



N.M.R.A. NEWS

NEW MEXICO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

MARCH/APRIL 1995

President's Message . . .

Having just returned to New Mexico from Vero Beach, Florida, I am surprised and excited about recent happenings within the New Mexico racquetball community. I was fired as a replacement pitcher for the Dodgers, from whom I was paid a handsome sum for my services. The \$25,000 bonus they paid me is significantly less than a typical year's earnings from racquetball purses. My disappointment continues! I should be happy to have been a mid-40's pitcher in the major leagues. Nevertheless, I will try the spring training grind again next year. In the meantime, I look forward to 1995 racquetball!

What about the recent Supreme Court decision regarding athletic clubs? Most not-for-profit entities must now pay taxes on all services provided. Therefore, the 1995 National Singles Championships event is in jeopardy, and not because of an explosion at the host Hyatt Hotel. It is due to the retroactive severance tax assessed on the Downtown Houston YMCA, the host facility. For each of the thousands of players coming through their facility since the 1983 inaugural national singles event, the 'Y' faces a payment in excess of three hundred thousand dollars.

Hopefully we will have a decision on its appeal before respective participants have to forfeit their airline fares and hotel deposits. Bravo to all the lobbyists who have been exhaustively hounding politicians for the past fifteen years! Fortunately for the Girl Scouts of America, they applied for, and were granted, a tax exemption on all revenues earned from monthly car washes.

While on the subject of not-for-profits, the Base Relocation Committee (BRAC) has promised the World Senior Racquetball Council, 'based' in Albuquerque, first right of refusal to become owners and operators of the Kirtland AFB east side racquetball complex. The fee will be \$1 per year. The only catch is that the WSRC must secure their interest with an up front non refundable deposit of \$50,000. This offer is currently under advisement with its legal representatives. It is leaning toward accepting the offer if the Tijeras Arroyo Golf Course is part of the package. The down payment will come from a surtax placed on all registration fees from the 1995 World Senior event.

The City of Albuquerque Recreation and Parks Department will begin a series of

new construction projects. Beginning this Fall, it will build a minimum of eight, 3 wall racquetball courts in many city parks. Modeled after the program in Mar Del Plata, Argentina, the city projects construction of over 300 courts over the next five years. The city will co-op its efforts with the Albuquerque Public Schools and it intends to access thousands of school kids into the sport. The NMRA, through an AARA grant program, will equip all of the new players gratis. Courts will be used for the APS students, special olympians, senior olympians and wheel-chair athletes, as well as community residents at large. UNM and TVI students will have access on a space available basis at no charge. Any household with an annual income greater than \$50,000 will be subject to a users' fee similar to the one for city parking concessions. Otherwise they must use the local private health and fitness facilities. The Village of Los

Ranchos wants to jump on board this program, but it is hesitant due to Montano Bridge concessions it is asked to make from the Albuquerque City Mothers and Fathers.

Finally, the NM Department of Tourism has decided to enhance its public relations by purchasing a portable racquetball/handball/squash court for \$25,000. It intends to stage world class events in each of the three sports, utilizing the vacant race tracks around the state. Lottery tickets will be sold along with event tickets. A consulting group headed by ex-Albuquerque Mayor Louis Saavedra is headed to Mexico City in May to help stimulate the peso and to enhance tourism dollars in our state. The first exhibition for racquetball will be in Raton in October between the Mexican National Racquetball Team and Team New Mexico. Stay tuned (April fools)!

---Gary Mazaroff

Quote of the Month:

"Our true age can be determined by the ways in which we allow ourselves to play."

-----Louis Walsh

CORRECTION: In the last issue's version of the President's Message, IRSA was incorrectly identified as the International Recreational Sports Association. IRSA is the International Racquet Sports Association.

• NEWS NOTES •

NHSF SURPASSES \$1,500...The Four Corners Invitational in Farmington raised \$150, and the NM State Singles Championships at Tom Young's in Albuquerque raised \$538. Current contributions total \$1,756.

THREE MORE YEARS FOR PENN & WORLD SENIORS...Sherril Norris of Penn Racquet Sports of Arizona, and Gary Mazaroff, Executive Director of the WSRC, recently agreed on a three year extension in their relationship. Penn will be the 'Official Ball' for the World Seniors through 1997.

