

The Racquetball Reporter

SPRING 1995

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Quarterly Publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

RAM ready for 1995 State Singles

The 1995 RAM State Singles tournament will be held May 5, 6 & 7, 1995. This year the tournament will be held once again at Rose Shores Fitness & Racquet Club in Roseville, Michigan. We received many positive comments about last year's tournament and look forward to a repeat positive performance. We will return to our old format of yesteryear, a tournament with a drastically reduced price of \$33. Gone are the expensive frills including the banquet, sweatsuit and other expenses. We will have a consolation Olympic format which in effect means 75% of the players will get to play three matches (we hope). Anyway, we are approaching the tournament with a new approach, CHEAP IS IN! Rose Shores is a beautiful facility and don't forget to reserve a room in their hotel called the Eastin.

Keep in mind that the

proceeds from this tournament go 100% to you in the support of the programs that RAM participates in during the calendar year. Tell your friends, old time players and everyone else to play the last and biggest event of the year: the Michigan State Singles May 5, 6 & 7.

CHANGE IN RAM BY-LAWS

At the March RAM Board Meeting, the board unanimously approved a change in the by-laws to make it a little easier to become a member of the RAM Board. Article IV, Section 1 of the by-laws previously read: "Must attend three consecutive monthly meetings." The section was changed to read: "Must attend three out of four consecutive monthly meetings."

Qualifications to become a board member are as follows:

1. Must attend 3 out of 4 consecutive monthly meetings.
2. Must have an active participation in racquetball, and
3. Must submit a letter to the board requesting membership on the board.

A vote of the board is then held to accept your request for membership.

The change in the by-laws was made to recognize that other life commitments can make it difficult to attend 3 consecutive meetings. However, the purpose of the attendance qualifications is for the person to demonstrate a commitment to participate on the board before becoming a member. The board wanted to ease this requirement while still requiring the show of commitment.

Copies of the RAM constitution and by-laws are available to all RAM members. Contact any board member if you would like a copy. If you are interested in joining the RAM board, please contact Tom Blakeslee.

1995 STATE SINGLES MAY 5, 6 & 7

View of the President

by W.T. Blakeslee

It's almost the end of the racquetball season and as you read this article you should be thinking about playing in the State Singles on May 5, 6 & 7 at Rose Shores Racquet and Fitness Club. Before I get to that story, I would like to talk to about the last and next tournament at Total Sports. Under new ownership, the club sponsored the largest tournament of the 94-95 season, with a simple formula. Low entry fee of \$20, lots of free food, pizza and beer, two matches and as a result almost 125 participants. The only thing lacking was the top open players. They are going to do it again by supporting the combined State Warm-Up and Women's Invitational Tournament April 8

& 9, 1995. Again the entry fee will be \$25 with great hospitality, a two day tournament, a doubles handball event and the women will have there own one day tournament. Please give Bob and Ed lots of credit at Total Sports.

It seems that cheap is in and that is how it will be at this year's State Singles at Roseshore Racquet and Fitness Club. Hopefully, it will be a big success as we try to bring back the basics: lots of play with a consolation bracket so you are guaranteed two matches, no expensive banquets, no expensive warm-ups, just good old fashioned State Singles tournament the way we used to do it, CHEAPER! The final entry fee is \$33 so mark your calendars for May 5-7 and finish the season right at the State Singles.

**RAM THANKS
1995 STATE SINGLES SPONSORS**

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PEW
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AARA**

GOOD LUCK TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

Racquetball Association
of
Michigan

President
W.T. Blakeslee

Vice-President
Rick Crawford

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Secretary
Marta Rubcich

Newsletter
The Racquetball Reporter
Sandy Conlen, Editor
2834 Yale St.
Flint, MI 48503

The Racquetball Reporter is published quarterly by the Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM). Additional supplements are distributed twice yearly. Information and articles are submitted by individuals and clubs and do not necessarily reflect the view of RAM. The Racquetball Reporter welcomes information, photos and letters for publication. Advertising rates are available upon request. Thanks to those who contributed to this issue:

W.T. Blakeslee
Marta Rubcich
Ron Pudduck
Lou Ellen Fecher

U.S. Racquetball Championships successful for Michigan players

Almost half of the small Michigan contingent that traveled to the inaugural U.S. Open Racquetball Championships in Indianapolis came home with plaques. This first U.S. Open draw drew 225 players, of which one-half were from Indiana. The tournament borrowed the round robin format of the Seniors-Masters tournaments and was open to all age and skill divisions. Round Robin play was three games to 11 points, with 3 points awarded for each game won and 7 points awarded to the winner of the match, based again on total points. Most divisions played a round robin on Saturday, with the top 2 point finishers in each flight moving into Sunday's straight draw battle. However, winners in divisions with less than eight players were decided on the results of round robin play.

Leading the way for Michigan by bringing home first place in Women's 40+ was Grand Rapids' Laura Patterson. Laura was seeded first in a draw of 6, and entered the final match against number 2 seed Debbie Chaney of Indianapolis with a strong 20 point lead. However, Debbie had soundly defeated Laura in their only

previous encounter, and Laura was out to prove herself a better player. The first game was a hard fought battle, with Laura fighting back from a 7-10 deficit to win game 1 at 11-10. That seemed to take the steam out of Debbie, as Laura took games 2 and 3 with scores of 11-5, 11-5. This defeat dropped Debbie into 3rd place when all the scores were tallied.

Mike Johnston of Davison, entered the Men's Open draw as the number 2 seed. Both he and number 1 seed Eric Storey moved through their matches undefeated, setting up the final round robin match on Sunday to decide the winner. Eric seemed to be everywhere on the court and able to roll-out shots from any angle, cruising to an 11-1 victory in game 1. The match was decided by the end of game 2, as Mike lost 9-11. However, Mike turned it around to take game 3, winning 11-6 to finish 2nd place overall.

Two Grand Rapids men placed in their age divisions. Clee Melvin competed in 35+ and dropped only one match in Saturday's round robin. Six players moved into Sunday's draw, and Clee won his first match of the bracket against Joe Ault of Indiana to move into the

semi's against Bill Lyman from Illinois. During game 1 against Lyman, Clee hit the wall hard with his shooting elbow. The injury affected his play, and Clee finished the day with the 4th place plaque.

Meanwhile, Bob Gravelyn moved into Sunday's bracket as the number one seed, losing only 1 game during round robin play. He met Ohio's Dick Wickline in the semi's and lost the first 7-11. In game two, Bob switched to a soft Z lob to the lefty's backhand. The serve frustrated Wickline, and Bob emerged from the semi's by winning the next 2 games 11-4, 11-5. Bob faced Illinois Frank Rusch in the finals. But, Bob could not keep his shots down. He repeatedly set Rusch up, losing in both games of the final 7-15.

Also competing from Michigan were Jason Carrol and Jeffrey Funke in Men's D, Gary Kazamerczak in C, Charles Kaiser in 60+, and Marta Rubcich in Women's 25/35+.

The AARA expects to send evaluation forms to all competing players to gather feedback on this experimental U.S. Open in determining the future of this new event. The tournament was well received by players, and you can look for it on the 1996 schedule.

Pudduck nominated to AARA Board

Ron Pudduck, active racquetball enthusiast from Dexter, Michigan has been nominated by the AARA to run for election to the AARA National Board of Directors. All AARA members can vote for this election which includes three other nominees: Van Dublosky, Julee Nicolia and Neil Shapiro. Ballots will be in the March/April issue of the *Racquetball Magazine* and also on the entry form for the 1995 National Singles Championships.

As a Michiganiaan himself, Ron would like support from the Michigan racquetball contingent. Listed are the reasons Ron considers himself qualified to represent racquetball.

Why I am Qualified to be on the AARA Board of Directors

I hold experience in racquetball and related sports activities, and knowledge of people, business and the operations of sport, which I believe are prime prerequisites for being qualified to serve as a Director. In this light, I offer the following qualifications:

- 35 years of teaching and administration in universities, private and public schools
- 25 years of private business (restaurant and travel)
- 19 years of tournament play in racquetball and paddleball. Started playing at age 35; entered first tournament at age 40; have won 6 National championships in seniors paddleball and 9 National championships in masters racquetball
- Director/promoter of numerous local, state and national tournaments
- Vice-President and 4 year member of the Board of Directors of the National Paddleball Association (NPA)
- Winner of the NPA Earl Risky Award for the most significant contributions made

to the sport of paddleball, 1980

—Court sport instructor (racquetball, paddleball, squash) for over 20 years

—Editor/Publisher of the *Racquet Racket* the official newsletter of the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)

—Elected to the NPA-National Hall of Fame, 1981

Why I want to be on the AARA Board of Directors

All organizations profit from the infusion of creative ideas, valid personal experiences, and objective/insightful input. New approaches, ideas, thoughts and suggestions are a stimulus to developing better operations.

My professional background has demonstrated to me that the addition of new personnel; possessing creative, positive and hard working principles, adds new zest and flavor to any group.

Throughout my adult life, I have been a strong supporter of sports as an avenue to better, healthier and happier lifestyle. For the past fourteen years, racquetball has been my chosen sport, but I have strong concerns about what is happening to our sport.

I have witnessed a drastic decline in the number of racquet clubs, and/or a severe reduction in the number of racquet courts. Local tournaments have witnessed a significant decline in entries and have been reduced in number. Sponsorships are dwindling and although the nature of the racquets and balls has changed considerably, (questionable improvements), the rules and conditions of amateur game remain almost unchanged. Also the words, amateur and all age brackets need to be refurbished.

As an AARA Board Member, I feel that I can offer positive and constructive service to our sport.



PRESENTS THE

STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

MAY 5 - 7, 1995

SITE:

Rose Shores Fitness & Racquet Club
31950 Little Mack
Roseville, MI 48066
(810) 296-2200

ENTRY FEE:

\$33 - First event
\$25 - First event juniors
\$15 - Second event
\$5 discount to all certified referees
Players may enter two events - one age &
one skill or two different age divisions
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO RAM
Non-AARA members add \$20

MAIL ENTRIES TO:

RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS
3152 S. Henderson
Davison, MI 48423

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:

Tom Blakeslee (810) 468-2787 (evenings)

ENTRY DEADLINE:

Must be received by SUNDAY, APRIL
30, 1995. ALL ENTRIES ARE FINAL. NO
ENTRIES ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAY-
MENT. No phone entries. Call the club
Wednesday, May 3, 1995 after 5:00 p.m. for
starting times.

HOTEL:

ROSE SHORES EAST INN
(810) 296-6700

RULES:

AARA rules apply - 2 games to 15, tiebreaker
to 11. LENSED EYEWEAR FOR RACQUET
SPORTS IS MANDATORY

TOURNAMENT BALL:

PENN ULTRA BLUE

**FREE TOURNAMENT COLLARED
SHIRT TO ALL ENTRANTS**

PLEASE ENTER ME IN THE EVENT(S) CIRCLED BELOW. PLAYERS MAY ENTER TWO EVENTS -
ONLY ONE SKILL LEVEL. YOU MUST BE A MICHIGAN RESIDENT TO ENTER.

MEN**WOMEN**

OPEN	NOVICE	35A	45B	65	12
A	19	35B	50A	70	10
B	25	40A	50B	18	8
C	30A	40B	55	16	Wheelchair
D	30B	45A	60	14	Alternate division _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: DAYS _____

EVENINGS _____

SHIRT SIZE: (circle one) S M L XL

Olympic Scholarship Contribution _____

BIRTHDATE: _____

WAIVER: I hereby for myself, heirs, etc., waive and release all rights & claims for damages I may have against
RAM and its sponsors for all injuries which may be suffered by me in conjunction with my competition in said
tournament.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

REFEREES: Losers must referee the next match or pay \$5.00.

LOCKERS AND TOWELS: Bring your own locks. Towels provided with a \$1.00 charge for use.

HOSPITALITY: Will be provided throughout the tournament. Free to players and a nominal charge for guests.

AWARDS AND PRIZES: Awards given for the first four places in divisions of 12 or more; the first two places in divisions of 5-11 and 1st in consolation. Each player will receive a souvenir **collared shirt**.

PLAY MAY BEGIN as early as 3:00 p.m. on Friday. Special requests for starting times will be honored if possible, but no refunds will be given if a player cannot make his or her starting time.

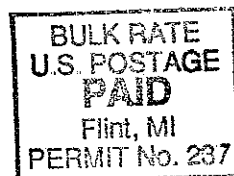
ENTRY DEADLINE APRIL 30, 1995

DRAW TO BE COMPLETED ON MAY 2, 1995

FORM IS NOT COMPLETE OR IS ENTRY ACCEPTED UNLESS MONEY FOR THE CORRECT AMOUNT IS ENCLOSED AND ALL INFORMATION IS COMPLETE.

The Racquetball
Reporter

3152 S. Henderson
Davison, MI 48423



JEAN K. CHASTAIN
215 QUEENS CT.
GRAND LEDGE

0496

MI 48837

1995 STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS