

The Racquetball Reporter

SPRING 1994

Volume IV; Issue 2

Quarterly Publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

World Championships Challenge set for Davison; proceeds to benefit leukemia victim

The Davison Racquet and Fitness Club will host on April 11, 1994 a \$1500 World Champions Challenge match between Michigan's Christopher Cole and Massachusetts' Cliff Swain that will also be a benefit for the Gary Davidson "Fight for Leukemia" fund. Cole, current men's Amateur World Champion, and Swain, current men's Professional World Champion, will play an exhibition match with pro rules, one serve and win-by-two super tie-breaker.

Sponsor support and donations over and above the \$1500 purse at the event will go specifically to Gary Davidson, a Grand Blanc Township resident diagnosed with Leukemia and in need of a bone marrow transplant. Mr. Davidson's "Fight for Leukemia" fund

was started by Michelle Phaup, an Independence Township resident with experience in the business of fund raising. Articles on Davidson and Phaup have appeared in both *The Flint Journal* and *Detroit Free Press* to heighten public awareness, not only in Mr. Davidson's case, but also to the plight of other people in need of exorbitantly priced medical treatments.

The Davison Racquet and Fitness Club has helped area people in need previously. Last year, the club ran two separate events that brought in nearly \$5,000 for Davison resident Gail Huber's battle against Leukemia. Sadly, Mrs. Huber passed away early this year despite extensive treatments, but the generosity of the DRFC staff and members made a difference in Gail's eyes.

Admission to the Swain/Cole Challenge match is free and people from outside of Davison are more than welcome. Donations from those in attendance would surely be appreciated, but certainly not required. Numerous media reps from television and newspapers will also be in attendance. Come on out see two of the game's best players put on an exciting exhibition and help raise money for the Gary Davidson "Fight for Leukemia" Fund.

If any business needs information on the levels of sponsorship and the amount of exposure for each, inquiries may be made to Jim Davis or Chris Cole at the DRFC at (810) 653-9602 or fax (810) 653-1068. Anyone with other questions can reach Jim or Chris at the aforementioned numbers.

**1994 State Singles Championships
begin April 29, 1994...Entry form enclosed**

View of the President

by **Chris Cole**

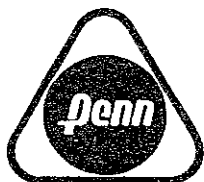
Well, the AARA had to do it, and as of January 1, 1994, they did. I'm talking about the \$5.00 increase in competitive license memberships from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per year. The move was necessary to help further the quality of the AARA's Racquetball Magazine, fast becoming one of the U.S. Olympic Committee's favorite NGB publications. There may be some grumbling amongst the membership about the increase, but it was needed and still well below the average yearly dues for the other sports in the USOC.

State Singles is fast approaching and you will find an entry form in this issue of the newsletter (see pages 9-10). Rose Shores has been selected as the host club with its attached hotel and banquet facilities, we are looking to

have our best State Singles in recent years. Please get your entry in on time to make it easier on us to do the draw.

Recently, I submitted my application as head coach of Junior Team USA and it is my hope, that if I am selected I can offer juniors across the country a reason to stay with racquetball through their teenage years. As it is now, most juniors have to decide what sports or extra-curricular activities to participate in as early as junior high. Competing with the glamour sports, racquetball cannot hope to offer juniors as much as say, football, basketball, baseball, etc. However, despite its infancy, Junior Team USA is able to offer juniors opportunities available to all in that age group. For instance, since its beginning, three years ago, Junior Team USA has made two trips to Amsterdam and another to South America is planned for the 1994-95 season. The 40 juniors selected for the Junior Team try-out camp spend a week at the U.S. Olympic Training Center and learning amongst the best amateur athletes the USOC produces. The Junior Team also represents the United States every

Continued on page four



RAM thanks PENN
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State Singles Championships

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of
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Newsletter
The Racquetball Reporter
Sandy Conlen, Editor
2834 Yale
Flint, MI 48503

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

W. I. Blakeslee
Ken Bonnett
Christopher Cole
Jim Hamilton

Racquetball One closes another successful season

The last Racquetball One event of the season will be April 15-17, 1994 at the Grand Rapids MAC. This City Invitational, like the Grand Finale, is open to everyone. Being the week before the State Championships, it is a great opportunity to fine tune your game.

