

CROSS COURTERLY

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President's Message

When are we going to get it? The eyewear dilemma exists stronger today than at any time since I began court sport participation (1968). The latest episode involved a past New Mexico Junior Team player (circa early 1990s) and his girl friend. They were playing squash without protective eyewear, when I casually knocked and entered their court. I encouraged them to check out two pair of glasses at the operations desk and wear them, lest they wanted to experience something extremely painful. I went upstairs to do some cardio workout and later returned to the court to review their skills. Lo and behold, the goggles were around their necks as if they had some cosmetic value. Ask Barry Hendricks, Frank Silva, Jerry Walz, or any number of other individuals who have been examples of what playing without eyewear can and has done to prospective careers and lifestyles. Ask me, and I can tell you that I am one of the 'fortunate' ones. I was struck by a squash ball in my left eye (without eyewear) from an errant shot by my opponent friend. I still have my vision!

I do not know what it will take for the public to get the message. As a cross trainer, I see signs in weight rooms that say one must wear closed footwear to work out. I do not know what is worse; signs that are obsolete, people who do not read the signs, or staff who do not enforce the rules on the signs. When was the last time you saw someone not wearing protective eyewear on the court? Probably yesterday, the same day you heard someone using their cell phone while on the public toilet or someone not bathing before entering the whirlpool! Some things must be kept sacred, and eyewear on the racquetball, handball, paddleball, and squash courts is one of them. Let all of us do our part—wear them always, even when practicing solo. Do not play with anyone who refuses to wear them, and point out to those who are naive the potential downside to their continuation of a poor life style. Foggy lenses, discomfort, and looking funky just don't make it!

(Thank you to all of our players and fans, clubs and other venues, sponsors and contributors, for helping to make 2005 an active, enjoyable, and memorable year.)

Gary Mazaroff

The Cross Courterly hard copy newsletter has been a welcome sight to our readers for well beyond a decade. Seen in clubs, homes, and places of business four times each year, we will continue to provide the hard copy to such locations bi-annually. The reason for this action is:

- providing eNews coverage makes sense both from a financial standpoint and from a more timely coverage standpoint. We can keep our constituency and interested others updated on special interest stories, results, educational news and other items on an on-going basis, daily, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly while the hard copy is being prepared, printed, and mailed for quarterly disbursement.
- Most of our constituency has internet access; those who do not we ask for them to start to identify a friend or other person through which they can receive our news.
- The USA Racquetball Organization only asks for eNews as part of the total package for satisfying sanction and rebate requirements. A few years ago a hard copy was also a requirement.

The cost of doing business continues to increase even for the Non-profits. Each quarterly newsletter (Cross Courterly) costs over \$300; including paper, set up, printing, and mailing. The USAR recently assessed affiliated state associations a \$100 sanction fee for each event held by the states. For New Mexico Racquetball, this represents over \$2000 annually. Our budget provides for many line items; including tournament fees, travel and some administrative costs, supplies and equipment, etc. We raise monies primarily through membership dues to USA Racquetball/NMRA and sanction fees from the clubs and other organizations which hold the tournaments. However, what we charge does not cover the expenses for those events. We plan not to raise the sanction amounts which have been consistent over the past 15 years. Instead, we continue to ask for some contributions and seek to do business more efficiently and cost effectively. At the same time, we will not compromise our mission of providing recreation, education, value, and a lifetime sporting experience to our members and others. Thank you for your support and please continue to give us your feedback.

Quotes of the Month...

"It is the most fun I have ever had with my clothes on."

—Joe Phillips, after playing in his first World Senior Championships

"We know you have a choice when you fly bankrupt airlines, and we appreciate you flying Delta."

—Stewardess, aboard an Albuquerque to Memphis flight; 11/05

"A new chapter for the Adkins people; they are trimming down from a size 12 to a Chapter 11."

—Aaron Brown of Newsnight on CNN

"His Hairness is thinking about running for Governor of New York"

—Keith Olbermann about Donald Trump

"I saw it out of the corner of my eye."

—Chris Pacheco, after being asked if he thought his shot were good

NMRA WEBSITE

The New Mexico Racquetball Association website can be visited at NMRacquetball.com. Registration forms for upcoming events, special interest stories, calendar of events, and more are available. If interested in sponsorship opportunities or you wish to be included on the email list, contact Devin Cannady at: (505) 480-4112.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the New Mexico website for adjustments to the 2005–2006 event calendar. The Kachina Invitational in Gallup has been put back to March because the Fitness Center will not have completed its renovation by the end of January, as originally set. This will affect the Roswell tournament and the Kirtland Championships.

MONTOYA RECREATION CENTER EVENT

The Abe Montoya Recreation Center in Las Vegas, New Mexico held its first racquetball tournament in October. Luke St. Onge of the International Racquetball Federation attended the tournament and made a presentation to Center Director, Mark Loera, commemorating the event and certifying the courts to IRF specifications. Another tournament is scheduled for the Montoya Recreation Center in February.

PETE DEAN REMEMBERED

Pete was a longtime racquetball player and advocate who managed at the Lynmar Racquet Club in Colorado Springs for many years. He participated in the World Seniors in Albuquerque as well. He passed away recently from an ailment while living in Connecticut.

