



July 2007

USA Racquetball Newsletter

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2007 Junior Olympic Racquetball Championships

More than 250 young athletes from 33 states competed in over 30 divisions at the 2007 34th Junior Olympic Racquetball Championships in Tempe, Arizona on June 20 - 24.

This event was a U.S. Junior National Team Qualifier, with one-year appointments awarded to the top finishers in 18- Gold Singles, 16- Gold Singles and 14- Gold Singles in Boy's and Girl's divisions. As an added bonus, the U.S. Junior Team will be also competing at the **2007 IRF 19th Junior World Racquetball Championships**, December 14-20, 2007, in Cochabamba, Bolivia.



Major Event Schedule

July 25-28

National Masters Racquetball Association International Championships
Overland Park, KS

August 2-5

State Games of America
Colorado Springs, CO

September 12-16

2007 Motorola World Racquetball IRT Championship
Colorado Springs, CO

September 13-16

Outback Blast It! ProAm (WPRO)
Fayetteville, NC

September 26-30

USA Racquetball National Doubles Championships
Tempe, AZ

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Jose Rojas

Jose Rojas of California captured Gold Medals in the Boy's 18 & Under division as well as in the Boy's 16 & Under division, arguably the two toughest divisions in the tournament.

Marco Rojas of California joined his brother as a National Champion by winning the Gold Medal in the Boy's 14 & Under division.

Defending National and World Champion **Michelle Key** of Arizona successfully recaptured her National title in the Girl's 18 & Under division and earned the opportunity to defend her World title in Bolivia this December.

BBC Television and the Discovery Channel Announce 2nd Series of The Last Man Standing

Last Man Standing is a new BBC/Discovery Series in which a group of 6 western athletes pit their skills against each other and tribal champions in a series of extraordinary sporting challenges. The first series of Last Man Standing will be broadcast in Fall 2007, and a second series is already being prepared. That's where you could come in. Do you:



- Have a passion for sport and competition?
- A thirst to explore some of the most remote places on the planet?
- A desire to live with traditional tribes, and to learn from them?

If you're answering "yes" and can be free to go on a series of adventures from September/October 2007 for 24 weeks of the next 52 we want to hear from you. For further information, go to www.bbc.co.uk/lastmanstanding.

For an application, write to LastManStandingCasting@gmail.com

Men's Professional Racquetball Tour Announces New Grand Slam Event

IRT Commissioner Dave Negrete announced plans for a new Grand Slam event.

Colorado Springs will host the **2007 Motorola World Racquetball IRT**

Championship, presented by Verizon Wireless on September 12-16.



This will be the IRT's third Grand Slam event along with the US Open in Memphis and the Motorola-IRT Pro Nationals in Chicago.

Keep checking www.usaracquetball.com for an entry form and for more information about this event.

IRT 2007-08 Schedule Released

The IRT released the 2007-2008 schedule which promises to provide a season packed with high-energy racquetball! Make plans to watch the action at the following events:

Sept. 6-9	Chesapeake, VA
Sept. 12-16	Motorola World Racquetball IRT Championship Colorado Springs, CO
Sept. 20-23	Kansas City, MO
Oct. 4-7	Bowling Green, KY
Oct. 11-14	Toronto, Canada
Oct. 19-21	Madison, WI
Oct. 25-28	Albuquerque, NM
Nov. 2-4	Long Island Open Long Island, NY
Nov. 2-4	San Luis Potosi, Mexico
Nov. 14-18	Choice Hotels US Racquetball Championships Memphis, TN
Jan. 17-20	Long Island, NY
Jan. 24-27	Milwaukee, WI
Feb. 7-10	Sioux Falls, SD
Feb. 21-24	Seattle, WA
Mar. 6-9	Sarasota, FL
Mar. 13-16	Orange County, CA

For a complete schedule and more news about the men's professional tour, visit www.irt-tour.com.

National Doubles Championships Dates Changing in 2008

Before you read any further, please note that the **2007 National Doubles Championships** will *still* take place **September 26-30, in Tempe, Arizona**. The 2008 National Doubles Championships will be moving to February 13 - 17, which is the second weekend after the Super Bowl. This move has been made due to the need to reschedule the US OPEN event to the middle of October beginning in 2008. The US OPEN has always been held the weekend before Thanksgiving, but both the host club and the sponsors have requested the event be moved to dates slightly earlier in the season. This would have provided only a few weeks separation between the US OPEN and National Doubles Championships.

