

Racquetball Reporter

March 1998

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Russells capture national doubles title

Joann Russell, age 69, and husband Duane, 71, paired up at the 1997 United States Racquetball Association (USRA) Doubles Championships and captured gold in the Mixed 65+ division.

Duane, is a veteran player of 41 years, while Joann just began playing last summer in their hometown of Lansing. The couple comprised the only team in the 65+ division and had to "play down" into a three-team 60+ division on a round-robin format where they captured the bronze medal.

Duane topped off the championship weekend by also taking the bronze medal along with his partner, Marvin Schinagle of Cleveland, Ohio in the Men's 70+ division.

The event celebrated its 30th anniversary and was co-sponsored by Ektelon and ProPENN.

Information submitted by Ada Kinscherff



Above, Joann and Duane Russell show off their medals earned at the 1997 Ektelon/USRA 30th National Doubles Championships held in Phoenix, Arizona

WE NEED YOU!

The United States Junior Racquetball team will be traveling to Ireland in August 1998. The team is seeking corporate and private donations.

If you wish to make a donation or are interested in more information, please contact Sharon Huczek at (248) 373-5255.

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View of the President

by W.T. Blakeslee

As I write this note, I am probably more excited about racquetball that I have been in a long time. Hopefully, most of you were able to see the U.S. Open on ESPN 2 on February 12, 1998. It was quite a show. Most agree that the only way for our sport to grow is to get more television coverage. I give Doug Ganim a lot of credit for spearheading the quest for more media coverage.

In Michigan, this year has started out great with some exciting tournaments. Ken Bonnett's One on One Series had some good draws at the January tournament at the Jewish Community Center and also in February at the Grand Rapids MAC. The Player's Club event in Warren also saw some stiff competition.

The re-opening of the Total Sports Athletic Club in Mt. Clemens drew over 130 participants. It reminded me of old-time racquetball as play ran from Friday night right through Sunday at 6:00 p.m. Augie, Bob and Dianna invited the Canadians to participate and it turned out to be the biggest non-championship event in Michigan in the last few years.

In January, I was also busy with the yearly Leadership Conference, entitled this year as "The Business of Racquetball." Also, representing Michigan

were Jim Easterling (Refereeing) and Ron Pudduck (National Masters). Ron was still sky high over the University of Michigan Rose Bowl win and spent several minutes during his presentation showing his true maize and blue colors.

Racquetball in Michigan continues to struggle. We were able to contribute \$1,000, along with several other states, to the glass court used at the U.S. Open. During 1997, we sanctioned 11 tournaments and were 100% compliant. About half of the other states have more tournaments than Michigan. A struggle is alive at the national level as well. USRA membership is currently 19,469. In 1992, the membership was almost 30,000. There is a lot of work to do here and you can help by being sure to renew your USRA membership and encouraging others to do the same. RAM membership has been under 400 for a year now and I would like to reach 500 once again. We are in the bottom half of the states in total memberships.

Lastly, I challenge all the racquetball teams to play in the RAM State Singles Championships April 24-26 at the Davison Racquet and Fitness Complex. Let's see who has the best team: Ektelon, Head, E Force, Wilson or Kennex. Entries for the State Championships will be mailed out at the end of March. See you on the hardwood!

Racquetball Association of Michigan

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Junior's Committee
Jack Huczek
(810) 373-5255

Newsletter
The Racquetball Reporter
2834 Yale St.
Flint, MI 48503

USRA membership benefits

INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS

Competitive Member Benefits include:

- Competitive License Membership Card
- Six issues of *Racquetball Magazine*
- Secondary accident insurance
- Members receive sanctioned event entry forms
- National and regional rankings system
- Elite training camps offered by the USRA
- Instructor and referee certification

Secondary Accident Insurance

Each competitive license member is offered Secondary Accident Insurance when injured in a USRA sanctioned event. This insurance is secondary to any primary coverage that the injured party may already have in place.

CLUB BENEFITS

Why Sanction?

Quite simply, sanctioning your event through the United States Racquetball Association helps you provide your tournament entrants with the best competition in

the safest environment. It is one of the USRA's most important goals, and we've made it easy for your host site to do the same.

By sanctioning your event, you gain access to a target market of confirmed, dedicated athletes and enthusiasts who are committed to competitive racquetball. Our member base includes the full spectrum of players, from novice up-and-comers to elite U.S. Team and pro tour athletes — all made available to you through a series of local, state and national administrative support services.

