

# Racquetball Reporter

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## JUNIORS RULE AT THE 2004 RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS



*Front Row (left-right):* Michael Bowles, Jeremy Sevens, Ross McKay, Mauricio Busman, Brandon Quinn, Brad Schopieray, Eric Sporer

*Back Row (left-right):* Brad Baumgartner, Anthony Russo, Harry Singer, Trevor Sporer, Zach Olmstead, Dominic Waldorf, Dan Poindexter, Trent Chester

*Missing:* Andrew Remus and Jim Twomey

*Picture & names - Diana Courtney*

The RAM State Singles Championship boasted a new and exciting twist for 2004. In the past the biggest draw was clearly found in the Mens D division or even in the Mens 35 or Mens 50 divisions, but not this year. On this weekend in March, clearly this State Singles Championship belonged to the players in the under 18 age brackets. Over one third of the tournament's total entrants were under 18 years of age. There were more players in the under 18 age brackets than there were women players, quite an achievement. (Congratulations to all of the Junior Program Coordinators across the state.)

But the kids weren't done with just entering the tournament. They all came to win. It was great to see spectators cheering for both competitors.

Competition in all brackets was fierce and good sportsmanship was the word of the day. All of the participating junior players are now members of Junior Team Michigan and will represent Michigan well. Junior Team Michigan has not been in existence for many years and it's great to see it back.

Congratulations to all of the players who competed over the last weekend in March. For the results in the Junior divisions at the State Singles Championships, see page 8. Also look inside for more information on Junior Team Michigan and pictures of Junior and other division winners from the 2004 State Singles Championship held at the Players Club in Warren. Also, look inside for information on the newest member of Michigan's Racquetball Hall of Fame.



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## THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . .

### STATE of the STATE

### Racquetball Association of Michigan

As we come to a close to what has been a fantastic season for racquetball in Michigan, I would like to take a closer look at some of the things that have been accomplished in the last year:

- Membership numbers are up in every category (men, women, and juniors)
- More sanctioned tournaments
- Larger and more interactive Board of Directors
- A general membership meeting with a high amount of membership attendance
- A very successful auction (our auction raised \$1200.00 for our Junior's program)
- A new "Team Michigan" junior program that is being rolled out for the 2004-2005 season (see Karen Green's article for more information about the junior's program)
- Large player participation in both the State Doubles tournament and the

State Singles tournament (which, by the way, probably had one of the largest juniors draw in Michigan history)

- Medals instead of trophies at the State Singles
- A "Women's Only" tournament

The entire Michigan racquetball community is abuzz with activity and more forward progress is being made everyday. We are constantly striving to improve the value of our newsletter and web page so that both are one of the best racquetball media venues in the country. We are organizing with tournament directors to coordinate next year's calendar, and we are also trying to procure racquetball clubs for our next two year's State Doubles and Singles tournaments. And even with all of that, there is still more work to be done:

- Men's B/C/D Only tournament (to attract more of the recreational players)

(cont. on page 13)

### USRA BECOMES USA RACQUETBALL

The United States Racquetball Association has officially changed its name and its logo. The association will now be known as USA Racquetball. The name change now brings the association's name in alignment with the names of other olympic sport associations. Look for the new logo in all official national publications.



### NEW MEMBER TO THE RAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The RAM Board of Directors welcomes its newest member who is no stranger to the Board. **Randy Pagels**, current RAM webmaster, was elected to the RAM Board of Directors at the January 2004 meeting. Please congratulate Randy for all of his efforts to promote racquetball in Michigan.



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## BLAKESLEE ELECTED TO THE RAM HALL OF FAME

- Jack White and Jim Easterling

The 2004 RAM State Singles Championships tournament, with upsets in the draw and a record number of junior participants was the host for another exciting moment in Michigan's racquetball history. The tournament was the site of the induction of the newest member of RAM's Racquetball Hall of Fame.

Tom Blakeslee, of Mt. Clemens, joins the other 23 members as the 24th person to be elected to the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame for 2004 by a vote of the Michigan players. Although his playing record is a something to be proud of with many state titles, a number of individual tournament titles and a force to be considered at any moment in all tournaments, to most of us Tom's name was synonymous with the RAM State Singles Championship!

For almost 20 years, as a member of the RAM Board of Directors, we have seen Tom sitting at the tournament desk; working the times and courts; running interference on rule interpretations; and for better or worse, making sure we had a tournament to play in. Not many people realize the time commitment and the personal sacrifice required to pull any tournament off successfully, much less the State Singles Championship. It is truly a miracle that he is still "happily married" to Karen. Tom and Karen have two beautiful daughters, Courtney and Alexandria. All of us would like to thank you!

I've known Tom for some time, worked out with him and been his doubles partner. It's been said that my back has a heavy load on it, but in truth, I've learned as much from him as he has from me.....it's been a pleasure.

From some of us who know you best, Jim, Chris, Pete and the rest....Thank you and Congratulations as the 2004 Inductee into the RAM Racquetball Hall of Fame. - Jack White

While Jack says Tom will be remembered for the RAM State Singles Championships. I will remember Tom for his commitment to racquetball in Michigan.



Tom's commitment to Michigan centered largely around his functioning as President of RAM. Tom was the President of RAM for the thirteen years. Being a board member for 20 years is quite an accomplishment, but acting as President for 13 years is amazing.

In helping to write this article, below are some of the highlights of Tom's racquetball career that I was able to find in the past issues of The Racquetball Reporter.

