



## 28th Annual Women's Senior/Masters National Championships

By: Cheryl Kirk

Participants at the Women's Senior Masters National Championships  
Photo By Kit Lawson

### Q1. Why do we play racquetball?

A1. Well, for lots of reasons, actually. We know there are many factors that figure into it: fun, camaraderie, exercise, competition, stress relief, weight loss, and more...we're family!

### Q2. Why, for heaven's sake, would you go to Lombard, Illinois (suburb of Chicago) in mid-January?

A2. See Q1 above. With the possible exception of weight loss (no one went hungry), the WSMRA Annual event provided players with reasons to brave the cold and show up in decidedly nippy weather on January 12th at O'Hare or Midway airports.

Believing in full disclosure from the very first, the tag line on the event entry was "Balmy Weather definitely NOT guaranteed; a great time absolutely ENSURED!" Tournament Directors Cheryl Kirk and Laurel Davis, in partnership with the WSMRA Board, great sponsors, and many dedicated volunteers, are proud to say that all indications were "Mission Accomplished." Heck, the weather wasn't even that bad (unless maybe you ask someone from the south). It appears everyone survived and thrived.

Since this is a magazine and not a book, let's embrace brevity and quickly highlight aspects of this year's soiree that received positive feedback from the 80 women in attendance: a young and trendy lime green and gray souvenir jacket; high-end logoed awards; the silent auction with an array of items on which to bid (add "shopping opportunities" to Q1 above); pleasant and economical accommodations at the Marriott Suites Downers Grove; the hospitable and welcoming club -- Glass Court Swim & Fitness; the Illinois State Racquetball Association

men (led by Geoff Peters) ran the desk so the women could enjoy their event; fun banquet at the host hotel. It was great to see the pleasantly surprised reaction from DJ Greg Vazquez who never expected a "Women's Senior Masters" group to rock the dance floor!

So 80 players ages 36-76 arrived from 21 states and Guatemala (which actually made this an INTERNATIONAL event). The round robin format ensures play on every day of the three-day tournament. The women competed in singles and doubles age divisions -- seven round robins and three pool-play-with-playoff formats. Forty-eight played in both singles and doubles (see "exercise" in Q1).



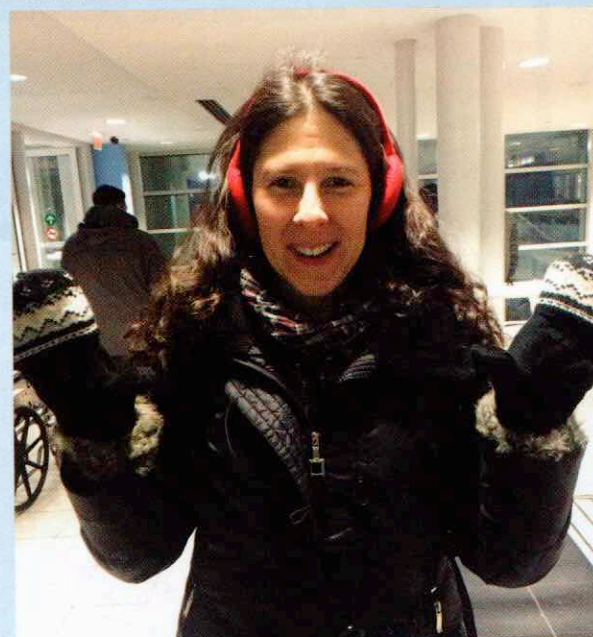
Tournament Desk Hard at Work  
Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Kirk



Have to share this: a Fun Doubles activity is tradition on Thursday afternoon before the action heats up on Friday. This gives the players a feel for the courts, and it's a fundraiser for breast cancer awareness and research. This activity raised \$575 this year -- it could be a record! And speaking of the international nature of this year's WSMRA event, the silent auction raised over \$2k that was split between the WSMRA and The Tracks, a kids' racquetball development program in a disadvantaged area of Guatemala City. Marie Gomar was thrilled to pack her luggage with a number of donated racquets (thanks especially to Paula Lemon) and a goodly sum back to Guatemala to help jumpstart The Tracks Project. (BTW, donations of eye guards are the #1 need right now -- contact Cheryl Kirk.)

The 29th Annual WSMRA Championships will be back in sunny Tucson next January (always on the MLK holiday weekend) where Tournament Directors Linda Moore and Cindy Tilbury will likely ENSURE lovely weather along with a great time!

Check out the draws, match by match, at:  
[www.r2sports.com/tourney.asp?TID=17584](http://www.r2sports.com/tourney.asp?TID=17584)



Top: Silent Auction Goddesses Paula Sperling and Carol Gellman  
 Bottom: Guatemalan Marie Gomar came to Chicago prepared  
 Photos By Cheryl Kirk

## RESULTS

### SINGLES

35+BC: Amy Anderson (IL); Melissa Musick (IL)  
 45+: Sheila Champion (WI); Karin McCauley (IL); Kim Reimschisel (IN); Lynn Yeazell (IL)  
 45+BC: Susan Mueller (IL); Victoria Pickard (PA); Chris Cerny (IN); Cindy Streif (OK)  
 50+: Jean Halahan (NY); Marie Gomar (Guatemala); Laura Brandt (FL); Page Kern (MN)  
 55+: Cindy Tilbury (CA); Ann Fingerhood (MO); Diane Bunker (IL); Carmen Hernandez (FL)  
 55+BC: Ingrid Callman (DE); Pat Kwasigroch (IL); Mary Crambes (IL); Audrey Sorrento (NY)  
 60+: Liz Molitor (IL); Susan Adams (FL); Marsha Berry (KY); Brenda White (IL)  
 65+: Shirley Parsons (CO); Laurie Kitchen (NY); Jane Snyder (TN); Carol Gellman (NM)  
 65+BC: Barbara Vagedes (IL); Patricia Meyer (NY)  
 70+: Paula Sperling (NM)  
 75+: Mildred Gwinn (NC); Marquita Molina (CA)

### DOUBLES

35+ Doubles: Lynn Yeazell (IL)/Rebecca Bowman (IN); Carolyn Watkins Vazquez (IL)/Letty Maldonado (IL); Melissa Musick (IL)/Susan Mueller (IL)  
 45+ Doubles: Jean Halahan (NY)/Marie Gomar (Guatemala); Carrie Reitmeier (NE)/Linda Moore (AZ); Cheryl Jones (MN)/Wendy Miller (MN); Janet Eminger (IL)/Nancy Amaro (IL)  
 55+ Doubles: Ann Fingerhood (MO)/Page Kern (MN); Carmen Hernandez (FL)/Susan Adams (FL); Susan Pfahler (FL)/Karen Bouchard (FL); Joanna Nache (NC)/Kathy Stellema (MI)  
 65+ Doubles: Nancy Kronenfeld (IL)/Shirley Parsons (CO); Jane Snyder (TN)/Laurie Kitchen (NY); Patricia Meyer (NY)/Terry Rogers (NV); Barbara Vagedes (IL)/Patricia Moser (IL)  
 75+ Doubles: Mildred Gwinn (NC); Marquita Molina (CA)

## WSMRA PLAYERS CAME FROM

Arizona 1	Kentucky 1	New York 5
California 3	Maryland 1	North Carolina 3
Colorado 1	Michigan 1	Oklahoma 3
Delaware 2	Minnesota 3	Pennsylvania 1
Florida 7	Missouri 1	Tennessee 1
Guatemala 1	Nebraska 2	Wisconsin 2
Illinois 32	Nevada 1	
Indiana 4	New Mexico 4	