

Racquetball Reporter

quarterly publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

September 2012

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RAM HALL OF FAME NAMES NEWEST INDUCTEE AT ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Twayne M Howard

March 24, 2012 is a night many of us in Michigan will never forget. This wonderful Spring Saturday night saw the Racquetball Association of Michigan honor its Annual Awards winners and honor the newest member of the RAM Hall of Fame.

This event is always a highlight of the RAM season as we gather for a lot of fun, some great memories and a celebration of Michigan Racquetball past, present and future. Co-hosts Jim Easterling and Twayne Howard share the duties and take equal pride and joy in the proceedings.

After a cash bar and a great meal at the Davison Country Club, we get right to the Juniors update. Don Schopieray made a few brief comments and the progress of Junior Team Michigan and the excitement we have over the large number of really young players starting in the tournaments. Great things are coming!

Next up were the Annual Awards. These are based on nominations from RAM members, and then the award winners are determined by a committee of the Board of Directors. This year, the award winners were: Tournament Director of the Year – Red Swain Team, Most Improved Player of the Year – John Leggett, Most Improved Junior of the Year – Vaughn Miller, Sportsperson of the Year – Michael D’Almeida, Junior of the Year – Braeden D’Almeida, Female Player of the Year – Mercedes Arias, Male Player of the Year – Brad Schopieray, Outstanding Contributor – Dan Greene. Heartiest Congratulations to them all!

The culmination of the evening was the induction of the newest member of the Racquetball Association of Michigan Hall of Fame. Mike Stephens was recognized for his amazing play, his tremendous accomplishments, his contributions to the sport over three decades, his perseverance over great challenges and countless “career-ending” injuries and his unparalleled enthusiasm for the sport.

Mike can boast an incredible record on the court, if he were the type, which he’s not. I hope I can make up the difference here. Mike has a long list of Championships at every level of the sport – local, state, regional and national, singles as well as doubles. His resume speaks for itself. But even greater than that, Mike is the greatest ambassador for the sport I have ever met.



(From left to right - Brad Schopieray, Braeden D’Almeida, Michael D’Almeida, Tom Blakeslee, Keith Bryan, Rich Westerbrink, Don Schopieray, Randy Minto)



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Newsletter

The Racquetball Reporter
5753 S. Corey Rd.
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VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT

Twayne M. Howard

Well, here we are again. Summer is winding down (as I write this, it certainly feels like Fall on a particularly blustery August day). The indoor season is just around the corner (although, the indoor season never really ends what with a couple great mid-Summer events on the schedule).

Regardless, the surest sign it's time to get ready for the bulk of the tournament season, is right in your hands. Yup, this Newsletter should have all you need to get fired up to make those last few tweaks to you game. Get ready.... GO!!!

This Newsletter features the tentative schedule for 2012-2013. Your favorites are back, and even better than ever. The schedule features events in Grand Rapids, East Lansing, Davison, Mt. Clemens, Kalamazoo and Utica.

Most of us live within an hour of several great tournaments. We've got round robin, straight draw, combination, singles, doubles, and at least three IRT Pro tournaments with the addition of the Motor City Rollout tier 5 adding to the West Michigan Open Tier 4 and of course, the Red Swain Tier 1. Take a look at the schedule and mark your calendar. Something for everyone.

I'd like to take a moment to thank departing RAM Board members

Tia LeCland and Jack White who are both moving on. We will miss their hard work, their guidance, their love of Racquetball and their friendship in our meetings and tournament weekends. They promised to check in to help us out occasionally and I certainly hope they do.

The Newsletter also includes several articles wrapping up the 2011-2012 season. It's always great to take a quick look back occasionally. I'd like to congratulate Mike Stephens on his induction in the RAM Hall of Fame. AS I describe in the article, and on the night of his induction, I've never met a better ambassador for the sport of Racquetball. When you see Mike this season, make sure you congratulate him.

Well that's enough blathering for now. Go on, get to the club. Hit a few more backhands. Practice that wide angle pass. Hone that serve. Don't forget the ceiling game. Better get ready, because it's nearly here. I for one can't wait to see what the new season brings. I just can't wait. Get ready... GO!!



