

The Racquetball Reporter

Fall 1992

Quarterly Publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

Cole, U.S. Capture World Gold

Michigan's Chris Cole, fresh off his National Championship victory in May, traveled with the U.S. National Team to Montreal, Quebec for the sixth International Racquetball Federation World Championships and brought back three gold medals.

Cole joined fellow single players Tim Sweeney and Michael Bronfeld with doubles team Doug Ganim and Eric Mueller to capture the Men's Team gold 3-1 in match play over arch rival Canada. Joining the men in victory was the U.S. women's team compiled of singles players Michelle Gillman-Gould, Jackie Paraiso-Gibson, Kaye Kuhfeld, and doubles team Robin Levine and Malia Bailey. Together the United States men and women ran away with the overall team gold as they led the pack with a 7-1 record in match play.

Cole also won the most prestigious award in racquetball by winning the men's singles championship that followed the team competition week. This win finished Cole's quest for racquetball's triple crown: Tournament of the Americas, U.S. National Singles and World Championships.

To Cole, this win only proves that coming home with the gold from the Houston Nationals was no fluke.

"For all those people who didn't put much stock in my win at the Tournament of the Americas, for all those doomsters who said the Houston Nationals were a fluke and for all those who said I won

World's because the walls were slow or whatever, I don't really care what you think. I've got these three titles that I worked my butt off for and no one can say or do anything to take that fact away," Cole said.

Cole's trek to the World Championship win might not have even happened due to some medical problems in late July when he had an allergic reaction to some flu medication that landed him in the hospital.

"It was the scariest thing that's ever happened to me. My muscles went totally haywire," he explained. "My arms and legs were paralyzed and my speech slurred. Basically I was one messed up dude."

The doctors could never totally figure out why or what happened, but he was cautiously given the clearance to play in the

World competition, but not allowed to do any physical activity prior to the tournament. Thus, when he should have been at his peak training wise, he was forced to recuperate.

On arriving to Montreal, to make matters worse, Cole found himself battling yet another ailment when a nasty case of strep throat invaded his already weakened body.

"I was on antibiotics the first ten days in Montreal," he explained. "I felt like my strength and speed were cut in half of what they should have been."

The team competition was Cole's only failure of the Championships and one that weighed most heavily upon his shoulders. His loss to Canada's Roger Harpersad 15-13 in the tie-breaker, kept the U.S. team from a clean

Continued on page 3

Livonia Racquetime Rolls-out 1992-93 Season

by Maureen Mead

The 1992-93 season for Michigan Racquetball started with a bang at the Racquetime Health Club in Livonia.

The Racquetime Rollout Invitational tournament, first of a series of four, had just over 100 entrants and proved to be a great warm-up tournament allowing nearly every participant to play in more than one match.

Most divisions were played with

a round robin format or a "drop-down" format, allowing first round losers to drop down to the next lower division. Although this may result in more sore muscles for everyone, it's just what everyone needed to get back into the swing of things (or rather back into the swing of their swing!).

And juniors — get ready for a fantastic season of play! The junior participation at the

Continued on page 11

View of the president

by Christopher Cole

The 1992-93 tournament season has finally gotten under way here in Michigan following the two August tournaments held in Alpena and Livonia Racquetime respectively. Onward ho!

I would like to thank those who have voiced or written their congratulations to me on my National and World Championship wins. It truly is special to receive them and these wins can be thought of with great pride from my fellow Michiganders.

As the season begins, I will once again call on the RAM membership to think about volunteering one day each month to come to and be apart of the RAM Board of Directors and help the continued development of Michigan racquetball. This summer some new faces have attended Board meetings and have expressed a desire to formally join the board. Maureen Mead, Marta Rubich and Rick Crawford have come to a few meetings and hopefully will continue. Val Springer, Leroy

Congratulations Chris!

by Sandy Conlen

The racquetball players in Michigan have a lot to be proud of, as we can claim the 1992 National and World Champion as our own.

Chris Cole, as most of you know, successfully brought home gold medals from both the Houston Nationals and the World Championships, proving that he is not only Michigan's best but the best among the AARA and International Racquetball Federation.

