

The Racquetball



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

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July 1989

REPORTER

Michigan Junior Players participate in '89 Junior Olympic Racquetball Championships

The Junior National Championship, now called the Junior Olympic Championship, was held June 24-28 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The following Michigan Junior players participated:

Troy Altenberg, Joel Bonnett, Ryan Covell, Brian Garrow, Annie Haganah, Laurie Haganah, Gary Hall, Jack Huzek, Mike Johnston, Jim McGrail, Rashid Neighbors, Mary Riley, Rob Snell, Tim VanDyke, Chad Visser, Brent Zimmerman and Scott Zimmerman.

Over 600 Juniors representing nearly every state traveled to Indianapolis looking for The Court Club, the host club for this year's tournament. The tournament began Saturday with first round matches and concluded with the finals on Wednesday. There were fourteen

separate 'Singles' divisions and eleven 'Doubles' events.

Nearly all of the Michigan Juniors arrived Friday night to get oriented and hit the ball one last time before the competition. But, competition is not the only motivation. Many players renewed friendships that have developed from state, regional, and other national tournaments. For many in the 18's this would be their last Junior National Tournament as players. The experience of playing in a national level tournament provides exposure and yields memories for life.

Good sportsmanship and good conduct prevailed throughout the tournament. Spectators viewed one great match after another. Being indoors was a relief

from the 90 degree weather.

Here is how our Michigan players fared:

Boys 18 - Mike Johnston played great racquetball and was Michigan's most successful singles player. Mike advanced from an unseeded position to the Semi's before being defeated by Joe Parasio (CA). On his path to the Semi's, Mike scored strong wins over John Gillooly (MA) and Robby Walden (FL). Joel Bonnett made it to the quarter finals before he was defeated by a 'HOT' Kelly Gelhaus (CA) 15-7, 15-11. Joel impressed the crowd with explosive shots that were the talk of the tournament. Gary Hall and Troy Altenberg both lost in early competition. Gary was defeated by Manuel Hernandez (another CA player), 15-5, 15-7 and Troy lost to Mike (Spike) Sekul (NY) 15-3, 15-5.

Boys 16 - Ryan Covell had the most success of the three players in this division surviving the first round before losing to Scott Reiff (FL), 15-7, 15-11. Mary Riley and Rob Snell suffered first round tie breaker losses. Mary lost to Mike Sabatini (PA) and Rob lost to Jamie Oakley (WI).

Boys 14 - Scott Zimmerman played several strong matches before losing to Sudsy Monchik (NY) in the round of 16. Brian Garrow and Chad Visser had early losses to Toby Leperd (ION) and Brad Hansen (IA) respectively.

Boys 12 - Brent Zimmerman made his way to the quarter finals when he was stopped by Shane Brown (CA) and a sore shoulder, 11-15, 15-1, 11-0. Jim McGrail was in the second round when he lost to a powerful Chris George (PA), 15-0, 15-1. Tim VanDyke also found a stronger opponent in his early loss to John Stanford (FL), 15-4, 15-2.

Boys 8 - Rashid Neighbors made it through the first round before losing to Shane Vanderson (OH). Jack Huzek lost in his first match to Matt McElhiney (FL), 15-5, 15-6.

Girls 14 - Laurie and Annie Haganah both lost tie breaker matches early in the tournament. Laurie lost to Kathy Cassidy (FL), 15-12, 7-15, 11-3, and Annie's loss was to Beth Knitter (WI), 15-7, 13-15, 11-6.

Doubles - The strongest Michigan showing came from Brent Zimmerman and his partner Wesley MaNor (TN) who worked their way to the finals in the Boys 12 and under doubles division. Brent and Wes lost a tight match in the finals to a team from MA, Eric Eckmon and Shane Wood. Congratulations Brent on your second place finish.

Submitted by Rick Hall



Inducted

Jim Hiser (right) presents Joe Sobek (left) with a plaque for being inducted into the AARA Hall of Fame. Joe is the inventor of what we now call RACQUETBALL.

1989 National Golden Masters

The 1989 National Golden Masters Invitational Racquetball Championships were held at the Racquet Club of Pittsburgh on April 21, 22, 23. The field of contestants had most of the top calibre Golden Masters players in the United States and Canada in attendance.

Lynn Hahn from Muskegon Michigan won the first place trophy for ages 55-59 marking the third time he has won this national event. Duane Russell, from Lansing, Michigan won third place in the 60-65 age group in singles, and he and his doubles partner, Jack Gushue from Horseheads, New York finished third in the doubles.

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VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT

I just returned from the Junior Olympic National Tournament, and believe me, racquetball is not on the way out. It is very hard not to get caught up in the enthusiasm of the younger crowd. Team Michigan was well represented and almost twenty players—Troy Altenberg, Joel Bonnett, Gary Hall, Mike Johnson, Ryan Covell, Marvin Riley, Rob Snell, Brian Garrow, Chad Visgar, Scott and Brent Zimmerman, Jim McGrail, Tim VanDyke, Rashid Neighbors, Laurie and Annie Hagenah, and Jack Huczek. The surprise of the event was Mike Johnston who followed in the tradition of powerful Team Michigan players in the past like Chris Cole, Jim Floyd, and Nick Rallis by making the semi-finals in the 18 year old championship event. Outstanding, Mike! Congratulations! People think junior racquetball has drastically diminished, but at this year's tournament, the folks indicated some growth in draw sizes. Five years ago, when we went to California, our Team Michigan was only about 28 players. Finally, most good players would have a hard time beating the 14 year old finalists, and most of the good 16 and 18 year olds would have to play open here in Michigan.

In case you have not heard, Stu Hastings, and Johnny Northern are National Champs in the 35 and 40-year old age divisions. It is no small wonder; I cannot win a racquetball match. Congratulations to all those that also participated. I know the State Singles Tournament was a couple of months ago, but I thought I would give you some facts. It was the largest amateur tournament of the year in Michigan and probably larger than the Pro Stops at Grand Rapids or Davison. Almost \$7000 was returned to the players in the form of sweaters, caps, door prizes, and trophies. Only the two Pro Stops mentioned above give out that kind of money or gratuities, and most of that goes to the Pros, not the amateurs that participate in the event. As a reminder RAM is a non-profit organization, and all funds go back to the membership.

Finally, I would like to mention two people: Lou Ellen Fecher who was made a full RAM board member and, once again, thanks to Jim Hiser who is now the Assistant Executive Director of the AARA in Colorado.

My wish for the upcoming season is for two new board members from a reader of this article.

Date set for Regional Championships

The Adult/Junior Regional Championships will be held at the Sawmill Athletic Club in Columbus, Ohio. The date is February 23-25, 1990. So put this date on your calendar because this is one great

tournament. There will be doubles & singles events this year and don't forget you must play in the regionals to be qualified to play in the nationals.



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Newsletter

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 (517) 887-0459

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RAM Past Presidents

RAM was formed July 24, 1984

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

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Presidents

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 Denny Wood (MRA) 1977-78
 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 Such (MRA) 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

World Collegiate Championships**Ferris raquetball team finishes 3rd**

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State raquetball team traveled to New Orleans earlier this spring for the World Collegiate Championships and brought home a third place finish.

FSU players competed with over 450 students, singles and doubles combined, representing 41 colleges and university. Ahead of Ferris, Memphis University captured the championship with Sacramento State University finishing second.

The Ferris women's team did exceptionally well competing against one hundred women in nine divisions. All six members as well as their three doubles teams went to the semifinals.

Nathalie Bernard, former Canadian National Junior Champion, playing in No. 1 singles for Ferris State cruised through the No. 4 seed Vicki Oliver of Texas A&M University, winning the match 15-4, 15-4. Nathalie eventually placed fourth after losing to this year's champion and United States team member Cindy Dole 6-15, 6-15.

Lisa Yackley, playing in No. 2 singles for Ferris moved into the semifinals before losing to Janet Burke of Memphis State University 5-15, 5-15. Yackley then bounced back to capture the bronze medal 15-8, 15-3.

Linda Cook breezed through her first two rounds, winning over Marita Detrisch, Plattsburg University, and Dawn Cumberworth, Central Michigan University. Linda then lost to defending No. 3 singles champion Kelly Pulis of Sacramento State. In a battle for third place Linda lost to Sandi Hassett of the U.S. Military Academy in a tough match 13-15, 11-15.

Sandy Wagner, who is also the starting catcher on the Ferris State softball team, marched through the semifinals in No. 4 singles. She defeated Molly McDonough of Southwest Missouri State before losing to Holly Gray of Memphis State in the final. Sandy became the first player in Ferris State history to receive a silver medal in the World Championships.

In the number five spot for Ferris, Lori Maxwell advanced to the semifinals before losing to top seed Nicole Anthony of Sacramento State. Maxwell then bounced back from her defeat to beat Anni Reinhold for the bronze medal.

