

The Racquetball



AARA
THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911

SEPTEMBER 1990

REPORTER

Bonnett wins Junior Olympics

The 1990 Junior Olympic Championships were held in Dallas, Texas June 23-27. Four Michigan juniors participated and five medals were won. Joel Bonnett, Brent and Scott Zimmerman and Jack Huczek all had excellent tournaments with Bonnett winning two golds, Brent Zimmerman capturing a gold and a silver and Scott Zimmerman following up with a gold medal also. Although Jack did not win a medal this year, he did gain valuable experience for tournaments to come.

Bonnett, cruised through perhaps the toughest part of the draw with convincing victories over top players including Buzz Sawyer, Will Epperson and Doug Eagle in the rounds of 16's, quarters and semis to set up the much talked about match between John Ellis and himself. Ellis, a many time National Champion, had just defeated California's Sameer Hadid 15-11, 15-5 while Bonnett came out to defeat Doug Eagle 15-0 in the first game of his semi final match.

Hot off a National Championship win in doubles with partner Vince Kelley of Oregon, Joel was about to face John Ellis who in their only meeting two years ago defeated him 15-5, 15-5. Lots of pre-game excitement with the television coverage and all the interviews, both players

proved to be nervous. In the championship match, Ellis jumped out to a quick 6-0 lead, forcing Bonnett to take a time out in order to collect himself. He then thrust himself into a great run of points and the eventual lead. A tight game all the way, the score once hit 13-13. It was here that a great diving get by Bonnett kept the ball alive while an eventual skip by Ellis proved to be the difference in the game as Joel persevered 15-13. In game two it was Bonnett who jumped out to an 8-2 lead and Ellis who forced the

comeback and a tight game. However, Bonnett was too powerful and won his first World Singles Championship 15-13.

Number eight seed Scott Zimmerman met top seeded player Jason Mannino in the quarters but came up short 15-5, 15-5 against the eventual winner and several time National Champion. In doubles action, however, Scott along with his partner Jaron Ice-nogle won it all defeating Jason Ambrecht and Joel Koppel 11-5 tiebreaker in the 14 and under age division.

Number four seed Brent Zimmerman defeated number one seed Hal Spangeberg of California in the semi's 11-1 to appear in the finals against his doubles partner Eric Story from Utah. Although as a team the boys won the 12 and under doubles division, Story was too much for Brent in the singles finals, thus sending the Michiganian home with the silver.

With players representing almost every state, Michigan's junior's had the best showing percentage wise. Congratulations Joel, Scott, Brent and Jack!

Michigan shines at festival

Four Michigan racquetball players participated in the 1990 United States Olympic Festival held in Minnesota July 6-13. The Twin Cities witnessed some shining moments from the Michigan contingent of Jim Floyd and Joel Bonnett in doubles, Chris Cole in singles and Stu Hastings as coach.

Thirty-two of America's best competed in three preliminary matches before play shifted into the coveted medal rounds. In singles, eight players were split into two flights of four for round robin play with the top two in each division moving on to the medal rounds. Flight one consisted

of the West team's Cole, Aaron Embry, East team member, Todd O'Neil of the South and Tim Doyle representing the North. Flight two had Egan Inoue representing the South, Drew Katchtik, East team member, John Ellis representing the West and Doug Eagle of the North team.

By the time the first three days had ended, three of the expected and one surprise made it to the singles' medal rounds. Surprisingly, Cole had entered Friday's medal play undefeated with two

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AARA
THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER

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Address Correction Requested

View of the president

by W.T. Blakeslee

When you read this, the traditional season's opening tournament at Davison will be history. Several important changes were obvious. First; no pros; rumors persist that Hogan, Yellen, Harnett, and

The AARA Board of Directors approved the following rule changes, effective September 1, 1990.

1. The foot fault rule on the serve has been changed to allow the front foot to move over the service line as long as it does not go all the way over. Your front foot may now be on the line but not completely over the line.

2. Court hinders are now appealable. A court hinder is defined in Rule 4.15 (a) and has not been appealable in the past.

3. Racquet length may extend to 21 1/2" from the present 21". The racquet size waiver is for test purposes and expires June 1, 1991 unless approved as a permanent rule change. This test racquet cannot be used in the Regional or National Championships.

4. New age bracket of 80+ approved for both men and women's divisions.

5. Mixed doubles approved for all age divisions except 19+.

6. Point hinder has been changed back to avoidable hinder.

Swain missed the first pro stop and have retired. After years of effort, I believe the pro tour is history. Although a Super Seven did take place, it lacked a banquet where RAM traditionally would honor outstanding players with the recognition they deserve from the 89-90 tournament season. Unfortunately, the details could not be arranged, as in the past to allow tournament scheduling to accommodate an awards banquet. Frankly, this was totally unexpected and left the RAM board with no way to distribute the awards. Our current plan is to examine the possibility of a similar banquet during the State Singles Tournament in April.

