

# ***MEDIA***

## **2003 CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**November 19-23, 2003  
Memphis, Tennessee**



# ***GUIDE***

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# Racquetball's Premier Event

The Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN is racquetball's only "Grand Slam" event and the most prestigious tournament of the season. With cash prizes totaling over \$45,000, it boasts the largest purse on both the men's International Racquetball Tour (IRT) and the Ladies Professional Racquetball Association (LPRA) tour.

All of the top players in the sport look forward to Memphis each year with the hope of becoming the next Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Champion. Not only does the tournament offer the most prize monies of the season,



but there are also more ranking points at stake. With that in mind, players look to pull ahead of their competition by performing well on racquetball's grandest stage. A win here is a huge advantage in the always-narrow rankings race.

One of the most exciting aspects of the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is the only "made-for-TV" portable racquetball court, which will be used for all feature matches. The unique construction of the court allows stadium seating for more than 1,000 spectators, in addition to courtside luxury boxes for sponsors and VIPs.

From the quarterfinals on, all men's and women's pro matches will take place on the stadium court. Dramatic player introductions complete with laser light shows and booming music will treat racquetball fans to a total entertainment experience. The newly debuted Tennis Channel will take advantage of the court by taping matches from the semifinals on to be broadcast in early 2004.

In addition to the marquee IRT and LPRA professional divisions, the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships offer over 60 USRA sanctioned divisions separated by age, skill, and age/skill. Over 500 of the country's best racquetball players not only come to Memphis each year to watch the pros, but also to take part in the competition. Medals are awarded to the top four finishers in each division. Those events take place at Six50 TotalClub and the University of Memphis.

## ***St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital***

The Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is once again proud to name the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as its designated charity. The tournament passed the \$100,000 mark in total donations during last year's event.

Each year a silent auction is held during the tournament to benefit St. Jude featuring Olympic memorabilia and racquetball equipment from the industry's best manufacturers. In addition, a Tuesday evening kick-off invites 32 lucky amateurs to donate \$250 apiece for the opportunity to play in a single elimination double challenge with a top professional as their partner, with all proceeds donated to St. Jude.



## ***The University of Memphis Interns***

The Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is continuing its five-year partnership with the University of Memphis Journalism Dept. to provide hands-on media training at a major sporting event.

Students from the University take part in the tournament's media operations to gain experience in a professional sports environment. Each intern is assigned top professional athletes to cover and promote to the athlete's local media outlets. The interns take part in writing press releases, conducting interviews, and obtaining photographs of their respective athletes. Dr. Rick Fischer of the University of Memphis has helped make the program an invaluable resource to the tournament's media operations.



**The University  
of  
Memphis**

## ***Doug Ganim - Event Director***

As U.S. OPEN Event Director and Founder, Ganim has brought a level of exposure to the sport that has not been seen since the early 80's.

He began the project in 1996 with the dream of producing racquetball's first "Grand Slam" event. That dream has been realized and the U.S. OPEN, now in its eighth year, has become the most prestigious tournament of the year.

Ganim is also the president of the Ohio Racquetball Association and has run the successful Head Racquetball Tour there for the past 18 years.

An accomplished player in his own right, Ganim is a former U.S. National Racquetball Team member, winning three International Racquetball Federation World Doubles Championships.

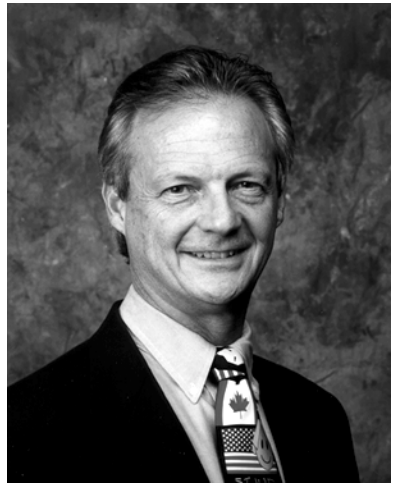


## ***James Hiser - USRA Executive Director***

Dr. Jim Hiser was named USRA Executive Director in January of 2002. He previously served as Associate Executive Director of programming at the USRA for 14 years.

Hiser's accomplishments within the sport are impressive. He has been the commissioner for both the men's and women's pro tours, was elected to the Racquetball Association of Michigan Hall of Fame (1985), and has directed over 300 tournaments locally, nationally, and internationally. Hiser recently won the men's 50+ National Doubles title.

Before making his move into racquetball Hiser earned his master's degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1972 and a Ph.D. in Medical Mycology from Michigan State University in 1976.



## ***Dave Negrete - IRT Commissioner***

Dave Negrete was named the men's International Racquetball Tour (IRT) Commissioner in May of 2001. Since then he has led the tour through an era of unprecedented growth.

Under Negrete's direction the IRT now has 8 new pro stops and the average purse for a tournament has doubled from \$9,000 to \$18,000. In addition to the 15 major IRT stops there are over 30 satellite stops, which bring prize monies totaling over \$350,000 – the highest number in years.

Plans are also in the works to secure a major title sponsor for the IRT, which would further increase prize money and media exposure for the tour.



## ***Claude Crocker - LPRA Commissioner***

In August the USRA announced an administrative turnover of the LPRA to long-time tour supporter Claude Crocker. At that time Crocker took on all administrative duties and also assumed the role of tour commissioner.

Before this undertaking, Crocker supported both the LPRA and USRA behind the scenes, in an effort to help promote the sport, by donating both time and prize money.

Although he preferred to keep out of the spotlight for these efforts, Crocker's generosity did not go unnoticed and he received the Joe Sobek Outstanding Contributor Award at the 2003 USRA National Singles Championships.



## ***Hank Marcus - Legends Commissioner***

Hank Marcus was recently selected to serve as the Commissioner of the newly formed Legends Tour. Marcus previously served as commissioner of the men's IRT tour from 1995-2001 and was widely credited with improving the status of professional racquetball.

He is also the former President of the Oregon Racquetball Association and has been the Event Director of the Tournament of Champions Rose Festival for the past 12 years.

In the late 70's and early 80's Marcus was considered one of the top racquetball players on the west coast and competed part-time on the men's pro tour.



## ***Ryan John - Media Manager***

Ryan John took on the duties of USRA Media & Public Relations Manager in March of 2001. He not only works as media manager for all USRA National events, but is senior writer and departments editor for *RACQUETBALL Magazine*.

In August of 2003, John was appointed as a USOC Press Officer for the 14th Pan American Games in Santo Domingo. While there, he covered racquetball, shooting, badminton, and softball for the U.S., and also provided material for the USOC website.

This will be John's third year as the U.S. OPEN media operations manager with primary responsibility and oversight of all aspects of media operations including media & public relations, website material, and supervision of the U.S. OPEN/University of Memphis Intern Program.



# *Rules of the Game*

The rules for the professional game differ in some areas from those in the USRA divisions. The following list emphasizes the main differences in the rules of the game.

The following websites list a complete set of rules for each organization:

USRA ..... [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org)

LPRA ..... [www.ladiesproracquetball.com](http://www.ladiesproracquetball.com)

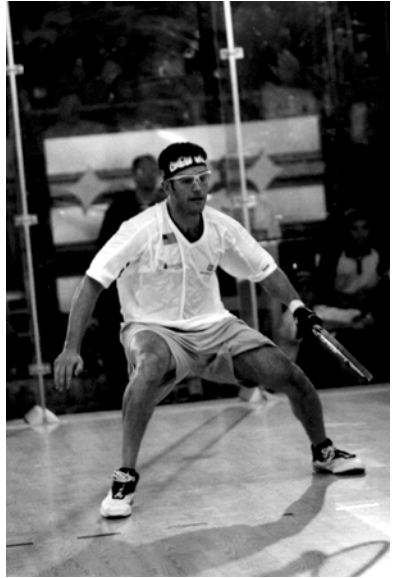
IRT ..... [www.irt-tour.com](http://www.irt-tour.com)

- All matches consist of the best 3 out of 5 games to 11 points
- All games must be won by 2 points
- There are no court hinders in IRT matches, there *are* court hinders in LPRA matches.
- Total points determine the server in the fifth game. A coin flip determines who serves first. The first server also serves the third game.
- Players receive 15 seconds between serves
- Each player receives one, one minute time out per game
- There is a two minute break between games
- Technicals are called by the discretion of the referee and result in a loss of a point.
- Each player receives two, seven and half minute injury timeouts per match.
- All other rules follow the USRA rules

# ***U.S. OPEN Pro Champions***



Sidsy Monchik ('02, '00, '98, '96)



