

# NEWS FROM THE EDMONTON RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

*May 27, 2008 - For Immediate Release...*

---

*Included...*

- **2008 Canadian Senior National Racquetball Championships Review**
    - **Team Alberta Does Well**
    - **Edmonton's James Slamko Finishes Well in Elite Divisions**
    - **Van Hees is Tops in Canada... Again**
    - **Father/Son Team takes "Men's A Doubles" Title**
    - **Istace Retires**
  - **Team Alberta Results – 2008 Canadian Senior National's**
- 

## **2008 Canadian Senior National Racquetball Championships Review**

**Team Alberta Does Well** - Nearly 170 of the Canada's top Racquetball Athletes, in all age categories, attended the Canadian National Racquetball Championships. The event was held at the Cedar Springs Health Racquet and Fitness Club, in Burlington Ontario, beginning on May 19<sup>th</sup> and ending on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Team Alberta, which included 15 Athletes from Edmonton, Calgary, St. Albert and Chestermere, brought home 16 medals in all.

**Edmonton's James Slamko Finishes Well in Elite Divisions** – Sixteen year old James Slamko of Edmonton finished as one of the top 16 players in the Tournament. In the first round of the Men's Open Division he defeated Patrick Charron of Quebec, the 14<sup>th</sup> seed, with scores of (8-13), 15-9, 11-9. **"It was an upset, for sure. No one saw him coming, but they sure know he is here now"** remarked Marc Caouette, one of Jamie's coach's, and current President of the Edmonton Racquetball Association (ERA).

Slamko, who is also this years 2008 Canadian Junior National Boy's 16 & Under Champion, was ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> in Canada before the 2008 Nationals. **"That'll change big time, now"** noted Caouette.

Another Edmonton Junior, Kevin Caouette, also competed in the elite Open Singles Division, and made a strong showing. **"We are so lucky in Edmonton to have 2 talented Juniors who are already threatening to push the big guys around. Both boys surprised a lot of people here"** remarked Jon Semeniuk, of the ERA. **"And, we still have one more at home, who wasn't able to attend the Senior's this year."**

**Van Hees is Tops in Canada... Again** – Christie Van Hees, who lives in Calgary, defeated Jen Saunders of Winnipeg Manitoba to take the Women's Open title, with scores of (14-16), 15-7, 11-0. This is the third Canadian Women's Open Title in a row for Van Hees, and the 6<sup>th</sup> in her career. When Van Hees is not playing in Canada, she competes in the WPRO, the top women's professional league in the world, where she has previously held the world's number one ranking.

**Father/Son Team takes "Men's A Doubles" Title** – When Marc Caouette isn't running the day to day business of the ERA, or coaching his son Kevin, you might find him playing at one of the local clubs. At this year's Nationals, Coach and Dad "Marc" teamed up with son "Kevin" in the Men's A Doubles Division and took the title. They defeated Daniel Casavant and Michel Boucher of Quebec with scores of 15-13, (9-15) and 11-8.

**"This is probably the last year I'll be able to compete with him"** added the elder Caouette, after the match. **"It's something I've always wanted to do."**

**Istace Retires** – Calgary's Brian Istace has decided to retire from active competition after this year's Nationals. Istace, one of Canada's best Racquetball Athletes for years, was known in Canada and the United States as **"the guy with the blistering 190 MPH (NOT Kilometer/hour) serve"**.

Brian has been a member of Canada's National Racquetball Team for years, has represented Canada on the world stage, is a Canadian Champion, a World Champion, and has also competed professionally.

His accomplishments were acknowledged at the 2008 National's Banquet on May 24<sup>th</sup>. For the past 4 years, he has been the doubles partner of Ontario's Mike Green, the current 2008 Canadian Men's Singles Champion.

**Team Alberta Results – 2008 Canadian Senior National's**

<b>Athlete or Team</b>	<b>Placing</b>	<b>Event</b>
Christie Van Hees - Calg	First Place	Women's Open Singles
Hubert Desouza - Calg	First Place	Men's 60+ Singles
Kevin Caouette - Edm/Marc Caouette - Edm	First Place	Men's A Doubles
Barry Ould - Edm/Ian Cook - Reg	First Place	Men's 55+ Doubles
Jack McBride - St Ab/Cliff Hood - NS	First Place	Men's 65+ Doubles
Marc Caouette - Edm	Second Place	Men's A Singles
Barry Ould - Edm	Second Place	Men's 55+ B/C Singles
Jack McBride - St Ab	Second Place	Men's 65 + Singles
Brian Istace - Calg/Mike Green - On	Second Place	Men's Open Doubles
Kevin Caouette - Edm/Brigitte Richard - Qc	Second Place	Mixed Open Doubles
Ken Sinden - Calg/Don Gray - Calg	Second Place	Men's 55+ Doubles
Marion McBride - St Ab	Third Place	Women's B/C Singles
Lloyd Edwards - Edm	Consolation	Men's C Singles
Ken Sinden - Calg	Consolation	Men's 55+ B/C Singles

---

**For further information regarding this news:**

JON SEMENIUK, COMMUNICATIONS, EDMONTON RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

**(780) 717-9495 (cell)**

**(780) 378-1201 (work)**

**email – [edmracquetball@hotmail.com](mailto:edmracquetball@hotmail.com)**

MARC CAOQUETTE, PRESIDENT, EDMONTON RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

**email – [marc@racquetballedmonton.ca](mailto:marc@racquetballedmonton.ca)**

WEBSITES

[www.racquetball.ca](http://www.racquetball.ca)

[www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=3725](http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=3725)