

Racquetball Reporter

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Racquetball Association of Michigan

2006 RAM STATE DOUBLES FINDS A NEW HOME AND DELIVERS THE SAME GREAT EVENT

- Twayne M. Howard

The RAM State Doubles was contested over the first weekend in December once again. This year, the event moved to the beautiful **Michigan Athletic Club** in East Lansing. This is one of the great clubs in the nation and last summer, the MAC hosted the USAR Junior National Championships. If it's good enough for the best Juniors in the nation, it must be good enough for us. This event is one of the highlights in the Michigan schedule and this year's event did not disappoint. It featured great play, great hospitality, and a great club. Sounds like the only place to be.

The ladies divisions had a good showing with five teams in each, plenty to put on some great competition. The Women's Open Championship went to **Paula Saad** and **Tia Lecland** who defeated **Michele Geile** and **Laura Johnson** in the finals. This was Tia's first run at Open, and she showed just how far she has come in a short time as she held her own all weekend.

Michele and Laura upset former National Champs Claire Kruse and Sandy White in the Semis and Paula and Tia defeated Laura Patterson and Melody Gorno.

The Womens 40+ Championship went to **Chris Todd** and **Maureen Price** after they defeated **Laura Patterson** and **Melody Gorno**. The teams of Claire Kruse and Sandy White and Michele Geile and Laura Johnson finished in the Semis.

The Mixed Open Doubles was quite a battle as **Paula Saad** and **Greg Lewerenz** defeated **Karen Kronmeyer** and **Mike Anderson** to win the Championship. Paula and Greg are

becoming perennial favorites, and Mike is always a threat, but Karen is new to racquetball after transitioning from being an internationally-ranked squash player. Not bad for her first tournament. The teams of Maureen Price and Steve Price and Terry Fields and Ron Barton made it to the semis.

Ruth Beier and **Steve Gruber** took the Mixed A/B Championship by defeating **Mercedes Arias** and **Lucas Arias**. The teams of Christina Neros and Dan Mullin and Chris Todd and Allen Militich rounded out the semis.

This year marked the first time we offered a Junior/Veteran Division. The genesis was a father/son division, but not everyone has a father who plays, and not everyone who plays is a son. Not to mention many other permutations. The inaugural event drew five teams. And oddly enough, the eventual Champions were **Lucas** and **Ed Arias** – a well-known father and son combination. They defeated Brad Schopieray and Dave Chirio in the Final. The teams of Kevin White and Tom Blakeslee and Bryan and Don Schopieray rounded out the semis. Considering all of the smiles and laughter during these matches, I'd say this division was a big success.

The Mens Open division has seen a number of new teams win in the past few years, with no team returning to defend its title. This year was no different. Mike Anderson and Shannon Kohl teamed up for their first run at the title. At the end of the weekend, this was the first State Championship for either of them after defeating **Ron Barton** and **Greg Lewerenz**. The teams of Mark Werthman

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THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT . .

- Twayne M. Howard
President

NEW YEAR, SAME GREAT SEASON

Welcome to 2007. It may seem odd to read that as you get this newsletter, but it's not odd to write it here in early January. So off we go, plowing straight ahead. In this edition you will find a wrap-up of the first half of the season, and an entry form that signals the end of the whole season. Interesting context, eh? As I write this in early January, I am looking at the beginning and the end of the season. Interesting indeed.

So far, it has been a tremendous season with a number of terrific events. Lansing MAC, Davison Athletic Club, Grand Rapids MAC, Players, Riverview Athletic Club, and State Doubles have all been first class events, each in their own way. And most have seen an increase in players over the 2005-2006 season. As I write, we are looking forward to another round of events at many of those same clubs as well as Courtland Athletic Club, Genesys Athletic Club, Bronson Athletic Club, and State Singles at the Davison Athletic Club.

You will notice that the entry form for the **2007 State Singles Championships** is included. We are thrilled to be returning to the **Davison Athletic Club** for the first time in several years. Davison is one of the great "tournament houses" that has grown, and adapted from racquetball's first epochal era, and is seeing the resurgence to the sport's next great era. This is a first-rate club and Randy Minto, a RAM Hall of Fame Member has promised to make this one of the best State Singles ever. We are finalizing plans as we speak, but rest assured, you will love this event.

