



**2007 RACQUET FOR THE CURE
PRO-AM RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CONTACT: Tracey Flaesch
wproinfo@aol.com or 410/365-6381**

**International Racquetball Pros to Compete in Denver's
Racquet for the Cure Championship**

Silver Spring, MD – The Mile High City will play host to the **8th Annual Racquet for the Cure Pro-Am Racquetball Championship at the Denver Athletic Club** (1325 Glenarm Place, Denver, Colorado 80120) from **February 8-11, 2007**. The top players in the world from the Women's Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO) will bring the heat for this great championship, the founding event in the Racquet for the Cure tournament series led by Denver's own Jean Gallagher. Racquet for the Cure is a Tier 1 pro stop with the proceeds benefiting Susan G. Komen for the Cure programs to treat and prevent breast cancer. For complete event details and coverage throughout the weekend visit the event Web site at www.racquetfortheure.com!

SCHEDULE OF PRO EVENTS:

WPRO Round of 32: Thursday 7:00pm

Pro/Sponsor Doubles & Play the Pro Challenge: Thursday 8:00pm

Round of 16: Friday 12:00pm, 1:15pm

Quarterfinals: Friday 4:00pm, 5:15pm

Semifinals: Saturday 11:00am

Clinic by Malia Bailey (former WPRO pro and breast cancer survivor): Saturday 2:00pm

WPRO FINALS: Saturday 4:00pm

Racquet for the Cure Banquet & Awards Ceremony: Saturday 7:00pm (Cocktail Reception begins at 6:30pm)

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**All Pro event will be held at:
Denver Athletic Club
1325 Glenarm Place
Denver, Colorado 80120**

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Top pros hoping to bring home the gold in Denver include: #1 ranked WPRO player, two-time US National Singles and two-time US Open Champion **Rhonda Rajsich** (Fountain Hills, AZ); six-time U.S. National Singles Champion **Cheryl Gudinas** (#2 - Naperville, IL); 2004 World Championship silver medalist **Angela Grisar** (#3 - Santiago, Chile); and 2001 US Open Champion and 2006 US Open semifinalist **Kerri Wachtel** (#4 - Cincinnati, OH). The best of the rest of the field consists of **Kristen Walsh** (#5 - Salt Lake City, UT), 2006 US OPEN and Canadian National Champion **Christie Van Hees** (#6 - Calgary, Alberta), **Jo Shattuck** (#7 - Denver, CO), **Diane Moore** (#8 - Griffith, IN), **Samantha Salas** (#9 - Leon, Guanajuato, MX), and **Vivian Gomez** (#10 - Miami, FL).

The complete pro singles draw can be found at <http://www.ladiesproracquetball.com/tournaments.htm>. Check out the top international pros in action live on Racquetball Online's web cast: www.racquetballonline.tv!

Special fundraising events are scheduled throughout the weekend including: Play-the-Pro Challenge and Pro/Sponsor Doubles (Thursday night), Mixed Doubles Shootout (Friday night), and Racquet for the Cure Benefit Gala (Saturday night) as well as a silent auction.

For more than 20 years, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure (formerly the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation) has been a global leader in the fight against breast cancer through its support of innovative research and community-based outreach programs. Working through a network of U.S. and international Affiliates and events like the Komen Race for the Cure®, the Komen Foundation is fighting to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease by funding research grants and supporting education, screening and treatment projects in communities around the world. Learn more about the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation by visiting www.komen.org.

Hitting Home: Breast cancer is the single most common life-threatening cancer diagnosed in Colorado women and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the state. During the 1990s, approximately 1.8 million women and 12,000 men were diagnosed with breast cancer, the majority of whom had no known risk factors. In the Denver metropolitan area, an estimated 2,000 women will be diagnosed and 500 women will die from breast cancer this year. The strongest and most unavoidable of all risk factors are being female and growing older.

The racquetball community and the WPRO have embraced this cause and, through Racquet for the Cure events around the United States, seeks to raise funds to educate the public about breast cancer and promote efforts to prevent and treat this devastating disease. The WPRO is indebted to Racquet for the Cure event director and founder Jean Gallagher, Marcia Richards, Linda Mojer, and tour player Jo Shattuck for inviting the WPRO to Denver to participate in this important event.

In order to make an championship event of this magnitude a success, local support must be strong and unwavering. The Colorado racquetball community has pulled together to ensure that this championship is top-notch year after year so they are to be commended for their spirit and dedication.

The WPRO would like to thank all of the generous event supporters of the Racquet for the Cure Championship who made this event possible. **Gold Sponsors:** Kathy Martinez, The Denver Athletic Club, Bill Loyd, The Adams Mark Hotel, Wilson, and Lucy Jirik. **Silver Sponsors:** Linda Mojer/Racquetball.com, Ted

Nuttall Watercolors, Denny Erardi, Gary and Theresa Yourtz Foundation, and Maui Jim Sunglasses. **Bronze Sponsors:** Goodson Recreation Center, Lynmar Racquet and Health Club, Littleton Family YMCA, Colorado Athletic Club/Monaco, Colorado Racquetball Association, Straightline Sawcutting, Inc., High Performance Towing, American Motors, Cancer Center at Exempla Lutheran, John Hulick, Marriot Downtown, Genesis Jewelry by Janet La Paz, The Westin, Dr. Syrja, and Marietta Sisca. **For a complete list of sponsors, auction donors and patrons visit http://www.racquetforthecure.com/events/2007_events/07_denver/07event_sponsors.htm.**

The WPRO would like to thank its national tour sponsors, including: Ektelon Fireball (official ball); Python (official grip); Advocare (official supplement provider); and Racquetball Online - www.racquetballonline.tv (official webcaster).

The Tour would also like to acknowledge its official partners: Carl & Marcia Wallace; Racquetworld (www.racquetworld.com); HEAD; Wilson Racquetball; Racquetball Academy (www.racquetballacademy.com); Tischer Autopark of Silver Spring; and Chemtech Chemical Services, LLC.

MEDIA: For more information about the WPRO, contact Shannon Feaster, WPRO Commissioner, at 202/365-5504 or wprocommish@aol.com. For more information about the Racquet for the Cure Championship, visit www.racquetforthecure.com or contact tournament director Jean Gallagher at jeang12@msn.com or 303/396-3080. All inquiries are welcome and we will do our best to accommodate interview requests with pros and provide optimum viewing for the media throughout the weekend. Please contact Tracey Flaesch at wproinfo@aol.com or 410/365-6381 to schedule interviews or coverage.

About the WPRO

The Women's Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO) is the governing body of a growing membership of the top female racquetball players in the world. The WPRO is currently comprised of elite athletes representing over a dozen countries, including the United States, Mexico, Chile, Canada, and Japan. The tour's mission is to promote health and fitness among women and girls throughout the world.