- 1991 Adult Regionals - M40 - 2nd
- 1995 RAM State Singles - M45 - 1st
- 1996 RAM State Singles - M45 - 1st
- 1998 RAM Doubles - with Jack White M35 - 1st
- 1999 RAM State Singles - M45 - 1st
- 1999 RAM Doubles - with Jack White M40 - 1st
- 2001 RAM Doubles - with Jim Panasiewicz - M50 - 1st
- 2003 RAM Doubles - with Jack White M45 - 1st

Tom has also finished 2nd and in the semifinals in many State Singles and Doubles Championship tournaments.

Tom's nonplaying contributions to racquetball in Michigan include:

- 1984 Joined the RAM board and was on the ranking committee
- 1985 Was his first year as Vice-President of RAM (also
- 1986)
- 1987 Was the Junior Regional Director
- 1987 Was his first year as President of RAM (also in 1988-89-90)
- 1994 Was the President of RAM (also 1995-96-97-98-99-00-01-02)

Tom should be most remembered for being on the RAM board for 20 years (as of right now) and being President on RAM for 13 years. - Jim Easterling

Other members of the RAM Hall of Fame include: Jim Hiser, Dennis Wood, William Gottlieb, Bob Wilhelm, Larry Fox, Steve Keeley, Gordon Kelly, Richard Caretti, Johnny Northern, Mike Yellen, Stu Hastings, Tom Brownlee, Donna Henry Brewer, Irene Ackerman Chmura, Jim Easterling, Fred Lewerenz, Ron Pudduck, Lynn Hahn, J. D. Driver, Randy Minto, Lou Ellen Fecher, Duane Russell and Dianne Easterling.

For further information about RAM's Racquetball Hall of Fame, or if you wish to nominate someone for induction into the Hall of Fame for 2004-05, contact Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459. The nomination process for the 2004-05 RAM Hall of Fame will be featured in the August 2004 edition of the The Racquetball Reporter. Watch for the article and begin thinking about who you might wish to nominate in the fall.

Check out the RAM web site at

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

for pictures and other information about the current Hall of Fame members. And if you are in the East Lansing area, visit the MAC Club and check out the Hall of Fame or WALL OF FAME.

## STATE SINGLES, SATURDAY MARCH 27, 2004 or SPEAK INTO THE 'MIC'

- Laura Patterson

We had approximately 160 participants this year, which included over 53 Juniors. I served as the resident roaming reporter and **Thelma** served as our photographer. We missed the play of **Stephanie Cobb** this year as she was out with an injury but she was our official presenter of the awards to the winners and runner-ups.

I gave many of you an opportunity to "speak into the mic" and share your thoughts on the tournament. Some of you didn't actually speak into the mic, the mic just happened to pick up what you said.

The eight and under were fun to watch with their two handed forehands, backhands and crack shots. According to Mom, **Curtis White** didn't want to get out of bed to play but you couldn't tell that by the way he played. Some of the seasoned players were very impressed with the juniors. **Diana** was watching on of the 8 and under matches and tried to pick up tips on how to dig balls out of the corners.

The things that the mic will pick up...**Lorna** is already a grandmother and awaiting arrival of another grand baby and is already looking at their coordination to make sure they can start playing racquetball.

**Shawn Battle** is a returning player. This was his first time playing in a State Tournament in 7 years. He wanted to come back but he just didn't have the time. "This has been a great tournament...the hospitality was good, matches were on time and the competition was outstanding".

**Dan Westcott** was playing in his first State Tournament. He played in the 16 and under. He's been playing for 5 years but he only commits about 3 months a year. His first match was against **Andrew Price** and Dan stated that Andrew was tough, but it's a round robin and he's glad he got that game out of the way...he thinks it was a good warm up for his other matches. "I am really enjoying this tournament and I am learning a lot...I think I need to put more time into racquetball".

**Marcos Rivera** and friends stated that they would rather receive T-shirts instead of the little bag. You know, like the shirts that we get when we play in the tournaments at Belle Isle. Good hospitality is a must and we certainly had that at this tournament!

**Stephanie Cobb** had a few words on the Women's challenge. The women's challenge has been fairly successful. We played a lot of doubles and singles will be the focus next year with hopes of extending the challenges to Grand Rapids, Grand Blanc and the Lansing area.

**Michelle Geile** hails from Grand Rapids and played her first State tournament. She played some great racquetball and made it through the first two rounds of the Women's Open. Michelle thought that the tournament was great... she got to play against competition that she doesn't get to play against in the Grand Rapids area. I know we haven't seen the last of her.

**Tom Blakeslee** (see article on page 3) was inducted into the Hall of Fame. He's been playing for about 32 years. He keeps coming back to the sport so that he can stay physically fit. He enjoys the work out. He is very proud that we have more board members. This has been a goal of his for years.

**Kristin Pagels** has played for 2 or 3 years. She has played in 2 State Singles tournaments. She is 14 and has never won a game... she just plays for the fun of it. Kristin says she's very busy and racquetball is a way for her to relax.

**Twayne Howard** is the Board's Treasurer and has been a board member for 4 or 5 years. He's been playing for 24 years and has been playing tournaments for 10 years. Twayne stated that **Charles Kaiser** and **Stanley Kurzman** (two of our seasoned, 70 year old, players) were his heroes and he wanted to be just like them when he grows up.

