

The Racquetball REPORTER

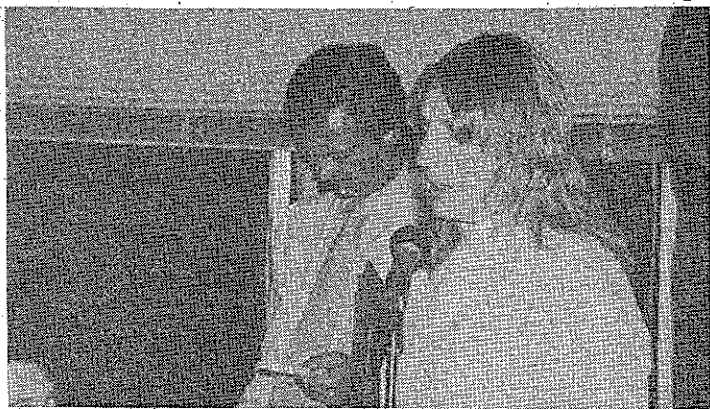
321 Village Dr. Lansing, MI 48911

VOL. 5 NO. 2

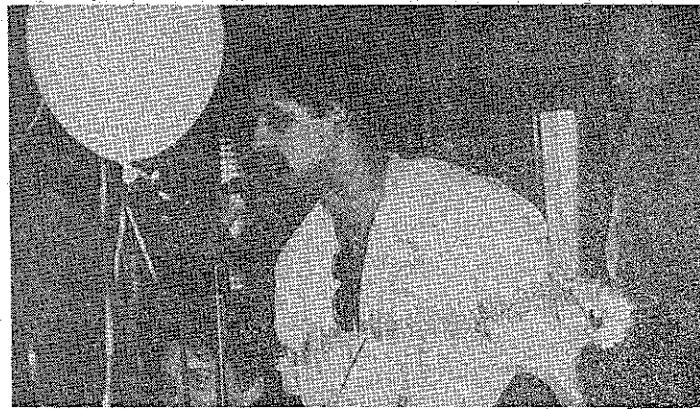
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RACQUETBALL ASSN. OF MICHIGAN

DECEMBER 1987

1987-88 PLAYER AWARDS



Irene Chmura accepting her award for 'Outstanding Female' of the year from Jim Hiser



Ruben Gonzalez accepting the Sportsmanship Award

The Bud Light banquet provided the setting for the presentation of Michigan's most prestigious racquetball awards. The award nominees are selected after evaluating last year's tournament results and the list of nominees is then sent out in August to 50 of Michigan's most prominent racquetball personalities. The Hall of Fame nominees must meet certain established criteria before being selected for inclusion on the ballot. To accentuate the importance of these awards, professional players and manufacturer representatives from Ektelon

and HEAD are asked to make the award presentations.

This year the junior scholarship award was increased to \$2000. Originally the award was set at \$500 but a group of individuals (Dr. Fred Lewerenz, J.R. Slavik, Tom Blakeslee, Jim Hiser and Mike Yellen) decided to make enough contributions to raise the award to the present amount. To qualify for the award the individual must be efficient in both academics and racquetball. This year's scholarship was divided between Jimmy Floyd and Nick Rallis.

Both individuals carried 3.9 grade points, were active in school activities and had excellent racquetball seasons. The award recipients do not receive their scholarships until they are full time registered students in college, and they must continue to play intercollegiate racquetball.

The Hall of Fame inductees for this year were Stu Hastings and Bob Wilhelm. Both inductees had been previously nominated for this prestigious award. Bob in 1984, 85, 86 and Stu in 1985 and 86. The accomplishments of both Stu and Bob

are too numerous to mention, but both recipients will have their photo and description of accomplishments placed in the Hall of Fame display case at Davison Racquet Club.

Other award winners were Outstanding Female - Irene Chmura, Outstanding Male - Stu Hastings, Most Improved Male - Joel Bonnett and Sean McCune, and Most Improved Female - Lori Troszak. Also, the Outstanding Contribution Award went to Dianne Easterling.

Jim Hiser

Additional photos on page 3

BUD LIGHT - HEAD PRO-AM Attracts Largest Draw Ever

The 10th annual Bud Light - HEAD Pro-Am attracted over 550 entrants from three Canadian provinces and twenty-two states. The Bud Light event is annually considered Michigan's premiere racquetball event and this year's tournament was no exception. Hosting a sit-down banquet, outdoor beer tent, two dances, chicken bar-b-que and of course the nation's top players, this year's event was the most successful in the tournament's ten year history.

The banquet is the only banquet on the professional tour and provides the forum for the presentation of both amateur and professional awards. Receiving professional awards for 1986-87 were Bret Harnett - outstanding player; Ruben Gonzalez - sportsmanship and Egan Inoue - most improved. Also receiving awards were Michigan's outstanding racquetball players from last season (see player award story).

Cliff Swain started the 87-88 season by defeating Marty Hogan 11-4, 7-11, 2-11, 11-8, 11-5. Swain's devastating serve and

tremendous retrieving ability proved too much for Marty on this occasion. Marty displayed his immaturity by insulting both the spectators and sponsors during his acceptance speech. Marty's inability to comprehend the realism of professional racquetball combined with his declining popularity seems to have produced an overpowering frustration which Hogan is unable to handle.

Of the thirty five divisions offered, Michigan players captured 15 titles. Those winners were: Scott McPherson - Mens C; Robert Pfeiffer - Mens D; Joel Bonnett - 18 & Under; Scott Zimmerman - Boys 12 & Under; Al Tackett - Mens 25+; Dave Rodriguez - Mens 30+; Terry Lawlor - Mens 30B; Stu Hastings - Mens 35A+; Jim Hiser - Mens 40A; Charles Wheelihan - Mens 45B; Lynn Hahn - Mens 55+; M. Riley & M. Niedzielski - Mens C Doubles; Carol Collish - Womens A; Tracey Troszak - Womens 19+ and Beth Gutowski - Womens 30A.

With a Budget of over \$37,500 the

Bud Light event requires the support of numerous sponsors to make it a success. The tournament thanks the following major sponsors for their support: Bud Light, HEAD Racquet Sports, PENN Athletic Products, Lewerenz Sports Clinic, Formidable Investments (JR Slavik) and A'ME grips.

Jim Hiser

BUD LIGHT OPEN RESULTS

MENS PRO

1st Cliff Swain Massachusetts
2nd Marty Hogan St. Louis
Semi Egan Inoue, Ed Andrews

MENS OPEN

1st Doug Ganim Ohio
2nd Jeff Evans Oregon
Semi Bill Sell, Chris Cole

MENS A

1st Jeff Clark Ontario
2nd Mike Powers Ontario
Semi Bill Ferguson, Fred D'Angelo

Continued on page 12

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THE RACQUETBALL REPORTER

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Address Correction Requested

STRANGE THINGS ON A COURT

The Perfect Z-Shot

It was during a Pro-Stop at Southfield Racquetimé and I was upstairs watching a match between a couple of "B" level players. In the middle of the first game a player was near the short line on the right side of the court. During the rally, he hit the ball so that it hit high on the front wall, then the left side wall, then the right side wall on or near the back wall crack and then the ball rolled across the back wall. I was standing upstairs and looking straight down the back wall and I mean the ball literally **ROLLED ACROSS THE BACK WALL!!!** That is what I call the perfect Z-shot.

