

Center Court



A Quarterly Newsletter of the Montana Racquetball Association

Autumn 1996

President's Report

By John Kennis

For those of you who don't know, I was elected MRA president at State Singles in '94, taking over the job from Steve Pinnow. Steve did a great job in the years he spent as president and I hope I can follow in his footsteps!



I have to begin by apologizing for the delay in getting this newsletter written and out to everyone. We plan to publish the newsletter quarterly from now on and we really need the help and cooperation of all the tournament directors in getting the results to me as soon as possible.

My first year serving as president was a great one and I hope this year is even better. I am happy to report that MRA membership has increased and we are planning to grow even more this season. I really feel this can be

accomplished if we all promote the sport and encourage the youth and beginner programs at every club. It's great to see new faces and new talent at the tournaments. Speaking of this, we've been really happy to see a lot of friends, both new and old coming down to play from Canada.

There is one rule change to report from years past. Previously players were only eligible to compete in the state tournaments if they were a resident of Montana. In light of the fact that we have so many players coming from other states and Canada, it was decided by a majority vote that players from places other than Montana will be allowed to participate given the following requirements.

1. Players must compete in a minimum of three (3) MRA sanctioned tournaments and
2. Players must be current dues paying MRA and AARA members.

We hope that by making this change it will open the door to increased MRA membership and even greater competition..

The MRA will be well repre-

sented at National Doubles in Phoenix AZ later this month. Along with myself, Robby Gunderson, H.R. Coe, Matt Shute, Ryan Braley, Al Williams and Mike Richter will compete. Good luck to everyone!

We plan on holding several MRA meetings at tournaments this year. The times and locations will be posted and announced during these tournaments and I want everyone to feel welcome to attend. Input from players at every level and division is very important to the success of the MRA and there's room for everybody to become more involved!

If anyone has anything to add to the newsletter (photos, stories, letters, jokes etc.) please send them to me, we'd love to have them. I can be reached at 621 W. Diamond #3, Butte MT 59701 or @ 782-6202.

Our calendar is really full of fun tourney's this season, and I hope to see you at all of them.

P.S. I'm sure Lance Reithmeier will be happy to show anyone interested his technique for executing the perfect Lob-Z serve!

"Lance, didn't that hit you in the head?"

BOB CROWE 1944 - 1995 A TRIBUTE

A practice partner is worth his weight in gold when it comes to racquetball. Someone content to drill over and over, week after week, month after month, year after year. I had such a partner, and so did others at the Sagebrush Athletic Club in Havre. A southpaw, nonetheless, notorious for bodying opponents out of center court position. A student as well as a teacher of the game. A sportsman on and off the court.

Racquetball lost one of its truest friends on July 20, 1995 in Bob Crowe, 51 who fell victim to a heart attack while reading the newspaper.

One day earlier, Crowe was heckling Beth (Evans) Buchanan from his pickup window as she jogged during a visit from her far Alaska home.

Typical Crowe.

Just like his way of sliming you with a sweat-dripping hug after a match; followed by a Coca-Cola Classic cool down with a towel draped around his neck.

Crowe and I rarely missed our Sunday morning court at 11. Serve cutoffs were rallied out. Body position on drive serves improved - stay low through the entire motion, reminded Crowe, again and again.

Forehand, backhand serves were overplayed.

There were no easy rallies. Shots were on the run. And, oh how Crowe cranked that wide forehand swing, controlling the court with his body. The pass rode the wall. Back to the service box.

Forty minutes later, a quick drink.

Then, we'd close with 20 minutes of game simulation. Crowe would tell me to pick a number between 1 and 15. That was my score. The goal, 15. Crowe's score, 0.

Mentally, Crowe knew I was weak. He'd seen my chokes at tournaments. Big leads, but no big finishes. He was making me tougher. Play hard and smart, focused, no easy points.

Crowe's patience and perseverance made me a better player. It's been three years since I moved to Cour d'Alene, Idaho. I have plenty of opponents, but no practice partner.

Crowe's impact, though, is still with me.

Now, I am the retriever. I teach those same drills as racquetball instructor/ coordinator at the Sta-Fit Athletic Club. The more advanced the player, the harder I push.

In matches, I remind myself to stay low through my drive serve. I take my time, think, finish.

