

# NEWS

WASHINGTON RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Winter 2009/2010

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WINTER BLAST

January 8-10, 2010

Lynnwood Bally's Total Fitness

Director: Pat Lew & Bill Dodge

### WA STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

January 22-24, 2010

Washington Athletic Club, Seattle

Directors: WRA Board

### SEATTLE OPEN PRO/AM

February 18-21, 2010

Washington Athletic Club, Seattle

Director: Neal Heggen

### NORTHWEST OPEN

March 11-14, 2010

Bellingham Athletic Club

Director: Wanda Collins

### WA STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 26-28, 2010

PRO Sports Club, Bellevue

Director: WRA Board

WWW.WASHINGTONRACQUETBALL.ORG



## 2009 Puget Sound Challenge

November 20 - 22, 2009

Bally's - Olympia, WA

Once again, Cheyenne Hayes and her hard working staff have shown us how good a tournament can be.

With over 150 players participating, they kept the event moving, provided quality shirts and hospitality and worked at the little things that make an event a cut above (tables & chairs to eat at, music between games on the glass court finals, plenty of smiles at the tourney desk - no matter how crazy the questions were.)



Ben Croft (1st Place), Tournament Directors Will and Cheyenne Hayes and Jimmy Lowe (2nd Place).

There were players from six states and one Canadian province including this outstanding list from the Men's Pro/Open draw:

- Ben Croft, currently the 9th ranked player on the International Pro Tour
- Charlie Pratt, the 23rd ranked player, a past Oregon State Champion and winner of the 2009 NW Regionals
- Taylor Knoth, a new addition to the Men's Tour, Oregon Junior Champ and US Representative on the Junior Worlds Team;
- Jimmy Lowe, five time Men's 35+ National Singles Champion and a Northwest favorite
- Jeff Stark, former #1 Washington State Player and National Doubles Champion.

In the Men's top division, Ben Croft defeated Jimmy Lowe in the singles final, as well as taking first in Men's doubles with his partner Taylor Knoth, beating Olympia players Jeff Stark and Lon Bergstrom.

The Women's Open saw Tammarrarian Rogers, seeded seventh, work her way through the draw to take first place by beating Oregon Junior Amanda Lindsay in the finals. She earned the respect of everyone she played, with great shot making and perseverance.



# from the President

BY NEAL HEGGEN



The USRA is in the process of changing their levels for rankings. This will affect seeding players that attend National and Regional events, and in some cases, local sanctioned events as well. The difference is that they have changed the range in each level. For example, if you are ranked anywhere from 1 to 245 on the national listing, you will be considered an Open player. Read below for a complete list.

## National Rankings:

### Men's:

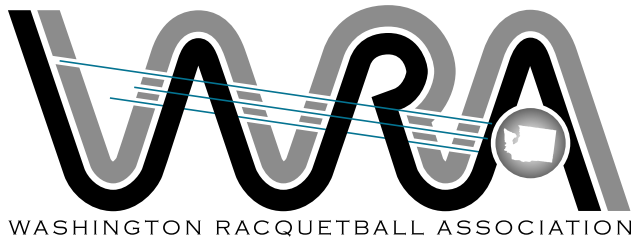
Open..... 0 – 245  
 Elite..... 246-476  
 A..... 477-890  
 B..... 891-2,576  
 C..... 2,577-5,252  
 D .....5,253+

### Women's:

Open..... 0 -81  
 Elite .....82-175  
 A..... 176-357  
 B ..... 358-501  
 C..... 502-968  
 D.....969+

If you have any questions, be sure and contact me.

See you on the Courts.



WASHINGTON RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

# WRA Board

718 Griffin Avenue, #118 . Enumclaw, WA 98022

## Executive Board:

President, Neal Heggen .....neal@washingtonracquetball.org  
 Vice Pres., Mike Penders.....mike@washingtonracquetball.org  
 Treasurer, Beth Neff .....beth@washingtonracquetball.org  
 Secretary, Wanda Collins.....wanda@washingtonracquetball.org

## Committees:

Ratings & Rankings, Arun Rohila .....arun@washingtonracquetball.org  
 Tournaments, Elliot Crosby, Bill Dodge.....elliott@washingtonracquetball.org  
 Membership, Pat Lew .....pat@washingtonracquetball.org  
 Women, Angela Benjamin.....angela@washingtonracquetball.org  
 Juniors, Wanda Collins .....wanda@washingtonracquetball.org  
 Seniors, Sam Smith.....seniors@washingtonracquetball.org  
 Communication, Keith Turley, Wanda Collins....keith@washingtonracquetball.org  
 PR/Fund-raising, John Avendano.....john@washingtonracquetball.org

We welcome Angela Benjamin to the WRA Board in the position of Chair of the Women's Committee. Cheyenne Hayes will continue to work on the Women's Committee, and Angela will take on the responsibilities of attending WRA Board meetings and working with the rest of the staff at State Singles and State Doubles. Angela has been seen working at the desk of the Puget Sound Challenge, and will be a great addition to the Board!

