



April 2007

USA Racquetball Newsletter

Even though our racquetball "season" is winding down, the sample of upcoming major and national events listed below illustrates a big event is about to take place in most areas of the United States. This is just a sample of events, so make sure you check out the extended tournament schedule for a tournament near you at www.usaracquetball.com.

Jim Hiser,
Executive Director
USA Racquetball

Major Event Schedule

April 13 - 15
Dennis Rosenberg ProAm
Allentown, PA

April 25 - 29
Motorola Pro Nationals
Chicago, IL

May 3 - 6
WPRO Pro Nationals
New Orleans, LA

National Event Schedule

May 18 - 20
USA Racquetball Northwest
Junior Regionals
Portland, OR

May 23 - 28
2007 40th Annual USA
National Singles Racquetball
Championships
Houston, TX

June 20 - 24
2007 US Junior National
Racquetball Championship
Tempe, AZ

July 25 - 28
National Masters Racquetball
Association International
Championships
Overland Park, KS

August 2 - 5
State Games of America
Colorado Springs, CO

September 26 - 30
US National Doubles
Championships
Tempe, AZ

USA Racquetball

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University of Alabama Wins Overall Team Title At 2007 Collegiate Nationals

The **University of Alabama** repeated its 2005 performance by winning the overall team championships at the **2007 35th USA Racquetball National Intercollegiate Championships** in Tempe, Arizona. Perhaps the most surprising result was the victory by **Arizona State University** in the women's team championship. Although the #1 player from Arizona lost early in the tournament, the well-balanced team placed in all of the remaining women's divisions.



University of Alabama Overall Team Champs

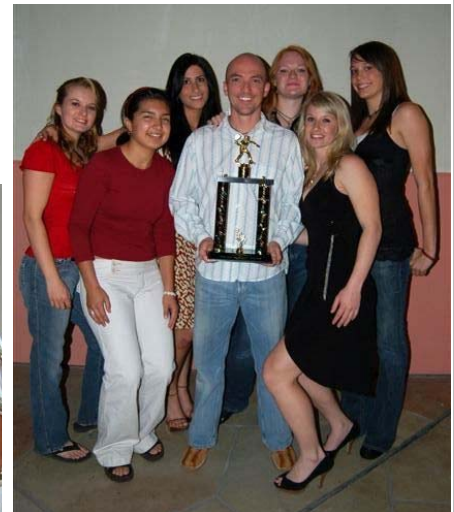
As expected, **Colorado State University-Pueblo** captured the men's team championship with anchors **Ben Croft** (#1) and **Mitch Williams** (#2).

Baldwin Wallace College's Coach, Tim Miller once again proved that small Division II schools can do well. His team won the Division II title and placed third in the overall team title.



Colorado State University-Pueblo Men's Champs

Ben Croft maintained his place on the **US Team** by easily winning the men's #1 championship and **Kimberly Irons** survived a tough battle against **Jesi Fuller** to win the women's #1 title. See page 3 for complete 2007 Intercollegiate Standings.



Arizona State University Women's Champs

Team USA Wins Overall Team and Women's Team Titles at Pan American Championships

The USA's Women's Team repeated a strong showing at an international event, winning the Women's team title *and* gold medals in doubles and singles. **Kirsten Walsh**, the third member of the women's team, lost to home town favorite **Angela Grisar** in the quarters.

Woody Clouse lost in a tiebreaker (quarters) to eventual gold medalist **Alvaro Beltran**. **Chris Crowthers**, in his first international event, lost to **Kris Odegard** of Canada, 11-10 in the semis. Overall, the men's team finished second behind Canada. The US defended their overall team title from last year. Coaches for this year's event were **Dave** and **John Ellis**.



