

WOR in Southern California racquetball was back into full swing with the EKTELON Sponsored-Craig Park Doubles Shootout, in Fullerton, California. Many of the top ranked players turned out for a near perfect day. Two groups of five teams squared off with some hard fought battles in both groups.

Group A

Rob Hoff/Josh Tucker
Rod Frontino/Jim Banuelos
Allan Kazem/Brian Haas
Rocky Carson/Greg Solis
Gary Martin/Mike Peters

Group B

Zeus Ocana/Mark Naylor
Jesus Usteros/Jeff Johnson
Gabe Medina/Mike Beltran
Chuck Smith/Steve Cunnif
Tom Carroll/Todd Choate

With games played to 21 and Round-Robin the format, Group A was led by the team of Greg Soils and Rocky Carson, winning all their games in the preliminary round. At the conclusion of the preliminary round the other three top teams in Group A Frontino/Banuelos, Martin/Peters and Hoff/Tucker were separated by only 7 points, but in the end Josh Tucker and Rob Hoff edged out the competition by Tucker's blistering serve and Hoff's consistent play. Allan Kazem returned to competition after shoulder surgery with Brian Haas and had a good showing.

In Group B, the two top teams were separated by only one point, where Gabe Medina and Mike Beltran finished just ahead of Jesus (Skinny-Heat) Ocana and Mark Naylor. One point also separated Jesus (New York) Usteros and Jeff J., Chuck Smith and Steve Cunnif for third place. Outdoor first timers (now-hooked), Tommy Carroll, Jr., and Todd Choate both played exceptional for their first time out. The Semi-final between Solis/Carson and Ocana/Naylor was a true battle of power and agility, eventually being captured by Greg and Rocky. The other Semi between Medina/Beltran and Hoff/ Tucker was taken by Rob and Josh by a score of 21-13. The crowd was not disappointed with the Final Match where Solis/Carson took on Hoff and Tucker. Between Solis' dives, Tucker's 180 mph serves and Hoff's ability to keep the ball in play, and Carson's overhead splats out the door, this was a true outdoor racquetball classic. Even the heckling from the crowd couldn't rile these finalists, who put on a great final match.

In the consolation round, Jeff Johnson and Jesus Usteros defeated Thunder Frontino and Jimbo Banuelos by a score of 21-10.

Special thanks to EKTELON, Rod (Thunder) Frontino and Jim (Jimbo) Banuelos for awesome eats, Mark (Hollywood) Naylor for the amazing photos and website photo-video, and to the Craig Park Staff for their assistance with this event.