Gretchen Postula also played very well, but lost in the semifinals in No. 6 to Carolyn Nolan. Postula then lost a tough match to Angie McClanahan of Central Michigan University.

In doubles competition, the Ferris women came away with a bronze medal and two fourth place medals. The team of Bernard and Yackley played exceptionally well but lost to the top seeded team of Robin Levine and Kelly Pulis from Sacramento State. It was a hard fought match which resulted in a heart-breaking loss in the tiebreaker. Bernard and Yackley came back strong to win the bronze medal over Vicki Oliver and Andrea Stackhouse of Texas A & M.

Women's team captain Linda Cok and

Sandy Wagner were playing together for the first time but that didn't stop them from advancing to the semifinal round before losing to yet another Sacramento State team. In the bronze medal match, Cok and Wagner lost the tiebreaker to Melody Matties and Dawn Cumberworth of Central Michigan University.

Maxwell and Postula were also able to advance to the fourth round before bowing out to the team of Michelle Gagnon and Angie Clanaghan also of Central Michigan University.

Overall, the women's team came home with the third place trophy in women's competition.

The men's division proved to be much tougher competition from the first round right on up to the finals. There were two hundred men competing in nine divisions, in which the Ferris men finished sixth overall. Larry Meeusen, the team captain played in the No. 1 singles spot for Ferris State. Larry played tough matches in the first two rounds before falling to the No. 3 seed, U.S. Team Member and eventual silver medalist, David Simonette of Memphis State University.

Jason Reynolds also advanced to the third round before being defeated in a tough tie-breaker match by the No. 7 seed.

Troy Altenburg in No. 3 singles received the first medal for the men's team since the program was started. Troy fought through the first three rounds of tough competition before beating the No. 4 seed in an exciting quarter-finals match. Altenburg came back from a 10-8 deficit in a brutal tie-breaker to win 11-10. In the semifinal, Altenburg lost to the top seed Mark Heckman 14-15, 15-8, 11-5. In the bronze medal match Altenburg lost to Wade Beardsley of Sacramento State 15-2, 13-15, 11-3.

Jim Skinner Ferris' 3rd seed in No. 4 singles lost a tough match in the third round to Gene Kohona, the eventual fourth place finisher.

In No. 5 singles, Al Cull advanced to the quarter finals before losing to the No. 3 seed Sam Tanielian of Central Michigan University.

Mark Werthman lost a tough tie-breaker match to Rich Brenner of Southwest Missouri State, this division's eventual silver medalist, 12-15, 15-8, 11-4.

In men's doubles, Meeusen and Reynolds advanced past the first two rounds in No. 1 doubles before losing a very exciting match to the Texas A & M team 2-15, 15-8, 11-9.

In No. 2 doubles, the Ferris team of Altenburg and Skinner advanced to the quarterfinal round before losing to the No. 3 seeds of Sacramento State University. The third round produced one of the most exciting matches of the entire tournament. Altenburg and Skinner lost 14-15 in the first game before winning the next game by the same score 15-14. In the tie-breaker, the Ferris team was down 10-6, got the serve, and promptly served five straight points to win 11-10 in the tie-breaker.

Another exciting match occurred involving Ferris' No. 3 doubles team of Al Cull and Mark Werthman. Cull and Werthman pulled out a 15-13 victory in the first game before losing 15-11 and 11-7.

For Ferris State University the racquetball future only gets brighter. The only graduating player this year is senior Al Cull. With new recruits committed to Ferris' program next year, things are looking good. Jimmy Floyd, United States national team member, playing for the University of Michigan won the No. 1 singles gold medalist. He has committed to Ferris next year and will greatly enhance the depth of this team. Mike Johnston, another Michigan Open player, will be joining the team in the fall.

With the addition of these players to an already strong and talented team of primarily freshmen and sophomores, Ferris will be in contention for the National Title.

Meadowbrook wins 'Spring' Men's Tri-County Travel League

Meadowbrook Men's Traveling Team won the league championship for the spring session. The fall session was won by Gateway.

Meadowbrook Racquet Club won the overall championship. The championship was the result of a matchup of the two teams in first at the end of each session.

Final standings for the first half were: Gateway 205, Meadowbrook 184, Court House Club 183, University 173, Waterford Hills 167, Crescent Lake #1 123.

Final standings for the second half were:

Meadowbrook 337, University 242, Crescent Lake #1 240, Court House Club 176, Gateway 139, Waterford Hills 36.

New teams are invited to join the

league when it starts in the fall. 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
 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!!!

Tournament Results

Grand Rapids Racquetball
Patrons Association
**1989 City
Racquetball
Championships**
March 17-19, 1989
Riverview Racquet Club
4940 Plainfield NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

MEN'S

OPEN

Mike Anderson d. Larry Longiellere
Semi-finalists
Ray Vanover
Randy Anderson

A

Scott Zimmerman d. Scott McNitt
Semi-finalists
Steve Jaczwiec
Jay Costen

B

Rob Snell d. Pete Silberman
Semi-finalists
Jay Costen
Tino Riuz

C

Ed Ray d. Don Stephens Jr
Semi-finalists
Russ Reed
Mark Slager

D

Bill Spence d. Ron Wroblewski
Semi-finalists
Chuck Newberg
Gary Fryling

NOVICE

Terry Tobias d. Doug Kochneff
Semi-finalists
Steve Morrow
Jay Kraft

35B/C

Bob Powers d. Don Chapman
Semi-finalists
Russ Reed
Bob Bowers

WOMEN'S

A

First Place - Cindy Rosema
Second Place - Pricilla Washburn

B/C

First Place - Michelle Ghareeb
Second Place - Dorothy Synniewski

MEN'S OPEN

A DOUBLES

Mike Anderson and Randy Anderson
d. Rick Vanderlind and Larry Longiellere

Procedure for racquetball to become an olympic sport

One of the most often asked questions - and probably the least understood - is the one concerning the procedure for racquetball to become an Olympic sport.

Please, please realize that racquetball is not an Olympic sport and will not be contested in the 1988 Olympics, not even as a demonstration sport. Racquetball has some major obstacles to overcome before the dream of becoming an Olympic sport becomes a reality. The following define the cast of characters involved in realizing this important quest for recognition:

I.O.C. - International Olympic Committee. The I.O.C. is the Supreme Governing Body of the Olympic Games.

U.S.O.C. - United States Olympic Committee. The Supreme Governing Body of amateur sports in the United States through legislation of the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

A.A.R.A. - American Amateur Racquetball Association. The National Governing Body of racquetball in the United States and a member of the U.S.O.C. as well as a charter member of the I.A.R.F.

I.A.R.F. - International Amateur Racquet Federation. The supreme Governing Body of racquetball internationally and a member of the General Association of International Sports Federations located in Monte Carlo, Monaco. Presently the I.A.R.F. is comprised of fifty-six countries as members on five continents.

G.A.I.S.F. - The General Association of International Sports Federation is made up of sixty plus International Sports Federations, with both Olympic and non-Olympic sports.

I.O.C. RECOGNITION - Provision in the I.O.C. Charter that recognizes developing sports with the potential of becoming Olympic sports in the future. Requirements are that the sport be practiced in at least twenty-five countries on three continents. The I.A.R.F. was recognized by the I.O.C. in 1985. Racquetball is the youngest sport to receive this recognition - 7 1/4 years.

ON THE PROGRAM OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES - Sports that are practiced in at least forty-two countries on three continents and have been voted to the Program of the Olympics by the I.O.C.

QUADRENNIAL - Each four-year period leading up to the Olympic Games.

NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY - Sports association recognized as the sole representative of a sport in the United States for administration and selection

of athletes in the Pan Am and Olympic Games. Authority is given to the N.G.B. by the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

PAN AMERICAN GAMES - Multi-International Sports Competition contested every four years, restricted to North, South, and Central American Countries.

DEMONSTRATION SPORT - Included in both the Pan Am and Olympic Games as sports that can become full participating sports in future Olympic and Pan Am Games; not officially a contested sport in either contest.

WORLD GAMES - Multi-International Sports Competition for non-Olympic Federations. The I.A.R.F. participated in the first World Games I held in California in 1981 and in the World Games II, along with twenty-three other sports in 1985 in London, England.

GROUP A MEMBERS OF THE U.S.O.C. - Members of the U.S.O.C. that are on the program of the Pan Am Games or Olympic Games.

GROUP C MEMBERS OF THE U.S.O.C. - Members of the U.S.O.C. that are developing sports and are not on the program of the Pan Am Games or Olympic Games.

REGIONAL GAMES - Held every other year by I.A.R.F. members in Europe, North America, Asia, South America, and Central America.

I.A.R.F. WORLD CHAMPIONS - Held every two years by the I.A.R.F. with the first World Championships held in 1981 at Santa Clara, California, and World Championships II held in 1984 at Gleneagles Racquetball Club in Sacramento, California. Twenty-two countries completed. I.A.R.F. World Championships III was held in Orlando, Florida. World Championships IV will be held in Hamburg, Germany, in 1988.

