

The Racquetball Reporter

FALL 1993

Volume III, Issue 5

Quarterly Publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

Bonnett takes bronze; Cole gives a scare

Michigan represented at 1993 Festival

Thirty-two of this nation's best racquetball players traveled to San Antonio, Texas in July for the 1993 U.S. Olympic Festival sponsored by the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Two of Michigan's finest were among the privileged athletes partaking in the fourth Olympic Festival since racquetball has been a full medal sport.

Joel Bonnett, who qualified in doubles as the current National Doubles Champion with Bill Sell, was in his third Festival appearance. Fellow Michigander Chris Cole, the current Amateur World Champion who qualified by finishing seventh at National Singles, was also making his third visit to the event.

The Festival doubles competition consists of four teams who play a round robin format in the preliminaries. This is done to seed the teams for the medal rounds and give the teams a chance to get used to the playing conditions. Bonnett/Sell concluded the prelims with a 2-1 record, their only falter coming

against the new team of Todd O'Neil and Jeff Evans, while taking two relatively easy wins over Todd Stead/Hart Johnson and Sudsy Monchik/Bobby Rodriguez.

It was apparent from the outset Bonnett/Sell would have difficulty as the event progressed. Sell, who had been somewhat bothered by a sore knee most of the year, was unable to hold his own against Monchik and O'Neil, the two toughest left-side players around. Bonnett, considered the most dominating

right-side player in the amateur ranks, could make up the difference against almost any team, but at the Festival each match is with the top players in the country and having to bail his team out match after match finally caught up the beleaguered Bonnett.

The seeding followed the prelims pitted O'Neil/Evans (2-1) against the 1-2 Stead/Johnson who had shocked the whole Festival contingent by scoring an 11-10 tie-breaker

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View of the President

by Chris Cole

As this newsletter reaches the RAM membership, some of you may have heard the rumor that I finally took the plunge and ended my 26 years of bachelorhood. Yes, it is true that on October 9, 1993 (the day of the UM-MSU football game!) I wed the former Nancy Personette in an outdoor ceremony in Ortonville, MI. I have been through some of the most stressful and intense situations in racquetball like Worlds, Nationals and Olympic Festivals, but they do not come close to planning a wedding and trying to have it outdoors. If you are wondering who had the bloody idea for an outdoor ceremony, just let me say it wasn't Nancy. Next time I will know better. (Problem is I am not planning n having a next time!)

State Doubles is fast approaching in December and

we will try to get entry forms out by the start of November. Last year some of the members and clubs received their newsletters/entries late so the draw was slightly down. I hope to change that this season and RAM will be offering some goodies to attract more players. Stay tuned for more details.

This summer I did something for the very first time and loved every minute of it. Get your mind out of the gutter, I played in my first outdoor tournament in July on Belle Isle. Veronica Brown and Felicia Mann put on a splendid weekend of fun, sun (90 degrees), sweat and enough wild rallies to last a month. It took me a while to get used to the bounces and become acclimated to the playing conditions, but through it all I had a riotous time. Greg Hodges and myself had a great final before I was able to pull out a tie-breaker. Playing outdoors during the summer on Belle Isle is a great way to get your racquetball fix and still enjoy the summer weather. I plan on playing as many of these events as my schedule will allow next year and RAM will work closely with the Belle Isle people to promote these



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of
Michigan

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W.T. Blakeslee
Ken Bonnett
Christopher Cole
Marta Rubcich

Racquetball One's Alpena tourney successful

Racquetball One's kick-off tournament was a success for the second year in a row. The second Annual Northern Exposure event, held in Alpena August 13-15 drew 50 players and great fun.

All events were played on the round robin format and many players elected to participate in the Saturday night doubles event. Each participant in the event received a shirt and headband as a part of their entry. Fantastic hospitality was provided by Bruce Goldhammer and the staff at the Alpena Health and Racquet Club.

As usual, Ken offered raffles and other prizes. Each tournament player was also entered in the raffle for a Cruise for two which will be held in

Upcoming Racquetball One Events	
Nov. 5-7	Grand Blanc Court Club
Dec. 10-12	Grand Rapids MAC
Jan. 21	Lansing MAC
Feb. 18-20	Seniors Only/Grand Rapids MAC
Mar. 25-27	Finale/Lansing MAC

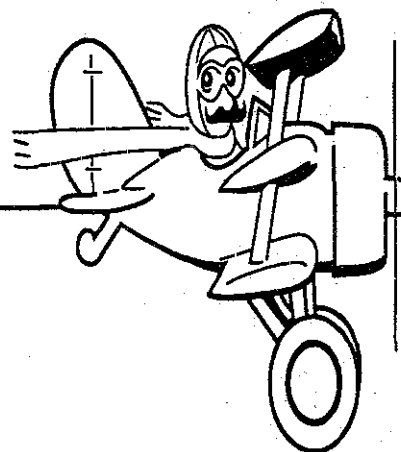
April. Winners of their divisions were given an additional entry in this raffle for their fine play.

