



January, 2007

USA Racquetball Newsletter

Happy New Year! This year promises to be full of the fast-paced, hard-hitting action that has become synonymous with racquetball. Following is a small sample of the Pro and National events scheduled to take place in January, February and March. Be sure to check out the extended tournament schedule at www.usaracquetball.com.

Jim Hiser,
Executive Director
USA Racquetball

Major Event Schedule

January 18 - 21
New York City ProAm
Syosset, NY

January 18 - 21
Super Bowl Open
Stockton, CA

January 26 - 28
Women's Senior/Masters
Tournament
Orlando, FL

February 8 - 11
Racquet for the Cure
Denver, CO

February 15 - 18
Seattle Open
Seattle, WA

February 21 - 25
Mexico Open
Tijuana, Mexico

February 22 - 25
The Great Canadian Challenge
Toronto, Ontario

National Event Schedule

February 28 - March 4
2007 US National High School
Championships
St. Louis, Missouri

April 28 - 31
2007 National Intercollegiate
Championships
Tempe, Arizona

USA Racquetball
1685 W. Uintah St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
Tel: 719-635-5396
Fax: 719-635-0685
www.usaracquetball.com

GeezerJock Magazine Announces the 2006 GeezerJock of the Year Award



Ruben Gonzalez
2006 GeezerJock of the Year

In its December 2006 issue, *GeezerJock* magazine unveiled the winner of the **Michelob ULTRA GeezerJock of the Year** award. Racquetball player **Ruben Gonzalez**, a 54-year-old from Staten Island, New York won the award which recognizes superior achievements by athletes 40 years of age or older.

Ruben Gonzalez, a grandfather of four, still plays on the **IRT Pro Tour**. Gonzalez made an unexpected run through the brackets, defeating two top-ten players while advancing to the quarterfinals at the **2006 Motorola IRT Pro Nationals**. Gonzalez also won the Men's 45+ and Men's 50+ age groups at the **Ektelon USA Racquetball National Singles Championships** in May, 2006. "Coming out of Spanish Harlem as a handball hustler who discovered racquetball and became Number One in the world, Gonzalez is a fantastic story. That he's still excelling at age 54 only makes the tale more amazing," said Sean Callahan, the magazine's editor.

The **GeezerJock of the Year** award program also recognizes the **GeezerJock Association Executive of the Year**, as well as ten age-group winners - a male and female athlete in each of five age categories, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79 and 80 plus.

2006 GeezerJock Executive of the Year, Steve Sigler founded the Men's Senior Baseball League in 1985. The league is based in Melville, New York and has grown from a handful of players to more than 45,000 playing hardball in leagues across the country. The **2006 GeezerJock of the Year** age group winners are:

Men 40-49

Thurlow Rogers, Cycling
Newbury Park, California

Men 50-59

Nolan Shaheed, Track & Field
Pasadena, California

Men 60-69

Rich Abrahams, Swimming
Denver, Colorado

Men 70-79

Bob Scott, Triathlon
Naperville, Illinois

Men 80+

Gordy Shields, Cycling
San Diego, California

Women 40-49

Susan Von Der Lippe, Swimming
Loveland, Colorado

Women 50-59

Mary Jane Smith, Volleyball
Lake Balboa, California

Women 60-69

Nadine O'Connor, Track & Field
San Diego, California

Women 70-79

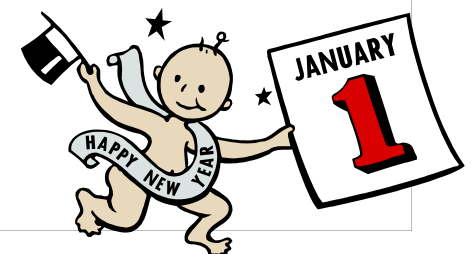
Elanor Hamre, Cycling
Longmont, Colorado

Women 80+

Margery Meyer, Swimming
Carmel, California

USA Racquetball members can subscribe to *GeezerJock* for \$25, a 65% discount on an 18-month subscription. *GeezerJock* will donate \$5 of every subscription fee to **USA Racquetball** so it can continue to produce high-quality racquetball events.

Go to www.geezerjock.com for more information about these awards and to subscribe today.



18th IRF World Junior Championships

The USA hosted the 18th World Junior Championships in Tempe, Arizona on December 16 - 21, 2006. More than 300 junior athletes from around the world met to battle for the title of World Champion. Team Mexico won the championship for the third consecutive year with a 28-point-difference over Team USA. USA girls team members scored almost dead even with the Mexico girls team members at 122 to 129 points. The USA boys team members' point difference was slightly more widespread at 141 to Mexico's 162 points.