10 Ideas for Proper Protocol for Recreational Racquetball

- 1. Complaining, Criticizing and Whining** - Verbal moaning is a turn-off for others who have to listen. Complaining about missed shots, your opponent's "lucky" shots, your partner's weaknesses, etc. only aggravate others on the court. Appreciate the big picture. You have the good fortune to be playing racquetball.
- 2. Chronic Lateness** - Be on time - or better yet, be early. When you are late you take away from your opponent's playing time. All players should warm up. When you are late you sacrifice a proper warm up, normally resulting in a sub-par performance.
- 3. Close Calls** - Remember recreational play is not the same as playing for a national championship. Many players use club matches to practice and improve their games. If players disagree on calls, simply replay the rally. On serves, allow the receiver to make the call. If you disagree (as the server) simply agree to replay the serve. Call hinders on yourself, and if agreed upon by both players, call avoidable hinders. Don't expect your opponent to say anything. Take the lead and play the game with fairness and integrity.
- 4. Calling the Score** - When you serve, call the score - loud and clear - so there are no questions. If you are receiving and believe the score is wrong, immediately discuss the situation with the server.
- 5. Uncontrolled Warm Ups** - Attempt to keep your warm ups under control and keep the ball on your side of the court. Do not take longer than five minutes on either side. (2-1/2 minutes per side is normal tournament time). Allow your opponent to practice on both sides.
- 6. Turn Your Cell Phone Off** - Don't waste your valuable racquetball court time by leaving the court and answering your phone every time it rings. Be respectful of your opponent's time. Either leave the phone in your car or turn it off. A constantly ringing cell phone is annoying to your opponent and to other players in the club.
- 7. Equipment** - Make sure you place your bag in a location outside the court that is easily accessible and also does not take up other members seating opportunities. Chairs and couches are made for humans, not bags. Do not use typically limited seating availability to store your bag. Place your bag on the floor, not on the furniture.
- 8. Challenge Courts** - Sign up and be ready to play when your name comes up. While the match before yours is taking place, start warming up. If you leave to play on another court, remove your name from the list. If only two players arrive and sign up, be sure to allow new players into the rotation. Don't restart your game or play a longer game than the challenge court rules allow. Allow the new player the same courtesy as if there were a full list of challengers.
- 9. Leagues** - If you sign up for a league, take your involvement seriously and show up for your matches on time. If you know ahead of time that you will miss a scheduled match, have the courtesy to notify your opponent. Try to make up your match before your next scheduled match. This way you will maintain the league schedule and won't force your opponent to squeeze in makeup matches later in the schedule when time may be limited.
- 10. Know The Rules** - Get a rule book and read it! Ask your club pro for a copy or send your questions to USA Racquetball. Be patient with others who may not know the rules and provide them with information to clarify questions.

USA Racquetball Board of Directors Election

Time is running out to vote in the USA Racquetball election. The ballot was published in the March/April issue of **RACQUETBALL** magazine and only 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 fundraising 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 16, 2007.

2007 Racquetball Regional Qualifiers



Approximately 600 players will compete in over 70 divisions in the **2007 40th Annual USA National Singles Racquetball Championships, May 23 - 28, 2007**, in Houston, Texas. All players are required to qualify *before* they may enter the national singles championship at either a recognized regional championship event *or* at a sanctioned state singles championship. Entrants *must* compete, not only enter, in one national qualifying event. If you plan to enter the Nationals in May, (and we strongly encourage you to do so), you must qualify.

Active Duty Military personnel serving overseas are exempt. Full-time residents of Alaska and Hawaii are also exempt.

Any player who resides more than 300 miles from the closest regional or state singles qualifier may apply for a mileage distance waiver to compete at nationals. The waiver fee is \$100.00.

The remaining 2007 qualifying events are as follows:

April 20 - 22, 2007

Severna Park Racquet and Fitness
Millersville, MD
Contact: Steve Graham at
443-850-2648

Downtown Houston YMCA
Houston, TX
Contact: Mike Fitzsimmons at
832-260-2781

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

Executive Health & Sports Center
Manchester, NH
Contact: Kelley Beane at
603-668-4753

April 25 - 29, 2007

Schaumburg Tennis Plus
Chicago, IL
(Held in conjunction with **IRT Pro Nationals**)
Contact: Dave Negrete at
630-430-1478

Contact **USA Racquetball** at
719-635-5396 for more
information.

