

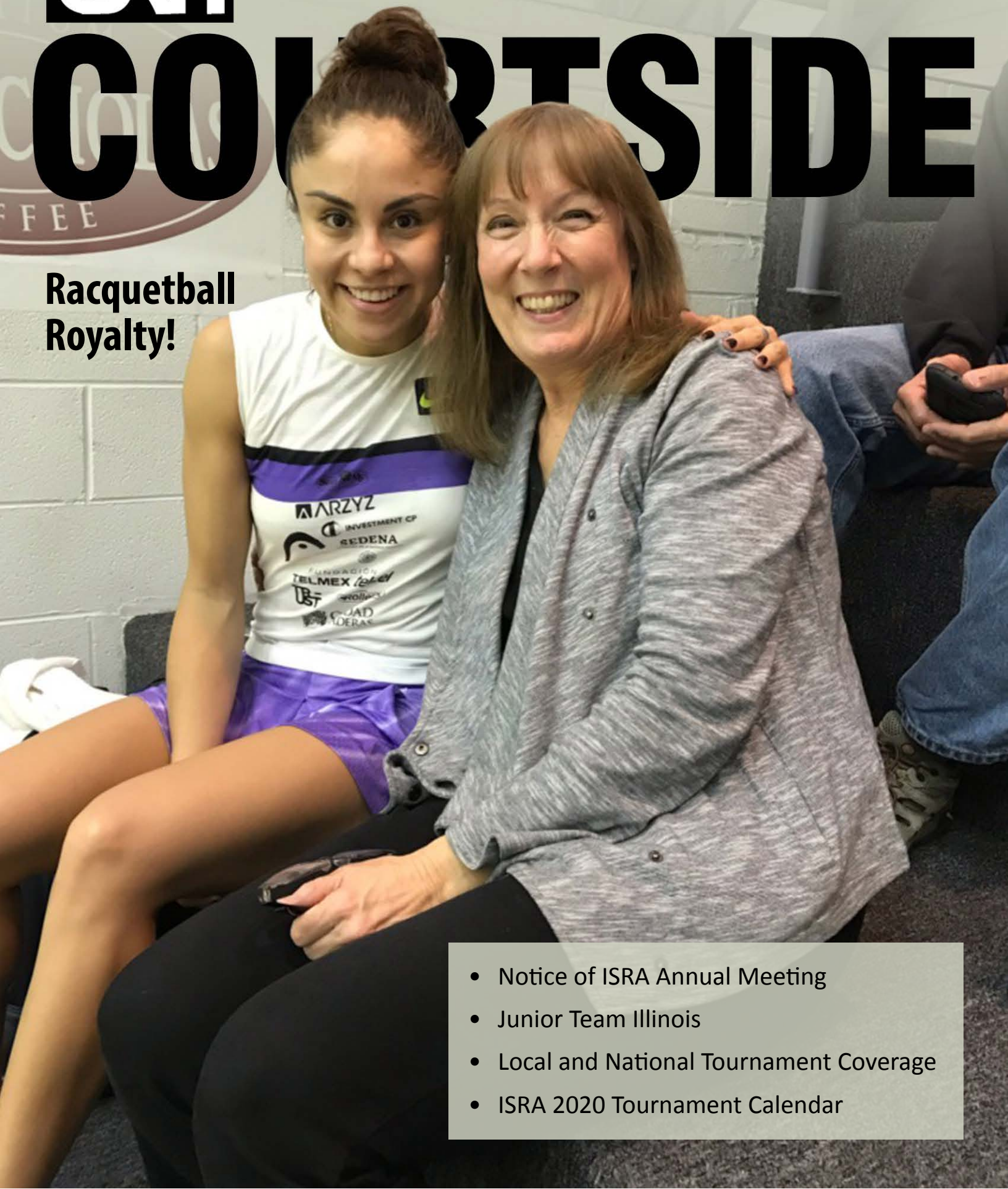


Second Half 2019 | VOL 37 NO 2

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

COURTSIDE

**Racquetball
Royalty!**



- Notice of ISRA Annual Meeting
- Junior Team Illinois
- Local and National Tournament Coverage
- ISRA 2020 Tournament Calendar



EXTREME

EFFORTLESS POWER



165



GRAPHENE
360

PWRAIL
HIGH PERFORMANCE BEAM



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175

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Design & Layout by: TypaGraphics

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On the COVER

Present and Past -- Two of the Most Famous
Racquetball Players in History!

Paola Longoria and Lynn Adams Clay at the
28th Annual Turkey Shoot Open

Photo by LPRT Commissioner T.J. Baumbaugh



From the PRESIDENT

Following is a modified version of the year-end message I sent on behalf of the ISRA Board of Directors on December 6, 2019.

Greetings, ISRA Players and Fans,
I'd like to take this opportunity to recap the year 2019 in Illinois Racquetball and talk a bit about how the Board of Directors is planning to support this great sport of ours in the coming year.

Let's go...first things first...

USAR/ISRA Membership News

In early December, USA Racquetball announced an increase in membership fees.

1. The increase, the first in 11 years, was effective January 1, 2020.
2. The annual fee went from \$50 to \$65, but if Auto-Renew is selected, it's only \$60/year.
3. The processing fee of \$3.50 has been rolled into the increase as well and will not be reflected as an additional online charge.
4. Now included is Outdoor racquetball (no additional membership is necessary for indoor players to compete in sanctioned outdoor events such as the 3WallBrawl at Rainbow Beach Park in August)!

For full details and Q&A, please see "A Letter to Our Members" on USA Racquetball's home page at www.usaracquetball.com.

Perhaps your question became, "What's in it for me to renew my membership?" Well, besides supporting racquetball and its infrastructure on the national level (that we would miss a lot if it went away!), the ISRA receives a portion of each Illinois resident's USAR membership fees to support our efforts to make this an enjoyable sport for you. Here's what we have been up to in Illinois and what we're planning to tackle as priorities in 2020.