**Dennis Dinauer** hails from the Bay City area and has been playing for 12 to 14 years and he was coached by our very own **Melody Gorno** when he attended Central Michigan University. Until last

year Dennis had not been playing. He missed the competitiveness so he decided to come back to the game.

**Anthnita Dickerson** has not played a State Singles tournament since 1995 but she came out to this tournament ready to take care of business. She took home the gold in both of her divisions. "The competition was great and I am glad that I played in this tournament. I think it will be a good warm-up tournament for Regionals".

**Carlos Jones** was the champ for the Men's 45A and Men's A and he has been playing since 1994 but this is his first time playing in the State Tournament. He thought that the tournament was very well organized and the location was good. **Karen Green** and **Mike Banks** were very involved in motivating him to play in more tournaments. He's a member of Franklin Athletic Club where Karen is doing a great job at promoting the game of racquetball. He'll definitely play in the next tournament and he would rather have a T-Shirt as a hospitality gift.

**Charles Kaiser** and **Stanley Kurzman** played in the Men's 70+ finals and Charles won this round. They are good friends and have played one another a number of times. Charles is a former handball player and has only been playing the game of racquetball since the age of 60.

**Douglas McClennen** played in his first State Tournament. He has only been playing for 5 years and he should have been playing in the 70+ division but played in the C/D 55+ division because he thought it would be a great experience. Although he's only been playing for 5 years, he says that racquetball is in his blood and he gets the best workout per minutes played. He had a great time at the tournament and is looking forward to the next one.

**Matt Malolepeszy** has only been playing for 2 years and he was runner-up in the 35 A/B division. He thought that the tournament was very well run...his matches were on time and sometimes they were even early and food was still

## SPEAK INTO THE 'MIC'

(cont.)

available after he got finished late one night.

**Bob Reou** is from the Bay City Area and this is his second State Tournament since returning to the game 2 years ago. He was being a good Dad...following his son around while he was playing sports and now he has some "me" time and decided to come back to the game. He took home the gold in the 35 A/B division. He enjoyed the tournament as it was always on schedule and even ahead of time in some instances and the tournament director (people at the tournament table) were very accommodating. He said he loved the purse but was upset that it didn't have any lipstick.

**Charlie Oliver** played in his first State Tournament. He's been playing about 4 years. His Dad used to play and he got him involved in the game. He had lots of fun and learned a lot during this tournament. Charlie says that he is in the game for life!

**Alex Tsatsos** took home the gold in the 8 and under division. He said this was a cool tournament. He's only been playing a year and a half and he has lots of coaches and they practice every Tuesday.

**Jeannette Vanduy** is our resident racquetball groupie. She is the girlfriend of Don Edwards. Jeannette has been a racquetball groupie for 2 years and have watched a lot of different people play over the last two years. When she is not talking to wives, girlfriends and children at the tournaments, she is reading one of her many books. On occasion, she has even had the opportunity to use the workout facilities at the different clubs.

The following comments are things that the "mic" picked up when I wasn't paying attention:

*"These balls have no bounce to them" and "the bagels were cut in too many quarters".*

*"Hang tight boys, we are leaving in a minute. How do we hang tight?"*

*"You've added a lot of spark to this tour-*

*nament and I like it!"*

*"I'm Jim, not jungle jim!"*

*"I just do what I'm told to do."*

*"Boy, it's cold as a witches butt on those courts".*

*"We are playing with some dysfunctional racquetballs!"*

*"Steve if you don't hurry up and come out of there, we'll turn off the hot water".*

I think there was a common theme from almost everyone at the tournament....the food was good and the competition was great! We had a lot of first timers who promised to play in more tournaments and the number of juniors are increasing....sooooo I know that we will continue to grow this sport that we all love so well. Always be aware of the MIC!

## STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

### Men's Divisions:

**Open** 1st - Brandon Cortese  
2nd - Steve Goedker  
Semi - John Torres  
Semi - Jeff Mullins

**A** 1st - Carlos Jones  
2nd - Rich Torres  
Semi - Steve Clark  
Semi - Randy Pagels

**B** 1st - Tim Couch  
2nd - Mark Ziglia  
Semi - Tony Gardner  
Semi - Bob Reou

**C** 1st - Dennis Dinuer  
2nd - Jeff Tloczynski  
Semi - Jermaine Brock  
Semi - Keith Ellis

**D** 1st - Serder Olgac  
2nd - Jason Mydlo  
Semi - Charlie Oliver  
Semi - Richard Kloesener

**25/30/35/ Open** 1st - Jeff Connell  
2nd - Jeff Mullins  
Semi - Alex Cobb  
Semi - Rich Torres

**25/30/ A/B** 1st - Tony Gardner  
2nd - John Trendell  
Semi - Dennis Dinuer  
Semi - Raju Penumatha

**25/30/ 35/C/D** 1st - Charlie Oliver  
2nd - Richard Kloesener  
Semi - Keith Ellis  
Semi - David Wallace

**35 A/B** 1st - Bob Reou  
2nd - Matt Malolepeszy  
Semi - Steve Clark  
Semi - Shawn Battle

**40** 1st - Steve Goedker  
2nd - Jackson White  
Semi - Chris Kelly  
Semi - Jeff Connell

**45** 1st - Chris Kelly  
2nd - Lewis Forrest  
Semi - Jackson White  
Semi - Tom Blakeslee

**40/45/ A/B** 1st - Carlos Jones  
2nd - Tim Couch  
Semi - Jay Kargula  
Semi - Marty Buynak

**40/45 C/D** 1st - Jeff Tloczynski  
2nd - Blaine Breault  
Semi - Serdar Olgar  
Semi - Micheal D'Almeida

**50** 1st - Jim Woolcock  
2nd - Jim Easterling  
Semi - Tom Blakeslee  
Semi - Jim Davies

**50 A/B** 1st - Mark Ziglia  
2nd - Dean Rhodes  
Semi - Mike Easthope  
Semi - Chuck VanHoose

**50 C/D** 1st - Ken Smith  
2nd - Jim Hamilton  
Semi - Kevin Keys  
Semi - Bruce Gluski

**55** 1st - Roy Perovich  
2nd - Bill Hagedorn  
3rd - George Goudie

**55 A/B** 1st - Chuck VanHoose  
2nd - George Goudie  
3rd - Don Edwards

**55 C/D** 1st - Don Edwards  
2nd - Douglas McClennen  
3rd - Richard Worobec

(cont. on page 14)

## RUMBLE YOUNG GIRLS, RUMBLE WOMEN'S ONLY TOURNAMENT

- Stephanie Cobb

The Women's Only Tournament hosted by the Genesys Athletic Club (GAC) was held on April 3, 2004. This was a one day tournament with new faces and young players with excellent potential to give us big girls a run for our money very, very soon. The day ran smoothly with excellent sportsmanship, competitive matches, and it was a chance to meet the ladies that live as far as Ypsilanti, Big Rapids, Saginaw, and Grand Rapids. I want to take this time to thank all the participants. It could not have happened without you and I hope to see you next year. The vision is that this tournament will be one of the premier events on the season calendar.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the tournament staff and friends. Thanks to **Jim Woolcock** who checked the ladies in and helped me with the squares and triangles on the round robin draw sheet. You saved me a headache. Thanks **Twayne Howard** for taking care of business. We love that about you Twayne. And thanks **Felicia Mann** for maintaining order, keeping it smooth, and balancing my impatience with your patience. I believe that we can nickname Felicia "Smooth" because the tournament was smooth and flowed. Thanks to the GAC staff for all their assistance: **Leont'a Davis** (host), **Jim Krimbill** (GAC manager), and **Royaa Soltani** (GAC programs coordinator). It was their hospitality, thoroughness, and support that will bring the Women's Only Tournament back next year. And a special thanks to **James Tidwell**, **Dwayne Saunders**, and **David Wallace** who came to watch some of the matches. It was a nice surprise and it was appreciated.

Results from the tournament:

### Women's A:

Champion - Marlo Jenkins  
Runner-Up - Donna Backus

### Women's B:

Champion - Lisa Woerdeman  
Runner-Up - Abby McClellan

### Women's C:

Champion - Colleen Collins  
Runner-Up - Tia LeCland

### Women's D:

Champion - Tia LeCland  
Runner Up - Thelma Howard

### Women's Doubles:

Champion - Donna Backus  
Esther Papabathini  
Runner-Up - Anthnita Dickerson  
Joyce Lartigue

Congratulations to all the players!!!  
See you next year!!!

## WHERE? WHEN? WHO? WHY?

- Stephanie Cobb

I have been asking those questions all season and I have gotten wonderful and exciting responses. Lets see how well I did by "asking the question."

FIRST, there is a small club in the New Center Area in Detroit on West Grand Blvd named **FITNESSWORKS**. It has two racquetball courts and there is so much activity, especially on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. When does everyone play and who is playing? If you are an early bird, on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 6 am there is a group of ladies that are splatin' (it doesn't sound right if I put the "ing" on the end, do you feel me!!), passing down the lines, and even having instructions given by me and Felicia Mann every week. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings there are men and women participating in "challenge court" sessions. I have seen some beginners who are now challenging the big "dawgs" and giving them a run for their money. You go!

SECOND, I am mentioning these happenings because I want to let you know that it does not take a big club with a lot of courts to have fun playing racquetball. It takes a little bit of patience: you do have to wait your turn. The wait makes you play hard and purposeful. And if you are a conscious work-out person you can call next, do a couple of laps around the track, lift some weights, and do a set or two of abdominal crunches. Rememer though, if you are not at the court when it is your turn, your call of next is null and void. And if you lose you are now three deep

in the rotation and will get stiff. Racquetball aside, on an occasion I have even enjoyed the sights of people looking great in their gym attire and not placing one foot on the court. Why do they do that? The atmosphere at **FITNESSWORKS** is enjoyable, sociable, and relaxing. And trust me; they have a good time just being amongst friends. It is this place where I actually know something more about the people than they just come and play racquetball every Tuesday and Thursday. I know their last names, where they work, what they like outside of **FITNESSWORKS**, and what they like about me. (How conceited, but hey, I am writing the article).

