

Racquetball Reporter

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STATE DOUBLES
ENTRY FORM



Racquetball Association of Michigan

2007 STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS RETURN TO DAVISON ATHLETIC CLUB

- Twayne M. Howard

State Championship racquetball returned to one of the great, historic tournament houses in Michigan in 2007, the Davison Athletic Club. Over 150 players came to vie for the title "State Champion". The DAC is a world class club, and was a terrific host for the event. Randy Minto and his staff went all out to show the players a great time and a great time was had by all.

Lets get right to the action. For the first time ever, the Juniors competed in both age and skill divisions. This allowed for maximum competition and lots of fun for the kids.

Caylee Brookshire won the Girls Multi-bounce Division after getting past **Caitlin Sparks** in the finals. **Mariah Titsworth** and **Kelly Standfast** were the semi-finalists. Some of the most fun games to watch were among these future stars. Look for them to shoot up the ranks in the years to come.

The Boys 8 and Under Multi-bounce Championship went to **Cameron Clolinger** who got past **Braeden D'Almeida** in the finals. **David Zeng**, **Sawyer Lerner** and **Andy Barnett** also competed.

Cory Zeng defeated his sister **Mary Zeng** to win the 10 and Under Division. That must have been a tough ride home. **Connor Cowan** and **Zachary D'Almeida** were the semi-finalists.

The Juniors 12 and Under has been one of the biggest divisions over the past few years, and this year was no exception. A tough final went to **Sam Zeng** who defeated **Mercedes Arias** to win the

Championship. **Nathan Tucker** and **Ines Lecland** were the semi-finalists.

The Juniors 14 and Under Championship went to southpaw **Brad Schopieray** who closed out **Eric Sporer** in the finals. **Trevor Sporer** and **Mike Bowles** rounded out the division.

Although several Juniors have made huge strides this season, **Andrew Price** is clearly in a class by himself. Andrew made his way through the Juniors 16 and Under Division, and defeated **Lucas Arias** to take the title. **Matt Barbusack** and **Bryan Schopieray** were the semi-finalists.

Andrew also took the Juniors 18 and Under Championship after defeating **Matt Bernstein**. **Frank Antonelli** and **Ryan Fontaine** rounded out the semis.

Then it was on to the second divisions, where the Juniors were split up into skill levels, based on the Junior Fantastic Four model. Again, this was a great success. **Connor Cowan** won the Juniors C Championship. He got past Zachary D'Almeida to earn the title. Jason Lund, Nikko Leggett and Marco Leggett rounded out the Division.

The Juniors B Championship went to **Trevor Sporer** after he defeated Mike Bowles in the finals. Alex Banks, Myles Kelly and Weston Cowan rounded our the Division.

The Junior A Championship was a battle of locals as **Ryan Fontaine** defeated Frank Antonelli to win the Title. Bryan Schopieray and Matt Barbuscak were the semi-finalists.

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THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT . .

- Twayne M. Howard
President

As you read this, Labor Day looms large in the rear-view mirror and another great season of racquetball is underway.

The 2007-2008 season has 16 sanctioned tournaments in Michigan offering everything a player could want. Mens Divisions, Womens Divisions, Juniors Divisions, Singles, Doubles and everything in between, whatever that is.

We are thrilled to be bringing back the **Junior Fantastic Four Tournament Series**. After the inaugural season, Don Schopieray has refined the system a bit and promises even bigger and better things on the horizon.

Want to see the best of the best. Schedule a weekend in Grand Rapids, October 19-21 for the West Michigan Open. This is the Tenth WMO and it seems to get better each year. Several of the top players in the world have agreed to attend. Will we see a huge upset like last year? Only one way to find out.

Love round robin play? Try the Super Saver at Davison, the Riverview Fall Brawl in Grand Rapids, or the March Madness tournament in Warren.

Prefer single-elimination? Try the inaugural Travers City Cherry Splat to start the season. Or, there's the Spartan Splat in Lansing, the Tie-Breaker open in Davison, the Motor City Rollout in Utica, Aloha Open in Grand Blanc, Capital Challenge in Lansing, the South West Michigan Shootout in Kalamazoo or, the big show State Singles in Davison.

What about you doubles specialists? Try the Double-Vision in Lansing, the Halloween Spooktacular in Warren, the BAC Doubles in Kalamazoo, or of course, State Doubles at Total Sports.

What a great lineup. I can't wait to hit the courts and get my game on.

But first, just a brief look back at last season. I would like to congratulate Jack Huczek on finishing the IRT season at Number 1. He has held the top spot several times before, but got edged out at the end of the season. This was truly his break through year. Jack is only the 16th Champion in the history of the tour, and the second Michigander, following in the footsteps of the great Mike Yellen. I certainly hope that this is the first of many to come.

Congrats Jack. All of your hard work has paid off.

LOOKING FOR OLD RAM NEWSLETTERS

We are looking for copies of old RAM or MRA newsletters to complete our set.

We currently have RAM newsletters back to the old Michigan Racquetball Association (MRA) days in 1978. But as with any collection, there are a few issues we are missing. If you have old newsletter issues and are cleaning house, we would love to have them. Please send them to Jim Easterling, 321 Village Dr., Lansing, MI 48911.

If you want the newsletters back, we will be happy to scan them and return them to you. We are particularly looking for issues prior to 2003.

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TEAM MICHIGAN CROWNS ANOTHER NATIONAL CHAMPION AT 2007 NATIONALS

- Twayne M. Howard

Five hundred thirty players came to spend Memorial Day in Houston, Texas to compete in the 2007 National Championships. Sixteen members of Team Michigan made the trip and one came home with another National Championship.

Melody Gorno led the way by winning the Womens 40+A National Championship. Melody swept the round robin division to take another Gold. To follow up on this, Melody took the Silver Medal in the Womens 35+A Division. Congratulations Melody! Great work.

But Melody was not the only Michigander to bring home some hardware. **Mark Candy** played in the Mens C Division and put in a great week. He came up just

short, losing a tie-breaker in the semis and the third place game. A great week, though to make it to the semis in this tough division. Great job and congrats to Mark.

Sharon Huczek also competed in a tough round robin division, the Womens 50+A Championship. Sharon went 4 and 1 to finish in second place. What a terrific tournament against some incredibly tough ladies. Great job, Sharon.

Mike Anderson made it to the semis of the Mens 45+ Open Division. He fell in a tough match against world-class Tim Hansen. A couple tough calls at the end didn't help. It was still a great run and terrific to see Mike fighting through his physical ailments over the past few years.

Twayne Howard made it to the semis of the Mens 40+ B Division before falling in a tight tie-breaker to the eventual Champion.

World Number 1, **Jack Huczek** fell in the semis in a shocking upset. This should not diminish the tremendous accomplishment of finishing #1 on the IRT this season. Congrats Jack.

Tom Blakeslee, Joe Budzynski, Tim Couch, Charlie Curtis, Lewis Forrest, Pete Harvey, Shannon Kohl, Dave Lund, Mike Malcolm and Dan Mullin also played.

Another great Memorial Day week, and another great set of results for Team Michigan. Make your plans now to make it out next year. Could you be a National Champion? You'll never know if you don't make the trip.