The Year 2019 in Review

Junior Team Illinois (JTI) -- We have a great group of kids learning and playing on Sunday mornings at Glass Court, led by coaches Marian Bala, Carolyn Vazquez, Andy Pitock, and Jairo Torres along with a number of committed parents and volunteers who support these coaches. We'd love add more players to the roster, so please contact us if you know kids who might like to play!

Travel League -- Dan Jaskier and Diane Bunker are the coordinators of the ISRA Men's and Women's Leagues -- arguably the longest continuously running leagues in the world.

ISRA Courtside (aka ISRA Newsletter) -- Posted on the www.illinoisracquetball.com home page.

Tournaments -- The ISRA Board publishes dates well in advance (see the calendar in this issue or at www.illinoisracquetball.com).

Hall of Fame/Annual Awards -- Congratulations to 2019 ISRA Hall of Fame inductee **Geoff Peters**; 2019 Male and Female Players of the Year **Keith Minor** and **Janet Eminger**; and 2019

Most Improved Player of the Year **Nadeem Sharifuddin**. Also, the TJ Ferro Scholarship Award recognizes a deserving young player each year. **Freddy Conforti** was the 2019 recipient.

We are proud to say that in the past year — with much gratitude to our sponsors and volunteers — Glass Court and the ISRA hosted the **NMRA**, **IRT**, and **LPRT** organizations and athletes as well as the ISRA's State Doubles and State Singles Championships. We appreciate the behind-the-scenes work Geoff Peters contributes to bring the pros to Glass Court for our viewing enjoyment. Glass Court is nationally and, as Alcides Gutierrez reminded us, internationally known for its well-run and hospitable competitions. Many thanks go to Glass Court—Dan Jaskier, Joe DeArmas, and their staff members—for providing us our home-away-from-home.

ISRA Board members (listed in this publication) devote much time toward the smooth running of these events. We will always welcome players and fans who wish to donate a bit of their time and support at tournaments: many hands make light work!

ISRA: 2020 and Beyond

The volunteer ISRA Board of Directors meets monthly (except in July and August). Our one and only motivation is to do our very best for the racquetball players of Illinois.

All but three of our 18 ISRA Governing Board members were present either in person or via teleconference on December 4. A number of initiatives were discussed to prioritize what we will concentrate on in the coming year. These will include (but will not be limited to): support of the Junior Team Illinois (JTI) program; development of a more organized and engaging social media presence; support to Glass Court as our premier host club in the Chicagoland area; and exploration of tournament format changes to help players better manage their time over the course of a weekend commitment. The overarching area most critical to achieving all of the above is membership growth.

Many players hold off on purchasing or renewing their membership until signing up for a tournament. We would like to assure USA Racquetball that Illinois players are dedicated to racquetball growth here and across the U.S. Therefore, we would deeply appreciate your support if you will renew your membership as it comes due.

At any time, please contact me at cherylkkirk@aol.com with your thoughts, concerns, and/or suggestions on how we can better lead racquetball in the right direction here in Illinois.

Sincere thanks to all who sponsored, volunteered, and competed within this wonderful sport of ours this past year.

Cheryl Kirk
President, Board of Directors
Illinois State Racquetball Association



KILLSHOT Kids' Corner

Junior Team Illinois

Join the Junior Team Illinois Revolution!

As Illinois racquetball changes and evolves every year, there is one thing that we want to keep constant: maintaining an active Junior Team in Illinois. We have been working on the blueprint for success and in 2019, we kept the momentum going.

This season, under the leadership of Coach Marian Bala and Assistant Coaches Carolyn Vazquez, Andy Pitock, and Jairo Torres, along with junior mentors Glen Bero and Liz Molitor, the team is addressing the challenge of preparing more youth for potential competition at USAR Junior Nationals (coming this year in late June). We want to provide stipends/financial support to help them succeed. In 2019, this meant that we needed to upgrade our fundraising game and get everyone in the racquetball community involved. Our initial travel voucher recipient, Axel Lopez, brought home GOLD from Portland, Oregon! We are so proud of Axel, and his success has motivated more kids to strive toward competing at USAR Junior Nationals.

Last season, with the support of many, we met the financial challenge with some grassroots efforts. Led by Carolyn Vazquez, a Bake Sale and a Bowling event were both successful, and we look forward to "even bigger and better" this year. We baked and bowled ending with a big STRIKE at the JTI Bowling Event where we raised more than \$2,500. Looking at this season, we are on the mark to do even bigger things with the inclusion of junior clinics and recruiting high school teams for clubs. Check your local social media listings for 2020 Bowling Event information as well. A simple cupcake

purchase at a tournament or a donation to JTI is greatly appreciated.

Don't get too hashtag happy, but another big triumph for the team was making the jump into the social media world. You can now find information about JTI on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @ JTI Racquetball. We will be enlisting the help of members from the ISRA Board of Directors as well as a new Social Media Coordinator to keep our social media game strong. Check out live games and practice drills and laugh at the ever-popular two-minute question drill with our elite Illinois youth athletes. Get your hashtag game on at #racquetballillinois, "Like" our pages, and follow us for up-to-date JTI info.

JTI is available to players ages 6-18 who want to learn and grow in racquetball. Dan Jaskier and Glass Court make this possible by providing courts and a welcoming atmosphere for members and guests alike. We meet at Glass Court in Lombard every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. Bring a new player and we can provide gear for them, or volunteer your time as we host some of the most awesome junior players in Illinois!

If you have questions about JTI or would like to volunteer and join the fun, contact any of the coaches at JTIRacquetball@gmail.com or Cheryl Kirk at cherylkkirk@aol.com. We THANK YOU for your interest and support. See you on the courts!

-- Carolyn Vazquez



LPRT Pro Players Hosted a Clinic for Juniors from Illinois and Iowa at the Turkey Shoot in November



ANDY PITOCK

andy@glasscourt.com



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Notice of Annual Meeting and Election of ISRA Board Members

The ISRA Board will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2020. As with all ISRA meetings, this meeting is open to the membership. The Annual Meeting is particularly important since all members attending have a vote in the election of the ISRA Board of Directors. If you plan to attend, please contact ISRA Board Secretary Barb Vagedes at barbara-vagedes@aol.com for time and location.

