

The Mongoose Musings



2008 New York Doubles Championships – September 20-21, 2008

The **2008 New York Doubles Championships** racquetball tournament attracted 102 participants from nine states, including 78 from New York. The event was held at the **Sportime** facility in Syosset, NY – one of the premier racquetball facilities in the country. The facility has eight courts with unobstructed glass view for the fans, including the center court with three glass walls. **Tom Keogh** and his army of dedicated volunteers did a commendable job hosting yet another enjoyable and memorable tournament.

Doubles

Shane Wood (Warren, MA) and **Sanjay Laforest** (Queens Village, NY) won the Men's Open Doubles title, beating **Nick Montalbano** (West Islip, NY) and **Bradley Kirch** (Syracuse, NY) in two games in the final. Sanjay also teamed up with **Aimee Ruiz** (Stirling, NJ) to beat **Bradley Kirch** and **Aubrey O'Brien** (Auburn, CA) and win the Mixed Open Doubles championship.

Kimberly Ferina (Rockaway Park, NY) and **Jasmine Plaza** (East Elmhurst, NY) won the Women's Open Doubles championship. The division featured only three teams playing in a round robin format.

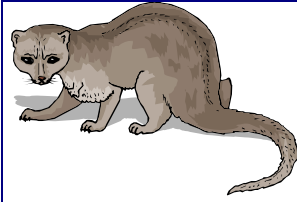
Other official tournament winners were:

- Men's A (12 teams): **Scott Steinberg/Ronald Garzia**
- Men's B (12 teams): **Nick Junjulas/Christopher Esteves**
- Men's C (7 teams): **Steve Otero/Damian Campoverde**
- Men's 30+ (9 teams): **Russ Bonanno/Stephen Mussachia**
- Men's 40+ (3 teams): **Mark Rosenbloom/Richard Winter**
- Men's 50+ (3 teams): **Paul Miller/Joseph Secreti**
- Mixed A (3 teams): **Mike Sita/Keri Guarino**

Singles

Yes, the word "doubles" in tournament name was somewhat a misnomer because it also featured singles divisions. **Jason Sylvester** (Monroe, NY) sporting his usual Marine crew haircut overpowered **Roberto Cantos** (Palm Bay, FL) in the final match to win the Men's Open singles division. The division featured 16 players.

Mario Curatolo (Staten Island, NY) won the Men's A singles division with 13 participants by outplaying and outlasting **Eric Voscopoulos** (Massapequa, NY) in the final.



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The Men's B singles division with 16 participants bequeathed its championship crown on #15 seeded player, **Joel Ramirez** (Brooklyn, NY). Joel upset #2 seeded player, **Tomas Lora** (Carlstadt, NJ), in the first round, and defeated **Dan Clawson** (Canandaigua, NY) in the final. Incidentally, Dan upset #1 seeded player, **Jared Decoste** (Vestal, NY), in the semifinal.

The Men's C singles division with 14 players crowned **Richard Simonelli** of Warrington, PA, seed #11, its new champion. Richard defeated #1 seeded player, **Don Dolan** of Wayne, NJ, in the final.

Spotlight on Players

Rick Chong: He's a comedian with solid game. He will say crazy things to rankle his opponents, but he's a good sport. He regularly volunteers at Tom Keogh's tournaments. When not playing his scheduled matches, he goes out of his way to make the atmosphere hospitable for all tournament participants.

Kimberly Ferina: Don't let her calm outward appearance fool you. She can pound the ball with the best of them, and when she smells blood, she unfailingly goes for the kill. So, take her lightly at your own peril.

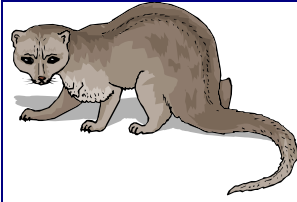
Tom Keogh: His compact, traditional swing is still a thing of beauty. He consistently pounds the ball low and hard. The intense Tom you see on the court is not the same nice Tom you see off the court. He's such an intense competitor who absolutely hates to lose! And, he doesn't suffer racquetball fools gladly!!

Bradley Kirch: He's always cool, calm, and collected. He exudes infectious enthusiasm on and off the court. With smooth backhand and forehand strokes, he's a joy to watch.

Sanjay Laforest: This very tough dude is one of the most ruthless competitors in the business. He plays with such cold-blooded intensity that it's hard to tell whether or not he's having fun. He's the kind of competitor who won't concede a single point to even his own grandmother.

Nick Montalbano: This junior is still *growing* physically in height and metaphorically in his game. Chris Crowther better keep his eyes on this tall racquetball phenom.

Aubrey O'Brien: Her countless victims have learned an important lesson about this very elegant and talented player – it's a costly mistake to treat her like a delicate flower who will wilt at any moment. She's plenty tough with killer instincts.



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Aimee Ruiz: This lefty is a gifted doubles partner with awe-inspiring finesse game. Her composure and unassuming personality do not begin to tell you about the raging competitive fire that burns within.

The Tournament Ratings

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

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

Stats of the Month

Who: Dan Fowler of Silver Spring, MD

What: Defeated Dan Llacera of Alexandria, VA

How: 15-0, 15-8

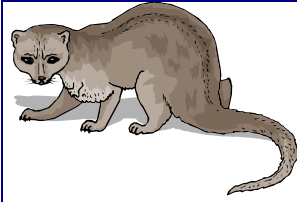
When: August 17, 2008

Where: Final of Men's Open Singles, *3rd annual Curt Rettke Memorial Tournament*

Future Tournaments

Two future racquetball tournaments on schedule are as follows:

- **2008 Mid-Atlantic Tournament of Champions**, a WPRO Satellite event, to be held at the Laurel Sport Fit facility in Laurel, MD on **October 3-5, 2008**. For details, please check out the following URL: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=4546>.
- **2008 Long Island Championships** racquetball tournament scheduled for **October 10-12, 2008** at the Amritraj Fitness and Health Club in Long Island/New York. For details, please check out this site: <http://www.queensracquetsports.com/>.



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- **2008 Delaware Ken Laramore Memorial** racquetball tournament hosted by Delaware Amateur Racquetball Association (DARA) on October 11, 2008. Deadline for registration is this Monday. Check <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=4576> for details.
- **13th US Open Racquetball Tournament** to be held at the Racquet Club of Memphis, TN on October 22-26, 2008. For details, please check <http://www.usopenracquetball.com/>.

A Parting Thought

Kane Waselenchuk won the first two IRT events of the 2008-9 season – the **Motorola IRT Racquetball Championships** and the **Kansas City Open**. He defeated **Rocky Carson** and **Jack Huczek** in the finals of these events, respectively. So much for the “rust” theory! Apparently, “being rusty” after a long layoff is an ailment that afflicts mere mortals like you and me – not a player of Kane’s stature.

Racquetbally yours,

Sleemo

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

Racquetball – your sport for life!