

nhra news

The Official Voice of the New Hampshire Racquetball Association

Spring Quarter, 1992

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April, May, June

1992 NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1, 1992

The State Singles were hosted by the Executive Health and Sports Center in Manchester. The tournament staff of Kelley Beane, Mike Normand, Josh Messina and Bill Gargan deserve a tremendous round of applause for the excellent job they did in running this year's championships.

The tournament shirts which everyone received are worthy of special mention and very appropriate for a state tournament. Winners of each division received a specially inscribed windbreaker at the NHRA Banquet along with a paid entry fee to the Ektelon New England Metro Regionals in Warwick, RI.

Men's Open

George Vierra
Jim Lukeman
Claude Benjamin
Bill Higton

Men's A

Peter Messier
Rick Perez
Ryan Class
Dick Flewelling

Men's B

Phil Robbins
Jim Thompson
Rick Constant
John Trabucco

Men's C

Ryan Norton MA
Fred Kennedy
George Irving
Bill Gargan

Men's D

Scott Robinson
Mike Nassar
Brian Jean
Mike Hodge

Men's 25+ (RR)

Jim Lukeman
Claude Benjamin
Roy Pelkey ME
Rick Perez

Men's 30+ (RR)

George Vierra
Tony Grande
Jeff Winders
Brian Fisher

Men's 35+ (6)

Leo Jolly
John Varrill
Rick Cunningham
Steve Provins

Men's 40+

Peter Messier
Ken Toy
Rick Cunningham
Joe Allis

Men's 45+(7)

Bob Drouin
H. Dann Harris
Norbert LeCompte
Dennis Eaborn

Men's 55+(2)

Bob Drouin
Norbert LeCompte

Women's A (6)

Bobbi Hall
Ann Annis
Sonya Allis
Kate McGinty

Women's B (RR)

Denise Nadeau
Sonya Allis
Brienne Wolfe
Melissa Thompson

Women's C (RR)

Melissa Thompson
Lori Rich
Lois Dervin
Lisa Symons

Women's D (RR)

June Little
Lori Rich
Ruth Windrs
Cynthia Schoolcraft

Women's 35/40+ (RR)

Bobbi Hall
Kate McGinty
Sue Lee
Sharon McDonald



NHRA 3RD ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The Willows Athletic Center hosted the 3rd Annual Awards Banquet on April 4. The festivities included a Cocktail Hour followed by a buffet style banquet that featured entrees from Pizzeria Uno. While eating, everyone was encouraged to participate in the a special sing-a-long event held after the awards presentation (if the truth be known, everyone was encouraging Benji to just emcee and not sing. And lest anyone who did sing get carried away by their "success", the DJ for the event was heard to remark "I hope none of these people give up their day job to go into entertainment!!") Thankfully, Claude Benjamin did stick to emceeing and along with Kelley Beane and Mike Normand announced the 1992 award winners.

Male Athlete of the Year - **George Vierra**

Female Athlete of the Year - **Joyce Pochily**

(winners of these two awards are determined by who accumulates the most number of tournament ranking points in a single season.)

Most Improved Player (Male) - **Paul Wallace**

(Female) - **Bobbi Hall**

Tournament Of the Year - **Parkland Medical Open**

Tournament Hustler - **Ira Casten**

Iron Man Award - **Peter Messier**

Iron Woman Award - **Lori Rich**

John Cummings Memorial Award - **Kelley Beane**

Best State Directors Award - **Lance & Gayann Bloom**

Best Dressed Players (male) - **Keith Lowell**

(female) - **Ann Annis**

Best Bull's Eye Award - **Bob Ward**

Best/Worst Court Act - **Brian Fisher**

I'm Too Sexy For This Tournament Award -

Kelley Beane and Rich Barker

Sincere appreciation goes to everyone who participated in putting this event together. The management and staff of the Willows Athletic Center gets special thanks for their ongoing support and contribution to racquetball.



The NHRA has made two appointments that should help stimulate participation at clubs and in tournaments in the future. **Mary Dee Jolly** has been placed in charge of Women's Development and **Joyce Pochily** has been named to head up Juniors Development. These two women will be contacting clubs to offer their assistance/knowledge in these two areas. If you don't hear from them, call the NHRA at 926-3233 and we will help put them in touch with you.

**2ND ANNUAL KEVIN PRATTE OPEN
LAKES REGION RACQUET AND HEALTH CLUB
FEBRUARY 14-16, 1992**

This event was well supported by friends, family and fellow competitors of the late Kevin Pratte to support D.A.R.E of New Hampshire. It is wonderful to see how many people Kevin's warmth and personality has effected. It is also rewarding to see how racquetball players seek to support others in the community and state.

