

CONNECTICUT KILLSHOT

Newsletter of the CONNECTICUT RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

1st Quarter 2002

Vol. XIV Issue 1

Upcoming Special Events
CT State Singles—app.
Junior Regional—app.
Backes Results

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Juliet O. Campbell – President
Scott Eliasson – Vice President
Scott Meyer – Secretary

TOURNAMENT STAFF

Scott Eliasson
Jeanne Cooper
Tim Kastrop
Jose Flores
Scott Meyer
Bob Pavalock

JUNIOR COMMISSIONER/ Team Conn. Coordinator

Edward J. Mazur, Jr.

REFEREE CERTIFICATION

Juliet Campbell
Bob Pavalock

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
VOLUNTEER TO HELP JUNIORS!**



2002 Jim Backes has Largest Draw to Date and toughest field ever.

Thirteen years ago the Wallingford Rotary created a benefit tournament to honor the memory of a friend and colleague. Jim Backes died way too soon after a long battle with cancer. Back then the club had 10 courts and most of the players were club members. In the year 2002 the Jim Backes tournament can boast of being the largest and strongest field of player tournament in Connecticut. It has all the feel of a Pro Stop and the caliber of players to match. The downside...our clubs only have 5 courts and we need to run 2 locations and schedule 250 matches between Friday night at 6:00pm and the end of Sunday. (I get a headache just thinking about).

As always, players and spectators bristled with anticipation of watching Ruben Gonzales. However there was a new twist a player I knew nothing about, his name Scott Reiff. Totally unassuming, gave me no hint as to his racquetball ability he simply was looking for some help finding doubles partners. Quickly Scott became the buzz of the tournament. Would anyone have the ability to take either Ruben or Scott to a tie-breaker. The answer Scott had two matches go to a tie-breaker. One against Fabian Pedrazza in the quarter-finals and the second was against Ruben in the finals. Scott came up just a little short losing to Ruben 9-11.

On the Women's side the Women's open had the largest and strongest field ever. Top ranked Aimee Roehler joined us from New Jersey, Anita Maldonado came in from New York, Jessica Samios (formerly known to most of us as Jessica Loew...she got married this past summer) and Heather Dunn and Lorraine Feeney came down from Mass. Our Connecticut players BJ Ehrgott, Ines Querios Esther Mcnany and Elise Wilson were going to have their hands full. Aimee had looked invincible when she last played here at State singles. Surprisingly in the Semi-finals Anita had game point several times in the first game and just could put Aimee away. Aimee's determination got her the 1st game 15-14. From that point on Aimee was in control and on her way to the finals. BJ had a fight to the finish on the other half of the draw. BJ and Lorraine Feeney went head to head. BJ took the 1st game, Lorraine took the 2nd and the tie-breaker went the distance with both players serving for the match on more than one occasion. BJ prevailed 11-10. In the finals Aimee took charge and took the match in two straight

The Men's Open Doubles draw had Thirteen teams all of which were top quality. Would Ruben & Tito go to the finals? Would Shane Wood and Fabian Pedrazza make it to the finals. The battle we expected took place Ruben and Tito vs. Fabian and Shane. In the end it was Fabian & Shane taking 1st. There speed and power were just too much.

In Mixed Doubles the field was equally large & powerful. Almost any team could make it to the finals. Aimee Roehler and Sanjay LaForest went to the finals against BJ Ehrgott and Scott Reiff. Aimee was ripping the ball and Sanjay was poaching. Aimee and Sanjay took the match in two.

The highlight of the weekend was watching the 6MB. Our next generation. Will Kszywanos age 4.5 and James Howe age 5 running around the court chasing this little blue ball. You watch them shuffling their feet and watching the ball, taking both backhand and forehand shots. It was the greatest thing you could watch.

My special thanks to my staff Tim Kastrop, Scott Eliasson, Scott Meyer and Jeanne Cooper for working the tournament desk. Running two sites is tough. I also want to thank all the players for working with us over the weekend. We were behind schedule starting Saturday evening...everyone is spoiled because we are rarely behind schedule...you helped out with reffing you got on the courts quickly and you didn't give me too much of a hard time about being behind schedule. Special thanks also to Dave Salafia thanks for driving David Laforest to New Haven on Sunday.

