



The Racquetball REPORTER



321 Village Dr. Lansing, MI 48911

VOL 5 NO 3

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RACQUETBALL ASSN. OF MICHIGAN

FEBRUARY 1988

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY REPEATS AS STATE CHAMP

Ferris State University withstood a strong challenge from rival Central Michigan University to claim its second consecutive state title. The collegiate racquetball action was at its best Sunday afternoon as Ferris and Central went head to head in many of the final matches with 8 of the 12 division winners decided by tie-breakers.

The nationally ranked Ferris team won 7 of the 12 divisions, 4 by the mens team and 3 divisions by the women. Central's women won 3 divisions and MSU won 2 men's titles.

The Ferris men's team was led by freshman recruit Larry Mueesen, Kentwood, and team captain, senior Greg Bedenis of Dearborn.

Larry and Greg won #1 doubles over Mark Heckman and Sam Tanielian in 2

straight 15-5, 15-11. In #1 singles Larry squeaked by 1986 collegiate champ Mark Heckman 8-15, 15-14, 11-10. Mark had match point at 14-12 and again at 10-8 but was not able to convert match point.

Greg won easily over 1987 #2 singles champ Sam Tanielian 15-3, 15-5 in #2 singles. The other Ferris men's team win was in #2 doubles by Al Cull and Jeff Maas over Mark Carson and Dan Logan 15-5, 10-15, 11-4.

Michigan State 1985 & 1986 state champs were led by veteran Rob Mewers and Kurt Erxleben. Rob Mewers won #4 singles without losing a game and breezed through the finals match against Dan Pullen (FSU) 15-0, 15-1. Kurt found the going tougher in #3 singles winning tie-breakers 11-8, over Al Cull (FSU) and 11-9 over

Mark Carson (CMU) to claim first place.

The only two universities to field a women's team were Ferris and Central. The head to head competition resulted in almost a tie. Ferris won one extra match to claim the women's title 57 points to 55 for CMU.

In one of the most exciting matches Sunday afternoon, Linda Cok, junior captain from Sparta was a victor over Melody Matties CMU captain, 11-8 in a tie-breaker. Linda down 2-7 at one point came from behind to take the match from Melody, in #1 singles. Dawn Cumberworth, Grand Rapids took #2 singles from senior Beth Founce, 11-8 in a tie-breaker.

Tennis player Renee Kent, FSU senior from Big Rapids, who just started racquetball four weeks ago defeated Michelle Gagnon (CMU) in #4 singles, 11-10 in a tie-breaker.

Sherry Look (CMU) defeated senior Sheri Wyly (FSU) in #3 singles 15-6, 15-12.

In the women's doubles action, Matties/Cumberworth (CMU) easily defeated Cok/Founce (FSU) in #1 doubles action. However in #2 doubles, Kent/Wyly took 2 hours and 15 minutes to defeat the tough CMU team of Gagnon/Look, 11-10 in a tie-breaker.

The award for the longest distance traveled went to Troy Van Benium who finished 3rd in #1 singles. Troy is senior mechanical engineer student from Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan.

Michigan is the only state that has a state collegiate racquetball championship.

The Midwest collegiate regional action will take place at FSU Feb. 12, 13, and 14. The action should be fast and furious as the players will be shooting for seeded positions at the nationals in Sacramento, California April 7-10.

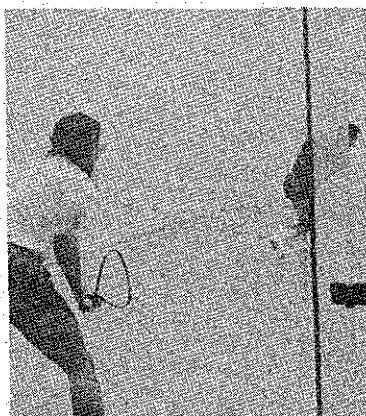
Top collegiate players from Purdue, Ohio State, University of Illinois as well as Ferris, Central, and other universities are expected to compete.



Renee Kent (No. 4 Singles Winner) (right) & Sheri Wyly, No. 2 Doubles Winners

NEW RAM MEMBERS IN 1988

Brian Adermatt	Ypsilanti
Donna Backus	Dearborn
Ken Barnes	Rochester
Gary Boudreau	Windsor, Ont.
John Brennan	Mt. Clemens
Joseph Brinn Sr.	Oscoda
David Cok	Royal Oak
Jerry Eldred	St. Clair Shores
Linda Eldred	St. Clair Shores
Brenda Farrell	Saline
Steve Farrell	Saline
Robin Flessner	Temperance
Richard Furness	Ann Arbor
Dennis Hardin	Brighton
Steve Hearn	New Baltimore
John Larin	Ann Arbor
Mike Leibinger	Mt. Pleasant
Ron Loesel	Saginaw
Robert Lockwood	Ann Arbor
David Matthews	Birmingham
Greg McKinney	Ann Arbor
Pete Perez	Ann Arbor
Mike Purdy	Mt. Clemens
Robert Reou	Bay City
Don Stewart	Saginaw
Bob Yeager	Grand Rapids
Mike Young	Detroit



Mark Heckman Z Serve Against Larry Mueesen — Men's Final No. 1 Singles



Dan Pullen, FSU, and Tony Kraft, FSU, Checking Out Speaker System

TEAM POINT STANDINGS

	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Ferris	68	57	125
Central	52	55	107
Michigan State	29	00	029
Michigan Tech	07	00	007
G.R.J.C	00	00	000
Western	00	00	000

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Continued on page 7

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Flint, MI
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Grand Rapids, MI

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OHIO, WEST VIRGINIA,
MICHIGAN**

Regional Director . . . Jim Easterling
Jr. Regional Director . . . W.T. Blakeslee

**AMERICAN COLLEGIATE
RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION**

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Matt Klein . . . C-9 East Campus Apts.
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(616) 796-0461 Ext. 3666

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Vice President . . . Rick Hall
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(517) 373-2003
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Judy Gonyea . . . Lea Frederickson
Jim Easterling

NEWSLETTER

Jim Easterling . . . 321 Village
(517) 887-0459 Lansing, MI 48911

RAM PAST PRESIDENTS

(RAM was formed July 24, 1984)

Bob Wilhelm (2 months)	1984 - 85
Lee Frederickson	1984 - 85
Jim Easterling	1985 - 86
Lee Frederickson	1986 - 87
W.T. Blakeslee	1987 - 88

**PAST STATE ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENTS**

Judy Huhta (MRA) (5 mo)	1976 - 77
Denny Wood (MRA)	1977 - 78
Denny Wood (MRA)	1978 - 79
Denny Wood (MRA)	1979 - 80
Denny Wood (MRA)	1980 - 81
Gary Doty (MRA) (2 mo)	1980 - 81
Jim Easterling (MRA)	1981 - 82
Jim Easterling (MRA)	1982 - 83
Larry Cole (MRA)	1982 - 83
Bob Szuch (MRA)	1983 - 84
Larry Cole (MRA)	1983 - 84

**The Mike Yellen Foundation
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

This year's award winners are Jim Floyd and Nick Rallis. These student athletes will divide the award of \$2,000.