Cliff Swain (1997, 2001)



Jason Mannino (1999)



Cheryl Gudinas (2002)

# ***U.S. OPEN Pro Champions***



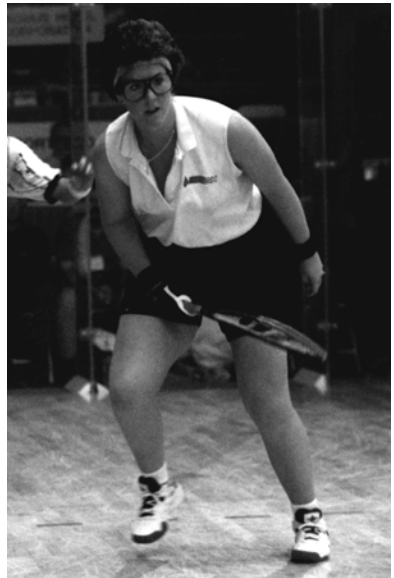
**Kerri Wachtel (2001)**



**Christie Van Hees (2000)**



**Jackie Rice (1999, 1998)**



**Michelle Gould (1997, 1996)**

# Past USRA Division Champions

## USRA Open & Age Divisions

<b>Men's Open</b>		<b>Women's Open</b>		<b>Men's 50+</b>		<b>Women's 50+</b>	
2002	Josh Tucker (Mo.)	2002	Brenda Kyzzer (S.C.)	2002	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	2002	Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)
2001	Jack Huczek (Mich.)		Lori Jane Powell (Can.)	2001	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Nancy Kronenfeld (Ill.)
2000	Jack Huczek (Mich.)		Lori Jane Powell (Can.)	2000	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
1999	Jack Huczek (Mich.)		Josee Grand/Maitre (Can.)	1999	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Shelley Ogden (Ohio)
1998	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)		Lydia Hammock (Calif.)	1998	Rick Fusari (Fla.)		Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
1997	Aaron Embry (Calif.)		Lori Jane Powell (Can.)	1997	Rick Fusari (Fla.)		Margaret Hoff (Ill.)
1996	Joel Bonnett (Mich.)		Christie Van Hees (Can.)	1996	Ed Remen (Va.)		Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
<b>Men's 24-</b>		<b>Women's 24-</b>		<b>Men's 55+</b>		<b>Women's 55+</b>	
2002	Ben Croft (Ill.)		Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)	2002	Dwayne McKnight (Md.)		Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
2001	Mitch Williams (N.C.)		Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)	2001	Ed Remen (N.C.)		Nidia Funes (Calif.)
2000	Andy Hawthorne (Ill.)		Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)	2000	Ed Remen (N.C.)		Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)
1999	Jack Huczek (Mich.)		Aimee Roehler (N.J.)	1999	Ray Huss (Ohio)		No division
1998	Jeff Bloom (Texas)		Aimee Roehler (Pa.)	1998	Warren Reuther (La.)		No division
1997	Jeff Bloom (Texas)		Shannon Feaster (D.C.)	1997	Glenn Allen (Va.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1996	Rocky Carson (Calif.)		Amanda McDonald (Can.)	1996	Jay Krevsky (Pa.)		Nancy Kay Butts (Wis.)
<b>Men's 25+</b>		<b>Women's 25+</b>		<b>Men's 60+</b>		<b>Women's 60+</b>	
2002	Dale Valentine (Calif.)		Claudia Ramirez (Fla.)	2002	Glenn Allen (Va.)		Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
2001	Kyle Veenstra (Wis.)		T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)	2001	Warren Reuther (La.)		Gail Schaefer (Md.)
2000	Dale Valentine (Calif.)		Debra Bryant (N.C.)	2000	Ron Hutcherson (Ind.)		No division
1999	Sameer Hadid (Calif.)		No division	1999	Bob Webster (Ala.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1998	Mike Locker (Minn.)		Mukai Youku (Jap.)	1998	Lee Graf (Ore.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1997	Kevin Graham (N.D.)		Michelle Wiragh (Md.)	1997	Jerry Stoffmann (Wis.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1996	Mike Locker (Minn.)		Michelle Wiragh (Md.)	1996	Jay Krevsky (Pa.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
<b>Men's 30+</b>		<b>Women's 30+</b>		<b>Men's 65+</b>		<b>Women's 65+</b>	
2002	Brian Fredenberg (Texas)		Heather Dunn (Mass.)	2002	Lee Graf (Ore.)		No division
2001	Dale Valentine (Calif.)		Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)	2001	David Lund (Mich.)		No division
2000	Kevin Graham (Wis.)		Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)	2000	Jerry Holly (Calif.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1999	Jim Minkel (Texas)		Lori Lepow (Fla.)	1999	Jerry Holly (Calif.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1998	Lance Gilliam (Texas)		Shigem Yasuda (Jap.)	1998	Joe Lambert (Texas)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1997	Dan Llacera (Del.)		Debbie Tisinger (Calif.)	1997	John O'Donnell (Ill.)		Lola Markus (Ill.)
1996	John Amatulli (Ind.)		Kersten Hallander (Fla.)	1996	J.D. Driver (Mich.)		Lola Markus (Ill.)
<b>Men's 35+</b>		<b>Women's 35+</b>		<b>Men's 70+</b>		<b>Women's 70+</b>	
2002	Jim Minkel (Texas)		Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)	2002	Joe Lambert (Texas)		No division
2001	Jim Minkel (Texas)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	2001	Joe Lambert (Texas)		Lola Markus (Ill.)
2000	Brad McCuniff (Iowa)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	2000	John O'Donnell (Ill.)		No division
1999	Tim Hansen (Fla.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	1999	John O'Donnell (Ill.)		No division
1998	Dave Watson (Okla.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	1998	Joe Lambert (Texas)		Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1997	Mitch Smith (Pa.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	1997	Joe Lambert (Texas)		Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1996	Marty Hogan (Mo.)		Kim Machiran (Mo.)	1996	Earl Acuff (N.C.)		No division
<b>Men's 40+</b>		<b>Women's 40+</b>		<b>Men's 75+</b>		<b>Women's 75+</b>	
2002	Scott Cullins (Ga.)		Kim Machiran (Mo.)	2002	Joe Lambert (Texas)		Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2001	Tim Hansen (Fla.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	2001	Earl Acuff (N.C.)		Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2000	Tim Hansen (Fla.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	2000	Dick Kincade (Colo.)		Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1999	Jeff Hanno (N.Y.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	1999	Earl Acuff (N.C.)		Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1998	Steve Watz (Calif.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	1998	Nick Sans (Calif.)		Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1997	Terry Fluharty (Fla.)		Linda Moore (Neb.)	1997	Earl Acuff (N.C.)		
1996	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Linda Moore (Neb.)	1996	Earl Acuff (N.C.)		
<b>Men's 45+</b>		<b>Women's 45+</b>		<b>Men's 80+</b>		<b>Women's 80+</b>	
2002	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Linda Moore (Neb.)	2002	Earl Acuff (N.C.)		Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2001	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Meena Evans (N.C.)	2001	Earl Acuff (N.C.)		Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2000	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)	2000	Earl Acuff (N.C.)		Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
1999	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Meena Evans (N.C.)	1999	Earl Acuff (N.C.)		
1998	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)	1998	Earl Acuff (N.C.)		
1997	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Shelley Ogden (Ohio)	1996	George Spear (N.Y.)		
1996	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Janet Myers (N.C.)				

