

The Racquetball



AARA
THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911

Volume 6, NO. 3
April 1989

REPORTER

AARA Region 9 Adult and Junior Championships

The AARA Region 9 Adult and Junior Championships was held on February 17-19, 1989 at the Mt. Clemens Racquetball & Sportcenter in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. The tournament drew entrants from Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, and Canada for the three-day weekend. Counting double events there were over 330 entrants playing in over 30 different divisions from a Junior Boys 12 to Men's 55 for the first time, even a women's 40 division.

The hospitality was great and many people complimented the club on it. This included the fried chicken on Saturday night as well as the pizza.

All entrants received a collared shirt and tie-tack pin with the three states in the region on it. Julian and Lou Ellen Fecher were tournament directors for the weekend and as usual did a great job. This was tough keeping the matches on schedule when over half of the tournament entrants played in two divisions which many times were back-to-back.

The plaques this year will also be used in the future tournaments and contained the same logo on the medallions as the pins. The consolation and semi-final plaques contained a bronze medallion, the second place plaque contained a silver medallion and the first place plaque contained a gold medallion.

Michigan again produced the winners for the Men's & Women's Open events. Chris Cole was the Men's Open Champion and Joetta Hastings the Women's Open Champion. Only two people this year were two division winners. These were Joetta Hastings in the Women's Open and the Women's 30 and Mike McPherson in the MB and Men's 30B. Congratulations should go to these two people.

Thank you to Penn and Ektelon for their sponsorship of this year's event and a thank you to Steve Ternullo the Manager of Mt. Clemens Racquetball & Sportcenter and the rest of his staff for helping to make this an enjoyable weekend for players and spectators alike.

Results on Page 6



Men's Open Champions Chris Cole (r)
1st Place & Nick Rallis (l) 2nd Place



Women's Open Champions Joetta
Hastings (l) 1st Place & Lori Trosyak (r)
2nd Place



Men's D Champions: Nick Wantuck (l)
1st Place & Jeff Pressler (r) 2nd Place



Boy's 18 & Under Junior Champions:
Joel Bonnett (R) 1st Place & Rob
Garrow (l) 2nd Place

Racquetball Restrospective: Point Hiser

Dear Michigan Racquetball Players,

As many of you already know I will be leaving Michigan at the end of this season. Although my new position as assistant executive director of the AARA provides an inspiring challenge, my forthcoming departure is tainted with the reality of leaving many friends and racquetball enthusiasts.

Racquetball has been a major part of my life in Michigan. Although at times I often felt racquetball dictated my entire being. I can honestly say I do not regret any part of my involvement. From the furious battles between the old MRA and AARA devotees, to the many long hours behind a tournament desk to the heated encounters on the court with some of my elderly foes. I cherished the experience which in some small way I hope contributed to the growth of Michigan racquetball.

Thanks to my friends Stu Hastings, Chris Cole, Mike Anderson, Denny Wood, Tom Blakeslee and of course the Fechers, the Super 7s will continue to exist. Although I

will still be involved in some organizational capacity, these people will be responsible for continuing the legacy of the nations longest running amateur tournament series.

It is true the racquetball has endured many changes during my fourteen years of involvement in Michigan. Although tournaments are no longer over crowded with 500 or more entries, the quality and conduct of players have definitely matured. The decline in juniors and women participants is of much concern to everyone but the recent recognition of racquetball as a Class A Olympic Sport may provide the needed stimulus to again attract these much needed segments.

Although I foresee many changes in the near future (a handicap system to equalize club and tournament play, more specialized tournament play to restrict play to only one or two days, greater television and corporate involvement) the success of

Michigan racquetball is dependent upon YOU. The state organization is limited by both resources and man power and needs the ideas and assistance of its members. Become involved, even if its only to voice your opinions and provide ideas for improvement.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Super 7s over the past eight years. Your involvement has made the events the most successful amateur series in the country. I also thank Dr. Fred Lawrenz for providing the financial and motivational stimulus to develop the series. To my long time rivals Ken Bonnett, Mike Stephens and Johnny Norhtern I will miss the anticipation of our monthly battles. Finally, to my students and friends Lisa Ecker, Chris Cole, & Jim Floyd successes but remember - racquetball is just a game, always keep it in its proper prospective - have fun! I will miss you all -- Jim Hiser.

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VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT

By: W I Blakeslee

As you read this article "Michigan Racquetball" should be winding down for summer break. This year's "States Singles" will be the best ever I assure you. For door prizes, we will have several sponsors and hand out racquets, shoes, sweatsuits, caps, and a very nice monogrammed sweater. Hopefully, almost 300 of Michigan's finest players will participate in the event. Racquetball, in my opinion, has finally begun to experience some new growth after a few years of decline. In the last several months I have traveled to Colorado, Boston, New York, Washington, Orlando, and New Orleans, and yes, I played racquetball in every city. Racquetball seems to be in the same condition in each state; fewer courts, multi-dimensional clubs, smaller facilities, and new players. Those that expected rapid fad-like growth can now expect stability and steady growth. It would be nice to get those new players to enter our tournaments.

I would like to comment on three subjects in the rest of this article.

FIRST The most important event of the year was the AARA and racquetball's acceptance into the United States Olympics as a group A sport. At this writing we are involved trying to get racquetball as a demonstration sport in the '92 or '94 Olympics. With this status, we also have almost a quarter of a million dollars and the money will be spent in several areas. Grants to states will total \$30,000! Increased national staffing will require \$50,000, and the balance will be spent on tournaments, clinics, national team, and other areas, all designated to help promote racquetball as an Olympic sport. This information was reviewed at the annual state and Regional Directors Seminar that Jim Hiser, Jim Easterling and I, attended in January. Other very important events will include our participation in the Pan Am games in Cuba in 1991. The National Junior Championships has been renamed the "Ektelon Sponsored Junior Olympics". Ektelon, as you guessed by now, is the major AARA sponsor and has recently extended its contract to somewhere around four years. The AARA has made a promotional video and will sponsor a minimum of two events on National Sports Cable Networks similar to PASS. Hopefully, the Junior Olympics and the National Doubles and Finals will also be on cable. The only way for our sport to experience positive growth will be from a blood transfusion called TV coverage.

Some other notes of interest from the seminar indicate progress at the Senior and Master's age group. Elite, invitational tournaments, continue to grow in prestige, and the 35-plus age group is probably the largest playing group. Master and Senior Council and the AARA are trying to resolve their problems so racquetball can all go forward at the amateur levels. Concentration continues at the Junior level, with the Junior Olympics

and Orange Bowl Championships growing each year. At the High School level we now have a National Championship, but competition for the High School athlete is still a problem. The inter-collegiate regional tournaments, I think have grown slowly, and this year will be the best ever. Our own Nick Rallis, Jim Floyd, and Chris Cole will be seeded.

Also, at the Director's Seminar a \$100,000 handicap random seeded tournament was reviewed. Basically, the pros start a minus 4 open at +3, age groups at 9 or 11, and everyone else at +13. All you need is two points to beat Yellen for \$100,000. A very interesting concept. The Regional Qualifying and Championship Tournament will take place next January.

Another interesting fact from the seminar was the U.S. Military is the largest group of racquetball players in the world. I could go into more detail and facts from the seminar, but space limits to cover only these highlights.

SECOND My biggest disappointment this year was the collapse of the WPRI. Once again, the pros continue to flounder. What began with a big money televised schedule of events ended in disarray. Only Davison and Virginia were on national TV.

The pros continue to stumble under the lack of leadership, organization, and dollars. The only true stars of the game, Mike Yellen and Marty Hogan will soon be too old to do anyone any good.

