

# Racquetball Reporter

First Quarter 2001

Volume XI, Issue 1

## **State Singles set for Lansing MAC March 30-April 1**

The Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing will serve as host to the 2001 Racquetball Association of Michigan State Singles Championships March 30—April 1, 2001.

Highlighting the tournament this year are two new divisions: Men's AA and Women's AA. Players can enter this division or Open. All Open losers will drop down to this division.

Entry fee remains the same as last year at \$35. A collared shirt is included as a tournament souvenir.

Referees will not be used unless necessary.

An entry form is available on page nine of this issue or on the website.

For further questions, please contact Tom Blakeslee at (810) 468-2787 or Lou Ellen Fecher at (810) 658-8097.

## **Michigan Racquetball Surfs the Web**

I hope that you have had a chance by now to visit the official RAM web site at [www.michiganracquetball.org](http://www.michiganracquetball.org) to see state rankings, updated tournament schedules, membership application forms, and lots of other useful information for Michigan racquetball players. The site is maintained on a volunteer basis but nonetheless the goal is to update the information at least every month. Your suggestions and input will help to make the site a success, so please email any of the RAM board members with comments — you can find their email addresses on the web site. You also can help to spread awareness of the site — simply print the advertisement page at [www.michiganracquetball.org/announce.htm](http://www.michiganracquetball.org/announce.htm) and post it in your club.

This year, the primary goal is to make the web site available to all USRA sanctioned tournament directors to post information about their tournaments. It is hoped to have tournament entry forms, starting times, maps and driving directions, and tournament results available on line.

Remember that the success of these services will depend on the participation of tournament directors. If you would like to include your local USRA sanctioned tournament on the web site, please ask your tournament director to contact Kevin Thomas (email and phone number listed on the web site) as far in advance of your tournament as possible. Your entry form needs to say that starting times will be available on-line, and you will need to provide electronic copies of your entry form, starting times, and other information to Kevin for inclusion on the web site. Kevin also will need electronic or paper copies of any graphics or photographs to include.

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## View of the President

By W.T. Blakeslee

The purpose of the newsletter is to get you to play in the State Singles at the Lansing MAC March 30, 31 and April 1. This is not an April fool's joke. The entry form for the tournament is on the back page. You can also enter by addressing our web site **michiganracquetball.org**. Kevin Thomas has done a terrific job with the web site. For this tournament you can enter and find out your starting time online (hopefully). Remember we will do everything possible to limit Friday play to disadvantage as few players as possible, in draws of 16 or more it will be probably imperative that some Friday play will be necessary. Also we are creating a new AA division which will allow the open players to drop down after losing to the likes of Jack, Chris or Jimmy. This will be interesting new twist. We should have a pretty good souvenir for everyone.

We have had some good tournaments recently at Total Sports and Players Athletic Club. The Total Sports tournament was as big as normal and the Player's tournament was just as big with almost 80 people alone on Sunday playing doubles. Player's tournament sold almost 30 new memberships.

The good news with all these tournaments is our membership continues to go UP! We will be close to the 500 mark for the first time since the old

days of the mid eighties and I am excited about it. At the State Singles Tournament you can help by renewing, extending or convincing your buddies to sign up for the USRA. Please help us sustain it.

Other bits and pieces: Welcome Twayne Howard to our RAM Board as your newest member. Congratulations to J. D. Driver for being the latest entry to the RAM hall of fame. Nick Rallis and his wife Missy are expecting twins, I always told you Nick was good. Jack Huczek beat Cliff Swain at the last pro stop, that should move him up in the rankings. What did you think of the USRA photo spread on the woman's pro tour bathing suit edition? Chris Cole is trying to come up with a drug testing program and a better way to select our athletes for the World events. Finally there is going to be a tournament at Courtland around April 27, the same date we used to have the State Singles hope to see you support it!

### **Congratulations!**

J. D. Driver (from Muskegon, MI) has been inducted into the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame. He joins 18 other people in receiving this honor. There will be a small ceremony at the MAC club, during the State Singles Championships, Saturday March 31 sometime during the day.

Anyone is welcome to attend.

