

# NEWS FROM THE EDMONTON RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

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- o **Professional Racquetball event in Edmonton a success**
  - o **Local successes sure to generate enthusiasm**
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**Professional Racquetball event in Edmonton a success...** The world's best Racquetball athletes have come and gone, and the sport of Racquetball in Edmonton may never be the same. The Canadian Racquetball Classic, held at the Mayfield Inn & Suites Athletic Club this weekend, showcased the best Racquetball athletes the world has to offer. Athletes originating from Canada, the United States, Mexico and South America used Edmonton as a world stage to showcase the highest level of competitive Racquetball.



Scores of fans paid to see these world class athletes jumping, running and diving around a 20' by 40' court, hitting shots that at times approached 200 Miles Per Hour. At that speed, the event wasn't without drama. For instance, Jack Huczek of Rochester Michigan received a huge gash over his right eye when he ran around a Mitch Williams back hand kill shot, and was struck by Williams's racquet in the follow through. The racquet frame broke on impact. Huczek left the court bleeding profusely, while Williams calmly walked to his equipment bag for another racquet. Huczek is a guy Don Cherry would love. After a 15 minute time out, and some temporary medical attention, Huczek went back on court and closed out the match. *"Don't worry, Jack is also a Hockey player!"*, remarked Dave Negrete, Commissioner of the National Racquetball Tour (IRT). *"He'll be back for the semi's tomorrow"*. Huczek did indeed come back for the semi's, defeating Jason Manino, a native of Staten Island New York in 3 straight games. By this time, Huczek sported a proper medical bandage over is almost closed right eye. In the finals held Sunday, Huczek defeated Californian Rocky Carson in 4 games to win the Men's Pro Division.

In the Ladies Pro division, 16 year old Veronica Sotomayor, a native of Ecuador who now lives in Stockton California, was the talk of the tournament. Sotomayor made it to the round of 16, taking out Canadian champion Christie Van Hees of Calgary in 5 games, before being defeated by WPRO tour veteran Cheryl Gudinas-Holmes of Naperville, IL. Gudinas-Holmes, ranked number 2 in the world, was then defeated by Paola Longoria of San Luis Potasi Mexico, the eventual Women's Pro Champion. Longoria defeated Rhonda Rajsich of Los Angeles California in 4 games.

**Local successes sure to generate enthusiasm...** The amateur side of the Canadian Classic was equally entertaining. Locally, 16 year old James Slamko, who entered the men's Pro Division, took number 16 seed Greg Thomas to a tie breaker, and narrowly missing getting into the round of 16. *"I just wanted to have some fun, and learn a few things"*, noted the youngster after the match. Slamko then teamed up with 16 year old Kevin Caouette of Edmonton in Men's Open Doubles. The pair came in first, defeating veterans Manny Gregorio and Danny Tarabain in a spirited, but highly entertaining match. James, Kevin and 10 year old Devin Halko are going to the World Junior Racquetball Championships in Arizona in December as representatives of team Canada.

See complete tournament results on the next page.

## Canadian Racquetball Classic Results

Division		1st	2nd	3rd or consolation
Men's Singles	Pro	Jack Huczek - USA	Rocky Carson - USA	
Women's Singles	Pro	Paola Longoria - Mex.	Rhonda Rajsich - USA	

Men's Singles	Open	Tim Landeryou - Can.	Travis Woodbury - USA	Nathaniel Husulak - Can.
Women's Singles	Cons	Jen Saunders - Can.	Veronique Guillemette - Can.	Genevive Brodeur - Can.
Men's Singles	A	Michael Rusak - Can.	Jon Semeniuk - Can.	Allen Bauman - Can.
Men's Singles	B	Stephen Campbell - Can.	David Boyd - Can.	Lloyd Edwards - Can.
Men's Singles	C	Mitchell Brayley - Can.	Walter Massa - Can.	Dylan Hunter - Can.
Men's Age Singles	30+	Jason Pate - Can.	Glen Yaretz - Can.	Darryl Thomas - Can.
Men's Age Singles	40+	Cam Bourque - Can.	Steve Scagnetti - Can.	John Halko - Can.
Men's Age Singles	50+	Manny Gregorio - Can.	Ross Richardson - Can.	Colum Barry - Can.

Men's Doubles	Open	Jamie Slamko - Can. / Kevin Caouette - Can.	Danny Tarrabain - Can. / Manny Gregorio - Can.	
Men's Doubles	B / C	TBA	TBA	

**For further information regarding this news, call**

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