

Racquetball Reporter

February 1999

Volume IX, Issue 1

1999 RAM State Singles set for Davison

The Racquetball Association of Michigan will once again host the State Singles Championships at the Davison Athletic Club on March 27-28, 1999.

Tournament directors Tom Blakeslee and Lou Ellen Fecher are planning a first-class event and hope for a large draw. Entry fee for the 1999 championship event is \$35. As usual, great hospitality is expected from Randy Minto and his staff at the Davison Racquet Club. Souvenir shorts and collared shirt are guaranteed to each participant.

The event is sponsored by PENN and Ektelon. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

All entries must be received by **Tuesday, March 23, 1999.**

Membership on the rise in Michigan

The membership results were recently announced for the end of the 1998 calendar year.

The Racquetball Association of Michigan experienced the seventh largest percentage gain in the USRA. As a result, we almost topped 400 members for the first time in many years. We currently rank 17th of all states.

The USRA and RAM would like to thank everyone for their support. Membership revenue is absolutely necessary for racquetball to continue to grow and

prosper.

The benefits of belonging to the USRA include the satisfaction of participating in a lifelong sport, access to the many programs developed by the USRA, competitive membership card, *Racquetball Magazine* subscription, secondary accident insurance, competition and skill building and many other benefits.

Help sell our program by renewing your own membership today and convincing others to join the RAM.

1999 RAM STATE SINGLES
CHAMPIONSHIPS
March 27-28, 1999

Entry Form Enclosed

*Souvenir shorts and collared shirt
to each participant!*

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View of the President

by W.T. Blakeslee

The good news this season is that, in the Detroit area, there have been some good new sanctioned tournaments hosted by the Players Club, The Madison Athletic Club and Total Sports. If you didn't play in these tournaments, you missed some good fun. There is still time to catch a tournament at both the Players and Madison clubs as well as the State Singles at the Davison Athletic Club.

In Michigan, our membership is up and the best thing you can do is sell memberships. RAM needs your continued support.

It is note worthy to mention that Felicia Mann and Kevin Thomas have expressed a desire to join the RAM board. Felicia brings with her a host of experience

from her series and Kevin comes from Florida and Ohio and wants to do a web site for us! We welcome them to the Board and look forward to hearing their ideas.

I just returned from the yearly directors meeting at the Olympic Training Center and the most important issue is the decline in memberships.

Finally, I encourage you to participate in the State Singles tournament set for March 27 & 28. We have experimented with a few new ideas this year. For the first time, we are giving out a pair of shorts and collared shirt with every entry. Also the tournament has been moved to March instead of April in hopes of drawing more people.

Let us know what you think.

Racquetball Association of Michigan

RAM
Board of Directors

Tom Blakeslee
President
(810) 468-2787

Sharon Huczek
Secretary
(810) 373-5255

Lou Ellen Fecher
Treasurer
(810) 658-8097

Board Members
Nick Rallis
Felicia Mann
Kevin Thomas*

Sanctioning
Tom Blakeslee

Racquetball One Series
Ken Bonnett
(616) 975-9080

Junior's Committee
Sharon Huczek
(810) 373-5255

Newsletter
The Racquetball Reporter
2834 Yale St.
Flint, MI 48503

**Scheduled to become an official member of the RAM Board of Directors at the March 1999 meeting.*

Rules Clinic and Referee Certification Saturday, March 6, 1999

Michigan Athletic Club
East Lansing, Michigan

Rules Clinic
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Certification Test
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

\$10 Rules/Referee Clinic - \$12 at the door
\$10 Referee Certification Test - \$12 at the door
\$15 Both clinic and exam - \$20 at the door

For more information, please contact:

Jim Easterling (517) 887-0459

Pete Ruhala (517) 337-0002

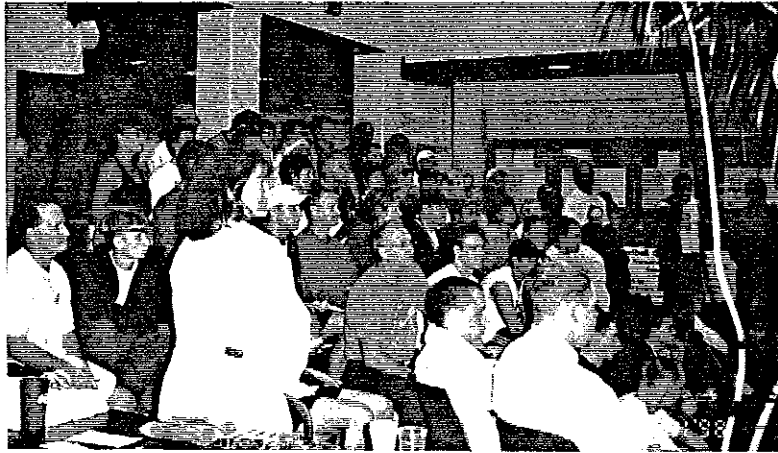
Bonnett/Huczek exhibition rejuvenates Michigan racquetball

