

The Racquetball



AARA
THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911

MARCH
1990

REPORTER

A Michigan Success Story

Michigan Dominates Region 9 Event

By W I Blakeslee

The 1990 Regional event at the Sawmill Racquet Club was a huge tournament, and one that the weather played an important part. It was true Northern Michigan weather in downtown Columbus, with the high winds, sub-zero temperatures and blizzards, it could not have been worse.

Over 300 entrants in over forty divisions participated in this tournament which needed two clubs on Friday night to schedule all of the necessary matches. The Sawmill Racquet Club is absolutely the best club I have seen for tournament play. All of the stars played, except for Ohio's top open players who were obviously absent. The result, however, was an all Michigan semifinal: Jim Floyd defeated



Chris Cole captured his third regional title at the 1990 Region 9 tournament. Above he poses with second place winner Jim Floyd (left).

Nick Rallis and Chris Cole defeated Joel Bonnett to set up the "Davision Final." This time, Cole won an 11-7 tie-breaker.

In other results, Michigan's

Jim Hamilton had a close match with Ohio's Steve Lerner in Men's 19+. Maybe all of that time with "coach" (Leonard Karpelos) and Mike Yellen is beginning to produce

results. In a real shocker, Scott Worthy defeated National Champions Dave Kovanda and Ron Woolard, both of Ohio, in Men's 30. I the Men's 30 B event, Michigan's Mike Voorheis defeated Jim Wray in a very tough match. The Men's 35 event was filled with National Champions. Five-time National Champ Stu Hastings, (MI) was stopped by Ohio's Ed Thompson in the quarters while, Kovanda defeated current National Champion Johnny Northern in an 11-9 semifinal thriller. In the other semifinal, Woolard defeated Thompson to create an all Ohio final, with Ko-

Continued on page 12

Joel Makes the U.S. National Team

Bonnett wins High School Nationals

By Christopher Cole

18-year-old Joel Bonnett of Grand Rapids won the 1990 American Amateur Racquetball Association High School Nationals in St. Louis. Bonnett captured the gold medal by winning five matches over the March 2-4 weekend.

In the finals, Bonnett easily dispatched of 17-year-old Allen Engel of Florida 15-3, 15-3. Engel, the 1990 Florida State Open Champion, could not keep up with the fired up

Michiganian

"I played out of my mind the whole match. I was serving great and when he was returning my serve, I was rolling the ball from everywhere on the court."

With the win, Bonnett has qualified for a spot on the prestigious United States National Team. He may qualify for team events or exhibitions by playing other U.S. Team qualifiers. A player may qualify for the team at five

tournaments: High School Nationals (winner #1 singles), Intercollegiate Nationals (winner #1 singles), Junior Nationals (18 and under winner), National Doubles (Open division-winners) and National Singles (Open division first, second and third place finishers).

"I can qualify for certain competitions by defeating other qualifiers in head-to-head play. Things coming up

Continued on page 12

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Regional Directors Meeting Proves Successful

National Conference Offers Insight

By W. T. Blakeslee

The Region 9 Tournament was a huge success and I would like to thank Jim and Dianne Easterling for all of their hard work. They spent many hours organizing this event and we should all be very thankful we have people like this in Michigan who want to be involved in racquetball.

In January, Jim Easterling and I visited Jim Hiser at the Regional Directors Meeting in

Colorado Springs. The meeting was very successful and highlighted the AARA vision of the future and Olympic participation. We are proud to have our own Jim Floyd on the National Team. Some interesting facts on racquetball are:

* Ten million people play racquetball over 25 times a year

* Racquetball is seventeenth among active sports participation

* Racquetball is split 70/30 in participation by men and women

* Ninety percent of racquetball players are less than 50 years of age

* Seventy-four percent of racquetball players are between 18 and 34 years old

* Seventy percent of racquetball families have a combined income of less than \$50,000

* Finally, the National AARA events will be on television five times this year

Some good news regarding the National Association is that we should be receiving over \$3500 in grants from the AARA. We will use these funds on membership expansion and "lock-in" program. Call me if you are interested.

Once again, the "1990 State Singles" should be the biggest racquetball event of the year. It will be held at the Coliseum Racquetball Club on April 27-29. You will be awarded a sweatshirt for competing.

Michigan's Growth Needs Assistance

By Jim Hiser

During a recent meeting at the United States Olympic Training Center, I had the opportunity to renew old friendships with Tom Blakeslee and Jim Easterling. These individuals spent five days away from their families, took personal vacation days and sat through eight to ten hours of daily meetings to learn more about the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA) and the various programs available that could help Michigan racquetball.

During our conversations, one item became crystal clear, the Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM), needs more volunteers to assist with pro-

grams such as junior racquetball, high school programming, inter-club development and women's leagues.

To offer one's service as a volunteer does not mean that you have to be a state board member, although additional board members are always needed. You may simply choose to assist with your club's junior program, host a referee's clinic, organize a club league or write an article for the state newsletter. Whatever you do will definitely be appreciated by the state association.

We all realize that the state's junior and women's programs have suffered over the past years. On a national level both these areas have experienced

Continued on page 4

Michigan's Seniors Compete in Invitational

By Duane Russell

The 1990 National Invitational Master's tournament was held in Las Vegas, Nevada February 6-10. There were 231 players from the United States and Canada. Michigan had six entries: Gary Phipps, 45; Paul Becker, 50; Lynn Hahn and Dale Schaffer, 55; Duane Russell, 60 and Mike Sohikian, 70. Paul

Becker finished second in his flight, losing to Charlie Garfunkle in the final match who went on to win the Division trophy. Lynn Hahn finished second losing to Paul Banales who won the Division first place trophy. Next year's Master's Invitational Tournament will be held in early February at Santa Ana, California.



THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER

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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, photographs and letters for publication. The deadline for the Summer 1990 issue is May 18, 1990.

The following individuals are highly appreciated for their contributions to this issue of *The Racquetball Reporter*:

W. T. Blakeslee
Christopher Cole
Larry Cole
Dianne Easterling
Jim Easterling
Lou Ellen Fecher
Jim Floyd
Jerry Gray
Rick Hall
Jim Hiser
Duane Russell
and

The AARA Media Guide

ADVERTISING RATES:
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Gray Runs for National Board of Directors

Editor's Note: Jerry Gray is currently running for a position on the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA) Board to represent the American Collegiate Racquetball Association (ACRA). All AARA members will receive, beginning in March, the first issue of the new "Racquetball USA" publication which will contain the official ballot for the election. Each AARA member is allowed one ballot that must be returned no later than May 15, 1990. Below, is a personal announcement of his candidacy from Jerry, as well as his reasons and qualifications that make him a suitable candidate. Any questions or requests for further information can be directed to: AARA, 815 N. Weber Rd., Suite 101, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

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To the AARA Members of Michigan:

I am a candidate for election to the Board of Directors of the AARA. I feel very strongly about collegiate racquetball and ACRA representation on the AARA Board.

Collegiate racquetball could provide a future for many junior players to get involved with team competition and available scholarship programs. However, we need your help to secure representation on the AARA Board to insure the planned growth and organization of collegiate racquetball. Please show your support by voting for collegiate racquetball in the coming election this Spring. Thank you. — Jerry Gray

WHY I WANT TO BE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I see a lot of potential for recreation and competitive racquetball among the juniors, high schoolers, collegiates, seniors and masters. We have only scratched the surface of the potential of this sport.

Racquetball is still young compared to other sports and to guide it into the 1990's I feel we must look to the other sports in the development of programs, training, teaching, nutrition and etcetra.

Collegiate and high school racquetball has the potential to be one of the largest segments of the AARA. I feel very strongly that the ACRA should have representation on the AARA Board of Directors to enhance the development, organization and potential of collegiate racquetball.

I feel Luke St. Onge and past Board of Directors have done an excellent job. With the addition of John Mooney and now Jim Hiser to the AARA staff, racquetball will only get better.