Jim Easterling

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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 (MARA) 1982 - 83
Bob Szuch (MRA) 1983 - 84
Larry Cole (MARA) 1983 - 84

☆☆☆☆☆ 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

- What does GRRPA stand for?
- Who was responsible for setting up the "Super 7" set of racquetball tournaments?
- In 1978 the USRA Nationals were held in Michigan. What club was it held at?
- What does Mike Anderson do for a living?
- Who are the two people who set up and run the MCRA tournaments?
- What club holds an Annual Womens Only Racquetball tournament?
- Who is the Junior Regional Director in Michigan?
- What did Judy Huhta, Gary Doty, and Bob Wilhelm all have in common? (Hint: Think State Association)
- Back in the 70's there was a group formed, called MPE, that ran all the MRA tournaments for awhile. What did MPE stand for?
- Who is the person in Picture #10?
- Who is the person in Picture #11?
- Who is the person in Picture #12?
- Who is the person in Picture #13?
- What is the name of the club in Picture #14?
- What is the name of the club in Picture #15?

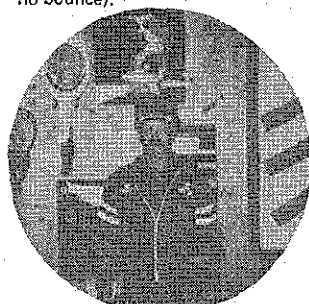
BIG HINT: Some of the answers are in this newsletter and the last newsletter.

WINNERS OF "TRIVIA 15 CONTEST" FOR SEPTEMBER 1987 ISSUE

Jack Sisinger was the 1st place winner with 10 correct answers (out of 20). Vicki Schulte came in 2nd place with 7 correct answers. Both people will receive a free entry to the state singles or state doubles championships.

Don't you think that you are as smart as Jack and Vicki? Come on and enter the Trivia 15 Contest. Maybe you will win a free entry!

ANSWERS TO "TRIVIA 15 CONTEST" — September issue of The Racquetball Reporter: 1) Mike Anderson; 2) Lisa Ecker; 3) Fred Lewerenz; 4) Joetta Hastings; 5) Charles Brumfield defeated Mike Yellen in 3 games; 6) Three (Michigan Racquetball Association - MRA, Michigan Amateur Racquetball Association - MARA, Racquetball Association of Michigan - RAM); 7) Southfield Racquetimé; 8) Denny Wood was president 4 times; 9) Jim Easterling (61 hours & 10 minutes); 10) Craig Finger; 11) Dan Kroger; 12) Lisa Letarte; 13) Jim Skinner; 14) Bob Swanson; 15) Annie Hagenah (She was the consolation winner at the 87 nationals in the B & under girls no bounce).



Picture #10



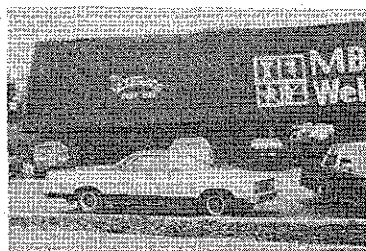
Picture #11



Picture #12



Picture #13



Picture #14



Picture #15

EDITOR'S CORRECTIONS

(From the September 1987 Issue)

In the "Trivia 15 Contest" question number five (5) has 1987 and it should have been 1978.

In the "Third Annual Women's Fall Head Start" article the names under the pictures were in the wrong position. Irene Churma is the lady on the right and Beth Gutowski is the lady on the left. Also Claire Kruse is the lady on the right and Denise McConnolee is the lady on the left. My apologies for these errors.

NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR

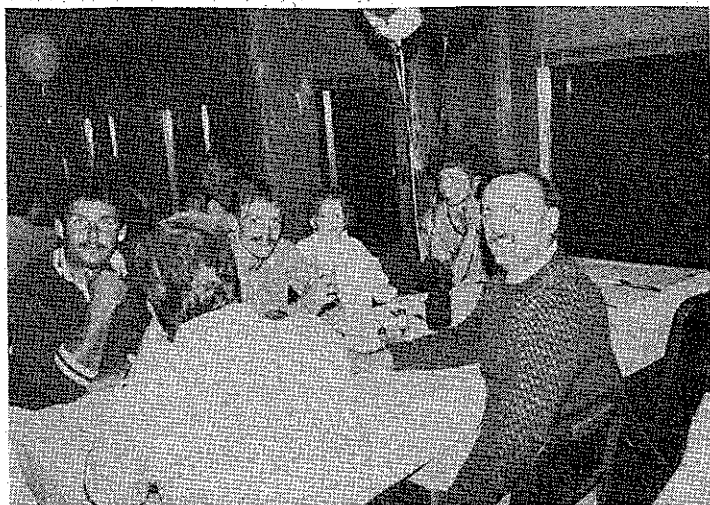
A new regional director for region 9 (Michigan, West Virginia and Ohio) has been selected by Jim Hiser, previous regional director.

Mr. Hiser's hectic traveling schedule made it necessary to select a new regional commissioner who would be able to spend more time on local programs.

Jim Easterling, former state director, was selected to be the new director. Mr. Easterling has been involved with Michigan racquetball since its inception some 15 years ago and brings a wide range of experience to his new position.

Jim Easterling and junior regional director Tom Blakeslee will be expected to attend a state and regional directors' seminar at the United State Olympic Training Camp in Colorado Springs, January 23rd through the 26th.

Jim Hiser



Some players enjoying themselves during the Awards Banquet



People helping themselves to the great hospitality at the Awards Banquet



Jim Hiser (center) is the MC of the Bud Light Awards Banquet held at the Davison Racquet Club

"FROM THE RULE BOOK"

by W.T. Blakeslee

TIMEOUTS:

Leave the court, with or without asking, to change your equipment, take a blow or to assess your performance.

INJURY TIMEOUTS:

Do not charge a timeout, last a total of only 15 minutes

EYEGUARDS:

Lensed and mandatory over the eyes for an AARA-RAM sanctioned tournament (new rule revision)

FIRST SERVE FAULTS:

Screens, long serve, short serve (new rule revision)

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Third Annual Women's Fall Head Start

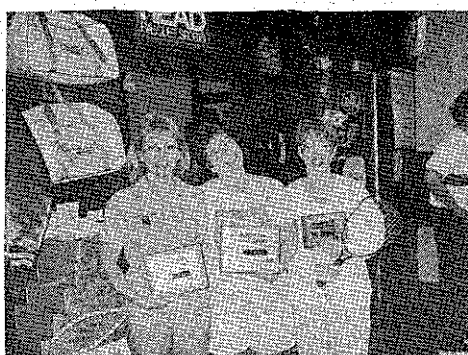
Hosted by: COURT HOUSE CLUB
617 Hemphill Road
Flint, Michigan 48507

1987 FINAL RESULTS - September 17 & 18

OPEN			"B"			"D"		
1st	Joetta Hastings	Court House Club	1st	Barb Rockwell	Court House Club	1st	Pam Harkleroad	Courtland
	Clarkston, MI			Clio, MI			Utica, MI	
2nd	Irene Ackerman Chmura	Gateway Racquet Club	2nd	Karen Visgar	Gateway Racquet Club	2nd	Donella Rak	Court House Club
	Troy, MI			Warren, MI			Davison, MI	
3rd	Tracey Trozak	Backwall Racquet Club	3rd	Edith Withey	Court House Club	3rd	Norm Jean St John	Gateway Racquet Club
	Warren, MI			Flint, MI			Roseville, MI	
4th	Carol Collins	Court House Club	4th	Judy Walzak	Gateway Racquet Club	4th	Kyon Goebel	Superior Health & Racquet
	Livonia, MI			Frazier, MI			Rapid River, MI	
"A"			"C"			NOVICE		
1st	Debbie Weston	Court Rooms North	1st	Lori Eller	Davison Racquet Club	1st	Cynthia Willis	Court House Club
	Pt. Huron			Davison, MI			Flint, MI	
2nd	Priscilla Washburn	Ann Arbor Court Club	2nd	Lorna Rocheleau	Maple Leaf Racquet Club	2nd	Cathy Blondin	Court House Club
	Ypsilanti, MI			Tecumseh, Ont.			Flint, MI	
3rd	Julie May	Traverse City Racquet Club	3rd	Claire Kruze	Backwall Racquet Club	3rd	Joan Nelson	Ann Arbor Court Club
	Traverse City, MI			Rochester, MI			Ann Arbor, MI	
4th	Lona Morris	Court House Club	4th	Sandy Pawlowski	Backwall Racquet Club	4th	Mary Donaldson	Court House Club
	Flushing, MI			Madison Hts., MI			Flint, MI	



