

# OFF THE WALL

## OPENING SHOTS

By Enrico Dubach, URA President



I can't believe Christmas is here. Between traveling league and tournaments, I've been playing a lot of racquetball this fall. Starting with the Fall Opener at the Sports Mall in September through the Bountiful Bash in November, I played in six tournaments! And I have to say that I had a great time at all of them. I probably lost as many matches as I won, but I've learned not to measure the experience by the result of the match. It's far more rewarding (and a lot less frustrating) to just enjoy the fun of the game while getting a great workout. Even with the cost of tournaments rising, they are still a great value when you consider the playing time, hospitality, souvenirs and prizes. The tournament directors do a great job, many times with limited resources. I would like to thank them all for the effort and time they spend helping racquetball stay healthy and vibrant in Utah.



Barbra Christensen & Sandi Gunn @ Bountiful Bash

As of this writing, I just finished playing in the Charity Tournament at Marv Jenson. The format was pretty basic--show up with \$25 or a comparable toy, play a lot of fun racquetball and get a couple of balls if you win. All proceeds went to the Christmas Box House in Salt Lake. It was a lot of fun and we raised almost \$900 in cash and toys. The URA supplied the balls and most of the hospitality. Heather Verret and Marv Jenson donated the facility, some hospitality and did all the planning and promotion. I would like to thank all the players who supported this tournament. Everybody had a good time and got a good workout while supporting a good cause. Talk about a win-win situation.

The State Doubles Championships in

November was a great success. Thanks to Heather Verret and the staff at Marv Jenson for hosting this event once again. The awards ceremony and raffle were a lot of fun. There were tons of prizes and almost everyone won something. I would also like to thank Pam and Randy Martin for all their help with the tournament.

At our September Board Meeting, we decided to authorize the purchase of a laptop computer. This computer will be used to keep membership information as well as collect and disburse tournament results. Hard copy newsletters are slow and expensive to mail out. We will continue to mail a periodic newsletter, but timely information such as tournament results and entry forms will be e-mailed or posted on the

Web site. This will be a gradual process over the next few years, but the first step was getting a laptop that we can take directly to tournaments to gather results. We believe it will save money in the long run as well as provide a better service to the tournament directors and players. I would like to thank Board member Steven Clark for all the time and research he has spent on this. He is the Webmaster for the URA and also donates the disk space for our web-site. Check it out at [www.utahracquetball.com](http://www.utahracquetball.com). We are building on the site so we can take advantage of all the communication tools the Internet offers. Let us know if you have any suggestions or ideas on improvements for the site.

It looks like the 2003 State Singles Championships will be held at the Sports Mall again this year. Ray Griffiths will be the tournament director this year and is committed to making this the best tournament of the year. The URA Board is eager to help, so mark your calendars, because you don't want to miss this one.

Marianne Walsh has worked hard getting the high school league started this year. I know she can use all the help she can get. There are a lot of kids who would like to play. All they need is a coach or parent to bring them out. Reasonably priced court time has been hard to get for the league as well. Please contact her if you can help in any way.

Ruth McGovern has done an excellent job getting the Traveling League off to a great start. The second half of the season starts now in this always-competitive league. Between hosting several tournaments a year, organizing the Traveling League and the summer juniors program, Ruth contributes an incredible amount to Utah Racquetball. Please join me in thanking her the next time you see her.

There are a lot of tournaments scheduled the first part of the year, so work off those holiday pounds and get in shape for State Singles. See you on the courts.

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## Mark Your Calendar

- Orem Open: Jan 29-feb 1
- Valentines Day Massacre: Feb 11-15
- Choice Hotels US Open Championships  
Friday Feb 14 Noon MST
- Spring Smash: Feb 25-March 1
- Luck of the Heights: March 11-15
- State Singles Champ: March 25-29
- Spring Blast: April 17-20