Racquetball will become a Pan Am and Olympic sport by completing the following procedures:

1. Organize a bona fied International Federation (completed in 1979)
2. Hold World Championships (completed in 1981, 1984, and 1986)
3. I.A.R.F. to become members of the G.A.I.S.F. (completed in 1979)
4. Apply for I.A.R.F. recognition by the I.O.C. (completed in 1980)
5. A.A.R.A. to become member of the U.S.O.C. (completed in 1972)
6. I.A.R.F. must hold Regional Com-pic Games

Continued on page 9

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Gary Miller and Lin Showerman d.
Jim Ohanessian and Pricilla Washburn

The Largest Racquetball Can Collection

Many people are collectors of various items. Some people collect stamps, some coins, and some matchbooks. As it happens, I collect racquetball cans (containers).

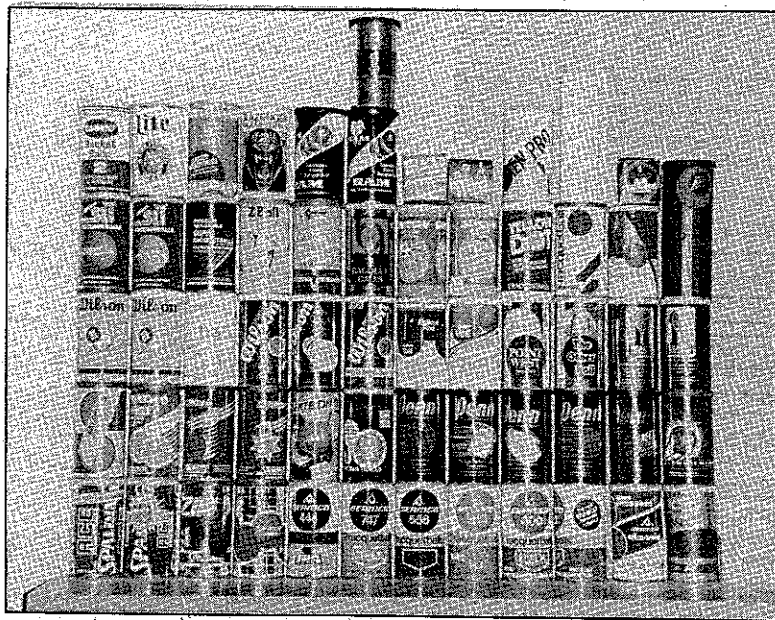
My name is Jim Easterling and I live in Lansing, Michigan. For the past fifteen years I have been involved in racquetball as both a player and as a Board member of various racquetball associations. During that time, I stated to collect racquetball cans (containers).

I started out by calling this my racquetball can collection and then the ball company manufacturers starting putting their balls in cardboard cans, plastic cans, cardboard boxes and even clear plastic rectangular boxes. So I now call this my ball "container" collection. My pride and joy of my collection includes such containers as the AMF Head metal can with the purple "Plum" ball, the Trenway cardboard container with the "pump up ball" Super Z-ball and all of the Seamco containers (total 9 in all). How many of today's players can remember these?

I am continually seeking new containers for my collection. I would appreciate it if anyone has any containers not listed below, if they would contact me. I would like to purchase the balls and container from you to add to my collection.

Thank you for helping me add to my collection. You may contact me at 321 Village Dr. Lansing, MI 48911 or by phone at (517) 887-0459.

Jim Easterling



COMPANY	CAN TYPE	RACQUETBALL CONTAINER COLLECTION BALL NAME	APPRV BY	COLOR	MADE
AMF HEAD	METAL	PLUM		* PURPLE	USA
AMF HEAD	METAL	HEAD AIR EXPRESS 3 BALL CAN		* BLUE	KOREA
AMF HEAD	BOX	HEAD AIR EXPRESS 1-BALL BOX		BLUE	KOREA
AMF VOIT	METAL	ROLLOUT RED		RED	USA
AMF VOIT	METAL	ROLLOUT BLUE		BLUE	USA
EKTELON	METAL	SPEED FLITE (PAPER)	CRA	* BLUE	
EKTELON	METAL	SPEED FLITE (AT TOP OF CAN)	CRA	BLUE	USA
EKTELON	METAL	SPEED FLITE (AT BOTTOM CAN)		* BLUE	USA
EKTELON	METAL	NEW SPEED FLITE		* BLUE	USA
EKTELON	METAL	SPEED FLITE (PLAYER ON CAN)		* BLUE	USA
GOBIC	BOX	GOBIC (3 BALLS BOX)		* BLUE	GERMANY
LEACH	METAL	LEACH ONE (BLUE CAN)	IRUSNR		USA
LEACH	METAL	LEACH ONE (BLACK CAN)	IRUSNR		
MERCO	PLASTIC	YELLOW DOT		BLUE	USA
MIKASA	METAL	SLI-BLUE CONTROL BALL		* BLUE	JAPAN
MIKASA	METAL	SLI-GREEN FAST BALL		* GREEN	JAPAN
MORRIS ROTHENBERG	METAL	ROTHCO RACKET BALLS		* BLUE	TAIWAN
PENN	CARDBD	PENN ULTRA-BLUE 1985 US NAT		* BLUE	USA
PENN ATHLETIC	METAL	PENN NEW IMPROVED	IRA	BLUE	USA
PENN ATHLETIC	METAL	PENN ULTRA-BLUE		* BLUE	USA
PENN ATHLETIC	CARDBD	PENN ULTRA-BLUE (T SHIRT CAN)		BLUE	USA
PENN ATHLETIC	CARDBD	PENN ULTRA-BLUE		* BLUE	USA
PENN ATHLETIC	CARDBD	PENN ULTRA-BLUE GLOE REBATE		* BLUE	USA
PENN ATHLETIC	CARDBD	PENN ULTRA-BLUE (MAGAZINE)		BLUE	USA
PENN ATHLETIC	CARDBD	PENN ULTRA-BLUE-PENN IN RED		* BLUE	USA
POINT WEST	METAL	THE OTHER BALL	IRA	* BLACK	KOREA
POINT WEST	METAL	POINT WEST		BLUE	KOREA
PRO-KENEX	PLASTIC	BLASTER RACQUETBALLS		BLUE	KOREA
RAM GOLF CORP	METAL	RAM		BLUE	USA
RAM GOLF CORP	CARDBD	RAM		* BLUE	USA
RAM GOLF CORP	BOX	RAM - 1 BALL BOX		BLUE	USA
RAM GOLF CORP	BOX	RAM - 1 BALL BOX HOGGANS PIC		* BLUE	USA
REGENT	METAL	OFFICIAL 4 WALL - GREEN		GREEN	KOREA
REGENT	METAL	OFFICIAL 4 WALL BLUE	IRA	BLUE	KOREA
SEAMCO	METAL	NRC/USRA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP		* BLUE	USA
SEAMCO	METAL	444	IRA	* BLACK	USA
SEAMCO	METAL	747	USRA	* BLACK	USA
SEAMCO	METAL	558	USRA	* BLACK	USA
SEAMCO	METAL	559	NRC	* GREEN	USA
SEAMCO	METAL	660	USRA	* BLUE	USA
SEAMCO	METAL	600 NEW IMPROVED FORMULA	USRA	* BLUE	USA
SEAMCO	METAL	CLASSIC		BLUE	USA
SEAMCO	CL PLAST	ASSASSIN - DIMPLED BALL		* BLUE	USA
SLAZENGER	METAL	CLUB BALL		BLUE	USA
SPALDING	METAL	SLAZENGER	IRA	BLACK	KOREA
SPALDING	METAL	ACE RACQUETBALLS			USA
SPALDING	METAL	ACE RACQUETBALLS BRITE BLUE		BLUE	USA

Continued on page 9

Michigan's Super Seven Invitation Tournament

If you didn't make it to the seasons last Super Seven event, then you missed a fantastic weekend. For those of you who didn't qualify this year, start making plans to qualify for next years Invitational. You won't miss it two years in a row!

The Invitational is designed to offer Super Seven qualifiers an opportunity to compete against the States best players from each division as well as a chance to win terrific prizes. This year there were 20 divisions and over 200 entries. Mens C was the largest. Yet each division was well represented.

Tons of door prizes were handed out as well as numerous other gifts. Each participant recieved a Super Seven Sweat Shirt, T-Shirt and Bud Light mugs.

Volunteer referees were given Ektelon Hats.

Jim also made available, at low prices, Ekteler, HEAD, PENN and Aline Shirts from past years. Though most shirts were small or medium, many people took advantage of the bargains.

There were several different events that took place during the tournament. First of all, one of the major sponsors for this event was Original New York Seltzer. Saturday afternoon they had came in and offered everyone to taste their products. They also made available bottles of Seltzer for the lunch break. Special Thanks go to Original New York Seltzer and Arch Masos for helping to make this tournament a great success.