GELLMAN & WILSON TAKE STATE TITLES...Rachel Gellman and Jeff Wilson, both of Albuquerque, captured the Women's Open and Men's Open divisions respectively, at the NM State Singles Championships for 1995. The tourney was held at Tom Young's Athletic Club. Over 300 matches were held over 4 days. Gellman won her third consecutive open title with a tie breaker win over Cheryl McConaghy, while Wilson captured his first open title with an exciting tiebreaker win over defending champion Tom Neill.

'96 REGIONALS IN ALBUQUERQUE...The NMRA has been awarded one of the Regionals for 1996, to be held in Albuquerque April 17-21.

U.S. TEAM CAPTURES PAN AMS...The U.S. National Racquetball Team took gold medals in both the women's and men's individual singles and doubles events, plus the overall team competition. The racquetball portion of the Pan Ams was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March. Ten countries participated in this inaugural event for racquetball. The 1999 Pan Ams will be held in Winnipeg, Canada.

NMRA MOURNS LOSS...Charles Haywood, 44, a long time supporter of racquetball in the Southwest, passed away early in April of an apparent heart attack. Charles was a member of Ultimate Courts in El Paso, Texas.

CLUB INTERNATIONAL CHANGES OPERATORS...Club International in Santa Fe recently named Randy Huber of Colorado as their club manager. He replaces Jeff and Raquel Wasserman, who have moved back to their native Los Angeles. Fred Wasserman maintains his ownership of Club International.

RACQUETBALL IN GOODWILL GAMES! According to Luke St. Onge, Executive Director of the AARA, the 1998 Goodwill Games in New York will include racquetball on the program.

MORE NEWS NOTES ON PAGE 3...

NMRA Tournament Point System

The NMRA tournament point system complements the AARA rankings which help to determine seeding positions for local, state, regional, national and international events. The NMRA point system is as follows:

1st place	10 points
2nd place	7 points
3rd place	5 points
4th place	3 points
1/4 finalists	1 point

Full point count is based on a draw of 16 players or more. With a draw of between 8 and 15 players or teams, the amount of points earned is one-half the total earned for a full draw. Quarter-finalists earn 0 points. This system is used for open level sanctioned NMRA events.

With a draw of 5 to 7 participants, 1st place earns 3 points, 2nd place earns 2 points, and 3rd place earns 1 point. With a four player/team draw (round-robin), 1st place earns 2 points and second place earns 1 point. With a three player/team draw (round-robin), 1st place earns 1 point. In order to earn points, a player/team must win a match; byes and forfeitures do not count as a win.

In the novice division, once a player has earned 3 points or more, he/she must

move into the D division. The Men's and Women's Open and AA divisions are 'open' divisions; there is no requirement to move from these divisions, based on point accumulation. A player may at any time, play in a higher skill level division than the one in which he/she is ranked.

Players may petition the NMRA on an event by event basis, to move down a skill level. Reasons for such a petition may be: a significant absence from tournaments, an injury or illness, other. During a competitive NMRA season (Sept. to June), a player may play in a lower division for the State Championships, if that division was the original division in which he/she played during that season. If one points out of two divisions during a competitive season (e.g. B and A), that player may play down into A, not B.

Points are accumulated over time. Age group rankings, junior rankings, and doubles rankings are also maintained. Typically, a doubles team is required to play at the level of the higher ranked singles player. Common sense, national rankings, head to head competition and other criteria provide input for seeding positions in given events.

Tournament Roundup • 4 Corners Invite

Despite the fact the tournament is no longer held in close proximity to Valentine's Day, the Four Corners Invitational at Farmington is still a sweetheart of an event. The Invitational this year drew players from four states and the courts at the Royal Spa at Farmington were filled with eager players and outstanding action. As always, the Four Corners Invitational featured some of the finest hospitality on the tournament circuit, with abundant food and drinks, access to the club's extensive amenities, friendly hosts, top of the line awards, and a great raffle. Tourney organizers **Jason Raggio** and **Jerry Spangler** did an outstanding job.