Having known the twenty-five year old champ for over seven

Towns and Luke Gunn have all discussed the possibility of joining, but as of yet have not been able to attend a meeting. I hope they will continue thinking about the idea and when the time is right, come and join us. Ken Bonnett has been to summer meetings and the Board had greatly appreciated his input; it is unfortunate that time constraints do not allow Ken the year round opportunity to be a full-time Board member. If you do have some interest in helping Michigan racquetball, please call me and I can give you the day and time of our next RAM Board meeting. The more Board members we have, the better RAM can serve its players and sport.

Through the tireless efforts of Executive Director Luke St. Onge and the AARA staff, racquetball has been given the prestigious selection as a full medal sport in the 1995 Pan American Games in Marta del Plata, Argentina. This represents an enormously important step towards racquetball being allowed in the Olympic games since the Pan Am's are the most prestigious sports competition to the International Olympic Committee next to the Olympics themselves. Inclusion in the Pan Ams gives racquetball status it has never had before with the IOC. While prospects for Atlanta in 1996 look slim to none, the year 2000 Olympics appear to have a reasonable chance for racquetball's inclusion. The IOC is currently evaluating its program of sports and the grapevine is buzzing with conjecture on what sports will be dropped from the Olympic program. This will obviously affect status of certain sports and the subsidies given to National Governing Bodies by the U.S. Olympic committee. If racquetball is chosen for the Olympic program,

Racquetball Association
of
Michigan

President
Christopher Cole

Vice-President
W.T. Blakeslee

Treasurer
Lou Ellen Fecher

Secretary
Jim Earley

Board Member
Mark Werthman

RAM Tournament Sanctioning
Jim Earley (313) 761-4440

Newsletter
The Racquetball Reporter
Sandy Conlen, Editor
3152 S. Henderson
Davison, MI 48423

The Racquetball Reporter is published quarterly by the Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM). Additional supplements are distributed twice yearly. Information and articles are submitted by individuals and clubs and do not necessarily reflect the view of RAM. The Racquetball Reporter welcomes information, photos and letters for publication. Advertising rates are available upon request. Thanks to those who contributed to this issue:

Ken Bonnett
Christopher Cole
W.T. Blakeslee
Maureen Mead

Continued on page 9

Continued on page 10

Cole Claims World Championship

Continued from page 1

sweep in the final team match play.

"We wanted to be the first U.S. team to sweep all the matches at Worlds, it certainly would have stamped our 1992 squad as the greatest U.S. Team ever. By losing, I felt I failed and let down my teammates," Cole reflected.

By the time Cole's tie-breaker was ready to start the U.S. was already guaranteed the men's women's and team titles. "I don't care if I was sick, that's just an excuse. I should have done my part and didn't," he concluded.

Despite his loss, he was able to bounce back in the individual competition. His first two matches were relatively easy and it gave his body a chance to bounce back. His round of 16 match against Venezuela's #1 player Fabian Balmori, (who took Canada's 1992 National Champion Mike Ceresia to a 15-13 tie-breaker in team play), proved to be a tough one. Playing well, Cole won in two straight games bringing a good omen in the week.

Cole followed that match with two-game victories over Mexico's tough Juan Carlos Quevedo in the quarters and old rival Mike Ceresia, Canada's reigning champion in the semis. Cole's teammate Sweeney meanwhile, advanced through his side of the draw with a tough tie-breaker victory over Great Britain's Rob Pratt in the quarters and a 15-7, 15-14 win over teammate Bronfeld in the semis.

Thus, the proverbial table was set: Cole, who wanted to prove that his National Championship victory over the defending champion was not by luck, against Sweeney, who wanted to regain his reputation and make up for the 11-7 tie-breaker loss to Cole in Houston.

Game one saw the replenished

Cole answer any critics who said he could not repeat the success of Houston. He repeatedly rolled forehand splats and pinches on his way to a 12-1 lead. Sweeney could not recover and the final score of 15-2 shocked those in attendance, especially Cole.

"I felt going in that his revenge factor would be a key. He seemed intense, but I was hitting every shot I took so it didn't matter," Cole said.

Game two saw Cole bolt to a short lead only to see it disintegrate at 10-7 when Sweeney changed serving tactics. "He went to a high lob off the backhand sidewall and until I got used to it, I couldn't do much offensively. The exhibition court had backwall and backhand glass so that corner was treacherous all competition long," he explained.

Unfortunately for Cole, he didn't get used to the serve quick enough and it cost him game number two 15-10.

