

Contact: Mike Mojer; [MMojer@aol.com](mailto:MMojer@aol.com); 407-484-8815; MikeMojer.com  
Randy Forrest, President, FloridaRacquetball.com; [rforrest719@yahoo.com](mailto:rforrest719@yahoo.com); 321-299-2699

## END OF AN ERA

Under the Radar, the Orlando Fitness and Racquet Club to Close its Doors

In 1974, the Orlando Racquet Club opened as a premiere clay court tennis facility, with 14 outdoor and four indoor courts for use during inclement weather. Just six years later, in 1980, investors bought and diversified the facility by converting the indoor courts into more workout and fitness areas, a basketball court, and – last but not least – a full half of its footprint for racquetball courts. Ten total.

Those ten courts operated under the mainstream sports radar for over 27 years, but that all ends on September 1, when a real estate transaction will close the *only* facility in central Florida able to conduct a full-scale racquetball tournament. Through the years (and a string of mini-name changes), the Club had hosted the highest-level world and national championships, outstanding state and regional events, plus popular and well-attended local tournaments. Just as important were the Club's regular "weekend warrior" playoffs, clinics, instruction, coaching and training of nationally-ranked players boasting dozens of titles. The Club and its programs were second to none in the southeast.

Racquetball's primary advocate through the years was Club Pro Mike Mojer, a veteran and well-respected expert, who had been on hand to supervise the construction of the original tilt-up concrete-walled courts, manage the multi-use of courts through lean times, and retain an active and dedicated core group of players on the membership rolls, year in and year out. The combination of Mike's vibrant personality and the club's mid-Florida location couldn't be beat.

When "The Club" again changed hands in 1989, new owners had sought out and re-hired Mojer to keep the racquetball programs running. In 1992, current "Brick Bodies" corporate owners bought the property and also asked Mike to stay on. Now fifteen years later, he was still running the largest and most dynamic leagues in the state, conducting major tournaments, grooming new contenders and (now) shepherding a group of dedicated enthusiasts on to other – but definitely not greener – pastures.

This fall, the club will be dismantled and the only facility of its size in Florida will be lost to the thousands of players who frequented it each year. It had hosted at least six major events annually, featuring the best athletes in the region. For out-of-towners, it was "the" place to play in Orlando, and a quick call to Mike would guarantee a guest pass and an hours-long, competitive, on-court workout against a high-level challenger.

Each of the sport's major manufacturers counted on the club to showcase their respective pros – from Wilson and Head, to Ektelon, E-Force and Pro-Kennex. Top clinicians like Fran Davis, Chris Evon, Jason Mannino and Derek Robinson routinely offered camps and instruction there. Over the years, "The Club" had something for everyone – and everything for racquetball players. It was that special "everything" – and Mike Mojer – that kept racquetball in the hearts and minds of Florida fans and fanatics for well over a quarter century.

It's a shame to see the end of that era and the Club will be sorely missed. But Mike will still be around – somewhere – talking, playing, promoting and teaching racquetball, while recounting everything upbeat and fun about the sport he's enjoyed for a lifetime.