The second event to take place was early Saturday evening in the Tie-Breaker Lounge. What started out as a party for everyone in attendance ended

as a going away party for Jim Hiser. Though the "surprise" part never succeeded, the party itself was successful.

Several of Hiser's Davison friends got together and came up with a slide show. Though not quite up to to Jim's standard of slide shows, it was produced with lots of heart! After the show Lou Ellen Fecher emceed a "Roast" of Hiser. Everyone learned at least one new thing about Jim they didn't know before. Not one person wanted to leave at closing time.

Sunday was a little slow starting with many people looking red-eyed, yet competition was fierce. Several matches went to tie-breakers. Although all players and guests were invited to the award party in the afternoon, it was mandatory for winners if they wanted to recieve their awards. The pizza party took place immediately after the mens pro match in the Tie-Breaker Lounge.

Some of the gifts presented were compact CD players, 7" TV's, Scott receivers, portable compact CD players, a TEAC equalizer, a TEAC cassette player, and a reciever. All prizes were purchased at ABC Appliance Warehouse in Flint.

Other sponsors that also should be commended for making the tournament a success are: The Fourmidable Group - JR Slavik; "Werner For Life" - Dan Werner; Sports Plus - John Brennar & Jerry Elderd; Anderson's Silk Screening - Mike Anderson; and Chris Cole. Then our sponsors for the Super Seven series: Leader, PENN and A'me.

And of course, special thanks to everyone that attended the Invitational

Hope to see each of you next season

Results are as follows:

Pro - Chris Cole def. Jim Floyd

Open - Troy Hall def. Larry Meeusen

Mens B - Doug (poncho) Wright def

Mike McPherson

Mens C - Jim Skinner def. Todd Hartz

Mens D - Bill Hein def. Jay Kargula

Mens Novice - Manny Lawson def. Tim

Sypula

Mens 30+ - Mike Anderson def. Stu

Hastings

Mens 35B & 30B - Woody Neighbors

def. Mike McPhearson

Mens 35C - Joe Rubino def. Rip

Steketee

Mens 40 - Johnny Norther def. Charlie

Wheelihan

Womens Open - Nathalie Bernard def

Lisa Ecker

Womens A - Sandy White def. Diane

Kerr

Womens B - Diane Kerr def. Claire

Kruse

Womens C - Fran Morris def. Chris

Suever

Womens D - Dorthy Sypniewski def.

Colleen Stratman

Womens Novoice - Dorthy Sypniewski

def. Nicole Zigila

Dear Michigan Racquet Ball Players,

The Super Seven tournaments for the 1989-90 season are alive and kicking. Though we will miss Jim Hiser's lovely face at each of the events, his presence will still be felt. He is still backing the tournaments 100%. We are currently working on sites and dates, but forsee no problems in retaining the high quality of our events.

Julian and myself will still be in charge of the tournament desk and will continue to run the event effciently as we have in the past. All calls will be recieved at our home on a yet to be named number (Please call 313-653-5999 for the change - effective 6/15/89)

We will continue to look for support from Sue Hastings with regards to player participant and have approached

Mike Anderson & Chris Cole to also work with us as well. Of course, we are open to ideas and suggestions from everyone

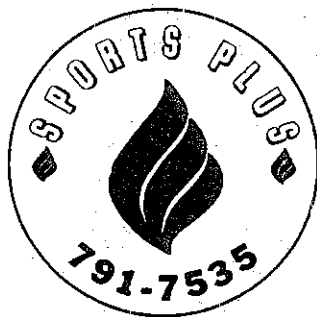
Jim and I have discussed putting on special events to try and encourage more people to participate in Racquetball Tournaments, but have not set any dates yet

I hope that everyone who has participated in the Super Seven tournaments will continue to do so. Though sponsors have not been signed as of June 1, we will continue to try and achieve a high quality of sponsors both from racquetball and business areas.

Please, if you have any questions or concerns, call us. We look forward to working with you next season-

Sincerely,

Lou Ellen & Julian Fecher
Asst. Coordinators



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PROMPT SHIPPING



REGION 9

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

Division M Open		
1	Cole, Chris	560
2	Floyd, Jim	395
3	Rallis, Nick	345
4	Bonnett, Joel	240
5	Anderson, Mike	185
6	Hamilton, Jim	180
7	Larry, Dave	150
8	Meeusen, Larry	150
9	Rozier, Curt	125
10	Hall, Gary	120

Division M A		
1	Bonnett, Joel	600
2	Sigafoose, Tim	200
3	Altenburg, Troy	185
4	Zimmerman, Scott	170
5	Lechowicz, Dennis	150
6	Wagner, Mike	145
7	Veith, Dan	130
8	Blakeslee, Tom	120
9	Brennan, John	115
10	Fitzpatrick, Mark	115

Division M B		
1	Phipps, Gary	350
2	Richards, Paul	300
3	McPherson, Mike	265
4	Bruce, Scott	220
5	Williams, Bruce	150
6	Fedus, Mark	135
7	Werthman, Mark	120
8	Zimmerman, Scott	120
9	Lechowicz, Dennis	100
10	Snell, Rob	90
11	Wilkerson, Jim	85
12	Chaltraw, Lenny	80
13	Holley, James	80
14	Lydy, Mike	80
15	Bago, Rich	75
16	Call, Mike	75
17	Lawlor Terry	75

Division M C		
1	Woodcox, Richard	280
2	Zimmerman Brent	210
3	Barra, Tony	170
4	Hein, Bill	150
5	Klicki, Ron	150
6	Culver, Roger	145
7	Swain, Jim	105
8	Parkhurst, Dwayne	100
9	Ray, Ed	100
10	Rajter Gary	85

Division M D		
1	Wantuck, Nicholas	250
2	Sypula, Tim	155
3	Huizenga, Gary	150
4	Pressler, Jeff	150
5	Barra, Tony	140
6	Parkhurst, Dwayne	130
7	Spence, Bill	110
8	Kranz, Gary	95
9	Hein Bill	90

Division M Novice		
1	Burton, Jr., Carl	150
2	Considine, Michael	100
3	Gorican, Walter	100
4	Mancour, Mike	80
5	Redisuello, Don	75
6	McGrail, Jim	65
7	Krochneff, Doug	55
8	Bnyce, Larry	50
9	Briggs, Dave	50
10	Cook, Bruce	50
11	Courser Ron	50

Division M 10		
1	Zimmerman, Brent	750
2	Dorda, Nicholas	250
3	McConnelee, Scott	150
4	Thompson, Robby	100
5	Oskey, Brent	75

Division M 12		
1	Zimmerman, Brent	450
2	McGrail, Jim	350
3	Zimmerman, Scott	250
4	Oskey, Aaron	75
5	Dorda, Nicholas	50
6	Vandyke, Tim	50
7	Barch, Alex	30
8	Chan Kevin	20

Division M 14		
1	Zimmerman, Scott	300
2	Garro, Brian	200
3	Visgar, Chad	100
4	McGrail, Jim	80
5	Chan Jason	50
6	Hale Scott	50

Division M 16		
1	Bonnett, Joel	400
2	Covell, Ryan	400
3	Riley, Jr., Marv	100
4	Visgar, Chad	100
5	Riley, Marv	50
6	Snell, Rob	50
7	Riley Jr. Marv	20

Division M 18		
1	Floyd, Jim	450
2	Bonnett, Joel	250
3	Garro, Rob	150
4	Attenburg, Troy	100
5	Hall, Gary	50
6	Kummler Jeff	50

Division M 19+		
1	Hamilton, Jim	350
2	Rallis, Nick	225
3	Larry, Dave	180
4	Meeusen, Larry	150
5	Hall, Troy	75
6	Wagner, Mike	70
7	Fox, Larry	50
8	Graves, Jess	50
9	Licari, Paul	30
10	Milstead, Dean	15

Division M 25+		
1	Dutcher, Dan	250
2	Harris, Blaine	150
3	Hotra Mike	150
4	White, Jack	150
5	Tackett, Al	120
6	Lechowicz, Dennis	100
7	Kelly, Chris	50
8	Pasken, Dave	50
9	Worthy, Scott	50
10	Hodges, Greg	30

Division M 30+		
1	Worthy, Scott	485
2	Paskan, Dave	290
3	Anderson, Mike	280
4	Hastings, Stu	280
5	Horta, Mike	190
6	Verbeck, Dan	155
7	Hodges, Greg	135
8	Anderson, Randy	115
9	Longeliere, Larry	105
10	Longeliere, Larry	75

Division M 30+B		
1	McPherson, Mike	300
2	Lawlor, Terry	150
3	Luczak, Gary	150
4	Chaltraw, Lenny	110
5	Tucker, Gerald	100
6	Hein, Bill	85
7	Lepceyk, Dave	75

Division M 30+C		
1	Zigila, Mark	50
2	Balch, Rex	30
3	Steketee, Rip	20
4	Chedru, Joe	15

