

The Racquetball



AARA
THE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911

REPORTER

JUNE 1990

State Championships Draws 300

The Racquetball Association of Michigan held its annual States Singles Championships April 27-29 at the Coliseum II Racquetball Club in Taylor. This tournament, usually the measure for the best talent in the state, had an excellent turnout of over 300 entrants as Michigan's best competed for that coveted State Title.

Most noticeable in this year's championships was the weak draw in Men's Open. Once the pinnacle for all Open players, this division took on the stigma of "Those who chose not to play" as such top players as Jim Floyd, Joel Bonnett, Dave Werschay, Larry Meeusen, Larry Fox, and Mike Anderson decided to skip this year's tournament.

That left the field wide open for Troy Hall and Mike Johnston to make their first State Open semifinal showings of their careers, Hall losing a tough tie-breaker match to #2 seed Nick Rallis and Johnston falling to #1 seed Christopher Cole in two quick games.

The final pitted Rallis and Cole against one another for the first time in State Open tournaments and the pressure of his first final seemed to take its toll on Rallis. Throughout the match his pinpoint passes and perfect pinches that spectators are used to seeing, kept missing their mark allowing the veteran Cole to take control of center court and dictate the

tempo. Surprisingly, Cole's weapon was not his backhand splat but his drive serve which continued to find the crack along the left sidewall and frustrated Rallis. In the end, Rallis played well for his first final, but he did not have enough to overcome Cole's uncharacteristic serving. For Cole, the 1990 State title marked the 6th time he has won this championship and made it the 8th consecutive year he has reached the finals. Rallis, however, as well as Hall and Johnston, served notice that they will have to be reckoned with in the very near future.

One of the more interesting matches of the tournament pitted Stu Hastings and

Johnny Northern for the Men's 35+ title. These two National Champions have begun a "clean" rivalry that is one of the most exciting to watch in the state. Hastings with his "ball-control" style offense and "Bjorn Borg" mental approach against Northern and his Boris "I'll rip it harder than you" Becker style. The Slammer against the Planner lived up to its advanced billing as Hastings eked out a thrilling three hour marathon 11-10 tie-breaker triumph.

Continued on page 2

Michigan Players Successful

Twenty-five Michigan racquetball players traveled to Houston, Texas May 23-28 to compete in the American Amateur Racquetball Association's Adult National Singles Championships. Once again, the Houston Downtown YMCA was the host club for this most prestigious of racquetball competitions.

Hopes were high for the Michigan contingent to improve on last year's impressive showing as Stu Hastings and Johnny Northern returned to their place of glory to defend their 1989 National

titles in 35+over and 40+over respectively. Jim Floyd also hoped to improve on last year's fifth place finish in Men's Open and make a second consecutive trip to the United States Olympic Festival.

With over 1,000 players, the Houston Nationals always has the cream of racquetball's crop and upsets are commonplace. Sadly, Michigan suffered two of those upsets when Hastings was shocked by Texan Mike Robinson 10-15, 15-4, 11-10 in the second round and Northern was

stunned by Floridian Matt Layton 14-15, 15-8, 11-0 in the quarters.

Though he did not finish higher than 1989, Floyd's 10th place showing in Men's Open qualified him for the 1990 U.S. Olympic Festival in Minnesota July 6-13. Having one of the division's toughest draws, Floyd needed tie-breakers to defeat his first two opponents in Floridian James Lorello (former junior national champion) and New Mexico's Tony Jelso. In the round of Sweet

Continued on page 4

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 42

AARA
THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER
321 Village Drive
Lansing, MI 48911

Address Correction Requested

View of the President

By W. I. Blakeslee

If our timing is accurate, you should be reading this article while drinking ice tea, relaxing and enjoying the summer sun. Your summer cross-training exercises should be well in place to improve your oncoming racquetball season, 1991! I thought the 1990 season was very successful.

Positively our State Singles

Tournament was the biggest event in recent years — almost 300 individual events. The Region 9 Tournament was also the biggest in recent years. These two events indicate that at this high level of competition, the participation enthusiasm and interest is at an all-time high for this level of tournament play. In addition, many of these players were new members to the AARA.

On the negative side, Junior participation was at an all-time low at our States Singles Tournament. Membership is down both nationally and state wide. Racquetball clubs continue to close. For sure, our sport continues to experience minimal growth. Nationally, the AARA continues to address the vision of Olympic Racquetball! I believe this is an excellent plan and only hopes to stabilize the sport.

Our success nationally depends on promotion, and that can only be done with dollars and budget. As a result, expect to see your yearly dues

be raised to \$15 per year. Nationally, we are still represented by Jim Hiser but I was disappointed to see that Stu Hastings and Johnny Northern lost their national titles. They will be back. Count on it!

Elsewhere in this newsletter, I mentioned my favorite subject I've written the same request yearly. We need board members, people to help run our programs, and Junior Scholarship Funding. Your current board members need help. Please contact me for details. Have a fun summer. See you at Davision.

State Tourney Shines

Continued from page 1

This year's tournament ran smoothly with Lou Ellen Fecher, Tom Blakeslee, Jim and Dianne Easterling all doing yeoman's work to make the tournament a success. The winners and finalists are as follows:

Men's Open-CHRIS COLE defeated Nick Rallis
Men's A-JOHN MOLINARO defeated Peter Kibildis
Men's B-RICK DAVENPORT defeated Billy Marshall
Men's C-JAY KARGULA defeated Mark Ellis
Men's D-HOWARD WELSH defeated Laszlo Brumar
Men's Novice-MARK OHS defeated Dale Jurcisin
Men's 19+-NICK RALLIS defeated Paul Licari
Men's 25+-SCOTT PUFAHL defeated Peter Kibildis
Men's 30+-SCOTT WORTHY defeated Dave Paskan
Men's 30B-MARK NOVAK defeated Ray Matthews
Men's 35+-STU HASTINGS defeated Johnny Northern
Men's 35B-JOHN MONTIE defeated Fred Hartman
Men's 35C-LUKE GUNN defeated Mark Mrocca
Men's 40+-TOM BROWNLIE defeated Tom Blakeslee
Men's 40B-J. RON SLAVIK defeated Mike Young

