

The Racquetball Reporter

Winter 1993

Quarterly Publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

Huczek Wins World Championship

by Christopher Cole

Imagine if you would, a roll of accomplishments read by ESPN's #1 commentator Chris Berman: "Here is the three-time State Champ, three-time Regional Champ, the defending National Champ and just recently the reigning World Champion!" And imagine also, that you did all of this before your ninth birthday. If you can picture any of this, you might get a flavor for what it's like to be Michigan's Jack Huczek.

Young Jack recently returned from the December Junior World Championships, held annually in Jacksonville, Florida, with the Gold Medal from the eight and under division.

Not stopping with his 8 & under gold, Jack also came back with a bronze medal in the 10 & under division where he competed against boys one or two years older than he. This he says bodes well for this summer's Junior Nationals to be held in Baltimore.

"I think I will have a good chance in Baltimore even though I now have to play in 10 & under. Jim Goodin will be my main competition there," he explained. "But, I beat him twice in Jacksonville so I should be all right."

This note of confidence stems from his almost lifelong history of success in sports. In addition to his national honors, Jack has also tallied up three state and three regional

junior titles.

Jack began playing playing racquetball at the age of two and competed in his first local tournament a year later. "Mom really got me started. I got interested watching her at tournaments and when she played at our club," remembered Jack.

"Yes," his mom Sharon added. "I would take him with me when I played in

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STATE DOUBLES REVISITED

Gorno/Rubich crowned 1992 doubles champions

by Christopher Cole

What do the 1991 Women's A State Singles Champion and the 1992 Women's A State Singles Champion have in common other than the above listed Singles title? Well, Melody Gorno and Marta Rubich can now add the 1992 Women's Open State Doubles Championship to their grow-

ing list of accomplishments.

This year's champs defeated the team Laura Patterson and Dawn Cumberworth in two games at the December event hosted at the One on One Athletic Club in Ann Arbor.

This was the first time the two from the Great Northern part of Michigan had played

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1993 STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS APRIL 23-25

View of the President

by Christopher Cole

We are entering an exciting stretch run for the Michigan racquetballers in the next few months. With State and National Singles fast approaching, many players are currently gearing up for the two big dances in the state and nation. The RAM Board is also preparing for this stretch and are planning on trying to make this year's State Singles the most successful and enjoyable in recent memory.

To this end, the State tournament will be held April 23-25 at the Total Sports Fitness Center in MT. Clemens, site of previous State and Regional Championships. Mt. Clemens has made some changes in its upper level and is now able to seat around 300 people in a sit-down atmosphere. Thus, the RAM Board will be holding a three-meat dinner banquet upstairs for all tournament players. The banquet will be akin to those held at past Davison Pro Stops with RAM player awards given out for the 1992 season.

For those players who are unfamiliar with the RAM Player Awards, let me explain. One Michigan player will be awarded the distinction of Male/Female Athlete of the Year, Male/Female Most Improved Athlete of the Year, Contribution Award and a possible Hall of Fame

Inductee. In the past, these were special awards that added a significant classy touch to our state tournaments or pro-stops and it's time the RAM Board re-instated such a program to recognize the great accomplishments of our racquetball players. Hopefully, these awards will become yearly offerings.

Within this issue, you will find an official entry form for the State Singles tournament. Please fill it out and send it off as soon as you can. The quicker everyone registers, the easier it will be for the RAM Board to make up each division's draw. We hope to have as many divisions go this year as we can, so the more that sign up, the better the entire tournament will be.

There has been a decent number of responses to my survey offered in the last issue of the newsletter, with some interesting constants appearing: the need for more understanding of what the RAM Board actually does for amateur racquetball, RAM members would like to see the cost of tournaments go down, more free clinics given by the State's top players and almost 99% of the respondents like our newsletter. Let me address these issues individually.

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of
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The Racquetball Reporter
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W.T. Blakeslee
Ken Bonnett
Christopher Cole
Marta Rubich
Luke Gunn
Mary Dixon

Huczek top 8 & under player

Continued from page 1
women's leagues at the Gateway Club and he would watch, learn and then practice for hours."

And, it is Mom who still helps out at crunch time after all these years. "I was kind of nervous," smiled Jack shyly. "Jacksonville was the biggest event I had ever played in. Mom helped me calm down at the start of the match."

Besides racquetball, Jack excels naturally in other sports. As his mother explains, "He's the best hockey player on his team. His teammates hate it when he misses a game for a racquetball tournament because he makes their team so good."

Currently, both mom and son are members at the University Racquet Club where Jack takes lessons from Jim Hamilton, a top ten ranked Open player in the state. Both Jack and his mom work to promote our sport by assisting Hamilton with Junior clinics whenever they can.

When discussing the future, it usually is difficult for someone Jack's age to keep their goals realistic. For Jack however, everything seems realistic. "I want to be on the Junior Team USA someday, the Adult USA National Team, and compete in the Olympics." He reflected for a moment and then matter-of-factly stated, "Oh yes, I want

to be the #1 professional racquetball player and a pro hockey player in the NHL." Such lofty goals don't seem too far out of reach for this Ektelon sponsored junior who, in his own words, is a control player using a control player's racquet in the Ektelon *Desire*.

Jack will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Sports Illustrated* in the magazines, *Faces in the Crowd* section.

Judging by the first eight years of Jack's life and sports career, Sharon and husband John can look forward to many more accomplished dreams for their son. If nothing else, they can be content with the fact that "Jack is well known for his composure and on the national level is acknowledged to have great sportsmanship," says Sharon.



