



April, 2002

THE USRA AFFILIATE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

USRA
Volume 5 Issue 3

From Kelley-AN EXCLUSIVE!! Justin Dumps Heather!

In an unbelievable display of "DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES TO WIN", Justin Wallace of Nashua, NH dumped long time doubles partner Heather Dunn at The Green Mountain Open in Essex Junction Vt. recently. It was a desperate attempt to try to oust defending Pro Mixed Doubles champs, Zalegowski/Beane.

Evidently the story that we have is that after watching Heather Dunn play in a match prior to their "Pro Mixed Doubles" final against Zalegowski/Beane, Justin thought that Heather looked "tired". He then went out and recruited one Nickii Whitney, a local young "phenom" to take her place. Was it because she was younger? Was it because she was rested? Well, what then transpired was a thorough thrashing of the newly formed Pro Team by Zalegowski/Beane. We believe the score was 11-1; it is still unclear how they earned their one point. It was evident that they struggled in communicating and also not using their timeouts effectively.

Zalegowski and Beane were exuberant on their victory, stating that it was the only win they could seem to get on Sunday. Had Heather played in the Pro Doubles division, she could have quite possibly set a new world racquetball record of 4 wins - by winning the Women's Open, Women's Open Doubles, Mixed Open Doubles and the Pro Mixed Doubles championships all on the same weekend.

UPDATE - As a result of the Vermont event, our sources tell us the team of Wallace/Dunn will be teaming up again for the upcoming Regional Championships. They certainly need a win there to put them back in the World Pro standings.

This ROLLOUT Edition includes these & more

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SAD NEWS: The passing of one of our racquetball friends, Al Carignan of Pelham. An education fund has been set up for his children: The Carignan Children's Fund, c/o Fleet Bank, 25 Nason Street, Maynard MA 01754.

VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS WANTED: *THE NHRA NEEDS YOU!* We need people to work on committees such as: fund raising, awards, rules & policies, junior programs - many more! If you've got some talent, the energy, and/or time, we could use whatever you have to offer! We especially need sponsors for State events in a big way... For more information on the many ways you can help out, please call Kelley Beane or contact her through the web site: www.nhracquetball.com.

NATIONAL RANKINGS: Congratulations to the following NH players (and NH club members) who are nationally ranked among the top 25 players in the country (taken from www.racqmag.com, the current issue of 'Racquetball Magazine'):

- | | |
|---|---|
| Chris Zalegowski - Men's Open, #15; Men's 25+, tied for #4 | Adam Podelec - Men's C, tied for #10 |
| Bob Guidaboni - Men's D, tied for #14 | Robert Kusher - Men's D, tied for #22 |
| Rich DeYoung - Men's Novice, tied for #8 | Dick Lowell - Men's 60+, #12 |
| Ed Dalton - Men's 60+, #25 | Ron Bouchard - Men's 65+, tied for #16 |
| Bob Drouin - Men's 65+, tied for #16 | Russ Bennett - Men's 70+, #11 |
| Pat Sims - Women's A, #6 | Diane Taylor-Whitman - Women's A, tied/#11 |
| Judy LaFrance-Foote - Women's B, tied for #23 | Gretchen Gobar - Women's D, #7 |
| Susan Strickland - Women's Novice, tied for #23 | Ann Doucette - Women's 35+, tied for #14 |
| Nan Higgins - Women's 45+, tied for #6 | Kristen Lawrence - Girl's <10, tied for #17 |
| Sarah Keddie - Girl's <10, tied for #23 | Dianne Weissbach - Women's 35+, #22 |
| Kelley Beane - Women's 25+, tied for #9; Women's 30+, tied for #3; Women's 35+, #17 | |

ADVERTISING: Newsletter Ad Rates - \$100. Full page, \$50. 1/2 page, \$25. 1/4 page, \$15. Business card, and now introducing 'Personal' ads for \$5 (send your info thru the web site!). The newsletter goes out to the full NHRA membership plus all the clubs, former members and many RB friends - *so advertise here!* Yearly rates are also available.

NEWSLETTER RATES: Newsletter subscription is available to non-members/non-residents for a \$10.00/yr. rate.

NHRA DEMO NIGHT: Back by popular demand! If you would like an NHRA sponsored demo night - or a racquetball tournament event - scheduled at your club, please contact Chris Zalegowski thru the web site (by e-mail) or fax your request to Kelley at 627-4552.