Cardiac Awareness

Michael D'Almeida

Our enjoyment for racquetball spans many qualities: excise, competition, stress release, camaraderie & of course the immediate gratification of the perfect kill shot. We all should be mindful that even though there is so much benefit for playing the game, there is still a real risk to all of us for a cardiac event, especially if you are over the age of 45.

Do you know what are the signs and symptoms?

Do you know what to do?

How will you respond?

Where is the AED, (Automatic External Defibrillator)?

Our competitive juices drive us to put our opponent into the ground, be careful you don't complete this action literally.

We have all heard on the news about the high school kid who dies on the field or court of a cardiac event, so even if you are under 45, you are not immune, but definitely if you are over the age of 45, you are at higher risk.

The first and foremost thing is prevention. Everybody over the age of 40 should have their family doctor perform an annual physical, including monitoring your blood pressure, cholesterol and general well being. By the magic age of 50, this physical must include a stress test, colonoscopy, and the latex glove test if you are male, (if you know what I mean).

Signs and symptoms to watch for in yourself or your opponent:

Sub sternal chest pain &/or heavy pressure
Excessive salivation
Nausea &/ vomiting
Dizziness
The feeling that your heart is racing out of your chest
One major sign is denial, dismissing your symptoms as nothing is wrong.

What you should do if you or your opponent is exhibiting these signs or symptoms:

First call for help, including 911
Take an aspirin
Know where the AED is and place it on your partner

The AED machine is life saving and easy to use. Lie the victim down and place the pads on the patient as the diagram on the machine will show you. Turn the machine on. The

machine will administer the shock if it is needed, you will not have to do anything else. And of course if your opponent is having a cardiac event & you are CPR trained, then follow your training. Minutes mean everything in quality of life and survival.

Let's all enjoy racquetball for the fun, cardiopulmonary fitness and stress relief it's intended for, while being aware of its risks and know how to react appropriately. As an incentive from the RAM Board, all tournament players that can prove that they are BCLS, (Basic Cardiac Life Support), certified will receive a onetime \$25 credit for a tournament entry fee.

This article was written in honor of our close friend Rich Nunemaker, who we lost earlier this year, while he was enjoying a competitive match of racquetball with his friends.

THE HISTORY OF RACQUETBALL IN MICHIGAN

Would you like to know:

- Who used to be the best men and women players in Michigan
- Who won certain divisions at the State Singles Championships
- Who in Michigan won Regional or National Tournaments
- What did Jim Hiser used to do with racquetball in Michigan
- Where and when were there Pro Stops in Michigan
- How many women only tournaments have there been
- Where was the first referee/rules clinic
- Who was "Radiation Man", Killshot Carpenter", "Big Z"
- What was "MRA", "MARA", "MCRA", "IRA", "AARA"

Basically the who, what, where, when, why of racquetball in Michigan from 1977 to 2007 is now on a CD.

On the CD is:

- Results from many tournaments
- Pictures of racquetball players (some in b/w and some in color)
- 113 different newsletters
- 985 pages of newsletters
- Many entry forms from tournaments over the years
- Many different racquetball articles and stories
- 30 years of Michigan racquetball history

If you would like to have this CD send a check for \$20.00 to:

USA Racquetball
321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911

Any questions you can call Jim Easterling at 517-449-8942 on his cell or email Jim at djeasterling@earthlink.net

RACQUETBALL CELEBRATES THIRD MEIJER STATE GAMES OF MICHIGAN

Twayne M. Howard

This Olympic-style event has grown to over thirty sports and 5,000 participants in just three years and Racquetball is thrilled to be an inaugural sport in the event. Each year, the last Saturday in June brings Racquetball back to the Meijer State Games of Michigan. It is a truly unique event which begins Friday night with the Opening Ceremonies. This year's Ceremonies included a BMX bike exhibition, several of Michigan's Olympians, a squad of skydivers bringing the US flag, the Parade of Athletes featuring thousands of the participants, the arrival of the torch and the lighting of the Cauldron. It's a special night that kicks the Games off in high fashion.

Every year the tournament is able to use round robin play in most of the divisions and still get everything done in a day. Also to keep competition to a maximum, players were awarded medals for the divisions they entered, but allowed to play in combined divisions for more play. This maximum play / minimum time is always a great draw and who doesn't love to get some indoor action rolling in mid-Summer?