Men's 45+-JOE TOMLINSON defeated Ron Morse

Men's 45B-CHARLES WHEELIHAN defeated Hank Gates

Men's 50+-MILO KARHIL defeated Paul Becker

Men's 55+-LYNN HAHN defeated Dale Schaffer

Men's 60+-J. D. DRIVER defeated Jack Yanikian

Women's Open-JOETTA HASTINGS defeated Brigitte Hartz

Women's A-ANITHITA DICKERSON defeated Melody Matteis

Women's B-PAI KI ANN defeated Kathleen Motyka

Women's C-SUE PAPKE defeated Dorothy Syniewski

Women's Novice-HEATHER O'CONNOR defeated Teresa Sasser

Women's 30+-BEITH GUTOWSKI defeated Diane McCauley

Women's 35+-CYNTHIA SIEDERS defeated Elaine Barch

Women's 40+-JUDY WALZAK defeated Margo Pell

Junior Boy's 18+Under-RYAN COVELL defeated Gary Hall

Junior Boy's 16+Under-CHAD VISGAR defeated Vincent O'Connor

THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER

Sandy Conlen, Editor
5226 Dania St.
Flint, MI 48532
(313)732-2082

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, photographs and letters for publication. The deadline for the Fall 1990 issue is August 13, 1990.

The following individuals are highly appreciated for their contributions to this issue of *The Racquetball Reporter*:

W. T. Blakeslee
Christopher Cole
Dianne Easterling
Jim Easterling
Rick Hall
Duane Russell

ADVERTISING RATES:
Available upon request.

RAM OFFICERS

President
W.T. Blakeslee
(313) 575-3998

Vice-President
Rick Hall
(616) 676-6217

Secretary
Duane Russell
(517) 484-8220

Treasurer
Dianne Easterling
(517) 887-0459

RAM ADMINISTRATOR
Lou Ellen Fecher
(313) 742-9531

AARA NATIONAL OFFICERS

Executive Director
Luke St. Onge

Asst. Exec. Director
of Membership
John Mooney

Asst. Exec. Director
of Programs
Jim Hiser

President
Keith Calkins

Director of Media And
Public Relations
Linda Mojer

AARA REGION #9
Michigan-Ohio-West
Virginia

Adult Regional Director
Jim Easterling

Junior Regional Director
W.T. Blakeslee

Letters...



EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letters address a situation that occurred at the State Singles Championships. It is the policy of *The Racquetball Reporter* to print all letters upon approval of the RAM Board. The following letters only reflect the opinions of the individuals involved not those of the RAM Board or the newsletter editor ☆

May 7, 1990

Dear Sandy;

I'm writing this letter to express my concern and my unfortunate experience at the State Singles Championships, Coliseum Racquet Club in Taylor, April 27-29, 1990.

As a spectator outside the viewing courts, minding my own business, I was struck in the head by an oversized racquet. To conduct oneself in such a childish, barbarous and unsportsmanlike manner is beyond my comprehension. I would like to think as mature adults, we all have our own reasons for competing. Not because we enjoy brawl room fights or taking our frustrations out on innocent bystanders and volunteer referees.

What was more incomprehensible is the person behaving like this is our own President of the Racquetball Association of Michigan. I was very disturbed by the event and it could have resulted in a very serious injury to me. **THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON FOR CONDUCT LIKE THIS!**

IF OUR PRESIDENT IS BEHAVING LIKE THIS WHO IS TO PUT A STOP TO IT?

I would very much like to see my letter and thoughts printed in *The Racquetball Reporter* so all players can read a disturbing but very true article that needs to be addressed.

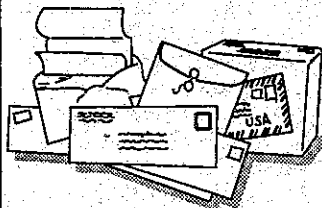
Very Angry,

Sandy White
Open Player

P.S. This was not the only match I observed flying racquets outside the courts at this particular tournament.



LETTERS
5226 DANIA ST.
FLINT, MI 48532



June 4, 1990

Sandy White;

You're absolutely right, 100% correct. I was wrong and I was also the first to admit it. Evidently, my on the spot, instantaneous apology to you and Joetta was not enough. However, to infer that I'm "barbarous" and enjoy "brawl room fights" is way out of line. I don't drink, don't do drugs, have never been arrested and have had only a few minor traffic tickets in the last twenty years. I once took 30 kids to California on my own vacation time and

paid my own expenses. Before you challenge my moral fiber, look in the mirror.

For the record, I doubt that you could have been seriously injured. I slammed my racquet on my bag where it careened in your direction. If a racquet could float, it was "floating." Over the last ten years, the court demeanor has drastically improved by the players in Michigan and I believe I was a part of that effort. Racquetball can be an emotional game; to err is human. I like the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

I'm also very angry that someone like you can take

time to criticize the actions of others, but can't take time to support the game. I've spent many late nights and vacation time off (without pay) so you and your husband, among others, could enjoy the tournament. As I've written many times before, join the RAM Board, help run our state tournament, donate to the Scholarship Fund and I'll respect your opinions and comments. Yes, my conduct was "childish" and I'm sorry.

W.T. Blakeslee
President
Racquetball Association of
Michigan

Michigan Represented in '90 Festival

Continued from page 1

16, Floyd ran into #2 seed Andy Roberts of Tennessee, the man who had narrowly defeated him in 1989's quarters. Floyd quickly jumped out to an 8-1 lead in the first game with an amazing display of serve-and-shoot racquetball that had the veteran Roberts rattled. But then the 1988 National Champ displayed the savvy that has enabled him to reach the Na-

tional finals seven straight years by fighting back and actually served for game point before a relieved Floyd put game one in the books 15-14 with a forehand splat. The damage though, had been done. Roberts, no longer showing the butterflies and nerves of the matches' beginning, simply got stronger as the match progressed and put immense pressure on the constantly diving Floyd. Jim

seemed a little shaken by Robert's first game comeback and his play worsened as his opponent's got better. The second game passed quickly 15-5 and the tie-breaker went by 11-4 thus ending Floyd's tournament run.