Board positions are staggered two-year terms. There are eleven open seats on the Board for this year's election. As part of the process, the Nominating Committee will determine which sitting Board members wish to run for re-election.

According to Article IV, Section IV.2 of the ISRA Bylaws (ratified by the ISRA Board of Directors in December 2013 and posted on the ISRA website):

Additional Director candidates must be nominated in writing by one or more ISRA/USAR members, endorsed by signed petition of at least 50 members, and received by the President prior to May 1. If there are any additional Director nominations, the President shall first verify that the nominee is in agreement to run and serve and shall give notice of said nomination to the public via the ISRA website and email communication on or before May 15 but in no case fewer than 30 days before the Annual Meeting date. The election shall take place at the Annual Meeting in June, by ballot, with only members present voting. If there are no additional nominations, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be accepted automatically.

ISRA President Cheryl Kirk's email address is cherylkkirk@aol.com.

Additionally, any ISRA member who wishes to help improve the quality of racquetball in Illinois and familiarize themselves with Board processes is welcome to join the Auxiliary Board. Come out and support Illinois Racquetball!

*Signed,
ISRA Nominating Committee
Mike Davern (Chair), Pam Grace, and John Thorson*



26th Annual Summerfest Open

July 27, 2019

Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard

Tournament Director: Dan Jaskier/Doug Halverson

On this 90+ degree day, 68 players (61 men and 7 women) came inside where it was cool only to heat up the courts indoors. Once they were done competing, many made their way out to the pool to enjoy the summer weather and delicious meals.

Stats and Formats

Five states -- Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin

Fourteen divisions (three were pool play)

One division (38); two divisions (30)

Two mixed divisions, one junior division

A lower turnout provided for a one-day schedule, which freed up Friday and Sunday in late summer for those who might have had a life outside racquetball (could that possibly be?). Players who entered two divisions got their money's worth and most left the building upright and unaided (even Jerry Kee, who played six matches--Mixed and Men's Doubles--pretty much non-stop from 4:30 pm on).

Fathers and Sons

Timothy and Lucas Shoemaker from Iowa along with Earl and John Dowell from Missouri made the trip over and up (respectively) to join us.

Highlights

Eugene Coyle won Men's Open, Lucas Shoemaker took the Men's AA, and Alok Mehta/Jeremy Dixon bested Andy Pitock/Michael Fornero in Men's Open Doubles.

Laura Pesek and Eric Burnett of Indiana were the winners of Mixed Open/A Doubles.

Juan "JC" Herrera of Freeport captured the Junior division (no relation to that other Juan Herrera we know!)

Gratitude

Many thanks to the volunteers who keep things running so smoothly during a packed day:

Lori Good and Carolyn Vazquez worked the desk, and Marian Bala was Queen of the Kitchen.

Thanks to Patrick Buckley of Indiana for jumping in to help on the desk as well. We are so grateful for the support of Anthony's Pizza (Tony and Anthony Cosmano), Head/Penn, and Papanicholas Coffee (Jim Schlicher).

Check out the draws at <https://www.r2sports.com/tourney.asp?TID=30878>.

-- Cheryl Kirk

continued on page 8



Doug and Dan congratulate Eugene Coyle (center) on his Men's Open win

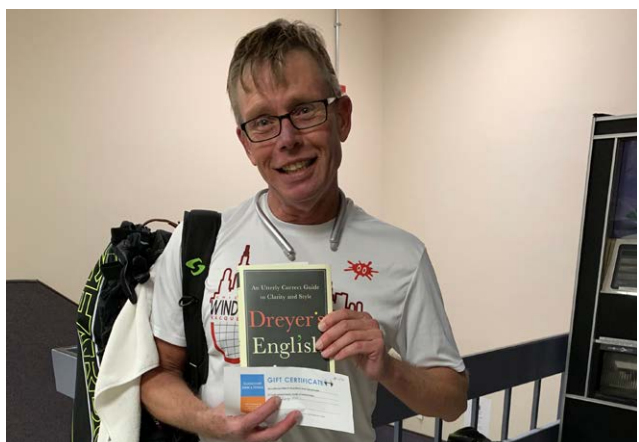


Junior Boys took to the courts!

26th Annual Summerfest Open continued from page 7



Volunteers Patrick Buckley (IN) and Lori Good (IL)



Jerry Kee with some light reading material for his recuperation



Tejas Veer celebrates his Men's A success with his fans

RESULTS | 26th Annual Summerfest Open

Division (# entered): First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (10): Eugene Coyle; Alok Mehta; John Dowell (MO), Jake Ryan

Men's AA (4): Lucas Shoemaker (IA); John Thorson; Eric Burnett (IN), Daniel Terrazas II

Men's A (8): Dan Witt (MO); Tejas Veer; Brad Simon, Michael Russo

Men's B (11): Thomas George; Robert Dreger; Guadalupe Reynoso, Rick Rueger

Men's C (7): Greg Markelz; Nick Ringger (WI); Stephen Lindstrom, Fred Conforti

Men's D/Novice Pool 1 (3): Graham Jacobs; Axel Lopez; Paul Bauer

Men's D/Novice Pool 2 (3): Ryan Urbaniak; TJ Eakle; Prudhvi Chintalapati

Men's D/Novice Playoff (2): Graham Jacobs; Ryan Urbaniak

Men's 40+/50+ (5): John Thorson; Nadeem Sharifuddin; Bob Diorio (3rd)

Men's 55+/60+ Pool 1 (2) 55+: Eugen Gheorghiu; Rick Rueger

Men's 55+/60+ Pool 2 (2) 60+: Greg Markelz; Geoff Peters

Men's 55+/60+ Playoff (2): Eugen Gheorghiu; Greg Markelz

Men's 45+ Intermediate (4): Earl Dowell (MO); Keith Wiener; Tim Shoemaker (IA) (3rd)

