

OFF THE WALL

OPENING SHOTS



By Randy Martin
URA President

Another season has come and gone and now I find myself writing on the front page of the newsletter. Who would have thought that a guy from a small town in Idaho could become the President of the Utah Racquetball Association, certainly not I? All this started a few years ago when a man named Rico Dubach asked me if I could work on the newsletter. I didn't know much of anything about the URA, other than I paid some money once a year so I could play some Tournaments. It sounded like fun and who can get enough racquetball anyway. That was the second "I do" I said that year, and both have worked out better than I could have dreamed. As many of you know my wife Pam and I have a new little girl named JoEll, and two boys, Anthony 16, and Cody 14. Most days you can find at least one of us on the courts.

Another great State Singles Championships was held at the Sports Mall, bringing in the best players from all over the state. The matches started on Wednesday and finished up on Saturday with Brian Pointelin winning his third consecutive state title. Thanks again to Ray Griffiths, his family, and everyone else who made this tournament such a success. Ray didn't play in the tournament (much to my relief, he's been kicking my butt all year) so he could concentrate on everyone else's matches and making sure we all had a great time.

The annual General Membership Meeting followed the tournament. Marcus Dunyon was re-elected to the board, Jeanette Olsen and Ray Griffiths were elected to fill the other

two positions. One of the positions made available was from Rico Dubach, your previous president. Thanks to his tireless work on the board, he helped make the URA what it is today. I would also like to thank Midvale Mining for providing all the food for the banquet, this was their third year doing this.

This years President's Award was given to Pam and I. This is an award we are very proud of and will cherish forever. The board selects the other year-end award based on membership input. This years winners are Anthony Martin for most improved male, Melanie Hansen for most improved female;

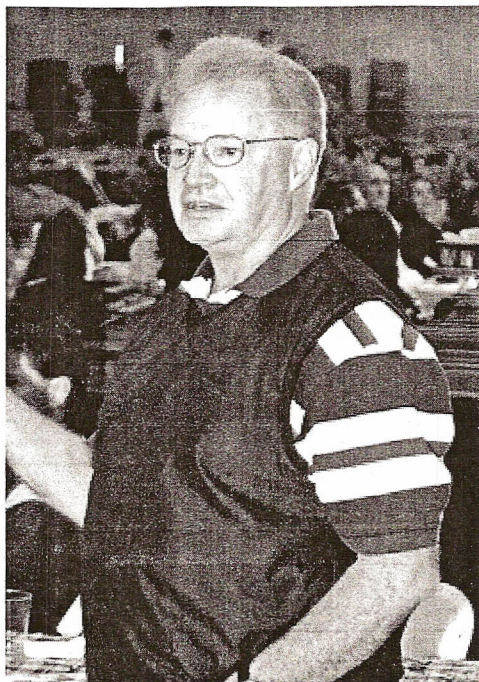


Photo by Steve Coray (Jon Clift)

Kim Walsh for most improved Junior, Jeanette Olsen for Sportsmanship, Mike Van Valkenburg for Referee, and Ray Griffiths for Tournament Director.

Jon Clift was inducted into the Utah Racquetball Hall of Fame. He joins Luzell Wilde, Ruth McGovern, Rick Strout and Howard Ringwood. He was

presented with this award at the banquet for his past and continuing contributions to Utah Racquetball.

On April 7th, the board met to elect officers and directors for the 2003-2004 season. I was elected as President and Marcus Dunyon will take over my responsibilities as Vice-President. Marcus has held this position in the past, and his experience will be an immeasurable asset to the board

and me. Mike Van Valkenburg will officially take over as Treasurer, and Pam Martin was re-elected as Secretary. Directorships were assigned to all Board Members depending on interest and past performance. We are always looking for more help, so if you have a interest in making Utah Racquetball great you can contact me or anyone on the board and I'm sure we can put you to work.

