

Racquetball Reporter

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Racquetball Association of Michigan

JUNIOR TEAM MICHIGAN AT THE NATIONALS IN PORTLAND

- Don Schopieray

Junior Team Michigan rolled into Portland, Oregon this past June for the 2005 edition of the Junior National Championships. Our neighbors to the south (Team Ohio) had previously adopted Michigan's 2-player team of **Matt Bernstein** and **Brad Schopieray** as honorary members for the week. Matt and Brad had Ohio teammates for the doubles portion of the event, and both Matt and Brad and their Ohio partners were very successful making it to the semis in their respective divisions.

In their singles divisions, both players finished well enough to put Michigan in 27th place overall, not bad when you consider that there were only 2 of them!

The USA National team was honored at a great banquet Saturday night, along with all of the players that made All Ameri-

can. Junior Team Michigan made a trip out to Cannon Beach and spent a lot of time taking in the sights and sounds of Portland.

This is a great tournament event for players of all skill levels. Matt and Brad had a great time making new friends and seeing old friends from around the country. In addition to that they were able to witness what many are calling the single greatest achievement in racquetball when Chris Coy won the 18 and under division. Chris has to wear a prosthetic leg, and to see him play at the level he does is truly awe inspiring.

The 2006 Nationals will be held in East Lansing at the MAC Club, the 3rd week in June, mark it on your calendar and hope to see you there to support all the players of Junior Team Michigan.





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Newsletter

The Racquetball Reporter
321 Village Dr.
Lansing, MI 48911
djeasterling@earthlink.net

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THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT . .

- Twayne M. Howard
President

Hello all and welcome to the thick of the racquetball season.

Since last we chatted, the summer has come to a close (despite one good last gasp) and as I write this, we are on the cusp of the third tournament of a very busy season. Very exciting indeed. What's more, as you read this, we are only a few weeks away from the State Doubles championships.

But, perhaps I am getting ahead of myself.

I would like to start by announcing some changes in our Board of Directors. I am very sorry to announce that Stephanie Winfrey has announced her resignation from the Board. Stephanie is going to spend more time with her baby, who is due any moment now. Certainly a worthwhile effort. I would like to thank Stephanie for her hard work and her many contributions over the past few years. We will miss her terribly, but she has promised to not be a stranger.

As one chapter ends, another begins. Apologies to whomever I stole that from. I would like to welcome **Dan Mullin** to the Board. Dan's addition brings us back up to our maximum of twelve members. Dan has been an integral part of the Capital Area Racquetball Association since its inception and is leading the Junior National tournament committee. Dan will be a very valuable addition to the Board.

As I mentioned we are only weeks away from State Doubles. You will find an entry form in this newsletter. The RAM Board of Directors is proud to announce that it has selected **Total Sports** in Mt. Clemens to host the tournament. Total Sports has proven to be a tremendous host location for this tournament in the past, and we look forward to holding it there again this year.

The RAM Board is also proud to announce that the **Coliseum II Racquet Club** has been selected to host the 2006 Michigan State Singles Championships. The State Singles Championship will be March 31-April 2, 2006. Mark your calendars now for this great event.

I would like to put a plug in for the folks bringing the 2006 Junior National Championships to Michigan. A dedicated, all volunteer group has been hard at work for months in order to host this event. They are making excellent progress, but they could always use a little more help. If you are interested, please contact Dan Mullin and let him know. (See the article on page 4 for all the committees and people to contact if you want to help.)

I would like to give thanks and kudos to Randy Pagels for his hard work on the redesign of the web page. It is up and running and it looks great. Randy is going to continue to tweak it as time goes on. Randy is always looking for content. If you have articles, or photos, or just want to hop on to one of the forums, please feel free to do so. (see the article on the website on page 3). Check it out at:

www.michiganracquetball.net

On a related note, we should have Michigan state rankings posted before you read this. Due to popular demand, we have implemented a points-based system for Michigan tournaments only. We are tabulating last year's tournament information and you will be able to see rankings by division, by tournament and by player.

Whew! That's a lot of stuff in a short period of time. I hope you're having as good a season as I am. See you all on the courts.

Twayne
PPKW

*The Racquetball Reporter is printed courtesy of
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CARA TEAMS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

- Allan Coyle

Habitat for Humanity Lansing and the Capital Area Racquetball Association (CARA) are excited to announce a new fundraising partnership! Racquets for Habitat, a charity racquetball tournament, will take place November 11-13, 2005, at the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing. Proceeds will support Habitat for Humanity's fight against substandard housing and CARA's mission to promote youth participation in racquetball programs.

Habitat for Humanity Lansing is a nonprofit organization working to eliminate substandard housing in Greater Lansing by building homes in partnership with qualified families. Habitat homes, which are built by volunteers, are sold to partner families via interest-free mortgages. Founded in 1987, the Lansing Affiliate of Habitat for Humanity/International has built or rehabilitated 60 homes and helped more than 300 local people move into decent, affordable homes. For information about

the application process for qualified families, which will open in October, please contact Heather LaFave at (517) 374-1313, extension 12.

In addition to the homeownership program, Habitat for Humanity Lansing operates a resale store for home improvement materials. The ReStore is open to the public and offers new and used appliances, cabinets, fixtures, and much more at deeply discounted prices. ReStore hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from noon to 5:30 p.m. and Thursday from noon to 7 p.m. ReStore sales support the construction of Habitat homes in this community. It is located at 1137 Haco Drive in Lansing, which is off of Pennsylvania just north of Potter Park Zoo. To donate materials to the ReStore, please call Martha Kwant at (517) 374-6235.

***Comment:** Denise Paquette, Director of Habitat for Humanity Lansing has long been a racquetball player, though she has not participated in a tournament. Hopefully we will see Denise and some of her staff out on the court!*

GREETINGS FROM THE WEBMASTER

- Randy Pagels

The RAM website has undergone significant changes. Check it out

www.michiganracquetball.net

To better serve the members, the following web enhancements include:

Photo Albums - over 100 pictures already uploaded. Email me, or even submit your OWN photos to contribute to the site.

Media - Download matches, instructional videos, pointers, and tips! Let us know what you would like to see.

Forums - Need help with your form? Not sure how to swing properly, follow through or serve? Need a place just to chill sometimes? Well, you're in luck.

Newsletters - Become a member to receive newsletters. Information on "Hey, how's it going? Don't forget the tournaments coming up".

You'll never miss an important event or any racquetball news again.

Documents - We now can share and organize documents, sign up sheets, schedules and just about every thing that can be read.

Opinion Polls - We are waiting for you to vote on your favorite topics. We will use this area to create easy to complete quick surveys for registered users. This will give us a quick snapshot overview on the questions asked and give us results in a bar chart showing the number of individual responses.

News Feeds - RRS News Feeds will provide you with up to date information on a wide range of topics like headline news, weather and sporting events.

That and much more is waiting for you at www.michiganracquetball.net. So stop by and register today and become a member of the NEW and IMPROVED Michigan racquetball portal, your RMA website. See you at the next event.

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JUNIOR'S CORNER . . JUNIOR NATIONALS UPDATE - Dan Mullin

Most of you have heard by now that the Junior Olympic National Racquetball Championships are coming to Michigan in June of 2006. This is a great honor and pleasure to host such a marquee event. To represent the hospitality of Michigan at its best, it will require the help and contributions of many people. This is an update to let you know what is going on.

As of this time, there have been nine committees formed to prepare for the event. The Executive Committee consists of **Dan Mullin, Allan Coyle, Ruth Beier, Beth Mullin, Caryn Coyle, Steve Gruber, John Kutt, Jim Kutt, Don Schopieray, Sandy White, Karen Green, Bill Wolcott, Twayne Howard, Ed Arias, Marge Pendell, Melody Gorno, Paula Spagnuolo, Jay Marcotullio, and Twayne Howard.** This team is working across the state to coordinate all the activities to ensure a smooth and well-run event.

The Fund Raising Committee of Steve Gruber (Chair), Ruth Beier, Melody Gorno and Joe Budzynski have come up with some great ideas for generating revenue to help pay for the activities for the junior players when they are here.

At most of the tournaments that you go to this year, the Michigan Coalition will be holding a 50/50 draw. From the money that is raised, half will go to the Junior Nationals fund and half will go to support Team Michigan. The season has just begun, but we have had four tournaments so far (including outdoor racquetball) and we have raised \$172 from this venue. Remember when you are at the tournaments, please support the Junior Nationals and Team Michigan by buying a 50/50 ticket.

Other ideas that have come from the Fund Raising Committee include selling T-shirts to raise funds. The T-shirt design is being worked on by Anne O'Connor from Art Unlimited in Okemos and we hope to see this at the tournaments in the future. A game week brochure will be published to hand out at registration during the Junior's event that will include brackets, news stories, player focus articles, etc. and we can sell advertising in this. If you or your company would be interested advertising in this national brochure, please email Daniel Mullin at mullindan@gmail.com.

Steve Gruber is helping his committee with a large fundraising idea of raffling off a car. To make this idea work a news media company would donate advertising time. This time would be sold to a car dealership for a car to raffle off. If this idea comes to fruition, we would need everyone's help to sell the tickets. If you have any contacts or suggestions that

will help support this idea, please email Steve at AGASON@aol.com.

Budgets are being assimilated by the committees to determine our needs, but our goal is to raise \$15,000. The funds will be used to sponsor Team Michigan participants, pay for activities for all the junior national players, and any left over funds will be used for the junior programs across the state. *If you would like to make a donation, please send it to CARA (Capital Area Racquetball Association, L.L.C.) at 3496 Lake Lansing Road Suite 150 East Lansing, MI 48823.*

The Hospitality/Hotel & Banquet Committee includes Sandy White (Chair), Marge Pendell, and Allan Coyle. USAR is responsible for conducting negotiations and completing contracts for the host hotel and banquet facilities. However, members of USAR are not from Michigan and will rely heavily on the local organizing committee for recommendations. This committee did an outstanding job coming out of the gates. The members scouted the local banquet facilities and hotels. Their hard work helped determine banquet hall size, availability of hotel rooms, and amenities involved. They have already submitted their recommendations to the national headquarters. When word is received from headquarters on the final decisions, it will be passed along to everyone.

Updates for the other committees will come in future issues of the Racquetball Reporter. As a special note, I would like to thank Jim Easterling. Jim is not a member of any committee, but he is our liaison to USAR headquarters. He has done a great job in keeping the Michigan Coalition informed of what is going on out in Colorado and vice versa.

I would like to thank the others that have volunteered to help: **Public Relations Committee** - Twayne Howard (Co-Chair), Ruth Beier (Co-Chair), Caryn Coyle, and Joe Budzynski; **Activities Committee** - Dan Mullin, John Kutt, Ruth Beier; **Team Michigan Committee** - Karen Green (Co-Chair), Don Schopieray (Co-Chair); **Website Committee** - Randy Pagels, Dan Mullin, and Allan Coyle; **Registration/Tournament Desks Committee** - Ruth Beier (Chair), Caryn Coyle, and Marge Pendell; **Pro Involvement Committee** - Don Schopieray (Chair), Twayne Howard, and Steve Gruber; **Other** - Jay Marcotullio and Ken Bonnett. I would like to also thank Beth Striffler and Mike Combs from the Michigan Athletic Club, and Brandi Banks and Jeff Magnuson from the Greater Lansing Visitors and Convention Bureau.

If I forgot your name I am sorry. If you would like to volunteer for any of the committees, please contact Caryn Coyle at coyle.caryn@acd.net.



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These are a few of the companies we have done work for:
Racquetball Assn. of Michigan • Michigan Athletic Club
Ohio Racquetball Association • Local, State and Regional Tournaments
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Sunny FM All Major Van Lines, ie Atlas, Global, Allied, United, Bekins
North American, Mayflower, Burnham • Little Leagues • Jack Keller Ford

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2005-06 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Nov. 11-13

Racquets for Habitat
MAC - East Lansing

Dec. 2-4

RAM STATE DOUBLES
Total Sports
Mt. Clemens

Jan. 6-8

Omni Fitness Club
Muskegon

Jan. 20-22

Genesys Athletic Club
Grand Blanc

Jan. 27-29

Motor City Rollout
Courtland Athletic Club
Utica

Feb. 3-5

Davison Athletic Club
Davison

Feb. 10-12

Total Sports Challenge
Total Sports
Mt. Clemens

Mar. 4-5

March Madness
Players Athletic Club
Warren

Mar. 17-19

MAC Open
Michigan Athletic Club
Grand Rapids

(cont. on page 6)

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE RAQUETBALL REPORTER FOR 2005-06

The Racquetball Reporter is published quarterly throughout the year - August, November, February, and May. Items to be included in the Racquetball Reporter for the **2005-06** year must be submitted by the following dates:

August 3, 2005 January 5, 2006
October 4, 2005 April 20, 2006

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.



Racquetball Association of Michigan



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2005-06 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Mar. 31-Apr. 2
RAM STATE SINGLES
Coliseum II
Taylor

Apr. 7-9
USAR RACQUETBALL REGIONALS

Apr. 21-23
South West Michigan Shootout
Bronson Athletic Club
Kalamazoo

June 21-24
USAR RACQUETBALL JUNIOR NATIONALS
Michigan Athletic Club
East Lansing

Your business card sized ad can go here.
Contact The Racquetball Reporter for details.



RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

2005 RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS**DECEMBER 2-4, 2005****TOTAL SPORTS CLUB**40501 Production Drive, Harrison Twp., MI
phone (586) 463-2000**ENTRY FEES & DEADLINE**

First Event \$30 per person - \$60 per team
Second Event \$15 per person
Juniors \$15 per person - \$30 per team
USA Racquetball Membership \$30 per person

Entries must be received by November 28, 2005. 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.

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

STARTING TIMES

Play may begin on Friday, December 2, 2005. Call the club Thursday, December 1, 2005 after 6:00 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 3 - 7:00 pm

"I Gotta Have That" Auction & Party - December 3 - 8:00 pm

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 28, 2005

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) \$30 _____
2nd Event Fee \$15 _____
Junior Fee \$15 _____
USA Rac. Membership \$30 _____
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

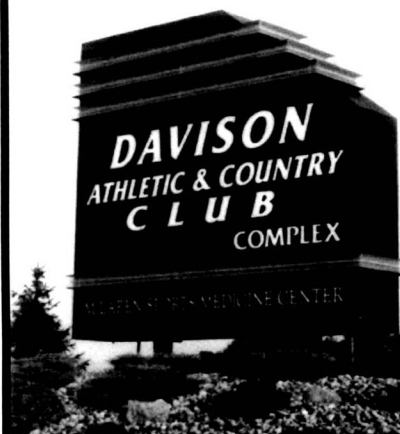
circle correct choices - limit 2 divisions (1 age, 1 skill)

	MENS		WOMENS	
Open	25B	35C	50A	Mixed A
A	25C	40A	50B	Mixed B
B	30A	40B	55+	Mixed C
C	30B	45A	60+	Mixed D
D	35A	45B	65+	
25A	35B	45C	Mixed Open	

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



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