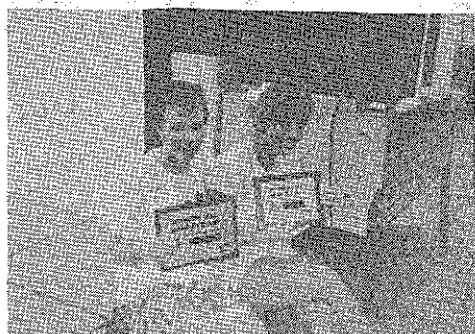
LADIES A - Julie May, Traverse City - 3rd (left); Debbie Weston, Pt. Huron - 1st (mid); Priscilla Washburn, Ypsilanti - 2nd (right)



LADIES C - (left to right) Lorna Rocheleau, Tecumseh, Ontario - 2nd; Lori Eller, Davison, Michigan - 1st; Claire Kruze, Rochester, Michigan - 3rd. Lori wanted to enter D and won C - Next year B!



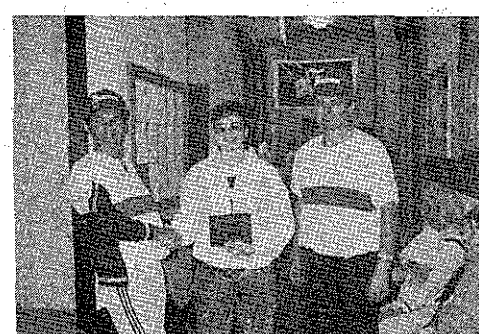
LADIES OPEN - (left to right) Irene Chmura, Troy - 2nd; Joetta Hastings, Clarkston - 1st; Tracey Trozak, Warren - 3rd



NOVICE - Cynthia Willis - 1st and Cathy Blondin - 2nd sit down after finals of 1st Sanctioned Tourney.



WOMENS C - (left to right) Pam Harkleroad, Utica - 1st; Donella Rak, Davison - 2nd; Norma Jean St. John, Roseville - 3rd



CERTIFIED REFEREE Larry Harris awards plaque to Tracey Trozak, Jim Skinner watches. All matches were refereed by furnished Certified Referees.

COMMENTS: The 1987 WOMEN'S FALL HEAD START hosted by COURT HOUSE CLUB in Flint, Michigan had the best ladies' B&C tournament action of any of the annual WOMEN'S ONLY tournaments thus far. Entrants included players from all areas of the state and it appears the reputation for fine competition and great socializing has spread. Many of this year's finalists were returning players from lower divisions of years past.

OPEN DIVISION CHAMPION was Joetta Hastings of Clarkston, Michigan, COURT HOUSE CLUB who won the double elimination tournament without a single match loss. Last year's Champion and last year's outstanding female player, Irene Chmura from Troy, finished in second after losing in the second round and battling her way back to the finals through the losers' bracket, but her tie-breaker win in the semis (15-14, 14-15, 11-6) against Tracey Grozak from Gateway took its toll when it came to the challenge in the finals against Hastings (15-7, 15-2).

Debbie Weston from Port Huron, COURT ROOMS NORTH, last year's second place finisher breezed through the largest A DIVISION draw ever in this tournament. However, the competition for second, third and fourth was terrific. Priscilla Washburn, from Ann Arbor Court Club, after being beaten in the second round by Julie May from Traverse City (15-2, 15-12) earned a rematch in the Semis and defeated her in a tie-breaker dual

(15-13, 6-15, 11-7). Priscilla was challenged in every match going to tie-breaker finish with Lona Morris in the Quarters (15-8, 13-15, 11-8).

Competition in the B DIVISION was keen and spotlighted by the entry of Linda Cok from the inter-collegiate team at FERRIS STATE COLLEGE. Excitement prevailed in this tough division where Barb Rockwell, COURT HOUSE CLUB, went to the championship without a lost match, but had to play a tie-breaker in every match, except the finals when she defeated Karen Visgar, Gateway Racquet Club. Visgar, who had lost in the second round to Edith Withey, COURT HOUSE CLUB (15-12, 9-15, 11-6) played a great rematch victory (15-4, 15-8) in the semis to win her final chance at Rockwell. It was a great second place finish (15-11, 15-8).

Last year's Novice Champion Claire Kruze made the big jump and went for the C DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP which finally matched Davison's Lori Eller and Lorna Rocheleau, from Tecumseh, Ontario in a tie-breaker final with Lori winning the top spot (15-7, 10-15, 11-6). Claire was third, watch for her next year.

D DIVISION was won by newcomer Pam Harkleroad, Courtland Racquet Club. Competition was intense in this, the largest division draw in the tournament. The final place was determined in a tie-breaker win over Donella Rak, COURT HOUSE CLUB (14-15, 15-9, 11-5). By Sunday afternoon, each of the finalists had played a

minimum of five matches and they had all entered a test of endurance as well as skill.

In her first sanctioned tournament ever Cynthia Willis, COURT HOUSE CLUB, won the final in the NOVICE DIVISION over COURT HOUSE CLUB's Cathy Blondin in a tie-breaker (11-15, 15-10, 11-8).

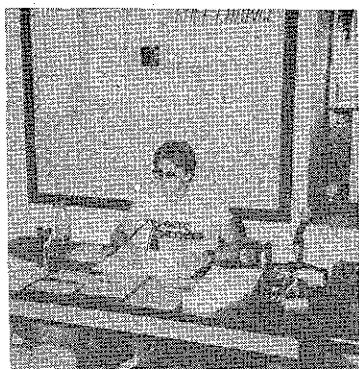
This year's FALL WOMEN'S HEAD START was a huge success. Sponsored HEAD PLAYERS contributed a great deal to the success of the tournament. Al May, Golden Masters teaching pro from COURT HOUSE CLUB was Head Referee for the event and coordinated the training and scheduling of the referees for the tournament. Stu Hastings, Team Head Coordinator and the best known teaching pro in the Michigan area, conducted a Racquetball training clinic on Saturday night after the evening banquet.

HEAD RACQUET SPORTS COMPANY made a significant contribution to see that the "1987 WOMEN'S FALL HEAD START" was a memorable experience for Michigan's women racquetball players. Each woman that entered the tournament was given an individually packaged "HEAD AIR EXPRESS" ball. Also, each player received a complimentary "HEAD TOURNAMENT SWEATSHIRT".

This was the third year for this all women's event at COURT HOUSE CLUB. If you did not attend this year, put it on your calendar for 1988.

Jim Skinner

8th Annual Harbor Cove Open



Pat Goodwin working behind the tournament desk at the "8th Annual Harbor Cove Open"

This year's Harbor Cove Open was a great success due to the large draw we received. The 169 entries that came to the tournament first of the year, hopefully were impressed by our Northern Michigan hospitality. This hospitality was definitely expressed by our outstanding support by local sponsors.

