

Racquetball Reporter

Summer 1995

Volume V Issue 3

Triple triumph for Huczek at Junior Olympics

The 1995 U.S. Junior Olympic Racquetball Championships saw Michigan's own Jack Huczek emerge victorious three times over.

The tournament, held June 24-28 at the Los Caballeros Sports Village in Fountain Valley California, drew over 300 participants from all over the country.

Huczek, Michigan's sole representative, brought home three gold medals. In the 12 and under division Huczek came away with the gold after defeating Oregon's Trevor Crowe 15-6 and 15-7. The young star was able to maintain his composure after being called several times for leaving the service box too early on his lob serve.

The second gold medal of the event came with Huczek pairing up with Florida's Matthew McElhiney in 12 and under doubles against Brandon Shoemaker of Ohio and Adam Tayler of Indiana. The duo lost their first game in the finals in a tight 13-15, but made the necessary adjustments in game strategy to win the next game 15-13 and the tie-breaker 11-2.

In the newly added mixed doubles event, Jack and partner Crystal Winfrey of Ohio defeated Kristen Walsh of Utah and Joel Worthington of Kansas 15-7 and 15-8. The winning duo overcame a 0-6 deficit by playing in a I-formation to retrieve the hard Z serves.

The upcoming World Games will be held at the same facility in December. Huczek is looking forward for his sponsors to help defray the traveling and tournament costs, and would appreciate your support and encouragement as he pursues his quest to someday become a U.S. Olympic team member.



Jack Huczek and Margo Daniels, National Tournament Director

State Singles Championships draws 200

The 1995 RAM State Singles Championships was held this year at the Rose Shores Racquet and Fitness Club and proved to be a huge success. Over 200 people participated of which half played two events. The tournament was a throw back to the old days with a cheap \$33 entry fee and a format that required no Friday play. We got a lot of very positive comments and tried to make the weekend of racquetball as customer friendly as possible. Please let us know what you thought.

The play was better than ever as evidenced by the return of Jimmy Floyd who raised the Men's Open to National caliber play. Floyd however, succumbed to Nick Rallis who won the State Open Championship in two straight. Johnny Northern and Mike Johnston lost in the semi-finals.

In the Women's Open division, Anthnita Dickerson came through with a spectacular win over Felecia Mann. Semi-finalists were Beth Gutowski and Paula Saad.

Other results are listed on page four of this issue. Congratulations to all winners!

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View of the President

by W.T. Bleakness

If our timing is correct, you should be reading this article just before Labor Day. As we start a another year, I need to spend just a few minutes closing out 1995. The State Singles was a big success. A unique format allowed the tournament to take place without the need for Friday night play. We lowered the entry fee and still offered a collared shirt for a souvenir. What did you think?

On another note, Michigan had an excellent representation this summer with Jack Huczek a big winner at the Junior Olympics. Mike Johnston qualified for and participated in the Olympic Festival and the "pro-powered" Johnny Northern took second at the Nationals in Men's 45+.

This year look for two new exciting events in September. Ken Bonnett's Racquetball One will have a one-day tournament early in September combined with a new AARA Regional Doubles event. Top winners will get seeding preference at the National Doubles event held in October. At the Davison Athletic Club, a group from Indianapolis is having a tournament with lots of prizes and reasonable entry fees.

Finally, the tournament schedule looks about the same as last year and we will get that out as soon as possible. It was 95 degrees today when I wrote this article and to be honest, it had to be the best day o the year.

See you on the hard wood.

1995-96 RAM Tournament Schedule

Sept. 9	Racquetball One "Fall Back" AARA Regional Doubles Grand Rapids MAC
Sept. 15-17	Wilson Blowout Davison Athletic Club
Oct. 6-8	Racquetball One National Health & Racquet Club Petoskey
Oct. 21-22	No Frills One on One One on One Athletic Club Ann Arbor
Nov. 3-5	Racquetball One Lansing MAC
Nov. 10-12	Seniors/Masters
Dec. 2-3	RAM State Doubles One on One Athletic Club
Dec. 9-10	Racquetball One Grand Rapids MAC
Jan. 26-28	Racquetball One Detroit Area
Feb. 10-11	Total Sports, Mt. Clemens
Feb. 17-18	Racquetball One Grand Rapids MAC
Mar. 10-12	Region 9 Singles, Canton, OH
Mar. 15-19	Racquetball One Grand Finale Lansing MAC
Mar. 30	Women's Tournament State Singles Warm-up
Apr. 20	RAM State Singles Championships

Racquetball One series set for '95-96

Ken Bonnett welcomes everyone statewide to a new season of fun and excitement! Once again the series will focus on lots of play as all events will follow the round robin format. As in the past, the tournaments will provide all participants with a quality shirt, hospitality and on time well organized play.

Included in this year's schedule is a Summer Warm-up scheduled for September 9, 1995 in Grand Rapids. This one day event is a salute to all the Racquetball One sponsors, and a chance for players to drag out their equipment and start banging the ball around once again. This "Salute to Our Sponsors" Tournament has an attractive entry fee of only \$25.00, which includes round robin play, a meal and shirt. A great chance to get back into the swing of things and visit our racquetball friends.

