

Racquetball Reporter

quarterly publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

May 2005
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Racquetball Association of Michigan

BONNETT AND ZELENOCK WIN STATE TITLES

- Twayne M. Howard

The **Coliseum II Racquet Club** in Taylor played host to the 2005 Michigan State Singles Racquetball Championship. Nearly 160 players braved the beautiful weather, construction, and speed traps to come compete for the right to be called State Champion. For their efforts they were rewarded with high tech shirts, a grill out for Saturday lunch and lots of great competition.

Let's turn to the courts. It is always a joy to see the Juniors take to the courts and watch the great show they put on for the adults.

The youngest of the young was in the Boys 8-Under Division. After tough round-robin play, **Alex Tsatos** defeated **Stone Antisdale** and **Kurtis White** to win the Championship.

The Juniors 10-Under Division featured **Mercedes Arias** defeating **Tyler Jahn** and **Alex Rhonkol** to earn her Championship. Now we just need to get her a little boy racquetball player for the top of her trophy. Sorry Mercedes.

Brad Schopieray continued his winning ways by defeating **Eric Sporer** to win the Boys 12-Under Division. **Dan Poindexter** and **Kevin White** filled out the semis. **Trevor Sporer** won the consolation bracket by defeating **Thomas Kolpasky**.

The Girls 12-Under Division turned into a "Sister Act" after one competitor dropped out. After a tough battle, **Kayla Reidt** beat her sister **Jessica Reidt** to win the Championship.

Andrew Price continued his dominance by winning the Boys 14-Under Division. He defeated **Brad Schopieray** in the final to win the Championship. **Frankie Antonelli** and **Jarrod Antisdale** were the semi-finalists. **Lucas Arias** defeated **Matt Barbuscak** to win the consolation round.

There was an upset in the final of the Boys 16-Under Division as **Matt Bernstein** got past **Andrew Price** to claim the Championship. Match point was earned on a back wall save that rolled off the front wall for a winner. **Frankie Antonelli** and **Mark Servais** rounded out the semi-finals and **Mark Servais** defeated **Brad Servais** to win the consolation match.

This year's biggest upset surprise came in the form of a lady named **Lenore Zelenock**. Lenore normally plays at the Coliseum and she allowed the owner to talk her in to playing Open and A at States, her first tournament. How did she do? I'll tell you. After her performance in the Open Division, she decided not to play in the A Division, it wouldn't be fair. Why? Because in the Open Division, first she defeated **Paula Saad**, then **Melody Gorno**, and then **Karen Green** to win the Championship. Not a bad showing in her first tournament. Can't wait to see how she follows that up. Congratulations Lenore!!!!

The Mens Open Division featured an all Grand Rapids Final as **Brandon Cortese** looked to defend his 2004 championship against **Joel Bonnett**. Interestingly enough, Joel has never won the Michigan State Open Championship before this weekend. After two dominating games, Joel filled that space in his trophy case as he proved to be too much for Brandon. **Scott Graves** and **Jeff Mullins** were the semi-finalists.

Jason Kennedy defeated **Mark Reed** to win the Mens A Championship. Jason has long knocked on the door, but this weekend he kicked it in. Hey Jason, welcome to the Open Division. **Jeff Johnson** and **Jim Scheuer** made it to the semi-finals.

Diana Easthope defeated **Carol Marshall** to
(cont. on pg 4)



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THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Twayne M. Howard
President

Well we've made it to the end of another great racquetball season in Michigan and I'm going to call it a success. "A success" you might ask? Well let me mention some of the highlights and you can be the judge.

Michigan held seventeen sanctioned tournaments including State Doubles and State Singles. Some tournaments hosted as many as 150 players, all out to enjoy our great sport.

One of the first spotlight events was the West Michigan Open in Grand Rapids benefiting Children's Miracle Network. The WMO featured the return of professional racquetball in Michigan for the first time in over a decade. The stands were jam-packed every time the pros took the court from 9:00 am Saturday on and after a weekend of world class racquetball, Michigan's own **Jack Huczek** took out Hall of Famer Ruben Gonzalez to win the Championship.

Another great highlight was that several new tournaments were held this season and by all accounts, they were very successful and will join the regular schedule for years to come.

