

# The Mongoose Musings



## 2008 MD St. Nick Splat – December 6-7, 2008

The Maryland Washington Racquetball Association (MWRA) hosted its sixth tournament of the 2008-09 season on **December 6-7, 2008** at the **Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club**, Millersville, MD. The event, **2008 MD St. Nick Splat**, drew 84 participants. The tournament organizers probably expected a higher level of participation. Unfortunately, the **2008 Mistletoe Matchup** tournament held during the same weekend at Greenbrier North YMCA, Chesapeake, VA drew most of the big hitters.

### Promoting Junior Racquetball

The November/December 2008 issue of the *USA Racquetball* publication is dedicated to junior racquetball. The issue is pregnant with ideas and strategies for establishing and sustaining successful junior racquetball programs. Get your hands on this special issue, and see what you can do to promote junior racquetball in your community! **Dr. James Hiser**, USAR Executive Director, hammers home the points that the future of our sport rests in our youth!!

### Men's Events

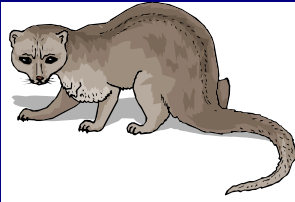
**Men's Open Singles:** The final match featured two-time Maryland State champion, **Mauricio Zelada**, and a perennial contender, **Stephen Lee**. Lee took the first game 15-13 as Zelada struggled mightily to rediscover his hitting groove. Zelada won the second game 15-4 to redeem himself. The tiebreaker was a classic battle between two gladiators. Zelada pulled away from a prolonged 5-5 tie to win the game 11-5, and the championship.

**Men's A Singles:** **Richard Simmons** defeated **Michael Fuller** 15-10, 15-6 in the final to win the title. Simmons' speed and power were too much for Fuller to overcome. Fuller lost a lot of pounds to be in excellent fighting shape. However, Simmons was busy cutting off shots and applying enormous pressures on Fuller's game.

**Men's B Singles:** The 12-year old **Troy Warigon** rediscovered his backhand in time to win the championship with 15-6, 15-4 victory over **Sean Buskirk** of Penn State University. Warigon relied on blistering serves, confounding backhand splats, solid passing shots, and smooth diving gets to quickly wrap up the final match. Warigon also won *Men's A Singles Consolation* division after defeating perennial contenders such as **Don Joy** and **Gary Davis**.

**Men's C Singles:** A talented junior, **Nathan Lott**, made a short work of **David Kopp** in the final match to win 15-0, 15-3.

**Men's D Singles:** This was a round robin event featuring 5 players. **Jordon Limsky** won the division championship by defeating all 4 opponents: **Richard Halpin** (2<sup>nd</sup>), **Tommy DiMaggio** (3<sup>rd</sup>), **Timothy Stargel** (4<sup>th</sup>), and **Scott Turner** (5<sup>th</sup>).



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Other winners in singles divisions included the following players:

- Men's Age Singles 24/35: **Chris Wilmoth**
- Men's Age Singles 45/60: **Hector Del Castillo**
- Men's Age Singles 35/40 A: **Michael Fuller**
- Men's Age Singles 45/50 A: **Kevin Sterling**
- Men's Age Singles 24/25 B: **Clif Peterson**
- Men's Age Singles 40/45/50/60 B: **Scott Davies**
- Men's Age Singles 24/35 C: **Gunner Sledgeski**
- Men's Age Singles 40/45/55 C: **Kevin Ledoux**

### Future Tournaments To Be Covered By The Mongoose

#### 2009 Delaware State Doubles

**Chris Veale** is putting together another splendid tournament at Kirkwood Fitness Club, Wilmington, DE on **January 10-11, 2009**. The event will feature DE legends such as John Collison, Matt Gehling, and Ed Garabedian. For details, please check <http://www.dara.org/>.

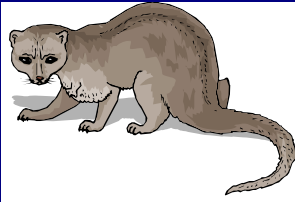
#### 2009 NYC Pro/Am – IRT Event

This event, hosted by **Tom Keogh**, will take place in Syosset, NY on **January 16-18, 2009**. It will draw top 16 IRT pro players, and promises to be fun! About 60 participants have already signed up for this event at this point. For details, check <http://www.queensracquetsports.com/>.

