

Racquetball Reporter

First Quarter

Volume XII, Issue I

Huczek Wins Boston Pro Stop

Boston welcomed the new IRT commissioner, Dave Negrète of Chicago with open arms as he brought pro racquetball back to South Boston again. Dave produced a great show, one which will be remembered for years to come.

The round of 16's began Friday at noon with some great racquetball. Tim Doyle won a hard match against Mike Green in 5 games. Tim looked good and was confident about his play and his chances in the next round. Cliff Swain won his match against Shai Manzuri in convincing fashion. After winning the first game, he gave Shai a "donut" in the second. Shai battled back to win the third game and Cliff responded by handing him another donut in the fourth game. John Ellis won his match in three games over Chris Crowther. Although Chris has a lot of reach, he was unable to keep up with Elli's

fast pace. Chris mentioned afterwards that he needs to work-out more, and not just play. Jack Huczek looked quite sharp in a three game win over Mike Guidry. Mike played very well and still got the donut in game 2. Jack was on a tear, and the crowd was buzzing. Jason Mannino had a good time with Ruben Gonzales, longtime veteran of the tour. Respect, admiration, and affection were all displayed during the match and Jason wins in four. Derek Robinson found a formidable foe in Kane Waselenchuk. Kane won the first two games and was leading in the third when Derek ran hard to his right in pursuit of the ball and went down in great pain. His hip had popped out of the socket. He couldn't return to play and thus forfeited, and went upstairs to the fine physiotherapy department at the club for treatment. He said he's just taking it day to day. Rocky

Carson won his match in three over Dan Fowler. Dan was definitely having an off day and never really got started. Brian Istace surprised the Boston crowd by taking out Alvaro Beltran in five games.

Brian was sporting his new "Harrow" racquet, a new company in the racquetball scene, and they both had the crowd on the edge of their seats during an awesome 11-8, 5th game.

Promptly at 6 pm Friday the quarterfinals began. This turned into a long evening of racquetball and definitely "your money's worth" as all 4 matches went the full five games. Some of the best racquetball matches I've ever seen saw Jack Huczek over Jason Mannino, John Ellis over Tim Doyle, Cliff Swain over Kane Waselenchuk in a repeat performance of the quarters in the U.S. Open, and in a

Continued on page 3

In this issue:

<i>View of the President</i>	2
<i>2001 State Doubles Results</i>	3
<i>Tri-Club Tournament Results</i>	5
<i>Seniors/Masters Results</i>	6

View of the President

By W.T. Blakeslee

By now most serious racquetballers have heard that Jack Huczek has won his first Pro Stop by beating the number one ranked player in the world Cliff Swain. In addition, to show the world it wasn't any fluke he finished second in the following stop. In the most recent Pro Ranking Jack is ranked 6th. Anyone want to bet he won't be moving up higher? He is also doing well in school and recently signed with Pro Kennex.

Chris Cole spent February at the winter Olympics being in charge of housing for the athletes, I hope he takes the time to write us the "rest of the story". I would also say he has a chance to be elected to a higher position on the USRA Board of Di-

rectors. In case you haven't heard Jim Hiser is now the head man at the USRA, as executive director, after Luke reduced his role.

Finally, the best news of all, Lou Ellen Fecher and Randy Minto have been elected to the Hall of Fame. Again I would like to thank Lou for her many years of hard dedicated work at all the meetings and tournament she participated in!

The last few months some of you have commented about reading the newsletter, we all need inspiration, and if you want to contribute send your thoughts to Sandy Alberto or any board member and we will publish your thoughts.

As always see you the hard wood.