The ball moves fast at altitude, and powerful games were in abundance at Farmington. **Rachel Gellman** dominated her competition to win the Women's Open division. **Esmeralda Berrich** of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, took second. Third in the open went to **Tina Bragdon** of Albuquerque. Gallup's **Lisa Wallace** won the Women's A division, finishing ahead of Durango, Colorado's **Sherri Phippin** and **Becky Brannan** of Albuquerque. **Kathy Isberg** of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, won the Women's C, with New Mexicans **Bernadine Schmalz** second place and **Jane Bentley** third place.

It was an all-Farmington final in the Men's Open. **Rich Hill** took the title with a victory over **Fred Johnson**. Coloradan **Brian Griffin** took third place. New Mexico players took the three top spots in Men's A. **Fran Pawlowski** won the top honor, followed by **Jeff Trecker** and **Devin Cannady**. **Cord Everetts** fashioned a left-handed victory in Men's B. Farmington's **Guy Harris** placed second and **Charles Byrd**, of Gallup, was third. **Benny Vigil** knew his home courts well enough to end up first in the Men's C division, with **Jerry Bentley** and **Rick Deutschman** finishing second and third respectively. In the Men's D division, New Mexico players again swept the top three spots. **Jay Hebert** was the champion, **Alfred Salazar** placed second, and **Bob Sellers** was third.

The doubles divisions were equally as competitive, with round-robins dominating the brackets. Tie-breaking devices were the order as teams were knocking off each other to enhance the competitive environment for the weekend. Wait until next year was the cry of many of the participants as well as spectators, many whom felt like they missed out on some great action!

—Karl "Rose" Isberg

Upcoming Events

- **May 11-14. National Warmup**, Club International, Santa Fe, **Gary Mazaroff**: 505/266-8960.
- **May 19-21. Summer Siesta**, Ultimate Courts, El Paso, TX, **Jorge Maya**: 915/833-1259.
- **May 24-29. AARA/Ektelon National Singles Championships**, Downtown YMCA, Houston, TX, **Margo Daniels**: 719/635-5396.
- **June 15-18. New Mexico State Games**, Midtown Sports and Wellness, **Gary Mazaroff**: 505/266-8960.

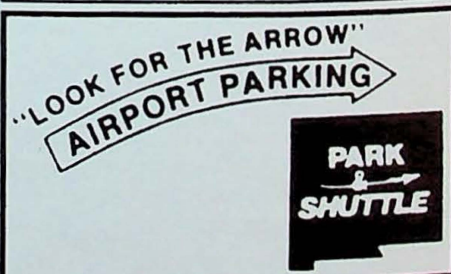
You Make The Call

In divisions where the one serve rule is played, is a screen serve ruled an Out Serve? Answer in the next issue of **NMRA News**.

From Last Issue...

If a player is not wearing proper eyewear produced for racquet sports, who should take action?

Any player or interested party can and should advise a player to secure his or her eyeguards when playing or warming up on the court. However, once a player has been called to the court for a tournament match, any hitting activity during the game or during practice must include eyewear properly secured and the safety thong secured around the wrist. The referee for that match is responsible for advising the player, and a technical call is made for the first infraction. Additional infractions may result in technical calls or in forfeiture of the offending player. In a non-officiated match, the opponent should bring the infraction to the attention of the player and assess a technical call. Contact the NMRA office for a list of approved eyewear.



