

The Mongoose Musings



2008 Christmas Classic Pro/AM WPRO Event – December 12-14, 2008

Karen Denu and **Shannon Feaster** did it again. They collaborated to actualize one of the most successful racquetball events on East Coast. **The 17th Annual Christmas Classic Pro/Am WPRO Stop** event was held at the **Crystal Gateway Sport & Health Club**, Arlington, VA on **December 12-14, 2008** – drawing 141 participants. Registered players took part in 30 events. Unmatched hospitality provided to participants included mouth-watering foods and abundant supply of beers (for adults who met legal drinking age only).

WOMEN'S EVENTS

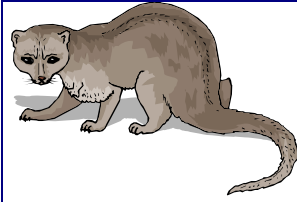
There were eight dedicated events for women with a breakdown of entrants presented in the table below:

Events	Players
Women's Pro Singles	20
Women's Open Singles	11
Women's Elite Singles	3
Women's A Singles	8
Women's B Singles	4
Women's C Singles	7
Women's 35/45+ A Singles	3
Women's Open Doubles	6

Featured Matches

Women's Pro Singles 2nd Round – #7 Brenda Kyzer vs. #10 Veronica Sotomayor: With *His Serene Highness*, **Dave Ellis**, in her corner, Sotomayor took the first two games 11-8 and 11-6. Kyzer stormed back to take the next two games 11-8 and 11-10 with a combination of deceptive line drive serves, steady backhands, and solid passing shots. Sotomayor recovered in time to win the tiebreaker 11-3 by pressuring Kyzer with aggressive backhands and forehands. Kyzer was immensely entertaining throughout the match. She looked like a kid in a candy store. She kept the fans engaged in the match with her playful antics. Sotomayor was more businesslike – playing with laser-like focus and intensity.

Women's Pro Singles Quarterfinals – #4 Kerri Wachtel vs. #5 Kristen Bellows: Wachtel's legendary killer instinct was on display throughout the match. She played like there was no tomorrow. She dominated the first game 11-1. Feeling rather perturbed after a dismal performance in the first game, Bellows settled down with the help of her very patient husband. She won the second game 11-7. Unfortunately, Wachtel couldn't be denied. Using unmatched power, control, precision, and dogged determination, Wachtel won the match in a decisive fashion by winning the next two games 11-6 and 11-2. Bellows used up all her timeouts during



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the match to try desperately to marshal momentum into her corner. But Wachtel was unstoppable – refusing to dismount from her serious butts-kicking horse!

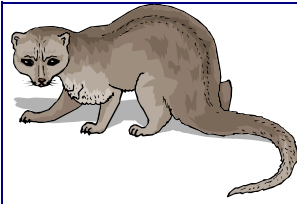


Women's Pro Singles Finals – #1 Rhonda Rajsich vs. #3 Paola Longoria: During the warm-up for this much anticipated match, several fans commented that Longoria looked fiercer than the easy-going, relaxed Rajsich. There was a palpable air of invincibility around Longoria, the reigning women's US Open champion. She proceeded to defeat Rajsich 11-4, and made fans think that there was a grave error in having her victim seeded #1 for the tournament. Rajsich had other ideas. Complementing her already deadly forehand, Rajsich's backhand started cooking winners on a more consistent basis. Eventually, Rajsich surprised the skeptical fans by taking the next three games against Longoria 11-6, 11-7, and 11-7 to win the championship, and reintroduce herself as the most dominant WPRO player.

Other Winners

The following players emerged as winners in other women's events:

- **Women's Open Singles:** Seeded #11 in the draw, **Veronica Sotomayor** defeated #1 seeded player, **Adrienne Fisher**, 15-6 and 15-6 to win the title. It should be noted that Fisher played in the finals with a severely sprained right ankle, and deserved a medal of courage.
- **Women's Elite Singles:** With 2-0 record, **Samantha Simmons** won the championship by defeating **Veronica Nogales** 15-8, 15-12 and **Laura Woodbury** 15-6, (8-15), 11-0. Nogales finished second with 1-1 record.
- **Women's A Singles:** #1 **Samantha Simmons** defeated #2 **Elaine Fisher** 15-11 and 15-8 to win the championship. Simmons did not drop a game in all her matches.
- **Women's B Singles:** **Amie Brewer** and **Francine Porter** finished in a tie for 1st place, each with 2-1 record.
- **Women's C Singles:** **Kaitlyn Simmons** won the championship without breaking a sweat, thanks to her lone opponent in the event, **Denise Berto**, who didn't show up for the duel.
- **Women's 35/45+A Singles:** **Hallie Rallas** won the championship with 2-0 record. **Kristina Scholze** finished second with 1-1 record.
- **Women's Open Doubles:** **Candi Hostovich** and **Kristen Junkin** won the title with 2-0 record. **Thao Le** and **Danielle Faddou** took second place with a 1-1 record each.