But, if you are one of those doubles-only players don't worry, there's a place for you as well. For the second year, we are going to have Sunday

afternoon doubles at the State Singles Championship. We know that many of you don't play singles, so we want to have a place for you as well. Anyone can play in the doubles divisions. If you want to play Singles and Doubles, you can do that as well. Doubles play will be after the Singles play is done, and will not be considered a State Championship event. But there will be awards and lots of fun. Don't miss out.

A highlight of the State Singles weekend is the Saturday evening awards banquet. After the play is done, we will all head over to the Banquet Facility at the Club and celebrate the best of the best for this season, and seasons past. We will be awarding special merit awards for achievements during the 2006-2007 season. These include:

Female Player of the Year
Male Player of the Year
Junior Player of the Year
Most Improved Player of the Year
Sportsperson of the Year
Tournament Director of the Year
Club/Owners of the Year
Outstanding Contributor of the Year

We are accepting nominations for those awards. You can submit nominations either through the form on the back of this newsletter, with your State Singles Entry, you can call me at 616-771-0312 or you can e-mail me at:

president@michiganracquetball.net

We love to get your input on these prestigious awards. Once the nominations are received, a committee of the RAM Board will decide the winners.

After those awards are handed out, we will honor the RAM Hall of Fame

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MICHIGAN CROWNS TWO US OPEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

- Twayne M. Howard

Another November, another US Open. Racquetball's first Grand Slam event continues to get bigger and better each year with Doug Ganim, Jim Hiser and USA Racquetball helping bring the sport to greater heights. This year over 729 professionals and amateurs came to Memphis for fun, racquetball and the chance to be crowned US Open Champion. This year 26 players made the trip from Michigan. Team Michigan took home 10 medals and crowned two new US Open Champions.

Leading the pack for Team Michigan was **Mr. David Lund**. Mr. Lund has become a top-ranked player in the 70+ Open Division and is a threat to win any tournament he enters. This event was no exception. Mr. Lund made it through a tough draw of 11 players to win another US Open Championship.

Another repeat winner, **Tia Lecland** has made great strides in her short time on the racquetball scene. She is also a threat to win any event she enters. Tia took on a tough Women's C Division and came out on top.

Congratulations to our new US Open Champions.

Twayne Howard was Michigan's only double medalist. He finished as a runner up in the Mens 35+B Division and a semi-finalist in the Mens 25+B Division. In the end lack of tournament play and fitness did him in.

Karen Green moved in to the Womens 50+ Division and knew it would be a challenge. Karen lost in a close final to perennial favorite, and former Michigander, Linda Moore. Linda commented that Karen had her worried, and was impressed with her run.

Sharon Huczek continued her world-class play in Memphis. She was runner-up in the Womens 55+A Division. Another great trip to the Open.

Dale Graham has been a regular in big tournaments in recent years. In Memphis, Dale made it to the semis in the Mens 60+ Division.

Pete Harvey is another staple in Houston and Memphis. Pete finished in the semi-finals in the Mens 55+B Division.

Lindsey Anderson made her final trip to Memphis for a couple years. Our Lindsey is off to the Air Force. She made her temporary swan song in the Womens 24-C Division where she finished in the semis.

A big reason the US Open is so popular is it features the best Pro draws in the world. Not only are they large, but they are deep with the best racquetball players from all over the world challenging for the title, the check and the cup. **Jack Huczek** was undefeated in full IRT Pro Stops this season, his only loss coming in Grand Rapids. Jack has had a fantastic season and was the run away favorite to win his first US Open. But, yet again, Jack had to settle for a semi-final finish after a tough, five game loss to Jason Mannino. This was one of the great matches in US Open history and a crowd of nearly 1000 will never forget. In the final on Sunday, Jason took out Rocky Caron to earn his second US Open title.

I say it every year, but this is a great trip and a great event. It is the best racquetball to watch and to play and the best socializing to be found. Why don't you plan now to join us next year?

2006-07 RAM TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Feb 2-4	Motor City Rollout, Courtland Athletic Club, Utica
Feb 10-11	Aloha Open, Genesys Athletic Club, Grand Blanc
Feb 23-25	Capital Challenge, Michigan Athletic Club, Lansing
Mar 3-4	March Madness, Players Club, Warren
Mar 9-11	MAC Open, Michigan Athletic Club, Grand Rapids
Mar 23-25	STATE SINGLES, Davison Athletic Club
Mar 30-Apr 1	South West Shootout, Bronson Athletic Club, Kalamazoo
Apr 20-22	REGIONALS
May 23-28	NATIONAL SINGLES, Houston, Texas

JUNIOR'S CORNER . .



