

The Mongoose Musings

2008 ALL MILITARY CLASSIC - May 16-18, 2008

Introduction

The **2008 All Military Classic** racquetball tournament held on **May 16-18, 2008** at the **Greenbrier North YMCA** facility drew 71 participants. The facility was excellent with all the five courts offering unobstructed glass view for the fans. Participants also enjoyed the indoor basketball court and table tennis diversions. Additionally, the level of participation was remarkable, especially given the fact that the tournament was sandwiched between the *2008 Motorola IRT Pro Nationals* in Chicago, IL (April 23-27, 2007) and *2008 USA Racquetball National Singles Championships* (May 21-26, 2008) in Houston, TX.

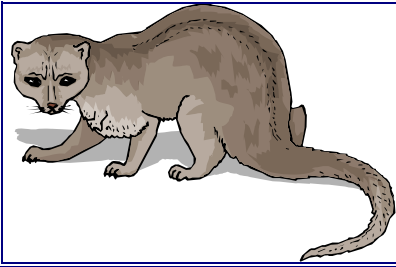
The tournament organizers – **Maila Bailey, Carter Green, Bill Milbach, and Deepak Panduranga** – should be commended for hosting a wondrously memorable tournament in honor of our military men and women. Their overall performance scorecard is shown in the table below:

Category	Grade
Cost/Price	A+
Facility	A+
Participation	C+
Courts/Matches Scheduling	A+
Foods	B+
Players' Performance	B+
Disputes Resolution	A+
Overall Atmosphere	A+

Men's Open/Elite Singles

The combined Men's Open and Elite divisions drew 12 participants. With a bye in the first round, **Brent Walters** of Raleigh, NC, seeded #1, defeated **Roger Duberstein** 7, 7 and **Chris Buckner** 11, (8), 7 to reach the final. Number #3 **Mike Young** of Chesapeake, VA defeated **Jeff Wagner** 2, 8 and **Greg Giordano** 8, (13), 7 to reach the final.

Walters took the first game easily 15-1 with high octane offensive plays on both sides. Somehow, Young worked himself into frenzy and took the second game 15-9 to force a tiebreaker in the championship final match. Young's blazing hot racquet was still cooking winners in the tiebreaker when he took a quick 5-0 lead on frustrated Walters. After a time-out, Walters tied up the game 5-5, but it took a lot out of him. Young eventually came out of the



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grueling duel with a 11-9 victory to snag the title. Young played all the three games with the amazing diving gets of a *Jason Mannino* and the quick hands of a *Kane Waselenchuk*. His quick, cat-like reflexes earned him the nickname of **Mike “The Cat” Young**. The Cat’s win served notice to the racquetball world that his singles game is a significant force to be reckoned with.

Women’s Open/Elite Singles

No matches were scheduled and played in the division due to lack of participants.

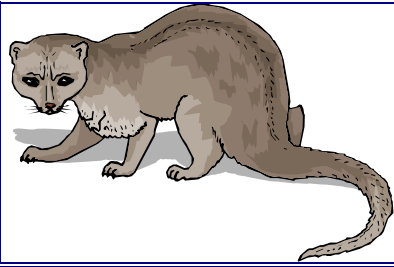
Men’s Open Doubles

This division featured four teams playing in a round robin format. **Malia Bailey** of Norfolk, VA and **Mike “The Cat” Young** teamed up to win the championship in this division for the second time in as many tournaments. Malia’s jamming cross-court serves elicited poor returns from most of the opposing players, enabling The Cat to calmly and consistently put the ball away. These two were like the Siamese Twins – with their diverse skills complementing each other.

Interestingly, Malia did not use her trademark jamming serves when her team played against her husband’s team (**Jim Bailey-Chris Buckner**). Instead, she opted for high lobs to Chris’ backhand. Either Malia didn’t want to make her husband look bad, or she realized that the jamming serve was not going to work against a man who knows her better than anyone on this planet. If it was the former, we were obviously privileged to witness a gentler and kinder side of Malia – arguably one of the world’s best competitors and strategists irrespective of gender. In any case, the Bailey-Young team lost to Bailey-Buckner team 10, (14), (3) in their 3rd round robin match after winning their first two matches against **Greg Giordano-Jeff Wagner** 7, 7 and **Deepak Panduranga/Stephen Brown** 10, 2 to secure the championship.