Sanctioning protects your players and your club with two-part insurance coverage — secondary accident coverage for your entrants, and site liability coverage for your facility. USRA members are protected from excess medical expense in the event of injury at your event; and your tournament facility is protected from damage claims related to the event.

The USRA is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation designed to promote the development of competitive and recreational racquetball in the United States. The association is recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee as the official national governing body for the sport, and offers member institutions and individuals an opportunity to participate and contribute to the development and growth of the sport.

Benefits

Once an event is sanctioned, the USRA will aid in the marketing of your event by providing the tournament director with:

- Mailing labels of USRA members for your state
- Rulebooks, membership applications, tournament results, sample issues of *Racquetball Magazine* and other promotional materials
- Current USRA membership lists for your state
- Current USRA state rankings to assist in seeding, upon request

In addition, your properly sanctioned event will also receive:

- \$5,000,000 General Aggregate per event liability coverage
- Secondary accident insurance for all USRA members
- Advance promotion of your event in *Racquetball Magazine*
- Exclusivity of dates to host and event as set by state association

The Racquetball Association of Michigan encourages all players and tournament directors to participate with the USRA. For more information regarding tournament sanctioning, please contact Tom Blakeslee at (810) 468-2787.

Racquetball Quiz

by Jim Hiser

- 1 Which of the following players went directly from Junior racquetball to play at the professional level?
a) Sudsy Monchik c) Andy Roberts
b) Cliff Swain d) Bret Harnett
- 2 The first amateur racquetball association was called:
a) National Racquetball Association
b) American Amateur Racquetball Association
c) International Racquetball Association
d) National Paddle Racquets Association
- 3 Modern day professional racquetball has had 3 commissioners, name all three:
a) b) c)
- 4 The country that has had the greatest growth in racquetball participation over the past few years is:
a) U.S c) Mexico
b) Canada d) Japan
- 5 The U.S. Open is sanctioned, funded and elected by the:
a) IRT c) USRA
b) WRIT d) All of the above
- 6 Remaining in the server box until the ball passed the short line was most recently implemented because:
a) the server was jumping out of the service box to get a fault serve
b) to ensure the safety of the server
c) to limit the number of short hops by the receiver
- 7 The three foot service line was originated in:
a) Ohio c) Michigan
b) Florida d) California
- 8 The portable glass court has:
a) no ceiling
b) ceiling from the short line back
c) 10 foot backwall
d) Glass side and backwall
- 9 The advantage of a pendulum swing is:
a) has greater consistency
b) generates more power
c) less chance of injury
d) none of the above

Answers: 1) b 2) a 3) J Hiser, D Stoddard
H. Marcus 4) c 5) c 6) a 7) a 8) c 9) d

Hughes nominated for USRA Board of Directors

by Jack Hughes

I have been nominated to run for a position on the United States Racquetball Association Board of Directors. As a resident of the San Francisco Bay area, I have been committed to racquetball as a player, coach, administrator and retailer. If elected, I intend to work for programs designed for the grass roots amateur player.

Further information regarding my candidacy will appear in the Racquetball Magazine.

After reviewing my qualifications, I hope I can count on your support, as I look forward to serving your interests.