As I mentioned almost over a year ago, the new MAC club should be opening in Lansing very soon. Unfortunately, it only has ten courts. Would

any of you be willing to play Friday morning or very early or late Saturday to have a major tournament there? Let me know. This is one of the "RARE" bright spots in racquetball.

When you see Joel Bonnett, congratulate him for being National Junior Champion. I predicted such a success in my last article in the Spring.

On the negative side, the National Junior Tournament was the smallest ever, and in our own state junior play is almost nil. Please help! Jim and Dianne Easterling have done their part with the help of the National Grant Program. They organized several "lock-ins" at local YMCA's and clubs, exposing almost 100 youngsters to our game. Another example of their hard work and dedication to racquetball.

Chris Cole placed 2nd in the

Summer Olympic Festival! Only Egan could stop Chris in an 11-9 tie breaker. Maybe Chris has obtained another level of play. Just another example of the quality racquetball Chris, Jimmy, Nick and Joel play in our tournaments. Chris now heads the Super Sevens.

Finally, for you the player, at our opening RAM Board Meeting, we had three guests, Ken Bonnett, Gary Phipps and Jim Earley. The meeting was excellent and if these guys get on the board, all of you will benefit. Lastly be sure to renew your membership before January when dues will be increased to \$15!



Flint's Court House Club hosts lock-in

By Jim Skinner

On Thursday July 13, 1990 a lock-in was held for Junior racquetballers in the Flint area at the Court House Club. Juniors who participate in the club's summer program were invited as well as any guests they wanted to invite. Also, former participants from the Flint Olympian and Canusa Games were invited.

Twenty-seven juniors between the ages of seven and eighteen attended. The party began at 7:00 p.m. Thursday and ended 7:00 a.m. Friday. The format included an informal discussion about the sport of racquetball, the Flint

Olympian and Canusa Games, the Racquetball Association of Michigan and the American Amateur Racquetball Association. Credit was given to RAM for financially supporting the event and all players agreed it was a great aide and were appreciative.

A brief explanation of the rules were given to the entire group, half of which had never played racquetball. The youngsters were then paired up, each group having at least one junior who knew the rules for introductory play. All 27 players then played in a progressive challenge ladder. It proved to be a huge success.

Thanks to those who participated: Angie Ancira, Randi Sarah Baker, Ian Baker, Tiffany Beal, Levi Caverly, Lori Cockram, Susan Colley, Jeff Cox, Stacy Curran, Erin Earnshaw, Ashley Eudy, Jason Flenniken, Chad Fournier, Peter

Glomson, April Ann Greanya, Brent Meinburg, Alisha Myers, Natasha Myers, Jeremy Allen Price, Leslie Susan Quayle, Summer Ransom, Patrick Saul, Christine Skinner, Brooke Trimble, Holly Trimble, Jeremy Wilson and Ashley Wolff.



Region 9 News

By Jim Easterling

Adult Regional Director

The Davison Racquet and Fitness Club will be the site of the second AARA Region 9 Seniors/Masters Invitational Open on November 9-11.

For those who missed last year's tournament at Taylor's Coliseum II Racquet Club, this type of tournament has unique features. First of all, it is for players 35 years old and up. Second, it is played in a round robin format where a player is guaranteed at least

five matches and will most likely play everyone in the division. Third, the tournament is conducted on the honors system, thus players are to referee their own matches.

Other exciting tournament extras include a banquet Saturday evening at the Davison Country Club scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. and will also honor last year's division winners. Also included in the

banquet is an auction to support the United States National team. Ektelon will be donating over \$1000 worth of equipment so bring your checkbook. All contributions are tax deductible and Chris Cole will again act as auctioneer during this fine event.

Last but not least, everyone entering the 1990 event will receive a tournament sweat-shirt.

This year's edition of the Seniors/Masters Invitational

hopes to be an exciting one: last year the tournament featured three National Champions in the 50, 55 and 60 age divisions. So enter and take your best shot at the National Champions — we hope to see you all there.

In other Regional news, the Region 9 Championships are set to be held February 22-24, 1991 at the Mt. Clemens Racquetball and Sportscenter in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Don't forget to mark your calendar!

YMCA proves helpful in promoting racquetball

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lynda Meade is the Program Director at the Oak Park Branch YMCA in Lansing, Michigan.

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by Lynda Meade

On July 6, 1990 the Racquetball Association of Michigan sponsored a youth overnight at the Oak Park YMCA in Lansing, Michigan. Twenty-eight youth, ages 6-12 years, were introduced to the game of racquetball. The evening consisted of one hour of lessons covering equipment, safety, racquet grip, strokes and keeping score. Throughout the night the participants also swam, ate pizza, watched movies, played basketball and wallyball, and of course racquetball courts were open with staff helping all those interested.

