The Colorado Racquetball Association Quarterly ENews

NON-STOP ACTION INTO SUMMER
Wide range of performances by Colorado Players

Moving up and down the front range between venues this spring, Colorado athletes enjoyed a wide range of options for play - from specialty senior and pro tour stops to regional and national championships.

Right now ... ! ... Rocky Mountain State Games are taking registrations for competition at the Downtown YMCA in Colorado Springs, July 22-24. The multi-sport festival is for athletes of all ages and athletic abilities and is recognized by the National Congress of State Games, a member of the United States Olympic Committee. A Military Support Program also invites active duty and retired service members, their spouses and dependents to participate at up to a 50% discount. Deadline is Tuesday, July 19!

In late May ... Highlands Ranch hosted its second USA Racquetball National Singles Championships, drawing over 100 local players to over 120 divisions of singles, doubles and specialty playoffs. Top singles winners for Team Colorado were: Andy Atencio (M50C), Dan Davis (70A), Michelle Dockter (WElite Age, 30), Lucy Jirik (W60B), Alan Lawson (M50A), Mark Maldonado (Heroes A), Shirley Parsons (W60/65), Nicholas Riffel (MOpen), Shannin Rudman (Heroes 40/50), Michael Sainz (MD), Hrishikesh Sane (M30C), Donnel Valdez (M40B, Heroes B) and Janelle Williams (W55).

Silver medals went to Chantel Anderson (WElite), Steve Cox (M50B), Jim Hiser (M65), Benjamin Hyman (MA), Martin Jacob (M50C), Nathan Jacob (MB), Erika Manilla (WOpen) and Deven Naik (M40B). Doubles pairs were also in the mix, with ten added medals going to Colorado teams.

In April ... at the Rocky Mountain Regionals in Colorado Springs, 82 players were placed into 26 divisions of play, to
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In Men's Open, Nicholas Riffel got a good warm-up by advancing through a round of 16 to defeat Ryan Rodgers in the final. Among the women, Michelle Dockter rose to the top of a combined Women's round robin for her Open title.

Aaron Hanosh was joined by his son Chase (pictured), who cheered Dad on from the sidelines at the YMCA. Aaron brought home a Men's 40+ silver medal and reached the semifinal in his doubles bracket with John Miller. Photo by Michelle Dockter.

The Colorado Racquetball Association strives to get a sanctioned event on the calendar every month in the season, so look for the latest edition to make sure you don't miss a thing.

Tourney News | Events & Programs

At Cinco de Mayo, IRT-ranked #19 Brad Schopieray held his top-seeding through the Men's Pro division to survive a narrow five-game playoff over Nicholas Riffel in their final. In the drop-down Men's Open, Nick Blanchard stretched his match games out, but still won the division in straight games over Thomas Riganti. The annual tournament is a Tier 5 pro stop on the International Racquetball Tour schedule.

Among local senior players, an elite cadre of 23

Shannin Rudman was recently appointed to fill a vacant CRA Board seat, following the resignation of
Kathleen Erickson. We're sad to see both Kathleen, and Linda Mojer, leave the ranks - but look forward to working with Shannin (and you!) to keep CRA moving forward! Contact President Dave Stone if you're interested in stepping up to Board service.

**MEMBER PROFILES | Interesting News & Notes**

Michelle Dockter was featured in The Gazette in mid-June, with a backgrounder about her success in the sport. Author Eden Laase conducted the interview, and opened the article with: *It all started with a few questions from daughter to father about a funny little racquet ... Mark Sikorski hadn't played racquetball for 20 years when his daughter found the racquet and got curious about the sport. The two began to practice together, upgraded their equipment and started entering father-daughter tournaments.*

*That was 12 years ago. Sikorski's daughter, Michelle Dockter, graduated from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, got married, and entered her 30s. But with each milestone, racquetball has been a constant in Dockter's life.* [Michelle and her Dad are pictured at her wedding last year, by JKM Photography]

Elsewhere in Southern Colorado, tournament regular Bill Selke recently launched a new business venture - Discount Blinds of Colorado Springs - and worked with Linda Mojer to produce a new website for the company. He took a bit of a break from his startup to compete at National Singles, in Men's 65+ singles and Men's A Doubles with Rick Johnson.