Men's Open Doubles (2): Alok Mehta/Jeremy Dixon; Andy Pitock/ Michael Fornero

Men's A/B Doubles Pool 1 (4): John Dowell (MO)/Earl Dowell (MO); Daniel Barrera/Allen Bell; Rick Svabek/Keith Kareiva (3rd)

Men's A/B Doubles Pool 2 (4): Anuj Parikh/Tejas Veer; Misael Corral/ Guadalupe Reynoso; Jerry Kee/Jairo Torres (3rd)

Men's A/B Doubles Playoff (2): John Dowell (MO)/Earl Dowell (MO); Anuj Parikh/Tejas Veer

Mixed Open/A Doubles (4): Laura Pesek (IN)/Eric Burnett (IN); Dolores Lamberson/Jerry Kee; Jennifer Suwanski/Daniel Jasker (3rd)

Mixed 40+ Doubles (4): Cheryl Kirk/Andy Pitock; Martin Gonzalez/ Lynn Yeazell; Laura Pesek/Patrick Buckley (3rd)

Junior Singles (4): Juan "JC" Herrera ; Freddy Conforti; Matthew Griffin, J.T. Hollingsworth

Glass Court Fall One-Day Doubles

October 19, 2019

Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard, IL

Tournament Director: Dan Jaskier

<https://www.r2sports.com/tourney.asp?TID=31373>

A healthy turnout of 53 players for a one-day marathon at Glass Court kept the courts AND the players occupied throughout the day and into the evening on this Saturday in October.

The division formats were round robins (5 or fewer players) and pool play with playoff rounds for 6+ entries.

It was a typically excellent day at Glass, and not a single player felt they didn't get their money's worth as they staggered happily home towards Sunday couch time. Check out the results...

Division (# players): 1st; 2nd; etc.

Men's Open Doubles (6): Jeremy Peters (WI)/Curt Gustafson (WI); Jeremy Dixon/Fernando Javier Rivera

Men's A/Age (10): Tony Cosmano/Anthony Cosmano; Glen Bero/Todd Burris

Men's B/C Doubles (5): Eugen Gheorghiu/Peter Riegler; Allen Bell/Mark Buckley; David Oleski/Mark Buckley; Rizwan Farooq/Monty Merza (OH); Axel Lopez/Spencer O'Dea

Women's Open/A Doubles (4): Cari Mory/Emily Fauser; Julianne Valentino/Deanna Munro; Dolores Lamberson/Vickie Onesti; Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez/Edith Seaman

Mixed Open/A/45+ Doubles (6): Daniela Molina/Danny Ortega; Cari Mory/Antonio Vazquez



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28th Annual Turkey Shoot Open and LPRT Tier 1/IRT Tier 4

November 21-24, 2019

Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard

Tournament Directors: Dan Jaskier, Doug Halverson, Geoff Peters, Cheryl Kirk

What a great event for the ISRA, Glass Court, and Illinois racquetball as the LPRT and the IRT took over the courts the weekend before Thanksgiving and gave all of us amateur players something to aspire to! This was in addition to over 125 amateur players who crowded the Glass Court from early in the morning until midnight on Friday and Saturday following an exciting Pro-Am Doubles Shootout on Thursday evening to benefit BacharStrong. As a matter of fact, the Pro-Am was just the start of another fabulous weekend for Paola Longoria (Mexico) as she took the Ladies Pro Singles title over Montserrat Mejia (Mexico) and then partnered with Samantha Solis Salas to defeat Alexandra Herrera (Mexico) and Montserrat in the Pro Doubles Finals. Montserrat was the ironwoman of the weekend as she was in all three of the ladies' marquee finals: Pro Singles, Pro Doubles, and Women's Open.

She came out on the short end of all three, and the LPRT commentators were discussing on air what type of toll fatigue might have taken in her Sunday performance. She certainly looked unstoppable before running into Paola. Paola captured her record-setting 103rd professional title at this, the LPRT's fourth stop of the season. She is continuing her record run while facing increasingly tougher matches.



In the semifinals were Natalia Mendez (Argentina) who has been moving up the rankings all season. Her performance in Lombard solidified her hold on the #5 ranking, while in the other half of the draw, Alexandra Herrera (Mexico) was once again in the semifinals. She is quietly performing at a high level of play and her consistency continues to pay off. Herrera is currently #4 on the LPRT.



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Geoff Peters, Cheryl Kirk, Platt Hill, Doug Halverson, Dan Jaskier, Dave Bachar, Lisa Bachar, and Lake Bachar on Sunday at the Turkey Shoot

28th Annual Turkey Shoot Open and LPRT Tier 1/IRT Tier 4 continued from page 7

We were thrilled at the large turnout to fight for the \$1,000 first place check and a total of \$2,300 in the Women's Open division. Carla Muñoz (Chile), a former National Intercollegiate Champion and currently ranked #13 on Tour, took the final, while a number of up-and-coming American players, including Kelani Bailey Lawrence, Hollie Scott, Lexi York, and Cassi Lee made appearances.

Our tournament this year was presented by Platt Hill Nursery, and we owe a debt of gratitude to long-time player Platt Hill and his family for stepping up in a BIG way to sponsor this event, making it possible to offer the prize money to bring in all of the professional players. In addition to Platt, our long list of sponsors, especially Keith Minor of KWM Gutterman, Jim Schlicher from Papanicholas Coffee, Rick Seaberg, Geoff Goldblatt, Kendra Tutsch and the WSMRA, the Susan L. Klimaitis Foundation, and John O'Donnell, Jr. are the folks who made the event possible along with our dedicated volunteer staff from the ISRA and Glass Court. Thank you especially to Cheryl Kirk, Doug Halverson, Glass Court President Dan Jaskier and Owner Joe DeArmas, LPRT Commissioner T.J. Baumbaugh and her Team, as well as Lori Good, Dave Singer, Pam Grace, John Thorson, Jonelle Dubois, Laurel Davis, Liz Molitor, Jeff Grace, Joe Silius, Todd Burris, Spencer O'Dea, Rick Seaberg, Alcides Gutierrez, and everyone else who pitched in to make it possible to run such a fun event!