Tournament Results

1995 SNOWBALL TOURNAMENT

January 19-22, 1995
Highpoint Sports & Wellness
Albuquerque, NM

MEN'S OPEN

1ST Jeff Wilson
2ND Jeff Wichers
3RD Chris Evans

MEN'S AA

1ST Steve Spinks
2ND Jesse Harden
3RD Mike Kluding

MEN'S A

1ST Dan Tokunaga
2ND Mark Harden
3RD Devin Cannady

MEN'S B

1ST Steve Holliday
2ND Jim Arden
3RD Doug Culling
TIE John Cotola

MEN'S C

1ST Robert Rodriguez
2ND Ken Payne
3RD Brock Perkins

MEN'S D

1ST Tucker Green
2ND Cory Chambers
3RD Becky Brannan

MEN'S NOVICE

1ST Dave Ruggles
2ND Mark Humphrey
3RD Blake Harden

MEN'S 19+

1ST Jeff Wilson
2ND Jeff Wichers
3RD Chris Evans

MEN'S 50+

1ST Drex Klsner
2ND Larry Kingsley
3RD Bob Wilson

WOMEN'S OPEN

1ST Cathy Teller
2ND Tina Bragdon
3RD Cyd Hill

WOMEN'S A

1ST Tina Bragdon
2ND Lisa Wallace
3RD Karla Barela

WOMEN'S B/C

1ST Maria Shelby
2ND Jane Bentley
3RD Liz McGulre

JUNIORS 8 & UNDER

1ST Mark Swanson
2ND Sean Garrett
3RD Eric Norris

JUNIORS 10 & UNDER

1ST Roy Lee Luna
2ND Evan Ussery
3RD Blake Harden

JUNIORS 12 & UNDER

1ST Evan Ussery
2ND Aaron Ortiz
3RD Roy Lee Luna

JUNIORS 14 & UNDER

1ST Drex Fitzwater
2ND Chris Kirstein

JUNIORS 16 & UNDER

1ST Jesse Harden

SNOWDOWN RACQUETBALL

February 3-5, 1995
Durango Sports Club
Durango, CO

MEN'S OPEN

1ST Chris Evans
2ND Ken Lukanik
3RD Fred Johnson

MEN'S A

1ST Jack Renner
2ND Jeffrey Tack
3RD Scott McCleery

MEN'S B

1ST Charles Bird
2ND Tina Bragdon
3RD Karl Isberg

MEN'S C

1ST Bob Hujus
2ND Robert Rodriguez
3RD David Miley

MEN'S D

1ST Mel Ahrens
2ND Jason Raggio
3RD Bob Sellers

WOMEN'S OPEN

1ST Tina Bragdon
2ND Cyd Hill
3RD Esmeralda Berrich

WOMEN'S A

1ST Cindy Wittenbrink
2ND Lisa Wallace
3RD Becky Brannan
TIE Linda Johns

WOMEN'S B/C

1ST Sherril Phippen
2ND Maria Shelby
3RD Janet Briggs

WOMEN'S D

1ST Gillian Berrich
2ND Judy Fairchild
3RD Mathew Johnson

MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES

1ST Ken Lukanik
Terry Wheeler
Brian Griffin
2ND Jack Renner
Steve Groomer
Fred Johnson
3RD

MEN'S B DOUBLES

1ST Charles Bird
Robert Rodriguez
2ND Karl Isberg
Alan Shelby
3RD Mark Fairchild
Jeffrey Tack

MEN'S C DOUBLES

1ST Windel Hildebrandt
Bob Hujus
2ND Mel Ahrens
Tom Gray
3RD Rick Deutschman
Bob Sellers
TIE Jimmie Johnson
David Miley

WOMEN'S OPEN DOUBLES

1ST Esmeralda Berrich
Cyd Hill
2ND Sherril Phippen
Dena Morrissey

3RD Linda Johns
Cindy Wittenbrink

TIE Maria Shelby
Alan Shelby

MIXED OPEN DOUBLES

1ST Cyd Hill
Chris Evans
2ND Sherril Phippen
Brian Griffin
3RD Esmeralda Berrich
Cord Everetts

MIXED B DOUBLES

1ST Becky Brannan
Kelth Whale
2ND Janet Briggs
Scott Wells

MIDTOWN OPEN
February 9-12, 1995
Midtown Sports & Wellness
Albuquerque, NM

MEN'S OPEN
1ST Louis Vogel
2ND Jeff Wilson
3RD Brian Griffin

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...

NEWS NOTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

AMPRO IN JUNE...The next regional instructional seminar under AMPRO, American Professional Racquetball Organization, will be at the Lynmar Racquet Club in Colorado Springs, June 24th and June 25th. Another session will be held in Albuquerque in September. Call Gary Mazaroff at (505)266-8960 for more info.

SUNWEST UNDERWRITES JUNIOR CAMP... Sunwest Bank of New Mexico has committed to sponsoring the NMRA Summer Elite Junior Racquetball Camp. Dates are tentatively set for July 12-15.