Now let's check out the action. After taking in the Opening Ceremonies, Trenton Balavitch took the Gold in the Men's 24-B Division.

Rich Westerbrink took his first Men's 35+ Open Championship by soundly defeating Dan Mullin in the Final match.



(Mens B Trenton Balavitch Bronze, Jeff Prevett Gold, Tom Granse Silver)

Chris Udell Won the Men's 40+ C Gold in a playoff against Steven Crocker.

Steven won the Men's 35+C Championship.

The Men's 55+B Championship went to Art Murphy who got past Silver Medalist Willie Lowe.

A tough Men's 65+ Open Championship went to Michael Goodyear, back from a year on the disabled list. The Silver went to Art Murphy and Richard Dunnebeck won the Bronze.



(Paul Kramer & Attica Mitchell)

Richard Dunnebeck won the Men's 65+B Championship.

The Men's 70+ Gold Medal went to Art Murphy.

The Men's A Doubles championship went to Attica Mitchell and Paul Kramer who defeated Rich Westerbrink and Dan Mullin to win the Gold.

Tom Granse and Art Murphy defeated Richard Dunnebeck and Jack Robillard to take the Gold in the Men's B Doubles.

The Men's D Doubles Championship saw Brian Elenbaas and Chris Vlcek crush the lefty/lefty team of Jason Carroll and Twayne Howard.

(Cont.pg.6)

RAM STATE SINGLES CLOSES OUT THE SEASON IN HIGH FASHION

Twayne M Howard

The weekend of March 24 and 25 and Michigan's best racquetball players came to the Davison Athletic Club to vie for Gold with State Championships on the line. Randy Minto always rolls out the red carpet with able assistance from Don Schopieray. This year 140 players filled the draws and enjoyed great play and amazing jackets for all the adults. What a great weekend! Let's check out the action.

As always we love to see all the Juniors at the tournaments. Let's check the youngest Champions. The Juniors 10-Under Multi-bounce Division is always one of the most entertaining to watch. After the dust settled, Joe Merz took home the Gold. Aramis Leung won the Silver Medal. Payton Rick and Trenten Minto were the Semi-Finalists.

The 2012 Champion in the Junior Double Bounce Division was Casey Wagner. The Silver went to Cole Atkinson. Manny Clinton and Justin Wagner were the Semi-Finalists.

Aaron Wagner won the Juniors Intermediate Championship. Cameron White took home the Silver. Chris Arnett and Connor White made it to the Semis.

The hotly contested Juniors 14- Under Championship now filled with tournament-seasoned players. This is the next wave of Michigan's Superstars following in the footsteps of Schopieray and Price, Bonnett and Cole, Floyd and Rallis. In 2012 Braeden D'Almeida won the Gold. Cameron Porritt was the Silver Medalist and Caige Duryea and Aaron Wagner were the Semi Finalists.

And now it's on to the big boys.

The Men's 40+ Open Championship went to Steve Clark who defeated Bill Garrow in the Finals. Scott Crowley and John Stallmer were the Semi Finalists.

The Gold went to Walt Podraza in the Men's 45+ Open Championship. Dan Verbeck won the Silver while Chuck White and Mark Reed made it to the Semis.

John Roach won the Men's 45+A Championship after he defeated Jeff Reneaud in the Finals. Bill Stumphauzer and Rich Westerbrink were the Semi Finalists.

The Men's 45+ B Gold went to Monty Marcus over David Holden. Bruce Keeling and Jim Hemenway rounded out the Semis.

Walt Podraza went double-Gold by winning the Men's 50+ Open Championship. Walt took out Mike Chambon in the Finals. Dan Verbeck and Scott Sellers were the Semi Finalists.

John Cather defeated John Gervasi to win the Men's 50+ A Championship. Mike Middleton and Dave Chirio made it to the Semis.

Steve Tomczak took home the Gold in the Men's 50+ B Division. Paul Schultz won the Silver while Dave Knezek and Keith Bryan made it to the Semis.

Tom Yates won the Men's 55+ Open Championship getting past Steve Jazwiec to take the Gold. Tom Blakeslee and Randy Anderson made it to the Semis.

The Men's 55+A Championship went to Kevin Keys who defeated John Gervasi in the Finals. Paul Amell and George Goudie were the Semi Finalists.