## **Racquetball Association of Michigan**

RAM  
Board of Directors

Tom Blakeslee  
*President*  
(810) 468-2787

Jack Huczek  
*Vice-President*  
(810) 373-5255

Sharon Huczek  
*Secretary*  
(810) 373-5255

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(810) 658-8097

Board Members  
Twayne Howard  
Felicia Mann  
Kevin Thomas

Sanctioning  
Tom Blakeslee  
(810) 468-2787

Junior's Committee  
Sharon Huczek  
(810) 373-5255

Newsletter  
*The Racquetball Reporter*  
2834 Yale St.  
Flint, MI 48503

# 2000 RAM State Doubles Champs

## Men's Open

1st place Jack Huczek/Pete Ruhala  
2nd place Jimmy Floyd/Ryan Covell  
Semis Chris Cole/Mike Anderson  
Augie Pasko/Jeff Mullins

## Men's A

1st place Kevin Thomas/Jim Browers  
2nd place Larry Panetta/Rick Davenport  
Semis Bob Gravelyn/John Coaker  
Jim McGrail/Ed Reneski

## Men's B

1st place Larry Panetta/Larry Davenport  
2nd place Marv Riley/Mark Neidzielski  
Semis Dan Fletcher/Al Petri  
Buzz Suupi Jr./Mike Huber

## Men's C

1st place Jim Collins/Larry Loveless  
2nd place Paul Delisle/Diego Pizzo  
Semis Gary McClellan/David Odalovich

## Men's 30

1st place Kevin Thomas/Jim Browers  
2nd place Rich Torres/John Torres  
Semis Paul Stanwick/Cory Sobczyk  
Jim McGrail/Ed Reneski

## Men's 30/35/40 B

1st place Nick Frontezak/Mr. Mollema  
2nd place Diego Pizzo/Roland Leal  
Semis Chuck Vanhoose/Tom Nagel  
Mr. Brochler/George Terryn

## Men's 35

1st place Pete Ruhala/Jeff Connell  
2nd place Jack White/Tom Blakeslee  
3rd place Chris Kelly/Jim Panasiewicz

## Men's 40

1st place J Jim Woolcock/Dan Verbeck  
2nd place Jack White/Tom Blakeslee  
Semis Lewis Forest/Mike Hotra  
Jim Santino/Dean Rhodes

## Men's 45

1st place Jim Santino/Dean Rhodes  
2nd place John Coaker/Bob Gravelyn  
Semis John Brennan/Al Klann  
Lewis Forest/Mike Majeski

## Men's 45/50 B

1st place Ron Morse/Clark Bruton  
2nd place Stan Johnson/Mike Huber  
Semis Frank Dascenza/Vince Callahan  
Mr. Gipson/Robert Adcock

## Women's Open

1st place Sandy White/Claire Kruse  
2nd place Paula Saad/Stacey Barbas  
Semis Felicia Mann/Terry Fields  
Jan Insko/Kathy Trotter

## Women's A

1st place Lisa Stemple/Karen Morehead  
2nd place Diana Courtney/Debbie Reauso  
3rd place Judy Porter/Lorna Rose

## Mixed Open

1st place Sharon Huczek/Jack Huczek  
2nd place Sandy White/Chris Cole  
Semis Jan Insko/Brad McIlhargie  
Melody Gorno/John Gervasi

## Mixed A

1st place Jason Kennedy/Anne Jahn  
2nd place Diana Courtney/Mike Easthope  
3rd place Bob Neeme/Lisa Stemple

## Mixed B

1st place Al Petri/Mary Horne  
2nd place Mike McMillan/Debbie Reauso  
Semis Frank Palazzo/Lorna Rose  
Bob Gray/Kim Novak

*Congratulations to all...*

# 12th Annual Seniors/Masters Tourney Successful

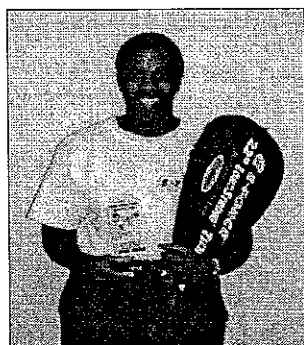
*by Jim Easterling*

Michigan's Midwest Seniors Masters Tournament was a success again this year. This annual event is open to anyone who is 35 years or older. It is played in a round robin format without referees. Scoring is two games to 11 points each.

This year, the tournament was held at the beautiful Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing on November 4, 2000. Tournament directors Jim and Dianne Easterling hosted the event in one long day rather than two days.

Eighteen trophies were awarded at the event. Four of these went to players from other states (20% of the hardware leaving the state!).

Special congrats to Dean Rhodes (Men's 45) and Jim Santino (Men's 50) who played the entire tournament without losing a game.



Women's 45: 1st place winner  
Laura Patterson



Women's 45: 2nd place winner  
Andrea Scott



Men's 35/40A: 1st place Peter Ruhala  
and 2nd place Steve Goedker



Men's 35/40B: 1st place Richard Oswald  
and 2nd place Randy Pagels



Men's 45: 1st place Dean Rhodes and 2nd  
place Jack Nash



Men's 50: 1st place Jim Santino  
and 2nd place Kim Hyde



Women's 35: 1st place winner Felicia Mann  
and 2nd place winner Paula Saad

## Senior/Master Tourney winners...



Men's 55: 1st place Bob Fournier  
and 2nd place Bill Hagedorn.



Men's 60: 1st place Ron Hutcherson  
and 2nd place Dave Lund



Men's 65/70: 1st place Charlie Douglass  
and 2nd place John O'Donnell.

## An Chat With Jack..

By Karen Green

Jack Huzcek defeated Cliff Swain at the Minneapolis Pro-Am Tournament on February 16 in the round of sixteen. This was an amazing accomplishment, especially given the fact that Jack beat Cliff three straight games. The scores were 11-4, 11-8 and 11-6. Jack then lost in the quarterfinals to Rocky Carson. This was Jack's first quarterfinal appearance in a pro event. Not bad for an eighteen year old!

What made this victory even more special is that Cliff has a reputation for being "unmerciful" when he plays the up and coming racquetball superstars. None of the prior up and coming players defeated Cliff on their first attempt until Jack did.

I had the opportunity to interview Jack upon his return to Michigan. His responses to my questions are as follows:

**K:** *What were you thinking when you won the first game?*

**J:** I got the impression that Cliff was warming up and not going all out. I was thinking that if he proceeded like this I would go all out. In fact, he only scored four points the first game. After that, however, he definitely turned it up a couple of notches.

**K:** *So then what happened when you beat him the second game?*

*What was his demeanor? Did he say anything to you?*

**J:** He didn't really say anything to me. I deliberately slowed the game up. He was getting frustrated with the pace, especially with his serves. I was in a good serving rhythm and I was getting him into the rallies and then putting the ball away when I had an opportunity to do so.

**K:** *In the third game he must have been feeling a bit of pressure. You knew at this point that you had a chance to defeat him. What were your thoughts?*

**J:** I just wanted to stay in the moment and not get ahead of myself. I took my time with my shots and since things were working, I stuck with my game plan.

**K:** *Do you think you had any sort of letdown in your match with Rocky after beating Cliff?*

**J:** It wasn't a letdown. Rocky's style is slow and methodical. They were two different players. I had difficulty adjusting to his game style. The match did go five games, however, and I lost 11-9 in the final game.

Jack also competed in the amateur open in this tournament and he won this division. He is continuing to make his mark on both the professional and amateur racquetball scenes.



# Jack Huczek Continues to Dominate

Let's project that you are Jack Huczek and you are reflecting on your year 2000-01 tournament campaign.

You see becoming the youngest male to ever make the US Adult National Team by taking the Bronze at National Singles in May; winning the Gold Medal in both Boy's 16/18+Under back in June at Junior Nationals, something nobody has ever accomplished in one event; this is followed by repeating a First Place finish in the Men's Open division at the US Open (the biggest, baddest tournament of all right now); continued by winning the Gold in 16+Under at Junior Worlds in December; then beating one of the greatest players of all-time, Cliff Swain, in three straight games 11-4, 11-8, 11-7 at an IRT stop in Minnesota this February.

"Whew," you say as you scan this nearly inconceivable (think *The Princess Bride* movie) list of accomplishments, "that's not a bad season so far." More like that's not a bad CAREER for everyone else.

Well, you are not Jack Huczek. None of us are, which makes him unique to our state and to the game of racquetball itself. While his dossier of accomplishments is nearly an encyclopedia by now, he is soft spoken. Where others seek glory or money, Jack just wants to be the best player he can be. While others seek to anoint him the next Sudsy Monchik, Jack just, well, wants to be the best player he can be. "I don't pay a lot of attention to what other people say comparing me to Sudsy. I'm not him and he's not me."

Did his success at last year's US Open surprise him then, especially

since he was defending his Open division title and would not be able to sneak up on anybody? "Not really. I knew going in that I was right there even though I didn't have as much experience at that level." Indeed, experience against young Huczek meant nothing as he stormed through a draw loaded like a Bosnian minefield.

Along the way to winning the Men's Open division he only took out former US Junior Team member Mitch Williams in the quarters, current World Doubles Champion and Mexican National Team member Javier Moreno (two straight) in the semis and current Canadian National Team member Brian Istace (two straight) in the finals.

