

# Mass Squash News



Massachusetts

Squash

Newsletter

## President's Letter

Welcome back to the fall season of squash in Massachusetts. Your Board has already been hard at work getting ready to start up league play, arranging the adult and junior tournaments for the next eight months, and preparing for the very popular Howe Cup women's team competition in Boston. As you can see on our masthead, we are updating our logo to include a more modern squash racquet image and starting to do business as Massachusetts Squash, which aligns our practice with US Squash and many other regional and world associations.

I was pleased to attend a meeting in NYC at the end of September with seven other regional squash association presidents and most of the executive staff of US Squash. This was the first get-to-know-you meeting of the Local Association committee, which is intended to help all of us grow our memberships, increase the play of squash at all levels and gather and disseminate data about best practices in running a local association. The meeting was hosted by Kevin Klipstein, CEO of US Squash and chaired by Bob Burton, a veteran of several local association boards and current President of the Southeastern Squash Racquets Association, which covers five states from its headquarters in Atlanta. Other participants included the brand-new president of the Metropolitan SRA in New York, Northern and Central New Jersey, National Capital Squash (Washington DC and suburbs) as well as the newest local association, Lancaster PA, incorporated in June 2007. They represented almost a third of the members of US Squash since the other 28 associations (with the exception of Philadelphia) are smaller.

You should be proud to know that Massachusetts is the largest association, with the biggest and most active board, a full league and tournament schedule and access more courts than any other association in the country. We benefit from the services of multiple top tier squash professionals who do a great job of training both adults and juniors. Our primary city is also the home of the first urban squash program, the highly successful SquashBusters. Our Junior program is the envy of the country with good participation coupled with beginner to elite competition. We are also well financed and blessed with a surfeit of volunteers to serve on the board, other committees and to manage events.

There are areas we need to work on. This year we will be starting initiatives in conjunction with other regionals and the national association. We are looking to find ways to increase the value of memberships for everyday players, who are not interested in league and tournament competition. If we can do this, we can accomplish one of the sport's main goals, to grow the membership and improve our chances of getting into the Olympic Games. We want to increase the population of qualified referees, starting at the Club level and working up to State and National qualifications. And we are focusing attention and effort on adding more women to our game. The scope and timing of these initiatives is just beginning to be developed and your input is welcomed. Please take the time to email me if you have ideas or would like to be involved in any of these efforts. You will find yourself working with many other dedicated people who share your love for the game of squash.

—Sam Magruder  
President

## MSRA Becomes Massachusetts Squash

The Massachusetts Squash Racquets Association has changed its name to **Massachusetts Squash** in a move consistent with US Squash, our national association, and squash associations worldwide. With this change we are rebranding our image with the new logo shown here that reflects the evolution of our game. Our mission has not changed, however—we are still the organization in the state of Massachusetts that is focused on promoting the game of squash, organizing and managing the various tournaments and leagues and communicating with its members about developments within the Massachusetts squash community. This rebranding begins with this newsletter and will soon be used on all communications and our web site.



## The Howe Cup Comes to Boston!

On November 2–4, the national women's team championships, the 52nd Howe Cup, and about 150 women squash players, come to Boston. The singles tournament takes place at Harvard University's Murr Center, and will consist of five-women teams at four skill levels: A, B, C, and D. The doubles tournament will take place at The University Club of Boston.



The Boston area expects to enter about 13 teams! Many local women have been having practice sessions and challenge matches since the summer to earn spots on the team.

Teams from all over the country will also be participating that weekend, including teams from California and Seattle.

Meredith Johnson is chairing the local event, and her committee has been hard at work for months, overseeing the scheduling, housing, and entertainment portions of the weekend.

Best of luck to the Boston teams!

# Rhode Island Squash Open



**All skill levels &  
a CherryPharm  
US Squash Team  
selection event**

**November 23rd-25th,  
2007 (Fri-Sun)**

**Location:** Portsmouth Abbey School in  
Portsmouth, Rhode Island (ten minutes  
from Newport)

**Facility:** Eight excellent courts (built in 2005)

**Divisions:** Men's 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0,  
5.5, & CherryPharm (US Professionals);  
Women's 3.0, 4.0, 5.0

**Eligibility:** Amateur divisions open to  
players from any locale. The professional  
division will be restricted to US Citizens.