Stan Drolot defeated Carlos Castillo in the Finals of the Men's 55+B to win the Championship. Rick Bhirdo and Willie Lowe were the Semi Finalists.

New Hall of Famer Mike Stephens defeated Dave Barber to win the Men's 60+ Open Championship. Al Mell and George Goudie were the Semi Finalists.

Steve Bibbee won the Men's 60+B Gold while the Silver went to Greg McClellan and the Bronze went to Rich Gutowski.

John Kutt defeated Jason Kennedy to win the Men's 25+ Open Gold. Ferd Samson and Scott Young rounded out the Semis.

Dan Mullin claimed the Men's 30+A Championship by defeating John Leggett in the Finals. Bryan Galloway and Rich Westerbrink made it to the Semis.

Clint Perryman won the Men's 30+B Championship in round robin fashion. Jim Price won the Silver and Matt Smith won the Bronze.

Marty Houser won Gold in the Men's 35+C Division. Chad Eldridge Won the Silver. Jerry Foster and Chris Udell were the Semi Finalists.

Jerry Cano won the Men's 45+C Division after defeating Larry Eischer, Chris Buck and Rudy Varela made it to the Semis.

If you want to see if the old guys can still bring it, check out the 70+ Open Division. Dave Lund continued his dominance and earned another Gold. Art Murphy won the Silver while Tom Sharum and Charlie Wheelihan made it to the Semis.

Ryan Minto showed that strong bloodlines and strong work pay off when he won the Men's A Championship. Jason Amell won the Silver while Scott Duryea and Mercedes Arias made it to the Semis.

Pat Langan finally earned his State Gold by winning the Men's B Division. Mike Urqhart won the Silver. Carlos Castillo and Clint Perryman were the Semi Finalists.

The Men's C Championship went to Bob Denam after defeating Steve Oprsal in the Finals. Chris Bouck and Rick Bhirdo rounded out the Semis.

Nick Rood defeated Wayne Jones to win the Men's D Championship. Cameron Porritt and Caige Duryea made it to the Semis.

Alex Brown won the Men's Elite Championship after beating John Stallmer in the Gold Medal match. Ryan Minto and Mike Chambon made it to the Semis.

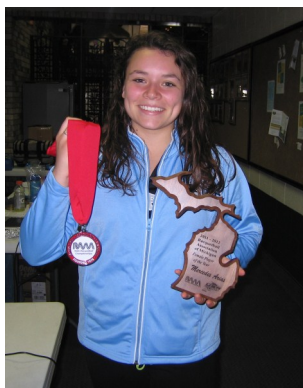
(cont. pg.8)

RAM HALL OF FAME NAMES NEWEST INDUCTEE AT ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

(cont. from pg.1)

When he was in the club, no one was “safe” on a treadmill. “Hey, Bob. It’s great to see you. Jeez, aren’t you bored? Hey, have you tried Racquetball? It’s so much more fun. Here, let me loan you a racquet and eye guards.” Sure enough, Bob would try it, and he’d still be playing the sport years later. All because Mike Stephens “dragged” him off a boring treadmill.

After three decades on the court, Mike has returned from several serious injuries to win two National Championships in 60+C and then 60+B, in addition to the Al Wetherill Sportsmanship Award at the International Racquetball Federation World Senior Racquetball Championships.



(Mercedes Arias - Women’s Open Champion, Player of the Year)

His energy is unmatched and his passion palpable and contagious. Mike Stephens is the best of Racquetball is all about. Mike Stephens truly belongs with the likes of Yellen, Hiser, Keeley, Hastings, Cole, Floyd and Bonnet.



(Mike Stephens - left and Dave Barber - right)

I only have one more thing to say, “STICK ‘EM!!!”

RACQUETBALL CELEBRATES THIRD MEIJER STATE GAMES OF MICHIGAN

(cont. from pg. 4)

Brian Elenbaas defeated doubles partner Chris Vlcek to take Gold in the Men’s 35+D Championship.

Another split-up doubles team made it to the A Finals where Paul Kramer defeated Attica Mitchell to take the Gold. Dan Mullin was the Bronze Medalist.

Jeff Prevett won the Gold in Men’s B by defeating Tom Granse in the Finals. Trenton Balavitch won the Bronze.