Men's Open		Men's A	
Fred Calabrese	RI	Peter Messier	NH
Eric Muller	MA	Paul Wallace	NH
no third		Jack Scondras	MA
		Greg McMinniman	MA

Men's B (6)		Men's C	
Vin Maccarone	MA	Kevin Gilber	NH
Paul Norbert	NH	Bert Phillips	NH
Allen Wright	NH	Kert Ebert	NH
Dave Kimball	NH	Bob Currier	NH

Men's D/Novice		Women's Open/A	
Bob Gitchier	NH	Joyce Pochily	NH
Jeff Pochily	NH	Lorraine Feeney	MA
Roy Stock	NH	Kelley Beane	NH
Bob Hemeon	NH	Bobbi Hall	NH

Women's B (7)		Women's C/D	
Cindy Hamilton	NH	Alicia Clark	?
Denise Nadeau	NH	Mary Dorsey	?
Leslie Ebert	MA	Tracy Parfenchuck	MA
Diane Lyman	NH	Tracey Hogan	NH

Men's Open Doubles		Mixed Open Doubles	
Calabrese/Palazzo	RI	Pochily/Lukeman	NH
Benjiman/Lukeman	NH	Feeney/Feeney	MA

Men's B/C Doubles		Mixed B/C Doubles	
Corvino/Firth	MA	Hall/Normand	NH
Normand/Dionne	NH	Liebel/Pike	NH



**9TH ANNUAL JOHN MARDSEN WINTER CLASSIC
NORTH CONWAY ATHLETIC CLUB
2/21-23/92**

The warmth of the host club and its hospitality, and the bracing chill of the ski country was available once again in North Conway in what has become quite a tradition for New England racquetball players. This "best of two worlds" environment produced another strong draw and the tournament shirts kept even the first round losers happy. "Oh no, not another t-shirt", became "OH WOW! LOOK AT THIS T-SHIRT!" when players received Joe and Sonya Allis's latest "creation".

Thanks to all who played and to the staff and management of the North Conway Athletic Club for all your efforts.
(results in next column)

Results of John Marsden Winter Classic

Men's Open		Men's A	
Fred Calabrese	RI	Keith Lowell	NH
George Vierra	NH	Chis Vames	RI
Jim Lukeman	NH	Mike Nesseralle	NH
Dave Barnes	RI	Chris Bates	NH

Men's B		Men's C	
Aaron Drew	NH	Andy Karwocki	NH
Tim Kutz	NH	Gene Desruisseaux	MA
Joe Boucher	NH	Mat Eldredge	MA
Joe Appleman	MA	John Lighthall	NH

Men's D		Men's Novice	
John Lighthall	NH	Scott Merrill	NH
John Hale	NH	Lee Champagne	NH
Roger Cote	NH	Kris Allis	NH
Bill Gargan	NH	Eric Allis	NH

Men's 40+		Women's Open/A	
Joe Allis	NH	Leesa Smith	ME
Doug Beauregard	NH	Sonya Allis	NH
Gene Desruisseaux	MA	Becky Bishop	NH
Rich Saffo	NH	Pat Higgins	NH

Women's B (4)		Men's Open Doubles	
Cindy Kelly	MA	Barnes/Neri	RI
Sue Lee	NH	Bloom/Alfsin	NH/RI
Sharon MacDonald	NH	Calabrese/Vames	RI
Ruth Winders	NH	Vierra/Lukeman	NH

Mixed Open Doubles		Men's B/C Doubles	
Smith/DeGiulio	ME/RI	Lebel/Jacques	RI
Kelly/Barnes	MA/RI	Boucher/Drew	NH
Allis/Allis	NH	Karwocki/Robinson	NH
Higgins/Lowell	NH	Saffo/Gargan	NH



**EXECUTIVE HEALTH AND SPORTS CENTER
WINS THE GRANITE STATE CHALLENGE CUP
TOURNAMENT**

The 1992 Granite State Challenge Cup Tournament was run in a different format than previous years in order to enable more participation. The tournament divisions were as follows:

Men's and Women's Open, A, B, C, D, Novice, 20+, 30+, 40+, Open/A Mixed Doubles and B/C Mixed Doubles

All participating teams had a wonderful time.

Kelley Beane and Mike Normand did a superb job putting this spectacular tournament together. All NHRA clubs were contacted and urged to participate. Clubs that could not put together a full team were urged to combine players with another club. Hopefully more clubs will be able to participate next year.

Until Saturday afternoon there was a three way tie between the Executive, Willows and Lakes Region. Executive managed to put together a 40 point lead over Willows with Lakes Region coming in third for the third year in a row.

(continued on next page)

(Granite Cup continued)

The final standings were as follows:

Executive Health and Sports Center	645 points
Willows Athletic Center	605 points
Lakes Region Athletic Club	500 points
The Works	395 points
Salem Athletic Club	355 points

Pam Danisiewicz, Racquetball Director at Salem Athletic Club, graciously and heroically presented the Challenge Cup to Kelley Beane. Along with the trophy Pam gave Kelley a box of Spiffits for keeping the Cup shiny because as Pam said, "We are taking this back next year and we want it clean when we get it!"

Thanks to all the players who participated.



NAMES IN THE NEWS

Heather Dunn made the cover of the March-April issue of *Racquetball Magazine*! Many of us have known Heather since she was a little girl and are very proud of her accomplishments. She has grown to be quite a young lady. We wish her all the best and continued success both on and off the court!

