

The Racquetball Reporter

WINTER 1994

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Quarterly Publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

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Gordon Kelly crowned National Champion

Gordon Kelly not only just turned fifty-five, but he may be the new youngster in his age bracket to beat. Gordon moved through the draw smoothly and before you knew it, he was defeating Lee Graf of Washington in the finals 11-7, 11-5 for the Gold.

This very popular World Senior's Invitational, is held yearly in New Mexico. This year's total draw was upwards of 300 age group players. Gordon has been playing most of the summer and he was very sharp as he entered the very popular seniors round robin event.

Laura Patterson also played very well in finishing second in the 40+ division. Clee Melvin and Lynn Hahn quarter-finalists in there respective divisions and Bill Hughes of Muskegon also had a very good tournament. Peggy Shaw and Stephanie Roscia also made the quarterfinals

in their respective events.

Of the 370 players attending the tournament, nine of them made the trek from Michigan.

OUR APOLOGIES

In the last issue of The Racquetball Reporter, we incorrectly listed the winner of the State Singles 50A division.

The 1994 Champion is
Art Murphy.

Congratulations Art!

*We are sorry
for the error.*

1994 STATE DOUBLES ENTRY FORM ENCLOSED

Michigan Racquetball Mourns Ray Vanover

Labor Day weekend the racquetball world lost one of its most fierce competitors, and most colorful players. Ray Vanover was likely caught off guard by a large wake and thrown from his 27 foot powerboat near the Grand Haven State Park on Lake Michigan. A witness who spotted Vanover's body in the water jumped to rescue him, but Ray disappeared under the surface before the swimmer could reach him. The US Coast Guard was unsuccessful to locate Ray's body for nearly ten days when a fisherman finally spotted his body not too far from the original site of the accident.

Ray at times, was very expressive, full of feeling and spirit. He never wanted to lose, and never would quit. He loved racquetball and at one time was the best of the best in our state. Aside from his love for tournament action, Ray was an excellent teacher of the sport and one of our best promoters.

Off the court, Ray was one of the kindest individuals you could ever meet. A very popular high school industrial technology instructor, and a teacher who really cared a great deal for his students. We will all miss Ray, the tournaments just aren't the same without him.

Ray is survived by his wife Laura, who he married just a few months ago, his two daughters and two step-children.

1994 STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

DEC 3 & 4TH

ONE ON ONE ATHLETIC CLUB
ANN ARBOR

Racquetball Association
of
Michigan

President
W.T. Blakeslee

Vice-President
Rick Crawford

Treasurer
Lou Ellen Fecher

Secretary
Marta Rubcich

RAM Tournament Sanctioning
Maureen Mead

Newsletter
The Racquetball Reporter
Sandy Conlen, Editor
2834 Yale
Flint, MI 48503

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Ken Bonnett
Christopher Cole
Rick Crawford
Marta Rubcich
Lou Ellen Fecher

Racquetball One Tournament Series prepares for 1995

RACQUETBALL ONE'S PETOSKEY STOP MUCH MORE THAN RACQUETBALL

For the sixty plus players who traveled to beautiful Petoskey October the seventh, the weekend was full of fun and lots of RACQUETBALL. The round robin play event gave everyone all the workout they needed, and the great hospitality of the National Health and Racquetball Club mended all the sore muscles. Plus, the Saturday evening party at the Flying Dutchman was the most fun I have seen players have in a long time. All the players I talked with said it was all worth the long drive. Check your calendar for 1995. Results are listed this page.

RACQUETBALL ONE'S FOURTH STOP MOVED TO ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

The January 27-29th, 1995 Double elimination stop #4 has been moved from the Grand Blanc Court Club to Ann Arbor. It will be held at the One on One Athletic Club in Ann Arbor, site of the State Doubles Championships. Please make this change on your calendar! Entry forms will reflect the new change. Matches will conclude early Sunday afternoon so everyone can be home for the 6 pm SuperBowl!

RACQUETBALL ONE'S HOLIDAY EVENT SET FOR DECEMBER 9-11 IN GRAND RAPIDS

Shop in beautiful downtown Grand Rapids, and stay cheap at the Radisson Hotel. This round robin event at the MAC will provide players with plenty of good food, prizes from sponsors and lots of racquetball. All the local Grand Rapids sponsors will help make this tournament one of the best. Play and Shop in Grand Rapids.

Racquetball One's Petoskey Winners

Oct. 7-8, 1994

Men's A
1st Hal Rosenberg
2nd Joe Mullin

Men's B
1st Chad Visgar
2nd Richard Knoll

Men's C
1st Dwayne Griffin
2nd Jeff Weiland

Men's D
1st Eric Hoshield
2nd Stan Kurzman

Men's 35B
1st Burt Hines
2nd Gary Cimballa

Men's 45A
1st Bob Gravelyn
2nd Mike Stephens

Women's Open
1st Janet Inkso
2nd Melody Gorno

Women's A
1st Patty Noiles
2nd Judy Rosenberg

Women's B
1st Denise Gravelyn
2nd Dree Lo

IT'S A SWEET GAME,
WHEN THE MIND IS HUSHED AND
THE BODY HUMS.



Fusion: Arc₂ technology and hand-laid graphite in devastating tandem. Created to tighten the bond between mind, body and equipment.

EKTELON 
The Most Recommended Name in Tennis

WINSTON
SPORTS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear *Racquetball Reporter*:

I would like to see both the first and second place names appear (in tournament results listed in *The Reporter*) as a lot of players would like to see who beat who. Previous issues of past Reporters listed both players in the State finals. The State singles is one of the best tournaments and I do not think it looks good to list the first and second place winners in a B-C-D Novice tournament and not list the first and second place 1994 State Singles Champions.

I believe it important to recognize both first and second place in all tournaments, not just State Singles.

I really enjoy *The Reporter*, keep up the good work.

Arthur Murphy

.....

Dear Arthur,

I apologize for not including the names of both finalists in all divisions of the 1994 State Singles tournament in the last issue of *The Racquetball Reporter*.

Please understand that all information printed is

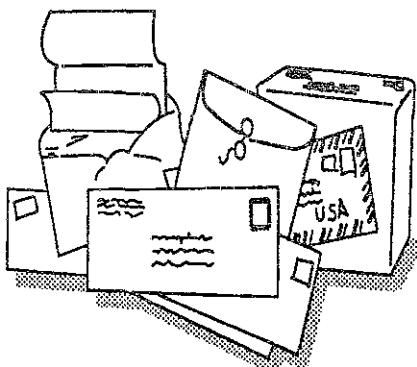
submitted by voluntary sources. If something is missing or incorrect it is because that is the way I received it. In the case of the State Singles results this year, the names of the winning players were all I received for publication. In the future I will request both finalists and if possible, semi-finalists' names be submitted to me.

I appreciate you bringing this to my attention. It is the only way I realize what is or is not important to those who receive *The Racquetball Reporter*.

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Letters, photos and articles
to the
RAM newsletter can be
mailed to:

The Racquetball Reporter
2834 Yale St.
Flint, MI 48503



RAM NEWS

The RAM Board elected officers for the 1994-95 racquetball season. Officers are:

President
Tom Blakeslee

Vice-President
Rick Crawford

Secretary
Marta Rubcich

Treasurer
Lou Ellen Fecher

Maureen Mead is also a Board member and sanctioning director for RAM.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the RAM Board, please contact any of the Board members. We need your help to improve Michigan racquetball.

If you hear someone complaining about racquetball in our state, challenge them to get involved and do something about it.

SHORT SERVES

The Fall colors were excellent in Petoskey this year, making the drive to this stop of the Racquetball One Series a picturesque and enjoyable trip. Ken Bonnett teamed up again with the National Health and Racquet Club to hold a fun tournament with lots of court time for all players. Now, Ken if you could just work on the weather. I have been to Petoskey in the snow and the rain... **Congratulations** to all Michigan players who made the trip to Arizona for the Senior Nationals Tournament! Michigan had a very strong showing led by a victorious Gordon Kelly in the Men's division. See article on page for more details... **The Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame** is in the process of relocating to the Michigan Athletic Club in Lansing. Members of the Hall of Fame are holding fund raising events to cover the cost of the relocation from Davison to enhance the current display. Contact Jim Easterling for more information... **Joel Bonnett** is training hard to make a serious run for the PRO tour. Look for an interview with Joel in the next issue of the RAM Reporter. And by the

WOMEN'S SIDE-OUT

by Marta Rubcich

The Women's Committee met on October 11 to begin plans for this season. The people serving on the committee this year are Melody Gorno, Laura Patterson, Marta Rubcich, Diana Trombley and Kathy Trotter. The committee would like to thank Faye Cobb, Nancy Cole and Julie May for their contributions last season.

The committee has chosen to work on two projects this season. First, we will again hold a Women's Only Tournament. A site and date are still being determined, but look for the tournament to be held in early spring in the Detroit vicinity. Our second project is to develop a package to assist people in holding instructional clinics. While this project is aimed at increasing women's interest in racquetball, we expect the package to be useful in conducting racquetball clinics for any audience. Once developed, we hope to hold clinics later this year targeted at college students.

Side-out

way, those working out and helping Joel to train are getting better too. Look out for Mike Anderson these days... **Several Michigan players** headed down to Florida for the National Doubles tournament held the weekend of October 21, or is that for vacation? Either way, we will report in the next issue of the RAM Reporter... **The State Doubles** tournament will be

held the weekend of December 3 and 4. The tournament returns to the One On One Racquet Club in Ann Arbor for the 3rd consecutive year. The State Championship tournaments are the primary source of funding for RAM. Let's all get out and support Michigan Racquetball and have a very successful State Doubles Championship.

View of the President

by W.T. Blakeslee

Welcome back to the racquetball season. The elected officers for the upcoming season are Rick Crawford, Vice-president; Lou Ellen Fecher, Treasurer; Marta Rubcich, Secretary. Please express your congratulations to all these wonderful people that volunteer their time for you and racquetball. In case you are wondering, Chris Cole is fine and doing well in Texas. As I said last year and again this year, Ken Bonnett is the only game in town, please support this tournaments. Ken has been listening and making some changes in

format and cost, at \$32 his tournament is a real deal.

The purpose of this newsletter is to remind everyone of the upcoming State Doubles Tournament at One on One in Ann Arbor. This is a great little tournament and doesn't take all weekend and we try to limit play so the evening is free.

Lastly, as a Board, we are trying our very best to provide high quality State Tournaments, a decent newsletter, committee support and involvement and interface with the National parties. What we need the most help on is to try to sustain our RAM memberships. Any ideas you have will be appreciated.

LOOK!

1994-95
RAM
Tournament
Schedules
enclosed
in this
issue...

If by chance you do not receive one, or need a spare, come to the State Doubles tournament on Dec. 3 and collect one!

Newly elected vice-president shares view

by Rick Crawford

The score is 10-10 of a hard fought match. I step up to the box for what I hope is an ace serve to end this match. Suddenly the strangest thing happens. I find myself asking "what will be your first article in the newsletter as vice-president of RAM?"

Since this is my first article, I do not want to overload your brain with the many concerns that I have

on my mind. Basically, I would like to say to the membership of RAM that I am very proud of the new position and job and that I am here to serve you. I want to hear from you about your various concerns and interests. There will be some of you that I will be enticing to get involved with RAM as Board Members.

For those of you who don't know me, let me tell you a little bit about myself. I am employed at the Eastside

YMCA as a social worker. I have been in Detroit for seven years. Prior to this, I was residing in North Carolina.

During my seven years here in the Motor City, I have met some beautiful people on and off the court. I look forward to us working together for the best interest of Michigan racquetball.

By the way...it was an ace serve, 11-10.

Chris writes home...

Greetings Everyone,

I am sitting in Hobby Airport in the flooded out city of Houston, awaiting a plane to take me away from this wet mess. My neighborhood was only slightly waterlogged—the water was about ten feet from my front door and cars parked in the street had water covering their hoods, not nearly as bad as Northern Houston that saw homes completely washed away or water levels reaching the rooftops. I have not even been down here for six months before a we have a major weather catastrophe and hurricane season has yet to bring a nasty storm to this area.

My job is progressing well, I have developed a great working relationship with the General Manager at my new club and she is allowing me free reign to run the racquetball programs as I see fit, without placing so much emphasis on making a profit off of racquetball. I know we will be able to accomplish many of the same things I achieved at Davison.

I hope all is well with the RAM Board. I have not kept in contact like I should, but hope Tom, Lou Ellen, Marta, Rick and Maureen are not having any major problems in my absence. The above mentioned are great people volunteering their time and energy for the good of the

sport, not their own personal gain. This effort is to be commended, not ridiculed, and with the understanding that they cannot continue helping racquetball grow in this state without more support from the players out there. The Texas president practically forced me to be part to the Board here and I said I would despite initially turning it down. I hope to take on a small role to assist them with something like their Junior Team Texas, but nothing on grand scale like I have for the past three years in Michigan.

Two weeks ago, my club hosted the Texas State Doubles Championships and since I am the Director of Racquetball there, I ran the whole event. They do it differently here, the Board helps, but the host club is in charge of everything and it is a chance for clubs to showcase their facility, staff and make some extra cash as well. It was a long and grueling week, I am so glad it is over, but we had a very successful event with 109 players entered in one event and 129 entered in two.

My responsibilities as Head Coach of the AARA's Junior Olympic team are kicking into high gear with Junior Worlds only a couple of months away. I want to make a major difference for the Team this year in coaching and fund raising to provide those kids

that survived the try-out camp in late August. I tell you, that camp was the most taxing, both mentally and physically, of any racquetball event I have ever been a part of. Forty-two kids busting their rears for one week to make a sixteen person squad would be difficult enough, but this was my first camp where I was in charge. Overall, it took me nearly a month to recover from such an emotionally and physically draining event.

Despite my hectic schedule, I am still planning two visits to Michigan. Jim Floyd and I are doing an exhibition at Davison, October 29 and I am also giving lessons to Davison members that day. In November, both Nancy and I are coming back for Thanksgiving and I will give some more lessons while in town.

I am still hoping to do some type of Junior Olympic Team fundraiser event in Michigan. I just have to find an opening in my schedule to coincide with Davison's new addition being completed. January through May will be a busy tournament time for me in Texas, but I still hope to schedule something in that four month span.

I am looking forward to my visits to Michigan and I hope some of our paths will cross while I am back home.

Christopher

The Racquetball Association of Michigan

presents the

STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

December 3 & 4, 1994

Site: One on One Athletic Club
2875 Boardwalk Drive, Ann Arbor, MI
313-761-4440

Complimentary SWEATSHIRT!
Guaranteed two matches!
No Friday Play!

Directors: Tom Blakeslee 810-468-2787
Lou Ellen Fecher 810-658-8097

Lodging: Courtyard by Marriot 313-995-5900
Holiday Inn Holidome 313-665-4444

Fees: \$25.00 per person/\$50.00 per team/per event
\$15.00 per person/second event
Non-AARA members add \$20.00

AARA Sanctioned: Yearly AARA membership
required. AARA Rules will prevail. Two games
to 15, tiebreaker to 11.

Olympic Format: Divisions will be limited to 16 entrants. All participants will be guaranteed two matches. First round
losers play for bronze medal. Guaranteed two matches of play.

Trophies and Awards: Trophies will be awarded to first and second place winners in all divisions. Semi plaques will be
awarded in full (draw of 16) divisions only. Each entrant will receive a complimentary SWEATSHIRT.

Starting Times: Play begins Saturday, December 3th. Divisions are limited to draws of 16. Call the club Wednesday,
November 30th after 6:00 p.m. for starting times. NO Friday play.

Referees: Losers must referee or pay \$5.00.

Tournament Ball: PENN Ultra Blue

Entries Must Be Received By November 25, 1994.

Name _____ Partner 1 _____
Address _____ Partner 2 _____
City _____ ZIP _____ Club affiliation _____
Phone - days _____ nights _____ Date of Birth _____

Sweatshirt Size (circle one) M L XL XXL*

*Please enclose \$2.00 additional for XXL

Make Checks Payable to RAM and mail to:

RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

3152 S. HENDERSON RD

DAVISON, MI 48423

Entry Fee _____

AARA _____

Extra XXL _____

Total Enclosed _____

WAIVER CLAUSE: I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors,
and administrators, waive and release any and all claim for
damages I may have against RAM, the host club, tournament
staff, and their agents, for all injuries suffered by me in
conjunction with my participation in this tournament

Signature _____

Guardian's Signature _____

(if under 18)

DIVISIONS

circle correct choices (limit two events)

Mens Womens

Open	35B	50A	Mixed	Open
A	25+	40A	50B	Mixed A
B	30A	40B	55+	Mixed B
C	30B	45A	60+	Mixed C
D	35A	45B		Mixed D

Divisions may be combined if less
than 8 teams enter a division.

Alternate Division _____

Membership includes:

- 

SUPPORT THE U.S. NATIONAL TEAM
(DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE)



NAME _____

[illegible]

ADDRESS

[illegible]

CITY

[illegible]

STATE

--	--

ZIP CODE

--	--	--	--	--	--

Date of Birth

Home Phone

Business Phone

**CLASS A
MEMBER**



- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|--|
| ☐ | \$20.00 | Adult Competitor |
| ☐ | \$15.00 | Junior Competitor |
| ☐ | \$10.00 | Junior Competitor
(without Racquetball Magazine Subscription) |
| ☐ | \$15.00 | Racquetball Magazine Subscription Only |

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The Racquetball Reporter

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