2007-08 RAM TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Sep 8-9	Traverse City Cherry Splat, Traverse City Athletic Club
Sep 29	Double Vision Doubles Only, Michigan Athletic Club, Lansing
Oct 6-7	Super Saver Round Robin, Davison Athletic Club, Davison
Oct 19-21	West Michigan Open Pro-Am, Michigan Athletic Club, Grand Rapids
Oct 27	Halloween Spooktacular, Players Athletic Club, Warren
Nov 3	Riverview Fall Brawl, Riverview Athletic Club, Grand Rapids
Nov 9-11	Spartan Splat, Michigan Athletic Club, Lansing
Nov 30-Dec 2	STATE DOUBLES - Total Sports, Mt Clemens
Jan 11-13	Tie-Breaker Open, Davison Athletic Club, Davison
Jan 19	BAC Doubles Tournament, Kalamazoo
Feb 1-3	Motor City Rollout, Courtland Athletic Club, Utica
Feb 9	Aloha Open, Genesys Athletic Club, Grand Blanc
Feb 22-24	Capital Challenge, Michigan Athletic Club, Lansing
Mar 1-2	March Madness, Players Athletic Club, Warren
Mar 14-16	STATE SINGLES, Davison Athletic Club
Mar 28-30	South West Michigan Racquetball Shootout, Bronson A C, Kalamazoo

2007 BELLE ISLE RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Greg "Big Daddy" Lewerenz

This year was a year of many "firsts" in the more than 25 year history of our Belle Isle Racquetball Championship Tournament. This was the first time our tournament was classified as one of the four WOR (World Outdoor Racquetball) Grand Slam Events, we had a professional singles and doubles divisions, we offered guaranteed prize money, and we played the finals of our tournament at a place other than Belle Isle.

The word tournament doesn't quite describe the Belle Isle experience. You need to include several other words with the word tournament to get the idea of "what we do" — party, event, fantastic, incredible, competition, spectacular, and fun. So in honor of our 2007 Belle Isle Racquetball Championship we are creating a new word **Tournatastic-partacular-funtition-incredible!** Because "what we do" is all that, and then some -- Webster's be advised.

The tournament began on Saturday, August 18. The weather was 72 degrees and sunny, and that's when it started to get really HOT! The racquetball heated up, and the competition melted away. All that was left at the end of the day were the semi-finalists and finalists. There was our classic Belle Isle hospitality and barbecue, an ice cold keg of beer, and in the afternoon a DJ spinning classic Motown until the lights were turned out on the courts. All this was happening while the best outdoor racquetball was being played.

The Men's Pro Division went as expected. In the round of 16, **Ron Barton** defeated **Paul Stanwick** in a long match, that went to the tiebreaker, with "Big Daddy" Barton pulling it out in the end. Paul valiantly chased "Big Daddy's" rocket ceiling balls time after time, but it was to no avail. Ron just used his extensive repertoire of Belle Isle shots to take Paul down. In the second round of 16 match **Chris Kelly** advanced by beating **Brian Berkelhamer**. Brian is a top level indoor player, but this was his first time outdoors and that proved to be a disaster for him. Chris' outdoor knowledge and experience, as well as his power, serving, and pin point shooting, was the difference.

Chris Kelly took his win and went up against **Jeff Mullins** in the first quarterfinal match. Chris did his best, but was no match for Jeff's speed, power and youth. Jeff Mullins advanced in two games. The second quarterfinal match pitted "Big Daddy" **Greg Lewerenz** against the #53 ranked player on the IRT Tour, **Shannon Kohl**. This was also Shannon's first outdoor tournament, and "Big Daddy" Greg was

set to take advantage. It was time to see how Shannon's power and skill would stack up against Greg's Belle Isle experience. It was time for Shannon's lesson in Belle Isle Racquetball 101. Unfortunately for "Big Daddy", Shannon was a very quick student. Shannon's power, skill, fitness and youth bested Greg in two competitive games. In the last quarterfinal of the day was "Big Daddy" Ron Barton against the #10 player on the IRT Tour, **Andy Hawthorne**. Andy was another of the outdoor newbies, having never smelled the fresh air of the outdoors while playing racquetball. "Big Daddy" Ron was ready, his game face was on, and it was time to see how a top indoor pro would do against one of Belle Isle's best. "Big Daddy" Ron indoctrinated Andy at Belle Isle with one photon ceiling ball after another, but Andy chased each down with his cat-like speed and reflexes. Andy even used some of his indoor diving skill to keep rallies alive. In the end it was Andy's power, speed, skill, and youth, that overcame "Big Daddy" Ron in two long competitive games.

The first semifinal saw the World's #1 player, **Jack Huczek** against Jeff Mullins. Jeff fought for his life with dives, gets, and everything in his bag of tricks, but it wasn't enough to overcome Jack's awesome ability. Jack advanced to the finals in two games. The second semifinal saw Andy Hawthorne against Shannon Kohl. This was youth against youth, speed against speed, and power against power. Their collective combination of speed, skill, and power, made for incredible rallies as they went shot for shot, kill for kill and ace for ace. They had the crowd on the edge of their seats for the entire match. In the end, Andy prevailed with a little more of everything than Shannon.

The stage was set for a great final. The two top seeds, Jack Huczek and Andy Hawthorne, were geared up for a war! The venue was changed to Total Sports, due to a total rain out on Sunday, which changed the dynamics of the match. Andy made it clear that he would have preferred to face Jack outdoors at Belle Isle, because he had never beaten Jack indoors. Having said this, the venue change didn't faze either competitor, and they brought everything they had to win the money and title of 2007 Belle Isle Racquetball Pro Champion. It was truly a pleasure for all those in attendance to watch two of the world's best racquetball players duke it out. Andy kept each game competitive and extended many rallies with his incredible diving gets, and superhuman athleticism, but Jack would not be denied. The World's #1 player took the match in three straight games to become the 2007 Belle Isle

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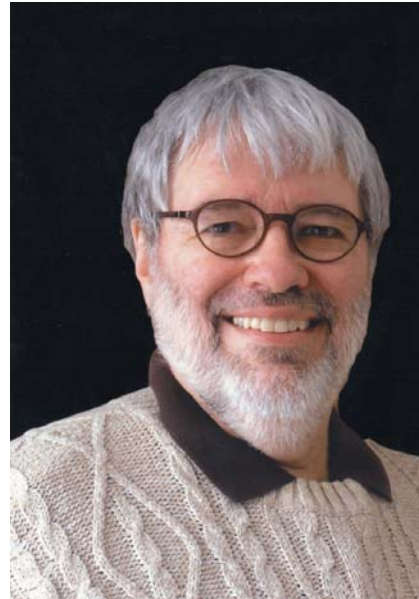
RAM HALL OF FAME WELCOMES INDUCTEES CRAIG FINGER AND FRED WIEGAND IN 2007

- Jim Easterling

The Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame welcomed its 28th and 29th Inductees in March of 2007. Honored at the Hall of Fame Banquet held in conjunction with the State Singles Championships at the Davison Athletic Club and Banquet Facility were **Craig Finger** (Michigan) and **Fred Wiegand** (Texas). Both Craig and Fred were very active in racquetball in its early years in Michigan and will be outstanding additions to the Hall of Fame. The 2007 Hall of Fame Banquet also honored the 2006 inductees of Chris Cole and Jimmy Floyd.