Michigan's other top Men's Open player Christopher Cole, made his best showing ever in three trips to Houston by placing 6th and joining his pal Floyd as a participant at

the July Olympic Festival. Along the way, Cole barely defeated North Carolina's Doug Eagle 15-11, 3-15, 11-9 in round one, dispatched current National Junior Champion John Ellis of California 15-10, 15-6 in round two, and avenged an earlier season loss to 1990 Intercollegiate Champion and U.S. National Team member Todd O'Neil of Vermont and Memphis State University 15-12, 15-10 in the Sweet 16's to reach the quarters. There he met with 1989 National Champion Tim Doyle of Ohio and quickly saw what has made Doyle nearly unstoppable in Houston the past two seasons. With a photon-like serve, Doyle overwhelmed the nervous Michigania 15-5 in a display of ace after ace racquetball. Needing much help, Cole turned to his coach Jim Hiser and Floyd (who has battled Doyle better than anyone else in the past) to come up with a game two plan to negate Doyle's power and allow the jitters to pass through Cole. Serving a high lob Z to Doyle's forehand almost the entire game, Cole played point for point with the eventual 1990 repeat National Champion before succumbing 15-11. However, a weakness in Doyle, the high lob Z to the forehand will definitely be implemented by the players who will face the powerful Champ at the Olympic Festival.

With both Floyd and Cole participating in the Festival, Hastings still a coach for the U.S. National Team, and youngster Joel Bonnett as this year's National High School Champion, Michigan is certainly well-represented on the national level. Racquetball players from Michigan may fittingly feel pride that these individuals not only represent the state well on the court, but also do so off the court.

1990 Houston Adult National Singles Championships

Michigan Results

- Men's Open-CHRISTOPHER COLE=6th place
- Men's Open-JIM FLOYD=10th place
- Men's Open-TROY HALL=lost to Jeff Evans (WA) in second round
- Men's Open-MIKE JOHNSTON=lost to Bill Sell (CA) in first round
- Men's Open-LARRY MEEUSEN=lost in first round
- Men's A-JOHN STALLMER=lost to Christian D'alesandro (TX) in first round
- Men's A-JIM EARLY=lost to Troy Bloom (NH) in second round
- Men's A-LEROY TOWNS=lost to Ron Renn (TX) in second round
- Men's A-MARK ELLIS=lost to Matt Carzoli (TX) in first round
- Men's A-LUKE GUNN=lost to Bill Sessums (TX) in first round
- Men's 19+-MIKE JOHNSTON=lost to B.J. Gruber (NY) in first round
- Men's 25+-GREG HODGES=lost to Ron DiGiacomo (NY) in second round
- Men's 25+-JOHN STALLMER=lost to Rich Muniz (NY) in first round
- Men's 25+-JACK WHITE=lost to Jim Jeffers (IL) in second round
- Men's 25+-CHRIS KELLY=lost to Chuck Gates (MA) in first round
- Men's 30+-CHRIS KELLY=lost to Mark Morrison (FL) in second round
- Men's 30+-MARK ELLIS=lost to John Mack (CA) in first round
- Men's 30+-JIM EARLY=lost to Tom Wood (MO) in first round
- Men's 30+-GREG HODGES=lost to Tom Neil (NM) in Sweet 16's
- Men's 30+-JACK WHITE=lost to Mark Baron (VA) in first round
- Men's 30+-DAVE PASKAN=lost to Jim Bartlett (IN) in second round
- Men's 35+-STU HASTINGS=lost to Mike Robinson (TX) in second round
- Men's 35+-DAVE PASKAN=lost to Howard Walker (TX) in second round
- Men's 35+-RON LESCZYNSKI=lost to Brant Dixon (CA) in first round
- Men's 35+-JOHNNY NORTHERN=lost to Tom Travers (OH) in Sweet 16's
- Men's 35+-LUKE GUNN=lost to Rob Gloden (TX) in first round
- Men's 35+-KEN BONNETT=lost to Frank Ciociola (NY) in second round
- Men's 40+-JOHNNY NORTHERN=lost to Matt Layton (FL) in quarters
- Men's 40+-RON LESCZYNSKI=lost to Robert Langguth (TX) in first round
- Men's 40+-JIM HISER=lost to Herb Grigg (IL) in quarters
- Men's 40+-MIKE YOUNG=lost to Herb Grigg (IL) in second round
- Men's 40+-KEN BONNETT=lost to Jim Bailey (VA) in Sweet 16's
- Men's 45+-MIKE YOUNG=lost to Fred Letter (NJ) in second round
- Men's 45+-GARY PHIPPS=lost to Dick Mechart (WA) in first round
- Men's 45+-HANK GATES=lost to Bill Stuermer (TX) in first round
- Men's 45+-RICK PARKHURST=lost to Mickey Bellah (CA) in second round
- Women's Open-ELAINE BARCH=lost to Jackie Paraiso (CA) in first round
- Women's A-MELODY MATTEIS=lost to Naomi Morgan (TX) in second round
- Women's 30+-JOETTA HASTINGS=lost to Barb Faulkenberry (CO) in second round
- Women's 30+-ELAINE BARCH=lost to Patti Nishumura (WA) in second round

The Racquetball Association of Michigan announces its tournament sanctioning package for the 1990-91 season. While designed specifically for tournaments, this package can also be used for clinics or other racquetball events you wish to promote to the Michigan player.

Sanctioning your tournament or clinic with RAM ensures the event will receive the prestige that it is due. Below are the benefits of sanctioning your event:

1. No other tournament will be sanctioned for the same weekend within a 100 mile radius from the event site.
2. Free player and club labels in zip code order
3. Free tournament information kits and use of both the AARA and RAM ranking systems
4. Free tournament programs
5. Listing of your tournament on RAM's pocket calendar and in *The Racquetball Reporter*
6. Discounted mailing fee for tournament entry forms inserted in *The Racquetball Reporter*.