Once again in October we will travel to beautiful Petoskey for a great family weekend of color and fun. The National Health and Racquet Club always rolls out the red carpet at this historic event. Then to the Lansing MAC in November, the Grand Rapids MAC in December and the Detroit area at the end of January. February 1996 is scheduled for Grand Rapids and the March Finale for Lansing, both events being played at Michigan Athletic Clubs. The entire 1995-96 schedule is enclosed in this issue of the Racquetball Reporter. Entry forms will be mailed to all AARA members the first part of August. Any player who

Racquetball One Series

September 9, 1995

"FALL BACK"

Salute to our Sponsors

One day Tournament

Grand Rapids MAC

\$25.00 entry

October 6-8, 1995

National Health & Racquet Club

Petoskey, MI

November 3-5, 1995

Michigan Athletic Club

East Lansing, MI

December 9-10, 1995

Michigan Athletic Club

Grand Rapids, MI

January 26-28, 1996

Detroit Area TBA

February 17-18, 1996

Michigan Athletic Club

Grand Rapids, MI

March 15-17, 1996

RACQUETBALL ONE GRAND FINALE

Michigan Athletic Club

East Lansing, MI

needs further information or forms can contact Ken Bonnett at (616) 554-4820. Phone entries are welcome, and Ken returns all calls regarding the Racquetball One

Series. Your continued support is appreciated. Have a great season.

State Singles Championships results

Men's A

1st Ian Lodamer
2nd Jim Davison
Semis Jaimie Kurzman
Jason Bernerth

Men's B

1st Ron Bonds
2nd Rick Beck
Semis Kevin Damm
Jason Reneaud

Men's C

1st Spencer Deneen
2nd Mohammed Naveed
Semis Greg Balavitch
Paul Berry

Men's D

1st Jeff Gillies
2nd Wayne Howard
Semi's Vince Sessions
Duane Wees

Men's 25/30+

1st Ian Ladomer
2nd Jack White
Semi's Chris Kelly
Jess Graves

Men's 30B

1st "Big Guy" Barkoviak
2nd R. Harris
Semis Simmons
Schneider

Men's 35

1st Randy Anderson
2nd Chris Kelly
Semis Jack White
Dave Matthews

Men's 35B

1st J. Akinwnsi
2nd Bobby Wheelock
Semis David Spender
Mike Gunn

Men's 40

1st Bill DeLuca
2nd Tom Blakeslee
Semis John Gernasi
Mike Stephens

Men's 40B

1st Larry Sawyer
2nd Al Mell
Semis John Coaker
Mike Gunn

Men's 45A

1st Tom Blakeslee
2nd Jim Moore
Semi's Bob Gravelyn
Ed Barter

Men's 45B

1st George Goudie
2nd Ron Slavik
Semi's Bill Hagadorn
Aaron Byrd

Men's 50

1st Joe Tomilson
2nd Rick Parkhurst
Semis Paul Becker
Bob Fournier

Men's 50B

1st E. Revesz
2nd Tofin

Men's 55

1st Paul Becker
2nd David Lundin
Semis Jack Yanikian
Hank Gates

Men's 60

1st Ron Pudduck
2nd Lynn Hahn
Semis Charles Kaiser
Stan Kurzman

Men's 65/70

1st Dick Caretti
2nd JD Driver
Semi's Joe LaMilza
Robert Finkleman

Woman's A

1st Patty Noiles
2nd Denise Knoll
Semis Marge Chedraue
Karen Green

Women's 30

1st Anthnita Dickerson
2nd Melody Gomo

Racquetball card now available

Michigan's very first racquetball card is now out. This racquetball card has been in the making for six or seven years. Previously all the different cards that I have seen, by companies, that would make a racquetball card, have been very low quality (a label stuck to the back of a picture) or would have required a minimum of 50,000 cards printed which was just too expensive.

The new racquetball card that is made consists of the following:

- 1) Same size as a baseball card
- 2) Color photo
- 3) High quality
- 4) Contains personal facts: home, weight, height, type of racquet
- 5) Contains racquetball facts

The very first racquetball card is Lynn Hahn. The price of the card is \$2.00 for a regular, \$10.00 for an autographed in silver and \$20.00 for one autographed in gold. There are only 20 cards available signed in silver and 10 cards signed in gold.

To order or for more information please contact Jim Easterling, 321 Village Dr., Lansing, MI 48911 or call (517) 887-0459.

Letters...

Dear RAM Board,

Please be advised that I will not be in attendance for tonight's Board Meeting. However, I would like to share with you some of my concerns and observations from the Detroit area players.

There is a tremendous interest for a new series to take place in the state. I have been asked, "why doesn't the board re-create the Super 7?" A more important question also has been "what is the board doing to put Michigan racquetball on the map?"

I pretty much see a comparison with that of casino gambling. Our best players in the state are taking their talents and money out of the state. They would prefer to stay here in Michigan, however, we must offer them something tangible. They continue to make a statement when they only show up for State Singles Championships

Rick Crawford

RAM BOARD COMMENT

The Racquetball Association of Michigan is a non-profit organization which encourages anyone to run tournaments.

Join the Racquetball Association of Michigan

Membership includes:

- * Membership card, AARA official rule book, travel and equipment discounts
- * AARA medical, life and liability insurance at sanctioned events
- * Four issues of the RAM newsletter, The Racquetball Reporter
- * Six issues of the AARA national publication, Racquetball Magazine
- * RAM sanctioned tournament entry forms mailed to your home
- * Eligibility to play in all sanctioned tournaments and receive state and national ranking points



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SUPPORT THE U.S. NATIONAL TEAM
(DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE)



DATE _____

NAME																				
ADDRESS																				
CITY											STATE			ZIP CODE						

Date of Birth _____ Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

CLASS A MEMBER



- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| ☐ \$20.00 | Adult Competitor |
| ☐ \$15.00 | Junior Competitor |
| ☐ \$10.00 | Junior Competitor
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| ☐ \$15.00 | Racquetball Magazine Subscription Only |

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