

# Racquetball Reporter

Second Quarter 2000

Volume X, Issue 2

## RAM Honors Hall of Fame Inductees

*By Jim Easterling*

On Saturday evening March 25, 2000 the Racquetball Association of Michigan hosted a banquet for the new Racquetball Hall of Fame inductees.

The banquet was held in conjunction with the State Singles Championships at the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing. The induction of new people into the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame has been a long time coming (the last inductee to the Hall of Fame occurred in 1993). As some of you may remember, two years ago four people nominated, but none were inducted. Recently, a seven-member committee was formed and modified the guidelines for Hall of Fame inductees. This year, the results speak for themselves.

The Athletic Club Restaurant,



*Above, Richard Caretti, Mike Yellen, Johnny Northern and Ronald Pudduck celebrate their induction into the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame.*

which is inside the MAC Club, hosted the banquet in first-class fashion, right down to the decorations. As Master of Ceremonies, I had planned to begin the presentations at 8:45 p.m., however, since there was a television set in the room, all eyes were on the MSU quarterfinal basketball game rather than me. I soon realized that my chances of captivating the audience were

slim to none, so I went up to one of the inductees and suggested that I would start the presentations a little bit later because of the game. He heartily agreed and politely told me if I touched the TV set that he would break my arm. I knew then that I was had! So, I just twiddled my thumbs and said a silent prayer

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# View of the President

by W.T. Blakeslee

The most exciting thing we have going now is our new website, [www.michiganracquetball.org](http://www.michiganracquetball.org), developed, written and implemented by Kevin Thomas. Kevin has done a fantastic job on this, devoting his personal time to be our webmaster and system architect. Please thank him by sending him e-mail. This site links to all Board members and to the USRA. This is a really neat thing for Michigan racquetball.

Lots of other good things are happening with Michigan Racquetball even though most of you are trying to enjoy the weather and take some time with other things. First, our RAM membership is over 400 for the first time in several years. Remember the USRA has a drive for 20,000 in 2000 and our state goal was 400. I would like to thank all of you for sustaining our membership which helped us get there. Special thanks to all that took advantage of our "play the second event for free" by renewing your membership at the State Singles and Doubles events. You can continue to help by convincing your opponents (on the court only) to sign up for a USRA membership.

The State Singles was a very nice tournament at the Lansing MAC. We had hoped more people would have played, but it was an exciting event at one of the nicest clubs in our state. Special thanks to Pete Ruhala for making it possible to have it there. Let another Board member, or me know if you think we should go back next year. More on that in this newsletter by an article by Twayne Howard (who has expressed an interest in becoming part of our association).

The Hall of Fame banquet on Saturday night was a special event with Dick Caretti, Ron Pudduck, Mike Yellen and Johnny Northern being recognized for their appointment to the Hall of Fame. Special thanks to Jim Easterling, and the Hall of Fame Committee for organizing this event. The banquet couldn't start until Michigan State won their quarterfinal match against Iowa State. It was an interesting event that had some special moments with Jim Easterling as host.

On the national perspective, racquetball membership is up for the first time in several years on a significant basis. Seems there are more recreational players. Jim Hiser would like to have a Women's Pro Stop in

*Continued on page three*

## Racquetball Association of Michigan

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*The Racquetball Reporter*  
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## Michigan Racquetball Surfs the Web

The Racquetball Association of Michigan established a presence on the Internet in late March with the launching of a web site dedicated to racquetball, [www.michiganracquetball.org](http://www.michiganracquetball.org). The Board of Directors had been considering a web site for several months and was delighted when Kevin Thomas offered to volunteer his time as webmaster.

Kevin has previous experience with web design as co-founder of the Florida Racquetball Association web page in 1996. The site is being hosted by ARQ Internet Service in East Lansing.

The mission of this web site is to provide racquetball-related information and RAM membership opportunities to all racquetball players in the state of Michigan. The intent is to make this site a source of useful information for players, club managers, tournament directors, and anyone else with an interest in the sport of racquetball. Check the site for the latest information regarding racquetball tournament entries and results, state rankings, newsletter highlights, Hall of Fame activities, and a variety of other great stuff! You also can find out how to reach the Board of Directors or join the Racquetball Association of Michigan. Please provide feed-

back to any of the Board members regarding current site content or ideas for additional information.