To be sanctioned there is a \$50 sanctioning fee per event promoter regardless of the number of tournaments or clinics being sanctioned. This fee is to secure your dates and to ensure compliance with the sanctioning guidelines listed below. Upon successful completion of your tournament(s) and the guidelines below, \$40 of the sanctioning fee will be rebated to each event promoter. Below are the sanctioning guidelines:

1. No sanctioned event may be held the same weekend as the State Singles, State Doubles or Regional events
2. Sanctioned tournaments must be run in accordance with RAM/AARA rules.
3. Sanctioned tournaments must use an AARA approved ball.
4. Sanctioned tournaments must ensure all participants are either members of AARA/RAM or that all participants join AARA/RAM at the tournament site
5. Return to RAM all collected memberships money and forms, tournament results and a copy of the tournament drawsheets within 14 days after the close of the tournament

Appliances for certain dates will be handled on a first come, first serve basis. If you are interested in hosting a RAM sanctioned event during the 1990-91 tournament season, please contact Dianne Easterling at the address and phone number below:

Dianne Easterling
RAM Sanctioning Committee
321 Village
Lansing MI 48911
Phone: after 4:30 p.m. (517) 887-0459

1990 GRAND RAPIDS CITY RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP MARCH 16-18, 1990

AT GRAND RAPIDS RACQUET CLUB

MEN'S OPEN

Mike Anderson def.
Joel Bonnett 15-6, 15-4

MEN'S A

Ed Melvin def.
Scott Zimmerman 15-8, 15-13

MEN'S B

Brent Zimmerman def.
Don Chapman 15-11, 15-14

MEN'S C

Buddy Helgevoid def.
Mike Martin 15-10, 15-9

MEN'S D

John Kowalczyck def.
Gary Freyling 15-10, 5-15, 11-8

MEN'S 35 B/C

Jim Ohanesian def.
Pat O'Brian 15-8, 1-15, 11-6

MEN'S 45+

Ross Zerrep def.
Tom Sharum 15-5, 8-15, 11-5

WOMEN'S A

Denise Gravelyn def.
Pricilla Washburn 11-15, 15-3, 11-2

WOMEN'S B

Laura Johnson def.
Dorothy Sypniewski 13-15, 15-5, 11-9

WOMEN'S C/D

Dorothy Sypniewski def.
Maureen Price 15-13, 11-15, 11-10

MEN'S DOUBLES OPEN/A

M. Anderson/J. Costen def.
R. Vanderlind/L. Longeliere

MEN'S DOUBLES B/C

B. Rosema/J. DeWeerd def.
K. Bryan/J. DeYoung

MIXED DOUBLES

R. Covell/P. Sowders def.
D. Gravelyn/B. Gravelyn

DAN OBREMSKI • DAVE NEGRETE • DOUG GANIM •
O'NEIL • JERSEY JOE • HANSEN • GREEN • NEILL • GONZALES •
O.U. • JEFFERS • "GAR" • GILLOOLY • HUEFFNER • ICAZA • TURLEY

TACKI-MAC GRIPS
WRISTLACERS
ASHAWAY STRINGS
SPORT DRI-PALM
LAVII KLEER VU
E-FORCE

FOR INFORMATION CALL:
NETWORK MARKETING
4065 ANNISTOWN ROAD
LITHONIA, GA 30058
404-979-7527

ENGLE • DI GIACOMO • MONTALBONO • ANTHONY • NICHOLS • LOW
ELLIS • PLOTKIN • LEVINE • HENDRICKSON • NICHOLS • ZELLER
EGAN INOUE • CARYN MCKINNEY • MIKE RAY • CLIFF SWAIN

MIKE CERESIA • MARCY LYNCH • JIM CASCIO
PLAZAK • SWENEY • LINSK • ERICKSON • SMSU
MARCUS • P.C. VANTREASE • HEFT • STOREY

JACK NEWMAN • WOODY CLOUSE •
WHITMIRE • BUCKALEW • SIMONETTE • BOLZ
MUNROE • GARRIDO • MONCHIK • ROBINSON

MEN'S OPEN

1	Jim Floyd	8.2
2	Chris Cole	10.5
3	Joel Bonnett	10.8
4	Nick Rallis	11.1
5	Larry Meussen	17.1
6	Jim Hamilton	18.3
7	Dave Wershay	18.7
8	Mike Anderson	18.9
9	Pete Ruhala	19.1
10	Dave Larry	19.6

MEN'S A

1	Tim Sigafoose	22.7
2	Paul Licari	23.9
3	Jai Shekhawat	24.1
4	Troy Altenberg	28.4
5	Gabe Zussman	29.7
6	Tom Blakeslee	46.9
7	Chris Kelly	48.3
8	John Molinaro	52.1
9	Brad McIlhargie	52.9
10	Mark Kaufman	54.2

MEN'S B

1	Scott Zimmerman	58.1
2	Rob Snell	77.4
3	Mark Novak	84.7
4	Pat Burdick	86.3
5	Don Hlavaty	87.9
6	Mike McPherson	92.7
7	Paul Richards	102.0
8	Mark Davis	102.7
9	Scott Bruce	103.0
10	Mark Zigila	103.6

MEN'S C

1	Ron Klicki	73.8
2	Scott Sellers	97.5
3	Leroy Towns	100.4
4	Gary Rajter	112.7
5	Roger Culver	118.0
6	Tony Barra	126.2
7	Richard Woodcox	129.6
8	Bill LaBarge	130.3
9	Manny Lawson	138.9
10	John Summerset	139.5

MEN'S D

1	Micheal Ryan	120.6
2	Tony Barra	126.2
3	John Summerset	139.5
4	Mark Ellis	142.0
5	Sean Battle	147.1
6	Dwayne Parkhurst	156.3
7	Augie Pakso	159.3
8	Mark Hendrick	159.4
9	Mike Malek	160.1
10	Leland Finley	162.0