NEW NHRA APPAREL: Shirts from the 2002 State Singles Championships (gray & dark blue cotton knit henleys, and also collared sleeveless women's shirts - all w/ an embroidered NHRA logo) are on sale for \$20 on a limited 'first come-first serve' basis. Contact the NHRA thru the web site.

****NEW** PERSONAL ADS:** (\$5 for 4 lines - send them to the NHRA thru the web site and respond the same way, using the ad #, or fax to 627-4552)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| New Ektelon Shoes Black, Mens size 8.5 Never worn! \$25 plus \$5 shp'g. AD #402-01 | 3 Ektelon Gloves Controller - NEW Mens size XL \$20 plus \$2 shp'g. AD #402-02 | Ektelon Power Ring Ultralite - NEW Grip size: SS \$65 plus \$5 shp'g. AD #402-03 |
|---|---|---|

2002 NH STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

at The Executive Health & Sports Center, March 8th & 9th, 2002

| | <u>1st</u> | <u>2nd</u> | <u>3rd</u> | <u>4th</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| MENS OPEN | Chris Zalegowski | Mike Keddie | | |
| MENS A | Scott Robinson | Owen McGarrahan | Marco Labonte | Carl Savage |
| MENS B | Gary Walsh | Wilken Tom | Ron Dellagatta | Ray Govotski |
| MENS C | Kevin Russell | Bob Burgess | Bob Guidaboni | Gene Desruisseaux |
| MENS D | Peter Smith | Todd Anderson | Gene Desruisseaux | Ron Bye |
| MENS NOVICE | Todd Anderson | Jordan Lawrence | Ken Hardman | Tim Paquette |
| JR. BOYS <12 | Beau Breton | Billy Bayliss | Kyle Gath | |
| MENS 25+ | Chris Zalegowski | Owen McGarrahan | Marco Labonte | Rob Smith |
| MENS 30+ | Owen McGarrahan | Rob Smith | | |
| MENS 35+ | Marco Labonte | Tony Bruzzese | | |
| MENS 40+ | Paul Wallace | Rick Perez | | |
| MENS 45+ | Paul Wallace | Carl Savage | Gregg Larkin | Ron Breton |
| MENS 50+ | Sid Bird | Brandt Pace | | |
| MENS 55+ | Brandt Pace | Mitch Milewski | Carl Fitzgerald | Rick Langlois |
| MENS 60+ | Mitch Milewski | Bob Hall | Dick Lowell | Ron Bouchard |
| MENS 65+ | Dick Lowell | Parker Towle | Norbert Lecompte | Ron Bouchard |
| MENS 70+ | Ken Hardman | | | |
| WOMENS A | Judy McCole | Lynn Smith | | |
| WOMENS B | Patty Thomas-Danos | Lisa Paladino | Lynn Smith | Suzanne Ewert |
| WOMENS C | Jean Lerch | Juli Gamage | Kim Larkin | Gretchen Gobar |
| WOMENS D | Jean Lerch | Ceci Carpenter | Kim Larkin | Judy Bress |
| WOMENS NOV. | Judy Bress | Martha Robinson | | |
| WOMENS 50+ | Judy Bress | | | |

Yet another successful state singles championship event for New Hampshire, thanks mostly to our state racquetball members! The 2002 state singles were held at the Executive Health & Sports Center in Manchester and this year's attendance was right around eighty. The competition as always in New Hampshire was intense. Most matches went the distance proving once again what we on the NH Board have always boasted - that New Hampshire has some of the best competitive players around! What really impressed again about our state events are you the members. We in New Hampshire are truly lucky to have the most wonderful people as members. Our events always run on time or ahead, this is due to the fact we never need to look for referees, a tournament director's dream! The players in our state events are always eager to ref — you all know that that is the major reason why tournaments run behind. When directors need to look for the clipboard and then need to find someone to do the match, something has to fall - usually the schedule. It is a real pleasure to run these events because our members make it run smooth - *thanks to all of you!* Well that is enough of my raving; hope to see all of you at the NE Regional Singles Championships, which New Hampshire will be organizing again. This event will be hosted by the Executive Health and Sports Center and co-hosted by the Nashua Athletic Club on April 19th, 20th, and 21st. See you all there!