With the tournament lasting three days many of the players got time to see some of Northern Michigan's beauty, while relaxing and playing. Being the first tournament of the year many people expected disorganization, poor to mediocre hospitality, and some sloppy play. With the tournament running smoothly and hospitality up to par, the only thing questionable was the play. Boy did they play! By Sunday the finalists were playing very intensely for that first victory of the year.

After losing to Larry Longiere in a tough 3 setter in the Men's 30+ A's, Randy Anderson came right back and took Nick Rallis in an exciting 3 set finally in Men's Open, to close out the tournament. In Men's C. Joe Mullin took care of one Canadian uprising in John Marecki. Meanwhile Dave Miller was besting Steve Estes in a tough 3 setter for the Men's D crown. Although surviving the Harbor Cove Party the night before, many of the Men's 19+ players finding the road to the finals pretty rough were Dave Larry who survived Todd Luethjohann for the title Mike Schaefer steered through the second Canadian uprising in John Coccimiglio for the 30B hardware 35A's saw Rick

Vanderlind outlast Mike Stephens in a tough division race. Dave Dalke beat double semi-finalist John Marecki in the Men's 35B's 35C's sported a tough 3 setter with Scott McConnelee beating Vern Hill. The most intense match on Sunday must go to the 2 1/2 hour 3 setter in Men's 55+ where John St. Clair outlasted J.D. Driver.

Womens action saw Tracey Troszak take home the Hardware for both Open and 19+, where Kathy Stella made good showings. Kim Tucker came from behind to beat Melody Matties for the Women's A Title. Meanwhile Cheryl King was besting Piper Worthington in a tough 3 setter in Women's C.

On the local scene, quite a bit of hardware was stayed home. Local winners saw Tim Sigafos from Indian River take home the Men's A Title from Sean McCune. Meanwhile Dennis Lechowicz of Petoskey beat Harbor's Kurt Erxleben for the Men's C Honors. In Novice action, Locals Tom Kolinske and Jackie Sigafos came out on top in their double elimination formats.

Hopefully everyone was happy with the outcome of this year's tournament. I was real pleased with everything and very grateful for everyone's energetic support. Special thanks go out to Dianne and Jim Easterling on their help in coordinating and running this tournament. Also, special thanks to the staff at L.T.R.C. for their great efforts in handling the Club's double tournament action. L.T.R.C. hopes to see everyone again next year!

Pat Goodwin, Tournament Director

RESULTS OF HARBOR COVE OPEN TOUR

MO	Randy Anderson def. Nick Rallis
MA	Tim Sigafos def. Sean McCune
MB	Joe Mullin def. John Marecki
MC	Dennis Lechowicz def. Kurt Erxleben
MD	Dave Miller def. Steve Estes
MNov.	Tom Kolinske def. Frank Kozlowski
M30A	Larry Long def. Randy Anderson
M30B	Mike Schaffer def. John Coccimiglio
M35A	Rick Vanderlind def. Mike Stephens
M35B	Dave Dalke def. John Marecki
M35C	Scott McConnelee def. Vern Hill
M55	John St. Clair def. J.D. Driver
B19	Dave Larry def. Todd Luethjohann
WO	Tracey Troszak def. Kathy Stella
WA	Kim Tucker def. Melody Matties
WC	Cheryl King def. Piper Worthington
WNov.	Jackie Sigafos def. Michele Gagnon
G19	Tracey Troszak def. Kathy Stella

Hastings Wins National Title At HEAD - PRO-AM Championship

Minneapolis, Minnesota was the site for the 1987 Professional & Amateur National Championship. This championship had seven of our state players traveling last June. Vito Basirico, Don Morey, Jim Hiser, Mike Anderson, Sean McCune, Scott Worthy, and Stu Hastings traveled to the last major singles championship tournament held this year.

Stu Hastings won the Veterans National Title. In the final match he won 15-5, 15-4. When asked if it was an easy win, he replied, "by the score it appears to have been easy, but in reality I probably have never played a more perfect match in my

life. I just happened to put together the perfect match when I needed it the most. We all know that to be that "on" never seems to happen when we need it. I was just lucky it came together when a national title was on the line."

Don Morey won the Class D title while his best friend, Vito Basirico, was a semi-finalist in Class D. Sean McCune finished 2nd.

Stu is the club pro at the Backwall Racquet Club in Madison Heights and Meadowbrook Racquet and Fitness Center. Vito and Don are members at Meadowbrook.

Stu Hastings

Women's Metro League News

The Women's Touring League started the 87-88 season in October and the teams are looking forward to the second half.

The standings as of November 1st are:

Sunday Level I	1st Gateway I
	2nd Gateway II
Sunday Level II	1st Gateway
	2nd Mt. Clemens
Sunday Level IV	1st Mt. Clemens
	2nd Maple Courts
Thursday Level II	1st Mt. Clemens

2nd Gateway I
Thursday Level III 1st Gateway Gators
2nd Warren Spirits

The second half of the season will begin in January. Rosters will be due at the January 5th meeting. The meeting will take place at Gateway Racquetball Center, Sterling Heights (264-2270) at 7:00 pm. Anyone who is interested in joining a team or forming a team is welcome to attend.

Alida Mainhardt

National Success in Houston

A group of our top Michigan players traveled to Houston, Texas for the 1987 AARA (American Amateur Racquetball Association) National Championship tournament. The following players were some of those attending this 5 day tournament: Chris Kelly, Jack White, Sandie White, Dan Dutcher, Irene Chmura, Lori Troszak, Tracy Troszak, Joetta Hastings, Stu Hastings, Sheri Anderson, Mike Anderson, Randy Anderson, Nick Rallis, Ken Bonnet, Jim Hiser, and Mike Stephens.

There were over 900 entries in the tournament. Michigan had several players do very well. Irene Chmura finished 2nd in

the 30+ division winning the silver medal. Sheri Anderson also took the silver medal as she finished 2nd in 19+ division. Stu Hastings finished 3rd in 30+ finishing with the bronze medal. Nick Rallis took 1st in the nonchampionship Class B division.

Jim Hiser was again awarded a standing ovation at the awards banquet held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, for his outstanding annual slide show. All of the players from Michigan enjoyed themselves not only because of the excellent competition but there were several parties to attend as well. Many players finished first in the party division and last in wake up calls.

Stu Hastings

Lynn Hahn Hall of Fame Tournament

The MBA Health and Wellness Center in Muskegon was the site of the third annual Lynn Hahn Hall of Fame tournament on October 9, 10, 11. This is the only tournament in Michigan to be held in honor of one of the state's premier players - Lynn Hahn.

One of the major highlights of the tournament is Saturday night's banquet or should I say feast. Included for all players in the price of the \$25 entry fee this year's fare included roast beef, ham, barbecue ribs, baked potato, rolls, salad, numerous desserts as well as beverages. This is not to mention the shrimp appetizers. Introduced at the banquet were the semi-finals in the pro open as well as the events sponsors.

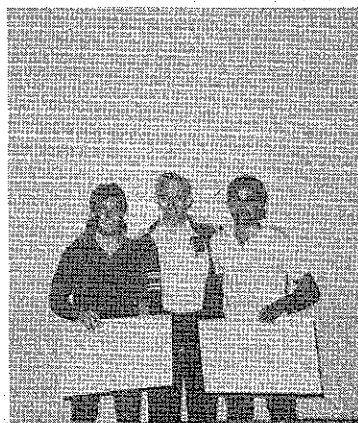
Another highlight was the play in the pro open division where first place was \$500 and second place was \$300. In the best quarterfinal match of the tournament, Sean Moskwa of Illinois beat Mike Anderson. This was an intense match marked by a high degree of sportsmanship and court

manners. After defeating Mike, Sean went on to play a tough 3 game match with the tournament's #1 seed Jack Newman, losing in the tiebreaker. The other semi-final saw Doug Ganim of Ohio defeat Jeff Plazek of Wisconsin to send up the finals between the #1 and #2 seeds Newman and Ganim. The finals saw Ganim defeat 2 time Lynn Hahn tournament winner Newman in two games. Doug played nearly flawlessly and never allowed Jack to get into the match. In addition to his first place prize money, Doug is awarded a complimentary entry into the 1988 Lynn Hahn Hall of Fame tournament.

