

News of Wisconsin Women's Senior/Masters Players



Team Wisconsin: Left to Right: Laura Olson (Mukwonago), Reta Haring (Madison), Linda Covault (Waukesha) and Kendra Tutsch (Lodi).

"Driving for Points" in Indy at the 16th Annual Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball National Championships!

It wasn't the Indianapolis 500, but there was plenty of fast action in Indianapolis at the Greenbriar Athletic Club the weekend of Jan 14-16, 2005 as 86 women from all parts of North America gathered for the 16th Annual Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball National Championships. Players from 24 states and Canada, from Alaska to Florida were there, including 4 from Wisconsin. Laura Olson, in her first appearance in the Women's Senior/Masters made the playoffs in the 40+ division, taking second in a flight with several players ranked in the top ten nationally in 40+. Reta Haring took first in the 75+, having played a round robin in the 65 and up division. Kendra Tutsch and Linda Covault also played. Linda had a run of bad luck and had to withdraw due to an injury suffered early in the tournament.

Next year's tournament will be held at the Maverick Club in Dallas, Texas, the weekend of Jan 27-29, 2006.

Please check our web site (<http://my.execpc.com/~tutsch/WSMRA/main.html>) for much more information on the Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Association and our tournaments, or contact Kendra for more information (kdtutsch@wisc.edu).

2005 Hall-of-Fame Inductees Announced

(continued from page 1)

PAT SCHMIDT is one of our state's all-time best players. Pat is an outstanding athlete and started playing racquetball in 1974 and quickly reached the top levels, playing on the Women's Professional Tour from 1977-80. She was ranked as high as 9th in the world. She won the Wisconsin women's open titles from 1975-79, 1984 and 1986. Pat won regional titles from 1976-78, state women's doubles titles from 1983-86 and 1988, and state mixed doubles titles again from 1983-86 and 1988. In 1976 Pat took third in the women's open at nationals and took second the next year. In 1985 she teamed with Jim Wirkus to take fourth in Mixed Open at Nationals and in 1989 teamed with Julie Jacobson to win the women's 35+ open at nationals.

BILL SCHMIDTKE worked at the Madison YMCA in 1968 when he placed second, to fellow Hall-of-Famer Bill Schultz, Sr., at first National Racquetball Championship. Bill's success continued, winning the National Singles Championships in 1971 and 1974, plus an additional 7 national championships including the Men's 40+ open doubles in 1982 and 83. Bill played on the Pro Tour in its early days and was named racquetball's Male Athlete of the Year in 1974. He served as both chairman of the International Racquetball Association and Minnesota Racquetball Association. Bill is still known for having had one of the greatest forehands in the history of the game.

JIM WIRKUS, along with his brother Joe, was one of the most prolific state champions our state has had. Jim began his tremendous career winning the first three 18&under state junior titles from 1975-77, along with the regional title in 1977. His eight men's open singles titles came from 1980-89. During this period he also won five men's open regional titles, reached the semi-finals of two national championships and was ranked as high as #18 on the Pro Tour. Jim's numerous doubles titles include ten men's open championships, two age group state titles, seven men's open regional titles, five mixed open state titles and was a two-time national runner-up.



Playing the Tour

By: Kyle Veenstra

The International Racquetball Tour is racquetball's professional tour. I've had the pleasure of competing in several events over the past four months. In reflecting on my experiences playing the tour these past few months, I have found a new love for this great sport of ours!

The IRT has a different match format than the one we typically play at our local tournaments. It is the best 3 out of 5 games to 11 points. You must win the game by two points. I've come to find you are literally never out of a single game, nor match. At any tier 3 IRT events (full pro stop); the top 8 will get a bye into the main draw of 16. Everybody else has to battle into the main draw. You can play as little as 1 qualifying match, or have the daunting task of winning up to 3 or 4 qualifying matches. It just depends on the number of entrants, and your ranking. Obviously the top 8 players have a significant advantage.

The level of competition is indescribable. The closest analogy I can make is that it is like being 10-10 in the championship match of a tournament.....ON EVERY POINT! Everybody is battling for first place which typically ranges from \$3,300 to \$8,000 depending on the event. The US Open is the largest purse of the year, and the most prestigious tournament as of right now. Dave Negrete, Commissioner of the IRT, has signed Motorola as a sponsor and is creating racquetball's second Major tournament (Pro Nationals), which will be held in Chicago in late April.

It's been refreshing to see that the majority of the players that play the tour full time, play for the love of the sport! I can honestly say it is not the money, as most of the guys playing the tour have jobs to support their expenses incurred traveling around. Others try to find local sponsors to help pay their way. Only a handful of players make a living playing racquetball. However, there is hope with Dave Negrete as Commissioner of the IRT. He is doing an outstanding job finding sponsors and creating larger purses for the players.

The IRT tournaments are no different than our Candy Cane, President's Day, WAMBO, Titledown, Lou Bradley, or State singles tournaments. I've had the pleasure of meeting many great people playing local tournaments, and it's been nothing but the same playing the IRT. If you get a chance to travel to Chicago in April, or this fall in Milwaukee....DO IT!! The best racquetball players in the world, playing for the same reason you and I play.....FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME!

