



Down the Line

"Dedicated to promoting the game of Racquetball"

Vol. 24
no. 1

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By the time you get this, your entry for State should already be in my mailbox so I am not going to spend a lot of time writing about it, even though this is early February and State is the only thing on my mind. If your entry has not been turned in yet, shame on you; you are missing one of the best tournaments in the history of racquetball.

There are still a few things I would like to write about and would love to have some feedback. Some are fun, some are not, but we need to discuss them.

What did you do on your winter vacation? If you even had one, you are one up on me. Mine was spent working. Yeah, sure, I was at the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, hanging out with some of the greatest athletes in the world, going out to dinner, climbing Pike's Peak, looking at beautiful scenery; but it wasn't a vacation, I promise. I was at the USRA annual leadership conference held for state presidents and other leaders in our sport. John Davis and I spent over ten hours a day attending classes and seminars discussing the current state of racquetball as well as the future of the sport. We also had a chance to hold some informal meetings with other state presidents until the early morning hours to get an idea of what problems other states are experiencing. By the end of the conference, one definite conclusion could be drawn: **WE NEED TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP!** Racquetball, as a whole, is on the upswing. The number of recreational players in the United States is over eight million. However, membership in the USRA is down.

Unfortunately, someone somewhere said that the only reason to join the USRA is if you play in tournaments. This could not be further from the truth. The USRA is for everyone who plays racquetball, not just tournament players. Do you believe that everyone that is a member of the USGA or the USTA plays tournaments? Everyone that plays racquetball should be a member of the USRA as well as their state affiliate. Over the next few months, you are going to see an aggressive campaign around Louisiana to make this a reality. The USRA's goal for this year is to raise membership by 15%; the goal of the LRA is to double existing membership. I believe this is a realistic goal.

I know there have been some rumors afloat about why we

discussed at length, and I am still not sure I can give you an exact reason why we are not hosting the event. Without getting into the gory details, the USRA basically decided last year that any regional that had less than 200 entries would not be granted a regional this year; we had 176 entries. The logic behind this was to make the bigger Regionals bigger and more prestigious thus making Nationals bigger and more prestigious. You may or may not agree with this, but just like a loyal member of Congress, we may not agree with our superiors, but we have to support them.

You still have several choices on where to go for the regionals: Northwest Fitness, Houston TX, April 16, 17, 18, 1999 and YMCA, Birmingham, AL, April 30, May 1, 2, 1999. While there will be many people driving to Houston, I am in the process of getting some group rates on flights to Birmingham. If you're interested, please call me or ask me at State. I still expect a big turnout at Nationals, even if it takes a little longer to get there.

EXTRA, EXTRA!!!

In case you haven't seen the huge billboards or heard the catchy campaign slogans, Jim Garner is running for the Board of Directors of the USRA. Who is Jim Garner you may ask? Jim is the current President of the Alabama Racquetball Association as well as a former club owner. He loves racquetball, runs most of the tournaments in Alabama, and is a very good friend of the LRA. He and his son Jeff, one of the top Open players in the country, have traveled to many of our tournaments, or if you have had the pleasure of playing a tournament in Birmingham I am sure you have seen him there.

On behalf of the Louisiana Racquetball Association, I would like to extend my support for Jim and I would like to encourage everyone to vote in the upcoming election. Be sure to look in the next Racquetball Magazine for your ballot. I know Jim's position on the Board will be beneficial to the sport of racquetball as well as our state organization.



