rosa had another big win alongside wife Michelle in the Outdoor Pro Mixed Championship, besting Robert Sostre and Carla Muñoz, 15-14, 15-8.

The Men's Outdoor Pro Singles was a competitive division until the finals. Josh Tucker was declared the champion when Greg Solis had to forfeit due to injury. It was an unfortunate injury but still a great win for Josh in a competitive draw.



In the Outdoor CPRT Men's 40+ Doubles, Rocky Carson, in his first time playing this division, partnered with Jesus Ustarroz in a back-and-forth final, 15-11, 8-15, 11-6 over Robert Sostre and Gabriel Medina. This is yet another title for Jesus to add to his résumé. Jesus ranks among the top all-time outdoor title holders.

The Men's Outdoor Open Doubles Championship was won by Lou Orosco and Ravi Sahoni when they defeated Geoff Osberg and Eric Fernandez in a tremendous match, 12-15, 15-6, 11-4.

Special thanks go to all of the amateur and pro players who came out this year! A new format was used that utilized pool play and playoffs to provide more court time and more fun. Much gratitude goes to the event sponsors: Pro Kennex, Melissa's, Roundabout, Gearbox, 3WB, CPRT, Penn, Rollout, DOGZ, and RH. Without our sponsors, this event could not exist and would not be able to give the players the extras that they enjoy! The weather and matches could not have been better, nor could the food, thanks also to Gary Martin and Jim Banuelos with an extra special thanks to DOGZ (make sure you stop by DOGZ when in Belmont Shore).

See you all next year in Huntington Beach, July 9-12, for the 2020 Outdoor Championships!

Top Right: Men's Pro Singles Winner Josh Tucker
Middle Left: Mixed & Women's Pro Doubles Winner Michelle De La Rosa
Bottom Left: Men's Pro Doubles Winners Daniel De La Rosa & Alvaro Beltran



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PROFESSIONAL TOUR CHAMPIONS

IRT MEN		LPRT WOMEN	
2018	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)	Paola Longoria (Mex.)	
2017	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)	Paola Longoria (Mex.)	
2016	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)	Paola Longoria (Mex.)	
2015	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)	Paola Longoria (Mex.)	
2014	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)	Paola Longoria (Mex.)	
2013	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)	Paola Longoria (Mex.)	
2012	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)	Paola Longoria (Mex.)	
2011	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)	Paola Longoria (Mex.)	
2010	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)	Rhonda Rajsich (Calif.)	
2009	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)	Rhonda Rajsich (Calif.)	
2008	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)	Paola Longoria (Mex.)	
2007	Rocky Carson (Calif.)	Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)	
2006	Jason Mannino (Calif.)	Christie Van Hees (Can.)	
2005	Kane Waselenchuk (Can.)	Christie Van Hees (Can.)	
2004	Kane Waselenchuk (Can.)	Cheryl Gudinas (Ill.)	
2003	Kane Waselenchuk (Can.)	Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)	
2002	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)	Cheryl Gudinas (Ill.)	
2001	Cliff Swain (Mass.)	Kerri Wachtel (Ohio)	
2000	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)	Christie Van Hees (Canada)	
1999	Jason Mannino (Calif.)	Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)	
1998	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)	Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)	
1997	Cliff Swain (Mass.)	Michelle Gould (Idaho)	
1996	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)	Michelle Gould (Idaho)	

IRT Men's Pro Doubles

2018	Alvaro Beltran (Mexico) / Daniel De La Rosa (Arizona)
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

2018	Paola Longoria (Mexico) / Samantha Salas (Mexico)
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		Women's Open	
2018	Alejandro Herrera (Fla.)	Jenny Daza Navia (Bolivia)	
2017	Dylan Reid (Oregon)	Jenny Daza Navia (Bolivia)	
2016	Mario Mercado (Colombia)	Cristina Amaya (Colombia)	
2015	Adam Manilla (Colo.)	Gabriela Martinez (Guatemala)	
2014	Coby Iwaasa (Canada)	Susana Acosta (Mexico)	
2013	Andree Parrilla (Mexico)	Maiko Sato (Japan)	
2012	Carlos Keller Vargas (Bolivia)	Veronica Sotomayor (Calif.)	
2011	Daniel De La Rosa (Mexico)	Frederique Lambert (Canada)	
2010	Vincent Gagnon (Canada)	Nancy Enriquez (Mexico)	
2009	Vincent Gagnon (Canada)	Krystal Csuk (Ill.)	
2008	Gilberto Mejia (Calif.)	Veronica Sotomayor (Calif.)	
2007	Alejandro Landa (Texas)	Jen Saunders (Canada)	
2006	Gil De Los Rios (Mo.)	Diane Moore (Ind.)	
2005	Gilberto Mejia (Calif.)	Adrienne Fisher (Ala.)	
2004	Agustin Tristan (Mex.)	Angela Grisar (Chile)	
2003	Polo Gutierrez (Mex.)	Angela Grisar (Chile)	
2002	Josh Tucker (Mo.)	Brenda Kyzer (S.C.)	
2001	Jack Huczek (Mich.)	Lori Jane Powell (Canada)	
2000	Jack Huczek (Mich.)	Lori Jane Powell (Canada)	
1999	Jack Huczek (Mich.)	Josee Grand'Maitre (Canada)	
1998	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)	Lydia Hammock (Calif.)	
1997	Aaron Embry (Calif.)	Lori Jane Powell (Canada)	
1996	Joel Bonnett (Mich.)	Christie Van Hees (Canada)	

Age Divisions

Men's 24-		Women's 24-	
2018	Jose E Ubilla (Costa Rica)	Maricruz Ortiz (Costa Rica)	
2017	Set Cubillos (Colombia)	Maricruz Ortiz (Costa Rica)	
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)
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+

2018	Lee Meinerz (Minn.)
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 Cresser (Iowa)
2009	Francisco Gomez (Colombia)
2008	Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)
2007	Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)
2006	Jason Bledsoe (N.C.)
2005	Matthew Davenport (Mo.)
2004	Cesar Carrillo (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+

	No division
	Cindy Burman (Mo.)
	No division
	Donna Ryder (Ireland)
	No division
	Youngock Lee (Korea)
	Emily Coonse (Idaho)
	No division
	Sarah Warhaftig (Colo.)
	No division
	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+

2018	Andrés Gómez (Colombia)
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+

	Maria Riquelme (Colombia)
	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+

2018	Jonathan Goth (Minn.)
2017	Jonathan Goth (Minn.)
2016	Jonathan Burns (Fla.)

Women's 35+

	Letty Maldonado (Ill.)
	Rebecca Bowman (Ind.)
	No division

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2015	Kevin List (Fla.)	No division
2014	Aaron Granberg (Minn.)	T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
2013	Aaron Metcalf (Fla.)	Vallana Perrault (Minn.)
2012	Aaron Granberg (Minn.)	Bernadette Zimmerman (Texas)
2011	Wesley Miller (Fla.)	T. J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
2010	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)	No division
2009	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)	Tammarian Rogers (Wash.)
2008	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)	No division
2007	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)	No division
2006	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
2005	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Kelley Beane (N.H.)
2004	Chris Wright (Mo.)	Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
2003	Jimmy Lowe (Alaska)	Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
2002	Jim Minkel (Texas)	Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)

Men's 40+ (CPRT est. 2006)

2018	Jonathan Burns (Fla.)	Jennifer Dering (N.Y.)
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)	Tammarian Rogers (Wash.)
2013	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Tammarian 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)	Kelley 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+

2018	Jeff Stark (Calif.)	CJ Herceg (Calif.)
2017	Jeff Stark (Calif.)	Jennifer Dering (N.Y.)
2016	Jeff Stark (Calif.)	Tammarian 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+

2018	Doug Ganim (Ohio)	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
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 Eiseemann (Texas)	Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2011	Ivan Sanchez (Texas)	Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2010	Daniel Pischke (Wash.)	Linda Moore (Neb.)