The best lodging is available at the world class Amway Grand plaza for \$59 per night, and in addition to the cruise drawing, there will be many other items raffled off...sunroof, set of tires, escape weekend package at the Amway Grand Plaza, Ektelon products and a beautiful wreath compliments of Lake Michigan Wreaths. Come and enjoy west Michigan hospitality.

Take note: Racquetball One, Inc. has moved its offices. Our new number is (616) 554-4870.

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January and February events went smoothly for Racquetball One tournaments. For all those players who traveled to the Lansing MAC in January and to the Grand Rapids MAC in February, it was a weekend of great fun, lots of racquetball and great

food and hospitality. The February event in Grand Rapids brought additional smiles to several players who were winners in our raffle... The Anderson brothers not only finished one-two in the 30 open division, but they both won the big raffle. Mike won a set of tires and Randy won

the weekend at the Amway Grand Plaza. Norm Black of Canada and Willie Wallace won Ektelon shoes. Charles Taylor will begin the Spring with a new sunroof. These prizes will again be raffled off in April along with the cruise. Results of both events are as follows; congratulations to all!

Racquetball One Series #6 January 28-30th Lansing MAC

Winners

Men's Open
Jim Floyd
Men's B
Joe Mullin
Men's C
Mike Homan
Women's Open
Carol Hoss
Men's 35A
Mike Anderson
Men's 35B
John Coaker
Men's 40A
Ray Vanover
Men's 45A
Bob Gravelyn
Men's 50+
Gordon Kelly
Men's 55+
Dave Lund

Racquetball One Series #7 February 19-20th Grand Rapids MAC

Veterans Seniors Masters

Winners

Men's 30A
Mike Anderson
Men's 30B
Bill Keiser
Men's 40A
Doug Toth
Men's 40B
Burt Hines
Men's 50+
Paul Becker
Women's 30+
Laura Patterson

**Congratulations
to all!**

President's column continues...

RAM ends season with championships

Continued from page two

December at the Junior World Championships in Jacksonville, Florida.

Most important are the scholarships available to Junior Team USA members for college financial assistance.

Making Junior Team USA can be an exciting and valuable experience for any teenager and it will be important for the generation below 12 years to be told opportunities around for them if they stick with racquetball. If there is a junior with any amount of potential, urge them and their parents to stay involved with racquetball. They will be pleasantly surprised with all the sport and Junior Team USA has to offer them.

Our next newsletter will cover State Singles results and Houston's Amateur Nationals.

Please feel free to submit any information, articles or pictures for publication in the newsletter. Remember, this is your publication and the RAM Board urges you to support it. Any information can be mailed to: Sandy Conlen, 2834 Yale St., Flint, MI 48503.

Until the Nationals, the RAM 1993-94 season will

wind down and the Board would like to thank Ken Bonnett of Racquetball One fame, and all our other tournament directors who ran sanctioned events this past season, for their continued support of tournament racquetball. Without all of you, there would be no need for the RAM Board because there would not be any tournaments left. I would also like to acknowledge the excellent work

done by RAM's women's committee and junior committee. The Board is making its best efforts to serve all players and hopes that these find committees continue to support the needs of players in Michigan. If you have any comments or suggestions for various RAM committees or the Board itself, please direct them to me at (810) 239-4130. See you at the States!

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RAM readies for junior warm-up/ state singles

by W.T. Blakeslee

In case you haven't heard, this year's State Singles will be held at Rose Shores fitness and racquetball center. This is the first time ever, the State Singles Championship will be held at this beautiful facility. Plan on the weekend because, if you haven't been to the club in a while, expect a lot of positive changes. Rose Shores is now a part of the Days Inn Hotel and you can call to get a beautiful room at (810) 296-6700. The hotel has a large pool, restaurant, sports bar, pool tables and much more. Saturday night we will have a bountiful several course banquet and announce the 1993's best racquetball players and distribute awards. We have also reduced the entry fee this year.

