



# N.M.R.A. NEWS

NEW MEXICO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

FIRST QUARTER 1996

## President's Message: Racquetball Passages

Flashback to 1995--I ran across an old friend who told me she had given up on racquetball in favor of squash racquets. This event was not a surprise; except for the fact that she said she quit racquetball because racquetball is "boring." I have played most of the court and racquet sports, including squash, handball, tennis, badminton, paddleball, and others. Some, like paddleball and badminton, I have played on a casual basis. Others, like squash and tennis, I have played and coached at the collegiate level.

I perceive all of the racquet and court sports to be wonderful lifetime activities. Each contains the exciting elements of enjoyment, physical prowess, strategy, and a blend of fitness requisites such as quickness, agility, and hand speed. In addition, each has aerobic and anaerobic requirements. Furthermore, in each sport, skill can be defined across a wide spectrum.

My friend had played racquetball for many years. She complemented racquetball with other sports and exemplified a diverse life-

style. She reached a high level of skill in racquetball at the local and statewide levels. This reality was shared by a number of other female (and male) racquetball players of her generation. Some also left the sport for reasons including injury, waning interest, and lack of motivation.

All of these sports provide opportunities for creating an art form. The non-court games of bridge, chess, and golf come under this umbrella. In bridge, losing an

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early trick can produce more winners later on. In chess, anticipating four to five moves into the future is obligatory for success. In golf, using up one stroke now can save many strokes later. Also in golf, a mere shot (a birdie or long holed putt) can defuse an otherwise poor round or score, just as a rollout or an ace serve can bring

satisfaction to an otherwise marginal outing on the racquetball court. Because of the limited out of bounds area on the playing court, racquetball players can convert offense into defense much quicker than in other court sports. The converse is also true. More time is spent inside the game than in tennis, and limited boundaries frequently allow for longer rallies.

In order to achieve elite player status; discipline, training, and practice time become essential requirements for all sports. At this juncture, one might see a microcosm for life. Life is filled with passages; periods ripe for questions, adjustments, learning and growth. The lesser path is to coast without making changes. Those who make the changes, whether minor or wholesale, more often are the ones who reap the substantive benefits. Such is the condition when one participates in a "lifetime sport."

My friend, and many readers of this article perhaps have experienced, or will experience this phenomenon with their racquetball game. An adjustment or a series of adjustments will allow for continued growth, heightened interest, and more success. Such changes may be in the form of augmenting playing partners, seeking professional instruction, playing mixed doubles, or adding more frequent quality practice time. In life, such changes may be moving to another town, seeking another profession, or enrolling in continuing education courses.

Perhaps my friend did not consider these elements as part of the passages of her racquetball life. I wonder if she has indeed incorporated this mindset into her squash game! If not, be assured that boredom has prevailed once again, and she has moved on to another sport. Could boredom just be an extension of her personality?

----GARY MAZAROFF

WADDINGTON RETIRES TO TAKE ON NEW DUTIES...Ralph Waddington has sold his Haagen Dazs Store so that he can concentrate on developing a statewide senior(over 50) racquetball program under the auspices of the NMRA. This program will concentrate on the organization of grass roots programs for beginners as well as enhancing current programs already in force.

US OPEN TO COMBINE PROS AND SKILL LEVEL CHAMPIONSHIPS...The 1996 US Open Racquetball Championships will offer a unique combination of Men's and Women's pros and the Skill Level Nationals (Levels A through D) at two facilities in Memphis, Tennessee. Many of the premier matches will be played on a portable three-wall glass court, suitably designed for television on a national channel. The US Open is tentatively set for dates in November.

MAZAROFF ENTERS TWO HALLS...Gary Mazaroff was recently inducted into the Southern California Jewish Sports Hall

of Fame in Los Angeles. He joins the likes of Marty Hogan, Lyle Alzado, Sandy Koufax, and Brad Gilbert. In May, at the AARA/Ektelon National Singles in Houston, he will join Mary Low Acuff, John Hennen, and Keith Calkins as 1996 American Amateur Racquetball Association Hall of Fame inductees.

NMRA TO HOST SENIORS/MASTERS HANDICAPPED DOUBLES FUND-RAISER...Look for this unique round-robin format for men and women 35 and over in June, to be held in Albuquerque. Proceeds will go to the New Mexican contingent participating in the 1996 IRF team World Championships in Phoenix in August, and the World Senior Scholarship Program.

SUNWEST JUMPS ABOARD AGAIN FOR JUNIORS...Sunwest Bank has once again committed to help underwrite two of the NMRA junior development programs. They have provided a \$500 contribution for the State Junior Championships in March and the Summer Elite Training Camp in July.

### Quote of the Month:

*"Today I can celebrate. I am on the road to victory. Every step leads toward the goal I've chosen!"*

*....Anonymous*

# AARA Leadership Conference - Report from Colorado Springs

The annual AARA Leadership Conference was held January 11-14, 1996, at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. I joined Gary Mazaroff, Paula Sperling, and Ralph Waddington as representatives from New Mexico. Here's our report from Colorado Springs.

We started out mid-morning on Thursday. The weather was sunny, clear, mild for January. The only hint of winter was a dusting of snow along the highway north of Las Vegas and on the ground in Springer. Our trip took us through the hills and plains, buttes and mountain ranges of northwestern New Mexico and Southern Colorado. Paula took the wheel of her 1995, quick silver (Lobo Silver) Chevy Blazer on its first road trip. We were confident that if we got into any trouble on the road, we could use Ralph in his hazard red-orange warmups as a safety flare.

Gary read the local sports page and *Sports Illustrated* cover to cover. The latest developments in Lobo basketball, and all the latest standings in pro basketball were discussed. Along the way, we listened to Simon and Garfinkle's *Classical Gas*, George Winston piano solos, *Highlights from the Phantom of the Opera*, and the Canadian Brass. Ralph played pocket video poker and showed me how (I lost \$100 in less than 10 minutes). About noon, we pulled into Las Vegas and stopped for lunch at the State Cafe, where they're doing a booming lunchtime business. The conversation ranged from Gary's anecdotes about his trip to Guam to family history.

We checked in to the U.S. Olympic Training Center at the Helsinki Building, settled into our dormitories, and then proceeded to the Athlete's Dining Hall, for the first of several healthy, nutritious, all-you-can-eat meals. Later that evening, we headed over to the conference center for the opening sessions of the conference,

The theme for this year's conference was "Unification Through Cooperation and Commitment." Luke St. Onge, AARA Executive Director, opened the conference with his "State of the Sport" address. Luke noted that more than half of the 50 plus state representatives were first-time participants joining board and industry representatives at the leadership conference. The first evening of the conference finished up with a review of member services by Kevin Joyce.

Friday morning's session began with a welcome address and AARA staff introductions by former AARA board president Keith Caulkins and opening remarks from U.S. Olympic Committee Presidential nominee Bill Hybl, who asserted racquet-

ball's qualities as an Olympic-level sport. The keynote address was presented Diana McNab, sports psychologist and nutritionist for the U.S. National Team. Diana presented an intriguing discussion on some of the latest psychology research associated with several aspects of peak performance, including nutrition, conditioning, and mental skills training.

Later that morning, Brad Patterson, Executive Director of the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, kicked off industry presentations on an optimistic note reviewing results of a recent survey that indicates increased participation and an expectation of more new courts to be built this year than taken out.

Amy Wishingrad from Penn Sports reviewed ball sales, which were up last year with another increase expected this year. Penn sold balls in Korea for the first time this last year. Other countries with increasing ball sales include Chile, Columbia, Panama, Bolivia, Uruguay, Brazil, Canada.

Ian Arthur gave an update on Head Sports which is moving to Columbia, Maryland. The company has a new owner and operations are being consolidated at a new modern facility. Head is continuing its commitment to the racquetball industry, and expects continued growth and development of new products. Cliff Swain has re-signed and Sudsy Monchik and Lynn Coburn have signed on for new endorsements. Head is taking a look at opportunities for supporting the states and feels that the future of racquetball is now going forward.

An update from E-Force was presented by Ron Grimes. One year ago, with two other investors, Ron bought business from Egan Inoue. Their goal is to build the best racquets and tell the truth about them. Among the key contributors in the company, they have 400 years of racquetball experience in organization. The focus at E-Force is high performance products and they are only a racquetball company. Ron stated he felt it is now "Morning in America" for racquetball, and that the sport has not yet seen its best days. Aspects of sport now better than 25 years ago, the foundation more solid, it fills some needs really uniquely better than any other sport, and promises exciting times for our sport.

Doug Ganim reported that Leader and TackiMac had an excellent year in 1995. Leader has renewed the agreement with IRT and AARA as official eyeguard. They expect a flat year in 1996, but are looking for advertising opportunities with state organizations.

Larry and Ben Adams discussed the

Collegiate Program, focusing on the AARA's new official instruction program, "The Mastery of Racquetball." This package provides extensive video instruction, a comprehensive workbook, and laminated practice and progress cards. The program includes structured drills, lesson plans to guide instructors, step-by-step instruction, and progress tracking. The package is an objective resource for step-by-step instruction, self-instruction, teaching for clinics, Y's, junior college and college programs. Complete course. As its official program, the AARA hopes the five video modules and comprehensive workbook will provide consistent and quality instruction across the sport of racquetball.

Rob Ahrensdorf from Ektelon provided some pointers on selecting state partners. Jim Hiser and Brad Patterson presented an overview, video and discussion on the Racquetball Initiative, the purpose of which is to stimulate interest in racquetball and stop the trend among club owners of taking out racquetball courts and to provide a method for sustaining racquetball interest and participation. The initiative is a true cooperative industry effort with contributions from the Pro Tours, Court Club owners, the International Racquet Sports Association, and retailer manufacturers.

The morning session wrapped up with a sobering discussion on risk management by David Mair from the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Friday afternoon, session participants attended four different work stations addressing the following topics: The Event - Media and Promotions, lead by Linda Mojer; The Organization - Governance lead by Luke St. Onge and Melody Weiss; The Plan - Sponsorship and Funding lead by Doug Ganim and Rob Ahrensdorf; and The Unexpected - Due Process lead by Jim Hiser.

Friday evening, the AARA hosted a visit to the national offices, while the New Mexico contingent along with others headed off to Lymar Racquetball Club to play.

Saturday, Linda Mojer presented an Electronic Media Update. For computer users and web browsers, the AARA's home page should now be online. She also discussed other sources of electronic information on racquetball. The May/June issue of *RACQUETBALL Magazine* will include more detailed information.

Dario Mas reviewed the National Masters schedule for this year and announced that this year, the National Masters was celebrating 25 Years. They are trying to get

....CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

# Tournament Results

## 1996 NEW MEXICO INVITATIONAL

January 18-21, 1996

Tom Young's Athletic Club  
Albuquerque, NM

## MEN'S OPEN

1ST Jeff Wilson  
2ND Rob DeJesus  
3RD Ray Maestas  
Tom Neill

## MEN'S AA

1ST Mark Branson  
2ND Rob Hartmann  
3RD Craig Spencer

## MEN'S A

1ST Chad Spencer  
2ND Jim Arden  
3RD Gil Fernandez

## MEN'S B

1ST Robert Rodriguez  
2ND Ken Paquin  
3RD David Trillo

## MEN'S C

1ST Nolan Crowell  
2ND Manny Roybal  
3RD Greg Garcia

## MEN'S D

1ST Carlos Juarez  
2ND Tim Westemeier  
3RD Phil Rivera

## MEN'S 40+

1ST Andy Espinosa  
2ND Fran Pawlowski  
3RD Chuck French

## MEN'S 50+

1ST Joe Gellman  
2ND Ron Loehman  
3RD Al Decoste

## MEN'S 60+

1ST Art Hurley  
2ND Louis Lucero  
3RD Windel Hildebrandt

## MEN'S 70+

1ST Bill Matotan  
2ND Al Romero

## WOMEN'S OPEN

1ST Rachel Gellman  
2ND Renee Ramirez  
3RD Tina Bragdon

## WOMEN'S AA

1ST Susan Bruin  
2ND Cecile Bodman  
3RD Cindy Wittenbrink

## WOMEN'S A

1ST Carol Gellman  
2ND Judi Mori  
3RD Pat Thiemann

## WOMEN'S C

1ST Diane Jaefarnaro  
2ND Jennifer Gonzales  
3RD Jeni Fuller

## WOMEN'S D

1ST Winnie Alvarez  
2ND Gillian Berrick  
3RD Marie Burns  
Heather Cardenas

## WOMEN'S 40+

1ST Esmeralda Berrick

## JUNIORS 8 & UNDER

1ST Mark Swanson  
2ND Alex Bruin  
3RD Kyle Bruin

## JUNIORS 10 & UNDER

1ST Chris Burrola  
2ND Evan Ussery  
3RD Matt Johnson

## JUNIORS 12 & UNDER

1ST Roy Lee Luna  
2ND Blake Harden  
3RD Sean Garrett

## JUNIORS 14 & UNDER

1ST Robert Burrola  
2ND Jeni Fuller  
3RD Gillian Berrick

## DOUBLES RESULTS NEXT ISSUE

## WOMEN'S SENIOR MASTERS TOURNEY

January 26-28, 1996  
San Francisco, CA

The 1996 Women's Senior Masters Racquetball Tournament was held in San Francisco January 26-28. Five women from New Mexico participated including Karla Barela, Carol Gellman, Cheryl McConaghay, Roberta Schoenfeld, and Paula Sperling.

The participation at this year's event was up 25% from last year to 100 participants. The tournament used a round-robin format, so participants had several matches over the two days of competition. Cheryl McConaghay advanced to the semi-finals on Sunday, while Karla Barela had to forfeit her second day of competition due to injury.

...SEE MORE RESULTS, PAGE 4

## You Make The Call

What should an official do when a player continually uses too much time during timeout periods? Answer in the next issue of **NMRA News**.

From Last Issue...

In tournament play when there is an official without linespersons; can the players overrule the official's call?

When linespersons are not being used, all calls by an official may be overruled by both players, with the exception being a technical call.

## Leadership Conference

together the original eleven players who played in the first event for a reunion at the International Tourney, in Las Vegas, Nevada, in July.

Doug Ganim presented an update on the U.S. Open. This event will be nationally televised, with largest prize money (\$50,000) offered in the sport. The event will be held in November 1996, two weeks before Thanksgiving in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The amateur tie-in involves coupling the Skill Level Nationals with this professional showcase event. No men's or women's open will be offered in the Skill Level Nationals, but amateur open players will also have the opportunity to qualify for the U.S. Open competition. Consolation bracket will also offer prize money. The tournament will also showcase the sport with spectator events including an industry trade show and pro-players signing autographs. All the industry representatives at the Leadership Conference expressed their excitement and enthusiasm about being a part of this event. The U.S. Open will be featured in the March/April issue of **RACQUETBALL Magazine**.

The 1995 Membership Report was presented by Kevin Joyce. One of the final presentations was by Donna Angelopoulos on the World Championships scheduled to begin August 9th in Phoenix, Arizona. Fifty countries are expected to participate. Gary Mazaroff and Paula Sperling also gave an update on the World Seniors Tournament held here in Albuquerque.

As you can see from this report, the Leadership Conference covers all the latest events and issues in racquetball, and many opportunities exist for players to get involved at all levels of the sport. 1996 promises to be an exciting one for our sport.

----FELICIA DURAN

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## More Results

The tournament was well run and lots of hospitality was provided including a banquet on Saturday night. The growth of this tournament is a good indication of the growing interest in racquetball among women, especially on the competitive tournament level. Next year's tournament will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

---CAROL GELLMAN

The competition was good and fun and there were opportunities to make new racquetball friends as well as see old ones.

The management and staff at the Durango Sports Club were extremely hospitable to the tournament players and worked hard to make the tournament the success that it was.

The results follow.

MEN'S OPEN  
1ST Jaime Boucher  
2ND Jason Small  
3RD Herman Hernandez

MEN'S A  
1ST Jeff Trecker  
2ND Duane Farmer  
3RD Bill Hendrix

MEN'S B  
1ST Robert Rodriguez  
2ND Roger Richard  
3RD Karl Isberg  
Bob Hujis

MEN'S C  
1ST Robert Sellers  
2ND Willis Stewart  
3RD Richard Deutschman

MEN'S 45+  
1ST Gary Mazaroff  
2ND Jerry Spangler

MEN'S 50+  
1ST Jerry Spangler

WOMEN'S OPEN  
1ST Esmeralda Berrich  
2ND Judi Mori

WOMEN'S A  
1ST Maria Shelby  
2ND Sherri Phippen

WOMEN'S B  
1ST Janet Briggs  
2ND Sarah Conaway  
3RD Joann Crittenden

WOMEN'S C  
1ST Sarah Conaway  
2ND Gillian Berrich  
3RD Pat Sluski

---MARIA SHELBY

**SNOWDOWN**  
February 2-4, 1996  
Durango Sports Club  
Durango, CO

Racquetball players, if you enjoy the mountains and snow, then you would have loved the Snowdown Racquetball Tournament held in Durango.

The city, known for its natural beauty such as high mountain ranges, great skiing, the Animas River and the pleasant small-town environment, attracts tourists year-round.

More than 50 people played in the tourney that took place on the weekend of February 3rd.

Tournament directors were able to garner players from as far as Albuquerque and Grand Junction, CO, to participate in the annual event. It was held on the same weekend of Durango's own Snowdown Festival, a week-long winter celebration of various snow games and competitions that take place annually since 1978.

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