



THE SERVICE LINE

SEPTEMBER, 1984

MICHIGAN RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION
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MRA and MARA merge form NEW RAM Board

Effective July 24, 1984, Michigan now has only one state-wide association to govern its racquetball activities. The RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN or RAM, formed as a result of the merger between the Michigan Racquetball Association (MRA) and the Michigan Amateur Racquetball Association (MARA) is now the state affiliate to the AARA. As a state affiliate, RAM will be bringing to the Michigan racquetball populace an expanded variety of both new and old programs throughout 1984-85.

As a result of the formation of RAM, gone from Michigan will be both the MRA and MARA. Board members of both organizations believe this step will provide the most for the Michigan player in the forms of tangible benefits and quality programs. The new Board of Directors of RAM now numbers 19 and consists of all directors from the old MRA and old MARA boards. (see page 3) These dedicated individuals have made a commitment to the Michigan player, through the formation of RAM, to continue and to expand the high quality programs that currently exist in this state and to be responsive to the needs of all involved in racquetball in Michigan.

The strength of the new RAM association is three-fold. First and foremost will be the combined support of all Michigan players working in one common direction. This should take a giant step in erasing the negativism that has existed in the past and should allow for more cooperation and sharing of ideas. The second strength of this new association is the dedication of the Board of Directors in providing quality programs, activities, and benefits. This was one of the major conditions that allowed the merger to take place. Each set of Directors felt very strongly that all of the programs in existence were quality type and should be continued. Along this similar vein of thought is the third strength of the new association. That strength is the actual continuation of all existing programs previously carried out by both the MRA and the MARA. With your support as members and through the continuation of these programs, we totally believe that we can become the premier state affiliate in the United States.

As the first step toward the continuation on the existing programs, RAM has formed committees on different aspects of the game. These committees will allow for more discussion and more ideas and opinions on each topic to be voiced. If you have an interest in working with one of these committees during 1984-85, please contact the individuals listed at up-coming tournaments:

1. Women's Committee - Cathy Frederickson
2. Tournament Sanction/Grievance Committee - Dianne Driver
3. Tournament Committee - Bob Szuch
4. Junior Committee - Roy White
5. Ranking Committee - Judy Gonyea/
Tom Blakeslee
6. Newsletter - Bob Wilhelm
7. Referee Committee - Jim Hiser/
Jim Easterling
8. Public Relations Committee - Larry Cole
9. Intercollegiate Committee - Matt Klein
10. State Championships Committee - Jim Hiser/Jim Easterling/
Dianne Driver

In the discussions to enact a merger, both the MRA and MARA Boards made concessions on philosophy, ideas, and working styles. Therefore, you you will note in this new RAM a blend of concepts and ideas from both groups. Some things will stay the same and there will be some changes.

Dealing first with some of the changes which have resulted from the merger. This year there will be only one state singles and one state doubles championship. These tournaments will be sanctioned by the AARA and be conducted in accordance with the national rules. The Penn ball will be the official ball of both state championships. The State Singles Championship sanctioned by RAM/AARA

will be held on April 19-21, 1985 at the Mt. Clemens Racquetball Club in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. The State Doubles Championship, which by the way will be doubles only, will be held on March 22-24, 1985 at the Dearborn Athletic Club in Dearborn, Michigan.

Another change as a result of this merger will be that there will only be one state newsletter. Both the Service Line and the Racquetball Reporter will cease and the publication will have a new name and will combine all the news carried in both its predecessors.

Another change will be that there will be only one state-wide ranking system and that all sanctioned tournaments will be a part of this system. This means that for all divisions, players of the new Michigan Championship Series and players of the Super 7 will receive an equal ranking. Also, those players who compete outside the state will have their results placed in the national AARA ranking system.

As for things that will stay the same and probably of most interest to the Service Line readers will be the tournament series. The old MRA Series will now be the Michigan Championship Series. This Series will be run by a Tournament Committee of the RAM Board of Directors. The majority of people on this Tournament Committee will be members of the old MRA. This new Series of tournaments will be the same high quality as last year's series, but will just have a new name.

Another program that will exist in its same format is Team Michigan. The program for supporting junior play and getting juniors to regional and national tournaments is heartily endorsed by all.

A change for some and not for others will be the sanctioning dues for this state. No longer will there exist both a MRA sanctioning fee of \$5 and a MARA/AARA sanctioning fee of \$6. Now there will be one fee good for a year from the time you join for \$6 called the RAM/AARA

(continue on Page 5)

MY SIDE OF THE COURT

-Bob Szuch

As some of you already know, the MRA has merged with the MARA. This merger has formed our new state association, called RAM. THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN will strive to serve the total racquetball population of the state. I hope you will continue to support us and give us your valuable input.

This will be the last issue of the MRA "Service Line." I would like to thank all of you who helped to make it the best newsletter in the state. I was proud to have started the "Service Line" and will hate to see it go. I also want to thank all of you who claimed to have enjoyed "My Side of the Court." It always surprised me, when someone said, "Bob, I really enjoyed your column!"

As a result of the merger--my term as President will expire early. I want to thank all the MRA Board for their support throughout the last 15 months. I have never worked with a finer group and I know their influence will be appreciated on the new RAM Board. I always felt honored that these fine people selected me as their President. I will miss that. However, I do intend to serve on the RAM Board--and who knows--maybe some day? Thank you all.

Now down to business. A committee of RAM Board members will continue to run the MRA Series of tournaments, which will be called the Michigan Championship Series. These tournaments will be run basically by last year's MRA Board members and will be sanctioned by both the new RAM and AARA. This series will maintain its same high quality and afford all racquetball players a fine weekend. I want to thank all of the players for their support last year and I look forward to seeing you at many stops this year.

There will be some changes to the Series this year. The scoring format will be the first change. The games will be to 15, 15, 11, replacing the old 21, 21, 11. The second change will be the offering of consolation at every stop and consolation will be the best two of three games to 11 points. There will also be new divisions added both for the junior and the adult player. Perhaps the most noticeable will be the Novice division. This division is only for those people who have NEVER won any match in ANY TOURNAMENT. Please be honest about entering this division!! If you've won a match or play a lot at your club, enter the D-division. For our new age group divisions, these must have a minimum of 8 people to be run, so remember to list a second choice on your tournament application. You may also enter 2 divisions this year, so check the application for information.

Also, the AARA rules will apply in this series. This WILL include the new foot fault rule! Coming out in September will be a new up-dated AARA Rule Book. Also, this year all series players will become a part of the AARA National

(Continued on Page 3)

ON THE RECORD

-Larry Cole, Past President
of the defunct MARA

As can be read in other parts of this newsletter the MARA and MRA have joined together to better promote the sport of racquetball. This merger is the fruition of great efforts by members of both boards. The negotiations allowed differences in philosophy and work style to be worked out. The new organization is the Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM). The officers are as follows: President - Bob Wilhelm; Vice-President - Lee Frederickson; Secretary - Larry Cole; and Treasurer - Dianne Driver.

The racquetball player in Michigan will benefit because of the merger. Now all energies will be in the same direction, without negativism. In order to have quality tournaments

plus growing programs with juniors, women and referees two organizations were needed to allow the diverse personalities to do what they did best. Now, however, is the time for the combined efforts of the two organizations in affiliation with the AARA. Exciting things are happening in racquetball, i.e. acceptance of racquetball as a full participation sport in the Pan American Games. Michigan is, and will be more so, a part of that excitement.

Please support RAM as you have supported the two state organizations that have preceeded it. With you help racquetball can only become bigger, better and more fun for all involved.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

-Jim Easterling

Good NEWS!!! At last the MRA and MARA have merged. On July 24, 1984, the first meeting of the new organization, Racquetball Association of Michigan, RAM took place. I won't go into all the details because that is on the front page of this newsletter. All I have to say about the merger is it will be good for the sport of racquetball, good for the racquetball player in Michigan, and it's about ***** time!!!

Jim Hiser, who is on the National Board of the AARA, said "With the formation of RAM we (Michigan) have more racquetball programs and services than any other state in the country." I believe that Mr. Hiser is right, and I would like to list some of the programs and services that were carried out by the old MRA and old MARA which will now be carried out by the RAM Board for the racquetball player and racquetball clubs in Michigan.

NEWSLETTER - The RAM Board of Directors will publish quarterly one newsletter with articles about tournaments, rankings, explanations of new rules, pictures and other articles.

RANKINGS - Now instead of two or three ranking systems, there will be one state-wide system with tournament results also being fed into the national system.

TOURNAMENT CLEARING HOUSE - There has been in effect for the last seven or eight years a clearinghouse in Michigan. Now this clearinghouse will be more effective and efficient. If any club manager or racquetball director is going to have a tournament or any specialized type of program, they should call the clearinghouse and make sure that there isn't another major event that same weekend.