This summer the Oak Park YMCA in Lansing, Michigan ran a successful youth racquetball class. Twelve youth attended eight classes which included court safety, warm-up and cool-down, etiquette, stroke and rules. Great improvement was seen in the play of all players in the class. The class will continue to be offered in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Three tournaments are scheduled at the YMCA and youth are going to be strongly encouraged to play. The only drawback for the program is the funding and equipment. If any players are interested in donating used racquets, they will be put to good use by the next generation of racquetball players. Programs such as these will ensure the continued success of this great game.

THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER

Sandy Conlen, Editor
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Flint, MI 48532
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The Racquetball Reporter is published quarterly by the Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM). Additional supplements are distributed twice yearly. Information and articles are submitted by individuals and clubs and do not necessarily reflect the view of RAM. *The Racquetball Reporter* welcomes information, photographs and letters for publication. The deadline for the Winter 1990 issue is November 9, 1990.

The following individuals are highly appreciated for their contributions to this issue of *The Racquetball Reporter*:

W.T. Blakeslee
Ken Bonnett
Christopher Cole
Dianne Easterling
Jim Easterling
Lou Ellen Fecher
Lynda Meade
Jim Skinner

ADVERTISING RATES:
Available upon request

Cole takes silver at festival

Continued from page 1

game triumphs over Embry and Doyle, and a tie breaker win over O'Neil on Thursday.

Flight two saw the expected battle between Inoue and Katchtik as who would join the red hot Michiganian. In the end, Inoue eked out a tie breaker victory to advance.

Friday's matches were then set at Cole vs. Katchtik and Doyle vs. Inoue. Cole began the Katchtik confrontation slowly dropping the first game 9-15. Quickly, however, he bounced back taking the second game and running away with the tie breaker 11-3 thus, setting up his chance at a title of incredible scope and magnitude.

On the other side, Doyle and Inoue added to the just com-

pleted excitement on Court #1 by going to tie breaker also. Following a close first game Doyle victory, Inoue reached down deep inside and pulled out a 15-14 second game win and won the tie breaker by serving ace after ace to 11-3.

The gold medal match was the final one on an eventful Friday. The women's championship match was played simultaneously on court #2, but Michelle Gilman won quickly over Toni Bevelock to enable the 500+ in attendance to watch the exciting men's final.

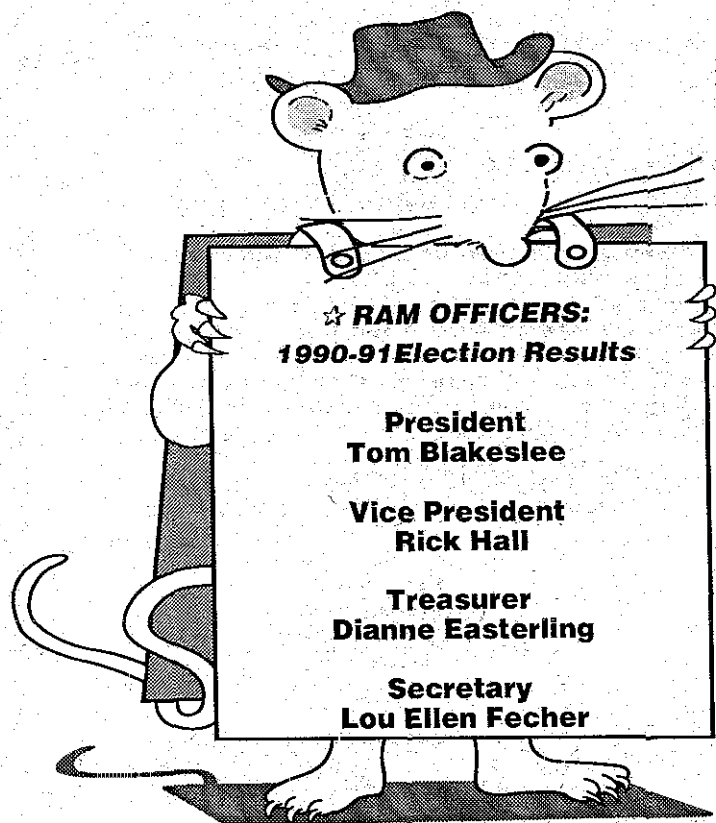
Those who paid for tickets quickly wondered if their money had been thrown away as Inoue raced ahead 10-0 and eventually finished off the Michiganian 15-2. In

the second game however, Inoue came out of the gate just as focused and took a commander 7-2 lead before the momentum turned. Looking to go up 8-2, Inoue rifled a serve to Cole's backhand forcing the shell-shocked West team player to dive to the left. An incredible six more Cole dives ensued as Inoue kept attacking, ripping kills and passes just barely within reach of his nearly flying opponent. After a forehand down-the-line pass eluded him, Cole lay on the floor and

took advantage of the standing ovation to rest.

"Egan and I gave the audience a taste of what championship racquetball is all about: fantastic shots and unbelievable gets. I really should have been exhausted, but the reaction of the crowd pumped about 10,000 cc's of adrenaline through my body and I was able to come back," Cole explained.