THIRD In case you haven't heard, Jim Hiser plans on moving to Colorado this summer. With his exit a tremendous void and black hole in the universe, known as racquetball in Michigan, will be created. Jim is a visionary, with drive, ambition, and desire, who probably created more for racquetball in our state than anybody ever. Some examples are the Davison Pro Stop, the largest running pro stop in the world, the Mike Yellen Michigan Junior Scholarship Foundation, the Michigan Hall of Fame, the Outstanding Racquetball players award, the Super 7 Racquetball tournaments, former commissioner of WPRI, vice president AARA, many national rule changes. Jim, in my opinion, is RACQUETBALL IN MICHIGAN. We will sorely miss him. However, he can now work on the promotion of our game at the national level where he can do even more good.

I will miss him as a friend and wish him the best of luck. However, to fill the void we need some of you to step forward and help with the work. We need your assistance and that's the final message of my article. It's time some of your die-hard racquetballers step forward and help us on the board; are you listening or reading Chris, Jim, Nick, Stu, Ken???

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RAM Past Presidents

RAM was formed July 24, 1984

Bob Wilhelm 1984-85
Lee Fredrickson 1984-85
Jim Easterling 1985-86
Lee Fredrickson 1986-87
W.T. Blakeslee 1987-88
W.T. Blakeslee 1988-89

**Past State Association
Presidents**

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Denny Wood (MRA) 1978-79
Denny Wood (MRA) 1979-80
Denny Wood (MRA) 1980-81
Gary Doty (MRA) 1980-81
Jim Easterling (MRA) 1981-82
Jim Easterling (MRA) 1982-83
Larry Cole (MARA) 1982-83
Bob Szuch (MARA) 1983-84
Larry Cole (MARA)

**RAM's Racquetball
"Hall of Fame"**

Lynn Hahn 1984
Fred Lewerenz

Tom Brownlee 1985
Jim Hiser

Jim Easterling 1986

Stu Hastings 1987
Bob Wilhelm

Denny Wood 1988

Tournament Results**Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons
Association****1989 West Michigan
Racquetball Championships
January 27-29, 1989**

Host Club: Michigan Athletic Club
Grand Rapids, MI

MEN'S**Pro**

Finals J. Floyd d. M. Anderson
Semi Anderson d. J. Bonnett
Semi Floyd d. N. Rallis

Open

Finals G. Hall d. T. Altenburg
Semi Hall d. B. Duff
Semi Altenburg d. J. Stallmer

A

Finals S. Zimmerman d. S. Sowder
Semi Zimmerman d. J. Connell
Semi Sowders d. K. Emery

B

Finals A. Mell d. G. Phipps
Semi Mell d. J. Kelley
Semi Phipps d. B. Powers

C

Finals B. Lietzau d. L. Cleymann
Semi Lietzau d. G. Kranz
Semi Cleymann d. J. Huizengaz

D

Finals T. Goff d. B. Hunt
Semi Goff d. J. Arney
Semi Hunt d. G. Kranz

35+

Finals K. Bonnett d. B. Gravelyn
Semi Bonnett d. T. Blakeslee
Semi Gravelyn d. R. Vanover

35B/C

Finals D. Kranz d. J. Beck
Semi Kranz d. Stan Brummel
Semi Beck d. S. Sutton

45+

Finals S. Gemus d. T. Sharum
Semi Gemus d. G. Phipps
Semi Sharum d. P. Becker

Doubles Open

Finals C. Cole & T. Hall
d. R. Vanderlind & J. Bonnett

Doubles B/C

Finals R. Falahee & G. Hubbard d.
J. Connell & E. Ray

WOMENS**A**

1. Lisa Yackley
2. Pam Madsen

C

1. Marilyn Keigley
2. Marci Pucey

D

Finals D. Sypeniewski d. M. Purcey
Semi Sypeniewski d. B. Baader
Semi Purcey d. K. Connell

JUNIORS**B/C**

Finals T. Vandyke d. M. McNinch

Why Have A Coach?**Stu Hastings****U.S. National Team Coach**

1988 National 35+ Champion

1988 National 35+ Doubles Champion

(partner Rick Vanderlind)

At every level of play in every sport, we have coaches. Yet if someone takes a racquetball lesson once a week or maybe twice a week, people ask isn't that overdoing it? However, when we played sports in high school or college, we would practice 3, 4, or 5 days each week, 2 or 3 hours a day for each game. Each practice and game would be under the supervision of our coach. We never thought or asked if this was too much practice or coaching.

Do we need a coach? Why not practice and compete alone? Many times an impartial set of eyes can pick out things that you might not see in your game. Even if you are knowledgeable about the game in general or a specific match in particular, you are often too close to the task to be impartial in your judgement or critique. It is much like proofreading something you have typed. When you come to a mistake, your mind has a tendency to read what should be there rather than what actually is there. It is best to have someone else proofread the material or analyze your game.

Many of the top athletes in tennis, track, and even some team sports have an individual coach. Some athletes have several individual coaches that specialize in a particular facet of their sport. As a Cor B player or even an Open or Pro player, I'm sure you can visualize the benefits of coaching. Why then, don't the pros all have coaches that work with them on all the various aspects of the game? Whether amateur or pro, the answer is money. At this time, there is not enough money generated to pay a full time coach. The answer: If you can't go to school full time-go part time. You should attempt to get together with a reputable coach by attending a camp in your area. If not, travel to their area to expand your knowledge. Another idea, is to send a video tape of your self (strokes, and playing) to be analyzed through the mail. Fran and I have had each of the above relationships with various students over the years. It may seem like a lot to expect of yourself. Remember this: Winners do. What loser won't!

Obviously, it would be ideal to work with this coach on a regular basis. But, some is better than none. Many times it is ego and not money that keeps potentially good players down. They figure they got here on their own so they will continue to grow the same way. WE didn't get to where we are without help and support and neither did you. Sometimes when we get good at something we forget. You've had instruction and coaching along the way even if it wasn't professionally taught.

I have worked with all levels of play and have personally worked with some of the best names in the game today. A few are the rising stars such as Dan Obrenski, Roger Harpersad, Leigh Anne Couter, Dottie Fischl and Patricia Blue, and a top pro in Caryn McKinney. I have worked with Caryn the longest and she has recently won the last 3 pro stops and taken sole ownership of the #1 ranking in women's racquetball. So, did I win these last 3 pro stops? Will I make Dan or Roger the next #1 male in the game? The answer is no. The coach is a tool to be used by the player to reach a goal. The coach is much like a map. He might tell you how to get there, but you have to do it yourself. Caryn McKinney was #2 in the world for several years prior to contracting me. I think most of us would have been happy to be #2 for so long and wouldn't have been much interested in having a "coach" mess with our already successful winning ways. I guess Caryn figured if you are not going to go all out, why go at all?

Remember: The mind is like a parachute. It works best when open! If you think you have this game all figured out or perfected, that is when you stop growing. We can always improve with a little coaching.

NEXT MONTH: What make a Good Coach?

Also, please send any specific questions or situations you have about coaching to Stu Hastings in care of RAM.



Ferris State University Racquetball 1988-89

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY TEAM

The FSU racquetball team was organized in 1984. Practices were conducted on a once per week basis, with local on-campus talent. Since that time, the team has evolved to recruited players from outstate Michigan, Illinois and Canada. Team practices are held two hours per day, four days per week. On the weekend, team members compete in open level tournaments throughout the Midwest in preparation for the three major collegiate tournaments. These students compete weekly from Toronto to Detroit to Chicago, in addition to their studies, and fund raising events.