Michigan Team Photo at Junior Nationals

photo taken by Duane Burke

(upper row L-R) Jim Woolcock, Bryan Schopieray, Matt Barbuscak, Lucas Arias, Stuart Robbenault, Dan Poindexter, Andrew Price, Eric Sporer, Sam Zeng, Lewis Forrest

(center row L-R) Ed Arias, Weston Cowan, Brad Schopieray, Alex Banks, Trevor Sporer, Brody Kutt, Mercedes Arias, Ines LeCland, Jack White

(front row L-R) Shelby Kutt, Sydney Kutt, Kevin White, Connor Cowan, Kurtis White, Mary Zeng

*Not Shown Matt Bernstien, Vincent Mills, Veronica Mills, Conner Brown

1st ANNUAL MICHIGAN vs OHIO JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP at the SOLON REGIONALS -- APRIL 20-22

- Don Schopieray

This year's Junior road trip will be a good one, an on court battle with Junior Team Ohio at the Regional in Solon, Ohio, near Cleveland. In past years we have raised money to help offset the trip to the IRT Pro-nationals and have come away disappointed with the lack of Junior participation, this year will be different.

Working with JTO (Junior Team Ohio) we have developed the Michigan vs. Ohio Challenge. Both states will field teams to compete in the different age groups, and points will be accumulated in the same way they are at Junior Nationals. In the end a winner will be crowned and a traveling trophy will be presented.

(cont. on pg 5)

JUNIOR'S CORNER . .

JUNIOR FANTASTIC FOUR TOURNAMENT SERIES STARTS OFF WITH A BIG BANG!!!

- Don Schopieray

The new format for Juniors in this series has produced some of the closest competition in a long time. With two rounds in the books, over twelve of the matches have gone to a tiebreaker, talk about pressure. WOW!!!!

Round one at the West Michigan Open saw a much improved **Lucas Arias** take the win over Brad Schopieray, in a tiebreaker, in the Open division. This was one of the best matches of the weekend with neither player wanting to give in. Semi-finalists at the West Michigan Open tournament were Matt Barbuscak and Bryan Schopieray.

The A division saw an upset with **Kevin White** taking advantage of a 15-14 win in the first game to keep the momentum rolling and take the match over Eric Sporer. Both Kevin and Eric survived semifinal tiebreaker matches with Trevor Sporer and Trenton Balavich to get to the final.

The B division final showcased our two newest National champions, **Mercedes Arias** and Ines LeCland. This match also went to a tiebreaker also with Mercedes taking the win in another tough battle. Semifinalists were Kayla Reidt and Zachary D'Almeida.

The C division finals saw Detroit area rivals Kurtis White and **Alex Tsatsos** go toe to toe for the win with Alex getting the upper hand. Both of these kids are improving fast and are ones to keep your eye on.

Round two of the Fantastic Four was hammered out at the Spartan Splat. Open division rivals

Andrew Price and Lucas Arias battled to a tiebreaker finish in the final with Andrew coming back from a first game loss to take the win, Brad Schopieray and Matt Barbuscak were the semifinalists.

In the A division **Brett Reidt** stormed through the field to win the final in 2 games over Eric Sporer. Brett was on his game all day and made his mark in the division. Semifinalists were Trevor Sporer and Bryan Schopieray.

The B division once again saw **Mercedes Arias** face off in the final against series newcomer, Jason Yerke. Jason survived a semifinal tiebreaker with Ines LeCland to get to the final, but the National Champ would prove too tough with Mercedes winning in two. The other semifinalist was Jessica Reidt.

In the C division round one winner **Alex Tsatsos** squared up with division up and comer Zach D'Almeida. Zach reached the final with a tiebreaker win over Kurtis White in the semi but last round champ Alex was up to the task winning in two.

The final two rounds of the inaugural season for the Fantastic Four Tournament Series will be held at the Tiebreaker Open and the Motor City Rollout. Our season ending Champions will be recognized at the Hall of Fame Banquet March 24th at the Davison Banquet Center. (There will be more information about the banquet in this newsletter.) We hope to see you there, to honor our junior champions.