This year we boosted the IRT Satellite Level from Level 5 to Level 4 with a total of \$2,300 in prize money that attracted some great competition. In the Pro Final, Eduardo Portillo Torres (MX) defeated Jake Bredenbeck, (MN) while Valerie Centellas and Eduardo took the Mixed Open. In Men's Open Doubles, Kyle Ulliman (OH) and Sam Bredenbeck (MN) took

the Open Doubles against Noe Rivera and Eduardo Portillo Torres (a second three-time ironman finalist!). On Sunday, the LPRT Professionals conducted a junior clinic that incorporated fitness training and agility as well as racquetball. Then, in the Junior Divisions, Benjamin Horner (IA) and Juan (aka JC) Herrera II were the top performers.

In attendance on Saturday night was former LPRO and LPRT #1 Player (five times) Lynn Adams Clay, who, with her husband Rich Clay, stopped by to see the professionals compete. Lynn spent some time doing commentary for the LPRT broadcast, and seeing Lynn talking with current World #1 Paola Longoria was a treat for long-time racquetball aficionados as the past met the present!

We leveraged this event to raise money all weekend long—including the 16-team Pro-Am Doubles on Thursday night—to benefit Dave Bachar and his family as they battle cancer. We called the event BacharStrong and were thrilled that Dave's family—including his son Lake, a former JTI player who currently is an All-Star professional baseball player for the Class AA Amarillo SodPoodles—were able to be present to receive a check from the tournament for over \$7,000 during the Sunday finals.

Thank you to everyone for participating, and we look forward to seeing everyone next year!

For a complete look at the draws, visit <https://www.r2sports.com/tourney.asp?TID=31372>.

- Geoff Peters

continued on page 8



Mixed Team Carolyn Vazquez and Keith Wiener did well their first time competing together!



Alexandra Herrera, Montserrat Mejia, Title Sponsor Platt Hill, Samantha Salas, and Paola Longoria after the Women's Pro Doubles match on the glass court

28th Annual Turkey Shoot Open and LPRT Tier 1/IRT Tier 4 continued from page 11



Photo by LPRT Commissioner T.J. Baumbaugh

Lynn Adams Clay provides color commentary during live streaming with sidekick Tim Baghurst of the LPRT

RESULTS | 28th Annual Turkey Shoot Open and LPRT Tier 1/IRT Tier 4

Division (# entered): First; Second; Semifinals

LPRT PRO Singles (28): Paola Longoria (Mexico); Montserrat Mejia (Mexico); Alexandra Herrera (Mexico), Natalia Mendez (Argentina)

LPRT PRO Doubles (12): Paola Longoria (Mexico)/Samantha Salas (Mexico); Montserrat Mejia (Mexico)/Alexandra Herrera (Mexico); Nancy Enriquez (Mexico)/Jessica Parrilla (Mexico), Maria Jose Vargas (Argentina)/Natalia Mendez (Argentina)

Women's Open (15): Carla Muñoz (Colorado); Montserrat Mejia (Mexico); Kelani Lawrence (VA), Cristina Amaya (Colombia)

Women's AA (5): Lexi York (OR); Melania Sauma (AZ); Jennifer Suwanski, Kristin Coulter

Women's Elite/A/40+ (4): Faith Malek (OH); Diane Bunker; Jennifer Suwanski (3rd)

Women's C (4): Sharyn Pietras; Christine Malek (MO); Malanee Domelle (IN) (3rd)

Women's Open/A/40+ Doubles (6): Melania Sauma (AZ)/Aimee Ruiz (NJ); Faith Malek (OH)/Emily Fauser

Mixed Open Doubles (8): Eduardo Portillo Torres (Mexico)/Valeria Centellas (Bolivia); Aimee Ruiz (NJ)/Sam Bredenbeck (OR); Natalia Mendez (Argentina)/Jake Bredenbeck (MN), Maria Jose Vargas (Argentina)/Noe Rivera (Bolivia)

Mixed A/B/C Doubles (5): Doris Roberts (IN)/Joe DeArmas; Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez/Keith Wiener; Malanee Domelle (IN)/Jeff Gilliam (IN)(3rd)

Mixed Age Doubles (4): Keith Minor/Rebecca Bowman (IN); Miguel Riollano/Kristin Coulter; Martin Gonzalez/Lynn Yeazell (3rd)

IRT PRO/OPEN (16): Eduardo Portillo Torres (Mexico); Jake Bredenbeck (MN); Kyle Ulliman (OH), Thomas Carter

Men's AA (8): Jeremy Dixon; Lucas Shoemaker (IA); Anthony Cosmano, Ferd Samson (MI)

Men's Elite (4): Eric Mathews; Danny Ortega; Alcides Gutierrez (3rd)

Men's A (21): Tony Domelle (IN); Benjamin Horner (IA); Rogelio Ruiz, Matt Beals (IN)

Men's B/C (9): Carlos Canessa; Guadalupe Reynoso; Paul Shafar, Daniel Barrera

Men's D (9): Ryan Urbaniak; Axel Lopez; Tyler Mathews, Spencer O'Dea

Men's 35+/40+ (2): Eric Ewing (VA); Robert Dreger

Men's 45+/50+ (4): John Thorson; Ferd Samson (MI); Chris Choi (3rd)

Men's 55+ (4): Andrew Kulback (OH); Ferd Samson (MI); Jeff Hotler (IN) (3rd)

Men's 60+ (7): Tom Horton; Ray Redelman ; Michael Mancuso, Fernando Gaitan-Gaitan (NY),

Men's 65+ (5): Joe DeArmas; Timothy Shoemaker (IA); Bruce Green (MN), Jeff Grace

Men's 45+INT (5): Rick Rueger; Steve Feldman; Timothy Shoemaker (IA)(3rd)

Men's Open Doubles (8): Sam Bredenbeck (OR)/Kyle Ulliman (OH); Noe Rivera (Bolivia)/Eduardo Portillo Torres (Mexico); Jake Bredenbeck (MN)/Lucas Shoemaker (IA), Jeremy Dixon/Thomas Carter