The FSU team has compiled a tremendous record in its short history:

State Collegiate Champion 1987 & 1988

Regional Collegiate Champion 1987 & 1988

Eight/Collegiate Nationals 1986 & 1988

Third/Collegiate Nationals 1987

It is anticipated the team will repeat as State and Regional champions and finish in the top four in the Nation

PLAYER PROFILES

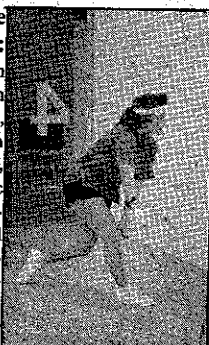


Linda Cok: Senior majoring in computer information service/accounting, age 22, from Sparta, Michigan, 4-year FSU Team Captain; Ranked "A" Player; Bronze Medal Winner #4 Singles & #2 Doubles at the 1988 Collegiate National; 1987 State & Regional Collegiate Champion



Lisa Yackley: Freshman majoring in computer information service, age 19, from Naperville, Illinois, Illinois State Women's "A" Champion; Ranked Open Player

Nathalie Barnard: Freshman majoring in pre-science, age 19, from Victoriaville, Quebec Canada, Canadian National Junior Champion 1986-87-88; Team Ektelon Player



Troy Altenburg: Freshman majoring in Business age 18, from Davison, MI, AARA National Ranking No. 1 Men's "B", MI 1988 State Ranked "A" Player

Jason Reynolds: Freshman majoring in CIS management, age 21 from Grand Rapids MI; Top Level Open Player in Michigan

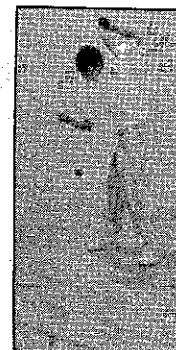


Jim Skinner: Freshman majoring in Business, age 18, from Flint, MI, "A" Level Player, High School Cross Country Runner

Tony Kraft: Sophomore majoring in Accounting/CIS, Age 20, from Sterling Heights, Michigan, "B" Level Player, Golfer 4-handicap



Ken Emery: Freshman majoring in professional golf Management, age 18, from Sterling Heights, MI, "B" Level Player, All-State Class A Golf Team



Larry Meeusen: Sophomore majoring in marketing, age 19, from Kentwood Michigan, FSU Men's Team Captain; Ranked top-ten Open Player in Michigan; Most Valuable Player; 1986 Elite Training Camp; 1987 State & Regional Collegiate Champion; FSU Team Ektelon Player

DEVELOPING PLAYERS

Dianne Johnson: Junior/Criminal Justice **Gretchen Perstula:** Junior/Advertising **Lis Owczarzak:** Sophomore/Construction **All Cull:** Senior/Professional Golf Management **Kin Holifield:** Junior/Construction **Pat Finley:** Sophomore/Plastics Technology **Aaron Huntington:** Junior/Business Administration **Dave Willard:** Freshman/Professional Tennis Management **Jeff Bates:** Junior/Pharmacy **Dick Sargent:** Junior/Criminal Justice

RACQUETBALL TEAM STAFF

Advisor-Matt Klein, PhD: Associate Dean, General Education, International Program Director "Attended Elite Training Camp USOC. Treasurer of the American Collegiate Racquetball Association

Women's Coach-Marilyn Keigley, PhD: Associate Professor, Marketing; Women's "A" Player; Attended Professional Racquetball Clinics

Men's Coach & Team Coordinator-Gerald J. Gray: Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor; Ranked Masters Player; Assistant National Commissioner, American Collegiate Racquetball Association; Attended Professional Racquetball Clinics and Elite Training Camp, USOC

The staff of the FSU club team is a volunteer group donating their time, efforts and monies for the students and the sport of racquetball



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Collegiate Racquetball

Ferris State University Racquetball Team won their third consecutive regional title Feb. 11 & 12 at the Charlie Club in Palatine, IL.

Sixty-six single players and 28 doubles teams competed for seeded positions at the National Tournament to be held in New Orleans March 29-April 2. The competition drew men and women collegiate racquetball players from 13 universities throughout the Midwest.

Ferris State University dominated the play by winning 9 divisions and placing second in 5 divisions, single and doubles play combined. Team captain, Larry Meeusen, lost in the semi-finals to Dave Werschay from St. Cloud State. Jason Reynolds, FSU #2 singles player lost in the finals to Brent Stinson of the University of Minnesota.

Troy Altenburg won the #3 singles title in an exciting match over Sam Tenalian, Central Michigan University. Troy was down 7-3 in the tie breaker and fought back to a 11-9 win. Jim Skinner Jr., freshman from Flint never lost a game in completing a sweep of #4 singles, winning the final match over Dan Logan, Central Michigan University. Ken Emery and Al Cull completed the Men's domination of singles play winning #5 and #6 singles over Bill Anderson, and Mike Armbrust of Purdue. Both finals were decided by 11 point tiebreakers.

In men's doubles competition, FSU team of Larry Meeusen and Jason Reynolds lost in the finals to Todd Stead and Brent Stinson, from the University of Minnesota. Troy Altenburg and Jim Skinner also lost in 2 in finals to Sam Tanalian and Dan Logan of C.M.U. Senior Al Cull and freshman Ken Emery teamed up to win #3 doubles over the C.M.U. doubles team.

The Bulldog women's team won 2 singles and 2 doubles. Lisa Yackley and FSU freshman from Chicago lost to Kim Russell, University of Kentucky, in the finals of women's #1 singles. Senior Captain Linda Cok won #2 singles and teamed with Lisa Yackley to sweep the women's #1 double division. Junior Sandy Wagner, captured second in #3 singles winning over Lara Fisher, Purdue University. Diane Johnston and Gretchen Postula rounded out the women by winning #3 doubles in an 11-9 tie breaker victory over Central Michigan. Lori Maxwell won #6 singles over CMU.

Much of the success of the Bulldog team can be credited to the local community and its support of fund raising which has produced monies for scholarships. Ferris is one of only 3 Universities in which racquetball scholarships are used to recruit new players.

The racquetball team must now prepare for the national competition to be held in New Orleans March 28-April 2. Ferris is currently favored to finish in the top 5 in the nation.

Midwest Regional Championships Final Team Point Standings

	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Ferris State University	448	256	704
Central Michigan University	280	184	464
Purdue University	266	126	392
University of Minnesota	282	30	312
University of Kentucky	0	120	120
St. Cloud State University	90	0	90
Macomb Community College	75	0	75
Northeastern Illinois University	30	0	30
Northwestern University	0	0	0
Iowa State University	0	0	0
University Illinois Chicago	0	0	0
Des Moines Community College	0	0	0

