

OFF THE WALL

OPENING SHOTS

By Enrico Dubach, URA President



Whew! What a hot summer! Usually I like to golf or do things outside, but the other day I played racquetball just because it sounded like a good way to get out of the heat. Well, like we say in Utah, "If you don't like the weather, wait a few minutes!" On June 29th, we had the annual Tournament Directors Meeting. This is where the URA Board meets with Tournament Directors and forms a tournament schedule for the next year. We are very lucky in Utah to have such a great group of people willing to take the time and work to hold a sanctioned tournament. Tournaments are the main reason most of you are members of the URA, so we make a real effort to put together the best schedule we can. I am proud to say that we have two to three tournaments a month for the entire season. Most states have less than half the tournaments we have. Put the enclosed tournament schedule on your fridge for future reference.

Last year we moved the State Doubles Championships back to November and it was a great success. Most players liked having several tournaments to play with their partners before the "Big Dance". The State Doubles Championships will be held this November at the Marv Jenson Fitness Center again. So find a partner and practice up.

The URA Board and Marv Jenson are also teaming up to offer a charity tourna-

ment in December. This should be a lot of fun with the proceeds going to a worthy cause.

At the time of this writing, the location for the State Singles Championships had not been determined. Hopefully, it will be in the Tournament Schedule. If not, we will announce it with the next newsletter.

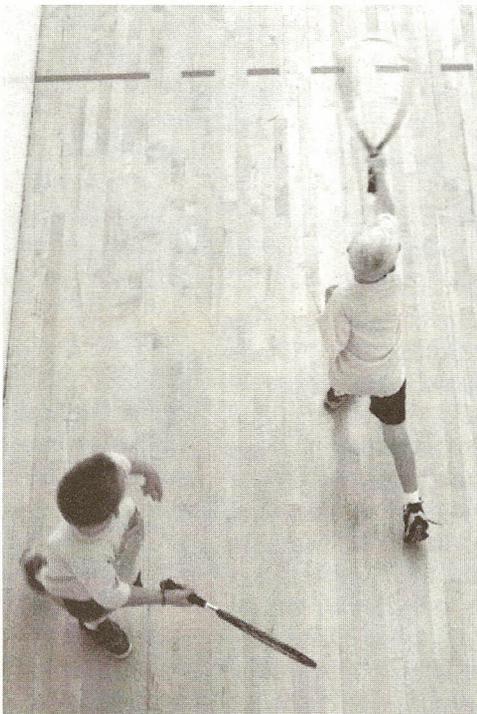
Ruth McGovern at the Redwood Center is organizing the Travelling League again this year. Team entries need to be in soon, so contact her immediately if you're interested.

The High School League will be starting in October. All high school age students of all playing levels are encouraged to join. They will play in several play-offs during the winter with the high school championships in January. Contact Marianne Walsh for the more information about this fun league

Congratulations are in order for Randy and Pam Martin. They are the proud parents of a bouncing baby

girl born on the Fourth of July. Randy and Pam brought her to the Board meeting on July 8th and she already had a few suggestions for the Junior's league. Her name is Joell and if she is like her older brothers, she'll be bouncing a racquetball before we know it.

If you get a chance, I'd recommend you watch the State Juniors Championships. This tournament will be held in August at the Redwood Center. The best up and coming players of Utah will be competing in age divisions from six and under to eighteen and under. Check it out and I'll see you on the courts.



Jessie Van Valkenburg, Kyle Walsh (Photo by Randy Martin)

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Mark Your Calendar

August 22-24
State Juniors Championships
 Redwood Multipurpose Center

September 12-15
Fall Opener
 Sports Mall

September 24-28
Jordan Valley Wipeout
 Jordan Valley

October 8-12
Fall Blast
 Sports Forum

October 16-19
Huntsman World Senior Games
 Desert Palms

October 22-26
Swing into Fall
 Redwood Multipurpose Center

November 5-9
State Doubles Championships
 Marv Jenson

November 12-16
Bountiful Bash
 Bountiful Recreation Center

November 19-23
Mullett Hoover Open
 Orem Fitness Center



Off The Wall

August, 2002

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Deadlines for submission of all display advertising, stories and letters are listed below. All advertising must be prepaid. Call for rates and ad specifications.