MICHIGAN vs OHIO JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

(cont. from pg 4)

We need your help! If you are interested in going to this event, the Junior Committee will be able to pay for a Team room for the weekend as well as a sweatshirt, and your first division entry fee. But you need to let us know if you can go as soon as possible so plans can be finalized. Parents, you can play as well. This will be a USA Racquetball adult and junior regional event, as a qualifier for the National tournaments. Doug Ganim puts on a great event and in the last few years we have had a great time there.

If you are interested please call me Don Schopieray (810) 287-9394.

OUR NEWEST NATIONAL CHAMPION TAKES ON NUMBER 1 IN THE WORLD



Mercedes Arias and Jack Huczek at Play the Pro Day. Way to go Mercedes!!!

PLAY THE PRO DAY AT THE MAC IN EAST LANSING

- Jim Easterling

On Saturday, November 25, 2006, the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing, hosted a fund raiser event called, "Play the Pro Day". People could sign up to play racquetball with, have a lesson from or just talk strategy with the racquetball Pro of their choice for 15 minutes, 30 minutes or an hour.

The racquetball Pros donated their time and expertise by staying on the court for four hour blocks of time. I would like to personally thank Laura Patterson, Bill Wolcott, Tom Brownlee, Melody Gorno, Ed Arias and Jack Huczek for donating their time. I would also like to thank the MAC Club in East Lansing for donating three racquetball courts all day for this event.

All monies raised from this event were SPLIT 50/50 between the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame. The Play the Pro Day raised \$1100.00 with \$550 going to the Breast Cancer Foundation and \$550 going to the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame.

Whether you played a game, took a lesson or just talked strategy; thank you to all the players who supported the Susan G. Komen Foundation and USA Racquetball. It was a fun event for all. Mark this event on your calendar in October of 2007 and we hope to see you there.



Don Schopieray and Melody Gorno
at Play the Pro Day



Tom Brownlee giving lessons to
Duane Russell, Dave Lund, Bill Wolcott
Doug Nordhaus



Mark Widman and Jack Huczek
Mark was the winner of the Head
Back pack donated door prize for
the Play the Pro Day event

2006 WEST MICHIGAN OPEN BRINGS PRO RACQUETBALL BACK TO GRAND RAPIDS

- Twayne M. Howard

For the third time, Pro racquetball made its return to the MAC in Grand Rapids. The only Pro tournament in Michigan featured World Champion, Jack Huczek from Rochester Hills, who made the return trip to defend his back-to-back titles. Facing Jack in the Pro Draw was World # 7, Shane Vanderson from Florida and other players, both local and from as far away as Ontario Canada. Would Jack be able to defend his title? Only one way to find out. But first, the other divisions. This year 83 players came out to try their hand and vie for the Championship. As always, junior and amateur play was a huge part of the event.

This was the inaugural event in the Junior Fantastic Four series, so we had quite a few juniors strutting their stuff. In the Juniors Advanced Division, **Lucas Arias** continued his improvement and upset Brad Schopieray to take the Championship. Bryan Schopieray and Matt Barbuscak were the semi finalists.

Mercedes Arias moved to the Juniors Intermediate Division after defeating her doubles partner, Ines Lecland. Mercedes and Ines got past Kayla Reidt and Zachary D'Almeida to make the Finals. Look for other Junior Fantastic Four events in the upcoming season.

Joe Reidt won the Mens D Division after defeating Tia Lecland in the finals. Nathan Thelen and Bryan Schopieray were the semi finalists.

Rich Nunemaker won his first Gold by defeating Dan Dietrich to win the Mens C Championship. Lucas Arias and Rich Westerbrink made it to the semis.

Dan Mullin won the Mens B Championship by reversing the 35+B Final and defeating Mike Malcolm. Dan and Mike defeated Al Kohl and Chris Garner in the semis.

Mike Stetz was crowned Mens A Champion after he defeated Rick Vrosh in the final. Ron Griggs and Dave Bushen were the semi-finalists.

The Mens Open Championship went to **Buzz Carhart** after he defeated regular sparring partner, Ken Bonnett. Jason Gorski and Dennis Howell were the semi finalists.

The Mens 35+B Division went to **Mike Malcolm** who defeated Dan Mullin to take the title. Joe Marous and Jeff Tloczynski made it to the semis.

Rich Nunemaker made it double Gold and defeated Dan Dietrich to win the Mens 35+C Championship.

Jerry Gathright and Mike D'Almeida rounded out the semis.

Home town favorite, **Dale Graham** defeated Jim Hamilton to earn the Mens 40+ Open Championship. Ken Bonnett and Dennis Howell were the semi finalists.

