



THE LOUISIANA RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

"Dedicated to promoting the game of Racquetball"

LOUISIANA RACQUETBALL NEWS

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 The Official Voice of the
 Louisiana Racquetball Association

AN AFFILIATE
 OF



The Louisiana Racquetball Association is proud to present its second newsletter of the year. Louisiana Racquetball News is a quarterly publication for the Louisiana Racquetball Association and is recognized as the "official voice of Louisiana racquetball."

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Paul Baum.....	Area Representative - New Orleans	- Region VII

The Executive Committee Meets

On January 20th, the Executive Committee of the Louisiana Racquetball Association met at the new and beautiful Courtyard Racquetball and Health Club in Alexandria.

The purpose of this meeting was to adopt the Articles of Organization and the Constitution for the Louisiana Racquetball Association. Also, the direction the LRA will take to promote racquetball in the State of Louisiana was determined. The following priorities were established.

1. We will incorporate the Louisiana Racquetball Association as a non-profit organization.
2. We will provide literature to promote memberships in the USRA and the LRA.
3. We will provide promotional items and assistance for all tournaments that are sanctioned by the LRA.
4. We will publish an LRA quarterly newsletter.
5. We will provide state rankings for all players in Louisiana.

We would like to thank Fred Guillot for his gracious hospitality at the meeting.

Calendar of Events
Winter/Spring - 1979

<u>Month</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
March	16-18	Louisiana Seniors, Masters, Golden Masters Championships	Hank Stram Racquetball Club Kenner, La.
April	5 - 8	NRC/USRA Regionals	Racquetball/Handball Courts San Antonio, Texas
	22-24	I.R.A. Regionals	Court House I Marietta, Ga.
	27-29	Baton Rouge Open	The Wallbanger Court Club Baton Rouge, La.
May	24-29	I.R.A. Nationals	Supreme Courts Sports Center Las Vegas, Nevada
June	9-18	NRC/USRA National Championships	Tempe, Arizona
	19-22	USRA Junior Regionals	
	22-24	Louisiana Doubles Championships	The Courtyard Racquetball Club Alexandria, La.
August	TBA	New Orleans Open	Hank Stram Racquetball Club Kenner, La.
	13-18	USRA Junior Nationals	
Sept.	14-16	Louisiana Singles Championships	The Wallbanger Court Club Baton Rouge, La.

Please anyone who is planning a racquetball tournament, or who is aware of any tournaments, contact the Louisiana Racquetball Association office with the dates. We are trying to coordinate the tournament dates to the benefit of our membership.

Hank Stram's Anhaeuser - Lite Open a Success

Hank Stram's first Anhaeuser-Lite Racquetball tournament was held January 26-28 at their beautiful 18 court facility. The tournament attracted 276 players from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida.

We congratulate Paul Baum, Vernon "Duke" Besse, Renee Hebert, Ricky Gonzales and their staff for conducting such a fine tournament. We look forward to next year's tournament.

The winners of the tournament include the following: Men's Open Division - Billy Holiday, Open Consolation - Guy Faget, B Division - Harry Stelly, B Consolation - Steve Stonebreaker, C Division - Mark Bregenzer, C Consolation - David Rigby, Novice Division - Cory Ormand, Novice Consolation - Donnie Rochelle, Seniors Division - Larry Bobbitt, Seniors Consolation - Art Houseman; Women's Open Division - Gail Woods, Open Consolation - Becky Roberts, B Division - Mary Reed, B Consolation - Connie Tiliakos, C Division - Wanda Bonfanti, C Consolation - Shirley Craig, Novice Division - Beverly Bell, Novice Consolation - Peggy Marler.

Louisiana Junior Tournament Postponed

The Louisiana Junior's Racquetball Tournament at the Wallbanger Court Club in Baton Rouge, was postponed. We were informed that junior players do not have to qualify to participate in the regionals or the nationals, therefore we will include the junior divisions in the Louisiana Singles Championships in September. In 1980 the LRA will sponsor a junior racquetball championship tournament during the summer to maximize participation.

Roses are Red But....
the Balls will be Blue

Seamco Sporting Goods has announced the development of a new BLUE racquetball. The ball will be an addition to their present racquetball line - the 444 and 558 (black) and the 559 (green).