The web site hopefully will be a fantastic source of information for sanctioned tournaments, with services including entry forms, starting times, maps and directions to tournament clubs, photos, results, and other pertinent information. Other potential content could include training tips, instruction, proper nutrition for racquetball — the possibilities are abundant! The success of the web site will be limited only by the level of par-

ticipation by the tournament directors and other Michigan racquetball players and by the volunteer time available to maintain the web site.

Please help promote this site by printing the promotional page([www.michiganracquetball.org/announce.htm](http://www.michiganracquetball.org/announce.htm)) and posting it at your local club.

On a final note, thanks to Matt Bohan for his voluntary professional help with the graphic images! Matt volunteered approximately 6 hours to create the main banner, ball, and button images.

Be sure to check it out!

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## President's View continued...

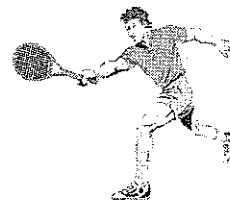
*Continued from page two*

Michigan and I think he will spend some time promoting the Women's side of racquetball now, as over the past few years it has generally been on the decline. Juniors in our state seems to be growing. The group from West Michigan has done an excellent job with some youngsters. Since Ken Bonnett stopped promoting Racquetball One, a new group has formed and are doing a lot of good things on the west side of the state.

Finally, I am working on next

year's calendar and schedule so please contact me with ideas, thoughts, tournament dates. Remember, you can now contact me via our website link. Felicia Mann and her associates do a great job of organizing summer tournaments on Belle Aisle, come down and play! Have a nice summer!

See you on the outdoor cement courts!



# RAM State Singles Crowns Champions

by Twayne Howard

The beautiful Michigan Athletic Club in Lansing played host to RAM State Singles Championships on March 25-26

Over 120 competitors took to the courts to vie for the right to be called State Champion. Each competitor received a high-quality embroidered golf shirt, and was treated to a fabulous lasagna lunch on Saturday.

As usual the tournament staff led by RAM President Tom Blakeslee and Lou Ellen Fecher kept things on time and in control all weekend (Tom's daughter Courtney proved invaluable filling in throughout the tournament also)

Highlights are as follows:

## *Women's Divisions*

Melody Gorno was crowned Women's Open Division Champion after defeating Carol Huber in the Finals. Melody was able to get by top-seeded Paula Saad in the semis, thanks in part to husband Mark's pre-match pep talk. Melody has never shot the ball better than she did this weekend and clearly was the best Woman in the tournament.

Beth Feiertag defeated Glenda Rankin in the Women's C/D Fi-

nals. Paula Saad was able to bounce back from her early loss in the Women's Open to defeat a tough Felicia Mann for the Women's 35+ Championship. Felicia spent a lot of energy in the see-saw first game only to come up short. After that she couldn't hang on in the second. As always, Felicia seemed to get to everything, but Paula just kept shooting. A great battle by these two fierce competitors.

Karen Green took home the 40+ Championship. Jan Insko shot her way past Leslie Kishigian in the finals of the Women's 45/50+ Division. Jan has played some great racquetball in recent weeks and shot her way to a hard-fought victory here. In a combined division, Sharon Huczek won the 50+ Championship.

## *Juniors*

Two divisions of Juniors got off to an early start Sunday morning with lots of round-robin play for all participants. Brandon Cortese earned his first Championship of the weekend by going undefeated through the Junior A Division. J.D. Brown finished second overall and was the top 14 & under player. Tony Connel finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and was the 2nd place finisher in 16 & under. Nic Cline

finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in 16 & under and Chris Harr finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 14 & under category.

The Junior B Division featured 8 competitors squaring off for overall, as well as age division Championships. Jermaine Brock took 1st place overall and in this bracket's 14 & under. Anthony Lagalo finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> in 12 & under. Adam Carlson finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and Second in 12 & under. Fourth overall was shared by Sam Goedker who finished 1<sup>st</sup> in 10 & under, and Michael Rodriguez who also finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in 14 & under. Adam Menser finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in 12 & under. Austin Menser finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in 10 & under, and Josh Goedker, the youngest participant in the tournament, was the 8 & under Champion.