Racquetball Association of Michigan

RAM
Board of Directors

Tom Blakeslee
President
(810) 217-8668

Jack Huczek
Vice-President
(810) 373-5255

Sharon Huczek
Secretary
(810) 373-5255

Twayne Howard
Treasurer
(616) 771-0312

Kevin Thomas
Webmaster

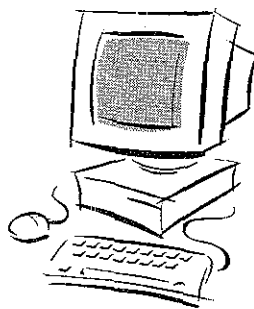
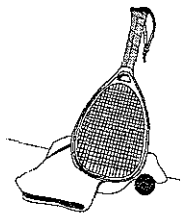
Board Members
Felicia Mann
Kevin Thomas
Jack White

Sanctioning
Tom Blakeslee
(810) 468-2787

Junior's Committee
Sharon Huczek
(810) 373-5255

Newsletter
The Racquetball Reporter
2834 Yale St.
Flint, MI 48503

Michigan Racquetball on the Web!



www.michiganracquetball.org

Tournament results, articles & updates!
Check it out!

2001 State Doubles Results

Mens Open

First Jack Huczek/Brad McIlhargie
Second Chris Cole/Jack White

Mens 35A

Steve Goedker/Rick Oswald
 John Coaker,/Chuck White

Womens Open

Sandy White/Claire Kruse
 Laura Patterson/Stephanie Cobb
 Kathie Trotter/Janet Insko
 Stacey Barbas/Paula Saad

Mens AA

First Shannon Kohl/Branden Cortese
Second Paul Adams/Dave Bushen
 Steve Goedker/Rick Oswald
 Rich and John Torres

Mens 35B

Al Petri/Roland Leal
 Diego Pizzo/Bill Molnar
 Todd Moen/Dan Sutton
 Chris Halliday/Jim Scheuer

Womens 30

Laura Patterson/Melody Gorno
 Stephanie Cobb/Karen Green
 Judy Porter/Mary Horne
 Lesley Kishigan/Janet Insko

Mens B

First Nick Frontczak/Mike Mollema
Second Chuck Van Hoose/Jeff Johnson
 Dan O'Connell/Jason Carroll
 Chris Pendell/Jim Kutt

Mens 40

Jim Woolcock/Dan Verbeck
 Tom Blakeslee/Jack White
 Chris Kelly/Jim Panasiewicz
 Bill Hagedorn/Ron Papke

Mixed Open

Jack and Sharon Huczek
 Sandy White/Chris Cole
 Paula Saad/Paul Licari
 Felicia Mann/Ron Barton

Mens C/D

First Dan Whiston/Barry Dennis
Second Chris Halliday/Jim Scheuer
 William Molnar/Dego Pizzo
 Todd Haugh/Larry Schoemaker

Mens 45A

Bob Gravelyn/Jim Jazwiecz
 Dean Rhodes/Jim Santino
 Rick Scott/Al Mell
 Chris Pendall/Jim Kutt

Mixed A

Dave Bushen/Barbara Westveer
 Karen Green/Kevin Dancy
 Diana Courtney/George Terryn
 Kathy Trotter/Ron Papke

Mens 30A

First Rich & John Torres
Second Paul Adams/Dave Bushen
 Mike Mollema/Nick Frontczak
 Tony & Mike Garbarino

Mens 50

Tom Blakeslee/J. Panasiewicz
 Ric Scott/Al Mell
 Joe Romeo/Chuck Van Hoose

Mixed B

Judy Porter/Stanley-ElAmin
 Tracey Truvillion/Vince Sessions

Mens 30B

First Tom Nagel/Jeff Johnson
Second Chris Goudie/Twayne Howard
 Jason Carroll/Dan O'Connell

Mens 45B/50B/55/60

Mike Huber/Don Edwards
 Mike Young/Mike Brooklier
 Frank Palazzollo/Dan Sutton
 Ron Black/Jack Reed

Mixed C

Carol Messing/Allen Jones
 Kim Novak/Bob Gray

Swain Defeated on Home Court

Continued from page one

match that started just a few minutes before midnight, Rocky Carson over Brian Istace.

Saturday at 3 pm the first final between John Ellis and Jack Huczek is everything the hype

said it would be. Bringing out the best in both players, Huczek wins an all out war in five games to advance to the finals. Jack didn't seem to break a sweat as he dove all over the court, and John was soaked as he fought as hard as he could.

