

Racquetball Reporter

quarterly publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

February 2013

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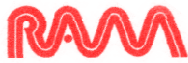
RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP FILLS THE COURTS AND BRINGS THE FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS OF THE SEASON

Twayne M. Howard

The first weekend of December brought a club full of players paired up to vie for the first State Championship of the season – RAM State Doubles. As always State Doubles brings great racquetball and great fun. Total Sports in Mt. Clemens was the place and Ed and Dawn played great hosts. Hoodies, fun, great competition, huge amounts of food and Championship Racquetball - what a great way to spend a weekend.

Check out the results below and we'll see you next year.

Division Name	Draw Type	Winner	Runner-Up	Third	3rd Tie / 4th
Open	Single Elimination	Brad Schopieray / Robin Basil	Andrew Price / Gregory Lewerenz	Steve Goedker / Walt Podraza	Daniel Mullin / John Kutt Jr.
Elite	Single Elimination	Rick Davenport / Roy Gelerman	Anthony Garbarino / Michael Garbarino	Ben Marciniak-Jennings / Jim Kutt	Michael Stetz / Mark Reed
A	Single Elimination	Nick Frontczak / Mike Mollema	Christopher Kelly / Myles Kelly	Attica Mitchell / Robb Patterson	Anthony Garbarino / Michael Garbarino
B	Single Elimination	Edward Reneski / Kevin Keys	David Holden / Rich Fadoir	Frank Dean / Richard Worobec	Paul Schultz / Steven Simon
C	Single Elimination	Braeden D'Almeida / Caige Duryea	Alfonso Pugh / Dennis Reid		
Men's 30 +	Single Elimination	Charles White / Michael Chambon	Jim Kutt / John Kutt Jr.	Daniel Verbeck / James Woolcock	Ben Marciniak-Jennings / Daniel Mullin
Men's 40 + A	Single Elimination	Nick Frontczak / Mike Mollema	Jeff Reneaud / Mike Urquhart	Andy DeBraber / Eric Glass	Darrel Bartkowiak / Paul Barry
Men's 45+ Open	Single Elimination	Charles White / Michael Chambon	Daniel Verbeck / James Woolcock	Christopher Kelly / Scott Bowles	John Coaker / Steve Jazwiec
50+ A	Single Elimination	Jeff Stankiewicz / John Cather	Jerry Spruit / Martin Vande Weerd	Richard Westerbrink / Carlos Castillo	Attica Mitchell / Robb Patterson
Men's 63+	Round Robin	Dan Greene / Keith Vogel	Richard Gutowski / Bernard Snay	Ron Oele / Leonard DeBraber	Tony Tewes / Dan Ross
Centurion+ /	Single Elimination	Jeff Stankiewicz / John Cather	Carlos Castillo / Daniel Mullin	Jerry Spruit / John Vande Weerd	Bryan Galloway / Michael D'Almeida
Centurion+ B / C	Single Elimination	Eddie Reneski / Kevin Keys	Jeffrey Mira / Keith Vogel		
Centurion+ Open	Single Elimination	Steve Goedker / Walt Podraza	Robert Gravelyn / Ryan Covell	Alphonso Pugh / Gregory Lewerenz	Dave Erdman / Bill Garrow
Mixed Centurion+ I	Single Elimination	Jen O'Meara / Fred Daris	Tahpenes Johnson / Bernard Snay	Tanya Nofs / Kevin Keys	Kelly McKenzie / Keith Vogel
Mixed Open	Single Elimination	Greg Lewerenz / Tia Lecland	Tahpenes Johnson / Robin Basil	Tanya Nofs / William Garrow	Jen O'Meara / Rick Davenport



**2012-2013
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Newsletter

The Racquetball Reporter
5753 S. Corey Rd.
Perry, MI 48872

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VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT

Twayne M. Howard

When it comes to this time of year, there can be only one topic of conversation. Within days of you receiving this newsletter, we will open the 2013 RAM State Singles Championships. March 22-24 Davison Athletic Club will host the Championships as well as the Annual Merit Awards and Hall of Fame Banquet and we've got big things cooking.

First off, this is it. This is the Championships. Few can be "State Champion". Think you got what it takes? Only one way to find out. Bring your gear, sign up and play it out. The last one standing is the Champ. This tournament brings out the best of the best. Will you be one of them?