The annual Tournament Director's Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 28th at the Redwood Center. This is when we put together next year's tournament and traveling league schedule. We also discuss improvements and changes for next year. All members are encouraged to attend. The tournament directors would love your input and ideas. Next year's schedule will be printed and distributed with the August newsletter.

Congratulation to the BYU Racquetball team for winning the National Intercollegiate teams title, and to Kristen Walsh for winning the women's singles title.

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Mark Your Calendar

May 24
Junior Team Deadline
Redwood Multi-Purpose Center
(801) 974-6923

October 16-19
Huntsman World Senior Games
Desert Palms
(435) 627-4627

Off The Wall

May, 2003

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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.

August 2003 issue...July 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 or www.utahracquetball.org

THE CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE

Penn



By Pam Martin
URA Secretary

Now that the tournament season has wound down, we have time to focus on the junior season. May 24th is the deadline to get our young Sudsy's signed up for the Junior Travel League.

It seems the numbers of juniors has been dwindling over the last few years. At the risk of sounding like a true Utahan "We must replenish"! Just think maybe your pride and joy could be the one who with a little hard work and practice, could be the one to take the State Champion title from Brian! Ok maybe a lot of hard work.

Ruth McGovern has been running the Junior Travel Leagues for years and does a fantastic job! In case you're not familiar with the Junior Travel League let me explain it. Each club is allowed to have a team of children under 18; a club can have two teams if necessary. Each week the team travels to each club and plays another team. Ruth keeps track of all the wins and losses and at the end of the year, awards are given to the teams and players. Also as part of the entry fee the kids are given a one-year membership for the USRA and entry into the

Utah State Juniors Tournament. The tournament is held at the end of the League and finishes off with a great barbeque and pool party. Ruth does a wonderful job with it as well! Your kids will have a great time and the league will help them from turning into couch potatoes over the summer vacation. You can call Ruth McGovern if you have any questions or if you would like to help with run a team at your club. She can be reached at the Redwood Multi-purpose Center at (801)974-6923. The Board Members can also help just give us a call.

Don't forget May 24th! Get the kids playing now and teach them a sport that they will love and will keep them healthy for the rest of their lives.



NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Penn



By Jeanette Olsen

The 2003 31st US National Intercollegiate Championships were held April 2-6 on the Arizona State Campus in Phoenix Arizona. The state of Utah was well represented with four schools and over 35 players in attendance. That has to be a record of some kind. All four schools scored high enough to be in the top fifteen. Brigham Young University was able to regain the team title that was lost

in 1998. That makes a total of four National titles for BYU. BYU's women were able to defend their National title in a resounding manner by winning five of the six singles titles and two of the doubles titles. This makes eight National titles for the ladies in nine years. The men were able to take ninth.

The last Women's title was of course won by another Utah School. Kristin Walsh, playing for the University of Utah, was able to regain her title in a resounding fashion. She played the same girl that beat her in the finals last year. Kristin enjoyed some sweet revenge by winning 15-8, 15-0. (OUCH) Way to go Kristin!

Of course my personal bias is with the

up and coming Utah Valley State College team. This is the first year that UVSC has sent a women's team to the tournament. The ladies earned a respectable seventh place over all and the gentlemen ended up tenth. The combined team scored earned UVSC Second in Division II schools and eighth over all. The entire team played great.

The final team standings put BYU in first, UVSC in eighth, UofU tenth, and USU fourteenth. When all is said and done, all of the players from Utah played well, had great sportsmanship, and represented the great state in an excellent way. Nice Job all you Collegiate players!!!!!!!



By David Timmons

Your palms are sweaty...your heart is racing...you've even got cottonmouth—that's right—you've just been asked to referee!

You accept the offer with hesitation. What else can you do when the tournament director comes to you with pencil, scorecard, and a new green ball? It's time to bite the bullet. When you get to the court, not only are the players ready, but they also seem a little irritated because they have already warmed up and are waiting...for you! You get the match started and a couple points into the game you call the score and the receiver puts his racquet up as he wipes off his glasses. The server is getting ready to serve the ball, so you tell him to hold up. The receiver turns to you and starts lecturing you because you told the server to stop. What were you supposed to do?