# Past USRA Division Champions

## USRA Skill & Age/Skill Divisions

<b>Men's A</b>		<b>Women's A</b>		<b>Men's 25+ C/D</b>		<b>Women's 25+ C/D</b>	
2002	Andres Ramirez (Fla.)	2002	Claudia Ramirez (Fla.)	2002	Filipe Veracochea (Texas)	2002	Priscilla Kramer (Fla.)
2001	Joey Lakowski (Ore.)	2001	Candi Hostovich (Va.)	2001	Sid Harshavat (Ill.)	2001	Viviana Reveron (Ven.)
2000	Cory Martin (Wis.)	2000	Robyn Perrin (Tenn.)	2000	John Halpin (Conn.)	2000	Emilse Cuartas (Argentina)
1999	Andy Babinchak (N.D.)	1999	Akiko Saito (Jap.)	1999	Emmanuel Drege (Texas)	1999	Lynn Hiorns (Ill.)
1998	Jason Jansen (N.Y.)	1998	Jennifer Hunter (Tenn.)	1998	Richard Wells (Ill.)	1998	Rhonda Kochis (Okla.)
1997	David Guentert (Kan.)	1997	Deb Fiordilino (N.Y.)	1997	Jesus Inigo (Fla.)	1997	Rhonda Lindemann (Okla.)
1996	Daniel Pischke (Wash.)	1996	Michele Kinaan (Calif.)	1996	No division	1996	Tammy Leitung (Wis.)
<b>Men's B</b>		<b>Women's B</b>		<b>Men's 35+ A/B</b>		<b>Women's 35+ A/B</b>	
2002	Erik Beltran (Can.)	2002	Diana Courtney (Mich.)	2002	Stanley Shaw (Mass.)	2002	Felicia Mann (Mich.)
2001	Andres Ramirez (Fla.)	2001	Kyoko Hirobayashi (Jap.)	2001	David Marrero (Puerto Rico)	2001	Karen Green (Mich.)
2000	Rene Enriquez (Mex.)	2000	Rosario Kelley (Texas)	2000	Bill Digregorio (N.J.)	2000	Laura Woodbury (Va.)
1999	Brian Shwer (Tenn.)	1999	Kelley Fisher (Ohio)	1999	Ron Fowler (Ga.)	1999	Madeleine Edwards (Tenn.)
1998	Jon Albright (Tenn.)	1998	Akiko Saito (Jap.)	1998	Don Sanderson (Utah)	1998	Mary Crawford (Ill.)
1997	Anthony Borden (Texas)	1997	Kristen Kovar (Neb.)	1997	Gavin Higgins (Tenn.)	1997	Lori Edmonds (Neb.)
1996	Sam Ryder (Wis.)	1996	Yesenia Delbusto (Fla.)	1996	Geoff Hunter (Fla.)	1996	Rose Cornelius (Calif.)
<b>Men's C</b>		<b>Women's C</b>		<b>Men's 35+ C/D</b>		<b>Women's 35+ C/D</b>	
2002	Brandon Stanley (La.)	2002	Tomoko Muromachi (Jap.)	2002	Jeff Johnson (Mich.)	2002	Susan Simmons (Tenn.)
2001	Bryan Shaw (Mo.)	2001	Petra Allen (Colo.)	2001	Garry Carter (Calif.)	2001	Jessica Hamlin (Fla.)
2000	Drew Toland (Ark.)	2000	Dyan Anderson (Md.)	2000	Jeff Bell (Conn.)	2000	No division
1999	Gilbert Sais (Calif.)	1999	Lynn Hiorns (Ill.)	1999	Kery Hughes (Tenn.)	1999	Sharon Curran-Wilks (N.C.)
1998	Phil Gebert (S.C.)	1998	Rhonda Kochis (Okla.)	1998	Juan Soto (S.C.)	1998	No division
1997	Marc Clayton (Ohio)	1997	Terry Truvillion (Mich.)	1997	Peter Kochis (Okla.)	1997	Terri Truvillion (Mich.)
1996	Kazushige Oikawa (Jap.)	1996	Heather Elliott (Fla.)	1996	Preston Gaster (N.C.)	1996	Kassi Herr (Fla.)
<b>Men's D</b>		<b>Women's D</b>		<b>Men's 45+ A/B</b>		<b>Women's 45+ A/B</b>	
2002	Joseph Lee (La.)	2002	Janice Bell (Ga.)	2002	Sal Perconti (Fla.)	2002	Karen Green (Mich.)
2001	Tom Tierney (Texas)	2001	Viviana Reveron (Ven.)	2001	David Gross (S.D.)	2001	CeCe Palaski (Calif.)
2000	Bryan Shaw (Mo.)	2000	Marcelo Moreno (Mex.)	2000	Ernesto Cisneros Sr. (Mex.)	2000	Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
1999	Sid Harshavat (Ill.)	1999	Jamie Johnson (Ohio)	1999	Steve Conn (La.)	1999	Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
1998	Lance Hudson (S.C.)	1998	Dominique Winfrey (Ohio)	1998	Walter McDade (Tenn.)	1998	Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
1997	Joe Schmitz (Ark.)	1997	Rhonda Lindenman (Okla.)	1997	Robert Hantske (Md.)	1997	Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
1996	Leonard Toth (Texas)	1996	Terry Truvillion (Mich.)	1996	Thomas Rall (N.Y.)	1996	Margaret Hoff (Ill.)
<b>Men's 24- A/B</b>		<b>Women's 24- A/B</b>		<b>Men's 45+ C/D</b>		<b>Women's 45+ C/D</b>	
2002	Juan Rivas (Mass.)	2002	Keely Franks (Texas)	2002	Larry Knetzger (Ga.)	2002	Genie Martin (N.C.)
2001	Joey Lakowski (Ore.)	2001	Kelley Fisher (Ohio)	2001	Sez Ozden (Ga.)	2001	Jessica Hamlin (Fla.)
2000	Shannon Kohl (Mich.)	2000	Kelley Fisher (Ohio)	2000	Garry Carter (Calif.)	2000	Jan Stelma (N.C.)
1999	Justin Jones (Ohio)	1999	Brenna Bilbrough (Ore.)	1999	Donald Acklin (Pa.)	1999	No division
1998	Nantille Boards (Tenn.)	1998	Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)	1998	Jack Morgenroth (Ohio)	1998	No division
1997	Andrew Babinchak (N.D.)	1997	Kristen Kovar (Neb.)	1997	Peter Kochis (Okla.)	1997	Martine Dormer (N.C.)
1996	Alain Pujolar (Fla.)	1996	Vallana Perrault (Minn.)	1996	Jerry Williams (Texas)	1996	No division
<b>Men's 24- C/D</b>		<b>Women's 24- C/D</b>		<b>Men's 55+ A/B</b>		<b>Women's 55+ A/B</b>	
2002	Brandon Stanley (La.)	2002	Holly Hettesheimer (Ohio)	2002	Leo Klimaitis (Ill.)	2002	Sharon Brockbank (Iowa)
2001	Bradley Butler (Tenn.)	2001	Wesley Toland (Ark.)	2001	Ken Foster (Texas)	2001	No division
2000	Drew Toland (Ark.)	2000	Hiromi Iida (Jap.)	2000	Paul Pearch (Texas)	2000	No division
1999	Brandon Cortese (Mich.)	1999	No division	1999	Ken Foster (Texas)	1999	No division
1998	Rex Fisher (Ohio)	1998	No division	1998	Ken Foster (Texas)	1998	No division
1997	Shannon Kohl (Mich.)	1997	Kristie Gisiner (Mo.)	1997	George Tashie (Tenn.)	1997	Pauline Kelly (Ill.)
1996	Fabrizio Avelar (Fla.)	1996	No division	1996	Jay Krevsky (Pa.)	1996	No division
<b>Men's 25+ A/B</b>		<b>Women's 25+ A/B</b>		<b>Men's 55+ C/D</b>		<b>Women's 55+ C/D</b>	
2002	Jason Linnell (Va.)	2002	Hilary Anderson (Ohio)	2002	Don Russell (Miss.)	2002	Aurora Bocanegra (Kan.)
2001	John Halpin (Conn.)	2001	Nathania Stewart (Ga.)	2001	Ben Brewster (Texas)	2001	No division
2000	Corbin Dirks (N.C.)	2000	Vivian Gomez (Fla.)	2000	Willie Davenport (Va.)	2000	No division
1999	Bob Jackson (Miss.)	1999	No division	1999	Leo Kouremetis (Alaska)	1999	No division
1998	Tony Rosaes (Alaska)	1998	Jill Nelson (Ill.)	1998	Ralph Temple (Ga.)	1998	No division
1997	John Ledig (Fla.)	1997	Ann Doucette (Maine)	1997	Norman Copeland (Ala.)	1997	No division
1996	Ken Blalock (Texas)	1996	Angela Burth (Va.)				

# Past USRA Division Champions

## USRA Doubles Divisions

### Men's Open

- 2002 Vincent Gagnon/Francis Guillemette (Can.)
- 2001 No division
- 2000 Hart Johnson (Minn.)/Shawn Royster (Calif.)
- 1999 Alvaro Beltran/Javier Moreno (Mex.)

### Men's A

- 2002 William Andreu/Jim Brane (Mo.)
- 2001 Arturo Casillas/David Leon (Calif.)
- 2000 Steven Best/Jackson Burnette (Md.)
- 1999 Steven Arizmendi (Fla.)/Jeffrey Huang (N.Y.)

### Men's B

- 2002 Billy Sewell (Ky.)/Jim Zimmerer (Ohio)
- 2001 David Aaronson/Joe Schmitz (Fla.)
- 2000 Gilberto DeLos Rios/Rene Enriquez (Mex.)
- 1999 Bill Sewell/David Sturm (Ky.)