Foundation members include:

Mike Yellen	Jim Hiser
Fred Lewerenz	Tom Blakeslee
Ron Slavik	The RAM Board

The award is based on Racquetball and Academic performance.

Details, questions & contributions can be sent to the:

RAM Board of Directors
321 Village

Lansing, MI 48911

or by contacting any RAM Board of Director. *Tom Blakeslee*

☆☆☆☆☆ **TRIVIA 15 CONTEST** ☆☆☆☆☆

The Trivia 15 Contest is an off shoot of the Trivia 8 article that was published in last year's newsletter. This contest will feature 15 questions (some of which will have more than one answer) about racquetball or racquetball related places, things, people, etc. in Michigan. To win simply be the two people with the correct answers (or the most correct answers) to the questions published in each newsletter. There will be two winners from each newsletter and winners will receive a free entry to either the State Doubles or State Singles Championship. The answers to the fifteen questions will be published in the following newsletter so you can see how well you did.

There will also be a contest to see who answers the most questions right from all three newsletters. (Trivia 15 will be published in September 1987, December 1987, and February 1988 editions of "The Racquetball Reporter.") The top three people to have the most correct answers out of the three newsletters will receive a big prize.

1st place — case of racquetballs

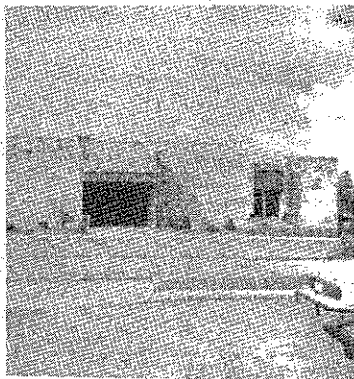
2nd place — Omega racquetball racquet

3rd place — 2 year membership to AARA-RAM

In case of ties, a drawing will take place to determine the prize winners.

Come on and enter the Trivia 15 Contest. You have four different chances of winning and all it will cost you is a 22¢ stamp and a little time to mail in your answers. Answers to the Trivia 15 Contest should be mailed to Trivia 15, 321 Village, Lansing, MI 48911. If you have any questions, please call me at (517) 887-0459

Jim Easterling



Picture #1

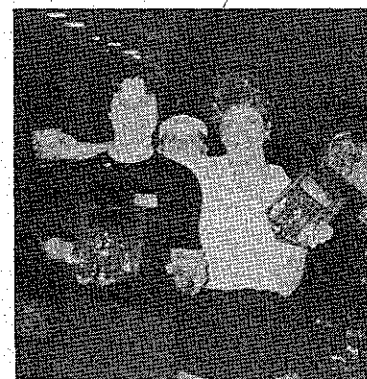


Picture #3

1. Who won the "open" division at the 3rd Annual Women's Fall Head Start tournament?
2. What is Joe Garcia known for?
3. In 1982, former Governor William Milliken declared April 25th as what in the state of Michigan?

4. What college in Michigan offers a scholarship for racquetball?
5. In October of 1981, the (old) MRA adopted a major new rule change. What was the rule change?
6. Kathy Zale ran the largest women's only tournament back in the late 1970's. How many tournament players did she have?
7. What tournament and where, did every single player receive a complete warm-up?
8. Who ran an outdoor 3-wall racquetball tournament in July of 1987?
9. The state association made eyeguards (not lensed) mandatory September 1, 1979. There were two tournaments that had eyeguards mandatory before that date. Who ran the very first tournament with eyeguards mandatory, and where was it held? Who ran the second tournament, with eyeguards mandatory, and where was it held?
10. What is the name of the person, who people say can hit the ball harder than Marty Hogan?
11. Gil Schmidt defeated Gordon Kelly in the very first state championship in March of 1977 in the Men's A (there was no open division then). What city and what club was this match played at?
12. In March of 1981, at Franklin Racquet Club, there was over 150 people in the Men's C division of a tournament. This was the biggest C draw ever in the state not counting the nationals. Who won the Men's C division in this tournament?

13. In 1980, there was a group of people called Match Point Enterprises that ran tournaments. Name the five people who made up this group?
14. What were the three largest racquetball tournaments ever held in Michigan? How many players were in each



Picture #2



Picture #4

tournament (within 50)? (HINT: Some of the answers are in the December 1987 newsletter.)

15. Name the pictures below:
Picture #1 — What club?
Picture #2 — 2 players with plaques?
Picture #3 — Man stirring food?
Picture #4 — Who?

WINNERS OF "TRIVIA 15 CONTEST" FOR DECEMBER 1987 ISSUE

Lesley Kishigian was the 1st place winner with 13 1/2 correct answers (out of 16). Bob Szuch came in 2nd place with 11 correct answers. Both people will receive a FREE ENTRY to the State Singles or State Doubles Championships.

It seems like the smartest people in the state are Jack and Vicki (winners of September) and Lesley and Bob when it comes to racquetball trivia.

Come on and accept the challenge, if there are any smart people out there, and enter the Trivia 15 Contest. This issue is the last Trivia 15 Contest this season and also it is the hardest.

Good Luck

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA 15 CONTEST — December issue of The Racquetball Reporter: 1) Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons Assoc.; 2) Jim Hiser; 3) Sports Illustrated, Lemon Tree in Bellville; 4) Sell and print shirts and make plaques and trophies; 5) Pancho Gutierrez and Mike Witherspoon; 6) Court House in Flint; 7) W.T. Blakeslee; 8) All three people were the president of a state association (MRA) for a partial year; 9) Match Point Enterprises; 10) Vern Hill; 11) Pancho Gutierrez; 12) Jan Insko; 13) Mike Corinti; 14) MBA Health & Wellness Center; 15) Little Traverse Racquet Club

EDITOR'S CORRECTIONS — FROM DECEMBER 1987 ISSUE

On page 2 of the newsletter under the heading of American Collegiate Racquetball Assoc. there should be a second name, Matt Klein; Matt Klein is actually the State Collegiate Director.

In the last newsletter there was something new called the "Editors Judgement Call." It should be Editors Judgment Call. My apologies to Mr. Matt Klein and to you the reader.

Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons

Some interesting events took place in the Grand Rapids area during the month of January that have the local players buzzing with excitement and anticipation.

First, there were two successful January tournaments, the ETV Inc Series Riverview 1000 and the GRRPA West Michigan Championship.

Second, a local club, Racquetville which is located in Grandville just southwest of Grand Rapids, received a facelift and name change. This revitalized facility is called the Grandville Health and Racquet Center and area players will have an opportunity to see the new look during the Grand Rapids City Racquetball Championship which will be held there March 11 - 13.

Next, there is a Pro Stop coming to Grand Rapids. The ETV Inc. Trucking Pro-Am Racquetball Tournament will be held at the Michigan Athletic Club, March 23 - 27.

And, a local junior player has advanced to become the best in the area. This player is 16 year old Joel Bonnett who took first place in the top division of the Riverview 1000 tournament and the West Michigan Championship tournament.

These were two BIG wins for Joel and his game continues to improve. CONGRATULATIONS Joel! And, congratulations to Mike Stephens who isn't quite as young as Joel but rallied to two first place finishes in the W Mich Championship. Mike won MENS OPEN and MENS 35A. Way to go Mike! Were you tired?

The GRRPA concentrated its efforts on the West Michigan Championship Tournament which was held at the beautiful Michigan Athletic Club (MAC) at the end of January. Over one hundred players participated in this tournament which

began Friday and concluded Sunday afternoon in time for the players to get home for the Super Bowl.

WEST MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT RESULTS

MENS PRO

Joel Bonnett d. Chris Cole 0,(9),3,5
Bonnett d. Mike Anderson 2,6,(6),(10),7
Cole d. Larry Longeliere 0,5,9

MENS OPEN

Mike Stephens d. John Kaber 8,6,9
Stephens d. Perry Melvin (8),3,10,4
Kaber d. Paul Cumberworth 2,7,5

MENS A

Jim Ebejer d. Scott McNitt (5),6,9,9
Ebejer d. Ryan Covell (6),9,3,(0),5
McNitt d. John Stallmer 4,5,10

MENS B

Doug Ryan d. Jay Kelley 7,7,(9),7

Ryan d. Jay Costen 2,5,6
Kelley d. Dave Tamblyn 2,3,(8),9

MENS C

Scott Zimmerman d. Rob Snell (10),(1),3,9,5
Zimmerman d. Dave Cok 2,8,10
Snell d. Marv VanderArk (5),(6),1,4,5

MENS D

Mark Carlson d. Gary Kranz 6,3,5
Carlson d. Ed Ray (7),9,(10),2,4
Kranz d. Jim McNitt (3),6,7,5

MENS NOVICE

Tony Hammerle d. Dave Slagter 3,1,4
Hammerle d. Dave Brings 0,0,3
Slagter d. Derek Lachniet 9,(6),4,(9),10

MENS 35A

Mike Stephens d. Bob Gravelyn 1,(10),8,8
Stephens d. Tom Sharum 2,4,0
Gravelyn d. Jerry Gray B,3,9

MENS 35B

Al Mell d. Bob Powers 3,8,5

Mell d. Dennis Johnson 2,3,2
Powers d. Paul Stewart (7),10,(5),2,8

WOMENS A

Carol Collins d. Arlene Allan 7,6,10
Collins d. Melody Matties 2,1,4
Allan d. Chris Suever 1,1,3

WOMENS B

Marlee Kleckner d. Denise Michalski 9,8,1
Kleckner d. Dawn Cumberworth 0,4,1
Michalski d. Suever 5,7,(7),8

WOMENS D

Karen Bolten d. Mary Brabrant 0,1,1
Bolten d. Michelle Gagnon 6,0,0
Brabrant d. Donna Graevel 5,(8),0,3

DOUBLES OPEN/A

Mike Anderson and C.C. Melvin d. Brian Duff and John Kaber

DOUBLES B

Jerry Rackowicz and Randy Miles d. Doug and Don Ryan

Submitted by Rick Hall

Metro Women's Touring League

The Women's Traveling League has successfully completed another "first half" of their season. The competition was great, and everyone is looking forward to the "second half".

The winners of the first half are:

Sunday Level I Gateway I
Sunday Level II Gateway
Thursday Level II Playoff Mt. Clemens & Gateway

Thursday Level III Gateway Gators
Sunday Level IV Mt. Clemens

Congratulations to these teams and to the women who captained these teams. Their effort and commitment to their teams is really inspirational.

The second half of the season promises to be exciting, as the winners of the first half and the winners of the second half will play off to determine the overall winners of the entire season. Good Luck to everyone!

The third meeting of the League was held at Gateway, January 5th. At this meeting we discussed the site of our 1988 Banquet, nominations of the officers for next year, and most importantly, the use of enclosed eyeguards. The Metro League adopts any new AARA rulings, and as of December, all members will be wearing enclosed eyeguards.

The next meeting will be held at

Gateway, February 9th at 7:00, and everyone is welcome to attend, even if you are not a member of the League.

I am happy to report that the newest members of the League; the Level IV teams, are a delightful addition to the Travel Teams. Four new teams were added this year in this Novice Level, most of the women never having played in the League, or even in competition, are enjoying themselves immensely. As a Coach of one of these teams, I must say that I'm enjoying myself immensely. I am proud of all these women, and their spirit. Welcome to the Metro League, Level IV. May you have as many enjoyable years in it as I have.

Alida Mainhardt

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VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT



W.T. BLAKESLEE
RAM President

Rocky Mountain High, Olympic Training Center, Pikes Peak, AARA State & Regional Directors meeting at Colorado Springs, January 24, 25, and 26, 1988. I had the opportunity to discuss the past, present, and future of racquetball with all the racquetball leaders, and this article will discuss some of the highlights.

You may not know that racquetball is already an Olympic class "C" sport. What this means is that two significant things can occur. One possibility would be entry into the Olympics as a class "A" sport and Olympic status. For this to happen, our sport will need further growth and international involvement. My guess is, we are halfway there. Secondly, as a class "C" sport, access to Olympic dollars is a reality. In the months ahead, many advertising campaigns, media exposure, and requests will be made to help support the Olympic games. Racquetball can qualify for some of these dollars. As a member of RAM you will receive a chance to purchase an Olympic

sweepstakes book for \$20. This book will offer a chance to win a new Buick and have coupons for product discounts totaling almost \$1,500. This book is much like the Entertainment Book here in Michigan. In addition to the coupons and the sweepstakes chance, the AARA and the RAM will receive a percentage of the sales revenue. This money will go towards racquetball development nationally and in our state organization. Do us all a favor, buy a book!