Tony Bruzzese

2002 WOODSVILLE RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

February 22nd-24th, at the Railyard Racquet & Health Club, Woodsville, NH

| | <u>1st</u> | <u>2nd</u> | <u>3rd</u> | <u>4th</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| MENS OPEN/A | Aron Drew, NH | Jaime Boucher, NH | Phil Robbins, NH | Peter Kelloway, VT |
| MENS A (Dropdown) | Scott Rodd, VT | Norm Boucher, NH | Jason Bessette, VT | Bob Doty, VT |
| MENS B | Chris Lavoie, VT | Steve Foote, NH | Alan Sharpe, MA | Jason Bessette, VT |
| MENS C | Dudley Bell, VT | Adam Hatch, NH | Ron Bye, NH | Ron Limoges, VT |
| MENS 50+ | Brandt Pace, NH | Sid Bird, NH | Steve Savage, NH | Joe Ruggieri, NH |
| <u>MENS OPEN/A DOUBLES</u> | Jim Lukeman, NH | Phil Robbins, NH | Jaime Boucher, NH | Aron Drew, NH |
| | Mike Keddie, NH | Mark Brezina, VT | Jeff Parsons, NH | Joe Boucher, NH |
| <u>MENS B/C DOUBLES</u> | Andy Karwocki, NH | Paul Royer, VT | Joe Boucher, NH | Walter Sinnott-Armstrong |
| | Steve Foote, NH | Dave Fortin, VT | Bill Gargan, NH | Neal Brodien, NH |
| <u>MIXED DOUBLES</u> | Judy Lafrance-Foote, NH | Stephanie Saffo, NH | Chris Sabbow, NH | Teresa Lavoie, VT |
| | Chris Lavoie, VT | Mark Brezina, VT | Norm Boucher, NH | Matt Daly, VT |
| <u>WOMENS DOUBLES</u> | Stephanie Saffo, NH | Lisa Biele, NH | | |
| | Pat Wolfe, NH | Teresa Lavoie, VT | | |

Player Profile — Mike Keddie

Mike Keddie is a junior racquetball player from the Executive Health & Sports Center in Manchester who loves the game so much, you will see him at every racquetball tournament in New Hampshire. He has been playing the game for 8 years and if you have seen him play, you'd know that he has grown up with a racquet in his hand! By the way, did I mention he is only 14 years old!

What he likes best about the game - definitely the competition. And he went on to say that he couples that with meeting a lot of nice people and has made some great friends.

His family is full of racquetball players. His father Jay has been playing for 9 years, his brother Matt (12 years old) for 8 years and his sister Sarah (8 years old) for 2 years now. His idol... Cliff Swain. Why, you may ask, because Cliff taught Mike how to play the game!

Mike shared that his best decision in life has been to play the game of racquetball and be committed to it. His first choice for a career would be to play for the IRT. That would be professional racquetball! He thanks his sponsors, Crew West Sportswear (Rich Barker) and Head Racquet Sports (Doug Ganim) for their support.

Mike best describes himself as a player that dislikes losing and is constantly striving for perfection. He also finds time to play junior high school basketball as well as play on the AAU travel team.

The most important lesson in life he has learned - that losing your head on the court doesn't help your game, it only makes it worse.

It was a pleasure interviewing Mike. For an 8th grader, he has his sights set high on obtaining some great goals in life. And it is always good when the game of racquetball is included in your goal!!

Diane Taylor-Whitman

The Regionals - What Division Are You Eligible to Play?

One of the questions that comes up at this time of year is, "What division am I eligible to play in the Regionals? Can I drop down a division?" For New Hampshire players, part of the answer is contained in the "New Hampshire Racquetball Association Skill Level Rules." The part of the Skill Level Rules that pertains to Regionals eligibility can be summarized as follows:

In the Regionals, you may play the same division you were eligible to play at the start of the 2001/2002 season (September 1st, 2001) so long as:

- *The skill level you want to play in is not more than one division lower than your required Open tournament skill level division as of the first day of the Regionals (4/19/02), and/or*
- *You have not won a Regional title at that skill level - or a higher skill level.*

For example, let's say you were eligible to play C's as of 9/1/2001 (the start of the 2001/2002 season), but you won 2 tournaments (with a full draw) in C's this season. Even though you are now considered a 'B' player, you are still be eligible to play C's in the upcoming Regionals because that is the skill level division you were eligible to play at the start of the current season (9/1/01) and you have not advanced more than one skill level.