He also displayed flashes of brilliance in the Pro event by taking #3 ranked John Ellis to four games in the round of 16. Game two, in which Ellis prevailed 17-15, is already being called one of the most exciting games on the IRT this season or even recent history. Ellis' exasperated comment after the match to Michiganian Chris Cole and a former US teammate of Ellis' in the mid 90s: "I hate all you Michigan guys! You, (Jimmy) Floyd, (Joel) Bonnett and now Jack. You guys just need to stay home in Michigan." This close match with Ellis in November portended the victory over Swain in mid-February.

With the meat of the 2001 season coming up, Huczek has set his sights on Adult Nationals down in Houston this May. "I lost in Houston last year to Rocky Carson in the semis (eventual champion) after having a big lead in game one.

I couldn't keep my game going and lost the momentum. I need to learn how to maintain that so I don't lose another match like that again."

On making the National Team, young Huczek replied with the prototypical championship mentality: "I was so upset about losing my semi the way I did, that I really didn't care at the time about making the Team. Sure it's great, but it doesn't get me to my ultimate goal," and that goal being? "To be the best I can be," says the phenom with a completely sincere straight face.

In evaluating this year, Huczek is philosophical, but more importantly, he's right "It's been much tougher this year because of expectations and more pressure from that. I won't be able to sneak up on anyone." Because of this, he has continued his maniac-type workouts for both cardio and strength training. "I weighed 165 last year and now I'm at 180, but quicker and with more endurance."

Besides the win against Swain, Huczek has played several of the top amateurs from around the world in the last twelve months and is doing just fine, thank you. He has beaten Istace from Canada two events in a row, Moreno from Mexico two in a row and World Singles Champion Alvaro Beltran of Mexico in three straight events. He has split with Canadian National Team member Mike Green, but won their most recent match-up in Chicago.

These four players have begun making noise on the IRT as well so Huczek's record against them is

# The World of Racquetball

incredibly significant in terms of the US National Team. Istace of Canada made the semis at the New Jersey stop in early February. Along the way, he beat US National Champ Carson in five games, destroyed #3 Ellis in three games before falling to #1 ranked Sudsy Monchik in four. Green of Canada also made the semis at the Denver event in December and beat Carson and #4 Jason Mannino before losing to #2 Swain. Mexico's Moreno just beat #10 Mike Locker at the New Jersey stop before dropping a tense five-game war to #8 Derek Robinson.

World Champ Beltran has made the largest noise amongst these players that Huczek has beaten. He made the semis at the US Open before losing to Swain, but along the way dusted off #5 ranked Tim Doyle in three games and Canadian phenom Kane Waselenchuk 11-8 in the fifth. He has also made the quarters at three other IRT stops and defeated such players like Ellis, Robinson, Carson and Guidry while only losing at those same events to #1-3 in Monchik, Swain and Ellis. Certainly select company.

This makes Huczek's record in Men's Open competitions against these four players all the more impressive. If they are that successful right now on the IRT rankings (Beltran is #9, Green #16, Istace #21 and Moreno #28) and Jack is a combined 8-1 against them in the last twelve months, that is huge with the Tournament of the Americas coming up in April down in Honduras.

Indeed, Huczek will compete at

a US Team Trial March 16-18th in Cleveland to determine if he or Guidry will play singles for the US down in Honduras. Given Jack's success against Beltran, Green, Moreno, and Istace, it's no wonder many in the USRA would like to see him qualify for Honduras.

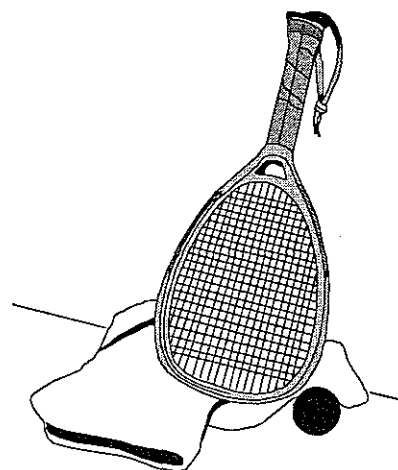
The USRA's Jim Hiser states, "Canada is sending Kane (Waselenchuk) and Mike (Green), while Javier (Moreno) and Alvaro (Beltran) will play for Mexico. Jack's record against these players (8-1) speaks for itself. Kane (#12 on IRT) is the only guy Jack has not faced recently, but one can see how these two young guns would go at each other rather evenly."