A few points later, one of the players dives to retrieve the ball and the other player holds up to avoid hitting him with the ball. You call the rally a hinder and tell the players to play it again. The same player that was lecturing you before is now yelling at you, telling you what a lousy call that was and that it should have been an avoidable hinder. Now you are really starting to doubt yourself, and this player is really getting angry.

You call the score and get them started again. One of the players hits a shot and you call it good, but the other player thought it skipped. You thought it was good but aren't absolutely sure. Now you have both players yelling at you and telling you what a bad ref you are. Your mind is racing, and you are getting very nervous. You begin to doubt all of your calls and feel like you just want to quit.

The match has come down to the wire, but at least it's almost over. It's match point. The server is poised against the wall on the backhand side. He takes a couple steps toward center and serves the ball right back behind him. It is a low, hard drive serve that heads straight for the back corner, bouncing twice before it gets to the back wall. "Point and match," you say. The losing player starts swearing and yelling that it was a screen serve as he slams his racquet on the wall. Whew! It is finally over. You think to yourself that this match just confirmed why you hate to referee.

How many times has a situation like this happened to us as players

or referees? What could we have done differently as a referee and as a player to make things better for everyone? What does it take to be a good referee? Is an Open or A player a better referee than a B or C player?

As the referee... Let's look at some key factors that will make a difference in your refereeing skills no matter what level of player you are. First of all, you must have a good understanding of the rules. Being able to make a good call based on what you see and your understanding of the rules is very critical. If a call is in question, then explain to the players your understanding of the rule. If there is a disagreement with the definition of the rule, then consult the tournament director.

The second thing to keep in mind is if you are having trouble seeing the ball or are refereeing above your level of play, get some line judges. Make sure you understand how the players are to appeal a call and make sure the line judges understand how and when they are to make their call. This will take the pressure off of you.

In the above scenario (or any scenario for that matter), you should never let the players get out of control. If you have line judges and a player doesn't like your call, then it is his right to appeal the call. If you have a player that continues yelling or is abusive to you as the ref or to the line judges, then you can issue a technical warning. If that doesn't work, give them a technical. The key here is that as the referee you need to help control the play on the court. Poor sportsmanship is never justified. Be respectful and treat the players with the same common courtesy that you would want to be treated with.

As a player... if you get a bad call, take the time to ask the referee to explain the rule to you to make sure that everyone is on the same page. If the ref is still struggling with making good calls, then ask for line judges—don't wait until match point.

Another thing to keep in mind is honesty and sportsmanship. If the ref calls a shot good and you know that it skipped, then be a good enough sport to make the call yourself. If your opponent agrees to replay a rally for you after a questionable call, then do your best to return the favor when your opponent wants the same courtesy.

What you can do... Knowing the rules and making your calls with confidence will make you a better referee. Likewise, knowing the rules and being respectful of your referee and line judges will make you a better player.

Rules to know...

Rule 3.4 READINESS The service motion shall not begin until the referee has called the score or the second serve and the server has visually checked the receiver. The referee shall call the score as both server and receiver prepare to return to their respective positions, shortly after the previous rally has ended.

Rule 3.5 DELAYS Except as noted in Rule 3.5(B), the referee may call a technical foul for delays exceeding 10 seconds.

(a) The 10-second rule applies to the server and receiver simultaneously. Collectively, they are allowed up to 10 seconds after the score is called to serve or be ready to receive. It is the server's responsibility to look and be certain the receiver is ready. If a receiver is not ready,

they must signal by raising the racquet above the head or completely turning their back to the server. (These are the only two acceptable signals.)

(b) Serving while the receiving player/team is signaling "not ready" is a fault serve.

(c) After the score is called, if the server looks at the receiver and the receiver is not signaling "not ready," the server may then serve. If the receiver attempts to signal "not ready" after that point, the signal shall not be acknowledged and the serve becomes legal.

