



March 2008

USA Racquetball Newsletter

National Event Schedule

March 26-29

36th National Intercollegiate Championships
Overland Park, KS

April 23-27

2008 Motorola IRT Pro Nationals/Regional Qualifier
Schaumburg, IL

May 21-26

41st National Singles Championships
Houston, TX

June 25-29

35th Junior Olympic Championships
Concord, CA

Enter these tournaments
online at

www.usaracquetballevts.com

2007 US Open Matches Television Schedule

March 26
Men's Semifinal #2
9:00 PM

March 30
Men's Finals
4:00 PM

April 2
Men's Finals
9:00 PM

Broadcast times are Eastern

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Mary Meredith, Editor

Sprague High School Wins Overall Team at National High School Championships

More than 400 high school students in 70 divisions competed at the 2008 21st National High School Racquetball Championships in Portland, Oregon. The competition concluded Sunday, March 2 with **Sprague High School** capturing the coveted overall team title as well as the girl's team title. **Lasalle High School** battled for and won the boy's team title. Individual titles were secured by **Taylor Knoth** who defeated **Ryan Ingram** 7, 4, and by **Sharon Jackson** who defeated **Courtney Chisolm** 4, 5. Congratulations to everyone. For complete results, please visit www.usaracquetballevts.com.



Champions Sharon Jackson
& Taylor Knoth



Team Sprague High School



Good news! A new, updated eye guard list will soon be posted on the USA Racquetball website along with some general information about eye safety and why you should NEVER, EVER step onto a court *without* wearing American Society for Testing and Materials-approved eyewear.

A Once In a Lifetime Experience The 41st National Singles Championships

Search your souls, racquetball fans! Do you *really* want to miss the fabulous goings-on in Houston this year? Could you live with yourself?? Check it out, stay with us on this, just imagine: witness exciting USA Team qualifying matches...all players receive a collector gift...collector edition posters and sculptures available...American Idol-style party...women's pool play divisions...Ladies' Night Out (guys, you can wait in the Hyatt bar until the feminine revelry subsides)...and a Racquetball Museum Room at the Y, featuring the history of the sport since 1968 (40 years!).

If *all that* weren't enough...the largest, fanciest, most prestigious Banquet in the history of our sport (you'll think you're at the Oscars)...special multi-media presentations honoring our Military, celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Hall of Fame (with 27 members in attendance, including Dr. Bud Muehleisen, Charlie Brumfield, Lynn Adams and Mike Yellen, to name a few), and commemorating the 25th Anniversary in Houston. Shawn Royster in a top hat and tails...need we say more?

But there is more! A limited number of VIP banquet tables with seating for 10 are available for a \$1,000 donation. These tables will feature an exclusive menu including wine and dedicated servers. Contact Heather Fender at hfender@usra.org to make your VIP table arrangements.

Convinced? Fantastic!! Online registration will be available soon at www.usaracquetballevts.com. See you in Houston!

Cheryl Kirk, USAR Board Secretary

**GEARBOX APPAREL**
[CLICK HERE](#)**GEARBOX TECHNOLOGY - INNOVATION**

- ▶ **GEARBOX RACQUETBALL DEFINED** - A mechanical system including the player, his arm and his racquet, by which power is transmitted, controlled and re-distributed to the ball.
- ▶ **HAND CRAFTED USING ONLY THE BEST MATERIALS**
100% Graphite construction made from high modulus and premium grade graphite.
- ▶ **PATENT PENDING SOLID HEAD DESIGN**
Single tube frame construction transitions into a solid head providing extreme power.
- ▶ **QUADRA/TEAR DROP HYBRID DESIGN**
The tear drop shape maximizes the power of your racquet while the quadra form provides all the control you need.
- ▶ **FRAME TORSION**
A combination of fiber angles providing stiffness at select points along the frame, which optimize power.
- ▶ **PROPORTIONAL FRAME DESIGN**
A racquet that feels right in your hand, dimensions specifically calculated for extreme power, control and maneuverability.

MEET THE GEARBOX TEAM**Javier Moreno**

Javier Moreno started playing racquetball with his family at 8 years old in a rental court in Chihuahua, Mexico. It was a little warehouse full of bibles with uneven walls. Javi recalls, "The walls would make the ball bounce in a different direction every time."

Now, Javier Moreno is one of the best professional players in Mexico. Currently ranked number 18 in the world on the IRT "Javi" as his peers better know him is the funniest player on tour. Having attended the University of Memphis. Javier still makes a few of the big events in the states and is always a threat for an upset.