THIRD, there are several people whom I would like to mention that found interest in racquetball by watching those at **FITNESSWORKS** have fun. They borrowed a racquet, eyewear, cheated by cutting in front of me to play when it was my turn, and borrowed gloves. Those people turned into racquetball junkies and now, some of them have transformed into monsters. They are talking smack to the better players. I love it!!! There are others who have also signed up for tournaments for the first time. Here are some of the accomplishments: **James Tidwell** and **Thelma Howard** took second in their doubles division at the Detroit Northwest Valentine's Day Tournament; **James Tidwell** and **David Wallace** won their doubles division at the March Madison Tournament at Player's Club; **Anita Lark** played in her first tournament at the Detroit Northwest Valentine's Day Tournament to show people that they better watch out because she is hungry for a win. **James Tidwell** and **Armando Navarro** won in their doubles division at the Detroit Northwest Tournament. We even had a couple of players travel to Indiana/Chicago area to get some competition. Finally, **Shawn Battle** placed second in his singles division and **Ron Barton** and partner **John Torres** placed second in their doubles division. Congratulations to you all and keep up the good **RAQUETBALL AT FITNESSWORKS!!!!**

And now as I end my article I want you to have the opportunity to read my try-out commentary for the ESPN news job contest for next year and answer the questions, Who? What? When? Why?

(cont. page 7)

## WHERE, WHEN, WHO....

(cont. from page 6)

Here is how it goes: "Ladies and gentleman I am live from Grand Rapids at the Michigan Athletic Club watching the match between two wonderful ladies. They have been playing hard all game long and I believe it will be a battle. Wait ladies and gentleman one of the players is hurt. She went down hard to the floor after going for a forehand pass shot from her opponent. She is slapping her hand several times on the parquet floor demonstrating her obvious pain. But after reviewing the replays of the racquetball match, it is hard to determine where her injury occurred. She lies motionless on the floor. Wait! Her mother is coming into the court bending toward her to whisper something in her ear. She begins to move and now she has pointed to her left quadricpep. Oooh, that is a tough injury. It is doubtful she will return to the game. Several people rush through

the glass doors to take her off the court supporting that left leg. She begins to be tearful but again her mother whispers something in her ear and those tears dry up quickly. Amazing! The trainers place ice on the injured leg; her opponent brings her a bottle of water. Another person drapes her sweatshirt across her shoulders. Boy, everyone today is showing such great sportsmanship and concern. It is a beautiful thing to see. She is ready for transportation and the tournament directors are prepared by bringing a chair with wheels for easy transportation to the locker room. She rolls away with a big smile and two thumbs up thrust in the air, indicating that she's okay. I guarantee that she will be back."

*How did you like it?*

*Who was it/* Me

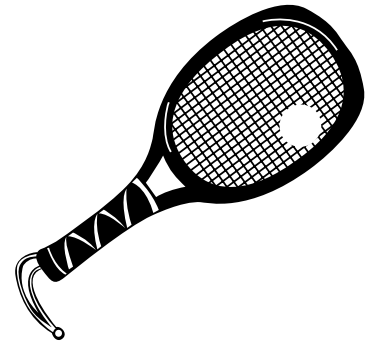
*What happened?* A severe left quadricpep

strain out 4-6 weeks

*When?* At the Grand Rapids Tournament March 13, 2004

*Why?* She did not stretch before the match. And playing vigorously perhaps her legs got crossed up going for the ball. Shame on you, **Stephanie** for not stretching before the match.

Until next time racquetball fans have a great season.





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# JUNIOR'S CORNER . . .

- Karen Green

The RAM State Tournament had over 50 junior participants this year, which may be an all time record! All of the kids who participated in the tournament are now members of Junior Team Michigan. (see pictures on page 1 and 9) Several of our junior players plan to go to the Junior Regionals and a handful of players will be going to Junior Nationals in Wisconsin in June.

Beginning in the fall, Junior Team Michigan players will be able to earn Red, Blue and Gold T-Shirts by doing some testing with their respective program directors. Over the summer, the directors will get together and decide exactly what skills and knowledge will be necessary to advance to each level. When the next level is achieved, the Junior Team Michigan player will be given a new T-Shirt for every new level he or she earns. Superior sportsmanship is mandatory at all levels.

It was also great to see many of our kids playing in their first tournament and we hope they enjoyed it and will come back

and play some more events. Equally impressive was the growth and development that we saw in some of our more experienced players.

Results of each division are as follows:

## 8 & Under Multi-Bounce

1st - Alex Tsatsos  
2nd - Alex Rhonkole  
Semi - Kurtis White  
Semi - Shannon Novak

## 10 & Under Multi-Bounce

1st - Anthony Russon  
2nd - Mauricio Gusman  
3rd - Ross McKay

## 10 & Under

1st - Brad Schopieray  
2nd - Eric Sporer  
Semi - Trent Chester  
Semi - Dan Poindexter

## 10 & Under Consolation A

1st - Brandon Quinn  
2nd - Dominic Waldort

## 10 & Under Consolation B

1st - Harry Singer  
2nd - Michael Bowles

## 12 & Under

1st - Andrew Price  
2nd - Jarrod Antisdale  
Semi - Eric Sporer  
Semi - Matt Barbuscak

## 14 & Under

1st - Matt Bernstein  
2nd - Ethan Gottlieb

## 16 & Under

1st - Andrew Price  
2nd - Nick Tloczynski  
3rd - Matt Bernstein

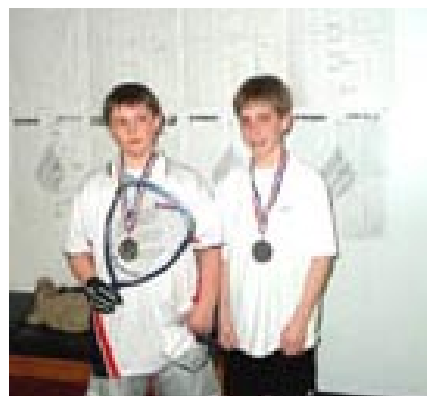
All juniors in the tournament should have received a Junior Team Michigan T-Shirt and non-winners should have received a participation plaque. Medals were awarded for the top finishers in each division. If parents have any questions please call Karen Green at 248-663-0175.



Juniors 16  
Champion - Andrew Price  
2nd Place - Nick Tloczynski (racquet)



Juniors 14  
Champion - Matt Bernstein  
2nd - Ethan Gottlieb (right)



Juniors 12  
Champion - Andrew Price  
2nd - Jarrod Antisdale (right)



# JUNIOR'S CORNER . . .

## MEET TEAM MICHIGAN



Team Michigan members for 2003-04



From left to right: Alex Rhonkole, Kurtis White, Alex Tsatsos, Stone Antisdale, Michael Helpser, Shannon Novak





Racquetball Association of Michigan

# COURT CLUB LISTING



Wallyball Racquetball  
Weight Room Basketball  
Sports Bar Tanning Beds  
No Membership

Racquetball Leagues  
all levels

Challenge Court  
Wed & Sat - 6:30-9:30 pm

**COLISEUM II RACQUET CLUB**  
8715 Telegraph Rd - Taylor, MI - (313) 292-3940



**Call Now! 810-653-9602**  
**DAVISON ATHLETIC CLUB**  
M-15 at Lippincott in Davison  
[www.davisoncc.com/FitnessCenter.htm](http://www.davisoncc.com/FitnessCenter.htm)

**The Most Complete Club for Family Fun & Fitness!**

- ✓ Racquetball - #1 Rated Facility
- ✓ 10,000 Sq. Ft. Fitness Center
- ✓ 3,500 Sq. Ft. Aerobic Studio
- ✓ 25 meter Indoor Pool
- ✓ Kid's Fit & Fun Zone
- ✓ Nursery and MORE!
- ✓ Coming Soon - Spring & Summer Programs



## ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE RAQUETBALL REPORTER FOR 2004-05

The Racquetball Reporter is published quarterly throughout the year - August, November, February, and May. Items to be included in the Racquetball Reporter for the 2004-05 year must be submitted by the following dates:

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| August 3, 2004  | January 5, 2005 |
| October 4, 2004 | April 4, 2005   |

Advertisement material is subject to approval by the RAM Board of Directors. The prices for advertisement material are:

\$400 - Full page ad to run in all four issues (7" x 9.5")

\$250 - Half page ad to run in all four issues (7" x 4.75")  
\$150 - Quarter page ad to run in all four issues (3.5" x 4.75")  
\$100 - Club listing for all four issues (3" x 2")

All advertisements must be submitted in camera ready format in the appropriate size. E-mailed graphics can be accepted in either a .TIFF or .JPG format. All advertisements will be in black and white for all issues, except the April issue which will be in full color. Payment must accompany submission of all advertisement material. Information may be mailed to The Racquetball Reporter, 321 Village Dr., Lansing, MI 48911 or sent electronically to [djeasterling@earthlink.net](mailto:djeasterling@earthlink.net).

## FRAN DAVIS CLINIC RETURNS TO GRAND RAPIDS

- Joe Romeo

Where else can you get the personal attention of the "2002-2003 #1 ranked professional racquetball player in the world"; (now our Jack is #1), a top 5 world-ranked player for the last six years; and a former US Open Champion; along with instruction from the world's premier racquetball coach; US National team and Olympic Festival coach; USOC coach of the year; and National Champion who is the most experienced (over 20 years) and most qualified racquetball clinician available?

Jason Mannino and Fran Davis in the court with you from Friday 6 p.m. through Sunday at 1 p.m., with one single objective....to help you become a better racquetball player.

The FRAN DAVIS RACQUETBALL CAMP!

Jan 29-Feb 1 at the MAC in GR was the place to be...

21 campers made up of a mix of 3 women, 3 juniors and 15 men ranging in age from 13 to 70 with every skill level from Open to D from all over Michigan, Ohio and Illinois.

Thanks to Paula Spagnuolo's great effort and the great facility and services offered at the MAC in Grand Rapids, the camp was a huge success.

Like golf, there is so much "dis information" about the game of racquetball, we often do ourselves more harm than good listening to the advice of others trying to help. Often, with good intentions, other players will offer suggestions for improvement.....which may be hurting rather than helping your game.....

How about listening, learning, watching and playing with Jason Mannino...he plays Sudsy, Cliff, Kane, Jack and Ellie on a regular basis, playing at the highest level of racquetball in the country and arguably the world today....WHO BETTER TO LEARN FROM!

Together with Fran Davis, who's analysis, explanation and demonstration of the mechanics are as professionally academic as you can get to help you understand the intricacies of the game and offer invaluable suggestions for improving your game.

There are many others to thank along with Paula...Augie Pasko, Twayne Howard, Dale Brown (et al) helped to get the Fran Davis Racquetball Camp back to Michigan after a 15 year absence...

The Camp covered stroke mechanics, footwork, positioning, shot selection, strategy and the entire mental game along with a complete video analysis of your stroke as well as your play against fellow campers and against the Pro himself, Jason.

All campers received great instruction, demonstrations, a course manual and other valuable items along with seeing a complete analysis of a pro match to learn more about how

to improve all aspects of the game. Video, DVD and other gear was also available.

I trust you will find that all of the campers had a great time at the camp socializing with the other campers and rubbing shoulders and sharing stories with Fran and Jason.

IF YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN THIS CAMP YET, YOU SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER DOING SO.

Our state has a great number of terrific racquetball enthusiasts and too few real chances at professional instruction/training...We have all vowed to promote the FDRC throughout the state and try to make the weekend camp a yearly staple in our great state.

One day camps are also available for select, smaller groups and timeframes.

But, don't take my word for it, talk to anyone who attended....get their feedback on the camp....and make it a priority to take advantage of "THE BEST RACQUETBALL INSTRUCTION" available in the country when the Fran Davis Racquetball Camp returns to Michigan.



## CLUB PROFILE . . . . PLAYERS ATHLETIC CLUB

- Diana Courtney

Players Athletic Club has been THE place for fitness and racquetball since the 1970's and this family-oriented facility just keeps getting better!

As a clear alternative to impersonal gyms, Players Athletic Club is a facility that offers something for everyone in a friendly environment. "Our goal is to have everyone, regardless of fitness level or age, feel comfortable here. We strive to maintain an atmosphere where all members develop confidence based on their success in reaching their personal fitness goals," states Fitness Director, Roseann Backos. From court sports including racquetball, wallyball, handball and basketball to Cybex weight stations, cardio machines, aerobic classes, massage therapy and tanning services, Players Athletic Club has it all.

Players Athletic Club has been quite active in the racquetball community for many years. They offer leagues for beginners as well as advanced players. In addition, challenge competition is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays during the day, Friday evening and on Sunday. Having 12 courts to offer gives them flexibility over other clubs in servicing customers and in hosting tournaments. Since 2000 Players Athletic Club has hosted 18 tournaments, including the RAM State Singles Championship Racquetball Tournament in 2002, 2003 and 2004. In 2002, Players Athletic Club hosted the Women's International Racquetball Tournament with great success.

Being proactive in promoting racquetball in Michigan, Players Athletic Club started a juniors program in October 2002. A total of 45 junior players currently participate in the program including three sets of twins (now that is a challenge)! Diana Courtney, Players Athletic Club's Director of Court Sports, has assembled a team of enthusiastic parents and racquetball players including **Mike Easthope**, **Oscar Renafore**, **Gregg Sporer**, **Jack White**, and **Sandy White** to help develop the program. They are all racquetball players with winning track records in the sport. One day a week they teach a very structured program ranging from star drills and a variety of serves to court positioning and mental attitude. The importance of sportsmanship is stressed every week. Every four weeks the juniors are video taped while competing and each is critiqued individually leading to greater improvement. Fourteen junior players from the program participated in the State Championship tournament this year and ten more have played in past tournaments. Recently, **Jimmy Floyd** visited the



Staff Members from Players Athletic Club

club along with **Augie Pasko** to instruct and encourage the junior players. A number of contests were held along with some competition including Jimmy using his 4-inch racquet against **Mike Young** and his 4-foot racquet! Players Athletic Club encourages others to join this great bunch of kids and parents in the future. Look for a junior fundraiser coming up in August for the 2005 Junior Nationals.

Be sure to join Players Athletic Club in their "Get Fit Metro Detroit" Health Expo, Wednesday, April 28 from 4-7 pm. This event will be held in conjunction with a blood drive by the American Red Cross being held at Players Athletic Club from 1-7 pm. "Get Fit Metro Detroit" will host health professionals and offer free blood pressure screenings from Macomb County Health Department.

Players Athletic Club is located on the I-696 service drive just east of Schoenherr Road. Call 586-774-6900 for more information about the club or programs being offered.

### GET READY FOR WOR!!!

What is WOR? If you're like me, the new 2 page spread in the national racquetball magazine was new. WOR or World Outdoor Racquetball under the direction of long time racquetball officionado, Hank Marcus has announced its tournament schedule for 2004. Sponsored by Ektelon and Heat Athletic Wear, WOR's slogan is "bringing outdoor racquetball to the world." This tour is one of the few places where the racquetball top pros lose to local players in some of the most intense matches. (ask IRT pro Rocky Carson about outdoor racquetball)

Why is this important in Michigan? The only site on the WOR tour that is east of California is Michigan's own **Belle Isle Championships**. The Belle Isle Championships are set for **August 20-22** at Belle Isle Park in Detroit. Wouldn't it be great to showcase the support for racquetball in Michigan, by having one of the largest draws and spectator attendance for the entire tour. Mark your calendars now to see a different type of racquetball.

**STATE OF THE STATE  
RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN**

(cont. from page 2)

- A Pro Stop (so that Jack Huczek can show off his stuff at "home")
- Sponsors to help with the above event
- RAM sponsored leagues
- Email announcements to members on our player list
- Faster/more frequent updates for tournament results and player rankings

We cannot even begin to thank all of the people who are pushing and taking the time to promote racquetball here in Michigan. We want to graciously ask for your continued efforts. Without our "grass roots" volunteers, racquetball here would not be THRIVING.

Again, there is always room for improvement. Enclosed with this newsletter is a survey in which we are asking for feedback so that we can better serve our members. Please take a moment

to fill it out, and send it back to the address listed on the survey.

We would like to thank Mike Easthope for all of his generosity in helping to produce this fine newsletter. Also, congratulations to the latest inductee into the Michigan Hall of Fame, Mr. Tom Blakeslee.