Indeed he did, catching Inoue at 9-9 and finally forcing yet another tie breaker as
Continued on page 9



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AARA ANNOUNCES DUES INCREASE FOR 1990-91

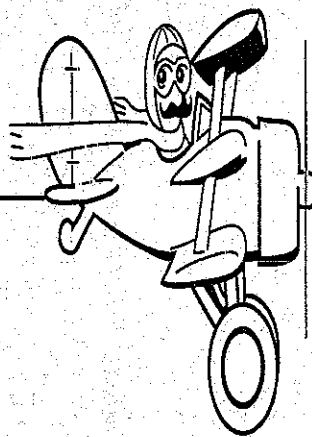
The AARA has announced the first membership dues increase in the past eight years. Effective **January 1, 1991** membership to the AARA and RAM will be \$15.00 per year. This membership includes six issues of the RAM newsletter, *The Racquetball Reporter* and six issues of the AARA newsletter, *Racquetball USA*. It also includes a membership card, rulebook, travel and equipment discounts and sanctioned tournament entry forms mailed to your home. The new benefit added to the membership will be plans for health and life insurance coverages at sanctioned events for all AARA/RAM members. You will be receiving more information on these benefits shortly.

Players who wish to sign up early to beat the dues increase should fill out the application below and mail it to **RAM, 321 Village, Lansing, MI 48911**. All memberships must be received by RAM no later than **December 15, 1990**. Do not mail the application below to the national office in Colorado.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION SUPPORT THE U.S. NATIONAL TEAM (DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE)		
DATE: _____		
NAME: _____		
ADDRESS: _____		
CITY: _____	STATE: _____	ZIP: _____
BIRTHDATE: _____	HOME PHONE: _____	WORK PHONE: _____
☐ 1 Year Single - \$10 ☐ 2 Year Single - \$17 ☐ 5 Year Single - \$40		
☐ 1st added family member - \$8	Name: _____	DOB: _____
☐ Each added family member - \$2	Name: _____	DOB: _____
☐ Renewal	Name: _____	DOB: _____
☐ Donation - \$ _____		
☐ Amount enclosed - \$ _____		
321 VILLAGE * LANSING, MI 48911 * (517) 887-0459		

REFEREE/RULES CLINIC
 AT THE
LIVONIA RACQUETIME CLUB
 Thursday, October 4, 1990
 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Details: Jim Earley
 (313) 591-1212



OFFICIAL RANKINGS

REGION 9

MEN'S OPEN

1	Chris Cole	675
2	Jim Floyd	450
3	Joel Bonnett	425
4	Nick Rallis	290
5	Troy Hall	200
6T	Jim Hamilton	110
6T	Johnney Northern	110
7	Mike Anderson	100
8	Ryan Covell	90
9	Gabe Zussman	80
10	Larry Fox	50

MEN'S C

1	Mark Ellis	195
2T	Tony Barra	150
2T	Jay Kargulia	150
3	Shawn Battle	110
4	Jay Kargula	105
5	Bill Labarge	100
6	Tony Aleccia	95
7T	Scott Hale	85
7T	Ron Papke	85
8T	Carl Burton	75
8T	Larry Cleymen	75
9	Ken Bart	70

MEN'S 19+

1	Nick Rallis	150
2T	Paul Licari	100
2T	Mark Werthman	100
3	Lou Exline	75
4	Scott Duryea	50
5T	Mark Durell	25
5T	Kurt Higley	25
6	Mark Kaufman	20

MEN'S A

1	Pete Kibildis	280
2	John Molinaro	170
3	Dan Verbeck	150
4	Rob Snell	130
5	Mark Werthman	95
6T	Marv Riley Jr.	90
6T	Sam Tanielian	90
7	Scott Zimmerman	85
8	Sean McCune	80
9T	Pat Burdick	75
9T	Michael Voorheis	75
10	Gabe Zussman	70

MEN'S D

1	Mark Ellis	360
2	Howard Welsh	150
3	Bill McGrall	115
4	Laszlo Brumar	100
5	Dave Chemello	80
6T	Jim Canavan	75
6T	Rick Crawford	75
7	John Summersett	70
8	John Kowalczyk	60

MEN'S 25+

1	Pete Kibildis	175
2T	Scott Pufahl	150
2T	Jack White	150
3	Christopher Kelly	75
4T	Dan Dutcher	50
4T	Mike Hotra	50
5T	Paul Licari	25
5T	Peter Ruhala	25
5T	John Stallmer	25
5T	Al Tackett	25

MEN'S NOVICE

1	Mark Ohs	150
2	Chad Visgar	120
3T	Ken Frantz	100
3T	Dale Jurcisin	100
3T	Dave Verduym	100
4T	Larry Panetta	80
4T	Marvin Schiemann	80
5T	Bob Denman	50
5T	Mark Ellis	50
5T	Paul Ficano	50
5T	Robert Ficano	50
5T	Robert Hempel	50