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URA board meetings are held the second Monday of most months at 7 p.m. at the Redwood Recreation Center and are open to anyone interested in attending. Call if you would like something placed on the agenda.

Check out what's new with racquetball on the web at www.utahracquetball.com

JUNIOR NATIONALS

Penn

By Don Sanderson

John Sanderson from Park City came back to Utah wearing a silver medal he won in the boys 'twelve and under' division, a draw of 32 entrants that yielded a basket of bizarre twists and surprise upsets. John, seeded fourth overall, survived a challenging first round match against the hometown favorite and Illinois champion Justin Fleck, 15-9, 15-13. A relatively easy match the next day advanced him to the quarterfinals. There John had anticipated meeting the number five seed and perennial rival, Jake Bredenbeck from Minneapolis. However, Jake himself had been upset the round earlier in a tie-breaker by a relative unknown from Ohio, Danny Lavelly. John soon found out for himself why, as he quickly fell behind 2-13 in his first game against Lavelly in no small part due to Lavelly's very effective jam serve and commanding third shot kill. Turning the tide, John elicited an unbroken string of weak returns by switching from drive serves to lob 'Z's to the forehand yielding his own 14-2 run of points leading into the second game. Final score: 7-15, 15-7, 11-4.

The semi-finals should have been the roadblock for Sanderson, where he was to have met the reigning world champion and phenom, Jose Rojas from Stockton, California (also seeded an unprecedented second in the boys '14 and under' division with three more years of eligibility out to 2005!). However,

Rojas had to withdraw from the tournament prior to the quarter-finals due to health concerns, leaving the top half of the draw wide open. Enjoying near perfect percentages with laser-like down-the-line backhand rifle shots at every opportunity, John advanced to the finals by defeating Harrison Stocum from Sarasota, Florida 15-11, 15-7.

The other semi-final featured the number two seed, Ismael Aldana vs. the dark horse Cinderella story from Indianapolis, lefty Sean McGrath. Earlier McGrath had upset the number three seed and former doubles partner in the round of 16 in his stunning first time ever (even in practice) win against Jonathan Doyle from Cincinnati. Proving it had been no fluke and that there was a new 'gun' in town, McGrath marched on through the draw to take an eyebrow-raising 15 points from the "800 pound Gorilla" Aldana in his semi-final.

Sanderson (still 11) vs. Aldana (13 and a half) in the finals looked like David vs. Goliath. 'David' managed just 4 points overall as his many hard won side-outs often proved ultimately fruitless against Aldana's strong return of serve and devastating precision with feet set.

With the 'older half' moving up to 14's next year and a host of 'young Turks' poised to make their mark, next year's draw in this age group holds the promise of matching or exceeding this year for drama and upsets galore.

Racquetball Pro Position

Racquetball Programming/Teaching Pro position available at the Sports Mall. Pro will run leagues, continue player development, and run tournaments. Please send resumes to Rick Strout at the following address:



Rick Strout
Metro Sports Club
36 S. State Street
Suite 109
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
801-364-8803
rcstrout@bigplanet.com



CHARITY RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

Penn

By Heather Verret

This year the URA and Marv Jenson Fitness and Recreation Center have teamed up for charity and are asking you to join us. The Christmas Spirit Racquetball Tournament will make its debut for the benefits of the Christmas Store.