Craig currently lives in East Lansing, Michigan; is married and has three children. He was born in 1945 and retired as a psychologist from the State of Michigan.

Craig has won many racquetball, and paddleball, tournaments over the years. He is best known for winning the IRA National Singles Championships in 1970; defeating Charlie Brumfield. In 1971, he finished in second place in the IRA National Singles Championships, losing only to Bill Schmitke.



Craig Finger



Fred Wiegand

Fred Wiegand currently lives in Pharr, Texas. In his Michigan heyday, he lived in the metro Detroit area. Fred is married and has four children. He was born in 1931 and retired in 1992 from General Motors.

Fred is best known in Michigan for his running battle with Lynn Hahn, another Hall of Famer, in the 1970's and 80's. He has recently won the 2006 U. S. Open Championship in the 75+ division in Memphis, Tennessee and along the way had to beat the #1 and #2 seeds to claim the title.

Both of these people have been excellent players over the years and it is an honor to welcome both of them into the RAM Hall of Fame. When you get to the MAC Club in East Lansing the next time, take a moment and look for Craig's and Fred's plaques as the new Inductees to the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame.

CONGRATULATIONS

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT

- John VandeWeerd and Tom Ford

The quality of the competition, camaraderie among the players and the record turn out made this year's Southwest Michigan Racquetball Shootout our best ever! Sixty-five players from Michigan and neighboring Indiana contested thirteen different divisions.

I want to thank all our sponsors for their generous support. Thank you to Rich Westerbrink, Riverside Integrated Systems Inc. our Gold sponsor, Orion Auto Glass, our Silver sponsor, and to our Bronze sponsors: Marvin Okun Insurance Agency, Jerry Spruit of the Swan Restaurant, Dr. Bill Walker, Angelos, and Mike Anderson of Anderson's Screen Printing. We also extend our gratitude to the Bronson Athletic Club for their wonderful accommodations for the players throughout the tournament.

I also want to thank Jerry Spruit for donating his time and resources to make a hot breakfast on Saturday and on Sunday of the tournament. Without the generosity of our sponsors and volunteers we could not provide the hospitality and amenities for the players that makes this tournament such a success each year. -- John VandeWeerd - Tournament Director

Now to our players' finishes as told by Tom Ford.

The Men's Open division was contested for a first place prize of \$100.00. Like last year, it was played in a round robin format. Nineteen year-old phenom, **Alex Ackerman** from Indianapolis, put on a clinic as he lost only one game enroute to his first place finish. After losing to Ackerman in his first round match, **Shannon Kohl** heated up and won second place. Bob Wright from Mishawaka, IN, Mark Widman and veteran player Mike Anderson rounded out the field. Mark had a solid showing in his first attempt in the open division. It's just a matter of time and Mark will really take off. And Mike played great only THREE weeks after knee surgery.

Congratulations to **Mark Widman** who won the Men's A division. Mark won his first match in dramatic fashion by beating **Dave "3-wall" Bushen** with six drive serve aces in the tiebreaker. He then faced some tough drive serves himself as he played lefty Mike Cambon in the semis. Mark prevailed in that one in 2 games. Dan Hahaj from Mishawaka, IN was the other finalist. He first beat Dan Mullin in a tight 3-game match and then Joe Budzynski in the quarters and finally Rick Vrosh in the semis. Dan was not able to play in finals against Mark and had to forfeit the match.

The finals of the Men's B division consisted of a battle between two local players, **Brian Criswell** and **Jay**

Hoinville. Criswell met Bryan Galloway in the semis. Galloway played a great match but in the end, Criswell rolled out too many forehands and won the match. On the other side of the draw, Jay Hoinville played three matches, each going to three games. After edging out Paula Saad in the quarters, Jay won a hard-fought match against Barry Dennis in the semis. All those tough matches may have worn Jay down a bit as Brian rode that big forehand to victory in two games. Congratulations, Brian, on your first tournament win!

The finals of the Men's C division featured a fun match-up between **Jerry Gathright** of St. Joseph and **Dan Deitrich** of Baroda. Jerry showed great touch in the front court and precise pinch shots throughout the tournament. At 55, folks said Jerry looked like a "young Art Murphy." Although Dan played well, Jerry rolled out too many Murphy-like pinches and won the title.

In a marathon match that lasted nearly two hours, newcomer **Bryan Burkey** of Kalamazoo outlasted **Stephen Price** to win the Men's D division. Enroute to the finals, Burkey beat Matt Anderson and Levi Hazen of Mishawaka. Stephen Price beat two other local players in Larry Vestal and James Pike.

The finals of the Men's 30+ A division drew the largest crowd of spectators and featured perhaps the most entertaining match of the tournament. Great matches are often the result of contrasting styles of the players, and there could not have been a greater contrast in styles than there was between **Dave "4-wall" Bushen** and **Rick Vrosh**.

The match, lasting over an hour, showcased Rick's drive serves, powerful forehand, and smart offensive passes and pinches. For Dave's part, the crowd frequently erupted in "hoops and hollers" as he rolled out shots from between the legs at the back wall and kept Rick off balance with his unconventional 3-wall game. In the second game, Vrosh played great "conventional" racquetball to overcome a 12 to 2 deficit and take the lead. Now down 13 to 12, Bushen showed no sign of nerves or concern as he stepped into the service box. Rather, he laughed, flashed his patented pirate's smile, hit his z-serves and rolled off 3 straight points to win the match. The crowd goes wild!

Zachary and younger brother **Braeden D'Almeida** came from Harrison Township to play in the juniors division that featured four local tournament first timers in **Landen Wood**, **Tristan Wood**, **Alex Hoinville** and **Tyler Ford**. Each of the boys had a blast and played well. In the end though, Zachary

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MICHIGAN'S TALENTED MOTHER/SON DUO

- Twayne M. Howard

Jack Huczek – Pro Champion

Dominant ----- Awesome ----- Unstoppable

How many words are there to describe the season put together by Jack Huczek?

Incredible ----- Amazing

Jack won NINE of thirteen Pro stops on his way to his first Pro Championship. He also won his first Major at the Motorola Pro National Championship. Nine of thirteen and one of two majors is one of the greatest seasons in Pro history.

What a season. With this accomplishment, Jack truly joins the greats of the game. He becomes only the fifth Tour Champion since 1993 joining the names of Cliff, Sudsy, Jason and Kane.

One of his Jack's coaches was Jim Hamilton. Jim said, "I remember talking to Coach Leonard Karpeles when Jack was about ten. We used to talk about how Jack had the tools to be a top player. He was athletic, had all the shots, the mental toughness and the determination. We knew then he could be the best."

As part of the West Michigan Open organizing committee, Jim has gotten to see Jack's fully-realized talents in action. "It's great to see it come true after all these years of hard work and dedication."

So what's up next? Jack has promised to step up his training and come back even better next year. I for one, can't wait. That should be a great show.

Sharon Huczek Sweeps the Competition

And not to be totally out done by her son. . .Is Sharon Huczek who is one top notch player in her own right. Sharon, who continues to be a member of the RAM Board of Directors has played at consistently high level for many years.