TOURNAMENT TALK

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Tournament Results

1/10/99

MEN'S OPEN

1. RORY ARCEMENT
2. BRIAN MATHIEU
3. GEORGE ANTHON
4. -----

NO CONSOLATION

MEN'S A

1. BRIAN MATHIEU
2. GEORGE ANTHON
3. AL SCHOF
4. STEVE CONN
- C. BILL BOADA

MEN'S B

1. BILL BOADA
2. FELIX MARRERO
3. JIM LESLIE
4. RUSSELL O'STEEN
- C. ANTHONY BALDWIN

MEN'S C

1. ALAN DABDOUB
2. ANTHONY BALDWIN
3. RUSSELL O'STEEN
4. TOMMY RIGSBY
- C. CYNTHIA GORDON

MEN'S D

1. BRYAN BOADA
2. STEPHEN SHORT
3. MATT AUTEN
4. SCOTT O'FLYNN
- C. TAMMY THOMPSON

MEN'S ALL AGE

1. STEVE CONN
2. JIM LESLIE
3. EARL TEABOUT
4. CLARENCE SIMMONS
- C. ANTHONY ZERINGUE

JUNIORS 18 AND UNDER

1. SCOTT O'FLYNN
2. MATT AUTEN

JUNIORS 16 AND UNDER

1. BRYAN BOADA
2. STEPHEN SHORT

MEN'S OPEN

1. JOHN DAVIS
2. GLEN BELL
3. MIKE WHATLEY
4. RUSTY POWELL

MEN'S A

1. CHARLES LEE
2. GEORGE ANTHON
3. JA KIRKLAND
4. TERRENCE PIERCE

MEN'S B

1. ELLIOT MISTICH
2. DON WEBB
3. WES MCDONALD
4. BOB PATTERSON

WOMEN'S C

1. CANDY ARQUIETT
2. JO HEWITT
3. BECKY HISEY

JUNIORS 16 & UNDER

1. RUSTY POWELL
2. DUSTIN KIDDER

JUNIORS 14 & UNDER

1. JACOMB KARMAVIN
2. DAVID KEY
3. SHANE KARMAVIN
4. DREW TOLLAND

JUNIORS 12 & UNDER

1. DREW TOLLAND
2. JAMES PATTERSON
3. STEVEN ROGERS

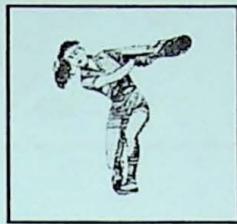
JUNIORS 10 & UNDER

1. WILLIAM LEE
2. LANDON SLOAN
3. TRENT MCGHEE
4. BEN PARRONE

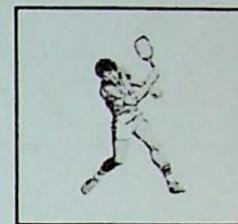
JUNIORS 8 & UNDER MULTI-BOUNCE

1. JOSEPH LEE
2. CHAZ MESSINA
3. HARRISON ROGERS
4. JONATHAN SELLERS

NOTE: NO CONSOLATION IN THIS TOURNAMENT



TOP TEN



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Men's Open

1. John Davis
2. Todd O'Neil
3. Rory Arcement
4. George Anthon
5. Chris Baker
6. Scott Davis
7. Jaime Arroyave
8. Brian Mathieu
9. Mike Whatley
10. Albert Schof

Men's A

1. George Anthon
2. Kipp Atwell
3. Brian Mathieu
4. Roy Laudumiey
5. Raymond Flowers
6. Charles E. Lee
7. Albert Schof
8. Barney Revuelta
9. Steve Conn
10. Terrence Pierce

Men's B

1. Elliott Mistich
2. Bill Boada
3. Jim Leslie
4. Felix Marrero
5. Damon Dimarco
6. Chris Dacosta
7. David Key
8. G. Earl Teabout
9. Alan Dabdoub
10. James Coleman

Men's C

1. Alan Dabdoub
2. Robert Vance
3. Russell Osteen
4. Anthony Zeringue
5. Tommy Rigsby
6. Gerard Schmitz
7. James Coleman
8. Wes McDonald
9. Dustin Kidder
10. Richard Campbell

Men's D

1. Ryan Cartier
2. Aaron Fitzgerald
3. Cynthia Gordon
4. Randy Ingles
5. Stephen Short
6. Brian Jumonville
7. Aarol Laudumiey
8. Tyler Boudreaux
9. Blake Whittle
10. Bobby Dejean

Men's All Age

1. Clarence Simmons
2. James Bayhi
3. Steve Conn
4. Ja Kirkland
5. Jim Leslie
6. G. Earl Teabout
7. Warren Reuther III
8. Anthony Zeringue
9. Ben Showalter
10. Robert Patterson

Men's 35+

1. David Tuminello
2. Charles Less
3. Alvin Miles
4. Steve Rogers
5. Clarence Simmons
6. Paul Dupont
7. Jeff Kindl
8. Anthony Zeringue
9. R. J. Tamplain
10. Michael Meche

Men's 45+

1. Warren Reuther, Jr.
2. Steve Conn
3. Ted Bruning
4. Clarence Simmons
5. Jerry Dye
6. G. Earl Teabout
7. Jerry Winsberg
8. Donnie Drowe
9. Jeff Kindl
10. Joel Markert

Men's 55+

1. Eugen Ferris
2. Warren Reuther, Jr.
3. Jack Fredine
4. Robert Baudry
5. Ben Showalter
6. Richard Sousa
7. Jerry Winsberg