Mind you, that's only the on-court action. Last season we gave a great One Shot jacket to every competitor and people loved them. With that kind of reaction, we decided we had to do even better this year. How is that possible? Well, we've got some amazing One Shot sweatshirts and they are all for you. If you miss out, you'll be kicking yourself.

Another perk is our return to The Davison Athletic Club which is one of the best in the state and a great home for State Singles.

And, of course, to the winners go

the spoils. Champions and Finalists earn a RAM Championship Medal.

Saturday night bring the Annual Merit Awards and Hall of Fame Banquet. Every year we honor the Female, Male and Junior Players of the Year, the Most Improved Adult and Junior Players, Sports-person of the Year, Club/Owner of the Year and Tournament Director of the Year.

A highlight of the evening is the induction of the Hall of Fame Class of 2013. We can't announce the inductees at this point, but it is always a special, special evening as we celebrate our past, present and future.

And this year, everyone is welcome. To encourage you, we are dropping the price of the banquet. We want every player to attend so we are dropping the price to \$10. Yup, it's just \$10 per player. If you are a guest and want to attend, or want to bring a guest, it's still only \$35.

So please, mark your calendar now for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 22-24. It's a great weekend of Racquetball and you really do not want to miss it.

We'll see you there.

2013 WEST MICHIGAN OPEN BRINGS GREAT PRO-AM ACTION TO START THE NEW YEAR

Twayne M. Howard

The 2013 calendar year kicked off with a bang at the West Michigan Open Pro Am Racquetball Championships Benefiting Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. This event has generated over \$15,000 over the years for this amazing charity and it has done so while offering one of the best tournaments in Michigan.

This year, eleven Pros filled out the draw and provided a ton of great action starting at 9:00 am and running all day. Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and even Canada were represented in the draw, not to mention our own Cliff Swain and Brad Schopieray.

"Upsets" ruled the early rounds as #10 Brandon Cortese got past #7 Spencer Shoemaker in three very close games and our "old friend" and #6 seed Brian Simpson defeated touring Pro and #3 seed Lee Connell. Lee made the trip in from Ontario, but couldn't make the semis this weekend. #2 Juan Herrera beat Brandon Cortese to earn a spot against Brian in the Semis. #4 seed and reigning WMO Champion Cliff Swain dispatched Jim Bronson to earn a spot in the Semis against his protégé and top

seed Brad Schopieray. Brad beat #9 seed Filip Vesely. Another upset was featured in the Semis as Cliff showed that old magic and defeated Brad to make it to the Finals. Cliff was playing better than he has in several years, and it was awesome. Brian Simpson also pulled an upset by beating IRT#16 Juan Herrera. Brian also looked great and it promised to be a fantastic Final.

Championship Sunday brought grand anticipation as everyone eagerly awaited this clash of tough veterans. In the end, the Final went the way the rest of the tournament had: Cliff was just too damn tough. The serve was laser-like and he moved like the Champion in his prime. Brian put up a good fight with his excellent execution, but Cliff was just too tough.

Another year, another great WMO. Fantastic food and hospitality and top-notch action.

You can check out the amateur results below, and make plans to come play next year.

Division Name	Draw Type	Winner	Runner-Up	Semis	Semis
IRT Pro	Single Elimination	Cliff Swain	Brian Simpson	Juan Herrera	Brad Schopieray
Juniors Intermediate	Single Elimination	Connor White	Timmy Kuypers		
Men's Open	Single Elimination	Spencer Shoemaker	Filip Vesely	Jim Bronson	Zach Archer
Men's Elite	Single Elimination	John Stallmer	Ferd Samson	William Garrow	Michael Chambon
Men's A	Single Elimination	Michael Malcolm	Bryan Galloway	Daniel Mullin	David Chirio
Men's B	Single Elimination	John Lager	Jim McGowan	J. Willie Lowe	Braeden D'Almeida
Men's C	Single Elimination	Nate Cooper	Mark Mohr	Vaughn Miller	Braeden D'Almeida
Men's 30+ Open	Single Elimination	Charles White	John Stallmer	Michael Malcolm	Scott Crowley
Men's 35+A	Single Elimination	David Combs	Loren Miller	Richard Westerbrink	Monty Marcus
Men's 35+B	Single Elimination	Jim McGowan	Gilberto Martinez	David Knezek	Gary Balavitch
Men's 45+ Open	Single Elimination	Michael Chambon	Michael Anderson	Rick Vrosh	David Bushen
Men's 50+A	Single Elimination	Clayton Campbell	Carlos Castillo	David Chirio	Bryan Galloway
Men's 55+ B	Single Elimination	Michael D'Almeida	Arthur Murphy	Bill Galloway	Gregory McClellan
Men's 60+	Single Elimination	Edson Borges	Allan Mell	Richard Bronson	John Coaker
Men's 65+	Round Robin	George Goudie	Michael Goodyear	Dennis Reid	
Men's 70+	Round Robin	Richard Dunneback	Thomas Sharum	Arthur Murphy	
Men's Open Doubles	Single Elimination	David Chirio / Scott Young	George Goudie / Scott Goudie	Richard Westerbrink / Keith Bryan	Michael Chambon / Charles White
Men's B Doubles	Single Elimination	John Lager / J. Willie Lowe	Braeden D'Almeida / Michael D'Almeida	Gregory McClellan / Bill Galloway	Thomas Trueman / Monty Marcus

