

The Racquetball Reporter

Summer 1993

number two

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Michigan players trek to Houston Nationals

The 1993 Ektelon/AARA National Amateur Singles Championships was a frustrating week of competition for some 25 Michiganians who ventured to Houston for the annual quest to be America's best.

Chris Cole, defending Men's Open Champion, could not repeat his victory of last year losing in the quarterfinals to Maryland's Mike Engel. Though obviously disappointed, Cole's seventh place finish qualified him for this summer's Olympic Festival in San Antonio, Texas. A Gold Medal there would put Cole back on the US National Team roster, where he has already won three consecutive international events dating back to April 1992.

Among Michigan's other representatives only Mike Anderson and Johnny Northern were able to advance to the semi-finals in their divisions. Anderson brought back an extremely impressive silver medal in the always tough Men's 35+. Northern, playing the Marathon Man's role, took home a bronze medal and a fourth place finish in the Men's 45+ and Men's 40+ respectively.

Michigan was well represented with 12 women and 13 men competing in 36 divisions mostly in the widely popular age divisions. Congrats to all those who went and got a chance to taste the flavor of the Houston Nationals, the Wimbledon of our great sport of racquetball.

1993 Michigan Participants

Melody Gorno
round of 16 Women's A
first round Women's 25+

Denise Gravelyn
second round Women's A

Karen Green
second round Women's A
first round Women's 35+

Kaye Hastings
round of 16 Women's 19+
round of 32 Women's 25+

Janet Insko
round of 32 Women's 35+
round of 16 Women's 40+

Paula Saad
second round of Women's A
round of 32 Women's 35+

Peg Shaw
round of 16 Women's 45+

Lin Showerman
round of 16 Women's 35+

Val Springer
quarterfinals Women's 25+
round of 32 Women's 30+

Kathie Trotter
round of 16 Women's 45+

Cindy Zerkowski
round of 16 Women's A
round of 32 Women's 30+

Mike Anderson
silver medalist Men's 35+

Joel Bonnett
round of 16 Men's Open

Ken Bonnett
round of 32 Men's 45+

Chris Cole
seventh place Men's Open

Hank Gates
first round Men's 50+
round of 16 Men's 55+

Bob Gravelyn
round of 32 Men's 40

Luke Gunn
first round Men's A

Jim Hamilton
round of 16 Men's 25+

Stu Hastings
quarterfinals Men's 40+

Gordon Kelly
round of 16 Men's 50+

Johnny Northern
fourth place Men's 40+
bronze medalist Men's 45+

Ray Vanover
round of 32 Men's 40+

Scott Worthy
quarterfinals Men's 30+
round of 16 Men's 35+

View of the President

by Christopher Cole

As I begin my third year as RAM's President, I feel strongly that the 1993-94 season has the potential to be one of Michigan's best. We not only have a well staffed Board of Directors, but I also have more time to devote to special projects now that my studies at the University of Michigan-Flint are complete. Among these are: up-to-date rankings, memberships lists, more clinics and appearances at untapped membership sources (clubs that no longer lean heavily on racquetball, college campuses and high schools), the continued evolution and growth of RAM's newsletter, and an aggressive approach to attract more sponsorship from outside of the racquetball community for RAM's programs.

I am happy to go into the 1993-94 season with two new committees designed to target two extremely important sectors of the racquetball community sorely in need of attention: women and juniors. As mentioned in the last newsletter issue, RAM Board Member Marta Rubcich is the chairperson of the Women's Committee that will seek to infuse new life and excitement into the game for

Michigan's female tournament players, female club players and any female athlete who wants to get started in our sport but doesn't know how. With Marta's managerial talents, I have no doubts this committee will break new ground into efforts to attract more women to the sport. Anyone with interest in being a part of this committee's programs should contact Marta or any of the other committee members: Faye Cobb, Terri Harris, Laura Patterson, Nancy Personette, Diana Trombley and Kathy Trotter for more information.