After the match, John said he was tired and needed to get in better shape. Semifinal game 2 saw Cliff Swain win in four games over Rocky Carson. This match was not as close as all the others. Game one saw Rocky Carson shoot to an impressive 8-1 lead, only to have Cliff rebound and take the game back 11-8. Game 2 was real close the whole game and had Cliff on top 13-11. Game 3 sees Rocky again charge to a lead, this time 9-3, and he hangs on to a 11-9 win. Game 4 has Cliff in charge easily the entire game and he wins 11-3.

The finals on Sunday had an air of cautious optimism for the favorite Cliff Swain. Jack Huczek had just taken down the numbers 8, 2, and 3 ranked pro's on the tour. And now he was gunning for Cliff in South Boston, the very town Cliff grew up in. Game one began with Cliff starting out slowly as he sometimes will here in Boston. Jack was on fire and had great success with high nick lob serves to Cliff's backhand. Jack wins game one, 11-4 amid silence in the crowd. Game two starts with much encouragement from the crowd for Cliff and he seems to use it to his advantage, he wins this one 11-6 over Jack. The crowd is back into the game again and Cliff rides this emotion to a 7-1 lead only to see Jack battle back and take the

Letter to the Editor...

Thoughts on Sportsmanship

by Stephanie Cobb

Where has good sportsmanship gone? I believe it is time to get it back. How to get it back is a good question.

I have been traveling this year to racquetball tournaments from North to South and East to West. I have seen good sportsmanship, so I know it is out there. I just do not know how to sustain it and continue to make it flourish throughout the racquetball family so it does not disappear periodically. It not only is great to see matches, but also excellent to observe excellent sportsmanship.

For example, I attended the U.S. Open Tournament in Memphis. A wonderful playing experience occurred for me there. I won a match after being down 10-1 in the tiebreaker. I was cheered by family and friends and this made me feel good, even exhilarated. Yet, the event struck me the most was the approach, after what must have been a disappointing loss, that I will never forget. After the match she did not storm off the court in anger without shaking my hand. Instead she gave me a big hug and whispered, "Congratulations, I had fun."

I am trying to bring more good sportsmanship to my own game. It is

not always in my repertoire. Nor is good sportsmanship easy to achieve when I feel so hurt from losing a game. It temporarily feels good to walk off, throw the racquet down on the floor and bust open the locker room door with a full karate kick. Then to add insult to injury, I blast out some profanity. I am human no matter what you guys think. But, displaying these behaviors is not being a good sport. Believe me, I have regretted those moments. However, I have not been woman enough to come back to apologize for my display of rage.

I have been playing racquetball in Michigan for three years and I have noticed one particular person with excellent sportsmanship in every tournament in which we both participated. I try to copy this person, but do not quite make it. At a later date, I will announce whom I think this person is, meanwhile I would like to know who you think has good sportsmanship. Please email me your choices and thoughts on sportsmanship at scobb1968@yahoo.com or place your comments on the RAM web page.

People you choose will be placed on the first "Good Sports Team" for the 2001-2002 racquetball season. Let's begin a good tradition.

Continued on page 7

Tri-Club Open Tournament Draws 75

Seventy-five players took to the courts of the Michigan Athletic Club in Grand Rapids to contest the first Tri-Club Open. Players enjoyed lots of round robin play, great hospitality and shirts and trophies by Anderson Screen Printing. After surviving the sustainability-challenged (duration-challenged) balls, things really started to pick up.

While some divisions were straight round robin, total points wins, most divisions

featured round robin preliminary rounds that created seeding for Semi-Finals and Finals to be played on Sunday. With this format everyone got at least five matches, and still got to contest Semis and Finals using "Real" Racquetball rules.

The Tournament Directors would like to thank everyone for coming out to our first Round Robin tournament and look forward to seeing you back here in May.