Pam Danisiewicz, Racquetball Director at the Salem Athletic Club, has been given an *Outstanding Achievement* award by Ektelon. The awards go annually to members of Ektelon's Player Staff who demonstrate "loyalty, promotional excellence and overall leadership in the sport". Pam has been on staff with Ektelon for three years and is a PARI Certified Advanced Instructor. She has also been an Assistant Instructor with nationally prominent pro Lynn Adams. She is one of only three Ektelon players in New England to receive this award this year. Congratulations Pam!

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

#1 - Rule 5.13(A)2 - Current rule: A player may participate in only ONE Regional Singles and Regional Doubles event in ONE year

Proposed Change: A player will be allowed to participate in as many Regional tournaments as they wish provided they DO NOT enter a Championship event that they won at a previous Regional tournament during the same year. A Championship event is any event that does not carry a skill designation. i.e. any age group event or handicapped event.

#2 - New Rule: presently there is no rule requiring that players wear eyeguards or use wrist thongs when they practice prior to a match or between games. The recent issue of *Racquetball Magazine* states that "the likelihood of being hit during warm-up times is greater than being hit during play due to the unusual presence of more than one ball and decreased attention being paid to what the opponent is doing".

(Rules continued)

ADD rule 2.5(c) "Equipment Requirements During Warmup" Approved eyeguards must be worn and wrist thongs must be used during any on-court warm-up period. The referee should give a technical warning to persons who fail to comply and assess a technical if a player continues not to comply after receiving such a warning.

#3 - CURRENT RULE: Length of Racquet - The current rule states that the racquet (including the bumper guard and all solid parts of the handle) may not exceed 21 inches. A waiver was granted allowing play with "illegal" racquets except in regional and national events.

PROPOSED CHANGE: "The racquet (including bumper guard and all solid parts of the handle) may not exceed 21.5 inches.

Note: The AARA Board will be asked to consider granting a waiver until the new rule goes into effect, if the proposed rule change is approved.



STRANDEMO RACQUETBALL ACADEMY COMES TO MANCHESTER

Two and a half days of the most informative instruction available will be within an easy drive for New Hampshire players on August 12-14. Nationally acclaimed instructor Steve Strandemo will conduct a *VIP Competitive Training Camp* at the Executive Health and Sports Center on those dates. In addition, Steve will conduct a full day *Instructor's Clinic* on August 12.

Some of the topics to be covered in the camp will be:

- How To Win
- How To Play Important Match Points
- Pre-tournament Training
- Competitive Serve and Return Strategy
- How to Play Different Style Players
- Competitive Strokes

Players will enhance their skills and incorporate new information into their match play through on-court play, drill sessions, lecture sessions, game situation study and video tape analysis. Steve will work individually with each player during the course of the camp so players gain the most from his tremendous depth of knowledge.

The Instructor's Clinic is for anyone with an interest in teaching the sport whether or not they currently teach. Steve will help participants learn a comprehensive rather than a segmented approach to teaching that will help your students reach their fullest playing potential.

Participation is limited for both events. For more information or to receive a brochure about these and other Strandemo Racquetball Academy offerings, call 1-800-544-4530, or write,

Strandemo Racquetball Academy
PO Box 900
Wayzata, MN 55391



SUMMER IS COMING!

The 1991-92 NHRA season has come to an end. The year has been very good with successful, upbeat tournaments despite the slow economy and numerous job layoffs. There was a warmer, closer feeling about the tournaments and everyone seemed to be more friendly and caring, though this did nothing to dull the intensity of competition at all levels of play.

The tournament season had its share of sorrow with the loss of Mike Luciw and Mitch Nathanson, two of New England's finest competitors. They will be deeply missed.

We hope you all have a relaxing, enjoyable and safe summer. Don't forget to keep up with your racquetball while "catching those rays"! We look forward to seeing you on the courts again in September.

1992 EKTELO/AARA METRO QUALIFYING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Formally known as the "Regionals" the newly named Metro event was held at the New England Health and Racquet clubs in Warwick and East Providence, Rhode Island on April 10-12.

As has been the case for several years, a large contingent of NHRA players made the trip for the event and made a fine representation of NH racquetball. Following is a list of players who participated and how they fared. If we missed you, please let us know so we can acknowledge you in the next issue of the **nhra news**.

Kelley Beane	Gayann Bloom - 2nd, W40+
Ryan Class - Qtrs., MA	Donald Delaney
John Dippold	Bob Drouin - 4th, M50+, 1st, M55+
Carmen Dyer	Brian Fisher
Bill Gargan	Bill Higton - 1st, 19+
Joe Husson, Jr.	Norbert LeCompte
Jeff Lee	Sue Lee
Bernie McGinty	Kate McGinty - 3rd, W40+
Peter Messier - 2nd, 40+	Michael Nassar
Rick Perez	Carl Savage
Gary Schoolcraft	Paul Wallace
Warren Wilder	

Also, it was nice to see players from other states sporting tournament shirts from NH tournaments. Particularly noticeable were the colorful T's from Joe and Sonya Allis's North Conway tournaments.

Good luck to everyone planning on going to the Nationals in Houston on May 20-25. Let us know how you do!

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