## Deadlines for Issues

The WRA welcomes letters, articles, and photos for submission in future newsletters and on our web site.  
 email: wanda@washingtonracquetball.org  
 Deadlines for issues are as follows...

Spring 2010 - March 1, 2010

Fall 2010 - September 1, 2010

The WRA News is published quarterly. We welcome articles, photos, and letters for publication. Advertising rates available upon request. Address all inquiries to 718 Griffin Avenue, #118, Enumclaw, WA 98022.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL SUPPORT THE U.S. NATIONAL TEAM



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name		First Name		MI
Address				
City			Zip	
Birthdate	Home Phone		Business Phone	
MONTH/DAY/YEAR				
E-Mail				
Club Affiliation			Level of Play	
Sponsoring Member				

- 1 Year Single \$50
- Juniors (18 & under) \$25
- Renewal of Membership
- Transfer from Out of State
- Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## WRA

718 Griffin Avenue, #118  
 Enumclaw, WA 98022  
 www.washingtonracquetball.org

# THE WRA WANTS YOU!

This spring, the WRA will be actively searching for members to take on board positions or serve on a committee in the season that begins September 1, 2010. We will be searching for anyone interested in an executive committee position – president, treasurer, secretary; or other positions helping with the newsletter, memberships, tournaments, juniors, PR and Fundraising. The work is not that burdensome, but the small time commitment makes a huge difference to the membership. Contact the WRA through the webmaster Keith Turley or by writing to the WRA at our Enumclaw address if you are interested or would like to suggest someone. Look for more details in the next newsletter (and coming soon to the WRA website).

## Junior News

BY WANDA COLLINS

### Racquets Without Borders Part II

20 State Juniors participated on December 5th in this great junior event, where players from Washington vie for honors with the Juniors of British Columbia, Canada. There were upsets and players new to the tournament scene, with 105 matches scheduled to play on Saturday. The courts in Bellingham were full of players from 8:00 am until 7:00 pm.

Welcome to the WRA/USRA goes out to:

Paige DeVries - Lynden, WA  
Micah Miller – Bellingham, WA  
Samuel Spear – Bothell, WA  
Simona Spear – Bothell, WA  
Brannon Shrock – Bellingham, WA

Congratulations to the following award winners:

Boys 18 – 2nd Place Caleb Moore  
Boys 16 – 1st Place Triston Guthrie (upsetting Anthony Schonberger in the finals), 2nd Place Jonathan Moore  
Boys 14 – 3rd Place Jake Birnel, Consolation Triston Guthrie  
Boys 12 – 2nd Place Jake Birnel, Consolation Samuel Spear  
Boys 10 – 3rd Place Ryan Penders  
Boys 10 2bounce – 2nd Place Jordan Birnel, 3rd Place Nick Birnel, Consolation Ryan Penders  
Boys 8 – 2nd Place Nick Birnel, 3rd Place Jett Guthrie  
Boys 8 MultiBounce – 1st Place Jett Guthrie, 2nd Place Micah Miller  
Girls 18 – 1st Place Brianna Ho, 2nd Place Jessica Munoz  
Girls 16 – 1st Place Jessica Munoz  
Girls 14 – 2nd Place Madeline Butler, 3rd Place Hollie Scott  
Girls 12 – 1st Place Hollie Scott, 2nd Place Brenna Guthrie  
Girls 10 – 1st Place Brenna Guthrie, 2nd Place Paige Guthrie  
Girls 10 2bounce – 3rd Place Paige Guthrie  
Girls 8 Multibounce – 2nd Place Paige DeVries  
Boys Sportsmanship Award – Samuel Spear  
Girls Sportsmanship Award – Simona Spear

### Photos from Racquets Without Borders



Paige DeVries (WA), Josephine (BC), Hollie Scott (WA)



Triston Guthrie (WA)



### Upcoming Events for Junior Players

Washington Juniors have opportunities to play at larger events that won't be that far from home this year!