Dave Bushen won the Mens 40+A Championship by defeating Ron Griggs in the Finals. Dave and Ron defeated Mark Reed and Dennis Howell in the semis.

The Mens 45+ B Division went to **Dave Chirio** who defeated Tim Cosby to win the title. Bryan Galloway and Jeff Tloczynski made it to the semis.

The Mens 55+ Championship went to **Ric Scott** who defeated Bob Gravelyn to win the final. Al Mell and Charlie Curtis rounded out the semis.

The Mens Open Doubles Championship went to the team of **Scott Goudie** and **Jason Gorski** who defeated the teams Ken Bonnett and Charlie Curtis and Brad Schopieary and Lewis Forrest.

The Mens A Doubles Champions were **Bob Gravelyn** and **Rick Vrosh** who defeated Dave Chirio and Ron Griggs in the final. Scott Glass and Tom Ford and Dave Bushen and Gary Balavitch were the semi-finalist teams.

Mike Malcolm and **Bryan Galloway** teamed to defeat Chris Garner and Dan Mullin to win the Mens B Doubles Division. Jason Carroll and Twayne Howard and Art Murphy and Jeff Simonis were the semi-finalists.

The team of **Matt Barbuscak** and **Matthew Barbuscak** won the Round Robin Mens C Doubles Division. Rich Westerbrink and Joe Reidt took second, and Jim Pike and Dan Quarry rounded out the field.

And now to the big show. The Mens Pro Division featured eight players ranked on the International Racquetball Tour. The top seed was World #1 **Jack Huczek** who has more titles than most beaches have grains of sand. Or, at least, a comparable number. The second seed went to #7 Shane Vanderson. #10 Andy Hawthorne was the third seed and Canada's Eric Desrochers rounded out the top 4. Shannon Kohl, Joel Bonnett, Mike Anderson and Jason Gorski were the locals seeded 5 through 8.

While Jack and Shane advanced easily into the Semis, the other two matches had some drama. Joel Bonnett, the most accomplished local player took a game from Andy before going down in the fourth game. In the

(cont. on pg 8)

GRAND RAPIDS' WEST MICHIGAN OPEN

-- (cont. from pg 7)

other Quarter, there actually wasn't much drama, either as Shannon dominated Eric. Shannon played great racquetball and took advantage of the fact Eric hasn't had much court time due to school obligations. This one went by in three fast games. The semis went quickly as well and only Shannon was able to score 10 points, total, in the match.

Championship Sunday featured the match that everyone had anticipated. The #1 and #7 Pros on tour, Jack and Shane have

played dozens of times over the years with Jack holding a significant advantage in the record. Game one went according to "chalk" as Jack eased out an 11-6 win and it looked like the route was on. Shane came back and won Game 2 11-7 as he seemed to catch Jack a bit unawares. Game 3 was a classic nail-biter before Shane pulled it out to win 12-10. In Game 4 Jack seemed to regain his edge as he won a close one 11-9.

Everyone expected the Michigander to pull out Game 5, but it was not

to be. Shane took control from the first rally and closed out the match 11-6. This was by far the best match at the MAC since the last full Pro stop in the 1980s. The crowd left buzzing about what they had just witnessed as Jack lost his first match all season in a stunning upset.

The event was run as a benefit for Children's Miracle Network / DeVos Children's Hospital. We would like to thank all of the sponsors who made this possible. Without their

(cont. on pg 9)

STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP . . . (cont. from pg 7)

and Rich Torres and Steve Goedker and Lewis Forrest made it to the semis.

A pair of locals took the Mens A Championship as **Larry Sernick** and **Mike Stetz** teamed up to defeat West Michiganders **John Stallmer** and **Mike Chambon** in the Finals. The teams of Jim Kutt and Ben Marciniak-Jennings and Jim Browers and Gary Roloff rounded out the semis.

Kids, kids, oh, those darn kids. The Mens B Division went to a couple of Juniors. **Brad Schopieray** and **Lucas Arias** defeated Bryan Galloway and Mike Malcolm to earn the title. Congrats, Boys. The teams of Bill Yacko and Kevin Ammerman and Dan Mullin and Gary Roloff were the semi-finalists.

Keith Bryan and **Richard Westerbrink** defeated **Steve Gruber** and **Mark Schultz** to win the Mens C/D Championship. The teams of Ken Smith and Tom Rockwell and Allen Militich and Stephen Price were the semi-finalists.