Congratulations to all the finalists: Men's A: Curt Ferrell def. Jim Santino; Women's A: Jan Insko edged out Patty Noiles by a point; Men's B: Don Stadnika over Alex Cobb;

Men's C: Shane McKibbon def. Bob Westenbarger; Women's C: Melanie Spiegelmyre over Nancy Personette and Men's D: Chris Adams def. Twayne Howard.

Summer racquetball can be made fun. Mark your calendars for next year's event.

**RAM STATE
DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS
Dec. 3-5, 1993
For information contact
Tom Blakeslee (313) 986-1753**



1993 Olympic Festival completed;

Continued from page 1

victory over O'Neil/Evans in the final prelim match. The other side of the bracket saw the 2-1 Bonnett/Sell took on the flashy 1-2 Monchik/Rodriguez. Taking advantage of Sell's inability to be offensive or return Monchik's power, the underdogs all but left Bonnett out of the action in a frustrating loss for the Natinal Champs. The final tally had O'Neill/Evans taking the Gold Medal and spots on the US National Team over Monchik and Rodriguez, while Bonnett/Sell rebounded to capture the bronze medal over Stead/Johnson. The bronze marked San Antonio as Bonnett's best Festival performance. The '90 Minnesota Festival saw Bonnett team with Michigan's Jim Floyd en route to a fourth place finish as the only team that year who had never played together in the Festival. The '91 event in Los Angeles had Bonnett earning a fourth place finish in singles losing to then-National Champion Tim Sweeney in the Bronze medal match.

Cole was making his third straight singles appearance in Festival competition. He was attempting to improve his '90 Silver Medal where he first signaled his arrival to Big Time racquetball in a thrilling

11-9 tiebreaker loss to two-time Amateur World Champion Egan Inoue.

Cole entered San Antonio with something to prove once again. He wanted to show his quarter-final loss to Mike Engel at this year's National Singles was an aberration. Despite winning the last four major amateur events dating back to April 1992, the 26 year-old felt that he needed a win to reassert himself as the country's top amateur singles player.

Festival singles play is slightly different than doubles in that eight players are seeded #1-8 and divided into groups of four. These two groups play a round-robin and the top two finishers of from each group advance to the medal rounds. Four of the eight are obviously left out, so there is immense pressure as opposed to the doubles where all teams qualify for the medal rounds.

As he did in '90, Cole started going 3-0 typical tie-breaker fashion over Vince Kelly, Scott Reiff and Engel. As is his usual, Cole took each match to the boiling point, especially the Reiff match. After winning 15-2 in game one, Reiff jumped out to an 11-5 second game cushion and a seemingly commanding lead before Cole engineered a pat-

ented comeback to stun the Memphis State student 15-3, 11-9.

Cole also took his revenge on Engel by taking an 11-9 triumph making up for his upset loss at Nationals. His third straight victory seemed to propel him forward with augmented strength as he dispatched Dan Fowler quickly in two games in the first medal round. On the other side, Tony Jelso, himself 3-0 in the prelims, advanced to the Gold Medal match with a resounding two game win over the 80% Kelly who was affected by a deep thigh bruise sustained in the prelims. He also had been the most impressive in the prelims by losing only one game all week to the likes of Lance Gilliam, Sweeney and Fowler. Clearly, the Gold Medal round was eagerly awaited by the Texas crowds.

Cole started off the match at his usual slow pace trying to get used to Jelso' pace and shot tendencies. Soon Jelso had game point 14-8 and appeared to be making the first claim on the Gold. Cole hung tough, however, and after saving four amazing game points began to score more effectively as the pressure and intensity took its toll on Jelso's shot-making ability. At 11-14, Cole served and then dove for

Michigan players at top of heap

Jelso's retrun backhand splat and after striking it all in mid-air fell very awkwardly on his playing shoulder. Jelso retrieved the passing shot to the ceiling and as he and the crowd waited for Cole to return the shot, they noticed that the World Champ had failed to get up and was turned over on his back to-tally motionless. The attending US Olympic Committee trainer was called to the court and according to his report, Cole was not totally unconscious, but somewhat incoherent and had periods of 10-15 seconds where his eyes displayed the signs of trauma and blackout. Oxygen was given to the fallen Cole and 911 was called as a precaution. An ambulance soon arrived and Cole was placed on a stretcher, and in an immobile neck brace to guard against spinal injury and then wheeled out in front of 200 stunned spectators who had no clue whether Cole was dying or slightly hurt.