2007 USAR National High School Championship Standings

TEAM (a)		BOYS		GIRLS	
High School	Points (b)	High School	Points	High School	Points
1 Beaverton HS	3,231	1 Beaverton HS	1,542	1 Cor Jesu Academy	1,328
2 LaSalle HS	2,051	2 LaSalle HS	1,249	2 Beaverton HS	1,194
3 Parkway West HS	1,850	3 St. Louis University HS	1,224	3 St. Joseph's Academy	1,009 (c)
4 Kirkwood HS	1,630	4 Christian Bros College HS	823	4 Parkway West HS	1,009
5 Southridge HS	1,607	5 Copper Hills HS	708	5 Southridge HS	912
6 Sprague HS	1,448	6 Kirkwood HS	588	6 Kirkwood HS	729
7 St. Louis University HS	1,224	7 Sprague HS	565	7 Central Catholic HS	696
8 Copper Hills HS	1,095	8 Parkway West HS	551	8 Nerinx Hall HS	647
9 Cibola HS	433	9 North Valley HS	517	9 Sprague HS	647
10 Franklin HS	351	10 Indian Hill HS	385	10 LaSalle HS	368
11 Brighton HS	146	11 St. John Vianney HS	381	11 Notre Dame HS	352
12 Catlin Gabel HS	140	12 Chaminade College Prep	334 (d)	12 Visitation Academy	251
13 El Dorado HS	131	13 Southridge HS	320	13 Waldron HS	228
14 Hope Christian	56	14 DeSmet Jesuit HS	319 (d)	14 Aaron Academy	222
(a) Schools must have boy and girl entries to compete in the Team championship.		15 Woodridge HS	228	15 Lincoln	180
(b) Includes results of mixed doubles matches.		16 Park City HS	222	16 Martensdale St. Mary's HS	180
(c) SJA awarded third place based upon winning head-to-head tie-breaker with PWHS		17 Cibola HS	208	17 Copper Hills HS	160
(d) Includes 100 point penalty for failure to provide a Referee.		18 Downers Grove North HS	180	18 Franklin HS	141
		18 Marquette HS	180	19 Brighton HS	90
		18 Oak Mountain	180	19 Catlin Gabel HS	90
		18 Rolla	180	21 Hope Christian	56
		22 Riverton HS	152	22 Cibola HS	45
		23 La Cueva HS	120	23 El Dorado HS	29
		24 Marlborough HS	114	24 St. Louis University HS	-
		25 Elliston Baptist Academy	90		
		25 Lane Tech HS	90		
		25 Sarasota	90		
		28 Xavier HS	60		
		29 Catlin Gabel HS	50		
		30 Bingham HS	45		
		30 El Dorado HS	45		
		32 Cascade HS	30		
		32 Franklin HS	30		
		32 Hillcrest HS	30		
		32 Middleton HS	30		
		36 Jordan HS	29		
		37 Las Vegas	22		
		38 Brighton HS	-		
		38 Hope Christian	-		

Official Final - March 6, 2007

2007 US Intercollegiate National Championships Top Ten Team Standings - Division I

<u>Men's Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Women's Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Combined Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>
Colorado State University-Pueblo	2066.0	Arizona State University	1007.0	University of Alabama	2763.0
University of Alabama	1810.0	University of Alabama	953.0	Arizona State University	1877.5
University of New Mexico	925.0	Brigham Young University	726.0	Brigham Young University	1410.5
University of Missouri Columbia	887.0	Penn State University	715.0	Penn State University	1306.0
Arizona State University	870.5	University of New Mexico	379.0	University of New Mexico	1304.0
University of Florida	810.0	University of Oregon	379.0	University of Missouri Columbia	1075.5
Brigham Young University	684.5	Ohio University	350.0	University of Oregon	984.0
University of Oregon	605.0	Utah State University	303.5	Texas A&M University	705.0
Penn State University	591.0	Texas A&M University	197.0	Utah State University	590.0
Iowa State University	546.0	University of Missouri Columbia	188.5	Missouri State University	575.5

