



November 2011 Newsletter

Team Canada returns home with two bronze medals from Pan Am Games

Individual Competition: Vincent Gagnon of Montreal and Tim Landeryou of Saskatoon and Kris Odegard of Saskatoon came home with bronze medals from the 2011 Pan Am Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, as racquetball returned to the Pan Am Games for the first time since 2003 in Santo Domingo.

Gagnon got the semi-finals in men's singles with wins over Felipe Camacho of Costa Rica, 15-9, 15-11, and Luis Perez of the Dominican Republic, 15-7, 15-9. In the semis, Gagnon lost to eventual silver medalist Mexican Gilberto Mejia, 15-11, 14-15, 11-5.

Landeryou and Odegard beat Bolivians Roland Keller and Ricardo Monroy, 3-15, 15-10, 11-8, in the quarter finals, which put them in the semi-finals against Venezuelans Cesar Castro and Jorge Hirsekorn. Again they went to a tie-breaker, but this time it was the opposition that came out on top, as Venezuela won 15-14, 3-15, 11-10. In the final, Venezuela lost to Mexico in two straight games.

Nonetheless, Landeryou and Odegard's bronze medal continues the Canadian streak of having a medal in men's doubles at each Pan Am Games racquetball competition going back to 1995.

Mike Green, the other Canadian man on the team, lost in the quarter finals to Mejia, who was the silver medalist losing in the final to American Rocky Carson.

Team Competition: In the team competition, Canada's results were disappointing as both the men and women lost in the quarter final stage, so did not reach the podium. Both the teams lost to Ecuador.

In the team competition, countries compete against each other in best of three matches, consisting of two singles matches and a doubles match. In the quarters, the doubles were played first.

On the men's side, Green and Odegard played doubles - a change from the individual part of the competition - and they lost to Jose Alvarez and Fernando Rios (Ecuador), 15-7, 11-15, 11-8, to put Ecuador up 1-0.

Gagnon leveled the match at 1-1 with a 15-7, 15-9 victory over Jose Ugalde. That left the match on the racquet of Landeryou, who faced Rios in singles. Sadly for Canada, Rios came out on top 15-13, 15-13.

The women's side was a similar story, as Brandi Jacobson Prentice and Jennifer Saunders lost in doubles, 12-15, 15-10, 11-1, to Maria Paz Munoz and Maria Cordova of Ecuador to fall behind 1-0.

But again Canada leveled the match as Frédérique Lambert defeated Cordova, 15-7, 8-15, 11-2, which meant the outcome rested on Saunders's singles match versus Munoz. Again it was the Ecuadorian who came out on top, winning 15-4, 15-11.

Waselenchuk wins record 7th US Open Racquetball Championship, other Canadians also win US Open titles

Edmonton native Kane Waselenchuk won a record 7th title at the 16th US Open in Minneapolis. Waselenchuk, the #1 player on the International Racquetball Tour (IRT), defeated Rocky Carson, the #2 ranked IRT player, 7-11, 11-2, 11-4, 11-7, to win for the 4th consecutive time.

Early, it looked like that streak might not continue, as Carson led all of game one, although Waselenchuk did tie it at 7-7, before Carson won 11-7.

But games two and three, were vintage Waselenchuk as he took big leads of 8-0 and 7-0, respectively in each game, winning both easily.

Game four was a different matter as Carson battled Waselenchuk all the way. They were tied at 3-3. Carson led 5-3, and 7-6, but Waselenchuk came back took a 9-7 lead and then won 11-7 on a push shot into the front right corner.

It was an unconventional shot, but one that Waselenchuk used to close out two games against Jose Rojas in their semi-final. Asked about it afterwards, Waselenchuk said he'd hit that shot "100,000s of times. No doubt that I was not going to skip it."

Waselenchuk and Carson met in both of the IRT finals this season, and Waselenchuk has won both times. In fact, Carson's only beaten Waselenchuk once in 38 matches, and that was back in 2003.

Other Canadians joined Waselenchuk in the winner's circle:

Frédérique Lambert, the Canadian U18 Girls Champion, won the Women's Open division by defeating Mexican Susana Acosta, 14-15, 15-5, 11-8.

Lambert teamed up with Corey Osborne to win the Open Mixed Doubles title by defeating Americans Aimee Ruiz and Jose Diaz, 10-15, 15-14, 11-10.

Osborne was also a finalist in the Classic Pro Racquetball Tour division, but he lost to two time defending champion Woody Clouse, 9-3, 9-5, 9-1.

Also, the Canadian U18 Boys Champion, Kurtis Cullen of Brandon, Man., won the Men's Elite Division, with a 15-10, 15-12 victory over Andreas Acuña of Costa Rica, and Canadian U14 Girls Champion Michelle Morissette won Women's A by defeating American Michelle Shewchuk, 15-14, 15-12.

2011 US OPEN RESULTS SUMMARY

Men's IRT Final - Kane Waselenchuk (Edmonton) d. Rocky Carson (USA), 7-11, 11-2, 11-4, 11-7

Women's Open Final - Frédérique Lambert (Montreal) d. Susana Acosta (Mexico), 14-15, 15-5, 11-8

Mixed Doubles Open Final - Frédérique Lambert (Montreal) & Corey Osborne (Penetanguishene, Ont.) d. Aimee Ruiz & Jose Diaz (USA), 10-15, 15-14, 11-10

Classic Pro Racquetball Tour - Men's 40+ - Woody Clouse (USA) d. Corey Osborne (Penetanguishene, Ont.), 9-3, 9-5, 9-1

Men's Elite - Kurtis Cullen (Brandon, Man.) d. Andreas Acuña (Costa Rica), 15-10, 15-12

Women's A - Michelle Morissette (Baie Comeau, Que.) d. Michelle Shewchuk (USA), 15-14, 15-12

Racquetball Canada Appointments

Geri Powell has been appointed Technical Assistant for Racquetball Canada, and Daniel MacDonald, PhD, has been appointed the Sport Development Assistant.

Racquetball Canada's Official Racquetball

The Ektelon Classic racquetball continues to be the Racquetball Canada's Official Ball for the 2011-12 season. The Ektelon Classic racquetball will be used at both National Team Selection Events - November 25-27, 2011 in Oakville, Ontario and February 3-5, 2012 in Regina - as well as the Junior National Championships April 23-28 in Winnipeg and the National Championships May

21-26 in Brossard, Que.

Racquetball Canada Rankings - November 17, 2011

Men's

1. Mike Green (Burlington, Ont.)
2. Vincent Gagnon (Montreal)
3. Kris Odegard (Saskatoon)
4. Tim Landeryou (Saskatoon)
5. Michael Burgess (Fort MacMurray, Alta.)
6. James Landeryou (Saskatoon)
7. Nathaniel Husulak (Saskatoon)
8. Lee Connell (Saskatoon)
9. Pedro Castro (Brossard, Que.)
10. Francis Guillemette (Mercier, Que.)

Women's

1. Jennifer Saunders (Winnipeg)
2. Frédérique Lambert (Montreal)
3. Josée Grand'Maître (Longueuil, Que.)
4. Brandi Jacobson Prentice (Montreal)
5. Christine Richardson (Regina)
6. Diana Hambley (Abbotsford, B.C.)
7. Catherine Nichols-Dickinson (Ridgeville, Ont.)
8. Brigitte Richard (St Basile Le Grand, Que.)
9. Valerie Fallu (Brossard, Que.)
10. Murielle Boivin (Quebec, Que.)