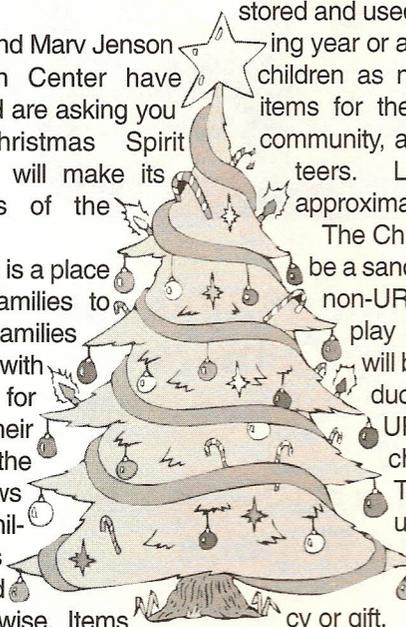
The Christmas Store is a place for foster and shelter families to shop for gifts at no cost. Families are given points to shop with for gifts. Gifts are bought for both the children and their birth parents/family (from the children). The store allows many foster and shelter children to shop and give gifts to their families that would not be able to do so otherwise. Items

left at the end of the Christmas season are stored and used to open the store the following year or are used for shelter and foster children as needed during the year. All items for the store are donated by the community, and the store is run by volunteers. Last year the store served approximately 750 children.

The Christmas Spirit Tournament will be a sanctioned tournament, however, non-URA members are welcome to play as well. Bring a friend; this will be a great opportunity to introduce tournament play to non-URA players while benefiting a charity at the same time. Tournament fees are currently undetermined but will allow you the option of paying with North American currency or gift.

What, you say you are too busy and crazy during the Christmas season? For that reason the tournament will follow a round-robin format December 18th – 21st. Still no time to play? That's okay, you can still make donations in the form of cash or gift at the Master's Tournament and State Doubles Tournament. As for the crazy part of your life, ever thought you'd play Santa on the court? We are currently searching for this mad old man on vacation. If you know where we can find him please let us know. We hope to see him on the courts with all of us.

Merry Christmas



KNOW THE RULES

Penn

By Gene Rolfe, URA Treasurer



Another racquetball season is around the corner. I hope that you are as excited as I am.

It's always interesting to see who has improved and to see who shows up to play that hasn't been around before. There are even a few old friends who reappear after being gone for a while. As a tournament director, it is always a challenge to keep matches on time and moving along so that people feel that they don't have to wait forever for their matches. Every year there are new players to the world of tournaments and one of the most frequent asked questions is about timeouts. If used appropriately, they can change the tempo of an entire match. Especially for those of us who are out of shape and gasping for air. Following is a quick summary of the rules regarding timeouts.

Rest Periods. Each player or team is allowed up to 3 timeouts in games to 15 and 2 timeouts in games to 11. Timeouts during the match are limited to 30 seconds. If a player or team call a time out when they have none or take more than 30

seconds in a time out, a technical foul should be assessed. (Reminder: A technical foul results in 1 point being deducted from the score. If no points have been earned the score can be -1.)

Injury. An injury timeout can be awarded if the injury occurred during the match as a result of contact with the ball, racquet, wall, or floor. Preexisting injuries, muscle cramps or pulls, and fatigue are not counted as an injury. A player may call time out for the original or additional injuries during the match for a total of 15 minutes. If a player can not resume the match after 15 minutes, the opponent will be awarded the match. For example, a player is hit with a racquet and is bleeding. The match is stopped at the end of the rally and let's pretend that it takes 6 minutes to stop the bleeding. In the second game he steps in the corner and sprains his ankle. He goes to his trusty tournament bag and pulls out an ankle brace taking 6 more minutes. If the player has another injury or the bleeding or ankle sprain needs further treatment, the player has 3 minutes for the necessary treatment. If more time is taken, the player should forfeit the match to their opponent.

Equipment timeouts. If a player or team is out of timeouts, and the referee determines that an equipment change or adjustment is necessary for fair and safe continuation of the match, the referee may grant an equipment timeout not to exceed 2 minutes.

Between games. A final reminder to help move games along in a tournament. The rest period between the first and second game is 2 minutes. This includes hitting balls, getting drinks, going to the bathroom, talking to a coach, etc. The rest period between the second and third game is limited to 5 minutes. At the end of the rest periods, both players should be on the court and ready to play.

Have a great racquetball season. As always, if you have any questions or comments please contact me at the tournaments or email me. rgrolfe@hotmail.com