### Men's C

- 2002 Eddie Barber/Eddy Connor (Utah)
- 2001 William Elliott/CraigStout (W.V.)
- 2000 John Cotoia/John Odell (N.M.)
- 1999 Eddie Barber/Eddy Connor (Utah)

### Men's 19+

- 2002 William Andreu/Richard Maggard (Mo.)
- 2001 David Hunter/Walter McDade (Tenn.)

### Men's 30+ A/B

- 2002 No division
- 2001 No division
- 2000 Eddie Barber/Eddy Connor (Utah)

### Men's 35+

- 2002 Scot Consoli (Fla.)/Scott Cullins (Ga.)
- 2001 Bruce Ritacco/Sandy Tucker (S.C.)
- 2000 Scott Consoli/Gordon Kirkland (Fla.)
- 1999 Tim Hansen/Teddy Koukoulis (Fla.)

### Men's 40+

- 2002 No division
- 2001 No division
- 2000 No division
- 1999 Joe Ault (Ind.)/Bill Lyman (Ill.)

### Men's 50+

- 2002 Richard Bocanegra (Kan.)/Jim Brane (Mo.)
- 2001 Jim Hiser (Colo.)/Ed Remen (N.C.)
- 2000 Jim Hiser (Colo.)/Ed Remen (N.C.)
- 1999 Jim Bailey (Va.)/Ed Remen (N.C.)

### Men's 50+ A/B

- 2002 No division
- 2001 No division
- 2000 Michael Barnes/Ken Foster (Texas)
- 1999 Michael Barnes/Ken Foster (Texas)

### Women's A

- 2002 Kim Glansberg/Carolyn Hollis (Calif.)
- 2001 No division
- 2000 Donna Spano/Diane Taylor-Whitman (Mass.)
- 1999 Bonnie Sanderson (Fla.)/Robin Wiles (Pa.)

### Women's B

- 2002 Joy DeSantis (Calif.)/Gail Schaefer (Md.)
- 2000 No division
- 1999 Michael Hill/Johnnie Hill-Hudgins (N.J.)

### Women's 35+

- 2002 Marsha Berry/Peggy Stephens (Ky.)
- 2001 Peggy Stephens/Christine Wright (Ky.)
- 2000 Stephanie Cobb/Laura Patterson (Mich.)

### Women's 50+

- 2002 Debbie Chaney (Ind.)/Brenda White (Ill.)

### Mixed A

- 2002 Debbie Ulliman/Jeff Marmor (Ohio)
- 2001 Jennifer Hunter/Walter McDade (Tenn.)
- 2000 Sandra Gross/David Gross (S.D.)
- 1999 Esther McNany (Conn.)/David Barnes (R.I.)

### Mixed B

- 2002 No division
- 2001 No division
- 2000 No division
- 1999 Valerie Willis/Ken Joy (N.C.)

### Mixed C

- 2002 Pamela Trent/Stanley Trent (Tenn.)
- 2001 Tina Davenport/Steve Johnson (Md.)
- 2000 Kastle Arturo/Ryan Kotoid (Alaska)
- 1999 Ryan Kinnaman/Vicki Leetch (Ark.)

### Mixed 30+

- 2002 Cari Kresa/Herve Bony (Fla.)
- 2001 Brenda Kyzer/Sandy Tucker (S.C.)
- 2000 Brenda Kyzer/Sandy Tucker (S.C.)
- 1999 Jim Leveque/Cintya Salazar (Md.)

### Mixed 40+

- 2002 Debbie Chaney (Ill.)/Dave Watson (Okla.)
- 2001 Debra Stefandel/Joe Ault (Ind.)
- 2000 Debbie Chaney/Bill Lyman (Ill.)



United States Racquetball Association

# PLAYER

## 2003 CHOICE HOTELS U.S. OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**November 19-23, 2003  
Memphis, Tennessee**



**CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL**  
Supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital®

# INFORMATION

# Jason Mannino - IRT #1

**Date of Birth:**

January 28, 1975 (age: 26)

**Place of Birth:**

Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Current Residence:**

San Diego, Calif.

**College:**

San Diego State University

**Height:**

5'8"

**Weight:**

175

**Year Started Playing:**

1977

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

1st (1999)

## Stats

2003	Oct. 30-Nov. 2	Halloween Classic, Chicago, Ill.	16's
2003	Oct. 9-12	Team Ed Pro/Am, Washington, D.C.	16's
2003	Aug. 28-Sept. 1	Stockton Pro/Am, Stockton, Calif.	Semi's
2003	Aug. 21-24	Summer Cooler, New Orleans, La.	2nd
<b>2003</b>	<b>2002-2003 IRT Final</b>	<b>Season Ranking</b>	<b>1st</b>
2003	May 1-4	IRT Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	Qtr's
2003	March 27-30	North Carolina Open, Greensboro, N.C.	2nd
2003	March 20-23	Red Swain Memorial, Boston, Mass.	1st
2003	Feb. 27-March 2	San Diego Open, San Diego, Calif.	1st
2003	Feb 6-9	Longhorn Open, Austin, Texas	Qtr's
2003	Jan. 30-Feb. 2	America's Cup, Coral Springs, Fla.	1st
2003	Jan. 16-19	New York City Pro/Am, New York, N.Y.	Qtr's
2003	Jan. 9-12	Cleveland Open, Cleveland, Ohio	1st
2002	Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	Qtr's

## *Jason Mannino*

Jason capped off an amazing season last year by becoming the first player in more than a decade, other than Monchik or Swain, to capture the season ending rankings title. He will go into the tournament as the player to beat and it will be interesting to see how he responds to the pressure.

The current season hasn't been as kind to Jason as last year's campaign, with only one showing in the finals to date and no wins, yet he is still clinging to the No.1 ranking. He will need to step it up here in order to hold onto his slim lead and increase his chances of repeating as IRT tour champion.

Known for his athleticism and unbelievable diving retrievals, Jason always puts on a show for the crowd. Last year he and boyhood friend Sudsy Monchik put on an amazing display in the quarterfinals. Some say it was the best match ever played at a U.S. OPEN - including Jason - even though he fell to the eventual champion in four games.

What many don't know about Jason is that he is lucky to be alive, let alone the top player in the world. After a near-fatal accident as a teenager, it was learned that Jason had broken his back in three places, suffered a broken pelvis, two broken ribs, and was bleeding internally. At the hospital it was not known if he would live.

As his long recovery began, he was then informed he would never walk again. Not one to be told what he can and cannot do, Jason cast the doctors' opinions aside and began to walk with the help of a back brace eight months later. Another year after that he picked up a racquet for the first time after the accident and began training for the World Junior Championships, which were then only three weeks away. He went on to win the boy's 18- world singles title at that event and the rest, as they say, is history.



# Jack Huczek - IRT #2



**Date of Birth:**

January 13, 1983 (age: 20)

**Place of Birth:**

Warren, Mich.

**Current Residence:**

Rochester Hills, Mich.

**College:**

Oakland University

**Height:**

6'0"

**Weight:**

190

**Year Started Playing:**

1985

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

Semifinalist (2002)

## Stats

2003	Oct. 30-Nov. 2	Halloween Classic, Chicago, Ill.	Semi's
2003	Oct. 9-12	Team Ed Pro/Am, Washington, D.C.	1st
2003	Aug. 28-Sept. 1	Stockton Pro/Am, Stockton, Calif.	1st
2003	Aug. 21-24	Summer Cooler, New Orleans, La.	DNP

**2003 2002-2003 IRT Final Season Ranking 4th**

2003	May 1-4	IRT Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	1st
2003	March 27-30	North Carolina Open, Greensboro, N.C.	Semi's
2003	March 20-23	Red Swain Memorial, Boston, Mass.	2nd
2003	Feb. 27-March 2	San Diego Open, San Diego, Calif.	Qtr's
2003	Feb 6-9	Longhorn Open, Austin, Texas	2nd
2003	Jan. 30-Feb. 2	America's Cup, Coral Springs, Fla.	Qtr's
2003	Jan. 16-19	New York City Pro/Am, New York, N.Y.	Qtr's
2003	Jan. 9-12	Cleveland Open, Cleveland, Ohio	Qtr's
2002	Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	Semi's

# Jack Huczek

Jack ended his junior racquetball career in record setting fashion by becoming the only player in history to win every age division — twice. From there he went on to win the USRA National Singles Championships (2001), the IRF World Championships (2002), and most recently earned a gold medal at the 14th Pan American Games in August of this year. Throughout all of these accomplishments Jack has kept one thing crystal clear – his goal

is to become the No.1 ranked player on the IRT tour.

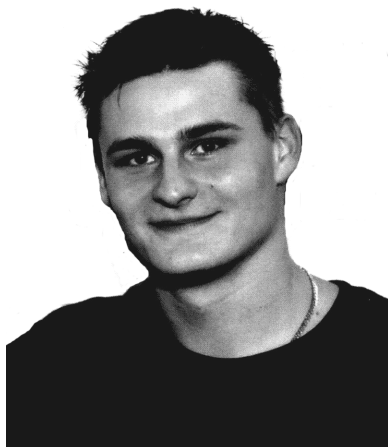
His dream is now in sight and a win here will catapult him to the top of the rankings. In just three tournaments this season Jack has recorded two wins and a semifinal appearance. He also made the semifinals of the 2002 U.S. OPEN and the portable court is particularly well-suited to his game style.

Jack is one of the most focused and dedicated players in the sport. His workouts begin before most people wake up and he often trains more

than once a day. His athleticism, shot selection, and conditioning are what sets him apart from most other players.



# Kane Waselenchuk - IRT #3

**Date of Birth:**

November 9, 1981 (age: 22)

**Place of Birth:**

Edmonton, Canada

**Current Residence:**

Austin, Texas

**Height:**

5'11"

**Weight:**

185

**Year Started Playing:**

1985

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

Semifinalist (2002)



## Stats

2003	Oct. 30-Nov. 2	Halloween Classic, Chicago, Ill.	1st
2003	Oct. 9-12	Team Ed Pro/Am, Washington, D.C.	Qtr's
2003	Aug. 28-Sept. 1	Stockton Pro/Am, Stockton, Calif.	Qtr's
2003	Aug. 21-24	Summer Cooler, New Orleans, La.	1st

**2003 2002-2003 IRT Final Season Ranking 2nd**

2003	May 1-4	IRT Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	Qtr's
2003	March 27-30	North Carolina Open, Greensboro, N.C.	DNP
2003	March 20-23	Red Swain Memorial, Boston, Mass.	DNP
2003	Feb. 27-March 2	San Diego Open, San Diego, Calif.	Qtr's
2003	Feb 6-9	Longhorn Open, Austin, Texas	1st
2003	Jan. 30-Feb. 2	America's Cup, Coral Springs, Fla.	2nd
2003	Jan. 16-19	New York City Pro/Am, New York, N.Y.	Semi's
2003	Jan. 9-12	Cleveland Open, Cleveland, Ohio	Semi's
2002	Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	Semi's

## ***Kane Waselenchuk***

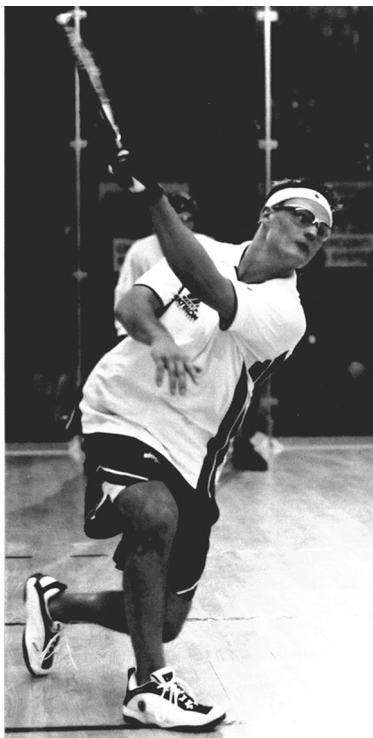
Kane first stormed onto the IRT scene at the 2000 U.S. OPEN as the fresh faced, 19-year-old, southpaw from Canada who dismantled then-reigning champion Jason Mannino in the first round. He is definitely one of the hottest young talents on the tour and seems poised to make a run at the No.1 ranking by season's end. He always puts on a show in Memphis and has played a part in some of the more memorable matches played on the stadium court.

Although he was plagued with an inner ear problem for most of last season, which made it virtually impossible for him to play consistently, he still managed to finish the season ranked No.2. After seeing several specialists, he seems confident that the condition is under control and that he is ready to stake his claim to the No.1 spot. With two tournament victories already this year, he seems to be well on his way and a win in Memphis would greatly increase his chances.

Kane's strengths are his power and athleticism, both of which are necessary to win here. His quick hands and lightning reflexes allow him to create shots that others can only dream about.

As it seems with most Canadian children, Kane grew up playing hockey and rumor has it that he was quite good. He even had a chance to be drafted, but opted instead to go south of the border and pursue his racquetball career.

Kane currently lives in Austin, Texas with his girlfriend Kim Russell. Russell is currently ranked No.6 on the women's LPRA tour and is expected to compete for the women's title this year in Memphis.



# Cliff Swain - IRT #4



**Date of Birth:**

March 21, 1966 (age: 37)

**Place of Birth:**

San Jose, Calif.

**Current Residence:**

Braintree, Mass.

**College:**

Providence

**Height:**

5'11"

**Weight:**

175

**Year Started Playing:**

1980

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

1st (2001, 1997)

## Stats

2003	Oct. 30-Nov. 2	Halloween Classic, Chicago, Ill.	Qtr's
2003	Oct. 9-12	Team Ed Pro/Am, Washington, D.C.	2nd
2003	Aug. 28-Sept. 1	Stockton Pro/Am, Stockton, Calif.	Qtr's
2003	Aug. 21-24	Summer Cooler, New Orleans, La.	Semi's
<b>2003</b>	<b>2002-2003 IRT Final</b>	<b>Season Ranking</b>	<b>3rd</b>
2003	May 1-4	IRT Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	Qtr's
2003	March 27-30	North Carolina Open, Greensboro, N.C.	Qtr's
2003	March 20-23	Red Swain Memorial, Boston, Mass.	Semi's
2003	Feb. 27-March 2	San Diego Open, San Diego, Calif.	2nd
2003	Feb 6-9	Longhorn Open, Austin, Texas	Semi's
2003	Jan. 30-Feb. 2	America's Cup, Coral Springs, Fla.	Semi's
2003	Jan. 16-19	New York City Pro/Am, New York, N.Y.	Semi's
2003	Jan. 9-12	Cleveland Open, Cleveland, Ohio	Qtr's
2002	Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	2nd

## Cliff Swain

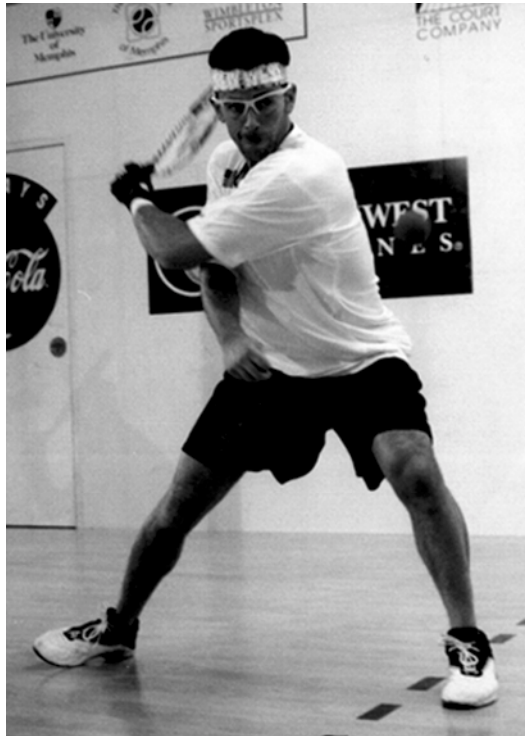
Cliff Swain has become an icon to the sport of racquetball and he solidified his place in history by winning a record sixth IRT season ending title in 2002. Known for his lethal drive serve and mechanical like approach, this lefty is sure to go down as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, players to ever play the sport.

Once again there is talk that Cliff is over-the-hill, past his prime, and that he can't compete with the young, new, talent on the tour. Talk like that only stokes the competitive fire that has been burning in Cliff since he was born – 37 years ago. Last year, when he was supposedly unable to compete at the top level anymore, he was still able to get past the younger and supposedly more talented players to make his way to the final of the U.S. OPEN.

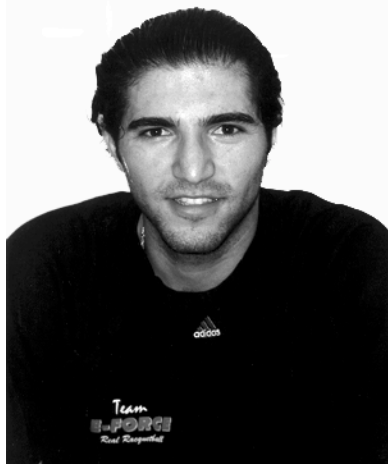
Cliff actually could have earned many more tour victories, and possibly two more season-ending ranking titles, had he not quit racquetball for two years to pursue a pro tennis career. He returned to racquetball after his brief stint in tennis to reclaim the No.1 ranking several more times.

