

The Racquetball REPORTER

321 Village Dr. Lansing, MI 48911

VOL. 4 NO. 3

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RACQUETBALL ASSN. OF MICHIGAN

DECEMBER 1986

LYNN HAHN HALL OF FAME TOURNEY

Plenty of Racquetball Excitement

"The season has just started," said Hahn. Players and fans are reminded that Muskegon again plays host to the AAU Winter Games Tournament the weekend of January 23 - 25.

Results of the tournament were

MENS PRO OPEN 15-3, 15-8
1st - Jack Newman 2nd Chris Cole
MENS OPEN 15-7, 14-15, 11-0
1st - John Kaber 2nd - Todd Luethjohan
MENS A 12-15, 15-14, 11-3
1st - Curt Glover 2nd - Mike Carlson
MENS B 15-0, 14-15, 11-8
1st - John Stallmer 2nd Dan Burt
MENS C 15-9, 15-11
1st - Spencer Webb 2nd - Al Mell
MENS D 15-7, 15-1
1st - Lew Gorbach 2nd - Tom King

MENS 19+ 15-7, 15-9
1st - Todd Luethjohann 2nd - Al Broton
MENS 30B 12-15, 15-9, 11-3
1st - Stan Tuckwell 2nd - Mike Corinti
MENS 35A 15-4, 15-13
1st - Mike Stephens 2nd - Ric Scott
MENS 35C 15-14, 12-15, 11-7
1st - George Goudie 2nd - Jim Kuch
MENS 45A 15-7, 15-14
1st - Lynn Hahn 2nd - Tom Sharum
MENS 45B Forfeit
1st - J.D. Driver 2nd Ralph Kummeler
MENS 16 15-8, 15-2
1st - Tom Duiven 2nd Chris Goudie
WOMENS OPEN 15-6, 15-3
1st - Regina Spielberger 2nd - Martha Milan
WOMENS A 15-11, 13-15, 11-8
1st - Sharon Huczek 2nd - Pam Madsen
WOMENS B 15-8, 15-9
1st - Diane Kaber 2nd - Melody Matties



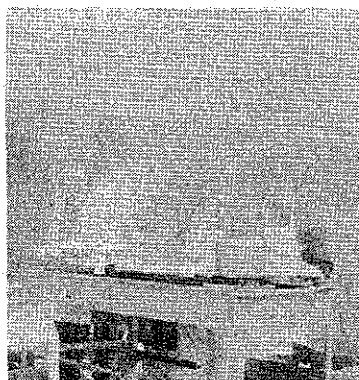
WOMENS 30A DIVISION
Laura Martin (left), Janet Insko (right)

WOMENS C 6-15, 15-9, 11-9
1st - Dina Habeck 2nd - Cheryl King
WOMENS NOVICE 15-1, 15-12
1st - Sharul Kirkpatrick
2nd - Melissa Takens
WOMENS 30A 15-4, 15-4
1st - Laura Martin 2nd - Janet Insko



LYNN HAHN & FAMILY
(left to right)

Lynn Hahn, Stacey (granddaughter),
Joann (daughter-in-law)
Bea (wife)



"THE COOKS"
Barbequing the Chicken and Ribs

State Doubles Championships

The 1986-87 RAM State Doubles Championship will be held on February 27 - March 1, 1987. This season's championship will be held at the Woodland Racquet Club in Brighton, Michigan. Jim and Dianne Easterling will be the tournament directors. So grab your partner and start practicing now. If you have any questions on the tournament call Jim at (517) 887-0459.

GREAT LINES

It was at the Dearborn Athletic Club in the summer of 1983. It was a hot day and I was playing a friendly racquetball match with Denny Freitag. She seemed to really have the "SLOWS" that day. I hit a shot that she should have gotten rather easily and she didn't get to the ball in time. She then, quite upset at herself, looked down at her feet and said, "What are you waiting for - a bus."

Jim Easterling

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THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER

321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911

Address Correction Requested

JOHN KABER Mens Open Division Starting His Serve

At the Lynn Hahn Hall of Fame Tournament held October 3, 4, and 5 at M.B.A. Health & Wellness Center in Muskegon, eager beginners and aspiring pros, from age 11 on up, gathered to compete. Lynn Hahn, Whitehall's Hall of Fame member, and four time state champion was there, as were some of the finest players from throughout the state.

"The offer of \$500 for first place and \$300 for second (for the men) helps guys like Jack (Newman, No. 1 seed from Chicago) and myself travel to the pro tournaments," said No. 2 seed Sean Moskwa of Chicago.

"The tournament is set up well," said Ferris State's Kim Urbanik. "The competition is good, and I like the idea of double elimination. And the hospitality is great!" A banquet was held for the competitors and their guests Saturday night consisting of grilled chicken, barbequed ribs, and roast beef, and baked potato salad beer and wine coolers.

M.B.A. would like to congratulate the players for the level of sportsmanlike spirit displayed at all levels of play and thank everyone who attended the tournament.

Steve Thompson of The Pace Group, Inc. writes:

"Just a short note to congratulate you on putting on a fine event. Not only was the tournament well run, the 'spirit' of the event was evident in the sportsmanship displayed in all levels of play.

One of the reasons my wife and I have cut down on the number of tournaments is due to the lack of professionalism on the part of many players. Your event is definitely an exception to the many events, which unfortunately take away from the pleasure & excitement of racquetball

Presidential Shots



RAM
President
Lee D. Frederickson

TOURNAMENTS Like a Symphony

Did you ever notice that some tournaments are better than others? Some events run smoothly, efficiently, and directed to the enjoyment of the paying player. Over the years that I have been attending and observing this phenomenon, one common theme runs true. There is a host paying attention to the little details, much like a symphony director at the podium with the baton keying all the other musicians. Recently, in September, I watched the host directing a major event. All details were paid attention to, no matter how trivial. When one of the key people began playing off key, the director took action immediately.

It is equally obvious that a tremendous amount of pre-tournament planning must occur to get the players, sponsors, food, entertainment, shirts, balls, etc. in the one location for a weekend. It is the host's responsibility to see to it that the players have good competition, have good and adequate entertainment, and that the egos of the losers be massaged before they leave the tournament site. When all the ingredients are mixed together correctly, it is like eating a fine meal, or attending a fine concert. I have coined a phrase for this: "A REPRODUCIBLE PLEASURE IN LIFE."

CLUB AARA/RAM MEMBERSHIP Attention Sales People And Membership Directors

At several clubs in the state a new program has been started to increase the awareness of the club league (non tournament) player. These individuals love the sport as much as the tournament player, and deserve the opportunity to receive the newsletter, mailings, Racquetball in Review, National Racquetball, discount kits, and rule books.

The sales person or membership director of any club in the state of Michigan may receive a 30% commission on the sale of a RAM/AARA membership to a new member, or to a member of your club that has not joined the organization. This is a promotion to selling memberships to those who play the sport and have not joined. The person selling will keep \$3.00 for themselves and send \$7 and the completed application to the state organization. It will take 30 days for the member to receive the membership card, during this time have the new member keep the yellow copy of the member application as proof.

For more information, the promotion brochure and rule books, write or call:

RAM
12539 Terry
Wayland, MI 49348
(616) 792-9543

Ask for Lee or Cathie Frederickson

CLUB OWNERS AND MANAGERS AS RAM MEMBERS OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

You, as owners and managerial professionals, have a very direct connection to the popularity of the sport. The more play, the more players, the better the bottom line on your balance sheet at the end of the year. RAM has as one of its goals the basic promotion of the sport. You have an opinion we want to hear. Your capacity to promote is more profound with group action than as an individual. This year a seminar for you is being planned. A direct connection to IRSA is being attempted. Mutual beneficial advertising, common programming, and exchange of ideas that work will enhance the market position of all clubs. Let me know you are interested in the promotion of the sport. Call me for information or to answer questions.

