



The Racquetball REPORTER



321 Village Dr. Lansing, MI 48911

VOL 5 NO. 4

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RACQUETBALL ASSN OF MICHIGAN

JUNE 1988

RAM To Hire A Board Administrator

The Racquetball Association of Michigan will be hiring an Administrator to the Association for the 1988-89 season. This Administrator will report to RAM's Board of Directors and will be involved in the promotion of racquetball throughout Michigan.

Duties of the Administrator shall include but not be limited to the following:

- 1 Assist in the organization/operation of all RAM conducted clinics/tournaments, i.e. State Singles, State Doubles, Referee Clinics, Junior Clinics
- 2 Promote RAM activities and membership in the State Association.
- 3 Devise and implement a viable set of junior activities to culminate in Team Michigan.
- 4 Devise and implement clinics for rules/referees.
- 5 Assist in the operation of RAM's player ranking system
- 6 Act as liaison and promote interchange between RAM and club owners/managers in Michigan

7 Other racquetball activities as deemed necessary by RAM's Board of Directors.

Qualifications of the Administrator will include:

- 1 Considerable background in the sport of racquetball.
- 2 Considerable knowledge of recent developments in racquetball at the local, state and national level.
- 3 Ability to communicate effectively with others both verbally and in writing
- 4 Ability to maintain records, prepare reports, and conduct correspondence related to the work.
- 5 Ability to maintain favorable public relations.
- 6 Ability to type

The salary for this position will be \$200 per month plus expenses approved by the Board of Directors. The position will run from September 1, 1988 through May 30, 1989.

Interested people are invited to apply in writing by sending a resume or list of qualifications to W.T. Blakeslee, President, RAM: 37585 Lakeville, Mt. Clemens, MI 48045. All applications for RAM Administrator must be received by July 4, 1988.

1987 AARA NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

In October, Michigan had 3 players travel to the American Amateur Racquetball Association Doubles Championship in Tempe, Arizona. The weather was excellent and the competition was even better. The club was walking distance from the hotel which made it convenient. Bob Wilhelm teamed up with Stu Hastings in 30+ but were defeated in a 1st round tie breaker. "We didn't play badly the other team just played better", said Stu. According to Bob, "We just weren't ever in the flow. The other team got the breaks that we needed to win the tie breaker." Stu said, "If we could have gotten past that 1st round, who knows how far we could have gone."

Stu also teamed with Rick Vanderlind from Grand Rapids in 35+. This team went to the semi finals before losing to 6-time national doubles champion Stan Wright. Wright and his partner went on to win the next match for another national title. The Hastings-Vanderlind team finished 4th in their first national effort. According to Stu, "We finished where we should have. We were the 4th best team in the final analysis. We simply lost to better teams. That is something we can live with."

Stu Hastings

1988 REGIONALS

The 1988 AARA/Ektelon Region 9 Adult and Junior Championships were held at the Aquarius Athletic Club in Toledo, Ohio February 19-21.

Over 230 adults competed in a single event and of those 136 also played in a second event. Only 45 male juniors played in six divisions. Although the junior girls were cancelled for lack of participants, those who signed up are still eligible for junior nationals.

Though the weather in the Detroit area was stormy, Toledo was calm. No one had problems getting to the club on time. The tournament went smoothly with matches scheduled on the hour beginning at noon on Friday. The last matches were scheduled for eleven o'clock p.m. with Saturday morning beginning at 8:00 and ending 11:00 p.m. Sunday's last matches were scheduled for two o'clock and everyone was on their way home by 4:00.

The Aquarius Athletic Club had a very good viewing for all courts and good hospitality throughout the tournament. The staff was very helpful and easy to work with. The only damper on the entire weekend was when several vehicles were broken into, both at the club and the hotel Saturday night. On Sunday morning many sleepy eyed players could be seen throughout the club. For some it meant an early morning loss, while others seemed to thrive on the lack of sleep.

Michigan players did very well, even dominating some of the divisions. Michigan's State Championships should be very exciting when rematches may become grudge matches! We wish all those who are going to Nationals a hearty Good Luck! See you all next year!

The results of the tournament are as follows:

Continued on page 2

STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1988 State Championships took place April 15-17 at the Davison Racquet and Fitness Club. Over 275 people competed in 30 divisions. The competition was fierce right from the start.

The tournament began at 5 p.m. Friday with all Davison's 14 courts being used. Consolation matches were offered for every division with very few signing up to play. Either everyone was already playing in two divisions or they didn't want to play the late matches. Of course, there were great matches to watch in every court. Saturday began at 9 a.m. with matches going off on the hour with the last round beginning roughly at 10. With very few forfeits, the tournament ran on time with few problems.

Most of the divisions finished with the top seeds in the finals. Chris Cole ranked number one in the state, defeated Jim Floyd in the men's open finals. Both the 3rd and 4th seeds also made it to the semi's. Randy Andersen, #1 defeated Dave Rodriguez, # in men's 30A. In men's 35A it was Stu Hastings, #1 and Mike Stephens, #3 in the finals. Unfortunately for Mike, he has to forfeit to Stu

because of severe leg cramps. Women's open found number one seed Lisa Echer defeating number two seed Jo Etta Hastings. Most of the other divisions also finished as seeded.

A few of the most memorable upsets came in the finals. In the junior 18 and under #2 seed Nick Kallis defeated Jim Floyd in a very close match night through to the tie-breaker. What was even more exciting was the fact that after the junior final, Nick and Jim had to play again for their men's open semi's match. This time Jim won the tie-breaker. Both matches drew large crowds. Everyone enjoyed the two young men as they played excellently and very professional. Some of the older players should take note and behave on the court as well as they did.

Another upset could be found in men's A. Thirty-eight players entered the division, the biggest division in the tournament. Ken Bonnett, seeded number one, was the only seed in the top four to make it to the semi's. It was the bottom seeds #5, 6, and 7 that came up through the ranks to be in the semi's. The finals saw #7 seed Ryan Covell taking on number 5 seed Dan Verbeck with Dan winning

men's A.

Johnny Northern, number 3 seed in men's 40A upset both the #2 seed Ken Bonnett and Michael Stephens #1 seed. Though Ken forfeited due to a hand injury, Johnny played excellent racquetball to win against Mike. This was Johnny's first tournament win in the 40 and over division.

Congratulations to all division winners! Also, congratulations to the Davison Racquet and Fitness Club for hosting another fine event. Hospitality was superb. Comments were made all weekend on how good the soup was. Thanks go to the chef at the Davison Country Club.

I'm sure everyone noticed all the changes at Davison. The Club now has a full line of Cardiovascular equipment, free weights and several new Nautilus machines as well as a new aerobics room complete with sound system. If you didn't get a chance to check it all out, I'm sure Davison would love you to stop by any time.

Once again, congratulations to all State winners and see you all next year!

Lou Ellen Fecher

STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Men's "Open"	Chris Cole	def. Jim Floyd	Men's "50 +"	Ron Pudduck	def. Richard Sewell
Men's "A"	Dan Verbeck	def. Ryan Covell	Men's "60 +"	Richard Garrett	def. Duane Russell
Men's "B"	Troy Altenburg	def. Tad Edsall	18 & Under	Nick Kallis	def. Jim Floyd
Men's "C"	Ray Matthews	def. Donald Morey	16A & Under	Ryan Covell	def. Jeff Eckhouse
Men's "D"	Michael Garbarino	def. David Miller	16B & Under	Mark Riley Jr.	def. Mitch Panchula
Men's "Novice"	Mitch Panchula	def. Nicholas Lesnau	12 & Under	Scott Zimmerman	def. Brian Garrow
Men's "19 +"	Todd Luethihohann	def. Dave Larry	10 & Under	Brent Zimmerman	def. Tim Van Dyke
Men's "25 +"	Al Tackett	def. Jack White	Women's "Open"	Lisa Echer	def. Jo Etta Hastings
Men's "30A"	Randy Anderson	def. Dave Rodriguez	Women's "A"	Alida Mainhardt	def. Ann Fecher
Men's "30B"	Al Klann	def. Dan McAllinder	Women's "B"	Cindy Vandersteen	def. Laurie Eller
Men's "30C"	Stu Hastings	def. Michael Stephens	Women's "C"	Becky Brevitz	def. Pat Klann
Men's "35B"	John Molinaro	def. Al Mell	Women's "D"	Diane McCauley	def. Rae McIntyre
Men's "35C"	Lionel Guerra	def. Jack Sisinger	Women's "Novice"	Sharon Elfes	def. Lorie West
Men's "40A"	Johnny Northern	def. Michael Stephens	Women's "25 +"	Carol Collins	def. Beth Gutowski
Men's "40B"	Larry Cole	def. J.R. Slavik	Women's "30B"	Paula Saad	def. Claire Kruse
Men's "45A"	Fred Lewerenz	def. Paul Becker	Women's "35A"	Irene Chmura	def. Brigitte Hartz
Men's "45B"	Gary Cloutier	def. Gary Phipps	14 & Under	Angi Gardner	def. Christine Skinner

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1988 REGIONALS continued from page 1

Men's Open	Chris Cole (MI) d. Joel Bonnett (MI)	4, 6
Men's A	Brian Ferguson (OH) d. Bob Jackson (WV)	0, (14), 9
Men's B	Joseph Fuchala (OH) d. Troy Altenburg (MI)	(10), 12, 9
Men's C	Terry Krogman (OH) d. Andrew Love (OH)	14 (10) 6
Men's D	Tim Dawson (MI) d. Bill McGrail (MI)	7, 5
Men's 19+	Tim Anthony (OH) d. Ed Davidson (OH)	
Men's 25+	Dave Eagle (OH) d. Mike Anderson (MI)	7 (13) 10
Men's 30+	Scott Worthy (MI) d. Dave Rodriguez (MI)	
Men's 25B/30B	Jeff Lecklider (OH) d. Mark Kowalski (MI)	
Men's 30C+	David Balassonne (MI) d. Don Hlavaty (MI)	8, 8
Men's 35+	John Free (OH) d. Stu Hastings (MI)	3, 11
Men's 40+	Michael Stephens (MI) d. Ken Bonnett (MI)	7 (11) 3
Men's 35B/40B	John Gervasi (MI) d. Joseph Fuchala (OH)	8, 0
Men's 45+	Tom Perna (OH) d. Bob Sanders (OH)	(9) 12, 10
Men's 50+	Otis Chapman (MI) d. Bill Filiatreau (MI)	
Men's 55+	Lynn Hahn (MI) d. Otis Chapman (OH)	14, 9
Men's 60/65+	Richard Caretti (MI) d. Ed Witham (OH)	12 (11) 6
Women's Open	Lisa Ecker (MI) d. Cindy Doyle (OH)	14 (13) 7
Women's A	Carol Collins (MI) d. Cathy McCartney (OH)	5, 4
Women's B	Ryka Shaffer (OH) d. Priscilla Washburn (MI)	
Women's C	Paula Saad (MI) d. Claire Kruse (MI)	
Women's D	Bethany Vanderson (OH) d. Claire Druse (MI)	(13) 13, 10

Women's 19+	Lisa Ecker (MI) d. Lori Troszak (MI)	
Women's 25+	Carol Collins (MI) d. Lesley Klshigian (MI)	6, 7
Women's 30+	Barbara Harrison (OH) d. Barb Kowalski (OH)	
Women's 35/40+	Brigitte Hartz (OH) d. Irene Chmura (MI)	(7) 11, 6
Women's 30B/C	Sharon Huczek (MI) d. Linda Dolgin (OH)	(12) 11, 2
Women's 35B/C	Ryka Shaffer (OH) d. Bethany Vanderson (OH)	
Men's A Dbls	D. Matts/B. Ferguson (OH) d. D. O'Connell/N. Miller (OH)	
Men's B Dbls	Brandt/Embrgno (OH) d. Birescu/Sisinger (MI)	
Men's C/D	Sisinger/Birescu (MI) d. Riley/Niedzielski (MI)	
Dbls.	Jim Floyd (MI) d. Nick Rallis (MI)	
Jr 18 & Und.	Troy Altenburg (MI) d. Dave Durkee (OH)	12, 9
Jr 18B & Und.	Ryan Covell (MI) d. Shane Kaylor (OH)	
Jr 16A	Joel Bonnett (MI) d. Brian Simpson (IN)	
Jr 14A & B	Chris Pfaff (OH) d. Ron Woolard (OH)	
Jr 12 & Und.	Scott Zimmerman (MI) d. David Hamilton (OH)	
Jr 10 & Und.	Brent Zimmerman (MI) d. Tim VanDyke (MI)	
Jr 8 No	Shane Vanderson (OH) d. Nicholas Schultz (OH)	
Bounce		

The Mike Yellen Foundation
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

This year's award winners are Jim Floyd and Nick Rallis. These student athletes will divide the award of \$2,000.