1997 RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

MEN'S OPEN

Nick Rallis/Jim Hamilton
def.
Jack Huczek/Greg Hodges

MEN'S A

Eddie Carr/Steven Gradwohl
def.
Ron Papke/Alex Cobb

MEN'S B

Mohammed Naveed/Jay Funkhoser
def.
Mark Niedzielski/Jim Burton

MEN'S 30+

Mike Anderson/Randy Anderson
def.
Tom Blakeslee/Jack White

MEN'S 30+ B

Rich Torres/Jim Thompson
def.
Bill Hagedorn/Arsalan Shauket

MEN'S 40+

Dan Verbeck/Jim Woolcock
def.
Tom Blakeslee/Jack White

MEN'S 45+

Tom Brownlee/Ron Slavik
def.
Rick Scott/Al Mell

WOMEN'S OPEN

Melody Gorno/Laura Patterson
def.
Stacey Barbas/Paula Saad

WOMEN'S A/B

Dacry Crampton/Terry Fields
def.
Jeanine Bessette/Jackie Simpson

MIXED OPEN

Paula Saad/Nick Rallis
def.
Jack Huczek/Sharon Huczek

MIXED A

Ron Papke/Kathie Trotter
def.
Felicia Mann/Ron Barton

MIXED B

Yuni Cobb/Reggie Lagarde
def.
Julie Bowling/Dave Kelynack

RAM 1998 State Singles Championships

April 25-26, 1998

*For more information:
Tom Blakeslee at (810) 468-2787*

1997 RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

MEN'S OPEN

1st Jim Floyd
2nd Nick Rallis
Semis Jack Huczek
Pete Ruhala

WOMEN'S OPEN

1st Lisa Ecker
2nd Laura Patterson
Semis Paula Saad
Leslie Kishigan

MEN'S A

1st Glen Williams
2nd John Gervasi
Semis Jason Bernerth
Ken Bonnett

WOMEN'S A/B

1st Kerry Bergum
2nd Terry Truilliam

MEN'S B

1st Van Conway
2nd Ron Papke
Semis John Trendell
Mohammed Naveed

MEN'S C/D

1st Twayne Howard
2nd Diego Pizzo
Semis Chris Pendell
Mike Huber

WOMEN'S C/D

1st Judy Porter
2nd Theresa Brady

WOMEN'S 30/35+

1st Paula Saad
2nd Melody Gorno
Semis Densie Knoll

WOMEN'S 40/45+

1st Laura Patterson
2nd Leslie Kishigan
Semis Ann Jahn

MEN'S 25+

1st Jack Huczek
2nd Jack White
Semis Lewis Forrest
Chris Kelly

MEN'S 30B

1st Ron Papke
2nd Randy Pagels
Semis Mohammed Naveed
Luke Gunn

MEN'S 35+

1st Pete Ruhala
2nd Jack White
Semis Lenny Chaltraw
Bobby Keith

MEN'S 35B

1st Jeff Reneaud
2nd Diego Pizzo
Semis Pat Brady

MEN'S 40+

1st Mark Casey
2nd Jim Woolcock
Semis Tom Blakeslee
Lewis Forrest

MEN'S 40B

1st Van Conway
2nd Ray Emerson
Semis Allan Mell

MEN'S 45A

1st Ric Scott
2nd Tom Blakeslee
Semis Kim Hude

MEN'S 45B

1st Art Murphy
2nd George Goudie
Semis Scott McConnelle

MEN'S 50A

1st Ed Barter
2nd Ken Bonnett

MEN'S 50B

1st Sixto Calvo
2nd Lee Cole
Semis Bob Bickle

MEN'S 55+

1st Art Murphy
2nd Dave Lepczyk
Semis Sixto Calvo

MEN'S 60+

1st Ron Pudduck
2nd Dave Lund

JUNIORS 14 & Over

1st Jack Huczek
2nd Buzz Suuppi
Semis Joe Budzynski

JUNIORS 12 & Under

1st Ian Emerson
2nd Bruno Gervasi
Semis Andrew Woolcock
Nick Minto

RAM apologizes for not including these results in the previous issue. Congratulations to all who participated.

9th Annual Midwest Seniors Tourney Successful

by Jim Easterling

On November 8-9, 1997, the Brighton Athletic Club held the 9th Annual Midwest Seniors Masters Racquetball Tournament. The draw was larger than in the past with a total 59 players from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Canada.

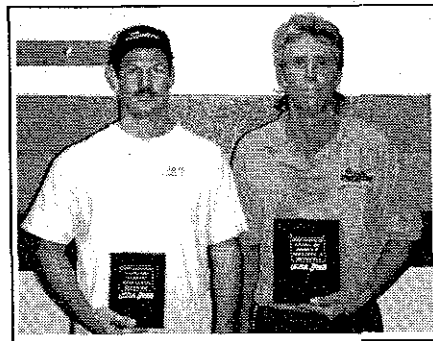
Out of state winners included Keith Tidd of Ohio who won the Men's 40 division and Ray Huss also of Ohio, who captured the Men's 50 title. Indiana's Don Ott won the Men's 35 division. Repeat winners representing Michigan were Lynn Hahn in Men's 65/70 and Paul Saad in Women's 35/40.

Hospitality throughout the tournament was plentiful and varied as it included bagels and doughnuts for breakfast, pizza and burritos for lunch and plenty of fruit and water for the entire tournament. I would like to thank Kyle Canada, manager of the club and the entire Brighton staff (especially Sam), for all the help they gave us throughout the tournament. Also, I thank PENN for their continued support of racquetball in Michigan.