"I'm still a little embarrassed from the whole incident. It was such a damn production when they brought in the oxygen and called 911, I think I would have been all right in 15 or 20 minutes. What's worse is I know I was coming back and even if I had lost game one, I was beginning to

dominate the rallies and win points easier. The tie-breaker would have been mine," reflected Cole.

This unfortunate climax to a week of exciting matches put a damper on the festivities, but it was better when word came to the players that Cole had been given clearance to fly home and undergo further tests. Despite the sophistication of today's medical techonolgy, nothing showed itself on any of the resulting tests and no mailgnent culprits were discovered anywhere.

Such a loss, however, did cost Cole a chance to regain his spot on the US National Team. By his excellent play the entire week and despite the inconclusive Gold Medal match Jelso deservingly qualified for the Team and will travel this April to Argentina for the 1994 Tournament of the Americas.

OLYMPIC FESTIVAL ROSTER SOUTH SQUAD

Chris Cole
Dan Fowler
Kay Kuhfeld
Kerri Stoffregen
Hart Johnson
Todd Stead
Mary Lyon
Susan Pfahler
Jerry Hilecher
John Boudman

NORTH SQUAD

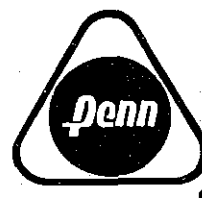
Tony Jelso
Scott Reiff
Cheryl Gudinas
Lynne Coburn
Sudsy Monchik
Bobby Rodriguez
Jackie Gibson
Joy MacKenzie
Larry Liles
Carl Pellowski

EAST SQUAD

Tim Sweeney
Vince Kelly
Molly O'Brien
Elaine Hooghe
Joel Bonnett
Bill Sell
Laura Fenton
Jane Greene
Neil Shapiro
Bill Lyman

WEST SQUAD

Mike Engel
Lance Gilliam
Ellen Crawford
Tanya Spangler
Todd O'Neill
Jeff Evans
Robin Levine
Cindy Doyle
Fran Davis
Paul Hendrikson



Elsewhere in racquetball happenings:

Gould nominated Sudafed Sportswoman of the Year

At age 22, Michelle Gould dominates both the women's amateur and pro ranks in racquetball. When the champion walked away with her fifth consecutive women's open title at the 1993 Ektelon AARA National Singles Championships, she set a national record for the longest winning streak in racquetball history. At the 1993 Women's Professional Racquetball Association Nationals, Gould came away at National Singles in a successful defense against her title — she has been the National Singles Champion for the past five seasons, 1989-1993.

And yet another honor has come Gould's way: the Ektelon sponsored player was recently named a finalist in the Sudafed Sportswoman of the Year Awards. She'll be in good company with the other nominees to include tennis pro Steffi Graf and Olympic speedskater Bonnie Blair. Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Mary Lou Retton have been past recipients of this honor.

A strong strategic player, Gould's regular game includes a serve that has been clocked at 157 miles per hour. Starting with her first junior title in 1984 in the girl's 14 and under division, Gould has won every major championship in women's racquetball

including the High School Nationals title, Junior National's title, Adult National's title, WPRA National's title and the Olympic Festival title.

At 18 years old she was the youngest athlete to win the Women's Open at the Adult Nationals, and the youngest player to qualify for the National Racquetball Hall of Fame (although she must wait

until she is 35 before she can be inducted.)

The Women's Sports Foundation is a nonprofit educational organization that promotes sports and fitness opportunities for all girls and women. The Foundation provides grants for up-and-coming athletes, information services and works to safeguard and enhance sports opportunities for all females.