**Prize Money:** \$6,000.00 (for CherryPharm  
participants)

**Entry Fee:** \$75 (Includes: participation in  
regular & consolation draws, tournament  
reception with food and drink at Bristol  
Yacht Club with US Team members, viewing  
of the CherryPharm US Team Selection Event  
matches, & T-shirt.)

**Event Hotel:** Hyatt Regency Newport

Sign up at [www.risra.org/risra/RIOpen.htm](http://www.risra.org/risra/RIOpen.htm)



# SATURDAYS

## Junior Squash at the BRC

with Tai Kuti

Every Saturday beginning on October 6

10:00 AM –12:00 AM

\$15 per participant

(cash or checks payable to Taiwo Kuti)

All Ages!

The Boston Racquet Club

100 Summer Street

Boston, MA 02110

617-482-8881

Questions? Contact Mike Downey

[MDowney@Fitcorp.com](mailto:MDowney@Fitcorp.com)



The Boston Racquet Club  
by fitcorp

# Theresa Soares-Pena Joins SquashBusters as Executive Director

*By Rana Suh, Communications Coordinator*

Greg Zaff walked into the Cottonwood Café in 1995 to meet longtime friend, Molly Downer, for lunch. Greg, a former squash professional and recent graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, had a seed of an idea in his head—he wanted to use the sport of squash as a vehicle to improve the lives of Boston youth. Downer encouraged Greg to write down his ideas, and they spent that lunch discussing his dream for a youth-enrichment program.

The rest is history. SquashBusters in its early days practiced on borrowed courts. Greg Zaff was a one-man show—tutoring, coaching, planning service projects. He had the backing of a dedicated board and some amazing volunteers. Twenty-eight kids were recruited from Boston and Cambridge, and that first year's team boasted 95 percent attendance rate—an amazing feat considering that most of the kids had never before laid eyes on a squash racquet.

SquashBusters grew. Today it serves over 100 students per year at a youth center built in partnership with Northeastern University. This eight-court, three-classroom facility houses some of the best squash courts in Boston. More importantly, it is a second home for the participants and their families. The ideals that governed the program at the start still ring true today: 100 percent effort is demanded, SquashBusters empowers youth to give back to their communities through service, and dedicated tutors and mentors in the classroom and on the courts help the students grow in a variety of ways.

The face of squash is changing dramatically. When Greg began SquashBusters, he never dreamed how urban squash could grow. Today, there are no less than nine urban squash programs. Sites include Harlem, the Bronx, Washington, D.C., Chicago, San Diego, and Philadelphia. With this tremendous growth, another one of Zaff's ideas surfaced—how could these programs learn from his successes and his mistakes? How could the programs work together to better serve kids in their most crucial years of development? The answer was a national organization created especially to develop and improve urban squash programs nation-wide.

The National Urban Squash and Education Association (NUSEA) has become a reality. The organization's goal is to support the emergence and growth of squash programs, share best practices, and formalize certain processes. NUSEA needed an Executive Director. Of course, Greg came to mind, and today, he is the Executive Director of NUSEA.

Replacing the founder of a non-profit is always difficult. The board had a huge task in front of them. Today, Teresa Soares-Pena is the new Executive Director at SquashBusters. Teresa came to SquashBusters from the Dearborn Middle School, where she served as principal for seven years. She was familiar with the impact that SquashBusters had on students' lives, because the Dearborn School has partnered with SquashBusters for several years. Teresa also served as a principal in California and brings to the program dual masters' degrees in Education and Public Health. She is a passionate, committed individual who is known for her tireless work ethic and ability to lead diverse groups towards a singular goal. While she is not a squash player, Greg has already offered her lessons, and she is excited to learn the game.

All organizations change, and Greg's departure from SquashBusters will certainly be a transition. However, the ideals he put in place when beginning the program still exist today. Teresa is committed to carrying them on and continuing to reflect upon and improve the program. The future of urban squash looks bright, and SquashBusters looks forward to being in the thick of it all, as Greg moves on to NUSEA, and Teresa steps into her new role.