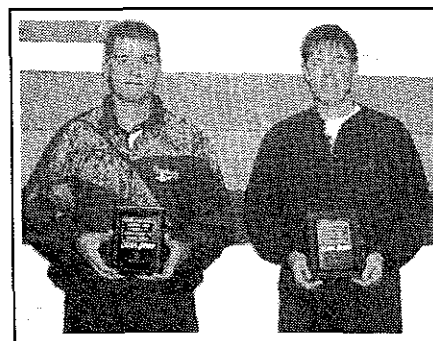
As always, the event would not be possible without those players who support racquetball. Thanks to all those who participated in the tournament.



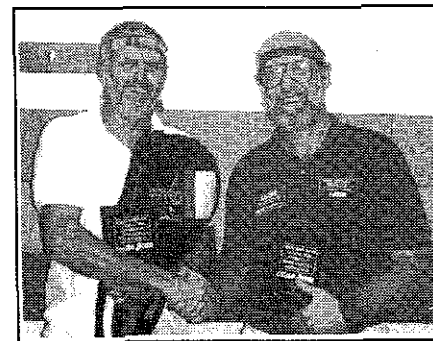
Women's 35/40. 1st place Paula Saad (right) and 2nd place Karen Green



Men's 35. 1st place Don Ott (right) and 2nd place Paul Whitten.



Men's 40. 1st place Keith Tidd (right) and 2nd place Randy Anderson.



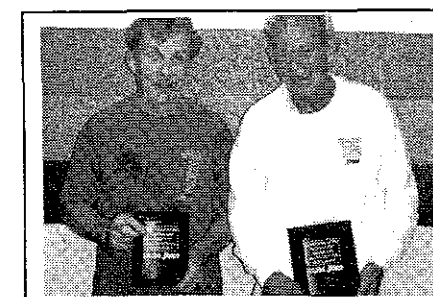
Men's 45. 1st place Ric Scott (right) and 2nd place Andy Butterbaugh



Men's 50. 1st place Ray Huss (right) and 2nd place Bill Hughes



Men's 55. 1st place Art Murphy (right) and 2nd place Vince Callahan



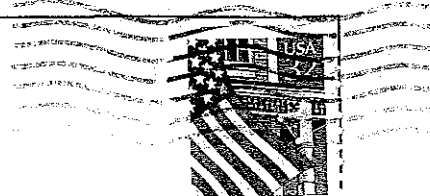
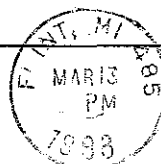
Men's 60. 1st place Elliot Rott (right) and 2nd place Dave Lund



Men's 65/70. 1st place Lynn Hahn (right) and 2nd place Fred Wiegand

Racquetball Reporter

3152 S. Henderson
Davison, MI 48423



DIANNE & JIM EASTERLING
321 VILLAGE
LANSING

1198

MI 48911

USRA Competitive Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____

Membership Type: (circle one) New Member College Student Renewal Address Change Only

- _____ \$20.00 Adult Competitive License
_____ \$15.00 Junior Competitive License (18 or younger only)
_____ \$10.00 Junior Competitive License (18 or younger, without magazine)
_____ \$500.00 Honorary Lifetime Membership
_____ \$15.00 RACQUETBALL Magazine subscription only (No competitive benefits)

All memberships & subscriptions are for one year

AMATEUR ATHLETIC WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY: In consideration of being allowed to participate in any USRA athletic/sports program and related events and activities, the undersigned:
(1) Agree that prior to participating, they will inspect the facilities and equipment to be used, and if they believe anything is unsafe, they will immediately advise their coach, supervisor, or USRA personnel of such conditions and refuse to participate. (2) Acknowledge and fully understand that each participant will be engaging in activities that involve risk of serious injury, including permanent disability and death, and severe social and economic losses which might result not only from their own actions, inactions or negligence but the actions, inactions or negligence of others, the rules of play or the condition of the premises or any equipment used. Further, that there may be other risks not known to us or not reasonable foreseeable at this time. (3) Assume all the foregoing risks waive and accept personal responsibility for the damages following such injury, permanent disability or death. (4) Release, sports organizations, their respective administrators, directors, agents, coaches and other employees of the organization, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers and, if applicable, owners and lessees of premises used to conduct the event, all of which are hereinafter referred to as "releases" from any and all liability to the signator, his or her heirs and next of kin for any and all claims, demands, losses or damages on account of injury including death or damage to property caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the release of otherwise.

Signature (required) _____
(parent or guardian, if under age 18)

Make checks payable to the USRA and mail to: United State Racquetball Association
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