The tournament's namesake Lynn Hahn continued his dominance in a division he has been successful in for the last ten years. Lynn won the men's 45A defeating a tough Tom Sharum from Grand Rapids.

We would like to thank all of the sponsors who made this tournament possible, especially Penn Athletic Products and Bud Light.

Dianne Easterling



Jack Newman took 2nd place in the Men's Pro (winning \$300.00) at far left. Doug Ganim took 1st place (winning \$500.00). Lynn Hahn standing in center.



Mark King, being a great host, carrying a tray of shrimp around to some of the players at the Lynn Hahn Hall of Fame tournament.

THE PERFECT PLUM

by Tom Steinbach

About the Author: Mr. Tom Steinbach is and has been an active supporter of racquetball. Tom's two children, Kim and Lee, were Michigan State Junior Champions in past years. The Steinbachs currently live in Michigan's U.P. and drastically miss racquetball. In fact, Tom's son Lee (15) says racquetball is the only activity he misses.

R. Hall

Hi, Susie Smothers here. I'm twelve Well... really I'm eleven and a half... but I look twelve! — at least the boys say I do. My brother and I are in Florida attending the national racquetball portion of the Junior Orange Bowl.

Hundreds of star juniors representing racquetball's best are here competing in grueling, fight-to-the-finish, contests. My first-round match, for example, was a thriller which went to the eleven point tie-breaker. I lost it. And entered the long list of those who have been beaten by the number one and number two seeds of the tournament.

Oh well... my brother is still in the tournament so there remains a player who is proudly wearing a collared shirt with the name "SMOTHERS" embroidered across the back.

Coming into today's championship rounds, my brother was the only "giant

killer" still playing in the tournament. His triumphant, first-round match against the number two seed was awesome. Boy was I proud!

In today's match his opponent is Johnny Lee Mack — number one seed! He even looks the part: dark wavy hair, suntanned, rippled with muscles. His lean, muscular frame swiftly leaps about the court like a jungle cat.

Since the first day he has had an ever-increasing troupe of followers who support him with loud chanting which I don't mind saying, "I can't stand!"

When he entered the court for today's championship match against my brother, they were already screaming loud enough to scare the dust bunnies out of the court: "Panther!" "Panther!" "Panther!"

And besides that, next to the jungle panther my brother, William Tell Smothers III (I will call him "Bill" for obvious reasons), looked more like a brainy, computer whiz-kid than a finalist in a national racquetball tournament. Wire-rimmed, Coke bottle-bottom glasses were always the first thing anyone ever noticed when my not-so-muscular brother Bill entered the court. And, behind those magnifiers they saw a clear, boyish face. He is, after all, nearly two years younger

than Johnny Lee Mack.

Speaking of him: as he stood by the side glass wall of the court with shoulders so broad and with so well-developed arms and legs, I truly began to fear all that I was hearing around me: Johnny Lee probably did have a banana-peel slide into the championship!

Before seeing the two of them there actually together, I had really felt that the courtside talk was going to be wrong and that my brother was going to win this Junior Orange Bowl. But when I saw them together — Johnny Lee was awesome looking.

My hopes began to build once again, however, when Bill moved toward the front section of the court. That's where he practices his favorite shot: he calls it the layup option.

He coined the feather-touch shot a layup" for its ease and reliability; thus, to him it closely resembled the simple layup in basketball. The shot is a low, soft pinch which he has so mastered that it simply floats into the front forehand corner. When he's on, I have never seen anyone be able to get to it before its second bounce. And I have never seen another junior ever shoot the layup shot as efficiently and lightly, as my brother.

Another key to his overwhelming success with the shot is his computer-mind patience. Moving to the front of the court, he always knows where he is, where the ball is, and where his opponent is. With the racquet up and arm muscles flexed, his eyes are trained to watch his opponent with peripheral vision as they stay focused on the forward-moving ball. Finally, as the ball floats closer toward the front, he never reveals his choice of shots until his opponent makes the first move: that is, whether he is going to lightly hit his layup or smash its option — a hard low down-the-line screamer!

In game one, however, Johnny Lee Mack never gave him the chance to even try it once. Even worse, when the score was 11-2 and the large, patronizing noise machine was raising the roof, Johnny Lee dove nearly a third of the court! — extending his racquet straight out in front of him — to put away a cross court pass! That flying spectacle caused the loud, boisterous pulsating to throb throughout the rest of the game.

The final score was: 15-2 Mack.

In game two the piercing pandemonium started with Johnny Lee's first point. It continued until halfway through. During the vile massacre, I leaned back against the chair so that my embroidered "SMOTHERS" shirt couldn't be read. I seriously even considered retreating to a quiet, solitary game of Donkey Kong.

Bill's agility, however, finally sparked! And we could see the momentum begin to switch.

Getting frustrated, Johnny Lee began to lose his precise hitting and timing. Consequently, my brother was to be able to play his style of ball. His computer mind and his awesome control muzzled Johnny Lee and his rambunctious crowd for the better part of the remainder of the game.

The final score for game two was 15-13 Smothers!

Going to the courtside drinking fountain to splash water on his face, game two was his; but he had fought so hard that he looked like a wrung-out two year old's diaper!

Rebuking his body's demand for rest, I could sense that he was telling himself that his exhaustion would be gone the moment he stepped back on the court. Then he knew that from somewhere down deep within, latent energy would surface

Next, I could see him trying to focus upon what had been the key to the turnaround in game two which had given him the victory. His computer's decision (I found out later — probably at least a dozen times just in our long ride home!) was that it was his ability to keep the ball in play until Johnny Lee made a poor hit which resulted in his being able to shoot his most lethal shot: the layup option.

Still looking down at him I saw him savor one last long drink and smile. I did too!

I then turned and looked over at Johnny Lee Mack. He was still sitting, frustrated and dejected, by the glass back wall of their court: his head down between his knees. His shirt and shorts were thoroughly soaked.

"Mark," I heard a neighbor-spectator say to a friend. "I really like this Smother's kid."

"Me too!" I heard the other one say as I felt goosebumps on my bare arms. "In fact, Sam, I believe many in this crowd have gained a real interest in young Mr. Smothers. Not only has he silenced Mack's speed and followers, but I really think that he has caused many here to switch over to his side."

"He sure deserves a larger backing," the first one said, as tears formed in my eyes. "It certainly would be an honor to this match if half would make known their allegiance."

At that moment the noise machine came back alive.

"Panther! Panther!"

"Smothers! Smothers!"

"Panther! Panther!"

"Smothers! Smothers! Smothers!"

My heart was in my throat when I saw "thumbs-up" signals flash between the two courtside strategists as Johnny Lee and my brother prepared to begin the eleven point tie-breaker.

I promptly sat forward! — redisplaying with a thrill my embroidered "SMOTHERS" shirt!

But... I was too anxious.

Johnny Lee served first, and promptly scored a series of quick points. When my brother wasn't able to break his fifth serve, he had to take his "only" time out. The score was 5-0 and the earsplitting volume of the panther machine was revved back up.

"I need to get alone," I could sense my troubled brother say as he sought in vain for a quiet, solitary place. "I need to be able to think this through."