Another fact I learned in Colorado is about racquetball Visa card. I am sure many of you have received the opportunity to apply for this card. Did you know there is not a first year charge? Second, the AARA gets money every time one of us racquetballers uses this plastic payment.

One of the least known offer is the discount to National Racquetball magazine. If you are a member of the AARA and RAM, you can sign up for the subscription for only \$5. Next time you are at one of our sanctioned tournaments get a subscription membership form and take advantage of this opportunity.

Juniors National Tournament will be held June 25, and you kids will need about \$400 each to attend. The time is now to start organizing your fund raising events. Also, the AARA has endorsed a new High School program and Junior program. See any Board of Director for details.

Finally, the State Tournament at Davison Racquetball Club is fast approaching in April. The tournament should be the best ever. We plan to give out sweatsuits and many other prizes. Mark your calendar — see you there.

Tom

NOVEMBER 10, 1987 — LANSING YMCA

Call to order by President Tom Blakeslee at 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Blakeslee, Rick Hall, Jim & Dianne Easterling, Judy Gonyea, Sandy Cox, Lee Frederickson.

GUEST: Bill Gottlieb

MINUTES — October 6, 1987 minutes were discussed. Jim Easterling noted that Jerry Gray was incorrectly listed as a member of the Board of Directors. With this correction the minutes were approved as mailed.

TREASURER'S REPORT — Statement of cash receipts/disbursements for the month ended October 31, 1987 was presented by Dianne Easterling. Checkbook balance. Deductions for the Junior Scholarships remain to be made. Dianne will check with Luke St. Onge about money from the AARA for publishing a NEWSLETTER. We expect to receive \$250 for the RAM from Bud Lite for publishing the card.

RAM liability insurance has been dropped effective November 2, 1987. This is because we don't pay the Board of Directors anything for their services.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT — No report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — Tom Blakeslee indicated he had not yet heard anything from Mike Yellen about the Yellen Award. He will send a flyer to high schools to let them know there is a scholarship available for racquetball.

Ektelon and Penn will sponsor the State Tournaments. Tom also said Grand Rapids was out of the picture for the State singles this year since they are hosting a PRO STOP. He mentioned Davison as a possible site since it has been 3 years since the singles tourney has been held there. Other sites mentioned were Saginaw, Lansing, and Port Huron.

Jim Easterling said he had checked out three locations for the State Doubles. Jim made a motion we go to Grand Blanc which was seconded by Sandy Cox. Motion passed unanimously. Lee Frederickson motioned that we pay \$175 to Jim and Dianne Easterling to work the State Doubles on March 18-20th, 1988. Passed unanimously.

Tom Blakeslee stated he would contact the local Penn representative about balls for the tournaments. Rick Hall had said that the local Penn rep. indicated to him he would provide balls at cost and if you bought 6 cases a year he would give one case FREE.



BOARD

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JUNIORS — Nothing is being done. Colorado will host the national in June. Cost will approximate \$250 a piece. Board philosophy is to try to fund some of the costs. This could include entry fees, meal allowances and clothing. Cost could be quite high and perhaps the best we could do would be in the range of \$2000.00.

SANCTIONING — Tom Blakeslee felt we should recommend to tourney sponsors that all standard age divisions be made available. If there are insufficient numbers then it would be in order to consolidate them. Tom also felt we should offer a handicapper wheelchair division at the State level.

GRPA — Rick Hall said the West Michigan Championships will be held at the MAC late in January with a total prize draw of \$1000. He distributed a flyer for this event.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR ADULT/JUNIOR — The Regionals will be held in Toledo on the weekend of February 19th. The Junior Regionals will be held the same date.

Jim Easterling will be attending the Regional State Seminar in Colorado Springs on January 15, 16, 17, 1988. Lee Frederickson motioned (seconded by Judy Gonyea) that the Board provide \$250 for airfare to have Jim attend the conference. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim Easterling mentioned that AARA is discontinuing separate NEWSLETTER publication. The NEWSLETTER will be published in the NATIONAL RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE. New subscribers costs will be \$5.00 at time of renewal of AARA membership.

NEW BUSINESS — The Jackets for Board Members issued was raised again and discussed in some depth. Jim Easterling motioned that the RAM Board of Directors Jackets be provided for everyone on the Board. Seconded by Lee Frederickson. Motion passed by majority vote. There were 2 negatives and 1 abstention. Lee Frederickson said we could create a demand for this product. W.T. will call Anderson and see about costs and perhaps have charges of \$35.00 with \$5.00 coming back to the Board for use in racquetball activities. The names on the jackets will be optional. If Board Members want an additional jacket they could purchase them at cost.

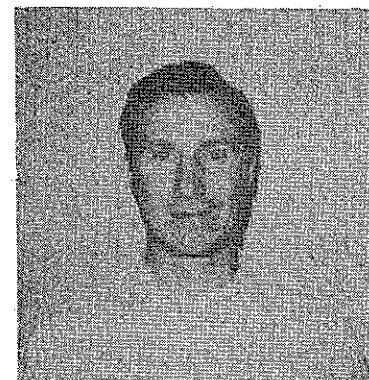
Jim Easterling mentioned articles for the NEWSLETTER were due in the mail by Thursday to make the Saturday deadline.

EDITOR'S JUDGEMENT CALL

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Annual State and Regional Directors Seminar that was held in Colorado Springs on January 23 through the 26th. Michigan was well represented with Jim Hiser, Tom Blakeslee and myself Jim Easterling.

I am not going to write about everything that was mentioned at the Seminar because it would take me a month to write it and it would take up two full newsletters. I am going to list some tid-bits of facts that I thought was interesting.