The deciding tie-breaker started out much like the first game where Cole couldn't miss and he jumped to a commanding 10-4 lead. Sweeney scored three more points to make it close, but Cole ended things with a backhand pass and captured the 1992 World Competition 15-7.

"This takes any pressure of my Nationals win off me back," Cole said after the win. "People, even if grudgingly, have to concede that I am for real."

In the other individual events, the U.S. reigned as well with Gillman-Gould defeating Canada's Heather Strupp in two games to avenge a 1990 World's loss, as well as Ganim and Mueller taking out Canada's Haripersad and Simon Roy in two games in Men's doubles competition. The women's doubles team of Bailey and Levine defeated the Canadian team to add another gold medal to the United States' championship purse. ●

1992 U.S. National World Championship Team

Michael Bronfeld
Sacramento, CA

Chris Cole
Flint, MI

Doug Ganim
Powell, OH

Eric Mueller
Overland Park, KS

Tim Sweeney
Glendale Heights, IL

Malia Bailey
Norfolk, VA

Jackie Gibson
San Diego, CA

Michelle Gould
Boise, ID

Kaye Kuhfeld
Indianapolis, IN

Robin Levine
Sacramento, CA

Congratulations !

Promote, support our sport

by Ken Bonnett

When is the last time there was a tournament in Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Benton Harbor, Saginaw, Bay City, Traverse City or even Port Huron?

It has been a long time since our sport drew people to any of these areas. Why? Fewer clubs, fewer players, little promotion and no interest.

As many of you know our racquetball numbers (AARA members) here in Michigan have dropped out drastically over the past several years. Nationally we have dropped out of the top ten! Clubs across the state are turning racquetball courts into aerobic studios and weight rooms — racquetball needs help! In short, we need to promote our sport or we will continue to lose our courts, clubs, tournaments and eventually the sport we all love.

This past summer I visited clubs outside the loop of racquetball activity. Owners and managers in these areas would love to see more racquetball involvement. They too are struggling with the decline of play and interest. Yes, we need more grassroots level players, but also need to do more ourselves. We cannot leave this promotion up to the club owner or club pro. As players we need to be more responsible for the survival of the sport. If you have an idea, share it with fellow players and the club management. Even go as far as to offer your services to help.

Recently, I introduced a fellow teacher to the sport — a total beginner. We played one game at the club and I asked him if he would like to go with me to the Alpena tournament. He said yes, and that he would enjoy helping out. The Thursday before the tournament I called him and told him he was going to play in Nov-

ice. He did play and finished third, learned how to ref and said he had the most fun he had had in years. One hooked new player.

If everyone of us would try and introduce one new person to the sport maybe things would change. Think of all those non-racquetball members at your club who might enjoy learning the sport. Take a minute to get them on the court.

Listed below are six promotional possibilities that Ektelon spelled out in a recent newsletter to all Ektelon players. The salvation of racquetball is not just in the hands of club pros, club managers or sponsored players, but up to us. Inside or outside the loop, let's make every effort this year to increase the participation in our sport. It may mean a little work, a longer drive and a few more dollars spent, but well worth it.

Promotional ideas:

1. Get involved with your state association. If you know who the state director is, contact him or her and ask how you can get involved. Write an article in their newsletter or volunteer to give a free clinic at a tournament. You could ask if they are interested in having you write an informative article on how to conduct leagues, in-house tournaments or a junior camp. If you don't know who your state director is, contact the national office of the AARA at 1-800-234-5396.

2. Develop a junior program at your club. A junior program can grow very rapidly once it has been created. Contact your local club and ask them how you can get started. Junior programs usually are held during off-peak hours, which will generate more court usage for the racquetball club.

3. Go to your local schools and volunteer to conduct a free clinic during physical education classes. Most schools are very receptive to introducing students to a new sport — and what a better sport than racquetball! You can use the gymnasium wall with tape for a great target. Talk to the kids about the sport at both the pro and amateur levels. Also give them a little history of the sport. It is best if you can also invite them to an additional free clinic at your club. Check with the manager of your club for an appropriate time.

4. Big Brothers/Big Sisters Associations are always looking for volunteers. Contact your local office for more information. Volunteer and become a Big Brother or Big Sister for twelve weeks. Take that child to the court once a week and teach them the rules and love of the game.

5. Offer to do a free clinic once a week for all new members joining your club. This will be a big hit with the manager of your club and will also help the new members get involved right away. You could also do a special clinic for fitness-only members to introduce them to the game.

6. Start a women's morning league. This could be called "Mom's Morning Out," or even involve grandmothers. This is a terrific social event for the mornings. You could serve coffee and Danish after each league. Have a special day at the end of each league when you host a cosmetic party or have a guest speaker. You could also contact your local sales representative and do an Ektelon fashion show. ●

Racquetball exposed in Alpena

by Ken Bonnett

Fifty Michigan players had a weekend of great fun August 21-23 at the "Northern Exposure Summer Warm-up" held in Alpena.

The nicest weekend of the summer didn't hamper the play a bit. Bruce Goldammer and his staff worked very hard with local supporter of our sport and raised the prize money and many gifts for an excellent tournament raffle. The Alpena staff and patrons provided the hospitality, a spread second to none.

The Adobe, a local bowling establishment and lounge provided the after racquetball entertainment for most participants. Play began late Friday, all day Saturday and finals held on Sunday. Plans are already being discussed for next years event. Everyone will be notified of the 1993 date in the Spring. Plan to take a long weekend to enjoy the north. Alpena is a beautiful vaca-



Being in gorgeous Alpena didn't stop Diana Trombley, above, from arguing with a ref.

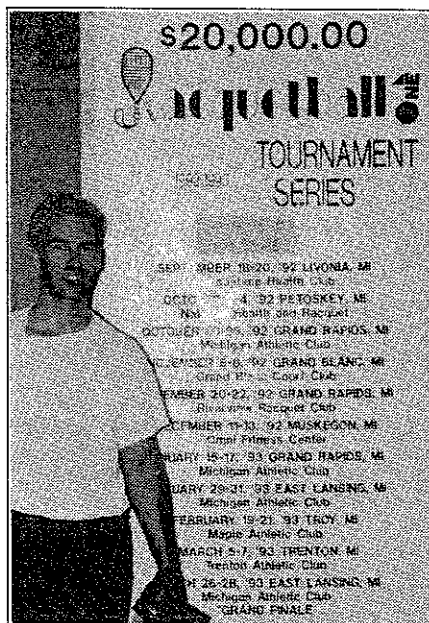
tion spot and may be one of two summer stops made available to players next year.

If you have any questions or suggestions, direct them to Ken Bonnett. Fire up, northern racquetball is on the rise, let's support it! ●

Northern Exposure
Summer Warm-up
Alpena Health and
Racquet Club
August 21-23, 1992

Winners

- Men's Open
Rick Parkhurst
- Men's A
Jeff Connell
- Men's B
Dave Simmons
- Men's C
Dave Simmons
- Men's D
Frank Dascenza
- Men's Novice
Bruce Kirschner
- Women's C
Denise Knoll
- Men's Open Consolation
Bill LaBargle
- Men's D Consolation
Patty Noiles
- Men's A Doubles
Jeff Hayes/Don Norris
- Men's B/C Doubles
Bob Westenbarger/
Mike McPharlane
- Men's D Doubles
Paula LaBargle
/Bruce Goldhammer
- Mixed Doubles
Bob Westenbarger/Patty Noiles



"Exposed" during the northern tournament were the talents of Men's C Consolation winner Richard Knoll (left) and Women's C finalists Denise Knoll and Nadine Welsh.

***Penn.* AARA Michigan**

MEN'S OPEN

Chris Cole	1280
Jim Floyd	610
Nick Rallis	470
Joel Bonnett	355
Stu Hastings	210

MEN'S NOVICE

Kevin Harkness	180
Jason Goy	125
Tom DeLoach	100
Ron Cunningham	65
Jim Bennick	50

MEN'S 35+C

Doug Kochneff	105
Chuck VanHoose	70
Richard Cramb	50
Michael Stephens	50
Matt Raymond	40
Mian Rashiad	30

MEN'S A

Dan Veith	250
Gordan Gallagher	150
Mike Garbarino	150
Bob Gravelyn	150
Charles White	125

MEN'S 25+

Johnny Northern	300
Scott Pufahl	150
Greg Hodges	140
Jai Shekawat	130
Jim Hamilton	80

MEN'S 40+

Marty Mangino	865
Tom Blakeslee	370
Bob Gravelyn	280
Doug Toth	255
Jim Santino	200

MEN'S B

Bill Marshall	325
Jim Davidson	165
Larry Sarver	150
Manny Amato	100
Scott Reneaud	95

MEN'S 30+

Johnny Northern	510
Scott Worthy	300
Greg Hodges	250
Mike Anderson	190
Jack White	110

MEN'S 40+B

Mike Young	250
Terry Lawler	150
Jerry Eldred	100
Allan Mell	100
Gary Phipps	95
Steve Burghdorf	75

MEN'S C

Rick Beck	325
Scott Sargent	265
John Wall	160
Chuck VanHoose	150
Manny Amato	105

MEN'S 35+

Scott Worthy	500
Johnny Northern	380
Stu Hastings	375
Jim Woolcock	340
Marty Mangino	155

MEN'S 45+

Ken Bonnett	655
Tom Brownlee	300
Mike Young	270
Johnny Northern	200
Rick Parkhurst	200

MEN'S D

Mike McFarland	250
Steve Marsh	210
William Panagos	210
Ken Franz	200
Bob Reou	125
John Hall	120

MEN'S 35+B

Ron Bonds	375
Scott Bruce	150
Brian Momchilove	150
Van Conway	100
Brian Hedden	100

MEN'S 50+

Robert Dynes	250
Hank Gates	180
Vince Callahan	170
Jim Connor	150
Jess Madden	150
Paul Becker	130

Player Standings

MEN'S 55+

Hank Gates	320
Dave Lund	200
Ron Pudduck	150
David Lund	100

MEN'S 60+

J D. Driver	400
Lynn Hahn	350
Leonard Poole	125
Robert McClelland	100
Charles Kaiser	75

MEN'S 65+

Duane Russell	300
Dick Caretti	250
Gerry Leone	125
Robert Finkleman	100
Arthur Burke	70

WOMEN'S OPEN

Val Springer	485
Laura Patterson	295
Cindy Sieders	250
Kay Harrington	205
Leslie Kishigan	150

WOMEN'S A

Marta Rubich	300
Pam Parkhurst	295
Kaye Harrington	250
Diane Trombley	170
Paula Saad	150

WOMEN'S B

Diane Pearson	515
Karen Green	280
Charlene Shaw	165
Kathy Beck	150
Diane Trombley	150
Barbara Swaab	130

WOMEN'S C

Darla Furze	250
Karen Green	215
Denise Knoll	180
Marianne McHugh	150
Terri Harris	130

WOMEN'S D

Judy Porter	160
Kathy Foley	150
Christine Edmunds	100
Karen Hart	80
Terri Harris	75

WOMEN'S 25+

DeLois Leapheart	150
Val Springer	150
Marta Rubich	125
Melody Matties	100
Paula Saad	100

WOMEN'S 30+

Diane McCauley	215
Leslie Kishigan	155
Val Springer	130
Kay Harrington	100
Pam Parkhurst	70

WOMEN'S 35+

Laura Patterson	300
Beth Gutowski	250
Karen Green	150
Denise Gravelyn	105
Cindy Sieders	100

WOMEN'S 40+

Janet Insko	300
Betty Gilliland	225
Peg Shaw	150
Barbara Swaab	100
Linda Eldred	75

.....

Rankings provided by the AARA
National Office

Standings as of August 1992

It's all
worth it
in the end!

Play hard
Have Fun



Even if it hurts!

Michigan's champ expresses thanks

Dear Editor,

This is a letter from me to some people I would like to say thank you to. Winning Nationals and Worlds was not done by myself alone, but with the help of many fine friends. I appreciate them all.

Johnny Northern: A former National Champion, he can truly understand the feelings and thoughts I have after such accomplishments. He offered advice, companionship, support and good karma to me all week in Houston. One of the most respected men in our state, Johnny has a way of fostering friendship no matter what boundaries may try to separate people. His support was essential and priceless to my victory in Houston.

Tom Blakeslee: A great friend who has helped me get a vision of what the future of RAM and Michigan racquetball should be. His friendship has been invaluable and he also practiced with me before the Nationals (must have been those photon serves of yours Blakes, that got me ready for Sweeney and Ellis!).

My family: beginning with my parents, I want to thank them for their support over the last 15 years since I first began this sport. Hard to believe that I have finally won such championships, but I want them to know I love them both. Thanks to all my family members throughout Michigan, as well as the ones in Massachusetts, California and Florida. A good and loving family is so important in a person's life and from my brother to my aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents, I couldn't find better.

