



THE LOUISIANA RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

"Dedicated to promoting the game of Racquetball"

P.O. BOX 80643 / BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70898

504-346-8657

JANUARY 1986

LRA "ROLLS IN" 1986

LOOKING BACK: THE 1985 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1985 Louisiana State Championships saw Mike Almerico of New Orleans win his second title in the Open division. After three days of intense competition, Mike defeated Bill Land of Lafayette in two straight games. By doing so, Mike joined a very select group of individuals who have won this prestigious title twice. He also prevented Bill from becoming the only player to win it three times. Jim Bayhi turned in a strong performance to finish in third place. Consolation went to Steve Martin.

Karen Foley of New Orleans defeated Chris Metrailer of Baton Rouge in straight games to take the Women's Open division. This was Karen's first open title at State and she clearly enjoyed her moment after last year's bitter disappointment. Third place went to Mischa McCrory and consolation to Marcia Richards.

In Men's A division, Greg Stout defeated Mike Waller, Jr. for first and second place. Third place was captured by David Rahn and the consolation winner was Donnie Jarreau.

Women's A division state champion is Helen Siegel. Second honors went to Bonnie Behlar. Third place went to Ellen Monteiro and consolation to Faye Spradley.

Other state champions are:

Men's B

1st-Frank Campo
2nd-Ron Geraci
3rd-Charlie Pfister
Con-John Davis

Men's C

1st-Rory Shinn
2nd-Dennis Lloyd
3rd-Geoffrey Mackenzie
Con-Monty Bordelon

Men's D

1st-David Britsch
2nd-Audie Patterson
3rd-Bubba Belaire
Con-Curtis Crawford

Women's B

1st-Dawn Ellerman
2nd-Cathy Munson
3rd-Cindy Elsensohn
Con-Debbie Herrmann

Women's C

1st-Debbie Nemitz
2nd-Denise Loveless
3rd-Missy Saxon
Con-Debbie Bayham

Women's D

1st-Jane Saunders
2nd-Nancy Heebe
3rd-Rachel French
Con-Betsy Fischer

This year saw 250 players from all over Louisiana come out to participate in the premier tournament of this state. Dressed in their colorful windbreakers, the players enjoyed a full weekend of great competition, food

continued on page 2

cont. from page 1

and hospitality, prizes, Award Banquet, and party. Although Sunday saw a hurrican appear off the coast out of nowhere, the crowds for the weekend were great. The L.R.A. would like to thank the Wallbangers, their fine staffs, our fine sponsors, the volunteers, and most of all the players for making this one of the finest State tournaments ever. Without your help and cooperation, we could never promote the game of racquetball with so much ease and enthusiam.

Chairman

As our association grows older and more players learn more about how the L.R.A. works and functions from competition to competition, we all realize that a little help from a lot of people goes a long way. A dramatic demonstration of this line of thinking happened at the State Singles. I felt real good about the State Singles, seeing so many players and sponsors giving so much in time, energy, money, physical and mental effort, the works!! Thanks!! This kind of voluntary spirit will insure the steady growth and strength of the L.R.A. and racquetball. All with the good will and prestige that comes with L.R.A. sanction tournaments, everyone helping just makes being there more fun. Our association exists only to help its members and member clubs enjoy and promote our great sport-RACQUETBALL.

In 1986, look for some great competition. The young players in Louisiana are coming of age. You older players will be finding it harder to stay ahead of the pack. The results of some of the recent tournaments show that the change is starting already.

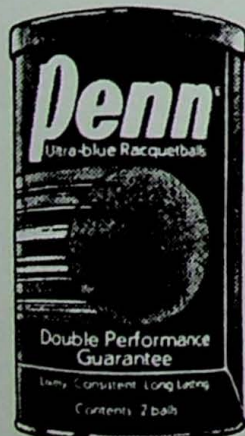
Look for great tournaments just like last year. The only change is that most of them will be of the "B" type. The only "A" type tournaments will be the Bite the Bullet (Ron Jeter Tournament), State Seniors/Juniors, State Doubles and State Singles. We are lucky to have been able to work with and teach all the club owners and managers the act of running a tournament. They all know what's going on and are very capable of doing a great job as in the past. Your job as a member of the L.R.A. is to help assist the staff of these clubs in making sure the tournaments go smoothly by helping at the check-in desk, keeping the club clean, being on time and volunteering to referee occasionally. You are just as much a representative of the L.R.A. as I am, so don't be bashful.

Look for things coming back to the players from the L.R.A. such as balls, socks, towels, etc. I'm not making any promises but life is full of pleasant susprises. If we work hard to continue to let the product manufacturers know we support their merchandise, perhaps they'll reciprocate.