Once regarded as one of Boston's most eligible bachelors, Cliff will have to give up that distinction in May of next year, when he will marry Kristina Klimaitis at the Dews Mansion in downtown Chicago.

Based on his accomplishments as a professional, Cliff was inducted as the 32nd member of the USRA Hall of Fame in May of 2003.



# Alvaro Beltran - IRT #5



**Date of Birth:**

October 15, 1978 (age: 25)

**Place of Birth:**

Tijuana, Mexico

**Current Residence:**

San Diego, Calif.

**College:**

Southwestern College

**Height:**

6'0"

**Weight:**

180

**Year Started Playing:**

1982

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

Semi's (2000)

## Stats

2003	Oct. 30-Nov. 2	Halloween Classic, Chicago, Ill.	2nd
2003	Oct. 9-12	Team Ed Pro/Am, Washington, D.C.	Qtr's
2003	Aug. 28-Sept. 1	Stockton Pro/Am, Stockton, Calif.	2nd
2003	Aug. 21-24	Summer Cooler, New Orleans, La.	Semi's

**2003 2002-2003 IRT Final Season Ranking** **5th**

2003	May 1-4	IRT Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	2nd
2003	March 27-30	North Carolina Open, Greensboro, N.C.	DNP
2003	March 20-23	Red Swain Memorial, Boston, Mass.	Semi's
2003	Feb. 27-March 2	San Diego Open, San Diego, Calif.	Qtr's
2003	Feb 6-9	Longhorn Open, Austin, Texas	Qtr's
2003	Jan. 30-Feb. 2	America's Cup, Coral Springs, Fla.	Qtr's
2003	Jan. 16-19	New York City Pro/Am, New York, N.Y.	16's
2003	Jan. 9-12	Cleveland Open, Cleveland, Ohio	Qtr's
2002	Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	Qtr's

# Rocky Carson - IRT #6



**Date of Birth:**

May 21, 1979 (age: 24)

**Place of Birth:**

Newport Beach, Calif.

**Current Residence:**

Laguna Niguel, Calif.

**College:**

Saddleback College

**Height:**

6'0"

**Weight:**

175

**Year Started Playing:**

1982

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

Quarter's ('02, '01, '00, '99)

## Stats

2003	Oct. 30-Nov. 2	Halloween Classic, Chicago, Ill.	Semi's
2003	Oct. 9-12	Team Ed Pro/Am, Washington, D.C.	Semi's
2003	Aug. 28-Sept. 1	Stockton Pro/Am, Stockton, Calif.	Qtr's
2003	Aug. 21-24	Summer Cooler, New Orleans, La.	Qtr's
<b>2003</b>	<b>2002-2003 IRT Final Season Ranking</b>		<b>6th</b>
2003	May 1-4	IRT Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	Semi's
2003	March 27-30	North Carolina Open, Greensboro, N.C.	1st
2003	March 20-23	Red Swain Memorial, Boston, Mass.	Qtr's
2003	Feb. 27-March 2	San Diego Open, San Diego, Calif.	Semi's
2003	Feb 6-9	Longhorn Open, Austin, Texas	Qtr's
2003	Jan. 30-Feb. 2	America's Cup, Coral Springs, Fla.	Qtr's
2003	Jan. 16-19	New York City Pro/Am, New York, N.Y.	Semi's
2003	Jan. 9-12	Cleveland Open, Cleveland, Ohio	16's
2002	Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	Qtr's

# John Ellis - IRT #7

**Date of Birth:**

October 4, 1972 (age: 31)

**Place of Birth:**

Stockton, Calif.

**Current Residence:**

Stockton, Calif.

**College:**

S.W. Missouri State University

**Height:**

5'6"

**Weight:**

165

**Year Started Playing:**

1976

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

2nd (2001)

## Stats

2003	Oct. 30-Nov. 2	Halloween Classic, Chicago, Ill.	16's
2003	Oct. 9-12	Team Ed Pro/Am, Washington, D.C.	16's
2003	Aug. 28-Sept. 1	Stockton Pro/Am, Stockton, Calif.	16's
2003	Aug. 21-24	Summer Cooler, New Orleans, La.	Qtr's

### 2003 2002-2003 IRT Final Season Ranking 7th

2003	May 1-4	IRT Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	Qtr's
2003	March 27-30	North Carolina Open, Greensboro, N.C.	16's
2003	March 20-23	Red Swain Memorial, Boston, Mass.	16's
2003	Feb. 27-March 2	San Diego Open, San Diego, Calif.	Qtr's
2003	Feb 6-9	Longhorn Open, Austin, Texas	Semi's
2003	Jan. 30-Feb. 2	America's Cup, Coral Springs, Fla.	Semi's
2003	Jan. 16-19	New York City Pro/Am, New York, N.Y.	2nd
2003	Jan. 9-12	Cleveland Open, Cleveland, Ohio	Semi's
2002	Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	Qtr's

# Derek Robinson - IRT #8



**Date of Birth:**

May 20, 1969 (age: 34)

**Place of Birth:**

Kennewick, Wash.

**Current Residence:**

Denver, Colo.

**College:**

S.W. Missouri State University

**Height:**

6'4"

**Weight:**

210

**Year Started Playing:**

1978

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

Quarter's (2000, 1998)

## Stats

2003	Oct. 30-Nov. 2	Halloween Classic, Chicago, Ill.	16's
2003	Oct. 9-12	Team Ed Pro/Am, Washington, D.C.	Semi's
2003	Aug. 28-Sept. 1	Stockton Pro/Am, Stockton, Calif.	16's
2003	Aug. 21-24	Summer Cooler, New Orleans, La.	16's
<b>2003</b>	<b>2002-2003 IRT Final</b>	<b>Season Ranking</b>	<b>9th</b>
2003	May 1-4	IRT Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	Semi's
2003	March 27-30	North Carolina Open, Greensboro, N.C.	16's
2003	March 20-23	Red Swain Memorial, Boston, Mass.	Qtr's
2003	Feb. 27-March 2	San Diego Open, San Diego, Calif.	16's
2003	Feb 6-9	Longhorn Open, Austin, Texas	Qtr's
2003	Jan. 30-Feb. 2	America's Cup, Coral Springs, Fla.	Qtr's
2003	Jan. 16-19	New York City Pro/Am, New York, N.Y.	16's
2003	Jan. 9-12	Cleveland Open, Cleveland, Ohio	16's
2002	Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	16's

# Cheryl Gudinas - LPRA #1



**Date of Birth:**

May 11, 1967 (age: 36)

**Place of Birth:**

Chicago, Ill.

**Current Residence:**

Lisle, Ill.

**College:**

Illinois Benedictine

**Height:**

5'10"

**Weight:**

150

**Year Started Playing:**

1983

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

1st (2002)

## Stats

2003	Oct. 17-19	New Mexico Invitational, Albuquerque, N.M.	1st
2003	Sept. 19-21	Dowd YMCA, Charlotte, N.C.	1st
2003	Sept 5-7	Rosarito Beach, Rosarito, Mexico	1st
<b>2003</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>LPRA Final Season Ranking</b>	<b>1st</b>
2003	May 1-4	LPRA Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	1st
2003	March 28-30	River Racquet A.C., Saskatoon, Canada	1st
2003	March 13-15	Merrit A.C., Baltimore, Md.	1st
2003	Feb. 14-16	Downtown YMCA, Nashville, Tenn.	1st
2003	Feb. 1-3	Sorrento Valley Racquet Club, San Diego, Calif.	1st
2003	Jan. 17-19	Five Seasons C.C., Cincinnati, Ohio	2nd
2002	Dec. 6-8	Lakewood A.C., Denver, Colo.	2nd
2002	Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	1st
2002	Nov. 1-3	Lynmar Classic, Colorado Springs, Colo.	1st

## Cheryl Gudinas

Throughout her early career, the U.S. OPEN was a monkey that turned into an ape and finally a gorilla on Cheryl's back. Nobody understood how she could win virtually every tournament offered except racquetball's only "Grand Slam." Last year she finally dumped King Kong off to win her first U.S. OPEN title.

Not much has changed for Cheryl on the court since she won her first U.S. OPEN title. She is still the most dominant woman currently in the sport – maybe the most dominant ever. Since her win in Memphis she picked up her third straight LPRA season-ending rankings title, her fifth straight USRA National Singles Championship, and a gold medal at the 14th Pan American Games this past August in women's singles.

