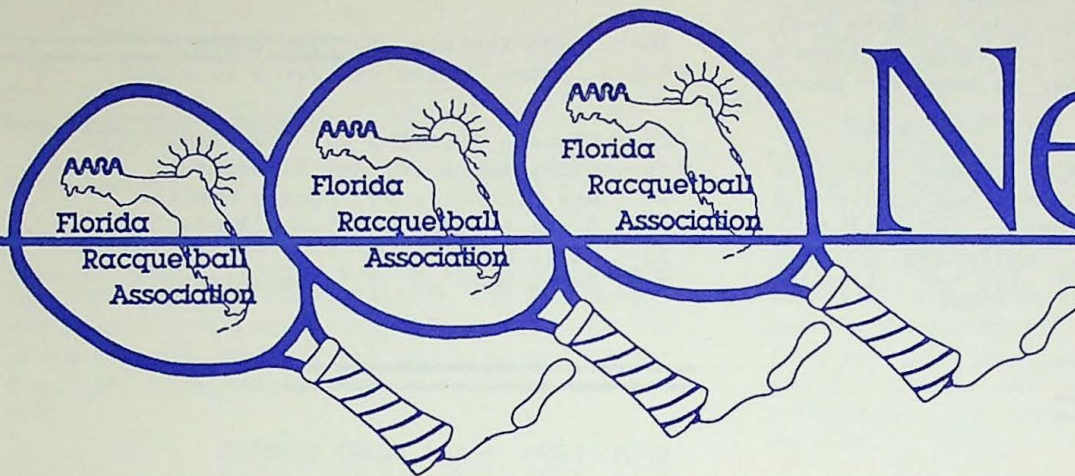




News

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FLORIDA INTERCOLLEGIATES

By Lori Basch

Gators! Noles! Knights! Hurricanes! It's time once again for the Florida State Intercollegiate Racquetball Championships. The event will be held at the Orlando Tennis & Racquet Club on March 13-15.

While this tournament thus far been a small one, it has always been exciting for all the players. Why? First of all, it seems to regularly draw a lot of excellent college-aged players who are both state and nationally ranked. Secondly (and most importantly), this event involves the only team format for intercollegiate competition in racquetball on both the state and national levels! The excitement and school spirit always run high!

What is the format of intercollegiate team racquetball? A team is comprised of numbered 1-4 men's and women's singles players, and number 1-2 men's and women's doubles teams. A team can have more than four singles players or two doubles teams, but the additional players must be spread across the divisions beginning with number 1.

Team points are accumulated by the players as follows: the winner of a division receives 10 points, runner-up = 7 points, third place = 4 points, and fourth place = 2 points. In addition, a player receives two points per match won except for the finals and third place matches. There is team competition within each men's and women's team, then each school's total combined score (men & women) is tallied for an overall win.

Last year Florida State University (boo, hiss!) won the tournament by eight points over the University of Florida, with St. Leo College near Tampa placing third. In the

men's singles competition, FSU (boo, hiss!) students battled it out as Jeff Bowman defeated John Ross in the finals. Angie Browning defeated Lori Basch in the all UF (yea!) women's final.

Our goal this year is to increase participation in this tournament. If you are a full-time undergraduate student (no age limits) or know someone who is, please spread the word about this event and get in touch with me for an entry. Even if you are simply affiliated with a college or university that has racquetball courts and would like to help out, I'd love to hear from you. Go Gators!

JACKSONVILLE TOPS IN LEAGUE PLAY

By Mary Lyons

Jacksonville, the "Bold New City of the South," can easily consider itself the most active racquetball community in the state. In the metropolitan area there are six separate racquetball and/or fitness clubs that maintain at least four courts. Two of those six facilities [Racquetpower Health & Fitness Club in Mandarin and the Jacksonville Racquetball Club in Arlington] offer complete racquetball programs to their members.

These programs include lessons, clinics, leagues, challenge courts and a full tournament calendar. Racquetpower boasts over one hundred and fifty (!) active weekly league participants, with men and women of all skill levels competing in morning and evening leagues. Both clubs have also begun to organize junior racquetball programs through the dual efforts of an already successful doubles team. Susan Morgan coordinates the

JRC junior team while her partner Mary Lyons heads the program at Racquetpower. Both feel the need to encourage and develop beginners and junior players in order to keep the sport growing and healthy.

Jacksonville is well known in the business world as a growing, aggressive and very goal-oriented community; an attitude which appears to be reflected in the recreational and tournament play of its local racquetball enthusiasts.

10-: Jon Xynidis vs. Ryan Smith
8-: Casey Neeley vs. Jerry Wilkins

18-: Claudia McCarthy vs. Cheryl Atherly
16-: Vicky Yarns vs. Amy Simonetta
14-: Amy Simonetta vs. Hannah Spector
12-: Britt Engel vs. Robyn O'Toole
10-: Katie O'Day
8-: Debra Derr vs. Julie Quinlan

HARDLY FORGOTTEN . . .

