

Gary Mazaroff is a global ambassador for racquetball and one of New Mexico's most influential sports leaders. His career, spanning over five decades, has been dedicated to elevating racquetball from a regional pastime to an internationally respected sport through competition, education, and visionary leadership.

A Champion on the Court

Mazaroff began his journey on the racquetball court in his native Los Angeles in 1968. His career quickly took off, leading to more than **400 championship titles** across state, regional, national, and international competitions. A four-time world champion in the men's 35+ and 40+ divisions, Mazaroff was a dominant force. His talent earned him a spot on the **USA National Racquetball Team**, where he helped the team secure a gold medal in 1986.

His athletic achievements were matched by his commitment to teaching and promotion. He has traveled to over 30 countries as a player, coach, and instructor, sharing his passion for the sport. His expertise was so highly regarded that he was asked to serve as an assistant coach for two world championship USA national teams, and later, as the head coach for national teams from Argentina, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, and Honduras.

A Visionary Leader

Beyond his impressive playing record, Mazaroff's greatest impact lies in his leadership. As a professor and athletic director at the University of Albuquerque and the University of New Mexico, he was instrumental in developing the sport. He founded the **New Mexico Racquetball Association** in 1977 and served as its president for decades, elevating it to one of the most respected state affiliates in the country.

He also co-founded the **World Senior Doubles Racquetball** event, developed curriculum for instruction and coaching, and organized over 600 court sport events. His work as the Director of the **International Professional Racquetball Organization** and as a rules commissioner for the International Racquetball Federation has helped shape the global governance of the sport. Through his fundraising efforts, he has raised over **\$500,000** to support international development and the "Olympic Dream" campaign, showcasing his unwavering commitment to the sport's growth.

Mazaroff's dedication to racquetball has earned him induction into four different halls of fame, including the **International Racquetball Federation Hall of Fame** and the **Team USA Racquetball Hall of Fame**. A testament to his lifetime of service, he received the **Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Mexico Senior Sports Foundation** in 2017.