## *Men's Division*

The biggest upset in the Men's Open Division came in the first round as Glenn Williams defeated Mike Anderson in a rematch from the West Michigan Open Finals. In Grand Rapids, Glenn pushed Mike, but in the end, couldn't handle the veteran. In Lansing, Mike was not on his game, and Glenn took full advantage.

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# Hall of Fame Welcomes Inductees

*Continued from page one*

not to let the game go into overtime. The game did end at 9:03 p.m. and I was at the podium speaking at 9:04 p.m. Things went great the rest of the evening.

Irene Ackerman-Chmura, a 1993 Hall of Fame Inductee, introduced the evenings first honoree, Richard J. Caretti from Grosse Pointe Park. Dick made a short speech and spoke about how honored and humbled he was to be inducted into the Hall of Fame and thanked those who helped him along the way.

Tom Brownlee, a 1985 Hall of Fame Inductee was on hand to introduce Johnny Northern of Detroit. Johnny spoke for awhile about how he was out of racquetball because of his bad back, and he thanked several people who helped him along the way to become a better player.

To introduce the third inductee, Ronald Pudduck of Dexter, was Hall of Famer Lynn Hahn (who was inducted the very first year of the Hall of Fame in 1984). Ron got up to the podium and joked that he would try and shorten his acceptance speech to two or three hours. Ron thanked his wife for putting up with all his many late nights and many hours of play-

ing racquetball. He also spoke about the battles that he and Lynn Hahn had over the many years at tournaments.

Dr. Fred Lewerenz, 1984 Hall of Fame Inductee, introduced Mike Yellen from West Bloomfield, our fourth and final Inductee of the night. Mike thanked many things and people for his racquetball career. He said that he was lucky as a kid to be working at the Southfield Athletic Club as a towel boy, and that his timing of learning the game, in the mid 70's, was just right. Mike thanked Leonard Karpeles for being his coach, Tom Brownlee for being his teacher, Fred Lewerenz for playing many hours with him and always being there for any kind of help that he needed along the way.

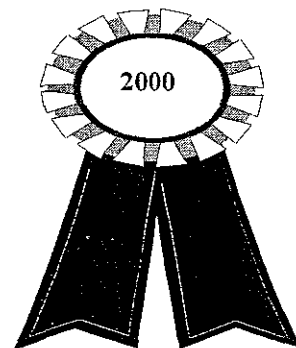
Tom Blakeslee, RAM President praised each Hall of Fame inductee, noting that he was just his luck that he was finally in shape, and had the ability to beat up on Johnny Northern on the court, but Johnny is not playing due to back problems. Tom also thanked the committee for doing such a fine job on the banquet and evening overall.

One thing that highlighted the evening for me occurred during check-in for the banquet. On hand was Bill "Radiation Man" Gottlieb, a 1993 Hall of Fame

Inductee. When Mike Yellen walked in and saw Bill he got down on his hands and knees and bowed over and touched the floor and said, "I can't believe the Radiation Man is here!" Now, if you think about it, here is Mike, a five-time national racquetball champion, a member of the National Hall of Fame, a person who Racquetball Magazine called "Player of the Century", and the only person ever offered a million dollar racquetball contract. He is on the floor bowing to someone with the nickname of "Radiation Man". Now that for me, made the evening memorable - if I live to be 102, I will never forget that scene.

Congratulations to all the inductees and thanks to all those who participated in the festivities. It was a magical night indeed!

*Congratulations  
to all!*



# Players shine at State Singles

*Continued from page four*

In the next round, Glenn faced Pete Ruhala who ended Glenn's brief charge. Jack Huczek cruised through his half of the draw and was waiting for Pete in the Finals. A lot has been written about Jack's massive talent. In my estimation, it all pales in comparison to actually seeing him play. Pete played well and Jack still held him under five points in each game. Time and time again Pete would hit a "perfect" winner, only to see Jack dig it out and keep it in play, often several times in the same rally. An amazing performance! The next time you have the opportunity, do not miss seeing Jack play. (We'll all be able to say we knew him when....)

Men's A Number 1 seed Jake Cardona capped off a strong tournament season by beating John Torres in the Men's A Finals. Congratulations Jake, now you get to play with the big boys. John collected the first of his two runner-up finishes. That will certainly keep him hungry for next year.

The Men's B Championship went to 17 year old Brandon Cortese. Brandon followed up his win in Grand Rapids by beating out Mike Sobczyk in the finals. Earlier, Brandon won the Junior A Division solidifying

himself as one to look out for in the next few years. Mike was the Men's C Champion in 1999 and has made great progress this year.