AARA SANCTION - The AARA/RAM will now continue to sanction tournaments. A tournament that is sanctioned will

receive balls, discounts on shirts, a tournament packet, and their players will receive several national newsletters, four state newsletters, a membership card and various other discounts.

TOURNAMENTS - There have been for several years and will continue to be top quality tournaments run by the state association's tournament committee in Michigan.

JUNIOR CLINICS - There have been several junior clinics held state-wide with such people as Bob Wilhelm, Roy White, Chris Cole, Tom Brownlee and National Champion, Mike Yellen, to name a few. These people have given of their time and expertise to help the younger players in this state. Such clinics will continue to grow and expand.

LABELS - Club and player labels will still be provided to those clubs and individuals wishing to host sanctioned events. Such lists will now be larger and more comprehensive.

COURT CLUB CONNECTION - Last year four membership clubs in the Detroit area participated in this program where members of one club could play at the other three without paying a guest fee.

COURT CLUBS WAIVE GUEST FEES - A similar program to the court club connection involved over 36 membership clubs across Michigan. These clubs allowed anyone living 50 miles away and holding a current state association membership card to play at their club without paying a guest fee.

REFEREE CLINICS - There were several referee clinics held last year throughout Michigan and so far this year at least three more have already been scheduled.

(Continued on Page 6)

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

-Daniel Veith

Take heart you racquetball fanatics, you can indulge your fancy of the flying, caroming blue ball through the summer months and still manage to get somewhat of a tan.

Three wall outdoor racquetball is the ticket to a pleasant variation of the indoor variety. Granted there is a decided change in atmosphere from the modern, carpeted, air-conditioned club with showers, whirlpools, saunas, stem rooms, and blow dryers. Instead you often find yourself surrounded by concrete walls, fencing and lots of dandelions. Not to mention the softballers and handballers. Once you become accustomed to these subtle differences, along with the realization that there really is sun and wind, the fun really begins.

Usually doubles is the order of the day due to availability of courts. Doubles outdoors is great fun. Since there is no backwall (just a line marked on the cement), there is more room for the players. You can actually chase (if so motivated) the ball past the back line until you smash into a fence or trip over someone's cooler. However, be prepared to keep running if you wipe out a fellow athlete's cold beer in the process.

The mix of participants is another unique attraction of outdoor ball. We'll often have an age range of from 15 to 65, and those outside of this range on both ends. It's not too often that you can find so many generations together for a morning and/or afternoon of fun. So you get matched up with the "old geezer" who moves about as well as rush hour traffic. That way you have to work harder, he doesn't have to work as hard, and the workout balances out. You also might be very surprised at the shots these guys have developed thanks to 30 years of handball, paddleball, and racquetball.

All in all it's a casual atmosphere where winning and losing truly are not very important. After all, it doesn't cost anything and for most, time is not a crucial factor. The married guys tell their wives they'll be back in a hour and a half, but they know (as does the true "racquetball wife") that "hour and a half" is a code meaning four hours. The single guys just make sure they have twenty minutes to get cleaned up before their dates.

So, next time the weather is nice and you decide it might be good for your body to get outside for awhile, don't grab your golf clubs (it takes six years just to get decent), don't grab your tennis racquet (you have to keep chasing your "ceiling balls" into the parking lot), grab your old Bandido (that never seems to get lost) some old "sneakers", a jug of water and/or six pack, and a lounge chair if you plan an especially casual afternoon. You'll have lost of fun, meet people, and keep your game in tune.

(Written by Daniel Veith of Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Thanks Dan!!!)

RULES REVIEW

-Bob Szuch

Recently, much conversation has been directed as to when a player may appeal a call by a referee. I feel that one basic rule of thumb should apply. That is, the player should appeal immediately upon completion of any rally. A player does not have the right to leave the court after calling a time-out, asking his friends for advice as to whether to appeal or not. The referee calls them as he sees them, when they happen. He is not expected to remember plays after a time-out or after a break between games. So, players should always appeal immediately after a faulty serve or a disputed rally.

THIS YEAR ANY BACK LINE FOOT FAULT WILL RESULT IN A SIDE-OUT!!! I know that this is quite controversial, but it is designed to help the referee in those matches in which a server lobs to the receiver. The idea of this ruling is to support that idea that no call should work to the benefit of the server. Without this rule, the server when he knew that his lob would result in a plum for the receiver would intentionally foot fault to nullify the serve. Thus, the server was bending the rules to his benefit and putting the receiver at a disadvantage. Though this was passed with much discussion, watch for it to be called by referees this year.

RAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With the formation of the new Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM), the following people are the new Board of Directors for this association: from Grand Rapids - Roy White, Bob Gravely, Cathie Frederickson and Lee Frederickson; from Lansing - Peggy Doty, Gary Doty, Radiation Man (Bill Gottlieb), Dianne Driver and Jim Easterling; from the Detroit area - Bob Szuch, Ted Dutcher, Jim Emerson, Larry Roberts and Tom Blakeslee; and from the Flint area - Bob Wilhelm, Larry Cole, Judy Gonyea, Bill Hall and Jim Hiser.

At its first meeting on July 24, the RAM elected the following people as its officers for the 1984-85 year:
President - Bob Wilhelm
Vice President - Lee Frederickson
Secretary - Larry Cole
Treasurer - Dianne Driver

With the help and support of all of the members of the old MRA and MARA, we totally believe that RAM will be the foremost racquetball association in the United States, and people from all over will be looking to Michigan for new ideas and innovative programs!!!!

MY SIDE OF THE COURT (CONT)

ranking system. You will also be a part of the total Michigan ranking system. The MRA rankings have already been converted to this system and we will strive to make every attempt at a new, fair, workable ranking system. However, one rule of thumb for this Series of tournaments will remain the same--if you win a division you must play in the next higher division until you lose in the first round twice. We feel this is the fairest solution for the rest of the players in the division that you have already beaten.

Finally, I hope to see all of you at Petoskey in September--the entry form for this tournament is included with the newsletter. I can guarantee that this will be one fine weekend and our hosts in Petoskey will do every thing to make your stay more enjoyable. As usual there will probably be that infamous beach party on Saturday evening--so watch out for strangers in the road by the condos. Thank you for your support and it has been a pleasure to serve you for the past 15 months. I am listed as a tournament director for Petoskey so please no calls!!!!

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OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

1984-85 MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

The Tournament Committee of the new RAM association is pleased to announce the 1984-85 MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES, sponsored by AMF Voit. The Tournament Committee under the leadership of Bob Szuch has put together a series with stops throughout all of Michigan. This Series again this year will contain at least one and possibly two prize money events -- Grand Rapids and Muskegon. It will also have as offshoots two doubles only tournaments -- one in Grand Rapids in November and one in the Detroit area in January. (Watch for further information on doubles)

Based on its predecessor the MRA State Championship Series, the MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES is still designed to accommodate the amateur player. You will see many of the same faces at the tournament desks this year and most of the rules will remain the same. A few of the changes you will note is that this year's Series consists of only seven tournaments. The State Singles Championship and the State Doubles Championship while not an actual part of the Series will still be a culmination of the Series next Spring. The State Championships instead of being part of the Series will be the OFFICIAL AARA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS and therefore will be a responsibility of the entire RAM Board.

The new features of the MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES will include first and foremost a new scoring system. The scoring system for all tournaments will be 15, 15, 11 with consolation games best two of three to 11 points. The Scoring format was changed for two reasons. The first being it will now allow us to offer consolation at every tournament stop this year, including some of the smaller clubs. Secondly it will allow us to include the option for people to play in more than one division.

That's right for all you consolation buffs, there will be consolation at every stop this year. The consolation games will be the best two of three to 11 points. We will strive in our court schedule to get some of the consolation matches played late on Friday evening.

Also, you will be able to play in two divisions this year. These division combinations must be an age division, such as Seniors, Masters, Juniors, or Veterans and one skill division, such as A, B, C, or D or Open. We will make every attempt to not schedule matches back-to-back, but in the event this becomes a necessity, you should plan to play back-to-back matches.

Another new feature to the MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES will be that it

is now sanctioned by RAM/AARA. This means that there will be no old \$5 MRA dues. Instead, as with any AARA sanctioned event you must be an AARA member to participate. Your AARA membership will allow you to play in any MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES event, any Super 7 event plus any RAM sanctioned event.

Please for the help of our tournament directors, if you already are an AARA member bring your membership card to the check-in desk at the tournament. If you join the RAM/AARA at the upcoming Davison Pro Stop, please bring your receipt with you to your next tournament check-in desk. If you don't have your card or your receipt and we can't find your name on the computer print-out you will be asked to pay another \$6 sanction fee!!!!