Defending titlists from last year's State Singles may be a bit difficult to recall at first, but you should remember several of the final matches listed below. The winners are noted first, and it should be interesting to see just how many re-matches occur in 1987!

Men's Divisions

Open: Tim Hansen vs. Charlie Nichols
A: Tim Ouellette vs. John Morris
B: Jose Sanchez vs. John Pittner
C: Joe Boyle vs. Tom Wilson
19+: Sergio Gonzalez vs. Charlie Nichols
19B: Frank Catarelli vs. Scott Consoli
25+: Eric Foley vs. Al Caballero
25B: Gene Rodriguez vs. Frank Spirato
30+: Bill Simon vs. Todd Taylor
30B: Dave Chapel vs. Dirk Lehew
35+: Mitt Layton vs. Don Prina
35B: Gary Trapp vs. Dan Jordan
40+: Bob Riley vs. Jeff Leon
45+: Jack Ross vs. Fred White
50+: Ken Nuznoff vs. John Hatcher
55+: Malcolm Roberts vs. Robert Harper
60+: Malcolm Roberts vs. Nick Sans
65+: Nick Sans vs. Ray Waldrop

Women's Divisions

Open: Claudia McCarthy vs. Mary Lyons
A: Susan Sotelo vs. Jan Smith
B: Jane Worden vs. Louise Taylor
C: Karen Mann vs. Barbara Gockenback
19+: Jan Curtis vs. Chris Collins
25+: Mary Lyons vs. Bibi Janaes
30+: Susan Morgan vs. Eileen Tuckman
35+: Eileen Tuckman vs. Agatha Falso
40+: Agatha Falso vs. Judi Schmidt
45+: Judi Schmidt vs. Jo Kenyon
50+: Jo Kenyon vs. Shirley Elgaway

Junior Divisions

18-: Oscar Gonzalez vs. Scott Richbourg
16-: James Lorello vs. Jason Waggoner
14-: Robby Walden vs. Ross Greenberg
12-: Allan Engel vs. Nicky Xynidis

SHORT FORM -- FRA BOARD MINUTES

The last formal meeting of the Florida Racquetball Association Board of Directors was brought to order on Saturday, December 13, 1986 at 9:20 AM. This all day meeting yielded the following motions and actions:

- 1) Adoption of the newsprint/tabloid format for the association's newsletter.
- 2) Editorial responsibilities were outlined. Linda Mojer to serve as Editor, forwarding copy to Judi Schmidt who will be in charge of production.
- 3) Approval of outside representative to coordinate all advertising concerns associated with newsletter. Rate structure was determined and approved.
- 4) Five regional editors were named to be responsible for submitting copy from each area. They are: NW-Van Dubolsky, NE-Mary Lyons, SE-Fred White, SW-Judi Schmidt, Central-Linda Mojer.
- 5) Board members were instructed to report on the events they attend within ten days, as part of their responsibilities as FRA representatives.
- 6) The name "FRA NEWS" was adopted as the title of the newsletter, until further suggestions were received.
- 7) A committee to investigate the possibility of the FRA running state tournaments was suggested. A feasibility study will be researched.
- 8) A committee was formed to suggest amendments to the FRA Articles of Incorporation and By-laws concerning the election of new members, terms of service and membership requirements.
- 9) A motion to fill two current board vacancies was brought and seconded. Lori Basch and Charlie Nichols received nomination and were voted onto the board.
- 10) The Florida AARA mailing list is in need of updating, and will be revised before the next meeting.
- 11) FRA representatives were assigned to the upcoming tournaments listed on the calendar.

FRA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

First, The FRA Advisory Board and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very healthy and prosperous new year. I would also like to thank the board members for all of the time and effort that they have contributed over the past two years.

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I look forward to 1987. In this year, I feel that the Florida Racquetball Association can grow tremendously and be the number one state in the nation in total memberships -- with your help.

Our current members are the best AARA salespeople. By spreading the word, distributing our newsletter, and encouraging membership, you can be a vital and driving force in our growth as a sport, and as an association.

With the premier issue of this newsletter, we are embarking on a new adventure as an organization. A lot of time and effort is being put forth to make this happen. To succeed is to have each one of you become involved in supporting the state and national racquetball associations. Through your involvement, a strong and active organization will be built upon improved communication between players throughout the state.

Remember, the FRA is your association. Contact advisory board members whenever they may be of assistance to you with your suggestions, complaints or ideas. See you at State Singles!