Article provided courtesy of Ektelon

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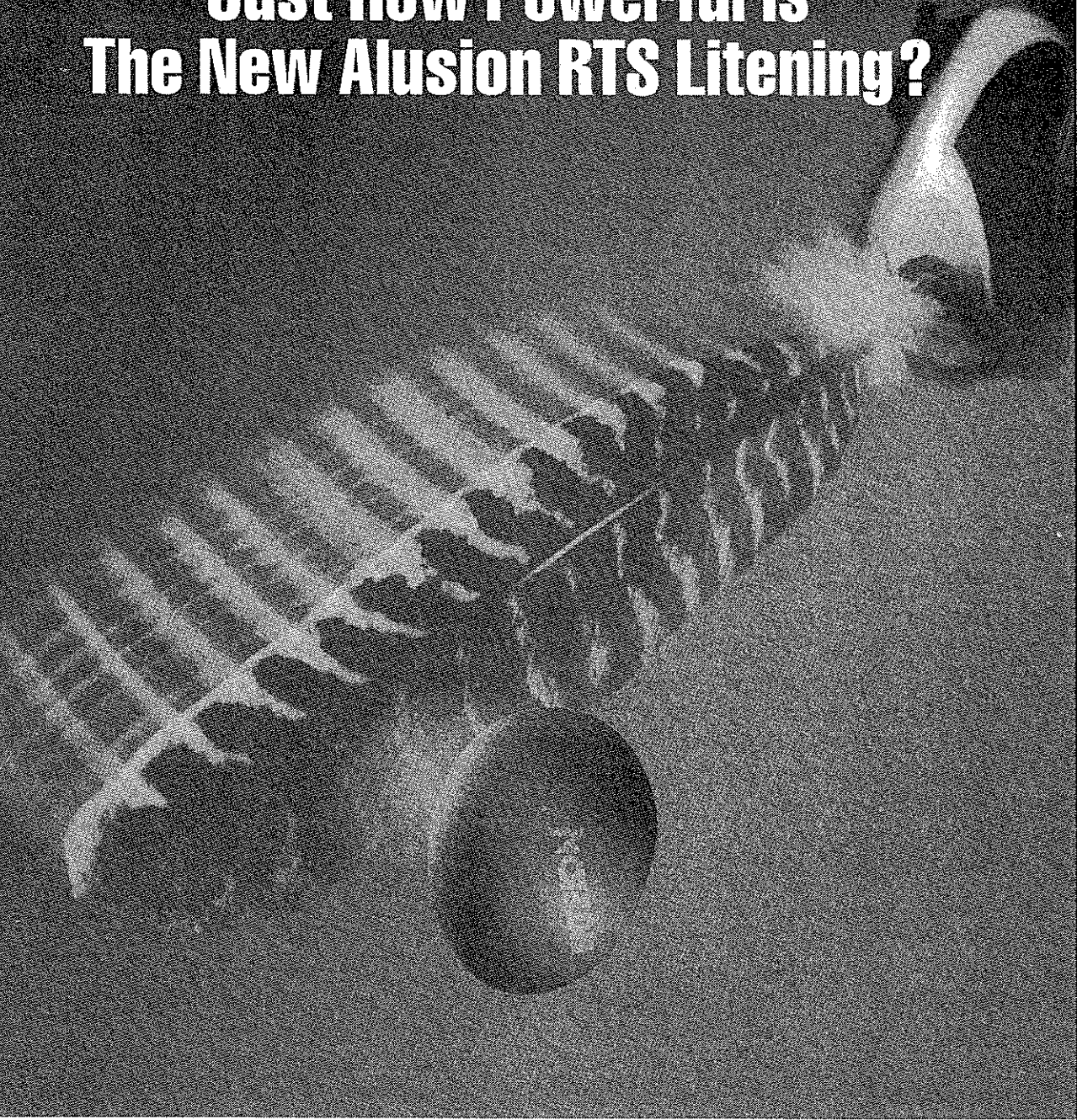
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Just How Powerful Is The New Alusion RTS Litening?



Introducing Alusion, the flagship of Ektelon's new high-performance RTS Litening Series. Alusion delivers the raw power you need to play today's faster game, and the lightning quickness you need to play against it. There's never been a more powerful argument for playing a lightweight racquet.



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Ektelon introduces new racquet line

Ektelon, the unchallenged technological leader in the racquetball industry, has again pushed the envelope on performance: The San Diego-based firm is storming the market with its unprecedented RTS Litening Series racquets.

Featuring four high performance racquetball racquets, the new line of Ektelon offers the power to play today's faster game, and the lightweight quickness to play against it. The secret of these extraordinary racquets is Ektelon's Racquetball Taper System.

"Ektelon didn't intend on making just a light racquet," said Kerry Lynch, the firm's production manager responsible for development of the new RTS Litening Series. "We wanted to make a lighter RTS racquet. Because Ektelon's new exclusive RTS handlaid composition is at the foundation of each frame, the signature power, feel and playing comfort of an Ektelon RTS racquet is still there...but in a lighter frame."

Lynch noted that in the racquetball community, a growing segment of the sport is changing, with younger, better athletes playing a faster game. Reducing the racquet weight allows these players to

react with split-second timing. Lynch added that with lighter racquet, swing speed is accelerated, increasing the speed of the ball.

Sudsy Monchik, who recently captured the 1993 Ektelon AARA US Junior Olympic Racquetball Championship, is the first national champion to play—and win—with an Ektelon RTS Litening Series racquet. Ektelon's new racquetball frame line was shipped to retailers beginning July 1.

RTS Litening Series racquets

are the result of the synthesis of two Ektelon proprietary technologies — the Racquetball Taper System and Litening. The Racquetball Taper System utilizes high modulus graphite, Kevlar and other materials which are painstakingly handlaid to produce an optimally stiff frame. The Litening design removes weight selectively along the entire length of the frame, so each racquet's critical weight and balance ratios are maintained, as well as its distinct performance characteristics.