Men’s A Doubles

The division had seven teams. **Lance Warigon/Slemo Warigon** of Elkridge, MD, seeded #4, defeated #5 **John Brugger/Daniel Kriparos** of Chesapeake, VA 3, 5, #1 **Glenn Allen/Thomas Gladson** of Virginia Beach, VA (10),14,7, and #2 **Carter Green/Warren Davis** of Virginia Beach, VA/Rock Mount, NC to win the championship title.



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In the final match, **Lance “The Thunder” Warigon** was killing shots after shots with his trademark thunderous forehand against the Green/Davis team. Slemo the Old Man lacked the physique to kill opponents with thunder and lightning, but his feathery touches proved just as effective in garnering points during the match. Thus, Green/Davis didn’t know where to go for some easy points. In the end, **Carter “The Groundhog” Green** had to call a time-out to direct some expletive-laden objections to his good buddy, **Robert Steele**, for calling an encroachment against him during one of Slemo’s high lob serves. The Groundhog thought that turning his back during the time-out would not allow Slemo to lip-read him.

Other Tournament Winners

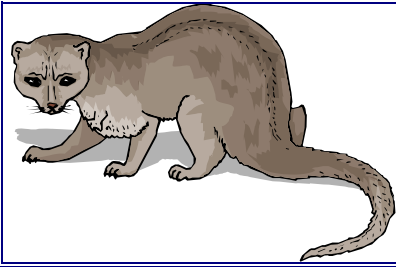
The following players are the other official tournament winners:

Division	# of Players/Teams	Draw Type	Winner
Men’s A Singles	8	Single Elimination	Deepak Panduranga
Mens B-Womens 40A Singles	19	Single Elimination	Robin Eggleston
Men’s C Singles	9	Single Elimination	Marshal Jones
Men’s Military Open/A Singles	3	Round Robin	Kenneth Williams
Men’s B All Age Singles	7	Single Elimination	Troy Warigon
Men’s A All Age Singles	7	Single Elimination	Slemo Warigon
Men’s Open All Age Singles	7	Single Elimination	Rennie Dineros
Women’s Singles	7	Pool Play	Sharlene Donovan
Junior Under 14 Singles	5	Pool Play	Warren Bailey
Boys’ Under 18	5	Round Robin	Robin Eggleston
Mixed Doubles	10	Single Elimination	Patti Lane/Roger Duberstein
Men’s B Doubles	12	Single Elimination	Troy Warigon/Slemo Warigon

Complete results of the 2008 All Military Classic tournament can be viewed at <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=3812>.

Spotlight on Players (Juniors)

Kelani Bailey (Wilson): She’s decidedly fun to watch – one of the most entertaining junior players. Every time she sets her feet on the court, she makes absolutely certain that her swing and looks are at their best. She trounced **Hallie Rallas** 4, 3 in the first round of combined Men’s B and Women’s 40A division. She lost in the second round to **Granville Hayes** in a thrilling



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tiebreaker. Hayes was a fast and powerful player. However, Kelani held her own against this formidable opponent, completely impervious to his speed and power. She gave him all he could handle before losing 9-11 in tiebreaker. Kelani also teamed up with **Carter Green** to give **Troy Warigon/Slemo Warigon** fits in the quarterfinal of Men's B Doubles. In that match, Kelani employed the vanilla version of her mom's trademark jamming serves to give Troy some fits.

Warren Bailey (Wilson): Warren is gradually coming into his own as a racquetball player. He's quiet, serious, and enigmatic. With the help of his mom and dad, he will be another racquetball's rising star.

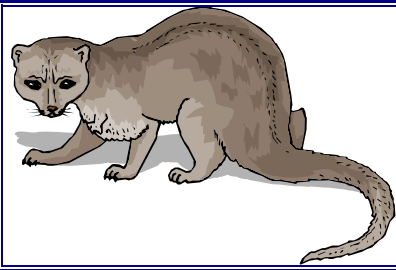
Courtney Green (Wilson): With her height, agility, and passion for the game, she has a vast reserve of untapped talent. It is a matter of time before such talent could be fully harnessed – making her a much better racquetball player.

Lance "The Thunder" Warigon (E-Force): The 16 years old kid nearly missed the tournament after attending his first prom. He performed poorly in all his singles matches. However, he redeemed himself in Men's A Doubles division. Playing with his dad as a doubles partner, there was no room for excuses or half-assed efforts. He had to be unfailingly on top of his game. Unfamiliar opponents were impressed by his raw power and sportsmanship. His thunderous shots sent shivers down the spines of his opponents.