In November, **Jeff Connell** and **Helen Lang** hosted a tournament at the Lansing MAC to benefit the Coaches for Kids charity in Lansing. This was the second of three events at the Lansing MAC and drew very well considering the MAC had just hosted another event a few weeks before.

Another new event was the Genesys Athletic Club Tournament in Grand Blanc hosted by **Stephanie Winfrey**. Stephanie and the club have hosted several women's only events but this was the first featuring "boys". I heard nothing but positive reviews, so hopefully the boys didn't make things too rough on Steff and the ladies.

The third new event was the Whaley Children Center Classic at Davison Athletic Club benefiting the Children Center. This was the first tournament held at Davison in years. **Don Schopieray** and **Randy Minto** put on a first class event and we are thrilled to have Davison back on the tournament schedule.

Add these to the other "regulars" on the tournaments schedule at Riverview, Bronson, Players, Franklin, Total Sports, the Omni, and Courtland and you have a lot of choice for your tournament playing pleasure. It is great to see these events all over the state, and see how they continue to thrive and offer first-class opportunities for players of all ages and skills to test themselves. Each group of directors works very hard to give you the best tournament experience they possibly can. Come on out and support them and give them a little "thanks" for all the work.

Another highlight for me had to be tracking the progress of Jack Huczek as he continues to threaten for the top spot on the Pro Tour as well as dominate National Singles and National Doubles. By the time you read this, Jack will be working on another National Championship. I know I look forward to cheering him on for years to come.

One recent opportunity was at the Pro Nationals and Adult Regionals in Chicago in April. Approximately 50 members of Team Michigan travelled to Regionals in either Ohio or Illinois, and many did very well. We will have full results in the next issue but I need to briefly point out the almost total domination by our Juniors in Ohio and Illinois. Our kids won several gold medals and swept a special skills competition in Chicago, winning all three events.

Next on the tournament slate is the outdoor season. Belle Isle racquetball will host three tournaments this Summer the third week-end of June, July and August. While under new management, you can expect the same great fun in the sun in the middle of the Detroit River. This summer also features the debut of another outdoor tournament. **Tom Blakeslee** and **Twayne Howard** will host an event in St Clair Shores the week-end of July 29-31. Come on out and enjoy this new event on the tournament schedule.

I think the greatest thing each of the past few years has been watching the growth of the Juniors programs state-wide. For several years now, we have had groups all over Michigan working to bring new Juniors to
(cont. on pg 12)

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BONNETT ELECTED TO RAM HALL OF FAME

- Jim Easterling

The 2005 inductee into the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame is Ken Bonnett of Grand Rapids. Ken is the twenty fifth player to be so honored by a vote of the Michigan racquetball players. Ken was inducted at the 2005 Award Banquet held in conjunction with the Michigan State Singles Championship at the Burton Manor in Livonia on April 9. This banquet honored Ken along with the 2004 inductee, Tom Blakeslee.

Ken's son Joel, one of Michigan's best players, introduced his dad at the banquet. Joel spoke highly of his dad, saying how they were both friends and competitors on the court. After Joel's introduction, Ken indicated that he was really honored to win this very prestigious award and wanted to thank all the people who voted for him. He finished his comments at the banquet with some really great war stories about tournament matches over the years.

Ken's experience in racquetball started in 1978 when a fellow teacher and friend informed him that a racquetball club was opening down the street from his school and they were looking for teachers to work at the club on a part time basis. He began working and learning the game of racquetball at the Racquetball Wizard in Kentwood, Michigan.

Ken was inducted into the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame because of the contribution he has made to racquetball over the years.

Some of Ken's racquetball accomplishments include:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1979 | Organized a junior racquetball club at his school |
| 1982 | Served a term as President of the Grand Rapids Racquetball Patron's Association (GRRPA). The GRRPA was an organization to promote junior racquetball in west Michigan |
| 1985 | As part of both the GRRPA and RAM, he chaperoned juniors from all around Michigan to various junior national events |
| 1989 | Ken formed his own tournament series, in Michigan, "Racquetball One". The Racquetball One Series started with six events and ended in 1999 with twelve events |
| 1990 | Became a RAM board member |
| 1991 | Received the "Contribution Award" from RAM |



Ken has also won many tournaments over the years, and was a State Champion in both the Men's 45 Doubles and the Men's 50 singles. In the 1990's at one time he was ranked as high as third nationally in his age group.