Women's Open

1. Leanne Mays
2. Karen Katengill
3. Mary Ragland
4. Debbie Spica
5. Cynthia Gordon
6. Pattie Schof

Women's A

1. Pattie Schof
2. Mary Ragland
3. Karen Kattengill
4. Bonnie Bee
5. Cynthia Gordon
6. Kathy Roper

Women's B

1. Tammy Thompson
2. Neyda Leslie
3. Candy Arquiett
4. Cynthia Gordon
5. Beth Rist
6. Kary Gillis

Women's C

1. Candy Arquiett
2. Tammy Thompson
3. Becky Hisey
4. Kelly Meche
5. Jo Hewitt
6. Marie Steyn
7. Amber Moreau
8. Kary Gillis
9. Antoinette Keller

Women's D

1. Maria Steyn
2. Bernice Powell

Juniors 8 & Under

1. William Lee
2. Joseph Lee
3. Harrison Rogers

Juniors 8 & Under Multi Bounce

1. Joseph Lee
2. Chaz Messina
3. Harrison Rogers

Juniors 10 & Under

1. William Lee
2. Darren Vance
3. Sara Garrett
4. Joseph Lee

Juniors 12 & Under

1. Robert Vance, Jr.
2. Blake Whittle
3. James Patterson
4. Kevin Kidder
5. Stephen Rogers, Jr.
6. Aarol Laudumiey

Juniors 14 & Under

1. Aaron Fitzgerald
2. David Key
3. Bryan Boada
4. Blake Whittle
5. Matt Harman
6. Tyler Boudreaux
7. Aarol Laudumiey
8. Stephen Short
9. Mitchell Lasseigne
10. William Nix

Juniors 16 & Under

1. Rusty Powell
2. Bryan Boada
3. Dustin Kidder
4. Stephen Short

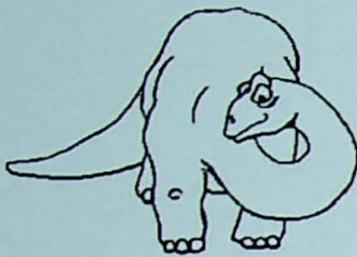
Juniors 18 & Under

1. Scott O'Flynn
2. Matt Auten



ODDS AND ENDS

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HEY!
You're not
still in the
Dinosaur Age, are you?

Get the latest U.S.R.A. & L.R.A. news via e-mail. All you have to do is leave your e-mail address at a tournament desk or write to Fritz Owens, your Director of News and Media

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To realize the value of one year: Ask a student who has failed his final exam.

To realize the value of one month: Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week: Ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one hour: Ask a daily wage laborer who has ten kids to feed.

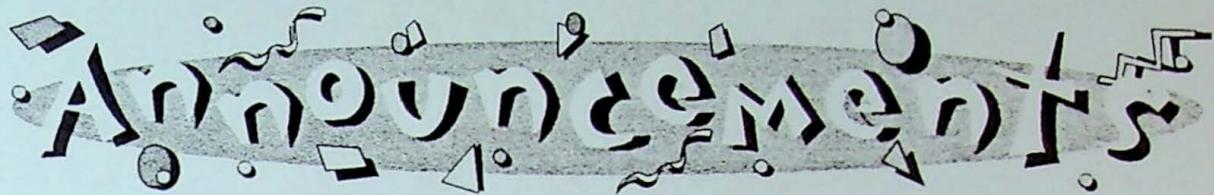
To realize the value of one minute: Ask a person who has missed the train, the bus or the plane.

To realize the value of one second: Ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realize the value of one millisecond: Ask the person who has won a silver medal at the Olympics.

Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have. You will treasure it even more when you can share it with someone special.

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LRA/USRA 1999 EVENT CALENDAR

1999 State Singles Championships

March 19, 1999 - March 21, 1999

L.S.U. Sports Complex, Baton Rouge

1999 Adult-Junior Regional Qualifier

April 30, 1999 - May 2, 1999

Birmingham, AL

1999 Ektelon National Singles Championships

May 26, 1999 - May 31, 1999

Houston, TX

1999 Louisiana Games (June Classic)

June 11, 1999 - June 13, 1999

Elmwood Fitness Center, Harahan, LA

1999 Courthouse of Blues

July 9, 1999 - July 11, 1999

Courthouse, Jackson, MS

1999 Summer Cooler Pro-Am

August 5, 1999 - August 8, 1999

Elmwood Fitness Center, Harahan, LA

1999 State Doubles Championships

October 1999

Location: TBA

1999 LRA ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

President: Al Schof

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Director of News & Media: Fritz Owens

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AND

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* By renewing your USRA membership through the LRA, your state organization receives a larger part of the renewal fee.

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4220 PARADIS LANE
KENNER, LA 70065