

The Racquetball Reporter

WINTER 1994

Volume IV; Issue 1

Quarterly Publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

RAM presents second tourney for Women Only in February

The RAM Women's Committee will have its second Women's Only round robin tournament February 5, 1994 at the Davison Racquet and Fitness Club.

Tournament director Nancy Cole has also pulled off a surprise getting Ektelon's Michelle Gould, the current Women's Amateur National Champion, World Amateur Champion and World Professional Champion, to come to Davison that day to do a clinic for the tournament players at 7:00 pm that night. Michelle will play Troy Hall, a Davison member and one of Michigan's top Men's Open players, in a normal match format that will be open to the public. Michelle's clinic early in the day will be available only to those ladies in the round robin.

The draw for the round robin will be limited to 40 players, so send your entry immediately. First response will be given priority. Don't miss out on a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn from the greatest fe-

male racquetball player in history. The February Women's Only round robin is being sponsored by Ken Minto Realty, exclusive agent for Golfcrest Estates

of Davison, MI.

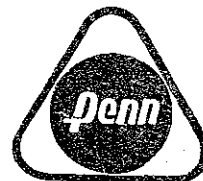
Anyone with questions or comments can contact tournament director Nancy Cole at (810) 239-4130.

1993 RAM State Doubles

Championships completed

Over 120 of Michigan's racquetball mavens turned out for the 1993 RAM State Doubles Championships December 3-5, 1993 held at the One on One Athletic Club in Ann Arbor. The draw was on a par in terms of numbers as last year's event and the staff on the One on One did a fantastic job of keeping the courts dry. Kudos to Madonna McPharlin for all her hard work. Thanks also to PENN and Bud Nihiser for providing the balls for the weekend. Thanks as well to Lou Ellen and Anne Fecher for running the tournament desk, and to Tom Blakeslee

and Chris Cole for helping out throughout the weekend. Other RAM board members Marta Rubcich, Rick Crawford and Maureen Mead contributed their time and energy as well. So, without further delay, please see page sixteen of this issue for the winners of the 1993 State Doubles Championships.



View of the President

Hard to believe that 1994 has come upon us so quickly and 1993 is now a distant memory. I have tried to come up with a list of New Year's Resolutions for myself personally and for RAM as a whole. Hopefully, my high expectations will hatch high success and rewards. Everyone should try to make some New Year's Resolutions on their own, both on the court and off. People would be amazed at what they could accomplish if they actually wrote them out and concentrated on them for a while.

I do have some concerns for the coming year, most noticeable the AARA has increased its competitive license fee by \$5 to 20 for the year. Sometimes it is difficult enough to collect \$15, now it will be even more strenuous. I do believe, however, it is time for an increase. It has been many years since the AARA adopted the \$15 fee, and the AARA fee is well below that of other sports' National Governing Bodies (NGB) rates who are also members of the US Olympic Committee. It is time for the AARA to bring quality programs to its members and continue

funding such important areas like the Elite Training Camp, US Adult National Team, and US Junior National Team. Each state will also receive some of the \$5 increase to help out with their own programs, and any amount will be of great assistance.

The main problem with the \$20 competitive membership fee is recruiting new tournament players. The trend currently here in our state is to have a round robin play at a very high entry fee in the \$50 range. A novice or new tournament player will not want to play in an event that will cost \$50 plus \$20 for a competitive license fee. Hell, I would not want to pay that much myself. Maybe a solution will appear sometime in the near future.

RAM is also continuing its effort to get a Regional back in Michigan. Next issue there will be a from where RAM members can sign and express their own opinion about having a Regional in our state once again. Please be on the look out for it next issue. Until then, have a Happy New Year.

Racquetball Association
of
Michigan

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W.T. Blakeslee
Ken Bonnett
Christopher Cole
Jim Easterling
Marta Rubcich

Racquetball One spears into 1994

All remaining Racquetball One events are at either the Lansing MAC or the Grand Rapids MAC. Please remember that every time you play in a Racquetball One Tournament your name goes into the drawing for the CRUISE! And, if you win your event at any one of the tournaments you enter, you get a bonus ticket. The drawing is only four months away and will take place at the ninth Racquetball One Stop April 15-17, 1994 in Grand Rapids. This last event of the season is a City Invitational and is open to everyone.

