



DOWN THE LINE

LOUISIANA RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

"DEDICATED TO
PROMOTING THE GAME
OF RACQUETBALL"

Dec. '94/Jan. '95 Vol 16, No. 10

The Louisiana Racquetball Association
P.O. Box 669
Mandeville, Louisiana 70470



Inside This Issue:

"Letter from the President" -
Marcia Richards

"Tournament Talk"
Elmwood's Turkey Shoot
State Doubles

"Racquetball Camp"
Fritz Owens

1995 Calendar

"Letter from the Board"
Al Schof

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ten to Fifteen years ago racquetball was at its peak in Louisiana. Our state was highlighted in the AARA--"Do it the LOUISIANA WAY!" There are a number of reasons we feel there has been a decline. The board is trying to address them and we need the help of its members.

Debbie Spica has stepped in as our Promotions Chairman, replacing Barry Day. This position will go up for election at the state singles tournament. In the meantime, she is "recruiting racquetball enthusiasts to assist with the promotion of racquetball" and acting as a liaison between the clubs and LRA. We feel that networking will give us a better line of communication and we can better service our members this way. If you are interested, please contact Debbie at (504) 296-8117.

The bread and butter of the LRA are sanctioned tournaments. These tournaments are where we get to see each other not only socially, but competitively. They give us a chance to play different people around the city and state. Tournament directors pride themselves on the quality of their events and how successful they turnout. The LRA receives the majority of its memberships at these events. The money from the memberships pay for the newsletters and for implementing programs. We would like to be able to implement more grassroots programs this upcoming year.

1994 LRA ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Chairperson
Marcia Richards
11622 Delray, Baton Rouge, 70814
H (504) 275-4114 W (504) 753-3180

Scheduling
Pattie Schof
1749 42nd St., Apt. D, Kenner, 70065
H (504) 468-2813

Programs
Vicki Garrett
4313 Alabama Ave., Kenner, 70065
H (504) 464-4896
W (504) 733-1600

Finance
Cyril Hentze
P.O. Box 669, Mandeville,
H (504) 464-1801 W (504) 867-9495

Publications
Albert Schof
1749 42nd St., Apt. D, Kenner, 70065
H (504) 468-2813
Beeper (504) 553-0119

Promotions
Debbie Spica
H (504) 296-8117 W (504) 273-6400

Rankings/Membership
Gordon Murrill
317 Daventry Dr., Baton Rouge, 70808
H (504) 766-1428

Tournaments that get sanctioned are also recognized by the American Amateur Racquetball Association on the national level. We would like to get back to having at least one to two tournaments per month. Right now only a handful of clubs are actively hosting tournaments. When playing in a non-sanctioned tournament the players are not insured. When you play in a sanctioned tournament you are covered by the LRA/AARA insurance policy. Also, when a player plays in non-sanctioned tournaments he will not accumulate points towards his ranking. **Encourage your club to host an event soon.**

The Association recognizes its limitations and boundaries and the LRA has come a long way this past year because of the support of its members. We can only hope that you continue to support this organization. As the Chairman of the Association, I can tell you that we are dedicated to promoting the sport of racquetball. **We welcome your suggestions, ideas and comments.**

MARCI RICHARDS

Rules
Jamie Arroyave

State Program Directors

Juniors Gene Ferris	Seniors Jules Sachs
-------------------------------	-------------------------------

Women
Carrie Landry-New Orleans
Mandy Farris-Baton Rouge

Area Representatives
Al Schof-New Orleans
Barry Day-Baton Rouge
Kim Allen-North Louisiana

1994 TOURNAMENT RESULTS

ELMWOOD FITNESS CENTER TURKEY SHOOT

November 18, 1994 - November 20, 1994

Men's Open

1st Mark Bloom
2nd Charles Pecot
3rd Lance Landry
Cons Ted Alvendia

Men's A

1st Chris Ladner
2nd Kenny Tarride
3rd Mark Volterre
Cons Terrance Pierce

Men's B

1st James Bixler
2nd Rusty Roussel
3rd R.J. Tamplain
Cons Barbara Burger

Men's C

1st Mark Higdon
2nd Bill Boada
3rd Ryan Rogers
Cons Doug Ledet

Men's D

1st Arnesto Rodriguez
2nd Jareth Rosman
3rd Elliott Mistich
Cons Michael Ladner

Men's 35+B

1st Al Reagle
2nd Mike Fusilier
3rd Roger Anastasio
Cons Matt Warren

Boys 10 & Under

1st Jareth Rosman
2nd Michael Ladner

Women's A

1st Delilah Huelsing
2nd Carrie Landry
3rd Daren Ladner

Women's C

1st Christine Quinn
2nd Christine Rola

Men's Open/A Doubles

1st Mark Bloom/Rory Arcement
2nd Charles Pecot/David Rahn
3rd Mark Volterre/Tyrone Martin
Cons Terrance Pierce/Clarence Simmons

Men's B Doubles

1st Ray Ronquillo, Jr./Ray Ronquillo, III
2nd Delilah Huelsing/Jeffrey Ruberti
3rd Brian Recasner/Jeffrey Griffin
Cons Al Reagle/Lynn Dominique

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

On behalf of the LRA, I would like to apologize for any inconvenience resulting from the 1994 State Doubles Championships.