- High School National Championships will be held in the Portland, Oregon area March 24-28, 2010.
- State Singles will be held with Adult Singles at the Pro Club in Bellevue, WA March 26-28, 2010.
- Junior Regionals will be at the Sunset Club in Portland, OR May 14-16, 2010.
- Junior Nationals will be held June 26-30, 2010 at the Rec Center of University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Additional tournaments in Washington that offer junior events that you should take advantage of:

- The Winter Shootout at Bellingham Athletic Club in Bellingham (non sanctioned)
- The Fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis at the Pro Club in Bellevue (sanctioned)

The Junior Committee has funds to help in the cost of participating at events, including half or full entry fees and travel expenses. Contact us with any requests!

## The Musings of Two Tournament Directors

Have you ever wondered how much work planning and overseeing a tournament really involves? Ever wonder what drives a tournament director to give up a significant chunk of his or her life to run a tournament? You won't find a detailed list here on all the things a director handles in running a tournament, as the list is much too long to fit into a 700 word article (but if you are interested in finding out more, please do check out the WRA website at <http://www.washingtonracquetball.org> for more specifics). In reading this article, you will get some insight as to what motivates our dedicated tournament directors and what drives them crazy. You'll also get a good idea as to just how much blood, sweat and tears are involved in putting together a tournament.

This cub reporter queried Cheyenne Hayes and Wanda Collins, and this is what they have to say:



Wanda Collins (left) and Cheyenne Hayes

### *Q: How much time would you estimate that you spend pulling together some of the largest tournaments in Washington state?*

CH: I spend between 75-100 hours on my tournament [Puget Sound Challenge], counting the weekend of.

WC: It may actually be more than 100 hours. You spend about 50 hours Thursday through Sunday of the actual event, but there are a multitude of hours spent before the event as well.

### *Q: How far in advance do you start planning?*

CH: I start planning 6 months before.

WC: About 9 months prior. Running a tournament is painstaking and many months in the making. Sometimes I think it's like giving birth. If you haven't been pregnant and gone through labor, you just can't understand it. It's kind of how I describe it to the tournament player trying to understand what it takes to pull a large tournament off.

### *Q: What is your favorite aspect about planning and overseeing tournaments?*

CH: I love running tournaments because it provides an event that many people REALLY enjoy but don't have the means to run themselves. I love bringing in high quality racquetball to my little club [Olympia Bally's]. I love to see the sport grow through these events.

WC: Well, you love the sport and want to promote it. There is a great feeling to seeing someone play in a tournament for the first time as well as watching an Open player display amazing athleticism. You have a community of friends. Whether I'm playing in a tournament in Washington or travelling across the US to other events, I see a family of friends and acquaintances wherever I go. After 30 years of playing, that's a large group of friends.

### *Q: What's your least favorite aspect?*

CH: My least favorite is when people make nit-picky comments or complaints when you have spent HOURS making sure every single loose end works out to their benefit. I also don't like the burden that running a tournament puts on my family. My kids sacrifice a lot for it.

WC: The hours it requires. The toll it takes on our club in terms of garbage, messes and inconveniences to all of our other members who would like to be able to shoot some hoops in the gym or just walk down the aisle to the locker room without tripping on a bag. Also, injuries. I hate seeing someone rupture an achilles, get hit in the face, pull a calf muscle, or (God forbid) have a heart attack. I've seen them all...

### *Q: Why do you do this?*

CH: Because I LOVE this game, and I know I've been blessed with the means to run a tournament. My passion is for women's racquetball, and to see those numbers grow through events such as these makes me so happy.

WC: I began working at Bellingham Athletic Club once I had children and didn't want to work full time. I taught lessons and played racquetball when I wasn't at home with the kids. I love to teach classes and develop programs for the courts. I consider part of my job running tournaments as the next step for players who participate in leagues and club events, and I am fortunate to work for a club that allows me to program the courts as much as I can.

# WASHINGTON STATE DOUBLES RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2010

**Dates:** January 22-24, 2010  
**Location:** Washington Athletic Club  
 1325 6th Ave., Seattle, WA 98101

**Accommodation Suggestion:** Inn at the WAC.  
 206.622.7900 or www.WAC.net. and Seattle Hilton:  
 206.624.0500 or www.seattlehilton.com

**Time:** Matches will begin at noon on Friday. Request for late start times will be considered by not guaranteed.

**Tournament Director:** WRA Board  
 360.820.3224 or wanda@washingtontacquetball.org

**Hospitality:** No breakfast served! Each player will receive souvenir and hospitality will be available throughout the weekend for tournament participants.