MEETING SITES CHANGED To Accommodate The Player

The RAM Board of Directors will meet on Sat - December 6, 1986 at 3:00 p.m. at the Super Seven #4 at 29th St. Fitness Center 2701 29th St., Grand Rapids, MI



AARA NATIONAL OFFICERS

Executive Director: Luke St. Onge
Colorado Springs, CO
President: Van Dubolsky
Gainesville, FL
Vice President: Jim Hiser
Davison, MI
Commissioner: Cathie Frederickson
Wayland MI

AARA REGION #9 W. VIRGINIA, OHIO, MICHIGAN

Regional Director: Jim Hiser

RAM OFFICERS

President: Lee Frederickson
(616) 942-5190
Vice President: Tom Blakeslee
(313) 575-3998
Secretary: Arlene Allan
(517) 323-2227
Treasurer: Dianne Easterling
(517) 887-0459

RAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandy Cox: Jim Hiser
Cathie Frederickson: Rick Hall
Jim Easterling: Judy Gonyea

NEWSLETTER

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

PAST RAM PRESIDENTS

(RAM was formed July 24, 1984)

Bob Wilhelm: 1984-85
(3 months)
Lee Frederickson: 1984-85
Jim Easterling: 1985-86
Lee Frederickson: 1986-87

Metro Womens Touring League

Thursday afternoons & Sunday evenings tend to be rather slow times at most clubs. For many reasons, my desk workers are especially happy to see the Women's Metro League start their season.

These women have a way of waking up the clubs that they play at. Their attitude towards racquetball is really great to see. They enter the club with smiles and "Hellos"; to meet their team, and play a match against another club. Usually the home team brings some pretty delicious snacks (another reason, I suspect, for the desk workers happiness).

The matches are started, and excited conversation buzzes through the club. The team members cheer, and urge their teammates on to win. Good sportsmanship abounds.

The games are played, congratulations, and condolences are peppered with the

same good natured humor, as the teams gather around to tally up the scores and decide the overall winners of the day.

As manager of a club that sponsors seven of these teams, I've had the opportunity of witnessing many of these gatherings, and in my opinion, all of the women involved in this league are winners. If you would like to join in the fun, by sponsoring a team or joining a team, call me: Alida Mainhardt at (313) 264-2270 and I'll tell you how you can be a winner too.

RESULTS AS OF OCTOBER 30

LEVEL I - SUNDAY

1. Gateway I 218
2. Backwall Eagles 216
3. Gateway II 191
4. Get A Ways 174

LEVEL II - THURSDAY

1. Gateway II 456
2. Gateway I 395
3. Warren 388
4. Mt. Clemens 364

LEVEL II - SUNDAY

1. Gateway 420
2. Maple Cts. B 406
3. Court House 388
4. Mt. Clemens 361
5. Backwall Stripes 299
6. Maple Cts. A 245
7. Backwall Stars 172

LEVEL III - THURSDAY

1. Court House 434
2. Gateway Gators 403
3. Gateway I 395
4. Warren Spirits 345

NEWSLETTER ADDITIONS

I am proud to announce the addition of two new articles that will appear in all of our quarterly newsletters. First, there is the "RAM Facility Listing". This is a list of different facilities (private clubs, public clubs, YMCAs, etc.) across the state where you can play racquetball. In the listing, there is the name of the club, the address, a phone number and other information about the facility. There are a few clubs listed in this newsletter and watch for more clubs to be listed in upcoming editions.

Secondly, there will be the minutes of the RAM monthly board meetings published in the newsletter. You, as a dues paying member, have the right to know what goes on at the meetings: who votes "yes" or "no" on motions, who actually does the work on different things, who actually attends the meetings (or does not attend), and who comes up with new ideas. The minutes may also give you another point of view about things that you never thought of.

As editor of "The Racquetball Reporter", I am glad to see these new additions to the newsletter. Look for new articles to appear in future issues of "The Racquetball Reporter".

Jim Easterling



The Reporter Needs You

"The Racquetball Reporter" is looking for any individual who is interested in doing some writing for the newsletter. Any topics are welcome: tournaments, instructional, humor, etc. If you are interested or have any questions at all about what is involved please contact RAM at:

321 Village - Lansing, MI 48911

"View of the Vice-President"

BY W.T. BLAKESLEE

Aloha! From Waikiki Sheraton Hotel! Right now I'm looking over at Diamond Head just off the beach at Honolulu and it is really a 'view' of a lifetime. Tropical Paradise! If you ever get the chance, splurge! Waikiki is a very crowded place with a density of population much like downtown L.A., Chicago or New York. The outer islands are by comparison untouched by the playthings of modern man, especially racquetball. Hiser has organized a pro tour stop in Hawaii and after it's over, the pros will give him a lifetime contract. It's simply beautiful here I have to admit coming back to the cold, ice and snow in Michigan isn't a fond thought.

As I write, I'll bet in the journals of

MRA or RAM, no one ever authorized an article from 6,000 miles away! Which brings a concern of mine to light, does anybody read our paper? I would appreciate those that do coming forward with comments as we on the board spend a lot of time and your money on this paper. Hopefully, in January when you read this article my sunburn will be healed.

Lastly, as I chase the super bodies, surf, and fun (sorry racquetball) I would also like to address a concern of some of my closest racquetball friends. Yes, I did get married and I'm on my honeymoon! However, Stu, I will be back, actively involved as a player, a promoter of our game, and a friend. See you at the club.

Tom

Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons Association Report

The GRRPA programs for the 1986-87 year are starting to take shape. The Grand Rapids area Women's League is underway and a new Women's Money League has been started. Men's Travel Teams are scheduled for start-up in the month of December. Grand Rapids area Juniors held a round-robin play at the Twenty-Ninth Street Fitness Center on November 9. The next scheduled meeting of the GRRPA Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 20.

Representatives of the Junior Committee are formulating fund-raising activities for several upcoming tournaments in the Grand Rapids area. These fund-raising events include: 50/50 raffle, bake sale, \$5.00 refereeing fee. The proceeds of these fund-raising activities will support the Patrons Junior "Team Grand Rapids" at the state tournaments and "Team

Michigan" for the Junior Nationals.

Preliminary work has begun on the two Patrons sponsored tournaments for the year - the West Michigan Championship on January 30, 1987 and the Grand Rapids City Championship on March 20, 1987.

The Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons Association has a new address. We are now at P.O. Box 10, Ada, Michigan 49301-0010.

This year's officers of the GRRPA are: Rick Hall, President; Darlene Miller, Vice-President; Regina Speelberger, Treasurer; and Paula Spagnuolo, Secretary.

Directors are: Roy White, Dan Wood, Marilyn Zimmerman, Ken Bonnett, Penny Thompson, Brian & Sarah Michmerhuizen, and Heidi Sumner

Submitted by Rick Hall

Collegiate Racquetball

Collegiate team racquetball is new and exciting. There are 12 divisions, Men's and Women's No. 1, 2, 3 and 4 Singles and Men's and Women's No. 1 and 2 Doubles.

A team may consist of 4 men and 4 women each playing Singles and Doubles, or 8 men and 8 women, 4 playing Singles and 4 playing Doubles.

Points are accumulated towards the team championship by each match won and bonus points for reaching the semis or the finals. Also individual awards are won for winning or placing in a division.

If a collegiate player does not have a complete team, but wishes to enter the tournament he/she is encouraged to do so. For instance, if there are 4 full time students, 2 men and 2 women interested in competing from a college. They could compete in Men's and Women's Singles No. 1 and 2, and No. 1 Doubles. If there is less than a full team, the players must be placed in the higher divisions first.

Anyone interested in collegiate racquetball, starting a team, competing on a team or entering a collegiate tournament, can get additional information by calling or writing:

JERRY GRAY
F.S.C. Coach
110½ N. Michigan Avenue
Big Rapids, MI 49307
(616) 796-9291

5TH ANNUAL MID-MICHIGAN OPEN

The Ferris State College racquetball team recently hosted the 5th Annual Mid-Michigan Open at the Alumni Courts in Big Rapids.

Seventy-four participants, mostly collegians, participated in the event which is one of the many fund raising events hosted by the F.S.C. team.

In Men's Open/A, Todd Luethjohann out scored his 3 opponents by a total score of 90 to 25, and Courtney Mys of Grand Rapids, won a hard fought tie-breaker from Arlene Allan of Lansing, in the finals of the Women's Open division.

A special thanks from the F.S.C. team to the sponsors: Domino's Pizza, Pizza Hut, Yoplait, Boorsma's, Galley Sub Shop, Kozema Law Firm, Mid-Michigan Engineering and all the players that made this tournament a real success.

Complete results of the tournament are as follows:

WOMEN'S OPEN

1. Courtney Mys, Grand Rapids
2. Arlene Allan, Lansing

WOMEN'S A/B

1. Linda Cok, FSC
2. Marci Gray, FSC

WOMEN'S C/D

1. Sharry Look, CMU
2. Judy Erickson, FSC

WOMEN'S NOVICE

1. Kim Urbanick, FSC
2. Misty Kirkconnell, FSC

MEN'S OPEN/A

1. Todd Luethjohann, FSC
2. Sam Tamelien, CMU

MEN'S B

1. Dave Busch, Muskegon
2. Kent Briggs, GVSC

MEN'S C

1. Joel Jaroch, CMU
2. Dale Wilhelm, Reed City

MEN'S D

1. Jeff Mass, FSC
2. Tim Purcey, FSC

MEN'S NOVICE

1. Tony Loveland
2. Kendale Briggs, FSC

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 24 - 25 - State Collegiate Championships, 29th St. Grand Rapids, MI

FEBRUARY 14 - 15 - Mid-West Collegiate Regional Championship, West Allis Athletic Club, Milwaukee, WI

MARCH 27 - 29 - International Collegiate Championships, International Athletic Club, Denver, CO

SUPPORT FOR TEAM MICHIGAN AND U.S. TEAM

Lee D. Frederickson

During this season, there will be several new wrinkles in the program for financing our most obvious and easiest mechanism for promotion of the sport on a state and national level. You, as a supporter of racquetball, will be asked to stick your hand into your already empty pockets, dig a little harder, and find a way to help the juniors and young adults travel to expose the sport at its finest, to those who are still unknowing of the benefits of racquetball.

You will see a new area on all sanctioned entry forms. It will look like this:

"I am including with my entry a tax deductible contribution of:

- A. \$ _____ for Team Michigan
B. \$ _____ For U.S. Team
C. \$ _____ for the RAM Board of directors to use as it sees fit in a worthy and needy cause."

Historically many individuals, groups, and organizations have worked to raise funds to send the teams to national and international events. Individuals have done everything from refereeing for money to selling cookies in order to raise money. Groups have held car washes, sales, benefit tournaments, and solicited direct donations for the advancement of the sport. Organizations such as the Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons and the RAM have donated their profits directly to these causes.

These units will continue to function. In addition, we ask that you be generous within the sport that has given you so much and make a direct contribution. **ANY FUNDS COLLECTED WILL BE PLACED 100% INTO THE TEAM OF YOUR CHOICE, OR SPLIT BY THE BOARD INTO THE MOST LOGICAL AREAS.**

Player Profile

The individual I will be telling you about has a very rich and complex history of contribution to the sport of racquetball. Many knowing individuals praise him as having made the largest impact on the sport in the state of Michigan in the early 70's. Jim Easterling who has been active from the beginning - describes our mystery person. He singlehandedly did 95% of the work to get racquetball organized in the state. He did it in the days when there wasn't even a rule book. He did all this with a full time 40 hour a week job. Jim Hiser, RMA and Mens Pro Tour Commissioner and owner of the Super Seven Series says about our player, "I have never observed him do anything that wasn't good for the sport" and "Totally directed to improving the sport we all love."

Now for the interesting part of this article, you get to guess his identity. There are several questions I would like you to answer. Don't cheat and look!!! The answers, picture, and the rest of the article can be found on page 8.

1. Who was the lead figure in organizing the first functioning state organization?
2. Who started the MRA (Michigan Racquetball Association)?
3. Who organized and ran the first state championship?
4. Who started the Grand Slam Series of tournaments (The Super Seven Series derived from this series)?
5. Who was the first regional director?
6. Who ran the first regional tournament?
7. Who was the first State Director, Commissioner, or President?
8. Who helped to organize the MARA (Michigan Amateur Racquetball Association)?



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 1986

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dianne Easterling, Matt Klein, Roy White and Radiation Man. Lee called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

Tom motioned that the minutes be approved and J. Easterling seconded. J. Easterling read the treasurer's report. An AARA rebate of \$177.00 was given to RAM. Tom motioned that the report be accepted and Sandy seconded it.

Jim Easterling motioned that we (RAM) pay for the awards given out at the Davison banquet and Judy seconded it.

Lee established new and existing committees:

1. Nominating — W.T. Blakeslee.
2. Tournament — J. Hiser / J. Easterling
 - a) State Singles — J. Hiser / W.T. Blakeslee
 - b) State Juniors — S. Cox / J. Gonyea
 - c) State Doubles — J. & D. Easterling
3. Juniors — J. Gonyea / S. Cox
4. Womens — A. Allan / C. Frederickson
5. Newsletter — J. Easterling
6. Public Relations — ?
7. Rankings — S. Cox. Denny Wood offered to revise rankings after each tournament for \$25.00 per event. The Board decided against this due to the cost.
8. Referee — J. Hiser
9. Sanctioning — D. Easterling
10. Grievance — L. Frederickson
11. Intercollegiate — M. Klein
12. Membership — L. Frederickson
13. Finance — D. Easterling / A. Allan

Randy Minto is a member of the Junior's Committee.

Jim Easterling would like to see a poster made which would advertise the sites and dates of the State's Singles, Doubles and Intercollegiate Tournaments.

Jim Easterling would like the newsletter dates for publication set and articles due by the next meeting. Also, we should solicit advertising which would increase our funds.

Fred Lewerenz will write sports medicine articles for each publication.

Randy Minto suggested that a corner be established for Clubs to write about their programs and results.

Someone suggested that clubs be able to advertise without a charge in the newsletter. Also that the RAM mailing list be for sale at \$150.00. B. Chernside felt that we could ask for more money.

It was also decided that Jim Hiser would run the training camp, Hall of Fame and annual awards nominations.

W.T. Blakeslee said that if MCRA did not have a person at our meetings, then they should not be given a voice in our proceedings. Lee said that this issue would ride until MCRA could be approached. In the October agenda it states that Jim Hamilton is the MCRA liaison.

Stu Hastings suggested that RAM meetings be held at tournament sites. Jim Hamilton agreed. Jim Easterling disagreed. Lee Frederickson said that discussion would continue at the next meeting.

Lee Frederickson would like to see club owners, senior and junior players involved on the Board. Stu Hastings suggested that the Board put together a list of people and send them personalized invitations, signed by the President, requesting their presence and opinions at our meetings.

Cathie Frederickson motioned that we all submit a list of clubs that we should approach. Judy Gonyea seconded it.

Jim Hamilton suggested that rankings be based on consistency of play rather than points. Cathie suggested that awards be given to the most supportive (of tournaments) player. Judy said that players are already recognized at the Davison banquet.

Rick Hall suggested that awards be explained in the newsletter.

Someone (possibly Lee) suggested that designated tournaments give a set portion of their entry receipts to a said committee, the U.S. Team, etc. Also entry applications could include a space that enables the participant to donate extra money to any of these committees.

Stu Hastings suggested that public recognition for these donations be made available on a poster, newsletter, etc. Lee: meeting adjourned.

RAM MEETINGS

The RAM Board of Directors meet the second Tuesday of every month to discuss and implement racquetball activities in the state. The meetings are usually held at 7:00 p.m. in Lansing at the Downtown YMCA.

A few times a year, the RAM meeting is moved to other areas of the state. Below are the dates and sites of our moved meetings.

Sat., December 6, 1986 — Grand Rapids — 29th Street Fitness Center — 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 14, 1987 — Mt. Clemens

Saturday, April 11, 1987 — At The State Singles Championship

Non-board members are always welcome to attend any and all of our meetings. If you have a specific problem or idea you would like to discuss at the RAM meeting, please call Lee Frederickson at (616) 942-5190.

October 14, 1986

MEMBERS PRESENT: Arlene Allan, Jim & Dianne Easterling, Lee Frederickson, Radiation Man, Jim Hiser, W.T. Blakeslee and Rick Hall.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roy White, Matt Klein, Judy Gonyea, Sandy Cox and Cathie Frederickson.

GUESTS PRESENT: Denny Wood. Meeting called to order at 7:20.

MINUTE CORRECTIONS: Name spellings of Arlene Allan and Dianne Easterling corrected. Also, D. Easterling has no involvement with the rankings.

Any materials to be included in the mass mailing, must be at the Easterling's home by October 27.

W.T. Blakeslee will establish criteria that will enable the Board to vote on a sponsor for the State Singles Tournament. At present, DP would like the job. Sponsors should put money into other programs as well as sponsoring tournament players.

A. Allan: Sponsorship involvement should be made available before we vote.

J. Easterling: Board should choose a sponsor based on their past and future involvement with Michigan racquetball.

D. Easterling motioned that we vote on a State Singles sponsor after W.T. Blakeslee provides us with more information. J. Easterling seconded the motion.

W.T. Blakeslee: Select three clubs and request that they put a bid in for the State Singles Tournament.

J. Easterling motioned that we approach five clubs. D. Easterling seconded.

L. Frederickson would like to establish a club list of managers and owners so that they may be invited to participate in future functions.

Alternate meeting sites discussed. Some meetings will be held at tournaments.

If Roy White is not at the next Board Meeting without an excuse, L. Frederickson will write him a letter asking him to resign.

L. Frederickson will set up mailing labels.

J. Easterling motioned that we pay \$299.00 liability bill. This motion passed.

L. Frederickson felt that this money was wasted. J. Hiser suggested that we have our policy reviewed by the person handling

liability at the National level and go with his suggestions. This action is being taken.

A. Allan relayed a suggestion of having prize money offered in the semi and quarter finals of the Open divisions. J. Hiser is looking into the possibilities.

Articles for the newsletter are due at the November meeting.

It has been suggested that a section of the tournament entry forms be made available for soliciting donations which may be designated for a specific use. This action is being investigated.

Radiation Man has resigned from the Board.

J. Hiser motioned that money be taken from the Junior's fund to send a player (not necessarily an Open player) to the Nationals. D. Easterling seconded this motion.

J. Hiser relayed information from the AARA Board meeting — California withdrew from the AARA due to personality conflicts; AARA will have a "platinum" Visa charge card offering up to \$50,000 dollars of credit; A Teacher Certification Program will go into effect 1/1/87; Rankings are processed in Colorado within four days; A Junior's handbook is being developed; The U.S. Team will participate on the European Tour scheduled during February. Cathie Frederickson will also attend.

NEW RULE PROPOSALS:

The National Society for The Prevention of Blindness is in the process of setting standards for racquetball safety glasses. Once this has been completed, only lensed guards, bearing their seal, will be required to be worn during tournament play.

Doubles teams may change partners before their first round is played.

Linesmen must signal at the same time. Screen serves are fault serves.

A ball rebounding out of the court from any playable surface (Ex: walls, floor, etc.) will end the volley instead of being replayed as a hinder.

Next RAM meeting will be held at the downtown Lansing YMCA on November 11 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is adjourned.

RICK HALL — A NEW MEMBER ON THE RAM BOARD

Rick Hall represents the Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons Association on the RAM Board. Rick is the current President of the GRRPA, and has been actively involved with that organization for the past four years. Rick and his wife, Pat, are originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and moved to Michigan 15 years ago. The Hall Family: Rick, Pat, Cori (18) and Gary (15) reside in Kentwood, Michigan which is just south of Grand Rapids. The Halls are members of the 29th Street Fitness Center where Rick and Gary play racquetball and Pat and Cori enjoy aerobics. Rick works at Amway Corporation Headquarters in Ada, Michigan and when not working or playing racquetball, he is probably fishing.



IT'S AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Stu Hastings is a 4 time Veteran State Champion. He is a member of the Head and Foot Joy Advisory Staff*

along with AME Grips. Stu was also voted 1985 and 1986 Michigan Racquetball Player of the Year.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A SERVE?

Most people think that the purpose of a serve is to ace the opponent and get a quick point. Although I understand the logic, I would prefer to have you think of serves in another way.

The purpose of a serve is to get a weak return. A weak return would be any ball that allows you to go offensive (kill the ball, drive the ball, etc.). Think of it like this. How many times do you ace an opponent during a game to 11? Once? Twice? Maybe three times? Of all the serves you hit during the game, what percent do you think are aces? Most players, even if they have a good serve, ace opponents only 3 - 5% of the time. If in a game to 11, you ace an opponent more than 2 or 3 times — this means your serve is super effective or you are playing an opponent that is tripping over his seeing eye dog. It really shouldn't happen more than that. About 95% of all your serves will be returned to the front wall. That means they will be in play.

This is the area of serving that I would like to address. Since most people go into the serving box looking for the ace, guess what they do after they hit the serve. You've got it. They stand there watching with their \$100 racket, which now doubles as a Nikon camera which they use to take pictures of the return. Since 95% of the serves are returned most servers get "trapped" in the service box which kills their reaction time for any return which has been made. Logically you should serve and "fight" to get out of the box to give yourself reaction time and angle on the return of a serve. When you serve and stand you are only 15-20 ft. from the front wall. The deeper into the court you can get, the more pressure you put on your opponent to make a strong return. If he doesn't you are there to go offensive.

How much thinking goes into serving? With most people, there isn't much. What is the most common first serve? Drive serve! Where? Backhand. What a surprise. Speaking of surprise, the key to effective serving is keep your opponent guessing. If they know what is coming, even if the serve is excellent, the opponent readiness helps to neutralize the effectiveness of your excellent serve. When you are serving, you should think of yourself as a baseball pitcher. Even though your fast ball may be your best pitch you must use your secondary pitches so that your opponent doesn't "sit on" your fastball. By using secondary serves the effectiveness of your "best" serve will be preserved.

At the open level, I usually know my opponents and have charted them many

times. Therefore, I usually know what serves to use to be effective in attack. However, they may have worked on their weaknesses, so I must be flexible and able to adjust and change serves when necessary in order to continue producing weak returns. When you play new players that you are unfamiliar with, you should start the match with a variety of serves. This will allow you to find a pattern of weaknesses right away. Most people go with their "best" serve only, for 3/4 of the game and then on a time out at 9-9 (in a game to 11) I ask them, "How does he handle a lob to his forehand?" They usually respond, "I don't know, I haven't used any." 9 serves 9 is not the time to be experimenting. They should have found out in the first 5 or 6 points in the game. What this opponent prefers or doesn't handle well. Late in the game is when you should go with those serves.

This brings me to a common question asked at clinics: If you use a serve that the opponent cannot handle well, should you keep using this serve until he shows you that he can return it well? The answer is yes or no. I know you are thinking, "thanks, that helps a lot." Now the reason — the higher the level of play, the quicker their ability to adjust. So, at the open level you need more variety because they will "read" and adjust quicker to your serves, which will allow them to go offensive sooner. The lower the level of play, the longer it will take for the receiver to adjust. This is why you can use the same serve over and over and over and dominate or control a whole game or match using 1 serve. This rare at the open level. So, the lower the level of play, keep "singing the same tune" until your opponent can at least "hum" it.

SERVE BY THE NUMBERS

Through the use of a numbering system, I can teach my students to have a specific place to stand and a specific place to hit the ball. This gives a white front wall divisions or segmentations. This gives my players a distinct visual image of where to stand and where to hit. Before you ever hit the ball, you should have a visual picture of where you should stand, hit to, and where the serve will end up in the back court.

If the ball deviates by 2-3 inches high or low on the front wall during a drive serve, this is the difference between a ball coming off the back wall and a short serve. Most people just get in the box and hit the ball with a general purpose. That is, they hit kind of low, kind of to the left side of the court, and kind of hard. Yet they expect

their serve to do a very specific thing in the back court. The mind is a funny thing, it will do exactly what it is programmed to do. If you give it general instructions for what you want done, it will get the ball to the general area. The higher your level of play, the more precise and specific your serves must be. So, I suggest that you have a specific point to start from; hit to, and a specific result thought out before you ever hit the ball. Once again, can a person general directions to a tournament site find it? Example: It's south of Flint, just north of Detroit, in Madison Heights by 12 mile, just near the exit. If these directions get the job done, consider yourself lucky. I prefer not to leave anything to chance. I attempt to think out every fact. It is important to realize that each serving position has advantages and disadvantages.

Many people serve from the 2 position (Fig. 1). This allows easy relocation to center court after the serve by dropping deep several steps. It also allows a drive serve to forehand or backhand by hitting from the 2 positions in the box to the 1% position on the wall. Also a serve from the 2 position to the 2% is a serve to the forehand. See how it works. However, no 2 serve is easily possible from the 2 position.

Fig. 3 position serving allows a semi-screen serve to the forehand side, a Z-serve to the forehand, and a wide-angled drive serve to the backhand. Even though the drive serve motion is the same, the angle is much wider and moves away from the opponent's backhand. The disadvantage to this position is that you are out of center court on serve return and you must "fight" to get into center court position after serve.

1 position serving (Fig. 3). The serves and angles are the same as 3 position serves, except we are on the opposite side of the service box.

Don't forget. Serving by the numbers gives you a specific place to stand and to serve to on the front wall. You can change any of the serves used by changing any of the following: 1. speed. 2. height. 3. angle. A change in any of these 3 variables will change what the serve will do once it reaches the back court. Go onto the court and be creative. Experiment with different serves and create your own "bag of tricks." Always use variety in your choice of serves so you will not be predictable. When you get into the service box, stop and think out your serve. Don't simply walk up and hit the ball. This is the only time you have to think and plan before you hit. Remember: it's as easy as 1, 2, 3.

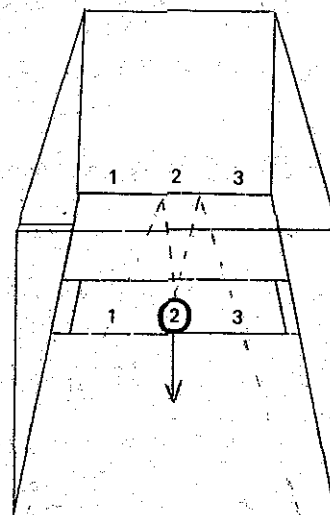


Fig. 1

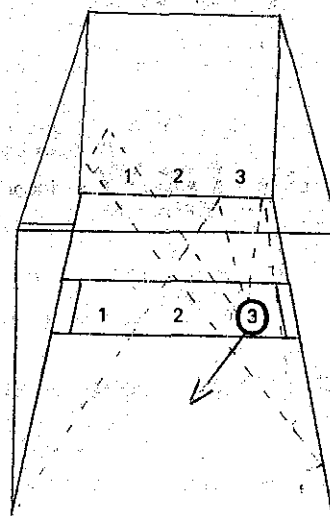


Fig. 2

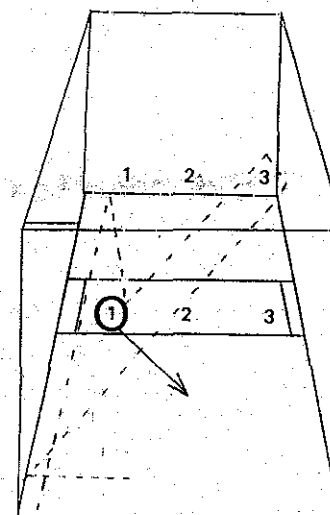


Fig. 3

MALE & FEMALE RACQUETBALL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR FOR 1986 SAY THANKS!

Finishing high at the 1986 Nationals in Houston was nice, but being recognized by your peers as a top player in your state is an honor. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those that voted for us as the 1986 Male and Female Racquetball Players of the Year. We continually strive to play to the best of our ability and take pride in our performance and reputation on and off the court. We appreciate that many of you are aware of our continuous effort to excel not only in local competition but national competition as a Michigan Representative. Thank you for your recognition. It is very much appreciated.

Racquetball contains a super class of people. We are proud to be a part of this group.

Stu Hastings/Joetta Hastings

P.S. Tracey Troszak asked me to relay her appreciation for nomination as Most Improved Female for 1986. She worked very hard to improve her game and felt very good to know that others noticed her effort.

Classic Story

"THE BIG ROWDY CROWD"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Usually I write the "Classic Story" about something that has happened a year ago or longer. But this was just such a different happening at a tournament that I couldn't wait a year to write about it.

Recently there was a racquetball tournament held at the MBA Health and Wellness Center in Muskegon, Michigan. The Lynn Hahn Hall of Fame tournament offered prize money for the top eight men (\$500 first place) and the top four women (\$400 first place) in the PRO divisions. The tournament drew people from other states including the defending champion Jack Newman from Chicago.

The tournament also had a banquet on Saturday night in the gym with 10 people dishing out food to all players and their guests. Even the owner, Tom Corinti, was busy handing out baked potatoes. There was barbecued chicken, barbecued ribs, and even Bartles & Jaymes wine coolers.

After the banquet we began setting the tournament desk up again to run some matches when about 9:30 pm on Saturday night there were about 10 people on the bleachers watching a match that was taking place on court number five. A few minutes later the crowd had grown to 17 or 18 people and they were getting louder with the cheers and applause. Also, at this time there was a matching going on court four and there were only 5 or 6 people on this court. The two people on court four were

Ric Scott and Ken Harper who are open players. So now I began to wonder who was on court 5 to draw more spectators. I thought maybe it was Chris Cole, another talented open player. Later I found out it was not Chris and not even an open match.

Now I went upstairs to post scores and there hanging over the bannister looking at court 5 was another group of about 20 people watching, cheering and applauding the match on court 5. By the time I got downstairs there were about 25 more people on the bleachers. Still thinking it was an open match, I thought maybe it was Sean Moskwa. But, it couldn't be Sean because Jim Floyd beat him a few hours earlier. The whole match between Jim and Sean went to an 11-10 tiebreaker without any linesmen and any calls being appealed. These two players deserved a round of applause for their sportsmanship during the entire match.

Well, I finally looked at the court sheet and found out what the match was on court five. As this match went on the crowd both upstairs and downstairs grew bigger and rowdier. The air was so thick with excitement that you could cut it with a knife. Passersby would stop and look over at the glass court and then sit down on the bleachers or stand to watch what would happen next. The match seemed like it would never end. Finally one of the players called a time-out. Mike Anderson jumped off the bleachers and ran to the door to give some advice to one of the



GREG LEAR #29
SCOTT (PEE-WEE) LANG BY THE DOOR GETTING INSTRUCTION

players. Then 8 or 10 of the spectators on the bleachers stood up and started cheering. It literally was **SOME KIND OF COLLEGE CHEER!!!** I had never seen anything like this before and I have been to a lot of racquetball tournaments.

I then walked over to watch the end of this tiebreaker. The players were running into walls, diving and having rallies that were lasting 30 or 40 hits. These guys never argued with each other or the ref and they played without linesmen. The match was one of the most exciting matches of the tournament. Hats should go off to the players of this match, Greg Lear (Muskegon) and Scott (Pee-Wee) Lang (Big Rapids) and also to the contingent of

Ferris State College cheerers on the bottom bleachers and to the Muskegon cheerers on the upstairs bannisters for creating again the kind of excitement and fair play that should be inherent in all racquetball events. Oh, by the way Greg Lear defeated Scott Lang in the semi-finals of this Class C Consolation event.

A classic story is a racquetball related story about an event from the past. For those of you who were there and involved, it will be fun remembering. For those who weren't there, I hope you will enjoy some racquetball "history" from Michigan.

Jim Easterling

2nd Annual Women's Fall "Head Start" Racquetball Tournament

Hosted by: **COURT HOUSE CLUB**
617 Hemphill Rd.
Flint, Michigan 48507

FINAL RESULTS: 1986

OPEN

- 1st Irene Ackerman - Chmura - Troy MI - Gateway Racquet Club
- 2nd Beth Ann Gutowski - Mt Morris Court House Club
- 3rd Tracey Troszak - Warren MI - Backwall Racquet Club
- 4th Joetta Hastings - Clarkston Court House Club

A

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

B

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

C

- 1st Frances Flowers - Burton MI - Court House Club

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

D

- 1st Dania Habeck - Saginaw MI - YMCA
- 2nd Charlene Allen - Flint MI - Court House Club
- 3rd Stacey Barbas - Rochester MI - Meadowbrook Courts
- 4th Donella Rak - Davison MI - Court House Club

NOVICE

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

COMMENTS: The 1986 WOMEN'S FALL HEAD START hosted by COURT HOUSE CLUB in Flint, Michigan had the largest draw of Michigan women open players of any Michigan racquetball tournament this season. Entrants included 1985 outstanding female player and last year's OPEN DIVISION CHAMPION, Joetta Hastings, of Clarkston and the 1985 most improved female player, Tracey Troszak, from Warren, Michigan.

OPEN DIVISION CHAMPION was Irene Chmura from Troy, Michigan, GATEWAY RACQUET CLUB, who won the double elimination tournament after being eliminated in the second round by Beth Ann Gutowski of Flint, COURT HOUSE CLUB. Chmura then won her way through the losers bracket and earned the opportunity for a rematch with Gutowski. She defeated Gutowski in a three game tiebreaker 13-15, 15-9, and 11-5. Chmura won 15-11, 14-15, and 11-7 in a final rematch.

Alida Mainhardt from Mt. Clemens, GATEWAY RACQUET CLUB, overcame Debbie Weston from Port Huron, COURT ROOMS NORTH, after being beaten in a third round tiebreaker by Weston 15-3, 3-15 and 11-7. The 'A' Division finals were a different story when Mainhardt won decisively in two straight 15-5, 15-7 and again 15-7, 15-5.

Competition in the 'B' Division was keen and spotlighted by the entry of girls from the intercollegiate teams from FERRIS STATE COLLEGE & CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY. Excitement prevailed in the semis when Ferris State's Linda Cok was defeated by Central's Melody Matties. The division was finally won by Lynn Graebner from Saginaw, YMCA in two straight 15-8, 15-7 over Matties.

Homecourt advantage followed the 'C' Division which finally matched COURT HOUSE CLUB'S Frances Flowers and Barb Rockwell in a final rematch where Flowers won 15-10, 15-11.

'D' Division was dominated by Dania Habeck from Saginaw, who won the final over COURT HOUSE CLUB'S Charlene Allen 15-10, 15-0.

In her first tournament ever Claire Kruse from Rochester, UNIVERSITY RACQUET CLUB won the final in the Novice Division over DAVISON RACQUET CLUB'S Denise McConnolee in a tiebreaker 5-15, 15-7, 15-2.

This year's FALL WOMEN'S HEAD START was a huge success. Sponsored HEAD PLAYERS contributed a great deal to the success of the tournament. Al May, golden masters teaching pro from COURT HOUSE CLUB was Head Referee for the event and coordinated the training and scheduling of the referees for the tournament. Stu Hastings, Team Head Coordinator and the best known teaching pro in the Michigan area conducted a Racquetball Training Clinic on Saturday night after the evening banquet.

HEAD RACQUET SPORTS COMPANY made a significant contribution to see that the "1986 WOMEN'S FALL HEAD START" was a memorable experience for Michigan's women racquetball players. Each woman that entered the tournament was given an individually packaged HEAD AIR EXPRESS ball. Also, each player received a complementary "HEAD TOURNAMENT SWEATSHIRT".

This was the second year for this all women's event at COURT HOUSE CLUB. If you did not attend this year, put it on your calendar for 1987.

Super Seven Uses New Ranking System

The Bud Light Super Seven Tournaments will experiment with its own ranking system this season. Although everyone who competes in these tournaments will also receive state and national AARA ranking points, the new system will be used only for those players competing in the Super Seven Tournaments.

Initial ranking points will be assigned to each player based on last year's performance. New players will be ranked at the bottom of their respective divisions, or if information is known regarding their ability level a value will be assigned. Once a player has established a rating, participation in eligible competitions affect his or her point total. Whether the rating increases, decreases, or remains the same depends upon the outcome of each match

and the caliber of each opponent. The following charts outline how and when changes occur.

Standard	Men	Women
A	1950 & over	1400 & over
B	1700 - 1949	1200 - 1399
C	1500 - 1699	1000 - 1199
D	below 1500	below 1000

RATING INCREASE:

- * Defeats a higher rated player
- * Defeats a player rated no more than 249 points lower

RATING DECREASE:

- * Loses to a lower rated player
- * Loses to a player rated no more than 249 points higher

RATING REMAINS UNCHANGED:

- * Defeats a player rated 250 or more points lower
- * Loses to a player rated 250 or more points higher
- * Plays an unrated player

Difference in rating points between players	Points Gained & Lost	
	HRPW	LRPW
250 plus	0	32
200 - 249	1	26
150 - 199	2	20
100 - 149	3	15
50 - 99	5	12
25 - 49	7	10
0 - 24	8	8

*HRPW = If Higher Rated Player Wins.

*LRPW = If Lower Rated Player Wins.

The number of points gained and lost varies with the difference in rating points between players. Hence, the problem of top players padding their point total with wins against less skilled opponents is avoided. The more match results there are in the system, the more accurate the rankings produced. The program also includes an adjustment factor that reduces the rating points of inactive players. The factor is activated after 3 months of inactivity and 5 or more points are deducted per computer run. There are 9 computer runs.

This system is an experiment but it is hoped it will help eliminate some of the inconsistencies of the present AARA system.

Jim Hiser

Saginaw Valley Racquet Club

Bud Light Super Seven

Racquetball returned to Saginaw with the season's third Super Seven tournament. After an absence of three years, Leonard Lewis went all out to prepare his club (it was flooded out in October) for Saginaw's first Super Seven. The event attracted over 200 players in divisions.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

MENS PRO	
1st	Mark Kilreath - Canada
2nd	Mike Anderson - Gr. Rapids
Semi	Larry Fox, Chris Cole

MENS OPEN	
1st	Dan Dutcher - Backwall
2nd	Jesse Graves - University
Semi	Dave Larry, Blaine Harris

MENS A	
1st	Dan Verbeer - Gr. Blanc
2nd	Mike Moody - Saginaw
Semi	Gordon Gallagher, Ken Bonnett

MENS B	
1st	Bryan Kircher - E. Lansing
2nd	Marty Lowe - Gr. Blanc
Semi	Jeff Kummier, Gary Luczak

MENS C	
1st	Steve Váas - Waterford
2nd	Gerald Tucker - Courthouse
Semi	Ray Matthews, Spencer Webb

MENS D	
1st	Jim Fobear - Saginaw
2nd	Howard Lazzaro - Bag City
Semi	Taslo Brymar, Dan Morey

MENS NOVICE	
1st	Thomas Self - Court House
2nd	Patrick Goodwin - Travese City
Semi	Todd Hayes, Veto Basirco

MENS 30 & 25	
1st	Stu Hastings - Backwall
2nd	Dan Paskan - Ypsilanti
Semi	Jack White, Gordon Gallagher

MENS 30B	
1st	Gary Luczak
2nd	Jim Wray - Saginaw
Semi	John Copcinglio, Gilbert Solis

MENS 35A	
1st	Ken Bonnett - Gr. Rapids
2nd	Jim Hiser - Davison
Semi	J.R. Slavik, Ron Liikala

MENS 35B	
1st	Steve Burgdorf - Muskegon
2nd	Dave Lepczyk - Davison
Semi	J.R. Slavik, Terry Lawlor

MENS 35C	
1st	Larry Cole - Davison
2nd	Bill Allan
Semi	Bill Gentile, Michael Moir

MENS 45A	
1st	Gaindurs Strautniers
2nd	Thomas Sharun - Wyoming
Semi	Don Revils, Sam Key

WOMENS OPEN	
1st	Sheri Anderson - Gr. Rapids
2nd	Kathy Stellema - Wayne
Semi	Tracey Troszek, J. Hastings

WOMENS A	
1st	Betty Ann Gilliland
2nd	Lona Morris - Courthouse
Semi	Theresa Delaney, S. Vanderbrook

WOMENS B	
1st	Sandy White - Backwall
2nd	Dania Habeck - Saginaw
Semi	Jo Hatter, Lynn Graebner

WOMENS 25	
1st	Joetta Hastings
2nd	Irene Chmura
Semi	S. Anderson, L. Kishigian

OPEN DOUBLES	
1st	J. Floyd/N. Rallis
2nd	M. Anderson/J. Hiser

JUNIORS	
1st	Marv Riley, Jr.
2nd	Alex Cobb
3rd	Brian Jones

SPORTSMANSHIP IS THE NAME OF THE GAME

During the past year I have competed in several running races, triathlons, softball leagues, paddleball and golf tournaments. But my first love is racquetball and that is why I am concerned about racquetball. When I compare my experiences in the different sports, I am afraid that it becomes very obvious that racquetball has among the worst examples of sportsmanship.

The reason that I think this is true is largely to do with the history of the sport. The boom took place in the 'me' generation of the seventies when we all watched John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors scream their way to the top of the tennis world. Racquetball was unlike most sports that we learned from coaches in school or Little League. We also did not have a chance to learn etiquette from our parents. In fact I am sure the vast majority of our parents never played the game.

So where did we learn to play? From watching others and reading about the sport. Neither place is a good source. In books we are told about psyching our opponents out by yelling with officials or delaying games to wipe up non-existent wet marks. In reality we see these "technics" employed weekly in tournaments. The end result of this is that the impressionable players are a pain in the ear and the juniors are the worst of the bunch. This behavior leads to problems such as trouble getting people to referee and people who quit playing because they are tired of the putting up with the hassles.

The solution to this problem is complex. First the atmosphere of the tournaments must change from win at all cost to let's have some good clean competition and fun. Secondly, the rules should be strictly enforced about bad language. Addition penalties should be considered for slamming doors, hitting balls into the point and yelling at officials. Thirdly, someone has got to act as guardians over our junior players. If not their parents then tournament directors. We are all familiar with the Bjorn Borg story where his mother locked up his racquet and forbade him from playing until his behavior improved. Perhaps referees should be asked if the participants conducted themselves well when they hand in the scorecard. Repeat offenders should be told that continuing problems could lead to suspension from tournament play.

I know that I have had tournaments ruined because of the unsportsmanlike conduct of an opponent and I know I am not alone. We cannot afford to lose players who are good sports because of selfish players' actions. We must teach all players that sportsmanship is more than shaking hands at the end of the game.

LET'S MAKE THAT FIRST TOURNAMENT A PLEASURE

What was your first tournament like? The reason I ask is that there is a growing concern over the popularity of racquetball. Articles are written about the need to increase the number of participants. My question is: What are we doing to make sure that a player's first tournament is not his last? I remember my first tournament clearly because it was only two years ago. I was nervous about a lot of things. Was I in the correct division? How much time will I get to warm up? Will the match start at the exact starting time? What about rules? Lockers and towels? Referees? Playing well in my first match barely crossed my mind.

Here are a few suggestions to make the first tournament the start of a new friendship:

- 1) Put a space on the entry form to be checked if this is a player's first tournament.
- 2) Tournament directors should make a special effort to introduce themselves to new players.
- 3) Set up a suggestion box. After the tournament, players could write about their likes and dislikes of the weekend.

In fact it would be nice if directors introduced themselves to all players. They could say: "Hello my name is John Larin. If you have any questions about rules or future tournaments, please feel free to ask me. I hope you enjoy yourself and we see you again." The director would not have to sound like the counter person at the local McDonalds but let's make it a little more friendly than "Name? Division? Shirt Size?"

The most important thing is to make all Michigan Racquetball Players feel welcome. Not because they are top notch players or because they know the director, but because they share with us a common interest in the sport. The spirit expressed by signs around the Host Club welcoming players to a tournament should be reinforced by the staff.

John Larin

RACQUETBALL DEALER

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

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

WANTED — Seamco Blue Streak racquets. Call 'Radiation Man' (517) 485-6025 (H)

WANTED — I am a collector of racquetball cans. I need the cans (or container) of the Z ball, and PENN with the picture of the shirt on the outside. I will buy or trade. Call Jim Easterling (517) 887-0459 (H)

FREE VOIT SCORE CARDS

FREE VOIT DRAW SHEET

You pick up or pay for postage. Call Jim Easterling (517) 887-0459 (H)

Michigan Members Should Vote!!

The AARA will be publishing a number of proposed new rule changes, and a list of nominees for the next national board election. As a voting member of your state and national governing bodies, you should express your opinions and vote on issues that concern your sport.

In the upcoming issues of *Racquetball in Review* (the national AARA publication) you will have an opportunity to vote for the National Board of Directors. This is your chance to elect individuals who will dictate the future of your sport for the next three years. Take time to fill out your ballots and mail them back to AARA headquarters

★ **PLAYER PROFILE** continued

Answers: 1) Denny Wood. 2) Denny Wood. 3) Denny Wood. 4) Denny Wood
5) Denny Wood. 6) Denny Wood. 7) Judy Huhta (Denny was the second director)
8) Denny Wood.

Ok, now you have the idea that this guy has done a lot. You are right. Allow me to tell you more about Denny, and his wife Linda.