The other major development for the 1993-94 season is the formation of Michigan's Junior Racquetball Association as a RAM based committee designed to stem the recent loss of junior participation in our state. This committee will have the following officers: Jim Hamilton, chairperson; Tom Blakeslee, vice-chair; Sharon Huczek, treasurer; and Mary Dixon, secretary. Committee members include Paula Saad, Barry Tarbush and Jack Huczek. RAM will be working closely with the MJRA to actively pursue club and industry involvement during implementation of various

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Racquetball Association of Michigan

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Christopher Cole

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Newsletter
The Racquetball Reporter
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W.T. Blakeslee
Ken Bonnett
Christopher Cole
Marta Rubcich
Mary Dixon

Racquetball One ready for '93 season

If there is such a thing as a total racquetball weekend, Ken Bonnett will be making every effort this season to enable everyone to have one.

Even though some players do not want to devote their entire weekend to racquetball, many would prefer planning ahead for a scheduled event if they know they were going to play alot and have a great time. For this reason, the majority of the Racquetball One events will follow round robin format. Entries will be limited on a first come, first serve basis, as all players will receive a minimum of five matches. To add to the fun, blind draw doubles will be offered on Saturday evening at no additional cost. Saturday night doubles play will be offered as a social event. A time to meet new people and have a great time. Each individual tournament of the series will provide its own personal touch. For example, those players traveling to Alpena August 13-15 can expect the following: **round robin play, Saturday night doubles social, new quality sports apparel, Saturday afternoon cookout and**

1993 Racquetball One Series Tournament Schedule

August 13-15	Alpena Health & Racquet* Alpena, MI
September 17-19	Racquetime Health Club* Livonia, MI
October 1-3	Natinal Health & Racquet Club* Petoskey, MI
November 5-7	Grand Blanc Court Club* Grand Blanc, MI
December 10-12	Michigan Athletic Club* Grand Rapids, MI
January 28-30	Michigan Athletic Club East Lansing, MI
February 18-20	Racquetime Health Club* <i>Seniors/Masters Only</i> Livonia, MI
March 25-27	Michigan Athletic Club <i>Series Finale</i> East Lansing, MI
April 15-17	Michigan Athletic Club* <i>Grand Rapids City Invitational</i> <i>(open to all players)</i> Grand Rapids, MI

**Indicates round robin event*

**games at the beach,
camping sites for the
family and prizes and
awards!**

Watch for all the Racquetball One entry forms for all the special attractions. For additional information call Ken at (616) 956-0550.

View of the vice-president

by **W.T. Blakeslee**

As I write this column it is almost the halfway point of the summer—the fourth of July. Actually, for the national racquetball scene, the major events are just winding down. The Men's, Women's and Junior Nationals have all just been completed and these are the major AARA events. Unfortunately, Chris didn't reclaim his national crown, but has been in the top eight many times over the last several years and that is quite an accomplishment. In case you haven't heard Chris has been re-elected RAM president. In my opinion, as former president for many years, Chris is doing a fine job. There was some controversy when Chris originally took office and since those detractors have basically disappeared from racquetball involvement here in Michigan, I wonder about their motives. Since Chris has headed the RAM Board, we now have the biggest and best Board of Directors we ever had and are beginning to accomplish some new roads in Women's and Junior's racquetball.

What still has us puzzled

is our declining membership. Please try to remember everything we do is focused on our membership base and the funds that it creates. The \$15 you pay for a RAM membership brings with it the National AARA Magazine, all the Michigan mailings, this newsletter and all the miscellaneous mailings and information you will get from the national racquetball tournaments in the country. Really it is quite a bargain. Anything you can do to help promote membership sales would be appreciated, it is now our number one priority of our racquetball board.

Finally, as I conclude this brief article, some words of advice. The summer is a perfect time to do some serious cross training to improve your court performance. Outdoor racquetball is also an alternative to bring with you some shots to your game when we come back inside. Rollerblading, water-skiing, running, swimming, riding you bike are all excellent and do not forget outside volleyball and tennis. My personal favorite is driving my boat about eighty miles an hour listening to the whine of the superchargers! Is is some serious exercise for the wrist. See you in the fall.

Contact Numbers

President	Chris Cole	(313) 653-9602
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Sanctioning	Maureen Mead	(313) 591-1212
Women's Committee	Marta Rubcich	(517) 631-0255
Racquetball One Tournaments	Ken Bonnett	(616) 956-0550

Sanctioned tournaments:

Mary Dixon	(313) 362-3777
Kevin Fuqua	(313) 971-7131
Jim Easterling	(517) 887-0459

MJRA created to support juniors

by Mary Dixon

The Michigan Junior Racquetball Association (MJRA) was formed in June of this year and is supported by RAM. The MJRA was created under the leadership of Jim Hamilton, President; Sharon Huczek, Treasurer; Mary Dixon, Secretary; Paula

Saad, Promotions Director and Jack Huczek, Junior Delegate. Tom Blakeslee will also sit on the Board representing RAM.

The mission of the MJRA is to promote the livelihood of racquetball in addition to stimulating junior racquetball enthusiasm in the State of Michigan. Specific objectives include: Scholarship

funds, and regional and national tournament teams.

August will be the kick-off month with clinics offered in the following clubs:

Trenton Athletic Club on August 21, Backwall Fitness & Health Club on August 22, Maple Courts Athletic Club on August 28 and University Racquet Club on August 29.

Please watch for more information in your racquetball club. We will be offering clinics in any club willing to host them.

The MJRA is interested in developing a parents committee which would assist during tournament booth promotions, clinics, day camps and fund raising events. Parental involvement is crucial for the success of the organization and the fulfillment of the objectives. We need enthusiastic parents who are able to motivate young players. If you are interested in coaching or assisting in different functions, please call Mary Dixon at Maple Athletic Club (313) 362-3777.

Patterson successful at Armed Services Competition

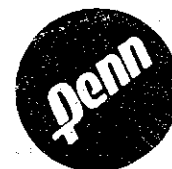
Laura Patterson came home from the Armed Services Championships with her hands full by capturing the gold medal in the singles in the Senior's division and the silver medal with partner Sue Patterson in the doubles competition.

The Armed Services Championship is a national tournament featuring the best racquetball players who serve our country in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. The tournament was held in May at the Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. Laura made the Air Force team of four women and eight men for the third consecu-

tive year during the qualifying tournament held the week before the Armed Services Championship.

In the Senior's final, Laura faced Velma MacDougal of the Army team. After dropping a close first game at 14-15, Laura came back to win the second game 15-5, then claimed victory in the tie breaker by a score of 11-5.

In the doubles final, Laura teamed with Sue Patterson, who is based in Georgia, to face the Army team of Velma MacDougal and Rose Anderson. Velma got her revenge over Laura in this match as the Army claimed the doubles titles with scores of 15-9 and 15-5.



Women's side-out

by Marta Rubcich

National Tournament: Congratulations to all the Michigan Players who traveled to Houston for the AARA 25th Anniversary National Singles Championship. I am sorry to report that none of the women brought home any medals, but we can all be proud of our efforts.

Women's Committee: The Women's committee met for the first time in June. We agreed that our objective is to develop programs that support women's racquetball and to encourage more women to play in racquetball tournaments.

We will work towards our objectives by concentrating our efforts on three areas next season.

First, we plan to host two women's only tournaments. The tournaments will be sanctioned and will use a format that guarantees a player two matches.

Second, we will hold several clinics for women. The clinics will be conducted by Michigan players and will not be held during a tournament.

Third, we will conduct a survey targeted at club and league players. We will be seeking input from these players to find out what it will take to get them involved in tournaments.

The committee will meet again in July to begin working out the details for these programs. If you have ideas to share on these programs or are willing to help, please contact me.

Side out.

Region 9 selects Junior Team USA participants

by W.T. Blakeslee

Region #9 has selected the following juniors for Team USA. David Hamilton and Kerri Stoffregen, both of Ohio, are selected as the male and female representatives from the Region. Brian Gomez is to be an at large selection. All the juniors were highly recommended by the Ohio Racquetball Association, Doug Ganim and Steve Learner. Unfortunately we did not have any candidates from Michigan. The nominees are actually selected by a point system devised by Jim Hiser, which is based on three main criteria. These areas include scholastic performance, racquetball performance and a miscellaneous category. The Team USA juniors get to participate in the Junior Elite training camp in Colorado Springs in August.

For further information regarding junior players possibilities, contact W.T. Blakeslee.

Michigan's juniors capture National gold

Jack Huczek and Andy Mead's bags were just a bit heavier upon returning home this week. That is because they were both bringing home two Gold Medals from the 1993 Junior Racquetball National Championships, held June 24-30 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Jack, the current 8 & under World Champion, took the Gold in the 10 & under Division by defeating Jim Gooden from Texas in the finals 15-13, 15-1.

