



September 2008

USA Racquetball Newsletter

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Colorado Springs, CO

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2008 Motorola IRT World Racquetball Championship
Denver, CO

October 22-26
2008 U.S. Open Racquetball Championships
Memphis, TN

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[Mary Meredith](#), Editor

Team USA Sweeps World Championships



Team USA prepares for the Opening Ceremonies

The opening ceremonies of the 14th International Racquetball Federation 2008 World Championships were a unique event in the history of the competition. It was the first time the event was held in Ireland and preparations by the Kingscourt Handball and Racquetball Club and the Kingscourt Community Council were ongoing for more than a year. The Championships got under way with a parade of the various countries headed by the Kingscourt Brass and Reed Band followed by flag bearers representing each country. Many of the world's top racquetball players from Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Catalonia, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Guatemala, Holland, Honduras, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Scotland, Turkey, United States of America, and Venezuela competed on Kingscourt's five courts. The 153 competitors vied for gold medals in multiple divisions and were delighted with the facilities as well as the warm welcome they received from the people of the Kingscourt area. The ten-day championship was the biggest international event ever held in the town.



Mitch Williams & Jason Thoerner

Team USA arrived in Ireland for the championships with a "take no prisoners" attitude. That attitude, carried throughout the competition, served the Team well as they dominated their opponents. Rhonda Rajsich and Rocky Carson won gold medals in the singles divisions while Cheryl Gudinas Holmes and Jack Huczek each captured the silver medals. Doubles teams Jackie Paraiso and Aimee Ruiz, and Jason Thoerner and Mitch Williams claimed the titles in the doubles divisions. But Team USA wasn't satisfied with those victories as proven by the USA Men's Team defeat of Mexico 2-1, and by the USA Women's Team triumph over Bolivia 3-0.

Those gold medals must have exceeded the airline's weight limits. Congratulations to Team USA for accomplishing a tremendous feat at the 2008 World Championships. Thanks to everyone whose generous support made their trip possible!

IRT ANNOUNCES 2008-09 SCHEDULE

The IRT released its 2008-09 schedule and it is packed with Grand Slam events, Tier 1 tournaments, and Satellite events.

Tournaments will be held coast to coast and border to border, so make plans today to attend one of these events.

The Men's Pro Tour kicks off this season in style at the **2008 Motorola IRT World Championship in Denver**. The championship will feature pro matches played on the new all-Lucite racquetball court in a downtown Denver park. Amateur competition will be held at the prestigious Denver Athletic Club. Enter online at www.r2sports.com. Check out the first half of the IRT's 2008-09 schedule below. For a complete season schedule, please visit www.irt-tour.com.

September 17-21	Motorola IRT World Championship Denver, Colorado
September 25-28	Kansas City Open Kansas City, Missouri
October 2-5	Kentucky Open Bowling Green, Kentucky
October 9-12	Canadian Classic Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
October 10-12	Auburn VW Open Kent, Washington
October 17-20	West Michigan Open Grand Rapids, Michigan
October 17-20	Lou Bradley Memorial Madison, Wisconsin
October 22-26	US Open Memphis, Tennessee
October 30-Nov. 2	Chihuahua Campestre Open Chihuahua, Mexico
November 6-9	Portland Open Portland, Oregon
November 6-9	Shawn Hyatt Excavating Shootout Yakima, Washington
November 6-9	Long Island Open Long Island, New York
November 13-16	Juarez Open Juarez, Mexico
November 20-23	New Hampshire Open Manchester, New Hampshire
December 5-7	18th Annual Turkey Shoot Garden City, Kansas

2008-09 WPRO Schedule Released

The 2008-09 Women's Professional Racquetball Organization's season schedule offers an opportunity for racquetball fans to see women's professional racquetball throughout many areas of North and South America. The first half of the season takes the Women's tour from North Carolina to Mexico to Canada and back to the east coast. Here's the schedule for the first half of the season. You'll find the remainder of the season schedule as well as videos, player bios and much more at www.wpro-tour.com.

Sept. 12-14	Outback Steakhouse Blast It! Fayetteville, NC
Sept. 26-28	Mexico Open Tijuana, Mexico
Oct. 3-5	Mid-Atlantic Tournament Of Champions Laurel, MD
Oct. 10-12	Canadian Racquetball Classic West Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Oct. 22-26	US Open Memphis, TN
Nov. 7-9	Long Island Open Syosset, NY
Nov. 21-23	New Jersey Open Woodbridge, NJ
Dec. 12-14	Christmas Classic Arlington, VA

In spite of a vicious physical attack and resulting surgery, Rhonda Rajsich continues to dazzle spectators and opponents alike. Rhonda captured the Women's Singles division gold medal at the International Racquetball Federation 2008 World Championships.