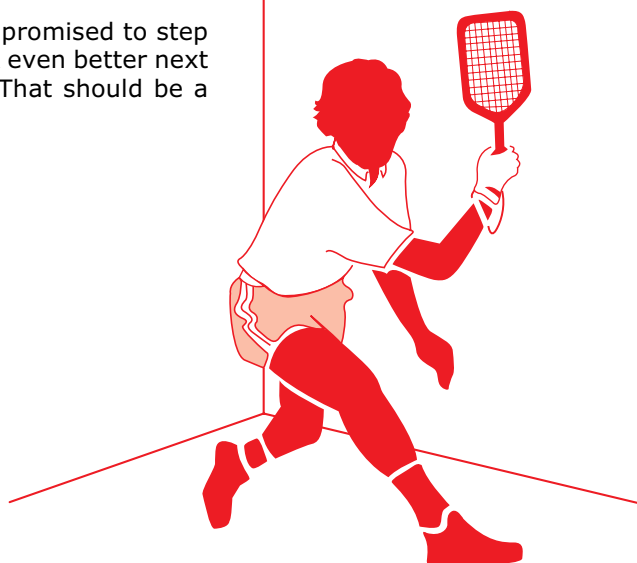
While most of us were taking the summer off, Sharon Huczek was touring the country, taking on stiff competition, and raking in the Gold Medals.

In August, Sharon won the Round Robin Womens 55+ Championship defeating two other competitors to win the Gold.

In July, Sharon made the trip to Overland Park Kansas to compete in the 2007 NMRA International Championships. She competed in the Womens 55/60+ Division which featured eight players. This was another round robin event, and quite a test. Sharon took on these tough ladies and went undefeated to win the Gold and the World Championship.

Charlie Curtis, Bob Miller, Duane Russell and Tom Sharum also competed in Kansas.

Congratulations to Sharon on her great Summer! And we hope to see Sharon winning more medals during the 2007-08 tournament season.



2007 STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS - (cont from pg 1)

The Womens A Championship went to **Tia Lecland** after she defeated **Marianne McHugh** to win the championship. Tia took her last steps in the As and is now on her way to the Open.

Tia also won the Womens 35+A. She defeated Marianne McHugh and Beverly Ross to take the Championship.

The Womens Open Division was wide open as Lenore Zelenock, the back to back champion, was not able to make the event this year. This division was filled with past Champions, and several others who have beaten those Champions. After several close matches, **Anthnita Dickerson** got past **Melody Gorno** to win the Gold Medal. **Michele Geile** and **Paula Saad** made it to the semis.

Anthnita made it a clean sweep after she defeated Michele Geile to win the Womens 35+ Open Championship. Paula Saad and Melody Gorno were the semi-finalists.

Greg Lewerenz won the Mens 30+ Open Championship by defeating his sparring partner, **Alex Cobb**. **Mark Werthman** and **Scott Goudie** were the semi-finalists.

The Mens 35+A Championship went to **John Stallmer** who defeated **Ben Marciniak-Jennings** in the final. **Twayne Howard** and **Jodee Sparks** were the semi-finalists.

John Leggett won the Mens 35+C Championship by defeating **James Price**. The two semi-finalists in the division were **Dominic Sassanelli** and **David Wallace**.

John MacEachin defeated **Bob Buckingham** to take the Mens 50+B Championship. **Jim Bruton** and **Barry Dennis** were the semi-finalists.

DAC member, **Greg McClellan** upheld the home field advantage and defeated **Rudy Varela** to win the Mens 50+ C Championship.

The Mens 40+ Open Championship went to **Steve Goedker**, who took out the home-town favorite, **Dan Verbeck**. **Ron Barton** and **Chris Kelly** rounded out the semis.

Steve Tomczak won the Mens 40+B Championship by defeating **Rodger Culver**. **Paul Wright** and **Gregg Sporer** made it to the semis.

The Mens 45+ Open division went to **Dan Verbeck**, following up is previous Silver. **Greg Zivov** made it to the finals, while **Chris Kelly** and **George Yarbenet** rounded out the semis.

Mark Reed defeated **Scott Bowles** to take the Mens 45+A Championship. **Ron Griggs** and **Mike Chambon** were the semi-finalists.

The Mens 45+B went to **Mike Middleton** after defeating **Bill Walker**. **Keith Bryan** and **Dave Chirio** made it to the semis.

The Mens 45+C Championship went to **Jeff Simonis**, one of Traverse City's finest. **Rich Westerbrink** fell just short while **Matthew Barbuscak** and **Mike D'Almeida** rounded out the semis.

George Yarbenet got past **Greg Zivov** to take the Mens 50+ Title. **Len Kleparek** and **Tom Blakeslee** were the semi-finalists.

The Mens 50+A Division was won by **Paul Amell** who defeated **Jay Kargula** in the Finals. The semi-finalists were **Marcos Rivera** and **Mike Middleton**.

RAM Hall of Famer, **Jim Easterling** won his FIRST EVER State Singles Championship by defeating **Jim Panasiewicz** to win the Mens 55+ Championship. Mr. Easterling

managed to win the Championship, despite playing almost half a game with broken strings. Apparently, this helped make his "precision" shots, even more precise. **George Goudie** and **Kim Hyde** rounded out the semis.

The Mens 55+A Championship went to **Charlie Curtis** who defeated **Keith Vogel** to earn the title. **Pete Harvey** and **George Goudie** rounded out the division.

The Mens 60+ Open Championship went to **Ed Barter** who defeated **Bill Hagedorn** and **Tom Sharum** to win the round-robin division.

Tom Sharum took the Mens 65+ Championship after defeating his regular sparring partner, **Art Murphy**. **Charlie Wheelihan** and **Dave Lund** were the semi-finalists.

Dave Lund won the Mens 70+ Championship by scaring off all the competition. Hey, I wouldn't want to have to try to beat him, either. Congratulations on your State title.

For the second year, one of Michigan's star Juniors made a big splash in the Adult Divisions. **Andrew Price** followed up last year's B State Championship by winning the Mens A Championship this year. Andrew is on his way to the Open Division after defeating **Mark Novak** in the Finals. **Matt Malolepszy** and **Mark Reed** were the semi-finalists.

The Mens B Championship Final between **Mike Malcolm** and **Dan Mullin** was a re-match of a re-match of a re-match of a Final that seemed to be played at every tournament all season long. These two have played several times over the past two years, and suffice it to say, they know each other's games. Dan has made a habit of beating Mike in the B

2007 STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS - (cont from pg 8)

Finals, but in the big show, Mike reversed the trend and took the State B Championship. **Dennis Dinauer** and **Scott Sellers** made it to the semis.

In a stunning upset, **Dan Mullin** threw consecutive "stones" to defeat **Mike Malcolm's** "scissors" and win the Mens 30+ B Championship. **Troy Driskill** and **Mike Urquhart** rounded out the semis.

A tough Mens C Championship went to **Keith Bryan**, after he defeated **David Wallace** to take the title. Keith capped off a great season and will go roaring into the B Division for 2007-2008 season. **Dominic Sassanelli** and **John Leggett** filled out a talented final four.

Rudy Varela defeated **Jim Pike** to win the Mens D Championship. Rudy and Jim both had great seasons, so it's fitting that they

squared off in the State Finals. **Ken Elder** and **Joe Meredith** were semi-finalists.