The Mens C Finals saw the fiercest action of the weekend. Harish Chopra defeated Dean Cline in the tiebreaker and their verbal battles drew quite a crowd. Harish's championship in his first full season of play speaks to his talent, and Dean gets the opportunity to stay in Cs one more year.

The Men's D Finals saw a rematch of the Juniors 16- Division Finals. J.D. Brown took out Nic Cline for the second time on Sunday in a tough match. Watch out for these two juniors in the years to come.

Glenn Williams came from way behind in the tiebreaker to wrestle the Men's 25+ Championship from his sparring partner Augie Pasko. Augie couldn't quite close out the pesky Glenn in some of the most exciting play of the weekend.

Kevin Thomas had to wade through a pile of Torres brothers on the way to the Men's 30 A Championship. No easy task. First Rich in the Semis, then John in the Finals. Okay, so there are only two of them, but Kevin said it felt like more. John was gracious enough to present the Championship plaque to Kevin himself. Josh

Peacock defeated a tough Kevin Harkness to capture the Men's 30+B Championship. In one of the more competitive divisions, there were no easy matches. A few different bounces one way of the other and several of these matches could have gone the other way. Not fully satisfied with his second place finish in Open, Pete Ruhala charged through the Men's 35A Division as if on a mission. Unfortunately, Steve Goedker was the last to stand in his way in the Finals. Excellent shot making was the name in this game, and Pete had a few more than Steve did.

Welcome to the Racquetball 101 Division; otherwise know as the Men's 40A Division. If you got to see any of these matches, you were treated to an excellent primer for textbook racquetball. Several of the best strategists in the tournament were in this division. Watching these players take command of a rally, move their opponent around the court, wait for the perfect opportunity, and then pounce was a thing of wonder. Mike Anderson ended up on top of this excellent division after a tough battle against Jack White.

Jim Woolcock edged out top seed Tom Blakeslee in the Finals of the Men's 45 A Division.

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# Huczek Wins High School Nationals

The action heated up on the final day of competition at the Wilson 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. National High School Championships at the Concord Athletic Club in St. Louis, MO. Adrienne Fisher (Ohio) and Jack Huczek (MI) captured the girls' and boys' singles titles, and earned an additional one-year appointment to the U.S. Junior National Team.

Jack Huczek added another year to his tenure on the U.S. Junior National Team by knocking off teammates Zack Miller (California) in the semifinals, 15-3, 15-6, and Mitch Williams (North Carolina) in the finals, 15-11, 15-1. Huczek dominated his way through the draw to the finals, allowing a total of only 15 points in his six matches leading up to the gold-medal round. Williams offered him his toughest challenge with his acrobatic dives and gets, but Huczek matched them in the

second game, and a tired Williams could not continue to hold on.

Huczek becomes the third player from the State of Michigan to win a singles title. Michigan is the only state to have multiple champions.

Freshman Fisher upset defending champion Kristen Walsh (Utah) in a tiebreaker gold-medal match. Many spectators had discounted Fisher after losing the first game 15-4, but she surprised them all, turning the tables and taking the second game 15-4. The two girls battled back and forth for the lead in the tiebreaker, and tied at 6-6 when Fisher began to pull ahead. With a 9-6 lead, Fisher was hit by Walsh's racquet on the side of her face. After taking an injury timeout, she returned to the court and rattled off two additional points to win the national high school title in her first attempt.

## State Singles Results continued...

*Continued from page six*

sion. The distractions of running the tournament may have gotten to Tom in this tight match.

In Men's 45 B Division as Art Murphy defeated John Coaker for the second consecutive weekend. In Grand Rapids they met in the Semis. This weekend it was the Finals, but the story remained the same. The irrepressible Art completely frustrated John on the way to the championship.

The shooter outgunned the strategist in the Men's 50 Open Division as top seeded James Santino defeated Tom Brownlee in the Finals. Jim was able to repeat as Champion by holding off the ever tough Tom Keith Vogel dispatched Norman Borden to win the Men's 50 B Division.