Women's 50+

2018	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2017	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2016	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2015	Laura Brandt (Fla.)
2014	Laura Fenton Kovanda (Ohio)
2013	Janice Kennedy (Ga.)
2012	Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2011	Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2010	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+

2018	George Bustos (Texas)	Janice Vosika (Wy.)
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 Gris (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+

2018	Glenn Leib (Pa.)	Cindy Tilbury (Calif.)
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+

2018	Howard Walker (Texas)	Wanda Collins (Wash.)
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

Women's 60+

2018	Cindy Tilbury (Calif.)
2017	No Division
2016	Wanda Collins (Wash.)
2015	Karen Simon (Fla.)
2014	Marsha Berry (Ky.)
2013	Wanda Collins (Wash.)
2012	Wanda Collins (Wash.)
2011	Kathleen Ruzycski (Ill.)
2010	Joan Vande Kieft (Ill.)
2009	Shirley Parsons (Colo.)
2008	Merijeane Kelley (Calif.)
2007	CeCe Palaski (N.M.)
2006	CeCe Palaski (N.M.)
2005	Nidia Funes (Calif.)
2004	Gail Schaefer (Md.)
2003	Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)
2002	Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
2001	Gail Schaefer (Md.)
2000	No division
1999	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1998	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1997	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1996	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)

Women's 65+

2018	Wanda Collins (Wash.)
2017	Brenda White (Ill.)
2016	Terry Rogers (Nevada)
2015	Laurie Kitchen (N.Y.)
2014	Combined - See Women's 60+
2013	No division
2012	Terry Rogers (Nev.)
2011	Merijeane Kelley (Calif.)
2010	No division

Due to space limitations, amateur doubles divisions could not be reported in this issue.
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US OPEN RECORD BOOK OF CHAMPIONS (SINGLES)



2009 Robert Lattanzio (Calif.)
2008 Mitch Milewski (N.H.)
2007 Patrick Taylor (Ill.)
2006 Patrick Taylor (Ill.)
2005 Leland Rients (Minn.)
2004 Ron Hutcherson (Ind.)
2003 Rex Lawler (Ind.)
2002 Lee Graff (Ore.)
2001 David Lund (Mich.)
2000 Jerry Holly (Calif.)
1999 Jerry Holly (Calif.)
1998 Joe Lambert (Texas)
1997 John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)
1996 J.D. Driver (Mich.)

Men's 70+

2018 Michael Stephens (Mich.)
2017 Robert Lattanzio (Calif.)
2016 Robert Lattanzio (Calif.)
2015 Dave Zabinski (Minn.)
2014 Robert Lattanzio (Calif.)
2013 Jeffrey Leon (Fla.)
2012 Gordon Kelly (Fla.)
2011 David Zabinski (Minn.)
2010 David Zabinski (Minn.)
2009 Howard Nellor (Fla.)
2008 Dave Lund (Mich.)
2007 Lee Graff (Ore.)
2006 Dave Lund (Mich.)
2005 Paul Banales (Ariz.)
2004 Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2003 Don Alt (Ohio)
2002 Joe Lambert (Texas)
2001 Joe Lambert (Texas)
2000 John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)
1999 John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)
1998 Joe Lambert (Texas)
1997 Joe Lambert (Texas)
1996 Earl Acuff (N.C.)

Men's 75+

2018 David Zabinski (Minn.)
2017 Alberto Palacios (Ill.)
2016 David Zabinski (Minn.)
2015 Donald Sperber (Fla.) - 75/80 Combined
2014 David Zabinski (Minn.)
2013 Jack McBride (Canada)
2012 Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2011 Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2010 Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2009 Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2008 John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)
2007 John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)
2006 Fred Wiegand (Texas)
2005 John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)
2004 Robert Miller (S.C.)
2003 Joe Lambert (Texas)
2002 Joe Lambert (Texas)
2001 Earl Acuff (N.C.)
2000 Dick Kincade (Colo.)
1999 Earl Acuff (N.C.)
1998 Nick Sans (Calif.)
1997 Earl Acuff (N.C.)
1996 Earl Acuff (N.C.)

Men's 80+

2018 Jack McBride (Canada)
2017 Robert Sullins (Texas)
2016 Francis Florey (Colo.)
2015 No division
2014 No division
2013 John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)
2012 John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)

CeCe Palaski (N.M.)
Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)
Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)
Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)
No division
Gloria Piscoran (Ore.)
No division
No division
No division
Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
Lola Markus (Ill.)
Lola Markus (Ill.)

Women's 70+

Laurie Kitchen (N.Y.)
No division
No division
No division
Combined - See Women's 60+
Marion McBride (Canada)
Marquita Molina (Calif.)
Marquita Molina (Calif.)
No division
Shirley Barron (Ky.)
Shirley Barron (Ky.)
No division
No division
No division
Lola Markus (Ill.)
No division
No division
Lola Markus (Ill.)
No division
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
No division

Women's 75+

No division
Marquita Molina (Calif.)
No division
No division
No division
Shirley Barron (Kent.)
No division
No division
No division
Lola Markus (Ill.)
No division
Lola Markus (Ill.)
Lola Markus (Ill.)
No division
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
No division
No division

Women's 80+

No division
No division
No division
No division
No division
No division

Skill Divisions

Men's Elite

2018 Jeremy Dixon (Ill.)
2017 Juan Francisco Cueva (Ecuador)
2016 Andrew Clarke (New Mexico)
2015 Jose Ubilla (Costa Rica)
2014 Nicolas Bousquet (Canada)
2013 Alejandro Romo Garcia (Mexico)
2012 Andres Acuna (Costa Rica)
2011 Kurtis Cullen (Canada)
2010 Rob Carey (Minn.)
2009 Andres Ramirez (Fla.)
2008 Roland Keller (Bolivia)

Women's Elite

Jazmin Trevino (Calif.)
Maricruz Ortiz (Costa Rica)
Michele Morissette (Canada)
Valerie Fallu (Canada)
Danielle Drury (Canada)
Sofia Saule (Costa Rica)
Melania Sauma (Costa Rica)
Natalie McCann (Minn.)
Melissa McElfresh (Calif.)
Jocelyn Loreda (Mex.)
Jessica Parrilla (Mex.)

Men's A

2018 Josh Shea (N.Y.)
2017 Timmy Hansen (Fla.)
2016 Javier Martinez (Guatemala)
2015 Ricardo Gomez Barandela (Venezuela)
2014 Juan Francisco Cueva (Ecuador)
2013 Craig Herr (Ala.)
2012 Jose Ubilla (Costa Rica)
2011 Nick Hand (Flo.)
2010 Missael Leija (Mexico)
2009 Chase Robison (Tex.)
2008 Eric Vought (Ohio)
2007 Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)
2006 Cesar Castillo (Venezuela)
2005 Allan Hernandez (Texas)
2004 Darrel Miller (Wis.)
2003 Joe Klibowitz (Wis.)
2002 Andres Ramirez (Fla.)
2001 Joey Lakowske (Ore.)
2000 Cory Martin (Wis.)
1999 Andy Babinchak (N.D.)
1998 Jason Jansen (N.Y.)
1997 David Guentert (Kan.)
1996 Daniel Pischke (Wash.)

Women's A

Jessica Chen (Wash.)
Erin Boadway (Ariz.)
Felicia Green (Ga.)
Maria Riquelme (Chile)
Kaneshia Madison (Ga.)
Hollie Scott (Wash.)
Alexis Iwaasa (Canada)
Michele Morissette (Canada)
Natalie McCann (Minn.)
Madeleine Edwards (Tenn.)
Ashley Loyd (Tenn.)
Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
Jennifer Lynch (Mass.)
Shannon Inglesby (Ore.)
Fabiola Marquez
Harumi Kajino (Japan)
Claudia Ramirez (Fla.)
Candi Hostovich (Va.)
Robyn Perrin (Tenn.)
Akiko Saito (Japan)
Jennifer Hunter (Tenn.)
Deb Fiordilino (N.Y.)
Michele Kinaan (Calif.)

Men's B

2018 Felipe Guillen (Costa Rica)
2017 Ethan Janson (Wash.)
2016 Tyler Peterson (Iowa)
2015 Brett Eksuzian (Mass.)
2014 Jake Ryan (Ill.)
2013 Juan Francisco Cueva (Ecuador)
2012 Diego Pimentel (Dom.Republic)
2011 Jay Mathis (Ga.)
2010 Jerry Everts (Wash.)
2009 David Walker (Tenn.)
2008 Armando Vasquez (Calif.)
2007 Chase Stanley (La.)
2006 Joseph Lee (La.)
2005 Alan Martin (Tenn.)
2004 Erik Becker (Mo.)
2003 Brandon Stanley (La.)
2002 Erik Beltran (Canada)
2001 Andres Ramirez (Fla.)
2000 John Dill (Texas)
1999 Brian Shwer (Tenn.)
1998 Jon Albright (Tenn.)
1997 Anthony Borden (Texas)
1996 Sam Ryder (Wis.)

Women's B

Laura Pesek (Ind.)
Graciana Wargo (Fla.)
Heather Mahoney (Calif.)
Jennie Jones-Huggins (Kentucky)
Maria Munoz (Ecuador)
Sara Leon (Calif.)
Kaneshia Madison (Ga.)
Kathryn Iwaasa (Canada)
Therese Zadnik (Minn.)
Elizabeth Selaya (Mo.)
Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
Sarah O'Brien (Ga.)
Melissa McElfresh (Fla.)
Holly Hettseheimer (Ohio)
Lori Good (Ill.)
Shannon Inglesby (Ore.)
Diana Courtney (Mich.)
Kyoko Hirobayashi (Japan)
Rosario Kelley (Texas)
Kelley Fisher (Ohio)
Akiko Saito (Japan)
Kristen Kovar (Neb.)
Yesenia Delbusto (Fla.)

Men's C

2018 Eoin Tynan (Ireland)
2017 Cristhian Rigu (Fla.)
2016 Tim Hansen (Fla.)
2015 John Lager (Mich.)
2014 Nicholas Zhindon (Ecuador)
2013 Carlos Acuna (Costa Rica)
2012 Dawud Akbar (Ga.)
2011 Craig Sadowski (Minn.)
2010 Christian Longoria (Mexico)
2009 Jesus Lara (Fla.)
2008 Gregorio Machado (Ven.)

Women's C

Meaghan Lieburn (Minn.)
Chris Cerny (Ind.)
Laurie Welsh (Fla.)
Rei McCormick (Iowa)
Kelly Johnson (Minn.)
Paulina Sempértegui (Ecuador)
Kelly LeBlanc (Ga.)
Yolet Mendez (Venezuela)
Raelene Ostberg (Minn.)
Emily Brickell (Tenn.)
Julia Mouser (Calif.)

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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 Claybon (Ohio)	Terry Truvillion (Mich.)
1996	Kazushige Oikawa (Japan)	Heather Elliott (Fla.)

Men's D

2018	Jaime Heredia (Ecuador)
2017	Anthony Giacalone (Ill.)
2016	Jesus Lopez (Ill.)
2015	Gerald Stigall (Minn.)
2014	Darryl Lewis (Ga.)
2013	Jose Miramontes (Mexico)
2012	Nils Mogensen (Ill.)
2011	Richard Naidenoff (Venezuela)
2010	Ricardo Ruiz Matus (Chile)
2009	Leon Rivera (Mich.)
2008	Fernando Padron (Mex.)
2007	Kerry Clark (Ariz.)
2006	Angel Munoz (Ven.)
2005	Fabian Caballero (Fla.)
2004	Carlos Duran (Dom.Rep.)
2003	Jeff Van Horn (Pa.)
2002	Joseph Lee (La.)
2001	Tom Tierney (Texas)
2000	Bryan Shaw (Mo.)
1999	Sid Harshavat (Ill.)
1998	Lance Hudson (S.C.)
1997	Joe Schmitz (Ark.)
1996	Leonard Toth (Texas)

Women's D

	Vera Allen (Ga.)
	Elenute Nicola (Iowa)
	Marina Yurik (Minn.)
	Nawal Moatassem (Ohio)
	Jessica Kisling (Minn.)
	Maria Munoz (Ecuador)
	Jennie Jones-Huggins (Ga.)
	Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)
	Graciela Gonzalo (Fla.)
	Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)
	Sabrina Martinez (Ven.)
	Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)
	Brenda Granados (Mex.)
	No division
	Tia Lecland (Mich.)
	Ashley Loyd (Tenn.)
	Janice Bell (Ga.)
	Viviana Reveron (Venezuela)
	Marcelo Moreno (Mexico)
	Jamie Johnson (Ohio)
	Dominique Winfrey (Ohio)
	Rhonda Lindenman (Okla.)
	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

2018	Felipe Guillen (Costa Rica)
2017	Andrew Gleason (Iowa)
2016	Jay Ferrer (Fla.)
2015	Alejandro Santos (Venezuela)
2014	Set Cubillos (Colombia)
2013	Cristian Chávez (Ecuador)
2012	Jose Ubilla (Costa Rica)
2011	Jordan Barth (Minn.)
2010	Clint Mehta (Texas)
2009	Christian Wer (Guatemala)
2008	Sebastian Franco (Col.)
2007	Miguel Wiggins (N.M.)
2006	Jorge Nassar (Mass.)
2005	Jansen Allen (Texas)
2004	Luis Reveron (Venezuela)
2003	Alberto Donado (Mexico)
2002	Juan Rivas (Mass.)
2001	Joey Lakowski (Ore.)
2000	Shannon Kohl (Mich.)
1999	Justin Jones (Ohio)
1998	Nantille Boards (Tenn.)
1997	Andrew Babinchak (N.D.)
1996	Alain Pujolar (Fla.)

Women's 24- A

	No division
	Erin Boadway (Ariz.)
	No division
	Ana Velez (Ecuador)
	Nawoo Kim (Korea)
	No division
	Michele Morrissette (Canada)
	Kelly Gremley (Ind.)
	Mariel Salcido (Calif.)
	Viviana Reveron (Texas)
	Cristina Amaya (Col.)
	Haley Rollins (Ga.)
	Sharon Jackson (Ind.)
	Kara Mazur (Conn.)
	Laurie Fisk (Mo.)
	Keely Franks (Texas)
	Kelley Fisher (Ohio)
	Kelley Fisher (Ohio)
	Brenna Bilbrough (Ore.)
	Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)
	Kristen Kovar (Neb.)
	Vallana Perrault (Minn.)

Men's 24- B

2018	Nathan Soltis (Minn.)
2017	Esteban Rodriguez (Costa Rica)
2016	Srikara Peelukhana (Minn.)
2015	Brett Eksuzian (Mass.)
2014	No division
2013	Juan Francisco Cueva (Ecu)
2012	Diego Pimentel (Dominican Republic)
2011	Felipe Arenas (Colombia)
2010	Jordan McKnight (Fla.)

Women's 24- B

	No division
	Graciana Wargo (Fla.)
	No division
	No division
	Ivana Sempertegui (Ecuador)
	Maria Renee Rodriguez (Gua)
	No division
	No division
	Liane Bissonnette (Canada)

2009	Gregoria Machado (Ven.)
2008	Armando Vasquez (Calif.)
2007	Chase Stanley (La.)
2006	David Perez (Fla.)
2005	Teobaldo Fumero (Costa Rica)
2004	Jansen Allen (Texas)
2003	Carlos Olvedo (Mex.)

Men's 24- C

2018	Diego Gonzalez (Guatemala)
2017	Anthony Efstathiades (Fla.)
2016	Yash Maini (Wisc.)
2015	Cole Hartman (Minn.)
2014	Nicholas Zhindon (Ecuador)
2013	Carlos Ochoa (Ecuador)
2012	Jorge Puche (Colombia)
2011	Jared Schnee (Texas)
2010	Justus Benson (Wis.)
2009	Fernando Padron (Mexico)
2008	Andres Acuna (Costa Rica)
2007	Sebastian Franco (Colombia)
2006	Chase Stanley (La.)
2005	Roberto Santander (Venezuela)
2004	Steven Short (La.)
2003	Joshua Jeter (Tenn.)
2002	Brandon Stanley (La.)
2001	Bradley Butler (Tenn.)
2000	Drew Toland (Ark.)
1999	Brandon Cortese (Mich.)
1998	Rex Fisher (Ohio)
1997	Shannon Kohl (Mich.)
1996	Fabrizio Avelar (Fla.)

Men's 25+ A

2018	Nic Koch (Minn.)
2017	Frank Wrobel (Ill.)
2016	Nic Koch (N. Dakota)
2015	Andy Wiegand (Minn.)
2014	Kyle Smith (Ind.)
2013	Kipp Atwell (La.)
2012	Bryan Shaw (Mo.)
2011	Quentin Mieux (Fla.)
2010	Andrew Kulback (Ohio)
2009	Ryan Graham (Wis.)
2008	Jose Roldan (Fla.)
2007	Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)
2006	Francisco Perez (Fla.)
2005	Brent McDade (Tenn.)
2004	John St. Pierre (Fla.)
2003	Jeff Marmer (Ohio)
2002	Jason Linnell (Va.)
2001	John Halpin (Conn.)
2000	Corbin Dirks (N.C.)
1999	Bob Jackson (Miss.)
1998	Tony Rosales (Alaska)
1997	John Ledig (Fla.)
1996	Ken Blalock (Texas)

Men's 25+ B

2018	Elliot Koch (N.D.)
2017	Kurt Ross (N.D.)
2016	Srikara Peelukhana (Minn.)
2015	Brett Eksuzian (Mass.)
2014	Nic Koch (N.D.)
2013	Samuel Gomez (Ill.)
2012	Jason Korbol (Minn.)
2011	Steven Koshiol (Minn.)
2010	Christopher Conrad (Calif.)
2009	Jesus Lara (Fla.)
2008	Joshua Purdy (Fla.)
2007	Mauro Barbosa (Fla.)
2006	Aaron Lovinger (Ga.)
2005	Jason Levoy (Fla.)
2004	Jeff Johnson (Mich.)
2003	Carlos Ramirez (Fla.)

	Rachel Smith (Colo.)
	No division
	Monica Escobar (Guatemala)
	No division
	No division
	Sharon Jackson (Ind.)
	Sarah Hettesheimer (Ohio)

Women's 24- C

	No division
	No division
	No division
	No division
	No division
	Maria Munoz (Ecuador)
	No division
	Sarah Duchi (Calif.)
	Beatris Mendez Gandica (Venezuela)
	No division
	Sabrina Martinez (Ven.)
	No division
	Abbey Lavelly (Ohio)
	No division
	Haley Rollins (Ga.)
	Danielle Joliff (Mo.)
	Holly Hettesheimer (Ohio)
	Wesley Toland (Ark.)
	Kiromi Iida (Japan)
	No division
	No division
	Kristie Gisiner (Mo.)
	No division

Women's 25+ A

	Heather Olson (N.Y.)
	No division
	Stephanie Bankes (Wisc.)
	Heather Olson (Texas)
	Heather Hojat (Texas)
	Heather Hojat (Texas)
	Rebecca Bowman (Ind.)
	Penny Hietala (Colo.)
	Yayoi Nagasue (Japan)
	No division
	Karen Simon (N.Y.)
	No division
	Kimberly Glansberg (Calif.)
	No division
	Paula Saad (Mich.)
	Felicia Mann (Mich.)
	Hilary Anderson (Ohio)
	Nathania Stewart (Ga.)
	Vivian Gomez (Fla.)
	No division
	Jill Nelson (Ill.)
	Ann Doucette (Maine)
	Angela Burth (Va.)

Women's 25+ B

	No division
	No division
	No division
	No division
	No division
	No division
	Elizabeth Levine (Minn.)
	Kanasha Madison (Ga.)
	Yolet Mendez (Venezuela)
	Penny Hietala (Minn.)
	No division
	No division
	Tish Rodgers (Texas)
	Ashley Ward (Del.)
	Dorsinayer Thompson (Fla.)
	Marci Laramée (Tenn.)
	Dorsinayer Thompson (Fla.)

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)



Men's 25+ C	
2018	Marcell Estep (Fla.)
2017	Alexander Bradt (Col.)
2016	Yash Maini (Wisc.)
2015	Cole Hartman (Minn.)
2014	Aby Thottiyil (Texas)
2013	Adam Paulson (Minn.)
2012	Dawud Akbar (Ga.)
2011	Rudy Olivares Jr. (Texas)
2010	Fernando Rodriguez (Venezuela)
2009	Yuri Machuca (Md.)
2008	Dennis Yamin (Ven.)
2007	Josh Gibson (Tenn.)
2006	Tyler Scott (Calif.)
2005	Jeff Nungesser (Tenn.)
2004	Felton Cox (Bahamas)
2003	Robert Goldsmith (Fla.)
2002	Filipe Veracochea (Texas)
2001	Sid Harshavat (Ill.)
2000	John Halpin (Conn.)
1999	Emmanuel Drege (Texas)
1998	Richard Wells (Ill.)
1997	Jesus Inigo (Fla.)
1996	No division

Men's 35+ A	
2018	Greg Caruso (N.J.)
2017	John Nelson (Minn.)
2016	Bill Hall (Texas)
2015	Noel O'Callaghan (Ireland)
2014	Bryan Shaw (Mo.)
2013	Ted Rohlwing (Minn.)
2012	Kipp Atwell (La.)
2011	Andy Wiegand (Minn.)
2010	Paul Krueger (Wis.)
2009	Andrew Kulback (Ohio)
2008	Marco Mijares (Ga.)
2007	Ray Cordero (Colo.)
2006	Rod Van Dyke (Fla.)
2005	Mark Davis (Fla.)
2004	Edward Fink (Texas)
2003	Oscar Barraza (Mex.)
2002	Stanley Shaw (Mass.)
2001	David Marrero (Puerto Rico)
2000	Bill DiGregorio (N.J.)
1999	Ron Fowler (Ga.)
1998	Don Sanderson (Utah)
1997	Gavin Higgins (Tenn.)
1996	Geoff Hunter (Fla.)

Men's 35+ B	
2018	Michael Natale (Nev.)
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	
2018	Eoin Tynan (Ireland)
2017	Cristhian Rigu (Fla.)
2016	Mark Anderson (Minn.)
2015	Glen Bero (Ill.)
2014	Roberto Marcillo (Ecuador)

Women's 25+ C	
	No division
	No division
	No division
	No division
	Victoria Martinez (Texas)
	Brenda Granados (Mexico)
	No division
	No division
	Heather Olson (Texas)
	Emily Brickell (Tenn.)
	No division
	Brenda Granados (Mexico)
	Rachel Wolff (Ohio)
	Tracie Valentine (Md.)
	Tracie Valentine (Md.)
	Carolyn Watkins (Ill.)
	Priscilla Krammer (Fla.)
	Viviana Reveron (Venezuela)
	Emilse Cuartas (Argentina)
	Lynn Hiorns (Ill.)
	Rhonda Kochis (Okla.)
	Rhonda Lindemann (Okla.)
	Tammy Leiting (Wis.)

Women's 35+ A	
	Jesica Haak (Wis.)
	Letty Maldonado (Ill.)
	Emily Fauser (Ill.)
	Cari Mory (Ill.)
	Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)
	Cindy Herceg (Calif.)
	Clara O'Brien (Texas)
	Bernadette Zimmerman (Texas)
	Clara O'Brien (Texas)
	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
	Thao Le (Va.)
	Hiroko Asari (Japan)
	Debralyann Kahik (Calif.)
	Paula Saad (Mich.)
	Vivian Rodriguez (Wash.)
	Karen Mickel (Ga.)
	Felicia Mann (Mich.)
	Karen Green (Mich.)
	Laura Woodbury (Va.)
	Madeleine Edwards (Tenn.)
	Mary Crawford (Ill.)
	Lori Edmonds (Neb.)
	Rose Cornelius (Calif.)

Women's 35+ B	
	Maria Moreno (Nev.)
	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 Yeazell (Ill.)
	Sue Hunt (Miss.)
	Jeannette Clark (Can.)

Women's 35+ C	
	Meaghan Lieburn (Minn.)
	Diana Angulo (Fla.)
	No division
	Esmeralda Graham (Louis.)
	No division

2013	Jorge Bacallao (Fla.)	Felicia Green (Ga.)
2012	Jim Unterberger (Minn.)	Jennie Jones-Huggins (Ga.)
2011	Richard Naidenoff (Venezuela)	Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)
2010	Rudy Olivares, Jr. (Texas)	Becca Brinkman (Minn.)
2009	Leon Rivera (Mich.)	No division
2008	David Wiles (Tenn.)	Nancy Davis (Mo.)
2007	Daniel Russell (Tenn.)	Nancy Davis (Mo.)
2006	Jacques Boisvert (Can.)	Laya Lee (Ga.)
2005	Jeffrey Van Horn (Pa.)	No division
2004	Gonzalo Castillo (Texas)	Laurell Burrows (Fla.)
2003	Bill Pobega (Ohio)	Eunsook Kim (Korea)
2002	Jeff Johnson (Mich.)	Susan Simmons (Tenn.)
2001	Garry Carter (Calif.)	Jessica Hamlin (Fla.)
2000	Jeff Bell (Conn.)	No division
1999	Kery Hughes (Tenn.)	Sharon Curran-Wilks (N.C.)
1998	Juan Soto (S.C.)	No division
1997	Peter Kochis (Okla.)	Terri Truvillion (Mich.)
1996	Preston Gaster (N.C.)	Kassi Herr (Fla.)

Men's 45+ A		Women's 45+ A	
2018	Jason Hugi (Iowa)		Wendy Miller (Minn.)
2017	Terry Kisling (Minn.)		Tricia Brown (N.C.)
2016	Mark Crowther (Nebr.)		Georgette Blomquist (Oregon)
2015	Ted Rohlwing (Minn.)		Therese Zadnik Klecker (Minn.)
2014	Giovanni Luciano (Minn.)		No division
2013	Ryan Rowlands (Texas)		Hiroko Asari (Japan)
2012	Jerry Lis (Mo.)		Barb Hoffner (Minn.)
2011	Kipp Atwell (La.)		Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2010	Ryan Rowlands (Texas)		Laura Woodbury (Va.)
2009	Alan Nichols (Ga.)		Sandy Long (Texas)
2008	Charlie Andrews (Tenn.)		Laura Natividad (Hawaii)
2007	Andrew Kulback (Ohio)		Chizuko Furuta (Japan)
2006	Edward Fink (Texas)		Diane Chappel (N.Y.)
2005	Derek Kazakos (Fla.)		No division
2004	Paul Whitten (Calif.)		Karen Green (Mich.)
2003	Edward Fink (Texas)		Beth Sacco (La.)
2002	Sal Perconti (Fla.)		Karen Green (Mich.)
2001	David Gross (S.D.)		Cheryl Kirk (Ill.)
2000	Ernesto Cisneros (Mexico)		Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
1999	Steve Conn (La.)		Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
1998	Walter McDade (Tenn.)		Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
1997	Robert Hantske (Md.)		Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
1996	Thomas Rall (N.Y.)		Margaret Hoff (Ill.)

Men's 45+ B		Women's 45+ B	
2018	Jon Salitros (Minn.)		Maria Moreno (Nev.)
2017	Allen Klecker (Minn.)		Laura Smith (Texas)
2016	Timothy Pladson (Minn.)		Anita Johnson-Pena (Texas)
2015	Rick Moses (Calif.)		Marsha Johnson (Georgia)
2014	Kurt Ross (N.D.)		Esther Lozano (Calif.)
2013	Tom Janke (N.D.)		Robbie Mack (Wis.)
2012	Daan Klem (Minn.)		Zia Yang (Texas)
2011	Terri Delaney (N.D.)		Therese Zadnik (Minn.)
2010	Steve Carroll (Minn.)		Therese Zadnik (Minn.)
2009	Girish Vallabhan (Texas)		Elaine Ransom (Ariz.)
2008	Ron Wheeler		No division
2007	Mark Candy (Mich.)		Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
2006	Allen Lawrence (Miss.)		No division
2005	Michael Nichols (Ark.)		Loretta Seager (Kan.)
2004	Rick Grace (Texas)		Grace Jaworsky (Mo.)
2003	Joerg Leinemann (Md.)		Alyse Cori (Calif.)

Men's 45+ C		Women's 45+ C	
2018	Ivan Valencia (Ecuador)		Vera Allen (Ga.)
2017	Michael Conforti (Minn.)		No division
2016	Darrin McNally (Calif.)		Laurie Welsh (Florida)
2015	Ray Cornell (Colo.)		Chris Cerny (Ind.)
2014	Kevin Deyo (Colo.)		Jackie Wray (Ohio)
2013	John Provan (Calif.)		Marsha Johnson (Ga.)
2012	Samir Muslic (Neb.)		Kimberly Franklin (Ga.)
2011	Ben Howell, III (Ala.)		Denise Berto (Va.)
2010	Darrin McNally (Ore.)		Rosa Smith (Texas)
2009	John Peloso (Fla.)		No division
2008	David Mimms (Ky.)		Elaine Ransom (Ariz.)

US OPEN RECORD BOOK OF CHAMPIONS (SINGLES)



2007	Navin Deo (Ill.)	Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
2006	Ed Garrison (Tenn.)	Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)
2005	Danny Borden (Ky.)	Tia Lecland (Mich.)
2004	Tom Gibbons (Can.)	Tia Lecland (Mich.)
2003	Terrance Holt (Ind.)	Deborah Reauso (Mich.)
2002	Larry Knetzger (Ga.)	Genie Martin (N.C.)
2001	Sez Ozden (Ga.)	Jessica Hamlin (Fla.)
2000	Garry Carter (Calif.)	Jan Stelma (N.C.)
1999	Donald Acklin (Pa.)	No division
1998	Jack Morgenroth (Ohio)	No division
1997	Peter Kochis (Okla.)	Martine Dormer (N.C.)

Men's 55+ A

2018	Roy Geleman (Mich.)	Barb Hoffner (Minn.)
2017	Kevin Barlia (Calif.)	Kathy Stellema (Mich.)
2016	Stanley Sisson (Texas)	Cari Mory (Ill.)
2015	Tom Neal (Ill.)	No division
2014	Larry Matula (Texas)	Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
2013	Rick Betts (Calif.)	Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
2012	George Brewer (Wash.)	Ly Abbott (Texas)
2011	Bill Stein (Minn.)	No division
2010	Brad Cress (Texas)	Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
2009	George Henshaw (La.)	Kathleen Ruzycycki (Ill.)
2008	Kim Keltner (Mo.)	Shirley Parsons (Colo.)
2007	Tyrone White (Ala.)	Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
2006	Robert Steele (Va.)	Sandy Gross (Tenn.)
2005	David Gross (Tenn.)	Susan Kieffer (Minn.)
2004	Garry Carter (Calif.)	Dee Stribling (N.C.)
2003	Thomas Curran (Ohio)	Andee Glansberg (N.Y.)
2002	Leo Klimaitis (Ill.)	Sharon Brockbank (Iowa)
2001	Jerald Kriger (Va.)	No division
2000	Paul Pearce (Texas)	No division
1999	Ken Foster (Texas)	No division
1998	Ken Foster (Texas)	No division
1997	George Tashie (Tenn.)	Pauline Kelly (Ill.)
1996	Jay Krevsky (Pa.)	No division

Men's 55+ B

2018	Glenn Lusk (Calif.)	Dawn Marcus (Minn.)
2017	Christopher Cooper (Calif.)	Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
2016	Richard Seaberg (Ill.)	No division
2015	Lamon Marchbanks (Minn.)	Dotti White (Texas)
2014	Bob Mayo (Neb.)	Ly Abbott (Texas)
2013	Ronald Harris (Texas)	Dotti White (Texas)
2012	No result recorded	Dotti White (Texas)
2011	Ray Redelman (Ill.)	Susan Schatz (Minn.)
2010	Chris Poucher (Ga.)	Susan Schatz (Minn.)
2009	Gary Buckmaster (Texas)	Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
2008	George Henshaw (La.)	No division
2007	Billy Askins (Texas)	Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2006	Darrell Crocker (Mo.)	Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2005	Billy Askins (Texas)	No division
2004	Kenneth Foster (Texas)	No division
2003	Garry Carter (Calif.)	No division

Men's 55+ C

2018	Rick Busekrus (Colo.)	No division
2017	Rob Nelson (Minn.)	No division
2016	David Hurt (Oregon)	No division
2015	Jeff O'Hern (Iowa)	Cindy Barnes (Georgia)
2014	Brian Rissingner (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

Women's 55+ A

2018	Roy Geleman (Mich.)	Barb Hoffner (Minn.)
2017	Kevin Barlia (Calif.)	Kathy Stellema (Mich.)
2016	Stanley Sisson (Texas)	Cari Mory (Ill.)
2015	Tom Neal (Ill.)	No division
2014	Larry Matula (Texas)	Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
2013	Rick Betts (Calif.)	Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
2012	George Brewer (Wash.)	Ly Abbott (Texas)
2011	Bill Stein (Minn.)	No division
2010	Brad Cress (Texas)	Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
2009	George Henshaw (La.)	Kathleen Ruzycycki (Ill.)
2008	Kim Keltner (Mo.)	Shirley Parsons (Colo.)
2007	Tyrone White (Ala.)	Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
2006	Robert Steele (Va.)	Sandy Gross (Tenn.)
2005	David Gross (Tenn.)	Susan Kieffer (Minn.)
2004	Garry Carter (Calif.)	Dee Stribling (N.C.)
2003	Thomas Curran (Ohio)	Andee Glansberg (N.Y.)
2002	Leo Klimaitis (Ill.)	Sharon Brockbank (Iowa)
2001	Jerald Kriger (Va.)	No division
2000	Paul Pearce (Texas)	No division
1999	Ken Foster (Texas)	No division
1998	Ken Foster (Texas)	No division
1997	George Tashie (Tenn.)	Pauline Kelly (Ill.)
1996	Jay Krevsky (Pa.)	No division

Women's 55+ B

2018	Glenn Lusk (Calif.)	Dawn Marcus (Minn.)
2017	Christopher Cooper (Calif.)	Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
2016	Richard Seaberg (Ill.)	No division
2015	Lamon Marchbanks (Minn.)	Dotti White (Texas)
2014	Bob Mayo (Neb.)	Ly Abbott (Texas)
2013	Ronald Harris (Texas)	Dotti White (Texas)
2012	No result recorded	Dotti White (Texas)
2011	Ray Redelman (Ill.)	Susan Schatz (Minn.)
2010	Chris Poucher (Ga.)	Susan Schatz (Minn.)
2009	Gary Buckmaster (Texas)	Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
2008	George Henshaw (La.)	No division
2007	Billy Askins (Texas)	Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2006	Darrell Crocker (Mo.)	Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2005	Billy Askins (Texas)	No division
2004	Kenneth Foster (Texas)	No division
2003	Garry Carter (Calif.)	No division

Women's 55+ C

2018	Rick Busekrus (Colo.)	No division
2017	Rob Nelson (Minn.)	No division
2016	David Hurt (Oregon)	No division
2015	Jeff O'Hern (Iowa)	Cindy Barnes (Georgia)
2014	Brian Rissingner (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

