

The Racquetball REPORTER

321 Village Dr. Lansing, MI 48911

VOL. 4 NO. 4

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RACQUETBALL ASSN. OF MICHIGAN

FEBRUARY 1987

MICHIGAN COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



Ferris State College dominated the Michigan Collegiate Team Championships hosted by the 29th St. Fitness Center in Grand Rapids January 24 and 25. Over 80 collegiate players representing 10 colleges/universities competed in singles and doubles divisions.

Ferris won 7 division titles. Four by the women's team and 3 by the men's along with 5 second place finishes.

Central Michigan University was a strong second with 4 first place finishes, 2 by the women, 2 by the men and 2 second place finishes.

Chris Cole (UM-Flint) defeated last year's #1 singles champ, Mark Heckman (CMU) 15-3, 15-14. Mark had a chance to send the match into a tie-breaker with an ace at 13-13 and two serves at 14 but Chris was tough. Sheri Anderson (FSC) repeated

as #1 women's singles champ with a 2 game victory over Pina Finazzo (MSU) for the second time in 2 years.

Mark Heckman and Sam Tanelian turned back a strong performance by Greg Bedenis and Todd Luethjohann to take #1 doubles 15-13, 15-13. Greg and Todd had five serves at 13 in the first game and led 9-2 in the second game, but couldn't score the big points against the tough C.M.U. team.

In the upset department, Scott "Pee Wee" Lange and Jerry Gray, Jr. playing on Ferris team #2 upset Al Cull and Steve Frozley F.S.C. team #1 in an 11-2 tie breaker in #2 doubles competition finals.

In the women's competition, Ferris and Central Michigan swept the first and second places in all divisions except for the second place finish by Pina MSU.

FINALS #4 DOUBLES

HECKMAN/TANELIAN (CMU) - BEDENIS/LUTHJOHANN (FSC)

Individual division champs and points scored were as follows:

MEN'S DIVISION

#1 Singles		#2 Singles		#3 Singles	
Cole, U.M. - Flint	10	Tanelian, CMU	10	Bedenis, FSC	10
Heckman, CMU	7	Luethjohann, FSC #1	7	Gamby, CMU	7
Alderink, GVSC	5	Hall, UM #2	5	Purcey, FSC #2	5
Boyce, Hope	2	Tanen, UM #1	2	Chambon, GVSC	2
#4 Singles		#1 Doubles		#2 Doubles	
Cull, FSC	10	Heckman/Tanelian, CMU	10	PeeWee/Gray, FSC #2	10
Lange, FSC #2	7	Bedenis/Luethjohann, FSC	7	Cull/Frozley, FSC #1	7
Logan, CMU	5	Dunn/Chappel, EMU	5	Gamby/Logan, CMU	5
Hobbes, UM	2	Chambon/Henderson, GVSC	2	Rutowski/Fink, CMU #2	5

WOMEN'S DIVISION

#1 Singles		#2 Singles		#3 Singles	
Anderson, FSC	10	Cok, FSC	10	Matties, CMU	10
Finazzo, MSU	7	Erickson, FSC #2	7	Gray, FSC	7
Dietz, UM	5	Gagnon, CMU	5	Urbankik, FSC #2	5
Stuart, FSC #2	2	Fiegart, UM	2		
#4 Singles		#1 Doubles		#2 Doubles	
Fauce, FSC	10	Anderson/Cok, FSC	10	Matties/Look, CMU	10
Wyly, FSC #2	7	Wyly/Foster, FSC #2	7	Gray/Fauce, FSC	7
Look, CMU	5	Albrecht/Gagnon, CMU	5	Stuart/Urbanik, FSC #2	5

Any collegiate students interested in attending the midwest regionals with the Ferris team should contact Jerry Gray, (616) 796-9291. Ferris is also hosting a tournament March 13, 14 and 15 to raise

monies to attend the nationals in Denver. Out-of-town guests will be provided free housing and should contact Matt Klein, (616) 796-0461 Ext. 5808 for further information.

TEAM POINT STANDINGS

Ferris State College, Team #1	95	Michigan State University	7
Central Michigan University	79	Eastern Michigan University	7
Ferris State College, Team #2	55	Western Michigan University	4
University of Michigan	11	Hope College	2
Grand Valley State College	11	Kellogg Community College	2
University of Michigan - Flint	10		

NEWSLETTER ADDITIONS

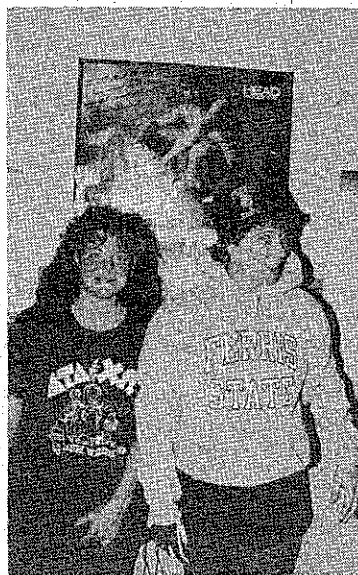
TRIVIA 8

So you think you know a lot about racquetball. Well, here's your chance to prove it with "Trivia 8". "Trivia 8" will be eight trivia questions about racquetball in the state of Michigan. The questions will be about people, clubs, events, and other things related to racquetball. Questions 1 & 2 will be very easy, while 7 & 8 will be much harder to answer. Some questions will be about current things while some questions will be about things that occurred 6, 8, or 10 years ago. Start looking for "Trivia 8", and the answers, in each issue of "The Racquetball Reporter" newsletter. (See page 6)

GRAND RAPIDS RACQUETBALL PATRONS ASSOCIATION REPORT

I'm sorry. There was a new article that started in the last newsletter and I forgot to mention it. The new article was/is the "Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons Association Report". This article will be done by Rick Hall who is currently the president of the association. (See page 3)

by
Jim Easterling



(FSC) SHERI ANDERSON (right)
(MSU) PINA FANAZZO (left)

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THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER
321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911

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Presidential Shots



RAM
President
Lee D. Frederickson

COMPUTER DATA

During the holidays all RAM/AARA members should have received the following letter from RAM:

Dear _____

The state racquetball association (RAM-Racquetball Association of Michigan) needs your help to upgrade the state mailing and information list. We have been depending on the AARA national list for all our communications. We now have you listed on our own computer and want to improve our data.

Please take the time to accurately fill the form below including any changes and put in the new information.

Only Do Corrections & New Information

Last name _____
First name _____
Address _____
City State Zip _____
Home phone _____
Work phone _____
Sex, Birth Date, Age as of January 1987 _____
Primary division _____
Second division _____
Doubles division _____

Thank you for accurately filling out this data. It will help us do our job representing you in state racquetball functions. Return this form to:

Lee D. Frederickson
12539 Terry Wayland, MI 49348

If questions:

Home phone (616) 792-9543
Work phone (616) 942-5190

Most of you responded quickly, however, if you didn't receive this letter and are an RAM/AARA member or simply forgot to send the corrected information to me, PLEASE DO SO NOW and return to me for processing. The mail is our primary means of communication. Therefore, it is very important to have ALL accurate information.

AARA STATE AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS MEETING

Michigan stands out as a leader in racquetball programming, development and politics among other AARA state organizations and RAM is definitely doing something right!

This is the opinion of many state directors that attended the first State and Regional Directors Meeting at the Olympic Training Center, January 15-17, 1987.

While I attended this productive meeting, state directors came to me and indicated that they view RAM as their "future" state organization.

Having solved many of the problems they still face, allows RAM to move on to more productive projects. From my viewpoint we are very well organized - this is great compared to a few years ago.

From the three days of intensive meetings came a number of new and interesting projects, the following is one of them that involves many neighboring states.