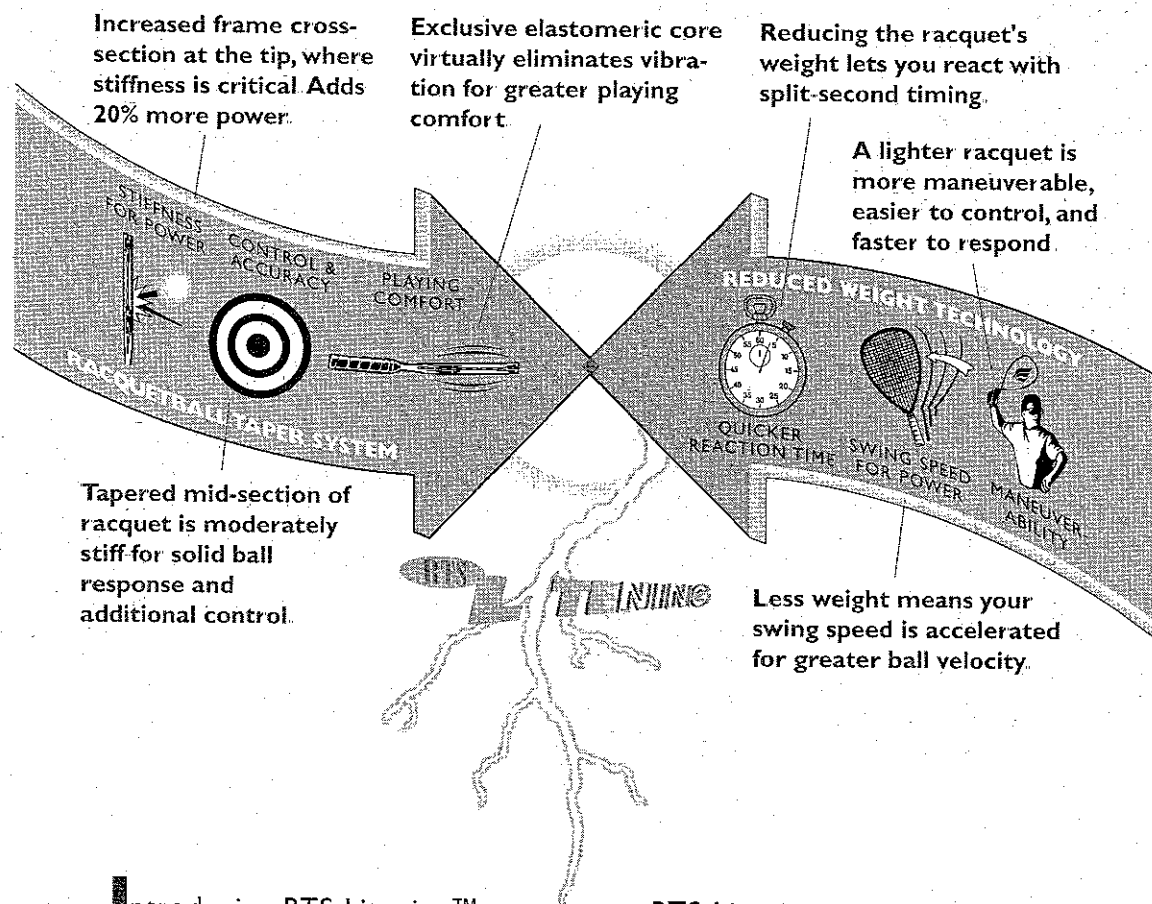
Ektelon revamps protective eyewear line; additional styles added

Ektelon, the dominant force in the racquetball industry, has revamped its entire protective eyewear line for the 1993-1994 season. Of the six models two are new this year.

The new Spector features an oversized wraparound piece with state-of-the-art design for multi-sport use. The dual-curved lenses, revolutionary to racquetball, provide unblocked vision. The eyewear comes with both traditional arms as well as a headstrap, while the custom-contoured frame and distortion-free lenses give a superior field of vision. The Spector is available in black or bright blue, with a suggested retail price of \$29.95.

The Odyssey has a flexible, lightweight nylon frame to minimize distraction and add comfort. A double bar brow bridge and the adjustable cable ear piece with nylon cover gives a secure, stable fit. The Odyssey, with a suggested retail price of \$24.95, offers a choice of charcoal or navy frames.

EKTELON'S NEW RTS LITENING™ SERIES



Introducing RTS Litening™. A series of high performance racquets from Ektelon with the power to play today's faster game, and the lightweight quickness to play against it.

The RTS Litening design removes weight selectively along the entire length of the frame, so each racquet's critical weight and balance ratios are maintained, as well as its distinct performance characteristics.

Because weight is reduced, your swing speed through the hitting zone is accelerated, which increases ball velocity.

RTS Litening racquets are also exceptionally maneuverable, so you can react much more quickly.