Fred White
FRA President

DEFENSIVE POSITIONING

by Gail Troxell

Defensive positioning is a difficult skill in racquetball to master. It is essential to keep in mind that your opponent is entitled to a direct path to the ball, an uninhibited swing, and a direct path to the

front wall from wherever they choose to contact the ball. It is your responsibility to keep these areas clear, and failure to do so will result in a "hinder."

There are two types of hinders -- dead ball and avoidable. The dead ball hinder occurs when, while trying to get out of the way, there is body contact, visual screening, or the ball passes between a player's legs. This and any other unintentional interference with your opponent results in a replay of the point. An avoidable hinder occurs when you fail to give your opponent a fair chance to see or return the ball (unintentionally or otherwise) and results in either a point or sideout.

The most frequent cause of an avoidable hinder is failure to watch the ball when you are on the defense. If you are looking at the front wall instead of the ball it is difficult to determine where to best position yourself. Become familiar with the rebounding angles of the court so you can predict the path of the ball, and understand the rights of your opponent so you don't cause avoidable hinders and possible safety hazards. Doing this will also increase your potential of retrieving the next shot.

GOOD TIME CLASSIC -- A NEW LOOK FOR TOURNAMENTS

by Judi Schmidt

Looking for a change of pace? Taking the game too seriously? Here's the perfect prescription to help you get more fun from your racquetball endeavors. The Bath & Racquet Good Time Classic (March 27-29) will offer a unique approach to the standard tournament scene.

In addition to regular sanctioned events in this tournament, the first 64 entrants to register at the check-in desk will be able to sign-up for four outrageous "Good Time" events on Saturday evening. There is no charge for the special events and regulation play will be suspended for two hours to allow time for everyone to enjoy the out-of-the-ordinary competition. Super prizes will be awarded to winners in the blind draw competition. Events will be kept a secret until the day of the tournament, but are guaranteed to amuse spectators and players alike.

For more information about this unusual format, or the tournament itself, contact myself or Charlie Nichols at 813/921-6675.

WHAT'S MY RANKING?

by Van Dubolsky

One of the many services the AARA offers to its members is to act as a clearinghouse for all the sanctioned tournaments held across the United States. The results of these events (about 800 per year) are recorded by the tournament directors and sent to the national office where they are compiled and used to produce the national rankings.

Each tournament director is asked to fill out the appropriate forms after their event. These forms list the top eight finishers in each division. Each place is awarded a designated point value and each player receives that number of points. The points are cumulative and are kept current by deleting any that are over one year old. For example, points earned in October of last year will be deleted on November 1st of this year. This allows us to maintain an active record of player performance.

RANKINGS

The rankings listed below are current to February 1987, and represent the positions of players with over 100 earned points in their reported divisions.

MEN'S DIVISIONS - Open:

#1	Tim Hansen	754
#2	Sergio Gonzales	465
#3	Vinnie Ganley	400
#4	Mark Morrison	395
#5	Oscar Gonzales	345
#6	Charlie Nichols	330
#7	John Chelena	275
#8	Fred Calabrese	260
#9	James Lorello	230
#10	Jeff Kristjansen	200

Men's "A":

#1	Armando Alonso	265
#2	Mike Peyton	210
#3	Ross Greenberg	200
#4	Glen Warren	195
#5	Mike Altman	180
#6	Graig Dewhurst	175
#7	George Cooks	165
#8	Norman McNutt	160
#9	Joey Moody	150
#10	Scott Consoli	145

Men's "B":

#1	Michael Carter	225
#2	Bruce Cumbess	200
	Tim Eiland	200
#3	Sandy Tucker	175
#4	Larry Hanshaw	150
	Joey Moody	150
#5	Joe Boyle	140
	Steve Miller	140
#6	Fred Buck	125
	Gary Harrell	125
#7	Randy Forrest	120
#8	Joe Edwards	110
	Michael Wolf	110
#9	Renny Gonzalez	100
	Ross Greenberg	100
	Jose Sanchez	100
	Robert Scarpoti	100

Men's "C":

#1	Juan Garcia	215
#2	John Cyrus	180
#3	Mike Motta	175
#4	Bill Hurak	150
	Larry Mitchell	150
#5	Mike DiMaio	105
#6	Joe Boyle	100
	Garth Burgett	100
	Roberto Cella	100
	Chris Conway	100
	Mike Hartman	100
	John Van Arsdall	100

Men's "D":

#1	Mike Hartman	250
#2	Manuel Shaw	150
	Scott Thompson	150
	Terry Walker	150
#3	Vin Biondi	120
#4	Kevin Gallagher	110
	Lloyd Kim	110
#5	Jim Thompson	105
#6	Luis Baidal	100
	Joe Cummings	100
	John Dunn	100
	Pedro Gomez	100
	Alfred Perez	100

Men's 19+:

#1	Tim Hansen	605
#2	Jim Alvarado	375
#3	John Scargle	255
#4	Curtis Winter	205
#5	John Schneider	195
#6	Gorge Maceo	150
#7	Brent Huber	145
#8	Charlie Nichols	110
#9	Jon Chelena	105
#10	Sergio Gonzales	100
	Joey Moody	100
	John Ross	100

Men's 25+:

#1	Mark Morrison	595
#2	John Scargle	310
#3	Randy Pfahler	300
#4	Al Caballero	240

With regard to these rankings, there will always be arguments as to their validity. Some players accumulate lots of points as their states offer a greater number of sanctioned events over a year's time. This produces an obvious quantity vs. quality debate. But one thing is certain; just about everyone checks the published rankings, searching for their name in print.