Rule 3.15 AVOIDABLE HINDERS

An avoidable hinder results in the loss of the rally. An avoidable hinder does not necessarily have to be an intentional act. Dead-ball hinders are described in Rule 3.14. Any of the following results in an avoidable hinder:

(a) Failure to Move. A player does not move sufficiently to allow an opponent a shot straight to the front wall as well as a cross-court shot which is a shot directly to the front wall at an angle that would cause the ball to rebound directly to the rear corner farthest from the player hitting the ball. Also when a player moves in such a direction that it prevents an opponent from taking either of these shots. *See rules book for other AVOIDABLE HINDERS

B.6 LINE JUDGES

(d) Duties and Responsibilities. Line judges are designated to help decide appeals. In the event of an appeal, and after a very brief explanation of the appeal by the referee, the line judges must indicate their opinion of the referee's call.

(e) Signals. Line judges should extend their arm and signal as follows:

(i) thumb up to show agreement with the referee's call,
o (ii) thumb down to show disagreement, and
(iii) hand open with palm facing down to indicate "no opinion" or that the play in question wasn't seen.

B.7 APPEALS

(b) How to Appeal. A verbal appeal by a player must be made directly to the referee immediately after the rally has ended. A player who believes there is an infraction to appeal, should bring it to the attention of the referee and line judges by raising the non-racquet hand at the time the perceived infraction occurs. The player is obligated to continue to play until the rally has ended or the referee stops play. The referee will recognize a player's appeal only if it is made before that player leaves the court for any reason, including timeouts and game-ending rallies or, if that player doesn't leave the court, before the next serve begins.

In conclusion, "The Call Stands..."

To sit down and read the rulebook would be a sure way to put yourself to sleep. But we will review several rules in the newsletter and have an online Level I Referee test on the URA Web site in the near future. If at anytime during a tournament or match you would like some "ref coaching" feel free to ask for David Timmons or any of the URA board members. If you have specific questions about any rules, please feel free to submit them to the newsletter staff.

VALENTINES DAY MASSACRE: FEB 11-15

Redwood Multipurpose Center

	First	Second	Third	Cons:
Men's Open:	Ray Griffiths	Sergio Rodriguez	Eric Carver	
Men's AA:	Randy Martin	Richard Terry	Rico Dubach	
Men's A:	Perry Allen	Mike Van Valkenberg	Richard Terry	Anthony Martin
Men's B:	J Strum	Steven Hayward	Brent Smith	Anthony Martin
Men's C:	Mike Sumner	Doug Hannett	Michael Andrew	Ross Stenquist
Men's D:	Lewis Barton	Cody Sylvester	Jim Hayes	
Men's 35-45:	Ray Griffiths	Marcus Donyon	Randy Martin	
Men's 60-65:	Jim Wilking	Chris Segura	Brent North	
Women's A:	Barbara Christensen	DeAnn Hinton	Pam Martin	
Women's B:	Pat Woodall	Melanie Hansen	Valla LaBoa	

SPRING SMASH: FEB 25-MARCH 1

Marv Jenson

	First	Second	Third	Cons:
Men's Open:	Brad Bona	Adam Anderson	Randy Martin	Alan Jorgenson
Men's A:	Brad Brumbaugh	Rob Corbridge	Mike Van Valkenburg	
Men's B:	Dick Morgan	Jon Ashdown	Andy Morgan	Eric Carter
Men's C:	Mike Sumner	Keith Dspain	Ben Evans	
Men's D:	Cody Sylvester	Devan Van Valkenburg	Brad Gibson	
Men's 35:	Don Sanderson	Randy Martin		
Men's 40:	Marcus Donyon	Ray Griffiths	Steve Corey	
Men's 55:	Lynn Corbridge	Deith Despain		
Men's 60:	Chuck Barrett			
Boys 16-:	Jon Sanderson	Brad Gibson	Danny Noalls	
Boys 14-:	Cody Sylvester	Devan Van Valkenburg		
Women's Open:	Marianne Walsh	Julie Taylor		
Women's A:	Barbara Christensen	DeAnne Hinton		
Women's B:	Melanie Hansen	Andy Felker	Karen Marchant	
Women's 45+:	Val Shewfelt			
Women's 60+:	Sylvia Sawyer			
Men's Open Doubles:	Corbridge/Corbridge	Timmons/Kamalu		
Men's C Doubles:	Hayward/Andrew	Olsen/Shewfelt		
Mixed Doubles:	Corbridge/Corbridge	Flick/Sawyer		

