

# Racquetball Reporter

Third Quarter

Volume XI, Issue 3

## RAM Hall of Fame Inducts J.D. Driver

by Lynn Hahn

This year there were three people nominated for consideration to be elected into the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame. They include Randall Minto, Duane Russell and J.D. Driver. Of the three, J.D. Driver was the one nominee who received the necessary number of votes to be inducted.

A ceremony was held at the Michigan Athletic Club in Lansing during the Racquetball State Singles Championship tournament on March 31. Jim Easterling, the Hall of Fame Committee Chairperson, began the ceremony with Tom Blakeslee, RAM President also saying a few words. Lynn Hahn reviewed the accomplishments of J.D. and made the presentation of the Hall of Fame plaque. A separate plaque with J.D.'s picture and a composite of his racquetball accomplishments will be mounted at the Hall of Fame wall along with the other Hall of Fame members.

*Continued on page three*

## Huczek Crowned National Singles Champion

Jack Huczek was crowned the youngest Men's Open Champion this past May at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Ektelon U.S. National Singles Championships held for the 19<sup>th</sup> straight year in Houston, Texas.

In the round of sixteen Jack faced Shane Vanderson that turned into a rematch of the 2000 World Junior Championship in which Vanderson had won an impressive 11-6 tiebreaker. The highly anticipated match saw Huczek seeking revenge and Vanderson trying to prove that his earlier win over Huczek had not been a fluke. Huczek took the match quickly and easily, 15-8, 15-6, carrying himself into the quarterfinal round where he defeated Chris Wright, 15-8, 15-6.

After becoming the youngest male ever to make the U.S. National Team last year after his bronze medal finish, Jack hoped to go one step further and become the youngest to win a men's open national singles crown. He came closer to that goal with a surprisingly easy 15-5, 15-6 victory over Mike Guidry in the second men's semifinal match.

Defending National Champion Rocky Carson served as Jack's competitor in the fantastic final, where the two faced off as the two youngest athletes to compete in the finals for the open championship. Last year, at the age of 21, Carson had become the youngest player to ever win the title, and 18-year-old Huczek was now trying to top that feat. Last year's semifinal between the two had seen Carson with by frustrating Huczek with his speed of play. "Last year was the first time I ever played Rocky," said Huczek. "Until you actually experience his pace of the game, you can't really anticipate him that well."

Now a bit more familiar with each other's game, Carson jumped out to an early 5-2 lead, followed by a series of side outs before Huczek was able to roll off three straight points to tie the score at 5-5. Carson took an early timeout and when he returned to the court, he continued his stall tactics, but Huczek was unfazed as he extended his lead to 11-5. "Having

*Continued on page five*

### In this issue:

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| View of the President              | 2 |
| 2000 Singles Results               | 4 |
| West Michigan Open set for October | 5 |
| USRA Membership Form               | 6 |

# View of the President

by *W.T. Blakeslee*

The biggest news around here is Jack's victory at the Nationals. I was there in Houston and would have to admit he pretty much blew everybody away, I don't think he lost a game. He now has positioned himself to begin as a pro. Jack will be competing on the pro tour and has enrolled at Oakland University. Lets hope he continues to get better so that some day he may be the next Sudsy. Let's hope he also graduates with honors from college.

In this issue we have the State Singles results and would like to thank the Michigan Athletic Club for sponsoring this event. Please provide me on your ideas for the location of next Years State Singles location.

Some news out of the USRA; the membership dues are being raised to \$30, I bet all of you that played in doubles and the states that extended your membership are happy. Chris Cole got appointed to a select committee that will make a recommendation to the USOC for the Host City for the 2008 games. He is very hopeful that Racquetball has a legitimate chance to be a part of those games. Can you imagine Jack Huczek playing for a gold medal, wonder if they could use me for a referee?

On the tournament front, the West Michigan Open will be our first tournament in October, contact Twayne Howard as our RAM board representative for further in-

formation. Secondly, the National Senior Women's Masters tournament will be held at the Player's club in January 18-20. Don't forget National doubles in Vegas the first part of October, the US Open in Memphis in November and RAM State Doubles the first week of December.

Last, and most importantly, Lou Ellen is resigning as treasurer of the RAM board. She will be greatly missed. I can't tell you how many countless hours she contributed to the success of our organization. There isn't anyone that spent more time and hard work than she has during the last 15 plus years volunteering and allowing all of you to have the fun at the racquetball tournaments. She has been tournament director of all the RAM events for over a decade. Balancing our books for all that time, I have never received one complaint about not being paid on time and we always had money in the bank. I personally wish her the best and would like publicly to thank her for everything. We couldn't have done it without her. She is just a super person, one of the nicest people in racquetball, but you already know that. Do me a favor and thank her the next time you see her. Vote her into the RAM Hall of Fame, there hasn't been anyone equal to her level of contribution and participation, and probably never will be. As always see you on the hard wood.

## Racquetball Association of Michigan

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(810) 468-2787

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

[www.michiganracquetball.org](http://www.michiganracquetball.org)

## Hall of Fame Accepting Nominations

The Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame was developed in 1984 by the Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM) to honor those recipients who demonstrate outstanding achievement, leadership or contribution to racquetball in the State of Michigan. The award is based upon YEARS OF CONSISTENT EXCELLENCE in one or more of the following areas:

**ABILITY:** Through demonstration of exceptional playing skill in state, regional and/or national tournament competition.

**LEADERSHIP:** Through generous giving of time and talent for the advancement of racquetball in the State of Michigan by running tournaments, conducting leagues lessons, serving on the state racquetball association or other racquetball activities.

**CONTRIBUTIONS:** Through generous support, including money, facilities or products, for the advancement of racquetball in the State of Michigan.

If you know someone who qualifies (see the Hall of Fame Criteria in the RAM's home page) and that you would like to see in the Hall of Fame, please send a letter with their full name, address, phone number (including area code) and a brief description of why you

## Driver named 2001 Inductee

*Continued from page one*

J.D. began his racquetball career at the current Omni Health Club in Muskegon about 20 years ago at the age of 53. He was a black belt karate instructor but took up racquetball and eventually gave up karate. Working hard at his game he quickly showed enough talent to begin tournament play. He proceeded to win over 16 state and national tournaments.

In the summer of 1992 he was ranked in the top 10 nationally and by the fall of 1993 he was ranked second in his age division. During 1994 and 1995 he consistently appeared in the top ten.

J.D. serves as a great role model for his willingness to help younger players and for his efforts to stay in shape at an age when most people are not able or are unwilling to be active. He will soon celebrate his 74th birthday. He is a good sport and a gentleman on and off the court.

J.D. is fortunate to have the support of his wife Dolly who accompanies him to tournaments and



J.D. Driver

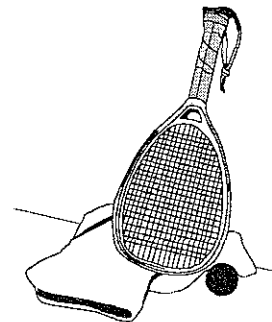
watches and encourages him to do his best.

Congratulations to J.D. Driver on being inducted into the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame.

think that person deserves to be in the Hall of Fame to: *Hall of Fame Inductee, 321 Village Dr., Lansing, MI 48911-3760*

Also, state your name, address and phone number (home & work) incase we have to contact you for additional information If you have any questions please call Jim East-erling at (517) 887-0459.

The deadline for Hall of Fame Inductee letters is **OCTOBER 21, 2001.**



# RAM STATE SINGLES 2001

All names are listed in 1st-4th place order. Congratulations to all semi-finalists, finalists, and winners!

## Mens Open

Steve Goedker  
Brad McIlhargie  
Jake Cardona  
Jeff Connell

## Mens 25

Jeff Mullins  
Paul Stanwick  
Mike Bowden  
Chris Goudie

## Mens 40b

Dan Forst  
James Parsons  
Brad Phillips  
Jack Labaido

## Mens 55

Joe Tomlinson  
Rick Parkhurst  
Bill Hagedorn  
Ron Morse

## Mens A

Scott Goudie  
Craig Dennings  
Ron Papke  
Dale Flaska

## Mens 30

John Torres  
Darryl Bartkoviak  
Jason Gorski  
Mike Semanco

## Mens 45

Len Kleparek  
Tom Blakeslee  
Roger O'connor  
Kim Hyde

## Mens 60

Jim Emerson  
Hank Gates  
Frank Descenza  
Vince Callahan

## Mens B

Mike Semanco  
Jason Kennedy  
Roger O'connor  
Craig Wozena

## Mens 35

Jeff Connell  
Jack White  
Chris Kelly  
Steve Goedker

## Mens 45b

Jay Katgula  
Chuck Vanhoose  
Dean Cline  
George Goudie

## Mens 65

Dave Lund  
Elloit Rott  
Bill Malcolm  
Robert Finkleman

## Mens C

Mike Bowden  
Ron Prevost  
Scott Brown  
Dean Cline

## Mens 30/35b

Scott Goudie  
Mike Malcolm  
Kevin Harkness  
Tim Theisen

## Mens 50

Jim Santino  
Robert Gravelyn  
Kim Hyde  
Jim Panasiewicz

## Mens D

Dan Mullin  
Dan Whiston  
Randy Chapel  
Sam Asirvatham

## Mens 40

Jack White  
Dan Verbeck  
Chris Kelly  
Dick Knoll

## Mens 50b

John Coaker  
Don Sepanski  
Norm Borden  
Larry Szambelan

## Womans Open

Meldoy Gorno  
Paula Saad  
Felicia Mann  
Lesley Kishigian

## Womans 35

Paula Saad  
Felicia Mann  
Melody Gorno  
Claire Kruse

## Juniors Under 12

Sam Goedker  
Scott Reitman  
Matt Conway  
Josh Goedker

## Womans B

Ruth Beir  
Lorna Rose  
Wendy Ford

## Womans 45/50

Lesley Kishigian  
Janet Insko  
Ruth Beier  
Karen Green

## Juniors Under 16

Jermaine Brock  
Anthony Lagalo  
Mark Chester  
John Reitman

## Womans C

Peggy Johnson  
Glenda Rankin

### Take note...

Effective  
January 1, 2002

Annual USRA  
membership fee  
increases to \$30!

Renew now and  
save \$10!

Please see  
membership form  
on page 6!

## RAM TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE 2001-2002

- Oct. 3-7 2001 Ektelon USRA National Doubles Championships  
*Las Vegas, Nevada*
- Oct. 19-21 West Michigan Open  
*Michigan Athletic Club, Grand Rapids, MI*
- Nov. 14-18 2001 Hilton US Open  
*Memphis, Tennessee*
- TBA RAM State Doubles Championships
- Dec. 12-15 Pro-Kennex IRF World Junior Championships  
*TBA*
- TBA RAM State Singles Championships
- Apr. 17-21 USRA Adult Regional Championships  
*Nationwide*
- May 22-27 Ektelon U.S. National Singles Championships  
*Downtown YMCA, Houston, Texas*

### West Michigan Open set for October 19-21

The Michigan Athletic Club in Grand Rapids will host the West Michigan Open October 19-21, 2001 as the tournament season kicks off in high style.

Competitors can once again look forward to lots of play, excellent food, a high-quality collared shirt featuring our embroidered logo, and a drawing for great door

prizes.

A separate raffle will be held to benefit our local juniors program. Over \$2,000 worth of racquetball gear including racquets, bags, and gloves will be raffled off.

Ladies and juniors competing in the West Michigan Open can look forward to special treatment during the weekend.

### Huczek Wins National Title

*Continued from page one*

played Rocky before, I was better able to anticipate him," he said. But Huczek did have a little trouble closing out the first game, and Carson pulled within two at 13-11. After calling his own timeout, Huczek was able to focus, come back to the court, earn a side out, and score the final two points to close it out at 15-11.

In game two Huczek's momentum swept him to a 4-0 lead, but this time it was Carson who came back to force his opponent to call a timeout at 4-4. The two battled back and forth the score knotted at 5-5 and 6-6, before Huczek closed out the game, and match, with a nine-point run to 15-6. Although Huczek became the youngest national singles champion, he still has loftier goals. He has plans to compete on the IRT full time next fall. "My goal is to be number one in the world," he said. "I'm number 15 right now so I only have 14 more spots to go."

*All in the family...*

### Sharon Huczek Wins National Title

After Jack Huczek won his first Men's Open gold medal, his mother, Sharon Huczek followed suit by taking home her first national championship crown in the Women's 50+ A/B. The division was a round robin and Sharon was able to compile a 4-1 win record for the title. The match that sealed her victory was a 15-3, 15-4 win over silver medallist Patricia Schof.

# JOIN THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

*Membership includes.*

*\*Membership card, USRA official rule book, travel and equipment discounts*

*\*USRA medical, life and liability insurance at sanctioned events*

*\*Four issues of the RAM newsletter, The Racquetball Reporter*

*\*Six issues of the USRA 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 US NATIONAL TEAM DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 Adult competitor \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Junior Competitor  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Junior Competitor (without *Racquetball Magazine* subscription)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 *Racquetball Magazine* subscription only

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