Local 9News coverage featured live footage of Erika Manilla (pictured below) and opened with: *Erika Manilla got a chance to show off recently at the U.S.A. Racquetball National Singles Championships in Highlands Ranch. The recent Regis-Jesuit graduate is the reigning Junior National Champion and a World Champion in junior doubles.*
Congratulations to Colorado Juniors who participated in the National Junior Olympics in Minneapolis in late June. Battling through hard-fought matches throughout the tournament, Erika Manilla brought home a gold medal in Girls 18- Doubles and a silver in Girls 18- Singles. Yurae McCallister also took a silver medal finish in Girls 10- Doubles, and won the Girls 10- Singles title.

Most of Junior Team Colorado traveled from the Western Slope, including Grand Junction players Lily Caldwell, Chance McCallister, Kaptain McCallister, Yurae McCallister, and Matthew Miller. Benjamin Hyman (Denver) and Erika Manilla (Centennial) rounded out the traveling roster.

Earlier, the USA Racquetball Scholarship Program awarded $1,000 to Erika Manilla, who is a National Honor Society student and plans to attend Northern Arizona State University in the fall to major in Biomedical Science. Erika is ranked No.19 among women in the USAR rankings and is the reigning Junior World 16- Doubles Champion. She has already received the Blue Scholarship from NAU and plans to play racquetball for its rapidly developing NAU Lumberjacks program. "I am very thankful that USA Racquetball is able help me in this way," remarked Erika. "I'm so thankful for the opportunity and recognition."

**SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS**

**ENTRIES & REGISTRATION**
- State Games - July 22-24
- World Seniors - Aug.30-Sept.3
- US OPEN - October 5-9
- Killer Open - October 14-15
- State Doubles - November 11-13

**CRA Tournament Player's Guide**

**CERTIFIED INSTRUCTION** | by Marcia Richards

**Junior Programming on Deck ... SUNDAY July 31**

**Bring your Gear and Save the Date ...** to join the CRA for some pick-up play AND an important junior strategy session on **Sunday, July 31** at the Littleton YMCA.

The CRA is inviting all junior programmers, instructors and coaches to take part in some brainstorming to be held prior to the regularly-scheduled CRA meeting. You'll be able to get some court time in early (pick up play starts at 8:00 am), then stick around to share your thoughts about how to develop junior racquetball in Colorado. The CRA will take those suggestions into their board meeting, to figure out how to...
32nd ANNUAL ELITE RACQUETBALL CAMP | July 28 - August 1
Hosted by LifeTime Fitness in Centennial, local players can experience one-on-one training with the best racquetball instructor on earth ... Coach Jim Winterton ... along with Rhonda Rajsich, 9x USA Racquetball national champion and National Collegiate and Junior Champion Adam Manilla. If you're ready to take your game to the next level, this camp is for you!

KNOW YOUR RULES! Serving in Doubles
by Ray Cornell

In my last article, I covered a key aspect of the serve, which was the receiver signaling "not ready." It's a communication tool between receiver and server, and helps to promote safety during the serve. One aspect to the rule that I did not mention is how that rule applies in doubles.

The rule that was discussed last time is 3.5(a):
"... 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 the back to the server. (These are the only two acceptable signals.)"

The companion rule is 3.5(b), which states "Serving while the receiving player/team is signaling 'not ready' is a fault serve."

In general, when applying racquetball rules to doubles, the approach is to consider the team as a single player. For instance, each player on a team must abide by the safety zone rules when serving or receiving; each player on a team must be ready to serve or receive serve (as appropriate) within 10 seconds of the score or "second serve" being called; each player on a team is entitled to return the ball from the serve and in a rally; and each receiving player can signal "not ready" to the server.

Therefore, when a doubles team is preparing to serve, both players on the receiving team must be checked for signaling "not ready." One thing to be aware of is that one of the receiving players is kind of out of the server's view if the server's back is to the middle of the court. This is where the non-serving partner can help to check that player and warn the server if that person is signaling not ready; but, it is ultimately the server's responsibility to check both players because the server is the one to put the ball into play.

Additionally, a key area in doubles serving that is often overlooked or taken casually, by players
and referees, is the position of the non-serving partner. The rules are very specific about the
starting position of the non-serving partner.