In an effort to cut costs and encourage more clubs to hold major tournaments, the LRA initiated an "Open Door" policy which allowed clubs to secure their own sponsors, i. e., food, shirts, awards, etc. In the past, state championship tournaments were run by the LRA ("Type A Tournaments"). This proved to be very expensive for the LRA and was driving up the cost of championship tournaments. Initiating the "Open Door" policy seemed like a good idea and it worked very well; the last four state championships (singles and doubles) were the least expensive and the most successful in many years.

The 1994 State Doubles Championships was also a big success and a lot of fun. Unfortunately, there was one major problem that eluded the LRA. While the LRA was not responsible for this mishap, we are taking steps to see that this problem is rectified. The LRA board is in the process of seeing that all awards are received by the division winners

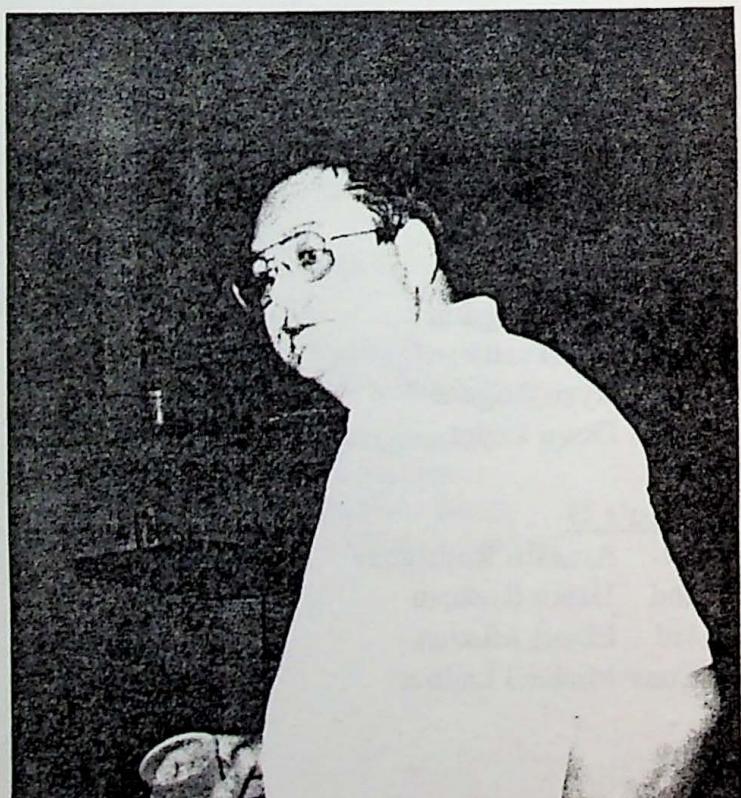
and all future championship tournaments will again be considered "Type A Tournaments" and directly overseen by the LRA.

The current board has worked very hard over the last three years to rebuild the LRA and secure the trust of its members. Without its members there is no LRA!

Everyone works hard to develop their game to its fullest potential and deserves recognition. The 1995 season will prove to be an excellent year with new clubs hosting tournaments as well as the **20th Anniversary State Singles Championships**.

KEEP PRACTICING! We want the 20th Anniversary of The Louisiana Racquetball Association to be the best year ever with continued dedication to promoting the game of racquetball.

AL SCHOFF



RACQUETBALL CAMP - FUN AND REAL RESULTS

After a particularly disappointing racquetball tournament in which I lost **again** in the finals, I was having a discussion with my coach, Paul Bruno. It went like this: "Look, Fritz, you've beaten Mr.'s A, B and C, right?" "Uh huh." "And Mr.'s A, B and C have all beaten Mr. D, right?" "Yeah." "Then how come you lost to Mr. D?" "I don't know, coach."

I started thinking about the six years of tournaments I had played in and the twenty-five trophies I had brought home, none of which was for first place. I figured I'd really improve my game--I would attend a racquetball camp. The ideal situation presented itself. Two of my favorite Pro's, Andy Roberts and Ruben Gonzalez, were hosting "America's Most Wanted Racquetball Camp" in Atlanta, Georgia. It was at a time when I could get off because of the Mardi Gras holidays, it wasn't too far and the price was right--fourteen hours of intensive instruction for less than \$15.00 per hour. What a bargain!

My wife and I left New Orleans on Thursday evening and drove to Atlanta. Along the way my apprehension kept growing. The usual "am I crazy?" and "how did I get into this?" conversations with myself. Finally, I decided that I'd give it my best shot and see what happened. Friday evening at the Cobb Court Club in Atlanta, twenty-five of us had an introductory session with Andy Roberts. Then everyone had an opportunity to play him for five points. I actually scored legitimate point on him (I have the scorecard to prove it) and had an absolute blast. There I was, on the court with my favorite Pro. It was terrific!

The next day we started with the lessons. They were all extremely well organized around the very excellent video tape, "Play With The Pros," that you get to keep as part of the camp. You get a thirty to forty-five minute lesson then get out on the court to go through what was just covered in the video. Andy and Ruben circulate around from one court to another emphasizing what was taught in the lessons. They make a video of each person playing five points with an opponent. Then more instruction. More practice. By 5:00 p.m. we were all dragging anchor. Saturday night there was an exhibition match between Andy Roberts and Ruben Gonzalez. It was breathtaking, to say the least.

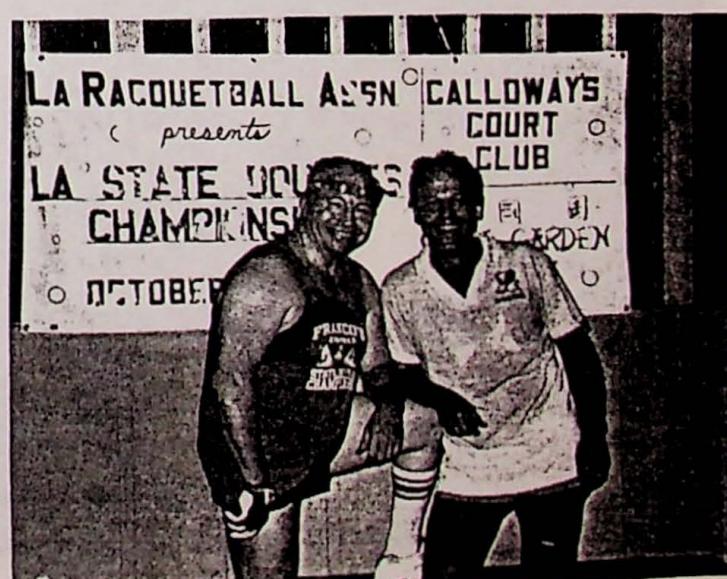
Sunday we got to watch the video made the day before and it was amazing to see the different things that we were learning to correct in just a short time. By the end of the Sunday session, I was really revved up and convinced that I now had some real ammunition to improve my game.

Let me warn you just as Andy Roberts warned the camp members on several occasions: you come away from the camp with a lot of new ideas and techniques but the minute you attempt to change what you have been doing for several years your game gets worse. Yeah, I didn't like that aspect of it at all, but the very fact that the Pro had given us the warning was enough to set my mind at rest and keep me practicing.

It seems to be paying off because going to this camp has changed my game radically. I won my first "D" Division tournament on July 15, 1994--my sixtieth birthday. On October 22, 1994, I won Third Place in the Louisiana Senior Olympics in the 60+ Division. I am now eligible to play in the National Senior Olympics in San Antonio, Texas in May, 1995. My partner and I won The Louisiana State Doubles Championship, "C" Division, in October. Right now I am aiming for The Louisiana State Singles Championship in March, right after I make the camp in Atlanta again! This time with Jack Newman and Andy Roberts.

Why don't you put a new look in your racquetball game and join me? It's a load of fun and it **REALLY** gets results.

FRITZ OWENS



1994 LOUISIANA STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS
Calloway's Court Club
October 28, 1994 - October 30, 1994

Men's Open Doubles

1st Richard Broadwell/Al Schof
 2nd Rick Chiquelin/Joe Kadi
 3rd John Davis/Steve Rogers
 Cons Mike Whatley/Eric Fuselier

Men's A Doubles

1st Ken Kachtik/Johnny Alvendia
 2nd Gary Fontenot/Larry Sharpe
 3rd Kenny Tarride/Ken Hood
 Cons Chris Pellerin/Neal Ashby

Men's B Doubles

1st R. J. Tamplain/Mike Harris
 2nd J. D. Dedeabant/Tim Taylor
 3rd Jeff Griffin/Brian Reacasner

Men's C Doubles

1st Fritz Owens/Joe Henning
 2nd Gordon Murrill/Ricky Willis
 3rd Joe Austin/Richard Butler