John Kutt and **Kevin Ammerman** took the Mens 25+A Division by defeating **John Stallmer** and **Mike Chambon**. This was the second Silver for John and Mike. The teams of Jeff

Renaud and Mike Middleton and Dave Chirio and Ron Griggs rounded out the semis.

Ed Arias and **Greg Zivov** defeated **Greg Lewerenz** and **Ron Barton** to win the Mens 35+ Open Championship. Another Silver for Greg and Ron. The teams of Steve Goedker and Lewis Forrest and Bill Wolcott and Steve Clark finished in the semis.

The Mens 35+C went to **Dave Douches** and **Jim Galligan** after they defeated **Dave Krage** and **Patrick Sherman** in the Finals. The teams of Ken Smith and Tom Rockwell and Steve Gruber and Mark Schultz were the other semi-finalists.

George Yarbenet and **James Miller** defeated **Larry Sernick** and **Mike Stetz** to win the Mens 40+ Championship. The teams of Dan Verbeck and Randy Minto and Chris Kelly and Jim Panasiewicz advanced to the semis.

Perennial powers **Bob Gravelyn** and **Steve Jazwiec** took out top-seeded **Ed Arias** and **Greg Zivov** to win the Mens 45+ Championship. The teams of Chris Kelly and Jim Panasiewicz and Tom Blakeslee and Jack White ended up in the semis. A second Gold medal went to **Keith Bryan** and **Rich Westerbrink** after they defeated **Dave Douches**

and **Jim Galligan** in the Mens 45+B/C Division. The semi-finalists were the teams of Alfonso Pugh and Sherman Gipson and Greg Frazier and Norman Borden.

Jeff Renaud and **Mike Middleton** proved that 2005 was no fluke by defeating **Al Mell** and **Ric Scott** to win the Mens 50+ Championship. Steve Jazwiec and Bob Gravelyn rounded out the division.

Al Mell and **Ric Scott** won the Mens 55+ Championship in round-robin fashion. **Dave Lund** and **Jim Browers** finished with the Silver and the Bronze went to Tom Sharum and Art Murphy.

This year, we had the rare treat of running a Mens 65+ Division. A tough match and the Championship went to "the kids" **Tom Sharum** and **Art Murphy** as they defeated **Mr. Dave Lund** and **Mr. Duane Russell**.

What a great weekend. I'd have to say this was one of the most popular State Doubles as there was nothing but high praise for the club, the event and the hospitality. Mark your calendar for the first weekend of December, 2007. We hope to see you out there for some of the most exciting Doubles play in Michigan.

GRAND RAPIDS' WEST MICHIGAN OPEN -- (cont. from pg 8)

generous support, we could not hold this event.

Thanks to Mark Neistat of TDS Metrocom, Dr Dave Peterson of Michigan Hand Center, Jim Hamilton of ING, Bob Gravelyn of Rivertown Insurance Company, Bill McCall of McCall & Company, Don Rhoda of Intermed/Stryker, Jack Skoog of Kentwood Packaging, Dr Ben Willard of Michigan Pain Consultants, Michelle Wohlin of Genesis Hair Salons, Chet Kokot - State Farm Insurance Agent, Steve Seely of Wachovia Securities, Tom Blakeslee, Buzz Carhart, Ron Courser of Cornerstone Retirement Partners, Charles Curtis, Al Emmons of Silveri Management Company, Dale Graham of Graham's Landscaping Company, Rick Hall, Pat Hillary, Bill Malcolm of Arrow Crane Services, Jerry Spruitt of Swan Inn Motel and Restaurant, Rick Steketee of Michigan Athletic Club, John Weadock of Weadock and Associates, Doug Hoek, Art Murphy, Dave McCorry and Twayne Howard of PPKW Racquetball.

We would also like to thank Jim Hamilton, Dale Graham and Ken Bonnett who helped contact sponsors who generously supported this event.