2007 US Intercollegiate National Championships Team Standings - Division II

<u>Men's Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Women's Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Combined Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>
Baldwin Wallace College	1083.0	Baldwin Wallace College	767.0	Baldwin Wallace College	1850.0
Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute	437.5	Bryant College	364.5	Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute	577.5
Bryant College	211.0	Clarkson University	203.5	Bryant College	575.5
Clarkson University	200.0	Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute	140.0	Clarkson University	403.5
Scottsdale Community College	140.0	Nichols College	0.0	Nichols College	5.0
Salt Lake Community College	17.0				
Goldenwest College	12.0				
Nichols College	5.0				
Mesa College	0.0				

Women's Racquetball

The **USA Racquetball Board Women's Committee**, in conjunction with Jim Hiser, have been collaborating to determine the best format(s) for women's divisions at National Singles in Houston. The Olympic format, tested in Houston and Tempe last year, gained mixed feedback. After gathering input from participants (via email and at the Women's Meeting in Tempe), we've determined that "one size does *not* fit all!" The following approach will be tested in Houston:

- The skill divisions (Open, Elite, A, B, C, D, Novice) will be played in a straight draw format, or set up in round robins, as appropriate.
- The age and age/skill divisions will be played with a dropdown approach, much like Open/AA on the state level. For example: Women's 45 and 45A are combined, with a dropdown to 45A, i.e. the first-round non-winners will drop to 45A and continue to compete. Women's 45B and 45C are combined with a dropdown to 45C. Splitting the divisions in this way will eliminate an extreme range of playing ability (as with the Olympic format) and players will reach their true competition level more quickly.
- Smaller draw age divisions (usually the more mature players) will be formatted as round robins, per popular demand.

We look forward to feedback from those who come to compete!

On a related note, for those traveling to National Singles in Houston in May, please mark your calendars to attend the **Second Annual Women's Reception**, hosted by the USA Racquetball Board Women's Committee, on Thursday evening, **May 24**, at the Hyatt Downtown Houston. More details to follow...y'all come!

USA Racquetball Board Women's Committee
Lorraine Galloway, Linda Mojer, Malia Bailey and Cheryl Kirk

State Games of America



Ten thousand athletes will meet in Colorado Springs on August 2 - 5, 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 eddiemeredith@earthlink.net.

Ask Otto

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

"The referee said he wasn't going to replay the rally because he wasn't really sure that my shot, which hit my opponent, would have reached the front wall. Is that the right call?"

Otto's Ruling:

No! That rally should have been replayed due to the referee's expressed uncertainty about the ball's flight. Rule 3.14(a)2 says that only if the ball **obviously does not** have the velocity or direction to reach the front wall it is NOT a hinder. Any expressed doubt means the rally should be replayed.

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

USA Racquetball Membership Options

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.

Standard Memberships are for one year and include a subscription to **RACQUETBALL** magazine (six issues per year). A portion 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 Tour



Jason Mannino

The **USA Challenges the World Tour** consists of **Jason Mannino**, currently ranked #2 in the world, playing a variety of players from around the world, including top IRT players. The venerable **Ruben Gonzalez**, representing Puerto Rico and currently ranked #17 in the world, accepted Mannino's latest



Ruben Gonzalez

challenge and will battle in the **USA vs. Puerto Rico** event on **May 16, 2007**.

Please contact Russ Mannino at russmannino@yahoo.com or at 858-663-2934 for more information.

In other IRT Tour news, the Tour traveled to Boston in March for the **2007 Red Swain Memorial ProAm**. **Jack Huczek** preserved his #1 rank by defeating #3 **Rocky Carson** in the finals 6, 7, 3.

For more news about the Men's Tour, go to www.irt-tour.com.

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

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Step 2: Check One

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Step 4: Payment Method

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