Great Lakes Invitational Benefit

During December 4, 5 & 6, 1987, there will be a very special racquetball project occurring called the Great Lakes Invitational Benefit. Seven states will assist in this project: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Michigan.

All age group players will be invited to participate in this racquetball benefit that will take place at an elite club, near a major airport and a five star hotel. Special airline and hotel discounts will be arranged.

The Great Lakes Invitational Benefit will not have a set entry fee. Instead there will be a minimum donation to the AARA for the US Team and the Olympic movement - this means all monies are tax deductible since the AARA is 501(c)(3) IRS designation.

Our ideas are to achieve some notoriety and promotion by having each state's pro football team, politicians and the state racquetball players all on one state team. Each state will compete against all other participating states for a massive trophy. This traveling trophy will be awarded annually to the state that wins the overall team competition.

Individual divisional winners will receive special prizes from the Olympic Training Center's clothing store.

All entrants will receive the AARA Pin and clothing from the Olympic Training Center. Additionally, the first fifty entrants will be awarded a special Pin designed for this event only. And hospitality? The best, with plenty for all.

With these ideas in mind, let me know your thoughts concerning this event. Any ideas would be appreciated.

LADIES ONLY

Ladies, as you know, women's racquetball has declined over the past few years. Due to lack of participation, tournament directors have been forced into lowering or eliminating cash prizes, combining skill and age divisions or scraping some classes completely. Club managers are unable to maintain the same attendance in their women's leagues in comparison to the men's participation.

Some Michigan communities, however, have been very successful in establishing and maintaining women's travel teams and city leagues. Unfortunately, these women represent a very small sampling of the total population.

The RAM Board has been aware of this problem and would like to take steps that would reverse the outcome of this situation. The question is in which direction do we go?

If you would take some time and

complete this questionnaire, we would be able to develop activities that would generate interest and benefit its participants. Please be specific. I realize that this is tedious and time consuming but general statements would only tell us what we already know.

Please mail your responses to me:
Arlene Allan
1030 Grenoble Circle, Lansing, MI 48917

Feel free to add additional comments or suggestions. We are open to all possibilities. Also, if you would like to contact me, I can be reached at (517) 323-2227.

Any people interested in conducting clinics, lesson programs or presenting information that would contribute to the growth of our sport should send me a statement explaining your credentials, experiences and requirements. Interested club personnel should also contact me.

WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ESTABLISHED?

IN REFERENCE TO CLINICS:

When would you like to see them held? Would you spend a two and a half day weekend at one or would you prefer one night or day?

How far would you travel and would that also hold true during the winter months?

Would you be willing to stay overnight in a motel or if the clinic was held in your area, would you provide housing for out-of-town guests?

What types of materials would you like to see presented? What percentage of the clinic's time would you like to see devoted to these areas? Would you like to see related materials covered (ex. nutrition, fitness, mental conditioning, etc.)?

Who would you like to see conduct these clinics? How much money would you be willing to pay and what would you expect in return?

If child care was provided would this service have an effect on your attendance?

IN REFERENCE TO ORGANIZED ROUND ROBIN COMPETITIONS:

Would you be willing to spend a day on a semi-regular basis (ex. once a month) traveling around the state competing against women that you could only play in a tournament situation?

Would you like to have a qualified instructor available to answer questions and offer advice concerning competitive situations?

IN REFERENCE TO ORGANIZED TRAINING CENTERS:

If qualified instructors provided group and private instruction at designated club sites, would you attend? If the program was substantial, would you be willing to make a long term (ex. two - three month) commitment?

How would you like to see this program set up?

Would different times of year be more suitable than others (ex. winter vs summer)?

Arlene Allan



AARA NATIONAL OFFICERS

Executive Director... Luke St. Onge
Colorado Springs, CO
President... Van Dubolsky
Gainesville, FL
Vice President... Jim Hiser
Davison, MI
Commissioner... Cathie Frederickson
Wayland, MI

AARA REGION #9 W. VIRGINIA, OHIO, MICHIGAN

Regional Director... Jim Hiser

RAM OFFICERS

President... Lee Frederickson
(616) 942-5190
Vice President... Tom Blakeslee
(313) 575-3998
Secretary... Arlene Allan
(517) 323-2227
Treasurer... Dianne Easterling
(517) 887-0459

RAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandy Cox... Jim Hiser
Cathie Frederickson... Rick Hall
Jim Easterling... Judy Gonyea

NEWSLETTER

Jim Easterling... 321 Village
(517) 887-0459... Lansing, MI 48911

PAST RAM PRESIDENTS

(RAM was formed July 24, 1984)

Bob Wilhelm... 1984-85
(3 months)
Lee Frederickson... 1984-85
Jim Easterling... 1985-86
Lee Frederickson... 1986-87

Women's Metro League News

The Metro League had an exciting end to the first half of their season and we're proud to announce the winners...

Sunday Level I... Gateway I
Sunday Level II... Maple Courts A
Thursday Level I... Gateway I
Thursday Level II... Gateway II

The second half has begun and good luck to all the teams.

An invitation is being extended not only to the Metro League members, but to all interested women racquetball players; all levels from novice to advanced. Arlene Allan, an Open player from Lansing, and a RAM Board Member has been able to secure Tom Brownlee, and possibly other Ektelon representatives to conduct a Racquetball Clinic at Gateway Racquetball Center on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:00 pm. This is an exciting event and one of the finest chances we may have this year to observe these players and have the opportunity to talk to and learn from them. To register for this event call Alida Mainhardt at Gateway or send your name and address to:

Gateway Racquetball Center
8200 Irving Sterling Heights, MI 48077
(313) 264-2270
Please register by February 20

Alida Mainhardt

"View of the Vice-President"

BY W.T. BLAKESLEE

Once again, anyone that reads this article, please let me know. Last month I asked this question and received only a couple of notifications. Almost \$2500 per year is spent on publishing this paper. We on the Board want to be responsive.

In December, I played 3 tournaments on consecutive weekends and I would consider all 3 successful. In addition, there were tournaments in Davison and Grand Rapids during this time and they were moderately successful. A couple of years ago we on the Board were very concerned about sanctioning too many tournaments. It appears tournaments are run by independent businessmen whose aim is to make a buck and they are! In my opinion tournament racquetball is healthier than ever! In February almost every week will

offer a quality tournament.

Have you been in a racquetball club that had any open courts lately? I would believe racquetball clubs are healthier than ever... or at least, in a long time.

Equipment manufacturers seem healthier than ever. I base my opinion that everyone now plays with an oversize racquet. My guess is this has generated more sales and racquet turnover than anyone at Ektelon or Head in their wildest dreams had ever imagined.

Lastly, one thing that could use our help and is not healthier than ever is **YOUR RAM BOARD**. We've had two board openings for awhile and as Nominating Chairman, I, we, and you need volunteers! Is anybody interested?

Michigan Collegiate Racquetball

A reminder to all full time undergraduate college students that the entry deadline for the state collegiate and midwest regional collegiate championships is Jan. 19 and Feb. 6, 1987, respectively.

You do not need a full team to compete, and you can still represent your college. Although if your college has a team, you must be a member to enter. Tournament applications should be available at all the college intramural directors / racquetball facilities or may be obtained by calling the following places:

Jerry Gray (616) 796-9291
Matt Klein (616) 796-0461 Ext 5808
29th St. Fitness Center (616) 942-5190

Ferris State students living in the Grand Rapids area will provide housing for those tournament players needing a place to stay. Please indicate if you are in need of housing on your tournament application, or call.

Marilyn Keigley, FSC Women's Coach and Associate Professor of Marketing, is conducting collegiate racquetball surveys within Michigan and the 10 state midwest

region. These studies are being conducted by marketing research students supervised by Ms. Keigley. Every college in the state (81) is being surveyed as well as 77 midwest college/universities with enrollment over 10,000 students. Marilyn is trying to determine the number of collegiate racquetball players, where they play, extend of collegiate facilities and contact personnel at each college.