My heart stopped in shock and sadness when I learned of Crowe's unexpected death.

But I sincerely believe racquetball made Crowe's most recent years happy ones.

What a bonus so many of his Montana Racquetball Association and Canadian friends

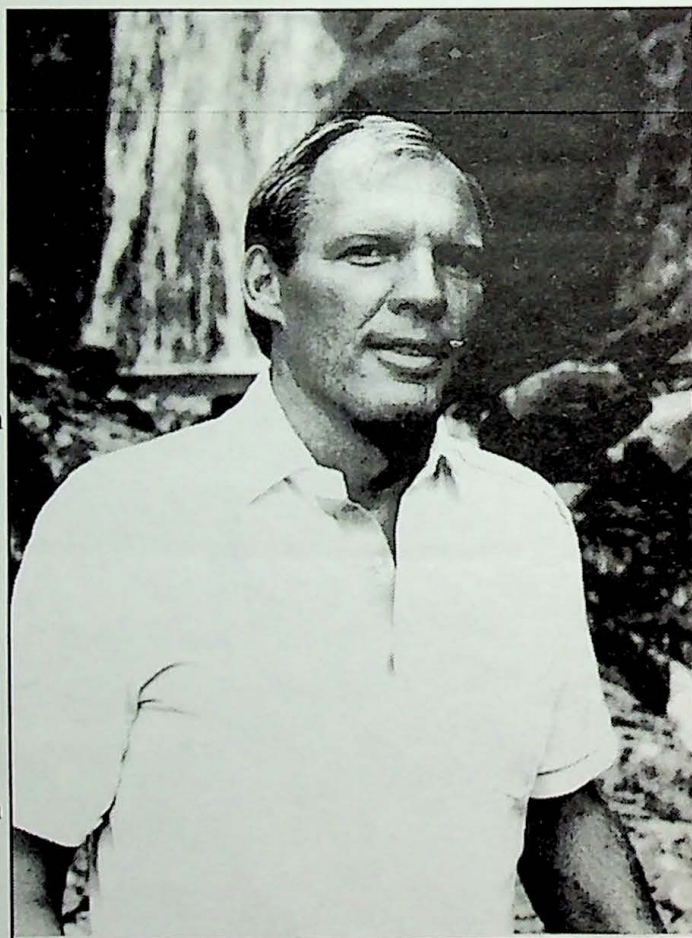
(85) played Havre's Summer Sizzler in mid-June. The comradery and hospitality were unbelievable.

Crowe knew "R B" would never standup a racquetball game, especially doubles. So I was indeed thankful he was one of my opponents after I arrived at the club 50 minutes late for that match. There was no forfeit.

We played and laughed. Crowe's team won, but we had fun. I got slimed - I was home again.

By Rita Balock

July 22, 1995



POOP SHOOTERS **June 16-18 1995**

Mens Open/A:

1. Lance Reithmeier
 2. Clay Morse
- Cons. Allan Mader

Mens B:

1. Brian McDowell
 2. Joe Larson
 3. Ricky Brown
- Cons. Tim Hagen

Mens C:

1. Ryan Weber
 2. Jim Benner
 3. Sid Koester
- Cons. Bill Evans

Novice:

1. Ed Brockman
 2. Tyler Merryman
- Cons. A.J. Johnstone

35+:

1. Hubert DeSouza
 2. Max Erickson
- Cons. Steve Strand

Womens Open:

1. Karen Jacobson
 2. Lori Perino
- Cons. Connie Ryals

Womens B/C:

1. Gayle Archey
 2. Donna Seelye
- Cons. Stacy Isch

Novice:

1. Tammy Pike
 2. Anna Toner
- Cons. Sue Kato

Womens Doubles:

1. Lauri Glass/Stacy Isch
 2. Tammy Pike/Boots Gifford
- Cons. Chris Bunton/Anna Toner

Mixed Doubles:

1. Lori Perino/Allan Mader
 2. Connie Ryals/Jay Mook
- Cons. Rita Balock/Ron Brenna

HOT AUGUST NIGHTS **August 25-27 1995**

Men's Open/A:

1. John Kennis
 2. H.R. Coe
 3. Andy Clark
- Cons. Robby Gunderson

Men's B:

1. Ricky Brown
 2. Mike Schrapps
 3. Brian Rauscher
- Cons. Doug Joppa

Men's C:

1. Chris Lemmon
 2. Eric Woirhaye
 3. Art Jette
- Cons. Bill Wandler

Men's Open Doubles:

1. Robby Gunderson/Ronnie Roesti
 2. H.R. Coe/Matt Shute
 3. Kent Coe/Justin Donnelly
- Cons. Lance Reithmeier/Andy Clark

Men's B/C Doubles:

1. Ricky Brown/Bill Wandler
 2. Chris Lemmon/Paul Furthmyre
 3. Shane Davis/Leo McCarthy
- Cons. Brian Rauscher/Eric Woirhaye

Women's Open/A:

1. Marie Hawkins
 2. Keri Routzahn
 3. Tricia Clark
- Cons. Jodi DiFronzo

Women's B/C:

1. Beth Lunceford
 2. Stacy Coe
 3. Meghan McNichols
- Cons. Jessie Billquist

Women's Open Doubles:

1. Marie Hawkins/Tricia Clark
 2. Lisa Phillips/Jodi DiFronzo
- Cons. Carol Kane/Keri Routzahn

THE BOB CROWE MEMORIAL **October 13 - 15 1995**

Men's Open:

1. H.R. Coe
 2. John Kennis
- Cons. Coley Crase

Men's A:

1. Jay Mook
 2. Brad Spear
- Cons. Rod Johnson

Men's B:

1. Corby Clark
 2. Corey Hallock
- Cons. Jeff Sehn

Men's 35+:

1. Anthony Alcala
 2. Steve Strand
- Cons. Max Erickson

Men's C:

1. Sid Koester
 2. Tom Booth
- Cons. Jim Benner

Men's Novice:

1. Jim Davis
 2. Tyler Merryman
- Cons. Mike Harwood

Men's Open/A Doubles:

1. John Kennis/Ronnie Roesti
 2. H.R. Coe/Simon Niegum
- Cons. Steve Strand/Gary Baltrusch

Men's B/C Doubles:

1. Tim Hagen/Bert King
 2. Jack Brady/Don Roseburg
- Cons. John Marshall/Chuck Mook

Women's Open/A:

1. Denise Moerkerke
 2. Connie Ryals
- Cons. Lori Perino

Women's B/C:

1. Stacy Isch
 2. Carol Kane
- Cons. Tammy Pike

Women's Open Doubles:

1. Lori Perino/Connie Ryals
 2. Laura Merrill/Karen Jacobson
- Cons. Carol Kane/Keri Routzahn

Women's B/C Doubles:

1. Stacy Isch/Inez Slaymaker
 2. Pam Booth/Karen Scheurman
- Cons. Tammy Pike/Boots Gifford

Mixed Doubles:

1. Brad and Rose Spear



BOZEMAN OPEN *November 17-19 1995*

Mens Open:

1. H.R. Coe
 2. Mike McPhee
 3. Lance Reithmeier
 4. John Kennis
- Cons. Joel Norgaard

Mens A:

1. John Rawlings
 2. John Kitchens
 3. Dennis Prody
 4. Corby Clark
- Cons. Dage Surdock

Mens B/C:

1. Rob Washatko
 2. Mike Coon
 3. Jeff Sehn
 4. Sean Patterson
- Cons. Jeff Hoffman

35+:

1. Kelly Stowell
 2. Dennis Prody
- Cons. Jeff Sehn

Mens Open Doubles:

1. Matt Shute/H.R. Coe
 2. Mike Richter/Rick Rios
 3. Lance Reithmeier/Andy Clark
 4. John Kennis/Lloyd Marsh
- Cons. Mike McPhee/Joel Norgaard

Mens A/B Doubles:

1. John Kitchens/Corby Clark
2. Dave Surdock/Mike Churchill
3. Rob Washatko/Sean Patterson

Womens Open:

1. Denise Moerkerke
 2. Michelle Dragoo
- Cons. Marni Shute



Womens A:

1. Wallis Bryan
 2. Lois Sheldon
 3. Carmen McSpadden
 4. Diana Meredith
- Cons. Mary Allaman

Womens B/C:

1. Donna Seelye
 2. Sue Hjalmarrson
 3. Crystal Matteson
 4. Marcy Taylor
- Cons. Jake Richter

Womens Open Doubles:

1. Rhonda Melton/Denise Moerkerke
2. Linda Richter/Marni Shute
3. Michelle Dragoo/Diane McKinley
4. Wallis Bryan/Carmen McSpadden

CUT BANK **PIONEER OPEN** *December 15-17 1995*

Men's Open :

1. Lance Reithmeier
 2. Darrell Moore
- Cons. Aaron Turner

Men's A:

1. Kevin Parkhouse
 2. Hubert DeSousa
- Cons. Gary Cassel

Men's B:

1. Rick Anderson
 2. Ron Iskov
- Cons. Brian Wojtowick

Men's C:

1. Randy Friesen
 2. Dave Kirkhoff
- Cons. Tyler Merryman

Mens Open/A Doubles:

1. Joe Sisk/Kevin Parkhouse
 2. Don Roseburg/Randy Weaver
- Cons. Dan Kirkhoff/Rod Cline

Men's B/C Doubles:

1. Pat Murphy/Ron Iskov
 2. Travis Kittleson/Curt Rindall
- Cons. Ryan Happe/Art Brower

Women's Open:

1. Gail Davis
 2. Kathy Iwaasa
- Cons. Jean Matt

Women's Doubles:

1. Mary Embleton/Kathy Iwaasa
 2. Jean Cline/Jennifer Biegler
- Cons. Jessie Embleton/Sandy Parks

Juniors 1 Bounce :

1. Erik Cline
2. Joe Sitzman
3. Zach Murphy
4. Matt Lewis

Juniors 2 Bounce:

1. Kevin O'Day
2. Kyle Lewis
3. Michelle Embleton
4. Brett Cline

WINTERNAIONALS *February 2-4 1996*

Men's Open :

1. H.R. Coe
 2. Mike Richter
- Cons. Bucky Lindstrand

Men's A:

1. Randy Ashe
 2. Dennis Jupka
- Cons. Mike Churchill

Men's B:

1. Guner Gardenhire
 2. Don Shiller
- Cons. Wes Donnally

Men's C:

1. Jason Eiken
 2. Chris Murphy
- Cons. Quentin Rhodes

Men's 35+:

1. Corby Clark
 2. Dennis Prody
- Cons. Jim Johnson

Men's Masters:

1. Les Hudson
2. Wes Donnally
3. Dick O' Leary
4. Dan Rosa

Men's Open Doubles:

1. H.R. Coe/Matt Shute
 2. Robby Gunderson/Ronnie Roesti
- Cons. Bucky Lindstrand/Roger Rowsey

Men's B/C Doubles:

1. Doug Joppa/Brad Spear
 2. Dean Lofthouse/Dave Surdock
- Cons. Kevin Noctor/Josh Wendt

Women's Open:

1. Denise Moerkerke
 2. Lori Perino
- Cons. Marie Hawkins

Women's B/C:

1. Joette Brown
 2. Gayle Archey
- Cons. Rose Spear

Women's Open Doubles:

1. Denise Moerkerke/Rhonda Melton
 2. Connie Ryals/Lori Perino
- Cons. Joette Brown/Gayle Archey

Mixed Doubles:

1. Steve & Jennifer Pinnow
 2. Art Lombardi/Marie Hawkins
- Cons. Dennis Jupka/Carol Suralt

GOOSETOWN HOTSHOTS

February 16-18

Men's Open:

1. John Kennis
 2. Matt Shute
- Cons. Bucky Lindstrand

Men's A:

1. Dave Surdock
 2. Pat DiFronzo
- Cons. Mike Schrapps

Mens B:

1. Jack Schriener
 2. Bob Armstrong
- Cons. Sean Corrigan

Men's C:

1. Todd Heimark
 2. Rabih Najjar
- Cons. Kevin Dunne

Men's 35+:

1. Gary Levinsky
 2. Tom Hagan
- Cons. Rod Hessler

Men's Open Doubles:

1. Matt Shute/H.R. Coe
 2. John Kennis/Andy Clark
- Cons. Bucky Lindstrand/Roger Rowsey

Men's B/C Doubles:

