

Racquetball Reporter

First Quarter 2000

Volume X, Issue 1

State Singles set for Lansing MAC March 24-26, 2000

The Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing will serve as host to the 2000 Racquetball Association of Michigan State Singles Championships March 24-26, 2000.

Highlighting the tournament is the continued effort to increase RAM's membership base by offering each person who renews or extends their USRA membership to play a second event for FREE! Each participant will also receive a souvenir collared shirt with their paid entry of \$35.

A banquet honoring the four Michigan Hall of Fame inductees will be held at the club on Saturday night. Tickets must be purchased in advance for \$20.

Please see page 7 for the entry form. If you have questions regarding the tournament, please contact Tom Blakeslee at (810) 487-2787. You can also reach Tom via e-mail at racketboat@aol.com.

Doubles Champions Crowned

by Chris Cole

True racquetball aficionados converged on Total Sports Club in Mt. Clemens December 3-5, for the 1999 RAM State Doubles Championships. 99 teams in 15 divisions competed for the right to be called State Doubles Champions.

The tournament staff headed by RAM President Tom Blakeslee and RAM Treasurer Lou Ellen Fecher turned in an exemplary job. Anne Fecher also assisted in her typical outstanding fashion.

Many players had stellar weekends and walked away with hardware in two divisions. For the men, one player captured two titles: Joe Romeo (Macomb) won titles in Men's B with partner Tom Nagel and in Men's 50B with Chuck VanHoose. Several others took a first and second places. Brad McIlhargie (Pontiac) took first in Men's Open with partner Pete

Ruhala and second place in Mixed Open with Paula Saad. Jack White (Warren) took the title in Men's 40A with Tom Blakeslee and second place in Men's Open with partner Chris Cole. Kevin Thomas (East Lansing) gathered a title for winning the Men's 25/30/35A division with partner Jim Browers in addition to his second place finish with Bill Wolcott in the Men's A division. Tom Nagel won first place with Joe Romeo in Men's B and took second in Men's 30/35/40B with Jeff Johnson. Ric Scott (Muskegon) and Al Mell (Muskegon) grabbed the Men's 50 title and second place in Men's 40. Chris Cole (Grand Rapids) teamed with Sandy White to win the Mixed Open division, followed up by a win with partner Jack White in Men's Open. The team of Dean Rhodes (Highland) and Carter

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View of the President

by W.T. Blakeslee

First things first, the doubles tournament was our best in a long time! In case you missed it, we had the biggest draw over the past ten years. The only small bracket was the Men's Open, where Pete Ruhala and Brad McIlhargie upset Chris Cole and Jack White. The fleece vest given to every participant was also a big hit. Special thanks to Lou Ellen for her help in running the tournament and to Diana and Bob at Total Sports for hosting the event. Be sure to check out both the article and tournament results in this issue written by Chris Cole.

Secondly, this year's State Singles will be at the Lansing MAC on March 24-26. Once again, I promise real value and exciting racquetball. We haven't worked out all of the details yet but expect a better tournament than last year — it seems more people are playing again. Again, by popular demand, we are trying to expand our RAM membership base so we are continuing the offering to renew or extend your current RAM membership and you'll get to play a second event FREE. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that we are actually losing money on the tournament, but we want to give a little back to the supporters and get some excitement back into the State Championship.

In other news...by now you have heard of Jack Huczek's winning ways over the last several months where he won the Men's Open division at the U.S. Open and the gold medal at the World Championships. Congratulations Jack!

The Total Sports Club continues

to lead the way by hosting large tournaments. Their sixth annual event held on February 5 had draws of 32 in A, 40 in B, 16 in 50, 16 in 55 and 20 in Open. They even had to rent courts from Players Club to hold the event, which was the biggest event in the State besides the State Singles. The fans were treated to two great matches: Jack Huczek over Chris Cole on Saturday night and a terrific match between Mike Greene of Canada, again besting Jack in an 11-6 tiebreaker.