Good composure and great sportsmanship; perhaps more adults should imagine themselves having these traits like Jack and maybe they could become as successful as Michigan's newest junior sensation. Congratulations Jack!



The RAM Board of Directors From left to right: Rick Crawford, Maureen Mead, Marta Rubich, Mark Werthman, Lou Ellen Fecher, Tom Blakeslee and Chris Cole

Gorno/Rubich take top doubles honors

Continued from page 1
together as a doubles team. Thus, expectations were low and pressure was nonexistent. Said Gorno, "Marta first asked, then begged me to play because she was having trouble finding a partner. I finally agreed even though I hadn't been preparing for a tournament the weeks leading up to the State Doubles." Rubich concurred, "Laura (Patterson) and Val (Springer) and others that I talked to either already had partners or were not playing. Melody was my last resort. Because we had never played together before, we simply went in with the idea we weren't going to take ourselves too seriously. We just wanted to have fun."

Fun is exactly what they got by winning their first state



title in doubles. Both were hard-pressed to answer why they performed so well together despite their lack of experience with one another. Said Rubich, "more than anything else we stayed in communication on the court and off. This helped us to stay focused in all our matches." Gorno replied, "we began with a tough match against the veteran team of Paula Saad and Stacey Barbas, and after beating such a good team we seemed to gain a lot of confidence the rest of the way."

Both players were similar in their response to winning. Gorno felt fantastic and could barely believe it had happened. "After our first round, which we had not expected to win, everything else was gravy." Rubich also thought the title was great, but that the enormity of the title gradually increased with her friends and co-worker's excitement. "They were all psyched for me and since Melody and I are just breaking into Women's Open singles play, this makes the State Doubles title all the more impressive."

Away from the court both Gorno and Rubich have interesting jobs. Gorno works for Central Michigan University as the Director of Canadian Programs in which she oversees the recruitment of some 800+ students studying and

working in Canada. Besides this, she is an active member of the Saginaw Valley Heath and Racquet Center participating in a Men's A doubles league there. She is married to Mark as of October 10 and so far reports that all is okay on the domestic front. "I travel a lot for my job, but my marriage to Mark hasn't hindered the amount of time I can spend on my racquetball game."

Rubich is a long time Project Accountant for Dow Chemical, while serving as racquetball instructor for the Midland Community Center. Beyond that she has become a member of the RAM Board and has taken an active role in organizing a RAM Women's Committee to help spur the growth of women's involvement in the sport. Along with Gorno, and fellow Midlander, DeLois Leapheart, Rubich also ran a highly successful tournament in early January at Gorno's home club. Their simple goal is to increase and help racquetball tournament popularity in the upper part of Michigan.

Looking around the condition of racquetball in Michigan, Gorno and Rubich came up with similar comments regarding doubles play. "In most tournaments doubles players are stuck at the club

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View of the Vice-President

by W.T. Blakeslee

It is hard to believe that only two more months of racquetball are left as I write this article and by the time you read it, if you do, probably only four weeks until the States.

First, if you can, please play in the Olympic Regional to make it a big event for the kids. Lou Ellen and I will try to make it as fun as possible. Total Sports in Mt. Clemens, has really improved their upstairs lounge with darts, pool and other events. It will also be a good idea to try out the courts for the States which is also going to be held there. I would like to extend my thanks to Wayne over at the Coliseum for the several years as our host for the fine job he did with the event.

The best news of the year so far is the growth of your Board of Directors. This can only mean good things as the new members try to promote the sport.

Ken Bonnett's tournaments also continue to impress, as the one at Maple Courts was the biggest event so far of the year. It was nice to see a tournament in the East Side of Detroit.

The last thing I would like to discuss is the National Junior Scholarship Fund. We and the AARA are trying to raise \$5000 for the juniors. The AARA tries to award scholar-

ships in the increments of \$500. Several of Michigan's Juniors have had the benefit of this assistance. We have raised almost 25% of our goal. If you could donate or contribute, make your checks payable to the AARA or to RAM and mail them to me. A place for donation is available on the State Entry Form enclosed in this issue of the newsletter. John Mooney has promised to wear a pierced earring if we make our goal. Anything you could do to help would be appreciated. Can you imagine a retired Air Force officer wearing an earring? Please donate what you can.

See you on the hardwood.

TURKEY'S EXTINCT?

Several players who were victorious at the November 20-22 Racquetball One Event have mentioned that they did not receive their winning bird. Ken has contacted Bil Mar Foods and they have indicated that they were sent before Christmas. If you were a winner and your bird flew south instead of adorning your dinner table, please give Ken a call. Something will be done to correct this matter. Next year we will give out Dodo birds instead!

Junior Olympic Regional to be held in Mt. Clemens

The Region 9 Olympic Junior Regional and State Singles Warm-Up will be held again this year at the Total Sports Fitness Center in Mt. Clemens. The Olympic Junior tournament will be held in combination with a regular tournament event. Last year's event drew almost 100 entrants and it is hoped the 1993 event will be even better.

The event is directed by Tom Blakeslee and Lou Ellen Fecher. With the Total Sports Club serving as host, players

will have the opportunity to get some practice on the same courts where the State Singles will be held.

The tournament is designed to minimize the time commitment required and maximize the participation. Matches will not be played on Friday and all entrants will get to play at least two matches in the revised Olympic format. Please try to play and come out and visit both Total Sports and Jerry and Linda of Sports Plus.

Saginaw tourney successful

After a two year absence, racquetball returned to Saginaw, Michigan with the Tri-Cities Singles and Doubles Tournament, hosted by the Saginaw Valley Health and Racquet Center.