When Javi isn't on tour he is training at his home club Campestre de Chihuahua which hosted a full ranking IRT event in 2002.

[gearbox team page >>](#)**FEATURED PRODUCTS****GB- 250**
The Ultimate Racquet >>**Club Bag**
Durability & Comfort >>**Warm-Up Jacket**
Look Good, Play Well >>

Summary of USA Racquetball Progress in 2007

By Jim Hiser, Executive Director

Financial Recap

The total debt of the association in 2002 was \$675,749. To alleviate the crisis, an aggressive fund-raising and cost cutting campaign was initiated. The financial crisis was compounded when support from the United States Olympic Committee was cut from \$281,826 in 2002 to \$16,000 in 2007. This reduction was part of the overall reorganization of the entire USOC structure in which all Pan American-only sports (7) and many Olympic Sports suffered similar reductions.

Even with setbacks such as the USOC support reduction, USAR current debt is approximately \$10,000. This gratifying accomplishment would not have been possible without the support and faith of our members.

In 2007, USA Racquetball initiated steps to form a USA Racquetball Foundation. The foundation will be directed by an independent Board of Directors whose function will be to raise funds with the goal of establishing long-term financial stability for the association. The foundation will start off with a \$10,000 donation from the estate of a deceased member.

Membership Services

Although the above described financial situation created significant challenges, membership services were enhanced in quality and quantity.

- Tournament Management System – USA Racquetball annually sanctions over 450 events. In an effort to assist event directors with event management, USA Racquetball, in association with R2Sports, has developed the most comprehensive tournament management system in the industry. The system monitors every aspect of event management including registration, court scheduling and membership verification, all the way through automatic submission of results for rankings. Offered at no charge to all sanctioned events, we continue to improve the system and implemented more than 150 upgrades in 2007.
- Racquetball Events Site – This site was created to provide a location for our state directors and members to view any sanctioned event that occurs throughout the country as well as provide information regarding rankings and special events. For states that have limited financial and volunteer resources, the event site can also serve as a primary web site for state information. States can individualize their particular event sites to include information pertinent to their associations. The event site feature is provided at no charge to all affiliated state organizations.
- Email Newsletter – our email newsletter is published to complement *Racquetball* magazine and to provide information to recreational players who are not members of USA Racquetball. The newsletter was designed to maintain enthusiasm and provide information to all racquetball players, and to encourage the recreational player to join USA Racquetball.
- Monthly State Directors Conference Calls – In an effort to improve communication with our state directors, USA Racquetball hosts an on-line interactive conference call the first Monday of each month. Topics for discussion are proposed by state directors and members. The calls are open to any member of any state board.
- In 2007, USAR partnered with the IRT to offer an additional Grand Slam event in Colorado Springs. Currently there are three grand slam events -- Memphis, Chicago, and Colorado Springs (the latter may move to Denver). The close relationship with the IRT continues to provide additional opportunities for both organizations.
- Rankings Program – Currently the USAR ranking system ranks 14,000 males and 3,000 females, with 90,000 matches and 797 events entered into the system. As more and more data is accumulated, the rankings develop more credibility as a seeding instrument. Although some states already use the rankings as the only criteria for seeding, we estimate that another twelve months must pass before national events will be able to utilize rankings in a similar manner.
- New Staff/Staff Restructuring – A new staff member was hired to assist with event management and to initiate a new program for improvement of communication with clubs and recreational players. Staff responsibilities have been analyzed and realigned to enhance service to our members.
- Updated USA Racquetball Rulebook – The updated rulebook includes USAR rules as well as those for many affiliated organizations such as the IRT, WPRO, IRF, and NMRA.

Plans for 2008

- Eliminate the remaining \$10,000 debt.
- Finalize the formation of the USA Racquetball Foundation and select the Foundation's Board of Directors.
- Finalize USA Racquetball's strategic planning initiative. The Board of Directors anticipates completion of a draft by the end of March that will proceed to Board vote at the Annual Meeting in May.
- Concurrently, work with the United States Olympic Committee to review USA Racquetball's entire operating structure. The review will include an extensive evaluation of USA Racquetball's operating procedures, structure, strategic plan, finances, etc. Final USOC recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors in May.
- Reinstate and enhance the U.S. Team programs that were eliminated during the financial crisis. USA Racquetball hopes to restore many of the prior benefits and also implement additional benefits.
- Continue to strengthen relationships with the various affiliated organizations – e.g., IRT, IRF, WPRO, NMRA, WS/MRA and WOR. USA Racquetball believes strong connections and positive working relationships must continue to be fostered for the health of the sport.
- Integrate an in-club league system into our tournament management system. This will assist clubs with organizing and operating their league programs and also offer an opportunity for league players to create a national ranking.
- Create a history file for each ranked member that will allow review of individual event results at any time.