Ken hopes people will remember about him:

The energy and enthusiasm he brought to the sport

His work with Junior's in the 80's and 90's

His Racquetball One Tournament Series which provided players with lots of play, on time matches, and lots of fun

Last of all, for all those who has played him over the years, his multi-wall splat (junk/garbage) shots!!

For further information about RAM's Racquetball Hall of Fame, or if you wish to nominate someone for induction into the Hall of Fame for 2005-2006, contact Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459. The nomination process for the 2005-06 RAM Hall of Fame will be featured in the August 2005 edition of the Racquetball Reporter. Watch for the article and begin thinking about who you might wish to nominate this fall. Remember this is Michigan's Racquetball Hall of Fame and you have a voice in determining who will win one of the most prestigious awards in the state. Check out the RAM web site for pictures and other information about the current members of the Hall of Fame. If you are in the East Lansing area, visit the MAC Club and check out the Hall of Fame, or as some call it the WALL OF FAME!!

Congratulats to both Ken and the 2004 inductee Tom Blakeslee.

2005 STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

(cont. from pg 1)

win the Womens A Championship. **Marianne McHugh** and **Marilyn Keigley** were the semi-finalists.

Tia Lecland won the Womens B Championship by defeating **Marjorie Pendell** in the final. **Lindsey Anderson** and **Lorna Rose** were the semi-finalists.

Two players walked in to the Mens B Final. When the dust cleared **Pat Burke** defeated **Jay Kargula** to claim the Championship. Look for both of these players to make a big impact in the A Division next year. **Ron Griggs** and **Dennis Dinauer** rounded out the semi-finals.

Dave Chirio won the first of two gold medals by defeating **Steve Simon** in the Mens C finals. **Rick Foster** and **Barry Dennis** finished in the semi-finals.

Dave was not our only two gold medal winner this year, Tia Lecland defeated **Michelle Poindexter** and Lindsey Anderson to also win the Womens C Championship. Way to go Tia and Dave.

Matt Bernstein also won his second gold medal of the weekend by defeating **Dan Bass** in the Mens D Finals. Matt has made great strides over the last year and it will be fun to watch him continue in the mens divisions in the next few years. **Chris Mayer** and **John Leggett** made it to the semis. Congrats also go to Matt as a double gold medal winner.

Jason Kennedy won his second gold of the weekend when he defeated **John Trendell** to win the Mens 20+A Championship. **Ben Marciniak-Jennings** and **Raju Penumatha** were the semi-finalists. Way to go Jason!!

Donovan Covell beat **Twayne Howard** in the finals of the Mens 25+B Division in a tight tie breaker. What's more, he did it with a racquet he borrowed from Twayne after breaking his strings. **Dennis Dinauer** and **Aaron Melch** rounded out the semis.

The Mens 25+C Division went to **Burkhard Kloesner** after he defeated **Jeff Garbacz** and **Chris Mayer** to win the Championship.

Scott Graves won the Mens 30+ Open Division by defeating **Greg Lewerenz** in the final. **Ron Barton** and **Paul Stanwick** finished in the semis.

Dave Marrero defeated **Mark Werthman** in the finals of the Mens 35+ Open Division to take home the gold. **John Torres** and Ron Barton were the semi-finalists.

The Mens 35+A Championship went to **Bill Stumphauzer**. Bill defeated **Shawn Battle** and **William Garrow** on his way to the gold.

Dave Chirio's second Gold came in the Mens 35+C Division. Dave defeated **Jody Quedrau** in the finals. **Don Schopieray** and Rick Foster made it to the semis.

Dan Bass defeated John Leggett and **Rudy Varela** to win the 35+D Championship.

Ed Arias made good his relocation to Michigan from Wisconsin by winning the Mens 40+ Championship over **Steve Goedker**. David Marrero and **Chris Kelly** were the semi-finalists.

Paula Saad, denied gold in the Womens Open, defeated long time sparring partner Melody Gorno to win the Womens 40+ Championship.

Tim Couch won the Mens 40+A Division by defeating Jim Scheuer. Last year Tim fell just shy of winning this division. Not a problem this year. Mark Reed and **Jim Wink** were the semi-finalists.

Paul MacBride defeated **Ken MacDonald** and **Jody Quedrau** to win the Mens 40+B Division.

Karen Green defeated Marianne McHugh to win the Womens 45+ Open Championship.

