

•Cross-Courterly•

a quarterly publication of the New Mexico Racquetball Association

Fall 1996

President's Message

This summer I experienced first hand how racquetball got a shot in the arm, a splash in the face, a blow to the gut, or ALL OF THE ABOVE. First, there was the 8th World Championships, held in Phoenix, Arizona, in late August. The City Square Athletic Club, Donna Angelopolis, and the Arizona Racquetball Association were perfect hosts for this bi-annual event which attracts the finest racquetball athletes from across the globe in team formation. Twenty-eight countries were represented, with over half of them fielding a full men's and women's team. I was in Orlando ten years ago, and the overall quality of play across the board is substantially stronger now. In '86 my roommate and team-mate at the third "Worlds" was Todd O'Neil, the National Junior Champion that year. This year he became "World Champion" at age twenty-eight, having bested Ruben Gonzales, a 44-year old athletic whiz, in three games. On the women's side, Michelle Gould continued her mastery at the international level. It is not surprising that she won, save for the relative ease of her victory! Icing on the cake at the World Championships was the first "live" racquetball telecast. Jim Turner and Dave Peck were the commentators, taking in the action from behind the glass back wall, and calling point by point in an unobtrusive, professional manner. They added glitter to the whole package of the World Championship week, which included rekindled friendships, athletic prowess, global exposure, and future opportunity for our sport.

No sooner did I have time to take a deep breath, I found myself immersed in the 8th World Seniors in Albuquerque. Men and women athletes

from 15 countries and 38 states came to provide local crowds with unique styles, athletic prowess, camaraderie, and entertainment. There were over 300 players, all over 35; and about one-third of them were first timers. Included in this lot were Canadian men and women who qualified to participate under a playoff format back home. Kudos go to the local organizing committee (World Senior Council) for its operation expertise; the IRF for its unqualified support, and the hundreds of athletes, volunteers, spectators, and friends of this event. Furthermore, many individuals, organizations, and companies lent their hand through financial, in-kind, and services. THANKS TO YOU ALL! SEE YOU IN '97!

Finally, on the horizon is the U.S. Open, the expanded concept of another event in Indianapolis in 1995. This November, pros and amateurs, men and women, and age group and skill level players, will all gather at one locale. They will do so under the most scrutinized setting the sport of racquetball has ever experienced. Manufacturers within and outside the industry will be there, players and spectators will be there, and television and other media will be there. This "Open" week might be a tell-tale for the sport of racquetball, whether it realistically deserves a place amongst the elite sports or whether the "Olympic Dream" will continue indefinitely. A portable court will be strategically placed at a tennis arena to access thousands, courtside as well as via television cameras. Racquetball will become an integral part of the "Open Festival" phenomenon which has graced tennis, golf, and squash. WILL YOU BE THERE?

Gary Mazaroff

Quote of the Month...

The game was invented a billion years ago-don't you remember?

—Old Scottish Golf Saying

• News Notes •

FULLER SISTERS NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPS...

Jeni and Jesi Fuller brought home gold medals from the Junior National Championships held in suburban Milwaukee, Wisconsin in July. Jeni won the doubles in the girls 14, and Jesi won the doubles in the girls 10. Eleven athletes, including boys and girls from Albuquerque, Roswell, and Farmington, represented New Mexico.

JELSO ADDS TO AN ATTRACTIVE LIST...
Tony Jelso, now residing in Ventura, California, won the National 3-Wall Racquetball Title in a tie-breaker match in July. He beat close friend and perennial champ Brian Hawkes in Orange County, California.

CRAIG SPENCER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT...

Craig Spencer, first year student at the University of New Mexico, was awarded a 1996 World Senior Racquetball Scholarship at the tourney banquet in Albuquerque on August 30. The banquet, held at the Sheraton Uptown Hotel, culminated the annual five-day World Senior Racquetball Championships held at three venues in Albuquerque. Craig received \$500, and he and others may now apply for a 1997 award. If interested, contact Paula Sperling for details at 255-1771.

FIRST HANDICAPPED DOUBLES A SUCCESS...

June 21-23 marked the inaugural fundraising event for the international governing body of

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racquetball. Twenty-six men and women over thirty-five competed at Tom Young's Athletic Club in Albuquerque. They played under a round-robin format, with Joe Gellman and Alfredo Cortazar besting Ralph Waddington and Gary Mazaroff. Over \$2,000 was raised for the IRF "Olympic Dream" campaign, enabling racquetball athletes from developing nations to travel to Phoenix for the 8th World Championships. New Mexican athletes in Phoenix were Mike Aringer (Sweden), Jack Long (Brazil), Charley Siaosi (Tonga), and Raymond Kwok (Hong Kong).

YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE NMRA...
Joe Phillips and his wife, Gail, welcomed the newest member of the NMRA to the world on August 27. Emily Ann Phillips weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz., and measured 19.5 inches at birth, but judging by the size of her hands and feet, she should be able to give Michelle Gould a run for the gold by her 5th birthday.