Chris Cole, the former National and World Champion who will be coaching young Huczek at Houston this May, has these things to add about his young student. "Jack has a brilliant career ahead of him no matter if that is at the amateur US Team level or the Pro Tour. There is nobody out there right now coming up in the game that can match his athletic ability, instincts, disciplined workouts or focus. He eats and sleeps the game and knows the sacrifices it takes to make it to the next level. How many players get up at the crack of dawn everyday to workout for two hours before school? After losing Worlds for the first time last August, our National Team would benefit greatly to have him on the roster for Honduras. One can tell that just by looking at his record against Green, Moreno, Istace and Beltran."

Cole, who has coached the Junior National Team and Laura Fenton

(1999 Bronze Medalist at the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg), has seen what traits champions need to exhibit and with Huczek, the list is never-ending. "Whenever we talk about a particular tournament or match that he doesn't play to his expectations, I am amazed how unsatisfied he is. His record at the junior level is unmatched, even by Sudsy himself, yet he's constantly striving to improve and get better. You just don't find that in hardly any players today and it reminds me of speeches or quotes by athletes like Jordan, Gretzky, Larry Bird and so on" "What is even scarier," admits Cole, "is that he's still 4-5 four years from his emotional and mental peak. The kid is going to get mentally stronger and his game will rise with that. Hard to imagine how tough he will be then, but I don't believe there is a limit to the heights he will reach."

In other words, the rest of the top amateurs and professionals better watch out. There's a storm brewing on the horizon and its name is Hurricane Jack.



# Michigan Players Victorious at U.S. Open

*By Twayne Howard*

Nearly two dozen Michiganders made the long trek to Memphis to compete in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Hilton U.S. Open. The Open is Racquetball's premier event and each year it gets bigger and better. The tournament kicks off each year with a Charity Pro-Am Doubles tournament on Tuesday and goes non-stop until the Finals on Sunday afternoon with several parties and events in between. Not to mention non-stop racquetball at three clubs featuring over 600 of the World's best Pro and Amateur players. This is a "Level Five" National Championship and brings out the best competition you could ask for. As always, Team Michigan made a good showing, taking home thirteen medals, and earning three National Championships.

Chris Cole and Jack Huczek both made impressive runs through the Open Division, and made their presence felt in the Pro draw. This was the stiffest test for Chris as he continues his return to the highest levels of racquetball. After qualifying for the Pro Draw, Chris faced off against Ruben Gonzalez who still competitive at age 49. Chris took the first game, but Ruben was able to regroup and close out the match in four games. In the Open Division, Chris used his "Old School" game to advance into the Semi-Finals. This effort created quite a buzz in Memphis as people marveled at his return to the top of the racquetball world. Watch out for Chris in Houston as he sets his sights on a second Na-

tional Amateur Championship in May.

Jack Huczek put on another amazing show in the Pro Division. After advancing past long-time Canadian Team member, Mike Ceresia and tour regular Erin Branningan, Jack faced #3 Pro John Ellis in the Round of 16. Jack took the first game and had an opportunity to take the second, but missed a forehand setup at game point. This uncharacteristic error seemed to take the wind out of Jack's sails. He ended up losing the next three, but left another lasting impression on all in attendance. This young man will have to be reckoned with in the very near future. The big boys better watch out... there's a new kid coming to town. In the Open Division, Jack dropped only one game on the way to the Finals where he faced Canadian Team Member Brian Istace, who had beaten Chris Cole the day before. Jack would not be stopped as he collected his second U.S. Open Championship. Including Joel Bonnett's win in 1996, this makes the third Open Division Championship in five years for Team Michigan.

Laura Patterson and Stephanie Cobb teamed up to win the 30 / 40 Women's Doubles Championship. Laura and Stephanie went undefeated through the draw to take home the Gold. Congratulations Ladies!

Shannon Kohl took home the Gold in Mens 24- A/B. Shannon lost only one game on his way to his second Championship. Shannon won the 24- C/D Championship in 1997.

Dean Cline fell just short of that illusive Championship losing in the 45+ C/D Finals. Mark Casey finished Second in the 45+ A/B Division losing in a tough tie-breaker.

Other medallists included Sharon Huczek in Womens 45/50, Greg Hodges in Mens 40+, Chuck Kaiser in Mens 70+, Jeff Mullins and Augie Pasko in Mens A Doubles, and Bob Gravelyn in Mens 50+ Doubles.