1. AARA memberships were up 30% to 35% in the last 14 months.
 2. Ektelon will be coming out shortly with a style of shoe. It will be the Official Shoe of the AARA.
 3. There are about 400 certified refs across the country. Only 3% are level 3 certified. (Michigan has 3 certified refs at the 3 level.)
 4. AARA is coming out with a new program called "Carry the Torch" which will give some money back to the state association and also help the Olympics. (Notice insert in newsletter.) I already gave my \$19.88 for my "Carry the Torch" book.
 5. South Carolina had 3 sanction tournaments last season. Next season South Carolina will have 9 sanction tournaments (Michigan had over 30 sanction tournaments this season.)
 6. About 5 years ago in the state of Louisiana there was a double tournament that had 250 teams! (This shocks me considering Michigan only had about 75 teams last year and that was the biggest in the last 3 years.)
 7. About half of the states charge a referee fee (usually \$3.00 or \$5.00) and then refund it after a player referees.
 8. Most states still have winners ref.
 9. Some of the state associations will not sell or give away beer at any of their sanction tournaments because of the liability. It is ok however if a club wants to take the responsibility and sell or give away beer.
 10. We will be able to get mailing labels of clubs only, shortly from the AARA. (In the past if you wanted the club labels you had to have the members labels also.)
 11. The 3 main people behind the "Professional Association of Racquetball Instructors" or PARI are Connie Martin, Fran Davis and Stu Hastings.
 12. The person(s) on the Idaho state board quit and a lady by the name of Gloria Pierson is starting a new state association from scratch. The previous state association did not leave any money in the treasury for Gloria to start the new association with.
- None of the above is meant to build up anyone's ego or to cut anyone down. These are some of the FACTS that I learned at Colorado Springs and I thought you might want to ponder over them.*



JIM EASTERLING
Editor of The Racquetball Reporter
Regional Director

MEETING MINUTES

NEXT MEETING — The next meeting of the RAM Board of Directors will be held in Grand Rapids on December 5th, Saturday at the 29th Street Fitness Center. Motion to this effect was made by Lee Frederickson and seconded by Judy Gonyea. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT — 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Duane R. Russell, Secretary

DECEMBER 5, 1987 -- GRAND RAPIDS 29TH ST. FITNESS CENTER
Call to order by President Tom Blakeslee at 5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lee Frederickson, Jim & Dianne Easterling, W T Blakeslee Rick Hall, Jim Hiser

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandy Cox Judy Gonyea, Duane Russell

MINUTES — Review of minutes of the last RAM Board Meeting (November 10, 1987). No corrections. Motion by Lee F. to approve as written; seconded by Jim H.; approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT — Statement of cash receipts and disbursements for the month ended November 30, 1987 was presented by Dianne Easterling with a checkbook balance. Several December bills were presented and Dianne will pay by December 31, 1987. Also, Dianne reported that a scholarship escrow account can be established to keep the scholarship money separate from the general fund. Dianne will establish the escrow and deposit the RAM contribution. Motion by Jim Easterling to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted; seconded by Lee Frederickson. Discussion regarding the telephone bill which was attributed to the Newsletter coordination and the State Doubles bid solicitation. Treasurer's Report approved.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT — No report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — The State Singles will be held at Davison Racquet Club pending resolution of minor bid issues. The entry fee will be \$30.00 and include a warm-up. Second entries will be \$15.00. The ball for the State Singles will probably be Penn as they reportedly have a program available which will provide a total of 6 cases for use in state tournaments (singles, doubles and junior). Jim Easterling and W.T. Blakeslee will contact Penn for details as Jim Easterling needs the information

for the Doubles entry which will be printed later this month. It was mentioned that Penn may also offer gloves which could be used as prizes.

W.T. will be attending the Regional Directors Seminar with Jim Easterling in Colorado Springs, January 24 - 26.

Mike Yellen is planning a fund raising tournament in January at the Racquet King Courts in Trenton. This is to be an Ektelon sponsored event with profits going to Junior racquetball or the scholarship fund.

W.T. distributed the Michigan Racquetball jackets to the board members and stated they will be made available for general sale at \$40.00 with profits to RAM. The jackets will be advertised in the Newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JUNIORS — No action at the state level.

SANCTIONING — Dianne Easterling reported that all sanctioned tournaments have submitted their results in a timely fashion which has been a great help. Dianne also mentioned she has contacted two tournament directors for stating "AARA sanctioned" on their entry form and advised both on the proper procedure.

GRPA — Rick Hall reported that the Juniors and parents were conducting a fund raising bake sale during the December 5, 1987 Super - 7 Tournament. The West Michigan Championships Tournament is on schedule for the end of January (29-31) and will be held at the Michigan Athletic Club in Grand Rapids.

NEWSLETTER — The Newsletter is being printed and will be mailed within the next two weeks according to Jim Easterling.

OLD BUSINESS — The "Ideas for the State" which Jim Hiser submitted in October and were discussed at the November RAM Board meeting were again reviewed for status. There were only minor status changes and for the most part, the actions identified in the November meeting were still being pursued.

NEW BUSINESS — Jim Hiser informed the board that ESPN will be broadcasting live TV coverage of the New York pro stop finals on Saturday, December 12 at 9:00 P.M.

NEXT MEETING — Tuesday January 12 1988 at the Downtown YMCA in Lansing.

ADJOURNMENT — Motion to adjourn by Lee Frederickson; seconded by Jim Easterling approved at 6:00 P.M. Meeting Adjourned.

Meadowbrook Wins Men's Tri-County Travel League

Racquetballers from Meadowbrook in Rochester, Michigan joined the league and became League champions for the first half of the season. With the addition of "A" players to the competition, it has caused everybody to try to improve their team. Competition is tough and everybody's having a great time in the Tri-County Men's Travel League.

Final standings for the first half are:

MEADOWBROOK	280
CRESENT LAKE #1	244
GATEWAY	196
COURT HOUSE CLUB	164
ORION RACQUET CLUB	152
CRESENT LAKE #2	151
WATERFORD HILLS	118
FRANKLIN	---

Franklin Racquet Club was a late entry to the league and only played some of the teams during the first session, but captain Bill Mayer has put together a great team and they are already well respected.

At the current time Orion Racquet Club is playing without a home club. If any club manager is interested in working with these people, they have about 8 players who might make great club members and would help to stimulate some interest in your racquetball program. Call Dan Burrell at 1-313-693-7328.

Franklin, Meadowbrook and Crescent Lake #2 are new entries to the league and have helped create new and better competition.

Other teams are invited to join the

league. It is hoped that next season more teams will be added to the competition. There is also the intent to develop competition at more advanced and beginner levels. All individuals and/or teams who might be interested should contact one of the following people:

Bryan Turner 1-313-624-4162

Rufus Gage 1-313-673-1725

Jim Skinner 1-313-743-4510

Level of play includes players who have not won an A division tournament in a level 3 sanctioned tournament or above in the last two years.

