

The Racquetball REPORTER

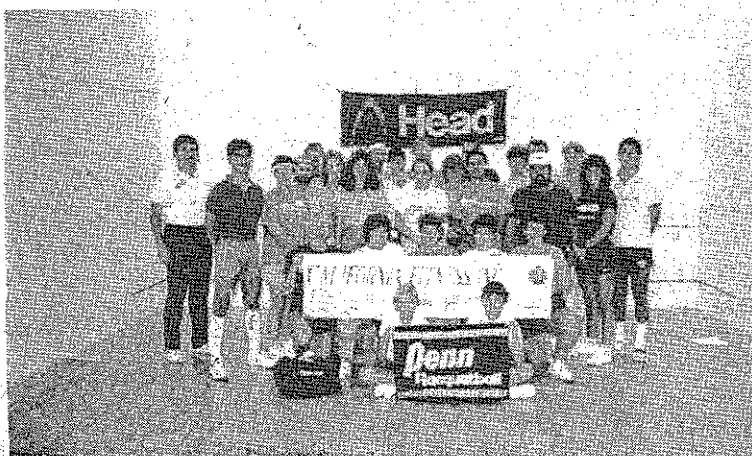
321 Village Dr. Lansing, MI 48911

VOL 5 NO 1

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RACQUETBALL ASSN. OF MICHIGAN

SEPTEMBER 1987

MICHIGAN PRESEASON RACQUETBALL CAMP



25 players from Southeastern Michigan have the jump on most of us because they have been working while most have played in the sun. This year, they joined the Michigan Preseason Racquetball Camp at Court House Club in Flint.

The camp is a 5 week intensive instructional and playing experience. It was kicked off with a two day video clinic, featuring Women Professional Racquetball Player Fran Davis.

The camp continues until September 4 with participants scheduled to participate in conditioning classes twice per week, drill twice a week with another camp participant and play in a round robin once a week.

Speakers on various health and racquetball topics conduct a weekly seminar for camp participants. If a player completes all the recommended functions, they will have thoroughly prepared themselves for the

upcoming racquetball season and should be in great physical condition. These speakers have discussed muscle strengthening and conditioning, nutrition, rules, and equipment. Also, graduates will be C.P.R. certified and will be an A.A.R.A. Certified Referee.

Players completed a Health Risk Appraisal with Hurley Hospital in Flint and identified any potential health problems that they might now have or might expect and what to do about preventing them.

The camp was sponsored by "Head Racquet Sports" who awarded all participants with a Racquet Sport Bag. Other companies who supported the camp were Foot-Joy, Penn, and California Fitness. It is anticipated to make this an annual event.

EVERYBODY HAD A GREAT TIME!!!

Collegiate Racquetball

Ferris State College

Ferris State College took a major step towards maintaining its current #3 national ranking by recruiting Larry Meeusen, 18, of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Larry's plan is to major in business with a minor in music composition. A hard worker and willing to spend time drilling, Larry qualified for the elite training camp at the Olympic Training Center after only playing 3 years. At the camp, Larry was selected M.V.P. by his instructors from among 42 other athletes.

Larry will be battling for the number one position left vacant by the graduation of Todd Luethjohann.

"Ferris is the first college in Michigan and only third in the nation to offer scholarships for racquetball!!!!" Larry will be the first recipient of that scholarship.

American Collegiate Racquetball Association

Matt Klein, State Collegiate Director, will be hosting the 1987 summer retreat of the American Collegiate Racquetball Association (ACRA) at his summer residence on Lake Mecosta August 20-24. Board members attending will be Chairman Neil Shapiro, Albany, NY; John Colantoni, Beverly, MA; Larry Liles, National Team and Memphis State Coach; and Ed Martin, Sacramento State Coach. Also attending are Jim Hiser, Pro Commissioner; Mark Wentura, Ektelon National Representative; and Jerry Gray, FSC Coach.

Many topics will be discussed during the 3 day retreat relating to collegiate racquetball, collegiate team formats, rules,

eligibility, scoring and site selection for the national tournament.

Long range goals will be established to involve more universities in racquetball competition on state and regional levels. To help accomplish these ideals, ACRA will be writing, reviewing, and distributing a collegiate "How To" team racquetball colleges and universities.

Anyone interested in collegiate racquetball or team competition should contact Jerry Gray at (616) 796-9291 or at 110 1/2 N. Michigan Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307. Ferris is interested in recruiting an open or A level woman player and in competing with other state colleges.

Jerry Gray

EDITOR'S CORRECTIONS

In the last newsletter (May 1987), I mentioned in the Classic Story that I gave Jerry Hilecher a technical for hitting the ball hard. That was incorrect. I gave Jerry a technical for swearing.

Also, Duane Russell was voted in as a member to the RAM Board of Directors as of the April meeting and I neglected to mention this in the last newsletters.

My apologies to Mr. Hilecher, Mr. Russell, and you the reader for these errors.

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★★★★ LENSED EYEWEAR NOW MANDATORY ★★★★★

See Page 2 - New Rule Changes

★★★★★ MICHIGAN NOW HAS SCHOLARSHIPS ★★★★★
FOR RACQUETBALL

THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER
321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911

Address Correction Requested

1986-87 TOURNAMENT SURVEY

Just for fun I took a survey of 28 of the major tournaments in Michigan during the 1986-87 tournament season. This survey is just for information and not to slight any person, product or club.

Below are the percentages of tournaments which:

1. Had eyeguards mandatory	86%
2. Used the Penn ball	53%
3. Used the Ektelon ball	36%
4. Used the Head ball	11%
5. Used 15-15-11 scoring format	50%
6. Used 15-15-15 scoring format	14%
7. Used 5 games to 11 format	36%
8. Had screen serves as faults	46%
9. Had small service zone	32%
10. Had prize money	61%
11. \$25 entry fee for adults	75%
12. \$15 entry fee for juniors	43%

Jim Easterling

AARA NATIONAL OFFICERS

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President . . . Van Dubolsky
Gainesville, FL
Vice President . . . Jim Hiser
Flint, MI
Commissioner . . . Cathie Frederickson
Grand Rapids, MI

AARA REGION #9 OHIO, WEST VIRGINIA, MICHIGAN

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Jr. Regional Director . . . W.T. Blakeslee

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Big Rapids, MI 49307
(616) 796-9291

RAM OFFICERS

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(313) 675-3998
Vice President . . . Rick Hall
(616) 676-6217
Secretary . . . Duane Russell
(517) 373-2003
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(517) 887-0459

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Judy Gonyea . . . Lee Frederickson
Jim Easterling

NEWSLETTER

Jim Easterling 321 Village
(517) 887-0459 Lansing, MI 48911

RAM PAST PRESIDENTS

(RAM was formed July 24, 1984)

