

RACQUETBALL TRIVIA #4 - Questions

By Jim Easterling
Wednesday 12-4-24

Racquetball Trivia is an activity I developed for racquetball enthusiasts for inclusion in Classic Racquetball part of Facebook monthly. I plan to place racquetball trivia questions in this Facebook section the first Wednesday of the month beginning September 4, 2024. I will follow up with the answers on the third Wednesday of each month. I will continue this routine through April of 2025 if all goes well and this is positively received.

I will post questions every month about various aspects of our sport and things that have happened over the years. My goal is to highlight facts that people may or may not know.

Also, I will include factoids along the lines of “DID YOU KNOW?” – which will be an interesting or classic story related to the sport. Finally, I plan to end each segment with something funny.

My goal is to educate everyone about people, places, events and other racquetball related activities that happened over the years. I want to share facts and other historical information about racquetball and provide a few laughs along the way. I will always back up my statements and the information I share with the source of information. For example, I will list what magazine (year-month-page #), YouTube video resource, web site reference or what person made the statement used in the content.

If you want to contact me directly my email is: rbjim887@comcast.net

I hope you enjoy Racquetball Trivia and I look forward to your feedback.

1. What (after NRC was formed) was the Official Ball for all IRA sanctioned tournaments in 1977?
 - A. Penn Ultra-Blue
 - B. Seamco 559 (green)
 - C. Seamco 444 (black)
 - D. Wilson (black)
2. Who were the first two people to be placed in the national Racquetball Hall of Fame?
 - A. Dr. Bud Muehleisen & Joe Sobek
 - B. Dr. Bud Muehleisen & Charlie Brumfield
 - C. Dr. Bud Muehleisen & Lynn Adams
 - D. Dr. Bud Muehleisen & Luke St. Onge
3. Who was the President of the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA) for the longest period?
 - A. Tom Curran
 - B. Cindy Tilbury
 - C. Ron Pudduck
 - D. Ivan Bruner

4. Prior to the year 2000, who were the two females who had the most #1 season ending rankings?
 - A. Shannon Wright
 - B. Lynn Adams
 - C. Michelle (Gilman) Gould
 - D. Peggy Steding

5. After the year 2000, who were the three females who had the most #1 season ending rankings?

6. There was a 14-court club build in Michigan that, in 1974, was the largest private racquetball facility in the USA. What was the name of the club?
 - A. Southfield Athletic Club
 - B. Livonia Racquetime
 - C. Franklin Racquet Club
 - D. Southfield Racquetime

7. A person loss a match and went into the locker room, at a club in Phoenix, AZ and hit the metal locker with his hand and put a big dent in it. The following year, at the same Pro Stop in Arizona, he came back and used the same locker and saw the dent that he put there a year earlier. Who was this person?
 - A. Sudsy Monchik
 - B. Jerry Hilecher
 - C. Cliff Swain
 - D. Chris Cole

8. Who did Jeff Conine, the major league Florida Marlins outfielder, play with in doubles to win the Men's 25+ at the Ektelon AARA U.S. National Doubles Championships in 1994?
 - A. Tim Sweeney
 - B. Sudsy Monchik
 - C. Mike Yellen
 - D. Marty Hogan

9. What do these people (Keith Calkins, Dr. Bud Muehleisen, Jim Austin and Michael Arnolt) all have in common? This is not a trick question.

10. Egan Inoue played in the "Bashamichi Classic Racquetball Tournament" (JAPAN) in 1994 that had 800 players in it. Egan's brother, who lived in Japan, played in this tournament with him. What was Egan's brother's name and what was his ranking at the time?

11. Seamco made many different racquetballs over the years. How many different racquetballs did they make?
 - A. 4
 - B. 6
 - C. 8
 - D. 10