**Outgoing SquashBusters Executive Director Greg Zaff (l) introduces his successor, Theresa Soares-Pena, to the sport of squash.**

# 2007–2008 Grand Prix Tournaments

This will be the second year of the MSRA Grand Prix Tournaments—sponsored by Head. These weekend events are, like the leagues, another great way to get competitive matches. At least 8 tournaments will be held this season:

- **Sports Club of LA / T&R, October 26-28**
- **Boston Racquet Club (50+), November 9-11**
- **Concord-Acton, November 16-18**
- **University Club, November 30 – December 2**
- **Union Boat Club, December 14-16**
- **Concord-Acton, January 11-13**
- **SquashBusters, February 1-3**
- **Maugus Club, February 9-10**



All but one of the currently planned events include multiple flights so you can enter at your level. Flights include: Open 5.5, 4.5, 3.5, 2.5, Women's 3.5, 2.5, and Age Groups 50+, 60+, 70+. Details can differ by tournament or change based on the number of entrants. There is a fee to enter—usually less if you are an MSRA member. Specific details on the individual tournaments can be found on the MSRA website (<http://www.ma-squash.org/tournaments>) or by contacting the clubs directly.

Grand Prix points are awarded to all players in all divisions, using a system that rewards both wins and participation. The further you get the more points you get. The more tournaments you play the more points you get. Each overall division winner receives a Grand Prize at the end of the season. Check it out—these can be a lot of fun!

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## 2007–2008 Leagues Starting

*Dan Reagan, Open League Coordinator*

Leagues signups are complete now, and team play begins the week of October 15<sup>th</sup>. Leagues run through March, including a round of playoffs to determine season champions for each level.

If you are already familiar with the leagues, you are no doubt excited to start another season. If you don't know about the leagues, you should check them out. They are a great way to get competitive matches against players from other clubs at your level, and a chance to play with your own club-mates as a team.

There are leagues for all skill levels. You do need to be a MA Squash member to play. Look to see if your club has sponsored a team at your level if you are interested! Your club pro can give you an idea of your level of play if you are not sure about that.

This summer, the 2006–2007 team captains and others were polled for ideas on possible improvements. Feedback was solicited on: Calendar, Schedule, Length of Season, Playoffs, Communications, Rules, Team Defaults, and any other topics. Feedback was rich and varied!

Interestingly, there were many responses suggesting that the leagues should try to have teams play each other twice—once at home and once away—and let that determine the length of the season. Based on this, league chairs will try this year to see where the “play the other teams twice” suggestion can be implemented.

Also, there was general consensus (not unanimous, but pretty substantial agreement) that the leagues should keep playoffs at the season end. Consequently, the League will keep the playoffs. Also, the guidelines for how playoffs will be held were firmed up to be consistent across leagues. Your league chair will let you how that applies to your flight this year.

There were many other good suggestions that the league and MA Squash Board are still reviewing for possible improvements, so thanks to all who participated in this effort. A more expansive, electronically delivered survey is planned for early next year.

Good luck and have fun to all those in the leagues this year!

# MA SQUASH

# G R A N D P R I X

2007-8



# Sponsored By

## HEAD<sup>®</sup> SQUASH



2007

Oct 26-28

*T&R and Sports Club/LA*

Nov 9-11

*Boston Racquet Club*

Nov 16-18

*Concord Acton*

Nov 30-Dec 2

*University Club*

Dec 14-16

*Union Boat Club*



2008

Jan 11-13

*Concord Acton*

Feb 1-3

*Squashbusters*

Feb 9-10

*Maugus Club*



Divisions:

Open

5.5, 4.5, 3.5, 2.5

Women's

3.5, 2.5

Age Groups

50+, 60+, 70+



*Grand Prix points awarded to all players in all divisions. The further you get the more points you get. The more tournaments you play the more points you get. Each overall division winner receives a Grand Prize at the end of the season.*

See: <http://www.ma-squash.org/tournaments>

# Massachusetts Squash Junior Committee

## A Preview of the 2007-08 Season

After a dry summer, the leaves are already turning and signaling an early start to the squash season. Summer camps have given way to fall clinics, and the junior tournament schedule will swing into full action in October, with even more events than last year. October also marks the beginning of many activities that have helped build the Massachusetts Squash Junior Program to its current prominent standing in the US Squash junior ranks. Some of the details are below, but be sure to check the Juniors link on the Massachusetts Squash web site ([www.ma-squash.org](http://www.ma-squash.org)) for activities, updates, results, and entry forms. Entry forms for junior tournaments will also be on the US Squash web site ([www.us-squash.org](http://www.us-squash.org)).