NEILL/NELSON MATRIMONY

Tom Neill and Nancy Nelson, both from Albuquerque, tied the knot early November at the University of New Mexico Alumni Chapel. They met years ago at the Riverpoint Club. Officials for the wedding were Gary Mazaroff and current State Open Champion Jesse Harden.

GLICKMANS MOVING NORTHWARD

Mike Glickman, general manager of Club International in Santa Fe for the past 7 years, is relocating this month to Casper, Wyoming. He, his wife Michelle, and son Brody, will be working at the Wyoming Athletic Clubs under the new owners. Mike will recapture the racquetball audience in the Casper and surrounding areas, as well as have the additional business opportunities that he and Michelle have been seeking. "They gave us everything we asked for," reported Mike. We know they will do well!

WORLD JUNIORS IN JUAREZ

The 17th IRF World Junior Championships were held in Juarez; Chihuahua, Mexico, December

15th through 21st at the Juarez Racquet Club and San Angel Club. Over 300 junior players (from 6–18) participated, representing nineteen countries over five continents. Representing New Mexico were Andrew Clarke, Darren Castro, Jack Clarke, and Alec Rose. A host of New Mexicans helped with the administrative opportunities as well. The 18th version will be held in December of 2006. Applicants include Ciudad Juarez again, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, and Tempe, Arizona. The decision will be made after the Pan Am Championships in Guatemala City, Guatemala, in March.

DOWNTOWN SPORTS & WELLNESS ON BOARD AGAIN

The first sanctioned racquetball tournament at the Downtown Club was held in November of 2005. The New Mexico State Doubles hosted the event on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; while Midtown Sports & Wellness hosted the Sunday finals. The last time the Downtown Club hosted an event was when the club was the Executive Sports Club. Thank you to Mark Lewis and his staff for their hospitality.

JELSO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The New Mexico Racquetball Association Dr. Damian Jelso Memorial Scholarship application is available on line (NMRacquetball.com) for worthy student athletes. One must be a full time student at a recognized New Mexico College or University. Awards are given out twice annually; spring and fall.

• IPRO INSTRUCTIONAL •

One thing that is upsetting when watching a match is a player's reluctance to use the allotment of time outs. Let's divorce ourselves from the pick up match at a venue whereby the 'workout' is what is most important. Courts are being utilized to the max and getting in extra rallies is more important than who wins. However; in tournament play, when one loses a game; he or she needs to assess the reasons for the outcome. Was it due to the opponent's overall superior prowess, a serve or two that came up short, or a misplayed set-up? Could it have been an errant return of serve? Perhaps it was due to a hybrid of reasons, including a short mental breakdown. In U.S. rules, one is still entitled to a short reprieve of thirty seconds, three times in games to 15 points (one minute each in International play).

Reasons for the break may be to towel off, to halt an opponent's momentum, to visualize a

specific shot or serve, or just to catch a breath. As a perk, circumstances often extend the thirty seconds to much longer periods of time.

Most players are self taught and self coached. Those who are newer to the game often elevate their level of play based primarily on their athletic ability. With a limited knowledge of the intricacies and nuances of the game, stagnation, disappointment, and frustration will set in. Charting successes and failures from previous matches, having a training schedule which is lifestyle oriented, and working smart to overcome barriers of advancing age, injury, and more seasoned opponents are strategies for success that an instructor or coach can work into your game plan. For those who want to remain self taught or self coached, a simple thirty second time out can work wonders, allowing for:

- a deep breathing opportunity for relaxation;
- a change of glove or racquet;
- a short conversation with one who has been watching your match;
- a chance for your opponent to start overthinking;
- a chance for your opponent to forget how he or she earned their lead;
- a water or light food break;
- other!!

Without a doubt, the odds are in the favor of the person at the disadvantage to call a time out. Try it; the worst scenario is that the outcome is delayed.

All tournament results from New Mexico Racquetball events can be reviewed on the NMRA Website. Second, third, and fourth quarter 2005 tournaments included:

Rocky Mountain Regionals; Albuquerque
Midtown Sports & Wellness

National Warmup; Santa Fe
Club International

New Mexico Games; Albuquerque
Kirtland AFB

League of Nations; Santa Fe
Pojoaque Wellness Center

World Seniors; Albuquerque
NMSW & KAFB

Season Kickoff; Albuquerque
Riverpoint

Meadow City; Las Vegas
Montoya Recreation Center

Four Corners; Farmington
Royal Spa & Fitness Center

NM State Doubles; Albuquerque
Downtown Sports & Wellness

Snowball; Albuquerque
Highpoint Sports & Wellness

Otra Vez II; Taos
Taos Spa

YOU MAKE THE CALL...

Is there a relationship between one's playing ability and his or her ability to officiate a match?

Odds are that the higher level players will have the tools to be quality officials; however, there is no guarantee. Higher skilled players are used to the nuances of the game at various levels; ie the speed of the ball, shots and shot selection, and spatial requirements. Some entry level players who demonstrate the ability to call matches, should do so at their level and below, until they grow to the point where they can handle the increasing demands of the higher levels of play. Good officiating requires an understanding of rules and their interpretation, as well as interpersonal skills such as listening, speaking, and knowing when to say nothing. Add to this the ability to view action and make accurate decisions instantaneously.

From the last issue...

Why should a rules committee be recognized on paper when a tournament begins?

Although there are many reasons, the following two stand out:

1. It showcases the professional environment of the event.
2. It provides a chain of command.

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