12. Who invented Wally ball? (This is volleyball on a racquetball court).
- A. Luke St. Onge
 - B. Joe Garcia
 - C. Charley Drake
 - D. Steve Keeley
13. Who is the racquetball tournament person who was a “Hollywood Stunt Man”?
- A. Dave Peck
 - B. Hank Marcus
 - C. Ruben Gonzalez
 - D. Jay Jones
14. There was a movie, that came out in 1984, that contains a six-minute segment that must be the funniest racquetball sequence ever filmed. What was the name of this movie?
15. Who was the first person to buy a National Racquetball Hall of Fame ring?
- A. Dr. Bud Muehleisen
 - B. Lynn Adams
 - C. Jim Hiser
 - D. Ed Remen
16. Who, in the racquetball world, was considered Mr. Humble?
- A. Charlie Brumfield
 - B. Jason Mannino
 - C. Charlie Garfinkel
 - D. Ruben Gonzalez
17. Who was the person by the name of Kamahoahoa who was inducted into the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame?
18. What racquetball organization/group had the first Pre-Paid Calling Card?
- A. AARA
 - B. WIRT
 - C. APRO
 - D. IRT
19. Shannon Wright and Davey Bledsoe both had an autograph racquet. Who manufactured the racquets.
- A. Ektelon
 - B. Leach
 - C. Wilson
 - D. Seamco
20. Which USA Racquetball Hall of Fame person was inducted into the Alaska Racquetball Hall of Fame?
- A. Malia Bailey
 - B. Otto Dietrich
 - C. Jimmy Lowe
 - D. Earl Acuff

GREAT LINE:

It was at the Racquetball Courts of Farmington in 1974 or 1975. Tom Brownlee was playing Kathy Williams (she was on the Women's Pro Tour) in the finals of the Men's Open division. There was a tough rally going on and finally after many shots, Tom got a great set up, he was about six feet from the front wall and shot the ball straight into the floor. He then looked at the front wall, put his hands on his hips and said, 'TOM YOU OUGHT TO BE SHOT!' (RAM Newsletter – Great Lines – May 1987 – Page 11)

DID YOU KNOW:

Michigan published (in 1983) a booklet called "Where to play in Michigan: A guide to Michigan's racquetball facilities". This booklet listed club names, number of courts, any glass courts, if club was public or private, address, phone number etc. This booklet was put together by Dianne Driver (later became Dianne Easterling) ("MRA Newsletter" – Fall 1983 – Page 3)

That Dunlop made a 2-ball racquetball can (blue ball), a 3-ball racquetball can (blue ball) and a 3-ball tennis can (yellow ball).



DID YOU KNOW:

There was a book, priced at \$7.95, with the title of “Racquetball where to play U.S.A.” that was a complete directory of racquetball facilities across the country. There were two editions, to the best of my knowledge, that were printed by Susan McShirley. (Racquetball Illustrated – December 1979 – page 29)



Book on left 1978

Book on right 2nd edition 1979

A CLASSIC STORY: (MAKING HIS POINT)

In 1981, there was the annual racquetball tournament at the Little Traverse Racquet Club which is referred to as the Petoskey tournament. In the Men’s Open division, there was a good player named Radiation Man (his real name is Bill Gottlieb). Radiation Man was seeded #4 at this tournament and he thought he should have been seeded #3.

It was important at the time to understand Radiation Man’s position. First, he had beaten the #3 seed almost every time they had played in a tournament. Also, back in the early 1980’s, Radiation Man was playing a lot of Pro-Am tournaments in other States and doing quite well. He was getting seeded better in other States than he was in Michigan.

On the other side of the coin, the Michigan Racquetball Association (MRA) seeded players using only State ranking points. The only way, at that time, players received points was by playing and winning in MRA tournaments and if you had more ranking points than another player you would be seeded over that player. The more MRA tournaments you played, the more points a person would receive. That way, no one could say the Seeding Committee showed favoritism. Also, there were no debates on seeding since it was strictly by points.

The Petoskey tournament was a MRA tournament and the seeding was completed according to MRA rules and Radiation Man was seeded #4 in the Men's Open. The finals were against Sheldon Yellen (Mike Yellen's brother). After two games they were tied at one game each. Then, they started the tiebreaker to 11 points. When Radiation Man walked up to serve the score was 10 serving 7 and he looked up at the referee and said he wanted an injury time out and he left the court (Radiation Man was not really hurt). He was winning the tiebreaker and only needed one point to win the match. He took his injury time out, which is 15 minutes, and he never came back to the court. The referee had no choice but to forfeit the match and declare Sheldon Yellen the winner.

Radiation Man never yelled at the tournament director. He never swore or threw his racquet or complained loudly about his seeding. But instead, he calmly forfeited the match in protest of the MRA's method for seeding players. I respect Radiation Man for the unique way he went about making his point over a principal.

(The Classic Story is an article written, for each newsletter, by Jim Easterling)

(MRA Newsletter – February 1987 – page 6)

HELP:

I am looking for three "ACE" magazines (Handball) that had some information about racquetball to add to my collection. The dates are: ACE – June 1969, ACE – October 1969 and ACE – December 1969.

If you can help me, please email me at: rbjim887@comcast.net