The players have had a great time this year and it is hoped that the league will expand during the season. **COME JOIN US!!!!!!**

Jim Skinner

Greater Flint Winter Games

Flint Athletes compete twice a year in city wide Olympian competition in 14 individual and 7 team sports. These include:

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

Badminton Chess Downhill Skiing
Karate Long Distance 5K Rope Jumping
Tennis Indoor Wrestling Elem. Bowling
Darts Gymnastics Racquetball
Table Tennis Weightlifting

TEAM SPORTS

Basketball Indoor Soccer Kickball - Girls
Volleyball Basketball Swimming
Softball/Slow-Pitch

This year's competition was the largest ever with 4,709 participants. This was an increase of 700 athletes.

Olympian Racquetball competition at COURT HOUSE CLUB was the largest it had ever been and the 3 day double elimination event was the first tournament experience for many Flint area recreational

racquetball players. It was also their first experience in refereeing and was a great opportunity for them to see several of the state's finest players in action. Many had never seen play the caliber of Open Players like Ben Stanley and Matt Sherba who played in the Sunday afternoon open finals. It was also great to see these people encouraging the new players in their lower level of competition. **THIS HAS TO BE WHAT RACQUETBALL IS REALLY ALL ABOUT!!!!**

1988 FINAL RESULTS

LADIES

A	1st-Laurie Eller	2nd-Debbie Glaza
	3rd-Donna Comfort	4th-Barb Rockwell
B	1st-Donella Rak	2nd-Jan Wright
	3rd-Sally Fisher	4th-Ann Sontag
C	1st-Angie Gardner	

2nd-Dorothy Hubbard
3rd-Judy Schulze 4th-Kay Wright

MENS

Open

1st-Ben Stanley 2nd-Matt Sherba
3rd-Dan Verbech 4th-Rob Garrow

A

1st-Troy Altenburg
2nd-Mark Niedzielski
3rd-Marv Riley 4th-Lionel Guerra

B

1st-Bill Hain 2nd-Mike Dunn
3rd-Larry Harris 4th-Tom Blondin

C

1st-Pat Myers 2nd-Bill Thomas
3rd-Dave Goldsmith 4th-Greg Clark

D1

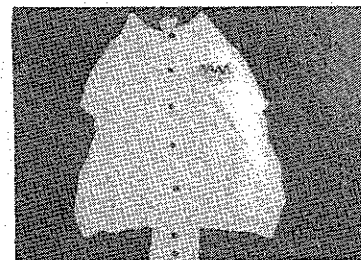
1st-Bill Roy 2nd-Tom Huver
3rd-Barry McNely 4th-Brian Garrow

D2

1st-Mike Schoonover 2nd-Mike Warner
3rd-Ed Smith 4th-Ron Brisbane

Novice

1st-Jeff Beasinger 2nd-Bob Nichols
3rd-Nick St. John 4th-Nick Manutas

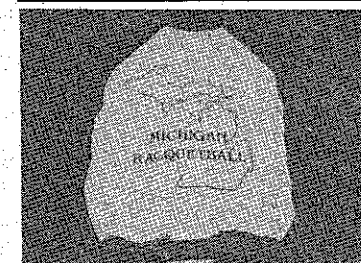


ORDER YOUR RAM JACKET

An "Official" RAM - Racquetball Association of Michigan - jacket is now available. The lightweight jacket is trimmed in black and white, with "Michigan Racquetball" printed in red letters over a map on the back. On the front, the RAM logo is printed in bold black letters. The jacket can be obtained by sending your name and address, along with \$40 to the following:

Racquetball Association of Michigan
321 Village
Lansing, MI 48911

Please include your size: S, M, L, XL.



A'ME

EKTELON

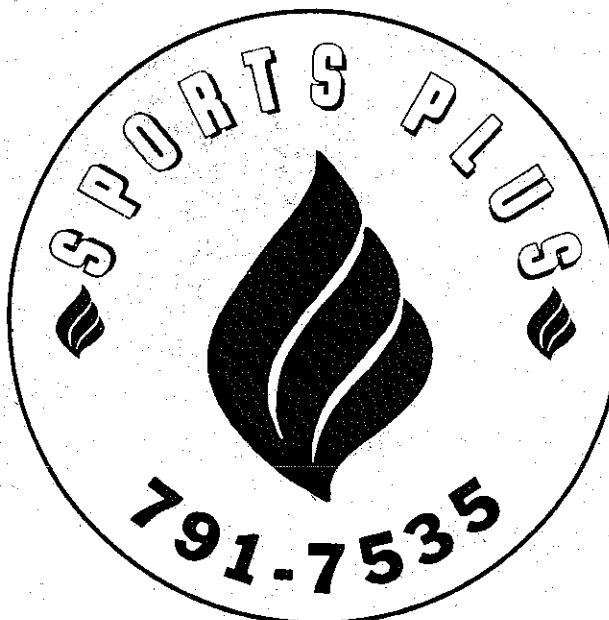
HEAD
RACQUET SPORTS

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HEAD
SPORTS WEAR

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TO ORDER WRITE OR CALL:
SPORTS PLUS INC.

35700 Groesbeck Hwy.
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
(313) 791-7535

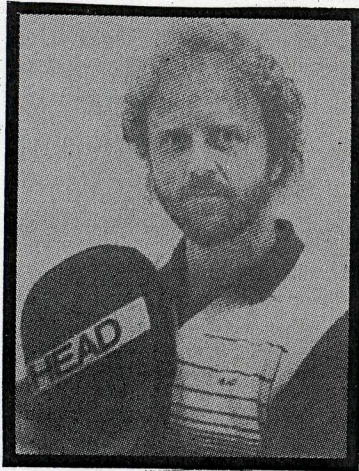
PROMPT SHIPPING



APPAREL ■ FOOTWEAR ■ RACQUETS
AEROBIC • RACQUETBALL



THE "X" FACTOR



STU HASTINGS

Stu Hastings was the 1985, 1986, 1987 Michigan Outstanding Male Player of The Year and is on the Olympic Training Center coaching staff. He also has 6 state titles and a national championship to his credit. Stu was also inducted into the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame in 1987. He is currently the Head Pro at Backwall and Meadowbrook Racquet and Fitness Clubs.

What separates one good player from the rest? Why is it that some guys always seem to finish at or near the top? They always seem to be **there**, when logically you can count 2 or 3 different reasons

why they shouldn't.

In practice, you work out with these guys and play them tough or sometimes even beat them. Yet, when the competition light comes on, they seem to get an added intensity, concentration, and desire. On the other hand, you say that this guy is too old, or too slow, doesn't have a great serve, and shouldn't perform as well as he does. He just might possess the X factor.

The X factor can be defined as desire. Most people that are successful at many things in life are not always the most talented, or gifted. Although natural talent is a strong plus, it is not the most essential element. The **want** to win is desire. If you want something badly enough you find a way to get it. This can't be done in the time frame of one match or one tournament but over the period of weeks, months, even years of preparation.