I attended the USRA Leadership Conference at the Olympic Training Center this past January. Also, in attendance were Jim Easterling and Ron Pudduck. It was good to hear all of the exciting things going on in our sport. One major decision coming out of the seminar was to continue the membership campaign with a goal of 20,000 members in 2000! Look for more promotions like bring a friend to racquetball, etc. in the near future. Additionally, for the first time the manufacturers presented and are sponsoring a joint proposal to expand the membership base.

If necessary you can reach the USRA online at either www.usra.org or www.racmag.com. Kevin Thomas is working on a website for RAM, but in the meantime if you have questions, you can e-mail me at racketboat@aol.com.

Remember to assist in the goal of 20,000 members in 2000 — that means Michigan needs to have 400 members for the year. Everyone can help by playing in the State Singles at the Lansing MAC and renewing your membership!

Racquetball Association of Michigan

RAM
Board of Directors

Tom Blakeslee
President
(810) 468-2787

Jack Huczek
Vice-President
(810) 373-5255

Sharon Huczek
Secretary
(810) 373-5255

Lou Ellen Fecher
Treasurer
(810) 658-8097

Board Members
Nick Rallis
Felicia Mann
Kevin Thomas*

**Kevin Thomas is in the process of becoming a member of the RAM Board of Directors.*

Sanctioning
Tom Blakeslee
(810) 468-2787

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

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

1999 State Doubles Champions

Continued from page one

Campbell (Farmington Hills) managed two take second in Men's B and Men's 45B.

Sandy White (Warren) had a stellar weekend as the only woman to bring home two titles in both the Women's Open with partner Claire Kruse and in Mixed Open with Chris Cole.

Congratulations to the players taking home two titles from this year's State Doubles Championships. Here is a final recap of all the winning teams.

Womens Open

Sandy White/Claire Kruse
def.

Janet Insko/Kathy Trotter

Women's A

Felicia Mann/Terry Fields
def.

Denise Knoll/Carol Huber

Men's Open

Brad McIlhargie/Pete Ruhala
def.

Jack White/Chris Cole

Men's A

Rich Torres/John Torres
def.

Bill Wolcott/Kevin Thomas

Men's B

Joe Romeo/Tom Nagel
def.

Dean Rhodes/Carter Campbell

Men's C/D

Larry Loveless/Jim Collins
def.

Wally Dombrowski/Ken Smith

Men's 25/30/35

Jim Browers/Kevin Thomas
def.

Bill Hagedorn/Carl Burton

Men's 30/35/40B

Marvin Riley/Mark Niedzielski
def.

Jeff Johnson/Tom Nagel

Men's 40A

Jack White/Tom Blakeslee
def.

Ric Scott/Al Mell

Men's 45B

Gary Gron/Mike Brookler
def.

Dean Rhodes/Carter Campbell

Men's 50

Ric Scott/Al Mell
def.

Bob Gravelyn/John Croaker

Men's 50B

Chuck VanHoose/Joe Romeo
def.

Vince Callahan/Frank Dascenza

Mixed Open

Sandy White/Chris Cole
def.

Paula Saad/Brad McIlhargie

Mixed A

Stephanie Cobb/Scott Boswell
def.

Vernonica Brown/Edwin Moore

Mixed B/C

Diana Courtney/Mike Easthrope
def.

Debbie Reauso/Frank Palazzola

YEAR 2000 RAM HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

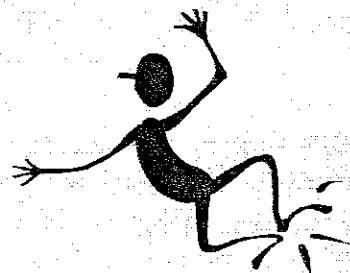
CONGRATULATIONS TO:

RICHARD J. CARETTI
GROSSE POINTE PARK

JOHNNY NORTHERN
DETROIT

RONALD S. PUDDUCK
DEXTER

MIKE YELLEN
DEXTER



11th Annual Seniors/Masters Tourney Successful

by Jim Easterling

Michigan held its 11th Annual Midwest Seniors Masters Racquetball Tournament November 6-7, 1999. This tournament is a round robin format (minimum of 5 matches) with no referees. It is open to any person who is an USRA member and is over 35 years of age.

