

The Racquetball Reporter

Winter 1992

Quarterly Publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

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Changing of the guard

Rallis/Hamilton Win State Doubles Title

Over 150 players descended on Ann Arbor's One on One Athletic Club December 4-6, for the Racquetball Association of Michigan's 1992 State Doubles Championships.

With nearly thirty more players than last year's State Doubles, the '92 version presented the problem of lack of courts, especially when three of them went down for extended periods of time due to wet walls and slippery floors. The tournament staff did yeoman's work in keeping delays to a moderate level and all in all things went smoothly considering the lack of courts, people playing two divisions, and while being guaranteed two losses in each, the increase in players over last year.

Nick Rallis and Jim Hamilton prevented three-peat champions Troy Hall and Chris Cole from winning their fourth straight doubles title. The double elimination bracket produced two incredible tight tie breaker matches:

Rallis/Hamilton taking the first 11-8, while Cole/Hall rebounded to win the second 11-9. After playing nearly five hours for the two matches, all four players whole-heartedly agreed to play one fifteen point game instead of another full match. With both teams near exhaustion, Rallis and Hamilton began a new chapter in Michigan State Doubles by unseating the champs 15-12.

For both Rallis and Hamilton, this represents their first championship after many attempts. As Rallis said after the win, "I think I have lost to Chris and Troy each of the last three years. Twice with Jim (Hamilton) and last year with Bob Wilhelm. It's great to finally win one."

"I feel so psyched right now," winning partner Hamilton added. "It feels awesome to win my first state championship, it is a really great feeling."

Continued on page 5

View of the President

by Chris Cole

Membership in RAM for the past few years has either decreased or remained the same, and the national office of the AARA has voiced concern over this predicament. What to do about the loss of members, will be the RAM Board of Directors main priority January 1993 and beyond. Many factors, including our state's worsening economy and the lack of large clubs to host tournaments, need to be addressed in hopes of finding ways of combating the loss of members.

Obviously, the economy and club availability is out of the control of the RAM Board, but perhaps ways can be found to circumvent these problems in

order for the racquetballers to continue supporting RAM/AARA without having to take financial losses as well.

There exists then a need for better communication between the RAM Board and members in order for us to work at improving the quality of our programs and the retention of our RAM members. To this end, a survey has been drawn up and is included inside this issue of the newsletter. It is in each RAM member's interest to fill one out and send it in. It is impossible for the RAM Board to give its members what they need if it is unaware of what those needs are. This survey will go a long way in giving the Board information it can use towards increasing the enjoyment of the game for RAM members, so please fill it out with as much depth and honesty you can muster. In a democracy such as ours, the right to have and voice your own opinion is too often taken for granted. This is your opportunity to have a say so do the right thing and mail in your completed survey.

As many of you probably noticed Joel Bonnett and Jimmy Floyd graced the television screen in November as PASS cable channel played the finals of October's National Doubles Champion

Continued on page 12

HELP!

Used lensed
eyewear needed!

If you have any used eyewear that you could donate for a junior program at the Eastside Branch of the YMCA in Detroit, please contact:

Rick Crawford
(313) 921-0770

Racquetball Association
of
Michigan

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RAM Tournament Sanctioning
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Newsletter
The Racquetball Reporter
Sandy Conlen, Editor
3152 S. Henderson
Davison, MI 48423

The Racquetball Reporter is published quarterly by the Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM). Additional supplements are distributed twice yearly. Information and articles are submitted by individuals and clubs and do not necessarily reflect the view of RAM. The Racquetball Reporter welcomes information, photos and letters for publication. Advertising rates are available upon request. Thanks to those who contributed to this issue:

W.T. Blakeslee
Ken Bonnett
Christopher Cole
Rick Crawford
Jim Easterling

Player Survey

Please take the time to fill out the following survey for the RAM Board of Directors. Your input is vital to the success of Michigan racquetball. Mail all responses to RAM, 3152 S. Henderson, Davison, MI 48423. Thank you.