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December stop #5 in Grand Rapids was a big Christmas present to many who entered this Racquetball One event. Nearly 90 players jammed the Grand Rapids MAC December 10-12 and enjoyed good competition and fun. Besides world class lodging at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, players experienced an early visit by Santa, as several players won some super gifts in our holiday raffle. Joel Bonnett and Nick Rallis found a crowd of over 80 spectators watching a special holiday exhibition they conducted. The largest group of people

seen watch a match in Michigan in a very long time. Joel's new "Bad Influence" Transition weapon scorched ten aces (\$5 per ace per player bonus), as he won the winner take all exhibition match for \$100.00. Further results as follows: Men's Open: Joel Bonnett def. Nick Rallis; Women's Open: Laura Patterson def. Carol Hoss; Men's B Ron Harris def. Rick Beck; Men's C: Tim Sullivan def. Jeff Musser; Women's C: Natalie Lowell def. Beth McRae; Men's D: David Smith def. Mark Thompson; Men's Novice: Steve Orange def. Dean Cohen; Men's 30/35A: Mike Anderson def. CC Melvin; Men's 35B/C: John Coaker def. Al Kuhl; Men's 40/45A: Gordon Kelly def. Bob Gravelyn; Men's 50/55: Lynn Hahn def. Dave Lund. Congratulations to all players.

.....

Racquetball One Series stop #4 held at the Grand Blanc Court Club, produced the following winners and finalists: Men's Open: Joel Bonnett def. Nick Rallis; Men's B: Glen Downie def. Len Kleperak; Men's C: Dan Hendee def. Jack Huczek; Men's D: Mark Rushbrook def. Mark Thompson; Men's

35B: Bill Manley def. Don Stadnika; Men's 30A: Clee Melvin def. Chris Kelly; Men's 40A: Ray Vanover def. Ron Liikala; Men's 50: Rick Rupp def. Bob McClelland; Women's Open: Laura Patterson def. Pam Parkhurst; Women's A: Carol Hoss def. Kerry Bergum.

From the Rule Book

by W.T. Blakeslee

The most recent rule change really hasn't caught on yet here in Michigan. It is really a very simple rule. If the server, serves the ball while the receiver has indicated he is not ready to receive the ball, it is a fault serve. Simple as that. In a future article, I will try to get the exact verbiage. See you on the courts.

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Women's Only tourney successful

A one day tournament...for Women Only...what is this? "This" was a lot of competitive racquetball and a great deal of fun for the 25 women playing at the fabulous Michigan Athletic Club in Grand Rapids on November 20.

"This" was a RAM special event to encourage more women to compete in tournaments. And this small beginning was a successful first step for women's racquetball in Michigan.

Tournament director Laura Patterson, with the backing of sponsors J & M services and E-Force, provided a fun and supportive atmosphere for everyone to compete. The eight first-time tournament players all said they had a great time, and most took the opportunity to learn more about the game.

The tournament format was a round robin and every competitor played at least three matches, while some played as many as five. In the Novice Division, first time competitors Pam Wobma and Elizabeth Mast took home trophies. Veteran player Nancy Cole defeated first-timer Brenda

Wallace in the playoff for the C Division title. Beth McRae and Natalie Lowell took the honors in B, while Diane Pearson battered Judy Rosenburg on points for the A title. In the Open division, Anthnita Dicker-

son dominated the flight, while Kathy Beck took home her first money for a second place finish.

Thanks to all for supporting the event. Look for our next event in the Flint area in February.

Women's Side-out

by Marta Rubcich

Commitment. Personal commitment is critical to the success of most programs. The 'program' doesn't matter. It can be a community play, a relationship, a racquetball tournament. No program will be successful unless someone commits themselves to it. Individuals must feel responsible for and proud of the programs they are involved in before they will commit themselves to the program. In business, we call this commitment taking 'ownership' of for the program.

The first Women's Only tournament on November 20 was successful for one reason: Laura Patterson committed herself to the tournament. In spite of the other demands on her time, Laura put forth the effort needed to run a successful tournament. Laura, thank you for committing yourself to the success of women's racquetball in Michigan. Your efforts made our first step a positive move forward.

Side-Out.