The Men's 55 Open Championship went to Mike Mychaskiw after defeating Doug Nordhouse in the Finals. The Men's 60, 65, and 70 Open Divisions were combined to provide additional play for these competitors. Charles Kaiser was crowned 65 Open Champion as the only entrant in the Division. J.D. Driver defeated Stan Kurzman in the 70 Open Finals to be crowned our most senior Champion. Ron Pudduck defeated local Dave Lund in the Finals to grab the 60 Open Championship.

**Check it out...**

**Michigan racquetball  
information is available online.**

**[www.michiganracquetball.org](http://www.michiganracquetball.org)**

# Michigan Represented at Regional

by Twayne M. Howard

A great time was had by all as over twenty Michiganders descended on the Hall of Fame Fitness Center in Canton, Ohio to compete in the Ektelon/USRA Regional Championships.

The big winner of the weekend was phenom Jack Huczek. Jack advanced to the Finals of the Men's Open Division to face top seed, and tournament director, Doug Ganim in a rematch of the 1999 Finals.

Last year's match went down to the wire with several controversial calls helping Ganim to the Championship. This, however, is another year and as we know, Jack has never played better. This year, Jack jumped out early and ran away with the match. Jack kept Ganim off-balance and gave him countless tours of the court in what turned out to be a very brief match. Jack clearly had Ganim frustrated as he had few opportunities to showcase his power and shot making. Every time Ganim did shoot the ball, Jack was there to retrieve it and throw it harmlessly to the ceiling, or re-kill the ball.

Laura and Don King comprised the only Father-Daughter pair of the weekend. Laura was the big winner capturing the Women's A Championship in a

tough tiebreaker. Don finished Second in the 65+ Division. Not bad for a guy with a brand new hip.

Brandon Cortese continued to roll through the competition to capture the Men's B Championship. Brandon's biggest win to date came as no surprise to anyone who has seen him play in recent months and was a great follow-up to his win at States. This was certainly a weekend he won't soon forget, thanks in part to the attention that was "showered" on him by his cheering section.

The only Father-Son pair of the weekend was Dale and J.D. Brown. Dale overcame some fierce competition to win the 50+ B/C Division. J.D. injured his knee after sliding into a wall lunging for a ball. He could not hold off his competitor in this match, and it proved to be his only loss. He had to play a match later to clinch Second in the 14 & Division. A pretty good weekend for the Brown Boys.

Hard hitting Randy Pagels shot his way to the 19+ B/C Championship and the B Semis.

Glenn "The Mosquito" Williams continued his torrid play and finished Second in Men's A. Glenn played tiebreakers all weekend, and still had enough to push a very tough competitor to 10-10 in the Finals. It took

an all for nothing shoulder-high, dead-in-the-corner, flat rollout into the left front corner to beat him 11-10. Glenn also finished Second in the 25+ Division. Another fantastic weekend by "The Glenner".

Felicia Mann finished Second in the Women's A Division. Although unhappy with her play, Felicia still managed to medal in a very tough division.

Andre Roy earned medals in two of the three divisions he played in. Andre finished Second in the 19+B/C Division, and won the C Consolation Division. Lesley Kishigian finished Second in the very competitive Women's 45+ Division. State Champion Harish Chopra finished second in the Men's C Division.

Thanks to the many other Michiganders who made the trip just to support the players.

Way to go!



# West Michigan Tourney Successful

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual West Michigan Open was held March 17-18, 2000 at the Michigan Athletic Club in Grand Rapids.

Friday night started with fourteen juniors taking to the courts. Quite a crowd came out to watch the next generation of players show their stuff. Let me just say, the future looks bright.

The juniors were split into two divisions. The competition was fierce, but fun as J.D. Brown edged out rival Graham Howard in the 14 & Division. The 12 & Division went to Scott Lyons as he held off Germaine Brock. Trophies went to each finalist. Each junior received a bandana donated by E-Force, a trophy, and a tournament shirt.

Saturday morning kicked off early as the MAC welcomed players from all over the state. Participants received a high-quality embroidered golf shirt that will be all the rage this season.

Mike Anderson was the big winner in the Open/A Division. The best match of the day may have been Mike's early-round challenge from Chuck White. Mike survived 15-14, 15-13, holding off a determined Chuck who looked in fine form after several years away from the tournament circuit. (Imagine if our local law enforcement officer hadn't had to work all St. Patrick's Day the night before). Mike's next opponent was

youngster Brandon Cortese who had unceremoniously dumped long-time rival Shannon Kohl in the quarters. This victory is further evidence of Brandon's impressive progress this season. Unfortunately for Brandon, he didn't quite have enough for Mike and was ushered out of the tournament by the crafty veteran.