My years of experience in private business, teaching, coaching and development of collegiate racquetball qualifies me for a position on the Board. I want to bring this experience to the Board to help elevate the sport to new levels in the 1990's.

WHY I AM QUALIFIED TO BE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I will bring to the Board my many qualities which will be an asset to guide the development of racquetball into the 1990's.

By profession, I am a professional engineer and land surveyor, 18 years as president of my own business and 11 years experience teaching at Ferris State University.

I am involved in the development of collegiate racquetball, having been a member of the ACRA since its inception in 1985, with 2 years as Assistant National Commissioner, 3 years as National Collegiate Tournament Director and 4



Jerry Gray

years as Midwest Collegiate Regional Director. In October, 1989 I was an instructor at the first collegiate coaches clinic at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

I have scheduled meetings with universities to establish the first state collegiate racquetball conference in the nation in Michigan.

As coach of the Ferris State University team I have guided them to National Prominence, having finished in the top ten four of the last five years.

In 1988 I was awarded the Outstanding Contribution Award by the Michigan Racquetball Association for teaching, coaching, playing and promoting the sport of racquetball.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

APRIL 27-29, 1990

For information please contact:

Tom Blakeslee (313) 468-2787
Jim Easterling (517) 887-0459

ENTRY DEADLINE: APRIL 18, 1990

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

FSU Captures Fourth Regional Title

By Jerry Gray

Ferris State University (FSU) and Central Michigan University (CMU) competed in the Midwest Collegiate Regional Championships held at the Woodfield Racquetball Club near Chicago, IL on February 10-11.

Sixty-three players from eight universities competed in the two day event, with Michigan well represented, as FSU captured first and CMU finished third.

Ferris State's men's team dominated the competition, powering Ferris to its fourth consecutive regional title. The FSU men captured eight of nine divisions, with the lone loss coming in number two singles. Dave Matts of Bowl-

ing Green State University (BGSU) defeated FSU's Dave Wershay in a heated 11-10 tie breaker.

FSU player and U.S. National Team Member, Jim Floyd, cruised through the competition, allowing not more than four points to be scored per match in winning number one singles.

In other action, James Garrow, a CMU freshman, made it to the finals of number three singles, losing to Larry Meussen (FSU). Mike Johnston, Troy Altenberg and Jeff Kummeler completed the FSU domination winning numbers four, five and six singles.

Doubles competition was

swept clean by the Ferris men as teams of Floyd/Kummeler, Johnston/Wershay and Meussen/Altenberg won all three divisions.

The FSU women had a tougher time against well balanced teams of CMU and Purdue University. However, the duo of Lisa Yackley and Gretchen Postula grabbed second in number one doubles competition.

The women's team of CMU fared better, finishing second in women's competition with Dawn Cumberworth, Angela McClanaghan and Julie Lawless capturing first place finishes over Purdue in numbers two, four and five singles. Michele Gagnon, also of CMU, took second in number three singles losing to Kim Julian of Purdue.

The results of the regional competition are used for seeding at the World Intercollegiate Championships held at the University of California-Berkeley on March 28-April 1, 1990.

U.S. Goodwill Tour Successful

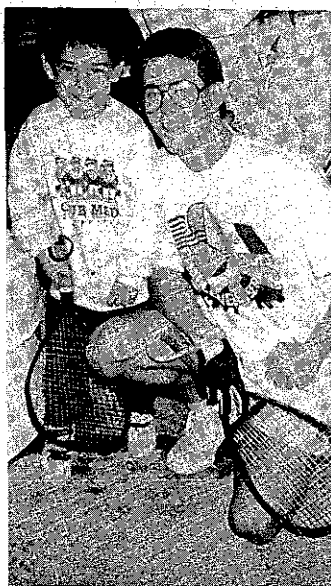
By Jim Hiser

The United States National Team recently traveled to Mexico for a seven day goodwill teaching and playing

tour. Jim Floyd from Michigan and Jim Hiser, formally of Davison, were members of the U.S. contingent.

The team gave exhibition and teaching clinics and competed against members of the Mexican National Team. The tour attracted numerous spectators and interested players from across Mexico. Both surprising and exciting for the American team were the large number of juniors and women who attended the instructional clinics. There seems to be a tremendous movement in Mexico for amateur sports participation and racquetball is both a fast growing and well accepted sport by the nation's youth. The U.S. team fared well, losing only one match the entire week. Floyd played extremely well, easily controlling all of his matches.

Floyd's tenure on the U.S. team is finished this year, but he has an opportunity to qualify again at both the National Intercollegiates in April and the National Singles in May.



Above, Floyd offers his best tips to a young Mexican player.

Michigan Racquetball Calls For Help

Continued from page 2

increased participation over the past two years, with indications of more participation this year.

The state association has access to numerous programs offered by the national office and also has information on successful programs in other states. If your club has an interest in developing any area of racquetball, simply contact either Tom or Jim for assistance. If you would like information from the national office, call me at anytime, (719) 638-5396.

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AARA REGION #9
Michigan-Ohio-West
Virginia

Adult Regional Director
Jim Easterling

Junior Regional Director
W.T. Blakeslee

RAM HALL OF FAME

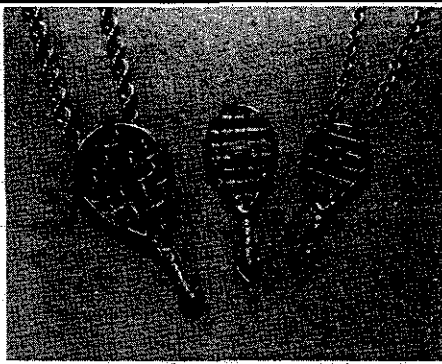
Lynn Hahn 1984
Fred Lewerenz

Tom Brownlee 1985
Jim Hiser

Jim Easterling 1986

Stu Hastings 1987
Bob Wilhelm

Denny Wood 1988



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Wildcat Invitational

FSU Takes Second in Tourney

By Jerry Gray

Ferris State University's (FSU) racquetball team competed in the first annual Wildcat Invitational Racquetball Tournament at the Henry Crown Sports Pavilion of Northwestern University. Sixty players from nine universities competed in the two day event that featured both singles and doubles competition for men and women.

Overall, Ferris finished second to Southwest Missouri State University. Ferris' National Team Member, Jim Floyd was held out of the singles competition to prepare for the upcoming National Handicap Tournament, which resulted in the men playing in higher divisions.

In the doubles competition Bruce Erickson and Simon Roy (SMSU) combined to defeat Mike Johnston and Dave Wershay (FSU) in number one doubles, 15-5 and 15-5. Floyd and Larry Meussen (FSU) defeated Ken Marks and John Kleinshmidt (SMSU) in number two doubles 10-11, 11-9 and 11-7. Ferris' Jason Reynolds combined with Jeff Kummier to take second place in number three doubles

while FSU women Lisa Yackley and Gretchen Postula fell to defeat in the semifinals.

In singles competition, Sara Ali of Purdue defeated Yackley in the number one singles semifinals 15-4, 5-15, and 11-0 while Postula lost to Molly Cowles in semifinal action of number two singles.

Roy, Canadian National Team Member, defeated Wershay in the finals of number one singles by scores of 15-7 and 15-6 while Meussen held on to defeat Erickson in number two singles 15-11, 9-15 and 11-8. Number three singles saw Johnston fall to Kleinshmidt in close games of 15-12 and 15-13. In other finals action, Reynolds had to forfeit to Marks in number four singles due to injuries while Altenberg and Kummier lost fourth and fifth singles.

This tournament was a preliminary contest to prepare for the Midwest Collegiate Regionals where Ferris enters as two time defending champion.

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Super Seven #3

Riverview Hosts Tournament

By Lou Ellen Fecher

Christmas shopping, parties, baking of goodies and all the other activities associated with Christmas kept many people from attending the December tournament.