Men's A Doubles (13): Matt Beals (IN)/Tony Domelle (IN); James Zidek/Cristian Moreno; Jose Garcia/Gallagher Garcia, Shawn Warner/Geoff Heekin

Men's B/C Doubles (14): Wayne Lorenz/Timothy St. Clair; Jose L. Arteaga/Tony Garcia; Jesus Lopez/Porfirio Villalobos, Sean Cantorna/Doug Waco

Men's 40+ Doubles (4): Timothy Baghurst (FL)/Alok Mehta; Antonio Vazquez/Alcides Gutierrez; Shawn Warner/Geoff Heekin (3rd)

Men's 95+/100+ Doubles (7): Andrew Kulback (OH)/Rom Dresbach (OH); Jake Ryan/John Thorson; James Zidek/Cristian Moreno, Jose Martinez (IN)/Martin Gonzalez

Men's 120+ Doubles (3): Michael Mancuso/Jim Hillman; Platt Hill/Paul Shafar; Drake Deavours (IN)/Jerry Kee (3rd)

Juniors 16 & Under: Benjamin Horner (IA); Edwin Miller (MO); Spencer O'Dea (3rd)

Juniors 14 & Under: Juan Herrera II; Hamza Salem (IN)

2019 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN

October 2-6, 2019

Life Time - Target Center

Minneapolis, MN

Tournament Director: Doug Ganim



SETTING THE SCENE

Excerpt by US OPEN staffer Jeff Oliver in *Racquetball Magazine*, Winter 2019:

"The UnitedHealthcare US OPEN is hosted in the Twin Cities by Life Time and the University of Minnesota. More than one million guests visit the Target Center each year, making it one of the busiest arenas in the world! The Life Time facility at the Target Center serves as the hub for the US OPEN. This 160,000 square foot club sits on the lower level of the Target Center arena. Just beneath the floor where the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves and WNBA's Minnesota Lynx play, the all-Lucite portable racquetball court gifted to our sport by Susan and Leo Klimaitis is assembled into a one-of-a-kind Racquetball Stadium."

STATS

Players 732

584 men/148 women 13 countries

99 divisions, including playoffs

1,273 matches

108/331/229 -- 1, 2, 3 divisions



Partners Rocky Carson and Dave Singer at Pro-Am Doubles on Wednesday night

PRO RESULTS

Men's Pro Singles -- Kane Waselenchuk (Canada/USA) def. Conrado Moscoso (Bolivia), 15-12, 15-5

Men's Pro Doubles -- Kane Waselenchuk/Ben Croft (USA) def. Daniel De La Rosa (Mexico)/Alvaro Beltran (Mexico), 15-11, 15-8

LPRT -- Paola Longoria (Mexico) def. Maria Jose Vargas (Argentina), 15-5, 15-7

LPRT Doubles -- Montserrat Mejia (Mexico)/Alexandra Herrera (Mexico) def. Paola Longoria/Samantha Salas (Mexico), 15-13, 15-12

TEAM ILLINOIS RESULTS (34)

Doubles partners/states/results in parentheses

Alfredo Aranda -- **Men's D Singles (BRONZE)**; Mixed B Doubles (Gisela Gomez/QF)

Jose L. Arteaga -- Men's B Doubles (Tony Garcia)

Daniel Baker -- Men's 55+C Singles (QF); Men's 65+B/C; Men's Centurion B Doubles (Sergio Frias/TX)

Thomas Carter -- Men's IRT Pro Singles

Fred Conforti -- Men's C Doubles (Michael Conforti/MN); Men's 45+C Singles (QF); Men's Centurion B Doubles (Michael Conforti/MN/QF)

Tony Cosmano -- Men's 60+ Singles (QF)

Eugene Coyle -- Men's 50+ Singles

Mike Davern -- Men's 55+A Singles; Men's Centurion A Doubles (Geoff Peters)

Jeremy Dixon -- Men's Open Singles; **Men's Elite Doubles (Eric Van Marion/BRONZE)**

Lee Frick -- Men's A Doubles (Jeffrey Hill); **Men's Centurion A Doubles (Jake Ryan/BRONZE)**

Tony Garcia -- Men's B Doubles (Jose L. Arteaga)

Gisela Gomez -- **Women's B Singles (GOLD)**; **Women's B/C Doubles (Kimberly Randolph/CA/GOLD WBD)**; Mixed B Doubles (Alfredo Aranda/QF)

Martin Gonzalez -- Men's A Doubles (Jose Martinez/IN); **Men's Centurion A Doubles (Jose Martinez/IN/GOLD)**

Cheryl Gudinas -- Women's LPRT Pro Singles; **Mixed Centurion Open/Elite Doubles (Alok Mehta/GOLD)**

Jeffrey Hill -- Men's A Doubles (Lee Frick); Men's B Doubles (Bill Wolf/QF)

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2019 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN continued from page 13

Cheryl Kirk -- Women's 55+ Doubles (Debra Tisinger/CA);
Women's Centurion Open/Elite (Marie Gomar/Guatemala/ SILVER)

Leo Klimaitis -- Men's 65+A Singles; Men's 70+ Singles

Axel Lopez -- **Men's D Singles (SILVER); Men's 24-C Singles (BRONZE)**

Jesus Lopez -- Men's B Singles

Alok Mehta -- **Men's Centurion Open/Elite (Cliff Swain/ GOLD); Mixed Centurion Open/Elite (Cheryl Gudinas/ GOLD)**

David Milazzo -- **Men's 60+ Singles (BRONZE)**

Frank Milazzo -- Men's 65+ Singles

Keith Minor -- **Men's 50+ Singles (SILVER); Men's 55+ Singles (GOLD)**



Gladiators Mike Davern and Geoff Peters



Martin Gonzalez and Jose Martinez by the Stadium Court

Todd Parker -- Men's B Singles (QF); Men's 45+A Singles

Geoff Peters -- Men's 55+A Singles; Men's Centurion A Doubles (Mike Davern); Mixed Centurion A/B Doubles (Chris Cerny/IN)

Randy Puebla -- Men's 65+ Doubles (Philip Hart/IA); Men's Super Centurion A Doubles 120+ (Philip Hart/IA)