Midwest Regional Championships

Men's Divisions

#1 Singles

1. Todd Stead U of Minn
2. Dave Werschay, St. Cloud U
3. Nick Rallis, MCC

#2 Singles

1. Brent Stinson, U of M
2. Jason Reynolds, FSU
3. Rob Garrow, CMU

#3 Singles

1. Troy Altenburg, FSU
2. Sam Tanalian, CMU
3. Ken Vadella, MSU

#4 Singles

1. Jim Skinner, FSU
2. Dan Logan, CMU
3. Scott Magee, PU

#5 Singles

1. Ken Emery, FSU
2. Bill Anderson, PU
3. Dave Buko, CMU

#6 Singles

1. Al Cull, FSU
2. Mike Armbruster, PU
3. Hurst, CMU

#1 Doubles

1. Stead/Stinson, U of Minn
2. Meeusen/Reynolds, FSU
3. Pickhardt/Rae, PU

#2 Doubles

1. Tanalian/Logan, CMU
2. Altenburg/Skinner, FSU
3. MaGee/Anderson, PU

#3 Doubles

1. Cull/Emery, FSU
2. Hurst/Buko, CMU
3. Gardner/Armbruster, PU

Women's Divisions

#1 Singles

1. Kim Russell, U of Kentucky
2. Lisa Yackley, FSU
3. Sara Ali, PU

#2 Singles

1. Linda Cok, FSU
2. Kim Julian, PU
3. Dawn Cumberworth, CMU

#3 Singles

1. Michelle Gagnon, CMU
2. Sany Wagner, FSU
3. Lara Fisher, PU

#4 Singles

1. Angie McManacihan, CMU
2. Diane Johnston, FSU

#5 Singles

1. Darlene Melvin, CMU
2. Gretchen Postula, FSU

#6 Singles

1. Lori Maxwell, FSU
2. Lisa Kokocinski, CMU

#1 Doubles

1. Yackley/Cok, FSU
2. Matties/Cumberworth, CMU

#2 Doubles

1. Aili/Julian, PU
2. Gagnon/McManacihan, CMU
3. Johnston/Postula
4. Wagner/Maxwell
5. Melvin/Kokocinski

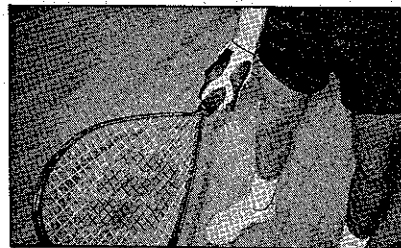
The Joel Bonnet Backhand

By W.T. Blakeslee

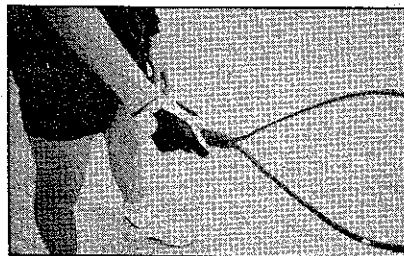
Joel Bonnet is following the path of Michigan's current top three Open players and may reach a level these players did not obtain, National Junior Champion. Joel follows the rich tradition of Chris Cole, Jim Floyd, and Nick Rallis, all who challenged as semi-finalists at the National level in the "National Olympic Junior Championships". Joel has already challenged in the 16 year old Division and is a legitimate contender for the National 18 Junior crown this summer at only 17 years old.

Joel is known as the "Crusher" by the above group and for good reason. Joel hits the ball with professional power from both sides, backhand and forehand. Joel is truly an exciting player to watch as his power, quickness, and endless low probability shot making abilities provides continued awe. Since last spring Joel has been the new kid on the block and truly is a threat to Chris Coles' five-year reign on State Champion.

Finally, on the brink of being the State's best player, Joel has a very different, but innovative grip. Certainly, it is not one that the game's expert instructors like Stu Hastings or Tom Brownlee would show you. However, it may be as innovative as was "Hogan's Power" racquetball, and I remind you to consider "what works works, and well". Basic footwork, basic stroke, basic grip? Joel adds another twist or two! A forehand grip that looks abnormal at times, but has enabled Joel to hit his extremely flat shots. His backhand grip is very unorthodox and high looping backswing has also helped him reach the semi-finals or higher in 17 of the 18 pro/open events he has played in this past season. The "grip" allows a very smooth, almost effortless shoulder-high delivery that seems to help Joel hit more consistent powerful splats. Joel was at his best February 26 in Canada, where he won his seventh pro/open event, defeating Mike Ceresia for the second time this season, 11-8, 11-10, 7-11, 11-4. Different grip and strokes for different folks - and maybe Michigan's first 18 year old National Champion.



Joel Bonnet's backhand grip



Joel Bonnet's forehand grip

Continued From Page 1

Results of the Region 9 Championships February 17-19, 1989 at the Mt. Clemens Racquetball & Sportcenter

MEN'S

- Open Chris Cole (MI) def. Nick Rallis (MI) 6-15, 5-5, 11-7
 A Sean Corrigan (MI) def. Greg Davis (OH) 15-5, 9-15, 11-7
 B Mike McPherson (MI) def. Bruce Williams (MI) 3-15, 15-10, 11-5
 C Ron Woodcox (MI) def. Ron Klicki (MI) 15-7, 15-8
 D Nick Wantuck (MI) def. Jeff Pressler (MI) 15-3, 6-15, 11-5
 19 Jim Hamilton (MI) def. Larry Meeusen (MI) 15-14, 15-9
 25 Dan Dutcher (MI) def. Jack White (MI) 15-9, 13-15, 11-2
 30 Ron Babkoff (OH) def. Schoo Worthy (MI) 15-10, 13-15, 11-8
 30B Mike McPherson (MI) def. Ron Knazek (OH) 15-2, 15-5
 35A Tom Travers (OH) def. Stu Hastings (MI) 15-7, 15-7
 35B Pancho Gutierrez (MI) def. Ed Swica (MI) 15-3, 14-15, 11-8
 35C Mark Zigala (MI) def. Larry Cleymen (MI) No Scores
 40 Johnny Northern (MI) def. Matt Lavikka (OH) 14-15, 15-9, 11-0
 45 Tom Perna (OH) def. Tom Sharum (MI) 15-4, 15-6
 50 Jess Madden (MI) def. Lynn Hahn (MI) 15-9, 15-10

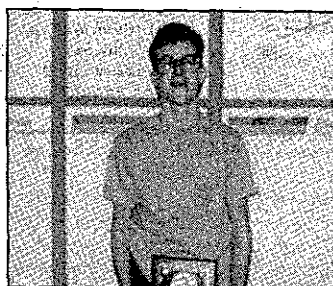
WOMEN'S

- Open Joetta Hastings (MI) def. Lori Troszak (MI) 15-10, 15-9
 A Jennifer Roach (Canada) def. Tammy Freidrich (MI) No Scores
 B Chris Berg (MI) def. Stacey Barbas (MI) 15-11, 15-10
 C Diane McCauley (MI) def. Donna Bullock (MI) 15-3, 15-4
 D Linda Hamilton (OH) def. Claudia Schmitt (MI) 15-13, 15-1
 19 Lori Troszak (MI) def. Kathy Stellema (MI) 15-14, 15-5
 25 Lisa Ecker (MI) def. Kathy Stellema (MI) 15-6, 15-8
 30 Joetta Hastings (MI) def. Bonnie Kowalski (OH) 15-3, 15-9
 30/35B Cheryl Kessler (MI) def. Judy Walzak (MI) 15-7, 15-14
 35 Elaine Barch (MI) def. Brigitte Hartz (MI) 15-14, 15-10
 40 Betty Ann Gilliland (MI) def. Linda Shalkhauser (OH) 11-15, 15-12, 11-1

JUNIOR BOYS'

- 18 Joel Bonnett (MI) def. Rob Garrow (MI) 15-3, 15-13
 16 Ryan Covell (MI) def. Rocko Roach (Canada) 15-5, 15-10
 14 Chris Pfaff (OH) def. Scott Zimmerman (MI) 15-11, 15-1
 12 Brent Zimmerman (MI) def. David Hamilton (OH) 15-13, 15-8

JUNIOR GIRL'S



Boy's 16 & Under Champion Ryan Covell



Boy's 12 & Under Champions: Brent Zimmerman (r) 1st Place & David Hamilton (l) from OH 2nd Place



Boy's 14 & Under Champions: Chris Pfaff from OH (r) 1st Place & Scott Zimmerman (l) 2nd Place

National Masters Invitation

By Duane Russell

La Mancha Racquet Club
 Phoenix, Arizona
 February 16-19, 1989

There was a huge turnout for the National Singles Masters Invitational Tournament. Not all applicants were accepted. Indeed, two clubs had to be used to handle all of those who had been admitted. The 45-49 and 50-54 groups were sent away for play returning for meals.

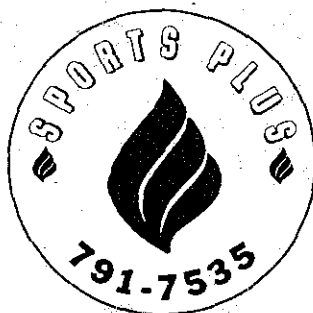
Michigan had 5 players who showed up:

Robert Miller	Iron Mountain	60-64
Dale Schaefer	Detroit	55-59
Paul Becker	Muskegon	50-54
Jerry Gray	Big Rapids	45-49
Duane Russell	Lansing	60-64

Paul Becker from Muskegon was very pleased with his performance in the tournament. He finished second in his flight. Last year he finished fourth.

I finished first in my flight and was unhappy. I don't know whether I am a winning loser or a losing winner.

At any rate, the La Mancha Club is a great facility for a tournament. Tremendous food for the evening meals was served outside under the stars with temperatures in the mid-70s. A welcome change from the icy blasts of the mid-west. One fellow from Fargo, North Dakota had a turnaround from -24 degrees to 80 degrees in Phoenix. We even had one player who came to the tournament from Alaska.