Foundation members include.

Mike Yellen Jim Hiser
Fred Lewerenz Tom Blakeslee
Ron Slavik The RAM Board
The award is based on Racquetball and Academic performance.

Details, questions & contributions can be sent to the:

RAM Board of Directors
321 Village
Lansing, MI 48911
or by contacting any RAM Board of Director.
Tom Blakeslee

RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

The 1988 RAM State Doubles Championship was held on March 19-20 at the Grand Blanc Court Club in Grand Blanc. The tournament was a success partly due to all of the help from Larry and Midge Gordon of Grand Blanc. They did a superb job with the hospitality for the tournament.

There were a large number of back to back matches throughout the weekend as over 40 players out of 110 played in two divisions. Also out of 9 divisions, 6 of them were double elimination. This ensured alot of playing for all entries.

Penn sponsored this tournament again for the third year in a row and without their support the tournament would have been much tougher to run. We would like to thank all of the players who entered and all of the people at the Grand Blanc Court Club for making the State Doubles Championship a success for 1988.

This year's tournament was an exception as no player finished first in more than one division. The Men's Open division saw Chris Cole and Jim Floyd of Flint defeat Dave Larry and Nick Rallis. The Women's Open saw Jo Etta Hastings (Clarkston) and Beth Gutowski (Flint) defeat Carol Collins and Priscilla Washburn (Ann Arbor). In the Mixed Open final Nick Rallis and Tammy Freidrich defeated Stu Hastings and Beth Gutowski. Listed below are the rest of the results. Congratulations to all players:

MEN'S OPEN

Jim Floyd/Chris Cole d. Dave Larry/Nick Rallis 15-4, 15-14

MEN'S A

Tom Blakeslee/Kerry Marks d. Neal Goodman/Jim Ohanesian 15-14 2-15, 11-5

Bob Gravelyn/Scott McNitt d. Mike Young/Joe Vitale

Blakeslee/Marks d. Gravelyn/McNitt 12-15, 15-7, 11-10

MEN'S B

Phil Croff/Dennis Lechowicz d. Dick Konieczka/Dave Vandersteun 11-15, 15-5, 11-2

MEN'S C/D

Chuck Knickerbocker/Bill Jacoby d. Don Morey/Scott Soulliere 15-13, 7-15 11-2

MEN'S 25/30A

Stu Hastings/Jack White d. Dan Dutcher/Scott Worthy 15-9, 15-8

MEN'S 30/35B

Ron Pudduck/Bob Schermer d. Marv Riley/Mark Niedzielski 12-15, 15-8, 11-1

Jack Sisinger/Alex Birescu d. Mike Call/Scott McConneelee 15-14 15-12

Pudduck Schermer d. Sisinger/Birescu 15-5 11-15 11-2

MEN'S 40

Bob Gravelyn/Mike Stephens d. Tom Brownlee/Fred Lewerenz Forfeit

WOMEN'S O/A

Jo Etta Hastings/Beth Gutowski d. Priscilla Washburn/Carol Collins 15-9, 15-2

WOMEN'S B/C

Laurie Eller/Paula Servin d. Paula Saad/Stacy Berbas 15-9 15-9

MIXED OPEN

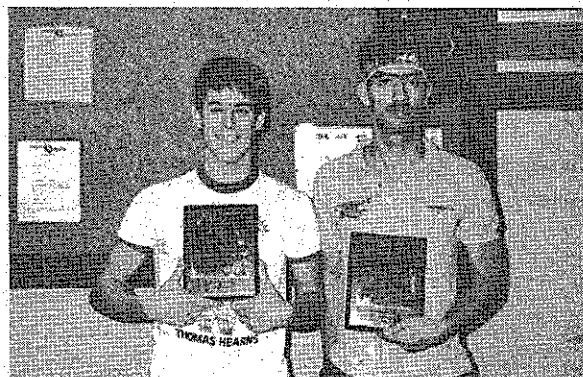
Nick Rallis/Tammy Freidrich d. Stu Hastings/Beth Gutowski 15-9, 15-13

MIXED A/B

Arlene Allan/Curt Rozier d. Laurie Eller/Len Chaltrac 13-15, 15-11, 11-5

MIXED C/D

Sue/Ron Papke d. Karen Muse/Tim Sypula 15-4 15-10



Men's "Open" Doubles Winners:
Jim Floyd (L), Chris Cole (R)

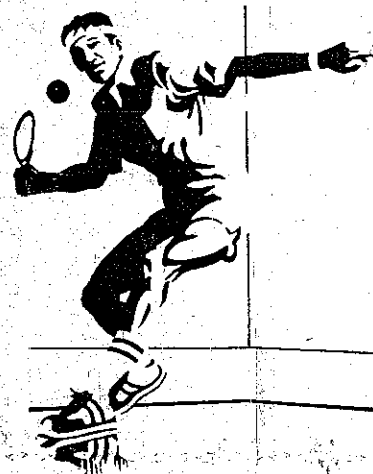


Women's "Open" Doubles Winners:
Jo Etta Hastings (L), Beth Gutowski (R)

RAM Thanks

penn

for their sponsorship of
The State Doubles Championship



FROM THE RULE BOOK

One of my favorite rules from "Section 8 — HOW TO REFEREE WHEN THERE IS NO REFEREE."

SAFETY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY PLAYER WHO ENTERS THE COURT.

At no time should the physical safety of the participants be compromised. Players are entitled, and expected, to hold up their swing without penalty, any time they believe there might be a risk of physical contact. Any time a player says he held up to avoid contact, even if he was over-cautious, he is entitled to hinder (rally replayed without penalty).

DURING RALLIES

During rallies, it is the hitter's responsibility to make the call. If there is a possibility of a skip ball, double-bounce, or illegal hit, play should continue until the hitter makes the call against himself. If the hitter does not make the call against himself and goes on to win the rally, and the player thought that one of the hitter's shots was not good, he may appeal to the hitter by pointing out which shot he thought was bad and request the hitter to reconsider. If the hitter is sure of his call, and the opponent is still sure the hitter is wrong, the rally is replayed. As a matter of etiquette, players are expected to make calls against themselves any time they are not sure. Unless the hitter is certain the shot was good, he should call it a skip.

W.T. Blakeslee

SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT AMATEUR RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENTS

We are seeing some disturbing signs in amateur tournament racquetball these days. Tournaments cancelled because of lack of entries, low entry numbers so that lower level players find themselves playing out of their skill level, older players having to play much younger players, and even women sometimes having to play in the men's division. We are also seeing fewer women players.

The last few years have seen subtle changes to encourage pro and open level players to come to tournaments with the enticement being money. I have no problems with awarding money prizes to professional players but to offer money to amateur players, no matter how small the amount, seems illegal. And who is paying for the prize money. I don't think the pro entry fee covers it. Hopefully, sponsors are covering the cost. Money should never be offered to amateur players.

Speaking of money. We have over the years seen the cost of playing tournament racquetball increase. Entry fees are typically \$25.00 per division and an additional \$15.00 for a second division. Let me explain what a typical tournament costs me, admittedly an extreme case because I live on the west side of the state and most tournaments are in the Detroit area.

Entry fee (one division)	\$ 25.00
Motel (two nights, me & wife)	100.00
Travel (\$.22/mi., 400 mi. RT)	88.00
Meals (for two, excluding tournament supplied Sat. evening meal)	60.00
TOTAL	\$273.00

In my division, it is usually possible to

win the final in three matches. The cost per match would be \$91.00. Very expensive racquetball. Should I lose my first match, the cost of that match, assuming I stayed for the Saturday evening pizza and overnight, would be \$273.00 (consolation or guaranteed second matches are rare these days). For this I would get a generally poor quality T-shirt and a 40 minute lesson from a person who shows little sympathy or support after beating me.

Most racquetball players appreciate the importance of competition and are good sports. They respect the opponent and the referee. Yet, too often, we see tantrums, hear swearing, and no respect for the referees. Think what impact these things have on new players observing this for the first time, or for people observing our game for the first time. They might say that if this is what tournament racquetball is all about, count me out.

We are seeing the loss of good tournament facilities. To me a good facility starts with a cheerful person responding to your call for a starting time. You then hope there is a parking spot reasonably close to the facility and safe from someone breaking in and stealing your stereo. Adequate hosting area with draw sheets convenient to observe, prompt check-in, locker facilities large enough for all players and adequate showers. Most of all, it is important to have quality courts, good lighting, dry walls and good observation. I'm sure you can think of other things which make for a good facility.

Even though we pay the same amount to enter a tournament, we are not all treated equally. Most clubs have the premium courts, good lighting, dry walls, glass back walls, plenty of observation and attention. At some tournaments these courts are reserved for the A or Open level players. Granted that possibly more people would want to watch the better skilled player but often some of the more exciting matches are played by less skilled players. Again the beginner or lower skilled player is often shuffled to the court where there is no observation, wet walls, poor lighting, and is told that it's all right. You couldn't get an Open player to play on some of these courts. Why should you expect anyone else to do so.

Forfeiting a match should be a most serious event. How many times have you worked hard on your game, couldn't sleep for nights thinking how you were going to win a tournament, butterflies as the match approaches and then to find out your opponent has not shown up for the match. Any time a person cannot make a match it is important to let the tournament director know as soon as possible so that the opponent can be alerted as soon as possible, hopefully reducing the pain of a forfeited match.

I have covered a lot about the bad things about tournament racquetball but I believe we must look at new approaches for amateur racquetball if it is to survive. Let me just suggest a few for your thoughts.

- 1) Money as a prize would only be awarded to professional players and the money for these prizes would not come from amateur player entry fees.
- 2) Eliminate tournament shirts unless purchase is voluntary or shirts are provided by a sponsor. The cost of shirts would be eliminated from the entry fee.
- 3) Encourage more volunteer help at tournaments to help reduce costs.
- 4) All tournaments should provide discounted prices from area motels. Alert

MICHIGAN'S RACQUETBALL HALL OF FAME

It's time to think about the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame. This award, like the other Hall of Fame presentations, is considered the highest honor a person can receive in Michigan associated with racquetball.

Anyone can nominate a person for this award. The nominated man or woman must be at least 30 years of age and must have exemplified himself/herself in an outstanding manner in any of the following categories: Participation, Instruction or Contribution.

All names and phone numbers of nominees must be received by August 15, 1988. So please don't wait. Send your nomination now!! All nominations should be mailed to: Jim Hiser, Hall of Fame Committee, RAM, G-2140 Fairway Dr., Davison, MI 48423.