Jake Ryan -- **Men's A Doubles (Dave Singer/SILVER); Men's Centurion A Doubles (Lee Frick/BRONZE)**

Rick Seaberg -- Men's 35+B Singles; Men's 55+B Singles; **Men's Centurion B Doubles (Drake Deavours/IN/BRONZE)**

Dave Singer -- **Men's A Doubles (Jake Ryan/SILVER); Men's Centurion B Doubles (Bill Wolf)**

Jairo Torres -- Men's B Singles (QF); Mixed B Doubles (Tish Rodgers/CO); Men's 45+B Singles

Eric Van Marion -- Men's Elite Singles; **Men's Elite Doubles (Jeremy Dixon; BRONZE)**

Brenda White -- **Women's Centurion Open/Elite/65+ (Kay McCarthy/TN/SILVER W65+D)**

Bill Wolf -- Men's Heroes Open/A Singles; Men's B Doubles (Jeffrey Hill/QF); Men's Centurion B Doubles (Dave Singer)

Blase Zera -- **Men's A Singles (BRONZE); Men's 35+ Singles**

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2019 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN continued from page 14

The medal count for Team Illinois was 6 Gold, 6 Silver, and 9 Bronze for a total of 21.

Nice job, guys and gals!

All draws can viewed by visiting <https://www.r2sports.com/tourney.asp?TID=30501>.

Jeff Oliver concluded his *Racquetball* magazine article with this invitation:

"JOIN US NEXT YEAR – BIGGEST RACQUETBALL PARTY EVER!"

Start making plans now to join us for the 2020 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Racquetball Championships, back in Minneapolis, October 7-11, 2020. Come see the best players in the world and compete on racquetball's grandest stage! IT WILL BE A RACQUETBALL PARTY YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!"

Note: Believe him!

-- Cheryl Kirk



Axel Lopez, Jesus Lopez, Noel Sotelo, Letty Maldonado, and Alcides Gutierrez in the Players Village



Sue Klimaitis, Leo Klimaitis, Nidia Funes (CA), and John Mason near the VIP Lounge



*Front: Jairo Torres
Rear: Antonio Vazquez, Alfredo Aranda, Luis Ornelas, Josue Del Rio, Claudia Torres, Montserrat Torres*



Cheryl Gudinas and Alok Mehta -- Mixed Centurion Open GOLD!



US OPEN 2020

RACQUETBALL
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
OCT 7-11

25th
ANNIVERSARY

PRESENTED BY



For info visit

UnitedHealthcareUSOPEN.com



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Your first stop



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35th IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships

August 27-31, 2019

Midtown Sports & Wellness, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Tournament Director: Gary Mazaroff

With players traveling from 23 states and 12 countries, the IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships rivals the US OPEN in the number of countries participating.

Check out some stats...

203 players (163 men/40 women)

33 divisions comprised of men's and women's singles and doubles as well as mixed doubles

15 playoff rounds

Format -- 3 games to 11, 3 points per game won, 7 points for match win; playoffs: best of 3 to 11

Team Illinois

Seven players from Illinois plus a cheerleader (John Mason, recovering from an injury) traveled to beautiful New Mexico to compete.

Eugene Coyle, Men's 50+ (Gold)

Cheryl Kirk, Women's 60+ Doubles with Paula Sperling, NM (Gold); Mixed 55+ Doubles with Gustavo Farell, TX (Bronze)

Leo Klimaitis, Men's 70+

Alok Mehta, Men's 45+ Doubles with Rajiv Varadarajan, India (Silver); Men's 45+ (Bronze)

Dave Negrete, Men's 55+ (Bronze)

Ray Redelman, Men's 60+

Julie Vincent, Women's 55+ (Bronze)

Amenities

This is one of the most perfect events one could hope for in terms of service to the players, featuring a great tournament shirt, breakfast and lunch every day, an extensive silent auction, and the Saturday night banquet...all with a backdrop of the Southwest in all its glory.

Thanks!

Many thanks to the WSRC Committee for their hard work all year 'round. As players travel home the day after the event, the committee holds their first meeting to begin planning for the next year. Thanks to Paula Sperling, Joe Gellman, Carol Gellman, Gary Mazaroff, and the rest of their hard-working committee for a job very well done.

A full look at the draws can be had by going to <https://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=30021>

-- Cheryl Kirk

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Medalists All! Julie Vincent, Dave Negrete, Eugene Coyle, and Alok Mehta



Team Illinois Photo Op: Cheryl Kirk, Ray Redelman, Eugene Coyle, Leo Klimaitis, Julie Vincent, and John Mason

35th IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships continued from page 17



Lake Westphal, Men's 95+ Gold Medalist with one of his most admiring fans, Cheryl Kirk



Words to live by...

Best Conflict Request *Ever...*

King, Frossene (WRS50,W55D,X50+,)	1	<input type="text" value="SELECT"/>	<input type="text" value="Start of Day"/>	<input type="text" value="End of Day"/>
	2	<input type="text" value="SELECT"/>	<input type="text" value="Start of Day"/>	<input type="text" value="End of Day"/>
Additional Comments				
<input type="text" value="Saturday Morning getting married. Can play Saturday 1:30 pm on, Friday after 4:30 pm (work), Anytime Thursday."/>				
Seeding Notes				
<input type="text" value="Squash 57 singles at NM games"/>				

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"I love the Pro Penn Green ball. The fast crisp action off my racquet helped me to win multiple Pan American Games and World Championship GOLD Medals. No other brand compares to Penn!"

Paola Longoria

"All the Pro's on the IRT know that the Pro Penn HD ball is second to none. With today's lightweight racquets this is the only ball to play with. Its lightweight design and softer feel offers players of all levels the most comfortable experience on the court, even with shots exploding over 180 mph!"