Look for me to still be around, along with all the other members of the executive committee and remember the L.R.A. meetings are the second Tuesday of the month. Just call the L.R.A. office and we'll get back with you. And if that doesn't work, call me at R.B.O.-522-2956.

Happy holidays & best wishes for the New Year,

Paul



PENN IS THE OFFICIAL BALL OF THE LRA FOR 1986

DP
Fit for Life
Diversified Products

Vice-Chairman

A year later and hopefully wiser, I have great expectations for racquetball in Louisiana. In 1985, the L.R.A. and myself were undergoing changes. For me it was one of understanding the complexities of what does occur being an officer and representative of your organization as well as being a player. For the L.R.A. it was the reaffirming of itself as a stable governing body of the racquetball players in Louisiana. Both of us have experienced and learned alot. The main thing to be said here is that the L.R.A. is very much alive and growing stronger. We are entering new times and what was a stumbling block has helped to fortify ourselves for the tasks ahead. The L.R.A. is ready to accept and handle the responsibilities our membership places in our care.

The State Singles has come and successfully gone for another year and I would like to make a few observations. To all the players at Old Jefferson who played without referees, it was difficult at times but you should all be very proud. Except for a couple of distractions from the spirit of the game, everyone took it upon themselves to be honest and make the calls when necessary. This reaffirms my sincere belief that the players can play without all the petty bickering and court antics. Thanks to all of you.

The Wallbangers were again our hosts. Guy, Dwayne, Mack, Danny, Donnie and their fine staffs operate and maintain great facilities to have such an event at. Not enough can be said for the Wallbangers generous assistance in holding the State tournament.

Without a doubt, Baton Rouge is very fortunate to have the fine sponsors that year in and out help us put on the State. To all of them, we express our gratitude for such support. I would personally like to thank Jim Kitchen of D.P. and Pete Klear of Penn. These fine people and organizations are committed to helping our organization and amateur racquetball.

In 1985, the L.R.A. went back and took a hard look at where we were headed. To be honest, some clubs and members have left to go their own way. To them we wish success. To the clubs and members who have stayed with us, the L.R.A. is here for you. In 1986, with the involvement of all the membership, the Louisiana Racquetball Association is ready and more than able to continue to promote the game of racquetball.

Bob

Ranking

The new year is about to begin, and with the new year comes the clearing of last year's ranking points. The way the system works is that each player accumulates points for each tournament he or she plays in that year, up until the STATE TOURNAMENT. These points dictate where you are seeded for each tournament. At the State Tournament, the 1986 point accumulation begins, but the 1985 points, up until the State Tournament, are used until December 31. This allows people to have a ranking in the November and December tournaments that is not dominated by the large value of points earned or not earned in the State Tournament, therefore making for a fair draw.

Therefore, as of January 1, the points you have earned in the State Tournament and the November and December tournaments will start your points for 1986.

Players will be reviewed by the Ranking Committee in March, July and immediately after the State Tournament.

Valerie Shean



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1986 CALENDAR

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CLUB</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
<u>JANUARY</u>	17,18,19	7th Annual Rivercenter Open	Rivercenter	New Orleans	B
	31, Feb.				
	1 & 2	Bite the Bullet	Wallbanger-OJ	Baton Rouge	A
<u>FEBRUARY</u>	14,15,16	4th Annual Valentine Shootout	Racquetball One	New Orleans	B
	28, March				
	1 & 2	Bon Temps	Bon Temps	Mandeville	B
<u>MARCH</u>	14,15,16	2nd Annual Spring Open	Court King	New Orleans	B
<u>APRIL</u>	11,12,13	10th Annual WBCC Classic	Wallbanger-OH	Baton Rouge	B
	18,19,20	Club at Chamale Cove Tourney	Club Chamale Cove	Chamale	B
<u>MAY</u>	2,3,4	1986 Contraband	Roman Health	Lake Charles	B
	*16,17,18	State Doubles Championships	Kenner-Y	Kenner	A
	30,31 & June 1	Summer Classic	Sports Connection	Mereau	B
<u>JUNE</u>	6,7,8	Baton Rouge Sports Festival	Wallbanger-P	Baton Rouge	B
<u>JULY</u>	*18,19,20	State Seniors/Juniors Champ.	Wallbanger	Baton Rouge	A
<u>AUGUST</u>	15,16,17	2nd Annual Summer Classic	Bon Temps	Mandeville	B
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	5,6,7	Chamale Senior Stop	Club Chamale Cove	Chamale	B
	12,13,14	RBO Invitational	Racquetball One	New Orleans	B
	26,27,28	3rd Annual Renaissance II	Renaissance II	Houma	B
<u>OCTOBER</u>	3,4,5	State Qualifying Tournament	Wallbanger	Baton Rouge	B
	*17,18,19	State Singles Championships	Wallbangers	Baton Rouge	A
<u>NOVEMBER</u>	7,8,9	3rd Annual Crossgates Tourney	Crossgates	Slidell	B
	21,22,23	4th Annual Wild Turkey Classic	Roman Health	Lake Charles	B

Type A - Draw and tournament done by the L.R.A. Tournament Committee
Type B - Draw will be done by the club

REMEMBER!!

