

## The Mongoose Musings



### 2008 NY Long Island Championships – October 11, 2008

Originally scheduled for October 11-12, 2008, the **2008 NY Long Island Championships** tournament was shortened to a one-day event on **October 11, 2008**. Approximately 60 participants took part in the tournament held at the **Armitraj Fitness and Health Club** in Bay Shore, NY. This piece is a shortened commentary about the shortened tournament.

### Singles

**Bradley Kirch** of Syracuse, NY defeated **Jason Sylvester** of Monroe, NY in two games to win the Men's Open Singles division. It was a hard fought battle that looked and felt like a marathon with the tiebreaker ending. Sylvester gave everything he had plus some, but it was not good enough to overcome a virtuoso performance by New York's young racquetball maestro, Kirch.

Kirch deftly utilized superb footwork, precise passing shots, and blistering splats to constantly keep Sylvester guessing. Kirch defeated **Akio Shimizu** in two games in the semifinal to avenge **Nick Montalbano's** loss to Shimizu in the quarterfinal. Sylvester defeated **Hisao Shimizu** and **Mauricio Zelada** on his way to the final.

Other tournament winners in singles divisions were:

Men's 40+: **Anthony Dipietro**

Men's 40+ B/C: **Paul Miller**

Men's A: **Eric Voscopoulos**

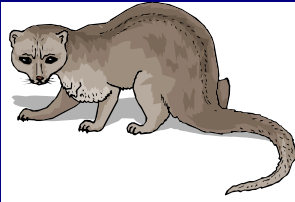
Men's B: **Scott Rachman**

Men's C: **John Griffin**

### Doubles

**Nick Montalbano**, West Islip, NY, and **Bradley Kirch**, Syracuse, NY, defeated **Russ Bonanno**, North Massapequa, NY, and **Sanjay Laforest**, Queens Village, NY, in three games to win the Men's Open Doubles title. There were plenty of fireworks in the final match. Kirch/Montalbano took the first game decisively. Bonanno/Laforest rallied from a 10-14 deficit to take the second game 15-14. Tempers flared in the third game, with players questioning calls, slamming the door in exasperation, and engaging in gamesmanship. The game stayed very close until the Kirch/Montalbano duo pulled away from a tense 6-6 tie to win the tiebreaker 11-6.

**Steve Aguirre** of Warren, NJ and **Joe Carrano** of Staten Island, NY defeated **Lance Warigon** and **Slemo Warigon** of Elkridge, MD in two games to win the Men's A Doubles division championship. The powerful lefty, Carrano, impressed the fans with his Jason Mannino-like diving gets. The Warigons lacked the energy, fire, and discipline that brought them to the final.



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**Victor Montanez/Enrique Moreno-mendez** and **Russ Bonanno/David Dikman** won Men's B Doubles and Men's 30+ Doubles divisions, respectively.

### Spotlight on Players

**Bradley Kirch:** This swashbuckling New Yorker has established a reputation for manufacturing eye-popping shots all over the court. He's endowed with penetrating intellect and deceptive quickness. He exhibits poise beyond his years. Folks better keep close eyes on this kid during the US Open in Memphis, TN next weekend. He's bound to make some noises, and upsets are in the air for certain.

**SanJay Laforest:** This dude has the intimidating physique of a strong safety football player. He's lightning fast and powerful on the court. He can pound the ball on both sides with the best of them.

**Nick Montalbano:** He's the crowd's darling for a good reason. He's an immensely talented racquetball player. He's dedicated to his craft. He's coachable. He listens and learns fast. His future looks bright, indeed.

**Russ Bonanno:** This ageless Wonder Boy is an excellent ball retriever of the first order. Seldom does he commit unforced errors.

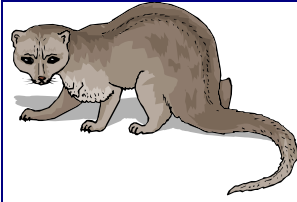
### The Tournament Ratings

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

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

### Future Tournaments

- **The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Ghostly Classic**, Crystal City, VA, October 16-19, 2008. For details, please visit <http://www.novaracquetball.com/Entry.htm>.



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- **13<sup>th</sup> US Open Racquetball Tournament**, Racquet Club of Memphis, TN, October 22-26, 2008. Site: <http://www.usopenracquetball.com/>.
- **2008 Maryland Fall Shootout**, October 25, 2008, Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club, Millersville, MD. Site: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=4521>.

### A Parting Thought

**Tom Keogh** handled numerous disputes during the tournament. He was firm, but fair. Kudos, Tom, for a job well done!

Racquetbally yours,

*Slemo*

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

*Racquetball – your sport for life!*