Though the numbers were few, those who did attend got to play, play and play. Every division, except Pro, had consolation matches set up and available. Several divisions played round robins with regular matches scheduled to determine the final winner. The end result was plenty of racquetball for everyone.

Riverview did a fine job putting on hospitality and keeping everyone supplied with clean towels. We also had Christmas cookies made by Ed Ray and friends, as well as a few munchies Saturday night.

Sunday brought more snow (there was plenty already!) and several surprises in match outcomes. Joel Bonnett was the winner in Men's Pro de-

feating Chris Cole in the semis and Jim Floyd in the finals.

Both matches went to tiebreaker with Joel coming out on top.

Johnny Northern once again won the Men's Open, (Saginaw was his last win) defeating Rick Vanderlind in the semis and Ryan Covell in the finals, of which each went to tiebreaker. Since Johnny has come out of his brief retirement, he has been doing very well in both the Men's Open and 35+ where he defeated Vanderlind in the semis and Ken Bonnett in the finals.

There were three players from Indiana in the tournament hoping to qualify for The Finale. They had played a couple of years ago and once again wished to compete. Fortunately, Ron Hutchinson will be able to return in May, while the others can try their luck at another Super Seven.

Special thanks to Mike Anderson for his Christmas gift to those attending and to everyone who participated.

RESULTS

MICHIGAN SUPER SEVEN #4
ANN ARBOR COURT CLUB
JANUARY 12-14, 1990

MEN'S DIVISIONS

PRO	Jim Floyd def. Joel Bonnett
Open	Scott Worthy def. Blaine Harris
A	Pete Kilbailis def. Rick Parkhurst
B	Mark Reed def. Roger O'Connor
C	Richard Woodcox def. Tony Aleccia
D	Mark Ellis def. Dave Chemello
30+	Scott Worthy def. Stu Hastings
30B	Mike Davis def. Dave Chemello
35B	Terry Lawler def. Hans Schaffer
35C	David Wallace def. Ken Maurer
45B	Vince Callahan def. Larry Cole
Novice	Rob Hempel def. Ken Franz
A/B Doubles	R. Pudduck/Mr. Sparkle def. N. Goodman/K. Batty

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

Open	Joetta Hastings def. Beth Gutowski
A	Stephanie Buttrey def. Paula Saad
B	Cheryl Kessler def. Diane McCauly

WINNERS

MICHIGAN SUPER SEVEN #3
RIVERVIEW RACQUET CLUB
DECEMBER 15-17, 1990

MEN'S DIVISIONS

Pro	Joel Bonnett def. Jim Floyd
Open	Johnny Northern def. Ryan Covell
A	Rob Snell def. Mark Werthman
B	Lenny Chaltraw def. Chris Curtis
C	Tony Aleccia def. Ken Bart
D	John Summersett def. Doug Burland
30+	Northern def. Ken Bonnett
30/35B	Lenny Chaltraw def. Dean Krantz
35C	Tom Fetzter def. Marc Henry
45A	Ron Hutchinson def. Paul Becker

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

A	Sharon Huczek def. Mary Jo Baima
B	Nancy Uniacke def. Baima
C	Michele Gagnon def. Barbara Irons
D	Sue Churinoff def. Mary Birchfield



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1990 WEST MICHIGAN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**RESULTS**

FEBRUARY 2-4, 1990
Michigan Athletic Club

PRO	Finals	Jack Newman def. Joel Bonnett 10, (8), 9
	Semi	Newman def. Mike Ceresia
	Semi	Bonnett def. Jim Floyd
OPEN	Finals	Larry Longeliere def. Mike Stephens (tie)
	Semi	Longeliere def. Brian Duff
	Semi	Stephens def. Troy Hall
MEN'S A	Finals	Shawn McCune def. Jeff Kummier 14, (12), 10
	Semi	McCune def. Brian Duff
	Semi	Kummier def. Paul Black
MEN'S B	Finals	Gary Phipps def. Keith Bryan 5, 9
	Semi	Bryan def. Brent Zimmerman
	Semi	Phipps def. Paul Shumate
MEN'S C	Finals	Bill LaBarge def. Paul Hause 11, 3
	Semi	LaBarge def. Ken Bart
	Semi	Hause def. Bob Stecker
MEN'S D	Finals	Bob Kautz def. Rick Nunemaker 2, (5), 10
	Semi	Kautz def. Dale McNich
	Semi	Nunemaker def. Soper
MEN'S NOVICE	Finals	Steve Miller def. Tom LaFave 9, (11), 7
	Semi	Miller def. Todd Kenyon
	Semi	LaFave def. Mitch Reno
MEN'S 35+	Finals	Ray Vanover def. Mike Stephens
MEN'S 35B/C	Finals	Don Chapman def. Al Mell (10), 7, 3
	Semi	Chapman def. Doug Kochneff
	Semi	Mell def. Chuck Knickerbocker
MEN'S 45+	Finals	Gary Phipps def. Sam Gemus 9, 1
	Semi	Phipps def. Dave Lund
	Semi	Gemus def. Bill Malcolm
WOMEN'S A	Finals	Betty-Ann Gilliland def. Cindy Rosema 4, 6
	Semi	Gilliland def. Melody Matties
	Semi	Rosema def. Linda Callear
WOMEN'S B	Finals	Patty VanNamen def. Mary Boll 9, (13), 8
	Semi	VanNamen def. Dorothy Sypniewski
	Semi	Boll def. Michelle Ghareeb
WOMEN'S C	Finals	Angie McClannaghan def. Patty Noles 13, 14
	Semi	McClannaghan def. Beth Adastik
	Semi	Noles def. Mary McGuire
MEN'S DOUBLES OPEN	Finals	Bonnett/Newman def. Vanderlind/Ceresia
MEN'S DOUBLES A	Finals	Dave Wershay/Mike Johnston def. Ryan Covell/Dean Milstead
MEN'S DOUBLES B	Finals	Bob Schermer/Ron Pudduck def. Bob Rosema/John DeWeerd
MEN'S DOUBLES C	Finals	John Vanderweerd/Jerry Spruit def. Bob Westenbarger/Bruce Stevens

MICHIGAN SUPER SEVEN #5
MT. CLEMENS RACQUETBALL AND SPORTSCENTER
FEBRUARY 9-11, 1990

MEN'S DIVISIONS

PRO	Joel Bonnett def. Chris Cole
Open	Al Tackett def. Rick Vanderlind
A	Pete Kilbaidis def. Sean McCune
B	Charles White def. Walt Fischhoff
D	Mike Hackert def. Mark Hardy
Novice	Dave Verduym def. Marvin Schlemann
25/30A	Scott Worthy def. Dale Marshall
30B	Lenny Chaitrow def. Mark Zigila
35A	Rick Vanderlind def. Dale Marshall
35B	Randy Guilds def. Zigila
35C	Gary Gron def. Luke Gunn
40	Doug Toth def. Tom Blakeslee
45	Tom Perna def. Charles Wheelihan
45B	Dan Greene def. Gary Giblin
50	Richard Caretti def. Walt Biesterfeldt
A/B Doubles	J. Panaslew/J. Gervais def. J. Sisinger/A. Birescu
C/D Doubles	Sisinger/Birescu def. Ellis/Kargula

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

Open	Joetta Hastings def. Beth Gutowski
A	Chris Berg def. Anthnita Dickerson
B	Karen Visgar def. Marge Chedue
C	Chedue def. Debbie Hotra
D	Nicole Zigila def. Diane Pearson

Penn.
RACQUETBALL



OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALL

JOE BRADTKE
7009 Shady Nelms
Dublin, Ohio 43017
(614) 761-9787



OFFICIAL RANKINGS

REGION 9

MEN'S OPEN

1	Chris Cole	91
2	Jim Floyd	97
3	Joel Bonnett	105
4	Nick Rallis	111
5	Larry Meussen	171
6	Stu Hastings	182
7	Jim Hamilton	186
8	Dave Wershay	188
9	Pete Ruhala	191
10	Mike Anderson	192