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MICHELOB NMRA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 1996/97

SEPTEMBER 27 - 29	Highlands University Invitational, Wilson Complex NMHU, Las Vegas, NM; Ron Maestas (505) 454-3584
OCTOBER 4 - 6	High Altitude Shootout, Pagosa Lakes Rec Center Pagosa Springs, CO; Karl Isberg (970) 731-4238
10 - 13	New Mexico State Doubles, Tom Young's Athletic Club Albuquerque, NM; Gary Mazaroff (505) 266-8960
*16 - 20	Ektelon/AARA U.S. National Doubles, City Square Athletic Club, Phoenix, AZ; Margo Daniels (719) 635-5396
NOVEMBER *13 - 17	U.S. Open, Tennis Club of Memphis Memphis, TN; Luke St. Onge (719) 635-5396
22 - 24	Kirtland Awards, East Athletic Complex KAFB Albuquerque, NM; Gary Mazaroff (505) 266-8960
DECEMBER 13 - 15	Snowball, Highpoint Sports and Wellness Albuquerque, NM; Joe Wittenbrink (505) 254-9097
*19 - 22	8th IRF ProKennex World Junior Championships Los Caballeros Sports Village, Fountain Valley, CA; Margo Daniels (719) 635-5396
JANUARY 9 - 12	New Mexico Invitational, Tom Young's AC, Albuquerque, NM; Gary Mazaroff (505) 266-8960
24 - 26	Superbowl at Riverpoint, Riverpoint Sports & Wellness, Albuquerque, NM; Ken Lukanik (505) 262-1911
*24 - 26	National Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Championships, The Sports Barn, Chattanooga, TN; June Riggs (423) 266-1133
31 - Feb. 2	Snowdown, Durango Sports Club, Durango, CO; Sheri Phippen (970) 259-2579
FEBRUARY 6 - 9	Midtown Racquetball Open, Midtown Sports and Wellness, Albuquerque, NM Gary Mazaroff (505) 266-8960
*14 - 16	National Masters Invitational, Ultimate Courts, El Paso, TX; Jorge Maya (915) 833-1259
21 - 23	Fitness Center Invitational, The Fitness Center, Gallup NM; Fran Pawlowski (505) 722-5871
27 - Mar. 2	New Mexico Open, Roswell Spa and Court Club, Roswell, NM; Jerry Garcia (505) 622-0962
*28 - Mar. 2	ProKennex USRA 10th National High School Championships, Site TBA, St. Louis, MO
MARCH 7 - 9	New Mexico State Juniors, Site TBA, Albuquerque, NM; Joe Wittenbrink (505) 254-9097
14 - 16	St. Patrick's Festival, Clovis Community College, Clovis, NM; Mark Bussen (505) 769-4153
21 - 23	Four Corners Invitational, Royal Spa & Fitness Center, Farmington, NM; Jerry Spangler (505) 632-2103
27 - 30	New Mexico State Singles, Tom Young's AC, Albuquerque, NM ; Gary Mazaroff (505) 266-8960
APRIL *17 - 20	Ektelon/USRA Rocky Mountain (Region 12) Adult & Junior Championships, Site TBA, Denver, CO; John Foust (303) 699-8121
MAY 8 - 11	National Warmup, Club International, Santa Fe, NM; Gary Mazaroff (505) 266-8960
*21 - 26	Ektelon/USRA National Singles Championships, Downtown YMCA, Houston, TX; Margo Daniels (719) 635-5396
JUNE 13 - 15	New Mexico State Games, Midtown Sports and Wellness, Albuquerque, NM; Gary Mazaroff (505) 266-8960
20 - 22	Handicapped Doubled Fundraiser, Tom Young's AC, Albuquerque, NM; Ralph Waddington (505) 294-5387
AUGUST *26-31	13th IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships, Tom Young's AC, Midtown Sports & Wellness, KAFB, Albuquerque, NM; Gary Mazaroff (505) 266-8960

*indicates national or international event

YOU Make the Call...

Can hinder calls be appealed during tournament play? The answer in the next Cross-Courterly...

From the last issue...

In doubles, can an official mandate that players on each team dress in a uniform manner?

Although not enforceable, a referee may request that players from the same team dress with shirts and shorts or sweatpants the same color or shade. Oftentimes, players having similar body types or game styles are from opposing teams, and they wear the same color shirts and shorts. With players constantly readjusting court position and with the ball moving at great speeds, it can create difficulty for both official and spectators alike to determine which team is striking or receiving the ball. SUGGESTION: Doubles players should make a concerted effort to dress similarly to help make easier the decision making process for the official.

A.A.R.A. Welcomes New Am.P.R.O. Instructors

Congratulations to the following people who recently became certified through the American Professional Racquetball Organization at the summer seminar in Albuquerque...

David Castro (Las Cruces)
Brock Perkins (Albuquerque)
Ralph Waddington (Albuquerque)

Art Hurley (Albuquerque)
Renee Ramirez (El Paso)

Jorge Maya (El Paso)
Norm Struck (Colorado Springs)

The next regional AMPRO seminar will take place December 6-8 at the Aurora Athletic Club, 2953 South Peoria, Aurora, Colorado. (303) 750-3210. Call Gary Mazaroff, clinician, for more details at (505) 266-8960.

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