Andy lost his first round match in a tie breaker, but pulled himself together to win the red breaker in the 10 & under division.

Together these two junior wonders took first place in the 10 & under doubles division. Their finals match-up was against a tough team from Oregon. They won their first game 15-13 and using great court strategy took the second game 15-3.

Congratulations Jack and Andy.

1993-94 RAM SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

Aug. 13-15	Racquetball One-Alpena <i>Ken Bonnett</i>
Aug. 27-29	Livonia Racquetime <i>Maureen Mead</i>
Sept. 17-19	Racquetball One-Livonia <i>Ken Bonnett</i>
Oct. 1-3	Racquetball One-Petoskey <i>Ken Bonnett</i>
Oct. 8-10	Eastern Michigan University-Ypsilanti <i>Kevin Fuqua</i>
Oct. 22-24	Livonia Racquetime <i>Maureen Mead</i>
Nov. 5-7	Racquetball One-Grand Blanc <i>Ken Bonnett</i>
Nov. 12-14	Seniors/Masters Only-Davison <i>Jim Easterling</i>
Nov. 19-21	RAM Women's Only-site TBA <i>Marta Rubcich</i>
Dec. 3-5	RAM STATE DOUBLES-site TBA <i>WT Blakeslee</i>
Dec. 10-12	Racquetball One-Grand Rapids MAC <i>Ken Bonnett</i>
Jan. 14-16	Livonia Racquetime <i>Maureen Mead</i>
Jan. 28-30	Racquetball One-Grand Rapids MAC <i>Ken Bonnett</i>
Feb. 11-13	Maple Courts-Troy <i>Mary Dixon</i>
Feb. 18-20	Racquetball One Seniors-Livonia <i>Ken Bonnett</i>
Feb. 25-27	Tri-cities Open-site TBA <i>Marta Rubcich</i>
Mar. 4-6	Livonia Racquetime <i>Maureen Mead</i>
Mar. 18-20	B-C-D Round Robin-Crescent Lake <i>Jim Easterling</i>
Mar. 25-27	Racquetball One Finale-Lansing MAC <i>Ken Bonnett</i>
Apr. 8-10	Junior Regional/State Warm-up-sit TBA <i>WT Blakeslee</i>
Apr. 15-17	Grand Rapids City Championships <i>Ken Bonnett</i>
Apr. 29-1	RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS-site TBA <i>WT Blakeslee</i>

RAM prepares for exciting '93 season

Continued from page 2

programs across the state this season. Anyone with any input should contact Jim, Tom or any of the committee members.

If I sound somewhat excited about the prospects for RAM's 93-94 season, all one has to do is pursue old issues of the REPORTER from when I first became president. Two years ago, I harped endlessly in my columns for the need for more RAM Board Members and I was graced with Maureen Mead, Mark Werthman, Marta Rubcich and Rick Crawford. Last year, I harped on endlessly about the need for volunteers to assist me in forming a women's committee, juniors committee, rankings director and minorities commit-

tee. I got three out of the four before July 1993 and I just may get that minorities committee by Christmas.

What I am aiming at is that since my ascent to the captain's chair, RAM has been in motion, actively trying to make a difference for our sport. With former president Tom Blakeslee close by there is no way he would allow me any option but to improve and enhance the quality of our sport! Watch out RAM members, you had better pay close attention in 1993-94 or some exciting programs might pass you by.

Briefs... thanks from myself and the RAM Board to Ken Bonnett for his involvement at recent Board meetings. Ken's valued viewpoint is an asset and perhaps one day he might be interested in actually becoming a board member

(c'mon Ken, you come to enough meetings as it is, you may as well officially join us. Not only that, but the six figure salaries we earn while on the Board is only one rewarding aspect of why we are on the Board!)... There may be one or two (at the very most) of you out there who don't like what RAM is doing. More likely, there are those who have no idea what in the heck RAM does. If either of these is the case, do something about it by writing a letter to me or the newsletter, call me or any of the Board members, or better still, attend a RAM Board Meeting. See for yourself what it is RAM does to benefit your favorite sport.

Until next month, no double faults or skip serves.

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