With one-third of the participants being new to tournament play, an orientation was held before matches began on Saturday to cover some of the rules that are generally not used during league and social play. In addition, Saturday afternoon the players were treated to a racquetball clinic, sponsored by Ektelon and conducted by National Champion Chris Cole. Ektelon also provided door prizes ranging from head bands to racquetball bags.

In spite of the snow on the ground and the frigid air temperature, the players were treated to a picnic lunch on both Saturday and Sunday, with conis-dogs from Michigan Coni-Island hot off the grill. Special thanks to our chef, Mark Gorno.

In match play, Chris Cole won the Men's Open draw, making quick work of Jim Hamilton. Commenting on his off day, Jim said he felt like he was watching Chris play tee-ball with the number of set-ups Jim gave him. However, Jim did capture the trophy in the 25A division.

The eight women in the

Open draw all decided to play blind draw doubles, as well as their singles divisions. Playing round robin, Leslie Kishigan and Marta Rubich formed the only lefty-righty team and took the victory, dropping only one game along the way. The two partners also met in the Women's Open finals, with Marta taking top honors.

In other round robin action Women's action, Denise Knoll won the A division and Lisa Lomax won the C division.

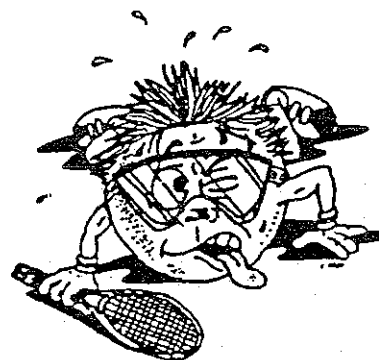
Don Stadnika enjoyed a successful weekend, finishing as runner-up to Lenny Chaltraw in Men's B and to Hank Gates in 30B. Don seemed to be on the court the entire weekend, and commented that he definitely got his money's worth. Other double winners included Ron Cunningham and Rob Hemple. Cunningham met Rick Crawford in the D finals in a closely contested match that ended with Rick on top. Ron did win the C consolation round. Rob Hemple won Men's C and teamed with Roger Clauss to win the B doubles Round Robin.

The Tri-Cities Tournament was made possible by the support of our sponsor, Chemical Bank and Trust, which services the Saginaw, Midland and Bay City area. Also contributing were Rick Vanderlind & Sons, Ernie

Krygier Service, and State Farm Insurance Agents Jim Parker and Wayne Jackson. Hospitality was provided by Michigan Coni-Island, Domino's Pizza, Jack's Fruit Market and Dunkin' Donuts.

The players enjoyed the tournament, as the directors received many compliments. Jim Hamilton expressed what was perhaps the best part of the tournament, commenting that "it was also a pleasure to see some new and exciting young faces in other divisions. As we all know, it is these new players that help keep the drive alive when it comes to this great game of racquetball."

The tournament directors would like to thank all the players who had to travel from around the state, and as always, encourage all the new RAM members to stay involved in tournaments.

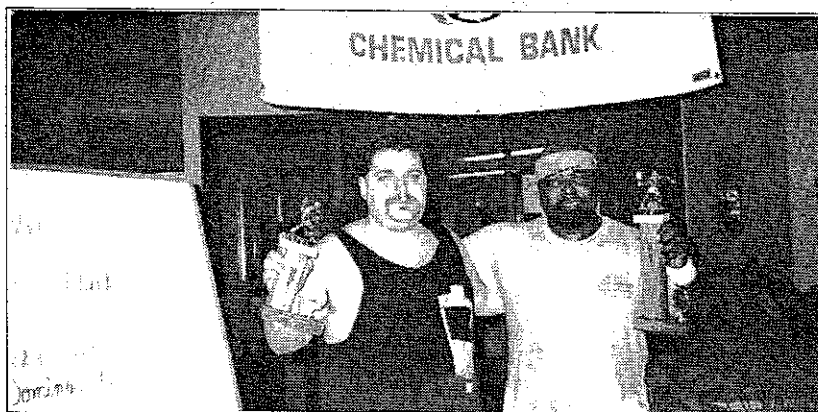




Above, Marta Rubich congratulates Art Matlock, the Men's Novice winner, in his first ever tournament.



Rob Hemple defeated Shane McKibben in Men's C



Ron Cunningham and Rick Crawford battled for the Men's D Crown, with Ron coming out on top

WOMEN'S OPEN

Marta Rubich
def.
Leslie Kishigan

WOMEN'S A

Denise Knoll
def.
Dawn Cumberworth

WOMEN'S C

Lisa Lomax
def.
Nancy Personette

OPEN BLIND DRAW DOUBLES

Marta Rubich/Leslie Kishigan

MEN'S OPEN

Chris Cole
def.
Jim Hamilton

MEN'S B

Lenny Chaltraw
def.
Don Stadnicka

MEN'S C

Rob Hemple
def.
Shane McKibben

MEN'S D

Rick Crawford
def.
Ron Cunningham

MEN'S NOVICE

Art Matlock
def.
Dahin Bose

MEN'S B DOUBLES

Rob Hemple/Roger Clauss

CONSOLATION WINNERS:

MEN'S B

Richard Knoll

MEN'S C

Ron Cunningham

MEN'S D

Bob Loftus

1992-93 Michigan Player Rankings

MEN'S OPEN

Chris Cole	325
Jim Floyd	315
Nick Rallis	170
Joel Bonnett	150
Mark Werthman	110
Scott Worthy	90
Jim Hamilton	80
Jeff Kummeler	65
Scott Hale	50
Troy Hall	45