Ed Arias took home his second gold medal by winning the Mens 45 Open Division.

Ed defeated Chris Kelly for the Championship. **Walt Podraza** and **Tom Blakeslee** made it to the semis.

Claude Finley made a triumphant return to tournament racquetball when he defeated **Keith Vogel** in the Mens 45+A Division in only his second tournament in years. **Lout Collette** and **Jack Nash** finished in the semis.

Ron Griggs defeated **Marty Buynak** and **Jeff Simonis** to win the Mens 45+B Championship.

Barry Dennis defeated **JR Johnson** in the finals of the Mens 45+C Championship. **Paul Schultz** and **Steve Simon** made it to the semis.

Kim Hyde pulled off a big upset by defeating Tom Blakeslee to win the Mens 50+ Open Division. Kim and Tom face off seemingly every year, and as Kim said "This is the first time I've beaten Tom in ten years". Congratulations to Kim for getting the Gold. **Pat Burke** and **Mark Ziglia** were the semi-finalists.

Sharon Huczek defeated Carol Marshall and Lorna Rose to win the Womens 50+ Championship.

Hall of Famer **Ken Bonnett** made it a Father and Son Gold weekend by winning the Mens 55+ Open Division. Ken defeated long time rival **Bill Hagedorn** to win the Championship. **Jim Panasiewicz** and **Don Edwards** were the semi-finalists.

George Goudie won the Mens 55+A Championship by defeating **Joe Romeo** in the final. **Chuck Van Hoose** and **Pete Harvey** were the semi-finalists.

Chuck Van Hoose defeated Don Edwards and **Dan Sutton** to win the Mens 55+B Championship.

Sherman Gibson defeated **Mike Easthope** in the finals of the Mens 50+B Championship. **Kevin Keys** and **Dennis Reid** were in the semis.

Ken Smith defeated **Tom Oullette** and

(cont. on pg 12)

JUNIOR'S CORNER . .

JUNIOR RACQUETBALL SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

- Karen Green

The Racquetball Association of Michigan is pleased to announce scholarship opportunities for junior players who plan on attending or have attended the Pro Nationals/Regional Qualifier, the High School Nationals, Collegiate Nationals, National Singles or Junior Nationals. The \$50.00 scholarship per major event attended will be given to junior players upon their return from the event. This amount is applicable for the current playing season only and may be subject to change in the future.

The procedure for obtaining the scholarship money is as follows:

1. Upon returning from the event, parents should send an email to the RAM treasurer, Tom Blakeslee. His email address is:

treasurer@michiganracquetball.net

2. Parents should include in the email the name of the event (Junior Nationals, for example) and the dates attended; the address where they would like the scholarship check to be sent; and a payment receipt for the tournament entry. A note from the Tournament Director may be used in lieu of a receipt. Parents should also include the name in which the scholarship check should be made out.

Scholarships for this season were made possible because of the wonderful results of the auction that was held at State Doubles. Thank you to all of you who helped to make this event so successful. If you have any questions regarding scholarships, please contact Karen Green at 248-663-0175.

JUNIOR REFEREE CLINIC AT PLAYERS CLUB

- Diana Easthope & Jack White

On March 22, Players Athletic Club hosted a Juniors Racquetball/Referee Clinic instructed by Jim Easterling. Nineteen people attended the clinic including parents, juniors, and Jerry Stonik! As always, Jim did a great job delivering important information to a group of up and coming young racquetball players. Jim kept the attention of the group by using characters for demonstration that everyone was familiar with such as Bart, and Batman. (If you haven't seen Bart Simpson with a racquetball racquet you should.)

Jim utilized class participants in demonstrating "set up" situations on the court. He highlighted areas such as penalty and replay hinders, fault serves and the famous 10 second rule! The juniors surprised Jim with lots of very intelligent questions, some even related to racquetball! Just kidding! Everyone had a lot of fun and learned something new that they can start practicing. With the importance

of players having to referee their own matches at the upcoming State Championships, this session was very valuable to enhance the player's knowledge of rules that they may have forgotten or would have expected a referee to enforce. At the end of the clinic a Level I referee test was given to interested players. All participants would like to thank Jim Easterling for taking the time to travel to conduct the clinic.

Our group of racquetball players at the Players Club is very much in tune with the court sport world. We are very fortunate to have a great bunch of kids, supportive parents and dedicated coaches who all have their hearts into the sport. We have league play and junior programs offered all year round. We have all levels of play from beginner to advanced. If you would like more information on our programs at Players, contact Diana Easthope at 586-774-6900.

Pictures from the Referee Clinic



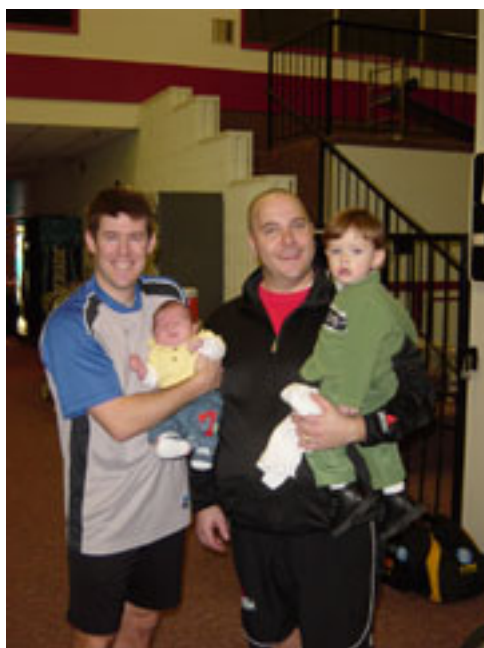
JUNIOR'S CORNER . .



Twayne with Juniors 8 Winners (L/R)
Kurtis White, Alex Tsatos, Stone Antisdale



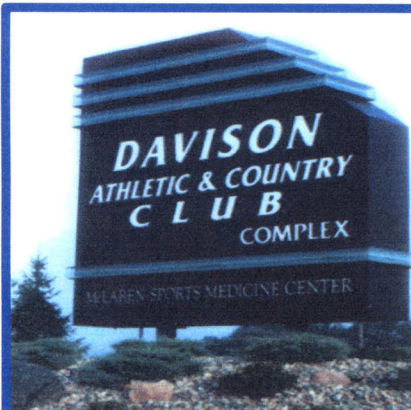
Most Improved Junior - Kevin White



Up and Coming Juniors
Better Watch out Guys



Juniors at the Awards Banquet



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The Racquetball Reporter is published quarterly throughout the year - August, November, February, and May. Items to be included in the Racquetball Reporter for the **2005-06** year must be submitted by the following dates:

August 3, 2005	January 5, 2006
October 4, 2005	April 20, 2006

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

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

\$250 - Half page ad to run in all four issues (7"w x 4.75"h)
 \$150 - Quarter page ad to run in all four issues (3.5"w x 4.75"h)
 \$100 - Club listing for all four issues (3"w x 2"h)

All advertisements must be submitted in camera ready format in the appropriate size. E-mailed graphics can be accepted in either a **.TIFF** or **.JPG** format. All advertisements will be in black and white for all issues, except the May issue which will be in full color. Payment must accompany submission of all advertisement material. Information may be mailed to The Racquetball Reporter, 321 Village Dr., Lansing, MI 48911 or sent electronically to djeasterling@earthlink.net.



Racquetball Association of Michigan

COURT CLUB LISTING



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Racquet Club

COLISEUM II RACQUET CLUB

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2005 RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN AWARDS

- Twayne M. Howard

For the first time in years, the Racquetball Association of Michigan held an Awards Banquet in conjunction with the Hall of Fame Banquet at the State Singles Championship. Nominations for the 2005 winners were received from Michigan players for awards in several areas, with the winners being determined by the Awards Committee. The members of Awards Committee are Paula Saad, Stephanie Winfrey and Twayne Howard. Stephanie and Paula made the presentations to all of the award winners at the banquet and here are some of their comments to honoring each of the winners for 2005.

CLUB OF THE YEAR – MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB LANSING

This Club is one of the premier clubs in Michigan. This season it hosted three



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sanctioned tournaments and has a growing juniors program.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR – TWAYNE M. HOWARD

This young man is truly unbelievable. He runs approximately 7 tournaments a year. At tournaments he is constantly meeting and greeting, and there is no problem he can not fix.

MOST IMPROVED PLAYER – LINDSEY ANDERSON

The whisper amongst the crowd is 'she sure is coming through the ranks quickly'. One tournament morning she was out drilling before anyone else, and she didn't even have to play for hours. That's dedication.