LUCK OF THE HEIGHTS: MARCH 11-15

Cottonwood Heights

	First	Second	Third	Cons:
Men's Open:	Ray Griffiths	Sergio Rodriguez	Don Sanderson	
Men's AA:	Eric Carver	Chris Gale	Richard Terry	
Men's A:	Brad Brumbaugh	Mike Van Valkenburg	KC Tubbs	Eric Fry
Men's B:	Anthony Martin	Brad Schindler	Dave Barton	Doug Hannett
Men's C/D:	Doug Hannett	Cody Sylvester	Steve Brumbaugh	Jim Hayes
Women's A/B:	Kory Kogan	Barbara Christensen	Janis Gibson	
Women's C/D:	Katherine Affeltranger	Pam Martin	Heidi Carver	
Juniors:	Anthony Martin	John Sanderson	Andrew Gale	Cody Sylvester
Open/A Doubles:	Ray Griffiths/Marcus Donyon	Eric Fry/Jon Meatoga	J Strum/Mike Van Valkenburg	
B/C Doubles:	Craig Gibson/Brad Gibson	Lois Parrish/James Cunningham	Robert Perkins/Steve Szoke	
Men's 25-40:	Don Sanderson	Ray Griffiths	Alan Jorgensen	
Men's 45-65:	Paul Ethington	Alan Jorgensen	Craig Gibson	

STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS: MARCH 25-29

Penn

Men's Open

Men's A

Men's B

Men's C

Men's D

Men's Novice

Men's 24-

Men's 25+

Men's 30+

Men's 35+

Men's 40+

Men's 45+

Men's 50+

Men's 55+

Men's 60+

Men's 65+

Women's Open

Women's A

Women's B

Women's C

Women's D

Women's Novice

Women's 25+

Women's 30+

Women's 35+

Women's 40+

Women's 45+

Boy's 16-

Boy's 14-

Boy's 12-

Girl's 16-

Girl's 14-

First

Brian Pointelin

Ken Huey

Richard Bunker

Robert Madsen

Ren Woodall

Ralph Christiansen

Alvaro Mejia

Eric Carver

Brian Pointelin

Trevor Sudweeks

Lloyd Marsh

Steve Coray

Alan Jorgenoson

Lynn Corbridge

Tom Nystrum

Jim Wilking

Marriane Walsh

Alyson Williams

Sarah Campbell

Jordanna Bailey

Katherine Affeltranger

Katherine Affeltranger

Sarah Campbell

Pam Martin

Andee Felker

Kara Linn

Val Shewfelt

Andrew Gale

Cody Sylvester

Jon Sanderson

Kim Walsh

Katherine Affeltranger

Second

Travis Passey

Eric Fry

Mathew Orton

Kelly Cunningham

Brad Sharp

Jon Ashdown

Don Sanderson

Jim Derrickson

Marcus Dunyon

Jack Healy

Doug Douville

Chris Segura

Julie Taylor

Barb Christensen

Jeanette Olsen

Pam Martin

Heidi Carver

Karen Marchant

Jon Sanderson

Carlos Sueldo

Third

Dave Timmons

Brad Brumbaugh

Anthony Martin

Dave Barton

Demar Beck

Chris Gale

Oscar Fiero

Glen Aitken

Dennis O'Brien

Jim Wilking

Kara Linn

Kim Walsh

Pat Woodall

Valla Laboa

Anthony Martin

Kory Walsh



Photos by Steve Coray
(Brian Pointelin & Travis Passey)



Photo by Steve Coray

**By Marcus Dunyon
URA Vice President**



This month the player profile is on Ray Griffiths who is an individual that has had a great impact on this Utah Racquetball Association over the last couple years. He has always had a love of the game since I first knew him back in the mid eighties. I have played him many times over the last three years and had a number of great matches. Ray is currently the director of racquetball at the Sports Mall and is working to bring a new emphasis on fun and enjoyment to the game. Here is our conversation,

Q. Tell me a little about your family?

A. I am married to Terry; we have two daughters, Ashley who is sixteen and Hanna who is twelve.

Q. How did you start playing racquetball?

A. At first I played tennis until I hurt my back at the age of fifteen. So they put a back brace on me and I started to play racquetball with Larry Hall my tennis coach.

Q. Who long were you in the back brace?

A. For about nine months.

Q. What other sports have you played?

A. I played Baseball, football and as I mentioned tennis, In fact I taught tennis until I was in the ninth grade, doing summer camps at the Sports Mall

Q. How was your demeanor on the tennis court?

A. I played tennis very aggressively, it was a thinking mans game and sometimes my temper would get the best of me. That's one reason I enjoyed playing racquetball.

Q. You told me you played a lot with Rick Strout, tell me more about that time in your career.

A. We played almost every day, we went to camps, played doubles together, in fact we would tape matches to try and see where we were making mistakes and then how to correct them on the court. You would be amazed how much that can help a person improve. As I improved things started to get real competitive between us, but we always remained friends. As I reached my senior year in High School, I started to catch up to the better players and was able to compete and win.

Q. Who were the players during that part of your career?

A. Just to name a few, Rick Strout, Steve Cutler, Rob Jackson, Kyle Kamala and Mike McGovern.

Q. You play a lot of tournaments each year, what do you enjoy the most about playing the tournaments?

A. I love the mental part of the game, the constant adjusting from moment to moment. It's different then when you are just playing in a league or a practice match. Nothing is more fun than finding a weakness and then taking advantage of it.

Q. What would you say is your philosophy on racquetball?

A. First and foremost have fun, second use the game for health and fitness, third reason to play is that racquetball is for everyone and fourth is for the competition.

Q. What other reasons do you play racquetball?

A. One of the things I enjoy most about racquetball is the camaraderie between the players and the friendships you develop, it's like a big extended family. Also it helps keep me in line and that is so important because of my competitive nature.

Q. How would you describe yourself on a court?

A. I compete in a fair friendly manner but in no non-sense or trash talking. When I was younger I talked a lot more trash then I do now.

Q. How has the game changed since you started playing?

A. The game is totally different, players use to wait for the ball to drop, no cut off shots, a more patience game style. Technology has created a power game, my challenge is to use my old game style and add the power when I need it.

Q. Who do you enjoy playing against in tournaments?

A. Don Sanderson, Marcus, Glen Aitken, Randy Martin and all the age group players. I tend to play better against the top players and struggle with people I feel I should be able to beat. (Interviewer's note: This is my

strategy, this summer let Ray beat me so bad he starts thinks I am a push-over, then maybe I can get a game off him in tournaments)

Q. If you could change something in the game, what would it be?

A. I would change all age group matches to one serve. It would stop the players from just winding up every time on the first serve. They would have to get the ball into play.

Q. I end each interview asking the player to give me a parting shot, give it up.

A. Let me think, how about grip it and rip it then leave it a little up cause That how I like it!!!!.

As I mentioned at the top of this interview, I have played Ray many times over the last three or four years and each time, whether he wins (which happened more than I like to admit) or not it was a fair hard fought match. I would play him every-day in a tournament. He and I have similar ideas on how the game ought to be played and were we would like to

see it in the future. It serves the URA well that Ray was recently been elected to the Board and shows that the Association (being you the members) see talent and recognizes the importance of putting a strong player advocate on the Board representing you. If you want to get in touch with Ray he can be reached at the Sports Mall.