### Tournaments

This year's schedule is posted on both web sites. Locally sanctioned and other national or regional tournaments are scheduled on virtually every weekend from late September to early April. Included are the four local events below from which players will be chosen for year-end Improvement and Sportsmanship awards. The sanctioned events count towards national rankings, where our juniors have been well represented. The Junior Committee this season will run four major tournaments: the Dana Hall/Cross Courts Open in late November, the Massachusetts Junior Open and the Frank Millet Championships (a US Squash selection event) in January, and the Massachusetts State Championships in early March. A new addition this season is the University Club Silver (for players ranked nationally below #32) in December, which now accompanies the established Harvard Club Silver tournament in February.

### Rankings

Massachusetts Squash rankings for the past six seasons are posted on the web site. The 2006–2007 rankings are derived from the national rankings, where four sanctioned events plus passage of the referees test are required. More information on rankings is available on the US Squash web site. Virtually everyone who meets the requirements has a chance to be ranked, hence a national/local ranking is always within reach. We are very pleased that so many local juniors are nationally ranked. All tournament players are reminded that they must have passed the US Squash's Level D Club Referee examination to be eligible.

### Junior League

The **Junior League@Murr**, sponsored by the Junior Committee, holds six sessions of round robin squash for beginner to intermediate players. These sessions are held at Harvard University's Murr Center, on Sundays from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM and from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM, depending on the player's level. This part of the League is a fun, but competitive afternoon of squash, preparing players for competition in US Squash sanctioned tournaments and school matches. All juniors are welcome and will be placed on teams by Azi Djazani, the League Coordinator.

The **Junior League@Dana Hall** is a new program starting this season, geared toward older, more advanced players. These sessions will be held at the Dana Hall School in Wellesley on Saturdays from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Match results will be available on the US Squash Ladder section, without affecting the players' official ranking.

More information is available on ([www.msrajuniors.org](http://www.msrajuniors.org)).

### Exhibitions and Clinics

Throughout the season, the Junior Committee schedules exhibitions, usually when a world class professional is in town. These exhibitions usually include a clinic with attendees. Referee and coaching clinics are also scheduled during the season. (Ed Where can people get information about exhibitions and clinics? On the web site?)

### Web Site

The Juniors' link on the Massachusetts Squash web site will be the latest source of information on junior activities. The site will also feature pictures and results from events as well as articles. The Junior Committee can be contacted at [juniors@ma-squash.org](mailto:juniors@ma-squash.org) for further information.

### Newsletter

To some extent, the Junior Committee will publish articles, results, pictures, and other information in the Massachusetts Squash newsletter but will not have a separate newsletter. The web site is a more efficient and time-saving method of communication.

We look forward to an exciting and rewarding season for junior squash this year and welcome all suggestions and comments.

— **Massachusetts Squash Junior Committee** (Sharon Bradey, Mike Loucks, Libby McClintock, Gary Rubin, Azi Djazani, Chris Spahr, Jim Sullivan, Lenny Bernheimer, Suzy Schwartz, Bill Nimmo, Rich Schaefer, Tom Poor, Chair)

# The Boston Racquet Club

## 50 + Legends Tournament

Dates: November 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

Place: The Boston Racquet Club  
100 Summer Street  
Boston, MA 02119  
617-482-8881

Event: 50+ softball singles

Cost: \$45 for MSRA members  
\$50 all others

For more information, please contact:

Mike Downey  
Head Squash Professional  
617-482-8881

[Mdowney@fitcorp.com](mailto:Mdowney@fitcorp.com)