By Don Sanderson

I've been meaning to write this piece for over a year. Honest. But the truth is also that had I spent fewer afternoons on the court and more at the computer a LOT of benefits might have ensued. (Right after this I swear I'm gonna finish up that '99 TurboTax interview menu and finally get those IRS weenies off my back.) But one of the fundamental laws of MY universe remains that a day not spent playing racquetball is a day you never get back. So after this period of dithering, the shot that was once my infatuation 'de jour' has been displaced into the growing category of comfortable old favorites, replaced by a sequence of whirlwind romances with various sweet young things of somebody else's that I coveted and seized as my own. In the spirit of foreshadowing, I do promise that by the end of this discussion I will get to an actual 'new favorite shot' of mine, but that's not really most of the story. Mostly this is about the process, about acquiring a well-rounded, fairly complete tool kit of choices to bring to bear on your opponent's game in order to neutralize his strengths and frustrate him with yours. I'm not talking strategy here, no broad game plans about how to prevail; e.g. "He's fat, so I'm gonna run'em all over the court until his lungs explode and his otherwise superior shot making skills betray him in favor of getting his heart back in his chest." Such overarching game plans probably have their place in a winning game plan, maybe, but the way I see it, where the rubber meets the road in racquetball is the shot selection and an effective execution of that choice. Period. You can talk about the forest all you want, but without the individual trees there isn't one. Straining the metaphor further, one school of household budgeting says that if you watch your pennies, the dollars take care of themselves. Similarly, I assert that if you've got the right shot, pie in the sky strategy be damned.

So let's get to that new favorite shot. Those of you who have played against me and know my game may be (too) familiar with my longtime fling with the squash boast. Usually, but not necessarily shot from deep court, this sidewall-sidewall-kiss the front wall demon can devastate certain opponents, especially those who blithely face forward earlier than the shooter commits to a shot choice. Tastier as a spice than as a main dish, this gem punishes those who linger in the back court to cover a seemingly inevitable pass attempt when you're against the sidewall with no angle for a pinch and the ball

hasn't dropped into the kill zone before reaching the back wall. Done even reasonably well, this shot can leave some opponents flatfooted and even confused about what just happened. And here's the a hidden beauty to this shot-- even if a savvy opponent is both on to your silly tricks and nimble enough to cover the shot, once you establish your willingness and ability to execute a choice that may die in the front corner, your passing shots suddenly "improve." I had one tough match recently in which I was 'oh-for-five' on the boast attempts, exactly NONE ending in either a point or a side out in my favor. Why stick with such a low percentage loser in a match where every point is crucial? Because for every 'ineffective' boast attempt came for me about a 4:1 ratio of clean passes. Coincidence? Though it can take a withering, crazed dash to retrieve a decent boast, I believe that the predictable toll that takes on an opponent's subsequent friskiness can be given only minority credit for that half step 'slower' that he becomes while chasing down your passes as a result of generous second game or tie-breaker boast usage. More likely, once he's come to rightly respect your potential for ANY tight front court shot from deep; be it pinch, splat or said boast, he fails to position himself more forward at his eventual peril. The farther and more frequently he is positioned forward, the more primary and punishing your pass attempts should be with the angles opening up in your favor as a result. He's no slower and you're no better, but if you can credibly 'demand' respect for your shots that die front court, your passing shots can be like 'going to the well' for a bucket of points whenever you need. In short, while it's detractors disparage the boast as junk' and dismiss it as a wacky low percentage trick shot, I choose to see the beauty of the boast as one of those specialty tools in the kit that can act as a real force multiplier to complement the more conventional weapons in one's arsenal. It takes practice, but the rewards justify your efforts to try to perfect this shot.

Of course, as I implied, that has become one of my old favorite shots (I'm developing a collection of those), but still not quite the title of this article. They were all new to me, once, and I may have overused them all in the early courtship phase to the degree where even my most unobservant opponents could confidently pre-position themselves where they knew my new passion would dictate they be for the kill. But the more of these shots that migrate from 'new' to 'comfortably old,' --available to be used

at a moment's notice but happily enough held in reserve in deference to a better choice-- the more synergy permeates one's game. When your opponent sends you a good lob serve or ceiling shot to the back-hand corner and he has ruefully witnessed a spectrum of good responses- be it the 'gold standard' down the line rip, the cross-court pass, wide angle pass, tight pinch, surgically offensive ceiling return and yes, perhaps even a boast or two . . . what does he know about where to expect this return? Not much! He either tries to read your footwork for clues, guesses or waits a crucial half step to see for sure. But he's less likely to be camped out waiting to tee off on your return. Contrast that with your plight if you've yet to demonstrate confidence with anything other than a sprayed array of sidewall-frontwall fare. Your most sloth-like, arthritic and dull-witted of adversaries will soon have the match of his life at your expense twiddling his thumbs with time to spare in that small zone center-court forward where the smart money screams your shot will end up. The more reliable choices you have at your fingertips as a result of past flirtations with new favorite shots, the more muttering you'll hear as your opponent walks back to return serve. (That's a good thing).