Division M 35+		
1	Hastings, Stu	1330
2	Vanderhnd Rick	285
3	Hiser, Jim	235
4	Blakeslee, Tom	130
5	Bonnett, Ken	120
6	Gravely, Bob	100
7	Rozier, Curt	100
8	Molinaro, John	90
9	Easterling, Jim	85

Division M 35+B		
1	Gutierrez, Pancho	250
2	Swica, Ed	200
3	Slavik, Ron	150
4	Malinaro, John	130
5	Mell, Al	125
6	Lesczynski, Ron	100
7	Steketee, Rip	100
8	Neighbors, Woody	80
9	Anderson John	50

Division M 35+C		
1	Zigila, Mark	410
2	Cleyman, Larry	150
3	Ingraham Paul	150
4	Ruiz, Tino	100
5	Skinner, Jim	100
6	Crawford, Rick	80
7	Allis, Gary	75
8	Steketee, Rip	75
9	Sutton, Dan	75
10	Gunkle, Wayne	70

Division M40+		
1	Northern, Johnny	530
2	Hiser, Jim	340
3	Bonnett, Ken	225
4	Toth, Boug	205
5	Stephens, Mike	200
6	Brownlee, Tom	175
7	Gravely, Bob	90
8	Likala, Ron	80
9	Stephens, Michael	75
10	McClellan Gary	65

Division M40+B		
1	Morse, Ron	150
2	Slavik, Ron	100
3	Boone, Don	80
4	Henry, Chris	75
5	Slavik, J. R	50
6	Skinner, Sr. Jim	20
7	Todek, Al	15
8	Kranz, Dean	10

Division M 45+		
1	Sharum, Tom	285
2	McClellan, Gary	190
3	Ciockalo, Leonard	140
4	Phipps, Gary	135
5	Stec, George	125
6	Madden, Jesse	100
7	Stec, Gary	100
8	Stack, George	100
9	Madden, Jess	65

Division M 45+B		
1	Penner, Morris	190
2	Wheelihan, Charles	185
3	Calvo, Sikto	100
4	Callahan, Vince	65
5	Cole, Larry	55
6	Binicki, Joseph	50
7	Phipps, Gary	50
8	Sisinger, Jack	50
9	Tanielian, Mike	50

Division M 50+		
1	Madden, Jess	400
2	Hahn, Lynn	250
3	Karha, Milo	150
4	Gates, Hank	110
5	Lund, Dave	75
6	Sewell, Richard	75
7	Burke, Art	50
8	Lamilza, Joe	50
9	Revels, Don	50
10	Ross Dan	50

Division M 55+		
1	Hahn, Lynn	550
2	Schaeter, Hans	150
3	Russell, Duane	100
4	Carretti, Richard	50
5	Paluch, Marv	50
6	Yanikan, Jack	50
7	Connelly, Pat	30
8	McClellan, Rob	30

Division M 60+		
1	Carretti, Richard	250
2	Russell, Duane	175
3	Carretti, Richard	150
4	Driver J D	100

Division M 65+		
1	Burke, Art	250
2	Leone, Gerry	150

Division M 8		
1	Huczek, Jack	540
2	Neighbors, Rashid	300
3	Biniecki, Richard	50
4	Oskey, Breot	50
5	Seidenberger, Eric	50
6	Biniecki, Joseph	30
7	McKnight, Russell	30
8	McIlhargie, Megan	20

Division W Open		
1	Hastings, Joetta	720
2	Ecker, Lisa	510
3	Troszak, Lori	280
4	Troszak, Tracey	130
5	Bernard, Nathalie	110
6	Yackley, Lisa	110
7	Stellema, Kathy	75
8	Collins, Carol	65
9	Vanderbroek Shirley	60

Division W A		
1	Huczek, Sharon	450
2	Freidrich, Tammy	410
3	Fecher, Lou Ellen	305
4	May, Julie	205
5	White, Sandy	170
6	Tucker, Kim	145

7	Yackley, Lisa	145
8	Fecher, Anne	90
9	Matties, Melody	90
10	Gilliland, Betty Ann	80

Division W B		
1	Kruse, Claire	335
2	Berg, Chris	250
3	Walzak, Judy	195
4	Barbas, Stacey	160
5	Frankhouse, Dawn	160
6	Berg, Kris	155
7	Visgar, Karen	155
8	Barbas, Slacy	150
9	Gazayerli, Vicki	150
10	Suever Chris	80

Division W C		
1	McCauley, Diane	300
2	Harkleroad, Pam	200
3	Suever, Chris	165
4	Bullock, Donna	150
5	McIntyre, Rae	115
6	Muse, Karen	100
7	Standley, Karen	100
8	Gagnon, Michele	90
9	Sypniewski, Dorothy	75
10	Motyka, Kathleen	70

Division W D		
1	Kokocinski, Lisa	170
2	Schmitt, Colleen	150
3	Gagnon, Michele	130
4	Zigila, Nichole	125
5	St. John, Jean	100
6	Stratman, Colleen	100
7	St. John Jean	80

Division W Novice		
1	VanHoose, Nancy	200
2	Adasick, Beth	150
3	Tackett, Lori	75
4	Zigila, Nicole	60
5	Aitken, Liz	50
6	Chedru, Marge	50
7	Elfes, Sharon	50
8	Kokocinski, Lisa	50
9	McConnlee, Denise	50
10	Sypniewski, Dorothy	50

Division W 14		
1	Zigila, Nichole	250
2	Skinner, Christine	150

Division W 16		
1	O'Connor Heather	50

Division W 19+		
1	Ecker, Lisa	600
2	Troszak, Lori	300
3	Stellema, Kathy	180
4	Troszak, Tracey	100
5	White, Sandy	100
6	Cok, Linda	75
7	Fuller, Kim	50
8	Hastings, Joetta	50
9	Yackley, Lisa	50
10	Cimura, Irene	30

Division W 25+		
1	Ecker, Lisa	250
2	Stellema, Kathy	220
3	Hastings, Joetta	150
4	Bernard, Nathalie	100
5	White, Sandy	100
6	Berg, Chris	75
7	Collins, Carol	50

Division W 30+		
1	Hastings, Joetta	350
2	Barbas, Slacy	100
3	Kishigian Lesley	75
4	Gutowski, Beth	50

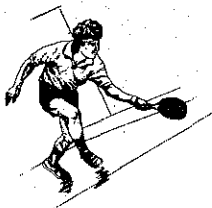
Division W 30+B		
1	Kessler, Cheryl	250
2	Kruse, Claire	150
3	Walzak, Judy	150
4	Highgate, Laverne	125
5	Barbas, Stacey	100
6	Saad, Paula	75
7	Sypniewski, Dorothy	75

State Singles Championship
April 14-16, 1989
Davison Racquet & Fitness Club

Mens Open - Jim Floyd (Davison) def Chris Cole (Davison)
Mens A - Tim Sigafosse (Petosky) def Mark Fitzpatrick
Mens B - Scott Bruce (Redford) def Paul Richards (Troy)
Mens C - Troy Barra (Draught Plains) def Brent Zimmerman (Grand Rapids)
Mens D - Gary Huizenga (Riverview) def Michael Considine (Farmington Hills)
Mens 19+ - Nich Rallis (Washington) def Jim Hamilton (Sterling Hts)
Mens 25+ - Blain Harris (Ann Arbor) def Dennis Lechowicz (Petosky)
Mens 30A - Scott Worthy (Dearborn) def Stu Hastings (Clarkston)
Mens 30B - Gary Luczak (Bay City) def Lenny Chaultraw (Lapeer)
Mens 35A - Stu Hastings (Clarkston) def Rick VanderLind (Gr. Rapids)
Mens 35B - Ron Slavik (Farmington Hills) def Ron Leszczynski (Wyandotte)
Mens 35C - Paul Ingraham (Lansing) def Tino Riuz (Holland)
Mens 40A - Johnny Northern (Detroit) def Jim Hised (Davison)
Mens 40B - Ron Morse (Grand Blanc) def Ron Slavik (Farmington Hills)
Mens 45A - Gary McClelland (Saginaw) def George Stec (Rochester)
Mens 45B - Morris Penner (Franklin) def Sixto Calvo (Flint)
Mens 50+ - Milo Karhu (Farmington) def Jess Madden (Port Huron)
Mens 55+ - Dave Schaffer (Troy) def Duane Russell (Lansing)
Mens 60+ - Richard Caretti (Grosse Pointe) def J.D. Driver (Muskegon)
Womens Open - Joetta Hastings (Clarkston) def Nathalie Benard (FSU)