MEN'S A

Scott Hale	175
Bob Gravelyn	100
Jay Liggins	60
Larry Panetta	60
Pat Burdick	50
Dennis Barrow	50
Scott Sellars	50
Bud Helgevold	50
Troy Altenburg	50
Charles White	50
John Kundrot	50
Ian Ladomer	50

MEN'S B

Jaime Kurzman	160
Scott Sellars	150
Larry Sarver	100
Jim Davidson	100
Hal Rosenberg	80
Manny Amato	80
Scott Crowley	65
Robert Fournier	50
Russ Buza	50
Mark Fedus	50
Ron Bonds	50
Mark White	50
Dale Flaska	50
Lenny Chaltraw	50
Pat Burdick	50

MEN'S C

John Hall	145
Scott Sargent	100
Steve Marsh	100
Todd Mead	65

MEN'S C (cont.)

Bob Reou	65
Scott Crowley	60
Chuck Van Hoose	60
John Wall	50
Tom Elliot	50
Rob Moesta	50
Dennis Dinaver	50
Greg Lund	50
Brad Phillips	50
Ron Harris	50
Rob Hemple	50
Marke McDonald	50

MEN'S D

Steve Marsh	100
Brad Phillips	100
Bill Panagos	85
Rick Crawford	85
Ted Vadella	85
Jack Huczek	75
Kevin Bowen	65
Robert Collins	65
Rick Gutowski	60
Ron Cunningham	60
Brian Schiedmantel	60

MEN'S NOVICE

Kevin Harkness	100
Tom DeLoach	50
Mike Maroni	50
Rick Rupp	50
Dick Tedford	50
Jim Kent	50
Art Matlock	50
Alan Albright	40
Andy Mead	35
Jason Goy	30
Ted Zavadil	30

MEN'S 25+ A

Scott Pufahl	100
Jai Shekhawat	50
Ron Klicki	50
Jim Hamilton	50
Dan Verbeck	30
Mark Werthman	30
Shawn Battle	25

MEN'S 25+ A (cont.)

Johnny Northern	25
Steve Malik	15
Manny Amato	15
Mike Hotra	15
Ray Vanover	15

MEN'S 25+ B

Steve Marsh	50
Larry Tinskey	25

MEN'S 30+ A

Greg Hodges	100
Scott Worthy	100
Mike Anderson	75
Rob Fobar	50
Hal Rosenberg	50
Jack White	30
Dave Paskan	30
Dennis Barrow	25
Bill Keizer	25
Jeff Connell	25

MEN'S 30+ B

Ray Matthews	100
Les Brumar	50
Hank Gates	50
Hal Rosenberg	50
Russ Buza	30
Mike Davis	30
Don Stadnika	25
Tom LaFave	25
Shane McKibben	15
Greg Temple	15
Jerry Spruit	15
Richard Knoll	15

MEN'S 35+A

Scott Worthy	315
Clee Melvin	175
Gerald Woolum	115
Jim Woolcock	105
Johnny Northern	80
Randy Anderson	65
Todd Bedenis	60
Stu Hastings	50
Marty Mangino	50

MEN'S 35+ A (cont.)

Curt Ferrell	50
Celeo Miles	50

MEN'S 35+ B

Ron Bonds	155
Scott Bruce	100
Rick Totin	75
Ray Emerson	60
Van Conway	50
Don Stadnika	50
Scott Stone	50
Al Klann	50
Jim Panasiewicz	50
Hank Ferry	50
Kirt Holtrey	50

MEN'S 40+ A

Marty Mangino	215
Bob Gravelyn	195
Ric Scott	125
Jim Santino	115
Doug Toth	115
Tom Blakeslee	100
Jon Gervasi	65
Ben Grigg	50
Jim Panasiewicz	50
Stu Hastings	50
Jerel Jones	50
Bill Hagedorn	50
Ray Vanover	50

MEN'S 40+ B

Terry Lawlor	150
Allan Mell	50
Jim Panasiewicz	50
Rick Duffett	50
Tom Sharum	50
Alan Kohl	50
John Hess	50
Jerry Eldred	40
Steve Burghdorf	30
Mike McClinchey	30

MEN'S 45+ A

Bob Gravelyn	265
Tom Brownlee	100
Ken Bonnett	100
Marty Mangino	100

MEN'S 45+ A (cont.)

Mike Stephens	90
Gordon Kelly	75
Ed Barter	60
Ron Morse	55
Dennis Drury	50
Ron Slavik	50

MEN'S 45+ B

Ron Slavik	100
Rick Totin	50
Phil Burney	30
Sixto Calvo	30

MEN'S 50+ A

Dennis Drury	165
Jess Madden	115
Paul Becker	90
Art Murphy	80
Hank Gates	80
Jerry Gray	50
Jim Connor	50
Lynn Hahn	50
Gordon Kelly	50
George Stec	40

Further player
rankings on page 14

TOURNAMENTS INCLUDED:

#1-1992 State Singles	Coliseum Club, Taylor
#2-Aug. 28-30, 1992	Racquettime Rollout, Livonia
#3-Sept. 18-20, 1992	Racquetball One Livonia
#4-Oct. 2-4, 1992	Racquetball One, Petoskey
#5-Oct. 16-18, 1992	One on One, Ann Arbor
#6-Oct. 23-25, 1992	Racquetball One, Grand Rapids
#7-Nov. 6-8, 1992	Racquetball One, Grand Blanc
#8-Nov. 13-15, 1992	Seniors/Masters, Grand Blanc
#9-Nov. 20-22, 1992	Racquetball One, Grand Rapids
#10-Nov. 20-22, 1992	Racquettime Rollout, Livonia
#11-Dec. 11-13, 1992	Racquetball One, Omni Club
#12-Jan. 8-10, 1993	Racquettime Rollout, Livonia
#13-Jan. 15-17, 1993	Racquetball One, Grand Rapids
#14-Jan. 22-24, 1993	Tri-Cities Racquetball, Saginaw
#15-Jan. 29-31, 1993	Racquetball One Seniors, Lansing
#16-Feb. 19-21, 1993	Racquetball One, Maple Courts

POINT SYSTEM

Players receive points in divisions as follows:

1st — 50 (100 for States Singles)
2nd — 25 (50 for State Singles)
Semis — 15 (30 for State Singles)
Quarters — 10 (20 for State Singles)

Player expresses thanks, highlights tourney

Dear Racquetball Reporter,

Just recently, after almost a year and a half break from playing Michigan racquetball, I finally found time in my busy schedule to play in a Racquetball One series tournament. It was held at the Omni Fitness Center in Muskegon. I realized that racquetball in Michigan had decreased in last few years, and being aware of that, was worried about the quality of tournaments available. I must say I was extremely pleased to find that the Racquetball One Series and all their sponsors are doing an excellent job making quality tournaments available to Michiganders. Ken Bonnett and the staff at the Omni Fitness Center made for an enjoyable weekend. All of the things that racquetball players look for were covered: hospitality, food and drinks throughout the weekend, inexpensive and convenient lodging, on-time matches, well-maintained courts, clear, promptly updated tournament sheets, and some of the best racquetball players in the nation. It is unfortunate that the number of players showing up for tournaments are down right now. Believe me, it is not because of lack of effort by Ken and his staff.

Also, I would like to thank Chris Cole and Jimmy Floyd for taking time out to put on

an instructional clinic. The format was excellent. They were very personable and extremely informative. Just to be able to talk to players of this caliber in a personal, instructional format is worth the entry fee alone. The type of information that these players can give is invaluable. I am sure all the players that attended the clinic appreciated the instruction and information as much as I did. Hopefully we will see more in the future.

Attending this tournament allowed me to see that first-class tournaments are at our disposal in Michigan. The only thing that is lacking are larger draws. I can see that if each RAM member did just a

little more to promote our sport, Michigan could easily be one of the best states in the country for racquetball.

Michigan is already rich with racquetball talent. I can name at least a dozen national level players right off the top of my head. I know part of the fun of racquetball tournaments is traveling to new places and meeting new people. But, at least while we travel we should say things about our state and our tournaments so that players will want to travel to our state. I am sure that they won't be disappointed. Keep up the good work, Ken and crew.

Sincerely,
Luke Gunn

TOP PROS TO TEACH CAMP IN MICHIGAN

Professionally ranked Ruben Gonzalez and three-time world doubles champion Doug Ganim will be at the Total Sports Fitness Center in Mt. Clemens to teach an ***America's Most Wanted Racquetball Camp*** on April 17-18.

The camp features one on one instruction with the world's best, as well as videotape analysis. Camp hours are from 10 am to 4 pm and all levels from beginner to advanced are encouraged to attend. Discounts are available for families and to juniors. Class sizes are limited so sign-up early.

For further information or to register, call **1-800-ROLLOUT.**

Rubich joins RAM Board

by Marta Rubich

Having recently joined the RAM Board of Directors, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to Michigan racquetball players and supporters.

I grew up in Ohio and moved to Midland, Michigan in 1990, as the result of a job transfer. I am employed as an accountant at the Dow Chemical Company.

I was first introduced to racquetball just after graduating from high school, then took it as a physical education requirement in college. I continued to play for the exercise, while playing my first tournament in 1988. I've been hooked ever since. I now also teach racquetball classes and give lessons at the Midland Community Center.

I joined the RAM Board because I wanted to get involved and give something back to racquetball. To date, I have spent most of my time listening, and I really want to hear what you have to say. Please come up to me at tournaments and introduce yourself. I want to get to know you and hear your ideas. I have only one rule — if you have a criticism, I also want to hear a suggestion for improving or a compliment as well. Comments about anything impacting racquetball are also wel-

come.

My observations so far are that there are a lot of great ideas out there. However, either these ideas are not being communicated, or there are not enough people to work on them. If we want Michigan racquetball to remain strong and grow, we must make it a winning situation for players, tournament directors and racquetball



clubs.

I'm looking forward to meeting you and helping racquetball in Michigan.

Racquetball One's Grand Finale on its way

Ken Bonnett is preparing for the March 26-28 Grand Finale, to be held in Lansing. The beautiful Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing is not the only drawing card. The Athletic Club Restaurant & Banquet Center will also provide another excellent weekend of hospitality. Lots of good food throughout the finale and a beer party Saturday night is planned for all of those tired out players. Plus, the winners of each event will receive the traditional GRAND FINALE CHAMPIONSHIP SWEATSHIRT.

Singles play will begin on Friday and doubles play will be offered Saturday evening. Players who plan to stay overnight should contact the Harley Hotel for special tournament rates — \$45 per night.

Anyone interested in the game of squash may sign-up on the entry form and play one of the squash divisions as a second event.

Plan on spending the weekend at one of the finest athletic facilities in the country. Entry deadline is March 23. Please respond as early as possible. All prepaid entries received before the deadline will be included in the early bird draw, with a chance to win Ektelon shoes or bag.