DARREL MILLER Wins Men's A at US Open

Darrel Miller from Union Grove, WI won five matches on his way to winning the Men's A at the US Open Racquetball Championships in Memphis, TN last fall. Darrel then teamed with his dad, Ron, and together they topped a field of 29 teams to win the Men's A Doubles. Congratulations to Darrel and Ron Miller.

Also competing from Wisconsin were Linda Covault in the Women's 50+, Jim Luzar in the Men's 40 and 45+ Open, Ron Miller also played in the Men's 45+ A, and Ben Ryder played in the Men's Open.

KYLE VEENSTRA at the US Open Racquetball Championships

By Linda Covault

I thought watching Kyle Veenstra beat #3 ranked Jason Mannino, at the Master Spa Pro-Am at the Wisconsin Athletic Club - West Allis, was the most exciting upset I had seen in racquetball. I was wrong. I attended the US Open in Memphis last fall and saw Kyle beat Sam Ryder in the qualifying round of the Pro Division. Then he went on to beat #12 Dan Llacera in the round of 32. Next Kyle was up against Alvaro Belstran the #5 player in the world. Kyle beat him in three straight games, 11-5, 13-11 and 12-10. Kyle made it to the round of 8 where the remaining matches are played on the main stadium glass court.

This is the Super Bowl of racquetball. The lights go out and each player is introduced as rock n' roll music blares out over the crowd along with a light show to spot the players. It was so exciting seeing Kyle run out onto the court as he was being introduced. Kyle had to play #4 Rocky Carson. Rocky has played on the stadium court before and this experience helped him beat Kyle.

Now that Kyle has experience of his own on the main stage I can see him back for more. Thanks Kyle for giving us a great week of racquetball.

WISCONSIN RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

2005-2006 CALENDAR

MARCH '05	MAR. 5 JERRY STOLTMANN CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS West Allis
	MAR. 11-13 RACINE ATHLETIC CLUB TOURNAMENT Racine
	MAR. 19-20 WAMBO Supreme
	MAR. 19 ST. PATTY'S DOUBLES Waukesha
	MAR. 19 MARCH MADNESS Eau Claire
APRIL '05	APR. 1-2 TITLETOWN CLASSIC Green Bay
	APR. 8-10 STATE SINGLES West Allis
	APR. 16 APRIL DOUBLES Waukesha
	APR. 23 STATE JUNIORS Sun Prairie
JUNE '05	JUNE 24-25 BADGER STATE GAMES Sun Prairie
NOV. '05	NOV. 4-6 STATE DOUBLES Waukesha
JAN. '06	JAN. 27-29 17TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S SENIOR/MASTERS Dallas
MARCH '06	MAR. 31, APRIL 1 & 2 STATE SINGLES West Allis

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Looking for Racquetball Instructor

UW-M is looking for an instructor to teach Racquetball I from 8:00 to 8:50 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and from 2:00 to 2:50 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are also looking for someone to teach Racquetball II from 9:00 to 9:50 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. This will be for the Fall 05 and Spring 06 semesters.

Pay is \$650 per session at \$21-\$27 per hour. The minimum requirements are a Bachelor's degree; possess relevant certification in specialized area of desired employment, when available and 3-5 years experience.

If you're interested you can contact the UW-M College of Health Sciences-Outreach Program at 414-227-3123.

Prairie Athletic Club to host 2005 Badger State Games

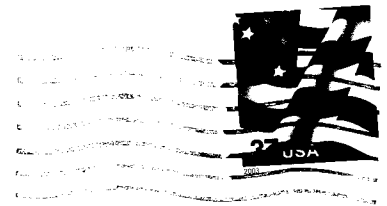
The Prairie Athletic Club (PAC) will again host the Badger State Games Racquetball Tournament this summer after hosting the inaugural tourney in 2004. The tourney is currently scheduled to be held the weekend of June 24-25.

Players will have to sign up for the tournament online at www.sportsinwisconsin.com or by mail. Contact PAC racquetball coordinator Paul Krueger at (608) 837-4646 or by e-mail at pl.krueger@prairieathletic.com for more information on the tournament.

The PAC will offer all Badger State Games Racquetball Tournament participants free entry into its private Dolphins Cover Water Park. With indoor and outdoor pools; indoor and outdoor bars; three basketball courts; an indoor soccer field; and plenty of other fitness areas, the PAC is a great place to spend a weekend getting away to play some racquetball with or without the family!

WISCONSIN
RACQUETBALL
ASSOCIATION

N34 W28338 Taylors Woods Road
Pewaukee, WI 53072



Sportsmanship Award

The Lou Bradley and Jerry Stoltmann Sportsmanship Awards will be given out Saturday, April 9th at the State Singles. These awards exemplify two individuals who show the true meaning of sportsmanship in the game of racquetball. Please fill out the attached form with a brief description of why you nominated the individual and send by mail or email. The nominations will be need by Friday, April 1st.

The person nominated: _____

Reasons: _____

Mail to: Trish Eftman, N34W28338 Taylors Woods Rd., Pewaukee, WI 53072 or email:
peltman@wi.rr.com

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RACQUETBALL
NEWS!**

WRA
Bill Schultz
14595 W. Fieldpointe Ct.
New Berlin, WI 53151

Phone: 262-821-2100
wscultz@mcw.edu

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