**Awards:** Will be given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and consolation in events with 8 or more participants.

**Conditions of Play:**

1. Must be current WRA/USAR member or join at event.
2. All USAR rules apply.
3. Amateur Match will be 2 games to 15, tiebreaker to 11. Consolation matches will be one game to 21 points (except finals).
4. You may play 1 or 2 events.
5. One serve rule for Open Divisions
6. You must check in and be ready to play 30 minutes prior to scheduled match start time.
7. **Losers will referee** following their match or find suitable replacement.
8. No refunds after entry deadline, January 15th.
9. Approved eye guards for racquetball are required.
10. We reserve the right to reclassify players or combine events with less than 5 entries.

**Entry Deadline: January 15th at 5pm**

All entries received after deadline will be assessed a \$10 late fee, if accepted. Tournament draws will be available after 4:00pm on January 20th.

**Start Times:** will be available on the WRA website, www.washingtontacquetball.org, on Wednesday January 20th or by calling Neal Heggen after 4pm, 360.820.3224.

**Online entry available**

www.washingtontacquetball.org



**Parking:** Will be available at the Hilton Hotel Parking Garage next door. Rate will be \$6 for 6 hours starting Friday, January 22 at 1:00 p.m. through Sunday, January 24. Please have your ticket validated at the tournament desk for the Hilton Parking Garage only.

**Mail entries and payment to:**

Wanda Collins  
 Bellingham Athletic Club  
 2010 WA State Doubles  
 4191 Meridian  
 Bellingham, WA 98226



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*by supplying your email, you authorize the WRA to contact you via email

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Quality souvenir for each participant!

**Divisions:**  Men's  Women's

Open  25+  60+  
 Elite  30+  65+  
 A  35+ (circle one: A, B or C)  
 B  40+  25+A/B/C  
 C  45+  35+A/B/C  
 D/Novice  50+  45+A/B/C  
 24 & Under  55+  55+A/B/C

**Mixed:**

Open  C/D  55+  
 Elite  25+  60+  
 A  35+  65+  
 B  45+  65+

Partner Name \_\_\_\_\_

Partner Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Only two doubles per individual)

Entry Fee: (payable to WRA)

1st event: \$45 (\$30 for juniors)

2nd event: \$10

USAR/WRA membership (\$50)

Limited Athlete License (\$25)

**Total enclosed:**

**Waiver of release of liability**

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release all rights and claims for damages I may have against all parties involved in this event in conjunction with my participation at the Washington Athletic Club to be held on January 22-24, 2010.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
 (signature of participant or guardian if under 18)

## The Auburn VW Open

Oct. 9 -11, 2009

By Lori Turley

We had a great time helping run the Auburn VW Open this year. There were a record number of participants, as we topped out at about 110 players, and we enjoyed seeing some top notch play. Junior Ryan Penders entered his first adult event, and ended up taking first with two match wins. Jim and Jonelle Dubois, new to the tournament scene, went away with a great load of hardware, claiming two firsts and two second place trophies. We would love to see more women players at this event next year, as their divisions were sorely lacking. The Men's Open draw featured some great competition, including a group of players from Oregon who made the trek up I-5. Taylor Knoth teamed up in doubles with a Northwest favorite, Jimmy Lowe of Hawaii. They went to the finals, where they met their last opponents of the weekend – Joey Lakowske and Grant Stalley of Oregon. Lakowske and Stalley took home first place honors, besting Knoth and Lowe in two straight.

Special thanks to:

- Jimmy Lowe for making the trip from his home state of Hawaii.
- Elliot Crosby for his barbecued meals on both Saturday and Sunday. It's a big job, and everyone truly enjoyed the food.
- Joann Sundquist for helping out at the tournament desk.
- Auburn VW for continuing to sponsor this event and supporting amateur racquetball in Washington State.

You can see the full results for the Auburn VW Open on line at [www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=5800&fromPage=site](http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=5800&fromPage=site)

## 2009 Mike Scarff Subaru Doubles Challenge

December 11-13, 2009 at Bally's – Kent, WA

by Keith Turley

When you sign up for one of Neal's doubles tournament, you better make sure you bring a few racquets and plenty of changes of clothes. As people discovered when the draws were made available, all of the events were round robins. That's right! And some of the divisions, like Men's Open Doubles had 9 teams. Count 'em, folks, that is eight matches for each participant... and that is only one division. Those poor people who signed up for three divisions. Brad Simmons had 22 matches spread over the three day tournament.