MEN'S A

1	Paul Licari	219
2	Tim Sigafosse	227
3	Jai Shekhawat	229
4	Troy Altenberg	239
5	Gabe Zussman	297
6	Mike Wagner	300
7	John Molinaro	501
8	Brad McIlhargie	529
9	Mark Kaufman	545
10	Chris Kelly	577

MEN'S B

1	Scott Zimmerman	581
2	Dennis Lechowicz	620
3	Rob Snell	774
4	Mark Novak	815
5	Don Hlavaty	879
6	Mike McPherson	927
7	Fred Hartman	973
8	Pat Burdick	990
9	Paul Richards	1020
10	Mark Davis	1027

MEN'S C

1	Ron Klicki	964
2	Scott Sellers	975
3	Leroy Towns	1004
4	Gary Rajter	1071
5	Roger Culver	1180
6	Bill LaBarge	1309
7	Richard Woodcox	1313
8	Tony Barra	1340
9	Mark Ellis	1362
10	Sean Battle	1388

MEN'S D

1	Tony Barra	1340
2	Micheal Ryan	1353
3	Mark Ellis	1362
4	Sean Battle	1388
5	John Summerset	1395
6	Augie Pasko	1593
7	Mark Hendrick	1594
8	Mike Malek	1601
9	Leland Finley	1620
10	Bill Hein	1702

MEN'S 30 C

1	Mark Zigila	1150
2	Rip Steketee	1500
3	Rex Balch	1900
4	Joe Chedru	2001

MEN'S 30+

1	Stu Hastings	182
2	Mike Anderson	192
3T	Johnny Northern	227
3T	Tim Sigafosse	227
4	Larry Longillere	264
5	Greg Hodges	290
6	Mike Stephens	328
7	Scott Worthy	368
8	Randy Anderson	370
9	Mike Hotra	387
10	Dan Verbeck	477

MEN'S 30 B

1	Micheal Voorhies	619
2	Marv Riley Sr.	887
3	Mike McPherson	927
4	Ed Swica	944
5	Mike Davis	974
6	Scott Sellers	975
7	Gary Luczak	1000
8	Lenny Chaltrow	1040
9	Terry Lawler	1054
10	Randy Guilds	1109

MEN'S 35+

1	Stu Hastings	182
2	Curt Rozier	210
3	Johnny Northern	227
4	Ken Bonnett	303
5	Bob Gravely	359
6	John Molinaro	501
7	Tom Blakeslee	642
8	Jim Panasiewicz	731
9	Rick Vanderlind	782
10	Randy Guilds	1109

MEN'S 35 B

1	John Molinaro	501
2	Woody Neighbors	904
3	Pancho Guitierrez	930
4	Ed Swica	944
5	Al Meil	996
6	Jerry Eldred	1020
7	Terry Lawlor	1054
8	Ron Rusch	1055
9	Ron Slavik	1118
10	Ron Morse	1159

MEN'S 35 C

1	Mark Zigila	1150
2	Paul Inghram	1392
3	Gary Gron	1439
4	Wayne Gunkle	1453
5	Larry Cleymann	1488
6	Rip Steketee	1500
7	Gary Allis	1600
8	Chuck VanHoose	1616
9	Tino Ruiz	1640
10	Jim Skinner	1719

MEN'S 40+

1	Johnny Northern	227
2	Ken Bonnett	303
3	Mike Stephens	328
4	Bob Gravely	359
5	Doug Toth	552
6	Ron Liikala	750
7T	Gary McClennan	1600
7T	Tom Brownlee	1600

MEN'S 40 B

1	Ron Morse	1159
2	Chris Henry	1281
3	Al Todek	1346
4	Dean Kranz	1648
5	Don Boone	1650
6	Jim Skinner	1719

MEN'S 45+

1	Tom Sharum	600
2	Gary Phipps	1233
3	Jesse Madden	1343
4	Charles Wheelihan	1356
5	George Stec	1395
6	Walter Biesterfeldt	1469
7	Leonard Ciokojo	1500
8	Hank Gates	1506
9	Walter Milke	1553
10	Gary McClennan	1600

MEN'S 45 B

1	Ron Slavik	1118
2	Ron Morse	1159
3	Gary Phipps	1233
4	Joe Biniecki	1290
5	Larry Cole	1300
6	Charles Wheelihan	1356
7	Sixto Calvo	1395
8	Walter Biesterfeldt	1469
9	Vince Callahan	1481
10	Hank Gates	1506

MEN'S 50+

1	Jesse Madden	1343
2	Hank Gates	1506
3	Lynn Hahn	1649
4	Joe Lamilza	1800
5	David Lund	1838
6T	Art Burke	2500
6T	Milo Karha	2500
6T	Don Revels	2500
6T	Dan Ross	2500
6T	Richard Sewell	2500

MEN'S 55+

1	Lynn Hahn	1649
2	J.D. Driver	2831
3	Albert May	4975
4	Bruce Stevens	4992

WOMEN'S OPEN

1	Joetta Hastings	47.8
2	Elaine Barch	48.5
3	Lori Troszak	48.6
4	Leslie Kishigan	64.4
5	Aniltha Dickerson	66.8
6	Diane Kerr	66.9
7	Sandy White	68.4
8T	Natalie Bernard	69.2
8T	Lisa Ecker	69.2
9	Lisa Yackley	69.3
10	Shirley Vanderbrook	70.0

WOMEN'S A

1	Sharon Huczek	49.6
2	Mary Gisslander	49.8
3	Aniltha Dickerson	66.8
4	Diane Kerr	66.9
5T	Sandy White	68.4
5T	Vicki Gazayerli	68.4
6	Lisa Yackley	69.3
7	Sharlie Bolling	74.4
8	Dawn Frankhouse	77.5
9	Paula Sadd	78.4
10	Melody Matties	79.4

WOMEN'S B

1	Vicki Gazayerli	68.4
2	Claire Kruse	68.9
3	Alida Mainhardt	69.2
4	Dawn Frankhouse	77.5
5	Pam Harkleroad	80.4
6	Stacey Barbas	84.1
7	Judy Pretzer	85.5
8	Judy Walzak	90.2
9	Nancy Uniacke	98.3
10	Chris Suever	100.1

WOMEN'S C

1	Karen Standy	59.7
2	Pam Harleroad	80.4
3	Chris Suever	100.1
4T	Diane McCauley	150.0
4T	Kathy Motya	150.0
5	Mary Birchfield	168.3
6	Felicia Mann	173.0
7	Denise Ferrari	174.1
8T	Colleen Shalman	174.2
8T	Margaret Chedroe	174.2
9	Sue Chorinoff	179.4
10	Nicole Zigila	192.1

WOMEN'S 30+

1	Joetta Hastings	47.8
2	Beth Ann Gutowski	48.4
3	Leslie Kishigan	64.4
4	Stacey Barbas	84.1

WOMEN'S 40+

1	Sharon Huczek	49.6
2T	Faye Cobb	100.0
2T	Betty Ann Gilliland	100.0
3	Laverne Highgate	150.0

New Ranking System Implemented

By Jim Easterling

The Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM) is experimenting with a new ranking system. This system is being done by Connecticut based "Microcache Systems," which is the same group that does all the rankings for squash. I am the person in this state who is working with Ron Brewley of Microcache and Michigan is the test state with the system for the AARA.

Most racquetball ranking systems are based on the total number of matches won. Now, at first this sounds like a good idea, but many problems are inherent in this system. For example, player Y may beat player Z nine times

Racquetball: Change or Die?

By Larry Cole

Something has happened that I didn't think would ever happen. Watching professional racquetball or top flight open racquetball has become boring to me. At one time it was fun; it was exciting. Of course, this was when the rallies lasted longer than the time it takes to serve. This was at a time when a well placed v-pass was new and dives to retrieve shots were a part of many rallies and greatly appreciated so that all fans cheered. Ah, those were the good ole days of three years ago.