AARA NATIONAL OFFICERS

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President	Van Dubolsky
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Vice President	Jim Hiser
	Flint, MI
Commissioner	Cathie Frederickson
	Grand Rapids, MI

AARA REGION #9 OHIO, WEST VIRGINIA, MICHIGAN

Regional Director	Jim Easterling
Jr. Regional Director	W.T. Blakeslee

AMERICAN COLLEGIATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Jerry Gray	110 1/2 N. Michigan Ave.
	Big Rapids, MI 49307
	(616) 796-9291
Matt Klein	C-9 East Campus Apts.
	Big Rapids, MI 49307
	(616) 796-0461 Ext. 3666

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Treasurer	Dianne Easterling
	(517) 887-0459

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NEWSLETTER

Jim Easterling	321 Village
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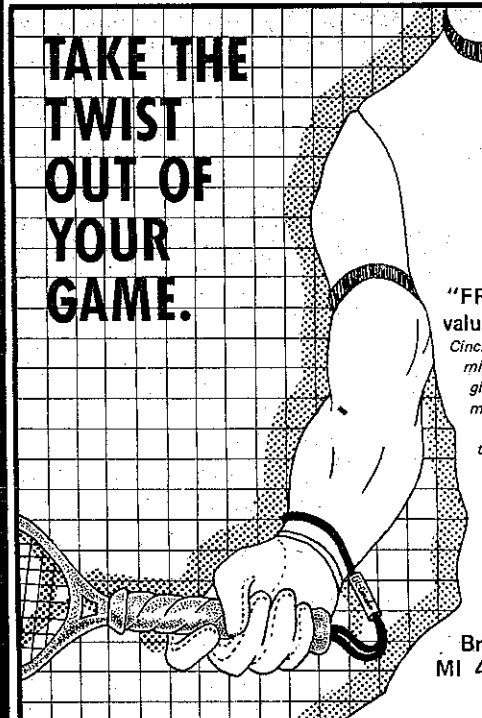
RAM PAST PRESIDENTS

(RAM was formed July 24, 1984)

Bob Wilhelm (2 months)	1984 - 85
Lee Frederickson	1984 - 85
Jim Easterling	1985 - 86
Lee Frederickson	1986 - 87
W.T. Blakeslee	1987 - 88

PAST STATE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

Judy Huhta (MRA) (5 mo.)	1976 - 77
Denny Wood (MRA)	1977 - 78
Denny Wood (MRA)	1978 - 79
Denny Wood (MRA)	1979 - 80
Denny Wood (MRA)	1980 - 81
Gary Doty (MRA) (2 mo.)	1980 - 81
Jim Easterling (MRA)	1981 - 82
Jim Easterling (MRA)	1982 - 83
Larry Cole (MARA)	1982 - 83
Bob Szuch (MRA)	1983 - 84
Larry Cole (MARA)	1983 - 84



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GRAND RAPIDS CITY RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

MARCH 11 - 13, 1988
Grandville Health and Racquet Club
3380 Fairlans SW

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

MEN'S OPEN

Joel Bonnett d. Mike Anderson
1, (4), 9, (10), 8
Semi-finalists — Randy Anderson
Dave Rodriguez

MEN'S A

Ryan Covell d. Steve Jazwiec
3, (9), 1, 7
Semi-finalists — Tim Frisoky
John Stallmer

MEN'S B

Steve Echlinaw d. Dave Huizenga
0, 2, 4
Semi-finalists — Jay Costen
Dave Tamblyn

MEN'S C

Steve Kretschman d. Brian Hansen
(6), 8, (4), 8, 5
Semi-finalists — Ken Bart
Jim Beck

MEN'S D

Bill Spence d. Brent Zimmerman
(6), (4), 4, 7, 5
Semi-finalists — Stan Brummel
Marty Touchette

MEN'S NOVICE

Dave Slagter d. Tim VanDyke
4, 6, (10), 4
Third Place — Rick Jankowski

WOMEN'S A

Dawn Cumberworth d. Cindy Rosema
9, (7), (7), 4, 7
Third Place — Kerry Neuman

WOMEN'S C

First Place — Sue Purcey
MEN'S 40A
Mike Stephens d. Bob Gravelyn
3, 8, 4
Third Place — Tom Sharum

MEN'S 35B

Jeff Power d. Jim Ohanesian
6, 3, (7), 7

MEN'S 35C

Steve Kretschman d. Ron Oele
4, 6, 2
Third Place — Stan Brummel

MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES

Mike Anderson and Randy Anderson
d. Ken Bonnett and Cleo Melvin
15 - 8, 15 - 8

MEN'S A DOUBLES

Gary Miller and Lin Showerman
d. Ryan Covell and Jay Costen
15 - 14, 15 - 5

MEN'S B DOUBLES

John DeWeerd and Bob Rosema
d. Rick Hall and Mark Rice
9 - 15, 15 - 8, 11 - 6

MEN'S C DOUBLES

Don Stephens and Mark Slager
d. Ron Wroblewski and Bill Keiser
15 - 4, 15 - 7

Grand Rapids Racquetball
Patrons Association
Rick Hall

STU HASTINGS

1987 MALE RACQUETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR!
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

I was voted by the top players and supporters of racquetball in our state to be the 1987 male racquetball player of the year. Does this mean that I am the best open player in our state? No, it doesn't. However, I will dispense with the false modesty by saying that I do consider myself a good player. What then does the award mean?

The player of the year designates a person who does have a high standard of play. This person is considered to be a good player. This player is considered to be a good sport, have a good attitude, and generally be good for the sport of racquetball.

When people I haven't seen in 6 months or a year ask me what I've been up to, I almost laugh. My schedule hasn't changed in the last 5 or 6 years. I get up at 6 a.m. and then drive 45 miles to work (I'm a high school business teacher). I'm at school at 7:15. I teach until 2:30. I'm at the club at 3:00. I teach or play or drill until 11:30 p.m. I get home at about 12:30 a.m., eat dinner and I'm in bed at 1:00 a.m. This is the schedule M, T & Th. Wed., I run my errands and am usually in bed for the night by 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday are reserved for tournaments.

It's very funny, sometimes to have my best friends in racquetball call me at home on a Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday and leave a message to "call me tonight, it's important." I laugh when I get home at 12:30 a.m. and get them out of bed. They probably figure that there is no way that I could be at the club that late all the time. I can't blame them; sometimes I wonder too how can I be there that late.

The tough part is not in doing it once, but in doing it week after week and month after month. It's especially tough to start this weekly schedule after a tough tournament ending late Sunday.

During the summers I continue to instruct players and work at the Olympic Elite racquetball training camps. At the elite camps we go from 5:45 a.m. until

11:30 p.m. Although this schedule seems compatible with my normal routine, it's actually tougher because I'm more intense in my effort. The reason is that in a 5 day camp with players from all over the country, I have a short length of time to convey a great deal of knowledge. The possibility for continued instruction is limited and I'll never work with most of them again. It's rather difficult to teach the fine points of racquetball to someone in 1 week. After these camps I'm left burnt out for a week after. I take a great deal of pride in what I do. My basic philosophy is that, "it's better to burn out than it is to rust."

I feel the work I do with other players is important. When they begin to grow and have confidence in their game, their personal confidence grows as well. I see them become stronger people as their self concept grows. Racquetball teaches them self discipline to reach a goal. This concept relates to every facet of success in our lives.

I do all of these things in racquetball because it makes me a better person. I want to share this with as many people as I can, because I think racquetball can make them better people too. The lessons that adversity teaches us on the court can be directly related to dealing with it in our personal lives.

I would like to thank the people that have supported me over the years. Jim Hiser professional racquetball commissioner, Barry Riddle and Taylor Bryant at HEAD Racquet Sports, Jim Buelow at Footjoy, Michael Trotz and Steve Jacob at Backwall Racquet Club, the Chomakos family at Meadowbrook Racquet and Fitness Center, and especially my wife Joetta. I also would like to thank the players that I coach for having the same confidence in me that I have in them.

Lastly, I would like to thank the people that voted for me. You have given me an honor that I can't win. Thank you for recognizing that some may play better but few work harder.

SANCTION YOUR TOURNAMENT WITH RAM

Now is the time to consider sanctioning your tournament, clinic or club event with RAM and AARA. Sanctioning your event with RAM will ensure it will receive the prestige and promotion it deserves.

Some of the advantages of sanctioning include:

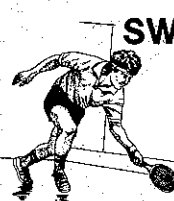
1. Listing of your event on RAM's tournament and in the tournament calendar section of the Racquetball Reporter.
2. Inclusion of your event's results in the Racquetball Reporter and in the State and National Ranking System.
3. Discounts on shirts and trophies.
4. Help in securing ball manufacturers as sponsors.
5. Free tournament kits which include rule books, AARA programs, result forms and information on how to do the draws.

6. Help in securing a non-conflicting date for your event which helps everyone.
7. Mailing of your entry forms included with the newsletter for a nominal fee.

What does it cost to be sanctioned? Absolutely nothing! All we ask is that:

1. You follow AARA rules.
2. Use an AARA approved ball.
3. Ensure all participants are members of the AARA or that they join the AARA at the tournament site. Tournament/clinic participants who join RAM automatically become a member of AARA and receive national and state newsletters, discounts on products, a membership card, a rule book, and a free Visa card.

To sanction your event with RAM, please contact Dianne Easterling, RAM Sanctioning Committee at 321 Village, Lansing, MI 48911 or by phone after 4:30 at (517) 887-0459. To be included on RAM's pocket calendar, requests for sanction must be received by July 1, 1988. We look forward to working with you for the 1988-89 season.



SWEATSUITS FOR SALE

We have white sweatsuits left over from the "State Singles Championships." The price is \$15.00 for the top or bottom or \$25.00 for the complete sweatsuit.

The sizes are S-M-L-XL and they are made of 50 Poly/50 Cotton. If you want one please make out a check payable to RAM and mail, along with your size and address to RAM — 321 Village Dr — Lansing, MI 48911.