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MEN'S EVENTS

The tournament featured 18 undercard events for men – consisting of 14 singles and 4 doubles.

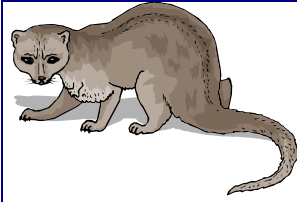
Featured Matches

Men's Open Singles Finals – #1 Ruben Gonzalez vs. #2 Brent Walters: Gonzalez took a quick 10-0 lead in the first game, and some of the fans started deserting the match. They thought Gonzalez was treating Walters like a Danish pastry. Being a proud competitor, Walters fought back to make the game interesting – tying the score at 10-10. Fans flocked back to witness a dramatic turnaround. Gonzalez huffed and puffed as he tried valiantly to keep up with energized Walters. Digging deeper into his bag of tricks, Gonzalez managed to win the first game 15-12. The start of the second game was eerily reminiscent of the first game, with Gonzalez taking a commanding 12-0 lead. But Walters ran out of his allotted Houdini tricks, and reluctantly succumbed to 15-1 loss against offensive-minded Gonzalez. Walters kept muttering “Bastard” after each skip or unforced error during the match.



Men's Open Doubles Finals – Dan Fowler/Ruben Gonzalez vs. Corey Fritz/Ira Holland: Fowler wasn't at 100%. He played mostly defensive game with some dizzying Z shots and precise passing shots. Gonzalez came to pound the ball. Virtually all shots that came his way were worth killing. For some fans, Gonzalez was never this aggressive offensively. The Fowler/Gonzalez duo defeated Fritz/Holland 15-5 and 15-10 to win the championship.

Men's Elite Doubles Finals – Sean Wagner/Jasop Gallop vs. Mark Denlinger/Andy Kulback: Wagner/Gallop finished in 1st place with 2-0 record. Denlinger/Kulback came in second with 1-1 record. It was good to see Wagner back in action in Northern Virginia after relocating to Las Vegas in 2007. His backhand and Gallop's forehand proved deadly throughout the match. Wagner was honest to a fault, often calling his own skips and replaying points in dispute. He moved around the court gracefully for a big man, with superb footwork. Gallop's astounding power and quickness scared the bejeebers out of opponents!



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Other Winners

The following players emerged as winners in other men's events:

- **Men's Elite Singles:** Robert Steele defeated Lee Plaza 10, 10.
- **Men's A Singles:** Scott Mckee defeated Marcello DiClemente 3, 8.
- **Men's B Singles:** This division was the largest with 32 entrants. Solomon Stewart defeated Troy Warigon (8), 14, 8. Warigon was determined to win the championship on his 13th birthday. But Stewart was the better player under pressure.
- **Men's C Singles:** Christopher Kucinski defeated Yuri Machuca (11), 9, 1.
- **Men's D Singles:** Kevin Morales defeated Jeremly Haines 7, 3.
- **Men's A Doubles:** David Dosch/Jimmy Lugo defeated Bill Bouie/Marcello DiClemente 14, 3. Dosch/Lugo exhibited exemplary teamwork that would make men and women in uniform justly proud.
- **Men's B Doubles:** Mike Hatcher and Sang Kim finished in first place with 2-0 record.

Future Tournaments To Be Covered By The Mongoose

2009 Wintegreen Classic

Bill Cooper will host this tournament at Laurel Sport Fit on **February 6-8, 2009**. The event will attract over 100 participants. Check: <http://www.racquetbill.com/wg/wintegreen.htm>

2009 Valentine's Open

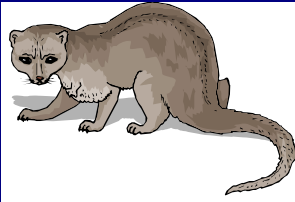
Tom Keogh will host the **2009 Valentine's Open** tournament at Sportime of Syosset, NY on **February 21-22, 2009**. There will be prize money in all Open divisions, as well as trophies and prizes in all other amateur divisions. Prize money is also offered in Elite singles division. For details, check: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=4598>

Mixed Doubles

- **Mixed Open Doubles:** Brenda Kyzer and Russ Bruns defeated Candi Hostovich and Rich Benderoth in the final to win the championship.
- **Mixed A Doubles:** Priscilla Gathoni and Richard Simmons finished in 1st place with 3-0 record. They overwhelmed opponents with their power and quickness. Janice Ryan-Arnold and Stanley Arnold finished 2nd with 2-1 record.