Racquetball techniques and equipment have improved so much that players now conquer the laws of physics that once governed the game. Power serves and even splat shots have made the game dull. The 170 mph drive serve can be appreciated in terms of strength and torque needed but it isn't much fun to watch. When the Grand Rapids Pro Stop was promoted, the copy bragged about the 150-170 mph serves. B-O-R-I-N-G. This kind of machismo is uninteresting, like those men

out of ten, but if player Y only plays two or three tournaments and player Z plays six or seven tournaments, player Z will be ranked higher than player Y. The new system with Microcache is based on how the players do against each other. If player Y beats player Z nine times out of ten, then player Y will be ranked higher than player Z regardless of how many tournaments each player enters.

Microcache started with the old AARA Michigan rankings as of last August as their starting point. To that, they have added the results of Michigan's first eight tournaments of the year. There are still some bugs in the system

that only have that going for them.

Afraid I was losing my grip, I started talking to the crowd at the recent Ann Arbor Super Seven. Eight different people were approached about it and each one agreed that they did not like the way the game had developed. One of those eight was Jim Floyd. His opinions are important because he is a player who benefits from the new style. To his credit, he replied he did not like it and would like to see changes in the game, making the serve less important and an all around game more so.

As I watched the matches in Ann Arbor, the crowds were generally passive. When they finally did cheer, they also stood and clapped. It happened during one rally between Floyd and Joel Bonnett. The rally had five dives and ended in a perfect down the line pass. The people there, were not stirred by the many ace serves. Once someone has seen one or two slide serves and said "wow," it soon loses its ability to interest. Gets, dives, great angles and well placed pinches always inter-

as a result of using the AARA rankings as a base. For example, as of last August, if a player appeared in the AARA rankings in Men's A and has not played A since that time, but now consistently plays in Open, he will still remain in A, until we get him deleted out. Once we get these types of situations taken care of, the ranking will be much more accurate.

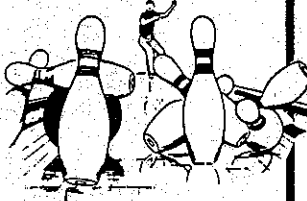
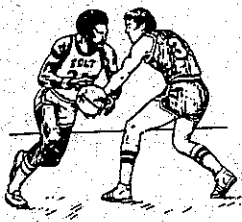
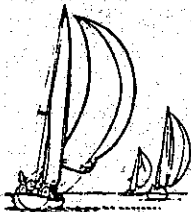
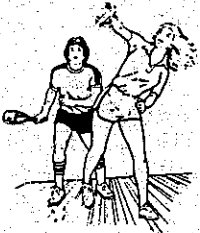
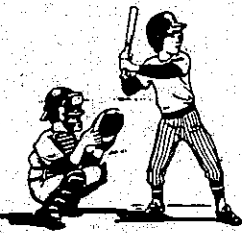
We have published in this newsletter a copy of the new rankings. We need your help. If you spot any players who are obviously in the wrong division, please drop me a note. We plan to have this system up and running in its final form by next fall.

est

When a sport reaches the point where technique and equipment defeat the laws of physics, it needs to change. When a sport reaches a point where intelligence, hard work and athleticism matters less than power, it needs to change. Racquetball is at this juncture, and it needs to change. The ball speed is too fast and in particular the serve has become an unfair weapon. When it slides, no one can react, no matter how great and fast he or she might be. Racquetball needs to change, but how?

One solution is to change equipment. However, if a player has purchased a new, expensive and improved racquet lately, it would be unfair to that player to force a change in racquets. An easier change would be to change the ball and reduce its speed. To slow it down 20-30 mph would be sufficient and with the technology available, a ball with a certain rubber consistency, compression ratio and thickness would be slower. It would still allow

Continued on page 13



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RAM Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: October 23, 1989

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Residence of Jim and Dianne Easterling

Call to order by President Tom Blakeslee at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. I. Blakeslee, Jim and Dianne Easterling, Rick Hall, Lou Ellen Fecher and Duane Russell.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Dianne Easterling distributed the cash receipts and disbursements for the month ended September 30, 1989. The current bank balance is \$670.64. We had a 1989 profit date of \$361.31. Dianne indicated we have \$980 currently in the bank now to cover the next issue of the newsletter.

OTHER REPORTS:

Lou Ellen Fecher commented we need more tournament cards.

Duane Russell corrected the name of Anderson from the September 11, 1989 minutes. Under item III (Awards) Mike Anderson appeared and it should have been Jim. It was not noted.

Jim Easterling distributed a letter from Sandy Conlen of Flint, MI who will be serving as the new editor of the RAM newsletter, *The Racquetball Reporter*. Jim reported he had sent her stationary and copies of previous newsletters. He also said Sandy had taken photographs of contestants at the Senior Master's Tournament held in Taylor.

Jim also informed us about the newsletter from the AARA and gave us a letter from John Mooney, Assistant Executive Director of Membership Services on qualifying for rebates. Michigan does not qualify for 2nd quarter rebates because we did not issue three newsletters from January through June 30th. This loss will not affect a grant from the AARA or revenue sharing programs. It would have cost us more money to put out the Newsletters which amount to about \$975 a piece. It was pointed out we could send out a two page newsletter or a one sheet flyer if necessary for compliance to produce one newsletter each quarter. The letter from John Mooney states that: "A state must produce three newsletters each six months with at least one newsletter each quarter."

SENIOR'S/MASTER'S TOURNAMENT: Jim Easterling reported 52 people appeared for the Senior's/Master's tournament held in Taylor, Michigan. Three National AARA Champions were among the contestants. Bob Sanders (50+), Otis Chapman (55+) and Fintan Kilbride (60+). Lynn Hahn was present and has been a National Master's Invitational Champion 3 times. An auction held in the evening raised \$502.52 for the U.S. National Racquetball Team. Jim said it is planned to hold three similar tournaments a year as follows: One each in the states of Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.

*Jim Easterling requested Duane Russell to provide him with a copy of the minutes so he can forward them to Sandy Conlen for inclusion in the Racquetball Newsletter.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: Tom said he would write an article on those individuals who won the Racquetball Awards at the Pro-Stop in Davison. Tom mentioned it looked quite good for our grants submitted to the AARA to be approved as submitted. These were in the amount of \$2000. One was for the selling of memberships to RAM in 10 clubs throughout Michigan (\$200 each). A person would be expected to spend two hours a night twice a week to promote racquetball with flags, banners and pictures. Clubs for this would take place at were mentioned as follows: Davison, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Pontiac and Detroit.

THE STATE DOUBLES will be held on December 1-3 in Grand Blanc. The entry form is being readied at present. Ektelon balls will be used and Ektelon was providing \$400 for prizes. Tom asked for help on the desk for this tournament.

Tom gave a briefing of information from AARA as follows:

- 1 AARA is phasing out of the National Racquetball Magazine and will produce one of their own.
- 2 AARA will develop a high quality racquetball poster.
- 3 Dallas will be the 1990 site of the Junior Olympics.
- 4 Salt Lake City will be the site of the National Doubles in 1990 in October or November.
- 5 St. Louis will be the location of the High School tournaments.

Dianne Easterling mentioned a new racquetball club will be constructed on Hagadorn Road near the Restaurant in Hannah Park (a MAC club). It will take about 14 months to be completed.

NEXT MEETING: The next Board meeting will be held at the Grand Blanc Racquet Club at the Michigan State Doubles on December 3, 1989.

DATE: January 9, 1990

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Residence of Dianne and Jim Easterling

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. I. Blakeslee, Jim and Dianne Easterling, Rick Hall, Lou Ellen Fecher and Duane Russell.

RANKINGS: Jim Easterling submitted a ranking system developed by Ron Brewley of Connecticut based on an individuals relative standard based on merit ability and not on the number of games played or money won. This is being provided for RAM at no cost for a one year period.