2018	Ron Sweeney (Iowa)	No division
2017	Dan Pansch (N.D.)	No division
2016	Doug Hammonds (Calif.)	No division
2015	David Wolfson (Georgia)	No division
2014	Tony Alfaro (Calif.)	No division
2013	Ron Miller (N.D.)	No division

Women's 65+ A

2018	Ron Sweeney (Iowa)	No division
2017	Dan Pansch (N.D.)	No division
2016	Doug Hammonds (Calif.)	No division
2015	David Wolfson (Georgia)	No division
2014	Tony Alfaro (Calif.)	No division
2013	Ron Miller (N.D.)	No division

Men's 65+ B/C

2018	Tom Bock (Ariz.)	No division
2017	Jim Barrett (Ariz.)	No division
2016	Randy Puebla (Ill.)	Lynda Howell (Canada)
2015	Bruce Hollander (Fla.)	No division
2014	George Goudie (Mich.)	Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2013	Leonard Sonnenberg (Calif.)	No division

Women's 65+ B

2018	Tom Bock (Ariz.)	No division
2017	Jim Barrett (Ariz.)	No division
2016	Randy Puebla (Ill.)	Lynda Howell (Canada)
2015	Bruce Hollander (Fla.)	No division
2014	George Goudie (Mich.)	Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2013	Leonard Sonnenberg (Calif.)	No division

2018

Women's 65+ B/C

Cheryl Conrad (Iowa)

Men's 65+ C

2013	Kyle Smith (Texas)	No division
2012	Ron Miller (North Dakota)	Kelly LeBlanc (Ga.)

Women's 65+ C

No division
Kelly LeBlanc (Ga.)

Men's Military Singles

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

Men's Heroes Singles - Open / A

2018	Andy Ekblad (Mont.)
2017	Paul Julbes (Wash.)
2016	Paul Julbes (Wash.)
2015	Gerry Price (Calif.)

Men's Heroes Singles - B / C

2018	John Els (Neb.)
2017	David Bandelier (Ariz.)
2016	David Bandelier (Ariz.)
2015	Adam Paulson (Minn.)

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

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*Denotes World Outdoor Racquetball (WOR) Sanctioned Event

Date	Event	City	State	Location	Email
Oct. 9 - Oct. 13	Jerry Bower Memorial	Salem	OR	Courthouse Athletic Club North	parkermist@hotmail.com
Oct. 10 - Oct. 12	Huntsman World Senior Games	St. George	UT	Green Valley Spa and Resort	kevin@kbdesign1.com
Oct. 11 - Oct. 13	Bay Club Classic Premier Tournament	Pleasanton	CA	Bay Club Pleasanton	rbqueen@gmail.com
Oct. 12 - Oct. 13	Darlene's Thunderbolt Open	Fresno	CA	Fit Republic	rogerstar49@gmail.com
Oct. 12 - Oct. 13	PSRA Free USAR Membership Tournament	York	PA	Athletic Club Of York	membershipcentral@pa-racquetball.com
Oct. 18 - Oct. 20	Life Time Tournament October Event	Austin	TX	Life Time - South Austin	jlmprok@yahoo.com
Oct. 18 - Oct. 20	NC Raleigh Classic Championships	Raleigh	NC	NC State University - Carmichael Gym	racquetballclub.ncsu@gmail.com
Oct. 18 - Oct. 20	Inland Empire Racquetball Championship	Spokane	WA	Spokane Club - Downtown	premierracquet@gmail.com
Oct. 18 - Oct. 20	Hudson Valley Open	Jefferson Valley	NY	Club Fit	cobb@clubfit.com
Oct. 19	Glass Court Fall Classic	Lombard	IL	Glass Court Swim & Fitness	dan@glasscourt.com
Oct. 19	HOPE for a Cure Cancer Shootout	Lilburn	GA	Recreation ATL	womensball@gmail.com
Oct. 19	Fallen Comrades II	Mt. Clemens	MI	Total Sports	racketboat1@gmail.com
Oct. 19	PSRA Free USAR Membership Tournament	Bridgeville	PA	LA Fitness	membershipwest@pa-racquetball.com
Oct. 19	Ghostly Doubles Racquetball Tournament	San Antonio	TX	Gold's Gym HCV	venitamitchell@hotmail.com
Oct. 24 - Oct. 27	Arizona IRT Pro-Am Racquetball	Tempe	AZ	ASU - Sun Devil Fitness Complex	coachrball@gmail.com
Oct. 24 - Oct. 27	Bi-National: Racquetball	El Paso	TX	Fort Bliss	gustavo.farell@cesar-scott.com
Oct. 25 - Oct. 26	Arcserve Series - Ladies Night Out Tournament	Bloomington South	MN	Life Time - 98th St.	jonn@obups.com
Oct. 25 - Oct. 27	Texas State Singles and Doubles	San Marcos	TX	Texas State Univ., Student Rec Center	hwrball@aol.com
Oct. 26 - Oct. 27	Lutrell Staffing Group	Johnson City	TN	Johnson City Racquetball Club	rball1@embarqmail.com
Oct. 31 - Nov. 3	SoCal Open	Fullerton	CA	The Meridian Sports Club	amkulback@gmail.com
Nov. 1 - Nov. 2	Pinchshot.com St. Louis Open	St. Louis	MO	Vetta Racquet Sports - Concord	dwhitley@vettasports.com
Nov. 1 - Nov. 2	Ochsner Fitness Center's Turkey Shoot	Harahan	LA	Ochsner Fitness Center	al.schof@yahoo.com
Nov. 1 - Nov. 3	Kitsap Splat!	Bremerton	WA	Kitsap Tennis & Athletic Center	rocco@kitsapsplat.com
Nov. 1 - Nov. 3	Wichita YMCA Killshot Klassic	Wichita	KS	YMCA Wichita Down Town	yoscooter@gmail.com
Nov. 1 - Nov. 3	MACRC	Raleigh	NC	NC State University - Carmichael Gym	vadriveserve@gmail.com
Nov. 2	WCRC	Berkeley	CA	UC Berkeley Recreational Sports Facility	jbardos@ucsc.edu
Nov. 2 - Nov. 3	Marigold Resources Quad City Open	Eldridge	IA	Wellmark YMCA	joshpaul1982@gmail.com
Nov. 8 - Nov. 10	Fran Davis Camp - Fullerton	Fullerton	CA	Meridian Sports Club	camps@frandavisracquetball.com
Nov. 9 - Nov. 10	Fall Splat	Frisco	TX	LA Fitness Frisco	k.sendrey@weberandcompany.com
Nov. 15 - Nov. 17	Carl Myers Racquetball Tournament	Garden City	KS	Garden City Family YMCA	scastoe@ymcaswkansas.org
Nov. 15 - Nov. 17	Arcserve Series - MN State Doubles Champs.	Bloomington South	MN	Life Time - 98th St.	jonn@obups.com
Nov. 16	Dale and Todd's WTF Outdoor Tournament	Riverside	CA	Arlington High School	dale-valentine@hotmail.com

