

The Racquetball Reporter

Summer 1993 Issue
Number One

Quarterly Publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

Racquetball One's Finale tops season

by Ken Bonnett
The 1992-93 Racquetball
One Series wrapped up its

second season at the Lansing
MAC on March 26-28.
One of the season's largest

draws found many new
champions. Nick Rallis de-
feated number one seed Jim
Floyd in the Men's Pro event,
and former finale champion
Lin Showerman won the
Women's Open by defeating
Kaye Hastings in the finals.

This year's finale also fea-
tured several of our junior
players who had a great time
battling it out in round robin
play. Eric Hoshield won the
junior event while Chris
Emerson finished second.
Championship sweatshirts
and great hospitality once
again also highlighted the
event.

As director, I would like to
thank all the players who sup-
ported this year's series. A
special thank you goes out to
all the sponsors who helped
provide the prize money and
awards at all Racquetball One
events. Next season's series
will see fewer events with
approximately one per month
beginning in August. At least
half of next year's tourna-
ments will feature the round
robin format, where all play-
ers receive a minimum of five
matches.

1993 Regional Medalists

Chris Cole <i>Men's Open silver</i>	Jaime Kurzman <i>Men's 30+ B/C gold</i>	Michele Moore <i>Women's A gold</i>
Jim Floyd <i>Men's Open bronze</i>	Mark Ohs <i>Men's 30+ B/C bronze</i>	Carol Marshall <i>Women's A bronze</i>
Ian Ladimir <i>Men's A silver</i>	Scott Worthy <i>Men's 35+ silver</i>	Karen Green <i>Women's B bronze</i> <i>Women's 19/30+ B/C gold</i>
John Kundrot <i>Men's A bronze</i>	Greg Hodges <i>Men's 35+ bronze</i>	Terri Harris <i>Women's C gold</i>
Roger Clauss <i>Men's C gold</i> <i>Men's 19+ B/C silver</i>	Stu Hastings <i>Men's 40+ gold</i>	Marta Rubcich <i>Women's 25+ gold</i>
Michael Mollema <i>Men's D bronze</i>	Doug Toth <i>Men's 40+ bronze</i>	Kaye Hastings <i>Women's 25+ silver</i>
Jim Hamilton <i>Men's 25+ silver</i>	Tim Copeland <i>Men's 40+ B/C</i>	Paul Saad <i>Women's 25+ bronze</i>
Mike Anderson <i>Men's 30+ gold</i>	Gordon Kelly <i>Men's 50+ silver</i>	Cindy Sieders <i>Women's 35+ bronze</i>
Greg Hodges <i>Men's 30+ silver</i>	Hank Gates <i>Men's 55+ bronze</i>	40 Medalists
Johnny Northern <i>Men's 30+ bronze</i>	Joe LaMilza <i>Men's 60+ bronze</i>	9 Gold
		8 Silver
		13 Bronze
		10 Fourth

View of the President

by Christopher Cole

The recently concluded 1993 RAM State Championships at the Mt. Clemens Total Sports and Fitness Center was a resounding success despite a small decrease in numbers. Saturday night RAM turned back the clock to the good ol' days of the annual banquet and produced an entertaining evening with good food and awards.

The feedback from those who attended was all positive. Not one person who attended has come to me with a complaint and none of the other Board members have reported one unhappy customer. Hopefully, we will

continue this type of event in conjunction with our State Singles Championships.

Our next issue of *The Racquetball Reporter* will be a special edition featuring articles on some of the State Champion winners, profiles of RAM's 1992-93 player awards, final season-ending rankings, and a full report on the 1992-93 Ektelon/AARA National Singles Championships. Depending on available space, our next issue will sport an instructional article and a state of the state opinion by our readers and myself. Anyone interested in writing a critique of the 1992-93 RAM/AARA tournament season, please send it in.

Congratulations to all our newly crowned State Singles Champions, especially newly crowned title holders, Nick Rallis and Lynn Showerman. Thanks also to the staff of Total Sports Fitness Center for running a great show and to Lou Ellen Fecher, Anne Fecher and Tom Blakeslee for doing yeoman's work at the tournament desk. Marta Rubcich, Mark Werthman, Rick Crawford and Maureen Mead also lent able hands and helped out all weekend as well. Thanks also to PENN for providing the official ball for this year's Singles Championships.

Until next issue, keep those skips to a minimum.