This year, the tournament was held at the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing. The club is one of the most beautiful clubs in the entire state. The club has tennis, racquetball, squash and basketball courts, swimming pools, weight machines, exercise bikes and a restaurant. Viewing is excellent since all the racquetball courts have back wall glass and one court with sidewall glass. The Michigan Athletic Club is also host to the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame.

The tournament had seven different divisions with players from 35-70 years young. A total of 56 players from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and even some from Florida. Michigan's own Pete Ruhala was the only player in the entire tournament to win every game he played (next year Pete, I am bringing in a ringer!). Congratulations to all!



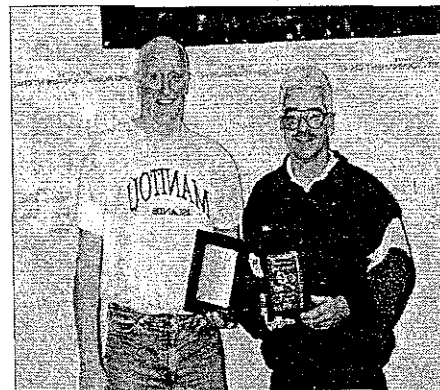
WOMENS 45/50



MENS 35/40A



MENS 35/40B



MENS 45



MENS 50

Tournament notes...

One good story about the tournament occurred Saturday morning. A gentleman came to the tournament desk and said he couldn't find his name on the draw sheet. He said that when he called the club he was told he played at 8:30 a.m. He said his name was Norman Borden, Men's 50. After locating his entry form, we discovered his name was indeed missing from the men's draw sheet — the entry indicated Norma Borden, Women's 50. Therefore, he was included on the womens draw - just as he had asked for! ☺

Seniors/Masters Tournament Winners

Womens 45/50	1st Place	Lesley Kishigan
	2nd Place	Janet Inkso
Men's 35/40A	1st Place	Pete Ruhala
	2nd Place	Steve Goedker
Men's 35/40B	1st Place	Bill Wolcott
	2nd Place	Josh Peacock
Men's 45	1st Place	Kim Hyde
	2nd Place	John Coaker
Men's 50	1st Place	Jim Santino
	2nd Place	Joe Dennison
Men's 55	1st Place	Ray Huss
	2nd Place	Doug Nordhaus
Men's 60/65	1st Place	Ron Hutcherson
	2nd Place	Jess Madden

"20,000 IN 2000"

That is the goal of the USRA - 20,000 members for the year 2000.

What can you do to help? Renew or extend your current USRA membership. If you renew or extend your membership for the RAM State Singles tournament, you get to play a second event FREE!

Michigan's membership goal is 400 members for the year 2000. Sign-up a friend and help us reach our goal.

The USRA will be offering more membership promotions in the future. For information, check out:

www.racmag.com

Do you part to support our sport!



MENS 55



MENS 60/65

Coming soon...

www.michiganracquetball.org

**RACQUETBALL
ASSOCIATION
OF
MICHIGAN**

**TOURNAMENT
SCHEDULE**

**MARCH 11-12
MADISON ATHLETIC
CLUB**

**MARCH 25-26
RAM STATE SINGLES
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**APRIL 13-16
ADULT REGIONAL
CANTON, OH**

**MAY 24-29
USRA NATIONALS
HOUSTON, TX**

**JUNE 24-28
JUNIOR OLYMPICS**

Thanks to....

**PENN
and
EKTELON**

**Sponsors of the
RAM State Singles
Tournament**

Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

The Racquetball Association of Michigan is pleased to announce the induction of four people into the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame.

The four inductees for the year 2000 are:

Richard J. Caretti	Grosse Pointe Park
Johnny Northern	Detroit
Ronald S. Pudduck	Dexter
Mike Yellen	West Bloomfield

There will be a banquet to honor the new inductees on Saturday, March 25, 2000, in conjunction with the State Singles Tournament at the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing. The banquet will begin at 7:30 p.m., with dinner served at 8:00 p.m. and presentations following dinner. Banquet will end around 10:00 p.m.