The National Doubles Championships is one of USA Racquetball's premiere events. Major events should optimally be separated on the calendar as much as possible in order to maximize player attendance.

In an opinion survey that was sent out to all state directors, the consensus was that February would be a good month to hold National Doubles to provide for a separation on the calendar by three to five months between any two events (February, May, October).

Although we realize this change may be inconvenient for some previously-scheduled events, we are attempting to alleviate impact by contacting the professional tours and other major associations to discuss the changes and allow time for adjustments.

Hosting a National Doubles event in September 2007 and again in February 2008 may result in additional concerns. The alternative was to delay the February event until 2009, but it was concluded that a 2008 championship is essential.

USA Racquetball apologizes for any problems or inconveniences caused by this change. We hope everyone will ultimately find the long-term results of the change beneficial to our sport.

Note: The 2007 National Doubles dates of September 26-30, in Tempe, AZ remain unchanged.

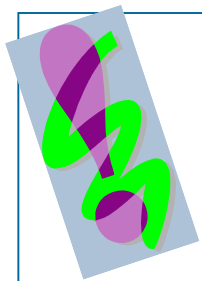
The 2008 National Doubles will be held in sunny Tempe, AZ from February 13-17, 2008.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jim Hiser via e-mail at jhiser@usra.org or by phone at 719-635-5396, ext. 130.

WPRO Releases 2007-2008 Schedule

The WPRO released their 2007-2008 schedule which will showcase women's professional racquetball in some new cities including Burlington, Ontario, Canada; Panama City, Panama; Phoenix, AZ and Harrisburg, PA. For a complete schedule, please go to www.ladiesproracquetball.com. Listed below are some highlights of the beginning of the season. Start planning your trips today!

Sept. 13-16	Outback Blast It! ProAm Fayetteville, NC
Oct. 11-14	Canadian Open Burlington, Ontario, Canada
Oct. 25-28	WPRO Pro National Doubles Sacramento, CA
Nov. 2-4	Long Island Open
Nov. 14-18	Choice Hotels US Open Racquetball Championships Long Island, NY
Dec. 6-9	Christmas Classic Arlington, VA
Jan. 10-13, 2008	Canal Challenge Panama City, Panama
Jan. 24-27, 2008	Super Bowl Open Sacramento, CA



USA Racquetball Site Offers New Feature

USA Racquetball offers a new feature which allows you to search for timely, accurate information about racquetball tournaments and results. Go to our new, all-inclusive events web site at www.usaracquetballevents.com. Click on "More Upcoming Racquetball Tournaments" located in the "Future Racquetball Tournaments" block. This link will take you to a section that provides a handy tool for retrieving information about sanctioned racquetball tournaments in all 50 states.

For example, if you're planning a trip to Orlando, Florida in July, click on the Florida sanctioned tournaments link. A link to the "Doubles or Nothing" tournament in Orlando on July 13-15, will pop up and you'll find the information you need to enter this tournament while you're in Orlando.

Now there is a central location for racquetball players, event directors, media, parents, fans, and state directors to get racquetball tournament information. We've put it all in one place to make it more convenient for you and we hope you'll take advantage of this new feature.

Join USA Racquetball Today

Standard Memberships

include a subscription to **RACQUETBALL** magazine (six issues per year). A portion of all dues remain with each state affiliate organization for local programs.

International Memberships

Please email tmorse@usra.org or call 719-635-5396, ext. 120 for international membership rates.

Limited Event 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 retroactive). This special limited event 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 a weekend tournament.

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

State Games of America Reminder

Coming August 2-5, ten thousand athletes will meet in Colorado Springs to compete in 29 sports in the **2007 State Games of America**.



Racquetball players may qualify to compete in the State Games of America by placing first, second or third in the State Games in their home state. If your home state does not host a State Games, you may participate in a neighboring State Games to qualify for this event.

Twenty of the thirty-nine states currently holding State Games include racquetball competition. The State Games of America racquetball venue will be Lynmar Racquet & Health Club. Most sports will compete on the grounds of the US Air Force Academy.

The State Games of America are hosted by the **Colorado Springs Sports Corporation**. Complete information about the State Games of America is available at www.thesportscorp.org. More information about State Games in your area is available from the **National Congress of State Games** at www.stategames.org. For racquetball-specific information, contact State Games of America Racquetball Commissioner Eddie Meredith at 719-491-4703 or at eddiemeredit@earthlink.net.