Next Issues of The Mongoose Musings

The next issues of *The Mongoose Musings* will cover **2009 NYC Pro/AM-IRT Event** (January 15-18, 2009) featuring the best racquetball players in the world, and **2009 Delaware Doubles Championships** (January 10-11, 2009) featuring local legends.



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Spotlight on Players

- **Diane Moore:** One of the best dressed and most accessible WPRO players. She could hold her own on The Comedy Central after gulping a beer or two. She's endowed with a good sense of humor!
- **Doreen Fowler:** A cold-blooded competitor with a big and generous heart. Regardless of your skill and gender, she could kick your butts and smile as if she's born to do just that! She's very accessible and sociable.
- **Veronica Sotomayor:** Described by many as quiet and unassuming off the court, and a ferocious competitor on the court with limitless talents.
- **Jo Shattuck:** A multi-talented athlete with great feet. She exhibited awesome soccer skills on the court. She's quite gregarious.
- **Kristen Bellows:** Blessed with infectious smile that can light up a room and make a bad day turn good. She takes her profession seriously, and really hates to lose! If you're not smart enough to know when to get the hell out of her way, she might gladly oblige in having your ass handed to you on a platter!!

The Tournament Ratings

The table below reflects The Mongoose's ratings for the tournament.

Category	Grade
Cost/Price	A
Prizes/Trophies	A
Shirts/Sweatshirts	A+
Facility	A+
Participation	A+
Courts/Matches Scheduling	B+
Foods/Hospitality	A+
Players' Performance	A
Disputes Resolution	A+
Overall Atmosphere	A

Other Future Tournaments

Other future racquetball tournaments are as follows:

- **16th Annual Winter Classic**, February 13-15, 2009, American Family Fitness in Richmond, VA. For details, contact Mr. Eric Watkins at epw316@cs.com (application will be posted at www.cvra.org).

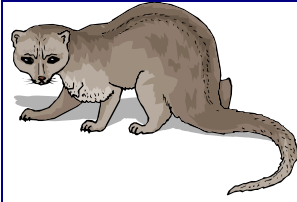


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- **2009 MD Eastern Regional Junior Championship**, February 21-22, 2009, Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club, Millersville, MD. Email Susan Flaesch at arsflaesch1997@aol.com, or check: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=4525>.
- **2009 Snowball Open**, February 21-22, 2009, Kirkwood Fitness & Racquetball Club, Wilmington, DE. Check: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=4609>.
- **2009 MWRA Singles Championships**, March 6-8, 2009, Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club. Check: <http://www.mwraweb.com/index.html>.
- **2009 Virginia STATE Singles Championships**, March 6-8, 2009, Greenbrier North YMCA in Chesapeake. Contact Malia Bailey at xl2b1@cox.net for details (application will be posted at www.cvra.org).
- **2009 Miller Lite Open-IRT Tier 4**, March 20-22, 2009, The Athletic Club, York, PA. Check: <http://www.theathleticclubofyork.com/about.php>.
- **2009 Dr. Edward Jewusiak Memorial Tournament**, March 20-22, 2009, Riverside Wellness Family Center, Newport News, VA. Email Mr. Carl Moody at cemood@wm.edu or check: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=5116>.
- **2009 Delaware State Singles Championships**, March 21-22, 2009, Kirkwood Fitness & Racquetball Club, Wilmington, DE (application will be posted at www.dara.org).
- **2009 Terrapin Shootout-WPRO Tier 1**, March 26-29, 2009, Lakeforest Sport & Health Club, Gaithersburg, MD. For details email Shannon Feaster at sfeaster@liberatedmarketing.com.
- **2009 Dennis Rosenberg Pro/Am-IRT Tier 1**, April 3-5, 2009, Allentown, PA (application will be posted at <http://irt-tour.com/200809Schedule.aspx>).
- **2009 NY Tri-State Regional Qualifier**, April 10-12, 2009, Sportime, Syosset, NY. Check: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=3640>.

A Parting Thought

If you're one of those people who often wonder why some racquetball players converse more intelligently or play better after indulging themselves in aesthetic enjoyment of consuming beers, your answer can be found below. I don't think you will ever find the concept explained any better than this *theory of intelligence*:



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”Well you see, Norm, it's like this . . . A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the heard is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Now, as we know, excessive intake of alcohol kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. And that, Norm, is why you always feel smarter after a few beers.”

Racquetbally yours,

Slemo

Slemo Warigon, MBA, CIA, CISA, CICA

The Mongoose Domain

E-Force Sponsored Player – <http://www.e-force.com/>

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