

OFF THE WALL

August 1998

A quarterly publication of the Utah Racquetball Association

Volume 10, Number 3

Opening Shots

By Enrico Dubach, U.R.A. President

It's getting close to that pick-up-your-racquetball-racquet time. Summer is more than half over and we have tournaments starting in August. Enclosed is the 1998-1999 tournament schedule. We are excited to bring you 14 sanctioned tournaments this season—plus our State Singles and Doubles Championships. The clubs and directors are enthusiastic about offering bigger and better tournaments. I would like to commend the directors for working together to bring you the best tournament schedule I've seen yet. If you don't mind traveling a little, you could play a tournament almost every two weeks. But you'd better ease into it if you haven't been playing over the summer.

Tony Glavas of Precision Sports will have the Precision Sports Challenge again this year. You will be able to earn points at five tournaments, ending with the State Singles Championships. Top point earners in each division will receive nice prizes. More information is on the enclosed entry form for the Precision Sports Open in September.

I have been reading the national *Racquetball Magazine* and I am impressed with how many local players have done well in regional and national competitions. Congratulations are in order for Luzelle Wilde of Centerville. The National Singles Championships were held in Houston during May. In the 80+ division, Luzelle took first place. In the 75+ division, he took third place. Winning a national competition is an amazing accomplishment. The regionals were held in Albuquerque during April. Jim Wilking won the 60+ division and Marianne Walsh won the 35+ division.

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High School Racquetball

by Marianne Walsh, U.R.A. Board Member

The High School League for grades 9 through 12 got off to a good start last year, but we are looking for a bigger and better turnout this year.

Sign-ups for the upcoming year will be in September and October. League play will start in November and run through January. Approximately two team competitions will be played each month. The season ends with the High School State Racquetball Championship in February.

Racquetball players of all levels are welcome. New players will be taught how to play. At least one clinic will be offered for beginning to advanced levels.

The teams who do the best in the competition are the schools who have both male and female players in each skill level. Players compete at their own level, so start asking your friends to play. A doubles and mixed doubles division will be added this year.

The National High School Racquetball Tournament is being held in Portland, Oregon the first weekend in March. Kristen and I are going and would like to take some teams with us. We will be planning some fund raising activities to help get us there. The league needs more coaches this year. If anyone can help out or has any questions, please call Marianne Walsh at 487-2338. 📞



Junior Olympic National Racquetball Tournament winners (from L to R): Korey Walsh, Kim Walsh, Kristen Walsh, and John Sanderson. Photo by Marianne Walsh.

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Enough of the adults. Our juniors really excelled at the U.S. Junior Olympic National Racquetball Tournament held in Portland, Oregon in June. Over 300 juniors from across the nation participated in this tournament. Kristen Walsh took second in the Girls 16 and under Singles Division. She also took second in the 16- Mixed Doubles and 18- Girls Doubles. Did you read the great article in the *Salt Lake Tribune* about Kristen? Her picture covered half of the front page of the Sports section on July 21. She is a member of the Junior Olympic Team and will be doing a lot of traveling with them. Congratulations, Kristen!

John Sanderson also did well in Portland. He took 3rd in the 8 and under Multi-Bounce and 4th in the 8 and under Single Bounce.

Korey Walsh took 3rd in the 8 and under Multi-Bounce (Red Division) and Kim Walsh took 4th in the 12 and under Girls Doubles. This is a very large tournament and our kids did great!

Utah has several nationally ranked players. Despite our small population, Utahns are well represented. Doing consistently well in state, regional, and national tournaments has earned these players a top ten national ranking. Luzelle Wilde is ranked seventh in Men's 75+ and second in 80+. Susan Williams is ranked sixth in the Women's A Division. Because of great collegiate play, Utah dominates the Women's 24 and under division. Jennifer Birchenough, Kim Blake, Janette Olsen, and Nicole Passage are all tied for a third place in this division. Val Shewfelt is ranked sixth in Women's 40+ and Norma Carlisle is ranked tenth in the Women's 60+ division. Our juniors really shine with John Sanderson ranked sixth in Boy's 6 and under Multi-Bounce and ninth in 8 and under Multi-Bounce. Kim Walsh is ranked ninth in the Girl's 10 and under Division. But Kristen takes the cake with top ten rankings in three different divisions! She is ranked third in Girl's 14-, fourth in Girl's 16-, and eighth in Girl's 18 and under. That is super!