TOURNAMENT DIVISION QUALIFICATIONS, OR AUTOMATIC MOVE UP FOR DIVISION CHAMPIONS, OR “HEY, IF I WON LAST YEAR, WHY CAN’T I COME BACK TO DEFEND MY TITLE?”

Twayne M. Howard

It’s been a while since we published the RAM policy on division eligibility for past champions and the “automatic move up” policy, so with State Singles coming up it seems about time. So, without further ado, here are the rules and guidelines regarding division qualifications.

If a player wins a tournament, they **SHOULD** be required to move up at that same event the following year.

If a player wins two local tournaments over any time period, they must immediately move up for all following local tournaments. At the next State Championship (Singles or Doubles), the player may play their former division one last time, but then they must return to the higher division.

If a player wins a State Championship, that player automatically moves up to the next higher division for all subsequent tournaments. This does not necessarily affect their level in the other discipline ie: A win at State Singles, does not necessarily mean the player has to move up in doubles, or vice versa.

If that player loses in the first round of the higher division at the following year’s Championship, they may be allowed to return to the lower division after petitioning the Board.

All of these can be overridden by the tournament directors or the Board. It’s up to the directors to properly place players to ensure fairness whenever possible.

We all like to win tournaments and it’s really cool to defend your title. However, it’s much cooler to achieve and advance, sharpen your skills and challenge yourself to get better and better. You don’t have to win a tournament or State Championship in order to move up. The goal is to be fair to everyone else in those divisions. Please do your best to help us, as it really is in the best interest of the sport.



ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER FOR 2013-2014

The Racquetball Reporter is published three times throughout the year - July, November, and February.. Items to be included in the Racquetball Reporter for the **2012-13** year must be submitted by the following dates:

July 15, 2013 January 12, 2013
October 6, 2013

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 three issues (7”w x 9.5”h)
\$250 - Half page ad to run in all three issues (7”w x 4.75”h)

\$150 - Quarter page ad to run in all three issues (3.5”w x 4.75”h)
\$100 - Club listing for all three 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 fall issue which will be in full color. Payment must accompany submission of all advertisement material. Information may be mailed to The Racquetball Reporter, 5753 S. Corey Rd., Perry, MI 48872 or sent electronically to hippies23@gmail.com.

2012 MAC OPEN – SPECIAL GUESTS MAKE FOR A SPECIAL WEEKEND

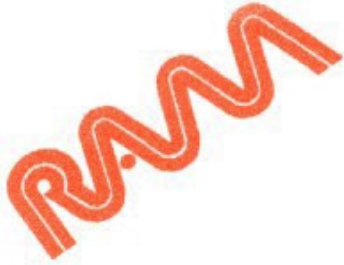
Twayne M. Howard

The players of the MAC Open Racquetball Championships took to the courts in October in a special “Two, One Day Tournaments” format. Lots of round robin play, great homemade food and top touring Pros made it a truly special weekend for all. Saturday brings the B and C Flights as well as the Age/Open Divisions. Sunday is for the Open/A and D divisions.

A special visit from Team Gearbox brought a special show to the Open. Led by Rafael Filippini and Anthony Herrera, the Pros showed off their fantastic talent in a special Gearbox Pro Challenge with a winner-take-all cash prize. We want to thank all the Pros for stopping by. If you get a chance to see the Team Gearbox Bus and Road Show, don't miss it.