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### REGISTRATION

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<b>Name:</b>
<b>Address:</b>
<b>Phone:</b>
<b>E-mail:</b>
<b>MSRA #:</b>

I hereby release, relieve and forever discharge and agree to indemnify and hold harmless The Boston Racquet Club, their servant, agents, and employees from any claims and demands of any and every kind and character for injury to my person or damage to property as a result of my participation in the 2007 BRC 50+ Legends Tournament Nov. 9-11, 2007.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: The BRC, Mike Downey, 100 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02119

The Boston Racquet Club

# Maugus Club Takes 2007 Summer Squash Championship

by Sam Magruder, Summer League Coordinator

Team	Points	% of Points Won
Maugus Club	37	82.2%
Harvard Club	35	77.8%
University Club	24	53.3%
Boston Sports Club-Allston	23	51.1%
Squashbusters	23	51.1%
Tennis & Racquet Club	22	48.9%
Cambridge Athletic-White Knights	17	37.8%
Cambridge Athletic-Serenity	15	33.3%
Wellesley College	15	33.3%
Cambridge Athletic-Pirates	14	31.1%

Captain **Merrill Martin** worked in 13 players over the nine-week schedule that ended on August 22 to win the MSRA Summer League Championship by two points over a Harvard Club team that averaged only one loss per week. In a great display of consistent play, Merrill and six of his teammates all finished the season with personal 3-0 records. Congratulations to **Rich Schafer, Robert Wagenaar, Paulo Milko, Doug Carr, Dennis Philbin** and **Stuart Chandler**. The Harvard Club showed good depth with good winning percentages posted by Captain **Marc Cendron** and **Moe Masoud**.

The next four teams, separated by only two points, had a very spirited battle for the fourth-place position. University Club came out on top thanks to good performances by **Ashley Fahr** and **Stephen Quigley**. Boston Sports Club-Allston, led by **John Moukad**, won the tiebreaker with SquashBusters by virtue of their 4-1 head-to-head victory. Tennis & Racquet closed its season by sweeping BSC-Allston, but it wasn't quite enough to break into the top half of the standings. This last match featured a first win by T&R's **Jon Cox**, who made the most appearances on the courts of any player this summer. Squashbusters spread out their player's appearances, working in 12 players, led by the undefeated **David Linz** at 4-0.

The bottom of the league was very competitive also between the three teams from Cambridge Athletic Club and the always-away Wellesley College team. Wellesley's **Ben Mathes** and **Erin Hurson** both went 3-4 on the season, just enough to tie for the ninth position. The White Knights closed strongly, beating SquashBusters and the CAC Pirates by 4-1 scores in the last two weeks. The Knights were led by the undefeated **Stefan McDonough**.

Finally, many thanks to the irrepressible Captain **Harold Helson** of the Pirates who organized the entries for the huge Cambridge Athletic Club contingent in the Summer League and sent in pictures of nearly every opponent his team had.



MSRA Summer League: Harold Helson (L) of the Cambridge Athletic Club Pirates shares a laugh with Stefan McDonough (R) of the Cambridge Athletic Club White Knights



# Preview of the 2007–2008 Doubles Season

by Tom Poor

Doubles play in Boston continues to be active and may get a new jolt if the proposed doubles court at the Union Boat Club comes to fruition. In addition to the daily games for fun (and sometimes small sums), we have several players who participate in regional and national tournaments, earning rankings in the North American system. At the top of the skill ladder are our members who play on the professional ISDA tour, a series of some 15 tournaments with prize money approaching \$1 million.



2007 University Club Pro-Am Champions: Mac Davidson & Martin Heath (Rochester); Finalists: Chris Spahr (Boston) & Jamie Fagan

Doubles players at the University and Harvard Clubs typically begin their season in late September, early October, although there are many who continue to intersperse their summer golf games with doubles sessions. Golf disappears with the onset of cool weather and the doubles season.