Penn
RACQUETBALL



OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALL

JOE BRADTKE
7009 Shady Nelms
Dublin, Ohio 43017
(614) 761-9787

NEW 1988 RAM MEMBERS

Adermatt, Brian	Ypsilanti	Deweerd, John	Grand Rapids	Garrow, Robert	Davison	Matthews, David	Birmingham	Slagter, David	Kentwood
Adermatt, Jason	Ypsilanti	Deyoung, Gordon	Wyoming	Gaston, Hal	Wyoming	Mathews, Jason	Davison	Snell, Rob	E. Grand Rapids
Aiello, Leo	Sterling Heights	Dieringer, Pete	Taylor	Gemus, Sam	Riverview	McConnell, Wayne	Union Lake	Soulliere, Scott	New Baltimore
Adloff, Brian	Grand Rapids	Dunn, Michael	Davison	Gervasi, John	Wyandotte	McKibben, Shane	Port Huron	Spence, Bill	Caledonia
Ado, Mark	Comstock Park	Dunning, Ross	Sarnia	Glover, Curt	Marshall	McKinney, Greg	Ann Arbor	Sredich, Alex	Flint
Aleccia, Anthony	Oak Park	Dykstra, Mitchell	Hudsonville	Gould, Chris	Chippewa Lake	McNitt, Jim	Jeinison	Sredich, David Jr.	Flint
Allis, Gary	Lapeer	Eastman, Bethany	Davison	Grady, Matthew	Flint	McNitt, Scott	Wyoming	Sredich, David Sr.	Flint
Backus, Donna	Dearborn	Ebejer, James	Grand Rapids	Grammatico, Joseph	Ann Arbor	Michael, Cleo	Kentwood	Stamecoff, Michael	Windsor
Balassone, Dave	Lansing	Eckhouse, Jeff	Grand Rapids	Hadley, Claude	Sarna	Michael, Joe	Birmingham	Steward, Don	Saginaw
Barems, Jim	Rockford	Echtinaw, Steve	Middleville	Hagenah, Annie	St. Clair Shores	Milstead, Dean	Kentwood	Stratman, Thomas	Royal Oak
Barnes, Kenneth	Rochester	Ecker, Lisa	Davison	Hagenah, Laurie	St. Clair Shores	Minto, Ryan	Davison	Stekete, Rip	Westland
Bart, Ken	Jeinison	Elam, William	Warren	Hagenah, Robert	St. Clair Shores	Moen, Todd	East Detroit	Stephens, Michael	Ada
Barter, Ed	Walled Lake	Eldred, Jerry	St. Clair Shores	Hall, Troy	Flint	Mojica, Natalie	Wyoming	Sutton, Dale	Davison
Beamish, Kenneth	Davison	Elliott, Linda	St. Clair Shores	Kaminski, Jason	Wayne	Morales, Ben	East Leroy	Syniewski, Dorothy	Caledonia
Beck, James	Jeinison	Emery, Kenneth	Canton	Kerr, Dianne	Windsor	Morden, David	Southfield	Sypula, Timothy	Romulus
Dedenis, Greg	Dearborn	Estabrook, Clyde	East Detroit	Kessler, Cheryl	Ann Arbor	Muse, Karen	Southfield	Tamblin, David	Grand Rapids
Bennett, Dean	Allendale	Eva, Keith	Caledonia	Knapp, Walter	Wyandotte	Nadeau, Michael	Allen Park	Tanner, Gary	Grandville
Biesterfeld, Walt	Port Huron	Farrell, Brenda	Flint	Knoblauch, Darryl	Wyandotte	Niehof, Jeff	Jeinison	Thompson, Gene	Davison
Bobinsky, Marc	Mackinaw Island	Farrell, Steven	Saline	Knoblauch, Hilma	Mt. Clemens	Odalovich, David	Davison	Thompson, Mary	Davison
Bolton, Karan	Harrison	Farrell, Gary	Saline	Knoblauch, Robert	Mt. Clemens	Pagano, Nick	Novi	Thorp, David	Davison
Boone, Dottie	Davison	Ficko, Gary	Flint	Kokocinski, Lisa	St. Clair Shores	Parkhurst, Dwayne	Swartz Creek	Turner, Aaron	East Tawas
Boudreau, Gary	Windsor	Flessner, Robin	Temperance	Kowalezyk, John	Temperance	Perez, Pete	Ann Arbor	VanHoose, Nancy	Rochester
Boudrie, Jack	Grandville	Fobar, Robin	Taylor	Kretschman, Steve	Wyoming	Poppel, Karen	Farmington	VanSummern, Michael	Detroit
Bradley, Donald	Troy	Freyling, Gary	Hudsonville	Krummer, Jeff	Grand Rapids	Power, Jeffery	Grand Rapids	Vechell, Michael	Flint
Bradley, Jan	Troy	Friest, John	Windsor	Kurzakowski, Cas	Birmingham	Purdy, D. Michael	Mt. Clemens	Visgar, Chad	Warren
Brennan, John	Mt. Clemens	Frisch, Robert	Grosse Ile	Lachniet, Derek	Grosse Pte.	Quinn, Robert	Sarnia	Visgar, Karen	Warren
Brinn, Joseph Sr.	Oscoda	Fuller, Al	Ferndale	Lamerato, Frank	Rockford	Rajter, Mark	Warren	Vos, John	Wyoming
Brook, Chris	Sarnia	Fuller, Kimberly	Portland	Larin, John	Hamtramck	Reou, Robert	Bay City	Waite, Gary	London
Brummel, Stanley	Wyoming	Fuller, Stuart	Lincoln Park	Lassir, Steven	Ann Arbor	Rice, Mark	Grand Rapids	Wanklin, Joanne	Windsor
Bujak, Lori	St. Clair Shores	Furness, Richard	Ann Arbor	Lawson, Manny	Portage	Robbert, Bruce	Grandville	Watson, Kenneth	New Baltimore
Bultman, H. Scott	Grand Rapids	Garbarino, Michael	Sterling Hts.	Leibinger, Mike	Madison Hts.	Robinson, Kurt	Port Huron	Wellman, Ed	London
Burland, Doug	Battle Creek	Garrow, Brian	Davison	Licari, Denise	Mt. Pleasant	Rochelleau, Lorna	Tecumseh	Werner, Dan	West Bloomfield
Carduna, Robert	Oxford	Garrow, James	Davison	Lietzau, Bill	Grosse Pt. Shore	Rodriguez, David	Kentwood	White, Jack	Warren
Carlson, Mark	Holland	Hardin, Dennis	Brighton	Liggins, Jay	Lansing	Rosal, Paul	W. Bloomfield	White, Sandy	Warren
Cloutier, Gary	Bloomfield Hill	Hawkins, Alex	Mt. Clemens	Lindsay, Les	Grand Rapids	Rouse, Eric	Mt. Clemens	Widman, Mark	Kalamazoo
Coccimiglio, John	Sault Ste. Marie	Hearn, Steven	New Baltimore	Lockwood, Robert	E. Grand Rapids	Rozier, Curt	Davison	Wilcox, Stephen	Belleville
Cok, David	Royal Oak	Henry, Marc	Grand Rapids	Loesel, Ron	Ann Arbor	Ruiz, Tino	Holland	Wilkes, Richard	Sterling Hts.
Cok, Steven	Belding	Hetke, Kurt	Grand Rapids	Lomax, William	Saginaw	Sarver, Larry	Mt. Clemens	Willard, David	St. Clair Shores
Collins, Carol	Livonia	Hill, Dan	Farmington Hill	Lowell, Larry	Flint	Schalma, Tim	Jeinison	Wood, Dennis	Okemos
Commins, Lori	Detroit	Hubbard, Glenn	Utica	Lubbers, Leon	Grandville	Seidenberger, Eric	Sterling Hts.	Woolcock, James	Flushing
Corinti, Mike	Muskegon	Huizenga, David	Hudsonville	Luethjohann, Todd	Holland	Sellers, Scott	Madison Hts.	Wright, Doug	Flint
Costen, J.	Wyoming	Hyde, Kim	Grand Rapids	Maddigan, Bob	Madison Hts.	Serven, Kerry	Burton	Yaeger, Bob	Grand Rapids
Cotter, Kevin	Southgate	Johnson, Karen	Toledo	Mainhardt, Alida	Fraser	Serven, Paula	Burton	Yanikian, Jack	Taylor
Culver, Roger	East Detroit	Johnston, Lorne	Davison	Mallick, Mike	St. Clair Shores	Sheehan, Patrick	Taylor	Yee, Harry	Southfield
Cvecich, Silvano	Windsor	Jones, Penelope	New Boston	Mandelbaum, Stuart	Sterling Heights	Sikkema, Todd	Grand Rapids	Young, Mike	Detroit
Davis, Sharon	Troy	Jones, Steven	Flint	Marecki, John	Southfield	Sims, Debi	Westland	Zimmerman, Brent	Gr. Rapids
Dayton, Rick	Comstock Park	Jones, Wayne	Big Rapids	Matheson, Don	Sault Ste. Marie	Sims, Presley	Westland	Zimmerman, Marilyn	Gr. Rapids
Debraber, Len	Grand Rapids		Flushing		Redford	Sisinger, Jack	Sterling Hts.	Zimmerman, Scott	Gr. Rapids

—2 DIVISIONS— "A Calculated Risk"

Playing 2 divisions can be good or bad, depending on what you want out of the tournament. Let's examine the history of tournament play to understand how 2 division play developed. Read on:

9 years ago I remember playing in a tournament that seemed more like a marathon rather than a game of skill. I remember playing my first match Friday night at 8 p.m. I played my second round Saturday at 9 a.m., round 3 Saturday at 3, and round 4 Saturday at 7. Don't forget that 9 and 10 years ago it was "winners" ref. So, you would play from 9-10:30, then stand and ref. til 12. Play from 3-4:30, then stand and ref. til 6, play from 7-8:30 and stand and ref. until 10. Sunday followed the same program with round 5 (quarters) at 8 a.m. then ref. round 6 (semis) was played at 12; then ref. round 7 (finals) played at 3. If you were lucky, you were one of the last matches and didn't have to ref. The bottom line is that you're either playing or standing while you referee all day for 2½ days. Just the fact that you played 7 rounds in 1 division according to today's standards seems to be a feat in itself. That division had 118 players. Today, a standard draw of 16 would give you 4 matches (usually 2 Saturday, 2 Sunday). A draw of 16-32 could give you a 5th round if you are unseeded. 5 rounds also assumes that you went all the way and won the tournament. Many of today's divisions may have 8, or less. In a full eight-person draw, you would only play 3 rounds maximum, probably 1 Saturday and 2 Sunday. Does 2 or 3 matches give you enough racquetball equal to the amount of time set aside or committed for the tournament? If you played 2 matches on Saturday, you may play at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Many times there is not

enough time (or gas in your car) to go home between matches. This same schedule is roughly the same Sunday. Many times the time wasted getting to a tournament can't be helped, but the time wasted hanging out at the club can be more productive. That is, if you play 2 divisions.

Why were age divisions developed? Why were the divisions sometimes over 120 and now tournaments don't have a total draw of 120? The second question is somewhat easier to answer than the first. Ten years ago, racquetball was a novelty to everyone who thought he was an athlete and could afford a racquet thought he was a "player." As in tennis a decade earlier, the "trendy players" soon lost interest. Racquetball has always been sold to the public as an easy sport to pick up quickly, many times you could pick up the basic rudiments of the game in an hour or 2. However, to excel in racquetball takes the desire, dedication, and hard work comparable to any other skill sport. As time moved on, so did the less than dedicated "hackers." They still may play for fun but not in tournaments. This "weeding out" process of less than dedicated players has evolved over a 10-year period. In 1980 a "novice" or "D" player would be a true beginner. In 1988 a "D" player or "novice" is an experienced veteran. To even play in a tournament at the "D" level puts you in the top 5% of all racquetball players in your state. The "novice" player has gone the way of the dinosaur. A new player must now get experience and play at the club level and attain a competitive status prior to entering his first competition. The novice may not be extinct but it is a much endangered species. The point is this, the fat has been weeded out of every division over the decade and all that remains are the "hard core players." However, with the loss of the "draw fillers," and the lack of new "blood," (juniors), we have lost tournament

entrants and matches. Lastly, these die hards are getting older. It was figured that the players that matured together should play together and thus would always be competitive with each other. So, 10 years ago we had open A, B, and C. Now we break down by class and age. 35A, 35B, 35C, etc.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of 2 divisions? Now that we have more choices, why pick just a class or only an age division? I've experimented with 2 divisions for 5 years now and I'd like to share a few thoughts with you. (I know some of you may be thinking that for me to give away a few of my thoughts is real risky since I have so few to begin with but I'll risk it just the same.)

Advantages—2 Divisions:

1. More play, more matches, this gives you more opportunity to try out the things you worked on for the last several weeks, (also, the more times at bat, the better your chance of getting a hit.) Don't forget, we enter a tournament to play, not watch.
2. More experience, by playing 2 divisions you can get twice the experience in the same weekend. With the people that I coach, I suggest that they play their normal competitive division (where they have a chance to win) plus another division where they are playing "up." This would be a division that you might not have a chance of winning, but you play for exposure to the next higher level of play. The only way to play at this higher division is exposure to it. We have a tendency to play up (or down) to the level of players we play.
3. More exercise, believe it or not one of the main reasons we like this game so much is the exercise it gives and how it makes us feel after. Three matches in 2 days is not enough for me.
4. Less time to get cold, with 2 divisions you

Continued on page 7



STU HASTINGS

Stu Hastings was the 1985, 1986, 1987 Michigan Outstanding Male Player of The Year and is on the Olympic Training Center coaching staff. He also has 6 state titles and a national championship to his credit. Stu was also inducted into the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame in 1987. He is currently the Head Pro at Backwall and Meadowbrook Racquet and Fitness Clubs.

VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT



W.T. BLAKESLEE
RAM President

I started this year's first newspaper article last fall by stating, "I love Racquetball, you love Racquetball, lots of people love Racquetball." At this year's State Singles Championship, at the Davison Racquetball Club, almost 300 participants would agree. Being the tournament director and somewhat biased, this year's tournament might have been the biggest and best ever.

The tournament could not have been possible without the help of Jim and Dianne Easterling and also Jim Hiser; he worked out all the near-perfect timing and schedules. These three continue to dedicate themselves to this sport and I would like to thank them for their hard work. Thanks also to Julian and Lou Ellen for another super job. The warm-ups were a nice touch. Did you know all entry fees for this event went back to the players in the form of court costs, tournament expenses and prizes?

Some of my thoughts on the tournament results: Chris Cole seems to be getting better if that is possible. Congratulations to our five-time state champion, Nick Rallis and Jim Floyd still continue to be old nemeses. You might not know they are also straight 'A' students. Hope they continue to play next year while they attend college. In the 'A' division the draw was like old times, over 40 entrants. A couple of the oldest players in the draw made it to Sunday morning, nice job Ken. The 'thirties' draw might have been the toughest in the entire tournament.

How about Mike Stephens, talk about love of Racquetball — Mike was a bridesmaid twice. Too bad about the knee and the tough matches, but Mike, this is for the States. Wonder if Mike would rather beat Rick Vanderling (he did) or win the 40 Division (he did not). Johnny Northern (40) sure came to play this year. Dick Caretti (60) continues to amaze me: Fred Lewerenz (45) should be a challenger for the title in Houston. Finally, Lisa, Joetta, and Irene are all champions, win or lose. They love to compete.

Some more positive notes from the year. The new MAC Club is beautiful and maybe we could have a major tournament there for amateurs. It seems more people are playing Racquetball this year. The clubs seem to be getting more financially secure, don't they? Jim Hiser and Luke are continuing in the quest to make Racquetball an olympic sport.

Finally, hope you enjoy the summer vacation, I know I will. By the time you read this article, I should really be a junior Racquetball fan. Maybe I'll be back next year. Ask Jim, Jim or Dianne, they might know — it was fun — sooo tough! huh Mike?

