

Racquetball Reporter

February 1997

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1996 State Doubles Championships

The 1996 Racquetball Association of Michigan State Doubles Championships was once again a huge success. Ninety-seven people participated, with 54 of those playing two events.

One on One Athletic Club in Ann Arbor hosted the tournament again this year providing a wonderful atmosphere and hospitality.

One downside to the event was the lack of female participation. For the first time ever, the only women's event was the open division as no one entered a lower division.

Results are as follows:

Men's Open

Mike Johnston/Nick Rallis
def.

Eddie Carr/Greg Hodges

Men's A

Eddie Carr/Scott Sargent
def.

Steven Gradwohl/Andy Khadr

Men's B

Ron Barden/Hershel Sloan
def.

Marv Riley/Mark Niedzielski

Men's C

Al Pietri/Dick Pizzo
def.

Mike Doolan/Dave Starr

Men's 25 /30

Jess Graves/Jack White
def.

Rick Davenport/Larry Panetta

Men's 35+

Jim Woolcock/Dan Verbeck
def.

Jack White/Jim Panasiewicz

Men's 40+

Jim Woolcock/Ron Morris
def.

Marv Riley/Mark Niedzielski

Men's 45+

Al Mell/Ric Scott
def.

Bob Gravelyn/Michael
Stephens

Mixed Open

Paula Saad/Nick Rallis
def.

Lisa Ecker/Mike Johnston

Mixed A

Michelle Moore/Mark Ohs
def.

Claire Kruse/Mike Young

Mixed B/C

Yuni Cobb/Ron Patterson
def.

Kim Dobbs/Michael Asada

Women's Open

Leslie Kishigan/Jan Insko
def.

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View of the President

by **W.T. Blakeslee**

I've just returned from the annual USRA Leadership Conference and I thought I would pass on some of the highlights. The first thing you should notice is that we have changed our name to the USRA, short for the United States Racquetball Association. The purpose is to continue our quest to attach our sport to the Olympics by aligning our name similarly to the other Olympic bodies. Over seventy participants attended the four day event including many manufacturers.

The US Open at Memphis drew a lot of discussion and will be on

ESPN 2 in the Spring. A glass court was constructed for this event and RAM donated almost one thousand dollars for its construction. Many players from Michigan attended this event with Joel Bonnett winning the undercard "Open" event and making his mark in the pro program.

It took like the racquets will be getting longer, the manufacturers are going to add another inch and will be used in tournament play in September. Jack Huczek won another World Championship in December. The RAM State Doubles was a lot of fun and many had a great time at the One on One Athletic Club in Ann Arbor.

Please continue to support the Racquetball One Tournament Series. Tournament director Ken Bonnett has switched to a one day format and it seems to be working. Don King will have the first Players club tournament on March 8, 1997. And, don't forget to mark your calendars for the RAM State Singles Championships to be held in Davison on April 11-13, 1997.

The recently married Nick Rallis joined the RAM board and will be a great asset in promoting our sport.

Finally, of personal interest, Jim Hiser will turn 50 soon and it is rumored that Chris Cole has gained 20 pounds and is working himself back into shape!

History of Racquetball Quiz

1. Racquetball was invented by Job Sobek in:
 - a. 1949
 - b. 1954
 - c. 1957
 - d. 1961
2. The first ball developed for the game was:
 - a. Voit Blue
 - b. Seamless Blue
 - c. Voit Black
 - d. Penn Blue
3. The first racquetball association was called:
 - a. International Racquetball Association
 - b. National Racquetball Club
 - c. National Paddle Racquets Association
 - d. United States Racquetball Association
4. The first professional racquetball Association was governed by:
 - a. The National Paddles Association
- b. The National Racquetball Club
- c. Racquetball Manufacturers Association
- d. Drake Enterprises
5. The first oversized racquet was introduced in:
 - a. 1979
 - b. 1981
 - c. 1984
 - d. 1986

Answers: 1) d; 2) c; 3) a; 4) d; 5) d



Racquetball One Series prepares for season's end

by Ken Bonnett

With the decline of tournament players and limited new players taking up the sport, Racquetball One will be reducing its six tournament schedule to three next season. The 1997-98 season will most likely be the last season of tournaments for us.