In addition, she is trying to determine the most feasible method for gathering this information on a national basis.

It is not necessary to play in the regional tournament to play at the national collegiate tournament at Denver in March, but seeding at the nationals is based upon collegiate regional finishes. Also, the collegiate regional tournament can be used as a substitute tournament for qualifications for the AARA national tournament in Houston.

Come join The Big Rowdy Crowd for lots of fun and racquetball in Grand Rapids Milwaukee, and Denver

Jerry Gray

GREAT LINES

It was at Livonia Racquetime in the winter of 1978 Bob and Dan played each other every week on the same day, at the same time, and on the same court. They would always have a close, good and fun grudge match against each other. They both would swear so much at themselves that the air would turn blue near their court. One of the funniest lines I have ever heard (that I can print) was made by Dan. Dan skipped in an easy shot and yelled at himself, "Boy, you couldn't find your ass *** with both hands if you were sitting on them."

Jim Easterling

"FROM THE RULE BOOK"

by W.T. Blakeslee

The following rules are sometimes applied in only rare cases. Starting with the Avoidance - 11 C Rule which states the player should have an "unobstructed view" after it leaves the front wall I also hope you'll find some of the uncommon avoidable hinders interesting such as blocking, pushing, intentional distractions and wetting the ball. Good Luck until next time

Tom

11 C. Avoidance

While making an attempt to return the ball a player is entitled to a fair chance to see and return the ball. It is the responsibility of the side that has just hit the ball to move so the receiving side may go straight

to the ball and have an unobstructed view of the ball after it leaves the front wall in the judgment of the referee. However, the receiver must make a reasonable effort to move towards the ball and have a reasonable chance to return the ball in order for a hinder to be called.

Rule 12. Avoidable Hinders (Point to Sideout Hinder)

An avoidable hinder results in the loss of a rally. An avoidable hinder does not necessarily have to be an intentional act and is a result of any of the following:

12 A. Failure to Move

Does not move sufficiently to allow an

opponent a shot;

12 B. Blocking

Moves into a position which blocks the opponent from getting to, or returning, the ball; or in doubles, a player moves in front of an opponent as the player's partner is returning the ball;

12 C. Moving Into The Ball

Moves in the way and is struck by the ball just played by the opponent;

12 D. Pushing

Deliberately pushes or shoves opponent during a rally.

12 E. Restricts Opponent's Swing

The Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons Association - sponsored Women's City League completed the fall session in December. The division standings were as follows:

DIVISION A:

- 1 Ann Hess
- 2 Mary Haskins
- 3 Penny Thompson
- 4 Pam Brickley
- 5 Claire Palmer
- 6 Cheryl Restind

DIVISION B:

- 1 Barb Riddering
- 2 Donna DeLiefde
- 3 Bev Williams
- 4 Pat Jones
- 5 Jayne McDonald
- 6 Sylvia Cumberworth

DIVISION C:

- 1 Jill Pearly
- 2 Peggy Andrus
- 3 Heide Sumner
- 4 Sue Purcay
- 5 Pat Oppeneer
- 6 Donna Graebel

The Women's League held a post-season racquetball mixer on December 13 at the Alpine Fitness Center Darlene Miller

GRRPA Vice President, surprised the group with small gifts. A few players from the Women's Money League joined in the mixer and enjoyed the potluck lunch and social racquetball. (More on the GRRPA Money Leagues in a later issue.)

The Women's League will start their winter session January 17 at the Racquetville Fitness Center.

The Grand Rapids Men's Travel Teams are forming with eight clubs participating. Teams from the Alpine Fitness Center, East Hills/Grand Rapids Racquet Club, Holland Health and Fitness (Holland), MBA Fitness (Muskegon), Michigan Athletic Club, Racquetville Fitness, Riverview and 29th Street Fitness will be competing. The season will start February 7 and complete in June.

The GRRPA has scheduled the West Michigan Championship Racquetball Tournament which will be played January 30 - February 1 at the 29th Street Fitness Center. Also, the Grand Rapids City Championships are planned for March 20-22 at the Michigan Athletic Club.

Submitted by Rick Hall, GRRPA

FOR SALE — Eight used metal racquetball racquets (covers included). Grips and strings are all ok. Different kinds. — Price: \$15.00 each. Call Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459 (H)

WANTED — Seamco Blue Streak racquets. Call "Radiation Man" (517) 485-6025 (H)

WANTED — I am a collector of racquetball cans. I need the cans (or container) of the Z ball, and PENN with the picture of the shirt on the outside. I will buy or trade. Call Jim Easterling (517) 887-0459 (H)

FREE VOIT SCORE CARDS
FREE VOIT DRAW SHEET

You pick up or pay for postage. Call Jim Easterling (517) 887-0459 (H)

FOR SALE — Head Pro Racquets. Call - Jerry Gervais (616) 744-4721 (W)

FOR SALE or WILL TRADE for Can of Penn Balls: 1 - Head Masters Replacement Kit 190643 - can of balls; 1 - Composite 250G Replacement Kit - contains 1 bumper, 1 safety cord, set of 6 leather pads. Call (616) 759-0723 after 10:00 pm or at work (616) 722 - 1639. Penni Balls - or - Ram Balls





BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 11, 1986

Time: 7:00 pm Location: Lansing YMCA

CALL TO ORDER — ROLL CALL:

R. Hall, D. Russell, J. Gonyea, S. Cox, J. Easterling, D. Easterling, L. Frederickson, Pancho Gutierrez

CORRECT/APPROVE MINUTES LAST MONTH'S MEETING:

J. Easterling approved minutes; 2nd by R. Hall

OLD BUSINESS:

A) Club mailing went out; Club Card and Jr. Book only were included.

B) New member possibilities (letter sent to the listed persons to invite).

- 1 Duane Russell - 2000 Alpha, Lansing MI 48910 - Present
- 2 Pancho Gutierrez - 20027 Gr Oaks Circle N., Mt Clemens, MI 48043 - Present

Need more names, please submit to Lee

NEW BUSINESS:

A) Officers Report

1) *President* — Lee talked about what is going on at Holland Club during this week, including Ed Andrews coming to do a demonstration with money going to the juniors.

2) *Vice President* — No Report

3) *Treasurer* — Report submitted and moved for approval by J. Gonyea, seconded by J. Easterling. Report approved as submitted

4) *Secretary*

B) Committees Report

1) *Nominating* — WT

2) *Tournament*

a) State Singles — WT see old business — No Report.

b) State Juniors — Sandy — No Report, none necessary. Per head Junior Fee will be same as amount paid to club for second adult event. Keep this idea for the state singles.

c) State Doubles — Jim — Bids from Ann Arbor Court Club and from Woodland Racquet Club for the State Doubles Championships. Woodland's Bid was \$7 per person and \$5 per person for second event. Ann Arbor bid \$8 first and \$5 second events. Motion made and passed for State Doubles to be at Woodland

3) *Juniors* — Sandy — Had one 50/50 drawing and made \$65 and Grand Rapids patrons have a 50/50 planned, bake sale and \$5 referee fee from tournaments to make money.

4) *Women's* — Arlene — No Report not here.

5) *Newsletter* — Jim — Showed copy of letter and Jim began to collect articles for the meeting. No articles from R. White, F. Lewerenz, J. Gray. Will begin to write an article each time for the intercollegiate. Facility listing letter was sent to all clubs in Michigan and got responses from three Grand Rapids Clubs and from Backwall in Detroit with a

possibility of one more from Court Time in Detroit. Jim also got two more entry forms to go in the newsletter which is another \$60 for the newsletters. So far for the month we have made \$460.00 Racquetball dealer, if you have any racquetball related item you want to sell, trade, or acquire let Jim know as there is no charge for this.

Articles for newsletter are due.

6) *Public Relations* — Lee — Sent copy of enclosure to put in entry form for all sanctioned tournaments. Lee will try to raise money for US Team, Jr. Team, or RAM Board to use as they see fit. Lee would try to do this 4-5 times a year. Edit letter and get back to Lee with any changes. Item C — For the RAM Board of Directors to use for the promotion of racquetball in Michigan. Lee will go ahead and start this promotion and it will cost the board about \$400. After that Lee will donate the computer time and possibly the paper. Will not donate time to input the addresses or the cost of the postage. Judy said Rollout Classic would donate proceeds from the January Tournament. Unanimous vote to go ahead.

7) *Rankings* — Judy — Have not got results from L. Hahn Tournament, Rollout Classic and any of the Super 7 Tournaments. Question: whether we really need a state ranking system. Sandy will check with J. Hiser and complete soon.

8) *Referee* — Jim — No Report

9) *Sanctioning* — Dianne — Dues are current except for the October Riverview Tournament in Gr Rapids.

10) *Grievance* — Lee — No Report.

11) *Intercollegiate* — Cathie — Jerry Gray is now on the Intercollegiate Council. There is no other report.

12) *Membership* — Lee — Luke St. Onge on the \$7.00 split — \$3.50 for state is ok, success of club sales. No response on this. Membership sales is not taking off at all, is implemented at 29th Street Alpine and Holland.

13) *Finance* — Lee — Mail solicitation letter sample to members. No other information for this letter. Jim asked people to push for clubs to become a part of the facility listing. December newsletter will be in people's hands by December 1-7. Material must be to Jim by November 14 to be included.

C) Other communicate with Lee monthly to improve the meetings

D) Next agenda items

E) Next meeting and site — Saturday, December 6, 1986 at the Grand Rapids Super Seven at 3:00 p.m. at the club.

F) *Adjourn* — Before adjournment it was decided to stick with our own ranking system and then hound J. Hiser about getting his draw sheets.

Guests were asked for comments. D. Russell had no comments. Pancho had questions on the tournament levels and on the selection of dates. Note that Roy White has resigned from the board.

December 6, 1986

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: 29th Street Fitness Center
2701 29th St., Gr. Rapids, MI

CALL TO ORDER — ROLL CALL:

Introduce new attendees to Board. Present: Lee & Cathie Frederickson, Rick Hall, Jim & Dianne Easterling, W.T. Blakeslee, Jim Hiser, Arlene Allan, Jim Skinner, Poncho Gutierrez, Steve Galassini, Duane Russell, Stu Hastings and Gerald Tucker

CORRECT/APPROVE MINUTES - NOV MONTHLY MEETING:

W.T. did send an article from Hawaii. Jim E. motioned to accept. Dianne seconded passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

A) *New member possibilities?* Lee did not receive letters back about new members on the Board

WT — We should become an executive board and those that are willing to work but not come to all board meetings are then on the RAM Board. Advisory Board and Executive Committee. We can use them as a base to be elected to the Executive Board. Lee feels good idea to be put on the agenda next board meeting.

Lee encourages the board to get the names and he will mail them a letter to come to the meetings and join.

Holland — 23 new AARA RAM members sent \$400.00 to the RAM for decision on dispersment.

B) *Benefit tournament commitment* from Rollout, SS, and MCRA. Dianne feels President should write a letter to the series. Hiser would like a breakdown of the budget to see where the money is going . . . budget and specific project; he wants to see where the money goes in advance to a commitment to do a benefit tournament

NEW BUSINESS:

A) Officers Report

1) *President* — Holland and Andrews Wk. of Promotions with Ed Andrews. Successful and a benefit to racquetball.

2) *Vice President* — None

3) *Treasurer* — Non-profit organization — Dianne will deposit money after the 1st of the year. We are going to be examined as a non-profit organization. We sit at a 1766.67 profit. Newsletter estimate is about \$700.00. Dianne moved, Jim seconded, passed. Jim pointed out that the phone bill is up — he is trying to raise money thru sponsorship.

4) *Secretary* — None

B) Committees Report

1) *Nominating* — WT

2) *Tournament*

a) State Singles — WT — State Singles site, sponsor ball, workers, etc. WT sent out 4 letters got replies from 2: Davison and Rose Shores East. \$ is too much from Davison. Poncho indicated that there are facilities to stay at,

however hospitality was lacking. 24 to 27 courts are available with backwall glass. 6 tournament courts with full backwall glass the remaining have glass upstairs. WT feels that Rose Shore will be supportive and do the job. Arlene felt that the glass at Rose Shores may be a problem and that the trip there is difficult. Jim E. brought up the fact that the 6 may be sufficient. Jim E. made the motion to accept Rose Shores, Dianne seconded. Stu brought up the fact that there is not any seating at Rose Shores. 4 for, 2 opposed passed the State Tournament will be at Rose Shores. DP needs to be contacted; Ektelon was contacted; Head has not been contacted yet. WT will be contacting them soon. Jim E. feels we have the ball decided by the January meeting. WT reiterated that this is to make money for the RAM; let's think of ways. Jim H. would like to put the \$800 profit back into the players (the money that we will make). Jim made a motion to put the money back into the players. Jim E. seconded passed.

b) *Doubles*: Brighton, Woodland Racquet Club. Jim E. has the contract. Jim contacted someone at Penn. Jim Hiser would like to switch the doubles and the regionals. Jim E. to check.

3) *Juniors* — Sandy — Absent

4) *Women's* — Arlene — The weekend of the Holland tournament a women's clinic in Flint with Fran Davis fell thru. Arlene spoke with Marilyn Kiegley at Ferris. Tom Brownlee and Larry Cole will come up and teach at Ferris the last weekend of January.

5) *Newsletter* — Jim — Newsletters are in the mail. Player profile turned out good. The advertisement for clubs is very productive for the RAM \$100 is the price. Hiser wanted to know what they receive, logos and services are listed. Hiser suggested a playing clinic, referee clinic, etc. should be available. WT supported. Jim Skinner felt very positive that if one supports one, they will support the other — good step to bridge the gap between RAM and the clubs. Next newsletter will be out in February. Articles will be due at the January meeting. (Tom — VP) (Stu — instruction travel league) (Jim Skinner) (Lee — player profile) (Patrons — Rick — women's league) (Jim — Super 7) (Poncho — tournament results) (Lewerenz — Jim)

6) *Public Relations* — Lee

7) *Rankings* — Judy — Jim E. brought up the fact the updated ratings are not getting done. Agenda item next meeting. Poncho felt they were not getting the information. Dianne feels if there is a hassle why not use the national. We need to get the rankings out. National guarantees a 4 day ranking. If we federal express to AARA, then use the state also.

Continued on page 5

8) Referee - Jim

9) Sanctioning - Dianne

10) Greivance - WT indicated there was a problem with a few tournaments. WT gave them Lee's name and there wasn't any response.

11) Intercollegiate - Cathie — Jerry Gray will be writing an article for the newsletter - the states are going to be at 29th Street.

12) Membership - Lee — WT asked about the AARA sales at the club. Lee indicated that if the club sells

the membership then the club splits the fee with the RAM and the AARA.

13) Finance - Lee — Letter and data. Letter is written and it will be in the mail by end of December.

C) Other: Jim H. asked Duane why the older divisions aren't going this year. Poncho agreed they were not participating. Duane feels they are not traveling. Poncho also feels the womens are down, he offered \$5 off for the Metro Womens League. Diane brought up the fact that women are working and time is the

problem with women and tournaments. WT feels that maybe we could support womens leagues by giving them balls or spend money. Arlene will put together a questionnaire for women. Jim Skinner felt that RAM should be supportive of the women's travel leagues, they made their choice to be of service to them. Buy trophies. Poncho approach and offer them a referee clinic. Jim E. has offered his services for referee clinics to the womens metro league. Dianne - travel team winner free entry into the state tournament. Arlene

suggested a list should be made up on who was qualified to teach.

