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SPECIAL ATTENTION PLEASE

Please note that over the next several months we will be migrating the email database to the MARA website. Since each member will have a unique User name and Password, this is something you must do proactively through the website.

If you want to continue receiving information from Memphis Area Racquetball Association, you will need to become a subscriber. See more about this below in the December meeting summary.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday
March 4, 2008
6:30 p.m.**



GENERAL NEWS

In this issue, please welcome Ivonne Larose to those contributing to the Newsletter content. Ivonne went on the road to make personal contact with players and directors at two area clubs. Read her comments and find out more about Bartlett Recreation Center. Next month's featured club will be the DeSoto Athletic Center.

Please take time to thank those members who have worked to make MARA a reality. Positive things are happening, and I like to think that MARA has had a hand in it.

At WellWorX, the leagues that have just began appear to have great competition, more participation, new faces and a league going on every night during the week. There is no fee for watching, so come take a look. You might learn something and meet some new players. Monday—Mixed B/C; Tuesday—Men's A; Wednesday—Men's B; Thursday—Men's A. All games start at 6:30 pm.

With the Power Slam Charity Tournament coming up in April, we have the opportunity to draw the racquetball community in Memphis and the surrounding area together for a great event. Plug in and see what you can do. Don't forget to ask for items for the Silent Auction and to seek sponsors to benefit the Church Health Center. In addition to seeking corporate sponsors, consider asking your friends at work to sponsor you in the tournament. It is a great cause. The Sponsor packet is available on the MARA website and the tentative Entry Form is also available. Just click on the **RED** text on the home page under Power Slam Charity Open.

If you have trouble accessing any of the information or have any other questions or comments, please contact us at MARA.news@comcast.net.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Tennessee State Singles/Doubles

Downtown YMCA
Nashville, TN
February 22-24, 2008
Contact Terry Davis(ultimateracquetball@comcast.net)
(615) 895-3679

Rockin'Rollout

Maryland Farms YMCA
Nashville, TN
March 28-30, 2008
Contact Andrew Rawlins (andrew@myracquetprop.com)
Or (615) 995-8817

Power Slam Charity Open

WellWorX Sporting Club
Memphis, TN
April 18-19, 2008
Contact Sadie Hall (sadie.s.hall@medtronic.com)
Scott Hall (nvstr4u@bellsouth.net)
David Gross (david@triumphbank.com)

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**We do not stop playing because we grow old;
We grow old because we stop playing .
NEVER Be The First To Get Old!**

PLAYER PROFILE

By Susan Brown, Court Reporter

Sandy Gross

DOB: ?/?/????

Place of Birth: Winnipeg, Manitoba

Resides: Memphis, TN

Sponsor: E-Force, Tennessee Team Leader

Right-handed

Family: Spouse, David Gross

Children, Andy Gross & Sadie Hall

Best Time to Play: 4:30—6:30 p.m.

Most Notable Victory: 2007 National Senior's Olympic Champion

Greatest Achievement: Being a wife and mother

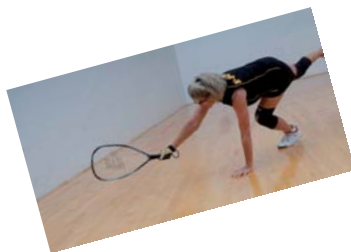


There are rare occasions in life when we have the honor of meeting people that we like immediately. For me, Sandy Gross is one of those folks.

When I think about what makes a player stand out on the racquetball court, it is really the same stuff that makes them stand out in life—decent, thoughtful, kind and, most of all, feisty. That is Sandy to a “T” in her life as a mom, wife, friend and player. Her talents, on and off the court, are a pleasure to witness. She is loyal and hardworking; that attitude spills over into everything she does.

Sandy's racquetball game is intense, steady and reliable. She plays a fair game and respects the way others play. She times her strokes to match the pace of the shot, focusing on placement and precision rather than power. One of her most notable assets is her foot speed; she covers the court with quickness and anticipation. It is that talent, along with Sandy's grit that might explain her undefeated hurdles track record during her years at Yankton College in South Dakota. That is where she met and married David Gross in August 1970.