But it was no use.

The "breaking-the-momentum" theory of taking a well-timed time out, however, worked — enabling him to make an easy layup to finish the next rally. With that turnover the tie-breaker became a thrilling, crowd-pleasing, roll-em and pull-em hit-em and pinch-em, super spectacle.

The two mystified us with their fanatical play. And... as the game progressed we all realized that even the quickness of the panther was no match when the opportunity of the layup option came.

My brother tied the score 10-10 with such a gentle layup that the crowd's hysterics rocked the building and Johnny Lee called an angry: "TIME OUT!" (I was surprised and pleased to note that, to his credit, he didn't take his wrath out on the court's door.) Still the crowd was on my brother's side:

"Smothers! Smothers!"

"Smothers! Smothers!"

"Smothers! Smothers!"

"Smothers! Smothers!"

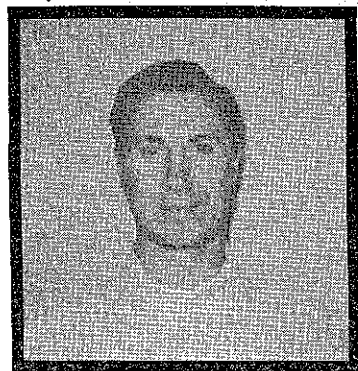
Johnny Lee's coach wisely pulled him into an empty court and gave him the strategic plan he would need to stop Bill's next attempted layup option.

"Of course," I'm sure his coach said as he ended the pep talk, "Johnny Lee, this

Continued on page 8

EDITOR'S JUDGEMENT CALL

As some of you may know I, Jim Easterling, am the editor of "The Racquetball Reporter." The Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM) puts out 4 newsletters a year and I have been the editor since May 1986. "The Racquetball Reporter" has all the normal things you'd expect in a newsletter such as tournament results, ads, a rule article, an instruction article, and a tournament schedule.



JIM EASTERLING

Editor of The Racquetball Reporter

I am always trying new things and adding new articles to the newsletter to make it more interesting for you. Below I have listed some of the different articles that have been in the newsletter, with some comments, to hopefully make it a better newsletter.

- 1) Collegiate Racquetball
- 2) Women's Metro League
- 3) Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons
- 4) RAM Board Meeting Minutes
- 5) Strange Things on a Court
- 6) RAM Facility Listing
- 7) Racquetball Dealer
- 8) Trivia 15 Contest
- 9) Address Correction Requested

Some of the things listed above may help you directly. If you have a racquet you would like to sell or you need some draw sheets you can check the "Racquetball Dealer."

If you have a friend you are inviting to your club for the first time, give him/her the back page of the newsletter (RAM Facility Listing) and they now have the address to the club, the phone number, the number of racquetball courts, and some general information about your club. By the way, if your club isn't in the "RAM Facility Listing" maybe you should ask your club pro or manager "Why?"

You could win a free entry (\$25.00) into the State Championships like Vicki Schulte and Jack Sisinger did by entering the Trivia 15 Contest. Not bad for 30 minutes of your time and a 22¢ stamp.

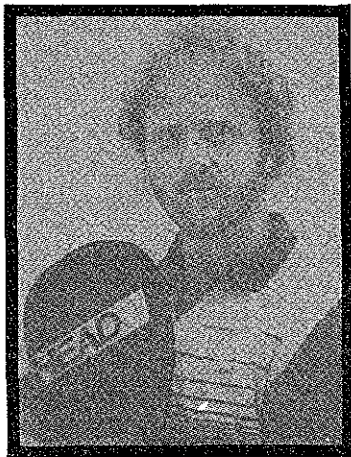
In the event that you should happen to move, most people leave their change of address with the post office. On the front page of "The Racquetball Reporter" we have an "Address Correction Requested." What this means is that the newsletter comes back to me with your new address (at a charge of 30¢ per newsletter). I write up all the address changes, 4 times a year, and mail them to the national office in Colorado so they change your address on their computer. This way you, the member, still receive your newsletters and all other racquetball related materials. This is not something that all racquetball newsletters in other states do. This is something that I choose to do to help our members.

This newsletter is published for YOUR benefit. If there is something you would like to see in the newsletter, let me know. If there is something you would like to write about such as a happening at your club, a funny article, your particular point of view about something or someone, please don't hesitate to mail me something. I am always looking for new things and new writers for the newsletter. Please call me or mail articles to me at the address below.

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

DO YOU DESERVE A SLUMP TODAY?

by Stu Hastings



STU HASTINGS

3 Time RAM Male Player of The Year
Olympic Training Camp Coaching Staff
Club Pro at Backwall Racquet Club
Club Pro at
Meadowbrook Racquet and Fitness Center

The first step to getting out of a slump is to know when you are in a slump. Define the problem. What is a slump?

A slump may be defined as playing below your normal standard. We will all play badly from time to time. How long must you play badly to constitute a slump? A bad game? A bad match? A bad tournament? Below standard for a week or a month? There is no set answer to this question. Only you can answer this question based on your normal level of consistency.

I feel that there are many different causes for slumps. Slumps are not always simple to pinpoint. They are many times multifaceted. Listed below are a few common causes of slumps and their cures.

SLUMP 1: Overthinking — This is when people over analyze everything. They skip 2 shots in a row and talk themselves into a slump. They figure that every bad shot, game, match, or tournament has a reason.

CURE 1: Sometimes s---t happens and you just get beat. Don't turn a mole hill into a mountain. Sometimes you need to relax and go with the flow. If you don't, you can mentally bring on a slump just like an illness.

SLUMP 2: Playing over your head — This happens when you are always playing competition too high for your level.

CURE 2: It is good to play better players, but you should have a mixture: players below you that you can experiment on; players equal to you that you play dead even; and players above you that you try to play up to, which helps raise your level of play. The key is balance. If you are learning to swim in the deep end, be careful that you don't drown before you learn.

SLUMP 3: Lack of good competition — You play to the level that you are playing. If you only have lower level players to play, you tend to lower your standard or level of play.

CURE 3: You may have to travel to other clubs to find the better players, but exposure to this level is the only way to reach it.

SLUMP 4: Injury — An injury can make you tentative and unsure of yourself. Depending on the seriousness of the injury and the length of time away from the game can determine how you will be affected.

CURE 4: Try and keep your mind in the game even if you can't play physically. Read, watch tournaments, referee, talk

racquetball, etc. Once I was in a cast for 6 weeks with a bad ankle. Even though I couldn't play or move, I would stand with most of my weight on my right foot and drill certain shots. I would work on shots that didn't need movement. I worked on around the wall balls, ceiling balls, drop and hit shots from all areas of the court, and kill shots. Until this time I basically tried to beat my opponent by angles. I would move him from side to side, front to back, until he was out of position to make one of my shots a winner. This is a good enough strategy, but there are times when you need to kill the ball to be effective. It was during this ankle-cast period that I worked on ending the rally with 1 shot. I would give myself a setup and pretend that I couldn't move another step. (I guess I really wasn't pretending) and I had to end the rally on this next shot.

Until this time I had always heard that kill shots were low percentage shots. However, I soon realized that the more you practice a shot the more high percentage it becomes. After all, if you make more than you miss, it's high percentage. As the game has evolved in the 80's, shooting the ball is a tool that all good players must have when needed. This is why I tell people that sometimes injuries can make them better players because it makes them slow down and think about the game, rather than only play physically.

SLUMP 5: Lost play time due to family, work, or personal obligations.