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RACQUETBALL

OFFICIAL RANKINGS

REGION 9

Information Listed
(Left to Right)
Rank
Name
12 Mo. Cum. Pts

Division M Open

1	Cole, Chris	680
2	Bonnett, Joel	350
3	Floyd, Jim	350
4	Anderson, Mike	265
5	Rallis, Nick	260
6	Hamilton, Jim	175
7	Hall, Gary	120
8	Meeusen, Larry	100
9	Anderson, Randy	85
10	Altenburg, Troy	80

Division M A

1	Bonnett, Joel	600
2	Verbeck, Dan	270
3	Covell, Ryan	220
4	Altenburg, Troy	185
5	Brennan, John	175
6	Kircher, Bryan	125
7	Wagner, Mike	125
8	Zimmerman, Scott	120
9	Blakelee, Tom	110
10	Goodman, Neal	100

Division M B

1	Altenburg, Troy	350
2	Phipps, Gary	225
3	Edsall, Ted	150
4	Zimmerman, Scott	145
5	Riley Jr., Marv	115
6	Fecher, Julian	105
7	Call, Mike	100
8	Lechowicz, Dennis	100
9	Morse, Ron	90
10	Turk Joe	80

Division M C

1	Matthews, Ray	150
2	Zimmerman, Brent	110
3	Simpson, Chris	105
4	Culver, Roger	100
5	Morey, Donald	100
6	Rajter, Gary	95
7	Wentham, Mark	80
8	Balassone, David	75
9	Bartz, Dan	50
10	Clark, John	50

Division M D

1	Garbarino, Michael	160
2	Parkhurst, Dwayne	155
3	Miller, David	130
4	Bassirco, Vito	125
5	Hein, Bill	115
6	Spence, Bill	110
7	Dunn, Mike	100
8	Kranz, Gary	95
9	Snell, Rob	80
10	Zigala, Mark	80

Division M 19+

1	Larry, Dave	280
2	Luethjohann, Todd	150
3	Hamilton, Jim	75
4	Wagner, Mike	70
5	Dutcher, Dan	50
6	Fox, Larry	50
7	Kaufman, Mark	50
8	Tackett, Al	50
9	Licari, Paul	30
10	Liggins, Jay	20

Division M 25+

1	Anderson, Mike	150
2	Tackett, Al	150
3	Anderson, Randy	100
4	White, Jack	100
5	Hotra, Mike	75
6	Liggins, Jay	75
7	Fox, Larry	50
8	Longeliere, Larry	50
9	Rodriguez, Dave	50
10	Stallmer, John	50

Division M 30+ A

1	Worthy, Scott	540
2	Anderson, Randy	350
3	Anderson, Mike	250
4	Hastings, Stu	230
5	Rodriguez, Dave	210
6	Paskin, Dave	170
7	Rodriguez, Dave	150
8	Longeliere, Larry	150
9	Hotra, Mike	140
10	White, Jack	125

Division M 30+ B

1	Klann, Al	150
2	Lawlor, Terry	100
3	Mcalinder, Dan	100
4	Clement, Tim	75
5	Call, Mike	50
6	Kowalewski, Mark	50
7	Lepczyk, Dave	50
8	McPherson, Mike	50
9	Slavik, J.R.	50
10	Tuckwell, Stan	50

Division M 35+ A

1	Hastings, Stu	1330
2	Stephens, Mike	225
3	Bonnett, Ken	160
4	Vanover, Ray	120
5	Northern, Johnny	115
6	Vanderlind, Rick	100
7	Hiser, Jim	95
8	Vanderlind, Ric	80
9	Gravely, Bob	70
10	Easterling, Jim	60

Division M 35+ B

1	Gervasi, John	250
2	Mell, Al	200
3	Molinaro, John	200
4	Lawlor, Terry	75
5	Lesczynski, Ron	75
6	Call, Mike	65
7	Power, Jeff	65
8	Goudie, George	60
9	Niedzielski, Mark	60
10	Edsall, Ted	50

Division M 35+ C

1	Guerra, Lionel	180
2	Sisinger, Jack	100
3	Gaukle, Wayne	95
4	Allis, Gary	75
5	Zigala, Mark	60
6	Chaltraw, Lenny	50
7	Grew, Ed	50
8	Knutz, Dean	50
9	Kretschman, Steve	50
10	McConnelee, Scott	50

Division M 40+

1	Stephens, Mike	750
2	Bonnet, Ken	340
3	Northern, Johnny	275
4	Gravely, Bob	265
5	Hiser, Jim	145
6	Liikala, Ron	105
7	Brownlee, Tom	100
8	Phipps, Gary	100
9	Sharun, Tom	100
10	McClellan, Gary	65

Division M 45+ A

1	Steck, George	135
2	Ciockajlo, Leonard	110
3	Phipps, Gary	100
4	Gray, Jerry	95
5	Sharun, Tom	90
6	Gemms, Sam	60
7	Caretti, Dick	50
8	Ciockajlo, Leonard	50
9	Lewerenz, Fred	50
10	Madden, Jess	50

Division M 45+ B

1	Cloutier, Gary	150
2	Phipps, Gary	100
3	Wheelihan, Charlie	75
4	Binecki, Joe	50
5	Sisinger, Jack	50
6	Taniellan, Mike	50
7	Wheelahan, Charles	50
8	McGrail, Bill	35
9	Suisser, Owen	30
10	Totin, Richard	30

Division M 50+

1	Hahn, Lynn	175
2	Filiatrem, Bill	150
3	Pudduck, Ron	150
4	Madden, Jess	100
5	Sewell, Richard	100
6	Mann, Robert	20
7	Singelyn, Bob	15
8	Gates, Hank	10
9	Gray, Bill	10
10	Leone, Erry	10

Division M 55+

1	Hahn, Lynn	300
2	Schaeffer, Dale	100
3	Russell, Duane	60
4	Caretti, Richard	50
5	Caretti, Richard	50
6	Paluch, Marv	50
7	McClellan, Rob	30

Division M 60+

1	Caretti, Richard	400
2	Russell, Duane	100
3	Leone, Garry	75
4	Sobikian, Mike	50

Division W Open

1	Ecker, Lisa	730
2	Hastings, Joetta	550
3	Troszak, Lori	135
4	Gutowaki, Beth	115
5	Chmura, Irene	100
6	Troszak, Tracey	85
7	Barnard, Natalie	50
8	Yackley, Lisa	50
9	Hartz, Brigitte	35
10	Vanderbroek, S	30

Division W A

1	Huczek, Sharon	430
2	Collins, Carol	250
3	Fecher, Lou Ellen	245
4	Fecher, Anne	225
5	White, Sandy	220
6	Friedrich, Tammy	180
7	Mainhardt, Alida	150
8	Yackley, Lisa	145
9	Malties, Melody	110
10	Tucker, Kim	80

Division W B

1	Walzak, Judy	235
2	Frankhouse, Dawn	170
3	Saad, Paula	170
4	Eller, Laurie	150
5	Vandersteen, Cindy	150
6	Washburn, Paicilla	150
7	Barbas, Stacey	105
8	Kruse, Claire	65
9	Kerr, Diane	60
10	Dickerson, Anthonita	50

Division W C

1	Saad, Paula	300
2	Kruse, Claire	180
3	Brevitz, Becky	150
4	Harkleroad, Pam	150
5	Klann, Pat	100
6	Kleckner, Marlee	100
7	Suever, Chris	95
8	Muse, Karen	80
9	Barbas, Stacey	75
10	Bolin, Jan	75

Division W D

1	Kruse, Claire	225
2	McCauley, Diane	150
3	McIntyre, Rae	100
4	Gagnon, Michelle	80
5	St. John, Jean	80
6	Durocher, Karen	50
7	Gagnon, Michelle	50
8	Janezko, Veronica	50
9	Kakocinski, Lisa	50
10	Sims, Debi	50