In order to play STATE SINGLES, you must have played in
at least one sanctioned tournament since State Singles 1985.

PREFERRED CLUB DIRECTORY

Kenner-Y 2121 38th St. Kenner, La. 70065 504-443-6363 Renee Hebert	Sports Connection 2605 Munster Blvd. Mereau, La. 70075 504-277-8414 Cliff Zeairs	Wallbanger 10473 Old Hammond Hwy. Baton Rouge, La. 70815 504-923-2793 Mack Faul	Wallbanger 7069 Perkins Road Baton Rouge, La. 70808 504-769-4120 Donnie Jarreau
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Wallbanger
13436 Old Jefferson Hwy.
Baton Rouge, La. 70816
504-292-9755
Danny Boudreaux

ASSOCIATE CLUB DIRECTORY

Racquetball One 1300 One Shell Square New Orleans, La. 70190 504-522-2956 Paul Bruno	Renaissance II 106 Southdown W. Blvd. Houma, La. 70360 504-868-8473 James Lecompte	Court King 10080 Morrison Rd. New Orleans, La. 70127 504-246-0666 Rowley Sewell
Crossgates Racquet Club 200 Military Road Slidell, La. 70458 504-643-8194 Richard Broadwell	Convington Court Club Route 3, Box 713 Convington, La. 70433 504-893-4800 Edgar Schafer	Bon Temps 100 Bon Temps Route Mandeville, La. 70448 504-845-8826 Brian Lowe
Rivercenter Tennis Club 600 South Front Blvd. New Orleans, La. 70139 504-587-7242 Elliot Diaz	Imperial Sports Center 105 Imperial Drive Houma, La. 70360 504-868-0133 Bubba Trosclair	Swedish Spa 10 Southgate Lane Lake Charles, La. 70601 318-433-9600 Jerry Magehee
Roman Health Resort 4324 Lake Street Lake Charles, La. 70605 318-478-8510 Becky Spano	B.R. Athletic Club 7639 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, La. 70814 504-923-0100 Terry Smith	Red Lerille's 117 Doucet Road Lafayette, La. 70503 318-984-7738 Bill Land
Ichiban Fitness Center 990 Quail Creek Road Shreveport, La. 71105 318-861-3535 Steven Vice	N.O.W.R.A. 1300 One Shell Square New Orleans, La. 70190 504-522-2956 Jan Novick	Club at Chamale Cove #90 Chamale Cove West Slidell, La. 70458 504-649-2751 Joe Mahoney

Finance

In 1985, it has been a year of sound business practices for the L.R.A. Reducing expenditures, cutting back on expenses, utilizing more volunteer help while maintaining L.R.A. services to its membership, has been the way.

1986 should see the most exciting year in L.R.A. history. These sound business decisions have prepared us financially for the coming year, and made us ready for the coming challenge of running this organization.

Expenses for 1985 as of November were as follow:

Expenses - \$32,424.00

Income - \$38,024.00

\$ 5,600.00

John Pellerin-Finance

Public Relations

This past year has not brought much in the way of complaints, ideas or suggestions to this department. Are we doing that well?? Come on, racquetball players, speak up! The complaints we can do without, ha, but don't let that stop you from making one if you feel a need to. What we'd really like to see in this department is some articles to put in this newsletter. Ones that express your ideas, your suggestions, your questions about L.R.A. racquetball. Any interesting news, quips or scoops(good humored only), send them in. This is your organization. Your input will only help to make L.R.A. racquetball continue to grow.

Thanks and Happy New Year,

Chris Metrailer-PR



STRANDEMO RACQUETBALL TIP #1

The most common flaw in many player's forehand is the inadvertent use of the left hand during the set-up. Many players subconsciously touch their left hand to the racquet strictly out of habit. The consequences of this extra motion limit the player in getting his racquet back quick enough or far enough and results in a short, jab-type stroke.