**Men's Open Doubles:** **David White** and **Jason Carl Colangelo** won the championship without breaking any sweat. Their opponents, **Stephen Lee** and **Joseph Roth**, decided not to show up for the pool play playoffs because Lee was allergic to playing Colangelo.

**Men's A Doubles:** The pool play playoffs featured **Michael Kellam, Jr.** and **Robert Tarter** versus **Michael Linsky** and **David Gertler**. Kellam/Tarter took the first game 15-10, with lefty Kellam adroitly covering the home front, and Tarter unloading bombs from the back with glee. Linsky/Gertler made the necessary adjustments and started attacking the middle. Kellam/Tarter had no answer for this successful game strategy. Linsky/Gertler won the second game 15-2; they continued attacking the middle to win the tiebreaker 11-5 and the championship. **Table I** below summarizes key statistics from this playoff match.

**Men's B/C Doubles:** This event featured five teams playing in a round robin format. **Christopher Howse** and **Robert Yonkers** won the championship with four wins. **Jon Flaesch** and **Stanley Arnold** finished second with three wins and one loss. Howse, a control player, was a perfect complement for Yonkers, a power player.



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**Table I – Men's A Doubles Championship Match Statistics**

Description	Limsky/Gertler	Kellam/Tarter
Aces	7	3
Drive Serves	69	41
Lob Serves	2	26
Kills	32	30
Unforced Errors	8	23

*Notes: Approximately 85% of the unforced errors by the Kellam/Tarter team occurred on the forehand side (right side of the back court). Approximately 70% of the drive serves by the Limsky/Gertler team were to the middle of the court where poor positioning and miscommunication resulted in poor returns.*

## Women's Events

**Women's Open Singles:** With only three registered players, round robin format was used for the event. **Yolanda Jordan** defeated **Samantha Simmons** (2<sup>nd</sup>) and **Ashley Ward** (3<sup>rd</sup>) to win the championship.

**Women's A Singles:** The event had four players. **Samantha Simmons**, the 13-year old junior with impressive power and agility, defeated **Sharon McNeill** 15-2, 15-5 in pool play playoffs to win the championships. Samantha's blistering backhands and forehands severely emasculated McNeill's playing strategies from the get-go.

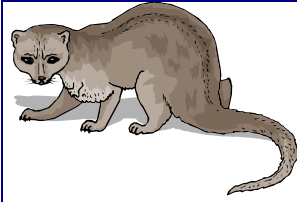
**Women's B/C Singles:** The event drew four players. **Elizabeth Simmons** bested **Kim Housman** 15-3, 15-5 in the pool play playoffs to win the championship.

## Next Issue of The Mongoose Musings

The next issue of *The Mongoose Musings* dated Friday, January 2, 2009 covers the **2008 Christmas Classic/WPRO** tournament held on **December 12-15, 2008** at the Crystal Gateway Sport & Health Club, Arlington, VA. Players who participated in this tournament included Rhonda Rajsich, Cheryl Gudinas Holmes, Paola Longoria, Kerri Watchtel, Kristen Bellows, Veronica Sotomayor, Adrienne Fisher, Brenda Kyzer, Jo Shattuck, Doreen Fowler, Ruben Gonzalez, Dan Fowler, Brent Walters, Rich Benderoth, and Sean Wagner.

## Mixed and Junior Events

**Mixed Open/A Doubles:** **Chris Wilmoth** and **Rebecca Horvath** defeated **Michael Kellam, Jr.** and **Tracie Valentine** in the pool play playoffs to win the division title. Wilmoth was busy cooking backhand winners, and Kellam was busy making some eye-popping diving gets.



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Horvath settled on high percentage shots. Valentine pounded the ball with unabashed confidence and power.

**Mixed B/C Doubles:** With only five teams, matches were played in a round robin format. **Elizabeth Simmons** and **Stanley Arnold** won all four matches to cap their uneventful championship run.

**Junior Singles 16 and Under:** Using a round robin playing format, **David O'Brien** defeated **Kaitlyn Simmons** (2<sup>nd</sup>), **Scott Turner** (3<sup>rd</sup>), and **Timothy Stargel** to win the championship.

### Spotlight on Players

**Scott Davies** was a classy gentleman. He called all his skips and carries. He also replayed all points in dispute, even if such points were ruled in his favor by referees. His sign language skills continued to improve admirably.