Rocky Carson

pennracquet.com



2020 Tournament

CALENDAR

For updates or edits to the ISRA Tournament Calendar, please contact Geoff Peters at (773) 251-4413 or at petersgeoff4@gmail.com

February 21-23, 2020
ISRA State Singles Championships
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Cheryl Kirk / cheryllkirk@aol.com

February 26-March 1, 2020
National High School Championship
Multnomah Athletic Club
Portland, OR
Renée Isherwood (719) 635-5396

March 12-15, 2020
35th Annual KWM Gutterman
Shamrock Shootout / IRT Tier 1 Pro
Stop Presented by MyPillow
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

March 25-28, 2020
USAR National Intercollegiate
Championships
LSU Student Recreation Center
Baton Rouge, LA
Renée Isherwood (719) 635-5396

March 25-28, 2020
NMRA National Championships
Vetta Sports Concord
St. Louis, MO
Cindy Tilbury / cindy.tilbury@att.net

April 4-11, 2020
PARC Pan American Racquetball
Championships
Santa Cruz, Bolivia

April 24-26, 2020
USAR Regional Championships
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
John Thorson
johnthorson7@gmail.com

May 27-31, 2020
USAR National Singles
Championships
Texas A&M Rec Sports
College Station, Texas
Renée Isherwood (719) 635-5396

June 24-28, 2020
USAR Junior National
Championships
Meridian Sports Club
Fullerton, CA
Renée Isherwood (719) 635-5396

June 25-28, 2020
NMRA International Championships
Sport Fit Laurel Racquet Club
Laurel, MD
Cindy Tilbury / cindy.tilbury@att.net

July 24-26, 2020
27th Annual Summerfest Open
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Lombard, IL
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

August 7-9, 2020
5th Annual 3WallBrawl – WOR
Event
Rainbow Beach Park
Chicago, IL
Joey Logan / joeyjfl7@aol.com

August 15-22, 2020
IRF World Racquetball
Championships
La Loma Centro Deportivo
San Luis, Potosí, Mexico
www.internationalracquetball.com

September 1-5, 2020
36th Annual IRF World Senior
Racquetball Championships
Midtown Sports & Wellness
Albuquerque, NM
Paula Sperling / Gary Mazaroff
(505) 321-1110

October 7-11, 2020
UnitedHealthcare US OPEN
Racquetball Championships
Life Time Target Center
Minneapolis, MN
Renée Isherwood (719) 635-5396

Visit www.r2sports.com and/or www.illinoisracquetball.com
for more information on each of these sanctioned events.

All tournaments listed are sanctioned by USA Racquetball.

Illinois tournaments are highlighted in blue.

Racquetball CHALLENGE COURTS

Annerino Community Center

Bolingbrook Park District | (630) 739-0272

Bolingbrook, IL | Sunday 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Monday & Thursday 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

\$2.00 Members and Non-Members

B.R. Ryall YMCA | (630) 858-0100 | Glen Ellyn, IL

Wednesday 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

FREE for YMCA Members | \$8 Non-Members

Buehler YMCA | (847) 359-2400 | Palatine, IL

Monday/Thursday 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

\$15.00 One-Day Guest Pass

Courts Plus | Elmhurst Park District | (630) 833-5064

Monday-Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Members \$2.00 Monday-Friday | \$3.00 Saturday

Fitness Formula Clubs Old Town | (312) 640-1235

1235 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL

Tuesday 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon | \$20 for guests

Forest View Racquet and Fitness Club

(847) 640-2574 | Arlington Heights, IL

Thursday 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

\$2.00 Members | \$5.00 Non-Members

Heritage YMCA | (630) 420-6270 | Naperville, IL

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

\$4.00 Members | \$8.00 Non-Members

Landmark Racquet & Health Club | (309) 685-8360

Peoria, IL | First and Third Friday each month

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | \$5.00

Life Center Health and Fitness at the

Bartlett Park District

(630) 540-4848 | Bartlett, IL

Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

\$4.00 Members | \$6.00 Non-Members

\$9.00 Non-Residents

Norris Rec Center | (630) 377-1405 | St. Charles, IL

Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

\$5.00 Members & Non-Members

Schaumburg Tennis Plus | (847) 884-0678

Schaumburg, IL

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Sunday 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 Noon

\$3.00 Members

\$10.00-12.00 Non-Members (based on residency)

West Cook YMCA | (708) 383-5200 | Oak Park, IL

Wednesday 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Thursday 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Free to YMCA Members | \$9.00 Non-Members

To add your club to this list, contact:

Dolores Lamberson at dolorlamberson3@att.net

Lend Your SUPPORT

Your membership in the ISRA has helped make our organization second to none. Though we strive to make improvements to build and grow the sport for future success, we sometimes struggle to keep our heads above water as an organization. Our focus is not for the purpose of monetary gain but to generate enough funds to give back quality, first-rate programs, tournaments and events we can all be proud to participate in. Our volunteers who donate their time and/or money are greatly appreciated as are those who advertise in *ISRA Courtside*. For as little as \$25 for a business card size ad, we can help get your name out there to let everyone know what you do; for \$150, we can run your ad on a full page. Help Us Help You by getting your ad into the next issue of *ISRA Courtside*!

Many thanks,

Joe Silius
Advertising Editor

2020 ISRA Courtside Advertising Rates

GUIDELINES:

- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include **product pricing**.
- All ads should be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- These rates are in effect until December 31, 2020.
- Deadlines are as follows:

- **Articles/Releases/Ads Due** June 5, 2020
- **Issue Publication Date** June 19, 2020
- **Ad Rates** Full page \$150/issue, Half page \$75/issue, Quarter page \$50/issue. Other sizes quoted on a case-by-case basis.

For any questions or submission:

Send articles/releases to
Cheryl Kirk at cherylkkirk@aol.com
Send ads to Joe Silius at
jsilius@yahoo.com



Scan/Email to:

Dolores Lamberson at
dolorlamberson3@att.net



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Business): _____

E-MAIL _____

BIRTHDATE _____

Adult competitor: \$65 (\$60 when choosing auto renewal option)..... \$ _____

Junior competitor (age 21 and under): \$30 \$ _____

All memberships are annual. Check the USAR website at www.usaracquetball.com for three-year and Lifetime membership rates.