We would also like to thank, and say goodbye to a special member

of our team. Lucy Levy, the first smiling face you see when you get to an event at the MAC is moving on to better places. Well, she's moving to Sioux Falls, SD. As soon as she gets there, it will be a better

place, and we will be the lesser for it. Lucy, thank you so much for your help over the years, your hard work, and your never ending cheer and enthusiasm. We will miss you.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

(cont. from pg 2)

Classes of 2005-2006 and 2006-2007. This year we are proud to honor Jim Floyd and Chris Cole for their induction in 2005-2006. To be able to honor Jim and Chris, two of the greatest players in Michigan history, in their home club at Davison, is a tremendous occasion and we expect a full house. You may want to reserve your spot now. We are currently going through the process for the class of 2006-2007 and we may be inducting other members. More info will be available as we get closer to the date. Look forward to this special evening as we celebrate our past and our present. This is always a wonderful event, and you do not want to miss it.

I would like to take this moment to thank two members of the Board who are resigning to head on to bigger and better things.

Jack Huczek is leaving the Board to focus on other aspects of his racquetball life. The top-ranked Pro and World Champion has promised

that this is not the end of his contribution to the growth of racquetball in Michigan, just a re-direction of his efforts. Jack became a member of the Board in his teens (no kidding) and served as Vice President for many years. Best of luck to Jack in his new endeavors.

Karen Green is leaving the Board so that she can move to New York and get married. Karen has been an active member of the Board and has been instrumental in several committees including her leadership of the Juniors Committee and the founding of the New Member Development Committee. But most of all, she has been a good friend to all of us, and me in particular. We wish you both all the best and we will miss you.

It looks like we've got a lot to look forward to. I hope to see you all at the upcoming events. Have a great Spring. See you on the courts!

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE RAQUETBALL REPORTER FOR 2005-06

The Racquetball Reporter is published quarterly throughout the year - August, November, February, and May. Items to be included in the Racquetball Reporter for the **2006-07** year must be submitted by the following dates:

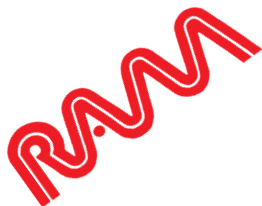
August 3, 2006	January 5, 2007
October 4, 2006	April 20, 2007

Advertisement material is subject to approval by the RAM Board of Directors. The prices for advertisement material are:

\$400 - Full page ad to run in all four issues (7"w x 9.5"h)

\$250 - Half page ad to run in all four issues (7"w x 4.75"h)
 \$150 - Quarter page ad to run in all four issues (3.5"w x 4.75"h)
 \$100 - Club listing for all four issues (3"w x 2"h)

All advertisements must be submitted in camera ready format in the appropriate size. E-mailed graphics can be accepted in either a **.TIFF** or **.JPG** format. All advertisements will be in black and white for all issues, except the May issue which will be in full color. Payment must accompany submission of all advertisement material. Information may be mailed to The Racquetball Reporter, 321 Village Dr., Lansing, MI 48911 or sent electronically to djeasterling@earthlink.net.



RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

2007 RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARCH 23-25, 2007

DAVISON ATHLETIC CLUB

2140 Fairway Dr., Davison, MI 48423

phone (810) 653-9602



ENTRY FEES & DEADLINE

First Event	\$48	USAR Membership	\$35
Second Event	\$17	Doubles (only)	\$20
Juniors	\$15	Hall of Fame Banquet	\$30

Telephone & Late entries additional \$5

Entries must be received by **SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2007**. You may sign up ONLINE at www.r2sports.com. For ALL LATE/ TELEPHONE entries contact TOM BLAKESLEE or TWAYNE HOWARD. MAKE SURE YOU RECEIVE CONFIRMATION.

RULES

Single elimination format with matches consisting of two games to fifteen and a tie-breaker to eleven. USA Racquetball rules apply including **mandatory USAR-approved lensed eyeguards**.

HALL OF FAME BANQUET

The Hall of Fame Banquet is Saturday evening at Davison to honor the 2005-06 and 2006-07 inductees and the RAM Merit Award winners.

STARTING TIMES

Play will begin on Friday, March 23 for draws of 16 or more. Every effort will be made to reduce Friday play. **Call the club on Thursday, March 22, 2007 after 12:00 pm** for starting times or check online at: <http://www.michiganracquetball.net>

AWARDS

Awards will be given for the first four places in divisions of 16 or more. Each participant will receive a tournament souvenir. All juniors will receive a Team Michigan shirt and participation award.

ELIGIBILITY

Any participant must live or work full time in the state of Michigan, and be a member of RAM. Players must be able to provide proof if challenged.

