

2010 WOR Belle Isle Racquetball Championships

This year's Belle Isle Championships featured players from Michigan, Ohio, Florida, New York, and Ontario Canada. The participants came from great distances to be a part of the greatest outdoor racquetball tournament series in the country, and for a chance at the coveted title of Belle Isle Champion. They also came to because the party is legendary... and Belle Isle did not disappoint! The DJ was rockin' all day with a little bit of Motown music bias, while the barbecue and refreshments were keeping the players and spectators delighted. This was Belle Isle Racquetball at its BEST!!!

The Men's Pro Singles and Doubles divisions were extremely competitive. Pro Singles had a tough road in store for anyone vying for the title. Returning and multiple time Belle Isle Champion, Andy Hawthorne, was the #1 seed. The #2 seed was none other than the One Wall Legend, Robert "The Ice Man" Sostre. The remainder of the draw wasn't any easier. The best long wall player in Florida, "Mighty" Joe Young was in the mix, along with Jim "Whole-shot" Bronson, Robin "Boy Wonder" Basil, Andrew "Beast Mode" Price, Rance Mack, and "Big Daddy" Greg Lewerenz, rounding out the top eight.

The top half of the draw round of eight started with Andy Hawthorne vs. Greg Lewerenz. After dropping game one and being down 6-1 in game two, Andy escaped with a tight tie-breaker win against "Big Daddy". The other side of the top half was Andrew Price vs. Robin Basil. This matchup is always heated with both guys holding wins over the other recently, and neither conceding an inch. This match went all Robin's way in an unexpectedly lopsided win over Andrew.

The bottom half of the draw was #2 seeded, Robert Sostre vs. Rance Mack. Rance introduced Robert to the offensive ceiling ball, and it took a few points, but Robert picked up the Belle Isle style very quickly. Following a back and forth first game, Robert took the match from Rance in two tough games. The other side of the bottom half of the draw was Jim Bronson vs. Joe Young. Joe Young is one of the best long wall outdoor players from Florida, and Jim Bronson, the WOR Director from Ohio, is one of the best from the Midwest. The first game was tight until Jim started using the ceiling against Joe. Joe had a tough time adjusting to the ceiling, and the around the world game, and fell to Jim in two straight games.

The semis were set – Andy Hawthorne vs. Robin Basil and Robert Sostre vs. Jim Bronson. In the first semifinal Robin got out to a fast start using his blazing speed, Belle Isle shot making ability, and worked Andy all over the court. Robin pushed Andy hard in two tight games, but Andy's athleticism and skill was a little too much for Robin. Andy paid a high compliment to Robin a little earlier in the day that proved to be true. Andy said Robin is the guy in the draw that NOBODY wants to play, because he is so darned determined and fast, that he gets to everything, and he gives you a tour of the court on every rally. Andy definitely got to see every inch of the court in his win over Robin. The 2nd Semi was even tighter. Jim Bronson vs. Robert Sostre. Jim and Robert put it all on the line for the Belle Isle fans. In game #1 Robert was hitting forehand kills from

everywhere, scoring point after point. Robert took game one. In game #2 it was Jim showcasing his full array of shot-making with the around the world shots, power ceiling balls, and kills. Jim took game two. In the tie-breaker the momentum went back and forth with Jim pulling out the victory in a competitive third game.

The final was set Andy Hawthorne vs. Jim Bronson. It was an all Ohio final. The first game was incredibly tight. Jim matched Andy shot for shot, kill for kill. Jim served several times at 14-14 for game #1, but couldn't close it out. Andy took game #1 15-14. In game two Andy pulled away with a little more of everything, than Jim could muster. Jim fought to the end but it wasn't enough. Andy took the second game 15-8, and with it the match and title of 2010 Belle Isle Men's Pro Singles Champion. Congratulations to Andy and Jim for their awesome play and big thanks for the awesome show that they put on for the spectators.

Pro Doubles was no less a grind for the competitors, and no less exciting for the spectators. The top four teams all had a shot at the title. Here are the top four seeded teams - #1 Hawthorne/Sostre, #2 Barton/Lewerenz, #3 Young/Leibofsky, #4 Basil/Jones. The only upset going into the semis was Andrew Price/Chris Kelly upsetting the #3 seeded team of Joe Young/Vic Leibofsky. The other seeds held up to the finals with #1 vs. #2... The #9 Ranked IRT Pro, Andy Hawthorne, and the One Wall Legend, Robert "The Ice Man" Sostre were pitted against the top team from Belle Isle, "Team Big Daddy", Ron Barton and Greg Lewerenz. Game one was a back and forth affair with neither team having a decisive edge until the score was 11-11. Then Andy and Robert strung together a couple of tough points, and pulled out the game 15-12. Game two was a mirror of game one. Neither team getting out to more than a one or two point lead until the score reached 10-10. And once again Andy and Robert pushed Team Big Daddy with great serving, and pinpoint accuracy kill shots to win the second game 15-11, and take the match and title. Congratulations to Robert and Andy for their great play accomplishment of winning a Belle Isle Championship.

Thanks to all of the participants for making it another year of incredible racquetball on the island. Thank you ALL for your on-going support of Belle Isle Racquetball. Huge thanks to our great tournament directors Felicia Mann and Veronica Brown, who did an incredible job all weekend with the hospitality and organization. Also big thanks go to our sponsors, Len Smith, WOR, Ektelon, Scott Boswell, Robin Basil, Marcos Rivera, and Team Big Daddy. Without your continued support, none of this would be possible.