How many tournaments per year do you play?

What is your current division?

Do you play tournaments just at your club? In the state? regionals?

Have you ever been to the Houston Nationals?

What type of work do you do?

Approximate salary earned:

Are tournaments too expensive? Why?

What is the most you would pay for an entry?

Is hospitality important?

Do you like collared shirts, t-shirts or sweatshirts?

Do you prefer plaques, trophies or money?

What do you enjoy about tournaments?

What do you like least about tournaments?

If you could change or add something about tournament play, what would it be?

Do you feel consolation brackets are necessary? Why?

Continued on page 4...

Do you like the idea of round robin one day events? Why?

Do you feel \$15 is too much for and AARA membership? Why?

What do you like or dislike about the *Racquetball Reporter*?

Do you like the AARA's *Racquetball Magazine*?

Do you think the RAM Board helps or hinders the sport? Why?

Would you consider being on the Board? Why?

What suggestions do you have to increase RAM/AARA membership?

If you were RAM president for a day, what is the first thing you would do?

Send all responses to RAM, 3152 S. Henderson, Davison, MI 48423

1992 State Doubles Results

Continued from page 1

As for the vanquished, words of congratulations for the victors. "They got the job done and we didn't," said Hall, "Nick played great and you can't take anything away from them." Similarly, Cole responded with, "I'm happy for Nick and Jim, they deserve it. Troy and I have won it before so we know how good it feels. Besides I've had a great year so this one loss isn't the end of the world, and it is good for the game to have someone else win it."

In other action, Stu Hastings was this year's only double winner, collecting golds in Men's 35+ with partner Jack White and in Mixed Open with Kaye Harrington. The Mixed Open gold came in an exciting fashion as Hastings/Harrington had to battle the formidable team of Johnny Northern and Val Springer in two consecutive matches. Both teams displayed excellent shot making ability, as evidenced by the large crowds that watched their battles.

This year's State Doubles marked the 11th straight year that Alex Birescu and Jack Sisinger have competed together, making theirs the longest partnership currently playing. The pair took second

1992 RAM State Doubles Champions

Men's Open

Nick Rallis/Jim Hamilton

Men's A

Scott Sargent/Eddie Carr

Men's B

Gerald Tucker/Lenny Chaltraw

Men's C

Brad Cook/Mike Stewart

Men's D

David Starr/Bill Lott

Men's 30B

Tony Barra/Mark Ellis

Men's 35A

Stu Hastings/Jack White

Men's 35B

Rob Fianco/Rich Cramb

Men's 40A & B

Bob Gravelyn/Jim Santino

Men's 45/50/55

Ken Bonnett/Bob Gravelyn

Women's Open

Marta Rubich/Melody Gorna

Women's A

Janet Insko/Kathy Trotter

Women's C/D

Janet Warren/Debbie Hotra

Mixed Open

Stu Hastings/Kaye Harrington

Mixed A/B

Darin Harper/Stacey Barbas

Mixed C

Kevin Sorenson/Corien Sorenson

in Men's C and fourth in Men's 45/50/55.

The RAM Board of Directors would like to thank One on One for hosting this year's State Doubles as well as

PENN for supplying the balls and Hilton Screeners of Davison the sweatshirts. Congratulations from the Board to all the winners, placers and entrants!

Seniors/Masters favored at tourney

by Jim Easterling

Michigan's Midwest Seniors/Masters Racquetball Tournament hosted by the Grand Blanc Court on November 13-15 proved to be fun and exciting for all players. This tournament is Michigan's only level four tournament and provided stiff competition from the regional area.

There were people from all places and of all ages at this event with the youngest players in the 35's and our oldest in the 65's. There was plenty of competition from out of state as Ohio, Indiana and

Illinois were all represented. Players enjoyed the format of 2 games to 11 points, no refs and round robin play. People were guaranteed at least five matches and some players played as many as ten! All entrants received a white sweatshirt as their tournament souvenir upon checking in. Some players also participated in the banquet held Saturday night at Walli's Motor Lodge. An auction highlighted the evening, with over \$800.00 going to support the U.S. National Team.