SENIORS/MASTERS TOURNAMENT: Jim Easterling indicated there would be a series of S/M tournaments this fall: Michigan will be the second week in November. Indiana will host a S/M tourney in September and Ohio in January. Format will be the same as our's held last year in Taylor, Michigan.

Rick Hall said the 29th Street Club in Grand Rapids is closed. Auto Die (private concern) may reopen it at a future date. Rick also reported the Western Michigan Championships will be held the week of February 2nd. The DAC tournament is also being held that weekend. Both tournaments have been sanctioned. We have lots of tournaments for the same weekend date.

Jim Easterling and Tom Blakeslee were going to a meeting at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs next Wednesday.

Tom Blakeslee distributed letters from Rick Russ of Inkster, Michigan concerning the levels of assigned for play in the mixed doubles at the Michigan State Doubles Tournament at Grand Blanc. Tom said he would respond to the letter with copies to the Board members.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dianne Easterling distributed the cash receipts and disbursements for the month ended December 31, 1989.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the RAM Board of Directors will be held at the Easterling Residence in Lansing, on Monday, February 12, 1990.

Respectfully submitted by Duane Russell, secretary

Region 9 Tournament: A Michigan Success Story

Continued from page 1
vanda winning 11-9. Both Hastings and Northern will give these fine players a wake up call in Houston. Another Michigan winner was Charlie Wheelihan who coasted to victory in Men's 45B.

In the women's events, Ohio's Diane McCaully defeated M. Marcus in Women's B. Nicole Zigila, (MI), finished second in Women's D as did Beth Gutowski, (MI), in a very close 11-7, 11-15, 15-13 match in Women's 25+. Michigan's Cindy Seeders defeated Lesley Kishigan, (MI), for her

first tournament victory in a long time. Finally, in Women's 45, Brigitte Harte was victorious over Peg Shaw, (OH).

The juniors events saw Michigan win six of nine divisions. As expected, Joel Bonnett defeated Gary Hall in Junior's 18+. Jim McGrail was the unexpected Junior's 18/16B winner. The Zimmermann's continued to win with Scott winning Junior's 14+ and Brent winning Juniors 12+. Jack Huczek won the eight and under no bounce as did Zigila in ladies Junior 14+.

Bonnett Wins H.S.Nationals

Continued from page 1
are the Tournament of the Americas in Florida, the World Championships in Caracas, Venezuela in August and some exhibition tours in Australia and Japan."

The Forest Hills Central senior is currently getting ready for Varsity Baseball where he is the team's starting third baseman and pitcher. Last season he also started and finished the year with a batting average above .400. He hopes to get a baseball scholarship to Michigan State to study architectural engineering.

"Right now I have my goals set on Michigan State so I will be spending all Spring on baseball. I would like to play in the States this year though. I also would like to go to the adult nationals in Houston, in May and the Junior Nationals in Dallas in June."

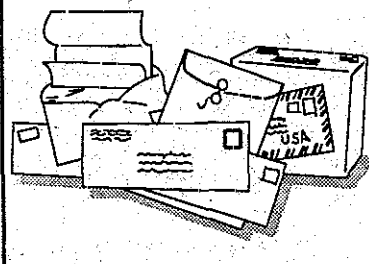
With Bonnett's win, Michigan became the first state to have two High School National Champions. Jim Floyd, Michigan's other U.S. National Team Member, won the title in his senior year at Bentley High in Flint.

"Michigan has such competition at the top. I think it's one of the best states for Men's Open players, on a par with California, Ohio and Florida."

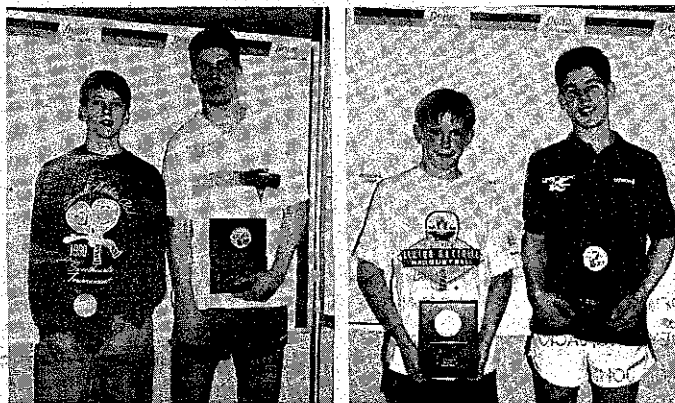
Bonnett's long-term goals ring with Olympic gold and the pro game. "Every kid's dream is to win a Gold Medal in the Olympics or be a professional champion. I want to do both."

With Bonnett's skill and maturity, this dual goal doesn't seem out of reach. Especially for the 1990 High School Champion.

**LETTERS
5226 DANIA ST.
FLINT, MI 48532**



Michigan dominated the junior events at the Region 9 tournament. Above Jack Huczek bears his first place plaque with second place winner Ohio's Tom Seipel in the 8 and under no bounce division.



The Zimmerman brothers showed Ohio that they are both masters of their divisions. Above at right, First place winner Scott stands with second place winner Ohio's David Hamilton in Juniors 14. In the Juniors 12 division Brent (right) shows off his first place plaque as does Canada's Gavin Tanner with his second place award.

Dear Michigan Super Seven Players,

We would like to thank all the participants in the recent Backwall Super Seven, March 9-11, for your cooperation and understanding in helping to complete the tournament. Under the circumstances, the tournament went fairly well. There were still some good matches played, even with two out of three games to 11.

It is unfortunate that the walls were wet and that the matches were not on time. Backwall has been, in the past, a great place to hold a tournament. We will, however, take a closer look at holding one there in the future.

We are open to suggestions on where to hold future tournaments. Also, if we ever get in to the same set of circumstances, we welcome suggestions on what we should do to complete the tournament. We appreciate any and all comments.

Again, we thank everyone for their patience and understanding.