Adult age group divisions start at <24 (24 yrs. & under), and run in 5-year increments from 25+ through 75+. To be eligible to play in the <24 division, you must be 24 yrs. or younger as of the first day of the tournament (4/19/02). To be eligible to play in any of the other adult age group divisions, you must be that age or older as of 4/19/02. You can play any age group that is equal to, or less than, your age (e.g., if you are 47 yrs. you may play 45+, 40+, 35+, etc.).

This year, we are offering eight adult "Age + Skill Level Divisions": 25+ A/B, 25+ C/D, 35+ A/B, 35+ C/D, 45+ A/B, 45+ C/D, 55+ A/B, 55+ C/D, 65+ A/B and 65+ C/D. To be eligible to play in any of these "Age + Skill Level Divisions," you must (1) be the designated age, or older, as of the first day of the tournament (4/19/02), and (2) be eligible to play in either of the skill levels designated. For example, if you want to play in the "55+ C/D" division, you have to be 55 or older, and eligible to play in either the C or D skill level division, as of 4/19/02.

Junior age group divisions start at <8 (8 yrs. & under) and run in 2-year increments up to <18 (18 yrs. & under). To be eligible to play in a particular junior division in this year's Regionals, you must have been that age or younger *as of January 1st, 2002*. For example, to be eligible to play in the <12 division, you must have been 12 years old or younger as of January 1st, 2002. You may play in any junior division that is your age or over (e.g., if you were 11 years old as of January 1st, 2002, then you may play <12, <14, <16, etc.).

If there are still questions after reading the above explanation, you may contact the NHRA for more clarification (e-mail: NHRABoard@NHRAcquetball.com).

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|------------------|
| 2001-2002 AWARDS |
|------------------|

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
Scott Robinson

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
Judy LaFrance-Foote

JUNIOR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
Mike Keddie

MOST IMPROVED PLAYERS:

MALE - Bob Guidaboni
FEMALE - Julie Gamage

HUSTLE AWARD

Jean Lerch (for her drive to get RB programs going @ Great Bay)

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Rich Saffo Sr.

IRONMAN AWARD

Gary Walsh

COMEBACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Ginny Lavallo (Welcome back!)

THE 2001-2002 STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONS

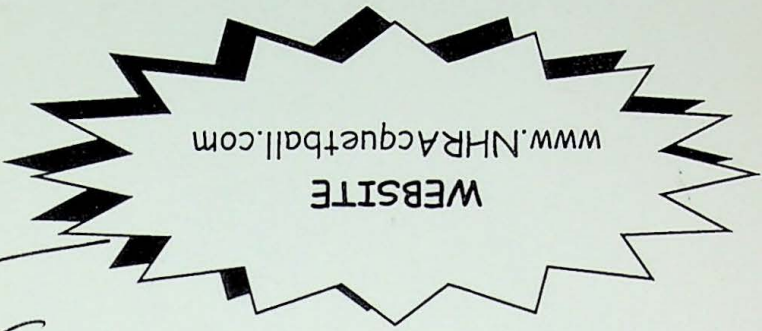
See the NH Singles Championship results...

NH POINT RANKINGS

Due to a transition of personnel at the USRA, NHRA rankings have not been updated - thus are not available for publishing at this time. Sorry for the inconvenience to our membership. Please check the web site for future updates.



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Stamp

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NEW HAMPSHIRE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION



YOUR APRIL 2002 NHRA NEWSLETTER

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2002 New England Regional Championships

The NHRA would like to remind everyone of the upcoming **New England Regional Singles Championships** to be held **April 19th, 20th and 21st**, hosted by the **Executive Health & Sports Center** and co-hosted by the **Nashua Athletic Club**. The deadline to enter this event is **Friday, April 12th!!!** This is one of the biggest tournaments of the season and it is a qualifier for the Ektelon/USRA Nationals in Houston, TX. We are anticipating over 200 players from all over the country to come participate in this event. This is a great opportunity to come watch and play some of the best racquetball players in their divisions in the country.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

For more information:

check out our website at: <http://www.NHRAcquetball.com>

OR you may contact **Tony Bruzzese** at (603) 893-1353

OR email him at: tony@paragon.com,

OR mail your application to him at 3 Carol Ave. Salem, NH 03079