The bottom half of the draw was no cake-walk for Finalist Glenn Williams as he drew Dale "Flying" Flaska in the quarters. As difficult to beat as ever, the lefty pushed Glenn right to the finish. Hard-hitting Craig Dennings was next in the semis. Glenn had his sights set on Anderson, and would not be denied. As they say, "be careful what you ask for..." Glenn met Mike in the Finals. Glenn Williams was pleased with his overall play but he simply did not have enough for Mike, who clearly could not be stopped this day.

If Brandon Cortese was unsatisfied with his finish in the Open/A Division, he must have been thrilled by capturing his first B Division Crown. After defeating "newcomer" Glenn Harr, Brandon beat Art Murphy in the finals. Art had earlier defeated John Coaker in the semis.

Kris Devarasetty's steady play defeated Tony Connell in the C Division Finals. In another example of experience besting

youth, Tony's speed and power could not contain Kris's excellent shot-making ability. As the youngest player in Saturday's draw, he acquitted himself quite well, and will certainly be a threat.

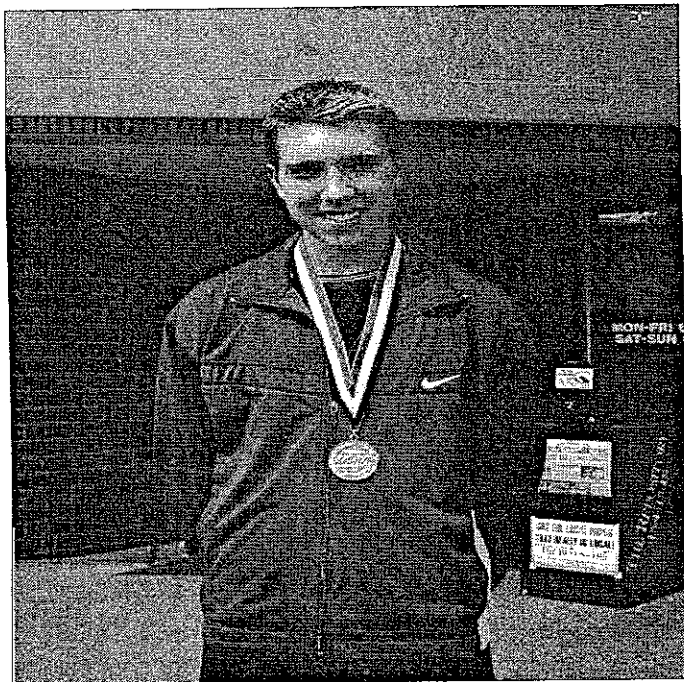
Semi-finalist Don Sepanski worked all night as a firefighter and then drove from Detroit to play in the tournament. Unfortunately, Tony proved too much for him in the semis.

Roger Kamps, called out by name for this tournament, was one of our iron men playing in three divisions on Saturday. Fortunately, he and his partner still had Doubles to look forward to as Roger fell to Kris in the Semis. Gordon Gallagher came back from a long layoff to capture the 25+ Open Division by beating Craig Dennings in the Finals. After seeing him Saturday, I'm not sure I'd want to know how Gordon played "in his prime". Nonetheless, we hope to see more of him in the future. Gordon defeated Glenn Williams and Scott Glass fell to Craig semis.

George Goudi won the 50+ Open Division by beating Art Murphy in the Finals. George was as steady as ever and gave Art all he could handle. The irrepressible Art was one of the big winners on the day. He placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in two divisions, and won the biggest door prize. Art walked

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# Huczek Enjoys Winning Season



*At left, Jack Huczek proudly wears one of his many medals earned this past season.*

*Please note A detailed article about Jack's bronze medal finish at the Houston Nationals will be in the next issue of the Racquetball Reporter Chris Cole will be working on the story and plans to interview many people involved in Jack's career.*

*Congratulations Jack!*

*by Sharon Huczek*

Sweet Sixteen was a sweet year to remember for Jack Huczek as the 1999-2000 season held numerous victories.

Jack won seven adult open championships as well capturing first at the U.S. Open, Junior Worlds, States, Regionals and High School Nationals.