As always, a highlight of the tournament is the Mens Open Division. This was one of the deeper draws in recent years. Would this be the year that **Shannon Kohl** broke through and took the title from **Jim Floyd**? After the dust cleared, Shannon was not able to close out the first game, and Jim used that momentum to carry him through a two-game win and another State Championship. This win just added to the Hall of Famer's tremendous resume. **Steve Goedker** and **Alex Cobb** were the last hurdles to the finals.

Doubles play closed out the Championship weekend. The Mens A Championship went to **Jim** and **John Kutt** who defeated **Dan Mullin** and **Matt Bernstein** to take the Division.

Powerhouses **Mike Malcolm** and **Bryan Galloway** teamed up to win the Mens B Doubles. They defeated **Mike Urguhart** and **Steve Tomczak** in the finals.

Dominic Sassanelli and **Jim Pike** capped off a terrific season by winning the Mens D Doubles Championship. They defeated **Bryan** and **Don Schopieray** in the finals.

What a great weekend. This was certainly championship racquetball at its finest. Davison Athletic Club was a first class host, the awards, food, and particularly the shirts got rave reviews and Saturday's Awards Banquet was a night to remember. If you were there, we hope you had a terrific time. If you couldn't join us, we hope you can make it next year. See you there.

(Look for the article on the Hall of Fame Inductees on page 5)

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT - (cont from pg 6)

edged out Braden for first place. Congratulations, boys, on a great tournament!

Other singles winners included Al Kohl in the 50+ A division, Michael D'Almedia in the 25+ C division and Greg Feldmeier in the 45+ C division.

The Doubles matches were contested on Saturday night. **Maureen** and **Stephen Price** teamed up to win the mixed doubles over second place finishers **Diane Bange** and **John Vandeweerd**. Dan and Diana Deitrich and Clint and Viola Thompson played solid racquetball to round out the field.

The Men's A doubles division was tightly contested as first time

partners **Dave "5-wall" Bushen** and **Dan Mullin** beat **Bob Wright** and **Dan Hahaj** for first place by a mere one point. Head to head, Wright and Hahaj had many great shots and diving gets, but Bushen's backhand and Dan's front court game frustrated the Indianans and proved to be just a little too much. Attica Mitchell and Spark Overway played solid ball (Attica's backhand was smokin' as usual) as did Jerry Spruit and John Vandeweerd.

The ageless wonder **Art Murphy** teamed up with newcomer **Jim Feutz** to win the Men's B doubles division over **Bryan Galloway** and **Barry Dennis** in the finals. Jim's drive serves and aggressive offense paired with Art's experience and precise front court game were too much for Dennis and Galloway.

Art and Jim won in two games, another title for Art and a first for Jim.

Congratulations and thank you to all of the players who participated in the tournament. We look forward to making next year's tournament an even greater success and hope to see you again. Check the 2007-08 RAM Tournament Schedule and mark your calendars now for this fun and exciting end of the year event.



NOMINATIONS DUE FOR THE RAM HALL OF FAME

- Jim Easterling

The Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame developed in 1984 by the Racquetball Association of Michigan honors those recipients who demonstrate outstanding achievement, leadership, or contribution to the sport of racquetball in the state of Michigan. The award is based upon **YEARS OF CONSISTENT EXCELLENCE** in one or more of the following areas:

ABILITY

Through demonstration of exceptional playing skill in state, regional, and/or national tournament competition.

LEADERSHIP

Through generous giving of time and talent for the advancement of racquetball in the state of Michigan by running tournaments, conducting leagues, lessons, serving on the state racquetball association board of directors or other racquetball activities.

CONTRIBUTION

Through the generous support, including money, facilities, or products for the advancement of racquetball in the state of Michigan.

If you know someone who qualifies (see the Hall of Fame Criteria

found on the RAM home page at www.michiganracquetball.net) that you would like to see in the Hall of Fame, please submit a letter with their full name, address, phone number (including area code) and a brief description of why you think that person deserves to be in the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame to:

Hall of Fame Inductee
321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911-3760

Also, include your name, address and phone number (both day and evening) in case we have to contact you for additional information about your nominee. The DEADLINE for nominations for induction into the RAM Hall of Fame for the 2007-2008 year is **October 19, 2007**. Induction will take place in the spring of 2008.

Who will join Chris Cole and Jimmy Floyd, inducted in 2006, or Fred Wiegand and Craig Finger in 2007 as the newest member or members of the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame? Nominate your choice today.

Members of the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame committee include: Jim Easterling, David Brower, Irene Ackerman-Chmura, William Gottlieb, Lynn Hahn, Jim Woolcock, Paula Saad and Twayne Howard.

BEATRICE R. HAHN

Michigan Racquetball has lost a tremendous lady this past summer. Mrs. Beatrice Hahn, wife of Hall of Famer Mr Lynn Hahn passed away June 2, 2007. Those of us lucky enough to remember when Mr Hahn was the best of the best in Michigan, or played in Muskegon for any amount of time, will remember that Mrs. Hahn was always by his side. She would cheer on her devoted husband, and always take time to talk to other players and somehow make them feel as if they were close friends. She was a sweet, wonderful lady, and she will be missed by all who knew her.

Beatrice known as "Bea" was born on May 29 in 1926 in Pontiac, Michigan. She was a 1944 graduate of Alma High School. Bea and Lynn were married on September 28, 1951, and made their home in the White Lake area for the past 27 years after moving there from Saline.

Bea was a loving mother of two children daughter Rebecca (Jason) Robbins and son Timothy (Joanne) and grandmother of five.

Donations in memory of Mrs. Hahn may be made to the Memorial Fund of the Whitehall United Methodist Church, 117 S. Division St., Whitehall, Michigan 49461.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE RAQUETBALL REPORTER FOR 2007-08

The Racquetball Reporter is published quarterly throughout the year - August, November, February, and May. Items to be included in the Racquetball Reporter for the **2007-08** year must be submitted by the following dates:

August 3, 2007	January 5, 2008
October 5, 2007	April 20, 2008

Advertisement material is subject to approval by the RAM Board of Directors. The prices for advertisement material are:

\$400 - Full page ad to run in all four issues (7"w x 9.5"h)

\$250 - Half page ad to run in all four issues (7"w x 4.75"h)
\$150 - Quarter page ad to run in all four issues (3.5"w x 4.75"h)
\$100 - Club listing for all four issues (3"w x 2"h)

All advertisements must be submitted in camera ready format in the appropriate size. E-mailed graphics can be accepted in either a **.TIFF** or **.JPG** format. All advertisements will be in black and white for all issues, except the May issue which will be in full color. Payment must accompany submission of all advertisement material. Information may be mailed to The Racquetball Reporter, 321 Village Dr., Lansing, MI 48911 or sent electronically to djeasterling@earthlink.net.

2007 BELLE ISLE RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS - *(cont from pg 4)*

Men's Pro Singles Champion and now holds the bragging rights.