1993-94 RAM

WOMEN'S OPEN

1. Laura Patterson	130
2. Lin Showerman	100
3. Marta Rubcich	80
4. Val Springer	50
Anthnita Dickerson	50
6. Paula Saad	40
Janet Insko	40
Kathy Beck	40
9. Pam Parkhurst	25
10. Four tied at	20

WOMEN'S A

1. Dawn Cumberworth	100
Diane Pearson	100
3. Denise Knoll	65
4. Judy Rosenberg	55
5. Kathie Trotter	50
Janet Insko	50
Carol Hoss	50
Christine Todd	50
9. Stacey Barbas	35
10. Karen Green	30
Kathy Beck	30

WOMEN'S 35A

1. Val Springer	100
2. Beth Gutowski	80
3. Laura Patterson	50
4. Cindy Seiders	30
5. Bonnie Kowalski	25
6. Pam Parkhurst	20
Lesley Kishigian	20
Paula Saad	20
Melody Gorno	20

WOMEN'S 40A

1. Janet Insko	115
2. Betty Ann Gilliland	50
Lesley Kishigian	50
4. Denise Gravelyn	35
5. Sharon Huczek	30
Faye Cobb	30

Carol Marshall	30
8. Laura Patterson	25
9. Ann Jahn	20
Lois Hamel	20

WOMEN'S 45+

1. Betty Ann Gilliland	15
2. Faye Cobb	10
Sharon Cole	10
Julie May	10

JUNIORS 14 & Under

1. Jack Huczek	100
2. Andy Mead	50
3. Chris Emerson	30
Brian Reou	30
5. Eric Hoshield	20

JUNIORS 8 & Under

1. Jerry Patterson	100
2. Ian Emerson	50
3. Kalicia Gentry	30
Nicole Steketee	30

MEN'S OPEN

1. Joel Bonnett	150
2. Nick Rallis	125
3. Ryan Covell	60
4. Jim Hamilton	50
5. Jess Graves	40
6. Mike Anderson	30
Johnny Northern	30
Scott Hale	30
9. Jai Shekewat	20
Scott Worthly	20

MEN'S A

1. Tony Barra	100
2. Pat Burdick	50
Curt Ferrell	50
Larry Panetta	50
Scott Sargent	50

6. Bill Dion	30
Jay Liggins	30
8. Jim Santino	25
Dennis Barrow	25
Mark Ohs	25

MEN'S B

1. Hank Ferry	100
2. Glen Downie	80
3. Scot Reneaud	50
Don Stadnika	50
Scott Sellars	50
Len Kleparek	50
Ray Emerson	50
Kirk Raiche	50
9. Alex Cobb	40
10. Harold Rosenberg	30
Mark Novak	30

MEN'S C

1. Kevin Sorenson	100
2. Bob Reou	50
Shane McKibben	50
Ron Harris	50
Dave Miller	50
Don Hendee	50
Rob Moesta	50
8. Jack Huczek	40
9. George Cook	30
Dennis Dinaver	30

MEN'S D

1. Jim Wink	100
2. Greg Cotton	65
3. Jack Huczek	50
Chris Adams	50
Pete Harvey	50
Mark Rushbrook	50
Blaine Armstrong	50
8. Jim Guest	30
Bill McGrail	30
10. Four tied at	25

Player Rankings

MEN'S 30A

1	Johnny Northern	100
2	Mike Anderson	50
	Clee Melvin	50
4	David Paskan	30
	Greg Hodges	30
6	Chris Kelly	25
7	Dean McCarrick	15
	Scott Sellers	15

MEN'S 30B

1	Jay Liggins	100
2	Luke Gunn	50
3	Michel Khuri	30
	Jordan Tenjevas	30

MEN'S 35A

1	Scott Worthy	100
2	Dan Werner	50
	Clee Melvin	50
	Eddie Carr	50
5	Curt Ferrell	30
	Jack White	30
7	Bobby Keith	25
8	Ben Stanley	15
	Bill Hagendorn	15
10	Four tied at	10

MEN'S 35B

1	Ron Bonds	100
2	Don Stadnika	55
3	Al Klann	50
4	Roland Leal	30
5	Kirk Raiche	20
	Brian Ferlecki	20
	Jerel Jones	20
	Jim Davidson	20
9	Chuck VanHoose	15
	Bob Wheelock	15

MEN'S 40A

1	Ray Vanover	150
2	Stu Hastings	100
3	Doug Toth	80

4	Jim Panasiewicz	65
5	Jim Santino	45
	John Gervasi	45
7	Gordon Kelly	40
	Bob Gravelyn	40
9	Ron Morse	30
10	Ron Liikala	25

MEN'S 40B

1	Jerel Jones	100
2	Terry Lawlor	50
3	Rip Steketee	30
	Mike Young	30
5	Al Mell	20
	Jerry Eldred	20
	John Coaker	20

MEN'S 45A

1	Tom Brownlee	100
	Bob Gravelyn	100
3	Ron Morse	55
4	Ed Barter	30
	Marty Mangino	30
6	Mike Young	20
	Ed Taylor	20
8	Ken Bonnett	10
	George Goudie	10
	Roy Theis	10
	Ron Slavik	10