Men's 35+ A Doubles

1st Bo Champagne/Steve Rogers
 2nd Rick Chiquelin/Joe Kadi
 3rd Gary Fontenot/Larry Sharpe
 Cons Dodd Berrio/Jay Kirkland

Men's 35+ B Doubles

1st J. D. Dedeabant/Tim Taylor
 2nd Jeff Griffin/Brian Reacasner
 3rd Richard Powell/ York

Women's Open Doubles

1st Debbie Spica/Vicki Garrett
 2nd Helen Seigel/Beth Ford
 3rd Marcia Richards/Pattie Schof

Women's B Doubles

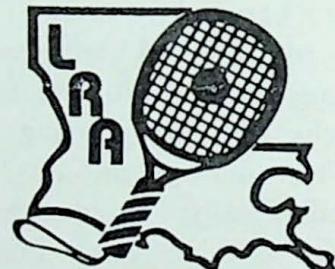
1st Rosie Bloom/Rena Rodriguez
 2nd Neyda Leslie/Anne Schaeffer
 3rd Davina Bloom/Paige Holstein

Mixed Open Doubles

1st Vicki Garrett/Charles Pecot
 2nd Debbie Spica/Ken Hood
 3rd Marcia Richards/Mark Jardell
 Cons Pattie Schof/Al Schof

Mixed B Doubles

1st Neyda Leslie/Mike Harris
 2nd Anne Schaeffer/J. D. Dedeabant
 3rd Joe Austin/Clara Simien
 Cons Mandy Farris/Kevin Bettes



1995 CALENDAR

LANCE NELSON ANNUAL MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

The Courtyard Health and Racquet Club - Alexandria, LA

February 3, 1995 - February 5, 1995 (non-sanctioned)

ELMWOOD FITNESS CENTER JUNIOR TOURNAMENT AND CLINIC

Elmwood Fitness Center - Harahan, LA

12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - February 18, 1995

ELMWOOD FITNESS CENTER 8TH ANNUAL OPEN

Elmwood Fitness Center - Harahan, LA

March 3, 1995 - March 5, 1995 (LRA/AARA)

VIDEO GAME LESSON AND CLINIC

Club to be Announced - Baton Rouge, LA

March 11, 1995 - Marcia Richards

20TH ANNIVERSARY LOUISIANA STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tentatively Scheduled at Franco's Athletic Club - Mandeville, LA

March 24, 1995 - March 26, 1995 (LRA/AARA)

LOUISIANA SPORTS AND FITNESS SECOND ANNUAL ST. JUDE HOSPITAL/BISHOP

HUGHES RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

Louisiana Sports and Fitness Center - Baton Rouge, LA

April 7, 1995 - April 9, 1995 (LRA/AARA)

1995 ADULT METRO REGIONALS

Maverick Athletic Club - Arlington, TX

April 20, 1995 - April 23, 1995 (AARA)

GOING FOR THE ONE

Foxy's Health Club - Baton Rouge, LA

May 5, 1995 - May 7, 1995 (LRA/AARA)

1995 EKTELON ADULT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Downtown YMCA - Houston, TX

May 24, 1995 - May 29, 1995 (AARA)

LOUISIANA GAMES/JUNE CLASSIC

Elmwood Fitness Center - Harahan, LA

June 9, 1995 - June 11, 1995 (LRA/AARA)

ATTENTION CLUB OWNERS/PRO'S:

Please contact Pattie Schof, (504) 468-2813, regarding scheduling 1995 tournaments. Tournaments added to the schedule early will receive added coverage in *Racquetball U.S.A.*

GOT A GRIPE? FULL OF PRAISE?

We want to hear from you!

This is your organization and the LRA Board is only trying to do the best for you, but without your input, we cannot.

Every letter that is received will be responded to in writing from the LRA Board and both the letter and the response will be published in the next issue of *Down the Line*.

Al Schof

Renew Your AARA Competitive License Today Through the LRA

*You become eligible to compete in all State Tournaments
and receive*

*Ranking Points from Entry Into Each Tournament Through Finish
Four to Six Issues of "Down The Line"*

PLUS

Become eligible for over 1200 additional AARA sanctioned tournaments held in the U.S. each year. You'll also receive: Membership Kit - Personalized Competitive License - Competition Accident Insurance - Six Issues of "Racquetball USA" - State Publications & Entry Forms - AARA Official Rulebook - National Ranking Points for Quarterfinals, or Higher Finishes in Sanctioned Play - Industry, Product & Service Discounts

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

LRA # _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____ HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

Mail This Form To:

LRA

P.O. Box 669

Mandeville Louisiana 70470

*By renewing your AARA Membership directly with LRA, the State organization receives the larger portion of the renewal fee

LRA/AARA MEMBERSHIP - \$25.00 Per Year