CALENDAR of EVENTS



Date	Event	City	State	Location	Email
Nov. 16	MOHSRA Top Seed Tournament	St. Louis	MO	Vetta Racquet Sports - Concord	dwhitley@vettasports.com
Nov. 21 - Nov. 24	Turkey Shoot Open and LPRT Tier 1	Lombard	IL	Glass Court Swim & Fitness	dan@glasscourt.com
Nov. 22 - Nov. 24	Frank Burkholder Thanksgiving Classic	Nashville	TN	YMCA Downtown Nashville	jroedersw@icloud.com
Dec. 5 - Dec. 8	John Pelham Memorial TOC	Portland	OR	Multnomah Athletic Club	brianancheta1@yahoo.com
Dec. 6 - Dec. 7	MOHSRA Winter Rollout	St. Louis	MO	Vetta Racquet Sports - Concord	dwhitley@vettasports.com
Dec. 6 - Dec. 8	Alamo City Open	San Antonio	TX	Thousand Oaks Family YMCA	td@alamoracquetball.org
Dec. 6 - Dec. 8	NMRA Doubles-Only Atlanta	Lilburn	GA	Recreation ATL	cindy.tilbury@att.net
Dec. 13 - Dec. 15	Arcserve Series - Holiday Classic	Saint Cloud	MN	The Club - Total Fitness	jonnb@obups.com
Dec. 21	Vetta Racquet Sports Holiday Charity	St. Louis	MO	Vetta Racquet Sports - Concord	dwhitley@vettasports.com

Ashaway SuperKill® Family of Racquetball Strings -- Still Popular After All These Years

-- Range of gauge, nylon core designs, power, durability, and feel provide choices for all players



Official String



Despite the many changes in racquetball over the years, one thing has remained relatively constant: the continued popularity of nylon strings like Ashaway's SuperKill® family. As new string materials like PEEK have been added, SuperKill nylon strings have remained a popular choice for players at all levels. Today, the SuperKill family offers an array of playing characteristics optimized to meet the needs of both recreational and competitive players.

"The story of our SuperKill line of racquetball strings has been evolving now for nearly 50 years," said Ashaway Vice President Steve Crandall. "As racquet head designs, styles of play, and string materials have changed, we have expanded and enhanced our SuperKill family to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of players."

All three SuperKill strings feature a nylon core with a high tenacity nylon wear surface and offer a range of design and construction features. The original SuperKill string is now called SuperKill II and is the heavyweight of the family. At 1.3 mm, or 16 gauge, it has a monofilament nylon core wrapped in a tough nylon wear surface. SuperKill II offers a superior combination of power and durability with excellent resiliency. Its rugged abrasion-resistant jacket resists notching even with the most powerful strokes. Offered in natural and white colors, recommended stringing tension for SuperKill II is up to 55 lbs. (25 kgs.).

As the sport of racquetball matured, players began requesting thinner strings. In response to this demand, Ashaway designed and introduced SuperKill 17. Also built on a monofilament core, SuperKill 17 is 1.25 mm in diameter (17 gauge) and offers an excellent balance of power and ball control with superior resiliency and above average durability. Designed for optimum playability at all skill levels, SuperKill 17 is a tough, long-lasting string with good abrasion resistance and was used exclusively by many top touring pros in the 1990s. Offered in natural and white colors, recommended stringing tension for SuperKill 17 is up to 45 lbs. (20 kgs.).

The most recent addition to the family is SuperKill XL, which incorporates a multifilament nylon core that provides a softer feel with excellent response and resiliency. Also 1.25 mm (17 gauge), SuperKill XL is a thin, lively string that provides enhanced grip on the ball and shot placement. Designed for use by top players looking to optimize power, touch, and ball control, SuperKill XL is white in color with a distinctive red and blue cross pattern. Recommended stringing tension is up to 50 lbs. (22.5 kgs.).

Said Crandall, "As the sport of racquetball continues to grow and gain in popularity, we will continue to develop new strings and stringing materials like our PEEK-based UltraKill® and PowerKill® families. But we will also keep our eye firmly on market dynamics and continue to provide the types of string players demand, such as our new multifilament PU MultiKill® 17."

Profiles in String: Brent Walters

Conversations with players/stringers who have built successful careers in racquetball

By Steve Crandall
Vice President, Ashaway Sales & Marketing

If it were not for a thunderstorm one summer afternoon when he was 13, Raleigh North Carolina's Brent Walters says he never would have played racquetball. As is, Brent, 38, has won 20 state titles, including singles, doubles, and mixed doubles; 15 national titles, 8 in doubles, 7 in singles; and the North Carolina Athlete of the Year six times. He is a much-sought-after stringer as well.

So powerful and dominant is he on the court that he's called "the Walrus." He is sponsored by Ashaway and Head, and this past spring he won the 2019 National Doubles Men's 35+ in Tempe, as well as National Singles for 30+ and 35+ in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. He did the same in the 2017 National Singles as well. We recently had a chance to chat with Brent about his game and his career:

Ashaway: Tell us a bit more about how you got involved in the game.

Brent: Well, after that thunderstorm, I pretty much played 8-10 hours a day through the summers from '94 throughout my high school years. I excelled pretty quickly at the game and made it to the quarterfinals in the first Junior Nationals I went to.

Ashaway: How long have you been playing with Ashaway stringing?

Brent: Twenty-three years. I'm using MultiKill® 17 now, strung at 32 lbs. I like its feel and durability. The way I hit, I used to tear through SuperKill® 17. But this new MultiKill 17 really lasts. I get 20-30 hours of court time with it. I have to cut out the strings, usually. On average, I play one tournament a month, so usually I'll string up two fresh racquets and, if I've played three to four matches, I'll cut the string out and restring it for the finals. The MultiKill has a nice feel. It's got explosive power and the ball comes off the racquet pretty quick.

Ashaway: Tell us how you got involved in stringing.

Brent: I got my first machine in 1996 and became the unofficial stringer for the club. I strung a bunch of racquets to help pay the bills in college, and I was the official stringer for the IRT Tour when I was playing. I helped out Rex Lawler in the stringing booth at Nationals and was part of his team for the US OPEN and still work with Ian Titus now and then. For the last three years, I've been the Official Stringer for USAR National Singles and Doubles. I'm also the Pro Shop Manager at the North Hills Club and Omega Sports in Raleigh, where I string 2,000+ racquets a year. I string for many local racquetball tournaments in the Southeast as well.

Ashaway: Any trends you've noticed over the past few years?

Brent: I would say in the '90s people were stringing their racquets in the high 20s and low 30s, and now the tension has gone up into the 30 to 35 range. In tennis, there is a lot of polyester and hybrid stringing and much lower tensions than before. People used to string a tennis racquet at 60 to 65 lbs. and now it's 50 to 55 and sometimes even down into the 40s.

Ashaway: Do you find your customers very knowledgeable about stringing?

Brent: Not really. Most people don't know what's a good string or a bad string. They might just be looking at the bottom line, what they are paying. You get a lot of people, too, who experience a little bit of string breakage and think it's outrageous.

Ashaway: Do you advise your clients on string choice?

Brent: I tell people strings are like your car tires. Your strings are the only things touching the ball, so you want to have the best thing for the road. Spend the most you can afford. But if it's not broke, don't fix it. If someone likes a string, they're pretty set with it and kind of superstitious about changing strings. But when a new string comes out, some people always want to try it.

Ashaway: What are your future playing goals?

Brent: I won the North Carolina State Singles Championship Open Division for a record sixth time this past spring. My future goals are to win the Open Singles at 40 years of age and triumph over Steve Dayvault, who won at 39 years old. I would like to hit 30 National Titles as well.

Good luck in the future, Brent!



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