All participants of the **2008 US National Singles Racquetball Championships** are required to qualify at either a recognized regional championship event, your sanctioned state singles championship, or this year's WS/MRA or NMRA events.

Entrants must compete, not just enter, in one national qualifying event or their sanctioned state singles championship in order to compete in the 2008 US National Singles. And remember, you must be a member of USA Racquetball to compete in any USAR-sanctioned event. Listed below are the regional qualifiers and tournament directors.

April 17-20, 2008

The Athletic Club of Overland Park
Overland Park, KS
Mike Wedel at 913-383-9060

Spectrum Athletic Club
Canoga Park, CA
Debbie Tisinger at 818-884-5034

Cascade Athletic Club
Gresham, OR
Brian Ancheta at 503-665-4142

Richey Racquet Club
Port Richey, FL
Kim Roy at 603-491-1494

Vetta Sports Concord
St Louis, MO
Dan Whitley at 314-842-3111 x 3

Sportset – Syosset Club
Long Island, NY
Tom Keogh at 718-429-8489

Southern Athletic Club
Atlanta, GA
Otto Dietrich at 770-972-2303

Severna Park Racquet and Fitness
Millersville, MD
Susan Flaesch at 410-365-6144

Solon Athletic Club
Cleveland, OH
Doug Ganim at 614-890-6073

Nashua Athletic Club
Nashua, NH
Kelley Beane at 603-668-4753

WPRO World Championships
Elmwood Fitness Center-New Orleans, LA
Al Schof at 225-936-4508

April 25-27, 2008

Downtown Houston YMCA
Houston, TX
Lance Gilliam at 210-573-2324

April 23-27, 2008

IRT Pro Nationals
Schaumburg Tennis Plus-Chicago, IL
Dave Negrete at 630-430-1478

36th USAR Intercollegiate Championships



Now you can go online to follow your favorite college team's progress in USA Racquetball's 36th Intercollegiate Championships at the Athletic Club of Overland Park, Kansas on March 26-29. Beginning March 26th, please go to www.usaracquetballevnts.com and click the link to the event.

USA Racquetball/R2SportsTournament Software

Tournament directors can use the official tournament software of USA Racquetball free of charge. Save hours of time and use the new software for all USA Racquetball-sanctioned events. USAR/R2Sports has everything an event director needs to run a tournament effectively and efficiently. Key features include:

- Automatically generate a tournament information website
- Accept online entries
- Automated match scheduling wizard
- Publish match start times
- Print updated score cards throughout the event
- Choose single elimination, round robin, double elimination, consolation drop down, pool play, and Olympic formats
- Manage your event with a live "time grid"
- Update draws on the website in real time during the event

Please visit www.r2sports.com for more information today.

Join USA Racquetball

Standard Memberships

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

International Memberships

Please email hizzett@usra.org or tmorse@usra.org or call 719-635-5396, ext. 123 for international membership rates.

Limited Event Memberships are valid for one weekend event or a one-day shootout at a cost of \$15. 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

41st National Doubles Championships

Thanks to the 377 competitors and guests who attended the 41st National Doubles Championships in Tempe, AZ on February 13-17. We appreciate your participation and support and hope you had as much fun as we did.

The women's team of **Aimee Ruiz** and **Jacqueline Paraiso** took top honors with their 11, 7 win over **Janel Tisinger** and **Rhonda Rajsich**. **Jack Huczek** and **Rocky Carson** nabbed the top men's team honors with their 6, 14 win over **Jason Thoerner** and **Mitch Williams**. A "pool play" format in some of the men's divisions was used which provided more court time for those competitors. We received many positive comments about our new, larger medals and can see why...they're pretty impressive. If you didn't take one (or three) home this year, plan to do so next February.

Equipment booths for event sponsors E-Force, Ektelon, Gearbox, and HEAD/Penn allowed everyone the opportunity to see the most innovative and newest racquetball products. Clinics were conducted by Head and Ektelon, and RacquetballOnline.tv provided live video streaming as well as private videotaping for athletes. Thanks to each sponsor for their support and to Pablo Fajre and Angela Grisar for the video streaming. Please visit www.usaracquetballevnts.com for complete National Doubles results.