The friendly and helpful staff of the Grand Blanc Court Club did an excellent job in

helping to make everyone's weekend more enjoyable. There was always hot coffee and cold lemonade throughout the tournament, along with different foods. Their hospitality was greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank those who made this tournament possible: PENN, who donated the tournament ball, Walli's Motor Lodge East for being the host hotel and putting on a great banquet spread, the owners and staff of the Grand Blanc Court Club and lastly, the players who made the tournament possible. See you next year.



Women's 35/40

Congratulations to all!

Men's 35

- 1st Todd Bedenis
- 2nd Dave Ellis

Men's 40

- 1st Jim Santino
- 2nd John Gervasi

Men's 45

- 1st Bob Gravelyn
- 2nd Tom Perna

Men's 50

- 1st Hank Gates
- 2nd Dave Lund

Men's 60

- 1st Lynn Hahn
- 2nd Charles Kaiser

Men's 65

- 1st JD Driver
- 2nd Philip Dzluk

Women's 35

- 1st Laura Patteson
- 2nd Karen Green

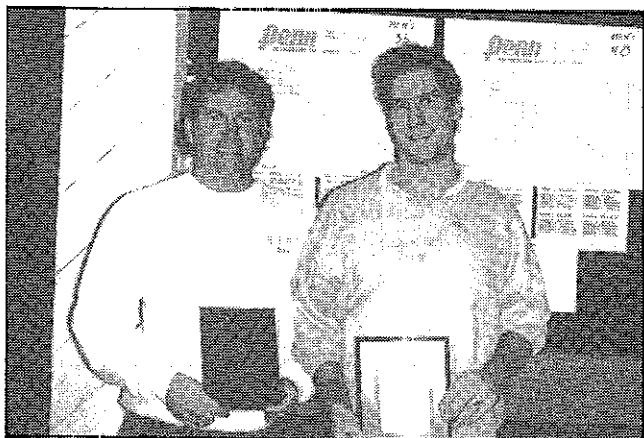
Women's 40

- 1st Denise Gravelyn
- 2nd Barbara Swaab

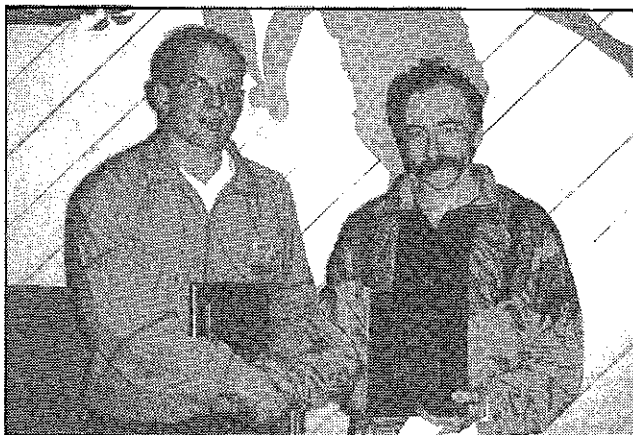
Women's 45

- 1st Betty Gilliland
- 2nd Brigitte Hartz

1992 Midwest Invitational Seniors/Masters Winners



Men's 35



Men's 40



Men's 45



Men's 50



Men's 65



Men's 55/60

***Penn.* AARA Michigan**

MEN'S OPEN

Chris Cole	1280
Jim Floyd	610
Nick Rallis	470
Joel Bonnett	355
Stu Hastings	210

MEN'S NOVICE

Kevin Harkness	180
Jason Goy	125
Tom DeLoach	100
Ron Cunningham	65
Jim Bennick	50

MEN'S 35+C

Doug Kochneff	105
Chuck VanHoose	70
Richard Cramb	50
Michael Stephens	50
Matt Raymond	40
Mian Rashad	30

MEN'S A

Dan Veith	250
Gordan Gallagher	150
Mike Garbarino	150
Bob Gravelyn	150
Charles White	125

MEN'S 25+

Johnny Northern	300
Scott Pufahl	150
Greg Hodges	140
Jai Shekawat	130
Jim Hamilton	80

MEN'S 40+

Marty Mangino	865
Tom Blakeslee	370
Bob Gravelyn	280
Doug Toth	255
Jim Santino	200

MEN'S B

Bill Marshall	325
Jim Davidson	165
Larry Sarver	150
Manny Amato	100
Scott Reneaud	95

MEN'S 30+

Johnny Northern	510
Scott Worthy	300
Greg Hodges	250
Mike Anderson	190
Jack White	110

MEN'S 40+B

Mike Young	250
Terry Lawler	150
Jerry Eldred	100
Allan Mell	100
Gary Phipps	95
Steve Burghdorf	75

MEN'S C

Rick Beck	325
Scott Sargent	265
John Wall	160
Chuck VanHoose	150
Manny Amato	105

MEN'S 35+

Scott Worthy	500
Johnny Northern	380
Stu Hastings	375
Jim Woolcock	340
Marty Mangino	155

MEN'S 45+

Ken Bonnett	655
Tom Brownlee	300
Mike Young	270
Johnny Northern	200
Rick Parkhurst	200

MEN'S D

Mike McFarland	250
Steve Marsh	210
William Panagos	210
Ken Franz	200
Bob Reou	125
John Hall	120

MEN'S 35+B

Ron Bonds	375
Scott Bruce	150
Brian Momchilove	150
Van Conway	100
Brian Hedden	100

MEN'S 50+

Robert Dynes	250
Hank Gates	180
Vince Callahan	170
Jim Connor	150
Jess Madden	150
Paul Becker	130

Player Standings



WOMEN'S OPEN

Val Springer	485
Laura Patterson	295
Cindy Sieders	250
Kay Harrington	205
Leslie Kishigan	150

WOMEN'S B

Diane Pearson	515
Karen Green	280
Charlene Shaw	165
Kathy Beck	150
Diane Trombley	150
Barbara Swaab	130

WOMEN'S D

Judy Porter	160
Kathy Foley	150
Christine Edmunds	100
Karen Hart	80
Terri Harris	75

WOMEN'S A

Marta Rubich	300
Pam Parkhurst	295
Kaye Harrington	250
Diane Trombley	170
Paula Saad	150

WOMEN'S C

Darla Furze	250
Karen Green	215
Denise Knoll	180
Marianne McHugh	150
Terri Harris	130

WOMEN'S 30+

Diane McCauley	215
Leslie Kishigan	155
Val Springer	130
Kay Harrington	100
Pam Parkhurst	70

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Thoughts from RAM's Second-in-Command

RAM directors expand; ready for '93

by W.T. Blakeslee

The most exciting news I could give the Michigan racquetballer this holiday season, is that we finally added some new people to the RAM Board of Directors. I have been trying to accomplish this task for almost six years. Marta Rubich and Maureen Mead have been appointed to the

Board effective December 1, 1992. I can't tell you how important this is to racquetball promotion, and to me personally. THANKS! In addition to this, both Ken Bonnett and Rick Crawford have been stopping by to offer their points of view. All of this is healthy for the board and in the end will provide much needed information and dis-

cussion for decision making. As a result, our board meetings are starting to be more productive. We can however, still use more directors and I invite any of you out there to stop in and participate.

There are some positive signs out there that seem to indicate racquetball players are starting to come out and play again after a slow start this fall. Out State Doubles Championship was the biggest ever with almost a twenty percent increase in players.

It was the biggest event of the year and I hope all of you begin to support the other tournaments as they take place during the year. I do apologize for the wet courts that caused all of us a real pain and would like to thank everyone for their patience. Congrats to Nick and Jim, but expect Chris and Troy to be back next year to rally for the championship.