MEADOW CITY INVITATIONAL HISTORY FOR '95...Folks in Northern New Mexico will have to wait until 1996 for the next Meadow City Invitational at New Mexico Highlands University. Ron Maestas, liaison to the NMRA Board, and tournament director, has informed us that the school administration has not been successful in attempts to repair the courts after the 'great flood' of 1994.

BOARD FACES CHANGE...Many thanks to Pat Thieman for her dedication to the growth of racquetball over the past three years. Pat has tendered her resignation from the NMRA board due to professional obligations. Welcome to UNM students Brock Perkins, Lenny Haran and David Trillo, who were voted onto the board of directors at the April 24th meeting.

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More Results

MEN'S AA
 1ST Jim Cameron
 2ND Dude Burrola
 3RD Jesse Harden

MEN'S A
 1ST Charley Harmon
 2ND Chris Pacheco
 3RD Brad Markin

MEN'S B
 1ST Duane Farmer
 2ND John Lorentzen
 3RD Devin Cannady

MEN'S C
 1ST Brock Perkins
 2ND Dan Lowther
 3RD Greg Garcia

MEN'S D
 1ST Mike Edwards
 2ND Barry Manes
 3RD Manuel Roybal

MEN'S NOVICE
 1ST John Visser
 2ND Joey Bedoya
 3RD Tim Westemeler

MEN'S 30/40+
 1ST Joe Wittenbrink
 2ND Ron Loehman
 3RD Gil Fernandez

MEN'S 50+
 1ST Joe Gellman
 2ND Bud Mulcock
 3RD Tucker Green

MEN'S 60+
 1ST Bill Matotan
 2ND Wendell Hall
 3RD Dean Harvel

WOMEN'S OPEN
 1ST Rachel Gellman
 2ND Cheryl McConaghy
 3RD Tina Bragdon

WOMEN'S AA
 1ST Paula Sperling
 2ND Karen Fuller
 3RD Linda Johns

WOMEN'S A
 1ST Cecille Bodman
 2ND Pat Thleman
 3RD Becky Brannan

WOMEN'S D
 1ST Jeni Fuller
 2ND Gillian Berrich
 3RD Carol Felley

WOMEN'S NOVICE
 1ST Stephanie Padilla
 2ND Lydia Medina
 3RD Jesi Fuller

JUNIORS 8 & UNDER
 1ST Mark Swanson
 2ND Sean Garrett
 3RD Eric Norris

JUNIORS 10 & UNDER
 1ST Roy Lee Luna
 2ND Evan Ussery
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JUNIORS 14 & UNDER
 1ST Drex Fitzwater
 2ND Jeni Fuller

JUNIORS 16 & UNDER
 1ST Jesse Harden

MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES
 1ST Gary Mazaroff
 Jeff Wilson
 Brian Griffin
 Joe Wittenbrink
 2ND Eustace King
 Willie Minor
 3RD

MEN'S B DOUBLES
 1ST Ken Paquin Sr.
 Ken Paquin Jr.
 Steve Holaday
 Steve Strong
 2ND

3RD Gil Fernandez
 Bob Martinez

MEN'S C/D DOUBLES
 1ST Brian Easterday
 Cord Everetts
 Mike Foskey
 Jack Sierra
 Dave Ottmar
 Paul Windmueller
 2ND
 3RD

WOMEN'S OPEN DOUBLES
 1ST Rachel Gellman
 Cheryl McConaghy
 Karen Fuller
 Cyd Hill
 2ND Suzanne Williams
 Cindy Wittenbrink
 3RD

MIXED OPEN DOUBLES
 1ST Cyd Hill

2ND Chris Evans
 Sherri Phlippen
 Brian Griffin
 3RD Cindy Wittenbrink
 Ron Loehman

MIXED AA DOUBLES
 1ST Cindy Wittenbrink
 Ron Loehman
 Esmeralda Berrich
 Cord Everetts
 Linda Johns
 Dan Tokunaga
 2ND
 3RD

MIXED C/D DOUBLES
 1ST Gwen Easterday
 Cord Everetts
 Carol Felley
 Doug Felley
 Lydia Medina
 Tom Lyons
 2ND
 3RD

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