Do RAM and yourself a favor, help close out the racquetball year with a good old fashioned tournament the way they used to be, with the best competition. We hope the April 29 through May 1, 1994 finals will follow the tradition of Steve at Total Sports, Wayne at Coliseum and now Danny at Rose Shores. Once again there isn't

Warm-up slated for April 9-10

The weekend of April 9 & 10 will once again find the Region #9 Junior Olympic qualifying and the RAM State Singles warm-up tournament at Total Sports in Mt. Clemens.

Please try to find time to play in this event as it has many outstanding features. First come out and play to help support the growth and development of junior racquetball. The tournament is designated to create an environment for the kids to enjoy the tournament, not focused on the open players. Secondly, the entry fee is only \$30 with no Friday play. Finally, we play a modified Olympic format which guarantees a minimum of two matches. All in all, the tournament is quite a value. Last year almost 40 juniors came to play.

Come out and support junior racquetball!

any regional championship in Michigan this year. However, you can help change that by writing the AARA to voice your displeasure. Chris and I have been trying to convince them to listen, keep the pressure on by calling or writing Luke, Jim or Kevin.

Finally, I would like to make a recommendation for this year's AARA board elections. Tim Storey should have your serious consideration. He is a

graduate of both Purdue and Notre Dame, chairman of the AARA Junior Olympic Committee, organized the 1993 Junior National Olympic Championships in Utah, attended many national events and activities the last couple of years, and above all will support you. I am voting for him and I hope you do also. See you at the states. Don't forget to mail in you nominations for player awards. See page 7 for form.

RAM selects new process for choosing award winners; nomination forms enclosed

RAM is proud to announce that awards for the 1993-94 racquetball season will again be presented during the banquet at the State Singles Championships on April 30, 1994.

Last year marked the return of the State Awards after several years in which awards were not given. Last year's winners were: Jack Huczek, Outstanding Junior; Ron Bonds, Most Improved Male; Terri Harris, Most Improved Female; Ken Bonnett, Contribution Award; Rick Crawford, Referee's Award; Clee Melvin, Sportsmanship Award; Valeria Springer, Outstanding Female; Chris Cole, Outstanding Male; Michigan Athletic Club-Lansing, Best Club.

A different process for selection will be used this year. The process will be: 1) RAM members will nominate people for each award. Nomination forms are found on page 7 in this newsletter. 2) The RAM Board plus invited guests choose winner from among the nominees.

It is very important when you make your nominations that you include an explanation of why you think this person is deserving of this award. This will help the decision committee to make a fair decision, even if all of the nominees are not personally known.

The RAM Board hopes that this new process will work satisfactorily for everyone. Comments and suggestions are appreciated also. Questions regarding the selection process can be directed to Chris Cole at (810) 239-4130.

Send in your nominations today!

Triathlon racquet tournament formed; sparks interest

Just to let all of the racquetball enthusiasts know, there is a new tournament in town. It is called the HRT Championships. On January 28th, the Hamilton Racquet Triathlon was held at the University Health & Racquet Club, located in Auburn Hills. It consisted of one division with 13 participants. Each match involved all three well known racquet sports: racquetball, paddleball and squash. All games were played to 11, with the highest total moving on to the next round. The tournament was designed to pull out what I felt the characteristics of a true Racquets Champion would be. The ability to transfer his or her skill from one sport to the next.

Our first tournament was a club championship and to much to my surprise was received with open arms. The day consisted of one exciting match after another. When the dust cleared, our finalists were as follows: Dan Schreiber, 1st place; Tim Michel, 2nd place; Jaime Kurzman, 3rd place and Jack Huczek, fourth place.

My challenge goes out to all the players in our state. Look for when the next tournament is held or call Jim Hamilton for some information at (616) 942-4234. Our sincere congratulations goes to both our winners and participants of the first HRT tournament.