Womens B - Vicki Gazayerli (Bloomfield Hills) def Clair Kruse (Rochester Hills)
Womens C - Chris Suever (Sauk River) def Karen Standley (Grandville)
Womens D - Lisa Kokocinski (Temperance) def Michele Gagnon (Sauk River)
Womens N - Beth Adastic (Grand Rapids) def Nancy VanHoose (Rochester)
Womens 19+ - Joetta Hastings (Clarkston) def Nathalie Bernand (FSU)
Womens 30B - Clair Kruse (Rochester Hills) def Stacy Barbis
Juniors 16A - Ryan Covell (Riverview) def Marv Riley Jr. (Davison)
Juniors 14B - Scott Hale (Port Huron) def Chad Visgar (Warren)
Juniors 12 - Brent Zimmerman (Grand Rapids) def Robby Thompson (Davison)
Juniors 10+ - Scottie McConnell (Davison) def Robby Thompson (Davison)
Juniors 8 - Rashid Neighbors (Ann Arbor) def Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills)



Referee/Rules Clinic

The RAM board will be running several referee/rules clinics this year all over the state of Michigan. If you would like to have one at your club please contact Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459 evenings

1989-90 Tournament Schedule

Sept 15-17	Women's Fall Head Start - Court House - Flint
Sept. 22-4	Invitational Pro-Am - Davison Racquet Club - Davison
Sept. 29-1	Autumn Open - Riverview Racquet Club - Grand Rapids
Oct 20-22	Super Seven #1 - Backwall - Madison Heights
Nov. 3-5	GRRPA - Riverview Racquet Club - Grand Rapids
Nov 17-19	Super Seven #2 - Saginaw Health & Valley - Saginaw
Dec 1-3	RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP
Dec 15-17	Super Seven #3 - Grand Rapids Area
Jan 12-14	Super Seven #4 - Ann Arbor Court Club - Ann Arbor
Jan 26-28	GRRPA - Michigan Athletic Club - Grand Rapids
Feb. 9-11	Super Seven #6 - Detroit Area
Feb. 23-25	REGION 9 ADULT & JUNIOR REGIONALS - Sawmill Racquet Club - Columbus, Ohio
Mar 2-4	Swing into Spring - Saginaw Valley Health - Saginaw
Mar. 9-11	Super Seven #6 - Detroit Area
April 6-8	Super Seven #7 - Detroit Area
April 20-22	Riverview Spring Classic - Riverview R.C. - Grand Rapids
April 27-29	RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP
May 4-6	Super Seven Finale - Davison Racquet Club - Davison

Flint Olympic Competition Coming!

Flint Athletes compete twice a year in city wide Olympian competition. In the summer, 19 sport areas and in the winter 14 are played. The 1989 Summer Olympian games are scheduled for July 12-30

As a result of the Olympian competition, outstanding individual players are selected to represent Flint in the Canusa Games, which are an Olympian Competition between Flint Michigan and Hamilton, Ontario. This will be the 32nd year of competition. It is scheduled for August 11, 12 & 13. Overall tally for all sports is 15 wins for Flint, 13 wins for Hamilton and 3 ties. Racquetball has been played for the last 7 years. The Racquetball overall record is Flint 4 wins Hamilton 3 wins.

The Tournament site rotates each year between Flint and Hamilton. The 1989 Games will be held in Hamilton. The racquetball will be played at Circle Racquet

Club. In Flint, the competition is held at Court House Club.

The Athletes leave Flint on Friday morning via buses - approximately 25. There will be a total of more than 2,000 players involved. The athletes are housed with a Canadian host family, most of which will have a son or daughter playing in the same sport area. The entire contingent returns on Sunday. Everybody has a great time!

Selection for participation on the Flint Canusa racquetball team is the result of the Summer Olympics Competition. The top 3 finishers in each age group and division make up the Flint Team. There are 36 positions on the team.

If you live in the Flint area and would like more information about playing in this event, or if you live in another city and would like more information about this type of competition, Call Court House Club at (313) 743-4510

Fall "Head" Start

Fifth annual women's tournament scheduled for Sept. 29, 30 and 31

WOMEN!! - Mark your calendar NOW! For the last 5 years, Head Racquet Sports has sponsored a "Ladies Only" tournament at Court House Club in Flint. Each year the event has increased in participation and the competition gets better.

The tradition of trying to move up each year to a new division and new challenge has given many an opportunity to demonstrate their progress. Claire Kruze, from Rochester, has moved each year after winning her first Novice Tournament 4 years ago. In 1988, she was a finalist in B. This year, we expect to see her in A. Pam Harkelroad, from Sterling

Heights, in 1987 won the "D" championship. In 1988, she won the "C" crown. She will surely be eyeing the next Division this year.

In 1988, a good contingent of Canadian Players entered the field. For some, this was their first International Competition. These new players added a new dimension to the event. They have already inquired for dates of the tournament and have indicated they will be back.

Entry forms will be available the 1st of August. If you would like information about playing in this event, call Court House Club at (313) 743-4510

Any racquetball related item that you want to sell, buy, trade, or whatever will be listed in this column.



For information, please contact Jim Easterling at: (517) 887-0459 (home)

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).

WANTED - One - Racquetball Stringer - used. Call (Mark Boukamp) Upper Deck - Muskegon (616) 739-3439

FOR SALE - Eight used metal racquetball racquets (covers included). Grips and strings are all ok. Different kinds. - Price: \$15.00 each. Call Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459 (H)

FREE VOIT SCORE CARDS
FREE VOIT DRAW SHEET
You pick up or pay for postage. Call Jim Easterling (517) 887-0459 (H)

FOR SALE - Head Pro Racquets. Call Jerry Gervais (616) 744-4721 (W)

FOR SALE or WILL TRADE for Can of Penn Balls: 1 - Head Masters Replacement Kit 190643 - can of balls, 1 - Composite 250G Replacement Kit -

Twenty years of racquetball

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the organization of the sport of racquetball under its own governing body, the American Amateur Racquetball Association. Twenty years ago, amidst the turmoil of the late sixties, the evolution of racquetball as we know it today had reached its peak. Today we celebrate the growth of racquetball over that period by observing annual championships such as US National Singles and Doubles, US National Collegiate and Junior Championships, master's invitational events and disabled division championships. The US National Team competes internationally several times a year as well, representing the United States at home and abroad, while demonstrating the highest quality level-C United State Olympic Committee sport to a worldwide audience.

The earliest form of racquetball was invented by Joe Sobek in 1949, who sawed half the handle off a tennis racket and took it into a YMCA handball court and dubbed the modification "paddle rackets." Sobek was convinced that the new game would be more interesting and entertaining than any other court sports, and he's been proven correct throughout the years.

At the time, the leading court sports expert was Bob Kendler, president of the US Handball Association (USHA). The natural transition from handball to racquetball led Kendler to easily enter the world of racquetball development. Kendler organized the International Racquetball Association (IRA) in 1968, which eventually became the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA), the guiding force behind current efforts to establish racquetball as a full-fledged Olympic sport before the turn of the century.

Under the direction of executive director Luke St. Onge since 1978, the AARA still exhibits the enthusiasm and excitement of any twenty-year-old. The AARA today presides over nine million amateur racquetball players (compared to less than 50,000 in 1970) and administers a full range of programs for juniors, collegiates, players, the disabled and day-to-day players across the country. Organized tournament play is supported through advanced computer services from the national office, product endorsements, and the work of a small administrative staff which handles the

thousands of inquiries and requests for information about the sport year-round.

Early demand for equipment brought sports manufacturers such as Voit, Wilson and Penn into the newly established racquetball market. Over the years more sophisticated methods of racket manufacture, and increased industry profits, have added numerous companies to that list.

Racquets, like the ball, are an essential component of the game. Production aspects have become, not surprisingly, more involved and technically advanced as each year passes. Racquet frames have undergone the most significant changes, from the original wooden, to aluminum alloy (1971), fiberglass (1972), graphite (1979), boron and composites, as experienced and highly-skilled players have demanded increasingly advanced racquets to complement their many different styles of play. Firms such as Head, Ektelon, Diversified Products, Wilson, Omega, Richcraft and Pro/Kennex satisfy such demands with a wide range of products.

Less dramatic, but nonetheless important, changes have affected other types of racquetball equipment. Special racquetball or "court shoes" were developed by firms like Foot Joy, Nike and Bata, which led the way for a later deluge of footwear from the entire athletic shoe industry. Synthetic glove materials by Champion Glove, and Saranac were introduced early-on as alternatives to deerskin, as well as fastest paced, groups of athletes around.

Tournament development kept pace with racquetball's growth, from the first national tournament in 1969 to today's 1,000+ AARA sanctioned amateur events, over twenty professional tournaments, and international competitions across the globe. AARA affiliates in each state have formed non-profit associations to better serve players at the grassroots level, and administer AARA programs close to home. Communications networks have also been established at the state, regional and national level, making use of print and electronic media to publicize the sport to an even wider audience.