Which bring me to what has become my renewed passion of late for a shot that's been there the whole time; the reverse pinch. This tight front wall-side wall semi-staple is a great candidate when your opponent lags back to cover the pass. For many players I suspect that this shot is just what results when a pinch attempt is off by a degree or two. But I suggest that this should be your objective more of the time and the 'pinch classic' should be the acceptable happy accident when it happens. How come? For one thing, the reverse pinch is what I call 'Ref Proof.' If you roll out a pinch or even come close, often



# STATE JUNIORS CHAMPIONSHIPS REDWOOD CENTER

	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Boys 18-	Richard Terry	Steven McGovern	Arian Pirayesh	Greg Larsen
Boys 16- GOLD	Richard Terry	Anthony Martin	Andrew Gale	Kim Walsh
Boys 16- BLUE	Cody Sylvester	Arian Pirayesh	Alan Romney	Brad Gibson
Boys 14- GOLD	Andrew Gale	Anthony Martin	Korey Walsh	Cody Sylvester
Boys 14- BLUE	Devan VanValkenburg	Anthony Norcross	Mike Christiansen	
Boys 12-	Korey Walsh	Devan VanValkenburg	Rick Derrick	Jason Christensen
Boys 10-12	Jason Christensen	Tyler Watson	Kyle Walsh	Matt Siegel
Boys 6-8 multi	Jesse VanValkenberg	Tyler Watson	Kyle Walsh	Gregory Shipman

**Team Results**      **1st** Marv Jenson--Randy Martin coach      **2nd** Redwood--Karen Knudsen coach  
**3rd** SportsMall--Marianne Walsh coach

We want to give a special thanks to Wilson for donating prizes--especially racquets for our door prizes.

Big winners receiving Wilson 155 Roller Racquets:

Anthony Norcross      Jesse Van Valkenburg      Jason Christensen

# FALL OPENER SPORTS MALL SEPT 12-15

	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Men's Open	Adam Anderson	Brian Pointelin	Rhonda Rajsich *	Dave Timmons
Men's A	Ken Huey	Mike Van Valkenburg		
Men's B				
Men's C	Jason Shaw	Harry Rosada		
Men's D	Brad Gibson	DJ Christensen		
Men's 30+	Brian Pointelin			
Men's 35+	Phil Burbank			
Men's 40+	Jim Derrickson			
Men's 45+	Marcus Dunyon	Randy Krantz		
Men's 50+	Randy Spencer*	Larry Linn		
Men's Open Dbl	Pointelin/Rajsich*	Timmons/		
Mens A Dbl	Lopez/Dunyon	Connor/		
Women's A	Jennifer Lynch (out of state)			

# JORDAN VALLEY WIPEOUT SEPT 24-28

	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Men's Open:	Steve Black	Adam Anderson	Ray Griffiths	Jerry Montanez
Men's A:	Perry Allen	Bill Yetman	Gene Rolfe	La Chau
Men's B:	Richard Bunker	Ryan Spainhower	Not a member	Mills Batman
Men's C:	Anthony Martin	David Cise	Not a member	Steve Brumbaugh
Men's D:	Cody Sylvester	Anthony Montanez		
Men's 35+:	Not a member	Jay Sturm		
Men's 40-45:	Ray Griffiths	Rico Dubach		
Men's 45-50:	Marcus Dunyon	Not a member		
Men's 50-60:	Not a member	Not a member	Dan Rideout	Larry Rogers
Men's 60+:	Chris Segura			
Women's D:	Pam Martin			
Women's B:	Janis Gibson	Barbara Christensen	Marci Mangelson	Melanie Hansen
Women's A:	Janette Olsen	Kim Walsh	Barbara Christensen	Deanne Hinton