As of this writing, we are planning to attend the AARA Directors meeting in Colorado to learn from the other State Associations and discuss how to keep the thrill in racquetball. I am also still trying to get a Regional/Metro event in Michigan. The only bad news: I have heard that our TV coverage on the PRIME network may be reduced. See you on the courts.



\$20,000.00

racquetball

1992-1993

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Racquetball One '93 Changes

by Ken Bonnett

Beginning in January at all Racquetball One events there will be some new changes for the new year.

Number one: Due to the total domination of the Men's Pro/Open division by Joel, Jimmy and Chris, I have decided to split the current division into two separate ones. There will be money in both the Men's Pro and Men's Open divisions, and the open players can play in both divisions. Nationally ranked players like Joel, Jimmy and Chris must play only in the Pro event. This change will allow all those other solid open players to have a chance at winning and a little cash! These players want to play the top players in America, but also want to have a chance at winning. One draw back is that the Pro event may not have many entries. The players I have talked to insisted that they would probably play both events anyway: an opportunity to play the best, yet still concentrating on the Open division. For this to work we need the top open players to play the Pro division as a second event. Chris, Joel, Jimmy and Nick want to play some other people once in awhile too. It is important to note that when a player

wins the Open division, or is in the finals twice, they should move on to the Pro division.

Number two: To encourage more doubles play at the tournaments, we are going to have a blind draw doubles event. This money event will allow all players regardless of skill level, to team up with another player and have a good chance at winning. The Pro and Open players will be separated from the rest of the players and we will draw teams at random. This will balance the teams and make the competition more even. Players should indicate on

their entry form that they are interested in playing blind draw doubles. Other doubles events will be continued in conjunction with this new event.

Number three: As you know we need more tournament players. The draws are down all over Region 9. I have participated in tournaments in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and tournament directors in these states are all witnessing the same thing. Is it the economy? Some say it is, but I think it is more a lack of communication and promotion.

Continued on page 14



\$20,000.00

Racquetball ONE

TOURNAMENT SERIES

NEW YEAR SCHEDULE.....

#7	JANUARY 15-17	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB GRAND RAPIDS, MI.
#8	JANUARY 29-31	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB EAST LANSING, MI. VETERANS/SENIORS/MASTERS ROUND ROBIN TOURNAMENT All age groups beginning with 30+ Open/A and B/C level play will be offered if there is a large draw.
#9	FEBRUARY 19-21	MAPLE ATHLETIC CLUB TROY, MI.
#10	MARCH 5-7	TRENTON ATHLETIC CLUB TRENTON, MI. VETERANS/SENIORS/MASTERS FINALE
#11	MARCH 26-28	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB EAST LANSING, MI.

1993 RACQUETBALL ONE GRAND FINALE

(616) 956-0550



Michigan Athletic Club
2000 Middle School Building



Michigan Athletic Club
2000 Middle School Building



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Troy, MI 48064
313-367-3777



TRENTON
ATHLETIC CLUB



Michigan Athletic Club
2000 Middle School Building

President's thoughts continued...

Continued from page 2

ships. Bonnett and partner Bill Sell squeaked by Floyd and Todd O'Neil, 15-14, 15-14 in one of the most exciting finals ever at National Doubles. Once again, this display of two Michigan players competing for such a prize is a tribute to all Michigan racquetball players. Bonnett and Floyd also appeared in the recently published holiday issue of the AARA's *Racquetball Magazine*, marking the third consecutive cover on which a Michigan player appears.