Tickets **MUST** be purchased in advance for \$20 each. Menu choice includes one of the following: Chicken Diane, London Broil or Pasta Primavera. A cash bar will also be available. To purchase tickets, please complete the appropriate part of the State Singles entry form on page 7 of this issue. *Note: no phone reservations accepted - you **must** purchase tickets in advance.*

If you have any questions regarding the banquet, please contact:

Jim Easterling, Hall of Fame Chairperson
(517) 887-0459 - home
(517) 373-2399 - work

Come on out and support these honorees! See you there!

Racquetball Association of Michigan

presents the

2000 RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 24, 25 & 26, 2000

at the

Michigan Athletic Club

2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing, Michigan



Directors: Tom Blakeslee (810) 468-2787 and Lou Ellen Fecher (810) 658-8097

Fees: \$35 per person

\$ 15 per person/second event

Non-USRA members add \$20.00

*****FREE SECOND EVENT IF YOU RENEW OR EXTEND YOUR USRA MEMBERSHIP*****

USRA Sanctioned: *Yearly USRA membership required. USRA Rules will prevail. Two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11.*

Awards: Awards will be given for the first four places in divisions of 16 or more. Each participant will receive a souvenir collared shirt.

Starting times & referees: Play will begin on Friday, March 24, 2000. Call the club on Thursday, March 23, 2000 after 12:00 p.m. for starting times. Losers must referee or pay \$5.00.

Banquet: A banquet honoring the four Michigan Hall of Fame inductees will be held Saturday night, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. at the club. Tickets are \$20 and **MUST** be purchased in advance by March 20, 2000. Price includes choice of menu item. Be sure to mark your choice on the entry form. **No phone reservations accepted.**

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 20, 2000

Name _____ Club Affiliation _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (days) _____ (evenings) _____

Date of Birth _____ Sweatshirt size (circle one) M L XL XXL*

**please enclose \$2.00 for XXL*

Banquet meal choice (circle one) Pasta Primavera Chicken Diane London Broil

**** Tickets must be purchased in advance.**

Make checks payable to RAM and mail to.

RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

3152 S Henderson Rd

Davison, MI 48423

Entry fee: _____
USRA: _____
Extra XXL: _____
Banquet (\$20): _____
Total: _____

Waiver clause: I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all claim for damages I may have against RAM, the host club, tournament staff, their agents for all injuries suffered by me in conjunction with my participation in this tournament

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(guardian signature if under 18)

DIVISIONS

*circle correct choice
limit to 2 divisions (one age and one skill)*

MENS WOMENS

Open	25+	40A	50B
A	30A	40B	55+
B	30B	45A	60+
C	35A	45B	65+
D	35B	50A	70+

Juniors Event (specify division) _____

Alternate division _____

*Divisions may be combined if less
than 8 teams enter a division*

JOIN THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

Membership includes:

- *Membership card, USRA official rule book, travel and equipment discounts*
- *USRA medical, life and liability insurance at sanctioned events*
- *Four issues of the RAM newsletter, The Racquetball Reporter*
- *Six issues of the USRA national publication, Racquetball Magazine*
- *RAM sanctioned tournament entry forms mailed to your home*
- *Eligibility to play in all sanctioned tournaments and receive state and national ranking points*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SUPPORT THE US NATIONAL TEAM DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____ HOME PHONE _____

- _____ \$20.00 Adult competitor _____ \$15.00 Junior Competitor
_____ \$10.00 Junior Competitor (without *Racquetball Magazine* subscription)
_____ \$15.00 *Racquetball Magazine* subscription only

MAIL TO: RAM, 3152 S. HENDERSON RD., DAVISON, MI 48423

The logo for 'Racquetball Reporter' is presented in a stylized, gothic-style font. It is contained within a dark rectangular box that has a decorative, diamond-shaped element at its top center. The text 'Racquetball Reporter' is white and stands out against the dark background of the box.

3152 S. Henderson
Davison, MI 48423