

2006-2007 ORA/OCRC STATE COLLEGIATE RACQUETBALL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2006-2007 Ohio Racquetball Association/Ohio Collegiate Racquetball Conference State Singles Championships was played at the Hall of Fame Fitness Center in Canton, Ohio on March 10th and 11th, 2007. The action was fast and furious and was a culmination to the season for all the collegiate players who participated in the OCRC conferences series of tournaments.

The State Singles Team title went to perennial champion Baldwin Wallace College who scored 111 points. The new “kids on the block” was the University of Akron who placed 2nd with a very strong men’s team and scored 32 points. Ohio State University was 3rd with 27 points. The team results are as follows:

ORA/OCRC STATE SINGLES TEAM RESULTS		
Place	College	Score
1 ST	Baldwin Wallace College	111
2 ND	University of Akron	32
3 RD	Ohio State University	27
4 TH	Ohio University	21
5 TH	Kent State University	16
6 TH	Millersville University	11
7 TH	Columbus State	2
8 TH	Cleveland State	2

Zach Apperson, Baldwin Wallace College’s premier No. 1 player won the Intercollegiate State Singles Championship by beating teammate Matt Fuller in two games despite a gutsy but futile performance by Matt. Zach has clearly established himself as one of Ohio’s best players by also winning the Men’s Open title by defeating the long-time master of the courts Doug Ganim. Matt (BW) had to beat a tough new collegiate player from Kent State University named Jack Gau in a tie breaker. Zac won his semi-final match over Stephen Ondak, Ohio State University, in two short games.

The men’s B Championships was won by Justin Miller, BW team captain, over Joel Ogle, from Millersville University in Pennsylvania, in two close games: 15-12, 15-14.

The women’s championship was once again a final between Kim Irons, a senior Ohio University student, and Sarah Hettesheimer, a freshman from Baldwin Wallace College. Experience and upper classman pride prevailed as Kim defeated Sarah in two tight games: 15-12, 15-12.

The results of the ORA/OCRC State Singles Championships are as follows:

Men's Open 1A		
Place	Name	Association
1 ST	Zach Apperson	Baldwin-Wallace College
2 ND	Matt Fuller	Baldwin-Wallace College
Semi	Jack Gau	Kent State University
Semi	Stephen Ondak	Ohio State University
Quarter	Ben Toth	Ohio State University
Quarter	Jon Anderson	Baldwin-Wallace College
Quarter	Suneel Battula	University of Akron

Men's B		
Place	Name	Association
1 ST	Justin Miller	Baldwin-Wallace College
2 ND	Joel Ogle	Millersville University
Semi	Brent McLaughlin	Baldwin-Wallace College
Semi	Andrew Husted	Baldwin-Wallace College

Men's C		
Place	Name	Association
1 ST	Mike McCarthy	Ohio State University
2 ND	David Prueter	University of Akron
Semi	Peter Quent	University of Akron

Men's D		
Place	Name	Association
1 ST	Tyler Coal	University of Akron
2 ND	Ted Durbin	Baldwin-Wallace College
Semi	Marcial Rodriguez	Baldwin-Wallace College
Semi	Angelo Pappano	University of Akron

Women's Open 1A		
Place	Name	Association
1 ST	Kimberly Irons	Ohio University
2 ND	Sara Hettesheimer	Baldwin-Wallace College
3 RD	Kristen Matushevski	Baldwin-Wallace College

ORA/OCRC CONFERENCE YEAR-END HIGHLIGHTS AND TEAM RESULTS

As I previously mentioned, the State Singles Championships was the final tournament of this years Ohio Collegiate Racquetball Conference. The results of the five tournament series concludes with Baldwin-Wallace College, with one of the best programs in the USA, winning its 18th straight conference title with an amazing 653 points. The Baldwin-Wallace College team is currently preparing to defend its USA Racquetball Division II National Championship at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona next week. They are lead by former Ohio Junior Team members Zach Apperson, Sarah Hettersheimer, Justin Miller, and Matt Fuller. They have added a great tennis player named James Daly to their team and with seniors Andrew Husted and Kristen Matushevski, they won the State Conference title in both the Men's and Women's Division. Zach Apperson had proven himself to the top collegiate player in the state by winning state singles and every match this year. Sarah is leading the women's team.

The Ohio State University placed second in the conference and was lead by seniors Ben Toth and Stephen Ondak. Stephen was given the ORA/OCRC Conference "Senior Award" for his outstanding service to the conference in hosting tournaments and providing leadership to the outstanding Ohio State University racquetball program. Both Ben and Stephen have been outstanding players and representative of their team and university and both will be missed. For Ben, that means "if" you finally graduate.

Another outstanding leader and currently the best women's collegiate player in the state is senior Kim Irons, from Ohio University. She was also an outstanding Ohio Junior player and will try to win the women's No. 1 title at USA Racquetball Championships in Arizona. She has lead her team to a 3rd place finish in this years conference standing and we wish her well at nationals in her last collegiate tournament.

A surprise to the conference this year was the University of Akron's late charge at State Singles that lead to a 4th place finish. Suneel Battula had the highest finish of his team by making the quarter finals of men's open A. They appear to be a quality team in the future.

The final conference results are as follows:

2006-2007 FINAL RESULTS		
ORA/OHIO COLLEGIATE RACQUETBALL CONFERENCE (OCRC)		
Place	College	Score
1 ST	Baldwin-Wallace College	653
2 ND	Ohio State University	316
3 RD	Ohio University	61
4 TH	University of Akron	46
5 TH	Columbus State	43
6 TH	University of Cincinnati	14
7 TH	Kent State University	14
8 TH	Miami University	13
9 TH	Cleveland State University	2

Non-Conference Schools Participating in ORA/OCRC Tournaments:

University of Louisville
Purdue University
Millersville University

FINAL COMMENTS:

Thank you for giving me the privilege to run the conference and get to know so many of you wonderful athletes.

I want to particularly mention the seniors that have made this conference so special with your terrific attitudes, sportsmanship, excellent play, and dynamic work ethic.

From my team (BW), we are losing Andrew Husted, Kristen Matushevski, and Alicia Obrin. From Ohio State we are losing Ben Toth and Stephen Ondak. From Ohio University we will say goodbye to Kim Irons.

Good luck to all of you and may God bless you.

Dr. Tim Miller,