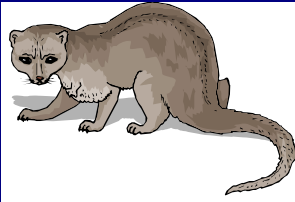
**Anthony Gambone** put forth a splendid performance against **Richard Simmons**. His decisive first game win by a score of 15-3 sent shock waves throughout the facility. Simmons restored order by winning the next two games 15-4, 11-1. However, Gambone left the match with the feeling that Simmons was most assuredly beatable.

**David Gertler** proved why he's considered one of the most intelligent and adaptive players on the East Coast. His uncanny ability to transform himself from a smiling gentleman off the court to an intense butt-kicking machine on the court was the talk of town. He wisely went for percentage shots, and expected his doubles partner to follow suit.

**Michael Limsky** was a happy-go-lucky chap with penchants for manufacturing unbelievable forehand pinches from all over the place. His trademark "rubber backhand" was something else. The way he twisted his arm to retrieve ball and unload backhand shots would result in career-ending injuries for a lot of old folks sporting generous pot bellies! He's a great doubles player who won Men's B and A doubles championships several times with different partners.

**Samantha Simmons** improved her game exponentially to the point that she's now playing in the Women's Open division. This tall and willowy lady could pack a wallop!

**Rob Tarter** was fun to play with and against. He engaged in playful trash-talking throughout the tournament, and made damn sure that all his good shots were appropriately appreciated by opponents and fans alike.



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**Jose Tobias** was a fun-loving guy who could communicate fluently in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language. He's also a famous "locker room prankster" (see **Table II** below).

## Table II – The Locker Room Prankster

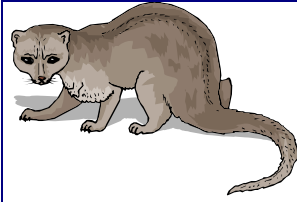
*Jose Tobias* lost a hard-fought battle to **Richard Simmons** in the semifinal of Men's A Singles. As usual, he took the loss in stride. He drowned couple of Coronas and got a pack of ice for his sore shoulder, elbow, knee, and ankle. He then went to the men's locker room in search of an unsuspecting victim. He found one. A good friend of his was getting ready to take a quick shower after a tough match. Reduced to his underwear, the friend bent over to pick up several bathing articles from his bag. It was at that point that Tobias made a stealthy entrance and inserted the pack of ice in his friend's underwear. The poor fellow made some loud expletive-laden screams and yanked the offending ice pack out of his butts to assuage the resultant discomfort. With frozen butts, soiled underwear, and fried brains, the victim nearly chased snickering Tobias out of the locker room. He stopped at the door leading to Court #1 in time to gather his thoughts. It was bad enough that he had become the butt of a nasty locker room prank. He couldn't afford to be charged with an indecent exposure!

**Lance "The Thunder" Warigon** had to play his favorite teacher and five-time Maryland State singles champion, **Jamal Harris**, in the Men's Open Singles division. Nervous energy got the best of The Thunder. Harris won the first game 15-6. The Thunder settled down and won the second game 15-6 with blistering backhands and forehands. The tiebreaker drew a crowd, with older fans rooting for Harris and younger fans rooting for The Thunder. After a tense and prolonged 4-4 tie, Harris pulled away with 11-5 victory. That battle convinced the 17-year old Thunder that he could hold his own against the big dogs in the Open division.

## The Tournament Ratings

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

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



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### Other Future Tournaments

Other future racquetball tournaments are as follows:

- **2009 MD Lakeforest Shootout**, January 10, 2009, Lake Forest Health Gaithersburg, Maryland. For details, please check: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=4518>.
- **2009 WPRO Satellite Stop** to be hosted by Khanh Holtslander in Harrisburg, PA. For details, please email Khanh at [khanh209@aol.com](mailto:khanh209@aol.com).
- **2009 MWRA Doubles Championships**, January 17-18, 2009, Laurel Sportfit, Laurel, MD. For details, please <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=4524>.

### A Parting Thought

**“Know the enemy and know yourself; in a hundred battles you will never be in peril. When you are ignorant of the enemy, but know yourself, your chances of winning or losing are equal. If ignorant both of your enemy and yourself, you are certain in every battle to be in peril.”** – Sun Tzu in “The Art of War”

Racquetbally yours,

*Slemo*

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

*Racquetball – your sport for life!*