



BREAKING NEWS!

UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Announces Addition of IRT & LPRT Professional Doubles Divisions for 2014 Event

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINNEAPOLIS – June 16, 2014 – The World’s Largest and Most Prestigious Racquetball Tournament just got a bit more exciting! Today the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN announces the addition of Professional DOUBLES Divisions to the 2014 event, to be held in Downtown Minneapolis October 8-12. Already offering the largest total prize purse in the sport, the addition of Professional Doubles Divisions will grow the total to over \$66,000 with \$18,000 in prize money earmarked for Doubles.

All the top pro players on the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) and the Ladies Professional Racquetball Tour (LPRT) have committed to participate in the new US OPEN Professional Doubles divisions. “This historic announcement will bring a new level of excitement to the event and offer our sponsors, Gold Box holders, and ticketed spectators an incredible viewing experience,” said US OPEN Director Doug Ganim. “Nothing in all of sports compares to professional level doubles in racquetball!”

During the past few weeks UnitedHealthcare US OPEN administrators have been working with the leadership of the mens’ and womens’ pro tours to bring this announcement to fruition. The main draws will start in the quarterfinals with the top 4 seeds receiving automatic placement. Seeding will be based on the highest ranking singles player on each team. The remaining 4 spots in each draw will be available for anyone to grab via pro qualifying divisions that will begin on Wednesday October 8th. Matches will be played 2 games to 15 and a tie-breaker to 11. The Championship Finals of the new Professional Doubles Divisions will be played on Saturday Evening, right before the Party with the Pro’s Grand Gala.

The total prize money purse at the US OPEN is in excess of \$66,000, by far the largest purse ever seen in a single racquetball event. The following is the new distribution of the professional division prize purses: IRT Singles: \$28,000, LPRT Singles: \$20,000, IRT Doubles: \$12,000, LPRT Doubles: \$6,000. As in years past, there will also be prize money offered for men's and woman's Open singles divisions.

"Our goal is to offer racquetball fans the best possible spectator experience on the planet. By redistributing the IRT prize money purse to now include both singles and doubles at the US OPEN fans of the IRT will see the very best players in the world doing battle at the highest level and more often," said Jason Mannino, IRT President.

"The top female players in the world are thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in the new pro doubles divisions at the US OPEN," said Andy Kulback, LPRT Commissioner. "Our ladies are ready to put on a show and fans may be surprised at the outcome of the matches. Upsets in pro doubles are actually quite common."

The prices for Ticket Packages, Gold Boxes, and individual Gold Box seats have remained unchanged despite the addition of Pro Doubles divisions. "Our goal was to give our fans more for the same dollar they are already spending to attend the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN" said Ganim.

The US OPEN website and official Entry Form have been updated to reflect the scheduling of all Pro Doubles matches. In addition, the on-line sign-up function has been updated to allow anyone to sign up for the qualifying divisions. For complete information please visit www.UnitedHealthcareUSOPEN.com or call the tournament headquarters at (719) 635-5396 ext. 0