Cheryl comes into Memphis riding yet another hot streak, which is nothing new. She has won eight straight women's pro stops, including all three of the current season. The last time she lost was in the final of the Cincinnati stop to good friend Kerri Wachtel, who may be her toughest competition in Memphis.

The reason for Cheryl's success is her dedication to training and her mental toughness. She trains hard for every tournament and studies each opponent from first rounder to a seasoned veteran in the final. If Cheryl doesn't become the first woman to repeat as U.S. OPEN champ since Jackie Rice did it in 1998-99, it will be the biggest upset of the season.

Although her training and tournament schedule keeps her plenty busy, Cheryl still takes time to volunteer as an Assistant Coach for the U.S. Junior National Team.



# Kerri Wachtel - LPRA #2



**Date of Birth:**

November 9, 1974 (age: 29)

**Place of Birth:**

Cincinnati, Ohio

**Current Residence:**

Cincinnati, Ohio

**College:**

Miami (Ohio) University

**Height:**

5'5"

**Weight:**

120

**Year Started Playing:**

1989

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

1st (2001)

## Stats

2003	Oct. 17-19	New Mexico Invitational, Albuquerque, N.M.	2nd
2003	Sept. 19-21	Dowd YMCA, Charlotte, N.C.	2nd
2003	Sept 5-7	Rosarito Beach, Rosarito, Mexico	2nd

**2003 2002-2003 LPRA Final Season Ranking 3rd**

2003	May 1-4	LPRA Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	Semi's
2003	March 28-30	River Racquet A.C., Saskatoon, Canada	2nd
2003	March 13-15	Merrit A.C., Baltimore, Md.	2nd
2003	Feb. 14-16	Downtown YMCA, Nashville, Tenn.	2nd
2003	Feb. 1-3	Sorrento Valley Racquet Club, San Diego, Calif.	Semi's
2003	Jan. 17-19	Five Seasons C.C., Cincinnati, Ohio	1st
2002	Dec. 6-8	Lakewood A.C., Denver, Colo.	Semi's
2002	Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	Semi's
2002	Nov. 1-3	Lynmar Classic, Colorado Springs, Colo.	Qtr's

## ***Kerri Wachtel***

Kerri has become one of the top names on the women's LPRA tour in recent years. She first stormed onto the scene in 2001, moving from No.28 to No.4 in just a few short months. She captured her first tour title, at the 2001 U.S. OPEN and has been moving up the rankings ever since.

She earned her second LPRA title last season at the Five Seasons Pro/Am in her hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio, and although she has yet to record a tournament win, Kerri has made an appearance in each of the three finals of the 2003-2004 season.

Currently ranked No.2 in the LPRA rankings, Kerri has proven her game has made it to the highest level, but in order to move into the No.1 slot, she will have to get past good friend and rival Cheryl Gudinas. Kerri has defeated Gudinas in the past, take for instance the semifinals of the 2001 U.S. OPEN, but has not been able to get past her yet this season. They have met in the finals of each LPRA stop this year with Gudinas coming out on top in four games every time.

Kerri's mother, Gerri, has quite an impressive racquetball resume herself, with 22 national championships in singles and doubles. It's no wonder that Kerri was able to pick up the sport as she did.



Kerri's husband, Chris, is a former Ohio junior champion. The two met while playing doubles against each other during a Valentine's Day tournament. Chris not only became Kerri's husband, but her practice partner and most enthusiastic supporter.

# Rhonda Rajsich - LPRA #4



**Date of Birth:**

October 7, 1978 (age: 25)

**Place of Birth:**

Phoenix, Ariz.

**Current Residence:**

Phoenix, Ariz.

**College:**

Stephen F. Austin State

**Height:**

5'9"

**Weight:**

130

**Year Started Playing:**

1978

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

2nd (2000)

## Stats

2003	Oct. 17-19	New Mexico Invitational, Albuquerque, N.M.	Semi's
2003	Sept. 19-21	Dowd YMCA, Charlotte, N.C.	Qtr's
2003	Sept 5-7	Rosarito Beach, Rosarito, Mexico	16's

**2003 2002-2003 LPRA Final Season Ranking 4th**

2003	May 1-4	LPRA Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	Qtr's
2003	March 28-30	River Racquet A.C., Saskatoon, Canada	Semi's
2003	March 13-15	Merrit A.C., Baltimore, Md.	Qtr's
2003	Feb. 14-16	Downtown YMCA, Nashville, Tenn.	Semi's
2003	Feb. 1-3	Sorrento Valley Racquet Club, San Diego, Calif.	Semi's
2003	Jan. 17-19	Five Seasons C.C., Cincinnati, Ohio	Semi's
2002	Dec. 6-8	Lakewood A.C., Denver, Colo.	Semi's
2002	Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	Qtr's
2002	Nov. 1-3	Lynmar Classic, Colorado Springs, Colo.	Semi's

## *Rhonda Rajsich*

Rhonda is one of the most athletically gifted athletes on the LPRA tour, with lightning quick reflexes and power that few on the women's side can match. She also walks onto the court with no fear, throwing her body around recklessly after every ball that has a chance to be retrieved – and even some that seem impossible.

One of the criticisms of Rhonda's game has been her consistency and shot selection, but as she has matured, so has her game. A year ago she was a consistent quarterfinalist, now it is common to see her make a run to the semi's. This season she has improved with each tournament, going from the 16's to the quarter's to the semifinals of the



last pro stop in Albuquerque. If she stays on track she may be able to make another run to the final in Memphis like she did in 2000.

Rhonda played point guard for Stephen F. Austin State in 1999, leading them to that year's NCAA Tournament. She once had aspirations to join the WNBA, but decided to stick with racquetball after her impressive run at the U.S. OPEN in 2000. She is still pretty sharp on both courts and can be seen in the gym at tournaments shooting baskets to warm up for her racquetball matches.



# Kersten Hallander - LPRA #5



**Date of Birth:**  
May 31, 1964 (age: 39)

**Place of Birth:**  
Montclair, N.J.

**Current Residence:**  
San Diego, Calif.

**College:**  
Penn State University

**Height:**  
5'8"

**Weight:**  
140

**Year Started Playing:**  
1982

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**  
Semi's (2001)

## Stats

2003 Oct. 17-19	New Mexico Invitational, Albuquerque, N.M.	Qtr's
2003 Sept. 19-21	Dowd YMCA, Charlotte, N.C.	Semi's
2003 Sept 5-7	Rosarito Beach, Rosarito, Mexico	Semi's
<b>2003</b>	<b>2002-2003 LPRA Final Season Ranking</b>	<b>5th</b>
2003 May 1-4	LPRA Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	Semi's
2003 March 28-30	River Racquet A.C., Saskatoon, Canada	DNP
2003 March 13-15	Merrit A.C., Baltimore, Md.	Semi's
2003 Feb. 14-16	Downtown YMCA, Nashville, Tenn.	Semi's
2003 Feb. 1-3	Sorrento Valley Racquet Club, San Diego, Calif.	Qtr's
2003 Jan. 17-19	Five Seasons C.C., Cincinnati, Ohio	DNP
2002 Dec. 6-8	Lakewood A.C., Denver, Colo.	Qtr's
2002 Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	Qtr's
2002 Nov. 1-3	Lynmar Classic, Colorado Springs, Colo.	Semi's

## *Kersten Hallander*

Kersten has remained in the top five of the LPRA rankings for the past five seasons, but is still in search of that breakthrough win to propel her to the next level. Memphis would be the perfect place for her to put it all together.



Her best U.S. OPEN finish came in 2001, when she made the semifinals. She played relaxed and carefree in that tournament and that is what she will need to do in order to have another good year this year. Her harshest critic is herself, but if she can find a way to relieve self imposed pressure she will be able to get further in the draw than many expect.

Kersten is not only an accomplished singles player, but an excellent doubles player as well. In 2000 she teamed up with Kim Russell to earn the International Racquetball Federation World Doubles Championship. This past October she earned a spot in the final of women's

open during the USRA National Doubles Championships with partner Janel Tisinger. This week, however, Kersten's thoughts will be focused solely on her singles play.

Racquetball isn't the only professional sport that Kersten has participated in. She once dabbled in professional billiards. She has chose to concentrate more on her racquetball career, however she still can hustle games off those that don't know any better.

# Kim Russell - LPRA #6



**Date of Birth:**

May 13, 1968 (age: 34)

**Place of Birth:**

Louisville, Ky.