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1984-85

MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 1984 --- PETOSKEY, MICHIGAN
LITTLE TRAVERSE RACQUET CLUB

OCTOBER 12-14, 1984 --- BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN
WOODLAND RACQUET CLUB

NOVEMBER 9-11, 1984 --- GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
RACQUETBALL PLUS

DECEMBER 7-9, 1984 --- GRAND BLANC, MICHIGAN
GRAND BLANC COURT CLUB

JANUARY 11-13, 1985 --- BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN
OAKLAND RACQUET CLUB

FEBRUARY 8-10, 1985 --- MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN
MBA HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

MARCH 1-3, 1985 --- SOUTHGATE, MICHIGAN
ZODIAC RACQUET CLUB

MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (CONT)

Michigan Championship Series entry fees will remain at \$20 again this year and at \$15 for the junior divisions. The entry fee for those playing in two divisions, will be \$35, \$20 for the first division and \$15 for the second division.

The Michigan Championship Series will also feature a couple of new divisions this year. There will be a Novice division for both men and women. The intent on this division is to encourage non-tournament players to enter and try playing in a tournament. It is for those who have never won any match in any tournament. Another new division is Veterans A and Veterans B. B and below players are eligible for Veterans B and A and Open players must play Veterans A. To run these divisions all need a minimum of 8 people, so make sure you list a second choice of division on your entry form.

The Junior divisions have also been realigned this year. The divisions will be 12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under and 17 & Under. The reason for 17 & Under was the idea that 17 year olds should still be allowed to play a junior division and those 18 and older should play in adult divisions.

Now for almost everyone's major question --- What about rankings? The Michigan Championship Series tournaments will now be part of the state-wide ranking system and part of the national AARA ranking system. This state-wide system is currently under review, but in the past has started over every year. For the Petoskey tournament of the Michigan Championship Series, all players will be seeded according to the final rankings of the 1983-84 season as converted to the AARA system (see page 7 for the top 10 in each division.) The Michigan Championship Series will still require that all division winners and those who reach the finals twice must move up to the next higher division. Also, in effect will be the rule that you must lose in the higher division first round twice before you can drop back down.

Remember the same policies on no phone entries, no refunds after the draw, and losers must ref all still apply.

So all, in all, look for some new rules, some old faces and lots of fun and excitement as the new MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES kicks off the 1984-85 season on September 14-16 at the Little Traverse Racquet Club in Petoskey.

MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES KICKS OFF 1984-85 AT PETOSKEY

The MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES kicks off its first season at the Little Traverse Racquet Club in Petoskey on September 14-16, 1984. Sponsored by AMF Voit, KHQ, and Kan Travel Service Inc., this tournament promises to be one of excitement and fun for all. The Little Traverse Racquet Club features eight racquetball courts all with back-wall glass as well as indoor and outdoor tennis courts.

Housing for the Petoskey tournament will again be at the Harbor Cove Condominiums. This is a nice plus for this tournament. Harbor Cove features an outdoor swimming pool as well as a short walk to the beach on the Little Traverse Bay. All of the 2-bedroom and larger condominiums feature microwave ovens, washers, dryers and at least one fireplace. With such great housing and Petoskey being only minutes away from Mackinaw City and of course Mackinac Island, the tournament is a great excuse for a northern Michigan vacation this fall.

Check the dates and prices for the condominiums on the enclosed entry form for the Petoskey tournament. Send your reservations early and remember if you're an AARA member, the entry fee for Petoskey is only \$20. Also, don't forget to listen to KHQ, FM 106, driving up to Petoskey. They will again be featuring announcements, commercials and updates on the tournament.

The second stop of this year's series will again be held at the Woodland Racquet Club in Brighton. This tournament again sponsored by AMF Voit will feature fantastic Woodland hospitality as well as the opportunity

to watch your crazy friends run around on the court while you relax with a beer watching them from the bar. Lodging for the Brighton tournament again we be at the Holiday Inn of Howell. Don't forget to mention you are a tournament player at the Holiday Inn as there will be discount rates for tournament players on the weekend of October 12-14, 1984.

The third tournament of this series will be the first pro-open of the year in Grand Rapids on November 9-11. This tournament will be sponsored by the Metro Chevrolet Dealers of Grand Rapids and WJFM also of Grand Rapids. Make sure you listen again for announcements on the tournament. Housing this year for the Grand Rapids tournament will be the Red Roof Inn on 28th Street. Make sure you mention that you are a tournament player when you reserve your room in Grand Rapids.

Just a little nostalgia---Remember when last year at Grand Rapids one of the newer members of then the MRA made his debut to challenge Vice President, Jim Easterling for the delight of all.....



MERGER (CONT)

sanctioning fee. This means if you join the RAM/AARA at the Davison tournament this year and then play in the Michigan Championship Series, all you will pay will be the tournament entry fee.

The new Board of Directors of RAM asks for your support and cooperation over the next few months. Many details of the merger have not totally as of the date of going to press been worked out. Many of the details may not even surface until after we work our way into the season. We are working on all points and trying to make a fair decision on all aspects.

These are busy times now for each director as we move toward finalization of a new constitution, new bylaws, and new ranking system just to name a few. So if we can't give you an answer other than the Board will discuss it, give us some time. All 19 Board of Directors will be responsive to your questions and concerns as we move into this new era of racquetball in Michigan.

Please look for more information to be available on the merger and the consolidation of programs at each individual tournament site coming up this fall. At press time on this newsletter, Lee Frederickson plans to set up a booth at the Davison tournament, the Petoskey tournament and Super 7 number 1 to answer any questions you may have on the merger of the two associations.

In the meantime, begin to look for the new logo shown below. This will be the logo of the new RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN as we enter into the 1984-85 tournament season. Good luck to all from the RAM Board of Directors and let's make this the best season ever for racquetball in Michigan.



PRO OPEN RETURNS TO GR

The new Michigan Championship Series (sponsored by Voit) will feature a Pro Open division again this year. The Pro Open returns to Racquetball Plus in Grand Rapids on November 9-11 where the division made its debut a year ago. This year the division will be sponsored by the Grand Rapids Metro Chevrolet Dealers and will have publicity over radio station WJFM.

The entry fee for the Pro Open again this year will be \$30 per entrant, \$20 of which will be placed in the prize money pot along with the sponsor contributions. No shirt or trophy will be awarded for this division and the finalists for both the men and the women may be filmed for television.

The total pot of prize money will first be divided according to the number of entries between the men and the women. Then the place winnings will be divided on the following formula for both the men and the women:

- 1st - 1/2
- 2nd - 1/3
- 3rd - 1/12
- 4th - 1/12

Last year the total prize money for the men at this tournament was \$780 and for the women it was \$455. We plan that the prize money pot this year will be at least as large as last year's pot. If the prize money pot is significantly larger, we

pay places through the top eight in the men's division.

Last year's prize money winners were John Amatulli defeating Brian Mitchell and Cathie Frederickson defeating Cathy Thompson. We hope that last year's winners will turn up again this year to defend their titles.

Last year there was also a prize money event in January at the Oakland Racquet Club in Birmingham. Winners at Oakland were Chris Cole defeating Pete Ruhala and Tamara Low of Iowa defeating Kerry Niggemyer of Ohio.

A good turn out at this first prize money event in Grand Rapids will help insure at least one other such division this year. Tentative plans at this time are for the second prize money division to be held at the MBA Health and Wellness Center in Muskegon on February 8-10, 1985.

Please check your entry forms for the total amount of the prize money pot and for how many places the division will be paying out. Last year the division was good and competitive in Grand Rapids. This year, let's make it one of the best and most competitive prize money divisions of the entire year.

Questions on this division should be directed to Lee Frederickson.

VICE PRESIDENT

CONT—

REFEREE CERTIFICATION - the next step after the referee clinics, this program is for those interested in taking a test and becoming certified at a level 1, 2, or 3.

TEAM MICHIGAN - This program involves a group of juniors who have received instruction from the pros, warm-ups shoes, caps and a trip to the Junior Nationals on behalf of the state association. These juniors were selected by finishing either 1 or 2 in their age division at the State Championship.

WHERE TO PLAY IN MICHIGAN - This is a court club guide with all the places to play racquetball in Michigan. It lists private clubs, YMCAs, public clubs, colleges and universities. It also lists addresses, phone numbers and the activities that each facility offers. The guide is available for purchase to anyone who wants a copy.

And if all of the above wasn't enough, listed below are several ideas that Michigan was the FIRST or one of the first states to come up with:

1. Team concept
2. Outstanding male, female, and junior awards
3. Sportsmanship and Contribution awards
4. Eyeguards mandatory
5. New scoring format - 3 of 5 games to 11 points
6. Racquetball Day declared by the governor
7. Ten foot service box rule
8. Losers referee

Now, I am sure that there are many other programs and ideas that have been developed by both the MRA and MARA, but I can't remember all of them. I am sure with the above as guidelines for beginning programs, the new RAM will be able to build and expand and have people from all over the country again looking to Michigan for new ideas and innovative programs.

Last but not least, this will be my last Vice President column. Lee Frederickson is now the new Vice President of RAM and you can look for his column in the first newsletter to be published by RAM sometime in December. Also this is the last edition of the "Service Line" and I thank you for your support of this newsletter and the MRA State Association over the past eight years. I will continue as a member of the new RAM organization and will continue to help promote racquetball in Michigan. I am also sure that I will continue to be writing articles for the new publication when it makes its debut in December.

Finally, have some patience with RAM. If it seems like we are moving slowly or repeating ourselves, we feel our way through a new situation and it will take time to work out all of the problems. Remember we are still trying to serve the Michigan player in the best way that we can. If you have input, please contact any of the new Board members--this is your association.

The rhythm of the Northwest

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RANKINGS

With the creation of the new RAM, RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN, there is now a need for one state-wide ranking system. A committee has been formed on the new board and they are currently investigating such a system.

At the present time and to insure the MRA player from the 1983-84 State Championship Series will have his performance in these tournaments count, the MRA ranking has been converted to the ranking system used last year for sanctioned tournaments in this state. The final result from the ranking will be used as a guideline in the seedings for the pro-stop at Davison.

The system used by all sanctioned tournaments during 1983-84 was very simple. For each match that a player won, he received one point. If that player then made it to the semis, he would receive 3 more points. If that player made it to the finals and finished second, he would receive one point for each match that he won plus 5 more points. That player would not receive the 3 points from the semi-finals. Division winners will receive one point for each match that they win plus 7 points for finishing in first place.

With that information in mind, these are the converted MRA rankings that were sent to the new ranking committee to be included with last year's sanctioned tournament rankings. Listed below are the top 10 in each division.

MEN'S OPEN

- 67 - Ray Vanover
- 53 - Stu Hastings
- 36 - Radiation Man
- 28 - Jim Easterling
- 26 - Randy Anderson
- 23 - Bob Wilhelm
- 23 - Steve Jeziorski
- 20 - Dan Dutcher
- 19 - Mike Anderson
- 19 - Rick VanderLind

MEN'S A

- 19 - Ted Dutcher
- 16 - Tom Blakeslee
- 16 - Mark Kelley
- 16 - Mark Casey
- 15 - Mark Carson
- 14 - Ernie Matties
- 12 - Jay Liggins
- 9 - John Bishop
- 8 - Mitch Harris
- 7 - Bill Ostari
- 7 - Bill Dion
- 7 - Jack White

MEN'S B

- 27 - Chris Kelly
- 12 - Paul Licari
- 12 - Bryan Turner
- 10 - Neal Goodman
- 8 - Mike Witherspoon
- 8 - Doug McIntyre
- 7 - Rick Broucek
- 7 - Steve Richmond
- 6 - Tim Sigafosse
- 6 - Todd Luethjohann

MEN'S C

- 24 - Steve Burgdorf
- 20 - Steve Esshaki
- 18 - Erik Zarins
- 17 - Jim Reading
- 16 - Jim Kan
- 13 - Zaman Zamanian
- 13 - James Hamilton
- 11 - Paul Lubbers
- 11 - George Towne
- 10 - Ron Nead

MEN'S D

- 22 - Mark McDaniel
- 19 - Mark King
- 16 - George Cook
- 13 - Martin Schultz
- 13 - Glenn Bailey
- 13 - Rob Flessner
- 12 - George Danford
- 11 - Gene Hine
- 11 - Jack Falvo
- 10 - Mark Bertler

SENIORS A

- 50 - Bob Lipin
- 38 - Larry Jackson
- 33 - Tom Brownlee
- 31 - Ken Bonnett
- 19 - Bob Gravelyn
- 17 - Stu Leff
- 16 - Mike Stephens
- 11 - Jim Santino
- 10 - Matt Klein
- 9 - Ron Slavik
- 9 - Bill Dion

SENIORS B

- 34 - John Patrick
- 24 - Mike Corinti
- 19 - Dennis Kitchen
- 19 - Chris Henry
- 10 - Pancho Gutierrez
- 8 - Robert Smith
- 7 - Tom Sawyer
- 7 - Bob Szuch
- 7 - Bill Gentile
- 7 - Rick Parkhurst
- 7 - Jack Stewart

SENIORS C

- 16 - Ken Kneuff
- 13 - Larry Shriner
- 11 - Chuck Hoffman
- 10 - Mike Wise
- 10 - Joel Carr
- 8 - Jim Gaffke
- 8 - Gary Brown
- 7 - Rick Menoch
- 7 - Dan Lafferty
- 6 - Charles Ray