President responds to player survey

Continued from page 2

The overall goal and job of the RAM Board is the promotion of amateur racquetball through the State Singles and Doubles Championships, sanctioning individual tournaments within the state and working to gain more members as an affiliate of the American Amateur Racquetball Association. There is a limit on what the RAM Board can do obviously, as each board member is a volunteer. None of the board members are paid for the work we do each month. Thus, when it all comes down to time available for Board work, priorities like our income jobs and family and personal commitments must come first. The RAM Board does what it can with the time available to us. Also, now that we have more Board members, up from five to eight, there are more people able to help with specific projects that have long been on the back burner. The addition of Marta Rubich, Maureen Mead and Rick Crawford will enable the Board to do much more in terms of programs.

Tournament cost is a problem and one that is better solved by the individual tournament directors. When I ran tournaments, the entry fee was never more than \$35, except for Pro events priced at \$37.50. With the exceptions of

the State Singles, I don't believe an entry fee over \$35 is feasible with today's poor economy. The \$47 entry fee for this year's State Singles may seem high at first, but when you factor in a couple of things, it is not so high after all. Once expenses from the event are added up (court cost, plaques, collared shirts, full three-meat banquet, State awards, etc) RAM will net off the State's a decent chunk of change. However, this money is already earmarked for projects later in the year, so it's not like the Board splits it up for profit. On the contrary, all of it goes to pay for at least two, possibly three newsletters, which are the lifeblood of our organization and our paramount link to the members of RAM. Overall, if people stop playing tournaments because \$35 is too high, tournament directors will obviously have to take note or die-off. Personally, \$30-35 is definitely a fair fee to play in a tournament, unless players want to start giving up plaques, trophies, shirts, hospitality and the like. The cost of running a tournament is extremely high and unless you have backing from sponsors, it is difficult to make enough profit to continue such an arduous task.

Free clinics are a great idea, but it is difficult to feasibly

expect them on a large scale. I will do my share of them this year, but to do 30-40 of them like some respondents suggested, is totally unfair to those who would teach them. After working 30+ hours per week, going to college full-time, playing nearly 30 tournaments each year out of only 52 weekends, free-time for me is extremely limited. Perhaps if I was governing the kind of money tennis players do, I could do it. If I am struggling to make it like I am now, giving 20-30 free clinics would be signing my fate as a player. I want to give back to the sport, but not at the expense of my financial and spiritual survival. The 1992-93 season will see me do at least nine free clinics in Michigan and at least thirteen clinics/exhibitions around the country.

As for the instructional articles in the reporter, it has usually been a policy to leave that to the AARA's Racquetball Magazine which provides enough instructional articles from the best in the business. However, that is not a reason to say no, if there is enough demand from the *Reporter's* readership. So, I have gone through and come up with a series of articles dealing mostly with

Continued on page 13

RAM Board highlights new programs

Continued from page 12
problem areas I have discovered while teaching clinics. There seems to be a consistent pattern on what people have trouble with and I hope I can shed some light on what problems your game is facing. These articles will begin in the next issue of the *Reporter*.

New Michigan player rankings also appear on pages eight and nine of this issue. Only Michigan tournaments from RAM's 1992-93 tournament card are included.

A new program high on the RAM Board's list of priorities is our women's committee headed by Board member Marta Rubich. My goal is for

this new committee to become an extension of the Board assisting with individual clubs to bring more women into the sport and tournaments. At the recent Racquetball One tournament in Troy, Marta presided over a meeting of 20 women with topics ranging from women's only events, to clinics and grass roots development.

Stay tuned to the *Reporter* for Marta's first women's racquetball column in the next issue and for special details about upcoming RAM female special events.

I have been particularly long-penned this issue, but it was important for me to do

so. When it has to do with Michigan racquetball, my phone and mailbox are also waiting to receive correspondence. My address is: 2502 Kentucky, Flint, MI 48506. I can be reached at (313) 239-4130 or (313) 653-9602.

One last thing; congratulations are in order to Jack and Sandy White on the birth of their baby boy!

See you at the States.

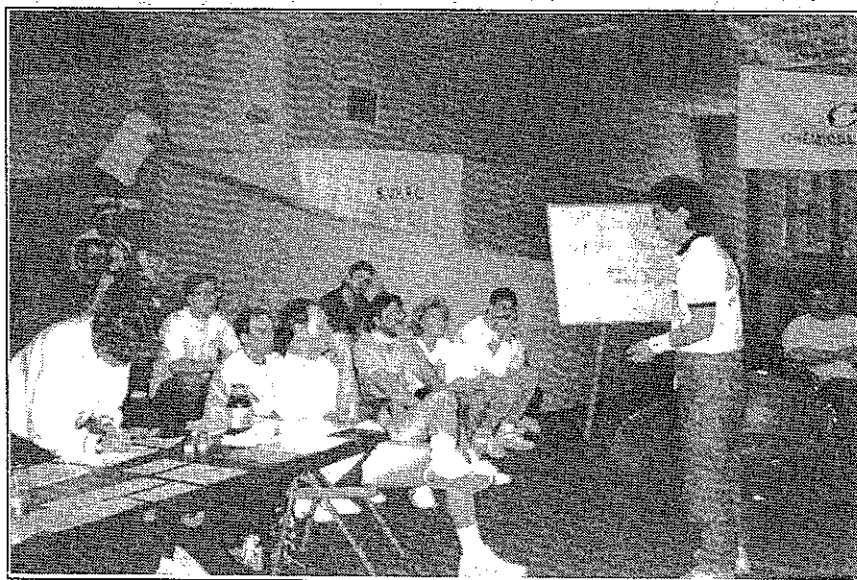
Maple Courts Club thanks Racquetball One

by Mary Dixon

Maple Athletic Club would like to thank Ken Bonnett for bringing the Racquetball One Tournament series to our club. Our tournament of February 19-21, was our biggest event of the year. We would like to thank all the players that competed that weekend. Their will to win and drive to compete reinforced the importance of holding such events. Tournaments are a place to demonstrate one's talents and abilities, while enjoying comradere of fellow participants.