— Submitted by Twayne Howard and Paula Spagnuolo

Tri-Club Open Results:

	<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Semi-Finalists</u>	<u>Semi-Finalists</u>
Junior 10 – under	Trenton Balavitch	Dan Poindexter	Fred Poindexter	
Men's Open	Brandon Cortese	Jeff Connell	Shannon Kohl	Lewis Forrest
Men's A	Brett Baum	Bob Schermer Jr.	Tom Ford	Scott Glass
Men's B	Kevin O'Keefe	Randy Ransom	Twayne Howard	Mike Wahl
Men's C	Barry Dennis	Alex Brown	Mark Kamps	Neal Young
Men's D	Chad Ignatowski	Tony Gardner	Jeff Young	Scott Lyons
Men's 25 C/D	Dave Rye	Gary Balavitch	Scott Nicholson	
Men's 45 A/B	Bob Buckingham	George Goudie		
Men's 45 C/D	Tim Cosby	Bob Bohez	Bob Lyons	
Men's 55 Open	Spark Overway	Bill Plewa		
Men's 65 Open	Dave Lund	Dick Tedford	JD Driver	

"Age ain't nothin' but a number"...

Duane Russell Shares Stories of Success

JoAnn and I have been busy. We played and won the gold medal for the 70+ mixed doubles at the 34th Ekfelon USRA National 2001 Doubles Championship in Las Vegas in October. I also won the gold for the Men's 75+ and the silver in the 70+ with my partner Marvin Schinagle from Beachwood, Ohio.

Earlier, I won first place in the 75+ singles at the 17th International Racquetball Federation World Senior Championships held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in August. I played a total of nine matches without losing a single game.

In October at the 15th Annual Huntsman World Senior Games in Utah I competed in both singles and doubles. With partner Robert Miller from Iron Mountain, Michigan, I won the gold medal marking our first

time out as a team and his first gold medal win. I also received the silver in 75+ singles.

JoAnn and I have won the USRA Mixed Doubles gold medal four times (1997, 1998, 1999 and 2001). The Las Vegas tournament marks the last of our competitive efforts as a team. We will continue to play for fitness since racquetball is excellent aerobic exercise. We will seek another venue, i.e., horseshoes, to compete in at future Huntsman World Games should we decide to attend. I have a professional horseshoe pit on my property in a private park named after my father, Claud Russell in Lansing Township.

Over my many years of play, 45 in all, I have had lots of success and won many tournaments. In racquetball, I have been a

State Champion (Michigan and California), a National Champion (both singles and doubles) and an International Champion.

I chose to have a USRA Championship ring made for JoAnn and me to celebrate our play together in mixed doubles. Mine has a red stone and hers has a green stone. I taught her how to play the game of racquetball when she was 69 years old. She is now 73. She had the courage, strength and stamina to enter the combat arena side by side with me. She has the right stuff! Our accomplishments together really are the highlight. Together we did it!

I will continue to play in the National Master's tournament in both singles and doubles for a few more years depending upon my health and desire to play. The fire in my belly still burns! — Duane Russell

Seniors Tournament Celebrates 13 years

by Jim Easterling

Michigan held its 13th Midwest Seniors Masters Racquetball Tournament this year. This tournament is an annual event and is open to anyone age 35 or older. The tournament is a round robin without referees. Scoring is 2 games to 11.

The tournament was held at the Total Sports Club in Mt. Clemens on Nov. 3, 2001. As tournament directors, Dianne and I made sure to keep the event to a one-day schedule allowing all players to enjoy Sunday.

Six different divisions catered to men and women alike. Out

of the 14 plaques that were awarded in this tournament, three went to out of state players. That is over 20% of the hardware leaving Michigan! The Men's 50 division had 12 people, causing it to be the only division needing two flights, with a playoff of the top four people at the end.

Greg Hodges (M 35/40), Len Kleparek (M 35/40B), Jim Santino (M 50) and Bill Hagedorn (M 55/60) never lost a game. (Len Kleparek we will see you in "A" next year!). Bill Hagedorn and Dave Lund both came in second last year and this year were able to grab first place.

Still considered a "bridesmaid and never a bride" are Steve Goedker (M 35 40A) and John O'Donnell (M 65/70). Last year Steve lost to Pete Ruhala and John lost to Charlie Douglass (Indiana). This year Steve took second, succumbing to Greg Hodges and John was the second place winner, with Dave Lund the victor.

A big "you done good" goes to Jim Santino who was the Men's 50 winner this year and last, never losing a game either year (I guess next year I'll have to fix the draw!)