Many South American countries are rapidly improving their racquetball games and the United States will have to maintain a dedicated and diligent junior program to remain competitive in this arena, according Luke St. Onge, Secretary General of the International Racquetball Federation.

The final team standings of the top four finishers are:

Team Mexico

Boys - 162 points
Girls - 129 points
Total: 291 points

Team USA

Boys - 141 points
Girls - 122 points
Total: 263 points

Team Canada

Boys - 69 points
Girls - 73 points
Total: 142 points

Team Ecuador

Boys - 21
Girls - 75
Total: 96 points

Congratulations to Team Mexico for a hard-fought, well-deserved victory!



2006 USA Junior National Team

USA Racquetball Board of Directors Election

The USA Racquetball Board of Directors has approved the slate for the **2007 Election**. The ballot and complete information will be included the March/April issue of *Racquetball* magazine. Active members are eligible to vote in the election. Included on the 2007 ballot are the following candidates for members of the USA Racquetball Board of Directors:



Tom Curran - Active member of the Masters Council and current member of USA Racquetball's Board of Directors.



Geoff Peters - Current Vice-President of the USA Racquetball Board of Directors and actively involved in fund-raising for the association.



Ed Remen - Former club owner and long-time player. Currently teaching racquetball and physical education at North Carolina State University.



Frank Taddonio - Former President of the USA Racquetball Board of Directors and currently in Iraq until March, 2007.

All votes must be received by April 30, 2007.

Live Streaming Racquetball Videos

For those of you who can't make it to each WPRO tournament, **Racquetballonline.tv** offers live online streaming of current matches and edited videos of recent WPRO racquetball matches. **Racquetballonline.tv** is operated by current #3 Pro Angela Grisar and her partner, Pablo Fajre. The free site, www.racquetballonline.tv is easily accessed by entering your email address and a password. Jo Shattuck of Denver, Colorado provides some lively commentary with the videos and live streaming. Contact Jo Shattuck at 303-949-7784 or Angela Grisar at info@racquetballonline.tv for more information.

Women's Professional Racquetball

The **Women's Professional Racquetball Organization** completed its last stop of 2006 with a bang. The 15th annual **Christmas Classic ProAm Racquetball Championships**, held December 8 - 10 at the Crystal Gateway Sport & Health Club in Arlington, Virginia was filled with upsets. **Cheryl Gudinas Holmes**, the tournament's #1 seed was defeated in the quarterfinals by #9 seed **Doreen Fowler**. **Rhonda Rajsich**, the #2 seed, also fell in the quarterfinals losing to the #10 seed, **Samantha Salas**. **Kerri Wachtel** defeated **Angela Grisar** in the finals in three straight games, 6, 6, 8.

The **WPRO** kicked off 2007 at the **Emerald City Open** on January 4 - 7, 2007, in Seattle, Washington. The event's semi-final matches proved to be packed full of action with #4 seed, **Kerri Wachtel** defeating #1 seed **Cheryl Gudinas Holmes** 0, 7, (10), 7. **Christie Van Hees**, the #7 seed, ultimately took home the bacon *and* fried it up in a pan with her (9), 3, 7, 6 victory over **Kerri Wachtel**.



Christie Van Hees

Complete **WPRO Tour** information is available at www.ladiesproracquetball.com. Please contact **Commissioner Shannon Feaster** at wprocommish@aol.com to support Women's Professional Racquetball by becoming a sponsor or hosting a Pro Stop at your home club.

Annual Award Nominations Due

Please nominate deserving individuals for the following awards. All nominations must be submitted on or before February 28, 2007.

Joe Sobek Outstanding Contribution Award: This award recognizes outstanding commitment to the sport of racquetball.

Presidential Award: Awarded to the State President who has exhibited outstanding organizational performance and leadership in his/her state.

John Halverson Fair Play Award: This award recognizes an individual who has exhibited exceptional fair play during the year or who has consistently displayed a spirit of fair play throughout his/her sports career.

Peggy Steding Female Age Group Award: An outstanding female athlete, age 35 and over, chosen on the basis of her performance record for the preceding year.

Bud Muehleisen Male Age Group Award: An outstanding male athlete, age 35 and over, chosen on the basis of his performance record for the preceding year.

Email your nomination to: djeasterling@earthlink.net
Mail your nomination to:
Annual Awards
321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911

Please include your name and phone number(s) along with your nomination so that we may contact you with further questions.

Ask Otto

USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner, **Otto Dietrich** answers the following question:

"Is slinging or carrying the ball legal?"

Otto's Ruling:

Although you may have heard that this is an "old" rule, the rule regarding carrying the ball still exists; it is *still* illegal to carry the ball. (Official Rules of Racquetball 3.13.c.10).