Racquetball's rapid growth also led to the early development of the commercial racquetball club business, which has naturally benefitted from the increased number of organized fitness activities over the past five years. As the number

of players grew from the original 50,000 to over three million in 1974, these "court clubs" sprang up, offering pay-as-you-play opportunities. Today such clubs have evolved into total fitness facilities, adding luxurious health club amenities and services to courts which are often scheduled by enthusiastic players well in advance.

While racquetball was developed through the special efforts of several individuals, it has been the combined energy of the enthusiastic and health-minded participants which assures its continued growth into the 1990s. In the early 70s, one outstanding player made his mark upon the sport, and inspired an annual award in his name. John Halvorsen, in his lifetime, was a national masters champion and displayed the highest level of integrity, sportsmanship and dedication to racquetball of any one person in the sport's history. In his memory, the John Halvorsen award has been given to a handful of equally inspirational racquetball players and en-

thusiasts. Given only when the occasion truly calls for the highest recognition, winners of the John Halvorsen award have been: DeWitt Shy (TN) 1973; Marilyn Rankin (CAN) 1974; Sam Caiza (PA) 1977; Paul Hendrickson (PA) and Ed Martin (CA) 1981; Maureen Hendrickson (MA) 1982; Al Seitelman (NY) 1983; Mike Arnold (IN) 1984; Ed Martin (CA) 1985; Ivan Bruner (WI) 1986; and Connie Peterson-Martin (OR) 1987.

Having matured considerably in its short twenty-year history, the AARA annually praises its member athletes with outstanding player awards, plus the John Halvorsen award, and the idle praise, not limited to the big-name winners. Racquetball owes its success and strength to the many men, woman and children who have entered the sport with enthusiasm and good-sportsmanship. The AARA benefits from those qualities, while providing a fun way to keep fit for those players across the nation who take up what can, and often does, become a sport for lifetime.

- Procedure -

Continued from page 4

petitions (completed in 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987)

7. I.A.R.F. must apply to be a demonstration sport in the Pan Am Games in 1987 (completed in 1983)

8. Racquetball to become a demonstration sport in the Pan Am Games in 1987 (project rejected in 1987)

9. I.A.R.F. To receive I.O.C. recognition - I.A.R.F. fulfills all requirements for recognition (recognized in 1985)

10. Inclusion of racquetball as a full-fledged sport in the Pan Am Games in 1991. If all goes as planned and support continues to be made to the I.A.R.F. as well as A.A.R.A., this could be approved within the next several years. The more active the U.S. National Team, the faster this will become a reality.

11. Racquetball as an Olympic Sport. Now that I.O.C. recognition has been given to the I.A.R.F., racquetball must expand the number of countries where it is played to seventy-two for the 1988 Olympics and ninety plus for the 1992 Olympics. In addition, racquetball must spread behind the Iron Curtain and become popular before it will ever be voted in by the I.O.C. This possibility is not out of reach in that it is felt that the Eastern Block Countries would like

nothing better than to embarrass the United States in its own games (example: basketball).

This time-table is extremely aggressive, but certainly within our grasp if we join together in a united effort to make it happen. An incredible job has already been done for a sport so young, and in all areas, our outlook is extremely positive. We have been able to accomplish in eight short years what other groups have tried to accomplish in fifty or sixty years.

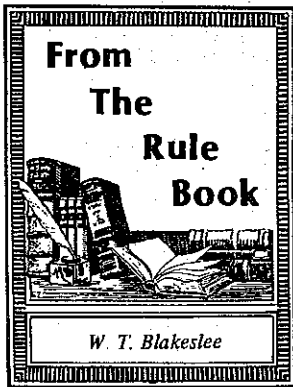
The U.S. National Team has traveled to Mexico, Columbia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Canada, Belgium, France, England, Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, Bolivia, Germany, and Venezuela to promote the development of our sport. In 1987, two Iron Curtain countries established federations, Yugoslavia and Hungary. Two separate presentations have been made to major sports leaders of Russia and dialogue has begun on the introduction of Racquetball within the U.S.S.R.

The outlook for Olympic racquetball realistically is a continued effort to have racquetball included as a demonstration sport in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain. It is realistic to expect racquetball to be a medal sport in the 1996 Olympic Games dependent upon its location. If this dream is to become a reality and racquetball is to take its rightful place in the olympics, most of the lobbying effort is dependent upon the U.S. Team and the A.A.R.A. It is extremely important that we do not lose sight of what this will do for our sport. The Olympics will catapult our sport into the major sport category. The benefits of racquetball are tremendous. We are still in the pioneer stage and are desperately in need of your help. The entire effort in this area underwritten by separate donations and fundraisers. We guarantee you that this opportunity to make a major contribution to the Olympics movement is near in anyone's lifetime. The net result is the physical and mental well being of the human race.

- Continued from page 5

COMPANY	CAN TYPE	RACQUETBALL CONTAINER COLLECTION BALL NAME	APPRV. BY	COLOR	MADE
SPALDING	CARDBD	ZIP RACQUETBALLS		* RED	USA
SPALDING	METAL	TOP-FLITE		* BLUE	USA
SPORTCRAFT	METAL	PINCH SHOT	IRA	* BLUE	KOREA
TEN PRO	CARDBD	TEN PRO RED DOT	IRA	* BLACK	KOREA
TRENWAY PRODUCTS	CARDBD	SUPER Z-BALL (PUMP UP BALL)	IRA	* BLUE	
TRENWAY PRODUCTS	CARDBD	Z-BALL	IRA	* RED-P	USA
VITTERT	METAL	GOLD LABEL		BLUE	USA
VITTERT	METAL	GOLD LABEL BLUE		RED	USA
WILSON	METAL	CHAMPIONSHIP RACQUETBALL RED		BLUE	KOREA
WILSON	METAL	CHAMP. RACQUETBALL BLUE		BLUE	USA
WILSON	PLASTIC	WILSON MATCHPOINT		* BLUE	USA
WILSON	METAL	WILSON TRU BLUE		BLUE	USA
WILSON	METAL	TRU BLUE - BUY 2 GET 1 FREE		BLUE	USA
WILSON	METAL	TRU BLUE - \$1 REFUND			

* CONTAINERS THAT HAS BALLS IN THEM



I was refereeing a match at the recently completed Junior Olympic Nationals in Indianapolis when a very interesting circumstance took place.

While hitting the ball, Joe's racquet exploded at the handle. This caused a hinder and prevented Mike from returning the shot or making a play. Mike wanted the rally awarded to him on the basis of a "Point Hinder" ("Avoidable Hinder" under last year's rules.)

When a player's equipment hinders his opponent from completing a rally, in most cases the proper call would have been a "Point Hinder". However, in this case, since Joe had no control over his racquet being defective, a "Point Hinder" is not the proper call; simply a

"Hinder Call" is proper, and the rally should be replayed. Furthermore if the racquet had caused injury to Mike, and he could not continue, Joe would have been awarded the match. From the Rule Book!

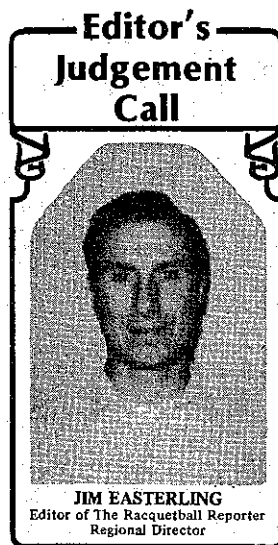
Newsletter person needed

Jim Easterling has done the RAM newsletter for over 3 years and is now stepping down as the editor because of other racquetball obligations and responsibilities.

The duties of the editor are:

- 1.) Collect articles (and pictures)
- 2.) Write some articles
- 3.) Solicit advertisements (and collect money)
- 4.) Send all articles to printer
- 5.) Send membership labels to printer/mailler.
- 6.) Send address corrections to AARA National office.
- 7.) Send out 4 to 6 newsletters a year.

Jim will be happy to show anyone whatever they need to know to put together the newsletter. If you, or you know of someone, who would be interested in doing the RAM newsletter, please contact Jim Easterling at the address (or phone number) that is in this newsletter.



Newsletter Farewell

This will be the last newsletter that I will be the editor for. Due to other obligations and responsibilities and my position as Regional Director, I am no longer going to be the newsletter editor. As of the writing of this article, a successor has not been named. If you know of anyone who is interested in acting as editor, please let me know. There will continue, however, to be a newsletter published at least four times during the year. Over the last three years, I have published a total of 13 newsletters beginning in May of 1986 and ending with July of 1989.

Listed below are a few of the new articles that were started during my tenure as editor:

Tournament Schedules; Collegiate Articles; Rules; Racquetball Dealer; Trivia 8 & 15 Contests; Men's Travel League; New Members Listing; "Great Lines" article; Women's Metro Travel League Article; Rankings; RAM Facility Listings; Instructional Articles; Strange Things on a Court; and Editor's

Judgment Call

We have also started an "Address Correction Requested" box on the newsletter. This means that for anyone who has moved and lists a forwarding address, that RAM will be notified of the address change. This enables us to update our membership/mailling list with the national AARA office four times a year. This helps to ensure all members will continue to get their mailings from AARA. A lot of states don't update their membership list one time in every four years.