Bob Wilhelm (2 months)	1984 - 85
Lee Frederickson	1984 - 85
Jim Easterling	1985 - 86
Lee Frederickson	1986 - 87
W.T. Blakeslee	1987 - 88

PAST STATE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

Judy Huhta (MRA) (5 mo.)	1976 - 77
Denny Wood (MRA)	1977 - 78
Denny Wood (MRA)	1978 - 79
Denny Wood (MRA)	1979 - 80
Denny Wood (MRA)	1980 - 81
Gary Doty (MRA) (2 mo.)	1980 - 81
Jim Easterling (MRA)	1981 - 82
Jim Easterling (MRA)	1982 - 83
Larry Cole (MARA)	1982 - 83
Bob Szuch (MRA)	1983 - 84
Larry Cole (MARA)	1983 - 84

☆☆☆☆☆ TRIVIA 15 CONTEST ☆☆☆☆☆

The Trivia 15 Contest is an off shoot of the Trivia 8 article that was published in last year's newsletter. This contest will feature 15 questions (some of which will have more than one answer) about racquetball or racquetball related places, things, people, etc. in Michigan. To win simply be the first two people to send me the correct answers (or the most correct answers) to the questions published in each newsletter. There will be two winners from each newsletter and winners will receive a free entry to either the State Doubles or State Singles Championship. The answers to the fifteen questions will be published in the following newsletter so you can see how well you did.

There will also be a contest to see who answers the most questions right from all three newsletters. (Trivia 15 will be published in September 1987, December 1987, and February 1988 editions of "The Racquetball Reporter") The top three people to have the most correct answers out of the three newsletters will receive a big prize.

1st place — case of racquetballs 2nd place — Omega racquetball racquet

3rd place — 2 year membership to AARA-RAM

In case of ties, a drawing will take place to determine the prize winners.

Come on and enter the Trivia 15 Contest. You have four different chances of winning and all it will cost you is a 22¢ stamp and a little time to mail in your answers. Answers to the Trivia 15 Contest should be mailed to Trivia 15, 321 Village Lansing MI 48911. If you have any questions please call me at (517) 887-0459.

Jim Easterling

- Who won the Mens Open division of the 1987 Regionals held at Davison Racquet Club?
- Who came in second in the Womens Open division of the 1987 Regionals held at Davison Racquet Club?
- Who won the Mens 45A division at the 1987 State Singles Championship held at the Rose Shores East Racquet Club?
- Who won the Womens 30A division at the 1987 State Singles Championship held at the Rose Shores East Racquet Club?
- In 1987 at the USRA Nationals at Belleville Michigan, who beat who in the Mens Pro Finals?
- How many state racquetball associations in Michigan have there been and what have they been called?
- What club was the host club for the 1977 IRA Nationals? (hint — it's in Michigan)
- Who is the person who has been president of a Michigan state racquetball association more times than anyone else?
- In September, 1977 at Racquetball Plus in Grand Rapids who played in a racquetball marathon beating the world's record and how long did that person play?
- Who went to the University of Michigan and won the Mens Pro in the IRA National Championship in 1970?
- Who is the person in Picture #1?
- Who is the person in Picture #2?
- Who is the person standing against the wall in Picture #3?
- Who is the person in the center of Picture #4?
- Who is the young lady in Picture #5?



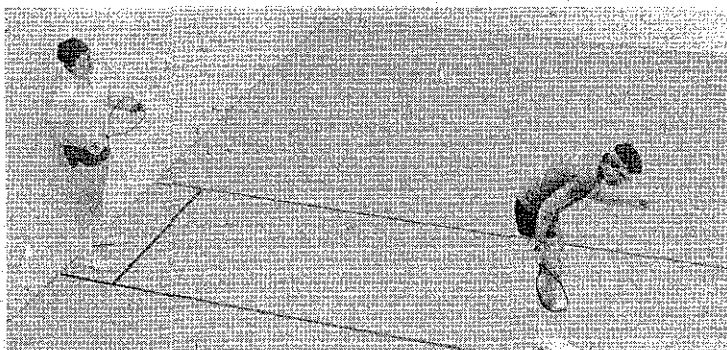
Picture #1



Picture #2



Picture #4



Picture #3



Picture #5

New Rule Changes

- Effective December 1, 1987 — Lensed eyewear designed for racquet sports is required for all players in all divisions. The eyewear must be worn as designed and may not be altered. Failure to wear protective eyewear will result in a technical and the player will also be charged with a time out to secure the eyewear. The second infraction in the same match will result in forfeiture of the match.
- Effective September 1, 1987 — Screen serves are fault serves. This call or non-call may not be appealed. Screen serves, if so called, will result in either a second serve or side-out.
- Effective September 1, 1987 — The three foot drive serve zone is in effect. This rule affects standing next to the wall and drive serving the ball down that same side. This rule does not affect cross court serves. Z-serves, lob or half-lob serves. Drive serve lines are placed three feet from each wall parallel to the wall. The player may drive serve to the same side so long as the start and finish of his serve motion takes place outside this three foot zone. Dropping the ball on the line or standing on the line while serving to the side is an infraction. The call or non-call may be appealed. Also, the racquet may not break the plane into this three foot zone while making contact with the ball.
- Effective September 1, 1987 — A change in the partners of a doubles team may be made so long as the first match of the posted team has not begun. For this purpose only, the match will be considered started once the teams have been called to the court.

Dianne Easterling

The Eyesight You Save May Be Your Own

*Due to the new AARA lensed eyeguard rule, I thought some people might like to read the article below
This is an article written by myself, Jim Easterling, and published in the March 1984 newsletter.*

I was inspired to write this article on eyeguards for two reasons. First because of the "Great" article by Chuck Leve in "National Racquetball" and second because of a couple of incidents that happened to me.

I was playing recently with a friend of mine and in the middle of the rally I hit a shot and on the follow through hit myself in the left eye with the racquet. Later on the same day I was playing squash and on my opponent's follow through I again got hit in the left eye with his racquet.

Now I have been teaching racquetball for 10 years, giving rules and referee clinics for 5 years and been playing in the open division of tournaments for 7 years. Under the assumption that I know the correct way to swing the racquet and the correct place to stand on the court, if I can get hit in the eye with a racquet, let alone a ball, I know YOU can get hit in the eye. The point is obvious. If you play racquetball, wear eyeguards. The more you play, the more you need eyeguards.

Your eyeguards should either have a lens or be a full cover goggle or any other type that completely covers the eye. I am totally convinced that if I would have had on "open" eyeguards that day I got hit with the racquet. I would have had a very

serious eye injury instead of just shaky knees.