This will to win makes you invincible. Even when you lose, your opponent knows he hasn't broken you. For your opponent to beat you and still fear you and the next time you play again, is in itself an example of the power of desire.

The player with this "will to win," finds a way to get the job done. You will seldom find excuses when they lose. When they lose, they just get beat. There is no mystery about it. The other player just executed better that day.

Finding a way to succeed reminds me

of stories about everyday life situations. One guy called in to work and said he wouldn't be in because the fog was too bad. He was to report at 6:30 a.m. and the fog always cleared by 8:00 a.m. when daylight arrived. He could have made it to work even if he would have been late. Late is better than never. The fog was obviously an excuse. Another guy called in to miss work because his lights on his car didn't work for his 6:30 a.m. punch in time. Couldn't these two situations have been resolved by showing up to work late instead of not at all. If when these two called in, the boss had said, "it's too bad you can't make it in today because we got our \$500 bonus checks. If you aren't at work you don't get it." Would these two have been able to get to work somehow? The answer is obvious. Why were they able to get the task done now? It's called motivation and desire.

In racquetball, we create our own desire or motivation. At the amateur level, we don't play for a lot of money, we compete for recognition, personal pride, and peer respect.

When a person is hungry, they find a way to do the task at hand. They become innovative. I find this true even in racquetball commitments. When someone is new to lessons, tournaments, training, etc. they find a way to get these. Many people can stay motivated for a short length of time.

A person with real desire can stay motivated as long as it takes to get the job done. **Instead of finding excuses why they can't, they find reasons why they can.**

Desire is something that must come from within the individual. Coach, friends, and supporters can't want it for you. You must want yourself.

The X Factor =

E N E R G E T I C (Always excited about racquetball)

R E L E N T L E S S (Never gives up)

I N T E N S I T Y (Picture of concentration)

S U R V I V O R (Never says die) (He always tries to find a way to come back)

E X C E L L E N C E (Always strives to be the best he can be)

D E D I C A T I O N (He lives the game — the game is a way of life)

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

MEN

#1 SINGLES

- 1st Larry Mueesen (F) Linda Cok (F)
2nd Mark Heckman (C) Melody Matties
3rd Troy Van Benlum (M)

#2 SINGLES

- 1st Greg Bedenis (F) Dawn Cumberworth (C)

- 2nd Sam Tonielian (C) Beth Faunce (F)
3rd Tony Kraft (F)

#3 SINGLES

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1st | Kurt Erxleben (M) | Sherry Look (C) |
| 2nd | Mark Carson (F) | Sheri Wyly (F) |
| 3rd | Al Cull (F) | |

#4 SINGLES

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|--------------------|
| 1st | Rob Mewer (M) | Renee Kent (F) |
| 2nd | Dan Pullen (F) | Michell Gagnon (C) |
| 3rd | Dan Logan (C) | |

#1 DOUBLES

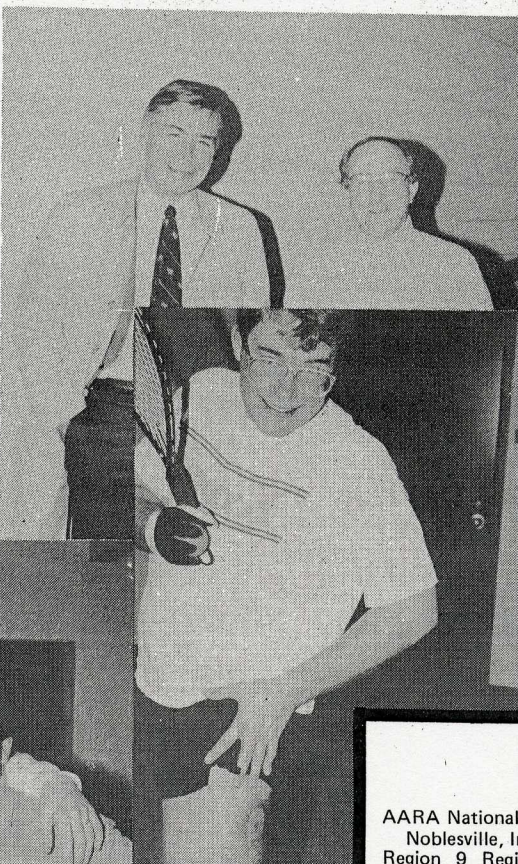
- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st | Mueesen/
Bedenis (F) | Matties/
Cumberworth (C) |
| 2nd | Heckman/
Tonielian (C) | Cok/
Faunce (F) |
| 3rd | Mewer/Erxleben (F) | |

#2 DOUBLES

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|
| 1st | Cull/Maas (F) | Kent/Wyly (F) |
| 2nd | Carson/Logan (C) | Look/Gagnon (C) |
| 3rd | Gray/Frozlev | |

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY REPEATS AS STATE CHAMP
Continued from page 1

Matt Klein, State Director, Michigan ACRA (right) and Bill Wienrich, President, FSU Visiting Tournament (left)



**Collegiate
Racquetball
Hard Hitters:
FSU Al Cull and
MSU Kurt Erxleben,
No. 3 Singles**

FSU 1987 Alumni Team Members Tim Purcey & Marci (Gray) Purcey



(Left to Right) Dawn Cumberworth, CMU No. 2 Singles 1st; Linda Cok, FSU No. 1 Singles 1st & No. 2 Doubles 2nd; Melody Matties, No. 1 Singles 2nd



Rob Mewer, MSU (left) No. 4 Singles Winner & Kurt Erxleben, MSU (right) No. 3 Singles Winner.

Important Dates

AARA National H.S. Championships
Noblesville, Indiana - March 11-13
Region 9 Regional Championships
Adult and Junior
Toledo, Ohio - Feb. 19-21
RMA Mens Professional Tournament
Gr. Rapids, Michigan - March 23-27

**AARA National Intercollegiate
Championships**
Sacramento, California - April 6-10

**AARA National Adult
Championships**
Houston, Texas - May 26-30

AARA National Jr. Championships
Denver, Colorado - June 25-29

WHAT'S NEW

From now on, as of January 1, 1988, any person who is a new member or any person that renews with RAM will have his/her name listed in our newsletter.
Rose Shores Fitness & Racquet Club in Roseville has just become the 8th club to sign up on the "RAM Facility Listing" located below.

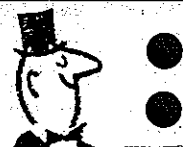
Tournament Calendar

1988 SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

Feb. 5-7	Super 7 #5 / Rose Shores East	Roseville
Feb. 12-14	MIDWEST REGIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	Ferris State University
Feb. 19-21	AARA REGION 9 ADULT & JR. REGIONALS	Toledo, OH
Mar. 4-6	Super 7 #6 / Ann Arbor Court Club	Ann Arbor
Mar. 11-13	Grand Rapids City Championships/tba	Grand Rapids
Mar. 18-20	Swing Into Spring/Saginaw Valley Health Rac Club	Saginaw
Mar. 18-20	RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP/Grand Blanc Court Club	Flint, MI
Mar. 23-27	RHA Men's Professional Tournament	Grand Rapids
Mar. 25-27	Rollout Classic/tba	tba
Apr. 8-10	Pro Stop/tba	tba
Apr. 8-10	Super 7 #7 / Coliseum II	Taylor
Apr. 15-17	RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP/Davison Racquet Club	Davison
Apr. 22-24	Three Days in April/Riverview Racquet Club	Grand Rapids
Apr. 29-May 1	MCRA Challenge Series/tba	tba
May 13-15	Super 7 Finale/Court Time	Farmington

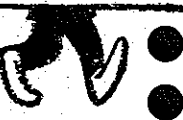
*tba = to be announced.

Any racquetball related item that you want to sell, buy, trade, or whatever will be listed in this column



RACQUETBALL DEALER

For information, please contact
Jim Easterling at:
(517) 887-0459
(home)



FOR SALE — Eight used metal racquetball racquets (covers included). Grips and strings are all ok. Different kinds. — Price: \$15.00 each. Call Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459 (H)

FREE VOIT SCORE CARDS
FREE VOIT DRAW SHEET

You pick up or pay for postage. Call Jim Easterling (517) 887-0459 (H)

FOR SALE — Head Pro Racquets. Call Jerry Gervais (616) 744-4721 (W)

FOR SALE or WILL TRADE for Can of Penn Balls: 1 - Head Masters Replacement Kit 190643 - can of balls, 1 - Composite 250G Replacement Kit - contains 1 bumper, 1 safety cord, set of 6 leather pads. Call (616) 759-0723 after 10:00 pm or at work (616) 722-1639 Penn Balls - or - Ram Balls

WANTED — I am a collector of racquetball cans and memorabilia. I need the Seamco "Assassin" (dimpled ball) can and also Z ball. I will buy or trade. Call Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459 (H)

WANTED — One - Racquetball Stringer - used. Call (Mark Boukamp) Upper Deck - Muskegon (616) 739-3439

FREE BOOKS — Small 100 page paperback - Can Grandpa Play Racquetball? Over 200 books. You pick up or pay for postage. Call Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459

RAM

FACILITY LISTING

Alpine Club

Alpine Fitness Center, Inc.
1040 Four Mile Rd. NW
(across from Family Foods)
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 784-3900

Unlimited Racquetball
7 Courts
Leagues
Challenge Courts — Wallyball
Aerobics
Custom Built Studio
20 Classes Per Week
Extensive Free Weights
Saunas and Whirlpools
Child Care Available
Complete Training Center
Nautilus
22 Station
Personalized Programming
Guests Welcome

29th Street Fitness Center

2701 29th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(between Breton & Schaeffer)
(616) 942-5190

11 Racquetball Courts
4 Continuous Challenge Courts:
Racquetball & Wallyball
22 Station Circuit Nautilus
Complete Free Weights
2 Large Custom Aerobic Studios
Indoor Running Track
State of the Art Tanning Bed
Completely Co-Ed
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In Men's & Women's Lockerrooms
Guests Are Welcome

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Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-1417

20 Aerobic Classes Weekly
22 Nautilus Stations
2 Free Weight Rooms
10 Racquetball Courts
Whirlpools
Dry Heat Saunas
Suntanning
Indoor Running Track
Massage/Masseur
Babysitting Services
Daily Guest Prices For:
Workout Aerobics and Racquetball

THE BACKWALL BACKWALL FITNESS & RACQUET CLUB

2 Ajax Drive
Madison Heights, MI 48071
(Located at the corner of John R. and Ajax Drive, just north of 12 Mile Road)
(313) 589-0900

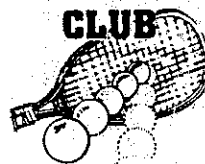
Detroit Area's Ultimate Racquetball Club
Competitive Play at All Levels
Travelling and In-House Leagues
Instructor — Stu Hastings
RAM's Male Player of the Year 1986
10 Racquetball Courts
Aerobics
Fitness Center
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Air Conditioning for Year-Round Play — Indoor Tennis Courts
Outdoor Tennis Courts — Regulation Courts for: Racquetball, Handball, Paddleball
1 Glass Sidewall Competition Court With Viewing Area — Permanent Court Time
Professional Teaching Programs — Junior Excellence Program
Singles and Doubles Leagues for Women — Singles and Doubles Leagues for Men
Attractive Locker Rooms With Whirlpool and Saunas — Exercise Area
Nautilus Fitness Center — Aerobics — Beauty Shop

COURT HOUSE CLUB



617 Hemphill
Flint, MI 48507
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Flint's Friendliest
And Most Comfortable Club

Home of The Annual Fall Ladies "Head Start" Tournament
Racquetball Leagues, Lessons, and Clinics
Men's and Women's Travel Teams
Wallyball Leagues (various skill levels)
Aerobics - 4 days per week
Fitness Center
(California Gym Resistance Equipment)
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Pro Shop
(Authorized Head Racquet Dealer)
(Complete Line of Equipment Available)
Spa Facilities
(Include Separate Whirlpools & Sauna)
(In Men's and Women's Locker Rooms)

Davison Racquet & Swim Club

G 2140 Fairway Drive — Davison, MI 48423 — (313) 653-9602

25 Meter Indoor Pool — Whirlpools (located in both locker rooms) — Saunas
15 Racquetball Courts — Wallyball, (volleyball played on a court)
2 Courts Equipped for Basketball — Complete Nautilus Exercise Center
Locker Facilities — Conference Room for Parties
Racquets and Balls Available for Rent
Dart Room (5 boards, darts available) — Pro-Shop
Tiebreaker Lounge (open to public) — Aerobic-Exercise Classes
Nursery Facilities — Suntana Equipment — Private Parties Available



ROSE SHORES FITNESS & RACQUET CLUB

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25 Racquetball Courts — Wallyball — 25 Aerobic Classes Per Week
5,000 Sq. Ft. Fitness Center with Personalized Programming
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