MOST IMPROVED JUNIOR PLAYER- KEVIN WHITE

This young man began playing at age 4 due to the interest of his parents. The most visible improvements he has made are in court positioning, learning racquetball anticipation and reaction, and making it work by getting more balls.

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR – PAUL STANWICK

He always plays with intensity, and intention to win, but never sacrifices fair play. Even today he waited over two hours past the start time for his opponent to show, delayed by traffic. Most would have taken the forfeit and advanced. Paul waited patiently, knowing he might not win, and never complained. Paul epitomizes sportsmanship.

JUNIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR – ANDREW PRICE

This gentleman started playing at the age of 5 with the encouragement of his father and older brother. Since he began playing tournaments, he has been practically unbeatable in the junior divisions, and he has even progressed into the Mens C divisions.

FEMALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – MELODY GORNO

Always a tough competitor, she is fair and honest. You can always expect to get her best, and you will get it with a
(cont. pg 12)

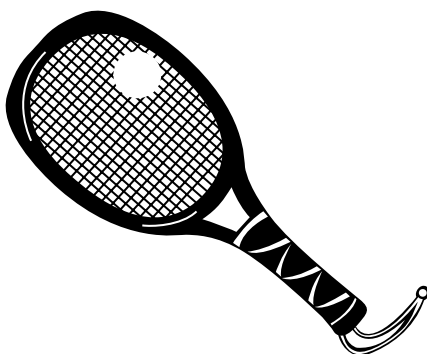
VIEWS FROM THE 2005 RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS



Men's Open
1st - Joel Bonnett (r)
2nd - Brandon Cortese (l)



Men's 45
1st - Ed Arias (l)
2nd - Chris Kelly (r)



Men's 50B
1st - Sherman Gibson

VIEWS FROM THE 2005 RAM AWARDS BANQUET



Mike Anderson, Lindsay Anderson
Joel Bonnett at the Banquet



Chris and Marjorie Pendell



Hall of Fame Inductees (L/R)
2005 - Ken Bonnett, 2004 - Tom Blakeslee



2005 RAM Award Winners
(see article on page 9)

2005 RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN AWARDS

(cont from pg 9)

smile and a great attitude. Win or lose, (more often win than lose) she will always be the same positive Melody.

MALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – **BRANDON CORTESE**

Over the past season, he has become a consistent finalist. He won the state Open Championship title in 2004 and won several local tournaments this sea-

son. Each year he improves and will be a strong presence for years to come.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR – **MIKE ANDERSON**

The 'Go To Guy', this person does so much for racquetball. He provides shirts, trophies and awards for many Michigan tournaments. He gives generously of his time and money whether giving free les-

sons at his club, or spending a few minutes passing on a wealth of knowledge to an up and comer, or spending a ton of money to benefit Juniors at the auctions. You can always count on Mike. Congratulations to all of the 2005 RAM Award winners. RAM members start thinking now about who you are going to nominate for the prestigious RAM awards in the spring of 2006. See you then.

STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

(cont. from pg 4)

Rodger Barton to win the Mens 55+C/D Division.

Tom Sharum defeated **Dave Lund** to win the Mens 60+ Open Division. **Rich Worobek** won the consolation round.

Elliott Rott won the Mens 70+ Championship by defeating **Stanley Kurzman**.

Whew!! What a weekend!!

Thanks to all the players who came out and gave their all during the weekend. Congratulations to all the new State Champions. We hope you all enjoyed the event. We hope you like the improvements we made and we look forward to seeing you next year.

The "Dave & Dave" Show Is Coming to Town -- Don't Miss It

What: Michigan AMPRO Clinic
Date: June 25-26, 2005
Club: Michigan Athletic Club
East Lansing, Michigan
Cost: \$225
Instructors: Dave Watson/Dave Eagle

All players are invited to attend. Sponsored players and club pros don't miss your chance to become AMPRO Certified. Receive instruction from two of the best at a great location. Registration information is available at:

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Thoughts from the Prez . . .

(cont. from page 2)

the game. We all recognize the importance of this effort, and this Newsletter will spend quite a bit of time talking about the instructors and their efforts. We hope you enjoy it.

Huh. After writing all of that, I guess the racquetball season isn't really over now, is it? Nope, it just takes the top down and goes cruisin' in the sunshine. Have a great Summer and I hope to see you at the three-wall tournaments. PPKW

MICHIGAN JUNIORS SHINE IN CHICAGO

- Gregg Sporer

Rocky Carson and Shane Vanderson ran a Juniors Skill Challenge at the 2005 Regional Championship and Pro Nationals at the Schaumburg Tennis Plus Club over the April 20-24 weekend. Team Michigan was well represented at both the tournament and the Challenge. Michigan juniors swept the Challenge events with Matt Barbuscak winning the Lob Serve contest, Eric Sporer winning the Backhand contest and Brad Schopieray winning the forehand contest. Way to go and Congrats to all!!!



Michigan winners (left to right)
Matt Barbuscak, Eric Sporer, Brad Schopieray

A COUPLE MORE SHOTS



Two State Champions
Men's Open - Joel Bonnett
Men's 55 Open - Ken Bonnett



RAM BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Racquetball Association of Michigan Board or Directors will be June 6, 2005 at 6:00 pm at the Franklin Athletic Club. The address for the Franklin Racquet Club is 29350 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield. All players and members are invited to attend.

BUILDING A RACQUETBALL COURT PROJECT STARTED SEPTEMBER 2002

- Don Rogers

Here's a small project that we started back in September 2002, our pole barn with a regulation size racquetball court in the northeast end. The pole barn is 50' x 80', with a section that is 24' x 50' and 21' tall. This is the part that was built and targeted for the racquetball court.

First, we had to disassemble the court from the Downtown YMCA in Lansing. That building was to be torn down, and the equipment that was not attached to the building was to be moved to a new location. Since the racquetball courts were considered a part of the building, they were not going to be moved. I gave the YMCA a monetary contribution and walked away with a complete maple hardwood floor, eight 7/8" thick tempered glass panels (about 4' x 8'), and all of the hardware for the mounting of the glass and back door. This is the picture of the back and side wall of the court when it was still at the YMCA, after we had taken the glass out.



We ended up cutting the floor into five sections and we carried it out of the Downtown YMCA's basement and loaded it onto a friend's 18-wheeler. We then pieced in the cut sections from single tongue and groove pieces that we got off another floor. Fortunately, we got the floor out just a week before the spring rains started. Why is that fortunate? Well, because the YMCA building was abandoned and there was



no electricity. During the rains, the sump pumps were not working and water found it's way into the basement where the racquetball courts were located. After the water finally drained out, here's a picture of what the remaining racquetball court floors looked like with the water damage (BUCKLED AND RUINED!!).

Now on to what my court looks like and its progress. We began putting in the floor sections we got from the Downtown YMCA. These were HEAVY!! Bill and I hoisted them up and stood them up on the edge on the wheeled carts I made just for the task. We then pushed them into place and "dropped" them into place. After much adjusting, they looked like they belonged where we put them. We then framed them in with a temporary walking ramp around the floor and just let them sit for about a year.



Now that the floor was done, we had to focus on the non-outside walls. We started with the back 12' tall wall and viewing platform. Here's a view from the bottom side. You can see the door frame held in place by some angle bracing 2 x 4's.

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BUILDING A RACQUETBALL COURT

(cont from pg 14)



Next came the side walls where there was no glass and then the stairs to get up to the viewing platform.

Here's what it looked like from the inside looking towards the back (south) wall in October 2004. Now it was on to the installation of the wall playing surfaces.



You can see from the picture that the east wall is almost done. The back wall minus the glass and door is done and we are working on the west wall above where the glass sides will be framed in.

Here's a view from the back looking at the front (north) wall. I also put in four 400 watt metal halide light fixtures so we could see a bit better. The final light configuration will be eight 400 watt metal halide enclosures. This should give us enough light to play.

And finally, a couple of shots of the progress of the insides so far. The project is not completed yet, but we should be hitting the little blue ball around soon.



Look for more information and pictures from Don's court project in upcoming newsletters. More information from Don's project can be found on his web site at

cablespeed.com/~dr6746/Pole_Barn.mht

Good Luck with a super interesting project and hope you're playing ball on the court soon! (Pictures in this article are reprinted courtesy of Don Rogers.)

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Membership Includes:

**Membership card, USA Racquetball Official Rule Book, travel and equipment discounts*

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