The Men's Open Division was no less of a dogfight. **Rance Mack**, the powerful indoor player from Cleveland, blew through his half of the draw on his way to the finals, beating Belle Isle's own perennial champion, **Greg Hodges** and Brian Berkelhamer, the #2 seed from the Pro drop down. The other half of the draw saw **Jeff Makowski** make it past **Carlos Jones**, the Belle Isle Summer Classic Men's Open Champion and Paul Stanwick, the #1 seed from the Pro drop down. Rance's overwhelming power and precision shot making were the difference in the match, as Rance won in two.

The Men's A Division saw an up and coming young gun take it to the vets. **Robin Basil** climbed the ladder by beating **Rajesh Padiyal**, "**Super Dave**" Chirio, and the Open finalist Jeff Makowski. The other half of the draw saw **Twayne "The Pres" Howard** beat "**Mr. Belle Isle**" **Marcos Rivera** and **Dan Mullin** to make it to the show. Robin's speed and quickness proved to be too much for "The Pres" to handle in the final. The young gun, Robin, prevailed and walked away with the hardware and the title of 2007 Belle Isle Racquetball Championships Men's A Champion.

The Men's B Division saw another newcomer to Belle Isle take home the gold. **Chris Sailor** took out Belle Isle regular, **Rich Worbeck** and Toledo's **Dave Thompson** en route to the finals. "Super" Dave Chirio used his quickness and power to take out his doubles partner **Darryl Hunter** on his way to the show. The finals ended with Chris using his indoor skill against "Super" Dave to win the title.

The Men's C Division saw another upset of a Belle Isle veteran. **Russell Baker** cruised through his

side of the draw by beating **Matt Barbuscak Sr.** and the top seeded **Mike Labadie**. **Michael Petrucci** had a little tougher go getting past the second seeded **Matt Barbuscak Jr.**, and Rich Worbeck. The finals saw Michael Petrucci taking the title by beating Russell in the final.

The Women's Open Division was a real war! The best female player in the State of Michigan, **Anthnita Dickerson** put on a show! Anthnita beat Belle Isle veteran **Felecia Mann** on the way to the final. On the other side of the draw was a knock down drag out fight between **Paula Saad** and **Tracy Cerovski**. Tracy went down at the hands of Paula's precision shot making, but not without a fight. In the final, Anthnita prevailed in the tie-breaker after dropping the first game. Paula worked Anthnita all over the court and Anthnita almost succumbed to leg cramps in the second game. But, on the verge of defeat, Anthnita gathered her composure, and pulled out the match. What a show, ladies!!!

The Juniors Division was a fun event to watch. **Sam Zeng**, who is new to Belle Isle, won after beating **Matt Hill** and **Brittany Hodges**. Great job Juniors!! It is nice to see the enthusiasm in the youth participating in our sport.

The Men's 25+ Division was another tough battle for all. **Rajesh Padiyal** bested competitors Paul Stanwick and Dan Mullin for the gold.

The Men's 45+ Division was another tough battle by some highly skilled veterans. **Carlos Jones** beat Mark Reed and Chris Kelly to take the title.

The Men's 55+ Division saw top seeded **Jim Panasiewicz** take down **John Houghton** in the top half of the draw, while in the bottom half of the draw **Joe Shaw** took out **Alfonso "The Plumber" Pugh**.

Jim won the watch over Joe with his younger legs and superior skill.

The Men's Pro Doubles was as entertaining as it was competitive. Another treat for the Belle Isle fans!! The top seeded team of **Jack Huczek/Paul Dylewski** cruised to the finals by beating Jeff Mullins/Brian Berkelhamer. In the bottom half of the draw, **Team "Big Daddy"** was pitted against the newly formed team of "Young Assassins", Shannon Kohl and Andy Hawthorne. Team "Big Daddy" pulled out all the stops and put on quite a show, but came up just short in the end. Shannon and Andy's power and skill proved to be the difference in a very competitive match. The final had the top two seeded teams squaring off, Jack and Paul against Andy and Shannon. It was clear from the opening serve that the "Young Assassins" plan was to keep the ball away from Jack. Andy and Shannon executed their plan to perfection. Paul did his best to hold up his end, but was clearly out of his element, in the court with the other three players. In an attempt to stem the tide, Jack put Paul in the "I-Formation" to return serve and take over the match, but even Jack's immense talent wasn't enough to overcome Andy and Shannon. Andy and Shannon won the match, the hardware, and the money in two straight games.

The Men's Open Doubles was another fantastic showcase of Belle Isle Racquetball. The team of **Greg Hodges** and **Anthnita Dickerson** worked through the top half of the draw beating Chicago's **Frank Ball** and **Ted Richardson**, and the Chicago/Detroit team of **Dave Lilly** and **Jeff Makowski**. The bottom half of the draw was just as tight. **Carlos Jones** and **Rance Mack** powered through "Team Toledo" **Dan Tabor** and **Jim Witherspoon**, then the Belle Isle

(cont on pg 13)

On Becoming Advocates for Racquetball

- Twayne M. Howard

I had a number of eye-opening moments this Summer that brought me to a new, hopefully interesting, observation.

I was playing with some of my usual sparring partners. It is a group of guys who don't play tournaments, but are good club payers. They are the "Average Joe's" that are the backbone of our sport. They come out three days a week, get some exercise, and have a good time. I wish they would play tournaments, but they come out and use the courts, and there are more of "them", than us who do play tournaments.

We were taking a break between games and one guy dug into his bag for a glove. I noticed that it was an "Ebonite" brand bag. Now, I may be a bit racquetball-centric, but I know enough to recognize one of the premier brand names in bowling. (It's not a sport if you can drink and smoke while you are playing, but don't get me started) My friend, who shall remain nameless, had a bowling ball bag for his racquetball gear. Of course, the assembled players gave him quite a bit of grief for it, all in the name of good fun. He said it was a present, or whatever, and we all had a good laugh. But it got me to thinking. "Bowling... really? Huh."

Another day, another set of games with the same players. I looked around the court and I noticed that one guy was wearing a t-shirt from a 3-on-3 basketball tournament series. I know this guy doesn't play basketball, but does play the occasional racquetball tournament. I asked about the shirt, and he said his son plays, and he gave it to him. I asked him why he didn't wear any of his tournament shirts. His response was something along the lines of "I don't know. I've got them, drawers full of them, but I never pull them out." I realized how many basketball tournament shirts I see out in public. Never any racquetball shirts. "Basketball... really? Huh."

For that matter, sometimes it seems that I can't go out to dinner without seeing a dozen guys wearing golf shirts with a big country club logo, or "US Open" or "Ryder Cup" logos. Sometimes it seems like every guy who has swung a 3-iron has one, and is wearing it every chance he gets. "Golf... really? Huh."

The final incident was just last week. I was playing an old friend at his club, and he introduced me to another gentleman so we could play some cut-throat. As we were getting started, I noticed my new friend (I always figure that anyone who plays racquetball is a friend of mine) was wearing a FootJoy golf glove instead of racquetball glove. A GOLF GLOVE!! Fortunately, he was a good guy and we had some

good games, otherwise I was going to revise my thinking on this whole "every racquetball player is a friend of mine" thing.

Instead, I took heed of the obvious theme that was developing during my Summer, and decided to write it down in a gentle thesis, which you are now reading.

Ladies and gentlemen, I submit to you that we do not support our sport. I am sorry to say it. But, I fear it is true. We do not do enough to support Racquetball.