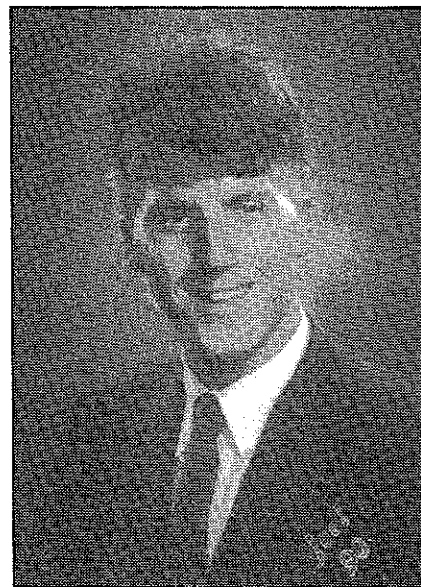
Something that has been on the back burner of the Board has been implementing a Michigan rankings system for tournaments played strictly in our state. It has been done in the past, but was a tedious and time consuming effort that eventually became an expense RAM's treasury could do without. The national office furnishes the Board with cumulative rankings, but these usually are incomplete or not updated the way members would like. These rankings are of course, better than nothing, so they have been used the past few years by the Board and are published in each issue of the newsletter.

In light of this, Mark Mrocca has expressed interest in pro-

viding the Board with updated rankings on a volunteer basis. Once a point system has been adopted by the Board, Mark will use his computer to keep track of each members point totals and print them for the newsletter and tournament directors for seeding purposes. This is by no means a simple task and the Board thanks Mark for offering his services freely for the benefit of RAM members.

At the December board meeting, Marta Rubich of Midland and Maureen Mead of Livonia were voted in as new Board members. This is advantageous for many reasons the obvious of which is that it increases the number of Board members. For many years Tom Blakeslee tried to get more Board members and I have found out, just as Tom has, just how difficult it is to get people to commit to the Board. The additions of Marta and Maureen are the first new additions since Mark Werthman joined the Board immediately after I became RAM Board President and I certainly welcome them aboard. Both will bring a woman's perspective to meetings and along with long-time member Lou Ellen Fecher, can hopefully begin to tackle the problem of female participation in RAM and tournaments. Mau-

reen brings a much needed managerial perspective to the Board. She and her sister Madonna MacPharlain run the Livonia Racquettime Health and Fitness Club and host many tournaments. Her position can give the Board insight into the mind of the club owner and manager, a position extremely important to the Board's effectiveness. Marta hails from way up in Midland, a competitive tournament player making a foray into the Women's Open division. She also can help bring tournaments back to the northern parts of Michigan. Happy Holidays!



Congratulations to Joel Bonnett for winning the National Doubles title! He holds the crown along with partner Bill Sell.

Racquetball One Results
#3 October 23-25, 1992
Michigan Athletic Club, Grand Rapids

Men's Pro/Open
 Nick Rallis def. Scott Worthy

Men's A
 Bud Helegvold def. Jay Liggins

Men's B
 Ron Bonds def. Scott Sellars

Men's C
 Scott Crowley def. Tom LaFave

Men's D
 Scott Graves def. Norm Black

Men's Novice
 Dick Tedford def. Andy Mead

Men's 35A
 C.C. Melvin def. Scott Worthy

Men's 35B
 Rick Totin def. Bill Manley

Men's 40A
 Ric Scott def. Bob Gravelyn

Men's 40B
 Ken Bonnett def. Bob Gravelyn

Men's 50+
 Paul Becker def. Tom Sharum

Women's Open
 Lin Showerman def. Laura Patterson

Women's C
 Rebecca Thelen def. Collen Covell

Racquetball One Tournament Results
#4 November 6-8, 1992
Grand Blanc Court Club, Grand Blanc

Men's Pro/Open
 Chris Cole def. Jim Floyd

Men's A
 Scott Hale def. Scott Sellars

Men's B
 Jaime Kurzman def. Jim Davidson

Men's C
 Dennis Dinauer def. Scott McKibben

Men's D
 Brad Phillips def. Neil Golowesky

Men's 35A
 Jim Woolcock def. Tom Blakeslee

Men's 40A
 Jim Santino def. Gary Phipps

Men's 45+
 Bob Gravelyn def. Ron Morse

Women's Open
 Felicia Mann def. Pam Parkhurst

Women's B
 Denise Knoll def. Rebecca Thelen

Women's C
 Joann Caleo def. Judy Porter

Women's D
 Lisa Lomax def. Nancy Personette



Racquetball One prepares for New Year changes

Continued from page 11

There are millions of players, but yet we struggle to get draws of one hundred. People need to be more educated about tournament play, with the teachers being the players themselves. We need more players like yourselves talking