Don't forget to mark your calendars next year for the 3rd weekend in June, July, and August to play in the Belle Isle tournament series... you'll never have more fun playing racquetball, than on the island! See you next year!

Full Results Below:

Mixed B/C Doubles

Champion - Margrit Shemechko/Rich Sporer

Runner-up - Lorna Rose/Rick Oswald

Semis – Stacey Barbas/Rich Bronson, Lily Sostre/Robert Russ, Lisa Sostre/Mike Brennan

Mixed Open/A Doubles

Champion - Andy Hawthorne/Tracy “T-Bone” Hawthorne

Runner-up - Jim “Whole-Shot” Bronson/Leslie “The Leopard” Messmer

Semis – Vic “The Schtick” Leibofsky/Terry Fields, Kathy Guinan/Robert “The Ice Man” Sostre

Quarters – Mark “Hair Model” Reed/Veronica Brown, Robin “Boy Wonder” Basil/Tia Lecland, Margrit Shemechko/Rich Sporer

Women’s Open/A Doubles

Champion - Leslie “The Leopard” Messmer/Terry Fields

Runner-up - Tracy “T-Bone” Hawthorne/Kathy Guinan

Semis – Stacey Barbas/Veronica Brown, Tia Lecland/Lisa Sostre

Quarters – Lily Sostre/Tracey Schaefer

Women’s Open/A Singles

Champion - Leslie “The Leopard” Messmer

Runner-up - Tracy “T-Bone” Hawthorne

Semis – Tia Lecland, Terry Fields

Men’s 45+ Singles

Champion - Carlos “Mighty Mouse” Jones

Runner-up - Chris “Irish Fire” Kelly

Semis - Chris “The Cat” Felix, “Super” Dave Chirio

Men’s 60+ Singles

Champion - Jim “Iron Sides” Panaciewicz

Runner-up - Alfonso “Fonz” Pugh

Semis – Richard Worobec, John Houghton

Quarters – Dan “Hillbilly” Greene, Simon Mack, Richard Graham

Men’s A Doubles

Champion - “Super” Dave Chirio/Leon “The Pineapple” Rivera

Runner-up - Marcos “Mr. Belle Isle” Rivera/Scott “Born of the Earth” Boswell

Semis – Myron Brough/Todd Noel, Chris “The Cat” Felix/Chuck Hague

Quarters – Aaron Melch/Dave Thompson

Men’s B Doubles

Champion - Kevin Ford/Russell “The Barrister” Baker

Runner-up - Dusty “Cool Breeze” Smith/Mike “The Kid” Brennan

Semis – Myles “The Phenom” Kelly/Simon Mack, Adam Diehm/Jeff Mira

Men’s Century A Doubles

Champion - Chris “The Cat” Felix/Chuck Hague

Runner-up - Rick Oswald/Rich Worobec

Semis – Dan “Hillbilly” Greene/Leon “The Pineapple” Rivera, Alfonso “Fonz” Pugh/Rich Bronson

Quarters – Margrit Shemechko/Rich Sporer, Jeff Mira/Frank Palazollo, Jim Wink/John Houghton

Men's Century Open Doubles

Champion - Alfonso "Fonz" Pugh/"Big Daddy" Greg Lewerenz
Runner-up - Dave "The Other Dave" Erdman/Mark "Hair Model" Reed
Semis - Dan Tabor/Rich Bronson, Chris "Irish Fire" Kelly/Jim "Iron Sides" Panaciewicz
Quarters - Vic "The Schtick" Leibofsky/Tom Blakeslee, Carlos "Mighty Mouse" Jones, Dave "House of Champions" Smolinski

Men's Pro Doubles

Champion - Robert "The Ice Man" Sostre/Andy Hawthorne
Runner-up - Team Big Daddy - Ron Baron/Greg Lewerenz
Semis - Carlos "Mighty Mouse" Jones/Robin "Boy Wonder" Basil, Chris "Irish Fire" Kelly/Andrew "Beast Mode" Price
Quarters - Jim "Whole-Shot" Bronson/Rance Mack, "Mighty" Joe Young/Vic "The Schtick" Leibofsky, Myron Brough/Todd Noel, Dan Tabor/Jim Witherspoon

Men's Open Doubles

Champion - Jim "Whole-Shot" Bronson/Rance Mack
Runner-up - Myron Brough/Todd Noel
Semis - "Mighty" Joe Young/Vic "The Schtick" Leibofsky, Bill Bolin/Chris Sailor

Men's A Singles

Champion - Leon "The Pineapple" Rivera
Runner-up - "Super" Dave Chirio
Semis - Dave Thompson, Todd Noel
Quarters - Stan El-Amin, Jim Wink

Men's B Singles

Champion - Myles "The Phenom" Kelly
Runner-up - Dusty "Cool Breeze" Smith
Semis - Robert "Doc" Russ, Jeff Mira
Quarters - Rich Worobec, Russell "The Barrister" Baker, Kevin Ford, Richard Graham

Men's Pro Singles

Champion - Andy Hawthorne
Runner-up - Jim "Whole-Shot" Bronson
Semis - Robert "The Ice Man" Sostre, Robin "Boy Wonder" Basil
Quarters - Rance Mack, "Mighty" Joe Young, Andrew "Beast Mode" Price, "Big Daddy" Greg Lewerenz
16's - Chris Sailor, Bill Bolin, Mark Reed, Ron Barton

Men's Open Singles

Champion - "Mighty" Joe Young
Runner-up - Myron Brough
Semis - Chris Sailor, Mark Reed