If you are interested in supporting women's professional racquetball, please contact WPRO Commissioner Shannon Feaster at wprocommish@aol.com.

The logo for GoodSearch, featuring the word "GoodSearch" in a blue, sans-serif font. A yellow halo is positioned above the letter "o" in "Good".

GoodSearch for USA Racquetball

Raise money for USA Racquetball just by searching the Internet or shopping online with GoodSearch at www.goodsearch.com, powered by Yahoo!



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New Online Services



USA Racquetball welcomes you to this exciting sport.

Racquetball University was designed to provide instructional information to help new players of all ages learn to play and enjoy the many health benefits the sport offers.

Racquetball University also provides materials that will help intermediate and advanced players improve their games.

Also featured on this site is information for collegiate and junior players. The collegiate information will be useful when creating a new league, and includes collegiate council information and scholarship information as well as basic advice for any college student who wants to get involved in racquetball. The Junior area features up-to-date biographies of the current US Junior National Team and its coaches as well as information about high school leagues and tournaments.



The History of Racquetball, as displayed in the Racquetball Museum at National Singles in Houston in May 2008, features documents that highlight key events that took place each year from the birth of racquetball in 1968 through 2006 when the US Team won the 13th World Championship in the Dominican Republic. View each year of archival information to see the transition of racquetball over the past 38 years.

Visit us at www.usaracquetball.com and click on the "Racquetball University" button or the "History of Racquetball" button on the left side of the page to access these two informative and entertaining member service options.



USA Racquetball and Your R2sports Player Profile

Each time you use www.R2sports.com to enter a USA Racquetball sanctioned event online, your Player Profile is retrieved. As you update your information in your R2sports Player Profile your membership

profile in USA Racquetball's database will also be updated, thereby ensuring your information, including your ranking, is accurate and up-to-date.

USA Racquetball members can go to the USA Racquetball website and see their current ranking as well as the list of events they have played and players against whom they have competed.

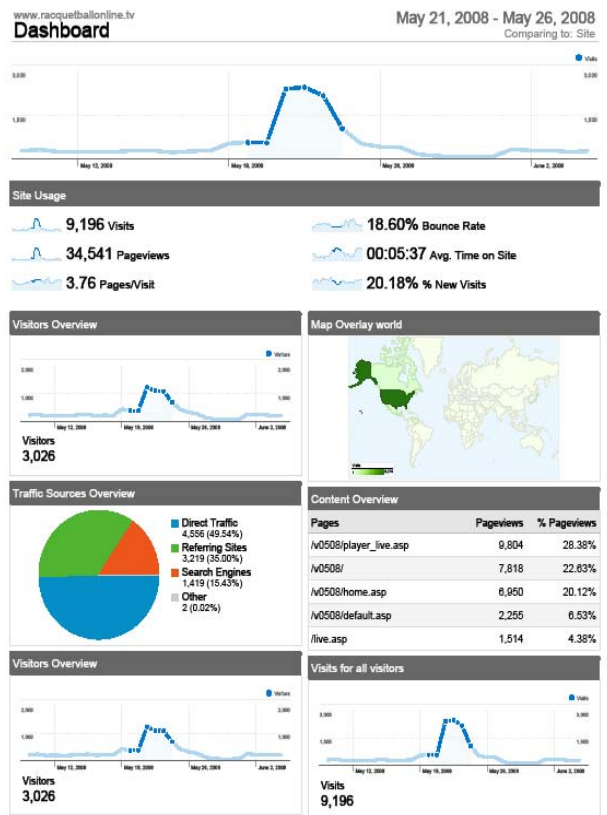
The 2008 Motorola IRT Pro Nationals, presented by Verizon Wireless will air on ESPN Classic. The finals will be televised
September 13, 2008, 11 am (CST), 12 pm (EST).
 Check your local listing at
<http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/v/espnGuide>

RACQUETBALLONLINE.TV REPORTS VIEWERS INCREASING

The graphs and data shown below represent the online traffic watching the US National Singles Championships in May 2008 on www.racquetballonline.tv.

The first two days do not show a true representation of visits and viewers because the new site had not been linked to the Google analytics. But according to prior events and the remaining days of the National Singles event, we could predict around 2,400 viewers on Thursday and 1,000 on Wednesday. That totals approximately 12,000 event viewers from 39 countries. About 20% of those viewers were new viewers, which indicates a growing popularity among racquetball fans watching live streaming of matches.

RacquetballOnline.tv provides live streaming and archival videos of USA Racquetball, WPRO, CPRT AND WOR matches to racquetball fans around the world. The user-friendly web site lists upcoming event schedules for your viewing pleasure, so even if you can't attend the event, you don't have to miss the action.



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