MEN'S 30+

1	Mike Anderson	18.9
2	Stu Hastings	21.4
3T	Johnny Northern	22.7
3T	Tim Sigafoose	22.7
4	Scott Worthy	23.6
5	Mike Stephens	25.0
6	Larry Longiliere	26.4
7	Greg Hodges	29.0
8	Randy Anderson	36.7
9	Mike Hotra	38.7
10	Dave Paskan	43.4

MEN'S 30 B

1	Mike McPherson	92.7
2	Marv Riley Sr.	97.0
3	Scott Sellers	97.5
4	Ed Swica	98.7
5	Mike Davis	99.3
6	Gary Luczak	100.0
7	Randy Guilds	101.7
8	Mark Zigila	103.6
9	Lenny Chaltrow	104.3
10	Terry Lawler	105.2

MEN'S 30 C

1	Mark Zigila	103.6
2	Rip Steketee	150.0
3	Rex Balch	190.0
4	Joe Chedroe	211.8

MEN'S 35+

1	Curt Rozier	21.0
2	Stu Hastings	21.4
3	Johnny Northern	22.7
4	Ken Bonnett	31.3
5	Rick Vanderlind	34.1
6	Bob Gravelyn	39.1
7	Tom Blakeslee	44.9
8	John Molinaro	52.1
9	Jim Panasiewicz	73.0
10	Randy Guilds	101.7

MEN'S 35 B

1	John Molinaro	52.1
2	Woody Neighbors	90.4
3	Ed Swica	98.3
4	Al Mell	100.2
5	Ron Slavik	101.2
6	Ron Rusch	105.5
7	Terry Lawlor	108.9
8	Ron Morse	115.9
9	Jerry Eldred	116.4
10	Roger O'Connor	116.8

MEN'S 35 C

1	Mark Zigila	103.6
2	Paul Ingrahm	139.2
3	Gary Gron	143.6
4	Wayne Gunkle	145.0
5	Larry Cleyman	148.8
6	Rip Steketee	150.0
7	Gary Allis	160.0
8	Tino Ruiz	164.0
9	Chuck VanHoose	165.1
10	Jim Skinner	171.9

MEN'S 40+

1	Johnny Northern	22.7
2	Mike Stephens	25.5
3	Ken Bonnett	31.3
4	Bob Gravelyn	39.1
5	Doug Toth	41.2
6	Ron Liikala	75.0
7T	Tom Brownlee	160.0
7T	Gary McClennan	160.0

MEN'S 40 B

1	Chris Henry	110.0
2	Ron Morse	115.9
3	Al Todek	134.6
4	Dean Kranz	164.8
5	Don Boone	165.0
6	Jim Skinner	171.9

MEN'S 45+

1	Tom Sharum	61.0
2	B. Malcom	105.0
3	Gary Phipps	129.8
4	Charles Wheelihan	137.8
5	Jesse Madden	139.3
6	George Stec	139.5
7	Walter Biesterfeldt	142.8
8T	Leonard Cilkojo	150.0
8T	Sam Gemus	150.0
9	Hank Gates	151.6
10	Walter Milke	155.3

MEN'S 45 B

1	Ron Slavik	101.2
2	Ron Morse	115.9
3	Joe Biniecki	129.0
4	Gary Phipps	129.8
5	Larry Cole	133.6
6	Charles Wheelihan	137.8
7	Vince Callahan	139.5
8	Sixto Calvo	141.0
9	Walter Biesterfeldt	142.8
10	Hank Gates	151.6

MEN'S 50+

1	Jesse Madden	139.3
2	David Lund	149.4
3	Hank Gates	151.6
4	Lynn Hahn	164.9
5	Dan Ross	189.4
6	Joe Lamilza	195.2
7	Larry Cartwright	201.7
8T	Milo Karha	250.0
8T	Don Revels	250.0
9	Art Burke	258.6

MEN'S 55+

1	Lynn Hahn	164.9
2	J.D. Driver	283.1
3	Albert May	497.5
4	Bruce Stevens	499.2

WOMEN'S OPEN

1	Joetta Hastings	47.0
2	Elaine Barch	48.5
3	Lori Troszak	48.6
4	Leslie Kishigan	64.4
5	Diane Kerr	66.9
6	Sandy White	68.4
7	Lisa Ecker	69.2
8	Natalie Bernard	69.2
9	Lisa Yackley	69.3
10	Shirley Vanderbrook	70.0

WOMEN'S A

1	Sharon Huczek	49.6
2	Diane Kerr	66.9
3	Sandy White	68.4
4	Vicki Gazayerli	68.4
5	Lisa Yackley	69.3
6	Anitha Dickerson	71.2
7	Betty Ann Gilliland	74.1
8	Sharlie Bolling	74.4
9	Paula Saad	80.2
10	Melody Matties	81.0

WOMEN'S B

1	Vicki Gazayerli	68.4
2	Alida Mainhardt	69.2
3	Claire Kruse	75.9
4	Chris Berg	78.4
5	Pam Harkleroad	81.4
6	Dawn Frankhouse	81.8
7	Judy Pretzer	85.5
8	Judy Walzak	87.6
9	Stacy Barbas	90.3
10	Nancy Uniacke	98.3

WOMEN'S C

1	Karen Standy	59.7
2	Beth Adastik	60.8
3	Pam Harkleroad	81.4
4	Diane McCauley	100.0
5	Chris Suever	100.1
6	Angel McClanaghan	124.6
7	Kathy Motyka	150.0
8	Mary Birchfield	168.3
9	Felicia Mann	173.0
10	Margaret Chedroe	173.6

WOMEN'S D

1	Denise Ferrari	174.1
2	Nicole Zigala	191.8
3	Michele Gagnon	198.6
4	Linda Allen	199.3
5T	Claudia Schmitt	200.0
5T	Barbara Irons	200.0
6	Jean St. John	201.5
7	Stacey Milanas	229.0
8	Nancy VanHoose	229.3
9	Diane Peason	249.2

WOMEN'S 30+

1	Joetta Hastings	47.0
2	Beth Ann Gutowski	48.4
3	Leslie Kishigan	64.4
4	Stacey Barbas	90.3

New Ranking System Questioned

EDITORS NOTE: The following letter is addressed to Troy Hall, Michigan Open Player from Ron Bewley of MicroCache Systems. It is being published in *The Racquetball Reporter* in hopes of answering questions others might also have regarding the new ranking system. ☆

Dear Mr. Hall,

We have received via Jim Easterling your comments on your ranking position as established by APG, the ranking system currently on trial in Michigan for the AARA. If I may, I will explain this fully here, as it is an illustration of the major differences between the system that has been used by the AARA to date, and APG, which sets up a merit ranking. I hope this explanation will be of benefit to other players as well.