To my second family, my friends and co-workers at the Davison Racquet and Fitness Club. Everyone there deserves a note of thanks as well. Without support of my friends like Troy Hall, Mark Heckman, Mike Johnston and Cindy Vandesteen I would not enjoy life like I do. Thanks also to the staff at the DRFC, especially Kerry, Bina, Randy and Lori for helping me with work when it needed to be done in my absence. This Gold Medal I gladly and proudly bring back to our club! Thanks also to my exclusive massage therapist for keeping me in shape; you're the best Cyndi Martin!

Racquetball people: I have some great friendships that I have made here in the state and I would like to thank those people who have given me so much support over the years: Bob Wilhelm, Tom Brownlee, Stu Hastings and Mark Werthman to name a few. I know a ton of players in this state and I hope all of them take a little pride that their friend and fellow Michiganiaan won the Gold.

Jimmy Floyd: What can I say about this guy, except that if he didn't stay in Houston following his devastating loss in the round of 16, I would not have won Nationals. Jim Hiser missed my entire quarterfinal match because he was putting together a slide presentation for the banquet, so Jimmy coached me. My 11-10 win that day sent me on my way and with Hiser supplying color commentary during the finals for cable television, Jimmy turned the trick for me once more. No doubt about it, my only sorrow was that Jimmy didn't make the National Team. Thanks to him, I made it; I only wish I

could have made a difference for him.

Jim Hiser: My coach and mentor has heard much sentiment from me as I became more successful in this sport. But a National and World Championship go beyond anything else we have been through together. I won the championships as much to him as I did for me, because of all the support he's given me and Jimmy over the years. I am blessed with his friendship.

Nancy Personette: The love of my life was a trooper for the four days of hell I put her through in Houston where she had to sit through four tie-breakers (11-7, 11-7, 11-9 and 11-10). She also was there in Montreal for my world's win and made the difference when I was sick. Overall she has been such a stabilizing force in my life and I credit her with making such victories possible. She sacrifices time and again for me in my quest to be the best and she continues to do so enabling me to reach my goals. She has injected love and affection into my life when it was sorely needed and paints a wonderful picture of the future for my brain. I dedicate the Houston gold medal to her and how happy she makes me feel day after day.

Lastly, thanks to **Ektelon**, my sponsor for over ten years. Loyalty is uncommon in today's world, but you've been there with me all these many years.

Christopher Cole
1992 AARA/Ektelon Men's Open National Champion
1992 IRF Men's Individual World Champion

Summer's over, play ball!

by W.T. Blakeslee

The 1992-93 season is upon us and as always the optimism is high for the upcoming season. I'm still waiting for the summer that never got here and unfortunately it's almost time to put the boat away, superchargers and all. However, it's time to play ball!

Before the season begins, I can only think of three areas of interest I would like to review and highlight. First off, the tournament schedule appears to be excellent this year and Ken Bonnett is looking like the major tournament director. I wish him much success and recommend you try his tournaments. He's even spread up to Alpena and Petoskey. The remainder of the

schedule is also filled with good tournaments and playing in them increases our state and national support.

Secondly, as most of you know, Chris Cole is on a roll in the winners circle, National and World Champion! Michigan racquetball continues to be world class in every way. Looks like Chris continues the fame of Keeley, Yellen, Brownlee, Hastings, Wilhelm and Northern — all racquetball legends.

And finally, at our last board meeting we had potential "new" board members. This is the best news we had for a long time. This is what we need to develop new programs for the RAM membership.

That's all for now. See you on the hardwood. ●

RAM celebrates Cole's victories

Continued from page 2

years, I realize and can appreciate the blood, sweat and tears that went into preparing for and winning such championships. Unlike professional athletes who devote their time almost completely to their particular sport (and get paid for it), Chris must struggle to balance racquetball, a full-time job, the pursuance of a college degree, his position as RAM's president and, if time allows, a social life. Thus, winning such titles, only goes to show what a true champion he is, as he proved to be the best in racquetball while at the same time successful in his "regular" life.

The road to these championships, was not as easy as the end result might seem either. When I first met Chris, he was at a point where doctors never thought he'd even be playing racquetball at the age of twenty-five, as he

had sustained an injury in his teens that puts many athletes out of commission: a torn rotator cuff. Though, therapy was slow, he overcame this injury and low and behold seven years later he holds the National and World Championship titles in the sport he was told to quit.