Even though this indoor season is coming to an end, I trust that you had as much fun as I did. Hopefully, I will see some of you at Belle Isle playing a little three-wall racquetball. We will be hosting the 20th Annual Belle Isle Championships in August which is part of the World Outdoor Racquetball Championships, and will be a sanctioned event through USA Racquetball. So get ready! As always, if you have any questions, feel free to call me at (313)567-5225 or email me at [president@michiganracquetball.org](mailto:president@michiganracquetball.org).

**CONGRATULATIONS  
STATE SINGLES  
DOUBLE WINNERS**

**Steve Goedker**

Open - 2nd  
40 - 1st

**Carlos Jones**

A - 1st  
40/45 A/B - 1st

**Tim Couch**

B - 1st  
40/45 A/B - 2nd

**Jeff Tloczynski**

C - 2nd  
40/45 C/D - 1st

**Mark Ziglia**

B - 2nd  
50 A/B - 1st

**Anthnita Dickerson**

Open - 1st  
35/34 - 1st

**Lisa Heidrich**

B - 1st  
35/45/50 A/B - 1st

**Andrew Price**

Juniors 12 - 1st  
Juniors 16 - 1st

**VIEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S ONLY TOURNEY**



Tournament Directors



A-Champion - Marlo Jenkins  
2nd - Donna Backus (left)



**PROFESSIONAL  
RACQUET SERVICE**

**1944 Livernois**  
(just North and across the  
streets from the old store)

**MON - SAT. 10:00 AM TO 6:00 PM**

**TENNIS - SQUASH - RACQUETBALL  
ONE HOUR STRINGING SERVICE**

**Michael Banks**  
**(313) 863-1880**

**Pager (313) 436-6733**

## STATE SINGLES RESULTS

(cont from page 5)

- 60** 1st - Tom Sharum  
2nd - Charles Wheelihan  
Semi - Doug Nordhaus  
Semi - Richard Worobec
- 65** 1st - David Lund  
2nd - Donald Revels  
Semi - Jake Gingrich  
Semi - Charles Kaiser
- 70** 1st - Charles Kaiser  
2nd - Stanley Kurzman  
3rd - Douglas McClennen

### Women's Divisions:

- Open** 1st - Anthnita Dickerson  
2nd - Karen Green  
Semi - Felicia Mann  
Semi - Laura Geile

- B** 1st - Lisa Heidrich  
2nd - Marilyn Keigley  
Semi - Lorna Rose  
Semi - Marjorie Pendell

- C/D** 1st - Tia LeCland  
2nd - Thelma Howard

- 35/45** 1st - Anthnita Dickerson  
2nd - Paula Saad  
Semi - Laura Geile  
Semi - Melody Gorno

- 50/55** 1st - Laura Patterson  
2nd - Christine Todd  
Semi - Lesley Kishigan  
Semi - Sharon Huczek

- 35/45/  
50 A/B** 1st - Lisa Heidrich  
2nd - Lorna Rose  
3rd - Marjorie Pendell

### Junior Divisions:

- 8 &  
Under  
MB** 1st - Alex Tsatsos  
2nd - Alex Rhonkole  
Semi - Kurtis White  
Semi - Shannon Novak

- 10 &  
Under  
MB** 1st - Anthony Russon  
2nd - Mauricio Gusman  
3rd - Ross McKay

- 10 &  
Under** 1st - Brad Schopieray  
2nd - Eric Sporer  
Semi - Trent Chester  
Semi - Dan Poindexter

- 12 &  
Under** 1st - Andrew Price  
2nd - Jarrod Antisdale  
Semi - Eric Sporer  
Semi - Matt Barbuscak

- 14 &  
Under** 1st - Matt Bernstein  
2nd - Ethan Gottlieb  
3rd - Frank Antonelli

- 16 &  
Under** 1st - Andrew Price  
2nd - Nick Tloczynski  
3rd - Matthew Bernstein



Men's Open Champion - Brandon Cortese (left)  
2nd Place - Steve Goedker (right)



Women's Open Champion - Anthnita Dickerson (right)  
2nd Place - Karen Green (left)



Men's 70+ Champion - Chuck Kaiser (right)  
2nd Place - Stanley Kurzman (left)



Men's 60+ Champion - Tom Sharum (right)  
2nd Place - Charlie Wheelihan

## MORE FROM THE STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS



Women's C/D Champion - Tia LeCland  
2nd Place - Thelma Howard (right)



Women's B Champion - Lisa Heidrich  
Also First Place in 35/45/50 A/B



Tourney Desk and Checking In



Barb Swaab's Yoga Class



Men's 55 C/D Champion - Don Edwards  
2nd Place - Douglas McClennen (right)



Men's A Champion - Carlos Jones  
2nd Place - Rich Torres (right)

# JOIN THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

*Membership Includes:*

*\*Membership card, USA Racquetball Official Rule Book, travel and equipment discounts*

*\*USA Racquetball medical, life, and liability insurance at sanctioned events*

*\*Four issues of the RAM newsletter, THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER*

*\*Six issues of the USA Racquetball national magazine, RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE*

*\*RAM sanctioned tournament entry forms mailed to your home*

*\*Eligibility to play in all sanctioned tournaments and receive national ranking points*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 – Adult Competitor

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 – Junior Competitor (without *Racquetball Magazine* subsc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 – *Racquetball Magazine* subscription only

MAIL TO: RAM, 111 Pearl St., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Racquetball Reporter**

321 Village Dr.  
Lansing, MI 48911