The existing AARA system calculates its ranking position by assigning points to those who reach quarter-finals, semifinals and finals of tournaments. Tournaments are also weighted so that more "important" tournaments gain more ranking points. This system is what those of us in ranking call a "money-winners" system. It means that if you play more often you gain more points. By definition, a player who plays ten tournaments a season will gain more points than one who only plays in a couple, even if they are of the same standard.

WOMEN'S 30 B

1	Claire Kruse	75.9
2	Paula Saad	80.2
3	Judy Walzak	87.6
4	Stacey Barbas	90.3
5	Cheryl Kessler	103.3
6	Laverne Highgate	150.0
7	Dorothy Sypriewski	190.0

WOMEN'S 40+

1	Sharon Huczek	49.6
2	Betty Ann Gilliland	74.1
3	Faye Cobb	100.0
4	Laverne Highgate	150.0

This system has its adherents, and is useful in certain situations to certain people. It is used frequently by tournament organizers in various sports to force players to play on circuits. In tennis and squash tournaments, there are two different kinds of rankings - APG, and a separate money-winners' rank as used by the circuit organizers. It is the case that neither the men's or women's world champions are at the top money-winners' list because they choose not to play in all the tournaments. Yet in APG, a merit ranking, they are ranked top, and each year they walk away with a world championship. The money-winners' rankings are supposed to be a persuader to those players to play in all the circuit tournaments because of their drawing power.

A merit ranking is entirely different and is much more meaningful at this level of play, where people need and like to know how good they are as compared to their peers and their opponents. You mention the fact that you have reached a number of semifinals. However, this does not necessarily mean anything, though it usually means that you have beaten others and improved your ranking. Let us look at the situation in which a player reaches the semifinal by a round-one forfeit, a second-round match against someone ranked fifty places below him, and an injury to his opponent in the quarter-finals. Clearly, as an achievement, this would mean very little in ranking.

Continued on page 10

Penn.
RACQUETBALL



A.A.R.A.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALL

JOE BRADTKE
7009 Shady Nelms
Dublin, Ohio 43017
(614) 761-9787

RAM Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 12, 1990

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Residence of Jim and Dianne Easterling, 321 Village, Lansing, MI 48532

Call to order: by President Tom Blakeslee at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Rick Hall, Dianne Easterling, Jim Easterling, Tom Blakeslee, Lou Ellen Fecher, Duane Russell

Guest: Ken Bonnett

REPORT OF TREASURER:

Dianne Easterling distributed cash receipts/disbursements for the month ended January 31, 1990. Current bank balance is \$1369.08. A profit of \$345.97 was listed for the month of January 1990. She also reported the IRS may ask for a yearly account. We do have an accountant who provides us with a year end audit at the end of the year. Dianne reported the IRS has sent us a refund check dating back to 1985 which we have not received to date.

Dianne distributed a sample copy of a mini-newsletter entitled THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER which will be published twice a year and run in addition to the four quarterly issues of THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER. Providing six copies a year will enable us to qualify for rebates and other services. Costs for printing \$950 copies for members will approximate \$130.00.

STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP: April 27-29, 1990 at the Coliseum II Racquet Club in Taylor, Michigan. Costs will be \$35.00 for one event. It was decided to offer all entrants a FREE complimentary swearsuit. Mike Anderson will be contacted to provide the trophies which he has done in the past. (Note: Mike owes us \$500 for a full page advertisement in the last issue of the NEWSLETTER. Tom Blakeslee said he would call

him about this to obtain payment.) Tom also said he would need help to spell him at the State Tournament at the desk. This is a lot of work.

D.A.C. TOURNAMENT: The D.A.C. did not collect memberships and will not be sanctioned next year. They will not receive labels nor will they appear on the state tournament schedule.

Rick Hall did indicate results of the last tournament would be given to the editor for the next NEWSLETTER. Ken Bonnett said they were getting some press on racquetball in Grand Rapids. The Junior High School Nationals will be held in June (23-27) at Dallas, Texas. The AARA High School Championships will be held on March 2,3,4 at St. Louis, Missouri. Ken Bonnett asked about the Junior Scholarship Fund and details were provided by Tom Blakeslee.

Dianne Easterling raised some questions about two individuals who owe money from prior tournaments as follows: Ron Kliki and Jim Hamilton. T. Blakeslee indicated Kliki had paid something at one of the tournaments he was at. This needs to be checked on. Jim Hamilton called in and said he would pay for Dawn Cumberworth last year and never sent in the money for this: \$33.00. Hamilton will not be allowed to play in the State tourney unless he pays for her as he said he would. If he doesn't pay he can't play.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Duane Russell reported that the National Golden and Seniors Masters Tournament was held in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 6-10. There were 231 players from the United States and Canada who participated. Michigan had six entrants: Gary Phipps at 45; Paul

Becker at 50; Lynn Hahn and Dale Schaffer at 55; Duane Russell at 60 and Hike Sohikian at 70.

MAGAZINE FROM AARA:

The AARA will be running their own magazine on racquetball. The first issue is to be out in March. It will officially start in the fall and come out every other month: 32 pages. Linda Mojer from the AARA will serve as editor. She also publishes a RACQUETBALL REPORTER once a month and Tom Blakeslee said he would endeavor to get us on the mailing list.

STATE DIRECTOR'S MANUAL: Tom Blakeslee reported on the meeting attend by himself and Jim Easterling at Colorado Springs. The Man-

ual was discussed briefly and given to D. Russell to review and will be circulated to other members of the Board upon request. Tom reported that racquetball is number 17 on the list of sports in the United States. Two million people play racquetball 25 times a year or more. Seventy percent of the players are male: 30 percent female.