Division W 19+

1	Ecker, Lisa	850
2	Troszak, Tracey	200
3	Kishigian, Lesley	150
4	Stellama, Kathy	80
5	White, Sandy	75
6	Hastings, Joetta	50
7	Troszak, Lori	50
8	Chmura, Irene	30
9	Hartz, Brigitte	20

Division W 25+

1	Collins, Carol	400
2	Gutowski, Beth	100
3	White, Sandy	75
4	Stellama, Kathy	20

Division W 30+ A

1	Hastings, Joetta	225
2	Kishigian, Lesley	120
3	Chmura, Irene	100
4	Gutowski, Beth	100
5	Hartz, Brigitte	30

Division W 30+ B

1	Huczek, Sharon	250
2	Saad, Paula	150
3	Kruse, Claire	100
4	Barbas, Stacey	75
5	Elliott, Pat	50
6	Suever, Chris	50
7	Bolgos, Marjorie	30

Division W 35+

1	Chmura, Irene	300
2	Hartz, Brigitte	100
3	Allen, Arlene	75

Division M 18

1	Floyd, Jim	800
2	Rallis, Nick	300
3	Garrow, Rob	125
4	Wozner, Chris	100
5	Meeusen, Larry	75

Division M 16

1	Bonnet, Joel	550
2	Covell, Ryan	275
3	Eckhouse, Jeff	200
4	Garrow, James	50
5	Hall, Gary	50
6	Kummner, Jeffrey	50
7	Riley, Jr. Marv	20

Division M 14

1	Hale, Scott	50
2	Visgar, Chad	50
3	McGrail, Jim	30

Division M 12

1	Zimmerman, Scott	650
2	Garrow, Brian	200
3	McGrail, Jim	180
4	Zimmerman, Brent	100
5	Lerner, Rob	75

Division M 10

1	Zimmerman, Brent	1150
2	Vandyke, Tim	250
3	McConnelee, Scottie	125
4	Degutis, David	100
5	Hall, Billy	75
6	Adloff, Brian	50
7	Huczek, Jack	50



Michigan Super 7 #3

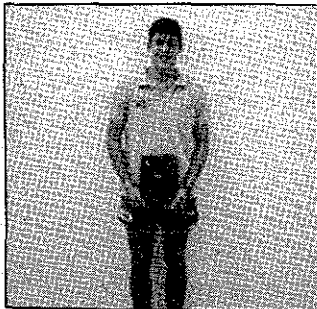
The Michigan Athletic Club hosted the third event in a series of seven of the Michigan Super Seven's. With just a "touch" of snow on the ground and in the air it was a perfect December weekend. Traffic was hectic at the nearby malls with Christmas Shoppers, but not so in the Club. One hundred twenty-two people elected to play instead of shop with a total of 184 entries. Though small for a Grand Rapids tournament, the play was superb. There were tough matches in almost every division.

Women's divisions were on the weak side with just women A, B, C, D & N.

The club was in excellent shape with great viewing and refereeing from every court. Hospitality was also good and well organized.

We would like to thank the Michigan Athletic Club for hosting the tournament and their staff for doing such an excellent job in making the tournament a success. It sure made our job easier when towels for every occasion were readily available without asking.

Thanks again to the MAC and also to all players who participate in the Michigan Super Seven Series.



Jim Floyd, 1st Place Men's Pro



Stu Hastings, 1st 30A
Mike Anderson 2nd Place 30A

Grand Rapids Results

Men

Pro Jim Floyd def Joel Bonnet 15-12, 15-14
Open Larry Meeusen def Gary Hall 7, 12
A/Troy Altenburg def Mike Wagner 12, 6
B/Gary Phipps def Ken Emery (13) 13, 3
C/Bryan Marquardt def
Mark Werthman 8, 12
D/Doug Burland def Gary Freyling 12, 12
30-35A Stu Hastings def
Mike Anderson 12, 10
35B Ted Edsall def Mike Cull

35C Dean Krantz def Mark Henry 6, 14
40A Jim Hiser def Ken Bonnett 6 (8) 8
45A Leonard Ciokaylo def
Tom Sharum 8 (11) 4

Women

A/Lisa Yackley def Melody Matties 5, 4
B/C Kim Fuller def
Dorothy Sypniewski (6) 9, 10
N/Lori West def Kathy Cunnel
Blind draw doubles Mike Anderson/Ted
Edsall def Greg Bedenis/Lisa Ecker 6, 14

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contains 1 bumper, 1 safety cord, set of 6 leather pads. Call (616) 722-1639. Penn Balls - or - Ram Balls

WANTED — I am a collector of racquetball cans and memorabilia. I need the BOX that had 3 or 4 "Z balls" in it. I also need the CAN "Rothco" and "Pinch Shot" by Sportcraft. Call Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459 (H).

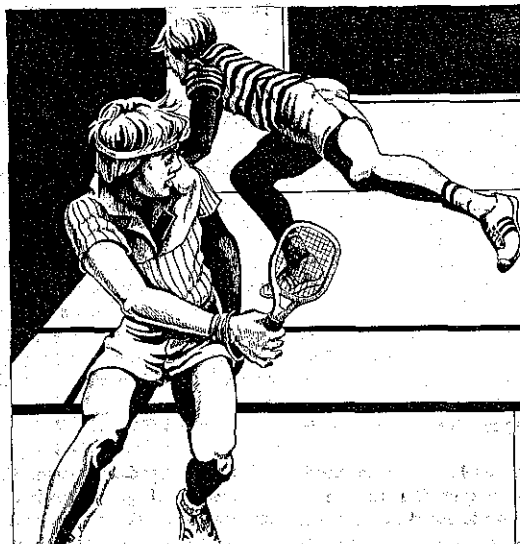
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Greater Flint Winter Games

Flint Olympians Play it Again!

Flint athletes compete twice a year in a city wide Olympion competition that consist of 14 individual and 7 team sports. This year's competition was the 12th year, with 4,453 participants. It has grown significantly from the original 1,971 participants.

Olympian Racquetball competition at Court House Club was tight to the end with tie breakers deciding several of the divisions. The 3 day double elimination event is often the first tournament experience for many of the Flint area recreational racquetball players. It is also their first experience in refereeing and a great opportunity for them to see some of the area's finest players in action. It was also great to see these people encouraging the new players in their lower levels of competition. This has to be what racquetball is really all about.

The various sport areas included:

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

Badminton
Chess
Downhill Skiing
Karate
Long Distance 5K

Rope Jumping
Tennis-Indoor
Wrestling - Elem
Bowling
Darts

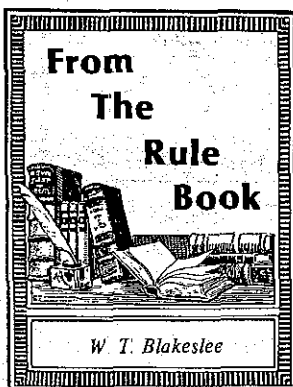
Gymnastics
Swimming
Racquetball
Table Tennis
Weightlifting

TEAM SPORTS

Indoor Soccer
Kickball-Girls
Volleyball
Basketball
3 on 3 basketball
Softball / Slow
Pitch

Exhibition Sports

Floor Hockey & Hockey Skills



The 1987-88 Mike Yellen Michigan Junior Scholarship Foundation

By W. T. Blakeslee

The 1987 and 1988 "Mike Yellen Michigan Junior Scholarship Award" foundation winners were Jim Floyd and Nick Rallis.

At the conclusion of 1988, the two received checks of over \$2,000 each and the awards will total \$4,500. Several years ago Mike Yellen and Jim Hiser had the foresight to initiate and plant the seed that created the Foundation and Junior Scholarship award as it exists today. Basically Mike Yellen started the Junior Scholarship fund by contributing \$500, every year since, the award has grown to our annual award of \$2,500. Mike Yellen is still the cornerstone of the award and the scholarship continues to bear his name. In addition to Mike, Fred Lewerenz, Ron Slavik, Rick Vanderlind, Jim Hiser, Tom Blakeslee, and the Racquetball Association of Michigan continues to fund, determine the recipient, and make up the foundation.