MEN'S B

1	Lenny Chaltrow	180
2	Rick Davenport	150
3	Brent Zimmerman	135
4	Mike Cail	115
5T	Pat Burdick	100
5T	Billy Marshall	100
5T	Gary Phipps	100
5T	Charles White	100
6T	Mark Davis	95
6T	Ray Matthews	95

MEN'S 30+

1	Scott Worthy	560
2	Johnney Northern	140
3	Jack White	125
4T	Larry Fox	100
4T	Dave Paskan	100
5	Greg Hodges	85
6	Tim Sigafoose	80
7	Chris Kelly	55
8T	Mike Anderson	50
8T	Mike Hotra	50
8T	Lew Knudson	50
8T	Dan Werner	50

Dear Michigan Racquetball Players,

As the first Super Seven tournament kicks off at the Davison Racquet and Fitness Club on September 21-23, I have been asked by Jim Hiser to run this year's series of tournaments. Lou Ellen Fecher will stay on and help out when she can, but any questions or comments can be directed to me at (313) 653-9602. All correspondence can be mailed to G-2140 Fairway Dr., Davison, MI 48423.

I would like to thank Lou Ellen and her husband Julian for all of their work in the past years and for continuing Jim's work since his unfortunate departure. Without the Fecher's, the Super Seven Series, a backbone for Michigan racquetball, would have surely crumbled.

The second Super Seven will be October 12-14 at the Racquetime Club in Livonia; get your entries in early.

Good luck to everyone and thanks to our sponsors: Ron Slavik and The FourMidAble Group, Dan Werner and Werner/Werner, Penn and Head.

MEN'S 30+B

1	Mike Voorheis	300
2	Mike Davis	240
3	Mark Novak	150
4	Mark Zigila	130
5	Lenny Chalfraw	120
6	Ray Mathews	115
7	Terry Lawlor	100
8	Dan McAlinden	75

MEN'S 35+

1	Stu Hastings	450
2	Johnney Northern	355
3	John Molinaro	310
4	John Gervasi	170
5	Ray Vanover	155
6	Mike Stephens	130
7	Tom Blakeslee	125
8	Woody Neighbors	100
9	Rick Vanderlind	95
10T	Bob Gravely	50
10T	Terry Lawlor	50

MEN'S 35+B

1	John Montie	260
2T	Fred Hartman	175
2T	Mark Zigila	175
3	Mike Young	150
4	Hank Ferry	75
5T	Terry Lawlor	70
5T	Ed Swica	70

MEN'S 35+C

1T	Luke Gunn	290
1T	Chuck Vanhoose	290
2	Gary Gron	130
3	Larry Cleyman	125
4	Mark Mrocca	100
5	Rip Steketee	75
6T	Jerry Johnston	65
6T	Dean Kranz	65

MEN'S 40+

1	Johnny Northern	400
2	Wayne Holman	250
3	Ken Bonnett	225
4	Tom Blakeslee	200
5	Mike Stephens	175
6T	Tom Brownlee	150
6T	Preston James	150
7	Doug Toth	120
8	Bob Gravely	105
9	Larry Brown	100
10T	Ed Barter	75
10T	Joe Biniecki	75

MEN'S 40+B

1	Ron Slavik	150
2T	Ron Leszczynski	100
2T	Mike Young	100
3	Chris Henry	75
4	Doug Kochneff	50

MEN'S 45+

1	Gary Phipps	340
2	Joe Tomilson	150
3	Pancho Gutierrez	125
4T	Jess Madden	100
4T	Ronald Morse	100
5	George Stec	90
6	Tom Sharum	60
7T	Philip Burney	50
7T	Mike Corinti	50
7T	Lynn Hahn	50
7T	Matt Klein	50

MEN'S 45+B

1	Charles Wheelihan	450
2	Hank Gates	260
3	Vince Callahan	180
4	Bill Gentile	120
5	Sixto Calvo	95
6	Dennis Hardin	75
7	Ron Morse	60
8T	Phil Barney	50
8T	Robert Dynes	50
8T	Dan Greene	50
8T	Bill McGrail	50
8T	Clyde Zimmerman	50

MEN'S 50+

1	Hank Gates	170
2	Milo Karhu	150
3	Jess Madden	130
4	Phil Burney	75
5T	Walt Biesterfeldt	50
5T	Tyler Braddock	50
5T	Richard Caretti	50
5T	Lynn Hahn	50
5T	Gerry Leone	50
5T	Dale Lund	50
5T	Richard Sewell	50

MEN'S 55+

1	Lynn Hahn	300
2	Dale Schaffer	100
3T	Roy Garrett	75
3T	Ken Maurer	75
4T	JD Driver	50
4T	Robert McClelland	50
4T	Jack Yanikian	50
4T	Robert Youngberg	50