Michigan has 69 certified referees which is the highest in the United States. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 2, 1990 (Monday) at the Easterling home.

Respectfully submitted by Duane Russell, Secretary.

From the Rule Book

By W. T. Blakeslee

The following rules were the most questioned and disputed rules at both our State Single and Regional Championships.

OUT-OF-COURT BALL

1. After the return. Any ball returned to the front wall which, on the rebound or the first bounce, goes into the gallery or through any opening in a side wall shall be declared dead and the server shall receive two serves.

2. No return. Any ball not returned to the front wall, but which caroms off a player's racquet into the gallery or into any opening in a side wall either with or without touching the ceiling, side wall, or back wall, shall be an out for the player failing to make the return, or a point for the opponent.

Also note Rule 4.10, Fault Serves.

FAULT SERVES

A.2. The server steps over the front service line before the served ball passes the short line.

Michigan Racquetball Players Respond

Submitted by Jim Easterling

A few months ago RAM printed its first mini-newsletter and in it was a questionnaire regarding racquetball tournaments. Below are the results of that questionnaire

1. WHEN SHOULD A PERSON BE BUMPED TO THE NEXT HIGHEST DIVISION?

- 32% After winning the division once
- 50% After winning the division twice
- 11% After winning the State Singles
- 7% Other

2. SHOULD THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR PLACE TWO OR THREE DIVISIONS TOGETHER TO MAKE THEM RUN SUCH AS 30B AND 35B AND CALL IT 30/35B?

- 76% Yes
- 24% No

3. WHAT SHOULD BE THE LATEST DATE A PERSON SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENTER A TOURNAMENT?

- 32% the deadline (adhere to strictly)
- 15% the Monday before the tournament starts
- 27% the Tuesday before the tournament starts
- 26% anytime until the tournament starts

4. IN DIVISIONS OF 12 OR MORE SHOULD 3RD AND 4TH PLACE TROPHIES BE GIVEN OR TWO SEMI-FINALIST TROPHIES?

- 29% 3rd and 4th place trophies
- 71% give two semi-finalist trophies

5. SHOULD A DIVISION BE RUN WITH ONLY

- 6% 3 people
- 18% 4 people
- 56% 5 people
- 20% must be more than 5 people

6. WHAT AWARD WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE GIVEN OUT AT THE TOURNAMENT?

- 47% trophies
- 41% plaques
- 11% medals
- 1% other

7. WHAT TYPE OF SOUVENIR WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE GIVEN OUT AT TOURNAMENTS?

- 34% shirts
- 18% shorts
- 22% sweatshirts
- 14% socks
- 12% bags



Our Attention to Detail Creates a Better Quality of Life

The FourMidAble Group Management Team understands that the little things in life are what really matter when you're deciding where to live. That's why we make sure that even the smallest details are given great attention. From the beautifully landscaped gardens to the spacious design of the apartments—we do all we can to give you the quality of life you deserve. You'll receive fast and courteous service from managers to maintenance technicians because we only choose people who care. So, if the details of life are important to you, select FourMidAble.

The FOURMIDABLE Group

Farmington Hills, MI • (313) 855-4400

Rankings Explained

Continued from page 7

terms, yet the AARA system would give that person points regardless of how he had reached the semifinal.

Consider another situation. You had played in the first round and beaten someone ranked ten places above you. In the second round you beat someone twenty places above you. In the quarter-finals you lost to the number one seed. In the money winners' system you would gain almost nothing in ranking terms, but in APG, it does not matter which round your results are in, you still get benefit. In this case you would rise (probably) above the two people you had beaten in the first two rounds, because ON MERIT you are better than them at this time. In a merit ranking EVERY match counts, whether it be the final or the first round. This is an incentive for everyone to play their best all the time.

Your own playing record shows that you beat Larry Meeusen, who is currently ranked above you, but it also shows that you lost to Mike Stephens, who is below you, and that Larry beat him. In other games you have lost to those above you and beaten those below you, which is as it should be. A merit ranking rewards consistent performance in all games. APG does not consider one result, but all results that relate to any achievement.

In Michigan you had a classic example at the beginning of this season of the problems inherent in a money-winners' ranking. Chris Cole, who had played more games, was ranked a long way above Jim Floyd. In APG they were more or less equal. We would have seeded them equally

Sure enough, in the next tournament, Jim Floyd beat Chris Cole. I think that everyone now recognizes basis of games played, produces anomalous rankings, at least in terms of merit. In fact, it is well recognized in the AARA that people can achieve so many ranking points by playing in a lot of tournaments that they achieve a position at the end of the season that cannot be pulled back.

Another attribute of a merit ranking is that it establishes grading positions much more accurately. You currently have players who compete in two or three different grades. With APG it is easy to determine that some players are simply too good for the lower grades. It is perhaps the case that they should no longer be allowed to play in lower grades, as it robs people playing legitimately in those grades of the chance to win tournaments and to compete in the end-of-season play-offs.

I hope this goes some way towards answering your questions and those that others may have too. I should also say that we do not claim to be infallible—we are in the early stages of this trial and do not know players personally. Therefore it may be that we originally assigned an erroneous working rank value which time has not yet corrected. In your own case, you played a large proportion of games against people from out-of-state. We simply do not know how good these people are.

I am sure you will find that, over time, the APG system gives much more meaningful rankings on a peer-to-peer basis. It also ranks everyone who plays in tournaments. Although, for good reasons, only the top few players in

March 21, 1990

Dear Super Seven Staff and Players;

I would like to extend apologies to the Super Seven Series, players and Lou Ellen Fecher for the poor playing conditions encountered at the tournament held March 9, 10 and 11 at the Backwall. In as much as we prepare for each tournament, occasionally circumstances arise that are not planned to occur.

First, the fog and rain contributed to the high humidity factor. Second, due to the warm temperatures, the air conditioning was called upon to help cool and dehumidify the air. Unfortunately, after the tournament it was discovered that two out of three air conditioning units were not operating. The third unit was operating at only 50% capacity.