WT is going to look into changing the date of the junior regionals due to the fact that it is so close to spring break. Rick Hall inquired about the shirts that the juniors were suppose to get for the nationals.

D) Next agenda items

E) Next meeting and site — Tuesday, January 10 1987 at Lansing YMCA. 7:00 p.m.

F) Adjourn - WT: Jim seconded

RAM MEETINGS

The RAM Board of Directors meet the second Tuesday of every month to discuss and implement racquetball activities in the state. The meetings are usually held at 7:00 p.m. in Lansing at the Downtown YMCA.

A few times a year, the RAM meeting is moved to other areas of the state. Below is the date and site of our next moved meeting.

Saturday, April 11, 1987 — At The State Singles Championship

Non-board members are always welcome to attend any and all of our meetings. If you have a specific problem or idea you would to discuss at the RAM meeting please call Lee Frederickson at (616) 942-5190.

VACANCIES ON THE RAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The RAM Board of Directors currently has two vacancies and is looking for interested members to help promote racquetball in the state. RAM meets once a month, usually the second Tuesday in Lansing. RAM activities include membership promotion, juniors, women's racquetball, newsletter, state tournaments, sanctioning of tournaments and referee certification.

The qualifications of a Board Member include: 1) Attend three (3) monthly Board meetings. 2) Demonstrate active participation in RAM business. 3) Submit to the President a letter expressing interest in becoming a RAM Board Member after attending three meetings.

Persons interested in becoming a RAM Board Member should contact Lee Frederickson at (616) 942-5190 or W.T. Blakeslee at (313) 468-2727.

West Michigan Week of Racquetball Promotion

FEATURING ED ANDREWS — #4 PRO AND FOUR TIME NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPION

During the week of November 17-23, 1986 Western Michigan clubs and players were treated nightly to continuous educational and recreational clinics with demonstrations that featured Ed Andrews as the key to the activities. Ed proved to be the ideal person for the task of directly promoting our sport in one on one interaction, on and off the court. Each evening from 6:00 p.m. to closing was spent with Ed on the court or in clinics, often Ed was on the court for four hours or more doing direct player promotion and education. When he wasn't on the court he was in the crowd entertaining or enlightening the participants. Ed's personality lend a casual friendly atmosphere to the evening's activities. The following lists show the participating clubs and opportunities at each club.

CLUBS:

29th Street Fitness Center - Monday November 17, 1986 - Men, club members, and interested players.

Riverview Racquet Club - Tuesday November 18, 1986 - Juniors, patrons, club members, and interested players.

Alpine Fitness Center - Wednesday November 19, 1986 - Women, club members, and interested players.

Holland Health and Racquet Club - Thursday November 20, 1986 - Intercollegiate, tournament players, club members, and interested players.

Holland Fall Open - November 21, 22, 23 1986 - All AARA members welcome.

ACTIVITIES:

- 1 Sports Medicine - Physical Therapy
- 2 Weight Training - Nautilus and free weights for the racquetball player
- 3 Aerobics for racquetball players - Exercise physiology
- 4 Singles strategy
- 5 Doubles strategy
- 6 Video Taping play and instruction
- 7 Fitness Testing - Fitness Unlimited
- 8 Sports Training and Nutrition
- 9 Forehand, backhand, and shot selection

10 Participants Play the Pro - Ed Andrews - For a \$5 donation to GRRPA, Team Michigan, or USA Team - any participant may play Ed one game to 11; they will receive an autographed shirt and a can of balls.

11 Mens Open - Play the Pro - Round robin elimination for the opportunity to play Ed for the prize of the night.

12 Exhibition Play - Men's open player against Ed

Many very positive actions occurred that need to be mentioned. The cooperation between the participating clubs was outstanding; this factor alone allowed each club to receive maximum benefit to their players from a minimum investment.

Shirts that were given to the players for daring to step on the court with Ed Andrews in a game to 11 proved to be very popular. This project alone brought in \$250 for the Junior programs in Michigan. Ed autographed each shirt. This proved to be immensely popular with all the kids and some of the mothers and women players.

The men open players received a boost to all their games by the continuous accessibility of Ed for play during the day, evening play the pro, and the nightly tournament to play Ed for the money prize.

Tuesday night at Riverview with the juniors was a real highlight for anyone with an interest in children. Ed was at his best, the kids were enthralled, a large crowd watched the proceedings, and a lot of fun was had by all in attendance.

In this writer's experience there has never been an opportunity for the club member or any racquetball player to receive so much help and have fun at the same time. This is due to the exceptional attitude of Mr. Ed Andrews — thank you Ed from all of West Michigan.

PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL PLAYER VISITS STATE PRISON FOR DEMONSTRATION

Ed Andrews, currently number 4 on the mens professional tour and four time national champion visited the Michigan Dunes Correctional Facility at the invitation of the recreational staff. Located in the gym of the facility is a wall, painted red, twenty feet wide and fifteen feet high. Many of the inmates spend their time playing one wall racquetball. When the facility staff heard that a professional player was in the area for racquetball sport promotion they contacted the local organizer to see if they could be included in the week's activities. Ed, upon hearing the proposal, was enthusiastic from the start — although a little hesitant.

Over 100 enthusiastic inmates watched Ed play and teach the best players from the facility. It was an experience to be inside, knowing that we could get out. The security is tight. We got in trouble just for giving the players two balls and two sweaty gloves. Whatever you take into a prison you must take out.

It was obvious that our sport has many derivations. You only need a ball, racquet, and a wall to have a game develop. Here, in the prison, without any teaching, a sport evolved with rules specific for the conditions that prevail. One guard let us know that the order of the day was a fifteen minute rally followed by a twenty minute argument.

The inmates were cordial, interested, and excited to have a celebrity on their own turf that was willing to play their game by their rules. A lot of talk evolved about Ed's oversize racquet — something they had no knowledge of. The best racquet appeared to be a \$15 special. All the balls were worn smooth, and were dead from too much play.

And to you the player inmates (DB, Gilmore, Kemp, Johnson, and Brow) we

owe a thank you for you educated us and showed a side of life and our sport that we knew nothing about.

ED ANDREWS

Birthdate: October 15, 1956
Residence: Huntington Beach, CA
Height/Weight: 6'3"/200 lbs.
Pro Career: 6 years
Sponsor: Ektelon
Finished 1985-86 Season with #9 Ranking
Currently Ranked #4
Placed Second in the RMA Stop #2 in Davison, MI defeated by Bret Harnett.
Won the RMA Stop #3 in Vancouver, B.C. defeated Cliff Swain.

Ed, a longtime dominate figure in the amateur ranks is now a threat in the professional realm. At the RMA stop #2, in Davison, Andrews was defeated in the finals by Bret Harnett in a very close 5 game match. Then in Vancouver at the RMA stop #3 Ed downed the #4 seed Cliff Swain in 4 games, capturing his first professional victory ever! Ed made his way to the finals in Vancouver by downing the #1 seed Bret Harnett and #3 seed Mike Yellen.

Maintaining his amateur eligibility enabled Ed to capture many amateur National and International titles. In May of 1986 Ed added another US National Amateur Championship title to his credit, putting his record at four. In 1981 Ed had a back-to-back gold medal performance at the World Championships I in Santa Clara, California and then at the World Games I, also in Santa Clara. He was the bronze medalist in the World Games II in London, England in 1985, and a quarterfinalist in the 1986 World Championships in Orlando. In January of 1986, Ed had the unique privilege of traveling with the US National Racquetball Team on a racquetball instructional tour of Japan and Korea. Ed has since given up his amateur status.