CURE 5: Sometimes we love this game so much that we feel it is as important as family, work, and life obligations. Even though we hate to admit it, racquetball is recreation, something to be played after our obligations are met, not to be used to avoid these obligations. What I mean, is take care of these obligations first and clear your mind. If you don't, it's always in the back of your mind while you are trying to play, and playing just will not be as fun. It detracts from the feeling. The key is to keep a balance in life. Like I told a racquetball friend recently, "It's tough to play top racquetball when your personal or professional life is not in order."

SLUMP 6: Trying to be too creative in your shot selection — This can produce poor execution.

CURE 6: Look at the top professionals of any sport and you will usually find that they win through a consistent steady game plan — not flash. They might show a little razzle dazzle to keep their opponent guessing or off balance, but they stick primarily to a sound high percentage, high execution game plan. The players that always seem to win or be near the top consistently aren't flash players.

SLUMP 7: Overtraining and overplaying — This usually results in a tired or injured player with no desire to play. Our American thinking of more is better comes into play here. This has been one of my greatest problems throughout my career. If 10 hours of racquetball is good, and 20 hours is better, then 30 hours a week would be best.

CURE 7: The body needs rest. Only you can decide how much down time you need.

This reason for being in a slump does not affect most people. However, those of you that overplay or overtrain might want to remember that even though you may love this game, think of it as your favorite food. Even though you love pizza for example, you could only eat it morning, noon and night for so long then you would lose interest in it. You might even hate it. Remember to keep a balance in life. Too much of anything can be detrimental to success or growth.

SLUMP 8: Lack of a purpose or goal produces lack of dedication. As humans we rarely do something without having a reason to do it. We typically lose our desire or dedication when we reach our goal or realize we can't reach it.

CURE 8: When we reach our goal, it is important to set a new goal right away. Be specific in your goal setting and set short term & long range goals. Then, even when you reach an intermediate goal there are always long term goals to strive for. If your goal can't be reached and you know it, it doesn't mean you have to quit racquetball; it simply means you should lower your standards to something that is attainable. Then after you reach this new goal, go after your original goal.

If your goals are unreasonable based on your efforts toward reaching that goal, you are setting yourself up for a fall. See the following equations.

A Hard Work + Reasonable Goals = Success

B. Too Little Work + Unrealistically High Goals = Failure & Frustration

C. Hard Work + Unrealistically Low Goals = Dissatisfying and Unrewarding Success

By setting equation A to work for you, you have purpose and a direction and a path to follow. It makes your work easier to do when you know where you are going.

Example of how it works: When I graduated from college, I got a teaching job right away. I had my own apartment, a new car, and was coaching 2 school sports. I was on my own doing whatever I wanted to do. I was also very unhappy and didn't know why. I now had everything that I had dreamed of as a young teenager. I took a while to figure it out, but the reason I was unhappy was that my dream (goal) had come true. That long high school and college journey to independence, freedom, and self sufficiency had become a destination. I had arrived and didn't know it.

I realized I needed a new challenge because I was going nowhere. I needed a new goal. I started a masters degree program immediately. This was my new goal or journey path. Teaching school and coaching full time. I went to school at night full time and finished within a year. After that, I started a journey into racquetball.

There are obviously other reasons why we get into slumps such as undertraining,

being overweight, poor eating habits, etc. The list goes on. The main key to remember is that you need to pinpoint the problem area so that you can set up a plan to attack it. If your strokes and game plans are bad, then you should seek your teaching professional out to get some medicine for them. But realize that if your strokes are really ill, it will take time to cure them. Many times players come to me and I feel like they want me to put my hand on their forehead, bow our heads and say, "let's pray." It doesn't work like that. It takes hard work. But oh, it's worth it when the success comes. It's an investment in your racquetball future. Anything attained easily usually isn't worth having.

DON'T PANIC. When you get into the slump, many times it's just a little thing. If you don't panic and overthink, it can be just as easy to get your confidence back as it was to lose it.

KISS — Keep It Simple Stupid. Keep things as simple as possible. The more simple the machine, the easier it is to repair. Free yourself from complicated shots and strategies. Keep it basic.

WHAT GOT YOU HERE — Sometimes along our path on this racquetball journey, we get sidetracked. In the Rocky movies, I find inspiration. Rocky lost his confidence in The Eye of The Tiger movie. He was still a good fighter, but he didn't believe in himself. Rocky had lost his old values and training methods because of success. Apollo took Rocky back to the old days where they both had started under a different value system and work ethic. What they found was a bunch of hungry fighters. (Eye of The Tiger). They had that look in their eye. That look of do whatever it takes.

Racquetball players are very similar. When they first come to me, they are hungry. If I ask them to drill, they drill. If I ask them to play a certain style, or train a certain way, or play in certain tournaments, or a certain class, lose weight, etc., they do it. Then they get a measure of success and they get lazy. This is typical of most people. Success spoils them. Their level of play drops or stays the same and their game stagnates because they refuse to work like they once did, when they were hungry. I guess it depends on the standards you hold for yourself.

Go back to what got you to where you are today. Don't forget that whatever got us here to begin with is a good bet to get us back again.

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)

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

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)

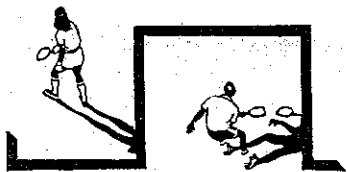
FOR SALE or WILL TRADE for Can of Penn Balls: 1 - Head Masters Replacement Kit 190643 - can of balls, 1 - Composite 250G Replacement Kit - contains 1 bumper, 1 safety cord, set of 6 leather pads. Call (616) 759-0723 after 10:00 pm or at work (616) 722-1639. Penn Balls - or - Ram Balls

Volunteers Like Jerry Gray Help Collegiate Racquetball Grow



JERRY GRAY

In the midst of the old logging town of Big Rapids, Michigan exists a modern machine. The name of that machine is Jerry Gray, Midwest Collegiate Regional Director for the American Collegiate Racquetball Association (ACRA). Jerry started getting involved in collegiate racquetball about 4 years ago, and has worked nonstop since that time. Jerry started the Midwest Collegiate Regionals in 1985 first held at Purdue University. Participation has been growing steadily and last year at Milwaukee, a total of 80 students competed in singles and doubles in the event. Jerry also coaches the men's team at Ferris State College.



THE PERFECT PLUM

Continued from page 6

point is for the championship so your main priority is to never give that layup a chance to develop in the first place."

Confidence exuded from him when he returned to the court — a smile highlighted his beaming face. We all sensed that he was almost desiring the opportunity to put his coach's theory to the test.

In honor of these two excellent competitors, none of the crowd ever sat down during the time out. Obviously our noise never calmed down till Bill prepared to serve!

Then the p/ace was hushed.

Really hushed!

His hard, deceptive serve to Johnny Lee's forehand would have been an ace against anyone else! Johnny Lee's return, however, though having been hit off-balanced, sent my brother deep into the back court.

Bill answered with a splat shot that Johnny Lee dove for and barely retrieved. On the next exchange, Johnny Lee took over the offensive. Twice I thought that he had won back the serve with hard kill-shots; only to see Bill's agility keep the ball in play! — going down on all fours both times!

Then it happened!

Johnny Lee was going to get his chance.

His off-balanced ceiling shot was poorly hit!

Keeping his eyes fixed upon the ball, Bill effortlessly moved toward the front forehand court. He watched (as we all watched!) with his peripheral vision Johnny Lee move into the service area.

Jerry's position as a regional director automatically puts him on the board of the national committee of the ACRA under commissioner, Neil Shapiro. Jerry has been very active at the national level. Draw sheets for both the collegiate regionals and the nationals were prepared by Jerry. Seeding information and draw sheets were a common sight in Jerry's 40' x 20' living room/kitchen area (the dimensions were not coincidental. Jerry drew the plans for his house).