Florida state rankings are handled in much the same manner as the national system, and the lists that follow are as accurate an indication of player ranking as can possibly be compiled. If you have any suggestions on how to improve any of the methods used to determine player rankings, please contact any FRA Advisory Board member with your comments.

#5	Brent Huber	195
	Jeff Kristjansen	195
#6	Rick Turner	190
#7	Paul Owens	180
#8	Mark Ritchart	160
#9	Craig Farrand	150
#10	Bill Cottrillo	145
	Rick O'Dell	145

Men's 30+:

#1	Bill Simon	490
#2	Bob DeRobertis	310
	Todd Taylor	310
#3	Van Dubolsky	285
#4	Randy Godwin	230
#5	Gene Owen	210
#6	Stan Wing	200
#7	Jim Flagg	160
	Jeff Kristjansen	160
#8	Mitt Layton	150
#9	Ed Dale	125

Men's 35+:

#1	Van Dubolsky	680
#2	Mitt Layton	405
#3	Gene Owen	345
#4	Bob Riley	280
#5	Steve Chapman	255
#6	Leo Marsocci	225
#7	Mickey Rearden	140
#8	Bob Christ	130
	Bill Miller	130
#9	Bob Wood	120
#10	Michael Wolf	100

Men's 40+:

#1	Bob Riley	600
#2	Mike Winslow	550
#3	Charles Behar	370
#4	Graig Shaak	350
#5	Tony Conti	345
#6	Ed Vlock	320
#7	Fred White	235
#8	Bob Christ	175
#9	Thomas Rumsey	150
#10	Lou Blitz	135

Men's 45+:

#1	Ed Vlock	775
#2	Jack Ross	700
#3	Lou Biltz	400
#4	Fred White	380
#5	Thomas Rumsey	375
#6	Jim Thompson	250
#7	Alan Miller	235
#8	Mike Mojer	200
#9	Frank Shumer	155
#10	Vincent Biondi	150

Men's 50+:

#1	Sonny Marcus	325
#2	Mike Mojer	245
	Ken Nuznoff	245
#3	Don Woodington	230
#4	John Saltzgaver	150
#5	Tom Vann	145
#6	Vic Flores	140
#7	Robert Harper	130
#8	Norman Kershner	105

Men's 55+:

#1	Malcolm Roberts	350
#2	Robert Harper	330
#3	Richard Morgan	250
#4	Tom Zetrouer	140

Men's 60+:

#1	Malcolm Roberts	425
#2	Nick Sans	320
#3	Carlos Sena	185
#4	Tom Zetrouer	130

Men's 65+:

#1	Nick Sans	475
#2	Norman Cramer	200

Men's 70+:

#1	Norman Cramer	495
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WOMEN'S DIVISIONS - Open:

#1	Lori Basch	525
#2	Mary Lyons	430
#3	Linda Diamond	365
#4	Melanie Britton	285
#5	Claudia McCarthy	275
#6	Susan Morgan	255
#7	Angie Browning	200
	Diane Bullard	200
#8	Barbara Faulkenberry	180
#9	Mary Holroyd	140
	Julie Pinnell	140
#10	Barb Simmons	105

Women's "A":

#1	Monique Biondillio	230
#2	Renee Fish	225
#3	Brenda Smith	190
#4	Linda Mojer	185
#5	Cheryl Atherly	175
#6	Janis Smith	160
#7	Amy Simonetta	150
#8	Mary McNutt	140
#9	Mary Hargrove	120
	Lynette Sprout	120
#10	Debra Held	105

<u>Women's "B":</u>		
#1	Chris Collins	400
#2	Marilyn Buffum	230
#3	Jo Kenyon	195
#4	Theresa Chaffin	185
#5	Debra Held	170
#6	Ceil Clark	165
#7	Mary Ellen Cheney	150
	Jane Fontaine	150
	Eva Russell	150
#8	Misty Shaw	145
#9	Belinda Dettman	135
#10	Karen Mann	125