The Super Seven Series and its directors should not be held responsible for the air and/or court conditions. I have hosted at least one tournament per year for the past four years and have found the tournaments to be well-run and managed. They should be applauded for their time and effort.

The Backwall has always prided itself on being one of the best maintained clubs around. Currently, we are experiencing some problems with our courts due to wear and tear of over 10 years of tournament caliber play. The contractors that originally installed the floor and wall systems are no longer in business. I am in the process of seeking qualified contractors to resolve our problems. The search process takes time.

I pledge to all of those tournament participants that if our club is not in prime condition to meet your high standards, then we will not host another tournament. Further, I urge you to continue to support the Super Seven Series to keep racquetball growing into the 1990's.

Sincerely,

Michael Trotz
General Manager
The Backwall Fitness and Racquet Club

From the Rule Book

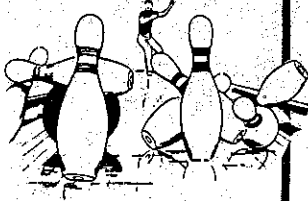
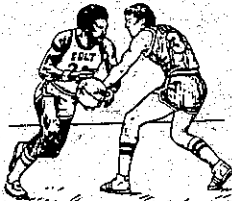
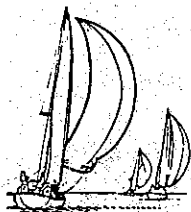
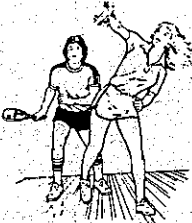
By W. I. Blakeslee

The following rule changes will be considered by the general membership during 1990 for implementation:

1. Restore the term "avoidable hinder"
2. Change the qualifying date for junior-age competition from January 1 to December 31
3. Impose a two year moratorium on rule changes.
4. Make court hinders appealable
5. Allow servers to step on but not over the front line.

each grade are published in this newsletter, full ranking list of all players in Michigan are available. Anyone can get a copy of the full ranking, and

it is therefore possible for anyone, at any level, to determine exactly how they are improving at any stage of the season.



ANDERSON'S
**Silk-Screening
& Trophies**
Sparta, Mich. 887-1558

Small orders
Big orders
Quick service

NO PROBLEM!

RAC Club Facility Listing

THE Backwall

FITNESS & RACQUET CLUB

JOHN R NORTH OF 12 MILE • 589-0900

- *Largest private multi-recreational club east of Woodward Avenue
- * 9 Racquetball Courts
- * Instruction from Stu Hastings, Men's National Racquetball Team Coach, Michigan's Male Player of the Year 1985 & 1986, Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame and Men's 35 National Champion.
- *1600 sq. foot Aerobics Studio with A.F.R.A. Certified Instructors
- * Newly remodeled Nautilus & Olympic Free Weight Training Center
- * Cardio-vascular Training Center featuring 8 Lifecycles, 3 Stairmasters, 2 Treadmills, Liferower & Gravitation
- * Supervised workouts & Individually designed training programs
- * Free supervised nursery for members
- * Complete locker room facilities featuring separate whirlpool & sauna for men and women.
- * Tanning and towel rentals available
- * Wallyball and Court Basketball also available



**ROSE SHORES
FITNESS & RACQUET
CLUB**

31950 Little Mack
Roseville, Mich. 48066



AND



DAYS

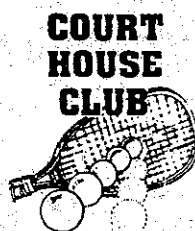
INNS • HOTELS • SUITES • DAYSTOPS

Days Inn
31960 Little Mack
Roseville, Michigan 48066
(313) 296-6700

WELCOME YOU TO YOUR FITNESS RESORT

18 Racquetball /Wallyball Courts
2 Basketball Courts
Fitness Lab Testing; 15 pieces of cardiovascular equipment;
over 50 pieces of weight machines
and free weights
Tanning salon; Hair Salon; Saunas, Steam rooms & Hot Tubs
25 Meter lap pool with co-ed whirlpool
Off the Wall Saloon and Restaurant;
104 Hotel Rooms and Suites, Jacuzzi rooms available
Fine dining at CHARDAY'S--
Experience the sights and sounds of Shadows Night Club
CALL 296-2200 for Rose Shores Fitness
& Racquet Club

CALL 296-6700 for Days Inn Hotel



617 Hemphill
Flint, MI 48507
(313) 743-4510

FLINT'S FRIENDLIEST AND MOST COMFORTABLE CLUB RACQUETBALL

Leagues, Lessons, and Clinics
Men's and Women's Travel Teams
TOURNAMENTS

Ladies "HEAD START" - September
Flint Winter Games - January
Dr. Pepper Open - February
St. Patrick's Day - March
Spring Double-up - April
Flint Summer Games - July
CANUSA Games - August

PRO SHOP

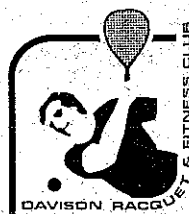
Authorized "HEAD" Racquet Dealer
Racquet Repair- Strings and Grips

AEROBICS

Low/High Impact & Seniors-5 days per week
SPA FACILITIES

Separate Men's and Women's whirlpool & saunas
FITNESS CENTER

California Gym Resistance Equipment
Aerobicycles-Stairmasters-Concept II Rowers



**DAVISON RACQUET
& FITNESS CLUB**

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

25 Meter Indoor Pool - Whirlpools (located in both locker rooms) - Saunas
13 Racquetball Courts - Wallyball - 2 Courts equipped for Basketball - Massage Therapy
Computerized Cardiovascular Center - Free Weight Room- Nautilus Exercise Center
Conference Room Available for Parties - Racquets & Balls Available for Rent
Dart Room (4 Boards, darts available) - Pro Shop
Tiebreaker Lounge (Open to Public) - Aerobic Exercise Classes
Staffed Nursery Facilities - Suntana Equipment - Private Parties Available
Family Membership - Special Membership Rates for Seniors