We are wrapping up the summer Junior's League in August with the State Junior's Championships. Thanks to Ruth McGovern, lots of kids have been playing all summer.

The adult traveling league and the high school league will be starting soon. These are great fun and I encourage all of you to get involved. Contact Ruth McGovern for the traveling league and Marianne Walsh for the high school league. I know Marianne can use a lot of help with sponsorships and coaches.

Even though Utah has one of the smallest populations in the nation, we are ranked 22nd in membership and have more tournaments than most states. Some people think Utah is one of the healthiest states in the nation because of our lifestyle, but I know it's because we play racquetball.

See you on the courts! ✨

Redwood Center wins 1997-98 Traveling League!

By Enrico Dubach, U.R.A. President

Five teams representing clubs from around the Salt Lake Valley and Bountiful competed throughout the 1997-1998 racquetball season. Teams travelled to play at an opponent's club in a fun and competitive format. Over 50 players participated in the league which had mens', womens', and doubles divisions. Ruth McGovern deserves a lot of credit for organizing and running the league.

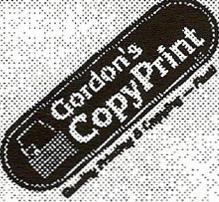
At the conclusion of league play, a tournament was held at different participating clubs. The tournament was set up on an individual format with players earning points for their team. Strong play from Redwood's team earned them the first prize during the tournament. Second place went to the Sports Mall. Following the tournament, a barbecue and awards ceremony was held by the swimming pool at the Redwood Center. Thanks to all of the team managers for their work in getting their teams together and to the various clubs for sponsoring their teams. Below is a listing of league results as well as team results for the tournament.

Team	Team Manager	League Finish	Tournament Finish
Redwood Center	Bob Snellman	First	First
Bountiful Rec Center	Sandi Gunn	Second	
Sports Mall	Tony Glavas	Third	Second
Alta Canyon	Tim Dolbin	Fourth	
Marv Jenson	Paul Buchi	Fifth	

The traveling league gives players a great opportunity to play at different clubs and meet other players in a more relaxed (but still competitive) environment. Anyone interested in starting a team for their club should contact Ruth McGovern at the Redwood Center. ☺



First place Traveling League team members from the Redwood Center (from L to R): Jerry Montanez, Heather Montanez, Kris Terry Wheeler, Glen Aitken, Bob Snellman, Ruth McGovern, Diane Burns, and Steve Parker (front). Photo by Enrico Dubach.



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Did You Know . . .

You can advertise in the U.R.A. newsletter for as little as \$25 per issue! For more information, contact Enrico Dubach at 298-5066 or 298-3656.

WANTED: YOUR JUNK . . . or forgotten Treasures

by Marianne Walsh, U.R.A. Board Member

We will be having several fund-raisers for the High School Racquetball League to help some teams travel to the High School Nationals in Portland, Oregon in March 1999.

A big garage sale will be held in September. Any donated item will be appreciated. Remember . . . one person's junk is another person's treasure. Someone will be available to pick things up if you can't drop it off at the sale sight. We are going to need a LOT OF STUFF to make this successful.

We are also looking for items or gift certificates to be used in auctions or raffles during some of the upcoming tournaments. The items do not have to be racquetball related.

If anyone has fund raising ideas, I would love to hear from you. We may try to hold a couple of car washes at several locations. We could arrange to sell *Happenings Books* if enough kids are interested.

If you have anything for the garage sale or raffles or would like to help, please call Marianne Walsh at 487-2338. Thanks for your help and support.

Utah Racquetball Association

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