Here are your champions in the various divisions:

Men's Open - Bill Napier / Neal Jentsch  
Men's Elite - Arun Rohila / Donald Wiedman  
Men's A - Jeff Capeloto / Dave Crawford  
Men's B - Michael O'Donnell / Myron Johnson  
Men's M35/45D - Brad Jackson / Robert Allen  
Mixed Open - Wade Reuther / Polly Carson  
Mixed Elite - James Kimball / Jonelle DuBois  
Mixed AB - Debbie Fraser / Jeff Capeloto

Neal wanted to give a special thanks to Keith and Lori Turley for helping to run the tournament desk, to Arun Rohila for also helping at the desk and taking photos, and to Elliot Crosby for firing up the grill and helping feed the players.

You can see the full results on line at [www.r2sports.com](http://www.r2sports.com).



(L-R) Todd Anderson, Daniel Pischke, George Brewer and Jose Ojeda

## WASHINGTON STATE NON-SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS

Throughout the season, there are a variety of events for players throughout the state at various clubs and racquetball venues. "Non Sanctioned" only indicates that these tournaments do not award ranking points in the WRA ranking system. But all of them are great ways for players to get out and play ball!

If your club has an upcoming event, let us know so that we can add it to our listing.

### MOUNTLAKE TERRACE REC CENTER ONE DAY EVENTS

Contact: Donna Triemstra  
at 425-220-0685

February 13, 2010

April 10, 2010

May 22, 2010

### BELLINGHAM ATHLETIC CLUB

Contact: Wanda Collins  
at 360-676-1800  
or [racquetball@bellinghamathleticclub.com](mailto:racquetball@bellinghamathleticclub.com)

#### Winter Shootout Tournament

January 29-31, 2010

Draws for men, women, and juniors.

### YAKIMA ATHLETIC CLUB

Contact: John Phillips  
at [johnphillips@charter.net](mailto:johnphillips@charter.net)

#### Pro Kennex Winter Classic

January 29-31, 2010



Charlie Pratt, Ben Croft,  
and Jeff Stark

(L-R) Annette Knoth, Amanda Lindsay,  
Tammarran Rogers, and Vivian Rodriguez



Ben Croft autographing  
for Junior players

# Women's Corner

BY CHEYENNE HAYES



Never has Women's Racquetball been so exciting here in Washington! We are seeing girls come out of the wood works all over the state! Some are beginners and some are more experienced and we are so grateful for each of you. I get emails weekly from you guys sending me contact info for new women that you are reaching out to. Thank you so much!

Thank you to those who make the effort to come out and participate in the different events we offer. That is how we keep this program strong, and our friendships stronger.

As you might have heard, we are raising funds all year long to bring in the Women's Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO) to our state next year. We are talking the best women in the WORLD and we get to play along side of them at the same event. We have raised almost \$2000 already!

Here is how you can help:

1. Buy a Women's Racquetball Shirt or Hoodie at any event this season (\$18/\$25)
2. Collect change from your local buddies at the gym or at work (we supply the baggies and flyers)
3. Contact me if you have a possible Corporate Sponsor that I could get in contact with
4. Come join us in March for our Texas Holdem' Tournament in Seattle (bring any guest with you), March 6th, 6pm.
5. Attend a Women's Play Day where we will be collecting a suggestion \$5-\$10 donation\*, though the event is FREE. Next date: February 6th, 10-3pm in Kent.

\*no donations collected from first time attendees

If you receive this Newsletter, but are not currently on the Women's Racquetball Monthly Email Newsletter distribution list, please email me at: olympiaizzys@aol.com

Thanks again for all you do! I hope to see many of you on the courts very soon!

Washington Racquetball Association



718 Griffin Avenue, #118  
Enumclaw, WA 98022

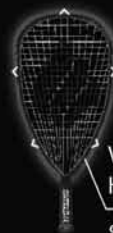
# Ektelon Has Discovered A New Source Of Energy



INTRODUCING



FEEL THE ENERGY



VIRTUAL  
HEADSIZE

Stringbed  
increased 10%



SWEET  
SPOT

Up to 51%  
larger



VIBRATION  
DAMPENING

Up to 63%  
less

[ektelon.com](http://ektelon.com)