STRANDEMO RACQUETBALL TIP #2

When the reasonable offensive opportunity presents itself, don't pass it up. Look for your low zone targets on the front and side walls so you can create and maintain aggressiveness in your shot selection. The shooters are getting more accurate in today's game. Don't get left behind; take your shots.

THE RIGHT DIVISION?

The proper placement of players in their most competitive division for the State Singles Championships has long been a conversation piece of many belonging to the L.R.A.

Unfortunately, the so-called "sandbagging" of players does exist making it very difficult, under the present rule, to properly place a "B" player in the "B" division, a "C" player in the "C" division, and so on.

The present rule states that you must play in one L.R.A. sanctioned tournament (during the year) to qualify to play in the State Singles Championships. Under this present rule you do not have to play in a (singles) event to qualify, you may play in a (doubles or seniors) event. For the player playing in one doubles or seniors event all year while not playing in a singles event does not give the Ranking Committee of the L.R.A. a chance to properly place the player in the right division.

The L.R.A. realizes the flaw in this rule and a possible change may be forthcoming.

In order to help evaluate this situation, I URGE you to complete and mail to the L.R.A. the following questionnaire. Respond by January 31, 1986, please. Please do respond as your opinion is valued and needed.

Thank you,
Billy Danner

How many L.R.A. sanctioned tournaments (singles events only) do you think a player should play in order to qualify for the State Singles Championships? Please circle your response.

1 2 3 4

How many tournaments did you play in last year?

1 2 3 4 Over 4

What division are you presently playing in?

Open A B C D

1985 AWARD BANQUET RESULTS

TOP OPEN MALE PLAYER-MIKE ALMERICO

TOP OPEN FEMALE PLAYER-KAREN FOLEY

MOST IMPROVED MALE PLAYER-DONNIE HARPER

MOST IMPROVED FEMALE PLAYER-TRACY SHEAN

BEST SPORTSMANSHIP-BILLY DANNER

BEST SPORTSWOMAN-DENISE LOVELESS

CONGRATULATIONS!!

TOP 10 MEN'S DIVISIONS

MEN'S OPEN

Mike Almerico
Bill Land
Willie Fernandez
Guy Faget
Byron Williams
Lance Nelson
Richard Broadwell
Darrell Ney
Gregg Peck
Kerry Campagna

MEN'S A

Danny Bordelon
David Rahn
Mark Herpin
Troy LeBlanc
Scott Ehert
Keith Hosli
Jim Clarke
Jack Gromer
Patrick Goodman
Jim Allen

MEN'S B

Donald LaGasse
Ronny Geraci
Geoffrey Burrell
Frank Campo, Jr.
Jeff Dunlap
Gregory Stout
John Davis
Alan Yedor
Mike Landry
Willie Hebert

MEN'S C

Blaze Fremem
Tyrone Boler
Darryl Broussard
Keith Brown
Bo Ryle
Thomas Dietrich
John Davis
Stephen Broussard
Elliot Diaz
Richard Hinton

MEN'S D

Darryl Broussard
Jeff Collins
Mark Sigler
Kenny Vairin
Stephen Broussard
Monty Bordelon
Dale Crochet
Jim Dowd
Thomas Allost
Bob Gilmore

TOP 10 WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

WOMEN'S OPEN

Karen Foley
Chris Metrailler
Marcia Richards
Eddie Martin
Becky Gromer
Nancy Feinswog
Terri Andrews
Terri Pruitt
Gail Woods
Mischea McCrory

WOMEN'S A

Michelle Barkate
Faye Spradley
Ellen Monteiro
Joanne Blackwell
Brenda George
Helen Seigel
Beth Ford
Carol Williams
Suzanne Corkren
Mellisa Hall

WOMEN'S B

Patty Gracionette
Cindy Elsensohn
Karin Almerico
Kathy Munson
Debbie Herrmann
Brenda Hall
Brenda LeBlanc
Barbara Gambordella
Patty Miller
Carrie Patureau

WOMEN'S C

Ruby Wallen
Melissa Saxon
Denise Loveless
Tracy Shean
Jennifer Legros
Debbie Ricks
Sloan Becker
Michelle Ashley
Patti Schof
Winnie Bush

WOMEN'S D

Betsy Fischer
Tiffany Gurganus
Jane Saunders
Judy Jackson
Sharon Hoffman
Leslie Pontillas
Rachel French
Kim Wolford
Joel Muery
Yvonne Collazo

LRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN-PAUL BRUNO
VICE-CHAIRMAN-BOB STANTON
RANKING-VALERIE SHEAN
FINANCE-JOHN PELLERIN
PUBLIC RELATIONS-CHRIS METRAILER
RULES-DON ELLERMAN