The Promus U.S. Open was held in Memphis, Tennessee from December 1-5, 1999. In Men's Open, Jack defeated Chris Crowler from California, 15-7, 15-12. Jack also captured the 24 & Under title.

The Pro Kennex World Junior Championships was held in

Fountain Valley, California from December 18-22. There were 294 junior athletes representing eight countries competing in 20 different divisions. Jack topped Bart Crawford of Oregon, 15-6, 15-8 in Boys 16 & Under, and he and Bart teamed to win the Boys 16 & Under doubles event.

Jack received the honor as being selected as the U.S. Olympic Committee's Male Athlete of the Month in December — the first time a racquetball player has been chosen for this honor.

The Wilson 13th U.S. High School Nationals were held in

St. Louis, Missouri on March 4-6 with 133 participants. Jack defeated Mitch Williams from North Carolina, 15-1, 15-11. This win extends Jack's appointment to the U.S. Junior National Team for another year.

Capping of the 1999-2000 season was the National Singles Championships held in Houston, Texas, May 24-29, 2000. Jack won the bronze medal in the Men's Open division. With this win he received a spot on the national team, making him the youngest player ever to be named to the senior team. Jack lost in the semifinals to Rocky Carson of California who went on to win the title.

## West Michigan Tourney Results continued...

away with a \$350 computer keyboard tray donated by Knape & Vogt. In the semis, George defeated Dick Tedford, and Art took out Bill Malcolm.

After the singles and consolation, it was time for doubles. There were as many laughs as rollouts during these matches as a great time was had by all. The only exception was in the Men Open championships where John Coaker and Chuck White put on their best game faces as they steam-rolled an ad hoc partnership of Glenn Williams and Iwayne Howard. Glenn and Iwayne were all smiles, but Chuck and John were all rollout. 15-2, 15-2. Nice job. Ouch!

Another last-minute pairing fared much better in the Mixed Doubles. Mike Mohr, Dean's partner for Mens B had to retire after his last singles match due to a bad back. We hope Mike has a speedy return to the courts. Lucky for Dean, Paula Saad was still looking for a partner. Apparently it was a good decision as they held off Jan Insko and Roger Kamps in the finals.

The only Father/Daughter combo of the weekend featured Mike Anderson with newcomer, Lindsey Anderson. They put up a brave fight but were not enough for Jan and Roger.

In the Men's B Doubles, Detroiters Mike Semanco and Don Demetrakeas took on the only Father/Son doubles team. Locals Bill and Mike Malcolm couldn't fend off the invaders from the East as they fell in the Finals.

For many reasons, the biggest winner of the weekend had to be racquetball itself. Tournament Directors Dale Brown, Dean Cline, John Coaker, Iwayne Howard, and Paula Spagnuolo took up the challenge issued by Luke St. Onge, USRA Executive Director to increase USRA membership in Michigan. The West Michigan Open welcomed seventeen new and returning members to the USRA. This is the biggest one-tournament new membership signup in Michigan this year.

This was truly a first-class event with lots of great play, great shirts, beautiful trophies and over \$1,500 in door prizes and raffles donated by Knape & Vogt, E-Force, ProKennex, Ek-telon, The Tennis Racquet, Mike Anderson, Jim Hamilton, Mike Stephens, and A Balanced Life.

Congratulations to the winners. Welcome to all of our new members. We hope that you find it as rewarding as we have. Thanks to the MAC and sponsors for their generosity.

## Apology

*I would like to apologize for the bad sportsmanship that I displayed during the finals of the C division at the State Championships (March 24-26, 2000).*

*My emotions got the worst of me and I regret that my peers and younger players witnessed it. I feel this is a gentleman's sport and should always remain so despite differences of opinion.*

*I have been involved with racquetball for over 20 years and I have always tried to give the benefit of the doubt to my opponent.*

*From this, I have grown and will strive to practice excellent sportsmanship in the future. I am very sorry!*

*Sincerely,*

*Dean Cline*

# Racquetball Reporter

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Davison, MI 48423

## JOIN THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

*Membership includes:*

- \*Membership card, USRA official rule book, travel and equipment discounts*
- \*USRA medical, life and liability insurance at sanctioned events*
- \*Four issues of the RAM newsletter, The Racquetball Reporter*
- \*Six issues of the USRA national publication, Racquetball Magazine*
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