We believe that everyone in the racquetball community; players, pros and club owners, should support tournament events to maintain the prestige and integrity racquetball deserves.

Keep hosting tournaments, keep participating, keep the drive alive!



Chris Cole, National and World Champion, plans on giving numerous free clinics throughout Michigan. Above, is Chris instructing players at the recent Tri-City Singles and Doubles Championship held in Saginaw. For a complete list of Michigan clinics, see page 15

1992-93 Michigan Player Rankings

MEN'S 50+ B

Oscar Olivo	100
Phil Burney	50
Vince Callahan	30
Dan D'Angelo	30

MEN'S 55+ A

Ron Pudduck	100
Hank Gates	95
Dave Lund	90
Bob Finkleman	50
Paul Becker	50
Bob Filiatreau	50
Bruce Stevens	30
Dick Tedford	25
Lynn Hahn	25
Frank Dascenza	25

MEN'S 60+ A

Lynn Hahn	200
Chuck Kaiser	130
JD Driver	50
Robert McClelland	45
Bob Finkleman	25

MEN'S 65+ A

Duane Russell	100
Bob Finkleman	65
JD Driver	50
Gerry Leone	30
Art Burke	30
Phil Dziuk	25
Gary DeFrayne	15
Richard Caretti	10

JUNIORS 16 & Under

Greg Wiklanski	50
Eric Hoshield	25
Andy Mead	15

JUNIORS 12 & Under

Jack Huczek	100
Chris Emerson	30
Andy Mead	25
Brandon Saad	25
Brian Reou	15

JUNIORS 8 & Under

Jack Huczek	100
Ian Emerson	65
Andy Mead	50
Chris Copeland	50
Matt Raymond	25
Nicole Stekette	25
Brian Reou	15

WOMEN'S OPEN

Lin Showerman	300
Laura Patterson	190
Valeria Springer	175
Marta Rubich	130
Felicia Mann	90
Leslie Kishigan	80
Betty Ann Gilliland	60
Sharon Huczek	55
Melody Gorno	45
Julie May	40
Dawn Cumberworth	40
Pam Parkhurst	40

WOMEN'S A

Pam Parkhurst	130
Marta Rubich	115
Karen Green	105
Carol Marshall	90
Denise Knoll	65
Kathy Beck	50
Denise Gravelyn	50
Carol Hoss	50
Melody Gorno	50
Judy Rosenberg	50

WOMEN'S B

Karen Green	100
Barbara Swaab	100
Kerry Bergum	50
Laurie Greening	50
Denise Knoll	50
Judy Rosenberg	50
Terry Harris	50
Diana Trombley	45
Diane Pearson	30
Patty Noiles	25
Rebecca Thelen	25
Nancy Rentz	25

WOMEN'S B (cont.)

Denise Gravelyn	25
Michelle Moore	25

WOMEN'S C

Beth McRae	115
Marianne McHugh	100
Denise Knoll	100
Judy Porter	55
Nancy Personette	55
Rebecca Thelen	50
Joan Caleo	50
Susan Cary	50
Lisa Lomax	50
Joan Cleland	50

WOMEN'S D

Kathy Foley	100
Judy Porter	50
Patty Kanopsky	50
Lisa Lomax	50
Nancy Personette	25
Linda Clynick	15

WOMEN'S 25+ A

Valeria Springer	100
Paula Saad	50
Marta Rubich	30
Felicia Mann	30

WOMEN'S 30+ A

Diane McCauley	100
Pam Parkhurst	95
Kaye Harrington	50
Laura Patterson	50
Leslie Kishigan	30
Marta Rubich	25
Lisa Lomax	25
Karen Green	15
Denise Knoll	15
Natalie Loell	15

WOMEN'S 35+ A

Laura Patterson	100
Cindy Sieders	50
Karen Green	50
Lin Showerman	50

Women's doubles champs speak out

Continued from page 4
until midnight after most singles matches have finished," Gorno insisted.

"We need to quit treating doubles players as second class citizens by promoting it more in tournaments. Make it a regular event like singles and see the response from the players," Rubich replied.

In addition to these concerns, both players spoke in unison

about the lack of attention paid to the women's game. "It is about time some results of women's play gets some print," vented Gorno. "In a previous article on State Doubles in *The Racquetball Reporter*, both Men's Open finals and Mixed Open finals got some print. The Women's Open finals didn't get mentioned once and I think that is not right," explained Rubich.

As far as next year's title defense goes, is there any doubt these two will be back? "We will definitely be back next year," exclaimed Gorno, "hopefully we won't put any pressure on ourselves. We'll just go out and have fun." Partner Rubich agreed wholeheartedly, "there's no doubt that we will be back next year. It should be a lot of fun, win or lose."

.....

Rankings continued

WOMEN'S 35+ A (cont.)