*Thanks,
Tom*

IN MEMORY

The game of racquetball means a lot of different things to all of us. Learning the game, improving to move up the skill ladder, the dream of winning a division. As time goes on we find that we meet some very special people in this game and we look forward not only to play competitively with them but to join in small talk like, "How is your family?" "How is the job going?" or "How do you like your new boat?" And while we small talk, our wives may be waiting to watch and encourage us while we play our matches. Some of us have been blessed to have wives who will support our participation in local as well as tournament racquetball. That means they come with us to nearly every tournament and share with us the thrill of a victory as well as the agony of a defeat.

Dick Coretti is one of the best 60+ players in the country and a gentleman besides. This past June, Dick's wife, Doris, passed away. She came with Dick to nearly all his tournament games and was supportive of him in his successes as well as the rare times he lost. She was dedicated to her family. Our deepest sympathy to Dick and his family. Doris will be dearly missed and we can only be thankful that we knew this wonderful woman.

Lynn & Beatrice Hahn

WOMEN'S METRO TOURING LEAGUE

The playoffs were an exciting finish to an exciting year for the travel teams. Everyone played exceptionally well all year and were really up for the final playoffs. The winning teams were:

Sunday Level I: Gateway I — 1st
Gateway II — 2nd
Sunday Level II: Gateway — 1st
Backwall — 2nd
Thursday Level II: Mt. Clemens — 1st
Gateway — 2nd
Thurs. Level III: Gateway Power Puffs — 1st
Gateway Gators — 2nd
Sunday Level IV: Maple Courts — 1st
Mt. Clemens — 2nd

Congratulations Everyone!

The trophies will be awarded at the April 26th banquet, amid many rounds of applause; I'm sure. The competition was intense in every level, as everyone gains experience in their own division. I must add here that I'm especially proud of the Level I teams. This year they've decided to forgo receiving trophies, and donate their trophy money to Special Olympics. They deserve an extra round of applause for their fine gesture.

The league will be starting up again in September, and again I'd like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to join a team to call me at (313) 744-5986 and I will give you any information necessary. If you enjoy competitive racquetball, regardless of your caliber, there is a spot for you on one of the teams.

See you next year!

Alida Mainhardt

RAM BOARD

JANUARY 12, 1988 — LANSING YMCA

Call to order by President Tom Blakeslee at 7:04 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Blakeslee, Rick Hall, Jim and Dianne Easterling, Duane R. Russell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lee Frederickson, Sandy Cox, Judy Gonyea, Jim Hiser

GUEST: Radiation Man (Bill Gottlieb)

MINUTES — From the previous meeting which was held in Grand Rapids on December 5, 1987 at the 29th Street Fitness Center were reviewed by Tom Blakeslee and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT — Statement of Cash receipts/disbursements for the month ended December 31, 1987 was presented by Dianne Easterling. Checkbook balance of \$158.62. The books have been sent to the Accountant for auditing.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT — No Report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — Labels: Tom Blakeslee brought up the subject of LABELS and whether they should be provided for tournaments. The present policy is they NOT be provided unless a tournament is sanctioned. Rick Hall felt we should sell labels if it would benefit racquetball for the cost of the materials only. Suggested price would be \$10.00.

Dianne Easterling felt we should not sell the labels. Jim Easterling also liked the policy of non sale.

Tom said we would NOT SELL LABELS. It would be discussed at the AARA meeting in Colorado in two weeks.

HALL OF FAME RINGS — Fred Lewerenz has purchased the die for the Hall of Fame Rings. The certified design is all right and the RAM supports it. Those who might wish to purchase a Hall of Fame Ring should contact Fred Lewerenz.

STATE SINGLES — The State Singles tournament will be held at the Davison Racquet Club. A discussion ensued on balls to be used: Ektelon, Penn.

JACKETS — RAM Jackets will be sold for \$40.00 to those persons who wish to obtain them. This will enable a profit of \$8.00 to be obtained for RAM.

GRPPA — Reported that Lee Frederickson was now managing a racquetball club on the southwest side of Grand Rapids. He reported the Western Michigan Championships scheduled for the end of January at the Michigan Athletic Club is open to anyone in the State.

The Riverview Club has three tournaments scheduled. ETV series, 3 Days in May and the Pro Stop. All of these have been sanctioned.

JUNIORS — Not much is going on. Problems experienced with the junior players is how to get more younger players involved.

OTHER BUSINESS — Jim Easterling discussed ad listings for the RAM Newsletter. He is trying to get new clubs for the year and sell them space (\$375.00 for a one half page ad).

Jim is to take copies of our Newsletter to Colorado and see what others might be doing to promote racquetball in their states.

Jim also suggested a Plexiglass frame to advertise RAM in the various racquetball clubs in the State. Hopefully, the clubowners would put them up and it would provide some new members. Jim was to get one and bring it to a RAM meeting so it can be viewed and discussed.

INSURANCE — Dianne Easterling mentioned we had no liability insurance at present. She is to check with Luke St. Onge and see who they purchase their insurance from.

AARA CARD — Ektelon wants their name to appear on the card since they are supporting RAM in the State.

SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP SCORING — 15 points (2 games) 11 point tiebreaker.

NEXT MEETING — The next meeting of the RAM Board of Directors will be held at the Lansing YMCA on February 9, 1988 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT — 8:00 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted
Duane R. Russell, Secretary*

COLISEUM BUD LIGHT SUPER 7

The final event in the Bud Light Super 7 series took place at the Coliseum Racquet Club in Taylor, April 8-10.

The weather was beautiful and the competition was hot. Not one person forfeited their first round match. Everyone was trying one last time to reach the Semis in order to be invited to the Lewering Invitational in May.

For the first time in several tournaments there were enough women to hold a draw for each division Open thru "D". Their chances for being invited to the Invitational are good. Hope to see all of them there!

TOURNAMENT WINNERS

PRO — Chris Cole, Mike Ceresia, Nick Rallis, Jim Floyd

MA — John Brenner, Bernie Rundot, Tom Blakeslee, Bob Gravely

MB — Joe Turk, Ron Muse, Chris Simpson, Jerry Williams

MC — Ron Papke, Chris Simpson, Kurt Hethe, Michael Garbaino

MD — Mark Zigala, David Miller, John LaCroix, P.K. Sims

M30A — Dave Rodriguez, Scott Worthly

M30B — Mark Kowalewski

M35A — Stu Hastings, Mike Stephen, Johnny Northern, Jim Hiser

M35C — Bob Pfeffer, Rob Flessner, Bob Wells, Rip Steketer

M40 — Mike Stephens, Jim Hiser, Johnny Northern, Bob Gravely

M45A — Tom Perne, Lorne Johnston

W-OPEN — Lisa Ecker, Joetta Hastings, Lori Troszak, Brigitte Hartz

WA — Tammy Friedrich, Lou Ellen Fecher

WB — Paula Soad, Dawn Frankhouse

WC — Sue Papke, Chris Sauer

WD — Debi Sims, Pat Westerbar

W30 — Lesley Kishigie, Brigitte Hartz

Lou Ellen Fecher

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 9, 1988 — LANSING YMCA

Call to order by President Tom Blakeslee at 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Blakeslee, Rick Hall, Jim and Dianne Easterling, Sandy Cox, Judy Gonyea, Duane Russell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lee Frederickson, James Hiser

GUEST: Radiation Man (Bill Gottlieb)

MINUTES — Of January 12, 1988 were approved as mailed.

TREASURER'S REPORT — Statement of cash receipts/disbursements for the month ended January 31, 1988 was presented by Dianne Easterling. Checkbook balance of \$767.52.

STATE SINGLES/DOUBLES REPORT — *State Singles* will be held at Davison on April 15, 16 and 17. T. Blakeslee will run the event. 15 point games with an 11 point tie-breaker. John Brennan will sponsor some of the tourney expenses at \$250.00 each. Entry forms will be printed next week. There will be sweatsuits for participants (\$30.00). Other items will be caps and racquetball bags.

State Doubles entry forms were in the mail this week. Penn balls will be used. Mixed doubles will use sweetheart rules (Men must serve men — two, 15 point games. Tie-breaker to 11. Tournament will be held on March 18 & 20 at Grand Blanc. Jim and Dianne Easterling will be handling this tournament.

JUNIOR PROGRAM REVIEW — There will be a \$45.00 entry form. At \$20.00 a night for 5 nights it will approximate \$400 per junior player. T. Blakeslee indicated RAM will be hard pressed to provide the \$45.00 entry fee. We will have to check at the end of the year to see how much money we might have available for this purpose. The National tournament will be held on June 25 - 26.

REGIONAL REPORT — The Regionals will be held in two weeks at Toledo, Ohio. We can plan on holding an organizational meeting there to see about those juniors who might be interested in going to Colorado. Rick Hall said Grand Rapids had very little money and would be hard pressed to even send one kid. We could discuss things again at the State Singles tourney and see what the situation is at that time.

AARA BOARD — A brief discussion took place about people who were running for three positions on the AARA Board.

OLD BUSINESS — Jim Easterling passed around a plastic display case for review and comment. This was discussed at the January meeting. It was suggested that RAM buy these and have them displayed on club owners' counters to advertise RAM in the State. A motion was made by Jim Easterling that we buy 12 and try it on a pilot basis and that the club displaying it would get \$2.00 per head. Passed unanimously.

T. Blakeslee said he would talk to 4 clubs, Jim will talk to 1 and Rick will take 1. We will try 6 and see what happens.

Jim Easterling mentioned that AARA now has a magazine circulation of approximately 35,000. We need 50,000 members to get the big bucks for advertising.

LABEL DISCUSSION: Tom Blakeslee said, "If I don't pay we won't send labels and won't sanction them for next year."

SPECIAL REPORT: COLORADO MEETING (T. Blakeslee, J. Easterling) — The meeting lasted for 5 days. Rick Hall suggested important highlights of the meeting should go into the Newsletter. Racquetball is a class C sport in the Olympics. Membership packages should be sent to every member of RAM. Jim mentioned that California charges \$250 to sanction a tournament and also have an exclusion based on no other tournament being offered within a radius of 50 miles.

CURRENT RANKINGS — Are not very good. According to Dianne Easterling, Michigan is up to date.

INSURANCE — We have none at present but according to St. Onge, nobody has been sued yet.

NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE PROGRAM — Jerry Gray at Ferris Institute (State University) has had a major role in the success of this undertaking. We haven't been very successful in getting minority kids involved in racquetball.

HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT — There will be a national High School Tournament this year which will be held at the Indiana Athletic Club.

ALCOHOL AT TOURNAMENTS — After a short discussion it was decided RAM should stay away from selling or giving away beer or other liquor at tournaments.

MISCELLANY — Jim Easterling passed out a book entitled: CAN GRANDPA PLAY RACQUETBALL? He said these would be available and perhaps could be passed out at the State doubles tournament.

T. Blakeslee said that perhaps we would have some pins designed for racquetball and sell these as an item to make some additional monies.

PENN says the growth of racquetball is flat, EKTELON says people are buying the larger racquets which is helping make racquetball easier to play.

Bill Gottlieb inquired about the name MRA vs RAM. Jim Easterling said he had discussed this with Luke St. Onge and "they will try and change this."

NEXT MEETING — The next meeting of the RAM Board of Directors will be on Tuesday March 8, 1988 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lansing Central YMCA.

ADJOURNMENT — 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:
Duane R. Russell, Secretary



RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

EDITOR'S JUDGEMENT CALL

As some of you already know in this state we have a Hall of Fame for racquetball. This is Michigan's most prestigious award given out at the Bud Light Pro Stop at Davison Racquet Club each September. So far only seven people have been included into Michigan's Hall of Fame. To be considered you must be over 30 years of age and receive at least 70% of the votes. (The voters are a selected group of 50 people from all across Michigan.) A candidate for the Hall of Fame must have excelled over the years in either playing ability and/or some form of contribution to the sport. The current members of the Hall of Fame are:

Lynn Hahn...	1984
Fred Lewerenz	1984
Tom Brownlee	1985
Jim Hiser...	1985
Jim Easterling	1986
Bob Wilhelm...	1987
Stu Hastings	1987

There are two people, in my judgment, that deserve more than anyone else to be in the Hall of Fame. One person, Jim Hiser, has already been elected. The other person is Dennis Wood. These two people have put in many, many, many volunteer hours, days and nights for the betterment of racquetball. Below are a few of the things that I know about Denny Wood that might enlighten a few people.