RACQUETBALL magazine has more "Ask Otto" questions and answers. Subscribe today for all the news in **RACQUETBALL**.

USA Racquetball Membership Options

Limited Introductory Memberships are valid for one weekend event *or* a one-day shootout. The cost is **\$15** and may be upgraded within 90 days from the date of signup for an additional payment of **\$20** (membership becomes retro-active). This special introductory membership includes one issue of **RACQUETBALL** magazine, ranking, and secondary accident insurance coverage. This new membership option was created for many reasons, but mainly to invite the recreational club player on the cusp of "competitive" play to join in for a weekend tournament. This membership option is available to anyone.

Standard Memberships are for one year and include a subscription to **RACQUETBALL** magazine (six issues per year). One third of all dues remain with each state affiliate organization for local programs.

Standard International Membership includes all USAR benefits plus first-class shipping of **RACQUETBALL** magazine outside the United States.

Adult 1 Year Membership - **\$35**

Adult 3 Year Membership - **\$100**

Junior Membership (18 & Under) - **\$20**

Lifetime Membership - **\$1,000**

Sign up today at www.usaracquetball.com

Men's Professional Racquetball



Son Ngyuen presents Jack with his 1st Place Award

Jack Huczek (#1) captured the title at the **2007 Orange County Open** with his defeat over (#2) **Jason Mannino** (3), 4, 8, 7. The event, hosted by the **Los Cab Sports and Racquet Club**, **January 11 - 14**, was sponsored by One Shot International.

In other **IRT** news, **Rocky Carson** has signed a long-term endorsement with **Ektelon**. Carson, nicknamed the "California Kid" by his peers, earned the designation as one of the top juniors to ever play the game. Carson began his professional career with **Ektelon** at age 15. He is recognized as the **top outdoor player in the world**, dominating the outdoor circuit during the past three years and winning nearly every major tournament in the sport including the **Ektelon/WOR Championships** two of the past three years. Carson is the only male player in the sport to win **national indoor singles and doubles championships** and the **national outdoor singles championship** in the same year.



Follow the progress of the Tour at www.irt-tour.com.

For information about sponsoring the IRT or hosting a Pro Stop in your club, please contact **Commissioner Dave Negrete** at negretz@comcast.net.

National High School Racquetball Championships

Head/Penn Racquet Sports and USA Racquetball proudly present the

**2007 20th USA National High School
Racquetball Championships**
February 28 - March 4

at **The Vetta Sports - Concord in St. Louis, Missouri.**

This **2007 Junior Olympics** qualifying event is sponsored by **Wilson**.

Teams of high school students from across the United States are encouraged to enter. Complete information and an entry form are available at www.usaracquetball.com. Click on the "2007 National High School Entry Form" under "Entry Forms and Links." The **deadline** for entry is **Monday, February 12**. All entries must be postmarked by **Wednesday, February 7**.

We hope to see *you* in St. Louis this year!

USA Racquetball Membership Sponsor Form

Any Current Member who sponsors a **NEW** member will have his or her name listed in **RACQUETBALL** magazine and will qualify for a drawing to be held **May 1, 2007**, for a free entry and airfare to the **2007 National Singles Racquetball Championships**. To qualify, send your completed form to **USA Racquetball**. Every sponsorship qualifies as a separate entry into the drawing. *New members signed up at or for events do not qualify.*

Step 1: Please Print Legibly

First Name	M.I.	Last Name
Address		
Apt. / Address 2		
City	State	
Zip/ Postal Code	Country	
Email		
Home Phone		
Work Phone		
Cell Phone		
Birth Date (mm/dd/yy)		
/ /	O Male O Female	

Step 2: Check One

- Renewal (magazine included)
 New Member (magazine included)
 Address Change **Only**
 Magazine Subscription **Only**

Step 3: Check One

- Adult 1 year.....\$35
 Collegiate 1 year\$35
 Adult 3 year.....\$100
 Lifetime.....\$1,000
 Junior (18 & Under).....\$20
 Magazine Subscription.....\$20
TOTAL.....\$

Step 4: Payment Method

Checks payable to: **USA Racquetball**

- Cash
 Check/MO # _____
 Visa or MasterCard
 CC# _____
 Exp / Security Code _____

Name on Card _____

Authorized Signature _____

Credit Card Billing Address:

- Same as Sponsor Address

Sponsor Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Day): _____

Email: _____



Please Submit to:

USA Racquetball Member Sponsor Program
 1685 West Uintah Street
 Colorado Springs, CO 80904
 Tel: 719-635-5396 Fax: 719-635-0685
www.usaracquetball.com

Official USA Racquetball Sponsors

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| Penn..... | Official Ball |
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To remove your name from our mailing list, please contact tmorse@usra.org or call 719-635-5396, extension 0

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