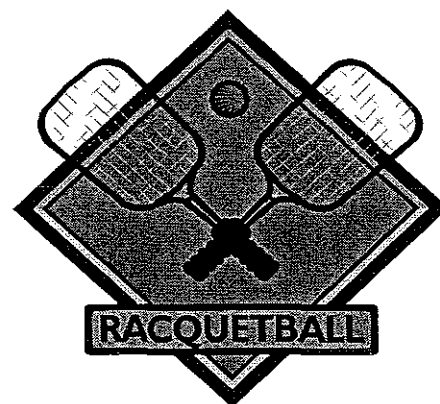
David Lund, Jim Easterling, Al Kohl, Steven Lafayette, Twayne Howard, Brandon Cortese and Alex Cobb also competed.

Congratulations to all. This is truly a spectacular event that puts our sport on a pedestal.

## RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 30—  
April 1, 2001

East Lansing MAC





Racquetball Association of Michigan  
*presents the*  
**2001 RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

March 30 — April 1, 2001

*at the*

Michigan Athletic Club  
2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing, Michigan  
(517) 337-0002

**Directors:** Tom Blakeslee (810) 468-2787 and Lou Ellen Fecher (810) 658-8097

**Fees:** \$35 per person

\$ 15 per person/second event

Non-USRA members add \$20.00



**All Open division losers (except quarterfinalist) will drop down into the AA division.**  
**You can enter the AA division and not the Open division if you prefer.**

**USRA Sanctioned:** *Yearly USRA membership required. USRA Rules will prevail. Two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11.*

**Awards:** Awards will be given for the first four places in divisions of 16 or more. Each participant will receive a souvenir collared shirt.

**Starting times & referees:** Play will begin on Friday, March 30, 2001 for draws larger than 16. Call the club on Thursday, March 29, 2001 after 12:00 p.m. for starting times.

**Referees** will not be used unless necessary.

**ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 26, 2000**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (days) \_\_\_\_\_ (evenings) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt size (circle one) **M L XL XXL**  
*\*please enclose \$2.00 for XXL*

*Make checks payable to RAM and mail to:*

**RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
9149 Emily Dr.  
Davison, MI 48423

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| <b>Entry fee:</b> | _____ |
| <b>USRA:</b>      | _____ |
| <b>Extra XXL:</b> | _____ |
| <b>Total:</b>     | _____ |

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(guardian signature if under 18)

**DIVISIONS**

*circle correct choice  
limit to 2 divisions (one age and one skill)*

**MENS WOMENS**

|      |     |     |     |
|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Open | 25+ | 40A | 50B |
| AA   | 30A | 40B | 55+ |
| A    | 30B | 45A | 60+ |
| B    | 35A | 45B | 65+ |
| C    | 35B | 50A | 70+ |
| D    |     |     |     |

Juniors Event (specify division) \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate division \_\_\_\_\_

*Divisions may be combined if less*

# Racquetball Reporter

9149 Emily Dr.  
Davison, MI 48423

## **Cole Appointed to Athletes Advisory Council Board of Directors**

Michigan's Chris Cole, the 1992 World and National Singles Champion, was recently elected to the Athletes Advisory Council Board of Directors at the January AAC meeting in Miami.

The AAC is made up of representatives from each sport that are part of the US Olympic Committee. An AAC representative must have competed at the elite level in their sport (Olympics, Pan American Games, World Championships) within the last ten years.

Cole's appointment to the AAC Board meant he also gained a spot on the US Olympic Committee Board of Directors. The AAC itself is a powerful group since the

USOC's by-laws and constitution guarantee that athletes will have 20% representation in every group or committee within the USOC.

"I am honored and humbled by this appointment," conveys Cole. "After taking over for Dan, I was only able to attend the last two meetings of 2000 in Indianapolis and San Francisco. I didn't think that would be long enough to build support for electing me to the AAC Board. I would have been honored just to sit on the Council, let alone the Board of Directors."

USRA Executive Director Luke St. Onge, had this to say about Cole's new appointment and what this means for the sport of racquetball in general: "With Chris's elec-

tion to the AAC Board, racquetball has once again shown its leadership ability within the Olympic Movement. This is a big step for our sport—not only for Chris, but the recognition that Racquetball can make a major contribution to the Olympic Movement."

Cole will attend the March AAC meeting in Colorado Springs as a full AAC Board Meeting and then will travel to San Jose in April for his first taste of the big time at the US Olympic Committee's Board of Directors gathering.

The USOC Board of Directors is made up of athletes reps, National Governing Body (NGB) reps (like US Track & Field) and public sector members to add balance.