— Was responsible for printing the first issues of the Michigan Racquetball newsletters in August 1977.

— Was the first president of the State Racquetball Association in Michigan.

— Was responsible for the design of the official logo of the Michigan Racquetball Association (MRA).

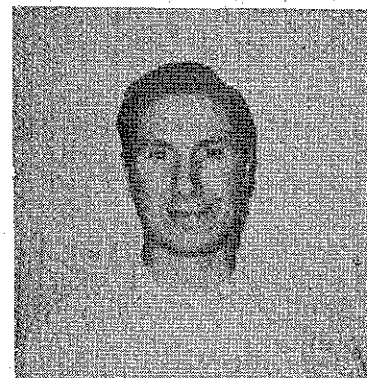
— Organized and ran one of the first series of racquetball tournaments in Michigan.

— Was an innovator running the first tournament in Michigan with eyeguards mandatory (April 27-29, 1979) and the first tournament in Michigan with losers ref (1981).

— Was the President of the State Association longer than anyone else in Michigan, he held the office for four years.

— Was responsible for having Steve Standum come to Michigan for clinics and camps.

— Was the first person in Michigan to secure



JIM EASTERLING
Editor of The Racquetball Reporter
Regional Director

sponsors for a state-wide series of tournaments

— Devised the first ever ranking system in Michigan for racquetball players (1978-1979)

— Was involved in getting the state association affiliated with AARA in 1984

— Was involved in getting the Seniors division split into A, B, and C levels and getting the Golden Masters (55+) division offered at tournaments

— Responsible for setting up a travel league in Lansing for one year

Denny Wood has now semi-retired from racquetball. He still runs one tournament a year and works with setting up racquetball leagues, he has about 100 people, at a local club. He also does the rankings for the Super 7 racquets and other items for Pro-Kennex.

I could go on and on, but by now I think you get the idea that Denny Wood was one of the prime movers and shakers of racquetball in Michigan over the last ten years. I strongly believe that this man should be elected to the Hall of Fame. If you don't want to take my word for it, ask around and see if others don't agree with me about Denny Wood.

A CALCULATED RISK

continued from page 5

have little time between matches which saves on extensive warm up. In most tournaments the temperature is kept down because of the body heat generated by the number of people in the club. Two divisions helps reduce that time.

5. See more styles of play, the more variety you get the more defenses and offenses you can devise. Watching a style of play is helpful, but playing against it is better.

6. More exposure in dealing with emotional stress. We can all play tough in practice, but many times the way we play in tournaments is not the same. The problem is how we handle the "demon." The demon is better known as emotional stress. What is emotional stress? Where does it come from? It can be defined as a state of overexcitement which inhibits performance. Emotional stress comes from your own mind, making the event more important than it really should be. You can control the amount of stress you feel. However, like good strokes it takes practice and repetition. The only way to get this practice is to simulate in practice (play for something) or tournament exposure. Result: the more exposure to stress, the more you acclimate to it is that you become desensitized. The more you play, the less overly important it becomes, because you are doing it so often.

7. One loss and out, this also goes along with no. 6. Most people say, that if they can get through the first round they are OK. No kidding. I guess they do feel better; after the first round, half the people in the tournament are out of it. But seriously, what do they mean? After the first round win, much of the pressure is relieved. Why is there more

pressure in the 1st round than 2nd round? If fact, the farther you go the better the players, so there should be more pressure. If you play 1 division, that 1st match becomes all or nothing. Do or Die. By playing 2 divisions, your mind says, "Even if I lose this match I still have the other division." This mere thought alleviates a major part of the stress that was (yes) created by the mind. Since the result to this 1st match is not such a big deal anymore, you play more relaxed and play better. It's much like the situation: you are ahead 13-3, you get a back wall set up that you want to shoot. As you get set to hit, you mind says there's no way I'll miss this, I'm playing great. You're relaxed because you know that even if you miss it, you are ahead 13-3 and it would be no big deal. Since there is no pressure, you make it easily. Now let's assume that you have the same set up except now the score is 3-13 (you are down). Now your mind says, "don't miss this, you can't afford it being down so far. Now you're not relaxed, you try to be careful and skip it. What is the difference in the 2 situations. The difference is in the mind. When you were ahead, (or the better player, or hitting well, on a roll, or playing a lesser player) you were confident and knew that you could afford to miss it and still win. When you were behind, you knew you couldn't afford to miss. However, the set up was exactly the same; only the score was different. Why not play the ball and the situation (backwall set up, short ceiling ball, etc.) rather than the score or the person. (don't miss because you're playing mr. awesome and he's so good). It all takes place and is controlled in the mind. Playing 2 divisions is actually a mind trick to take the pressure off.

Continued on page 8

A CALCULATED RISK
continued from page 7

Disadvantages

1. More expensive, \$28 for one division, \$15 for a 2nd. If you can afford it, you double your exposure for 1/2 the price.
2. More equipment, wet gloves, wet shoes, laundry, wear on strings, etc. You will need more of each and/or must rotate for drying purposes.
3. Fatigue, physical and mental. If you don't train to simulate 2 divisional play you will get tired. As you know your shots react differently when we get tired. We also can get mentally tired. We can begin to have a breakdown in our concentration. Concentration can be defined as the ability to focus on a single task for a length of time. This breakdown occurs when the mind gets tired. We quit thinking and take stupid shots. Our ability to focus is diminished. If a person is to play 2 divisions, they must not only physically train to go the longer distance, they must also practice concentration drills which enhance lengthened attention span.
4. Glycogen or H₂O depletion, muscle oxygen storage and water supply must be enhanced through better eating habits and hydration or cramping will occur and affect performance. It can be difficult to restore these necessities with little time between matches.
5. Less time to watch, you may miss watching better players play. Without a good teaching pro in your area, watching better players may be your only form of instruction.
6. Semis and finals, If you are in 2 divisions and get to Sunday. In both, you will have 4 tough matches with the best people in your divisions. If they are also in another division, no problem. If not, you are at a deficit. I will deal with this specifically in the following situations.

Situation 1:

In the previous state championship I played in open and 30+. This was my last year in the 30+ division and I had won this division every year since its inception. (4 in a row.) I knew that being the oldest guy in open with 16-17 years separating me from our current open champ had me at a deficit (not to

mention the difference in talent.) I still had to try. My toughest competition in 30+ was a very good open player as well, that I had split with during the season. This was his 1st shot in 30+. Should I play 1 or 2 divisions? Since the new gun in 30+ would likely play both I did too. It was a calculated risk. We were very equal in ability and should go the same distance in both divisions or close. If things go according to plan, I felt I could still defeat him in the finals of 30+ in the end as they say, "The best laid plans..." Well, he ended up being upset in the first round on Friday night in open. I however, won my open match which was played Saturday morning. I then played a 30+ match and another open match Saturday night. My competition only played one 30+ match Saturday. Now I'm in the semi's Sunday morning at 9 a.m. for 30+ and he the same. Going into this match it's a me: 3 rounds in 1 day and him 2 rounds in 2 days. Still, I felt good about it. Here is where the problem starts. I go a tough tie break in the 30+ semis but win. My competition in the other 30+ semi's got a forfeit. The other player didn't show for personal reasons. So, not only did my 30+ finals opponent get to watch my semi's but he watched as I played back to back matches. The other match was with our open state champion I played well, but lost in a tie-breaker. Now I change shirts and it's time for the 30+ finale. I'm tired and my opponent is tired of watching me get tired. I ended up losing 15-14, 15-13. I didn't play badly but just didn't have enough gas to get it done. With a lesser player I may have pulled it off, but with an equal or better player the extra matches hurt. As I said, it's a calculated risk and I calculated wrong.

Situation II:

In this year's state championship I was one of the youngest 35+ players instead of the oldest 30+ players a year ago. I again played 2 divisions, open and 35+. However, I lost an 11-9 tie breaker in open Saturday night, and was fresh Sunday morning. The no. 2 seed had only beaten me once over the past 7 years even though he is very capable of doing so. So, now everything (matches played on Sunday) being equal, I should have the edge.

However, the no. 2 seed gets upset in a tie breaker by the no. 3 seed. This no. 3 seed not only goes tie breaker in his 35+ semi's he goes tie breaker in his 40+ semis. Now he has to play me for his 3rd match of the day. Even though I have struggled with this tough player over the years, he had only beaten me once over 7 year matches. I was in the drivers seat with the extra rest. A complete reversal from the year previous. In the 35+ finals, only 8 or 7 points scored he started to cramp, and cramp bad. I suggested a 15-minute injury time out which is not "legal" for cramps since this is considered part of conditioning. The only reason I suggested it was because I respected this man for his heart, desire, dedication and sportsmanship. His body didn't recover and it was over. He tried to replenish his energy and fluids for his 40+ finals an hour later. He didn't seem to cramp but his opponent was a physical specimen and not only pounded the ball but was super accurate as well. I watched the match and saw "my match" a year ago as they played, because the physical specimen also had a forfeit in his semi's. So, he played 1 match to the other man's 3 1/2. I don't think one match would have made a difference but it didn't help.

Conclusion:

1. To play two divisions you must change your expectations or goals. What I mean by this is that normally we expect to win our division. In 2 division play, I suggest a goal of 2 semi's finishes, or 1 final and 1 semi's finish, or win 1 division and a semi's finish in the other. If you can get this far you are a winner, even if you don't win either division. Winning two semi's and finals on Sunday with the top players in your division is unrealistic (unless they are in the same boat).
2. No forfeits. I understand that once you pay your money and once you win a match it's yours to play or give away, but to forfeit your next round, unless you have a super good reason, penalizes not only the guy you just defeated (because he would love to continue), but the other half of your draw as well. The other side of the draw has to play an extra match which affects the balance of the draw.

late in a tournament. Even if you are wasted, make an effort to play even if you lose. Don't hurt yourself, but use judgment as a sportsman.

3. When playing in state championships, nationals, or other events that are important to you, play 1 division that you could win and 1 long shot division. Don't play 2 divisions that you could win. The player in situation 2 had a strong possibility of being in the finals of both 35+ and 40+ if he played well (which diminished his chances of winning either division. If he said to himself prior to the tournament that his goal was to get to the finals in both and he would be happy if he did, then super. But, if he after the tournament changed his goal and said he should have won 40+ and now was a loser, he was being unfair to himself. Don't change your goals in mid-stream. Winning 1 division is that important, play 1 division.

4. Eat and drink accordingly. If you are playing twice as much, eat and drink more, and not just the day of the play, but the day prior to this endurance test. (Proper food and plenty of water). The basic rule of thumb is when you feel thirsty, it's too late. So, force water even if you don't feel like you need it.

Final Thoughts:

Age division play is where the greatest growth in racquetball is at. Consider being part of it. Playing 2 divisions can give you more play which relates to more challenges in one tournament. The first time or 2 that I played 2 divisions, I said never again. While following the ideas previously listed I feel that our bodies and minds find a way to acclimate to the increased no. of matches. It's like to years ago playing 7 matches in 1 division, you just do it because that is what you expected from yourself. Your mind controls your body, if you expect more it gives more, expect less, you get less.