MEN'S 45B

1	Art Murphy	100
2	Sixto Calvo	50
3	Ron Slavik	30
	Danny Sutton	30

MEN'S 50A

1	Ed Taylor	100
2	Art Murphy	85
3	Leonard Ciokajlo	75
4	Rick Rupp	65
5	Dennis Drury	60
6	Milo Karhu	50
7	Hank Gates	40
8	Gary Phipps	30
	George Stec	30
10	Two tied at	25

MEN'S 50B

1	Vince Callahan	100
2	Phil Burney	50
3	Sixto Calvo	30
	Ed Revesz	30
5	Bill Santoro	20
	Walter Biesterfeldt	20
	Rick Rupp	20
	Larry Lada	20

MEN'S 55A

1	Hank Gates	105
2	Ron Puddock	100
3	Frank Dascenza	70
4	Jess Madden	50
	Paul Becker	50
6	Oscar Olico	30
7	Bill Filiatreau	20
	David Lund	20

MEN'S 60+

1	Lynn Hahn	150
2	Bob McClelland	100
3	Chuck Kaiser	55
4	Stan Kurzman	45
5	Bob Finkleman	25
6	Bruce Stevens	20
7	Gerry Leone	15

MEN'S 65+

1	Richard Caretti	100
2	JD Driver	50
3	Bob Finkleman	30
	Gerry Leone	30
5	Gary DeFrayne	20

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Referee Certification offered

by Jim Easterling

There will be a rules/referee clinic and certification examination at the Oak Park YMCA in Lansing, Michigan. The clinic/exam will be Saturday, February 19, 1994 and will start at 9:00 am and end about 2:30 pm. This includes the clinic and exam, plus a lunch break.

If you have some questions about the rules or would like to know how to referee better, consider attending this event. Also all current Level 1 and 2 referees must retake the test to retain their certification and this is a good

The AARA has devised new tests for all Level 1 and Level 2 certified referees. These new tests must be taken and passed to retain your certified status. All previously certified Level 1 and 2 referees in Michigan expired as of January 1, 1994.

If anyone is interested in keeping or obtaining certification please contact Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459 or write to Referee Certification, 321 Village, Lansing, MI 48911.

Listed are the names of those people whose certification expired as of

January 1, 1994: Allan, Arlene;
Kummler, Jeff; Bonnett, Joel; Kummler, Ralph; Bonnett, Ken; Lawlor, Terry; Deck, Bill; Luzano, Howard; Fecher, Julien; Magnoli, Mike; Fecher, Lou Ellen May, Albert; Finkelman, Robert; Melvin, CC; Flow-

ers, Brian; Rallis, Nick Gravelyn, Robert; Ross, Raymond; Gray, Jerry; Saad, Paula; Hahn, Lynn; Skinner, James; Hamilton, Jim; Slavik, JR; Hastings, Joetta; Troszak, Tracey; Hastings, Stu; Tucker, Gerald; Hotra, Mike; White, Jack; Johnston, Mike.

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1993 Seniors/Masters Completed

The Mid West Seniors Masters Racquetball Series had its Michigan stop on November 12-14, 1993 at the Davison Racquet and Fitness Center in Davison, Michigan. The Mid West Seniors Masters Racquetball Series hosts tournaments in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin and Minnesota and is for players 35 and older. Michigan's tournament was the fifth annual event and is one of only two AARA Level 3 tournaments in the state.

This year's tournament drew players from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin and featured play for Men in the 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60 age brackets and play for Women in the 35, 40 and 45 age brackets. Many of the age brackets were not decided until the last round of play on Sunday. As with all Series tournaments, this event featured round robin play with players playing anywhere from five to nine matches throughout the weekend.

Our hats are off to Chuck Kaiser of Michigan and Reta Haring from Wisconsin as the oldest man and woman in the tournament. Chuck finished second in the Men's 60 and Reta finished eighth in the Women's 45 playing women more than 20

years younger.

The tournament was highlighted by a banquet Saturday evening and a fundraiser for the US National Racquetball Team. A total of \$626.00 was raised in the support of the team and there were tremendous bargains on racquets, gloves, eyeguards as well as Olympic and National Team clothing. Mike Arnolt of Indiana again donated his time and expertise as auctioneer. The banquet featured the famous Davison Country Club buffet of ham, beef and chicken and there was ample food and fun for all.