When you get back into the office on Monday, do you tell your co-workers that you played a tournament? Or that you got in a few games over the weekend? It never ceases to amaze me how people react when they find out that I play racquetball. I have a new co-worker that I mentioned racquetball to. You should have seen his eyes light up. He used to play in college and would love to get back into it. I'm going to get him back on the court and get him involved. This has happened time and time again. It's amazing the response that you can get by just mentioning "Racquetball".

Racquetball might not have the high status that the Ryder Cup does, but we have a US Open Championship and National Championships. It is easy to get a nice, embroidered polo from them. It's an easy way to show off you love of Racquetball.

Most people reading this article have played a tournament, and most tournaments give out a shirt. I'm betting that you all have shirts in a drawer that never see the light of day. I am not asking that you wear you Motor City or Riverview long-sleeved T shirt out to a formal dinner. But you know what, they are darn good-looking shirts. Drag one out, put it on and go out in public. State Singles and the Aloha Open give out some really cool Dri-Fit shirts. They are perfect for racquetball or any other form of exercise. Lansing, Davison, Kalamazoo and Players all give out great shirts. The West Michigan Open even gives out a polo shirt with an embroidered logo.

But, it's not just about shirts. I know you all love racquetball as much as I do. The RAM Board of Directors spends a lot of time and energy around trying to bring more people to the game - Juniors, Ladies and Men alike. But every little bit helps.

It is crucial that we support racquetball. FootJoy and Ebonite, and even Nike and Addidas don't care about racquetball. E-force, Ektelon, Head, ProKennex and Wilson do. I urge you to support them as much

(cont on pg 14)

2007 BELLE ISLE RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS - (cont from pg 11)

vets, **Norm Borden** and **Greg Frazier**. The powerful team of Carlos Jones/Rance Mack took the title and the bragging rights by beating Greg and Anthnita in the final.

The Men's A Doubles had more of the same competitive racquetball with highly skilled players. **Robin Basil** and **Marc Labadie** took out the top seeds from Toledo, **Dan Tabor** and **Jim Witherspoon**, then bested **Jim Wink** and **Dave Thompson** on their way to the final. The other side saw the #2 seed hold their own by defeating **Sherman Gipson** and **Dave Lilly**, then **Rajesh Padiyal** and **Mark Reed**. The team of Robin Basil/Marc Labadie outplayed **Scotty "Born of the Earth" Boswell** and his partner **"Mr. Belle Isle" Marcos Rivera** in the final to win the title of Men's A Doubles Championship.

The Men's B Doubles saw the top seeded power team of **Sherman Gipson** and **Stan El-Amin** working past **Bill Brock** and **Eric Washington**. The upset minded team of **"Super" Dave Chirio** and **Darryl Hunter** pushed past **Marcus Ways** and **Chris Sailor**, then the second seeded team of **Chris Felix** and **Richard Bronson** to make it to the show. The final was an upset with Darryl/"Super" Dave out dueling the power of Sherman "Tank" Gipson/Stan El-Amin.

Men's C Doubles Champions **Russell Baker** and **Darryl Hunter** beat **Michael Petrucci** and **Mike Labadie** in the final. **Willie "Old Man" Mason** and **Larry Szambelan** couldn't take out the top seeds Darryl and Russell. And the father/son team of **Matt** and **Matt Barbuscak** couldn't get past the team of Mikes... Petrucci and Labadie.

The Women's Open Doubles had an incredible and fun final as the team of **Tracy Cerovski** and

Paula Saad took on Belle Isle's own **Felicia Mann** and **Terry Fields**. Tracy and Paula were on and proved to be too much for Felicia and Terry.

Parent/Child Doubles is another Belle Isle original, showing the strength of our sport in our youth. This is always a fun event in which the parents demonstrate sportsmanship and fair play to their children. The team of **Jack** and **Kurtis White** won the event by beating **Greg** and **Brittany Hodges**, then **Chris** and **Miles Kelly** in the final. Thanks to all the parents and kids who participated and made this event so much fun!

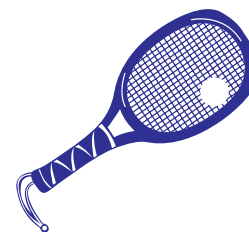
Centurion Doubles is a Belle Isle original where the age of the two players on the team is a total of 100 or greater. Don't let the age fool you!! Many of the teams in this division are in the Pro and Open Singles and Doubles divisions, so it is flat out competition for the title. Twelve teams anted up for the chance at the title and the bragging rights that go with it. The top half of the draw had an upset in the semi-final round with the team of **Chris Kelly** and **Jim Panasiewicz**

beating the two year outdoor undefeated run and top seeded team of **Alfonso Pugh** and **"Big Daddy" Greg Lewerenz** in a tight tie-breaker. The bottom half of the draw saw the veteran team of **Tom Blakeslee** and **Jack White** take out Chicago's **Frank Ball** and **Delmar Reed**. The final was set as the old rivals went at it - head to head, and toe to toe, and after the dust settled, the fresher team of Tom and Jack overcame Jim and Chris to win the title and the bragging rights.

The Mixed Open Doubles was the last event of the ***tournstastic-partacular-funtition-incredible*** to finish about 10:30 pm Sunday night, but it was probably the most entertaining. The top seeded team of **Andy Hawthorne** and **Tracy Cervovski** overpowered the team of **Jeff Makowski** and **Paula Saad** in the first semi. The second semi pitted "Big Daddy" vs. "Big Daddy", as second seeded **Ron Barton** and **Anthnita Dickerson** lined up against **Greg Lewerenz** and **Felicia Mann**. Ron and Anthnita were just too much for Greg and Felecia to

(cont on pg 14)

2nd ANNUAL PLAY THE PRO DAY at the East Lansing MAC



The Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing will again be the host for the **2nd Annual Play the Pro Day**. The Play the Pro Day is a fund raising event in support of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame.

Last year, Michigan players **Jack Huczek**, **Melody Gorno**, **Tom Brownlee**, **Ed Arias**, **Laura Patterson**, and **Bill Wolcott** donated their time and expertise as players on the court. These six individuals either gave a lesson, instructional tips or played anyone who signed up.

This years event will be Saturday, January 26, 2008. Look for a flyer with more details in the future. This is a great cause.

BELLE ISLE CHAMPIONSHIPS

(cont from pg 13)

handle on this day. It was the one seed against the two seed. Andy and Tracy against Ron and Anthnita. I can't really put into words what this match was like to witness. Awesome is just the tip of the iceberg. Four weary competitors putting it ALL on the line at 10:30 pm on a Sunday with dives in almost every rally (I know because I was the mop boy), kills from everywhere, racquetball skill, heart, and competitive drive. Written words do not do it justice, so I will stop there. Andy and Tracy took the hour and thirty minute long match in a tie-breaker 11-8. Congratulations to our Mixed Open Doubles Champions, Andy and Tracy!! And we wish them well on their upcoming wedding.