All the results are listed below. Mark your calendars now and make sure you get to the MAC Open!

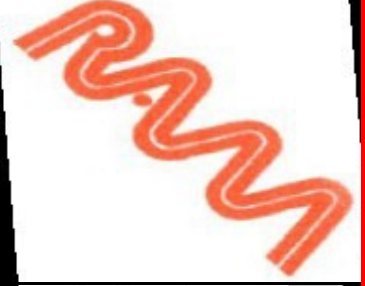
Division Name	Draw Type	Winner	Runner-Up	Semis	Semis
GEARBOX PRO CHALLENGE	Single Elimination	Anthony Herrera	Rafael Filippini	Joshua Hungerford	Sebastian Franco
Men's Open	Single Elimination	Brandon Cortese	Shannon Kohl	Maria Jose Vargas	William Garrow
International Open	Single Elimination	Maria Jose Vargas	William Garrow		
Men's A	Single Elimination	Michael Malcolm	Bryan Galloway	John Leggett	Andy DeBraber
Men's B	Round Robin	Stefan Bernal	J. Willie Lowe	Trenton Balavitch	Bill Galloway
Men's C	Round Robin	Steven Crocker	Joseph Krainin	Dennis Reid	Braeden D'Almeida
Men's D	Round Robin	Bradley Austin			
Men's 30+ A	Single Elimination	Andy DeBraber	Nathan Thelen	Rich Westerbrink	Bruce Keeling
Men's 30+/- C	Round Robin	Mike Alecia	Joseph Krainin	Braeden D'Almeida	Steven Crocker
Men's 50+A	Round Robin	Carlos Castillo	Keith Bryan	Dan Deitrich	Michael D'Almeida
Men's 55+ B	Round Robin	Michael D'Almeida	J. Willie Lowe	Gregory McClellan	Bill Galloway
Men's 60	Round Robin	Allan Mell	George Goudie	Richard Dunneback	Arthur Murphy
Men's A Doubles	Round Robin	John Kutt Jr. / Jim Kutt	Daniel Mullin / Carlos Castillo	Richard Westerbrink / Keith Bryan	Bryan Galloway / John Leggett
Men's B Doubles	Round Robin	Gary Balavitch / Trenton Balavitch	Bill Galloway / Bryan Galloway	Braeden D'Almeida / Michael D'Almeida	Stefan Bernal / Naga Satya Venkateswra Rao Nagisetty



RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
2013 RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 22 - 24, 2013

DAVISON ATHLETIC CLUB
2140 Fairway Drive, Davison, MI
Phone (810) 653 - 1068



ENTRY FEES & DEADLINE

First Event	\$50 per person
Second Event	\$25 per person
Juniors	\$20 per person
USA Racquetball Membership	\$50 per person
Hall of Fame Banquet	\$10 per person
Telephone/Late Entries	\$5 per person

Entries must be received by March 18, 2013. You may sign up ONLINE at www.r2sports.com. Any entries received after March 18 will be subject to a \$5 LATE FEE. To be entered, we must receive your entry form, a phone call or email AND PAYMENT. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. Please help us by signing up early to avoid the crush at the deadline.

RULES

Single elimination format with matches consisting of two games to fifteen and a tie-breaker to eleven. USA Racquetball rules apply including mandatory USA Racquetball-approved lensed eye guards. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to move or reclassify players if they are improperly placed or there is a need to combine divisions. Any participant must live or work full time in Michigan and be a member of RAM. Players must be able to provide proof if challenged.

STARTING TIMES

Play may begin on Friday, March 22, 2013 for draws of 16 or more. Every effort will be made to reduce Friday play. **Call the club on Thursday, March 21, 2013 after 12:00 pm** for starting times or check online at: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=10135>

AWARDS

Awards will be given for the first four places in divisions of 16 or more. Each participant will receive RAM Championship sweatshirt. All juniors will receive a Team Michigan shirt and participation award.

RAM ANNUAL MERIT AWARDS AND HALL OF FAME BANQUET

The Annual Merit Awards and Hall of Fame Banquet is Saturday evening at the Davison Country Club to honor the 2012-2013 RAM Merit Award winners and the new inductees into the Hall of Fame. You must sign up for the banquet NO LATER than Monday, March 18. No banquet tickets will be sold at the tournament.

SPECIAL GIFT

All Tournament Entrants will receive a special Sweatshirt. Make sure you specify your size. See newsletter for more details.

**PROPENN HD IS THE OFFICIAL BALL OF THE
RAM STATE SINGLE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Tom Blakeslee (586) 295—9772 Twayne Howard (616) 540—7925 Dan Mullin Don Schopieray

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 18, 2013

Name _____ Club Affiliation _____ Size _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____
Phone (days) _____ (evenings) _____ Date of Birth _____
Email address: _____

Make checks payable to RAM, and mail to RAM State Singles Championships, 38114 Lakeshore, Harrison Twp., MI 48045.

Entry Fee (first event)	\$50	_____
2nd Event Fee	\$25	_____
Junior Fee	\$20	_____
USA Rac. Membership	\$50	_____
Hall of Fame Banquet	\$10	_____
Late/Phone Fee	\$ 5	_____
TOTAL		_____

Waiver clause: I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors & administrators release any & all claims for damages I may have against RAM, the host club, tournament staff, & their agents, for all injuries which may be suffered by me in conjunction with my participation in this tournament.
Signature: _____

(parent/guardian signature if under 18)

Date: _____

DIVISIONS

Circle correct choices—limit 2 divisions

	MENS				WOMENS				JUNIORS	
Open	24 -	Open	25 -	A	24 -	B	24 -	C	24 -	D
Elite	25 +	Open	25 +	A	25 +	B	25 +	C	25 +	D
	30 +	Open	30 +	A	30 +	B	30 +	C	30 +	D
A	35 +	Open	35 +	A	35 +	B	35 +	C	35 +	D
B	40 +	Open	40 +	A	40 +	B	40 +	C	40 +	D
C	45 +	Open	45 +	A	45 +	B	45 +	C	45 +	D
D	50 +	Open	50 +	A	50 +	B	50 +	C	50 +	D
	55 +	Open	55 +	A	55 +	B	55 +	C	55 +	D
	60 +	Open	60 +	A	60 +	B	60 +	C	60 +	D
	65 +	Open								
	70 +	Open			18 & Under		14 & Under		10 & Under	
	75 +	Open			16 & Under		12 & Under		8 & Under	

Alternate Division _____

Mail To: RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP, 38114 Lakeshore, Harrison Twp., MI 48045

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Please nominate only one person per category.

You may choose to nominate for one or more categories.

Awards are based on accomplishments during the 2012-2013 seasons.

You may submit nominations without playing in the tournament & you can email them to

THoward@ProKennexUSA.com

Female Player of the Year _____

Male Player of the Year _____

Junior Player of the Year _____

Most Improved Player _____

Sportsman of the Year _____

Tournament Director of the Year _____

Club/Owners of the Year _____

Other (specify contribution) _____

2013 ANNUAL MERIT AWARDS and HALL OF FAME BANQUET

Where: Davison Country Club

When: Saturday, March 23, 2013

Time: Cash Bar - 7:30 pm

Dinner - 8:00 pm

Cost: \$10 for all Tournament Players

\$35 for Guests - Available for purchase with your tournament entry form by March 18, 2012. Tickets will NOT be available at the tournament desk on Friday or Saturday. You do not need to play in the tournament to come to the banquet.
(See RAM newsletter)

Banquet is a buffet.



A special night for racquetball in Michigan to honor the RAM Annual Merit Award winners and Hall of Fame inductees.

JOIN THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

Membership Includes:

- *Membership card, USA Racquetball Official Rule Book, travel and equipment discounts
- *USA Racquetball medical, life, and liability insurance at sanctioned events
- *Three issues of the RAM newsletter, THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER
- *Four issues of the USA Racquetball national magazine, RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE
- *RAM sanctioned tournament entry forms mailed to your home
- *Eligibility to play in all sanctioned tournaments and receive national ranking points (except Limited event)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____ HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

_____ \$50.00 – Adult Competitor

_____ \$25.00 – Junior Competitor (21 and under)

_____ \$20.00 - Limited Event

MAIL TO: RAM, 38114 Lakeshore, Harrison Twp, MI 48045

Racquetball Reporter

5753 S. Corey Rd.
Perry, MI 48872