RAM WANTS YOU!
Attend a RAM board
meeting and get involved
in Michigan's future.
For information contact

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or

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(313) 468-2787

**Have a say in what
goes on...RAM needs you!**

Racquetball Association
of
Michigan

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Newsletter
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Ken Bonnett
Christopher Cole
Marta Rubcich

Michigan Players Ranked Nationally

Chris Cole * 1st Men's Open
 Jim Floyd * 6th Men's Open
 Bill Marshall * 4th Men's B
 Rick Beck * 5th Men's C
 Johnny Northern * 5th Men's 30+
 Marty Mangino * 5th Men's 40+
 Rick Vanderlind * 7th Men's 40+
 Jim Conner * 9th Men's 50+
 Hank Gates * 9th Men's 55+
 Lynn Hahn * 2nd Men's 60+
 Diane Pearson * 2nd Women's B
 Karen Green * 9th Women's B
 Laura Patterson * 2nd Women's 35+
 Jack Huczek * 1st Jrs 8 & under
 Brent Zimmerman * 3rd Jrs 14 & under
 Nicole Stekette * 10th 8 & under

*According to the AARA Racquetball Magazine
 March/April 1993

RACQUETBALL ONE FINALE

March 27-29, 1993

CHAMPIONS

Men's Pro	Nick Rallis
Men's Open	Johnny Northern
Men's A	Scott Stone
Men's B	Ron Bonds
Men's C	Dave Simmons
Men's D	Rick Crawford
Men's 30+A	Scott Worthy
Men's 30+B/C	Scott Stone
Men's 35+A	Stu Hastings
Men's 40+A	Stu Hastings
Men's 45+A	Bob Gravelyn
Men's 55+	Dave Lund
Women's Open	Linette Showerman
Women's A	Denise Gravelyn
Women's B	Terri Harris
Women's C	Kerry Thompson-Woods
Women's 19/25+	Marta Rubcich
Women's 30+	Betty Ann Gilliland
Juniors	Eric Hoshield

GET READY!

**Racquetball One's
 Northern Exposure
 Summer Warm-up
 Tourney
 to be held
 August 13-15**

.....

Racquetball One's
 first stop of the
 1993-94 season
 will be in Alpena,
 August 13-15, 1993.
 Summer fun and
 racquetball at the
 Alpena Health
 and Racquet Club.

.....

1992-93 RAM AWARDS

OUTSTANDING JUNIOR
 Jack Huczek

MOST IMPROVED MALE
 Ron Bonds

MOST IMPROVED FEMALE
 Terri Harris

BEST CLUB
 Michigan Athletic Club - Lansing

CONTRIBUTION AWARD
 Ken Bonnett

REFEREE'S AWARD
 Rick Crawford

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD
 Clee Melvin

OUTSTANDING FEMALE
 Valeria Springer

OUTSTANDING MALE
 Chris Cole

**1992
RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION
OF MICHIGAN
STATES SINGLES CHAMPIONS**

<i>Men's Open</i>	Nick Rallis
<i>Men's A</i>	Tony Barra
<i>Men's B</i>	Hank Ferry
<i>Men's C</i>	Kevin Sorenson
<i>Men's D</i>	Jim Wink
<i>Men's 19/25+</i>	Scott Pufahl
<i>Men's 30+A</i>	Johnny Northern
<i>Men's 30+B</i>	Jay Liggins
<i>Men's 35+A</i>	Scott Worthy
<i>Men's 35+B</i>	Ron Bonds
<i>Men's 40A</i>	Stu Hastings
<i>Men's 40+B</i>	Jerel Jones
<i>Men's 45+A</i>	Tom Brownlee
<i>Men's 45+B</i>	Art Murphy
<i>Men's 50+A</i>	Ed Taylor
<i>Men's 50+B</i>	Vince Callahan
<i>Men's 55+</i>	Ron Pudduck
<i>Men's 60+</i>	Lynn Hahn
<i>Men's 65+</i>	Richard Caretti
<i>Women's Open</i>	Linette Showerman
<i>Women's A</i>	Dawn Cumberworth
<i>Women's B</i>	Denise Knoll
<i>Women's C</i>	Marianne Mc Cune
<i>Women's 19/25+</i>	Marta Rubcich
<i>Women's 35+</i>	Valeria Springer
<i>Women's 40+</i>	Janet Insko
<i>Women's 45+</i>	Betty Ann Gilliland
<i>Juniors 14 & Under</i>	Jack Huczek
<i>Juniors 8 & Under</i>	Gary Patterson
	Kaylicia Gentry

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Michigan well represented at regional tourney

Seventy-five racquetball mavens travelled from Michigan to Ohio in late February to compete in the Regional Championships. An amazing 40 of those who went brought home a medal as a testament to the quality of players in our state.

Among these medalists, almost a quarter were Gold winners. As follows: Roger Clauss in Men's C, Mike Anderson in Men's 30+, Jaime Hurzman in Men's 30+ B/C, Stu Hastings in Men's 40+, Tim Copeland in Men's 40+ B/C, Michelle Moore in Women's A, Terri Harris in Women's C, Karen Green in Women's 19/30+ B/C and Marta Rubcich in Women's 25+.

The tournament was run by the Ohio Racquetball Association and hosted for the second year by the Sawmill and Westerville Racquet Clubs. The Olive Garden restaurant provided the wonderful hospitality for the second year as well.



Women's Side-out

by Marta Rubcich

Welcome to a new, regular column in the RAM Racquetball Reporter. "Women's Side-Out" will focus on topics relevant to women in racquetball. Don't stop reading gentlemen — you'll want to know where the women are...

To start, congratulations to everyone who participated in the State Singles Championships. I watched some awesome matches in many divisions, topped off by great finishes in both the Women's and Men's Open finals. Applause to Linette Showerman, Valeria Springer, Nick Rallis and Jim Hamilton for playing superbly entertaining racquetball.

I also want to personally thank Tom Blakeslee for all his efforts in having a banquet at the tournament. After seeing everyone all season at the various tournaments, it is fun to get together for a celebration of the year. We need to hear your opinions about the banquet so we can do what the membership wants next year. Call one of the board members or drop us a quick note.

I am pleased to announce the formation of a women's committee. This committee will function as a subcommittee of the RAM Board of Directors. Its purpose is to promote programs that will encourage women to participate in competitive racquetball.

The members of the committee are, along with myself, Terri Harris (Northwest Activity Center), Laura Patterson (Grand Rapids MAC), Nancy Personette (Davison Racquet and Fitness Club), Diana Trombley (Mt. Clemens Total Sports) and Kathie Trotter (Maple Courts).

I have intentionally kept the number of committee members to a small number, but everyone's ideas and input are welcome. As ideas are turned into actions, we will be soliciting help from many of you.

The committee will meet for the first time in June. Our initial focus will be on developing an incentive program to encourage more women to participate in tournaments. This will likely include running some women's only tournaments next season. We will report our progress through this column.

Side-out.

US National Team continues success

Michigan's Joel Bonnett and Chris Cole led the U.S. National Team to its seventh straight Tournament of the Americas Championship by helping the ten member squad capture the overall and men's team titles in the 1993 competition held in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Bonnett and partner Bill Sell of California, showed their National Doubles Championship was no fluke by not losing a game in Bolivia. Their teamwork was evident as the two waded through opposing countries' teams in swashbuckling style. Only in the finals did the US pair encounter difficulty before taking home the Gold. Surprise doubles finalists Juan Carlos Tapia/Leomir Sarmiento of Bolivia mounted a respectable challenge before succumbing to the superior US team 15-4, 15-14. A round earlier inspired by the local crowd, the Bolivians upset the #2 seed team of Juan Carlos Quevido/Sergio Martinez from Mexico.

This was the first inter-

continued on page four

Bonnett, Cole guide US team to Bolivia win

national event for Bonnett, and the first time he had ever been out of the country. What was his impression of Bolivia? "The people were great. They treated us like celebrities, wanting our autographs or giving us gifts. It was awesome," Bonnett reflected.

National and World Singles Champion Cole had a much tougher road to traverse, but in the end prevailed with some gutsy play. In the semis, he squared off against US teammate Tim Sweeney in a renewal of their 1992 rivalry which saw Cole squeak out two tie-breaker wins at Nationals and Worlds. In Bolivia, Sweeney bolted out of the

gate determined to end his frustrations and pummeled Cole 15-0. Said the stunned Cole, "you have to realize that guys like Joel and Tim hit the ball around 180 mph while playing in the States at sea level. Bolivia is 8600 feet above sea level which added 20-30 mph to their power and it took me a whole game to get a lead on his serve."

Game two saw Cole scratch and claw his way to a 15-13 triumph which set the stage for their third climactic tie breaker. Again Sweeney jumped out early to an 8-4 lead, but he couldn't close it out and Cole kept charging to take the match in miraculous fashion 11-10.

The finals against Simon Roy was nearly identical to the Sweeney match as Cole lost game one 15-9, and then won the next two 15-9, 11-5. This marked the third consecutive international event Cole has brought home the Gold in the individual competition. Said Cole, "it's great for Michigan because with Joel, Jimmy (Floyd) and myself, we have a great record in international competition. Jimmy won the Pacific Rim and Tournament of the Americas doubles title in Bolivia in 1991, Joel just won the doubles titles in Bolivia, and I have won three straight. That is six international titles in three years by Michigan players, by any standard, a truly awesome record."

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