Nomination Form for 1993-94 State Awards

Category

Nominee

Why nominee deserves this award

**Outstanding
Junior:**

**Most Improved
Female:**

**Most Improved
Male:**

Best Club:

(Lansing MAC is not eligible; won last year)

Referee Appreciation:

(Judged both my ability as a referee and willingness to referee)

Sportsmanship Award

Male:

(the player you love to referee for)

Sportsmanship Award

Female:

(the player you love to referee for)

Contribution to Michigan Racquetball:

(The person you feel contributed the most growth to the success of Michigan Racquetball)

Most Outstanding Male Player:

Most Outstanding Female Player:

Send completed forms to: Lou Ellen Fecher, 3152 S. Henderson, Davison, MI 48423.

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SITE:

Rose Shores Fitness & Racquet Club
31950 Little Mack
Roseville, MI 48066
(810) 296-2200

ENTRY FEE:

\$45 - First event
\$25 - First event juniors
\$15 - Second event
\$5 discount to all certified referees
Players may enter two events - one age &
one skill or two different age divisions
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO RAM
Non-AARA members add \$20

MAIL ENTRIES TO:

RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS
3152 S. Henderson
Davison, MI 48423

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:

Tom Blakeslee (313) 468-2787 (evenings)

ENTRY DEADLINE:

Must be received by SUNDAY, APRIL
24, 1994. ALL ENTRIES ARE FINAL. NO
ENTRIES ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAY-
MENT. No phone entries. Call the club
Wednesday, April 27 after 5:00 p.m. for
starting times.

HOTEL:

DAYS INN (810) 296-6700

RULES:

AARA rules apply - 2 games to 15, tiebreaker
to 11. LENSED EYEWEAR FOR RACQUET
SPORTS IS MANDATORY

TOURNAMENT BALL:

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BANQUET SATURDAY NIGHT

TOP 1993 PLAYERS TO BE HONORED

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PLEASE ENTER ME IN THE EVENT(S) CIRCLED BELOW. PLAYERS MAY ENTER TWO EVENTS -
ONLY ONE SKILL LEVEL. YOU MUST BE A MICHIGAN RESIDENT TO ENTER.

MEN**WOMEN**

OPEN	NOVICE	35A	45B	65	16B	8
A	19	35B	50A	70	14A	8 MB
B	25	40A	50B	18A	14B	Wheelchair
C	30A	40B	55	18B	12	
D	30B	45A	60	16A	10	Alternate division _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: DAYS _____

EVENINGS _____

SHIRT SIZE: (circle one) S M L XL

Olympic Scholarship Contribution _____

DO YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING THE BANQUET? YES NO If not, your tickets will be sold on a first
come, first serve basis to others interested in attending

BIRTHDATE: _____

WAIVER: I hereby for myself, heirs, etc., waive and release all rights & claims for damages I may have against
RAM and its sponsors for all injuries which may be suffered by me in conjunction with my competition in said
tournament.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

BANQUET: A banquet will be held at the club on Saturday night. All players can attend. Tickets for family members and others interested in attending will be available for purchase, on a first come, first serve basis during the tournament on Saturday.

1993 PLAYER AWARDS: Awards for Most Improved Male /Female, Best Male/Female Athlete and Contribution award for the 1993 season will be given out during the banquet.

REFEREES: Losers must referee the next match or pay \$5.00.

LOCKERS AND TOWELS: Bring your own locks. Towels provided with a \$1.00 charge for use.

HOSPITALITY: Will be provided throughout the tournament. Free to players and a nominal charge for guests.

AWARDS AND PRIZES: Awards given for the first four places in divisions of 12 or more; the first two places in divisions of 5-11 and 1st in consolation. Each player will receive a souvenir **collared shirt**.

PLAY MAY BEGIN as early as 3:00 p.m. on Friday. Special requests for starting times will be honored if possible, but no refunds will be given if a player cannot make his or her starting time.

ENTRY DEADLINE APRIL 24, 1994

DRAW TO BE COMPLETED ON APRIL 26, 1994

FORM IS NOT COMPLETE OR IS ENTRY ACCEPTED UNLESS MONEY FOR THE CORRECT AMOUNT IS ENCLOSED AND ALL INFORMATION IS COMPLETE.

The Racquetball
Reporter

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1994 STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS