

Racquetball Reporter

quarterly publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

February 2011

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2010 RAM STATE DOUBLES RIPPING AND ROLLING IN TWO BY TWO FASHION

Twayne M. Howard

Let's see... what's a racquetball player to do during the first weekend of December?

Hmmm... Obviously – find a partner and sign up for the RAM State Doubles Championships. That's exactly what 112 of Michigan's finest racquetball players did. Total Sports in Mt. Clemens played host and put together another great tournament weekend. The amenities were perfect and the action intense.

Let's take a look at the results.

Mike D'Almeida and Scott Duryea took out Aaron Melch/Steve Simon and Bryan Galloway/John Leggett to win the Men's 40+A Championship. Second and Third were handed out accordingly.

Tom Yates and Ed Arias teamed up to win the Men's 50+ Championship after defeating Jim Woolcock and Dan Verbeck. Jack White/Tom Blakeslee and Chris Kelly/Jim Panasiewicz were the Semi-Finalists.

Al Montoye and Jim Therrell defeated Jeff Renaud and Mike Middleton to take Gold in the Men's 55+ Division.

First time partners Alfonso Pugh and Dennis Reid won the Men's 65+ Division by defeating Gary Giblin/Dan Greene and Tony Tewes/Dan Ross who finished in Second and Third respectively.

Scott Bowles and Michael Bowles won the Men's A Championship in Father/Son fashion by getting past Jim Therrell and Michael Brennan. Attica Mitchell/Robb Patterson and

John Vande Weerd/Jerry Spruit rounded out the Semis.

Rich Westerbrink and Twayne Howard teamed up to defeat Keith Bryan and Mike D'Almeida to win the Men's B Championship. Myles Kelly/Michael Bowles and Kevin Ford/Tahpenes Johnson were the Semi-Finalists.

Jeff Mira and Paul Schultz beat Monty Marcus and Derek Kulesza to take the Gold in Men's C. Zach D'Almeida/Caige Duryea, and Braeden D'Almeida/Traci Martin made it to the Semis.

The increasing popularity of the Centurian Divisions has been amazing to watch. The Centurian A went to Attica Mitchell and Robb Patterson who defeated Alfonso Pugh and Mark Reed to take the Gold. Bryan Galloway/Jerry Spruit and Robert Goddard/Wayne Carnahan were the Semi-finalists.

Centurian Open went to the Bonnett boys – Ken and Joel who defeated Walt Podraza and Steve Goedker in the Finals. Chris Kelly/Jim Panasiewicz and Jack White/Tom Blakeslee made it to the Semis.

Andre Roy and Jason Kennedy won the Elite Gold defeating Jim Scheuer and Mike Stetz. Ben Marciniak-Jennings/Jim Kutt and Dan Mullin/John Kutt competed in the Semis.

(cont. on pg.3)



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Newsletter

The Racquetball Reporter
2471 E. Braden Rd.
Perry, MI 48872

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VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT

Twayne M. Howard

Welcome to the Spring, 2011 edition of the *RACQUETBALL REPORTER*. You'll find it chock full of information about the 2010-2011 season to date. But don't worry, the season isn't over yet. We still have a few tricks up our collective sleeves. We'll take a peek at some of those as well.

The tournament season is winding down and it's time building to a great conclusion - The Championships. The RAM State Singles Championships will be held at the Davison Athletic Club the weekend of March 18-20. We expect a full house, and you can expect the same great event at a world class Racquetball club.

Davison is one of the great clubs anywhere and Randy Minto and Don Schopieray are getting ready to roll out the red carpet as some of the best tournament hosts around. We will have medals for Semi-Finalists in all divisions of 16 or more, and Finalists and Champions for smaller divisions.

We are changing up a few things. Instead of a shirt, every player will receive sweatpants to match the sweatshirts from State Doubles. Make sure you fill out your size on the entry form.

Saturday night is made for celebration. The Davison Country Club will play host to the RAM Hall of Fame Induction and Annual Awards Banquet. At the banquet we always celebrate the achievements of the current tournament season. We will award the Female, Male and Junior Players of the Year, Best Club, Sportsman of the Year and the Most Improved Player. We have already begun to take your nominations for these awards. The nominations are then considered by a committee of the Board for final determinations. Who do you think is the best of the best for 2010-2011? Shoot an e-mail to President@MichiganRacquetball.net and your voice will be heard!

The highlight of the evening is the induction of the 2011 RAM Hall of Fame Class. The inductees will be announced later, but it is always an evening to remember. Reserve your ticket now as they will not be available the weekend of the tournament. We have to confirm our numbers well in advance, so please RSVP ASAP.

Last but not least, we will take a look at the accomplishments of our Juniors over the past season. This is an evening not to be missed, in a weekend not to be missed.

We have a few other great events still to come. February 26-27 is the Capital Challenge at the MAC in East Lansing. The Dan Mullin and the rest of the CARA gang always put on an amazing event. This one is sure to please. A new event on the calendar will be March 5 at Total Sports in Mt. Clemens. This will be a one day round robin event put on by Tom Blakeslee and Scott Young - a terrific value for your tournament dollar. Next is John Van de Weerd's South West Michigan Shootout at the Bronson Athletic Club in Kalamazoo. Talk about great events and great clubs... this is it. Finally is the third event in the Michigan's triple crown, the Meijer State Games of Michigan. This year the State Games will feature 25 sports and 5000 competitors spread throughout Grand Rapids. The Michigan Athletic Club will host singles and Doubles Racquetball. The State Games will feature the best racquetball and hospitality and an Olympic style opening ceremony complete with the lighting of a ceremonial cauldron. Goose Bumps. And that might not be all. Keep checking your e-mail as we are still working on a couple more.

So there it is - A great end to a terrific season. Thanks to everyone who has been along for the ride. I hope to see you as we close out the season. I can't wait!

2010 RAM STATE DOUBLES RIPPING AND ROLLING IN TWO BY TWO FASHION

(cont. from pg. 2)

John Stallmer and Mike Chambon defeated Jason Kennedy/Andre Roy and Ben Marciniak-Jennings/Dan Mullin in round robin fashion in the Men's 30 Division. The other teams finished in Second and Third respectively.

John Stallmer and Mike Chambon defeated Jim Woolcock and Dan Verbeck in the Finals of the Men's 40 Division. Jim Scheuer/mike Stetz and Michael and Anthony Garbarino were the Semi-Finalists.

Men's 40+B went to Keith Bryan and Rich Westerbrink over Ron Black/Carl Garbarino and Robert Goddard/Wayne Carnahan who earned Second and Third respectively.

Jeff Renaud and Mike Middleton won the Men's 45+A Championship after defeating Ed Reneski and Carl Garbarino. Attica mitchell/Robb Patterson and John Vande Weerd/Jerry Spruit made it to the Semis.

The Men's Open Championship went to Brandon Cortese and Joel Bonnett who defeated Andrew Price and Brad Schopieray in the finals. Steve Goedker/Walt Podraza and Greg Lewerenz/Ron Barton were the Semi-Finalists.

Chris Todd and Eric Luoma defeated Ed Reneski and Gloria Joseph to win the Mixed A Championship. Margit Shemechko/Eric Luoma and Claire Kruse/Keith Vogel were the semi-finalists.

Maureen Price and Andrew Price earned another Gold Medal in Mixed Open by defeating Paula Saad and Greg Lewerenz. Mercedes Arias/Ed Arias and Anthnita Dickerson/Ron Barton made it to the Semis.

The Junior/Veteran Champions were Braeden D'almeida and Tom Blakeslee who defeated Zach D'Almeida and Mike

D'Almeida to win the Gold. Caige Duryea/Scott Duryea and Michael Bowles/Scott Bowles rounded out the Semis.

The Women's Open Championship was won by Chris Todd and Maureen Price who defeated Laura Johnson/Melody Gorno and Paula Saad/Tia Lecland who finished Second and Third respectively.

Another great weekend of Championship action. Find a partner and make your plans now to play the RAM State Doubles Championship. You won't regret it!

Double Gold for a Doubles Team and Other Highlights– Team Michigan takes on the Lawler IRT Tier 1 Pro-Am

Twayne M. Howard

Today we look back on an epic journey from January as ten brave members of Team Michigan journeyed to the faraway land of Terre Haute, IN to do battle with some of the best players on the racquetball courts of Indiana State University in the Lawler IRT Tier 1 Pro Am Championship. How did Team Michigan do? Let's take a look.

Leading the way with double-Gold was the team of Bryan Gallo way and John Leggett. Bryan and John took the Men's 40+B Doubles Championships by going undefeated in the five team round robin division. After advancing through their pool, Bryan and John won the Men's B Doubles Championship for their second Gold of the weekend.

On his own, John Leggett also made it to the Semi's of Men's B.

The Finalists in the Men's 40+B Doubles were Dave Chirio and Rich Westerbrink. Dave and Rich had to pull out of the match after Dave suffered a knee injury earlier in the weekend. Dave and Rich earned Silver Medals for their efforts.

(cont. on pg. 5)

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER FOR 2011-2012

The Racquetball Reporter is published three times throughout the year - July, November, and February.. Items to be included in the Racquetball Reporter for the **2011-12** year must be submitted by the following dates:

January 12, 2011
October 6, 2011

Advertisement material is subject to approval by the RAM Board of Directors. The prices for advertisement material are:

\$400 - Full page ad to run in all three issues (7" w x 9.5" h)
\$250 - Half page ad to run in all three issues (7" w x 4.75" h)

\$150 - Quarter page ad to run in all three issues (3.5" w x 4.75" h)
\$100 - Club listing for all three issues (3" w x 2" h)

All advertisements must be submitted in camera ready Format in the appropriate size. E-mailed graphics can be accepted in either a **.TIFF** or **.JPG** format. All advertisements will be in black and white for all issues, except the fall issue which will be in full color. Payment must accompany submission of all advertisement material. Information may be mailed to The Racquetball Reporter, 2471 E. Braden Rd., Perry, MI 48872 or sent electronically to hippies23@gmail.com.

Racquetball Association of Michigan Chooses Ektelon as the Official Ball

Bordentown, NJ, December 13, 2010 - Ektelon is proud to announce that the Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM) has chosen Ektelon to be the "Official Ball of RAM" beginning January 1, 2011 and continuing through December 31, 2012. RAM has chosen to use all 3 Ektelon racquetballs based on tournament director choice throughout the term of this agreement including the continuing use of Fireball (red) for Michigan's WOR outdoor events.

Over the past five years Ektelon has taken an extremely proactive role in developing the best quality racquetballs in the industry. This development of three different yet consistent types of racquetballs is reflected in Ektelon's partnerships as the "Official Ball" of the WPRO (Fireball), WOR (Fireball) WFRA (Fireball), CPRT (Classic Ball), NMRA (Classic Ball), MRF (Classic Ball), NPRA (Premium Select Ball) and now the RAM.



"We are proud to now be in partnership with RAM as Michigan is one of the most active racquetball states in the United States and has a great history of players and events." said Scott Winters, Vice President at Ektelon. "We look forward to working closely with the RAM Board and members in developing new and exciting events for all types of players. Ektelon is very confident that this relationship will continue to grow for years to come."

"Ektelon is one of the premier companies in racquetball and the RAM Board of Directors is thrilled to begin this new partnership" commented Twayne Howard, RAM President.

2011 RAM SCHEDULE

Feb 26-27 Capital Challenge, Michigan Athletic Club,
East Lansing
<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=7406>

Mar 5 Total Sports Pro / Open, Total Sports, Mt. Clemens
<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=7941>

Mar 11-13 South West Michigan Racquetball Shootout,
Bronson A C, Kalamazoo
<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=7359>

Mar 18-20 RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP,
Davison Athletic Club, Davison
<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=7361>

Jun 25-26 Meijer State Games of Michigan,
Michigan Athletic Club, Grand Rapids
<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=7320>

Make sure you check R2Sports.com and MichiganRacquetball.Net for updates
For further Information e-mail President@MichiganRacquetball.Net

Double Gold for a Doubles Team and Other Highlights– Team Michigan takes on the Lawler IRT Tier 1 Pro-Am

(cont. from pg. 3)

Rich Westerbrink won the Men's 30+B Championship. Rich made it through a tough pool and then pounded his opponent in the Final 15-9, 15-2. Ouch.

Dave Chirio made it to the Finals of the Men's 45+B. He put up a great fight, but was definitely slowed by his injury. Hopefully, another Silver Medal helped the recovery.

Keith Bryan and Rich Westerbrink took third in the round robin Men's 50+B Doubles.

Twayne Howard survived three tie-breakers including an 11-8 Final to win the Men's B Championship. Not a bad weekend for the PTP-er (part-time player, that is).

Jason Kennedy earned a Silver Medal in the Men's 30+ Open Division. Jason survived the pool play, but fell to a kid who was in the Pro Qualifier. No shame, there and a great weekend. Jason also made it to the Semis in the Men's Elite Division.

Scott Sellers took his consistently tough game on the road and earned a Silver Medal in the Men's 40+ Open Championship. The division was a five man round robin and Scott's only loss was to the eventual Champion, to whom he gave up about 10 years. That's a tough challenge for any player.

Our wonder-twins also had a pretty good weekend and put on a great show. Andrew Price and Brad Schopieray both played in the Pro Qualifier. Andrew was on the receiving end of some revenge handed out by Bryan Simpson while Brad took Alex Ackerman to four games. Both put up a good fight and gained more valuable experience.

Andrew and Brad also teamed up for the Open Doubles. They played great, but had to pull out when Brad tweaked his shoulder.

Don Schopieray and Barb Schopieray were along making it a nice even dozen members of Team Michigan. It was a great weekend to remember what great fun racquetball is, and what a great family we have in this sport.

Congrats to everyone. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Women In Racquetball

Dan Mullin

I would like to send out a special thanks to Alan Coyle and Tia LeCland for starting a women's social for racquetball. Alan and Tia collaborated to bring 10 women from around the state in April to play a round robin social at the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing, MI. The social included one game to 15 and each woman was able to play every other woman, regardless of skill level. This even event was so successful, that I was able to form a Mixed Outdoor League during the summer and a Mixed Doubles League in the fall. A second social occurred in early fall with eight women at the MAC, with two games to 11 and it added onto the success of the first social. It was great to see the enthusiasm from each person. Women players came from the greater Detroit area, Jackson, Flint, Kalamazoo, and Lansing. Special thanks to **Tia LeCland, Cheri Speier, Karen Tudor, JoAnn Bowes, JoAnne Furu, Kathleen Westerbrink, Sharon Huczek, Karen Sedatole, Traci Martin, Paula Saad, Julie Creemers, Pam Amato & Kelly Bortle** for coming out to make this be such a success!

(cont. on pg.6)

Women In Racquetball

(cont. from pg. 5)

Many of the comments made by the women during the social reflected similar thoughts; they wanted to play racquetball, but lacked other women in the area. Both Alan and Tia serve on the RAM board and many ideas like this have been discussed, but they went the extra mile and made it happen. Hopefully, the social events will continue at different venues across the state and more women will be able to enjoy the benefits of racquetball. This bodes well for Mixed Doubles in State and local tournaments and local leagues. Keep up the great work!



Picture above: Joe Romeo and Sharon Huczek at a recent ladies racquetball reunion at Courtland.

Racquetball Memories

Tia LeCland

An After Christmas Racquetball Party Reunion was held on Jan 16, 2011 held at Courtland Racquet Club that brought many old friends

together. Participants racquetball enjoyed a full day of playing and good hospitality. Some just chose to visit and hash over fond memories of past league & tournament matches. We all got caught up in good memories and what we are currently doing now. It was a fun day. We carried the party upstairs where some played cards & ate more goodies. We enjoyed the dishes everyone kindly brought to pass. Diane Berent & Diana started formulating a party idea for the women. They included the men from travel leagues, tournament, and league play, thus becoming a bigger reunion by spreading the word. Travel teams began in the early 1980's and continued over 20 years. The teams were comprised of 2 sets of skill levels, each consisting of 8 teams meeting every Sunday afternoon and evening. Scores were kept and they started with reffing which later was dropped and they kept their own scores then becoming less serious and more relaxed play. The reunion sported over 30 men & women who brought a dish to pass, a memory to share and pictures to show. It proved to be an awesome event. They started with singles, and ended with playing doubles. Many watched and shared the joy with fellow partners, contenders and friends. Since it was a success, the plan is to continue this tradition annually. Contact Karen Morehead for future interest. 586.558.0118. kjmorehead@yahoo.com.

Thank you for the organizers: Diane Berent, Joe Romeo, Karen Bernard, Diana Easthope, & Karen Morehead.



**RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
2011 RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

March 18-20, 2011

**DAVISON ATHLETIC CLUB
2140 Fairway Drive, Davison, MI
Phone (810) 653—1068**

ENTRY FEES & DEADLINE

First Event	\$45 per person
Second Event	\$20 per person
Juniors	\$20 per person
USA Racquetball Membership	\$50/25 per person
Hall of Fame Banquet	\$35 per person
Telephone/Late Entries	\$5 per person

Entries must be received by Monday March 14, 2011. You may sign up ONLINE at www.r2sports.com. Any entries received after March 14 will be subject to a \$5 LATE FEE. To be entered, we must receive your entry form, a phone call or email AND PAYMENT. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. Please help us by signing up early to avoid the crush at the deadline.

RULES

Single elimination format with matches consisting of two games to fifteen and a tie-breaker to eleven. USA Racquetball rules apply including **mandatory USA Racquetball-approved lensed eyeguards**. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to move or reclassify players if they are improperly placed or there is a need to combine divisions. Any participant must live or work full time in Michigan and be a member of RAM. Players must be able to provide proof if challenged.

STARTING TIMES

Play may begin on Friday, March 18, 2011 for draws of 16 or more. Every effort will be made to reduce Friday play. **Call the club on Thursday, March 17, 2011 after 12:00 pm** for starting times or check online at: <http://www.r2sports.com>.

AWARDS

Awards will be given for the first four places in divisions of 16 or more. Each participant will receive RAM Championship sweat pants, please provide your size. All juniors will receive a Team Michigan shirt and participation award. Ladies entering by March 8 will receive a special gift.

HALL OF FAME / ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The Hall of Fame and Annual Awards Banquet is Saturday evening at the Davison Country Club to honor the new inductees into the Hall of Fame and the 2010-2011 RAM Merit Award winners. You must sign up for the banquet NO LATER than Monday, March 14. No banquet tickets will be sold at the tournament.

**PROPENN HD IS THE OFFICIAL BALL OF THE RAM STATE
SINGLE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Tom Blakeslee (586) 295—9772 Twayne Howard (616) 540—7925 Dan Mullin Don Schopieray Jack White

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 14, 2011

Name _____ Club Affiliation _____ Sweatpants 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 (first event)	\$45	_____
2nd Event Fee	\$20	_____
Junior Fee	\$20	_____
USA Rac. Membership	\$50/25	_____
Hall of Fame Banquet	\$35	_____
Late/Phone Fee	\$ 5	_____
TOTAL		_____

Waiver clause: I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors & administrators 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

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

Mail To: RAM STATE DOUBLES 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 2010-2011 seasons.

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) _____

2011 RAM HALL OF FAME and ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Where: Davison Country Club

When: Saturday, March 19, 2011

Time: Cash Bar - 7:30 pm
Dinner - 8:00 pm

Cost: \$35 - Available for purchase with your tournament entry form by March 14, 2011. Tickets will NOT be available at the tournament desk on Friday or Saturday. You do not need to play in the tournament to come to the banquet. (See RAM newsletter)

Banquet is a buffet.



A special night for racquetball in Michigan to honor the Hall of Fame inductees and RAM Merit Award winners.

JOIN THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

Membership Includes:

- *Membership card, USA Racquetball Official Rule Book, travel and equipment discounts
- *USA Racquetball medical, life, and liability insurance at sanctioned events
- *Three issues of the RAM newsletter, THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER
- *Four issues of the USA Racquetball national magazine, RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE
- *RAM sanctioned tournament entry forms mailed to your home
- *Eligibility to play in all sanctioned tournaments and receive national ranking points (except Limited event)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH ____ / ____ / ____ HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

_____ \$50.00 – Adult Competitor

_____ \$25.00 – Junior Competitor (21 and under)

_____ \$125.00 - Adult Competitor for 3 years

_____ \$20.00 - Limited Event

MAIL TO: RAM, 38114 Lakeshore, Harrison Twp, MI 48045

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