According to USRA National Coordinator, Terry Fancher, "This development of the Seamco Blue is probably the best thing that could happen as far as our state associations are concerned. The Blue Seamco will be our official ball and beginning early in 1979 the ball will be used exclusively for all sanctioned tourneys. We want what is best for the players and from all indications we've received, this is the ball everyone wants to use." Terry adds that the ball will be non-pressurized and will not be as "lively" as the 558 yet it will be much more durable.

Most Improved Player in Louisiana to be Awarded

National Racquetball Magazine will offer awards to the 50 most improved players (one from each state). Prizes and awards will be given to the person (male or female) who exhibits the most improvement in their game from September of 1978 to June of 1979.

More details will be available in future issues of National Racquetball Magazine as well as Louisiana Racquetball News.

Keep those scorecards and other pertinent information from each LRA tourney you participate in. And remember --- it is not how well you play, it is how much you improve over the months that counts. All you novice and C players have a definite advantage over the Open players. So get on the court and practice for all the upcoming LRA tourneys.

***Note: State rankings will be published in the May issue of Louisiana Racquetball News. Also, the May issue will be in newspaper form; therefore, if you would like to place an ad in the May issue, please contact Larry Bobbitt at 318-984-7738/7256. The following rates will apply: \$50.00 - full page ad, \$35.00 - half page ad, \$25.00 - quarter page ad. Ad space is limited so act promptly.

The United States Racquetball Association

The United States Racquetball Association (U.S.R.A.) was formed by Bob Kendler in 1973. The responsibility of the Association is to govern amateur racquetball in the United States.

The U.S.R.A. does many things behind the scenes for racquetball. It publishes the official rules of the game, publishes its magazine, *National Racquetball*, has affiliate organizations in virtually every state, and sponsors amateur tournaments, from the National Championships to local events.

The U.S.R.A. rule book, which is free for all U.S.R.A. members, is a yearly publication giving all the rules and regulations under which the game is played. For a free copy contact your state association or the U.S.R.A.

National Racquetball, the monthly publication of the U.S.R.A. is the communications piece of the Association, your voice to what's going on within racquetball. *National Racquetball* is sectionalized to provide the subscriber with as much material on a variety of subjects within our sport as is possible.

Instructional articles are the backbone of *National Racquetball*, with more than 20 pages often devoted to improving your game. Major tournament results, court club news, interesting features and interviews, and a Women in Racquetball section are just some of the many interesting facets to this magazine.

If you are at all "into" racquetball, then you should by all means be "into" *National*

Racquetball. This publication is free with a yearly membership to the U.S.R.A.

U.S.R.A. affiliate organizations began with the work of Terry Fancher, the U.S.R.A.'s national coordinator, who spent a full year contacting various persons and organizations throughout the nation. Terry's goal, and that of the U.S.R.A. was to find capable people everywhere, who would volunteer their services to help organize racquetball on the state level.

Affiliates are encouraged to promote the sport in all areas, with special emphasis on junior and women players. Events sanctioned by state affiliates make them eligible for free balls, souvenir shirts, draw sheets, scorecards, rule books and other materials in the U.S.R.A.'s tournament package.

Two dollars of each subscription that comes into the U.S.R.A.'s treasury is re-imbursed to the states on a per membership basis. Over \$100,000 has been "re-invested" in local racquetball by the U.S.R.A. through its affiliates in the past two years.

This money is used by the states to further promote the game, write and mail newsletters, underwrite tournaments and in general, give the affiliate organizations part of the operating capital that is necessary for them to function.

Many of the tournaments sponsored by the U.S.R.A. are of "major" title, including the National Championships in June each year, which culminates the Labor Day to Summer season.

Additionally, the Regional Championships fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S.R.A., which pays the full air fare round trip to the Nationals for all men and women open singles winners at the Regionals.

Every state championship is part of the U.S.R.A.'s far reaching program, as well as every local tournament sanctioned by the affiliates.

In all over 500 tournaments a year fall under the U.S.R.A.'s jurisdiction. That's plenty of racquetball, - for everyone.

The U.S.R.A. is an amateur organization, and sponsors only amateur tournaments or the amateur brackets of play at a professional tournament. No player who has accepted \$1,000 or more in prize money in the past 12 months may play in U.S.R.A. events.

For further information on the United States Racquetball Association, contact their headquarters at 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076 or phone (312) 673-4000.