But RTS Litening racquets are not only lighter racquets, they're RTS racquets.

The same hand-laid composition of advanced materials which set the standards for racquet performance is at the foundation of each RTS Litening Series frame. The signature power, feel, touch and playing comfort of an Ektelon RTS racquet are all there — uncompromised.

View of the President continues

Continued from page 2

events and get the word out to other players in the state who are unaware of his fantastic summer work-out.

You will notice there have been some changes in our 1993-94 RAM tournament schedule, please note them and throw away your old schedule to avoid making mistakes. Our RAM 1993-94 tournament card will go out with all of the updated changes, so be on the lookout.

Thanks to all the people who sent their good wishes after hearing of my little Olympic Festival episode and wondered if I was okay. I won't have any reoccurring bouts in Gold Medal matches.

Since the wedding has been takin up sop much of my time, I haven't been able to work on the final 1992-93 RAM player rankings or the 1993-94 current rankings. I am planning on finishing last year's ranking so people can see where they ended up. If I can get those done for next issue, I can begin on this year's first three tournaments. Cross your fingers.

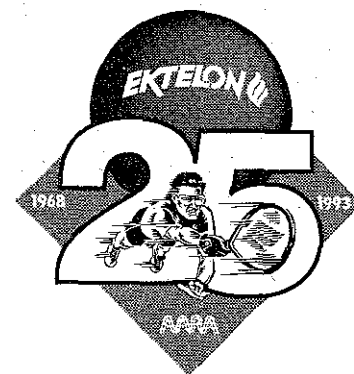
Michigan racquetball needs your help

by W.T. Blakeslee

Some Racquetball gossip you may have not caught up with that in my view is very interesting. Eastern Michigan hosted a tournament. Chris Cole got married. Ken Bonnett has had tournaments in Alpena and Petoskey. Rick Crawford has recruited RAM members from Marquette. Ken wants to have more round robin tournaments. Where is Jim Early? Jimmy Floyd? The Belle Isle outdoor tournaments are fun, too bad we can't get these tournaments sanctioned. Racquettime was sold, Mark and Maureen will have to find somewhere else to play. Port Huron is planning a tournament stop. Did you know they are thinking about changing the ball color again? String tension is declining. Light racquets are the latest!

Finally, on a more serious note, I could use your help. The regional tournament is once again being held in Columbus, Ohio. I'm sure it will be a great tournament to play and participate in as Doug Ganim and the Sawmill Racquetclub are first class. However, I have petitioned the AARA to allow us to also

have a Regional at a non-conflicting date with the Ohio event. This would allow all of you that cannot drive to Ohio to play in a regional. In addition, I am sure some of the out of State players would drive up for the competition. We used to rotate the tournament every year between Ohio and Michigan, but for the last three years we have stopped that practice. What I want you to do is write Luke St. Onge a letter and complain, let's show him grass roots support for our state. Maybe the power of the pen will convince the AARA that Michigan Racquetball is important!



RAM welcomes our new sponsor Ekleon and congratulates them on 25 years of service to the racquetball industry.

1993-94 RAM AMENDED TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Nov. 12-14	Midwest Seniors/Masters Davison, MI <i>Jim Easterling</i>	Mar. 4-6	Killshot Klassic Ann Arbor, MI <i>Madonna McPhalin</i>
Nov. 20th	RAM WOMEN'S ONLY ROUND ROBIN Grand Rapids, MI <i>Laura Patterson</i>	Mar. 11-13	5th Annual Can-Am Port Huron, MI <i>Jeff Kern</i>
Dec. 3-5	RAM STATE DOUBLES Ann Arbor, MI <i>Tom Blakeslee</i>	Mar. 18-20	BCD Round Robin Brighton, MI <i>Jim Easterling</i>
Dec. 10-12	Racquetball One Grand Rapids, MI <i>Ken Bonnett</i>	Mar. 25-27	Racquetball One Finale Lansing, MI <i>Ken Bonnett</i>
Jan. 21-23	MapleCourts Winterfest Troy, MI <i>Mary Dixon</i>	Apr. 8-10	Jr Regional/State Warm-up Mt. Clemens, MI <i>Tom Blakeslee</i>
Jan. 28-30	Racquetball One Lansing, MI <i>Ken Bonnett</i>	Apr. 15-17	Grand Rapids Championships (Open to all) Grand Rapids, MI <i>Ken Bonnett</i>
Feb. 4-6	RAM WOMEN'S ONLY Flint, MI <i>Nancy Cole</i>	Apr. 29-1	RAM STATE SINGLES TBA <i>Tom Blakeslee</i>
Feb. 18-20	Racquetball One Seniors Grand Rapids, MI <i>Ken Bonnett</i>	Ken Bonnett (616) 956-0550 Jim Easterling (517) 887-0459 WT Blakeslee (313) 986-1753 Jeff Kern (313) 982-7946 Mary Dixon (313) 362-3777 Kevin Fuqua (313) 971-7131 Laura Patterson (616) 285-7647 Nancy Cole (313) 239-4130	
Feb. 25-27	Tri-Cities Singles & Doubles Saginaw, MI <i>Marta Rubcich</i>		

RAM BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 1992, Meeting Minutes

Attendees: The following board members attended the meeting: Tom Blakeslee, Chris Cole, Rick Crawford and Marta Rubcich.

Guests: The following guests from Courtrooms North in Port Huron attended the meeting: Jeff Kerns, Scott Hale and Nancy Guilds.

Meeting Begins: Chris called the meeting to order on August 1 at 6:05 pm at the DHRC.

Treasurer's Report: No report, as Lou Ellen was not present.

Secretary's Report: Chris had mailed the minutes from the June meeting to all board members. Marta motioned that the minutes be accepted. The motion was seconded by Rick.

Women's Committee: Marta gave the following update on the women's committee:
Tournaments: The Women's committee has decided to hold its tournaments in Grand Rapids in November and Flint in February. We picked the cities based on when tournament dates fall in comparison to other tournaments on the schedule, with the intention of another tournament being in the area in 3-6 weeks after the tournament. Nancy Personnette will chair the committee for the Flint tournament; Laura Patterson for the Grand Rapids tournament. **Clinics:** We want to hold a clinic in each city in which we do a tournament 2-3 weeks prior to coming to the tournament. We still need to contact the Junior committee about combining clinics. We would like to put on several other clinics as well. **Survey:** Survey will be drafted and mailed to women's committee members prior to our next meeting so that it can be finalized at that meeting.

VP'S Report: Tom is working on selecting a site for the state tournaments: Doubles: possible clubs are Racquettime (Livonia) or One on One (Ann Arbor); Singles: Preference is Grosse Shores. The manager is interested, but the owners may not be. Other options are MAC, Davison and Mt. Clemens. The last newsletter (Summer 1993-#2) was out on time for a change.

President's report: Newsletters: The next newsletter deadline is Sept. 1. Deadline for the last newsletter of the year is Oct. 11 (with State Doubles entry, it must go out

by Nov. 1). Sandy did this last newsletter in spite of the death of her grandmother. We have had four newsletters to date this year. Chris would like to include in the newsletter a list of what you get for your AARA membership. Tom suggests we put a volume number on the newsletter itself. *AARA fee:* The AARA is likely to increase the competitive license fee to \$25.00. *Tournament Card:* Tournament card should be ready in September. Maureen has found someone to sponsor the card for us. *Jim Early:* Jim Early has not responded to the letter from Chris (included with the June minutes). A decision on Jim's board member status was held over to the next meeting due to the few number of board members present. Jim had not responded to Chris, Tom or Tom Brownlee in the last three months. *Outdoor tournaments:* Chris played at Belle Isle, had a blast and barely won. There is a good number of players who play outdoor racquetball, but are not a part of RAM. Can they get an associate membership to get RAM mailings, etc. Can we offer a "state" membership? What about having an info booth at the next outdoor tournament? The organizers seem to need some help in organizing/running their tournaments. We might also be able to help them with sponsors. Our goal should be to get our mailings to them without them necessarily buying a competitive license. Tom responded: We need to be careful about mailing list. We cannot be unfair to sanctioned tournament directors. Maybe we could charge the outdoor tournaments a single sanctioning fee for all three tournaments. *GLICMA:* Chris is sending a letter about the junior and women's programs to the members of GLICMA. Chris would like a pamphlet developed to offer information about each program, for those clubs that express interest. Most of these clubs are also a part of IRSA, which has a recreational program with the AARA. However, most of the clubs don't know what hits is, since it was done through IRSA. We can help educate the clubs about recreational memberships.

Report from Rick: The recent outdoor tournament at Belle Isle was very successful with more RAM members participating. Rick is going to work to address increasing our membership. He has recruited Valeria Springer to help. He is trying to get Tony Barra to help also.

Guest Comments: Nancy, Jeff, and Scott have come to the meeting to learn more about RAM and to talk about sanctioning the tournament they hold at their club, Courtrooms North in Port Huron. Chris responded to question from Nancy about what the average entry fee is and what is included for the fee. The average fee is about \$30-35. Chris also explained what is included in hospitality.

Courtrooms North was given the impression by Ken Bonnett that their tournament needed to be sanctioned. They thought Ken was apart of RAM and that they would lose control of their tournament. Ken's emphasis was on the business not the sport. This scared them that they would lose control of their tournament.

