

The Mongoose Musings



10th Annual Ghostly Classic – October 17-19, 2008

They bought and brought a mammoth keg. High-quality beer flowed abundantly. Folks were merrily inebriated. Bacchus was sufficiently appeased with generous offerings of libation and imbibitions by grateful patrons. Such was the common scene at the *10th Annual Ghostly Classic* racquetball tournament held at the *Crystal City Gateway Sport and Health Club*, Arlington, VA on **October 17-19, 2008**. The tournament attracted 117 participants in 28 competitive events. Chaired by **Ms. Karen Denu**, the tournament was decidedly a smashing success.

Shot of the Tournament

It was the first round match in Men's Open singles division. **Brent Walters** was playing **Stacey Young** in the second game of the match. Young served a high lob to Walters' forehand. Walters casually walked to receive the lob serve, with his racquet seemingly set for a ceiling shot. Then BAM! Walters unloaded a vicious overhead forehand for a perfect splat shot in the right corner of the front wall! The appreciative fans stood agape with wonder. Walters grinned broadly and mouthed to the fans: "*Wow, did you see that?*" Young also stood inside the service box with his mouth agape, and said: "*How the <bleep> did you do that?*"

From New Jersey With Love!

16-year old **Veronica Sotomayor** defeated WPRO #1 player, **Rhonda Rajsich**, 8, 5, (10), 9 in the final match to win the women's singles pro division at the just concluded *2008 New Jersey Open* in Woodbridge, NJ (November 21-23, 2008). Quite an impressive win by Sotomayor!



Singles

Dan "The Poet" Fowler of Silver Spring, MD defeated **Rich Benderoth** of Virginia Beach, VA 15-4, 15-1 in the finals to win the Men's Open division. The Poet was quite flawless in executing his game plan, relying on superb footwork, controlled pinches, and precise passing shots to neutralize an immensely talented Benderoth. Other tournament winners were:

Women's Open: **Doreen Fowler**

Women's Elite: **Veronica Nogales**

Women's A: **Samantha Simmons**

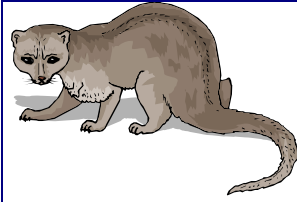
Women's B: **Lois Simon**

Men's 60/65+: **Frank Vail**

Men's 35-50+: **Tim Simeone**

Men's Elite: **Rick Taylor**

Men's A: **Richard Simmons**



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Men's B: **Marcelo Morales**
 Men's C: **Mark Storey**
 Men's D: **Kunal Kuthiala**

Officiating with Credibility

Dan and Doreen Fowler were the most credible officiating duo during the tournament. They knew the rules. They were fair. They were firm. They made it clear from the onset that players in doubles events would not get away with murders, including Z serves that did not afford the opposition a clear hitting path. Rarely were their calls questioned or challenged.



Next Tournaments

The *17th Annual Christmas Classic Pro AM* racquetball tournament will kick off on December 11-14, 2008 at the *Crystal City Gateway Sport and Health Club*, Arlington, VA. The forthcoming tournament will attract most of WPRO's best players to Northern Virginia. Please check <http://www.novaracquetball.com/> for details. Ms. Karen Denu will again be chairing this tournament.

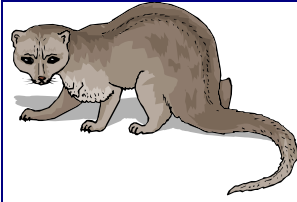
2008 NYC Pro Am-IRT Event will be hosted on January 15-18, 2008 in Syosset, NY. For details, please check this site: <http://www.queensracquetsports.com/>.

Doubles

Mauricio "The Momentum" Zelada and **Sergio Rivera** defeated **Corey Fritz** and **Ira Holland**, 15-11, 15-2 to win the Men's Open doubles division championship. With Rivera on the backhand side, and Zelada on the forehand side, the opposition could not withstand blistering offensive attacks by this athletic duo.

Corey Fritz and **T. J. Baumbaugh** defeated **Pete Appel** and **Kristen Junkin** (14), 9, 6 to win the Mixed doubles title. Fritz had superb touches upfront. His unabashed enthusiasm had tremendously energized his doubles partner.

Lance "The Thunder" Warigon and **Slemo Warigon** defeated **Wilson Montalvo** and **Stanley Arnold** 7, 4 to win Men's A doubles division. Seeded #2 in the draw, the father/son duo won the championship without dropping a game.



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Frank Vail and **Linda White** bested **Slemo Warigon** and **Priscilla Gathoni** in three games, 10, (4), 8 to win Mixed A Doubles division. Vail was on a hot hitting steak. He could do no wrong. His partner was exceedingly grateful to ride on his hot hitting coattails.

Curtis Gilland and **Chris Kempley** defeated **Kurt Chen** and **Phil Wheeler** 10, (8), 6 to win the Men's B doubles division. Chen was relatively inexperienced. The Gilland/Kempley duo exploited Chen's inexperience for critical points during the match that ended in a tiebreaker.

Spotlight on Players

Pete Appel turned out to be Dan Fowler's toughest opponent during the tournament. He had always been a fundamentally sound racquetball player who relished playing without gloves.

Sharlene Donovan consistently played with high intensity, discipline, and no-quit attitude.

Doreen Fowler was virtually flawless in her Men's Open singles first round match against **Tim Simeone**. She won the first game 15-7, but lost the next two games 9 and 6.

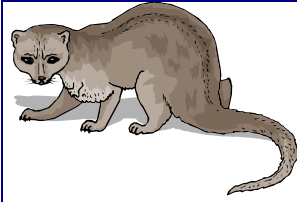
Tim Simeone was a cool and composed player with exemplary honesty. He called all his own skips and carries – making life much easier and simpler for the long-suffering referees.

Ben Spooner had his vastly improved game on display throughout the tournament. His backhand had monstrous power.

Frank Vail continued to defy his age with his youthful footwork and power game. He consistently killed the ball on both sides of the court with impressive power.

Brent Walters was a rare racquetball breed. He played with outright audacity – believing that every ball that came his way should be mercilessly pounded. In his mind, he was born to entertain and raise hell for the opposition.

Phil Wheeler was a very proud player in an excellent shape. He didn't enjoy losing to his good friend, **Frank Vail**, in the final match officiated by The Mongoose.



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The Tournament Ratings

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

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

Parting Thoughts

Thought #1: The Good Book asks: *What profiteth a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?* Similarly, The Mongoose asks: *What profiteth a man if he gets some accolades for few good kills and ultimately loses the match due to numerous unforced errors?*

Thought #2: The *2008 US Open racquetball* champ, **Kane Waselenchuk**, got a \$10,000 check for his effort. Conversely, his female counterpart, **Paola Longoria**, got a \$5,000 check for her effort. Do we need to fight to ensure *pay equity* in professional racquetball irrespective of gender and other physical characteristics? Or, is the pay based on the number of participants?

Racquetbally yours,

Slemo

Slemo Warigon, MBA, CIA, CISA, CICA
The Mongoose Domain

Racquetball – your sport for life!