Troy "The Wizard" Warigon (E-Force): This 12-year old won **2008 Maryland State Singles** and **2008 USAR Regionals Championship** titles in the Men's C division. He came prepared to do well in the Men's B Singles division. He won Men's B All Age Singles division. Fatigue and constant experimentation with his backhand didn't allow him to play well in Men's B Singles where he lost in the quarterfinal 11, 12 to the eventual champ, **Robin Eggleston**.

Spotlight on Players (Adults)

Jim Bailey (Wilson): His right hitting hand is obscenely fast! If you make the mistake of leaving the ball up, this guy is guaranteed to put it away as casually as a seasoned sniper without conscience. And, try not to entertain any wild ideas of jamming this big dude upfront. He would simply give the ball a soft kiss of dead. He knows his Geometry well. He uses angles to his advantage. He is also stoic. During a doubles match, **Jeff Wagner** gave the inside of his right knee a free tattoo with a vicious forehand shot. That shot would make most mortals scream with pain. Not this stoic gentleman! He picked up the ball and went about his business as if nothing happened. He finished 2nd in Men's Open Age division.



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Warren Davis (Ektelon): His forehand was deadly in doubles and singles. He consistently rolled out winners with his reliable forehand. Conversely, his backhand was erratic. He defeated **Lance Warigon** 7, 9 in the first round of Men's A Singles, but lost in the subsequent round.

Greg Giordano (Wilson): This right hander has a smooth swing with excellent shoulder rotation and fundamentally sound footwork. His swing can be easily adapted to play other racquet sports, such as squash, tennis, and badminton. He's a great Open division player, and his past victims included perennial Open contenders such as **Rich Benderoth** and **Armando Garcia**. He didn't have a great tournament like his doubles partner, **Jeff Wagner**, but he managed to finish 3rd in Men's Open division.

Carter "The Groundhog" Green: The Groundhog is a creature of habit. He shows up in virtually all racquetball tournaments, plays with unbridled joy, and hobnobs happily with fellow participants. He hibernates in his own "burrows" during the off-season. He's a fun-loving player. It was good to see him play in Mixed Doubles division with his daughter, Courtney. You would have to play against him to better appreciate his talent and competitiveness.

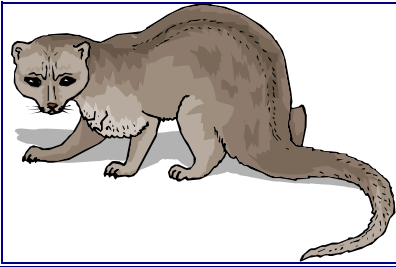
Robert "The Tortoise" Steele: This dude moves around the court slowly, but he gets the job done with brawn and deceptive quickness. He has one of the most deadly line drive serves. He trounced **Lance "The Thunder" Warigon** in two straight games in a consolation match of the Men's Open/Elite division.

Slemo "The Mongoose" Warigon (E-Force): The Old Man won all the three divisions he entered – Men's A Doubles, Men's B Doubles, and Men's A 40+ Singles. Focusing on golf and doubles during the past few months didn't hurt his singles game as much as he thought. He was lucky to get his drive serve going against some of the toughest competitors in the singles division.

Kenneth Williams (E-Force): He is one of the most physically fit and intelligent athletes in the sport. Those 50 push-ups per day certainly help keep him in an excellent physical shape. He religiously avoids unforced errors the same way a fat man avoids rice cakes!

Spotlight on Stringers

Carter "The Groundhog" Green and **Bill Milbach** were once again the resident stringers. They didn't make a truckload of money restringing racquets as they did in prior tournaments.



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That's not exactly great news for the IRS revenue agents. However, they kept themselves useful. They made the Mongoose a happy camper by ensuring that he got his steady diet of assorted beers.

Future Tournaments

Two future racquetball tournaments on schedule are:

- **2008 Maryland Open Championship** tournament, an IRT Satellite event, to be held at the Laurel Sport Fit facility in Laurel, MD on **June 6-8, 2008**. For details, please check out the following URL: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=4125>.
- **2008 Coventry Commonwealth Games of Virginia** racquetball tournament scheduled for **June 5-8, 2008** at the Roanoke Athletic Club. Check details, please check out this site: <http://commonwealthgames.org/racquetball.htm>. Deadline for registration is this Monday.

A Parting Thought

In any field of endeavor, you are as good or bad as you think you are.

Racquetbally yours,

Slemo

Slemo Warigon
The Mongoose Domain

Racquetball – your sport for life!