Rule 4.2(b) states the following [emphasis added]:
“Partner's Position. On each serve, the server's partner shall stand erect with back facing the side wall and with both feet on the floor within the service box from the moment the server begins the service motion until the served ball passes the short line. Any violation is called a foot fault unless the server's partner enters the safety zone before the ball passes the short line in which case the server loses service.”

The implications of the rule are that certain positions of the non-serving partner during the service motion, or before the served ball passes the vertical plane of the short line, will result in a fault serve. Those positions include, but are not limited to, bending at the waist, being turned to one side or at an angle, placing a foot on the wall, or having any part of a foot beyond the lines that form the service box 18 inches from the side wall; and, just like with the server, the non-serving partner can cause an out serve by crossing into the safety zone before the served ball crosses the plane of the short line.

All rule modifications for doubles are covered in Section 4.0 of the USAR Rulebook. It is a short section, and most all of the modifications pertain to the serve; but there are others that are worth noting.

So, as a player or as a referee, be aware of the rules for all players on the court, and ensure that each player follows them for their safety and enjoyment of the game.

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**BOARD REPORT | by Dave Stone**

Reach the CRA Board at "firstname@ColoradoRacquetball.com"

The past few months has been frenetic here in Colorado with several tournaments, including state singles, regionals, and nationals. I would like to extend my appreciation to all the local players and volunteers who made these tournaments a success.

Additionally, we have many young players who have travelled to National Juniors to represent our state. Colorado racquetball is truly vibrant. The challenge facing the racquetball community has been, how do we perpetuate this excitement and increase our numbers?

Members of the CRA will be initiating a new program in the coming year to build connections with our racquetball facilities. This includes our private clubs, recreation centers, colleges and, in time, more obscure locations like apartment complexes. Our goal is provide assistance in fostering lively programs for all ages. A CRA “liaison” will be working with facility management and racquetball coordinators to run leagues, clinics, demos, and other programs aimed at increasing participation. In order to make this goal a reality, CRA staff will need help from coordinators and players in each of the facilities. Would you be willing to help, perhaps by mentoring a beginner, or helping to run a league?

**FROM THE EDITOR**

So that happened. My spring cleaning got out of hand and I just casually tossed out the idea of downsizing and seeing what the market might be for my house in the Springs ... and the next thing you know, it's sold and I'm on my way back to Florida.

And although it seems like a snap decision, I can't say that I haven't been restless for awhile. So taking this leap is a good thing.

For you, there's no better time than the summer break to get ready for a new season in the Fall. It will be here before you know it. As will 2017, and Racquet for the Cure.
Speaking of volunteers, we are preparing to say goodbye to a long-time contributor to Colorado racquetball. **Linda Mojer** will be relocating back to Florida over the summer to be closer to family. She will be sorely missed as she has provided countless hours of her time to the sport, both on a state and national level. Please take a few minutes of your time to let her know just how much we all appreciate her efforts. Linda’s departure will open up another seat on the CRA board â€“ would you consider giving of your time and talents to promote the sport on a local level? Please contact me or another member of the CRA if you are interested.

For now, I hope you'll enjoy all of your court time, family time, and vacation time. I'll also hope to be back to visit Colorado often!

- **Linda Mojer**

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**NATIONAL NEWS**

**In RACQUETBALL Magazine ...** The National Office of USA Racquetball recently announced the addition of two new staffers - **Renée Gundolff** and **Nick Irvine** - who each promise to add valuable skills and capacity to the professional staff team that manages USA Racquetball day to day.

Boasting solid credentials as Membership Manager of USA Weightlifting since 2014, **Renee Gundolff** helped grow membership by more than 20% and was responsible for membership acquisition, renewal, communications, data management, and insurance for a roster of over 23,000 weightlifters. At USAR, she'll focus primarily on membership and member services with a special emphasis on greatly expanding the number of FREE eMembers among players who have not been active participants at sanctioned events.

**Nick Irvine** previously served as Assistant Commissioner of the IRT and acquired valuable industry experience in programming and health club membership by working in sales and management at a variety of health clubs. Nick's primary responsibility with USA Racquetball will be in developing a Partner Facility program to better connect with those who own and operate racquetball courts, as well as the players who use them, and will also work on collegiate racquetball and sponsorship development. Photos by John Foust.