

PAC players lead Team Wisconsin to 4th place

June 24-28, 2009

An impressive performance by Team Wisconsin at the 2009 36th USAR Junior Championships Racquetball Tournament in East Lansing (Mich.) was fueled by Prairie Athletic Club (PAC) players.

Wisconsin sent 10 players to the tournament and they brought home 14 medals.

Team Wisconsin placed fourth, trailing only Oregon (25 players), California (16) and Ohio (19). Michigan (17), Maryland (11) and Texas (10) sent as many players as Wisconsin, but finished further back in the standings.

Five PAC players – Justus Benson, Carter Simon, Amy Miller, Brad & Danielle Falvey – made the trip and accounted for two national titles; three national runner-ups; an All-American; a US Junior Team Appointment; and 11 of Team Wisconsin's 14 medals.

Benson led the way, cementing his status as one of the top two 10-year-old players in the country. He teamed with Jordan Barth to win 10-U boys doubles; teamed with Mary Zeng to win 10-U mixed doubles; and lost an extremely competitive and hard-fought 15-11, 15-14 championship 10-U singles match to Barth.

Benson earned his fourth consecutive All-American award and is preparing for the world championships later this year in the Dominican Republic.

Like Benson, Danielle Falvey earned three medals. Falvey won 12-U Red division, took third in 12-U mixed doubles and placed third in 12-U mixed doubles. Older brother Brad Falvey placed second in the 16-U mixed doubles and made it to the quarter-finals of 16-U singles and 16-U boys doubles.

Simon had a great tourney medaling in both events he played. He lost a hard-fought match in the semis, but came back to take third place in 10-U Blue and carried his team to fourth place in 10-U doubles.

Miller also medaled in both of her events, taking fourth in 18-U singles and teaming with Green Bay's Joey Salamone to take third in 18-U mixed doubles.

Salamone played with West Bend's Mike Olson in 18-U boys doubles and placed second in consolation. Salamone lost in the quarters of 18-U Blue, while Olson took second in 18-U White.

Franklin's Connor Hueffner won consolation of 16-U mixed doubles, but lost in the quarters of 16-U boys doubles and in the round of 16 in 16-U Red.

Brothers Nicholas Godwod and Nathaniel Lapp of Green Bay competed hard in both 12-U singles and 12-U doubles, nearly medaling.

A big thanks goes out to sponsors Phil and Sandy Sussek, Schoeps Ice Cream, Bay Promotions, Kwik Trip - Sun Prairie, UPS Store - Sun Prairie, Dan Powell, Ryan Homa, Brad McCunniff, Grota Appraisals and the WRA for helping get the kids to Michigan and represent the state of Wisconsin.