MEN'S 60+

1T	JD Driver	150
1T	Duane Russell	150
2T	Joe Lamiza	100
2T	Gerry Leone	100
2T	Jack Yanikian	100
3T	Roy Garrett	75
3T	Leonard Poole	75

WOMEN'S OPEN

1	Joetta Hastings	550
2	Brigitte Hartz	150
3	Elaine Barch	135
4	Beth Gutowski	125
5	Sandy White	100
6	Lori Troszak	60
7T	Sharon Huczek	50
7T	Tracey Troszak	50
7T	Shirley Vanderbrook	50

WOMEN'S A

1	Melody Matties	295
2	Anthnita Dickerson	230
3	Sharon Huczek	180
4	Stephanie Buttrey	145
5	Paula Saad	130
6	Diane McCauley	115
7	Claire Kruse	90
8	Pam Harkleroad	80
9	Carol Marshall	65
10	Shelly Abbott	50

WOMEN'S B

1	Diane McCauley	330
2	Patricia Klann	150
3	Dawn Frankhouse	120
4	Karen Visgar	115
5	Stacey Barbas	105
6	Kathleen Motyka	100
7	Ann Piper	75
8	Pam Harkleroad	70

WOMEN'S C

1	Sue Papke	165
2	Barb Irons	120
3	Fran Morris	115
4	Dorothy Sypniewski	100
5T	Debbie Hotra	80
5T	Felicia Mann	80
6	Verolika Brown	75
7	Marge Chedroe	65

WOMEN'S D

1	Nichole Zigila	280
2	Diane Pearson	110
3T	Linda Allen	50
3T	Sue Churinoff	50
3T	Jean St. John	50
3T	Amy Stephen	50
3T	Diana Trombley	50

Penn.
RACQUETBALL



A.A.R.A.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALL

JOE BRADTKE
7009 Shady Nelms
Dublin, Ohio 43017
(614) 761-9787

1990-91 Tournament Schedule

September 28 - 30	Women's Fall Head Start Court House Club - Flint
October 5 - 7	Omni Total Fitness Club Muskegon
October 12 - 14	Super Seven #2 TBA
November 2 - 4	Remember November Riverview Racquet Club - Grand Rapids
November 9 - 11	Region 9 Seniors/Masters Invitational Davison Racquet and Fitness Club
November 16 - 18	Super Seven #3 TBA
December 7 - 9	RAM STATE DOUBLES TBA
January 4 - 6	Racquettime Rollout Livonia Racquettime
February 1 - 3	West Michigan Championships Grand Rapids Area
February 22 - 24	AARA REGION 9 CHAMPIONSHIPS Mt. Clemens Racquetball and Sportcenter
March 15 - 17	Grand Rapids City Championships Grand Rapids Area
April 26 - 28	RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS TBA

Notes from the editor...

by Sandy Conlen

As my first year as editor of *The Racquetball Reporter* comes to an end, I would like to take this time to thank all of those that have contributed to the newsletter. My appreciation to: W.T. BLAKESLEE, KEN BONNETT, CHRIS COLE, JIM AND DIANNE EAS-TERLING, JIM FLOYD, JIM-ED FLOYD, RICK HALL, LOU ELLEN FECHER, JIM HISER, JIM SKINNER,

LYNDA MEADE, JERRY GRAY, LARRY COLE AND DUANE RUSSELL.

Thanks also to our advertisers: RON SLAVIK/ THE FOURMIDABLE GROUP, JOE BRADTKE, DICK ROBERSON/PENN, DOUG SMITH/TACKI-MAC, MIKE ANDERSON, STEVE ROJO/R&S JEW-ELRY, DAVISON RAC-QUET AND FITNESS CLUB, ROSE SHORES RACQUET

AND FITNESS CLUB, BACKWALL FITNESS AND RACQUET CLUB, AND THE COURT HOUSE CLUB.

In the coming year I would like to add to the list of con-tributors and advertisers but can only do that with your help. One area that especially needs attention, is that of photography. Both this issue and the previous one lack pictures. I would appreciate

any photos available through-out the 1990-91 season.

It has also come to my atten-tion that some names are mis-spelled throughout the news-letter. However, if I don't realize it, I can't correct it therefore just drop me a note with the correct spelling of your name. All correspon-dence can be sent to: Sandy Conlen, 5226 Dania St., Flint, MI 48532

Floyd, Bonnett gain experience

Continued from page 4

he took the second game 15-13.

The final game began as a see-saw battle with both players still sharp. Points came hard before Inoue used his drive serve once again to dominate the match, bolting from a 4-4 tie to a 9-4 lead. The long match had taken its toll though, as Cole finally succumbed to the victorious Inoue 11-9.

For his part, Cole was obviously wanting to win the gold, but he did offer this positive conclusion: "Sure, I wanted the gold, but I beat some good players in Houston to qualify for the Festival and beat some great players to take the silver. I have nothing to be ashamed of or depressed about."

Michigan's other two players, Floyd and Bonnett, made some noise of their own during the week long event. Interestingly, of the four men's doubles teams, all but one team had been playing together for years. Doug Ganim and Dan Obremski had been National Champions three out of four years and were the 1989-90 champs; Bill Sell and Brian Hawkes won the 1988-89 National Championship and took second in 1989-90; Sergio Gonzalez and Tim Hansen took second in 1988-89 and won the doubles crown at last summer's Festival in Oklahoma. The other team in this year's Festival, Floyd and Bonnett, had never played together under these types of conditions, thus they had their work cut out for them.

Their first preliminary match came against the team of Gonzalez and Hansen, not lasting very long. The more experienced Floridians took advantage of the youngsters' confusion and registered a two game win. Hastings,

Floyd and Bonnett's coach used this match as a simple throwaway in order for his two chargers to become comfortable with each other. In order for them to have a chance in the medal rounds, Hastings knew the first two matches would be the key to establishing a workable partnership. Hastings came up with a front-back combination attempting to utilize Floyd's up-front retrieving ability and Bonnett's deep court power and shot making ability. Although this tactic would again take a beating in match #2 against Sell and Hawkes, the two youngsters showed definite signs of improvement. Floyd began to get more at ease with what shots to go for and which ones to allow back to Bonnett, while the Grand Rapids standout began to instinctively know when Floyd was cutting the ball off. Though they lost in two games to the former national champions, it was obvious that no longer did confusion and uncertainty maintain themselves.

Meanwhile, Ganim and Obremski picked up where they left off the National

Doubles event by defeating both seasoned teams before facing Floyd and Bonnett in the final preliminary match. Going in it was important for both sides: Floyd and Bonnett, continuing to gel as a team needed a good showing or a win to boost their confidence heading into the medal rounds while Ganim and Obremski wanted to be undefeated leading into Friday and keep the momentum they'd built up in their favor.

As soon as the match began, it was clear that the youngsters' strategy was to work Obremski on the serve forcing the champs to switch styles moving Ganim up with Dan

left to cover deep. In unfamiliar territory, Ganim could not handle the power of Bonnett and Obremski's kills were retrieved or put away by Floyd who seemed to be everywhere at once. Faced with this, the National Champs could not overcome some slight sluggishness and fell to the Michiganiens in the tie breaker. In three matches Floyd and Bonnett had arrived.

The medal rounds began as follows: Ganim/Obremski

against Floyd/Bonnett and Sell/Hawkes against Gonzalez/Hansen. Excitement pervaded the Minnesota air as the fans braced for the rematch between the defending National Champions and the young challengers from Wolverine country.

Ganim and Obremski started fast looking like they wanted to show the crowd that Thursday's loss was a fluke, merely an aberration. But they couldn't totally shake their young rivals. Games one and two were split closely and the 500+ in attendance braced for an all-out 11 point war. True enough, the fans were not let down as the two teams displayed fantastic athletic and mental ability battling back and forth until the seasoned veterans pulled away for an 11-8 hard fought victory.

Mentally and physically exhausted from their previous match, Floyd and Bonnett lost to Gonzalez and Hansen in a true anti-climactic match and took fourth place. No one however, criticized them, for they went toe-to-toe with heavyweights. Not bad for two guys who never had played together before.

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RAM Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 15, 1990

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Residence of Jim and Dianne Easterling

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Blakeslee, Dianne Easterling, Jim Easterling, Duane Russell

Dianne Easterling gave the treasurer's report distributing the tally sheet for the State Singles Championship held April 27-29, 1990 at the Coliseum Racquet Club in Taylor, Michigan. Profit: \$1795.88.

She reported Wayne Holman of the Coliseum Club did not properly mark the courts since some of the tape peeled off during matches. It was agreed to offer to pay one-half of the agreed upon freebies because of this condition.

James Easterling said the AARA National leaders desire to have all Regional tournaments held in April. After a lengthy discussion the Board was not in favor of this time frame preferring to continue the way we have done it in the past which has proven satisfactory here in Michigan.

Dianne said we sold about 70 memberships at the State Singles Tournament. Most of these were new people. \$718.00 was taken in.

Jim Easterling reported any NEWSLETTER articles need to be sent within the next two weeks. Jim mentioned the last newsletter and announcement which came out together worked very well. We will plan on doing this for the state doubles tournament.

Jim mentioned an incident involving Tom Blakeslee throwing a racquet at the State Singles Tournament which had been reported to him by several people who witnessed the incident. Tom admitted he had thrown the racquet after having a dispute with the referee over a call but denied it had hit anybody. (This seems to be in dispute).

Dianne Easterling said 30 questionnaires had been returned from the check of sheet

sent with the last RAM newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Next meeting: Monday June 18, 1990 at Dianne and Jim Easterling's.

ADDENDUM: The grants submitted to AARA to obtain more members were approved. \$2,000 (lock-in) and \$1500 for membership expansion. We will try to tie into an Oak Park lock-in in Lansing and other sites mentioned as possibilities were: MAC club, Riverview and Davison.

DATE: July 23, 1990

ATTENDANCE: Tom Blakeslee, Jim and Dianne Easterling, Rick Hall and Lou Ellen Fecher.

Called to order by Tom Blakeslee, President shortly before 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jim and Dianne Easterling.

Treasurer's report was given by Dianne - Mark Gardner's check came back NSF twice so his membership with the AARA was pulled. Two lock-ins were held so far this summer. One at Court House in Flint with Jim Skinner. He had 27 juniors participate. \$200 was sent to Jim to honor the Board's participation with the grant. A letter from Jim was passed around regarding the lock-in - very positive toward racquetball. Lansing Y held the other lock-in with 23 juniors. Still waiting for the paper work to be completed. Sanctioned events - only 4 have been submitted since July. They are: Racquetime - August 24-26 and January 4-6; Riverview - September 28-30 and November 2-4; Patrons - November 2-4, February 1-3, and March 15-17.

The newsletter should be going out sometime in the middle to end of August. Need to get the dates to Sandy and also to Dianne in order to get the card out.

Grant money - asked for \$3500 for both grants, have not received word as of yet. What about the free member-

ship to the juniors who participated in the lock-ins? Still being considered. Motion made by Jim to make each junior a AARA \$5.00 member as long as we have the money. Seconded by Rick, passed with the understanding that we will wait to hear from Jim Hiser and John Mooney. Jim Easterling is going to check with the AARA as to where the rest of the grant money is.

Three future lock-ins - Lansing Y (August 3), Grand Rapids Y and the Davison Racquet and Fitness Club.

Report by Jim Easterling: Joel Bonnett's picture will be printed in the next newsletter. Articles from the Grand Rapids Patrons Juniors who went to the Regionals will also be printed.

The AARA memberships will be going up to a competitive membership price. It will increase to \$15 on January 1st and with \$1 going to the state, \$3 liability insurance and \$1 going to the AARA. There will be available a \$3 membership in which the member would receive three newsletters only. As of yet there is no conversation rate for those who would like to join at the full rate. There will be an article in the newsletter concerning the increase.

Next grant - club only deal - who converts after one year - test - selling memberships.

New rules: #1 Avoidable hinder / point hinder. #2 Whole foot over the front line. #3 Court hinder is now appealable. #4 Racquet size 21 1/2". #5 Age bracket over 80. #6 Mixed doubles open to all ages.

West Virginia's new president is Tom Lubbins.

Michigan is now ranked 10th with Ohio ranked 6th.

President's report: Need to submit two grants by September 1st regarding lock-ins and new memberships. They will be written similar as before. Scholarships - I've received

all the information on the recipient(s). The money will be collected by myself, each donor will be contacted. Board will contribute \$250 with an additional \$130 coming from 1990 States. Rick made the motion who was to receive the scholarship with Dianne seconding it.

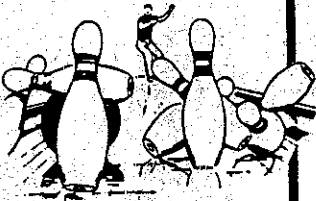
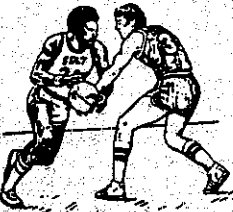
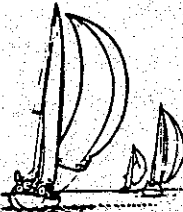
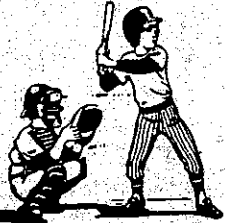
Awards? Depends on if Davison has a tournament with a banquet. Lou Ellen will work on the recipients.

Ranking System - Jim is to check into whether the AARA grant money is still paying for it or if we are going to pay for. Also discussed was the possibility of Dianne doing the ranking on her computer.

Board Elections - Dianne was nominated to be treasurer and accepted. Rick was nominated as vice-president and accepted. A proxy from Duane Russell nominated Jim Easterling as president and Lou Ellen nominated Tom for president. Rick suggested that before the vote was taken that the board remain the same. Vote was taken with the outcome of a 3-3 tie. Jim has contacted Luke to find out what happens in case of tie. Luke suggested that it needs to be discussed and rehashed until someone changes their mind. It was discussed without any changes. The AARA will be contacted again for their input. For the future - there probably should be something put in the constitution in regards to tie breakers.

Next meeting: awards, grants, president election. State doubles and singles will be decided. Set to take place September 10th at the Easterling's. May have take advantage of the AARA's ball program. Both PENN and Ektelon may not be giving out balls for state tournaments.

See everyone in September. Respectfully submitted, Lou Ellen Fecher, Secretary



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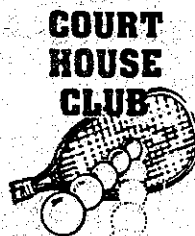
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