Judy Rosenberg	15
Nancy Bostrom	15

WOMEN'S 35+ B

Lenore Zeleneck	100
Lorraine Gohr	50
Diane Trombley	30
Nancy Walsh	30

WOMEN'S 40+ A

Peg Shaw	100
Denise Gravelyn	65
Barbara Swaab	50
Shelly Ogden	50
Betty Ann Gilliland	25
Michelle Biernot	15
Jean Chastain	15
Janet Insko	15

WOMEN'S 45+ A

Betty Ann Gilliland	150
Vicki Gazayerli	50
Bridgette Hartz	25

CHRIS COLE'S FREE CLINICS 1993 Season

**Saginaw Valley Health and Racquet
Center, Saginaw
Jan. 23, 1993**

**Racquettime, Livonia
Feb. 19, 1993**

**Maple Courts, Troy
Feb. 20, 1993**

**Davison Racquet & Fitness Club
Mar. 10, 1993**

**Trenton Athletic Club, Trenton
Mar. 26, 1993**

**Michigan Athletic Club, Lansing
Mar. 27, 1993**

**University Racquet & Health Club,
Auburn Hills
April 17, 1993**

**Total Sports Fitness Center, Mt. Clemens
April 24, 1993**



PRESENTS THE

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APRIL 23-25, 1993

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TOTAL SPORTS FITNESS CENTER
40501 Production Dr.
Mt. Clemens, MI 48045
(313) 463-2000

ENTRY FEE:

\$47 - First event
\$25 - First event juniors
\$15 - Second event
\$5 discount to all certified referees
Players may enter two events - one age &
one skill or two different age divisions
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO RAM
Non-AARA members add \$15

MAIL ENTRIES TO:

RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS
3152 S. Henderson
Davison, MI 48423

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:

Tom Blakeslee (313) 468-2787 (evenings)

ENTRY DEADLINE:

Must be received by SUNDAY, APRIL
18, 1993. ALL ENTRIES ARE FINAL. NO
ENTRIES ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAY-
MENT. No phone entries. Call the club
Wednesday, April 21 after 5:00 p.m. for
starting times.

HOTEL:

KNIGHTS INN (313) 294-6140
\$35.95 plus tax, per night 1-4 people

RULES:

AARA rules apply - 2 games to 15, tiebreaker
to 11. LENSED EYEWEAR FOR RACQUET
SPORTS IS MANDATORY

TOURNAMENT BALL:

PENN ULTRA BLUE

BANQUET SATURDAY NIGHT

TOP 1992 PLAYERS TO BE HONORED

FREE TOURNEY SHIRT TO ALL ENTRANTS

PLEASE ENTER ME IN THE EVENT(S) CIRCLED BELOW. PLAYERS MAY ENTER TWO EVENTS -
ONLY ONE SKILL LEVEL. YOU MUST BE A MICHIGAN RESIDENT TO ENTER.

MEN**WOMEN**

OPEN	NOVICE	35A	45B	65	16B	8
A	19	35B	50A	70	14A	8 MB
B	25	40A	50B	18A	14B	Wheelchair
C	30A	40B	55	18B	12	
D	30B	45A	60	16A	10	

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: DAYS _____

EVENINGS _____

SHIRT SIZE: (circle one) M L XL Olympic Scholarship Contribution _____

DO YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING THE BANQUET? YES NO If not, your tickets will be sold on a first
come, first serve basis to others interested in attending.

WAIVER: I hereby for myself, heirs, etc., waive and release all rights & claims for damages I may have against
RAM and its sponsors for all injuries which may be suffered by me in conjunction with my competition in said
tournament.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

BANQUET: A three-meat banquet will be held at the club on Saturday night. All players can attend. Tickets for family members and others interested in attending will be available for purchase, on a first come, first serve basis during the tournament on Saturday.

1992 PLAYER AWARDS: Awards for Most Improved Male/Female, Best Male/Female Athlete and Contribution award for the 1992 season will be given out during the banquet.

REFEREES: Losers must referee the next match or pay \$5.00.

LOCKERS AND TOWELS: Bring your own locks. Towels provided with a \$2.00 deposit and \$50 charge for use.

HOSPITALITY: Will be provided throughout the tournament. Free to players and a nominal charge for guests.

AWARDS AND PRIZES: Awards given for the first four places in divisions of 12 or more; the first two places in divisions of 5-11 and 1st in consolation. Each player will receive a souvenir **collared shirt**.

PLAY MAY BEGIN as early as 3:00 p.m. on Friday. Special requests for starting times will be honored if possible, but no refunds will be given if a player cannot make his or her starting time.

ENTRY DEADLINE APRIL 18, 1993

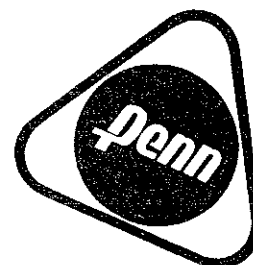
DRAW TO BE COMPLETED ON APRIL 19, 1993

FORM IS NOT COMPLETE OR IS ENTRY ACCEPTED UNLESS MONEY FOR THE CORRECT AMOUNT IS ENCLOSED AND ALL INFORMATION IS COMPLETE.

penn

AARA
AMERICAN AMATEUR RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

RAM



1993 STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Membership includes:

- * Membership card, AARA official rule book, travel and equipment discounts
- * AARA medical, life and liability insurance at sanctioned events
- * Four issues of the RAM newsletter, The Racquetball Reporter
- * Six issues of the AARA national publication, Racquetball Magazine
- * RAM sanctioned tournament entry forms mailed to your home
- * Eligibility to play in all sanctioned tournaments and receive state and national ranking points



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Date of Birth _____ Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

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