Lee Frederickson

Classic Story

MAKING HIS POINT

Jim Easterling

Back in 1981, there was the annual racquetball tournament at the Little Traverse Racquet Club which is referred to as the "Petoskey" tournament. In the Men's Open division there was a good player called "Radiation Man" (whose real name is William Gotlieb). Radiation Man was seeded #4 at this tournament and he thought he should have been seeded #3.

Now you have to know a couple of things to see where Radiation Man was coming from. First he had beaten the person who was seeded #3 almost every time they had played in a tournament in the past. Also, back in the early 1980's Radiation Man was playing a lot of "PRO-AM" tournaments in other states and doing quite well. He was getting seeded better in other states than he was in Michigan.

Now on the other side of the coin the Michigan Racquetball Association (MRA) seeded players on the state ranking points only. The only way at that time that players got points was by winning in MRA tournaments and if you had more ranking points than another player you would be seeded over that player. That way no one could say the Seeding Committee was showing favoritism. Also, there were no debates on seeding, as it was strictly by points. I am not going to debate which one (if any) of these two seeding ideas are correct. There are valid points to both.

Anyway, the Petoskey tournament was a MRA tournament and the seeding was done according to MRA rules and Radiation Man was seeded #4 in the Men's Open. His first match was against Sheldon Yellen. After two games they were tied at one game each. Then they started the tiebreaker to 11 points. When Radiation Man walked up to serve the score was 10 serving 7, and he looked up at the referee and said that he wanted an injury time out and then he left the court. (Radiation Man was not really hurt.) He was winning the tiebreaker and only needed one point to win the match. He took his injury time out, which is 15 minutes, and he never came back to the court. The referee had no choice but to forfeit the match and declare Sheldon Yellen the winner.

Now Radiation Man never yelled at the tournament director. He never swore or threw his racquet or complained loudly about his seeding. But instead he calmly forfeited the match in protest of the MRA's way of seeding players. I really have to respect Radiation Man for the unique way in which he went about making his point over a principal.

A Classic Story is a racquetball related story about an event from the past. For those of you who were there and involved, it will be fun remembering. For those who weren't there, I hope you will enjoy some racquetball "history" from Michigan.

Attention Juniors

by W.T. Blakeslee

The Junior Regional Tournament has been postponed and rescheduled. The tournament will now be held May 15-17, in conjunction with the Super Seven Finale at the Back Wall Racquetball Club in Madison Heights. The tournament rescheduling has been intended to move the Regional Tournament closer to the National Tournament, to be held this year at Sawmill in Columbus. Any further questions should be directed to myself, Jim Hiser, or any RAM Board member. Participation in this event is required to enter the National Tournament.

This should also serve as a reminder for you Juniors to start fund raising ideas and thoughts again. Last year on the average, it cost Team Michigan, \$125 per Junior, for our stay in Chicago. Please contact Sandy

Cox, Judy Gonyea, Rick Hall, Jim Hiser or myself for further information.

The success of Juniors in racquetball will determine the fate of our sport in the future. There are many programs that encourage Junior participation available to all Juniors.

The AARA, Ektelon, and Penn all offer programs and assistance. Ektelon even has a discount racquet program available. As Junior Racquetball Commissioner, it is my job to help promote Junior racquetball involvement. Many good programs are available. Contact me for details.

Lastly, if you haven't noticed, some of our Juniors really don't play like kids, do they? Want to play Joel, Nick or Jim for a small wager? These kids, Team Michigan, are really nationally competitive!

Trivia 8

Trivia 8 is eight trivia questions about racquetball (or racquetball related things) in the state of Michigan
by Jim Easterling

- 1 What clubs, at one time, had the most racquetball courts in the state? How many courts did they have?
- 2 Who is the person who sets up and runs the super 7 tournaments?
- 3 What "national" racquetball tournament was held in Michigan in 1977?
- 4 In August of 1980, at the USRA Junior Nationals, who won the Boys 10 and under and the Girls 17 & under?
- 5 Who was the first woman to earn prize money playing racquetball?
- 6 Who ran the very 1st "PRO STOP" in Michigan? When and where was it?
- 7 In 1979 who was the first racquetball player ever selected to participate in ABC-TV's Superstars?
- 8 In 1977 the American Professional Racquetball Organization (APRO) was started by Chuck Sheftel. Who was the only person from Michigan who was there when it first started?

See the back page for answers to "Trivia 8"

A'ME

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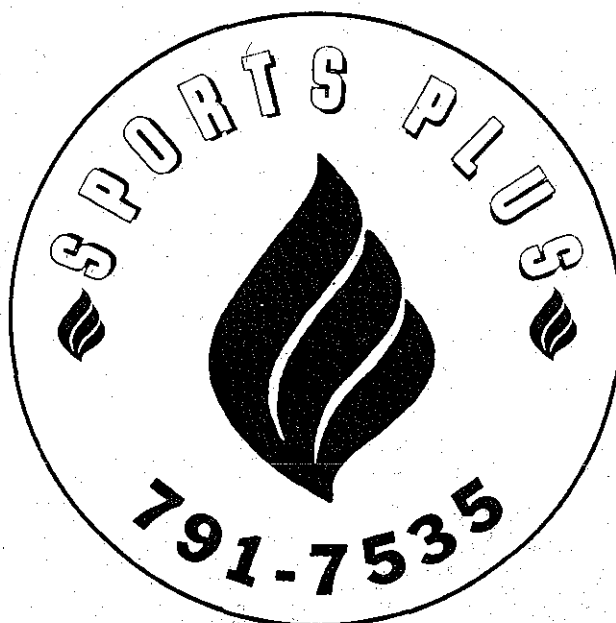
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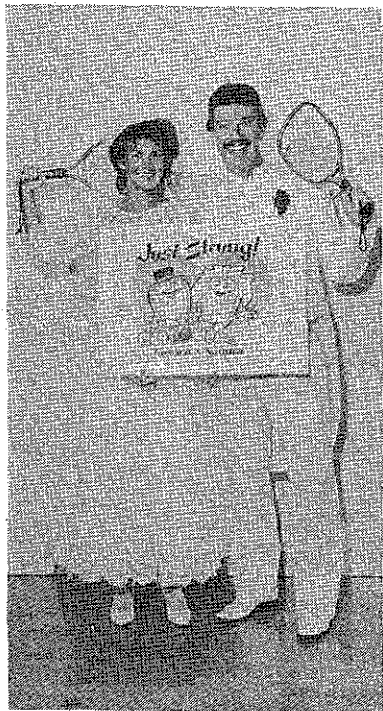


APPAREL ■ FOOTWEAR ■ RACQUETS
AEROBIC • RACQUETBALL



JACK & SANDY WHITE - JUST STRUNG

PLAYER PROFILE by Lee D. Frederickson



Jack White found more than a sport in 1978 when he took a racquetball class at Macomb Community College. The introductory course led to a lesson at the YMCA and a tournament at the Maple Leaf Racquetball Club where he met the Michigan tournament crowd. Additionally, he gained an individual sport for life, and he met the woman soon to become his wife.

At the Maple Leaf Tournament, Jack met Cathy Thompson, whom he feels really influenced his attitude and perspective on the game in a positive way. Cathy introduced Jack to many of her friends which added an element of socialization for him on the tournament scene. He soon began traveling with this crowd to the tournaments.

During a match at one of the various tournaments, Jack had a woman named Sandy as his referee. After his match, Jack began talking with her and soon asked her out on a date. Their date was at the following tournament in Lansing. Their dating continued for two years and Jack knew that Sandy understood his commitment to the sport and that she would join him in that commitment.

Eventually, the dating led to their engagement and one year later they were married.

October 4, 1986 Jack and Sandy were wed. Their wedding, however, was not like most traditional weddings... yes, they were married in a church but following the ceremony the entire wedding party went over to the Backwall Racquet Club and had

their pictures taken on a court. No, they did not change their clothes, they held racquetball gear while dressed in the tuxedo and wedding dress. Following the reception they honeymooned in Nassau, Bahamas and no racquetball was allowed.

Jack has progressed through the divisions and can often be found playing for the "A" trophy on Sundays. During the 1985 season, Sandy placed first in the "C" division and started paying her dues in the "B's". In 1986, playing two tournaments a month, she made it into the "A" division. Sandy, who is always trying to improve her game stated, "I think my next step is learning to anticipate what my opponent's going to do. I would also like to try to always have a positive frame of mind... I play so much better." Both of their goals are to become open level players. In 1986, Sandy and Jack went to the AARA Nationals in Houston, Texas and became intrigued with the sport from the developmental national level.

Jack is sponsored by HEAD Racquet Sports and plays out of The Backwall Racquet Club. His hobbies include racquetball, hunting, archery and bowling. They live in Warren, Michigan and he works for Detroit Edison as an Engineer. Jack graduated from Wayne State in 1983 with a B.S. degree.

Sandy started taking racquetball lessons from Stu Hastings and Jack would bother her endlessly for the information she learned from Stu. Finally he realized if he was going to gain the instructional benefits he was going to have to begin taking

lessons himself. So Jack began with Stu, whom Jack credits for calming him down and improving his game.

About the Hastings' program, Jack said, "I like the team concept the best and being a part of the team. I also have an opportunity to play and get to know some of the best players in the state. I like the feeling of going to a tournament and recognizing a lot of people." Jack continued, "The state of Michigan is truly blessed to have a man such as Stu Hastings, who is dedicated and actively involved in the sport. He still teaches the game to anyone who is serious about learning."

Jack reiterated his theory on racquetball, "There is a fine line between playing awesome racquetball and good racquetball. If you are not in the gifted 2% of those who are naturally great, racquetball takes time and practice to become a solid player."

One of Jack's contributions to racquetball is the "off the wall league" at their club for Detroit Edison employees; he is the organizer and the director of the league.

Jack and Sandy feel that racquetball is still a growing sport. "Now with the pro divisions separate from open and sand-bagging eliminated with the ranking systems, racquetball will increase even more and become more popular and strong."

The Whites wish everyone wedded bliss, with this sport a part of your relationship.

SANDY WHITE - PLAYER OF THE MONTH

TEAM HASTINGS - PLAYER PROFILE by Stu Hastings

Stu Hastings started a program called player of the month. It is featured at Meadowbrook Racquet & Fitness and Backwall Racquet Club. It features one key team "H" player each month. The player profile I wanted to share with you is on Sandy White. She is an A player married recently to Jack White. They play at Backwall Racquet Club in Madison Heights outside of Detroit. *This player profile may give you special insights to the game of racquetball.*

When and why did you start your program with Team Hastings?

October 1984. I started with Team Hastings because I thought I had the potential/ability to learn and work at becoming a better racquetball player. At the time, I wasn't attending school and working full time. I needed another source of accomplishment. Something I could gain some confidence in myself. I wanted to be more involved in the sport, and probably, to be truthful about it I needed to do something to keep Jack interested in me.

What is your competitive playing schedule? How have you been doing in these events?

In the 1985 tournament season, I accomplished 1st place in "C" and started paying my dues in "B". Mid 1986 tournament season I accomplished "B", and am now working to become a good "A" player. I try to play two tournaments a month. I began playing in the Level I Women's Metro League the end of last season. So far this year, I haven't lost a match and am going strong. I was very intrigued at the Nationals (Texas) last summer. This inspired me greatly to strive further with my game. I have never turned away anyone that wanted to play or drill.

One of the things to get better is playing with the better players. Since I've been on Level I League, I've jumped at every opportunity to practice with them.

Have you improved since starting this program?

Most definitely! Not only have I progressed through a few divisions and worked on mechanics, strength and endurance, but I also believe I've matured and grown stronger as a person. Acting childish, selfish and walking away from my problems solved nothing. The mental portion of this sport is what I'll really have to work on myself. It's probably one of the hardest things I've had to do for myself to benefit my competitive racquetball, my marriage family and my social life. I believe I've come a long way in this sport with the help of others, and look forward to much more success.

What do you like most about the program?

The "Team" concept. I think it's wonderful that so many people can get along and help each other while still retaining that competitive edge. The desire amongst the team members, I feel, are very strong. Also, I am very fascinated of the mass knowledge of Stu Hastings and how he sets scenarios, simulates competitive tournament play and is so analogous. What I've liked recently, is the "team" splitting up and competing against other small teams (shuffle - spring drills, etc.). It's just something else to stabilize our competitive abilities, plus it's fun.

What are your short and long term goals in racquetball?

Short Term - For the remainder of the season I'm working on being a confident and aggressive "A" player. I think my next step is learning to anticipate my opponents much more than I currently do. I'd also like to try to retain a constant positive

frame of mind (I play so much better then). I feel I have the strokes, mechanics and ability I just need to "attack" more. Like Joetta said, "Sandy, making the ball hit the front wall just isn't good enough any more." I'm also planning on working on some extra strength and endurance - looking forward to possibly playing "19+" at Regionals and putting in another round or so at Nationals. This may seem quite a lot to accomplish for a short term goal, but I've started off on the right foot and I've got less on my mind (wedding) leaving more concentration for my game.

Long Term - My long term goal is to be proficient in this game as an "Open" player. I think that if I accomplish my short term goals, my long term goals will look more realistic. My surroundings and reassurance at home (Jack's dedication to racquetball) inspires me greatly. I realize that much work, desire and dedication must be from within myself to make this really happen.

Why do you compete?

Several reasons. The most important being it's very challenging, occupies my time, keeps me happy to be accomplishing something so technical and keeps me in good health (conditioning my lungs lessons the chance of my asthma problems). I also like socializing with people of same interests (that's how I found my husband). I especially like meeting new people and traveling to new places. I began competing with the tennis team in high school. I played #2 on the team. After junior year, I had other interests, besides it was hard to find competition if you didn't belong to a club, which was costly. After I hit racquetball with my girlfriend, I found I was a little better at it than tennis. I surpassed my girlfriend's capabilities and pursued the sport a little further. I then moved on to tournaments. At that time it was just

another way to meet people and have fun. I still feel that racquetball is just as fun and exciting.

Tell us about your personal life?

This past October, Jack and I were married. My game was tremendously affected as Jack's was not. I was very busy planning for the wedding while Jack got to continue working on his game. Because Jack and I are so involved in racquetball, we haven't much time for much else. One of us is always tired or cranky. I guess it's a matter of time and adjustment in the beginning of our marriage. We both realize that our short/long term goals want to be reached as much as possible before we think about having children. As far as our families, both sides think that our playing so much racquetball is ridiculous, time consuming, and too costly for us in this stage of marriage (trying to save for a house). Neither families understand why we compete. I find this very distracting because there's no support, no "pat on the shoulder", or any real concern. They're always telling us that it won't last and we'll get old of it sometime. What they don't realize, I think, is that racquetball is a part of our happiness, our competitiveness, our marriage and health (besides, this is where we met and have most commonality). We both find it very challenging and fun.

Do you work, go to school, are you a housewife, etc.?

I have worked full time as a secretary for six years. Luckily, my job doesn't interfere or hinder my racquetball playing since I rarely have any problem getting time off for tournaments or even coming to lessons early. I have always wanted to go back to school, but I guess I fear that I'll back off of racquetball, which I don't want to do just yet. I've come so far to lose

Continued on page 8

PLAYER OF THE MONTH — Continued from page 7

it — and I've already felt what it's like when I came back after our honeymoon. It wasn't too thrilling. Again, I would like to accomplish my short/long term goals before I conquer another, besides, I'm still a spring chicken. At some point in time, I'll hold a housewife role. We are planning on children and for me staying home with them until a certain age. Time and mother nature will have to take its course with my involvement in racquetball. We're certainly not planning anything drastic in the next two years. I look forward to the challenge and excitement of bringing up children.