to the players at your club and encouraging them to become AARA members and explaining to them that the tournament play is not just for the top players. I have worked with many individuals at many clubs across the state and it is amazing what one

person can do. If there is a tournament in your area or at your club, take a minute and talk to the players who do not normally play tournaments. The tournament directors, club pro's etc., can not do it alone. This year I have had super effort by various clubs, and the result has been many new faces at our tournaments. To reward some of these devoted racquetball players I am developing a Racquetball One Advisory Team. This unit will consist of players from cities across the state and will simply encourage people to play tournaments and learn more about the sport. Criteria are as follows: 1) You must love the sport. 2) Be an active member at a local club. 3) Be a regular tournament player. If you are all of the above and would be interested in being on the Racquetball One Advisory Team, please give me a call at (616) 956-0550. Members of the team will receive a discount to all Racquetball One events and a team shirt.

From the Rule Book...

by W.T. Blakeslee

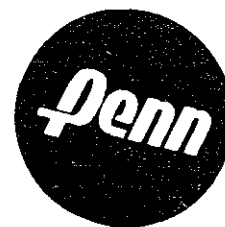
One of the most asked questions at the doubles tournament was the process on how to replace the referee. Often in the open events, hinders were asked for when, to some observers, the ball could have been returned. The following rules apply in these cases.

Rule 3.3 Removal of Referee

A referee may be removed upon the agreement of all participants, or at the discretion of the Tournament Director or rules official. In the event that a referee's removal is requested by one player (team) and not by the other, the Tournament Director or officials may accept or reject the request.

Rule 4.15 Dead Ball Hinders

(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. 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. (Notice: this is just a hinder not an avoidable hinder!)



Win an Ektelon Eminence

November 11, 1992—Florida—land of sunshine, Disney World and palm trees—is also a paradise for lucky racquetball players. For the second month in a row, the state has claimed a winner in Ektelon's Eminence Sweepstakes. Bruce Gordon of Orlando, Florida, is the latest recipient of a free *Ektelon Eminence* racquetball racquet.

Ten lucky racquetball players will win a free *Eminence Graphite RTS* oversize racquet from Ektelon each month from September 1992 through June 1993 to celebrate the introduction of the firm's new flagship frame. The *Eminence* features handlaid composition, explosive power and virtually no vibration.

Ektelon uses an exclusive

blend of graphite developed specifically for greater stiffness to produce optimum power in the *Eminence*. This composite is tempered with an ultra-tough Kevlar 49 core that immediately damps vibration at the source of impact. The *Eminence Graphite RTS* is just one of 17 racquetball racquets offered by Ektelon, the leading manufacturer in the racquetball industry.

To enter the Eminence Sweepstakes, write Eminence Sweepstakes on a 3 x 5 card complete with your name, address, city, state, zip and phone number and mail to Ektelon, 8929 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA, 92123. A drawing is held on the last day of each month through June, 1993.

Welcome...

RAM welcomes Marta Rubich and Maureen Mead as new additions to the RAM Board of Directors. Their assistance and input will be a great asset in making racquetball enjoyable for the Michigan player.

If anyone is interested in attending a meeting, or has concerns they wish discussed, feel free to contact your president Chris Cole at (313) 239-4130.

Michigan Players Ranked Nationally

Men's Open

1st
Chris Cole
10th
Jim Floyd

Men's B

8th
Bill Marshall

Men's C

6th
Rick Beck

Men's 30

6th
Johnny Northern

Men's 40

1st
Marty Mangino

Men's 45

6th
Ken Bonnett

Men's 60

9th
JD Driver

Women's B

1st
Diane Pearson

Boy's 8 & Under

2nd
Jack Huczek

Boy's 14 & Under

4th
Brent Zimmerman

Boy's 8 & Under

9th
Nicole Steketee

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- 

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