The Men’s C also went to Jeff Prevett who handled Chris Udell in the Finals and Steven Crocker the Bronze Medalist.

Brian Elenbaas defeated Chris Vlcek for his third Gold of the day in the Men’s D Division. Chris had to settle for a second Silver to go along with his Doubles Gold. Amar Prekash won the Bronze.

Dan Mullin earned the Gold in Men’s Elite. Paul Kramer took home the Silver and Attica Mitchell won the Bronze.

Add all this action, the spectacle of the event, being part of supporting your sport as it takes its rightful place among the others, the home-cooked food and everything else about the weekend, and you have a special event that is not to be missed. Mark your calendars for next year, the weekend of June 21, 2012. We will see you there.

THE PROS RETURN TO GRAND RAPIDS TO COMPETE IN THE 2012 WEST MICHIGAN OPEN BENEFITING HELEN DEVOS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Twayne M Howard

The last weekend of January brought the return of Pro Racquetball to the Michigan Athletic Club for the state's longest-running IRT event as the West Michigan Open welcomed a capacity crowd to enjoy all the action. Eighty four players and countless more fans came out to see the show and the Pros did not disappoint. Let's get right to the action.

The Men's 55+B Championship went to George Cook Jr. who defeated Silver medalist Al Kohl in the Finals. Greg McClellan and Art Murphy made it to the Semis.

Mike Stephens announced his full comeback by winning the Men's 60+ Open Gold. The soon to be Hall of Famer got past George Goudie in the Finals. Al Mell and George Cook Jr. were the Semi-Finalists.

David Combs defeated Nathan Thelen to win Gold in the Men's 30+B Championship. Stuart Williams and Carlos Castillo rounded out the Semis.

John Lager continued his hot play by winning the Men's 25+A Division over Matt Smith. Rich Westerbrink and Dan Mullin made it to the Semis.

A battle of Mikes went to Chambon in the Men's 35+ Open Division. Scott Duryea and Bill Garrow made it to the Semis.

The Men's 45+ A Gold went to Dan Deitrich who defeated Silver Medalist Attica Mitchell. Dave Chirio and Edson Borges were the Semi Finalists.

Hall of Famer Dave Lund defeated Tom Sharum in the Finals of the Men's 65+ Division. Dennis Reid and Art Murphy rounded out the Semis.

Men's A Doubles went to John Coaker and Steve Jazwiec who got past Attica Mitchell and Robb Patterson to take the Gold. The Semi Finalists were the teams of Dave Chirio / Pat Langan and Trenton Balavitch / Dave Bushen.

Kevin Dood and Kurt Kruse took out Mike Brennan and Michael Bronson to win the Men's B Doubles Division. Stuart Williams/Carlos Castillo and Dave Combs / Jim McGowan were the Semi-Finalist teams.

Scott Crowley earned Gold in the Men's A Division after defeating Andrew Benko. Steve Jazwiec and Pat Langan made it to the Semis.

The Men's B Championship went to David Combes after he defeated Carlos Castillo. Mike Brennan and John Lager were the Semi-Finalists.

Dick Dunnebeck defeated Cris Elzinga in the Finals of the Men's C Division to take home the Gold. Caige Duryea and Vaughn Miller made it to the Semis.

Cris Elzinga bounced back to take back the Men's D Championship after defeating Vaugh Miller. Caige Duryea and Diana Deitrich rounded out the Semis.

Bill Garrow earned the Men's Elite Championship by defeating Alex Brown in the Finals. Scott Duryea and Mike Chambon were the Semi-Finalists.

Andre Price took the Men's Open title and the Gold by defeating Jim Bronson. Spencer Shoemaker and Steve Goedker made it to the Semis.

The Women's Championship went to Michele Geile who defeated Silver

Medalist Laura Johnson in the Finals. Melody Gorno and Joan Vande Kieft were the Semi Finalists.

The highlight of the event is, as always the Pro matches. With one match scheduled on the Championship court throughout Saturday, it's become a popular place to show up early and camp out all day. This year was no exception. The Pro Finals was easily one of the best and most entertaining in WMO history in a classic show-down of age vs. youth, the establish veteran and the up and coming fireballer. In one corner we had Cliff Swain, arguably the greatest to ever play the sport and still a dangerous foe capable of beating the best of the best on any given day. Cliff's opponent in the Championship was Brad Schopieray who was in his first year full time on the International Racquetball Tour and swiftly rising up the ranks. The Final was a see-saw match as each showed stretches of domination. After a grueling five game match, Cliff finally pulled it out 11-7 in game 5 to earn his first WMO Crown.

Throughout the weekend the players enjoyed the great play, the camaraderie and amazing home cooked meals by Suzette Szarowicz.

And all of it was to support Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. Over the years we've generated approximately \$14,000 for the hospital. If you'd like to be a part of this event, we are always looking for new sponsors. Merely contact Twayne Howard to get involved!

We'll be back again this season, so be sure to check the schedule and mark your calendars for January 26-27. We will see you there.

RAM STATE SINGLES CLOSES OUT THE SEASON IN HIGH FASHION

(Cont. from pg.5)

Brad Schopieray proved the effect of playing full time on the Pro Tour as he stormed through the Men's Open Division getting past Andrew Price to take the Gold. Nathan tucker and Steve Goedker were the Semi-Finalists.

Next up is the great play in the Ladies Divisions. Mercedes Arias defeated Anthnita Dickerson to claim another Women's Open Championship. Melody Gorno and Maureen Price made it to the Semis.

The Women's 45+ Open Championship went to Anthnita Dickerson, celebrating her return to health with another Gold Medal. Melody Gorno won the Silver while Maureen Price and Denise Knoll rounded out the Semis.

We like to throw in a few doubles divisions for fun. While not Championships, these folks are still winners. The Men's A Division went to Jim and John Kutt over Tom Blakeslee and Tom Yates. Paul Amell / Jason Amell and John Leggett / Bryan Galloway were the Semi Finalists.

The Men's B Doubles went to Art Murphy and Dave Knezek over Antonio Magana / Wayne Rood and Don Schopieray / Braeden D'Almeida.

The Mixed Doubles went to Jen O'Meara / Dave Holden over Cheri Speier / Dan Mullin and Tia LeCland / Mike Malcolm.

As another great tournament season comes to a close, we can only look back and congratulate the Winners for the Championship, Congratulate the rest for the fight, and thank all of you that made it happen. We hope to see you at State Singles next year, March 23-24 at the Davison Athletic Club.

NOMINATION FOR MICHIGAN RACQUETBALL HALL OF FAME

Jim Easterling

The Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame was developed, in 1984, by the Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM) to honor 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 and/or other racquetball activities.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Through generous support, including money, facilities, products, etc. for the advancement of racquetball in the State of Michigan.

If you know someone who qualifies (see the Hall of Fame Criteria in the RAM's home page) and that you would like to see in the Hall of Fame please send 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 RAM Hall of Fame to:

RAM Hall of Fame Inductee
321 Village Dr.
Lansing, MI 48911-3760

Also state your name, address and phone number (home & work) in case we have to contact you for additional information

The dead line for the Hall of Fame nominations are October 21, 2012. If you have any questions please call Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER FOR 2012-2013

The Racquetball Reporter is published three times throughout the year - July, November, and February.. Items to be included in the Racquetball Reporter for the **2012-13** year must be submitted by the following dates:

July 15, 2013 January 12, 2014
October 6, 2013

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 three issues (7"w x 9.5"h)
\$250 - Half page ad to run in all three issues (7"w x 4.75"h)

\$150 - Quarter page ad to run in all three issues (3.5"w x 4.75"h)
\$100 - Club listing for all three 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 fall issue which will be in full color. Payment must accompany submission of all advertisement material. Information may be mailed to The Racquetball Reporter, 5753 S. Corey Rd., Perry, MI 48872 or sent electronically to hippies23@gmail.com.

2012 45th National Singles Championships

Dan Mullin

Sunny Fullerton, CA hosted the Nationals again this year and what a great venue it turned out to be. 559 participants from 42 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, showed up to test their skills against the best in the nation. Michigan sent a small contingent of four people, **Tom Blakeslee**, **Brad Schopieray**, **Michael Stephens**, and **Dan Mullin**.

Tom Blakeslee entered into 60+ and A doubles. Blakeslee played well in the first round, however he lost in a heartbreaking tiebreaker 10-11. Blakeslee was forfeited out of the A doubles due to scheduling conflicts. Mike Stephens also competed in 60+ and advanced as far as Blakeslee. In 60+A, Mike made it to the second round, but was taken out by the #1 seed in the quarterfinals. Brad Schopieray worked on his game all year and entered into Men's Pro as the #13 seed. Unfortunately, his first round opponent was Polo Guitierrez who advanced past Brad, Jose Rojas (#4), and Chris Crowther (#5) and finally beaten by Kane Waselenchuk. Dan Mullin entered B, 40+ B, and Mixed A doubles. Due to scheduling, he played three back-to-back matches on Friday. While playing (and advancing) in Mixed A, he was called for his next match. While the match was under his control, fatigue started taking its toll and he ended up losing 10-11 in the tie-breaker. His next match was immediately following his 40+B match and he was no contest

for the young gun. Mullin took 4th in Mixed A doubles.

Lessons learned from Nationals this year. If you are in multiple divisions, make sure you have someone there to cheer you on, but also listen to the announcements. Both Blakeslee and Mullin were playing matches when their next match was announced. The tournament desk was aware on each occasion that the players were on court, but forgot. Mullin had someone watching his match that was able to notify the tournament desk that he was on court and his next match was moved to the end of the rotation. Blakeslee was not so fortunate and his match was forfeited. Even with reminders of the situation, the tournament desk did not back down and reschedule the match and to add salt to the wound, USRA would not refund his entry fee. If you are attending a national event, whether Nationals or the US Open, try to make the matches of your fellow Michigan players games. Not only can you cheer them on, coach them, but you can also watch their back whether through snafu's at the desk or un-experienced refs.

ASSOCIATIONS WITH RACQUETBALL HALL OF FAME (AS OF AUGUST 2012)

ASSOCIATION	1 ST YEAR	LATEST YEAR	# OF ELECTIONS	TOTAL	OTHER
USAR	1974	2012	21	50	
Michigan	1984	2012	17	35	
Ohio	1987	2006	15	24	
Indiana	1989	2012	23	23	elect 1 each year
N. Carolina	2002	2012	11	13	
Oklahoma	2001	2011	11	11	
Missouri	2011	2012	2	10	
Delaware	1990	2010	3	9	
Pennsylvania	2003	2005	3	3	
Massachusetts	2004	2006	3	1	Cliff Swain in 2005 Pat Colombo
New York	2004	2004	1	1	

2012-2013 RAM SCHEDULE

Oct 13-14	MAC Open, Michigan Athletic Club, Grand Rapids	Jan 12	BAC Doubles Tournament, Bronson A C, Kalamazoo
Oct 27-28	Spartan Splat, Michigan Athletic Club, East Lansing	Jan 26-27	West Michigan Open Pro-Am, Tier 4 Pro Tournament, Michigan Athletic Club, Grand Rapids
Nov 1-4	Red Swain Shootout, Tier 1 Pro Tournament, Davison Athletic Club, Davison	Feb 4-5	Michigan Senior Olympics, Courtland Athletic Club, Utica
Nov 17	Riverview Fall Brawl, Riverview Athletic Club, Grand Rapids	Feb 9-10	Motor City Rollout, Tier 5 Pro Tournament, Courtland Athletic Club, Utica
Dec 1-2	RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP, Total Sports, Mt. Clemens	Feb 23-24	Capital Challenge, Michigan Athletic Club, East Lansing
		Mar 8-10	South West Michigan Racquetball Shootout, Bronson A C, Kalamazoo
		Mar 22-24	RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP, Davison Athletic Club, Davison
		Jun 22	Meijer State Games of Michigan, Michigan Athletic Club, Grand Rapids



Make sure you check R2Sports.com and MichiganRacquetball.Net for updates
For further Information e-mail President@MichiganRacquetball.Net

JUNIOR OLYMPIC RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Don Schopieray

The 2012 version of the Junior Olympic Racquetball Championships rolled into Fullerton California to decide who would be the best 18 and under players in the country. As usual Junior Team USA appointments were on the line for all of the finalist as well as the annual All-American recognitions for everyone making the semi-finals.

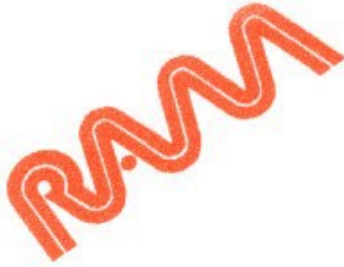
Team Michigan had a good contingent that showed up ready for a fight, Nathan Tucker competed in the U16 division and made a good run in the draw, Nathan has been working hard on his game and while he was a little disappointed with the end result he set a career high for points earned and turned heads with his aggressive style of play. With two more years left in his Junior Career we will no doubt see Nathan compete for a national title before he's done. He is becoming increasingly comfortable with the pressures of high profile events and possesses the work ethic necessary to reach the next level.

Braeden D'Almieda once again proved why he is one of the best U14 players in the country. Braeden also earned a career high point total winning come from behind matches all week. Earning the 11

seed in the tournament shows that coaches on the national level are starting to take notice of his game, however coming along with that are tough matches early on in the draw. With 4 years left in the event Braeden looks to take the next step to the elite level of player in his age group, keep your eye on this kid he is only going to improve.

For Brad Schopieray the tournament brought to a close his Junior career, playing in the U18 group was like a mini IRT Draw with 5 of the players listed in the top 75 ranked IRT players, 3 of those were in the top 25! In the end Brad's tournament didn't go the way he planned, losing in a gut wrenching tiebreaker to longtime rival Markie Rojas. Brad, Markie, and Jose Diaz have been the class of the field in this division for some time now and look forward to playing each other as they move on to their professional careers.

In the end Team Michigan earned another top 10 finish overall and I couldn't be more proud of the way the kids represented our program. Of course I must give a shout out to everyone who helped out by purchasing a ticket, donating money, and holding raffles at tournaments to support us. Without this help we could not provide the program we do for our Juniors. With next year's tournament planned for Des Moines Iowa we expect to see a bigger team from Michigan and are looking to make some real noise!! Thanks again for all the help and encouraging words, see you on the courts!!



RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
2012 RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

December 1 - 2, 2012

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
Third Event	\$15 per person
Juniors	\$15 per person - \$30 per team
USA Racquetball Membership	\$50 per person

Entries must be received by November 26, 2012. 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/Centurion or Blind Draw Doubles division can be your third division. Play in the Junior/Veteran division may begin Sunday afternoon.**

This years tournament will feature a Junior multi-bounce Team Challenge that will test your skills in the court and on the bowling lanes. Pizza, pop and big fun are on the menu, you won't want to miss this. Beginner players are welcome, no tournament experience needed.
The Junior cost will be \$15.

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 eye guards.

Penn HD purple balls will be used for all matches. Referees will not be used. All players will use the honor system.

STARTING TIMES

Call the club on Thursday, November 29, 2012 after 12:00 pm for starting times, or check online at: <http://www.r2sports.com> or www.michiganracquetball.net. **All efforts will be made to reduce 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 complementary 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

Don Schopieray
Dan Mullin

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY November 26, 2012

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

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

Entry Fee (first event)	\$35 _____
2nd Event Fee	\$15 _____
3rd Event Fee	\$15 _____
Junior Fee	\$15 _____
USA Rac. Membership	\$50 _____
Late/Phone Fee	\$ 5 _____
(after November 26) Total	_____

Waiver clause: I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors & administrators 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 in conjunction with my participation in this tournament.
Signature: _____

(parent/guardian signature if under 18)

Date: _____

DIVISIONS

Circle correct choices—limit 2 divisions + Junior/Veteran or Centurion

	MENS		WOMENS	MIXED
Open	25 B	35 C	45 C	60 Open
Elite	25 C	40 Open	50 Open	65 Open
A	30 Open	40 A	50 A	Junior/Veteran
B	30 A	40 B	50 B	Blind Draw Dbls
C	30 B	45 Open	55 Open	Centurian Open
D	35 Open	45 A	55 A	Centurian 100 A
25 Open	35 A	45 B	55 B	Centurian 110 A
25 A	35 B			

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
- *Three issues of the RAM newsletter, THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER
- *Four 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 (except Limited event)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH ____ / ____ / ____ HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

_____ \$50.00 – Adult Competitor

_____ \$25.00 – Junior Competitor (21 and under)

_____ \$20.00 - Limited Event

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

Racquetball Reporter

5753 S. Corey Rd.
Perry, MI 48872