# FALL BLAST SPORTS FORUM OCT 8-12



	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<b>Men's Open:</b>	Brad Bona	Gerry Beltran	Don Sanderson	Ray Griffiths
<b>Men's A:</b>	Julian Gomez	Tony Garcia	Brad Brumbaugh	Lee Norseth
<b>Men's B:</b>	K.C. Tubbs	Lee Norseth	J. Strum	Mills Batman
<b>Men's C:</b>	Dan Robison	John Benich	Bob Johnston	James Longmore
<b>Men's D:</b>	James Longmore	Not a member	Bob Gargeeg	
<b>Men's 35+:</b>	Jonathan Meatoga	J. Strum		
<b>Men's 40+:</b>	Rico Dubach	Tony Garcia		
<b>Men's 50+:</b>	Not a member	Scott Brewster		
<b>Men's 55+:</b>	Not a member			
<b>Men's 60+:</b>	Chris Segura	Hal Labelle		
<b>Women's B:</b>	Barb Christensen	Ann Henry	Melanie Hansen	Not a member
<b>Women's D:</b>	Cindy Brueger	Pam Martin		
<b>Women's 45+:</b>	Val Shewfelt			
<b>Open Doubles</b>	R. Hoey/L. Norseth	M. Christensen/J. Lynch	C. Johnson/B. Brumbaugh	G. Beltran/T. Garcia
<b>B Doubles</b>	M. Batman/J. Strum	R. Johnston/B. Johnston	B. Christensen/not a member	

# HUNTSMAN WORLD SENIOR GAMES OCT 16-19



	First	Second	Third
<b>Women 50+</b>	Cathy Powell	Jane Bentley	Diane Wittwer
<b>Women 55+</b>	Lani Neer	Patricia Davidson	
<b>Women 60+</b>	Donna Backus	Marquita Molina	Gloria Piscoran
<b>Women 65+</b>	Carol Brown	Jeanne Lehen	
<b>Women 70+</b>	Reta Harring		
<b>Women 75+</b>	Mary Wysocki-Schwartz		
<b>Men 50+</b>	Steve Misener	Dave Briski	Carl Cody
<b>Men 55+</b>	Bill Welaj	Mike Schaefer	Dennis O'Brien
<b>Men 60+</b>	Lynn Corbridge	Leland Rients	Tom Nystrom
<b>Men 65+</b>	Jerry Northwood	Bob McNabb	Ron Dorst
<b>Men 70+</b>	Sean Reid	Roy Wheller	Jerry Webb
<b>Men 75+</b>	Army Matern	Bill Gencarella	Don Stinson
<b>Men 80+</b>	Stuart Strand	Keith Wardell	Gless Otterson
<b>Men 85+</b>	Luzelle Wilde	Walter Gardner	
<b>Men 50+ Doubles</b>	Dennis O'Brien/Roger Bird	Steve Misener/Lynn Corbridge	Carl Cody/Brandt Bower
<b>Men 55+ Doubles</b>	Mike Schaefer/Dan Takahashi	Doug Maxson/Bill Stephens	Larry Hambleton/Jay Heilman
<b>Men 60+ Doubles</b>	Robert McNabb/Al DeCoste	Paul Wehmeyer/Steven Lavorgna	Tom Nystrom/Chris Segura
<b>Men 65+ Doubles</b>	Ron Dorst/Jerry Northwood	Dan Arens/Army Matern	Bob Warren/John McCann
<b>Men 70+ Doubles</b>	Jerry Webb/Don Stinson	Don Henderson/Verlyn Dunn	John Cruickshank/Roy Wheeler
<b>Men 75+ Doubles</b>	Bill Gencarella/Stuart Strand	Jack McAfee/Wayne Verbeck	
<b>Men 80+ Doubles</b>	Glenn Otterson/Keith Wardell		
<b>Men 85+ Doubles</b>	Walter Gardner/Luzelle Wilde		
<b>Women 50+ Doubles</b>	Cathy Powell/Lani Neer	Jane Bentley/Diane Wittwer	
<b>Women 60+ Doubles</b>	Marquita Molina/Nancy Martin	Joy DeSantis/Sylvia Sawyer	Carol Taylor/Gloria Piscoran
<b>Women 70+ Doubles</b>	Reta Harring/Mary Wysocki-Schwartz		



# SWING INTO FALL REDWOOD CENTER OCT 22-26

*Penn*

	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>
<b>Men's Open:</b>	Gerry Beltran	Randy Martin	Tomas Montanez	Mat Christensen
<b>Men's A:</b>	Eric Fry	Jon Meatoga	Richard Terry	Julian Gomez
<b>Men's B:</b>	K.C. Tubbs	Rob Merrills	J. Strum	Parley Norseth
<b>Men's C:</b>	Mike Sumner	Keither Despain	Steve Brumbaugh	Jeremy King
<b>Men's D:</b>	Cody Sylvester	David Bowy	Pat Woodall	Bev Klungervik
<b>Boys 18-:</b>	Richard Terry			
<b>Boys 16-:</b>	Anthony Martin			
<b>Boys 14-:</b>	Cody Sylvester	Anthony Montanez		
<b>Women's A:</b>	Kim Walsh	DeAnn Hinton	Barbara Christensen	Allyson Williams
<b>Women's B:</b>	Pat Woodall	Melanie Hansen	Bev Klungervik	
<b>Women's D:</b>	Valla LaBoa	Katherine Affelteranger		
<b>Women's 45+:</b>	Val Shewfelt			
<b>Girls 16-:</b>	Kim Walsh	Katherine Affelteranger		

# STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS MARV JENSEN NOV 5-9

*Penn*

	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Cons</b>
<b>Men's Open:</b>	Anderson/Passey	Timmons/Bona	Corbridge/Corbridge	Dunyon/Christensen
<b>Men's A:</b>	Snyder/Snyder	Connor/Barber	Rubin/Merrills	Monk/Ballard
<b>Men's B:</b>	Ashdown/Decker	Millburn/Thompson	King/Richards	VanValkenburgs
<b>Men's C:</b>	Snellman/Wood	Brumbaugh/Sumner	Montanez/Montanez	Martin/Sylvester
<b>Women's Open:</b>	Walsh/Walsh	Linn/Walsh		
<b>Women's A:</b>	Shewfelt/Olsen	Sawyer/Desantis		
<b>Women's B:</b>	Mangelson/Sanchez	Hinton/Laboa	Christensen/Williams	
<b>Women's C:</b>	Gibson/Martin			
<b>Men's 24-40:</b>	Corbridge/Timmons	Dunyan/Martin	Rubin/Merrills	Snyder/Snyder
<b>Men's 40+:</b>	Bona/O'Brian	Griffith/Ethington	Lopez/Krantz	Aitken/Dubach
<b>Mixed Open:</b>	Dunyan/Walsh	Connor/Linn	Harris/Fisher	Brumbaugh/Mandy M
<b>Mixed A/B:</b>	Hinton/Allen	VanVaulkenburg/DeSantis	Christensen/Hoopes	Sawyer/Flick





## BOUNTIFUL BASH NOV 12-16

*Penn*

	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
<b>Women's A:</b>	Barb Christensen	Kim Walsh	Alyson Williams
<b>Women's B:</b>	Sarah Campbell	Melanie Hansen	Susan Miller
<b>Women's 50+:</b>	Sandi Gunn		
<b>Men's Open:</b>	John Miller	Paul Buchi	Ray Griffiths
<b>Men's A:</b>	Eric Fry	Jonathan Meatoga	Gene Rolfe
<b>Men's B:</b>	Andrew Gale	Mike Hadley	Cody Christensen
<b>Men's C:</b>	Mike Andrew	Mike Sumner	Paul Bennett
<b>Men's D:</b>	Devan Van Valkenberg	Kevin Day	Kyle Peterson
<b>Men's 19+:</b>	Cody Christensen	Tim Gottfredson	
<b>Men's 35+:</b>	Paul Buchi	Chris Gale	
<b>Men's 40+:</b>	Ray Griffiths	John Miller	Enrico Dubach
<b>Men's 45+:</b>	Steve Coray	Marcus Dunyon	
<b>Men's 50+:</b>	Larry Allred	Scott Brewster	Jack Healy
<b>Men's 60+:</b>	Chris Segura		
<b>Boys 14-:</b>	Andrew Gale		

## MULLETT HOOVER OPEN OREM FITNESS CENTER NOV 19-23

*Penn*

	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
<b>Men's Open:</b>	Adam Anderson	Travis Passey	Matt Christensen
<b>Men's A:</b>	Alan Jorgensen	Bill Yetman	Shawn Pike
<b>Men's B:</b>	Matt Orton	Richard Bunker	John Johnson
<b>Men's C:</b>	Dave Barton	Darryl Hoopes	Tim Whipple
<b>Men's 40+:</b>	Ray Griffiths		
<b>Men's 45+:</b>	Ron Davis		
<b>Men's 50+:</b>	Dennis Fisher	Phil Brown	
<b>Men's 55+:</b>	Ben Evans		
<b>Men's A/B Doubles:</b>	Mike King/Nat McArthur	Matt Orton/John Johnson	Bill Yetman/Shawn Pike
<b>Women's Open:</b>	Masa Fonoimoana	Laura Hassler	Lani Neer
<b>Women's A:</b>	Taynya Woodbury	Darla Wenger	Eileen Sanchez
<b>Women's B:</b>	Melanie Hansen	Kensie Brown	Audry Thompson
<b>Women's C:</b>	Jordanna Bailey	Amy DeRoest	Amanda Shipley
<b>Women's D:</b>	Jordanna Bailey	Marisaul Sueldo	
<b>Women's 45+:</b>	Val Shewfelt		
<b>Women's 60+:</b>	Sylvia Sawyer		
<b>Women's Doubles:</b>	Kensie Brown/Amanda Shipley	Lori Pack/Amy DeRoest	
<b>Mixed Doubles:</b>	Sylvia Sawyer/Roger Flick	Janette Olsen/Val Shewfelt	Alan Jorgensen/Jordanna Bailey

## ROCKY MTN MASTERS REDWOOD CENTER DEC 5-7/12-14

*Penn*

	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
<b>Men's 25+ Open/A:</b>	Don Sanderson	Julian Gomez	Brad Brumbaugh
<b>Men's 30+ Open/A:</b>	Don Sanderson	Glen Aitken	Ray Griffiths
<b>Men's 30+ B/C:</b>	Steven Hayward	Rob Merrills	Clark Davis
<b>Men's 35+ Open/A:</b>	Don Sanderson	Chris Gale	Randy Martin
<b>Men's 35+ B/C:</b>	Steven Hayward	Mike Moore	David Barton
<b>Men's 40+:</b>	Don Sanderson	Jack Suenram	Ray Griffiths
<b>Men's 45+:</b>	Glen Aitken	Doug Douville	Ken Fenster
<b>Men's 50-60:</b>	Alan Jorgensen	Perry Allen	Doug Douville
<b>Women:</b>	Julie Taylor	Barbara Christensen	Pat Woodall
<b>Men's 25-30 Open/A Dbl:</b>	Ray Griffiths/Randy Martin	Marcus Dunyon/Glen Aitken	J Sturm/Mike Van Valkenburg
<b>Men's 25-30 B/C Dbl</b>	Steven Hayward/Michael Andrew	Julie Taylor/Val Shewfelt	Barbara Christensen/Milanie Hansen
<b>Men's 35-45 Dbl:</b>	Alan Jorgensen/Merlin Jolley	Jack Suenram/Greg Bowden	Marcus Dunyon/Glen Aitken



**Gary Mazaroff, Director  
AmPRO/IPRO Certification Programs**

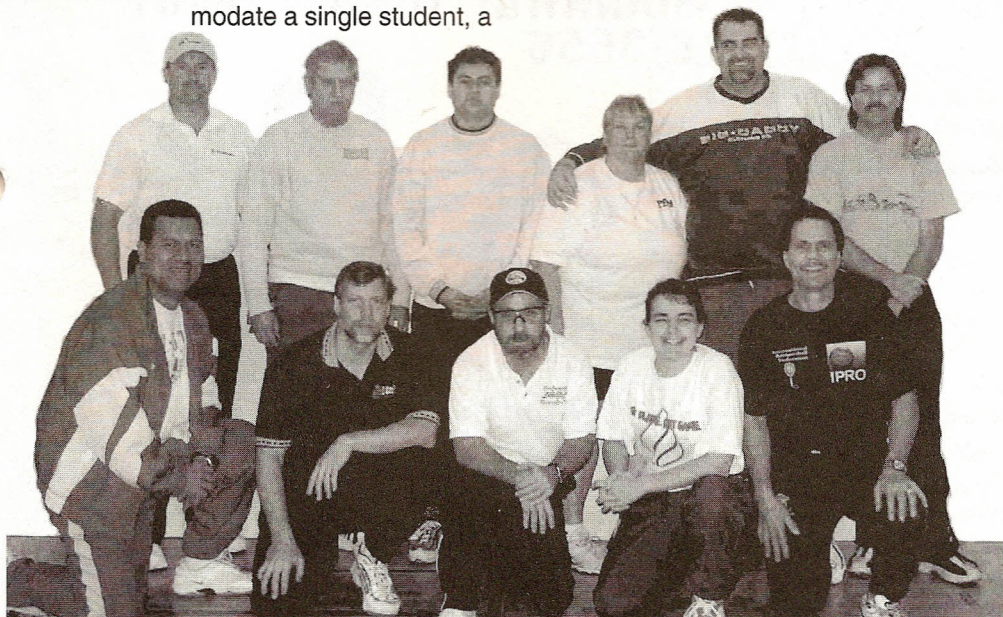
On December 2nd and 3rd, 2002, the Utah Valley State College recreation complex in Orem, Utah hosted an AmPRO Instructor Certification Course. Ten students attended, seven for the first time. Three, Janette Olsen, Val Shewfelt, and Joel Tuailava, returned for some new insights and strong interaction with friends and colleagues.

Each student went through a battery of hitting and set-up skills; demonstrated various shots and serves, and had multiple opportunities to present various practice drills. These drills cut across many skill and age categories. One of the most enjoyable learning experiences was having them improvise on the spot to accommodate a single student, a

pair, or a large group on the court simultaneously.

This group, which also included first timers Steven Clark, Julian Gomez, Ray Griffiths, Alan Jorgensen, Randy Martin, Shawn Pike, and Mike Van Valkenburg, was one the more homogeneous groups I have encountered. This reality is exciting, considering the hundreds of courses I have conducted during the past twelve years. Each of the students was adamant about their desire to learn, promote the sport, and grow within the niche that they have identified within racquetball. These niches include junior development, intercollegiate growth, intramural and club sport awareness, women, and more!

The intent is to return next year at the same time.



Mike VanValkenburg, Alan Jorgensen, Julian Gomez Val Shewfelt, Shawn Pike, Randy Martin, Joel Tuailava, Steven Clark, Ray Griffiths, Janette Olsen, Gary Mazaroff

**MY NEW FAVORITE SHOT CONTINUED:**

somebody thinks a shot THAT unreturnable just MUST have skipped! Maybe the sound of the ball catching a thin piece of the sidewall fools some knaves into thinking that the noise came from the floor first. Or maybe the motives for so many bad calls on tight pinches are less honorable. Perhaps it's out of some warped subconscious belief imported from Cheaterville that if the pinch wasn't conceivably returnable then perhaps it would only be 'right and just' that the shot be called a skip, just to be fair to oneself. I don't know why, but it happens too often and I'm not a big fan of the "it all evens out in the end" theory of accommodating lousy refs and their

accomplices, i.e. your suddenly unobservant "I didn't see it" opponent. (If you "didn't see it, then why are you taking the disputed call!)

But I digress  
Try instead for the REVERSE pinch and have it just as likely (as a pinch 'classic') crack out from the side wall and NOBODY, not even the most highly motivated of shameless cheaters can call it a skip. Plus, inch for inch off the floor at the front wall I think the reverse pinch is usually a less retrievable shot.

Being harder to chase down and ref-proof ta'boot, the reverse pinch has enjoyed a resurgence as one of my newest favorite shots.

Yes . . . she's a sweetheart . . . but not THE

newest . . .

Oh Look! I've beaten around the bush so much building up to my new favorite shot that I've run out of space. It's miserly Randy's fault! I suppose I'll just call this the first part of a multi-part article and do the subject proper justice in the continuation next issue.

**Off The Wall**

January, 2003

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Contributions may be e-mailed to the Editor at: randymg@networld.com.

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

May 2003 issue . . . . .April 20, 2003

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](http://www.utahracquetball.com)