The winners are selected by an outstanding balance of racquetball and scholastic performance. In addition, the winner must attend college and participate in intercollegiate racquetball to finally receive the award. Normally it might be expected that

the award would be given to one racquetball scholar. However, picking between Jim or Nick would be like choosing the perfect fruit, and apple or an orange - you decide by the following.

NICK RALLIS ACADEMICS

Highschool grade point average 3.89, sixth in class, Varsity letter, President Academic Fitness Award, Michigan Competitive Scholarship Award, Michigan State University Academic Excellence Award, National Honor Society.

NICK RALLIS RACQUETBALL

Captured five first place, eight second place, and eight semi-finalists finished in 1988 Eighteen Division Champion Second in State Doubles and semi-finalist in open division Quarter finalist in National Junior Olympic Championship Sponsored by Ektelon and Lewerenz Sports Medicine.

NICK RALLIS UPON GRADUATION

Currently attending Macomb County Community College- 4.0 grade average and wants to transfer to the University of Michigan as a Junior. Continues to excel at racquetball. Second in Open at Region #9 and third in the Regional intercolle-

giate. Loves college and is considering a career in engineering.

JIM FLOYD ACADEMICS

Valedictorian of class, 3.91 grade average. National Honor Society, Presidents Academics Fitness Award, Michigan State University Academic Excellence Award, Class President, Lettered in Track, Golf and Wrestling.

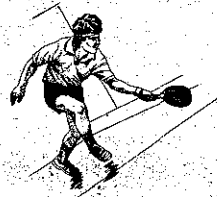
JIM FLOYD RACQUETBALL

Regional Champion 1987 and 1988, High School National Champion 1988, Orange Bowl Semi-Finalist 1987 and 1988, Junior Nationals third place 1987 and 1988, many other first, second, and semi-final finishes in 1988.

JIM FLOYD UPON GRADUATION

Attended Michigan State University and has transferred to University of Michigan, Flint. Current grade point average over 3.0. Wants to make U.S. World Racquetball team.

In summary, Jim and Nick are model students, racquetball players and people you would love to have as sons, brothers, or friends; and model citizens for other junior racquetball players to exemplify.



1989 Flint Winter Olympian Racquetball Standings

Hosted by Court House Club

Ladies

A/B

1st Laurie Greening
2nd Donna Comfort
3rd Betty Burgess

C

1st Kay Wright
2nd Mary Tucker
3rd Chris Robbins

Men's A

1st Lenny Chalfrow
2nd Jim Skinner Jr.
3rd Mary Riley

Men's

B

1st Shanti Shamaram
2nd Dwayne Parkhurst
3rd Brian Garow

C

1st Dean LaClair
2nd Mike Bice
3rd Bobby Rhodes

D

1st Dan Pflock
2nd Ken Hughes
3rd Bob Nichols

Gateway Wins "Fall" Men's Tri-County League

By Jim Skinner

As League champions for the first half of the season, Gateway Racquetball's Men's Traveling Team has become winners. Competition throughout the fall has been intense and every team is doing their best to win their way to the top. Competition is tough and everybody's having a great time in the Tri-County Men's Travel League.

Final standings for the first half were:

Gateway 205
Meadowbrook 184
Court House Club 183
University R.C. 173
Waterford Hills 167
Crescent Lake #1 123

Currently, Meadowbrook Racquet Club is in first place in the second session. The team in first at the end of the second session will play Gateway for the overall champion.

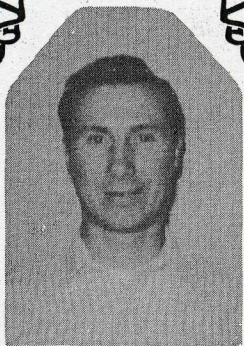
The old Keatington Racquet Club is now playing at the University and captain Dan Burrell is getting them organized.

Other teams are invited to join the league. It is hoped that next season more teams will be added to the competition. There is also the intent to develop competition at more advanced and beginner levels. All individuals and/or teams who might be interested should contact one of the following people: Bryan Turner 1-313-624-4162, Rufus Gage 1-313-673-1725, or Jim Skinner 1-313-743-4510.

Level of play includes players who have not won an A division tournament in a level 3 sanctioned tournament or above in the last two years.

The players have had a great time this year and it is hoped that the league will expand during the season. COME JOIN US!!

Editor's Judgement Call



JIM EASTERLING
Editor of The Racquetball Reporter
Regional Director

What do you do when you are playing in a tournament and your opponent keeps stepping over the short line on the serve? What do you do if your opponent keeps cutting off your lob serve on the fly in the safety zone and the referee won't call anything? What do you do when you're playing in a regional or national tournament and the person behind the desk says there is only one minute between the first and second games and the tie breaker?

What does the player do?

These are all good questions and you as a tournament player have certain options. If you are playing in an AARA sanctioned tournament you have the right to "object or protest" certain calls or rules or situations.

1. You and your opponent have the right to overrule your referee. *i.e. The ref calls the shot a skip and both of you say it was a good shot. You two have the right to overrule your referee and he should change his call accordingly.*
2. You have the right to ask your referee to watch certain situations. *i.e. You think your opponent is stepping over the front service line on his serve. You can ask your referee to please keep an eye on your opponents front foot when he is serving.*
3. If you AND your opponent want a different referee you have the right to request one. *i.e. You think your referee is not calling hinders and is missing too many short calls on you. You and your opponent can talk it over and if both of you agree the referee is not doing an adequate job the two of you can ask the tournament director for a new referee.*
4. You are entitled to a rule interpretation by the tournament director. *i.e. You think the referee is doing a good job, but doesn't fully understand the 10 second rule. You*

The "Rights" of a Player

have the right to ask the tournament director or someone appointed by the tournament director to come over and explain the 10 second rule. The tournament director should explain the rule to both players and the referee at the same time.

5. If after talking to the tournament director and then you are still not satisfied, at some tournaments then you can request a ruling from the rules committee. A rules committee is usually made up of 5 people who are quite knowledgeable on the rules. *i.e. At the Regionals player A has a match scheduled at 6:15 and at 6:30 player B had not shown up so player A was given a win by forfeiture. At 7:30 player B came in and said the club told him his time was 8:15. After investigating the situation the mistake was made by the club's front desk and the tournament director said player A had to play the match. Player A was not happy with the ruling and requested a decision by the rules committee which in turn supported the tournament director's ruling.*
6. If you have a problem with a rules committee decision and you are an AARA member at an AARA sanctioned tournament, you have the right to register your complaint in WRITING with the state association.
7. Finally your last step of appeal is to express your complaint in writing or in per-

son to the AARA National Board of Directors in Colorado.

I hope this has helped you understand some of the rights that you as a player have in dealing with concerns regarding your participation in tournaments. If you have any further questions please feel free to call me in the evenings at home the number is (517) 887-0459. ---Jim Easterling



Metro Women's Travel League Gateway Racquetball Center

The meeting was called to order by Alida Mainhardt at 7:10 P.M. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as written.

Those teams not represented were: Sunday Level 2 — Court House; Sunday Level 4 — Court House & Gateway; and Thursday Level 3 Court House.

Claire Pelc gave a treasurer's report — working balance of \$1,219.41. Claire is looking into the matter of Court House and their forfeitures to see if any teams are out court costs and if so, will be compensated through the Performance Bond. Any teams that did not pay ranking fees for all their team members - the fees will be taken out of your performance bond.

BANQUET: Will be at Mt. Clemens, Saturday April 29, 1989 from 8 pm til Midnight! Beer, pizza, salad, and pop will be provided for \$10.00 per person. Any and all guests are welcome (NO CHILDREN PLEASE). There will be courts available for challenge for all levels and doubles. Money is due at the next meeting on April 4, 1989 at 7 pm at Gateway. Each team will be required to bring a door prize for raffle. Alida will take care of trophies again this year. Pat Klann will make all arrangements. If you want to help will the challenge courts, call her — 759-5364.