After 30 years in education, the warmer southern climate sounds very tempting to me. I want to thank those players and sponsors who have supported the Racquetball One Series for so many years. Racquetball has been a very positive part of my life for 20 years. I am grateful for all that it has done for my son Joel, and also for the friendships we have both experienced and enjoyed. They alone are irreplaceable.

Next season, the three events will be located in West Bloomfield, Lansing and Grand Rapids. The dates and formats are still being discussed. I hope to see you all this month in Lansing. Thanks for everything.

by Ken Bonnett

Racquetball One's "Doubles Finale," at the beautiful Jewish community Health Center, drew nearly 30 teams in January.

The Women's Open round robin consisted of seven teams with Cindy Seiders and Peg Shaw taking home the cash. Jack White and Tom Blakeslee turned back the team of Mike Stephens and Bob Gravelyn to win the Men's A bracket. The Garbarino brothers, Tony and Mike captured the Men's B title and Diego Pizzo and Mike Caruso won the Men's C division. Melody Gorno and partner John Gervasi took top honors in the mixed doubles division.

This was a one day event with lots of fun, competition and great hospitality. If you have not seen this health club, you should go and visit. Thanks to Michelle Horrigan and her staff for a great tournament. We plan to return next year for a two-day singles event.

1997 RACQUETBALL ONE SINGLES FINALE

MARCH 22, 1997

MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB
LANSING, MI

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ALL PLAYERS RECEIVE A CAN OF
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AND A NICE PRIZE...

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1996 Seniors/Masters Tourney a big success

by Jim Easterling

The Midwest Seniors/Masters Racquetball Series had its Michigan stop on November 2-3 at the Davison Racquetball and Fitness Center. The Midwest Seniors/Masters Racquetball Series hosts tournaments in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin, Missouri and Minnesota for players 35 years old and older. Michigan's tournament was the 8th annual event and is one of only two USRA Level 3 tournaments in the state.

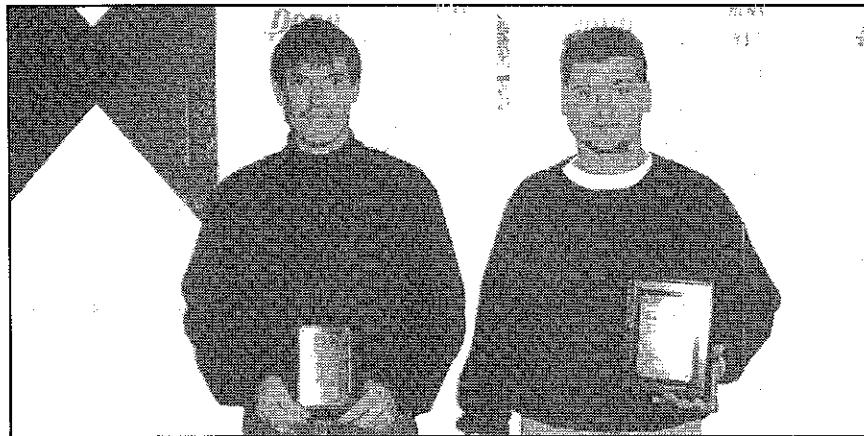
This year's tournament drew players from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri and Canada. As with all Midwest Seniors/Masters Series tournaments, this event featured no referees and round robin play with players playing anywhere from five to nine matches throughout the weekend.

Congratulations are in order for Ron Hutcherson from Warsaw, Indiana and Paula Saad from Clayton Twp., Michigan as they were the only repeat winners from last year. Ron won the Men's 55 and Paula won the Women's 35 both years. Those people who finished first last year and almost won this year are Keith Tidd (Ohio), 2nd in Men's 35/40; Ray Huss (Ohio), 2nd in Men's 50's; Elliot Rott, 2nd in Men's 60 and J.D. Driver, 2nd in Men's 65.