by Ken Bonnett

It was just before Halloween and a lot of work had gone into the promotions surrounding what I hoped would be a great racquetball show between Jack Huczek and Joel Bonnett. Jack and I had talked over a year ago, and I thought it would be fun to set up an exhibition between the "kid" and the "old man"! Everyone knew Jack was improving day by day and Joel was busy trading stocks in the market, plus playing occasionally in tournaments in the Carolina's.

Posters, banners and a good chunk of change developed into one of the best examples of racquetball I have seen in a long time.

About one hundred people jammed the bleachers outside court #2 at the Grand Rapids MAC for the showdown! Home favorite Joel took control of the first game with his booming serve, resulting in several aces, winning the best 3 of 5 games to 11 points with ease. At \$5 an ace serve, Joel was serious about hitting several aces regardless of the one serve rule. No one wanted to watch three quick games or a serving exhibition, including Jack. Jack stayed cool and with a very deliberate style he got right back into the match winning games



Over 100 people came to view the showdown between Joel Bonnett and Jack Huczek at the Grand Rapids MAC.

two and three. Was the "old man" getting tired? The home crowd provided some encouragement and Joel caught his second wind with a few more of his thirteen aces to win games four, five and the match. The almost two hour exhibition was appreciated by everyone. In the

weeks after, many of our local players were talking about the match and the "boy wonder"!

It was a real treat to see so many people watching a final match. A far cry from the few spectators we see watching the Sunday finals at most tournaments.

Racquetball One Finale set for March

by Ken Bonnett

The finale of the Racquetball One series is set for March 20-21 at the Grand Rapids MAC.

This will be the Grand Finale as the Racquetball One series is coming to an end.

The four events this season, held between the Lansing and Grand Rapids MAC clubs, was designed primarily for MAC members, but many other inter-

ested players from around the state chose to participate. The finale will be worth the trip to Grand Rapids - lots of fine food, dancing, games, casino events and a cash bar will help the series end in style.

I would like to thank all those players who have supported the Racquetball One Series. Your friendships are lifelong!

Huczek victorious at Jr. World Championships

by Sharon Huczek

The Pro Kennex IRF World Junior Racquetball Championships were held in Fountain Valley, California from Dec. 18-22, 1998. Approximately 330 athletes from 10 nations invaded the Los Callaberos Sports Villages receiving awards in singles, doubles and mixed doubles competition.

The U.S. Junior National team collected its eighth consecutive win by outdistancing Mexico 1495.5 - 938. Jack Huczek was Michigan's only participant and emerged victorious in two events.

In the 14 and under singles final, Jack defeated Bart Crawford of Oregon 15-4, 15-7 for his seventh consecutive national title. In the 14 and under dou-

bles final, Jack and Bart teamed to defeat Oregon's Trevor Crowe and Wisconsin's Cory Martin, 15-10 and 15-14.

In the boy's 18 and under singles bracket, Rocky Carson (California) defeated Josh Tucker (Missouri) 15-7 and 15-3 in the finals. Rocky went flawless in all of his matches, without losing a single game. This was Carson's fifth world championship. Rocky tied Sudsy Monchik's record for the most world junior singles titles won in a division. Monchik held the record of three boy's 18 & under crowns from 1991-93.

On the girls side, it was a nail biter in the finals where Lisa Kerr (Canada) and Brooke Crawford (Oregon) fought for the gold. Kerr defeated Crawford 15-6, 11-15 and 11-8.

ENTRY FORM ENCLOSED!

1999 RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARCH 27-28, 1999
DAVISON ATHLETIC CLUB

*SOUVENIR SHORTS AND COLLARED SHIRT
FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS!*

Michigan represented at the 1998 U.S. Open Championships

*Information submitted
by Jack Huczek*

In its third year, the Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. Open Championships drew many as racquetball's only "grand slam" event. Memphis, Tennessee hosted the tournament November 10-15, 1998 and the Open Pro finals were televised on ESPN2 in February.