In Chuck Leve's article he congratulated the AARA for making eyeguards mandatory for juniors. I agree with Mr. Leve, but the AARA should make eyeguards mandatory for all divisions, not just junior divisions.

Players claim eyeguards are uncomfortable, look terrible, cost too much, and lastly hurt their games because they restrict peripheral vision. Good excuses if you lose your sight??????

Eyeguards cost as little as \$3 and up. A person buys a racquet and a pair of shoes to play the game, but he won't buy a pair of eyeguards which can cost as little as a can of balls and certainly last a lot longer. I agree eyeguards used to be uncomfortable and look terrible. Not anymore. In fact there are almost as many types of eyeguards as racquets out now. You say it blocks your peripheral vision. Sounds good, but what about your neck!!! When the ball goes left or right, turn your neck and look at the ball and you won't have any trouble with peripheral vision.

I firmly believe that eyeguards should be mandatory at all tournaments. If a player doesn't like the ball, or the scoring format, or the mandatory eyeguard rule, that player doesn't have to play in that tournament.

If you, the average racquetball player, feel the same way, please pass the word along to your club manager, and to your club pro or program director. Tell them that you would like to see the rule "eyeguards are mandatory" on the next entry form for a racquetball tournament at the club where you play.

The MRA is a believer in eyeguards. They have had eyeguards mandatory on all their entry forms for the past several years and as a result have had no serious eye injuries and few minor eye injuries. That track record speaks for itself.

If you think that I am hard nose on this rule you're right I am. Why? Because I am tired of seeing and hearing about someone getting hit with a racquet or a ball and ending up with a very serious injury which could have been very easily prevented by wearing a pair of \$8 - \$10 eyeguards. You spend \$20 or \$30 on shoes to protect your feet and ankles, why not \$8 to \$10 to protect your eyes?

So please pass the word along about eyeguards to all involved in racquetball. And please do yourself a favor — wear your eyeguards over your eyes, not over the top of your head while playing and practicing. The eyesight you save most probably will be your own.

Macomb County Racquetball Association

It's tournament season again, just a hello from Macomb County Racquetball Association, Pancho and Mike. Hope you had a great summer.

These are our upcoming tournament dates: October 9, January 15 and April 29. Keep an eye out for sites to be announced. Hope to see you all there and wishing you a good season.

A small note on our outdoor 3-Wall Tournament the weekend of July 25th. Everyone had a great time; below are the results.

MENS OPEN:

Bob Bayagich over Chris Kelly

MENS A:

Dan Veith over Randy Lada

MENS B:

Wayne Hollander over

Wally Sorbymink

MENS OPEN DOUBLES:

Greg Hodges & John Brennan over

Scott Worthy & Don Hlavity

MENS A DOUBLES:

Doug Toth & Don Hudson over

Pancho Gutierrez & Mel Zurak

It Was Great!!!!

Pancho Gutierrez

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Third Annual Women's Fall Head Start Scheduled For September 18, 19, 20

Women from throughout the state of Michigan have kicked off fall racquetball competition for the last two years at the Fall "HEAD START" Racquetball Tournament at the COURT HOUSE CLUB in Flint. The tournament is annually sponsored by HEAD and is heralded by many of the women players as their tournament.

The event is supported by many of the women of the Metropolitan Women's Travel League and is often the year's first big competition. Last year's Open draw included the state's very best women players and the double elimination play created an exciting last round reversal of the leaders Irene Churma and Beth Gutowski.

Intercollegiate competition is expected to be a highlight of this year's tournament.

Last year, the B Division had semi-finalist Melody Matties Central Michigan University and Linda Cok, Ferris State in a real struggle with lots of cheering from teammates.

This tournament is a great place for the novice as the draw is big enough to keep it close in the lower ranks. Last year's champ, Claire Kruse, had her first big victory.

Hospitality includes a banquet on Saturday evening and a program that last year featured a Clinic by Stu Hastings, the best instructor in the state.

PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

1986 FINAL RESULTS

OPEN

- 1st Irene Ackerman Chmura Troy, MI
Gateway Racquet Club
- 2nd Beth Ann Gutowski Mt. Morris, MI
Court House Club
- 3rd Tracey Troszak Warren, MI
Backwall Racquet Club

- 4th Joetta Hastings Clarkston, MI
Court House Club

"A"

- 1st Alida Mainhardt Mt. Clemens, MI
Gateway Racquet Club
- 2nd Debbie Weston Pt. Huron, MI
Court Rooms North
- 3rd Lori Troszak Warren, MI
Backwall Racquet Club
- 4th Julie May Plymouth, MI
Racquettime

"B"

- 1st Lynn Graebner Saginaw, MI
Y.M.C.A.
- 2nd Melody Matties Mt. Pleasant, MI
Central Michigan University
- 3rd Linda Cok Grand Rapids, MI
Ferris State College
- 4th Maggie Kurzava Sterling Hts., MI
Backwall Racquet Club

"C"

- 1st Frances Flowers Burton, MI
Court House Club

- 2nd Barb Rockwell Clio, MI
Court House Club
- 3rd Jane Fahlgren Flint, MI
Davison Racquet Club
- 4th Ann Piper Canton, MI
Rose Shores

"D"

- 1st Dania Habeck Saginaw, MI
Y.M.C.A.
- 2nd Charlene Allen Flint, MI
Court House Club
- 3rd Stacey Barbas Rochester, MI
Meadowbrook Courts
- 4th Donella Rak Davison, MI
Court House Club

NOVICE

- 1st Claire Kruse Rochester, MI
University Racquet Club
- 2nd Denise McConnolee Davison, MI
Davison Racquet Club
- 3rd Cheryl Kirkpatrick Bronson, MI
Ferris State College
- 4th Sue Ward Big Rapids, MI
Ferris State College

ATTENTION

ALL RACQUETBALL PLAYERS!

Do you like playing racquetball? Do you like a good banquet? Do you like seeing some of the best players in the Midwest? Do you like seeing Michigan's fall color? Do you like to stroll along the shore of one of the Great Lakes? If so, I would like to invite you to one of the best tournaments in the state of Michigan. It is the Lynn Hahn Hall of Fame tournament held on October 9-11 at the MBA Health and Wellness Center in Muskegon. (See entry enclosed with newsletter.)

MBA is committed to serving the racquetball player and is trying two new facets at the tournament this year. Along with Saturday night's barbecue ribs banquet will be a babysitting service for players with small children on both Saturday and Sunday. Also, for those who find hotel staying expensive there will be a camp-out type opportunity for people to stay right in MBA. That means no driving to and from the club for early morning matches. Along with this will be the Pro Open division for both men and women. Come and see whether or not Jack Newman of Illinois can successfully defend his title a 4th time. Also, come on you women out there — there is \$350 first place in the women's pro division just waiting for someone to win it. Before we leave the Pro Open divisions — come on you guys if we have a full bracket of 32 there will be prize money paid to the round of 16's. This is the first tournament to pay money this far down.