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AMERICAN AMATEUR RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION STATE RANKINGS

MICHIGAN - REGION 9

Ranking / Name / Current Season Points

DIVISION M-A

1	Verbeck, Dan	310
2	Brennan, John	245
3	Covell, Ryan	235
4	Kircher, Bryan	200
5	Kummier, Jeff	135
6	Blakeslee, Tom	115
7	Stallmer, John	115
8	Bedenis, Greg	100
9	Goodman, Neal	100
10	McCune, Sean	80

DIVISION M-B

1	Rallis, Nick	400
2	Altenburg, Troy	370
3	Etsall, Ted	130
4	Zussman, Gabe	115
5	Turk, Joe	110
6	Lechowicz, Dennis	100
7	Riley, Marv Jr.	100
8	Ryan, Doug	90
9	Call, Mike	85
10	Morse, Ron	80

DIVISION M-C

1	Matthews, Ray	200
2	Morey, Donald	140
3	Simpson, Chris	120
4	Zimmerman, Scott	95
5	Balassone, David	75
6	Altenburg, Troy	70
7	Henry, Larry	70
8	Guerra, Lionel	65
9	Jacoby, Bill	65
10	Phipps, Gary	60

DIVISION M-D

1	Garbarino, Michael	200
2	Basirico, Vito	175
3	Miller, David	130
4	Totin, Richard	120
5	Zimmerman, Brent	115
6	Dunn, Mike	110
7	Estes, Steve	95
8	Ray, Ed	70
9	Dorda, David	65
10	Vanderark, Marv	65

DIVISION M-NOVICE

1	Panchula, Mitch	150
2	Lesnau, Nicholas	100
3	Demott, Gerald	75
4	Harper, Kevin	60
5	Vanhoose, Charles	60
6	Addermatt, Brian	50
7	Hammerle, Tony	50
8	Kolinske, Tom	50
9	Kwielski, Larry	50
10	Miller, David	50

DIVISION M-OPEN

1	Cole, Chris	520
2	Bonnett, Joel	340
3	Anderson, Mike	250
4	Floyd, Jim	230
5	Hamilton, Jim	215
6	Rallis, Nick	215
7	Anderson, Randy	150
8	Worthy, Scott	125
9	Larry, Dave	105
10	Meeusen, Larry	105

DIVISION M-10

1	Zimmerman, Brent	750
2	Vandyke, Tim	400
3	McConnelee, Scottie	125
4	Debutis, David	100
5	Fulkerson, Andy	100
6	Hall, Billy	75
7	Vanderson, Ryan	75
8	Adloff, Brian	50
9	Gordon, Ken	50
10	Hamilton, David	50

DIVISION M-12

1	Zimmerman, Scott	800
2	Garrow, Brian	300
3	Jones, Brian	165
4	McGrail, Jim	120
5	Zimmerman, Brent	80
6	Lerner, Rob	75
7	Cox, Jeff	50
8	Deutsch, Adam	50
9	Renske, Derek	50

DIVISION M-14

1	Meyer, Mike	250
2	Covell, Ryan	150
3	McCune, Sean	150
4	Riley, Marvin	125
5	Zimmerman, Brent	50
6	Zimmerman, Scott	30
7	Dunn, Mike	20

DIVISION M-16A

1	Bonnett, Joel	500
2	Covell, Ryan	275
3	Eckhouse, Jeff	200
4	Altenburg, Troy	100
5	Dunn, Mike	100
6	Priamo, Adam	100
7	Meyer, David	75
8	Cox, Jeremy	50
9	Garrow, James	50
10	Hall, Gary	50

DIVISION M-16B

1	Covell, Ryan	250
2	Riley, Marv Jr.	150
3	Panchula, Mitch	100

DIVISION M-18A

1	Floyd, Jim	1050
2	Rallis, Nick	450
3	Garrow, Rob	125
4	Reynolds, Jason	100
5	Wonzor, Chris	100
6	Larry, Dave	75
7	Dimaggio, Vince	60
8	Bonnett, Joel	50
9	March, David	50
10	Meeusen, Larry	50

DIVISION M-18B

1	Altenburg, Troy	250
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DIVISION M-19+

1	Larry, Dave	250
2	Leuthjohann, Todd	180
3	Hamilton, Jim	75
4	Wagner, Mike	60
5	Anderson, Randy	50
6	Dutcher, Dan	50
7	Kaufman, Mark	50
8	Tackett, Al	50
9	Longeliere, Larry	30
10	Licari, Paul	20

DIVISION M-25+A

1	Fox, Larry	300
2	Tackett, Al	200
3	Anderson, Mike	180
4	White, Jack	140
5	Anderson, Randy	100
6	Longeliere, Larry	100
7	Hotra, Mike	85
8	Liggins, Jay	75
9	Eckman, Jack	50
10	Rodriguez, Dave	50

DIVISION M-25+B

1	Riley, Marv Sr	100
2	Kroeger, Dan	50
3	McPherson, Mike	50
4	Raiche, Kirk	50
5	Strieter, Dennis	50

DIVISION M-30+A

1	Worthy, Scott	500
2	Hastings, Stu	460
3	Anderson, Randy	415
4	Rodriguez, Dave	280
5	Longeliere, Larry	235
6	Rodriguez, Dave	150
7	Hotra, Mike	110
8	White, Jack	100
9	Stanley, Ben	65
10	Werner, Dan	50

DIVISION M-30+B

1	Klann, Al	150
2	Lawlor, Terry	115
3	Cole, Larry	105
4	McAllister, Dan	100
5	Schaeffer, Michael	100
6	Clement, Tim	75
7	Kowalewski, Mark	50
8	McPherson, Mike	50
9	Morse, Ron	50
10	Slavik, J.R.	50

DIVISION M-30+C

1	Balassone, D.	250
2	Hlavaty, Don	150
3	Flessner, Robin	50

DIVISION M-35+A

1	Hastings, Stu	640
2	Stephens, Mike	235
3	Hiser, Jim	215
4	Bonnett, Ken	205
5	Northern, Johnny	165
6	Stephens, Michael	130
7	Vanderlind, Ric	100
8	Vanderlind, Rick	100
9	Vanover, Ray	75
10	Toth, Doug	50

DIVISION M-35+B

1	Gervasi, John	300
2	Mell, Al	200
3	Molinaro, John	150
4	Lesczynski, Ron	130
5	Lawlor, Terry	75
6	Slavik, J.R.	75
7	Dalke, Dave	50
8	Madden, Jesse	50
9	Martinez, Gilberto	50
10	Niedzielski, Mark	50

DIVISION M-35+C

1	Guerra, Lionel	180
2	McConnelee, Scott	125
3	Sisinger, Jack	100
4	Allis, Gary	75
5	Cole, Larry	50
6	Gunkle, Wayne	50
7	Kretschman, Steve	50
8	Lau, Ian	50
9	Pfeffer, Robert	50
10	Powers, Robert	50

DIVISION M-40+A

1	Stephens, Mike	510
2	Bonnett, Ken	410
3	Gravelyn, Bob	325
4	Hiser, Jim	215
5	Northern, Johnny	175
6	Stephens, Michael	150
7	Barter, Ed	80
8	Hagedorn, Bill	60
9	Sharum, Tom	60
10	Lewerenz, Fred	50

DIVISION M-40+B

1	Cole, Larry	160
2	Slavik, J.R.	100
3	Wood, Denny	75
4	Goudie, George	50

DIVISION M-45+A

1	Gray, Jerry	110
2	Sharum, Tom	80
3	Stec, George	70
4	Phipps, Gary	65
5	Madden, Jess	45
6	Johnston, Lorne	30
7	Key, Sam	30
8	McGrail, Bill	30
9	Gentile, Bill	20
10	Olijo, Oscar	20

DIVISION M-45+B

1	Cloutier, Gary	150
2	Phipps, Gary	100
3	Gentile, Bill	80
4	Wheelihan, Charlie	75
5	Gates, Hank	65
6	Binecki, Joe	50
7	Caretti, Richard	50
8	Gordon, Jim	50
9	Wheelihan, Charles	50
10	Abate, Michael	30

DIVISION M-50+

1	Filiatreau, Bill	150
2	Pudduck, Ron	150
3	Sewell, Richard	100
4	Hahn, Lynn	75
5	Madden, Jess	50

DIVISION M-55+

1	Hahn, Lynn	450
2	Caretti, Richard	150
3	Schaeffer, Dale	100
4	Russell, Duane	80
5	St. Clair, John	50
6	Driver, J.D.	30
7	Leone, Gerry	30
8	Schaeffer, Michael	30
9	Poole, Leonard	20
10	Rott, Elliot	20

DIVISION M-60+

1	Caretti, Richard	250
2	Ceretti, Richard	150
3	Russell, Duane	100
4	Leone, Gerry	75
5	Schikian, Hike	50

DIVISION M-8

1	Vanderson, Shane	250
2	Hall, Billy	150
3	Debutis, David	130
4	Renske, Mark	75
5	Huczek, Jack	70
6	Hamill, Justin	50
7	Hamill, Tod	50
8	McConnelee, Scottie	50
9	Schultz, Niccolas	50
10	Sandenberger, Eric	30

DIVISION M-A

1	Collins, Carol	450
2	Huczek, Sharon	320
3	Fecher, Lou Ellen	235
4	Fecher, Anne	225
5	Mainhardt, Alida	150
6	Matties, Melody	135
7	Allan, Arlene	130
8	Tucker, Kim	130
9	Gravelyn, Denise	105
10	Gisslander, Mary	100

DIVISION W-B

1	Walzak, Judy	205
2	Eller, Laurie	150
3	Saad, Paula	150
4	Vandersteen, Cindy	150
5	Washburn, Priscilla	150
6	Frankhouse, Dawn	120
7	Suever, Chris	95
8	Stanley, Jill	80
9	Kleckner, Marlee	70
10	Backus, Donna	50

DIVISION W-C

1	Saad, Paula	330
2	Kruse, Claire	250
3	Brevitz, Becky	150
4	Klann, Pat	150
5	Kleckner, Marlee	115
6	Motyka, Kathy	85
7	Papke, Sue	80
8	Suever, Chris	80
9	Barbas, Stacey	75
10	Bolin, Jan	75

DIVISION W-D

1	Kruse, Claire	240
2	McCauley, Diane	150
3	McIntyre, Rae	150
4	Papke, Sue	115
5	Gagnon, Michele	65
6	Saad, Paula	60
7	Bolgos, Marjorie	50
8	Bolten, Karen	50
9	Kakocinski, Lisa	50
10	Sims, Debi	50

DIVISION W-NOVICE

1	Elfes, Sharon	150
2	Sigafoose, Jackie	100
3	West, Lorie	100
4	McCauley, Diane	50
5	Gagnon, Michele	30
6	Rosenburgh, Tracey	30
7	Willis, Cynthia	30
8	Blondin, Cathy	20
9	Williams, Candace	20
10	Melson, Joan	15

DIVISION W-OPEN

1	Ecker, Lisa	640
2	Hastings, Joetta	480
3	Fenton, Laura	240
4	Troszak, Tracey	210
5	Fried, Crystal	150
6	Stellama, Kathy	120
7	Chmura, Irene	115
8	Troszak, Lori	85
9	Gutowski, Beth	65
10	Vanderbrook, Shirley	60

DIVISION W-12

1	Gardner, Angi	250
2	Hagenah, Laurie	150
3	Covell, Colleen	100

DIVISION W-14

1	Gardner, Angi	150
2	Vanderson, Diane	150
3	Skinner, Christine	100
4	Sowders, Paige	100
5	Hagenah, Laurie	75
6	Hagenah, Annie	50

DIVISION W-16

AMERICAN AMATEUR RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION STATE RANKING

Continued from page 9

DIVISION W-19+

1	Ecker, Lisa	250
2	Troszak, Tracey	225
3	Kishigian, Lesley	150
4	Stellema, Kathy	110
5	Spielberger, Regina	100
6	White, Sandy	75
7	Hastings, Joetta	50
8	Troszak, Lori	40
9	Insko, Janet	20
10	Tucker, Kim	15

DIVISION W-25+

1	Collins, Carol	430
2	Gutowski, Beth	130
3	Hastings, Joetta	130
4	White, Sandy	75
5	Anderson, Sherri	50
6	Henry, Donna	20
7	Chmura, Irene	15
8	Stellema, Kathy	10

DIVISION W-30+A

1	Chmura, Irene	150
2	Hastings, Joetta	125
3	Kishigian, Lesley	120

4	Gutowski, Beth	115
5	Collins, Carol	30
6	Hartz, Brigitte	30
7	Stellema, Kathy	20

DIVISION W-30+B

1	Huczek, Sharon	250
2	Saad, Paula	150
3	Kruse, Claire	100
4	Barbas, Stacey	75
5	Elliott, Pat	50
6	Suever, Chris	50
7	Bolgos, Marjorie	30

DIVISION W-35+

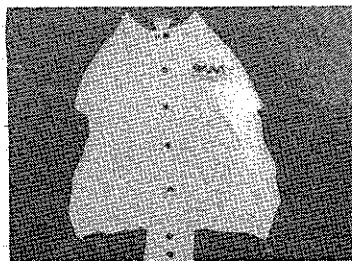
1	Chmura, Irene	700
2	Hartz, Brigitte	100
3	Allen, Arlene	75

DIVISION W-8

1	Hagenah, Annie	350
2	Degutis, Julie	320
3	Schutte, Jamie	30

DIVISION W-8NB

1	Degutis, Julie	250
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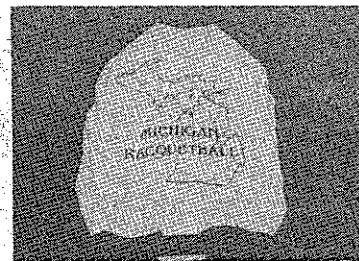


ORDER YOUR RAM JACKET

An "Official" RAM - Racquetball Association of Michigan - jacket is now available. The lightweight jacket is trimmed in black and white, with "Michigan Racquetball" printed in red letters over a map on the back. On the front, the RAM logo is printed in bold black letters. The jacket can be obtained by sending your name and address, along with \$40 to the following:

Racquetball Association of Michigan
321 Village
Lansing, MI 48911

Please include your size: S, M, L, XL.