So, as the newsletter might seem filled with nothing but stories surrounding Chris Cole and his recent victories, please keep in mind that as everyone is entitled to their fifteen minutes of fame, the minutes ticking away at the clock now are for Chris, our champion.

Congratulations Chris and enjoy! Both RAM and your friends throughout racquetball all over the globe are proud of and celebrate your victories.

Now, if we can only get more juniors involved to follow in Chris' footsteps...

FROM THE RULE BOOK...

by W.T. Blakeslee

Longer racquets?

No way! Effective for the 1992-93 season, the following rules were approved. Please notice that the increase in racquetball length was not approved.

1. The board disapproved a proposal to increase the 21-inch limitation on racquet length to 21 5/8 inches. The waiver permitting the use of longer racquets in certain tournaments **expires on August 31, 1992 and will not be extended**. On September 1, 1992 the maximum racquet length returns to 21 inches.

2. The board agreed to permanently change rule 5.13 on regional tournaments, effective September 1, 1992. Players will be allowed to enter more than one regional tournament provided they do not enter a "championship event" (no skill designation) that same year. Note: this rule was specifically waived for all 1992 AARA regional tournaments, but now the change will become a formal rule.

3. Also approved was a new rule requiring players to wear eye guards and use wrist thongs during practice prior to the match or between games. The new Rule 2.5 (c), will state that "approved eye guards must be worn and wrist thongs used during any on-court warm-up period. The referee should give a technical warning to any person who fails to comply and assess a technical foul if that player continues to not comply after receiving such a warning." ●

• • • • •

RAM enlists help to reach Olympics

Continued from page 2

it will be the realization of the AARA's dream and the raising of our sport to unbelievable heights.

There are always important steps to a process in this case, inclusion to the Pan Ams, ranked a ten on the Richter scale. To reach this inclusion, however the AARA had to outlay a large sum of cold cash, over \$40,000 in order to build a racquetball facility in Argentina. This is an immense amount of money, but will be well worth each penny if it help racquetball reach those hallowed five rings. Since the

AARA does not enjoy the overblown cash flow like some larger National Governing Bodies do, such as the U.S. Basketball Association or the U.S. Boxing Association. I would like to see the state associations of our sport each kick in as much in donations to the AARA in order to cover the bill for the facility in Argentina. Even if only half of the state associations respond with \$2,000, the total will exceed the amount the AARA has invested.

I personally will try to do my part for RAM and the AARA by planning and carrying out special exhibitions, clinics, tournaments

or whatever other kinds of promotions I can think of to reach at least \$2,000. If RAM can exceed that amount, fantastic. But come May at the banquet during the Houston Nationals, I want to be able to present Mr. St. Onge and the AARA with a check from RAM for at least a couple grand. Each year Doug Ganim and the Ohio Racquetball Association hands a major donation over to St. Onge in Houston and I would hope RAM can join with the ORA and other state associations in supporting the AARA's Olympic quest.

If any RAM members have some ideas, suggestions or comments on how we can raise funds, do not hesitate to contact me at (313) 653-9602 or (313) 239-4130. I am taking this fund drive extremely seriously and I hope all RAM members will do the same.

Until next issue, always think of the Olympic flame burning brightly with racquetball and the AARA clearly within its visage. ●

Racquetball One Series Gears up for Fall

by Ken Bonnett

In fifteen years of running tournaments, I have never heard so much pre-tournament talk as I have regarding the October 2-4 Petoskey event. Many players are taking long weekends to enjoy the beautiful color with their families, and others are planning to play that last game of golf. The National Health and Racquet Club and area patrons have worked hard all summer preparing this event. A special \$500.00 exhibition between Memphis State's Joel Bonnett and another great player from the south has been set! Interested players will have a chance to challenge Joel and some of the nation's best players in a "play the pro" challenge. Prizes will be awarded to the winners based on the handicapped scoring system.

Super condo rates are available

at the Harbor Cove. The more players you squeeze into your condo the cheaper you stay. One free night is being offered to those planning to stay three nights. Men's and Women's C is the highlighted division at this event, with lots of prize money in the open and age groups. Don't miss the beautiful scenery and the great tournament.