We would like to thank the Davison Racquet and Fitness Center, the Davison Country Club and Penn Athletic Products for their sponsorship of this event. Below is a list of winners from the tournament:

Men's 35

- 1st Cleo Melvin
Kentwood, MI
- 2nd Keith Tidd
Sylvania, OH

Men's 40

- 1st Doug Toth
Mt. Clemens, MI
- 2nd John Gervasi
Trenton, MI

Men's 45

- 1st Bob Gravelyn
Grand Rapids, MI
- 2nd Ron Morse

Bancroft, MI

Men's 50

- 1st Ray Huss
West Carrollton, OH
- 2nd Gordon Kelly
Belmont, MI

Men's 55

- 1st Lynn Hahn
Whitehall, MI
- 2nd Paul Becker
North Muskegon, MI

Women's 35

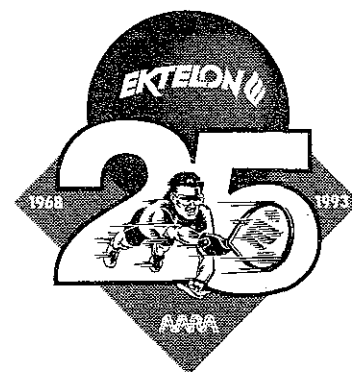
- 1st Beth Gutowski
Grand Blanc, MI
- 2nd Bonnie Kowalski
Cleveland, OH

Women's 40

- 1st Leslie Kishigan
Allen Park, MI
- 2nd Laura Patterson
Kentwood, MI

Women's 45

- 1st Shelly Ogden
Cincinnati, OH
- 2nd Judy Sands
Monkeng, IL





Women's 35



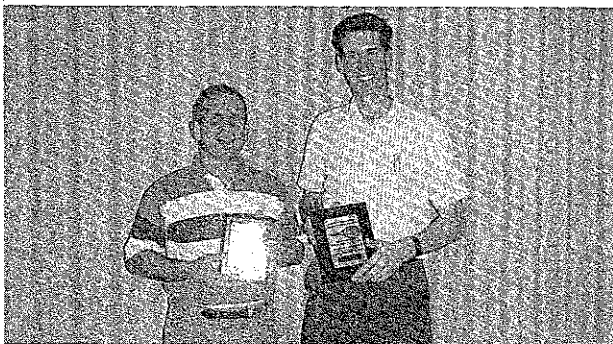
Women's 40



Women's 45



Men's 35



Men's 40



Men's 45



Men's 50



Men's 55/60

1993 RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONS

WOMEN'S OPEN

Paula Saad/Stacey Barbas

MEN'S OPEN

Jlm Hamilton/Nick Rallis

WOMEN'S A

Sandy White/Claire Kruse

MEN'S A

Tony Barra/Scott Sargent

MEN'S B

David Erdman/Ron Papke

MEN'S C/D

Bill Lott/David Starr

MEN'S 25/30/35 A

Dan Dutcher/Jess Graves

MEN'S 35/45/50 B

Kent Kiley/Lew Gorbach

MEN'S 40/45 A

Ken Bonnett/Bob Gravelyn

MIXED OPEN

Stu Hastings/Kaye Hastings

MIXED A

Bill Marshall/Carol Marshall

MIXED B/C

Ron Papke/Sue Papke

Tips from Tom...

by W. T. Blakeslee

The most important shot in the rally is your first shot! Recently, I have been playing racquetball with Dave Larry, formerly of Memphis State and captain of their team. We have concluded that the most important shot in the game is your first shot. Therefore, if you are serving, your most important though is a good serve, i.e., get the first serve in, keep the ball of the backwall on the serve, this is your opportunity to set the tone for the rally defensive or offensive. What separates the good players from the rest of the pack is their ability to think about the serve. Just don't stand up their and hit it. Think!

Conversely, if you are the receiver your most important shot is the return of serve. Avoid pass shots of the backwall, front court

pinches when you position is in the back court, the old unpopular ceiling ball may be your best choice. Leonard Karpelus would say hit your best percentage return, "you would put your money in the bank with the highest interest rate wouldn't you?" On the service return, the important thing is to execute and not make a mistake.

In summary, we can get back to one of my former articles, entitled Blakeslee's Rules. You can check me on this, but here is a reminder: Rule #1: Get your first serve in. Rule #2: Keep your serve off the backwall. Rule #3: Return the serve. Rule #4: Concentrate on the not making a mental mistake.

Finally, the corollary, in golf, drive for show and putt for gold, in racquetball, I would say serve for the gold.

The Racquetball Reporter

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