And the biggest round of applause to Bob Siemiatkoski (top ranked Men's 60+ player) for kicking butt in Men's A and coming in 1st.

KILLSHOT is the Official Publications of the Connecticut Racquetball Assoc. Please send any articles, questions or comments to:

**Connecticut Racquetball Association
64 Nutmeg Hill Rd Hamden, CT 06514
(203) 248-1869**

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

NEW WEBSITE: www.ConnecticutRBallAssoc.com

2002 JIM BACKES MEMORIAL RESULTS

DIVISION	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Men's Open	Ruben Gonzales	Scott Reiff	Tie - S.Wood & /D. Barnes	
A	Bob Siematkoski	John Halpin	Scott Meyer	Renee Inglesias
B	Andrew Slater	Chris Brown	Jeff Bell	Jose Flores, Jr.
C	Ngheim Pham	Al Rosenthal	Ira Safferstein	Richard Kopf
D	John Bell	Pete Cimorelli	Tie: Chris Edwards/Jerome Jackson	
Boys 6<MB	Will Kszywanos	James Howe		
Jr's MB	Eric Eliasson	Tyler Solomon		
Boy's 14	Chris Edwards	Jerome Jackson	James Fahey	
Boy's 16+/18+	Josh Epstein	Chris Edwards	Jose Flores, Jr.	
25+/30+	Barry Clifton	Gerry Tessier	Vinny Lee	Tom Keough
35+ All Age Int.	Peter Doucette	Al Rosenthal	Richard Kopf	
35+/40+/45+	Greg Campbell	Bill Kelley	Tie - Stan Shaw,III & Ron Wojnosky	
50+	Russ Palazzo	Bob Siematkoski	Mitch Beck	Andre Hopkins
60+	Art Hotchkiss	Steven Lavorgna	Ralph Levitan	Harvey Goldstein
Women's Open	Aimee Roehler	BJ Ehrgott	Lorraine Feeney	Anita Maldonado
A	Elise Wilson	Kim Skerry	Irene Delgado	Kristy Merritt
B/C	Kara Mazur	Patty Barrows	Rhonda Kopf	Jenny Epstein
DOUBLES:				
Men's Open	Wood/Padrazza	Gonzales/Montanez	Gibson/Hill	Dellacroce/Williams
A	Santilli/Hunt	Salafia/Biestek	Flores, Jr./D. LaForest	Horwitz/Francis
B/C	Kastrup/Kszywanos	Mitlitsky/Kopf	Kovacs/Engler	Lombino/Carrano
Women's	Petronelli/Feeney	Ehrgott/Queiros	Merritt/McNany	
A	Valluck/Skerry	Borghesi/Stoeckert	Munoz/Chow	
Mixed Open	Roehler/LaForest	Ehrgott/Reiff	Maldonado/Montanez	Fiordilino/Padrazza
A	Wilson/LaForest	Mitlitsky/Chambers	Borghesi/Matyseck	
B	Kopf/Mitlitsky	Barrows/Cohen	Mazur/Mazur	Valluck/Marfeo

Get us you Email addresses!

In an effort to get you applications and your Newsletter faster we need your email address: send your email address to the CRA @ julescra99@cs.com