The Super Seven Staff,

Lou Ellen and Julian Fecher

New 1990 RAM Members

Name	City	Name	City	Name	
ALECCIA, ANTHONY	OAK PARK	GARDNER, MARK	LIVONIA	MILSTEAD, DEAN	LOWELL
ANDERSON, JEFF	ROYAL OAK	GEMUS, SAM	RIVERVIEW	MOMCHILOV, BRIAN	CENTER LINE
BAIMA, MARY	COLDWATER	GILLIES, JEFFREY	SOUTHGATE	MYERS, STEPHANIE	WESTLAND
BENNETT, BING	YPSILANTI	GREENE, DAN	HARPER WOODS	NGUYEN, CHI	ROCHESTER
BERG, KRIS	YPSILANTI	HACKERT, MICHAEL	FARMINGTON HILLS	NOILES, PATTY	OSSINEKE
BLACK, PAUL	ALLENDALE	HAHN, TIM	WHITEHALL	NUNEMAKER, RICH	OTSEGO
BOCZAR, JEFF	CANTON	HAUSE, PAUL	KALAMAZOO	OLDERMAN, MIKE	GARDEN CITY
BOLL, MARY	GRAND RAPID	HEMPEL, ROB	BAY CITY	PAGANELLI, CARL	JENISON
BORREGARD, DAIN	SOUTHFIELD	HENDEE, DANIEL	ANN ARBOR	PARKHURST, RICHARD	SWARTZ CREEK
BROWN, ROBYN	KALAMAZOO	HOTRA, DEBBIE	GROSSE POINTE SHORES	PERRY, CHRISTOPHER	PORTAGE
BRUMMEL, STANLEY	WYOMING	HOTRA, MIKE	GROSSE POINTE SHORES	RENO, MITI	ROMULUS
BYRAN, KEITH	WYOMING	HOUGH, ANTHONY	FARMINGTON	RITTER, LIZ	WHITMORE LAKE
CALLAHAN, VINCENT	ROCHESTER HILLS	JONES, DANIEL	KENTWOOD	ROSENBERGH, TOM	HOWELL
CHEMELLO, DAVID	LIVONIA	KENYON, TODD	GRAND RAPIDS	RUSH, CHARLES JR.	PORT HURON
CLAUSS, ROGER	KAWKAWLIN	KING, LEO	PORT HURON	SASSEX, TERESA	CANTON
COOK, BRAD	ANN ARBOR	KLICKI, RON	ALGONAC	SEIFERT, ROBERT	ANN ARBOR
CUTRIGHT, LARRY	REDFORD	KOKOT, CHET	JENISON	SERBURS, FRANK	BRIGHTON
CZYRKA, JOHN	YPSILANTI	LAFAVE, TOM	GRAND RAPIDS	SHIEMANN, MARVIN	FRASER
DAWSON, ROBERT	HOLLY	LEACH, MIKE	GRAND RAPIDS	SOPER, JOSEF	GRAND RAPIDS
DEWEERD, JOHN	HUDSONVILLE	LESZCZYNSKI, RON	WYANDOTTE	STELLIER, ROBERT	LIVONIA
DEYOUNG, JACK	WYOMING	LYALL, EVAN	LIVONIA	TEDFORD, DICK	GRAND RAPIDS
DICE, JOHN	HOLLAND	MASON, WILLIE	DETROIT	TEDFORD, KURT	GRAND RAPIDS
DION, GARY	KENTWOOD	MCCAULEY, DIANE	UTICA	TWIGG, MICHAEL	ANN ARBOR
DURYEY, SCOTT	DEARBORN HEIGHTS	MCCUNE, DENNIS	RIVERVIEW	VAN NAMEN, CHARLES	GRAND RAPIDS
DWYER, ED	GRAND RAPIDS	MCCUNE, SEAN	RIVERVIEW	VAN NAMEN, PATTY	GRAND RAPIDS
ELLIS, KEVIN	DEARBORN HEIGHTS	MCGUIRE, MARY	GRAND RAPIDS	VANHOOSE, CHARLES	ROCHESTER
FECHER, JULIAN	BURTON	MCMINCH, DALE	GRAND RAPIDS	VANOVER, RAY	GRAND RAPIDS
FECHER, LOU ELLEN	BURTON	MCMINCH, MICHAEL	GRAND RAPIDS	WHITE, CHARLES	PORT HURON
FOLKMIER, DAVID	HAZEL PARK	MCPARLAN, MICHAEL	ALPENA	YORK, DENNIS	HARPER WOODS
FOX, LARRY	OAK PARK	MEDOR, PETER	FENTON	ZIGILA, MARK	MT. CLEMENS
FUQWA, KEVIN	ANN ARBOR	MEYERS, HOWARD	FARMINGTON HILLS		
GAHAN, CHARLES	GRAND RAPIDS	MILLER, STEVE	WYOMING		

Changes Needed; Solutions Offered

Continued from page 9
ceiling balls to be hit much like they are now.

Other possible changes would be more radical. Floyd suggested that the server should only get one serve. A second interesting suggestion is that the server would have to serve cross court of where he or she stands. A third alternative is to make the serve in racquetball like it is in tennis. The serve is cross court and to alternate sides. A final option would be to move the service

area back. One would serve from between the hash line and short line, where it would have to carry to the present short line. The change would be in how far back one stands. The service area would be back five feet, thus, for safety, the server would have to serve from the center or cross court from where the ball is put in play. Radical it is but far less radical than a slide serve.

Those are my ideas about the changes I would like to

From the Rule Book

By W. I. Blakeslee

The following rule changes will be considered by the general membership during 1990 for implementation:

1. Restore the term "avoidable hinder"
2. Change the qualifying date for junior-age competition from January 1 to December 31.
3. Impose a two year moratorium on rule changes
4. Make court hinders appealable
5. Allow servers to step on but not over the front line.

see and the reasons why. There must be those that think the same way. Let's write the AARA and the powers that be

to improve the great game of racquetball. If you disagree, write me and help me change my thoughts.

★Reflections of a National Champion

Northern Strives for Honesty and Fairness

Editor's Note: This is the first installment of a series of interviews with past and present National Champions from Michigan.

By Christopher Cole

At the 1989 American Amateur Adult Nationals in Houston, a shock went through the ranks when Michigan's Johnny Northern, in only his second trip to the Big Dance, defeated the favorites to take the Men's 40+ gold medal.

The 43-year-old Detroit building inspector supervisor has earned respect and admiration from his fellow players. With his photon-like serve and shoot style and honest approach to the game, this devoted husband and father has entered a realm few athletes visit: the area of one name recognition. First there was the Babe, Bear, Bo, Magic and now there is *Johnny*.

RR: When did you start playing?

JN: June, 1981. I remember exactly because I was 35 years old. I learned the game playing outdoors and then I joined a club.

RR: When did you start tournament play?

JN: December, 1981. Six months after I started I won a C tournament in Grand Rapids.

RR: What has been your greatest experience in racquetball?

JN: It would have to be winning the National Championship.

RR: Describe what it felt like to win the National Championship.

JN: It really didn't hit me in Houston because I was so in tune with just winning each match, one at a time. This was a goal I had set for myself since the season's start. I expected it and practiced hard toward it. When I was on the plane coming home some friends were talking about it and suddenly it hit me that I had won it all.

RR: How do you characterize your game style?

JN: Definitely a power game, with some emphasis on control. I try to dominate the match physically and mentally. I try to be mentally alert because I feel this is a very important aspect of the game. Despite good shot selection, sometimes I do get overly aggressive.

RR: How do you rate the competition in this area?

JN: I think this area (Ohio and Michigan) is one of the best in the nation. With Dave Kovanda and Tom Travers, Stu Hastings, Rick Vanderlind and myself, you won't find a better group of 35+/40+ players anywhere.

RR: People throughout the country and state all say you are one of the fairest players around. How does this make you feel?

JN: It makes me feel real good because I've always put in an effort to be fair even when a lot is on the line. It's part of my character and I believe seriously in what goes around comes around. With competition, I will not sacrifice the morals and values I've grown up with just to win.

RR: Last year, you said you were retiring following your win in Houston. What happened to your retirement?

JN: Well, after last year I didn't have anymore goals left to reach, so I didn't plan on coming back. After the idea for the \$210,000 handicap tournament came out, I decided to get back into it. And because I was taking the time to train and practice, I thought one more goal could be to win 35+ and 40+ at Houston in the same year. It's never been done, but I have confidence in myself and my ability. Also, I really missed racquetball people. I missed the camaraderie and communication. I figure that I have less than three years of play left, espe-



National Champion Johnny Northern (right) added another title to his collection as he defeated Mike Stephens in Men's 40+ at the Regional tournament.

cially if I win 35+ and 40+.

RR: If you could be the Almighty Racquetball Commissioner for one day, what changes or alterations would you implement?

JN: If anything, I would change the rules to allow the winner of every rally to score a point regardless if the player served.

RR: Do you believe in money or cash prizes given to amateur players? If so, why?

JN: Yes, I think the top amateur players should be able to win money. Due to problems in motivation and the need for sponsors, amateurs should be rewarded somewhat for their dedication to the sport. It can get pretty expensive traveling to all the Super 7's and especially Houston.

RR: I'm going to throw out some names familiar to most Michigan racquetball players. I'd like you to give me a word or phrase describing each in your honest way. Jim Hiser -

JN: Commissioner, a leader, a planner.

RR: Stu Hastings -

JN: Good instructor and philosopher, winner and a great competitor.

RR: Jim Floyd -

JN: Highly skilled, an over-achiever, powerful.

RR: Tom Blakeslee -

JN: An intellectual, definitely a good supporter of the sport.

RR: Chris Cole -

JN: Ha-ha! Well, dominating but modest in his attitudes. Highly respected, best combo of shooting and thinking around.

RR: You can keep going!

JN: No, that's okay.