In addition to the club doubles tournaments, there are two major amateur events on the local calendar. The first is the University Club Pro-Am, held in conjunction with the professional ISDA tournament the second weekend in January. 16 amateurs team with professionals in a STAR format whereby each team is guaranteed at least three matches leading to four champion teams. The second is the season-ending state championships, which begin in March and culminate with the finals on the night of the Massachusetts Squash annual meeting in early May. Last year, eight divisions were contested by 145 players, the largest number ever to play in the States.

ers. **Sandy Tierney & Derrick Niederman** have won Canadian and US national titles in the past, as have **Tom Poor & Lenny Bernheimer**. **Mac Davidson & Jon Ross** earned rankings as well last year, as did **Joel Kozol** and **Jamie Fagan**. These players figure to play again this season, with the exception of Poor whose knees will be replaced, a casualty of 50 years of singles and doubles. Many younger players—**Tyler Hill**, **Jon Hyett**, **Tim Brennan**—are playing some national events with steady improvement. Certainly one of the highlights of last season was **Doug Lifford & Chris Spahr** winning the US National 40's title.

The ISDA tour runs from October through May, featuring the world's top doubles players from numerous countries. Many are top singles players who have successfully turned to doubles, providing a steady flow of new players. That tour comes to Boston in January and includes **Preston Quick**, professional at the Union Boat Club, and **Doug Lifford & Pat Malloy** from the University Club. **Chris Spahr and Nadeem Osman** have played, and the prospective affiliation of **David Palmer**, former World #1 in singles, with the University Club should provide an interesting addition to this tour.

We look forward to a new and exciting season with new players and old players with hopefully another year of experience offsetting the slow advances of age.

There are several tournaments on the North American doubles schedule that attract Boston play-



2007 State A Doubles: Champions: Pat Malloy & Sandy Tierney; Finalists: Preston Quick & Ming Tsai

# Massachusetts State Juniors #1s



Liam McClintock  
#1 Mass. Squash Boys Under 13



Lily Grant  
#1 Mass Squash Girls Under 13



Yuleissy Ramirez  
#1 Mass. Squash Girls Under 15



Julian Kirby  
#1 Mass. Squash Boys Under 15

## Mass Squash News Spring 2007

The Mass Squash News is published three times per year.

Massachusetts Squash, P.O. Box 51611 Boston, MA 02205-1611

PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION: PrintCentre, Inc.

4 Arlington Road, Needham, MA 02492

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Special thanks to Beth Collins for copyediting articles for this issue.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION may be obtained from P.O. Box 51611, Boston, MA 02205-1611, or [membership@ma-squash.org](mailto:membership@ma-squash.org), or [www.ma-squash.org](http://www.ma-squash.org).

Comments or suggestions may be addressed to: Sarah Lemaire, Editor, MSRA News, [slemaire@verizon.net](mailto:slemaire@verizon.net).

# *The Middlesex Bowl/Wheeler Cup*

## *November 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007*

### MSRA Grand Prix Sponsored by Head Squash

**Venue:** CONCORD-ACTON SQUASH CLUB, 2352 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742  
 Tel: 978 897 2972 / E-mail: [casc2@earthlink.net](mailto:casc2@earthlink.net)  
 CASC Website: <http://www.casquash.com>

**Division:**

<u>OPEN</u>	5.5	4.5	3.5	2.5
<u>WOMEN</u>	3.5	2.5		
<u>OPEN</u>	50+	60+	70+	

**Fee:** \$50.00 for USSRA members.  
 \$65.00 for non-members.  
 Only one division per player.

(Checks made payable to Concord-Acton Squash Club).

**REFEREE ASSESSMENTS**  
 will be available at this  
 tournament for those  
 looking to upgrade.

**Schedule:** All players guaranteed three matches.  
 Call Thursday 15th November after 1:00 p.m. for time of first match.

**Rules:** International Rules of Squash. Eye guards must be worn in all matches.

**Hotel:** Best Western Tel: 978 369 6100

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### ENTRY FORM

**DEADLINE**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

**Name:** ..... Friday Evening Earliest.....p.m.

**Address:** .....  
 .....

**Contact Tel:** ..... **Club Affiliation:** .....

**Division Men** 5.5 4.5 3.5 2.5

**Women** 3.5 2.5 **USSRA #** .....

**Open** 50+ 60+ 70+ **Date of Birth**.....

Please indicate recent tournament results to assist us in placing seeds. Thank you.

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