The Reporter Needs You

The Racquetball Reporter is looking for any individual who is interested in doing some writing for the newsletter. Any topics are welcome: tournaments, instructional, humor, etc. If you are interested or have any questions at all about what is involved please contact RAM at:

321 Village
Lansing, Michigan 48911

Why Join AARA and What Does it Do For Me?

As another tournament season rolls around the questions come up again. Why should I join AARA? What do they do for me? Why do I have to pay \$10 when they don't help the "grass roots" player? In answer to these questions, here is a list of programs that would not exist without the AARA:

1. The Intercollegiate Regional and National Championships
2. The Junior and High School Regional and National Championships
3. A National Referee Certification Program

4. The National Teaching Certification Program (PARI)
5. The U.S. National Team
6. A National Ranking System
7. Acceptance as a Class C Sport by the USOC with potential for becoming a Class A Sport and inclusion in the Olympics
8. The National Disabled Program
9. Equality of support of sanctioned tournaments by national manufacturers
10. The new AARA/VISA program

Below are the benefits for becoming an AARA member:

1. Free subscription to the AARA Official Publication, "Racquetball in Review"
2. Car Rental, Product and Airline discounts to sanctioned events
3. Right to play in all sanctioned events
4. Membership card
5. A free AARA Rule Book
6. Voice in all AARA policies by direct vote and by electing the representatives to the National Board
7. Amateur Ranking for State, Regional, and National by AARA
8. Free subscription to the State newsletter, "Racquetball Reporter"

9. The prestige of belonging to the sole National Governing Body of Racquetball which is recognized as a member of the United States Olympic Committee

So why not join today. Membership for one year costs \$10; for two years \$17; for five years \$40; and for a lifetime for a single \$250. Simply mail your name, address and check in the amount you wish made payable to RAM, 321 Village, Lansing, MI 48911. Join today and help support and promote racquetball in Michigan.

A&ME

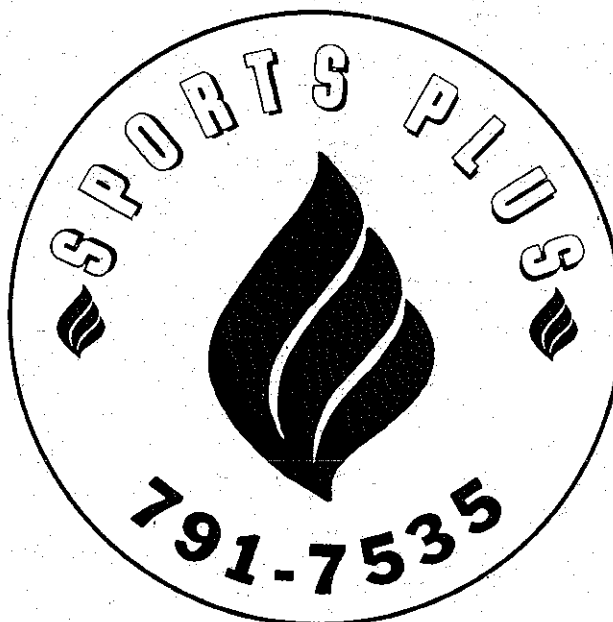
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She answered racquetball challenge

By Jenny Rode
From
The Grand Rapids Press



Sheri Anderson took second in nation.

Press Photo by CHRIS CLARK

After playing racquetball for a short five years, does a second-place-in-the-nation-finish seem unusual?

Not to 29-year-old Sheri Anderson, who accomplished just that at the United States National Racquetball Singles Championships in Houston in the 19 and over age division.

I got introduced to racquetball by a friend," said Anderson, who's been to the nationals three times. "I went out on the court, started banging the ball around and I thought it was great. I like it because it's great for your coordination and a good aerobic workout. It was everything I wanted; it was perfect."

Anderson, of Grand Rapids, describes her climb through the levels of play as a fast one.

"The first tournament I went to I took second place in, and then I went right through the classes," she said. "I went from Class C to Open class in one year."

The native of Shelby was an all-conference selection in basketball four years at Shelby High School, also lettering four times in track. She attended Grand Valley State College on an athletic scholarship, playing field hockey, track and basketball, where she was second in the state in assists.

"In basketball, I was the best defensive player on the team and I used to tell my coach I made everyone else stars," she joked.

"I was nothing great in college," she said. "I worked real hard at it and I got what I wanted, which was to play a lot and play hard."

Anderson was one semester from graduation and a degree in education when she decided to leave school.

"I didn't want to be there," she said. "I wasn't happy, I wasn't into it anymore. I was bored with school and sick of being a poverty-stricken college student. There were so many things I wanted to do and I wanted to be in the working world. So I quit and took up running for awhile."

That summer, Anderson raced in 10-kilometer runs but quickly became burned out in the sport.

"I'm the type of person who tries something head-first, 150 percent," she explained. "But I just got burned out on it. Then I started playing racquetball and now I eat, drink and sleep it."

"When I do something I want to be the best at it. I knew I wasn't going to be great at running, so I quit."

Then she discovered racquetball and became hooked on it. But after a year of playing well, she found herself in a slump.

"That year, I lost in the first round in every tournament I went to," she said. "But I never quit, I told myself to keep going, I'd make it. I didn't get discouraged, and now I'm beating those players I lost to."

Anderson plans even more racquetball success in the future.

"This year I put everything I had into racquetball," she said. "I'm going to do that next year, too. My goal is to stick with it and be the dominating female racquetball player in the state of Michigan. I don't know where I'll go after that."

Anderson has thoughts of going on the professional racquetball circuit, although she's not sure how she would do.

"I'd really like to try the pro circuit," she said. "I just want to see what it's like, and if don't do well, that's fine."

Last year, Anderson went to Ferris State College and played on its racquetball team. The team won first place in the state and regionals, going on to finish third in the nation among 45 teams. Anderson placed fourth in the nation in singles and fourth in number one doubles.

"We did really well as a team and that's what counts," she said. "But I didn't play that well. Sometimes I win but I'm not happy with the way I played. Your game goes up and down like that."

Anderson, who plays racquetball three times a week at the 29th Street Fitness Center, works hard to stay in shape. She works out on Nautilus equipment and free weights six days a week and does biking or running on her lunch hour as well. She is also a member of the women's semi-pro football team the Grand Rapids Carpenters, for which she has practices twice a week.

Anderson has a philosophy concerning her success in racquetball and other sports.

"I think it's a competitiveness inside of people," she said. "Whatever I'm in, I love the challenge. I think it's something you're born with. My family's not really outgoing, they're kind of laid-back. But I know if you want something, you go after it. You can't sit back and watch the world go by."

"I live for each day and make the best of it. My schedule is one thing after another, but I like it that way. I do it that way on purpose."

"I'm never satisfied," she said, "and that presents a problem in racquetball because it's a game won on mistakes. Now I'm playing the best I have, probably because I took last year off. Taking that time off was a big help because it gave me a chance to analyze my game, and I realize I missed it. I enjoy the game more now."

Anderson has a way to deal with the pressures of the game and the expectations she places on herself.

"This past year I put my heart and soul into it, but I didn't pressure myself."

For example, I was picked to win the regionals but I lost in the first round," she explained. "The girl outplayed me that day so I just congratulated her. I try not to let things like that destroy me. That's one thing I've learned that it's going to happen to everyone."

Anderson thinks there's more to the game than just winning.

"I can win and not be happy with the way I played. Winning is great, nobody likes to lose. But I've learned that some days are going to be good and some days aren't."

Anderson believes she has matured on the court since she began playing the game.

"I accept losses better now," she said. "I don't get down on myself like I used to. I've taken the attitude that you're going to make mistakes, but you have to have positive reinforcement. It's the only way because otherwise you get too down on yourself."

"I've got the determination and will to do whatever I want," she said. "I go after things."



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★ TRIVIA 15 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CONTEST

FEBRUARY TRIVIA 15 ANSWERS

The last Trivia 15 was in the February issue of *The Racquetball Reporter*. I admit that I made that one hard, but apparently I made it too hard because only one person entered. The winner of the Trivia 15 in February was Vicki Schulte.

The three big winners for the 1987-88 season of Trivia 15 are:

1. Vicki Schulte — wins a case of racquetballs
2. Lesley Kishigian — wins an Omega racquetball racquet
3. Jack Sisinger — wins a 2 year membership to RAM/AARA

Congratulations to all the above winners. Thank you to everyone who tried their luck with Trivia 15 for 1987-88.

Jim Easterling

- 1) Joetta Hastings; 2) The inventor of wallyball; 3) Racquetball Day; 4) Ferris State College now Ferris State University; 5) Losers referee at tournaments; 6) Slightly over 200 people; 7) The MRA State Singles Championship; at Franklin Racquet Club on April 8-10; 1983; 8) Pancho Guitierrez & Mike Witherspoon; 9) Dennis Wood — April 27-29, 1979 — Capital City Classic — Lansing Downtown YMCA. Jim Easterling — May 11-13, 1979 — Franklin Racquet Club; 10) Egan Inoue; 11) Ypsilanti — Court Players Club; 12) Jim Hiser; 13) Dennis Wood, Linda Wood, Gary Doty, Peggy Doty, Jim Easterling; 14) USRA Nationals in 1978 — over 800, Bud Light Pro Am at Davison — September 1987 — over 550, MRA tournament Franklin Racquet Club — March 1980 — 537; 15) Davison Racquet Club, Pat Klann & Judy Walzak, Tom Corbett, Al May

SECOND THOUGHTS continued from page 3

entries to the best prices.

5) Return to consolation and/or double elimination for all amateur divisions.

6) Eliminate the use of referees for all amateur tournaments. This tests the true sportsmanship of amateur playing. Think of the time saved by not having to referee matches.

7) Develop a check list with minimum requirements for a club facility to meet before they can host a sanctioned tournament.

8) Enforce tournament scheduling to eliminate two or more tournaments on the same weekend.

9) Pick a racquetball buddy who can stay at your house or apartment for the nights during the tournament and the buddy would reciprocate. Buddy would be of the same sex.

10) Be sympathetic in scheduling for those who must come from significant distances.

11) Encourage good sportsmanship with acknowledgement. Whatever happened to the annual award for sportsmanship. To me this would be a most cherished recognition. Penalize players who go beyond the barrier of good sportsmanship (racquet throwing, swearing, repeated argument with referees) by banning their play for a period of time.

I am sure all players have ideas which can be helpful in making amateur racquetball an exciting part of their total racquetball experience and promote the growth of tournament play. We are finding that without the support of new and average tournament players, tournament racquetball as well as the future of the game, is in jeopardy.

I would recommend you support the formal organization of state and national racquetball and keep them informed of your concerns about our game.

Lynn Hahn



STRANDEMO COMES TO MICHIGAN

Reknown racquetball instructor, STEVE STRANDEMO will come to Detroit in early August to conduct two adult instructional programs - a five-day program and a weekend program.

Both sessions will be held at the Rose Shores Fitness & Racquet Club in Roseville August 3-7. Classes will be limited in size. For more information watch for flyers at your club or contact:

**STRANDEMO
RACQUETBALL ACADEMY**
P.O. Box 591, Coronado, California
(619) 437-8770

Any racquetball related item that you want to sell, buy, trade, or whatever will be listed in this column

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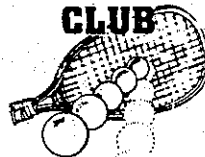
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