RR: Nick Rallis -

JN: Competitive, developing. Maybe a little immature but he's growing in stature. We get along well in our private lives, I have great respect for Nick and he's a good friend.

RR: Greg Hodges -

JN: We're definitely good friends. He's a committed player with absolutely unlimited skill, maybe a little raw. Greg and I are best buddies.

RR: How do you handle playing so many tournaments with a family?

JN: It's difficult and creates problems. But through understanding, compromise and caring, you get by.

RR: Tell me about being a father.

JN: A lot of responsibility. I look to myself as a good role model and someone to show her leadership. I will always

Continued on page 15

RAM Announces Change in Newsletter Editorship

By Sandy Conlen

As you may have noticed, *The Racquetball Reporter* is sporting a slightly different look due to the change in editorship. As the new editor, I am happy to continue the same features installed by former editor Jim Easterling, as well as some new ones of my own.

I have already dedicated myself to informing readers

on racquetball happenings both nationally and locally. One particular area of interest that I have, regards Olympic racquetball. Michigan is extremely fortunate to have Stu Hastings, Jim Floyd and Joel Bonnett representing the state nationally and with the assistance of Jim Hiser, I will continue updates our fast growing sport.

Also in this issue, is a fea-

ture on ex-retiree Johnny Northern. This is apart of a new series, created by Chris Cole, focusing on past and current National Champions. I would like to feature a different player each issue and I welcome suggestions.

As always, I welcome any input in the form of letter, article, tournament results or pictures. Remember, this newsletter is for you, the Michigan racquetball player,

and to make it a top quality publication, I always need your help. Comments and suggestions can be sent to: RAM's *Racquetball Reporter*, 5226 Dania St., Flint, MI 48532

Unfortunately, I did not thank those who contributed to the last issue. My sincerest thanks go out to: Tom Blakeslee, Chris Cole, Dianne and Jim Easterling, Lou Ellen Fecher, Jim-Ed Floyd, Duane Russell and Jim Skinner.

AARA to Market Instructional Video

The Racquetball Manufacturers Association (RMA) and the AARA will soon release the first in a series of instructional videos, entitled "Championship Racquetball: Part I — The Basics."

The video features U.S. National Team coaches Stu Hastings and Fran Davis along with commentary by sports psychologist Diana McNab and weight training specialist Dan Obremski.

The premier video covers

basic shots, forehand and backhand strokes, court coverage, strategy, the serve and service return. Future videos will feature advanced strategies, physical training and conditioning, nutrition, sports psychology and motivation.

The half-hour video is available to AARA members for \$39.95 (non-members \$49.95) through the national office. To place an order, please call the AARA at (719) 635-5396. — *Courtesy of the AARA Media Guide*

Northern Excels as Champion

Continued from page 14
express my love for her and hope I can be positive. Fatherhood changes your outlook on life; discipline must be greater, you need to dictate while sharing experience. Our rapport is great and there is such a bond between us.
RR: *What are your hobbies?*
JN: Wood working, I enjoy creating things. I like to shoot pool and watch sports on tv when I'm not busy with other priorities.

RR: *What are your goals in life?*
JN: I want to live a clean life without having to struggle. I'd like to keep my high moral standards and maintain a religious background. I really won't strive to be anything special.

RR: *Do you have any advice for younger players coming up?*

JN: Dedicate themselves to reaching a goal. Be strong physically and morally and you shall succeed.

RR: *What do you want to be remembered for?*

JN: Someone who was a good competitive player and caring. Someone who treated people equal. A man who made many positive contacts with people in this sport.

RR: *Is there anything you'd like to finish this interview with?*

JN: Well, I didn't want to admit I was going for two titles this year in Houston because I don't want people to think I'm cocky. This goal is so tough that if I do win it would be truly a great accomplishment. I've enjoyed the growth of the sport and the rewards from it. This is a great game.

Drug Tests to Follow USOC Guide

The AARA has adopted the following USOC policies regarding mandatory drug testing, infraction penalties and due process procedures:

TESTING:

1. The AARA may request testing of participants at any competition or training session for which it has administrative responsibility.
2. Any individual who qualifies as a member of the U.S. National Team agrees to abide by the AARA/USOC Drug Control Program.
3. All individuals who participate in national events, where drug testing will be performed will be notified of the possibility of testing at least 24 hours prior to testing date.
4. All individuals who register in events where drug testing is applicable will sign an AARA/USOC drug testing agreement from prior to participating in the event.

PENAL TIES:

1. The AARA adopts the following USOC guidelines for penalties:
 - a) inadvertent use:
 - first offense: maximum six month suspension
 - second offense: two year suspension
 - third offense: life ban
 - b) steroids, amphetamine-related and other stimulants, caffeine, diuretic, beta-blockers, narcotic, analgesics and designer drugs:
 - first offense: two year suspension
 - second offense: life ban

Failure to submit to testing is cause for penalties equal to those imposed against players found to have banned substance.

DUE PROCESS

All athletes will be afforded a fair notice and opportunity for a hearing. The AARA will follow proper procedure as outlined under the By-laws of the AARA, Article III "Disciplinary Proceedings and Appeals."

--*Courtesy of the AARA Media Guide*

RAM Club Facility Listing

THE Backwall FITNESS & RACQUET CLUB

JOHN R NORTH OF 12 MILE • 589-0900

- * Largest private multi-recreational club east of Woodward Avenue
- * 9 Racquetball Courts
- * Instruction from Stu Hastings, Men's National Racquetball Team Coach, Michigan's Male Player of the Year 1985 & 1986, Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame and Men's 35 National Champion.
- * 1600 sq. foot Aerobics Studio with A.F.A.A. Certified Instructors
- * Newly remodeled Nautilus & Olympic Free Weight Training Center
- * Cardio-vascular Training Center featuring 8 Lifecycles, 3 Stairmasters, 2 Treadmills, Liferower & Gravitation
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- * Complete locker room facilities featuring separate whirlpool & sauna for men and women.
- * Tanning and towel rentals available
- * Wallyball and Court Basketball also available



**ROSE SHORES
FITNESS & RACQUET
CLUB**

31950 Little Mack
Roseville, Mich. 48066






AND



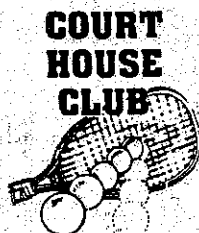
DAYS

INNS • HOTELS • SUITES • DAYSTOPS

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Roseville, Michigan 48066
(313) 296-6700

WELCOME YOU TO YOUR FITNESS RESORT

- 18 Racquetball /Wallyball Courts
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- Fitness Lab Testing; 15 pieces of cardiovascular equipment; over 50 pieces of weight machines and free weights
- Tanning salon; Hair Salon; Saunas, Steam rooms & Hot Tubs
- 25 Meter lap pool with co-ed whirlpool
- Off the Wall Saloon and Restaurant;
- 104 Hotel Rooms and Suites, Jacuzzi rooms available
- Fine dining at CHARDAL'S--
- Experience the sights and sounds of Shadows Night Club
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- CALL 296-6700 for Days Inn Hotel



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- TOURNAMENTS**
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- Flint Winter Games - January
- Dr. Pepper Open - February
- St. Patrick's Day - March
- Spring Double-up - April
- Flint Summer Games - July
- CANUSA Games - August

PRO SHOP

Authorized "HEAD" Racquet Dealer
Racquet Repair—Strings and Grips

AEROBICS

Low/High Impact & Seniors—5 days per week

SPA FACILITIES

Separate Men's and Women's whirlpool & saunas

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California Gym Resistance Equipment
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- Conference Room Available for Parties - Racquets & Balls Available for Rent
- Dart Room (4 Boards, darts available) - Pro Shop
- Tiebreaker Lounge (Open to Public) - Aerobic Exercise Classes
- Staffed Nursery Facilities - Suntana Equipment - Private Parties Available
- Family Membership - Special Membership Rates for Seniors