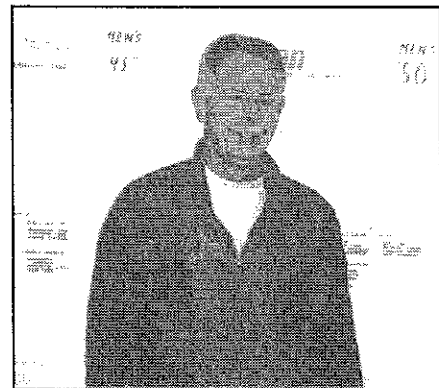
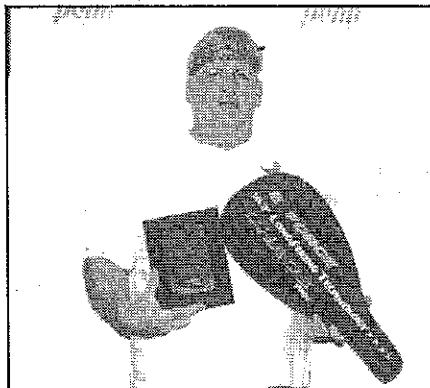
We would like to thank the Davison Racquet and Fitness Center, the Davison Country Club and PENN Athletic Products for their help and sponsorship of this event. Most of all, we would like to thank you the player for coming to the tournament.



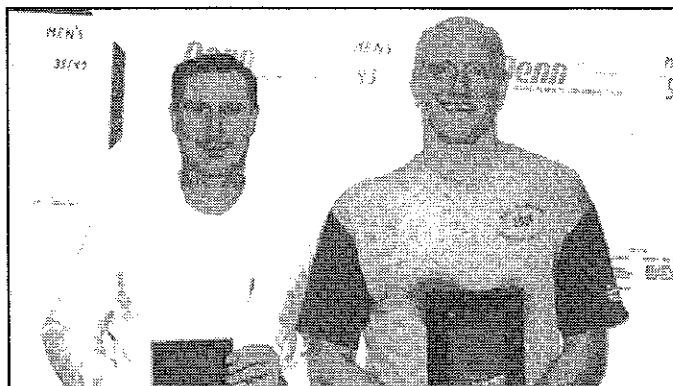
Above, Women's 35 winner Paula Saad (right) and runner-up, Melody Gorno



Above, Men's 35/40 first place winner Randy Anderson (right) and his opponent Keith Tidd. Below, Men's 50 winner Tom Brownlee (left) and second place runner-up Ray Huss.



Seniors/Masters Winners



Above left is Men's 45 winner Kim Hyde (right) with second place finisher Jim Easterling. Above right, Ron Hutcherson (left) shows off his first place plaque for the Men's 55 division. Second in Men's 55 is Art Murphy also pictured



Men's 60 champ David Lund sports his prize along with second place finisher Elliott Rott. Above right, are Men's 65 first place winner Lynn Hahn and runner-up J.D. Driver

RULES/REFEREE CLINIC AND REFEREE CERTIFICATION

MARCH 15, 1997

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM CLINIC 2:00 - 3:00 PM REFEREE CERTIFICATION

\$10.00 EACH OR \$15.00 FOR BOTH

MAPLE ATHLETIC CLUB - TROY, MICHIGAN

FOR MORE INFORMATION: JIM EASTERLING (517) 887-0459 OR SANDI CANNON (810) 362-3777

Racquetball Reporter

THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER
3152 S. HENDERSON RD.
DAVISON, MI 48423

JOIN THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

Membership includes:

- *Membership card, USRA official rule book, travel and equipment discounts*
- *USRA medical, life and liability insurance at sanctioned events*
- *Four issues of the RAM newsletter, The Racquetball Reporter*
- *Six issues of the USRA national publication, Racquetball Magazine*
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION SUPPORT THE US NATIONAL TEAM DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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