NEW -- DOUBLES PLAY

Doubles play is open to all players and will begin Sunday after Singles play is completed. Only 1 doubles division is allowed.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Tom Blakeslee (586) 468-2787 Twayne Howard (616) 540-7925 Dan Mullin Don Schopieray Jack White

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 17, 2007

Name _____ Club Affiliation _____ Shirt Size _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (days) _____ (evenings) _____ Date of Birth _____

Email address: _____

Make checks payable to **RAM**, and mail to **RAM State Singles Championships, 38114 Lakeshore, Harrison Twp., MI 48045**

Entry Fee	\$48	_____
2nd Event Fee	\$17	_____
Junior Fee	\$15	_____
USAR Membership	\$35	_____
Doubles (only)	\$20	_____
Hall of Fame Banquet	\$30	_____
Telephone/Late fee	\$5	_____
TOTAL		_____

Waiver clause: I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors & administrators, waive & release any & all claims for damages I may have against RAM, the host club, tournament staff, & their agents, for all injuries which may be suffered by me in conjunction with my participation in this tournament.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(parent/guardian signature if under 18)

DIVISIONS

circle correct choices - limit 2 divisions

MENS ☐ WOMENS ☐ JUNIORS ☐

Open	45+ Open	25+ A	35+ D	50+ C
A	50+ Open	25+ B	40+ A	50+ D
B	55+ Open	25+ C	40+ B	55+ A
C	60+ Open	25+ D	40+ C	55+ B
D	65+ Open	30+ A	40+ D	55+ C
Novice	70+ Open	30+ B	45+ A	55+ D
24-Open	75+ Open	30+ C	45+ B	60+ A
25+Open	24 - A	30+ D	45+ C	60+ B
30+Open	24 - B	35+ A	45+ D	60+ C
35+Open	24 - C	35+ B	50+ A	60+ D
40+Open	24 - D	35+ C	50+ B	18 & Under

DOUBLES	you may enter one doubles event			16 & Under
Mens	Open	B	D	14 & Under
Womens	A	C		12 & Under
Mixed	Partner's Name			10 & Under
				8 & Under

Alternate division _____

Mail To: RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP, 38114 Lakeshore, Harrison Twp., MI 48045

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Please nominate only one person per category.

You may choose to nominate for one or more categories

Awards are based on accomplishments during the 2006-07 season

You may submit nominations with out playing in the tournament & you can email them to
president @michiganracquetball.net

Female Player of the Year _____

Male Player of the Year _____

Junior Player of the Year _____

Most Improved Player _____

Sportsman of the Year _____

Tournament Director of the Year _____

Club/Owners of the Year _____

Other (specify contribution) _____

RAM HALL OF FAME/AWARDS BANQUET

WHERE: *Davison Country Club*

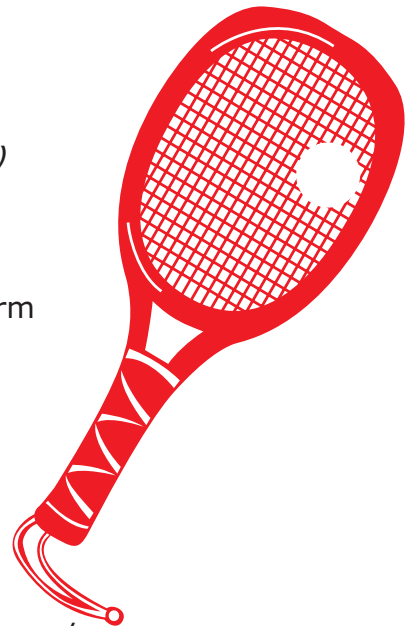
WHEN: *Saturday, March 24*

TIME: *Cash Bar - 6:30 pm*
Dinner - 7:00 pm (full buffet menu)

COST: **\$30** - Available in advance from Don Schopieray at (810) 287-9394, or for purchase with your tournament entry form

\$35 - Available at the tournament desk or at the Davison Country Club the night of the banquet

A special night for racquetball in Michigan as we honor 2005-06 Hall of Fame inductees, Chris Cole and Jimmy Floyd, and the 2006-07 Hall of Fame inductees. We will also honor the RAM Recognition Award Winners and crown our Junior Fantastic Four Series Champions.



AWARD NOMINATIONS - You may nominate people without playing in the tournament

Please nominate only one person per category.

You may choose to nominate for one or more categories

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Other (specify contribution) _____

Racquetball Reporter

321 Village Dr.
Lansing, MI 48911



2007 STATE SINGLES ENTRY ENCLOSED