**Current Residence:**

Austin, Texas

**College:**

University of Kentucky

**Height:**

5'4"

**Weight:**

118

**Year Started Playing:**

1982

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

Quarter's (2002, 2001)

## Stats

2003 Oct. 17-19	New Mexico Invitational, Albuquerque, N.M.	Semi's
2003 Sept. 19-21	Dowd YMCA, Charlotte, N.C.	Semi's
2003 Sept 5-7	Rosarito Beach, Rosarito, Mexico	DNP
<b>2003</b>	<b>2002-2003 LPRA Final Season Ranking</b>	<b>7th</b>
2003 May 1-4	LPRA Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	16's
2003 March 28-30	River Racquet A.C., Saskatoon, Canada	16's
2003 March 13-15	Merrit A.C., Baltimore, Md.	Qtr's
2003 Feb. 14-16	Downtown YMCA, Nashville, Tenn.	Qtr's
2003 Feb. 1-3	Sorrento Valley Racquet Club, San Diego, Calif.	Qtr's
2003 Jan. 17-19	Five Seasons C.C., Cincinnati, Ohio	Qtr's
2002 Dec. 6-8	Lakewood A.C., Denver, Colo.	Qtr's
2002 Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	Qtr's
2002 Nov. 1-3	Lynmar Classic, Colorado Springs, Colo.	Qtr's

# Adrienne Fisher - LPRA #7



**Date of Birth:**

January 28, 1975 (age: 26)

**Place of Birth:**

Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Current Residence:**

San Diego, Calif.

**College:**

San Diego State University

**Height:**

5'8"

**Weight:**

175

**Year Started Playing:**

1977

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

Quarter's (2002)

## Stats

2003	Oct. 17-19	New Mexico Invitational, Albuquerque, N.M.	Qtr's
2003	Sept. 19-21	Dowd YMCA, Charlotte, N.C.	16's
2003	Sept 5-7	Rosarito Beach, Rosarito, Mexico	Qtr's
<b>2003</b>	<b>2002-2003 LPRA Final Season Ranking</b>		<b>6th</b>
2003	May 1-4	LPRA Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	Qtr's
2003	March 28-30	River Racquet A.C., Saskatoon, Canada	Semi's
2003	March 13-15	Merrit A.C., Baltimore, Md.	16's
2003	Feb. 14-16	Downtown YMCA, Nashville, Tenn.	Qtr's
2003	Feb. 1-3	Sorrento Valley Racquet Club, San Diego, Calif.	Qtr's
2003	Jan. 17-19	Five Seasons C.C., Cincinnati, Ohio	Qtr's
2002	Dec. 6-8	Lakewood A.C., Denver, Colo.	Qtr's
2002	Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	Qtr's
2002	Nov. 1-3	Lynmar Classic, Colorado Springs, Colo.	16's

# Kristen Walsh - LPRA #8



**Date of Birth:**

May 5, 1982 (age: 21)

**Place of Birth:**

Salt Lake City, Utah

**Current Residence:**

Salt Lake City, Utah

**College:**

Utah University

**Height:**

5'7"

**Weight:**

155

**Year Started Playing:**

1987

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

16's (2002, 2001, 2000)

## Stats

2003 Oct. 17-19	New Mexico Invitational, Albuquerque, N.M.	16's
2003 Sept. 19-21	Dowd YMCA, Charlotte, N.C.	Qtr's
2003 Sept 5-7	Rosarito Beach, Rosarito, Mexico	Semi's

**2003 2002-2003 LPRA Final Season Ranking 8th**

2003 May 1-4	LPRA Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	16's
2003 March 28-30	River Racquet A.C., Saskatoon, Canada	DNP
2003 March 13-15	Merrit A.C., Baltimore, Md.	16's
2003 Feb. 14-16	Downtown YMCA, Nashville, Tenn.	Qtr's
2003 Feb. 1-3	Sorrento Valley Racquet Club, San Diego, Calif.	Qtr's
2003 Jan. 17-19	Five Seasons C.C., Cincinnati, Ohio	16's
2002 Dec. 6-8	Lakewood A.C., Denver, Colo.	16's
2002 Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	16's
2002 Nov. 1-3	Lynmar Classic, Colorado Springs, Colo.	Qtr's

# Brenda Kyzer - LPRA #9



**Date of Birth:**

December 27, 1961 (age: 41)

**Place of Birth:**

Miami, Fla.

**Current Residence:**

Lexington, S.C.

**College:**

Miami Dade C.C.

**Height:**

5'7"

**Weight:**

190

**Year Started Playing:**

1976

**Best U.S. OPEN Finish:**

16's (2002)

## Stats

2003 Oct. 17-19	New Mexico Invitational, Albuquerque, N.M.	Qtr's
2003 Sept. 19-21	Dowd YMCA, Charlotte, N.C.	Qtr's
2003 Sept 5-7	Rosarito Beach, Rosarito, Mexico	Qtr's

**2003 2002-2003 LPRA Final Season Ranking 11th**

2003 May 1-4	LPRA Pro Nationals, Phoenix, Ariz.	DNP
2003 March 28-30	River Racquet A.C., Saskatoon, Canada	Qtr's
2003 March 13-15	Merrit A.C., Baltimore, Md.	Qtr's
2003 Feb. 14-16	Downtown YMCA, Nashville, Tenn.	Qtr's
2003 Feb. 1-3	Sorrento Valley Racquet Club, San Diego, Calif.	16's
2003 Jan. 17-19	Five Seasons C.C., Cincinnati, Ohio	Qtr's
2002 Dec. 6-8	Lakewood A.C., Denver, Colo.	16's
2002 Nov. 20-24	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.	16's
2002 Nov. 1-3	Lynmar Classic, Colorado Springs, Colo.	16's

## ***Other Players to Watch***



Sidsy has suffered through injuries the past two seasons, causing him to drop in the rankings. He missed the 2001 U.S. OPEN due to a broken foot and then, shortly after winning the 2002 U.S. OPEN, a shoulder injury caused him to miss the rest of last season.

He will need to be healthy to earn his fifth U.S. OPEN title, but he has been plagued by injuries this season as well. Still, don't count him out. He loves the big stage and thrives under the pressure.

## ***Sidsy Monchik***

## ***Chris Coy***

Chris was diagnosed with cancer when he was just 3-years-old. Complications with the disease led to the amputation of his left leg when he was 5. He didn't let that slow him down, however, and he has become one of the premiere junior players in the country.

Chris learned to play racquetball using a prosthetic leg, which is hard to notice as he zips around the court. In 2002 he was good enough to capture national titles in both men's A and boy's 14-and-under.



## *Other Players to Watch*

After turning 40 in June of last year, Laura decided to limit her tournament schedule to “the big ones,” and they don’t get any bigger than the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships.

2003 has been a good year for Laura thus far. She earned a gold medal at the Tournament of Americas in April, a silver medal at the USRA National Singles Championships in May, and another silver medal at the 14th Pan American Games in August.



***Laura Fenton***

## *Christie Van Hees*



After a three-year hiatus, Christie is back on the courts, looking to regain her championship form. She captured the 2000 U.S. OPEN title, but then suddenly retired from the sport, not resurfacing until early this season.

Christie has only played one LPRA stop this season at Rosarito Beach, Mexico, where she fell in the round of 16 to youngster Adrienne Fisher. How fast the game comes back to her will determine how deep she will get in the draw.

## 2003-2004 Schedules (Remaining Events)



Jan. 8-10 .....	Cleveland, Ohio .....	Cleveland Open
Jan. 15-18 .....	New York, N.Y. ....	New York City Pro Am
Feb. 26-29 .....	San Diego, Calif. ....	San Diego Open
March 4-7 .....	Louisville, Ky. ....	Louisville Open
March 25-28 .....	Greensboro, N.C. ....	Greensboro Open
April 1-4 .....	Boston, Mass. ....	Foxwoods Pro Am
April 22-25 .....	Las Vegas Nevada .....	Las Vegas Open
April 29-May 1 .....	Phoenix, Ariz. ....	IRT Pro Nationals



December 5-7 .....	Denver, Colo. ....	Colorado Open
January 16-18 .....	Honolulu, Hawaii .....	Hawaii Open
January 29-Feb.1 .....	Coral Springs, Fla. ....	Florida Open
February 20-22 .....	Salt Lake City, Utah .....	Utah Open
March 12-14 .....	Nashville, Tenn. ....	Nashville Open
March 19-21 .....	Baltimore, Md. ....	Baltimore Pro Am
April 29-May 1 .....	Phoenix, Ariz. ....	LPRA Pro Nationals