*The long
hot game
begins...*

IN HIS OWN WORDSBY ANDREW SLATER

Hello, Jules. Great Tournament! As always you go beyond the call. I had a particularly great time because I won Men's B singles. I am afraid of heights but somehow walking in the clouds doesn't seem to bother me right now. And I hadn't hit for over two weeks because I was on vacation. Although, up until I left I had been hitting well. But I came back with a cold and fatigued easily. My opponents were super. Simon Fahey is very strong. Jose Arias. Wow! he's got a great front court game. But my match-up with Jeff Bell was beyond words. We play regularly at the Norwalk Y and always have a battle. This time was no different. The trash talking also was at its peak. Fun stuff. He took the first game easily. But in the second game I found a serve that worked enough to force a tie-breaker. In the tie-breaker I somehow managed to get a 10-7 lead. I failed to put him away on my first match point, but got it back on the next play. But again I failed to put him away and my nerves were already frayed and my endurance was already pushed to its limit. Jeff was also very tired, but managed to even us up at 10 - 10. How frustrating is that! Jeff served and I managed a weak lob to the deep forehand and as Jeff set up he mouthed, "Oh baby" or words to that effect salivating on his imminent kill. But the shot stayed up and the rally continued with my failure to put it away. I somehow managed to find the strength to get to two more shots in that rally that I had no business getting. Even as tired as I was I didn't want to let go and won back the serve. There is a great relief to having the serve back at 10-10. But the serve that worked so well for me was no where to be found. It stayed up and Jeff gobbled it up and killed it. I knew the relief he felt. What a vulnerable feeling it is to lose the serve at 10-10. Nonetheless, I got back my serve. And yet again, lost it. This was exhausting! Neither of us had the energy to stand yet somehow managed to stay on our feet. As unbelievable as it was I got back the serve and on my third try at 10-10 was able to win the point and the match. We embraced in a hearty handshake and a bear hug holding each other up from collapsing in a heap of emotion and fatigue.

The next match scheduled for 12:30 didn't go off until 3:45. I tried to gauge when I should eat and how much and tried to stay loose with some minor stretching. I filled up on chicken pot pie and even took a nap for about 25 minutes. I was a little fearful of Chris Brown because he was young and strong and seemed fresh and ready. But happily enough I managed a victory in the first game. Although, at heavy expense. Each point took phenomenal effort. I was running on fumes. In the second game I got to 14-9 and could go no further. I called my last time out and sucked up what little I could just to get out of my seat when my 30 seconds was up. Chris then went on a tear. He got 10, then 11, then 12 and 13. I knew I would not be able to withstand a tie-breaker and began to have thoughts that second wasn't so bad. But something deep inside refused to give up. It was the same determination I found to overcome Jeff Bell. I got the serve back and managed a forehand winner that Chris couldn't chase down. I won. Whew!

Thanks for listening to my ramblings, but I am so psyched! I knew you would appreciate it. It certainly seems a small thing in light of world events, but I am proud of my accomplishment nonetheless.

Be well. See you in March at the States.

Sincerely,

Andrew Slater

(IN HIS/HER OWN WORDS IS A NEW FEATURE THAT WE'VE ADDED TO THE NEWSLETTER. THIS IS AN EMAIL I RECEIVED FROM ANDREW SHORTLY AFTER HIS WIN AT THE JIM BACKES TOURNAMENT. I'V ALWAYS SAID IT NOT THE ROAD YOU TAKE IN YOUR PURSUIT OF YOUR GOALS, IT'S ACTUALLY THE JOURNEY THAT YOU TAKE TO GET THERE THAT REALLY HAS THE MOST MEANING.)



Will Kszywanos & James Howe



6<MB takes on the Men's 60+ players

Here's our future and our past...

James Howe and Will Kszywanos along with Ralph Levitan and Art Hotckiss.

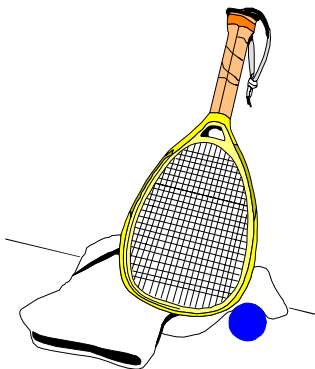
KILLSHOT

64 Nutmeg Hill Rd

Hamden, CT 06514

Email: julescra99@cs.com

Website: ConnecticutRballAssoc.com



FIRST CLASS MAIL

AREA CHALLENGE COURTS

Tuesdays & Fridays 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Downtown Health & Racquet Club (New Haven)
Cost – \$8.00 (203) 787-6501

Tuesdays & Fridays 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Norwalk YMCA
(203) 866-4425

Sundays 9:00am – 12:00pm
Healthrax @ Bristol Cost – \$8.00

....WANTED....
CLUBS TO HOST

- ◆ **BEGINNERS CLINICS**
- ◆ **EQUIPMENT DEMOS**
- ◆ **JUNIOR'S CLINICS**

Call the CRA @
(203) 248-1869

WANTED OLD RACQUETS

Mid & Oversized Only!

(No broken frames please!)

Call the CRA for drop off points:
(203) 248-1869