Why do you continue to stay involved with this program?

It's very beneficial for my game, self-gratifying, challenging and gives me a sense of accomplishment. If I play well (tournament or not), I feel good about myself. If I feel good, Jack feels good. It's a cycle. I'm not a very confident/positive person to begin with. This program teaches me new aspects of competition, leadership,

being able to teach what I learn (reinforcement), and a great sense of confidence. Not only does this program give me assurance with my game but helps me cope with my personal life too. It's also very fun and rewarding.

Is there anything you would like to say? (anything)

I'd like to thank Stu Hastings for everything he has taught me. I actually believe I'm a stronger individual than I was before I started lessons two years ago. I can still be a wimp, but at least I can grasp it and deal with it. I've come a long way and owe it to Stu Hastings, his team members, and my husband, Jack. I'm truly fascinated with the dedication and knowledge of these people. With this support, I believe in myself to accomplish my short and long term goals. (I would of never been playing "A" ball if I didn't take lessons).

THANK YOU, STU, FOR HELPING ME WITH EVERYTHING!

SPECIAL TOURNAMENT NOTES

AARA REGIONALS

February 20 - 22

"NEW SITE"

Davison Racquet Club
Davison, MI

RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

February 27 - March 1

Woodland Racquet Club
Brighton, MI

RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

April 10 - 12

Rose Shores East Racquet Club
Roseville, MI

AARA JUNIOR REGIONALS

May 15 - 17

"NEW DATE & SITE"
Backwall Racquetball Club
Madison Heights, MI

Tournament Observations

I have been playing racquetball for about ten years in Michigan. I have participated in tournaments for eight of those ten years. Tournaments to me are an excellent way to compete with other players at your level and enjoy a great weekend of meeting players from all over the state. Over the years I have seen player participation decline drastically. I realize that there are many more tournaments to choose from today than eight years ago. However, there are other factors that I feel enter into the players' decision not to play tournaments.

My recent participation in a Super Seven tournament in Ann Arbor has motivated me to write this article. I played in the Seniors A (35+) division and volunteered to referee several times over the weekend. I have been amazed for eight years at the failure of players to simply play a "fair" game of racquetball. I noticed double bounce pickups, profanity, screaming at the referees, banging racquets on the wall and just about anything else that you can think of that would discourage anyone from ever playing racquetball!

The reason that I am amazed is that the players are fully aware of the infractions that I have mentioned. Evidently, in their need or eagerness to win, they simply are unable to play what I consider to be a "fair" game of racquetball. I watched a rally ending in one player telling the referee that his opponent had taken a double bounce pickup. The opponent immediately stated, "The ref didn't call it did he?" This is just one example of unnecessary unfair play.

I have no suggestions that would completely eliminate this behavior, but consider the following for the future:

1. Referees should be more familiar with the "technical" rules which would reduce the profanity, and other unnecessary actions on the court

2. Line judges should be present whenever possible in all matches. I realize that this would be difficult to accomplish, but it would eliminate most of the arguing between the player and the referee.

3. Perhaps the player should be able to appeal hinders and other presently unappealable calls. I realize that this may cause the matches to run longer at first, but in the long run, I feel that the player's attitude would improve to the point where there were actually fewer appeals.

In closing, I would like to suggest that all players read the section in the rule book, "How to referee when there is no referee." I feel that this is the most important section in the rule book. If the player diligently follows this section, it would greatly improve league, club and tournament play! I have found that many players are not even aware that such a section exists in the rule book. For example, do you know the proper call in the following situation when there is no referee:

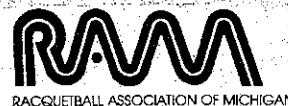
Your opponent calls a double bounce pickup on you during a rally. You are not sure whether you got the ball on the first bounce. Should you: A. replay the point or B. consider it a double bounce pickup. If you answered A., then you definitely need to read the section I mentioned in the rule book.

Please keep in mind that I am not implying that all players are unfair, because it is probably a small percentage overall. However, it's the small percentage of any group that causes degradation in improving any situation. Racquetball is a great sport for everyone and I am simply suggesting some possible changes that may encourage increased participation.

Dennis McCune

ANSWERS TO 'TRIVIA 8' QUESTIONS

1. Rose Shores and Southfield Racquetime.
2. Jim Hiser
3. IRA National 4. Jimmy Floyd & Stacey Fletcher
5. Kathy Williams
6. Jim Pruitt - 1975 - Lansing YMCA
7. Kathy Williams
8. Judy Huhta



RAM Facility Listing

Holland Health & Racquet Club

572 E. 8th St.
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-1417

20 Aerobic Classes Weekly
22 Nautilus Stations
2 Free Weight Rooms
10 Racquetball Courts

Whirlpools

Dry Heat Saunas

Suntanning

Indoor Running Track

Masseur/Masseuse

Babysitting Services

Daily Guest Prices For:

Workout Aerobics and Racquetball

THE BACKWALL BACKWALL

FITNESS & RACQUET CLUB

2 Ajax Drive
Madison Heights, MI 48071
(Located at the corner of John R. and Ajax Drive, just north of 12 Mile Road)
(313) 589-0900

Detroit Area's Ultimate Racquetball Club
Competitive Play at All Levels
Travelling and In-House Leagues
Instructor - Stu Hastings
RAM's Male Player of the Year 1986
10 Racquetball Courts
Aerobics
Fitness Center
Free Weights
Lifecycles and Lifewater
Stairmaster
Training Salon
Nursery
Whirlpool and Saunas
Nutrition Counseling
Personalized Fitness Programs

29th Street Fitness Center

2701 29th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(between Breton & Schaeffer)
(616) 942-6190

11 Racquetball Courts
4 Continuous Challenge Courts:
Racquetball & Wallball
22 Station Circuit Nautilus
Complete Free Weights
2 Large Custom Aerobic Studios
Indoor Running Track
State of the Art Tanning Bed
Completely Co-Ed
Sauna & Whirlpool:
In Men's & Women's Lockers
Guests Are Welcome

Woodland Racquet Club

7524 W. Grand River - Brighton, Michigan 48116 - (313) 227-7373

Air Conditioning for Year-Round Play - Indoor Tennis Courts
Outdoor Tennis Courts - Regulation Courts for: Racquetball, Handball, Paddleball
1 Glass Sidewall Competition Court With Viewing Area - Permanent Court Time
Professional Teaching Programs - Junior Excellence Program
Singles and Doubles Leagues for Women - Singles and Doubles Leagues for Men
Attractive Locker Rooms With Whirlpool and Saunas - Exercise Area
Nautilus Fitness Center - Aerobics - Beauty Shop

Tournament Calendar 1987

March

March 6 - 8 Super Seven 7
Grand Blanc Court Club - Grand Blanc
March 20 - 22 Patrons Grand Rapids City
Championship
Grand Rapids

April

April 3 - 5 Super Seven 8
Coliseum - Taylor
April 10 - 12 RAM State Singles
Championship
(tba)
April 24 - 26 Three Days in April
Riverview - Grand Rapids

February

Feb. 6 - 8 Super Seven 6
Rose Shores East - Roseville
Feb. 13 - 15 MCRA Challenge Series 3
Clinton - Mt. Clemens
Feb. 20 - 22 AARA Regionals
Davison Racquet Club - Davison
Feb. 27 -
March 1, RAM State Dbls. Championship
Woodland Racquet Club - Brighton

May

May 1 - 3 MCRA Challenge Series 4
Players Club - Warren
May 15 - 17 Super Seven Finale
Backwall - Madison Heights
May 15 - 17 AARA Junior Regionals
Backwall - Madison Heights