1. Don Clark/Frank Moreni
 2. Brad Spear/Doug Joppa
- Cons. Chuck Wandler/Bill Wandler

Women's Open/A:

1. Ellie Driggers
 2. Jan Shelton
- Cons. Debbie Kennis

Women's B/C:

1. Gail Archey
 2. Rose Spear
- Cons. Carrie Rowsey

Women's Doubles

1. Kelly Robertson/Becky Murphy
 2. Keri Routzahn/Debbie Kennis
- Cons. Stacy Montoya/Jessie Billquist

Mixed Doubles:

1. Coley Crase/Jolee Ferriter
 2. Mike Churchill/Ellie Driggers
- Cons. Brad & Rose Spear

CUTBANK SHAMROCK SHOOTOUT

March 15-18 1996

Men's Open:

1. Rod Cline
 2. Paul Mandel
- Cons. Randy Weaver

Mens A:

1. Keith Rhodes
 2. Steve Larson
- Cons. Hubert DeSousa

Men's B:

1. Yarek Bartosz
 2. Rick Anderson
- Cons. Bill Evans

Men's C:

1. Mike Burns
 2. John Babcock
- Cons. Denny Lemmerding

Men's Open Doubles:

1. Jeff Gottlob/Chris Robinson
 2. Keith Rhodes/Rod Cline
- Cons. Jay Mook/Hubert DeSousa

Men's B/C Doubles:

1. Dave Andrews/Ron Iskov]
 2. Bill Evans/Jim Benner
- Cons. Scott Babowicz/Kyle Kirkhoff

Women's A/B:

1. Patty Shier
 2. Lorrie Adams
- Cons. Mary Embleton

Women's C:

1. Arlene Nelson
 2. Denise Pickerell
- Cons. Sue Benner

Women's Doubles:

1. Lori Adams/Jean Matt
 2. Sandi Parks/Nicole Altenberg
- Cons. Denise Pickerell/Greba DeSousa

**Junior 1 Bounce:**

1. Matt Lewis
 2. Kevin O'Day
- Cons. Michael Russo

Junior 2 Bounce:

1. Kyle Lammerding
 2. Chris O'Day
- Cons. Jeff Olson

Novice:

1. Darren Takao
 2. Erik Cline
- Cons. Jesse Embleton

CROSSROADS ST. PATRICK'S DAY OPEN

March 15-17 1996

Men's Open:

1. Russ Noonan
 2. John Kitchens
- Cons. Mike Churchill

Men's A:

1. John Kitchens
 2. Dan O'Malley
- Cons. Jason Yarger

Men's B:

1. Gene Armstrong
 2. Lois Sheldon
- Cons. Steve Blomquist

Men's C:

1. Bob Martin
 2. Mike McNellis
- Cons. Todd Cadby

Men's Seniors:

1. Dennis Jupka
 2. Dennis Prody
- Cons. Dean Lofthouse

Men's Open Doubles:

1. Roger Rowsey/Kent Coe
 2. Dennis Jupka/Gunner Gardenhire
- Cons. Larry Nickel/Dan O'Malley

Men's B Doubles:

1. Joe Murgel/Dave Kiesling
 2. Dean Lofthouse/Mark Olaf
- Cons. Todd Cadby/Dave McCarin

Women's Singles:

1. Gayle Archey
 2. Crystal Matteson
- Cons. Lauri Glass

Mixed Doubles:

1. Dennis Prody/Janet Kessler
 2. Joe & Donna Margel
- Cons. Gordon Tripp/Vi Schurman



MONTANA STATE DOUBLES March 29-31 1996

Men's Open:

1. Lance Reithmeier/Andy Clark
 2. Matt Shute/H.R. Coe
- Cons. John Kennis/Lloyd Marsh

Men's A:

1. Gary Levinsky/Tom Foreman
 2. Jeff Gottlob/Randy Weaver
- Cons. Max Erickson/Steve Strand

Men's B/C:

1. Pat Kelly/Kent Frampton
 2. Mark Sullivan/Don Gross
- Cons. Mark Carpenter/Sid Koester

Men's Senior Open:

1. Mike Richter/Rick Rios
 2. John Bush/Lloyd Marsh
- Cons. John Quackenbush/Gary Peterson

Men's Senior B:

1. Mike Schrapps/Jim Anderson
 2. Doug Miller/Dale Nelson
- Cons. John Bush/John Weber

Master's:

1. John Quackenbush/Gary Peterson
 2. Bob Baldwin/Tim Keating
- Cons. Dave Astle/Dan Shulte

Women's Open:

1. Michelle Draggoo/Diana McKinley
 2. Rhonda Melton/Denise Moerkerke
- Cons. Thresa Burke/Evelyn Siebel

Women's A:

1. Wallis Bryant/Carmen McSpadden
 2. Jolee Ferriter/Carloyn Trudnowski
- Cons. Susie Eades/Jennifer Pinnow

Women's B-C

1. Gayle Archey/Joette Brown
 2. Rose Spear/Lauri Glass
- Cons. Stacy Isch/Donna Seeyle

Mixed Open:

1. John Kennis/Karen Jacobson
 2. Ronnie Roesti/Denise Moerkerke
- Cons. Steve Pinnow/Connie Ryals

Mixed A:

1. Mike Churchill/Ellie Driggers
 2. Kelly Lee/Lisa Phillips
- Cons. Kent. Coe/Carrie Rowsey

Mixed B/C:

1. Joette Brown/Gunar Gardenhire
 2. Bob Balwin/Carmen McSpadden
- Cons. Jason Eiken/Barb Conwell

MONTANA STATE SINGLES April 12-14 1996

Men's Open:

1. John Kennis
 2. H.R. Coe
- Cons. Andy Clark

Men's A:

1. Kelly Lee
 2. Dennis Jupka
- Cons. Rod Washatko

Men's B:

1. Gunar Gardenhire
 2. Sean Frampton
- Cons. Pat Kelly

Men's C:

1. Sean Frampton
 2. Jim Benner
- Cons. Jay Pohley

Juniors:

1. Eirk Cline
 2. Jake Richter
- Cons. Crystal Richter

Juniors 13-15

1. Brandon French
2. Ricky Brown

Men's 19-24:

1. H.R. Coe
 2. Andy Clark
- Cons. Justin Donnally

Men's 25-34

1. John Kennis
 2. Mike McPhee
- Cons. Matt Shute

Men's 35+ Open/A:

1. Mike Richter
 2. Rick Rios
- Cons. Steve Pinnow

Men's 35+ B/C:

1. Kent Frampton
2. Pat Kelly

Men's 45+:

1. Rick Rios
2. John Quackenbush

Women's Open:

1. Denise Moerkerke
 2. Michelle Draggoo
- Cons. Elly Driggers

Women's A:

1. Marie Hawkins
 2. Wallis Bryan
- Cons. Jennifer Pinnow

Women's B:

1. Gayle Archey
 2. Sherry Neufeld
- Cons. Carrie Rowsey

Women's C:

1. Jean Matt
 2. Stacy Isch
- Cons. Amy Granberg

Women's 18-29:

1. Tricia Clark
 2. Jennifer Pinnow
- Cons. Carol Kane

Women's 30-34:

1. Denise Moerkerke
 2. Michelle Draggoo
- Cons. Sue Hjalmarsson

Women's 35+:

1. Karen Jacobson
 2. Linda Richter
- Cons. Thresa Burke

HAVRE SUMMER SIZZLER June 14 - 16 1996

Men's Open:

1. John Kennis
 2. Lance Reithmeier
- Cons. Robby Gunderson

Men's A:

1. Kevin Parkhouse
 2. Glen Krause
- Cons. Hubert DeSousa

Men's B:

1. Rick Anderson
 2. Bill Evans
- Cons. Jim Benner

Men's C:

1. Mark Carpenter
 2. Jason Christianson
- Cons. J.R. Tchida

Men's Novice:

1. Pete Christianson
 2. Jamie Thole
- Cons. Rich Nordstrom

Men's Open/A Doubles:

1. Lance Reithmeier/Bill Evans
 2. Hubert DeSousa/Kevin Parkhouse
- Cons. John Kennis/Jim Benner def.
Rob Gunderson/Ricky Brown
(11-0, 11-0)

Men's B/C Doubles:

1. Dave Anders/Dave VanMetelen
 2. Warren Moore/Ian Pike
- Cons. Rick Anderson/Sandy Parks

Women's Singles:

1. Janet Kessler
 2. Karly Myers
- Cons. Boots Gifford

Mixed Doubles:

1. Hubert & Greba DeSousa
 2. Bob Chalmers/Boots Gifford
- Cons. Butch Albertson/Sandy Parks



Mikey and Ross

Ronnie's Corner....

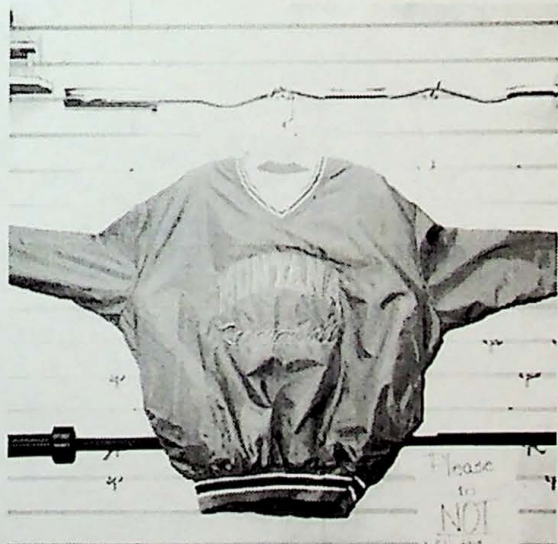
by Ronnie Roesti

I would like to welcome everyone to the '96-'97 racquetball season. I expect it to be a very exciting and fun one.



As a player and promoter of the sport of racquetball, the recent tournaments have me very concerned. The draws have been very small; with the biggest turnouts in the men's open and men's open doubles division's. All other divisions in both men's and women's brackets are in desperate need of players. This not a good sign for the MRA or for the clubs that are holding the tournaments.

In order for Montana Racquetball to flourish through the end of the '90's and in to the next century, we have to promote the sport better through our clubs. We can do this by encouraging the players at your clubs to travel to the tournaments. Bring one or two players with you so they can play a tournament and hang out with everyone and see how fun they really are. Just think... our tournaments now average about eighty people, if just half of the eighty would bring one person with them to play, we would have full draws all of the time. Please think strongly about this and consider bringing someone new to the next tournament. I hope to see you there! Until next time....



**DON'T MISS YOUR
OPPORTUNITY TO BE
STYLING IN THE
OFFICIAL**

"MONTANA RACQUETBALL" JACKET

*These quality DeLong v-Neck
pullovers are available in sizes small -
xxx large.*

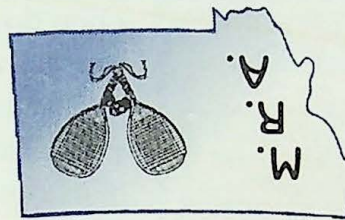
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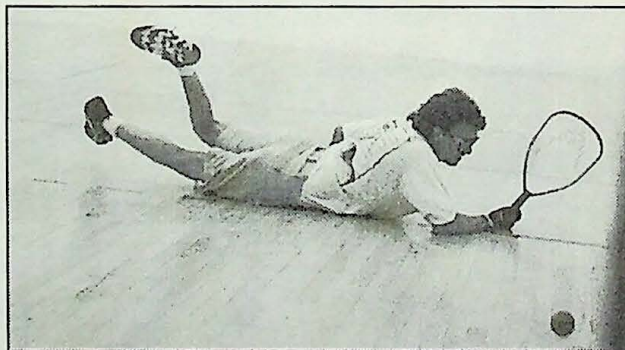


Center Court

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #5
BUTTE, MT 59701



Karen



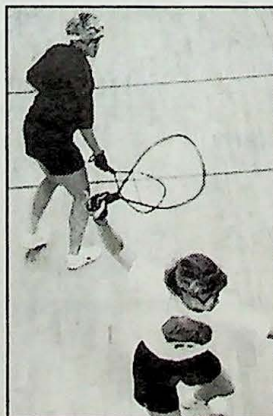
Robby Gunderson dives for a high flying lob serve



Rog. & Carrie



Yes Andy..... You are #1



Jennifer and Denise



Havre Hospitality