MASTERS A

- 64 - Lynn Hahn
- 30 - John St. Clair
- 28 - Dave Matyas
- 25 - Gundars Strautnieks
- 21 - Hy Chambers
- 20 - Bob Schermer
- 17 - Jess Madden
- 17 - Milo Karhu
- 13 - Richard Sewefl
- 12 - Dave Lund

MASTERS B

- 25 - Jim Emerson
- 16 - Ray Mitchell

MASTERS B

- 12 - Ted Dutcher
- 11 - Joe Mifsud
- 8 - Andy Leeds
- 8 - Nick Cheolas
- 8 - Ralph Spink
- 7 - Phil Wickey
- 7 - Gerry Malleck
- 7 - Jack Markward

GOLDEN MASTERS

- 59 - Richard Caretti
- 50 - Duane Russell
- 20 - Noel LeSage
- 19 - Fred Rapoport
- 18 - Joe Charette
- 5 - Al Perham
- 3 - Seymour Ekelman
- 2 - Robert Finkleman
- 2 - Arthur Burke
- 1 - Marv Paluch
- 1 - Gerry Leone
- 1 - Joe Mizzi

WOMEN'S OPEN

- 56 - Cathie Frederickson
- 43 - Joetta Hastings
- 30 - Judy Conyca
- 28 - Sheri Anderson
- 19 - Cathy Thompson
- 17 - Donna Henry
- 14 - Debbie Erhart
- 11 - Nancy Foster
- 11 - Irene Ackerman-Chmura
- 11 - Lois Hamel

WOMEN'S A

- 17 - Courtney Mys
- 14 - Linda Lutze
- 9 - Carol Collins
- 5 - Kim Steinbach
- 5 - Robin Latrelle
- 5 - Arlene Allan
- 4 - Barb Swaab
- 4 - Bridget Albosta
- 1 - Regina Spielberger

WOMEN'S B

- 31 - Dianne Driver
- 16 - Jan Dolack
- 14 - Peggy Munten
- 13 - Sue Griffore
- 6 - Mary Alyce Gaffke
- 6 - Vonne Kreuzwieser
- 5 - Laura Fox
- 4 - Marlene Goss
- 4 - Peggy Hoshield
- 4 - Lou Ellen Fecher

WOMEN'S C

- 16 - Irene Shore
- 16 - Maria Caruso
- 13 - Carol Burt
- 13 - Shari Johnson
- 11 - Brenda Farrell
- 9 - Priscilla Washburn
- 8 - Fran Wiecha
- 7 - Sandy Cox
- 7 - Jo Hutter
- 7 - Linda Maynard

WOMEN'S D

- 25 - Cindy McDaniel
- 18 - Shira Schiff
- 17 - Shirley Bowman
- 17 - Cindy Sonk
- 11 - Cheryl King

RANKINGS

WOMEN'S D

- 9 - Vicki Schulte
- 6 - Gail Komendera
- 6 - Sandy Ridky
- 6 - Jane Strong
- 6 - Cynthia Rosiek

The rankings for the junior divisions were not converted at this time because the new Michigan Championship Series will have different age divisions for the juniors this year and also because many of the juniors will not be playing in the same division as last year.

Watch for either a flyer or check at the tournament desks of the upcoming Davison and Petoskey tournaments for information on how the new RAM ranking system will work.

MORE RULES . . .

There will be three new rules going into effect this coming 1984-85 tournament season.

1. The receiving line (safety zone) encroachment rule is NOW APPEALABLE. The receiver can enter the safety zone, on the serve, after the ball has bounced. The receiver can also contact the ball, on a lob serve that is going to bounce out of the safety zone, as long as he is standing behind and contacts the ball behind the receiving line.
2. If the server foot faults on the front line (service line), the server may appeal it. But if in the referees' judgement this

was a deliberate foot fault, the correct call is now a technical and one point should be taken away.

3. If a person uses all of his/her time outs and the referee feels that a "personal time out" is needed, he may allow a player an extra 2 minute time out. This time-out is devised to change ripped clothing or any other common sense situation so determined by the referee.

Watch for these new rules in the new edition of the AARA Rule Book which should be in circulation sometime in September.

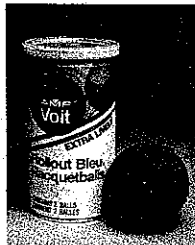
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