At the November 20-22nd event at the Riverview Racquet Club in Grand Rapids, Bil Mar Foods will donate Thanksgiving Turkeys to all finalists. Don't be a turkey and miss this one!

In December at the Omni Fitness Center in Muskegon, there will be prize money in all divisions. \$1,000 for first in the Men's Pro/Open! Holiday shopping money for all winners. All questions regarding these events can be directed to Ken Bonnett at (616) 956-0550. ●

Mark Your Calendar!

Racquetball One Series Tournaments

Oct. 2-4
National Health & Racquet Club
Petoskey

Nov. 20-22
Riverview Racquet Club
Grand Rapids

For information call
(616) 956-0550

Livonia rolls-out success

Continued from page one

Rollout's Invitational was super, amounting to 10% of the first entries. The two junior divisions were the 8 & under multi-bounce and the 16 & under division. Both divisions were run in a round robin format, giving a great deal of play experience for everyone. Each junior also received an award for their participation. We hope to continue seeing junior divisions at all the tournaments. Junior racquetball players really enjoy themselves, and furthermore, are truly the future of this sport.

Sunday's play was quite exciting with several finals matches ending in tie-breaker games, including the Men's Open finals with Jeff Kummier defeating Mark Werthman.

Joel Bonnett, visiting from Memphis State, and Jimmy Floyd once again entertained spectators with an exciting Pro Finals match. Joel defeated Jimmy in an extremely fast-paced match. And to add a twist to the game, everyone kept track of their ace serves to see who the "ace God" really is. Sorry Jimmy, maybe next time!

A special thanks to our tournament sponsors: Ektelon, Las Vegas Discount Golf and Tennis, Little Bill's Trophies, Integrity Sportswear, Rousch Racing, Signature Inn and Hero's Roast Beef Restaurant. Tournament success wouldn't be possible without our sponsors and for that we give a big thanks.

The Racquetime Health Club is the host club for the Racquetime Rollout Tournament Series. For more information on future series' tournaments, contact Maureen Mead at (313) 591-1212 ●

Racquetime Rollout

Livonia Racquetime

August 28-30

Tournament Results

Men's Pro

Joel Bonnett def. Jim Floyd

Men's Open

Jeff Kummier def. Mark Werthman

Men's B

Scott Sellars def. Russ Buza

Men's C

Tom Elliott def. Robert Mast

Men's D

Rick Gutowski def. Bill Panagos

Men's Novice

Mike Maroni def. Alan Albright

Men's 35A

Curt Ferrell def. Dennis Barrow

Men's 35B

Don Stadnika def. Tim Copeland

Men's 40

Ben Grigg def. John Gervasi

Men's 45

Dennis Drury def. Vince Callahan

Women's Handicap

1st Kerry Bergum

2nd Karen Green

Junior's 16 & under

1st Greg Wilanski

2nd Eric Hoshield

3rd Andy Mead

Junior's 8 & Under

1st Chris Copleand

2nd Matt Raymond

3rd Brian Reou

Congratulations to all!

Join the Racquetball Association of Michigan

Membership includes:

- * Membership card, AARA official rule book, travel and equipment discounts
- * AARA medical, life and liability insurance at sanctioned events
- * Four issues of the RAM newsletter, The Racquetball Reporter
- * Six issues of the AARA national publication, Racquetball Magazine
- * RAM sanctioned tournament entry forms mailed to your home
- * Eligibility to play in all sanctioned tournaments and receive state and national ranking points



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SUPPORT THE U.S. NATIONAL TEAM
(DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE)



DATE _____

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

Date of Birth _____ Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

CLASS A MEMBER



☐ 1 yr Single \$15 ☐ 2 yr. Single \$27 ☐ 5 yr Single \$65 ☐ Out of State \$10

☐ 1st added family member \$13 Name: _____ DOB: _____

☐ Each added family member \$7 Name: _____ DOB: _____

☐ Renewal Name: _____ DOB: _____

☐ Donation \$ _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to: RAM, 3152 S Henderson, Davison, MI 48423

The Racquetball Reporter

3152 S. Henderson
Davison, MI 48423

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
FLINT, MI
PERMIT #132

DIANNE E JIM EASTERLING 1193
321 VILLAGE
LANSING MI 48911

The Racquetball Reporter is printed expressly for the members of the Racquetball Association of Michigan