Their club tournaments have been successful and profitable. They asked about Canadian participation in sanctioned tournaments. Tom responded that they do not need to

Continued on page 14

Women's Side-Out

by Marta Rubcich

The Women's Committee has been working hard all summer to start some programs to encourage more women to participate in racquetball tournaments. We are excited to announce that we will hold two sanctioned tournaments for **women only** during the 1993-94 season.

Grand Rapids hosts our first tournament November 20. Laura Patterson is directing the tournament committee. The Flint area hosts our second tournament, directed by Nancy Personette, on February 4, 1994. Each tournament is a one-day event using a format in which players are guaranteed two matches. Host clubs will be announced at a later date. It isn't too soon to start talking about these tournaments at your clubs and in your leagues. We are depending on you to help us encourage women to give tournaments a try. We all know how much fun tournaments are — let's spread the word.

We are issuing a survey to women players to find out what we can do to provide women with what they want in tournaments and other racquetball programs. Since our target audience is predominantly the club and league players who do not currently play in tournaments and are not AARA members, we need to distribute and collect survey at your club. Please contact Marta Rubcich at (517) 631-0255. And of course, we would like your opinion as well. This feedback will definitely impact our future programs, so tell us what you want.

Finally, the season has actually begun. I don't know where summer went, but it is time to dust off those racquets and get out on the courts. I'll see you from the serv-

From the Rule Book

by W.T. Blakeslee

RULE 3.3 Referee Appointment and Removal

The principal official for every match shall be the referee who has been designated by the tournament director, or his designated representative, and who has been agreed upon by all participants in the match. The referee's authority regarding a match begins once the players are called to the court. The referee may be removed from a match upon the agreement of all the participants (teams in doubles) or at the discretion of the tournament director or his designated representative. In the event that a referee's removal is requested by one player or team and not agreed to by the other, the tournament director or his designated representative may accept or reject the request. It is suggested that the match be observed before determine what, if any, action is to be taken. In addition, two line judges and a scorekeeper may also be designated to assist the referee in officiating the match.

Board Minutes Continued

be members of the AARA if they are members of the Canadian association.

What do they have to do to be sanctioned? Chris respond that first you pay a \$50.00 deposit that is returned once we get the results. Or, you can apply the fee to the next year's tournament. A sanctioned tournament only requires that one, memberships be collected and two, results are sent to RAM for national rankings. They think John Lacavich has sent in their sanctioning fee. The date for their tournament is March 11-13.

Does anyone in the state know about the unsanctioned tournaments that he clubs are running that we could approach to become sanctioned? Chris responded that few clubs hold such tournaments, and that those that do so only for their own membership. *Can the RAM logo be used on the tournament shirts, etc?* Tom and Chris responded that most directors do not use the logo, but you may use it.

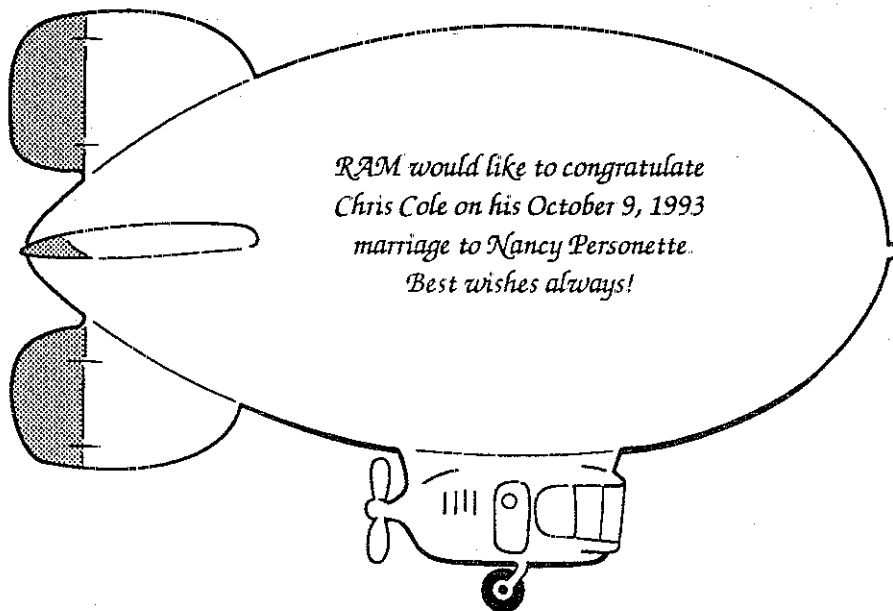
Who do we call about a junior clinic? Mary Dixon - number in the newsletter.

Do we hold clinics on how to run a tournament? No, this hasn't been done before.

One problem we have with tournaments is in defining he divisions for players. Chris responded that we make rankings available to tournament directors. You also rely on your local players who know most of the other players.

Next meeting: The next RAM Board Meeting will be held Monday Sept. 20, 1993.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.



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- 

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