<u>Women's "C":</u>		
#1	Gail Fitzgerald	265
	Terry Kelsey	265
#2	Jana French	230
#3	Misty Shaw	195
#4	Marilyn Buffum	150
#5	Kim McDaniel	130
#6	Dori Newman	120
#7	Susan Chrisman	115
	Gail Hardy	115
#8	Sue Gilberti	105
#9	Terri Costill	100
	Doreen Greco	100
	Karen Mann	100
	Gayle Roberts	100
	Lenore Romer	100
	Sereda White	100

<u>Women's "D":</u>		
#1	Sue Gilberti	250
#2	Susan Christman	245
#3	Patti Yough	175
#4	Terri Costill	165
#5	Gail Hardy	150
#6	Natasha Ortiz	140
#7	Jane Keys	135
#8	Lisa Simonitis	130
#9	Karen Hurles	125
#10	Lavonne Bunch	120
	Jana French	120

<u>Women's 19+:</u>		
#1	Lori Basch	290
#2	Melanie Britton	235
#3	Nancy Hamrick	175
#4	Jan Curtis	165
#5	Angie Browning	155
#6	Lynette Sprout	125
#7	Linda Diamond	110
#8	Marla Freidman	100

<u>Women's 25+:</u>		
#1	Diane Bullard	600
#2	Mary Lyons	575
#3	Cindy Carter	185
#4	Barbara Faulkenberry	150
	Mandy Stark	150
#5	Chris Collins	140
#6	Barbara Simmons	110
#7	Renee Fish	100
	Nancy Hamrick	100

<u>Women's 30+:</u>		
#1	Susan Morgan	725
#2	Gail Troxell	265
#3	Mary Jo Murray	245
#4	Eileen Tuckman	210
#5	Julie Pinnell	200
#6	Linda Mojer	185
#7	Barbara Simmons	150

<u>Women's 35+:</u>		
#1	Eileen Tuckman	850
#2	Mary Jo Murray	630
#3	Agatha Falso	255
#4	Terri Costill	150
#5	Janis Smith	145
#6	Libby Laney	140
#7	Jean Snyder	100

<u>Women's 40+:</u>		
#1	Agatha Falso	925
#2	Judi Schmidt	255
#3	Gretchen Spiegel	125
#4	E. Dean Birdwell	115
#5	Jo Kenyon	100

<u>Women's 45+:</u>		
#1	Judi Schmidt	975
#2	Jo Kenyon	425
#3	Shirley Elgaway	160
#4	Mareda Zoumberous	100

<u>Women's 50+:</u>		
#1	Jo Kenyon	1125
#2	Shirley Elgaway	560
#3	Julie Atherly	315
#4	Mareda Zoumberous	160

<u>Women's 55+:</u>		
#1	Julie Atherly	400
#2	Mareda Zoumberous	150

<u>JUNIOR DIVISIONS - Boys 8-:</u>		
#1	Mark Hurst	1575
#2	Jody Friedman	1025
#3	Franky Quinlan	305
#4	Casey Neeley	290
#5	Cliff Pardue	245
#6	Adam Gyselinck	145
#7	Jerry Wilkins	115
	John Xynidis	115

<u>Girl's 8-:</u>		
#1	Debra Derr	1575
#2	Jennifer Thompson	595
#3	Julie Quinlan	545
#4	Lyndsey Patton	455
#5	Kelly Newsom	325
#6	Reyna Hastilow	180
#7	Corrie Wietzel	160

<u>Boy's 10-:</u>		
#1	John Xynidis	900
#2	Ryan Smith	455
#3	Brent Thompson	340
#4	J.P. Beubien	265
#5	Mark Hurst	245
#6	John Gyselinck	215
#7	Marcus Patray	210
#8	Steve Quinlan	195
#9	Frank S. Quinlan	165
#10	Nathan McCabe	150

<u>Girl's 10-:</u>		
#1	Sara French	550
#2	Katie O'Day	425
#3	Britt Engel	275
#4	Samantha Simmons	200
#5	Mia Dellanini	175
#6	Debra Derr	130
#7	Amy Simonetta	100

<u>Boy's 12-:</u>		
#1	Alan Engel	1175
#2	Nicky Xynidis	740
#3	Craig Czyz	305
#4	Shawn Dougherty	165
#5	John Dellanini	120

<u>Girl's 12-:</u>		
#1	Britt Engel	825
#2	Robin O'Toole	200
#3	Amanda Simmons	180
#4	Mia Dellanini	150
#5	Amber Rainwater	145
#6	Wendy Katz	110

<u>Boy's 14-:</u>		
#1	Robby Walden	1150
#2	Ross Greenberg	755
#3	Mike Altman	630
#4	Scott Reiff	240
#5	Mike Iapichino	210
#6	Jason Waggoner	200
#7	James Lorello	175
#8	Ken McLeod	155
#9	Aaron Metcalf	150
#10	Marcus Juliano	125