As is customary, it was voted on and passed that this year's officers and recording secretaries cost of the banquet will be paid by the treasury.



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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 30, 1989—Davison Racquet Club
Call to order by President Tom Blakeslee at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Blakeslee, Jim & Dianne Easterling, Jim Hiser, Rick Hall, Duane Russell Administrator, Lou Ellen Fecher

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Statement of cash receipts/disbursements for the months ended on November 30, 1988 & December 31, 1988 was presented by Dianne Easterling. Checkbook balance for the year was \$309.33. Dianne reported the rest of the Juniors had been paid off and that Lou Ellen Fecher was owed 3 hours for duties performed on behalf of the Board.

OTHER ITEMS MENTIONED: Dianne mentioned we had to send a certificate of non-profit status in Michigan to the AARA. Tom Blakeslee had been getting all the labels since December and then has been calling the clubs and sending them. Jim Hiser and Dianne Easterling also have been getting some of the labels. Dianne will call and provide information about the tournament directors so the labels can be sent direct to them.

II REPORT OF THE SECRETARY: Minutes had been mailed to Tom Blakeslee prior to the meeting and will be provided at a later date.

III REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT: Rick Hall indicated he had received many complaints that nobody got the TAB MAGAZINE. The information he obtained was they had shut down for a couple of months but the FEBRUARY issue was to be out on time. Rick said he had sold 30 of the \$15.00 slips. Rick also said some of the entry forms were mailed first class and he got some back since the addresses were inaccurate. Dianne Easterling said the NEWSLETTER has some of the same problems. Jim Easterling said the Newsletter is updated 4 times a year, but still addresses are a problem. Rick also mentioned two AARA cards had been renewed with the wrong renewal date. They had been paid early so they lost 3 months. Perhaps the best way to handle this is to make a photo copy and not renew until your membership expires. Rick said the Grand Rapids Tournament was a good one and went well. Floyd won the PRO and beat Mike Anderson. Gary Hall won the open. He said that 24 new members were obtained from the tournament.

IV REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: The Junior Scholarship monies have been paid to Jimmy Floyd and Nick Rallis. An article on them will be placed in the Newsletter and sent to the AARA Magazine as well. We would also like to include photographs as well if they can be obtained from the recipients.

STATE DOUBLES: Will be held at Grand Blanc Club

STATE SINGLES: Undecided

SPONSORS: No reply from Tom Brownlee as of yet

BALLS: Pen desires to be contracted. Tom Blakeslee will get with them and see about an offer.

GRIPS: Jim Easterling reported that AME grips are out of business. Ektelon bought them out. Tacky Mat might provide these if not in conflict with Ektelon. Tom Blakeslee desires to get racquetball tourney on PASS for the Regionals. Lou Ellen reported that Grand Blanc desired a contract for the doubles tournament. Tom had sent them a letter. She also said she needed entry forms for the State Doubles. Dianne Easterling said she would mail them to her. The tournament will be scheduled for March 31. (Day's Inn will be the headquarters for rooms: RATES \$29.00 for singles, \$45.00 for doubles).

V REPORT OF DISTRICT #9 DIRECTOR: Jim Easterling reported on the Regional Tournament indicating he had received the shirts and that Mike Anderson would do the Plaques. *Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia logo is on the shirts. Jim will meet with the Mt. Clemens Club Manager, Steve Turnello. Tom talked about the warm-ups at last year's state tournament. Crew neck/V neck sweaters also were mentioned as another idea. The warm-ups ran around \$30-\$35.00. the sweaters could be done for about \$16.00 with embroidery. Rick Hall was to ask Mark Henry of Action Sportswear for some ideas. Whatever we order will require about 265 singles to meet needs.

VI REPORT OF NATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Jim Hiser will be moving to Colorado Springs in June of this year to accept a new position as Assistant Executive with the AARA. Duane Russell reported that Bill Gotlieb mentioned he did not get a letter of the meeting and was somewhat displeased in the changes of sites without notice. Tom Blakeslee reviewed expenses for AARA. In Feb. Racquetball will be voted in as

a group "A" sport. \$30,000 will be provided for state grants up to a maximum of \$3000. (two ideas would be the most that could be submitted). Jim Easterling said we should try to think of an idea and bring it up at the next board meeting. Jim Hiser said the purpose was to try to improve grass roots development of racquetball N/S/E/W. Pay someone (\$750) a region to meet with and develop a program to assist club owners. This was voted in at the October Board meeting of the AARA. Right now clubs are making 33 to 50 percent of their profits of racquetball with the rest coming from Fitness and Aerobics. Jim mentioned a HANDICAPPED \$100,000 tournament in racquetball. This would cost \$300 to enter and players would be seeded and drawn on a random basis by zip code. This is already in the making and this Regional would be held here in Michigan at the Davison Racquet Club. Jim Hiser also mentioned there would be 2 year terms for Regional Directors.

TOURNAMENT REPORT I: Jim Easterling. We are receiving 90% compliance from sanctioned tournaments. DAC (Detroit Athletic Club) is not one of these. Jim Easterling said he would write a letter in the Newsletter on this subject: "Due Process". (Levels of challenge on a decision are: Tournament Director, Rules Committee. Letter to the National Board and/or State Association. The Ektelon Contract has been renewed for 4 year. Dianne Easterling reported she had not received and Rebates from AARA in quite awhile. The National Racquetball Magazine has not been doing a good job of the 8 section fold out which could be sent to people not getting the magazines.

PAN AM GAMES in CUBA 1991: It will cost \$100.00 for two r-ball courts. The Olympic Festival will be held in U.S. in non-olympic years in four areas of the country. The racquetball governing body will run it. July 20, 1989 it will be on nationally. July 28-30 will run 3 days in Oklahoma City. Pro's cannot play if they have accepted monies within 3 years. This can be avoided by TRUST arrangements. They will be looking for referees for the O City Tournament. The National Junior competitions will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

STATE GAMES: Lou Ellen will check these out. We did not have any in 1988. Karen Kunkel was the contact person at Northern Michigan University. At that time they had no room for another game sport.

1989; TV Racquetball looks like will be sponsored by Ektelon as a promotion. Jim Hiser reported they were trying to get two sponsors nationally. Jim Easterling reported the National Masters he hopes, will not be scheduled on the third week in February after this. It conflicted with our Regional Tournament in Michigan/Ohio and West Virginia.

HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT: will be held on March 10-2 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

NATIONAL RACQUETBALL HALL OF FAME: One of these will be created which will be similar in format to Michigan's.

ROUND ROBIN FORMAT: Duane Russell mentioned it would be desirable for a round-robin format to be used in master's divisions. Lack of numbers had impacted severely upon play and he felt that a format and scoring used at the Golden Master Invitational tournament would be helpful in getting added interest and participation (5 person or less—maybe 8).

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: Jim Easterling asked for articles for the next issue of RB News. He would like to expand the publication to 12 pages but this might be difficult since it is hard to get articles. 12 pages would cost us more than we currently pay. Articles are due on the 30th.

EYEGUARDS: How about a face mask? Would this be considered meeting the lensed eyewear requirement? Industrial strength? A discussion ensued and no conclusion was reached.

NON-PROFIT POST: This status is helpful. It would cost 8.4 cents versus the 16.7 cents which we now pay for mailing. We should include this in an AARA event which is sanctioned by us to meet requirements. Jim Easterling mentioned he would not be able to continue the newsletter next year since other activities are getting in the way. Perhaps Lou Ellen Fecher would be able to bring one person to the next meeting as a means of generating some new talent in the Board and decision making process.

SUPER 7: Lou Ellen will be taking these over. Chris Cole, Stu Hastings, Mike Anderson will also be working on these and dates should be out for the schedule within a month. Like to have one in November.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

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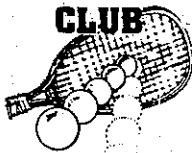


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