I would like to thank Bob and Ed Straetman, owners of Total Sports, for hosting the tournament, HEAD/PENN Racquet Sports for sponsoring the tournament and as always, the players who make it happen.

13th Annual Seniors/Masters Tournament November 3, 2001

Men's 35/40 A

First	Greg Hodges
Second	Steve Goedker
Third (tie)	Jim Wink
	Lewis Forrest

Men's 65/70

First	Dave Lund
Second	John O'Donnell
Third	Stan Kurzman
Fourth	Hank Gates

Men's 35/40 B

First	Len Kleparek
Second	Jim Scheuer
Third	Mike Surowiec
Fourth	Steve Mizzi

Women's Division

First	Alice Douglass
Second	Laura Patterson
Third	Felecia Mann
Fourth	Janet Insko

Men's 50

First	Jim Santino
Second	Joe Dennison
Third	Kim Hyde
Fourth	Joe Romeo

Men's 55/60

First	Bill Hagedorn
Second	Bill Allen
Third	Frank Dascenza
Fourth	Walter Carrara



Congratulations to all!

Top Seniors/Masters



Laura Patterson, second place (left) and Alice Douglass, first place in the Women's Division.



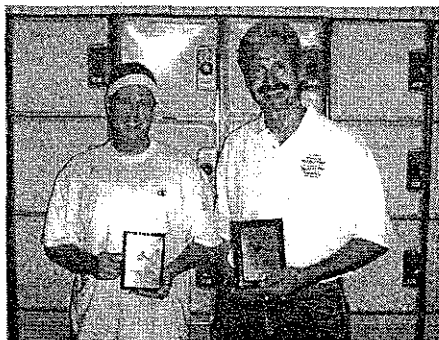
Men's 65/70 - John O'Donnell, second place (left) and Dave Lund, first place.



Men's 55/60 - Bill Allen, second place (left) and Bill Hagedorn, first place.



Men's 50 - Joe Dennison, second place (left) and Jim Santino, first place.



Men's 35/40 B - Jim Scheuer, second place (left) and Len Kleparek, first place.

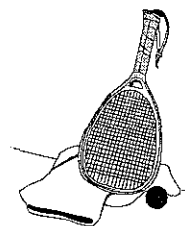


Men's 35/40 A - Steve Goedker, second place (left) and Greg Hodges, first place.

Huczek Wins Boston Pro Stop

Continued from page 3

game 11-8. Concern is now on the spectators face as their hero is one game away from elimination. Game four begins with Cliff and Jack trading points and spectacular diving gets, one after another, until the emotion is draining the crowd as well. Tied at 4-4, Jack goes up 6-4. Cliff ties it up and then goes up 8-6. The crowd is alive and cheering Cliff on as he increases his lead to 10-6. Jack takes a timeout and it's obvious this is a pivotal point in the game and maybe the match. He returns from the timeout with renewed determination and after several sideouts on both sides, marches off to victory in the game, 12-10. Both players gracious in thanking the sponsors and spectators, Jack Huczek left Boston with the admiration of many. Videos of these great matches are available on the IRT's official vidographers site at www.proracquetball.net.



JOIN THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

Membership includes.

*Membership card, USRA official rule book, travel and equipment discounts

*USRA medical, life and liability insurance at sanctioned events

*Four issues of the RAM newsletter, The Racquetball Reporter

*Six issues of the USRA national publication, Racquetball Magazine

*RAM sanctioned tournament entry forms mailed to your home

*Eligibility to play in all sanctioned tournaments and receive state and national ranking points

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SUPPORT THE US NATIONAL TEAM DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____ HOME PHONE _____

_____ \$30.00 Adult competitor

_____ \$20.00 Junior Competitor (without *Racquetball Magazine* subscription)

_____ \$20.00 *Racquetball Magazine* subscription only

MAIL TO: RAM, 111 Pearl St., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Racquetball Reporter



111 Pearl St NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

FLINT MI P&DC 484/485 06/07/02 22:40

DIANNE & JIM EASTERLING 112001
321 VILLAGE
LANSING MI 48911