<u>Girl's 14-:</u>		
#1	Amy Simonetta	1025
#2	Hannah Spector	440
#3	Deirdre Robertson	285

<u>Boy's 16-:</u>		
#1	James Lorello	800
#2	Jason Waggoner	385
#3	Brian Rankin	380
#4	Trent Tournabene	155
#5	Mike Iapachino	100
	John Van Ardsdall	100

<u>Girl's 16-:</u>		
#1	Vicky Yarns	825
#2	Susan Cox	260
#3	Amy Simonetta	160

<u>Boy's 18-:</u>		
#1	John Ross	455
#2	Oscar Gonzales	380
#3	Brian Rankin	140
#4	Lino Suarez	120
#5	Mitch Campbell	100

<u>Girl's 18-:</u>		
#1	Vicky Yarns	465
#2	Claudia McCarthy	300
#3	Cherly Atherly	160
#4	Kim Baran	100
	Robin McBride	100

NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERS -- WELCOME!

With almost every state in the nation trying to catch up with Florida in terms of its numbers of active members, each new or renewal membership for us is very important. To maintain our lead (second only to California thus far), we need to run lists at least this long in each issue of FRA NEWS. Join us in welcoming our new and renewal members:

John Alderman	Vinnie Ganley	Mike Richardson
Chuck Allman	Louie Garriga	Lynor Romer
Howard Ambrose	J. Steven Goodman	Thomas Rumsey
Teresa Aquino	James Gordon	Gary Russo
Judy Arnold	Jerry Gray	Art Saft
Kenneth Arrowsmith	Oscar Guerra	John Scargle Jr.
William Baird	Ed Hansen	Sandra Schadlbauer
George Ballou	Gary Harrell	James Scott
Bubba Barberi	Jessie Harris	Julio Seda
Joseph Barnard	James Hartley	Manuel Shaw
David Barnes	Brent Huber	Afie Sheerahamed
Sid Bird	David Hurgeton	Greg Shiver
Mark Bolotte	Tom Hutchinson	George Sleeth
Ralph Bodziak	Gordon Ira Jr.	Bill Simon
John Bulat	Chris King	Brian Stephens
Al Caballero	Cari Kresa	Nancy Suarez
Cheryl Caballero	Jay Lamb	Thomas Swavely
Frank Camara	Owen Lopez	Doreen Taylor
Michael Carey	Dori Beth Man	Arno Tilles
Larry Cashion	Briwee Manning	Eric Tillert
Tim Clements	Louis Manz	Amy Turetsky
Amy Clementz	Ron Maseth	Brett Upham
R.E. Cline	Richard	Donald Valtz
Jan Cohen	Mastrobuono	Mike Warner
Jim Craig	Stephanie Matiaccio	Eddie Vasquez
Michael Crenshaw	Thomas May	Jill Verona
John Davis	Ian McConkey	Glenn Verrette
Robin Dellinger	Jim McHale	Jason Waggoner
Linda Diamond	Davie Mesa	Gregory Weaver
Derek Dibiase	Larry Michelson	Kevin Weaver
Jeff Distefano	Sue Miller	Harold Weiman Jr.
Jay Doolittle	Bill Morrison	James Wells
S.C. Downing	Casey Neely	Keith Westerman
John Dunn	Kelly Newsome	Cheryl Westfall
S. Elgaway	Frances Nipe	John Whaley
Carla English	Rachel O'Neill	Ronald Wheeler
Richard Espinosa	Arthur Payne	Jonathan Whiteside
Ben Falk	Alfred Perez	David Williams
Carig Farrand	David Patterson	James Williams
Martin Feinroth	Zachary Pfeffer	Robert Wohl
Jane Fontaine	John Pittner	
Rod Furmanski	Linda Pittner	
Tim Gainey	Mike Reynolds	

RACQUETBALL AT THE OLYMPICS? NOT YET . . .

The First Annual AARA State and Regional Directors Meeting was held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, January 14-18th. With over 40 active participants, the seminar format was very productive, addressing such issues as individual state games and their importance to the growth of racquetball, national rankings and sanctioning guidelines, pending rules changes, election procedures and how to obtain sponsorship (!) for your tournaments. The placement of the meeting at the US Olympic Training Center was strategic as well, with a major focus being the importance of the AARA allegiance with the USOC.

Each days' session was filled with useful information, sticking to a schedule that began promptly at 9:00 AM and continued virtually non-stop until 5:00 PM. Veteran racquetball administrators had trouble sitting still for such extended periods of time, but the value of the facts presented held the attention of most. The first session on Thursday was opened by the United States Olympic Committee Secretary General George Miller, who explained the far-reaching plans of the USOC in organizing and implementing the 1988 games, merchandizing and fund-raising opportunities considered to be supportive of the effort, and the place of racquetball in the scheme of Olympic "things." It was apparent after the first presentation that the game we enjoy so well on a day to day basis is held in high esteem by the US Olympic Committee, its staff and key decision-makers.

Next on the agenda was the introduction of the AARA National Office personnel--including recently hired Administrative Assistant for Membership Services, John Mooney. John's main function is to organize and increase the efficiency of the computer systems used to maintain membership and ranking lists. Mr. Mooney requested that all state and regional directors update their current lists, eliminating duplications and combining the points obtained by a single individual listed under several variations of his/her name. To start.

Then, discussion centered on how to redesign the membership application to make it easier to complete and process both at the tournament desk and at the national office. While turnaround time for processing a

membership application has been reduced by one week, an alarming number of tournament players apparently continue to compete in sanctioned events without the benefit of membership. The importance of checking memberships, collecting dues on the spot at tournaments, and following up immediately with remittance to the AARA, cannot be overstated.

The addition of the Administrative Assistant for Membership Services to the AARA is clearly in anticipation of the sport gaining Class A Olympic status in the near future. Perhaps one of the most important issues addressed at the conference was the absolute necessity of increasing the number of members in the AARA to complement this goal. Market research confirms that the signature five Olympic rings are the second most recognizable symbol in the world. By association alone, the AARA could gain the immediate prestige and global respect inherent to the Olympic ideal by upgrading its USOC status. And that requires that our established membership be increased by approximately twenty-five percent.

That's the global picture. Becoming an Olympic sport will place racquetball squarely in the center of all racquet sports, their manufacturing interests, and support systems. Once there, how much difficulty would a racquetball tournament director have in obtaining sponsorship for his/her event? Would extensive explanation continue to be required before you could hope to receive any sort of cash or in-kind support from a local franchise operation? Or would that association with the Olympics be sufficient to calm a hesitant area distributor?

The trickle-down effect of AARA affiliation with the Olympic games, once underway, won't stop until it reaches you, the everyday player. Then, when acquaintances ask what sport you engage in, you'll be able to tell them without making them visualize "a short tennis racquet and a blue ball. . ."

FRA BOARD ADDS NEW MEMBER

Lori Basch, a 22 year old native of Orlando is already a long-established racquetball player. She recently graduated from the University of Florida and is now living in Jacksonville, working full-time, and playing lots of racquetball at Racquetpower. She was nominated and voted into the Florida Racquetball Association Advisory Board of Directors at its last formal business meeting.

"Since I started playing five years ago, I've been pretty much 'addicted' to the sport -- I play just about everyday. Over the past two years of so I've been more and more involved in both teaching and organizing racquetball through my affiliation with Ektelon and my desire to get involved with the AARA. Since I've played and worked at clubs in Orlando, Gainesville and Jacksonville I feel like I've gotten a varied perspective on the Florida players. Hopefully this will help me out with my work on the board.

I spend my days working full time for NCR Corporation in their Retail Systems Division. I spent four years at school studying computers and would like sometime to be able to combine my interest in them with racquetball by writing software that organizes clubs and tournaments.

When I'm not playing or working, I'm usually out having a good time or enjoying other sports. I love watching football and basketball (especially the Gators!) and I like running, playing tennis and volleyball for a change of pace. I also love music --it's my way to relax.

My main task as far as the FRA is concerned this year is organizing the state intercollegiate tournament. My major goal is to increase participation. I would appreciate input from any players affiliated with a college or university that are willing to help out and I welcome suggestions from anyone with ideas on achieving our goals."

BOARD PROFILE: Mary Lyons

Just about anyone playing racquetball in the Jacksonville area has probably had the opportunity to meet or see Mary Lyons in action. Virtually unstoppable, she's even been observed playing with two racquets at the same time. At most major tournaments, she's the slight, brunette woman behind the control desk, taking no nonsense from anyone, but being nice about it. Occasionally, she'll even leave the public address system on while she engages in one of those no-nonsense conversations, much to the delight of the people in the locker rooms.

A native Floridian born and raised in Hollywood, Mary graduated from Hollywood Hills High School in 1976, and is twenty-eight years old. Despite her youth (she yearns to turn 30 so she can be in Susan Morgan's age division and "kick her butt"), her accomplishments are

many. As the racquetball director, teaching pro, tournament director and junior team founder/director at Racquetpower in Jacksonville, her days are filled with our favorite sport. It shows, too, in her long list of tournament wins.

Mary began playing racquetball about eight years ago while studying at FSU, finding it to be much like golf, another sport at which she is adept. Like so many of us, it was "love at first sight" and both her career and recreational focus has been on racquetball ever since. She and doubles partner Susan Morgan have a string of national doubles titles to their credit, including the 1984 and 1986 25+ division championships. To her individual merit, she held the runner-up title in last year's national singles 25+ division. She is currently sponsored by both Ektelon and Asahi.

Married to science teacher and track coach Steve Lyons, Mary enjoys instructing her five-year old son Jimmy, and hopes to stay a little bit better than him for a while longer. There's a possibility that he'll be able to catch up with her in a few months, however, when mom starts to slow down a bit. It looks like this year's national doubles is out (and state doubles in August, too) for Mary is due to deliver her second child in September.

Mary has been on the FRA Board of Directors since its inception in 1985, and her work, opinions and suggestions regarding the quality of racquetball in Florida have been progressive and worthwhile. Whether you live in Jacksonville or not, you're fortunate to have such a dedicated individual working for you -- out front at Racquetpower or behind the scenes with the Florida Racquetball Association.

The national rules committee is considering two rule changes that have been hotly debated for several years. The first is the institution of a mandatory eyeguard requirement at all sanctioned AARA events, for all players. The second is the designation of the screen serve as a fault.

A number of other rulings are being considered, and will be fully outlined in an upcoming issue of "Racquetball in Review" and published with a ballot form for you to return to the national rules commissioner to share your views. If you are strongly in favor, or not in favor, of any of the upcoming rules changes, it would be to your best advantage to indicate your choices.

FROM THE EDITOR

by Linda L. Mojer,
FRA Publicist

Over a year ago, the FRA Board of Directors began discussing the possibility of producing a state newsletter. Perhaps more so than other states, this particular decision was one that required a great deal of research, planning and commitment by the board members. Sure, we'd undertaken to establish sanctioning and ranking guidelines, but everyone supports improved quality at the tournaments they attend. We'd heard our share of grievances at various events around the state, making rulings by committee and thrashing out the results for months afterward. We've even upgraded the caliber of referee services by testing people's knowledge (and patience) with clinics and examinations reminiscent of finals week in high school. But this is different.

The Florida Racquetball Association News is generated solely by volunteer effort. Five regional editorial boards have been established to collect news about any and all

tournament events across the state. Editorial policies are flexible -- anything relating to racquetball submitted to a regional editor will be considered for publication. Letters to the editor, black & white photographs, and opinions (controversial or otherwise) will be welcomed. Through equal and enthusiastic effort, all of you will be represented in these pages. We challenge you to join us in this statewide project --writing, winning, arguing and growing!

The Florida Racquetball Association boasts one of the largest active player memberships in the country. It's also made up of some of the most diverse, talented, and demonstrative individuals around. Notoriously hard to please (but worth the effort), players in Florida demand the best or they won't waste their time. In dedicated service to this organization, the FRA Board shares that demand of itself. . . it's got to be the best or we won't waste our time either. We think this effort can be the finest contribution we make to racquetball in Florida. Let us know what you think.

FRA/AARA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Date	Club	City	Level & Comments
FEBRUARY			
19-22	The Club	Orlando	3 - State Singles
MARCH			
06-08	Suncoast	Clearwater	2
13-15	The Club	Orlando	3 - State Intercollegiates
13-15	Tampa Bay Courthouse	Tampa	2
13-15	Quadrangle	Coral Springs	2 - Doubles Only
20-22	Scandinavian Courtrooms	Ft. Lauderdale	2
27-29	Bath & Racquet	Sarasota	2
27-29	Intercollegiates	Denver, CO	6 - Nationals
APRIL			
03-05	Park Avenue Racquetball Club	Orange Park	2
10-12	The Club	Orlando	2
24-26	YMCA	Lakeland	2 - Onomatopoeia
24-26	Atlanta Health & Racquet Club	near Marietta Georgia	4 - Adult Regionals
MAY			
01-03	Auburndale Rec. Center	Auburndale	2 - Outdoor 4-wall
06-08	Sarasota YMCA	Sarasota	2 - Lynn Adams
06-08	Miami Lakes	Miami	2 "Barnstorming"
06-08	TBA	Jacksonville	2 Events [FRJ]
15-17	Omega 40	Ormond Beach	2
21-25	YMCA	Houston, TX	6 - National Singles
JUNE			
05-07	Bath & Racquet	Sarasota	4 - Jr. Regionals
12-14	Quadrangle	Coral Springs	2 - Sunshine
12-14	Tampa Bay Courthouse	Tampa	2 - State Games
19-21	ATA Fitness Center	Atlantic Beach	2 - Warm-Up
19-21	The Club	Orlando	2 - Events
20-25	Sawmill Athletic Club	Columbus, OH	6 - Jr. Nationals
JULY			
09-12	Suncoast	Clearwater	3 - Sunshine State Games
AUGUST			
07-09	Tampa Bay Courthouse	Tampa	2 - Juniors
14-16	YMCA	Lakeland	2 - Doubles Warm-Up
21-23	Bath & Racquet	Sarasota	3 - State Doubles

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