**DENNIS WOOD**

Age: 39
Marital Status: Married, Wife - Linda
Children: One girl age 15 - Julie
Work: Buick Olds Cadillac Group
Denny works in Product Engineering.
He is responsible for one of the major buildings.
Education: Undergraduate education
Hobbies: Racquetball
(Denny plays senior B division in tournaments)
and Computer Technology
Sponsor: Six years with Head now Ektelon
Residence: Lansing, Michigan

★ **Racquetball History**

Denny first played the game at Lansing Community College in 1975. He took a class at the college and learned how to play the game. He played one year, then his wife Linda took up the sport around Christmas time. Denny played a club tournament in 1976, attended a national convention of the USRA (United States Racquetball Association) and became involved in state politics by becoming a state chairman. Chuck Levy and Terry Fancher under the organization of Bob Kendler offered free balls, cards, draw sheets etc. if Denny would start a state organization and have a state championship.

Memorial weekend 1977 found the first state championship in Ypsilanti with Gil Schmidt at the Sports Illustrated Club. Believe it or not they had a 300 draw. 1978 Denny and Linda met Steve Strandemo and held several clinics for players, to this day they are good friends and see each other often. The 1978 state championship was at the Okemos club; it was totally organized by the Woods. 1978 brought the MRA into existence. The MRA developed a series of tournaments where the club ran the tournament and the MRA did all the promotion and organization.

In 1979 Matchpoint Enterprises was incorporated. Matchpoint was a proprietary company to promote racquetball tournaments. Denny got the idea from Illinois organizer, Alan Shetzer. Principles in this company were Denny and Linda Wood, Gary and Peggy Doty, and Jim Easterling. Matchpoint ran a very successful series of tournaments that were very well received and attended.

In 1981 the Woods were bought out of Matchpoint by Doty's and Easterling. At this time Denny was chairman of MRA, and running a competing series of tournaments for a profit. This arrangement it was decided, was a conflict of interest. Denny removed himself as the chairman. The MRA, as a state organization, had a series of tournaments that funded the state organization. The emotional split occurred because Denny ran a proprietary business in competition with the MRA. Today, and for several years now, the state organization is completely volunteer. Denny was the first to use the idea of Losers referee, and to this day his idea is the most dominant form of officiating tournament matches. For those of you who like winners ref, you know who to complain to.

In 1982 Denny formed Racquetball Promotions Limited, and began the Grand Siam series. The Woods, ran the first four tournaments alone. In 1983 Jim Hiser joined the Woods in running the series. Hiser ran all the tournaments in 1984 and renamed it the Super Seven Series.

Denny participated in many volunteer projects which include: the formation of the state organization, acting as chairman and president, remaining active as a board of director of MRA, and numerous clinics for the player.

His most memorable tournament occurred at Southfields Racquet time in the C division in 1978; Denny played twice Friday night, three times Saturday, three times Sunday, and played the finals Monday losing to Cle Melvin. Wow, you had to be in shape in those days!

In 1980 Denny organized a tournament at Franklin Racquet Club which had the largest draw ever in the state of Michigan. 537 players competed. 70 women in the C division alone.

1983 shows Denny helping to start the AARA (American Amateur Racquetball Association) state unit called the MARA with Hiser, Cole and Wilhelm, etc.

Denny was named the first Regional Director, and held the first regional in Lansing.

Head Playboy Team Championship Midwest had Denny organizing and developing this concept within our state.

How does Denny feel about the future of racquetball. He says, "The future of racquetball is level plane, stabilized, as no new players are entering the market. Evidence the growth in the age divisions and not in the ability or junior divisions. Our best supporters are growing with us in the sport. Programming should be addressed to the adult player, since this population is the best long term group for the sport." Other problems include: "racquetball is too expensive for many of the young and juniors; it is viewed as an elitist sport; sandbagging needs to be totally abolished; the younger individuals don't see racquetball as a weekend recreational sport; and it takes a whole weekend to compete for a trophy or a title."

Many times in our history as a people outstanding individuals have not been recognized for their accomplishments until well after the time of their work. Denny is one of those quiet workers who has not been afraid to try something new, and to follow through with the hours of labor to make it a reality. He has had a profound impact on the sport, his fingerprints may be found on many of the procedures that we feel are routine today.

**RAM Facility Listing**

Holland Health & Racquet Club

572 E. 8th St.
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-1417

20 Aerobic Classes Weekly
22 Nautilus Stations
2 Free Weight Rooms
10 Racquetball Courts
Whirlpools
Dry Heat Saunas
Suntanning
Indoor Running Track
Masseur/Masseuse
Babysitting Services
Daily Guest Prices For:
Workout Aerobics and Racquetball

THE BACKWALL BACKWALL

FITNESS & RACQUET CLUB

2 Ajax Drive
Madison Heights, MI 48071
(Located at the corner of John R and Ajax Drive, just north of 12 Mile Road)
(313) 589-0900

Detroit Area's Ultimate Racquetball Club
Competitive Play at All Levels
Travelling and In-House Leagues
Instructor - Stu Hastings
RAM's Male Player of the Year 1986
10 Racquetball Courts
Aerobics
Fitness Center
Free Weights
Lifecycles and Lifeflower
Stairmaster
Training Salon
Nursery
Whirlpool and Saunas
Nutrition Counseling
Personalized Fitness Programs

AC Alpine Club

Alpine Fitness Center, Inc.
1040 Four Mile Rd. NW
(across from Family Foods)
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 784-3900

Unlimited Racquetball
7 Courts
Leagues
Challenge Courts - Wallyball
Aerobics
Custom Built Studio
20 Classes Per Week
Extensive Free Weights
Saunas and Whirlpools
Child Care Available
Complete Training Center
Nautilus
22 Station
Personalized Programming
Guests Welcome

29th Street Fitness Center

2701 29th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(between Breton & Schaeffer)
(616) 942-5190

11 Racquetball Courts
4 Continuous Challenge Courts:
Racquetball & Wallyball
22 Station Circuit Nautilus
Complete Free Weights
2 Large Custom Aerobic Studios
Indoor Running Track
State of the Art Tanning Bed
Completely Co-Ed
Sauna & Whirlpool:
In Men's & Women's Lockerrooms
Guests Are Welcome

Tournament Calendar

December

Dec 5 - 7 Super Seven 4
29th Street - Grand Rapids
Dec 12 - 14 MCRA Challenge Series 2
Salt River - New Baltimore

1986-

1987

January

Jan 9 - 11 Super Seven 5
Ann Arbor Court Club - Ann Arbor
Jan 16 - 18 Riverview 1000
Riverview - Grand Rapids
Jan 23 - 25 Muskegon AAU Winter Games
MBA - Muskegon
Jan 23 - 25 Roll Out Classic 3
Grand Blanc Court Club - Grand Blanc
Jan 23 - 25 Intercollegiate Championships
29th Street - Grand Rapids
Jan 30
Feb 1 Patrons West Mich. Championship
Western Michigan

February

Feb 6 - 8 Super Seven 6
Rose Shores East - Roseville
Feb 13 - 15 MCRA Challenge Series 3
Clinton - Mt. Clemens
Feb 20 - 22 AARA Regionals
29th Street - Grand Rapids
Feb 27
March 1 RAM State Dbls Championship
Woodland Racquet Club - Brighton

March

March 6 - 8 Super Seven 7
Grand Blanc Court Club - Grand Blanc
March 20 - 22 Patrons Grand Rapids City
Championship
Grand Rapids

April

April 3 - 5 Super Seven 8
Coliseum - Taylor
April 3 - 5 AARA Junior Regionals
Coliseum - Taylor
April 10 - 12 RAM State Singles
Championship

(tba)
April 24 - 26 Three Days in April
Riverview - Grand Rapids

May

May 1 - 3 MCRA Challenge Series 4
Players Club - Warren
May 15 - 17 Super Seven Finale
Backwall - Madison Heights