Three Michigan players battled to bring home medals. Congratulations to:

Sharon Huczek
1st Women's 50+
1st Women's 45AB

Charles Kaiser
2nd Men's 65+

Michael Anderson
2nd Men's 40+



*Above, double medal winner.
Sharon Huczek.*

1998 RAM State Doubles Tourney a big success

by W.T. Blakeslee

The State Doubles was once again a huge success! This year's event was hosted by the Madison Athletic Club and Paula Saad. The tournament continues to be a fun event and the total entries continue to be well over the 100 player mark.

We had a lot of compliments on the sweatshirt design this year. Competition was terrific except for the fact that we couldn't get enough top open teams to participate in the Open division. Does Chris Cole hear the challenge?

Some of the tournament highlights include Ric Scott and Al Mell doing so well after celebrating Al's 50th birthday party the night before. Laura Patterson and Melody Gorno defeated Paula Saad and Stacey Barbas. Mixed Open was surprising with Mike and Melisa Stephens winning over the super team of Ron Barton and Felicia Mann. The A final was a local event with four friends that frequently work out together, playing each other in the final. Augie Pasko and Jason Clark defeating Pete Dembeck and Glen Williams. Finally, yours truly, teamed with Jack White, representing the Madison Athletic Club, split with Jim Woolcock and Dan Verbeck of Davison in the 40A and 35A divisions.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's tournament!

1998 RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Men's A

Augie Pasko/Jason Clark def. Glen Williams/Pete Dembeck

Men's B

Mark Niedzielski/Marvin Riley def. Jim Thompson/Rich Torres

Men's C

Mike Malek/Hans Schaeffer def. Tom Nagle/Joe Romeo

Men's 30A

Bob Hagedorn/Ron Burton def. Tony Garbarino/Mike Garbarino

Men's 35A

Tom Blakeslee/Jack White def. Jim Woolcock/Dan Verbeck

Men's 35B/40B

Ray Emerson/Chris Henry def. Mark Niedzielski/Marvin Riley

Men's 40A

Jim Woolcock/Dan Verbeck def. Jack White/Tom Blakeslee

Men's 45/50A

Ric Scott/Al Mell def. Mike Stephens/Rick Gravelyn

Women's Open

Laura Patterson/Melody Gorno def. Paula Saad/Stacey Barbas

Women's A (round robin format)

Anne Jahn/Lorna Rose

Women's 35+ (round robin format)

Sharon Huczek/Karen Green

Mixed A

John Gervasi/Melody Gorno def. Anne Jahn/Mike Jahn

Mixed B

Twayne Howard/Lorna Rose def. Jim Roberts/Deni Foley

Mixed C

Jim Roberts/Deni Foley def. Robert Gray/Kim Novak

Mixed Open

Mike Stephens/Melisa Stephens def. Ron Barton/Felicia Mann

Midwest Seniors tourney celebrates 10 years

by Jim Easterling

Michigan's 10th Annual Midwest Seniors Masters Racquetball Tournament was held at the Davison Athletic Club on November 7-8, 1998. As usual, club manager Randy Minto and his staff did an excellent job hosting the tournament.

The Seniors Masters tournament is for men and women 35 years and older. The tournament is played in a round robin format, with everyone playing at least five matches.

Two out-of-state people did quite well at this tournament. Ray Huss of Ohio won the Men's 55-60 division with Ron Hutcherson of Indiana taking second.

Michigan's Paula Saad had reason to celebrate as she won the Women's 35 division four years in a row. Three cheers for Paula!

I would like to thank Penn Athletic Products for being our sponsor. Penn has been a strong supporter of our series since its inception 10 years ago. Also, thanks to the staff at the Davison Athletic Club for their outstanding hospitality!

Lastly, thanks to the players who participated and who continue to support the tournament.

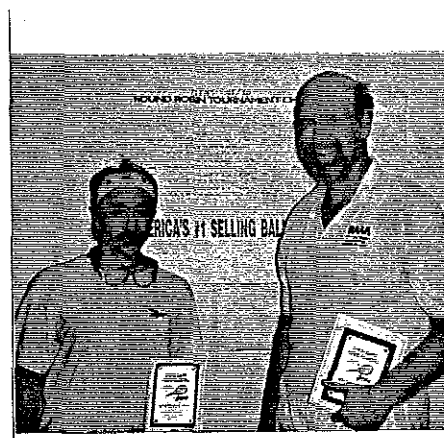
We hope to see everyone back next season for the 11th edition of this fine event.



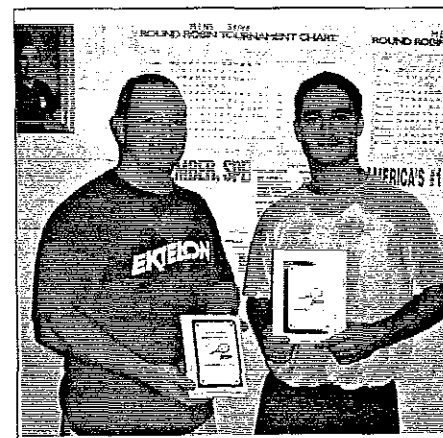
Women's 45-50: Sharon Huczek (right) 1st place, Janet Insko 2nd place.



Women's 35-40: Paula Saad (right) 1st place, Laura Patterson 2nd place



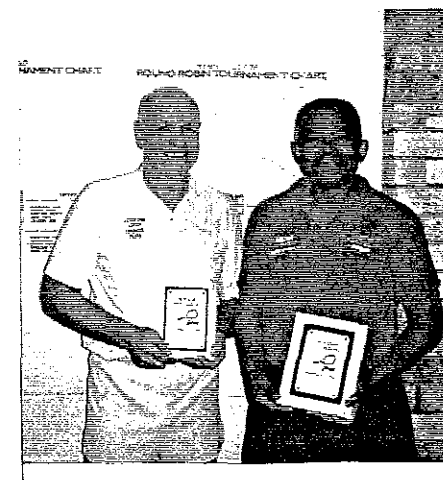
Men's 45-50: Ric Scott (right) 1st place, Jim Santino 2nd place



Men's 35-50: Pete Ruhala (right) 1st place, Dan Verbeck 2nd place



Men's 55-60: Ray Huss (right) 1st place, Ron Hutcherson 2nd place



Men's 65-70: J D Driver (right) 1st place, Bob McClelland 2nd place

The Racquetball Association of Michigan

presents the

STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 27-28, 1999

DAVISON ATHLETIC CLUB

2140 Fairway Dr., Davison, MI 48423

Phone: (810) 653-9602



Directors: Tom Blakeslee (810) 468-2787
Lou Ellen Fecher (810) 658-8097

Lodging: Comfort Inn (810) 658-2700
Super 8 Motel (810) 743-8850

Fees: \$35 First event/\$25 First event Juniors
\$15 second event

USRA sanctioned: Yearly USRA membership required. USRA Rules will prevail.
Two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11.

Players may enter two events - one age & one skill of two different age divisions.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Must be received by Tuesday, March 23, 1999. All entries are final. No entries accepted without payment. No phone entries. Call the club, Thursday, March 25, 1999 after 12:00 p.m. for starting times. **PLAY MAY BEGIN FRIDAY NIGHT.**

Awards: Awards will be given for the first four places in divisions of 16 or more. Each player may receive a **souvenir shirt and shorts.**

Hospitality: Provided free to players and a nominal charge for guests throughout tournament.

Referees: Losers must referee or pay \$5.00.

Tournament Ball: PENN Ultra Blue

Entries Must Be Received By March 23, 1999

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Club: _____
Ph: (days) _____ (nights) _____ Birthdate: _____
Shirt size (circle one) M L XL XXL* Short size (circle one) M L XL XXL*

*Please enclose \$2.00 additional for XXL

DIVISIONS

circle correct choices/limit 2 events

Make checks payable to RAM and mail to:

RAM State Singles Championships

3152 S. Henderson Rd.

Davison, MI 48423

Entry fee _____

USRA _____

Total enclosed _____

	Mens	Womens
Open	25+	40A 50B
A	30A	40B 55+
B	30B	45A 60+
C	35A	45B 65+
D	35B	50A 70+

WAIVER CLAUSE: I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all claim for damages I may have against RAM, the host club, tournament staff and their agents, for all injuries suffered by me in conjunction with my participation in this tournament.

Signature _____

Juniors Event (specify division) _____

Divisions may be combined if less than 8 teams enter a division

Alternate division _____

Guardian's Signature _____
(if under 18)

**MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR
FOR
THESE
REMAINING
EVENTS!**

**MADISON ATHLETIC CLUB
MARCH 13-14, 1999**

**RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP
MARCH 27-28, 1999**

**ADULT REGIONALS APRIL 8-10, 1999
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

**ADULT REGIONALS APRIL 15-16, 1999
CANTON, OHIO**

**USRA SINGLES MAY 26-31, 1999
HOUSTON, TEXAS**

Racquetball Reporter

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3152 S. Henderson
Davison, MI 48423



EKTELON 