

2808 S. Deerfield, Lansing, Michigan 48910 (517) 882-8789

SEPTEMBER, 1980

#### MRA Newsletter

As most readers of "Racquetball Today" know, that magazine has expanded country-wide and will no longer devote a section to Michigan only news. Consequently, to keep Michigan players updated on racquetball happenings, the MRA will publish a bi-monthly newsletter. The newsletter will be available at all clubs throughout the state, as well as at all MRA tournaments. Everyone is encouraged to submit articles and information of interest for the newsletter to Ron De Munter, 4022 - 82nd Street, Byron Center, Michigan 49315.

### MRA Membership

Beginning with the first MRA tournament in September in Petoskey, all players participating in MRA tournaments must be members of the MRA. Membership can be obtained by paying a \$3.00 non-refundable annual fee. To make it more convenient for the MRA and the host racquetball club, it would be greatly appreciated if your dues would accompany your entry fee for your initial MRA tournament. All memberships expire at the end of each tournament season with the State Championship. Players are no longer required to be members of the USRA in order to participate in MRA tournaments. The annual membership fee will be used to print and distribute the MRA newsletter and for processing a statewide computerized ranking system.

# MRA Board Vacancies and Meetings

The MRA is seeking three individuals to fill one year vacancies on the MRA Board of Directors. Interested individuals must be members of the MRA and willing to contribute time and effort to help the MRA plan and carryout its activities. Board members are expected to attend Board meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Oak Park Athletic Club, 900 Long Blvd., Lansing. Those interested in the vacant Board positions should contact Dennis Wood by mail at 2808 S. Deerfield, Lansing, MI 48910 or by telephone at (517) 882-8789.

Additionally, all MRA members are encouraged to attend the open meetings of the MRA immediately following the Board meetings at 8:00 p.m., the first Tuesday of each month at the Oak Park Athletic Club. We consider your feedback on activities a valuable aid in determining the direction and objectives of the MRA.

#### Match Point Joins the M.R.A. for 1980-81

The MRA has secured the services of Match Point Enterprises to serve as tournament director for the 1980-81 MRA tournament season. Match Point first came aboard mid-way through last season to serve as tournament director for the MRA, and from your comments and letters we are sure you will be pleased with the MRA's decision to use Match Point once again.

For those of you new to MRA tournaments, you'll find that the professionalism, quality and consistency of our tournaments is as good as any state-wide organized tournaments in the country. This year the MRA, in conjunction with Match Point Enterprises, looks forward to bringing you matches that are on time, quality tournament souvenirs, great hospitality, friendly faces, and the opportunity to meet and compete against players of your own ability and experience. The latter is posible because all MRA draws are based on our computerized ranking system. Good luck in the 1980-81 MRA tour and we'll see you at the State Singles Championship in March.

## Michigan's Finest Win National Junior Championships

A big congratulation is extended to Jimmy Floyd and Stacey Fletcher for winning the National Junior Championships last month in Indianapolis. Jimmy brought home the national title of the Boys 10 and Under Division in his first trip to the National Juniors. He met his toughest competition in the semi-finals against Sloan Holmes of Las Vegas, Jimmy lost a close first game 19-21, after spending an hour in a friendly warmup game with Sloan The second game was also neck and neck. At 19-19 he regained the serve and a point for the edge. In the final volley Jimmy was faced with a ceiling ball in the back right corner. Giving the appearance of returning a ceiling ball, he executed a perfect cross court pinch to the left corner. At that point, the crowd went wild and the parents became a nervous wreck. Floyd won the tie breaker by a narrow margin of 11-9, and went on to meet Brad Nelson of Lincoln, Nebraska, in the finals. Displaying antics of a comedian, he won easily 21-6, 21-8

(Continued on Page 4)

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TANIELIAN MICHAEL
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WEINER CY
MAURER BOB
LOCKETT THEODORE
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Michigan's Finest

Stacey Fletcher found herself in a grueling match against Liz Alverado for the Girls 17 and Under title. Stacey won the first game 21-15, easily maintaining a five point lead throughout. In the second game she quickly ran up a 6-0 lead, losing the serve only twice before Liz tied the score with two quick kills and a series of errors by Stacey. With determination, both players put on a spectacular display of court control, setting up each other for a kill or pass to tie the score at 15-15. Liz regained the serve again never to lose it to win game two.

Stacey again shot to a six point lead in the tiebreaker, only to have Liz close the gap. Family and fans shouted their support as she earned a point per serve while holding Liz at a meager 5. The last point, always, the hardest, came after the serve changed hands six times, but with a fantastic rollout to end the match 11-9.

#### **MRA Tournament Guidelines**

Again this year, seven MRA sanctioned tournaments, one a month, September thru March, will be held. To be eligible to compete in the 1981 State Singles Championship in March, you must PLAY in three of the seven tourneys. A forfiet, for any reason, WILL NOT count as one of your three required tournaments and no entry fees will be refunded after the entry deadline.

Other guidelines include mandatory eye protection; no prize money will be awarded; anyone having won \$1,000 in the past 12 months cannot play; and all players making it to the finals of a division **MUST** move up to the next division for the following MRA tournaments.

MRA Racquetball Rating System

Divisions	Men's Points	Women's Points
OPEN	2000 and above	1600 and above
"A"	1800 to 1999	1500 to 1599
"B"	1600 to 1799	1400 to 1499
"C"	1400 to 1599	1300 to 1399
"D"	1399 and under	1299 and under
"Seniors A"	1800 and above	1600 (starting)
"Seniors B"	1799 and under	•
"Masters"	1800 (starting)	
"Golden Masters"	1800 (starting)	
"Junior 17 & under"	1700 (starting)	1700 (starting)
"Junior 15 & under"	1500 (starting)	1500 (starting)
"Junior 13 & under"	1300 (starting)	1300 (starting)
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Rating Point Difference	Outcome	
	Normal	Upset
0 - 25	8	8
26 - 50	7	10
51 - 100	5	12
101 - 150	3	15
151 - 200	2	20
201 - 250	1	25
Over 250	0	30

Each player is initially assigned a rating according to their skill, based either on prior tournament performance or with other rated players. A person's rating fluctuates according to the outcome of their match. Players may have two or more ratings. EXAMPLE: A Masters player may be rated under Masters, Seniors and also Mens B. Using the illustrated table, let's go through a few examples. Give John a rating of 1910 and

Bill a 1890 rating. The difference in points is 20, which falls in the first category. If John won, he would gain 8 points; and Bill would lose 8 points. If Bill won, he would gain 8, and John would lose 8. Now, let's give John a rating of 1965 and leave Bill at 1890. The difference is now 75 points, the third category. If John won, he gains 5, Bill loses 5. If John lost, he loses 12 and Bill gains 12. As the rating point spread gets bigger, the player who should win gains less and the other player loses less. But if an upset occurs, the player who should win loses a greater amount of points and the other player increases the same amount to his rating. A running total is kept for all matches a person plays, and a net gain or loss is then figured to his existing rating, and a new rating is then established to be used in the next tournament. All ratings used in calculations are based on the existing rating at the end of each match in a tournament.

## 1980-81 MRA Tournament Schedule

1980-81 MRA Tournament Schedule		
MRA - 1 September 19, 20, 21	Little Traverse Racquet Club P.O. Box 825 Petoskey, Michigan 49770	
October 3, 4, 5	Riverview Racquet Club Grand Rapids, Michigan	
October 4	Referees Clinic Franklin Racquet Club Southfield, Michigan	
MRA - 2 October 10, 11, 12	Dearborn Athletic Club 2145 S. Telegraph Dearborn, Michigan 48124	
November 1	Referees Clinic Michigan Racquetball & Fitness Okemos, Michigan	
MRA - 3 November 7, 8, 9	Michigan Racquetball & Fitness 5609 W. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing, Michigan 48917	
November 14, 15, 16	Grand Rapids Racquet Club Grand Rapids, Michigan	
November 21, 22, 23	Franklin Racquet Club Southfield, Michigan	
MRA - 4 December 12, 13, 14	Racquetball Plus 40 E. Norton Muskegon, Michigan 49444	
<b>MRA - 5</b> January 9, 10, 11	Flint Racquetball & Fitness Club G-5219 W. Pierson Flushing, Michigan 48433	
<b>MRA - 6</b> February 6, 7, 8	Home Court Advantage 6529 S. Westnedge Portage, Michigan 49081	
<b>MRA - 7</b> February 27, 28 March 1	Woodland Racquet Club 7524 West Grand River Brighton, Michigan 48116	
MRA State Singles March 27, 28, 29	Michigan Racquetball & Fitness 5609 W. Saginaw Hwy.	

If you're planning a tournament, first clear the date with Jim Easterling at (313) 352-8004. That would avoid conflicting tournaments on the same weekend and ensure a more competitive draw for every tourney. Jim is the MRA's clearing house for tournaments and will be happy to add your tournament to the schedule and give you up to date tourney information.

Lansing, Michigan 48917