You will also notice on the front of the newsletter it states that RAM is a non-profit organization and enjoys such benefits with the US Postal Service. This gives RAM a savings on postage fees so that we can do a better newsletter. This is only the second RAM newsletter that RAM has printed to have this benefit.

At this time I would like to thank all of the sponsors and clubs who have advertised in the newsletter over the past three years. Listed below are those who have contributed to the newsletter to benefit you the player:

Anderson's; Penn Athletic Co.; Lil-Cincher; Rose Shores Fitness & Rac. Club; Grandville Health & Rac. Club; Court House Club - Flint; 29th Street Fitness Center; Backwall Fitness & Racquet Club; Sports Plus; Network Marketing - Tacki-Mac Grips; Davison Racquet & Fitness Club; Ann Arbor Court Club; Mt. Clemens Racquetball & Sportscenter; Alpine Fitness Center - Grand Rapids; Holland Health & Racquet Club; and Woodland Racquet Club - Brighton.

Please let these people know you saw their ad in their RAM newsletter. Talk to the owner or manager of these clubs, talk to the sponsors and buy their products, in other words support the people who support you!!!

In closing I would finally like to thank all of the players and RAM members who have taken the time to submit articles or ideas for articles to the newsletter. Without your support the paper is just half as interesting. I hope you will continue to support the new editor of The Racquetball Reporter in the coming months.

Jim Easterling

Penn
RACQUETBALL



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HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

The RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN Board of Directors wants to hear from you THE MICHIGAN RACQUETBALL PLAYER. The Board Members are volunteers serving as representatives for you and for the sport. Your input is essential.

Suggestions, criticisms, questions are all welcome. Send us a note, we guarantee a response:

Mail to: RAM
321 Village
Lansing, MI 48911

RAM Board



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 5, 1989

Place: Residence of Jim and Dianne Easterling, Lansing, Michigan

Call to order by President Tom Blakeslee at 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Tom Blakeslee, Jim and Dianne Easterling, Rick Hall, Duane Russell. Administrator: Lou Ellen Fecher

I. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Dianne distributed a packet of materials covering expenses for the State Singles Championship, State Doubles Championship and a statement of cash/receipts and disbursements for the months of March, April, and May 1989. The current bank balance for the month of May is \$2398.00. Profit for 1989 is \$2088.98.

Jim Easterling mentioned the RAM Newsletter is to be issued every quarter. The Newsletter came out in January rather than December.

The Regional Tournament will be held at Sawmill, Columbus, Ohio on February 23-25, 1990.

II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:

Minutes had been mailed to President Tom Blakeslee prior to the meeting and will be provided to Board Members at a later date.

III. SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:

Tom Blakeslee discussed the Scholarship Award and indicated there is a potential of at least \$1,000 to be given to the candidate selected. The RAM BOARD picks the best Juniors. Discussion as to whether the award should be limited to seniors only took place. It was finally agreed that the recipient could be either a Junior or a Senior. A motion was made by Rick Hall and seconded by Jim Easterling that we accept Joel Bonnett as the candidate this year and that the Board contribute \$250 to the Scholarship fund.

Tom is to write letters to the contributors to obtain a commitment from them that the funds pledged will be forthcoming. At stake is the integrity of the RAM BOARD as well as the persons involved. The Board will hold the monies for the award and pay it when due. Jim Easterling made a motion that Lou Ellen Fecher be made a member of the RAM BOARD. Motion seconded by Dianne Easterling. Passed by unanimous vote.

IV. RACQUETBALL AWARDS:

What to do with the HALL OF FAME, BANQUET and other AWARDS was placed on the agenda. These have been handled in the past at the Division Pro Stop which may not take place this year. An alternative suggested was to give these at the State Singles tournament. Site selection for the banquet could be a problem at some of the clubs.

*NOTE: Dianne Easterling and Lou Ellen Fecher will work on this assignment during the summer.

V. NEWSLETTER:

Jim Easterling wants to pass the baton on the Newsletter to someone else. He will do the July issue and the next one should be out in the quarter of October-December. (It must be out before the end of the year.)

Newsletter publication is a lot of work. Articles must be obtained, advertisements, typesetting and printing. If we went to a smaller issue rather than the current size we will have to provide 6 issues a year rather than 4. Rick Hall will ask Gary Van Dyke in Grand Rapids if he might be able to do some work with this.

VI. GRANT PROCEDURE

Rick Hall mentioned as a possible grant an outdoor racquetball court which could be used for practice. It would be visible and could be used for junior program development. Tom Blakeslee mentioned a billboard showing racquetball and urging people to join RAM.

Tom also mentioned WJR radio spots and perhaps PASS IV as another possibility. Duane Russell suggested working with the Michigan High School Association to promote racquetball in the high schools. A discussion here took place to have a curriculum on the subject to be sent to schools and perhaps make a presentation at Physical Education Instructors Meeting in the State. (Usually held at Longs in Lansing). Jim mentioned some clubs had been successful in a night LOCK IN program for youth and having racquetball as one component. This has been a big moneymaker for clubs which have had as many as 100 kids attend (charges made for attendance is \$6.00 and also they charge for popcorn, pop, etc).

Public Broadcasting channels also were mentioned as another possibility.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Tom Blakeslee will check airtime with WJR and PASS
2. Jim Easterling will investigate the High Schools.
3. Lou Ellen Fecher and Dianne Easterling will check in with the YMCA's about the Lock in type of program.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS DISCUSSED:

Tom Blakeslee on the State Singles tournament: He is looking for suggestions on how to improve it for next year \$35.00 is about the maximum we can charge for the tourney. Tom said he needs more help at both the Singles and Doubles tournaments. He cannot do it all by himself.

Dianne Easterling said a banquet at the State Singles for the Awards is a great idea. This could be held on Friday night and give more prestige to the tournament.

Rich Hall said Grand Rapids was sending 7 juniors to the national tournament at the end of June. Ken Bonnett is interested and will come to the next meeting of the RAM BOARD.

Jim Easterling said he needed some articles for the next Newsletter.

Lou Ellen Fecher said the SUPER 7'S still will be going next year.

Jerry Gray is resigning his position as Collegiate Regional tournament director.

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, July 10, 1989 at the Easterling residence in Lansing, Michigan at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M. (Motion by Jim Easterling and second by Rick Hall)

Respectfully submitted,
Duane R. Russell
Secretary

Date: July 10, 1989

Place: 321 Village, Lansing, MI

Call to order by President Tom Blakeslee at 7:15 pm

Members Present: Tom Blakeslee, Jim Easterling, Dianne Easterling, Rick Hall

Members Absent: Lou Ellen Fecher, Duane Russell

Guests Present: Radiation Man

I. Report of the Vice President

Rick Hall said things went well at the Junior National. There were over 600 entries which was higher than last year. Michigan had 17 juniors there. Mike Johnston did the best of any Michigan entry as he made it to the semi-finals in the Boys 18 & Under division.

II. Report of the Regional Director

Jim Easterling said he has signed contract back from the Sawmill Athletic Club in Columbus, Ohio for the Adult and Junior Regionals. The regional will be on February 23-25, 1990.

All articles have been submitted to the newsletter publisher in Indiana. Jim and Rick will both talk with someone about taking over the newsletter duties for the next newsletter due out in Oct, Nov, Dec.

There will not be a Petoskey tournament this year as the club has reduced the number of courts from 8 down to 4.

III. Report of Treasurer

Dianne Easterling said we had no income during the month of June and we have a profit for the 1989 year of approximately \$1900.00. Outstanding bills are a newsletter bill and a bill for the printing of the tournament card. The total of these bills will be around \$1100 to \$1200.

The tournament card and schedule will be finalized shortly. All sanction request forms were to be returned by July 15. Dates for the State Doubles was December 1-3, 1989 and the State Singles April 27-29, 1990.

IV. Report of the President

Tom Blakeslee will investigate a site for both the State Singles and the State Doubles. Tom is also looking into the possibility of putting some big dollars into AARA for the promotion of racquetball. He is trying to get Luke St. Onge to meet with Pontiac to discuss the situation.

Tom will check with Randy Minto to see about giving out RAM awards at the banquet for the Division tournament in September.

Much discussion took place on the grant proposals. Tom will work on the proposal for recruiting memberships. Jim will work on the lock-up proposal. Rick will work on a proposal for outdoor racquetball courts and one on a membership promotion. The proposals will be sent to Tom and he will type and mail them to AARA.

V. Election of Officers

President - Tom Blakeslee

Vice President - Rick Hall

Secretary - Duane Russell

Treasurer - Dianne Easterling

VI. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm



RAM

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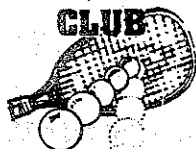
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