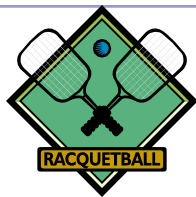
Sandy and Dave spent their early years of marriage in Winnipeg. Dave attended the University of Manitoba and Sandy was busy teaching school. They have two children, Andy and Sadie, and one grandchild, Tyler. Andy is married and lives in Atlanta, where he is very active in Georgia racquetball. Sadie lives in Memphis, with her husband, Scott. She is the backbone of numerous racquetball events and tournaments and is active in the Memphis Area Racquetball Association.



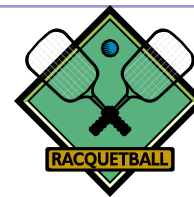
Sandy's career has included teaching, as well as coaching, spanning junior high to college. Her coaching skills extended to taking her own talented children to national level champions. Dave, Sandy, Andy and Sadie are on just about every record book I checked. If they played, they placed! The Gross family definitely skews the nature versus nurture theory.

When I watch Sandy play, I am reminded of a quote by Dwight D. Eisenhower: “What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight—it's the size of the *fight* in the dog.” So, don't let that little sprite fool you. Count on a good fight when you walk onto the court with Sandy. But there is no one else I would rather have on the court as a partner or opponent. When Sandy is on the court, there's gonna be good racquetball and good fun!

And That is what it's all about!!



HIGH DEFINITION RACQUETBALL (PART III) BY SADIE HALL



Have you ever wondered

Skip Ball. A low shot that hits the floor before hitting that front wall.

Shooters. Players that depend heavily on the kill shot.

Three-wall Serve. A fault serve that hits the front wall and both side walls before the hitting the floor.

Volley. To attack a ball before it has taken its first bounce.

Wallpaper Ball. A ball that hugs the side wall, making it difficult to return.

Winner. An offensive shot that ends a rally.



INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW...

DID YOU KNOW...

- ◆ **Brad Anderson** in addition to pioneering our website, also has his hands in other ventures. He has been involved with several local groups, such as the Memphis Hightailers (Bicycle Club) in designing Team and Club sports shirts. He is also extremely talented in the fine arts. Check out his original hand graphite drawings at his website, [Portraits by brad](http://www.bradanderson.info). (www.bradanderson.info).
- ◆ More about **Brad**—check out this new logo idea he came up with after seeing and hearing our ideas back in the fall. Let us know what you think.
- ◆ **Johnathan Urshel** has lent his talents to our website, getting the Forums module working and enabling us once again to be able to upload pictures to the gallery (which we will do when we have more time, right guys?! Any of you with pictures to share, please send them to us. We will see that they get added to the website.



Brad's New Logo Design captures MARA - our region, our sport and our name.



- ◆ Mike Boatman has been hard at work scanning some of the archival data we inherited from Jack Fulton. At least he is hard at Archival work, when he isn't hard at work making a living. Check him out at www.mikeboatman.com.
- ◆ Check out this new racquetball video posted by Joey Priola of JoJoVideo. Joey captured some great action of 2007 U.S. Open Men's Doubles winners Kevin Francis and Andy Gross! YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUT-xYOYNgQ>



CLUB SPOTLIGHT ON THE ROAD with Ivonne Larose

**City of Bartlett Recreation Center
7700 Flaherty Place
Bartlett, TN 38133
901-385.6470**



Mike Goldberg
Program Director

The City of Bartlett Recreation Center, more commonly known as the BRC, is home to approximately 30 avid racquetball players, says Program Coordinator, Michael Goldberg. Goldberg says that at least 20 men and maybe 6 women are "serious" players.

Because the facility has only two courts, they are booked much of the day and until around 9:00 each night. There is a Challenge Court on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-8 that is always full with players waiting for a game. Once a quarter, BRC holds a "Free Tournament" for BRC members. This gives the players a chance to play someone other than their usual opponents and to have a little fun.

At present, the daily rate for using BRC facilities is \$10 if you are a Bartlett resident and \$15 for non-residents. Contact Mike if you would like more information about playing at their facility.

We caught some players in action, and they were having way too much fun, but oh, so competitive. Brothers Mark and Kurt Guttensohn and friends were playing a game of doubles, while Wes Cannon and Manny Arias played singles. All of the players we talked to were glad to hear about the MARA organization; they are interested in receiving our newsletter and participating in upcoming racquetball events.



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Kurt & Kerry Hunter



Manny Arias



Rob Spiecha



Kurt Guttensohn