A huge thanks to ALL our competitors!! Without you, we would not be going strong after 25 years. Thank you to our sponsors: Len Smith, Ron Barton, Greg Lewerenz, Big Daddy Racquetball, Alex Cobb, Greg Frazier, Ektelon, and WOR!! Thanks to Tom Blakeslee for coming through in the clutch!! Big THANKS to Totals Sports for accommodating our every need and hosting our finals on Sunday!! Thanks to Anthnita, Evelyn, and Jennifer for the spectacular catering and hospitality. Thanks to Sharon Pugh for the world's best spaghetti and slaw! Thanks to Scotty for the DJ! Thanks to Marcos for being the Beer Guy all year!! Thanks to the City of Detroit and Belle Isle for handling the grand stands and grounds care leading up to the event! Thanks to our tournament staff, Ron, Greg, Dave, Marcos, Marc, and Darryl. Thanks to the spectators for coming out and enjoying the party. Without all of you this would not have been possible. Great job and hope to see you next year.

THIRD ANNUAL CAN YOU STAND THE HEAT DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Serves Up Outdoor Racquetball Under the Blazing Sun

- Twayne M. Howard

The name of this tournament has never been more accurate than this year. With the thermometer hovering in the high 90s, the opposing teams were not the only challenge. Fortunately, there was plenty to drink and plenty of play to make it a great day.

This year, 44 players competed in six divisions of round robin play. The morning belonged to the Centurians. The combined age of the partners must add up to 100 in order to play in this division. This was the biggest division and at the end, **Alphonso Pugh** and **Greg Lewerenz** went undefeated to win the Championship. This would be a tough pair in any division.

Greg later teamed up with **Twayne Howard** in the Mens Open Division. Greg and Twayne went undefeated to take the Championship. It always helps to have the best player in the draw, and a teammate who can stay out of the way.

AUTOMATIC MOVE UP FOR TOURNEY CHAMPIONS

A brief clarification of the automatic move up for tournament champions. We have received a few questions, so I wanted to clarify the rules.

The change took place effective February 20, 2007, but will not be applied retroactively. So, after February 19, 2007, anyone who wins two tournaments in the same division must move up to the next higher division immediately. They can return to the lower division for the State Singles Championship only, before returning to the higher division thereafter.

So far, the feedback has been positive. We feel this was a very important move for the growth of racquetball in Michigan.

Greg just missed out on the hat trick when he and **Susan Dale** split one match and lost on points to **Melody Gorno** and **Nick Frontczak**. Melody and Nick only lost this one game to take the trophy for the Mixed Open Division.

The Mens A Championship went to **Robin Basil** and **Floyd Black**. Robin and Floyd were a great combination of speed, and shooting and they ran away with the division.

The Mens B Championship went to **Darrell Hunter** and **William Black**. Not a bad showing for their first trip to St Clair Shores.

The Father / Son Division went to **Lucas Arias** and **Ed Arias**. This is always a fun division and the winning team usually has the best Junior. That was the case this time as Lucas showed how far he has come on the way to the Championship.

This event just gets bigger and better each year. Next year, why don't you plan on giving it a try? Come out and enjoy the fresh air and the sunshine. Hope to see you all there!!!!

ADVOCATE FOR RACQUETBALL

(cont from pg 12)

as possible. Buy their gloves, bags and shoes. Help them continue to help us.

The opportunities to promote Racquetball are endless. It doesn't take much. Talk about Racquetball, wear a shirt, and wear the right gloves. It is time that each of us becomes an Advocate for Racquetball.



RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

2007 RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 2, 2007

TOTAL SPORTS

40501 Production Drive, Harrison Twp., MI 48045

Phone (586) 463-2000



ENTRY FEES & DEADLINE

First Event \$35 per person - \$70 per team
Second Event \$15 per person
Juniors \$15 per person - \$30 per team
USA Racquetball Membership \$35 per person

Entries must be received by November 26, 2007. Play is limited to two events per person. Tournament is USA Racquetball sanctioned. A \$5 late fee will be charged for all entries received after the deadline. This includes all phone entries. Phone entries must be confirmed by Twayne or Tom. **The Junior/Veteran division can be your third division. Play in the Junior/Veteran division will begun Sunday afternoon.**

RULES AND REFEREES

Single elimination format with matches consisting of two games to fifteen and a tie-breaker to eleven. USA Racquetball rules apply including **mandatory USA Racquetball-approved lensed eyeguards**. Penn HD purple balls will be used for all matches. Referees will not be used. All players will use the honor system.

STARTING TIMES

Play will begin on Friday, November 30, 2007. Call the club Thursday, November 29, after 12:00 pm for starting times, or check the website at <http://www.michiganracquetball.net>. **Effort will be made to reduce Friday and Sunday play.**

AWARDS

Medals will be given for the first and second place winners in divisions with draws of at least eight teams. Each player will receive a complimentary souvenir.

ELIGIBILITY

All players must live or work full time in the state of Michigan, and be a member of RAM. Players must be able to provide proof.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Tom Blakeslee -- (810) 217-8668
Twayne Howard -- (616) 771-0312

SPECIAL TOURNAMENT EVENTS

General Player Meeting - Saturday, December 1 - 7:00 pm

"I Gotta Have That" Auction & Party - December 1 - 8:00 pm

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 26, 2007

Name _____ Partner 1 _____
Address _____ Partner 2 _____
City _____ Club Affiliation _____
Phone (days) _____ (evenings) _____ Date of Birth _____

Make checks payable to RAM, and mail to RAM State Doubles Championships, 38114 Lakeshore, Harrison Twp., MI 48045

Entry Fee (first event) \$35 _____
2nd Event Fee \$15 _____
Junior Fee \$15 _____
USA Rac. Membership \$35 _____
Late/Phone Fee \$ 5 _____
Total _____

Waiver clause: I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors & administrators, waive & release any & all claims for damages I may have against RAM, the host club, tournament staff, & their agents, for all injuries which may be suffered by me due to participation in said tournament.

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

DIVISIONS

circle correct choices - limit 2 divisions + Junior/Veteran

	MENS		WOMENS	
Open	25 C	40 Open	50 Open	65 Open
A	30 Open	40 A	50 A	Mixed Open
B	30 A	40 B	50 B	Mixed A
C	30 B	45 Open	55 Open	Mixed B
D	35 Open	45 A	55 A	Mixed C
25 Open	35 A	45 B	55 B	Mixed D
25 A	35 B	45 C	60 Open	
25 B	35 C	Junior/Veteran (can be third division)		

Juniors: (specify age division) _____
(All Juniors play will be on Saturday)

Alternate division: _____
(Divisions may be combined if fewer than 8 teams)

Mail To: RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP, 38114 Lakeshore, Harrison Twp., MI 48045

JOIN THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

Membership Includes:

**Membership card, USA Racquetball Official Rule Book, travel and equipment discounts*

**USA Racquetball medical, life, and liability insurance at sanctioned events*

**Four issues of the RAM newsletter, THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER*

**Six issues of the USA Racquetball national magazine, RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE*

**RAM sanctioned tournament entry forms mailed to your home*

**Eligibility to play in all sanctioned tournaments and receive national ranking points*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH ____ / ____ / ____ HOME PHONE _____

_____ \$35.00 – Adult Competitor

_____ \$20.00 – Junior Competitor (18 and under)

_____ \$100.00 – Adult Competitor for 3 years

MAIL TO: RAM, 38114 Lakeshore, Harrison Twp, MI 48045

Racquetball Reporter

321 Village Dr.
Lansing, MI 48911