For the amateur divisions, trophies will be awarded in all divisions and consolation or double elimination rounds are available to every player. That means all players entering the tournament are guaranteed two matches of play, so come on and bring your family and enjoy a weekend in Muskegon in the fall. Tournament players' families can eat the entire weekend at the club for \$7 a person. Rumors have it there may also be shrimp available Friday evening as part of the club's hospitality. So reserve October 9-11 and we'll see you at the MBA Health and Wellness Center for the LYNN HAHN HALL OF FAME TOURNAMENT.

Mark Kirg



1987 OPEN DIVISION
1st - Irene Churma 2nd - Beth Gutowski



1987 NOVICE DIVISION
1st - Claire Kruse 2nd - Denise McConnolee

Women's Metro League News

The members of the Metro Women's Touring League are beginning to organize their teams for the 1987-88 season. Right now, everyone is enjoying the beautiful summer we're having; but are anxious to get back together with their teammates at their favorite club.

The first meeting of the League will be held at Gateway Racquetball Center, Sterling Heights, August 25th at 7:00 in the evening. Everyone is invited to all of the meetings throughout the season, even if you're not a member of a team right now. We encourage anyone with questions about the league to attend a meeting. We appreciate any input you may have concerning women's racquetball, and you may enjoy any information we have to offer you. For instance, the league will be having a Referee Clinic on October 20th at Gateway Racquetball Center at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Jim Easterling has graciously accepted our request again this year for this popular clinic. The cost for the clinic will be \$2.00 per person. Any interested racquetball player is invited to attend.

The Women's Metro League was established years ago to create a high level of organized competition for all female players in the Metro area. All levels are represented in the league. Novice divisions are available for the beginning players. The intermediate division is open to the more experienced players, and an advanced division is designed for the most experienced players. If you are interested in obtaining more information, feel free to call Alida Mainhardt at (313) 264-2270.

Our last season was a great success. Almost two hundred women participated and everyone agrees that this was a worthwhile endeavor. A big Thank You goes to everyone who played and especially the 1986-87 Officers:

President: Sadie Allison
Vice President: Mary Gisslander
Secretary: Jean St. John
Treasurer: Claire Pelc

They did a wonderful job of keeping us organized. The Officers for the 1987-88 season are:

President: Alida Mainhardt
Vice President: Pat Klann
Secretary: Mary Gisslander
Treasurer: Claire Pelc

The winning teams for the 1987 season were:

SUNDAY LEVEL I

- 1st Gateway I Cpt. Donna Murray
2nd Backwall Eagles Cpt. Anne Jahn

SUNDAY LEVEL II

- 1st Gateway Cpt. Pat McKerrigan
2nd Maple Court Cpt. Joan Cleland

THURSDAY LEVEL II

- 1st Gateway I Cpt. Jan Meclowicz
2nd Gateway II Cpt. Sadie Allison

THURSDAY LEVEL III

- 1st Gateway I Cpt. Grace Brooks
2nd Gateway II Cpt. Eunice Schmidt

Thanks to all the Clubs that participated: Backwall, Courthouse, Gateway, Maple Courts, Mt. Clemens, and Warren. We had 20 teams participating in the three skill levels.

Alida Mainhardt

Men's Tri-County Travel League To Begin

Men's Travel League play will begin the week of September 19. An organizational meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., August 23, 1987 at Crescent Lake Racquet Club. League Rules, Time of Play, etc. will be determined at that meeting. Late entries to the league will be accepted but rules and other considerations will be determined at the August meeting. All individuals and/or teams who might be interested should contact one of the following people:

Bryan Turner 1-313-624-4162
Rufus Gage 1-313-673-1725
Jim Skinner 1-313-743-4510

Last year's league included the following clubs:

Crescent Lake Racquet Club - Pontiac
Waterford Hills Racquet Club - Waterford
Keatington Racquet Club - Keatington
Gateway Racquet Club - Sterling Heights
Court House Club - Flint

Level of play includes players who have not won an "A" division in a level 3

sanctioned tournament or above in the last two years. This rule may be changed at the organizational meeting. Therefore, anybody interested in the travel league should contact us. We will make every effort to accommodate the needs of all players interested.

The players had a great time last year and it is hoped that the league will expand during the 1987-88 season.

COME JOIN US!!!



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT: Arlene Allan, Jim & Dianne Easterling, Jim Hiser, W.T. Blakeslee, Sandy Cox, Judy Gonyea, Rick Hall and Cathie Frederickson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lee Frederickson

RAM Membership List was given to the Board.
Mike Corinti's request to have Open classes in Senior age divisions has been presented to the Board.

Cathie Frederickson's term with the RAM Board will expire in June and she will not be returning.

Jim Easterling nominated Duane Russell to the RAM Board and Dianne Easterling seconded it.

Dianne Easterling was re-elected to the Board.

Rule changes under consideration by the AARA are: a) Screen serves will be fault serves; b) A ball hit out of the court will result in a point or side out; c) Eye guards will become mandatory; d) There may be a possible dress code.

Mike Davis has not paid his property damage or made an appeal to date. He was banned from playing in the State Singles Tournament and any AARA sanctioned events finishing this season.

AARA will offer a VISA charge card with no membership fee.

May 15 - 17 is the Lewerenz Invitational, held at the Backwall in Madison Heights. Lynn Hahn requested that the State Singles Tournament be held in Muskegon.

It was suggested that all trophies be "presented" rather than left at the tournament desk or club counter.

Next RAM Meeting will be held at the downtown Lansing YMCA on May 12, at 7:00 p.m.

May 12, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lee Frederickson, Jim & Dianne Easterling, W.T. Blakeslee, Rick Hall and Duane Russell.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandy Cox, Judy Gonyea and Jim Hiser. **GUEST:** Bill Gottlieb

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Lansing YMCA. Last month's meeting (4/11/87) minutes were reviewed. Corrections: Duane Russell was nominated and elected to the board. The Grand Rapids Juniors do not want to withdraw from TEAM MICHIGAN but suggested changes to the TEAM MICHIGAN concept. Motion by Jim Easterling to approve with corrections was made, seconded by Dianne Easterling and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

RAM Membership List: Lee indicated the membership list is current and available. Work is still needed to complete the club list. Lee stated that a computerized mail merge application is available to generate custom correspondence.

State Singles Tournament Results: Dianne gave the tournament financial report which showed 296 single division entries and 89 second division entries. Dianne reported that balancing the tournament was a challenge. Three unpaid entries were reviewed with two resolved as complimentary and the third as delinquent. A registered letter will be sent to the one delinquent entrant. W.T. reported a very favorable response from the players at

the tournament. Things to remember: The souvenirs were a nice touch and well received and the party Saturday was a bust because it competed with the club lounge.

GRRPA Proposed Changes to the Junior's TEAM MICHIGAN Program: Rick read the GRRPA letter to the RAM Junior Committee on this subject. Briefly the GRRPA proposes that RAM continue to organize and sponsor TEAM MICHIGAN for the Junior National Tournament, and parents and local support groups such as GRRPA handle more of the logistics (fund raising, housing, transportation . . .). The RAM Board agreed with the changes in concept but deferred the final approval to the Junior Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Committees Report (If no report, then omitted): 1) Tournament — W.T. will be directing the Junior Regional Tournament May 16-17 with approximately 60 entrants. The girls divisions were cancelled due to only 10 entrants; 2) Nominating — Dianne distributed a RAM Board Roster showing that there are currently 2 vacancies; 3) Newsletter — Jim E. reported the newsletter was scheduled to be mailed today, 5/12/87; 4) Sanctioning — Dianne distributed an 87-88 schedule of sanctioned tournaments and adjustments were made to remove conflicts. Dianne suggested that all tournaments have the same level for standings. This will be decided by the Sanctioning Committee.

The date/time of the next meeting will be determined by Lee and published with the agenda. Motion to adjourn was made by W.T., seconded by Jim E. and approved at 8:25 p.m.

June 9, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT: Arlene Allan, Jim & Dianne Easterling, Judy Gonyea, Sandy Cox, W.T. Blakeslee, Lee Frederickson and Duane Russell.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Hiser and Rick Hall.

J. Easterling motioned to approve the previous Board meeting minutes with a second by D. Easterling.

It was brought to the Board's attention that a check for two tournament entry fees had bounced. L. Frederickson will look into this matter.

D. Easterling claims that J. Hiser owes RAM money and W.T. Blakeslee states the reverse. D. Easterling would like this situation resolved.

A. Allan brought up the possibility of contracting services needed during RAM events. D. Easterling felt that the Board would then be responsible for tax payments. L. Frederickson said that this may be a future possibility.

S. Cox motioned that the next RAM meeting be held in August. Motion was passed. W.T. Blakeslee said that the Junior Regional Tournament could have had more participants with a stronger promotional campaign and an earlier tournament date.

AARA Rule Changes: 1) Lensed eyeguards are mandatory; 2) Service box lines are mandatory; 3) Screen serves are fault serves.

J. Hiser has been reelected to the AARA Board as Vice President.

Motion to adjourn was made by W.T. Blakeslee with a second by Judy Gonyea.

RAM Board Elects New Officers

At its August meeting, the RAM Board of Directors elected the following people to serve as the officers for the 1987-88 year:

President . . . Tom Blakeslee (Mt. Clemens)
Vice President . . . Rick Hall (Kentwood)

Secretary . . . Duane Russell (Lansing)
Treasurer . . . Dianne Easterling (Lansing)

The Board of Directors currently has three vacancies and we are looking for interested persons to fill these vacancies. Prospective directors must attend the monthly RAM meetings and show a

willingness to participate in RAM activities. Listed below are the functioning RAM committees and the committee chairmen for the 1987-88 year.

Nominating . . . W.T. Blakeslee
Juniors . . . Judy Gonyea
State Tournaments . . . Jim Easterling

Membership . . . Lee Frederickson
Rankings . . . Sandy Cox
Referee . . . Jim Hiser
Sanctioning . . . Dianne Easterling
Intercollegiate . . . Jerry Gray
Newsletter . . . Jim Easterling
Women's . . . (Vacant)

Why Join AARA and What Does it Do For Me?

As another tournament season rolls around the questions come up again. Why should I join AARA? What do they do for me? Why do I have to pay \$10 when they don't help the "grass roots" player? In answer to these questions, here is a list of programs that would not exist without the AARA:

1. The Intercollegiate Regional and National Championships
2. The Junior and High School Regional and National Championships
3. A National Referee Certification Program

4. The National Teaching Certification Program (PARI)
 5. The U.S. National Team
 6. A National Ranking System
 7. Acceptance as a Class C Sport by the USOC with potential for becoming a Class A Sport and inclusion in the Olympics
 8. The National Disabled Program
 9. Equality of support of sanctioned tournaments by national manufacturers
 10. The new AARA/VISA program
- Below are the benefits for becoming an AARA member:

1. Free subscription to the AARA Official Publication "Racquetball in Review"
2. Car Rental, Product and Airline discounts to sanctioned events
3. Right to play in all sanctioned events
4. Membership card
5. A free AARA Rule Book
6. Voice in all AARA policies by direct vote and by electing the representatives to the National Board
7. Amateur Ranking for State, Regional and National by AARA
8. Free subscription to the State newsletter, "Racquetball Reporter"

9. The prestige of belonging to the sole National Governing Body of Racquetball which is recognized as a member of the United States Olympic Committee.

So why not join today. Membership for one year costs \$10; for two years \$17; for five years \$40; and for a lifetime for a single \$250. Simply mail your name, address and check in the amount you wish made payable to RAM, 321 Village, Lansing, MI 48911. Join today and help support and promote racquetball in Michigan.



It is time we make Racquetball a more 'Professional' sport by training our Racquetball Instructors not only how to "teach" the sport of racquetball, but how to "sell" the sport of racquetball.

It is the primary goal of the Professional Association of Racquetball Instructors (PARI) to train and certify at least one instructor for every club and/or similar playing facility within the United States. By increasing the level of competency within the teaching system, we can increase the number of people we provide quality instruction and programs for within our clubs and therefore increase our memberships and the quality of play.

PARI provides clinics and certification for experienced instructors and new instructors. Clinics and Testing sites will be held throughout the United States on a regular basis in order to accommodate the demand of quality instructors.

We have a highly qualified staff of Instructors to work with your Club Teaching Professionals during the 2 day clinic/test. If you do not have an Instructor, we can provide you with a list of those who are looking to relocate or change jobs.

We highly recommend all present Racquetball Instructors and all potential Instructors of private facilities, YMCAs, schools, and recreational centers invest in their future by investing in the Professional Association of Racquetball Instructors.

FACILITIES MEMBER . . .

All clubs or similar facilities who have a certified teaching professional, or those who wish updated information on racquetball and related activities may invest as a Facility Member. An Annual Fee of \$50

The Professional Association of Racquetball Instructors

will be assessed which will include:

- *Yearly Wall Plaque
- *Monthly Newsletter
- *Annual Subscription to "Racquetball in Review"

ACTIVE INSTRUCTOR MEMBER . . .

All active teaching instructors of clubs, YMCAs, colleges, universities, community clubs, and all other similar playing facilities should invest in this membership. You need to complete the clinic and test and pay your first year's membership dues to become AIM-Active Instructor Member.

The Clinic and Test Fee is \$175.00/person which includes a 10 hour clinic and 3 hour test, and your first year's membership dues. Not only do you receive the 2 day clinic/test and membership dues for your first year but also ongoing services such as:

- * Job Placement
- * Newsletter (every other month)
- * Additions to Instructors Manual (every 2 months)
- * Special Major Sponsors Discount Programs
- * Recertification Program
- * Special Instructors Program patches
- * shirts-warmups
- * Recognition
- * Certification Plaque
- * Progressive Membership Bonus Program
- * Annual Subscription to "Racquetball in Review"
- * 30 Page Instruction Manual

CLINIC . . .

The clinic will be held over two days with Day 1 - 7 hours and Day 2 - 3 hours. The clinic will cover:

- *Sales Techniques
- *Promotion of Self
- *Promotion of Lessons
- *Instructor Benefits

*Budgeting & Cost

- Studies
- *Advertising Techniques
- *Pay/Compensation/Commissions/Bonuses
- *Specialty Programs
- clinics -camps
- business lessons
- lesson/league
- integrated with sports program

TEST . . .

The test will be held on the second day and last 2-4 hours depending on the number of participants.

It will consist of 4 parts, a written test, a test teaching test, and a skills/set up test. Part 4 requires you teach so many hours within the next 12 months to be eligible to retain your earned ranking

*Layout & Design

- *Record Keeping
- *Pro Shop Buy/Sell
- *Motivation
- *History
- *Lesson Plans
- Private
- Group

CERTIFICATION . . .

Once you have completed the Clinic and Test, you will become certified as one of the following:

- Teaching Assistant (TA)
- Teaching Instructor (TI)
- Teaching Professional (TP)

The next clinic/test is October 3 & 4 at COURT HOUSE CLUB - 617 Hemphill Rd. Flint, Michigan 48507 (313) 743-4510. The instructor will be Stu Hastings - (313) 625-6514. For more information call the A.A.R.A. - (303) 635-5396.



THE OLD SLY FOX

He may look old but you'd better watch out
He's a crafty old codger without a doubt.
A man with a mission who's prepared a lot
To give this racquetball game his very best shot.

He warms up, he stretches, blasts a variety of shots.
Kills, angles, rollouts, and hits the ceiling a lot.
The warm ups are over the referees ready,
The game's underway and you'd better get ready.

His eyes are intense, his face it is grim,
his muscles are fluid for HE COMES TO WIN!

He covers the court from front to back,
his aim is on target, his ball hits the crack.
He glides swiftly from side to side,
the balls he hits seldom go wide.

His front courts game's a classic, his left shots amaze,
his opponent's eyes are soon all agaze

His overhead shots from the front and the rear,
are carefully, artfully designed to strike fear.
His opponent's moves are anticipated in advance,
the poor guy is chastened, he hasn't a chance.

With finesse and precision he hits the ball,
His shot selection and placement has him climbing the wall.

Strength, stamina, speed and endurance he's got,
COME ON MAN! Wasn't that a SWEET SHOT!

He's a winner today, the trophy is his,
He earned it, his court efforts were his.
DID HE DO IT ALONE? Not on your life,
For alongside to cheer him was his cute red-headed wife

Not present in person but there none the same,
Were all of the guys who played him the RACQUETBALL GAME.
Without all their help it would be hard to say,
DUANE RUSSELL played for the State Championship today.

But, win or lose, he's the better for it,
He's fit for life and has the VITALITY TO SHOW IT!

Many Thanks,
Duane R. Russell/May 20, 1987

A'ME

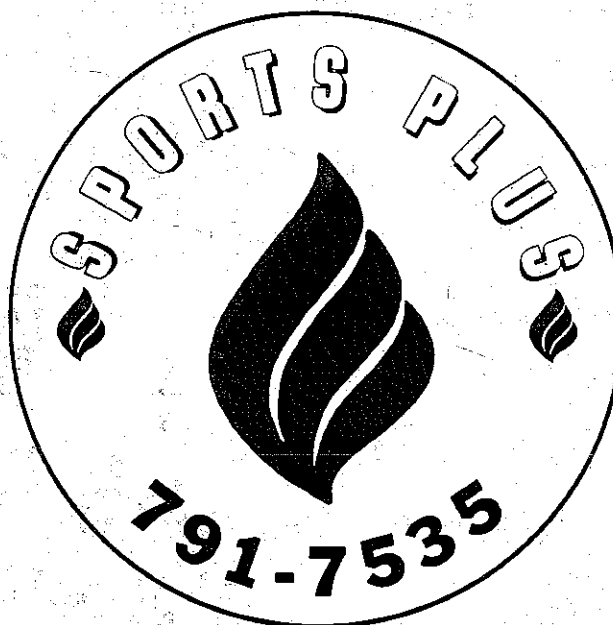
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The Other Guys - Masters Plus

Duane R. Russell interviewed Masters and Golden Masters players to determine their reasons for participating in racquetball. Most took up the sport in their 40's or 50's as a means of keeping fit for life.

MOSES NICHOLSON began play at 56 and enjoys the comradery and competitiveness as well as "loving to pick on the young fellows." He strives to "try to think" when playing and emphasizes a control game. Moses plans on playing "until they roll theasket out."

LEONARDO POOLE was 52 when he switched to racquetball from paddleball since he couldn't find enough players. He enjoys "the comradery and the fact it is a real clean sport." Leonard says, "I just whale on the ball and feel my strongest point is not giving up." He intends to compete forever saying, "They'll have to close the box on me too."

GERRY LEONE has played wall games since he was 47 and played badminton since 1948. Racquetball fit right in as another racquet sport along with tennis. Gerry says "Racquetball makes you more energetic and helps you stay in shape and be alert throughout the day." He enjoys

the competition and "plans on playing until something major happens so I couldn't make the moves on the court." Gerry advises lessons and feels coaches are good and should be utilized more.

HIKE SOHIKIAN became a racquetball regular at 58 learning the game with his son. Hike says, "I can't hit the ball as hard as I used to so I try to use control. I have been fortunate to have found something that keeps me in shape and I'll probably die on the racquetball court." His counsel for the new player is "If you are not good don't be disappointed. If you practice you will do better."

DAN WOODS has played paddleball since 1955 and later switched to racquetball using the big wood racquet. Dan "likes to be active, stay in shape and work up a good sweat. Racquetball is the best thing I do during the day." Dan emphasizes fellowship and the healthy aspects of the game. "When you hit the ball something changes and you can spend one hour completely oblivious to all other problems. Racquetball has a cleansing and therapeutic effect on the human personality. Here's a challenge. Can you meet it? How do you handle it?" Dan says, "To me, it is the game itself

that brings out what kind of a person you are: win, lose or draw."

LYNN HAHN has been a racquetball jock since 42 when he took it up at Alma College and "fell in love with the game right away." "I love the exercise part of it and enjoy competition. It gives the opportunity to compete as well as get a good workout. He is appreciative that "Bea his wife, is tolerant and allows me time to play an hour a day and in tournaments. Lynn emphasizes that "if you work at it you are going to improve. Desire has a lot to do with it. I plan on playing as long as my feet will carry me around the court." Lynn advises that "racquetball is a great game for people of middle age and older since it provides exercise with the benefit of socializing."

NOEL LESAGE became a racquetball supporter at 55. His reasons for play are "wanting to stay in shape, competing and having a good time." "I enjoy the game very much and meet an awful lot of good people. I guess I will play till they bury me."

BOB FINKELMAN took up racquetball at 49 years of age and is motivated because "I love to play and it has kept me healthy all these years. It is a fantastic conditioner

both mentally and physically and just a lot of fun." He will play "until they put me in a box."

DICK CARETTI has been a racquetball enthusiast since he was 48. He first was exposed to a ball to wall game in 1968 at M.S.U. where he played paddleball to stay in shape. He believes his strongest asset is "I play every day." He enjoys the competitiveness and exercise and will play "til they carry me away." His advice is to "prioritize your time and fit it in your schedule. Enjoy it."

The key to success is persistence and consistency. Practice over a period of years will provide these and make for better performance. Age is not always an enemy. Experience can equip you with the savvy to compensate for what is lost in reflexes.

Mental toughness is a must for successful tournament competition. Billie Jean King says, "How do you get mental toughness... You have to ask yourself whether you're willing to pay the price. It always comes to that. **AND AS YOU GET OLDER AGE BECOMES LIKE INFLATION... THE PRICE YOU HAVE TO PAY GOES UP**"

Duane Russell

Junior Racquetball Team Michigan

Each year RAM helps qualified juniors to participate in the AARA Junior National Racquetball Championship Tournament. The Jr. National Tournament draws talented young men and women from all states with Michigan always well represented.

The formation of the RAM junior team, **TEAM MICHIGAN**, is the responsibility of the RAM Junior Committee. In the spring the committee reviews applications and selects the team. Although any junior player age 8 to 18 may apply, the player must satisfy the selection criteria established for **TEAM MICHIGAN**. This process is extremely important to assure the best representation for Michigan. Basically, the selection pivots on the player's performance with a strong emphasis on responsibility and sportsmanship.

The combined effort of players, parents, local organizations and the RAM Board make **TEAM MICHIGAN** a reality each year.

A brief description of the team formation process appears below:

The parents or local support organizations:

1. Nominate juniors to the team who qualify in the areas identified by RAM.
2. Provide transportation and housing. Money raised by the local support organizations will help reduce these costs.

3. Provide chaperones.
4. Organize fund raising activities.

The RAM Junior Committee:

1. Establish the selection criteria, which will include individual contributions to the sport, attitude, sportsmanship, and fund raising effort.
2. Review candidates for the team and have final approval.
3. Approve team sponsors and purchase appropriate team clothing with funds donated by sponsors, RAM, and support groups (i.e. GRRPA).
4. Appoint an adult leader & team captains for the Nationals. These individuals will chair the meetings and provide general leadership for the team while at the Nationals. This leadership unit will have the final say in any "Code of Conduct" infraction.
5. Establish a "Code of Conduct" document which must be signed by all team members and strictly enforced.

The success of **TEAM MICHIGAN** is not measured by medals and trophies but by the experience that the players enjoy. Anyone interested in more information about the Junior **TEAM MICHIGAN** program may contact any RAM Board Member or write to the RAM Junior Committee.

Rick Hall

Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons

The GRRPA again helped send ten junior racquetball players to the AARA Junior Nationals which were held in Dublin, Ohio near Columbus from June 20 to June 24. The ten players were: Joel Bonnett, Colleen Covell, Ryan Covell, Dawn Cumberworth, Gary Hall, Paige Sowders, Shane Sowders, Tim VanDyke, Brent Zimmerman and Scott Zimmerman. These juniors were all part of "TEAM MICHIGAN" which is organized by RAM to represent Michigan. The GRRPA juniors and their family members who joined in the trip were somewhat disappointed by early round losses, but this was a tough year with most of these juniors in the bottom of an age bracket. Look out next year. Everyone reported a pleasant stay in

Columbus and the Sawmill Athletic Club was beautiful. The level of racquetball play was excellent and even if you weren't playing, you got a good lesson while watching.

The GRRPA has begun planning for this fall's activities which will include a Junior Clinic (starting early for next year's Nationals) and the "Remember November" racquetball tournament (Nov. 6-8). Once again the GRRPA will try to organize a Men's Travel Team competition for Grand Rapids area clubs. The Travel Team competition last year was started too late and fell victim to the early spring. We'll try an earlier start this year. Other activities include the Women's City League and of course the annual membership drive.

Rick Hall

CANUSA GAMES Flint Juniors & Adults Become International Racquetball Olympians

On August 7-9, 1065 Flint and Genesee County Athletes traveled on 24 buses to Hamilton, Ontario to compete in the 30th annual competition between Flint, Michigan and the host city, Hamilton. The Athletes compete in 19 sport areas. Each city has its dominate sports and racquetball is normally a Flint Sport.

The overall tally for the CANUSA Games since its beginning is 14 wins for Flint, 13 wins for Hamilton, and 3 ties. The 1987 CANUSA Games found the Hamiltonians the 12-7 winners of the games, which included a 25-11 victory over the racquetballers from Flint, the second racquetball loss since added to the games 6 years ago.

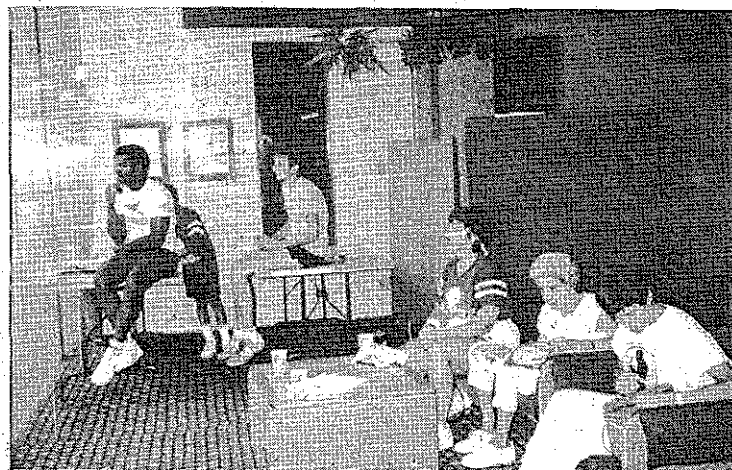
Players for the CANUSA Team include the top three players from each division in the Flint Olympian Games hosted earlier in the summer at Court House Club in Flint. A highlight of the trip is that each Junior involved stays in the home of a Canadian player for the weekend. Great friendships are fostered and the athletes from both cities look forward to the following year to renew their international friendship and competition.

FLINT TEAM BOYS

12 & Under	Aaron Oskey 2nd
1st Jeff Cox	Billy Hall 3rd
13 & Under	Robby Thompson 2nd
1st Brian Jones	
15 & Under	Jason Sietloff 2nd
1st Marve Riley	Chris Palid 3rd
17 & Under	Mike Dunn 2nd
1st Troy Altenburg	Jeremy Cox 3rd
18 & Over	Bill Hein 2nd
1st Marve Riley	Ken Gardner 3rd
35 & Over	James D. Skinner 2nd
1st Gerald Tucker	Grant Whitehead 3rd

FLINT TEAM GIRLS

12 & Under	Michele Palid 2nd
1st Christine Skinner	Angie Moulton 3rd
13 & Under	
1st Angie Gardner	
15 & Under	Amy Durga 2nd
1st Jennifer Jones	Anastasia Piliatas 3rd
17 & Under	Tracey Greggson 2nd
1st Melody Rogers	Sandra Daly 3rd
18 & Over	Mary Sontag 2nd
1st Rachel Rogers	Ann Sontag 3rd
35 & Over	Donella Rak 2nd
1st Lona Morris	Carol Rogers 3rd



GRANT WHITEHEAD - DONELLA RAK - TROY ALTENBURG
Players from Flint watch Competition at The Circle Racquet Club in Hamilton, Ontario During CANUSA Games

Tournament Calendar

1987-88 SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

Sept. 11 - 13	8th Annual Harbor Cove Open/Little Traverse Rac Club	Petoskey
Sept. 18 - 20	Women's Fall Head Start/Court House Club	Flint
Sept. 25 - 27	Bud Light Open/Davison Racquet Club	Davison
Oct. 2 - 4	Rollout Classic/Saginaw Valley Health Rac. Club	Saginaw
Oct. 9 - 11	Lynn Hahn Hall of Fame/MBA Health & Wellness Ctr	Muskegon
	MCRA Challenge Series/Court Rooms North	Port Huron
Oct. 16 - 18	Autumn Open/Riverview Racquet Club	Grand Rapids
Oct. 23 - 25	Super 7 #1/Grand Traverse Athletic Club	Traverse City
Nov. 6 - 8	Remember November/tba	tba
	Rollout Classic/Court Rooms North	Port Huron
Nov. 20 - 22	Super 7 #2/Backwall	Madison Heights
Dec. 4 - 6	Super 7 #3/29th Street Fitness Center	Grand Rapids
Dec. 18 - 20	Sports Plus Christmas Double Up/Clinton Rac. Club	Mt. Clemens
	Rollout Classic/tba	tba
Jan. 8 - 10	Super 7 #4/Saginaw Valley Health Racquet Club	Saginaw
Jan. 15 - 17	Riverview 1000/Riverview Racquet Club	Grand Rapids
	MCRA Challenge Series Doubles/tba	tba
Jan. 22 - 24	MICHIGAN COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	Big Rapids
	Ferris State College	
	Rollout Classic/Ann Arbor Court Club	Ann Arbor
Jan. 29 - 31	West Michigan Championship/tba	tba
Feb. 5 - 7	Super 7 #5/Rose Shores East	Roseville
Feb. 12 - 14	MIDWEST REGIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	tba
Feb. 19 - 21	AARA REGION 9 ADULT & JUNIOR REGIONALS	Toledo, OH
Mar. 4 - 6	Super 7 #6/Ann Arbor Court Club	Ann Arbor
Mar. 11 - 13	Grand Rapids City Championships/tba	Grand Rapids
	Swing Into Spring/Saginaw Valley Health Rac. Club	Saginaw
Mar. 18 - 20	RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP/tba	tba
Mar. 25 - 27	Rollout Classic/tba	tba
	Pro Stop/tba	tba
Apr. 8 - 10	Super 7 #7/Coliseum II	Taylor
Apr. 15 - 17	RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP/tba	tba
Apr. 22 - 24	Three Days in April/Riverview Racquet Club	Grand Rapids
Apr. 29-May 1	MCRA Challenge Series/tba	tba
May 13 - 15	Super 7 Finale/Court Time	Farmington

*tba = To be announced



RACQUETBALL DEALER

Any racquetball related item that you want to sell, buy, trade, or whatever will be listed in this column. For information, please contact Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459 (home)

FOR SALE — Eight used metal racquetball rackets (covers included) Grips and strings are all ok. Different kinds. — Price: \$15.00 each Call Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459 (H)

FREE VOIT SCORE CARDS
FREE VOIT DRAW SHEET
You pick up or pay for postage. Call Jim Easterling (517) 887-0459 (H)

FOR SALE — Head Pro Racquets Call Jerry Gervais (616) 744-4721 (W)

FOR SALE or WILL TRADE for Can of Penn Balls: 1 - Head Masters Replacement Kit 190643 - can of balls; 1 - Composite 250G Replacement Kit - contains 1 bumper, 1 safety cord, set of 6 leather pads. Call (616) 759-0723 after 10:00 pm or at work (616) 722-1639 Penn Balls - or - Ram Balls

WANTED — I am a collector of racquetball cans and memorabilia. I need the Seamco "Assassin" (dimpled ball) can and also the "pump" you use with the Super Z 8ail. I will buy or trade Call Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459 (H)

STRANGE THINGS ON A COURT

I once saw what you might call the most perfectly unique roll out shot ever made. A player was on the right hand side of the court about five feet behind the short line. He hit a shot to the front left corner and the ball hit the left side wall and the front wall at the same time and then ROLLED out towards the center of the court.

Jim Easterling



RAM Facility Listing Holland Health & Racquet Club

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(616) 392-1417

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2 Free Weight Rooms
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Masseur/Masseuse
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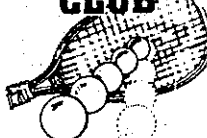
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