

Racquetball Reporter

quarterly publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

STATE SINGLES INFO. . . . - Twayne Howard

March 2005
Supplement

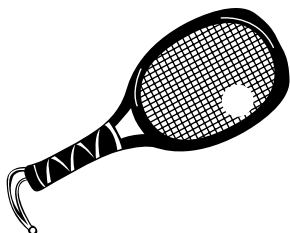
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Oh, I know what you're thinking. Some of you are thinking, "Well, well well, what have we here? It looks like a Newsletter, but it's a bit, um, skinny." Others are thinking, "Wait, that's a Newsletter, but where's my entry form for the State Singles Championship? I gotta get in the draw!"

Well my friends, it is the best of both worlds. What you are holding is a bone-a-fide Mini-Newsletter dedicated to the upcoming State Single Championship as well as the return of the Saturday evening Awards Banquet.

So you may ask, "We know what the State Singles Championship is, but what the heck is the Awards Banquet?"

Please allow the following pages to enlighten you.

AWARDS BANQUET

Many years ago, the Racquetball Association of Michigan used to host an Awards Banquet, where all the players came together to celebrate. "Celebrate what," you may ask? Celebrate everything. An evening where we can get together, enjoy good food, tell a few war stories, and enjoy some time together off the court with friends and families. At this event, they would give awards to players for various achievements during the year.

This sounded like such a great idea, the RAM Board decided to bring it back.

This year the RAM Board is pleased to announce that Saturday evening, April 9, 2005, you are cordially invited to celebrate racquetball in Michigan. The Awards Banquet will be held at the **Burton Manor**, 27777 Schoolcraft Rd in Livonia. The price for the banquet which includes a two meat buffet is \$28 for players and \$35 for non-players. There is a cash bar at 6:30 pm and dinner starts at 7:00 pm. You must sign up for the banquet when you send in your tournament entry form. Fill out the banquet information on the back of the tournament entry form. You will need to list the names of all the people attending the banquet and include the money with your tournament entry fee.

This will be a new and improved Award Banquet. The main event will be the induction of the Class of 2004 and 2005 in the Racquetball Association of Michigan Hall of Fame. Tom Blakeslee was elected in 2004. He will be inducted in the Hall along with anyone voted in this year. There are several excellent candidates, and it will be great to see who gets voted in.

In addition to the Hall of Fame induction, we will also give out several other awards for achievement during the 2004-2005 season. These include Male and Female Player of the Year, Junior of the Year, Club of the Year, Tournament Director of the Year and others. We will also recognize current State and National Champions.

"How will we determine the winners?" Another excellent question. The process is pretty easy. In this form, you can nominate players for the various awards. The RAM Board will take these nominations and determine the winners. If there is a clearcut winner based on the number of nominations, that person will be the winner, if it is close, the Board will determine the winners.

So let me sum this up. On Saturday evening at State Singles, we are having a Hall of Fame / Awards Banquet and everyone is invited. Time, location, cost and other details are in this form. We will be honoring great accomplishments during the year as nominated by you in this form.

This should be a very special evening and I look forward to seeing you there.

STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Well, I think we know what this is all about. Yup. The best of the best. Who's got it, who wants it, and who just can't give up until it's over. This is the culmination of the season, almost twenty tournaments in the making, the biggest title in Michigan. State Champion.

We expect over 170 players to come to the Coliseum in Taylor to vie for the title State Champion. You can count on the same great competition, and the Champions will take home Gold Medals, but what about the new stuff? "What new stuff", you say?



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Newsletter

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Well, first of all, we are trying to give more back to the players. For the first time, we will be using full USA Racquetball divisions. These are the same divisions offered at Nationals and the US Open. We may not end up running all of them, but you should be able to find more appropriate competition with more divisions offered. We hope you like the change.

We are going to try to break from the usual tournament food by holding a cookout all day Saturday. Yup, we'll be manning the grill to add a bit of a picnic flavor to the event. We have a few more surprises we are working on in the food department, but I don't want to reveal too much at this point.

Finally, for the first time, we are going to give out high quality tech shirts to all adult participants. We'll have an assortment of high quality Nike and Addidas shirts for your enjoyment. Yup, no more cotton. Make sure you get your entry in early and put down your shirt size. Boy are we gonna be stylin'!

Okay, I don't want to get too carried away. But let me just reiterate, it is gonna be cool!

If you have any questions on this or anything else, please feel free to let me know at president@michiganracquetball.net. As always check the web site at michiganracquetball.net for the latest information.

AWARDS

Here's where we need your help. Below

you will find eight categories where we would like you nominations. If one person clearly gets the most nominations, they will be named the winner of the award. If there are several nominations, the RAM Board will determine the person most deserving the award. Remember, we need your input. There are over 400 members and you get to see more than we do. If you would like to give a reason for the nomination and you feel it would help, please include it. **EVEN IF YOU DO NOT PLAY IN THE TOURNAMENT, YOU CAN SUBMIT NOMINATIONS AND ATTEND THE BANQUET!**

Female Player of the YEAR

Male Player of the YEAR

Junior of the YEAR

Most Improved Player

Sportsperson of the YEAR

Tournament Director of the YEAR

Club / Owner(s) of the YEAR

Other Award / Honorable Mention

Please look for the nomination information on the back of the entry form along with the banquet sign up information.

REFeree CLINIC/CERTIFICATION

Where: Players Club
13750 E. 11 Mile
Warren, MI

When: Tuesday, March 22
6:30 - 8:30 pm - Clinic
8:30 - 9:30 pm - Certification

Contact: Diana Easthope, 586-774-6900

Oops - Newsletter Correction

In the January edition of the Racquetball Reporter in the article about the US Open Championships, Karen Green was given credit for coaching Tia Lecland. Tia Lecland is coached by Moses Nicholson, not Karen Green. Moses has been coaching Tia for the last year and Karen for the last fifteen years. Moses, a former player, spends countless hours teaching the game to many other players at the Franklin Athletic Club. Moses provides all his great wisdom and expertise, asking nothing in return but for the players he works with to simply strive to be the best they can be. **HATS OFF TO MOSES NICHOLSON.**



*The Racquetball Reporter is printed courtesy of
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RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

2005 RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

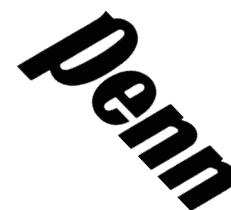
APRIL 8-10, 2005

COLISEUM II RACQUET CLUB

8715 Telegraph Rd., Taylor, MI

phone (313) 292-3940

fax (313) 292-3942

**ENTRY FEES & DEADLINE**

First Event	\$48
Second Event	\$17
Juniors	\$15
USRA Membership	\$30

AWARDS BANQUET - players	\$28
AWARDS BANQUET - guest	\$35

Telephone & Late entries additional \$5

For ALL TELEPHONE/LATE entries contact either TOM BLAKESLEE or TWAYNE HOWARD. If you leave a message, MAKE SURE YOU RECEIVE CONFIRMATION. Entries must be received by **SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2005**.

RULES AND REFEREES

Single elimination format with matches consisting of two games to fifteen and a tie-breaker to eleven. USA Racquetball rules apply including **mandatory USAR-approved lensed eyeguards**. All

first round Open Division losers (except for players receiving a bye) will drop into the Elite Division.

STARTING TIMES

Play may begin on Friday, April 8 for draws of 16 or more. Every effort will be made to reduce Friday play. **Call the club on Thursday, April 7, 2005 after 5:00 pm** for starting times or check online at: <http://www.michiganracquetball.net>

AWARDS

Awards will be given for the first four places in divisions of 16 or more. Each participant will receive a tournament souvenir. All juniors will receive a Team Michigan shirt and participation award.

ELIGIBILITY

Any participant must live or work full time in the state of Michigan, or be a member of RAM. Players must be able to provide proof if challenged.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Tom Blakeslee (586) 468-2787

Twayne Howard (616) 771-0312

Stephanie Winfrey

Jack White

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 2, 2005

Name _____ Club Affiliation _____ Shirt Size _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (days) _____ (evenings) _____ Date of Birth _____

Email address: _____

Make checks payable to **RAM**, and mail to **RAM State Singles Championships, 38114 Lakeshore, Harrison Twp., MI 48045**

Entry Fee	\$48	_____
2nd Event Fee	\$17	_____
Junior Fee	\$15	_____
USRA Membership	\$30	_____
Telephone/Late fee	\$5	_____
AWARDS BANQUET	\$28/\$35	_____
Total		_____

Waiver clause: I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors & administrators, waive & release any & all claims for damages I may have against RAM, the host club, tournament staff, & their agents, for all injuries which may be suffered by me in conjunction with my participation in this tournament.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(parent/guardian signature if under 18)

DIVISIONS*circle correct choices - limit 2 divisions (1 age, 1 skill)*

	MENS		WOMENS	
Open	24 - Open	24 - A	35+ C	55+ A
A	25+ Open	24 - B	35+ D	55+ B
B	30+ Open	24 - C		55+ C
C	35+ Open	24 - D	40+ A	55+ D
D	40+ Open	25+ A	40+ B	60+ A
Novice	45+ Open	25+ B	40+ C	60+ B
	50+ Open	25+ C	40+ D	60+ C
	55+ Open	25+ D	45+ A	60+ D
	60+ Open		45+ B	
	65+ Open	30+ A	45+ C	18 & Under
	70+ Open	30+ B	45+ D	16 & Under
	75+ Open	30+ C		14 & Under
		30+ D	50+ A	12 & Under
		35+ A	50+ B	10 & Under
		35+ B	50+ C	8 & Under
			50+ D	

Alternate division _____

Mail To: RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP, 38114 Lakeshore, Harrison Twp., MI 48045

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Please nominate only one person per category.

You may choose to nominate for one or more categories

Awards are based on accomplishments during the 2004-05 season

You may submit nominations with out playing in the tournament & you can email them to
president @michiganracquetball.net

Female Player of the Year _____

Male Player of the Year _____

Junior Player of the Year _____

Most Improved Player _____

Sportsman of the Year _____

Tournament Director of the Year _____

Club/Owners of the Year _____

Other (specify contribution) _____

BANQUET ATTENDEES

Please list the names of those who will be attending the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening. The number of names should match the number of paid banquets on the front page of the entry form.

Burton Manor
27777 Schoolcraft Rd.
Livonia
734-427-9110
6:30 pm cash bar
7:00 pm dinner

Racquetball Reporter

321 Village Dr.
Lansing, MI 48911



STATE SINGLES ENTRY ENCLOSED