The Midwest Region consisted of 10 states until this summer, when the national ACRA further divided the states so students wouldn't have to travel so far. The national ACRA board meets in Big Rapids every summer at the cottage of Dr. Matt Klein, the State Collegiate Director. The Midwest Region includes Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. Tentative plans for the 1988 regionals are to host the event at the

multi-million dollar sports facility at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

Marketing students at Ferris State College have completed numerous research studies for Mr. Gray. Research shows that racquetball is growing at the collegiate level. Many midwest universities have added between 7 and 15 courts to meet the demand. Most college courts are packed between 5 and 11 p.m. It takes people like Jerry to make sure that students have the opportunity to compete among other colleges.

As Midwest Regional Director, Jerry has many duties and if you check out this picture, you'll wonder whether his real business is surveying and engineering or racquetball. Jerry's office staff is trained to handle all types of racquetball telephone inquiries.

Jerry runs the collegiate regionals, continues to search for new teams and new coaches/advisors and is in charge of

the scoring at the nationals. Jerry also initiated a new collegiate computer scoring program, designed by Ferris computer graduate, Tim Purcey. The system allows any team to know their standing at any time. Usually at the nationals, teams other than first or second place have to wait a week to find out how they finished. Jerry pays most of his own expenses to help the collegiate racquetball cause. He also pays some expenses of the Ferris team, and has sponsored many local tournaments.

Jerry's personal mission with racquetball stems from a change he made 7 years ago in his personal lifestyle. Jerry suffered a heart attack at age 39 and decided that the lifelong sport of racquetball was his ticket to health. Jerry also runs and lifts weights. His influence caused all of his office staff to quit smoking and start their own fitness programs. Jerry offers health club memberships to his employees as an incentive.

Marilyn Keigley

Collegiate Scene

It's that time of year again for the collegiate racquetball players to begin preparing for the State Collegiate Championships.

The tournament is set to be played at Ferris State College January 23 and 24, 1988 in the newly dedicated racquet and fitness center. Entry forms for the tournament will be available in early December and will be mailed to all participants from the 1987 competition.

Collegiate racquetball players of all ability levels are encouraged to participate, but will have to adhere to the "team format" adopted by the ACRA and outlined in the forthcoming application. Even though a college does not have enough members for a full team, players can still battle for individual championships and enjoy the competition among fellow college students.

The "team championship" is unique in

collegiate sports in that women also compete at the same tournament to win points toward the overall championship. So guys, get out there and recruit some gals to help your chances of an overall title.

Speaking of women, Ferris State is still looking for a female racquetball player of "A" or "open" ability level to assist in the racquetball program and play for the Ferris team. Ferris is offering a scholarship in the amount of up to \$400.00 per quarter for that qualified female.

Midwest regional collegiate racquetball championships will be held at North Western University, Chicago, Illinois. Feb. 14 and 15, 1988, and the national competition will be in Sacramento, California, April 7-11, 1988. There is nothing like the collegiate nationals for racquetball excitement.

Ferris is out to defend their state title

this year, but there seems to be a strong contingent over at CMU forming. Mark Heckman who did very well at last year's nationals, Melody Matties, Sam Tanelian and crew can be seen at the open tournaments sharpening their skills.

Larry Mueesen, FSU, had a great win at the MAC tournament November 7 and 8 in Grand Rapids, defeating Joel Bonnet in the finals of the men's open division. Greg Bedenis, FSU, team captain, also won the men's "A" division.

Ferris State is hosting a fund raising tournament December 12, 13, and 14 at the new facility. Anyone interested in the tournament or collegiate racquetball can contact:

Matt Klein	or	Jerry Gray
Starr 120		110 1/2 N. Michigan
FSU		Big Rapids, MI 49307
Big Rapids, MI 49307		
(616) 592-3666		(616) 796-9291

Jerry Gray

The ball barely tapped against the front wall about four feet high and nonchalantly floated "lazy-like" with a slight arc back through the air.

I couldn't believe such a miss-hit

Not even high.

Nor very far.

But . . . but . . . but . . . high enough — and far enough! — to elude any attempt by the low-flying, stretched-out figure of Johnny Lee. The astonished crowd (me included!) watched breathlessly as that gorgeous, beautiful, "perfect! plum" slowly descended to its first and second bounce!

My brother's arms shot straight up in triumph! And we became hysterical!

In the midst of the excitement, he nodded toward us — his cheering maniacs — his appreciation. We returned his gesture by raising our volume another couple notches!

Next, he nodded toward the referee and the line judges, extending his index finger in their direction.

Man, was I proud!

Then he stepped back, bend down, (No! Bill, no!) my mind shouted within me) and politely offered an outstretched hand toward the fallen panther still face down on the court.

"No! 8!!! no!" my mind continued to argue. "He's been getting all the glory all weekend! — let him lay there in his humiliation!"

But he showed the greater wisdom and reached down.

Johnny Lee gratefully accepted the offer.

And came up as gracefully as he had gone down. He hugged Bill enthusiastically. He shook Bill's hand vigorously. I'd never seen such a show of sportsmanship between two rivals.

I will never forget seeing the two of them moving toward the back of the court smiling with arms around each other's shoulders. The standing ovations for the two of them became mighty waves: louder and louder.

There wasn't any rivalry left — not even in the crowd. The congeniality of the two touched all of us who were watching.

And do you know what? No one felt robbed by the results of the match. For myself, I'll cherish the scene the rest of my life!

Johnny Lee's coach was the first to shake Bill's hand as he and Johnny Lee exited from the court. Johnny Lee was all smiles as he talked happily with many. In fact, I joyfully noticed that he was getting as many backslaps and handshakes as Bill was.

And he should have, too. They had both displayed excellent racquetball!

With tears in my eyes, I worked my way over toward them. Since my brother was preoccupied, I offered a sincere:

"Great game. Joh. . ."

Before I had his name out, he had me in a bear hug. Soon I was swinging around in the air still in his arms.

"Thank you, brother." I cried inwardly. For teaching me that . . .

The End



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 15, 1987 - LANSING YMCA

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. T. Blakeslee, Rick Hall, Duane R. Russell, Jim and Dianne Easterling

GUEST: Bill Gottlieb

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandy Cox, Judy Gonyea, Jim Hiser

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion concerning RAM membership which can be improved in listing individuals on the data bank. Jim Hiser is compiling an accurate club list. Jim Easterling discussed correction of addresses on the newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- 1) **JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:** This award was initiated by Mike Yellen and for various reasons Mike may not participate as a contributor this year. W. T. Blakeslee is to call Ektelon and ask if they would be still willing to support the JSA award. Persons considered this year were Nick Rallis and Jimmy Floyd who are good in academics and in racquetball playing ability.

Jim Easterling said it would be desirable to make it the **RAM Junior Scholarship Award** and made a motion that RAM give \$250.00 to the program on a yearly basis. Second by Duane Russell. Passed unanimously. Discussion ensued which indicated publicizing for funding the program could result in more dollars being generated for support. This could be a promotional item for the newsletter. W. T. Blakeslee emphasized the recipient must go to college in order to obtain the money.

- 2) **HALL OF FAME SHOWCASE:** A general discussion took place about the cost of the Hall of Fame Showcase in Davison. Jim Hiser will be at the next meeting of the RAM Board to discuss this item.

- 3) **BANQUET ATTENDANCE:** A motion was made by Jim Easterling that RAM pay fees of Board Members who attend the Pro Stop banquet. (Cost is \$12.00). Motion was seconded by Duane R. Russell. Passed by unanimous vote.

- 4) **STATE TOURNAMENT:** Jim Easterling was interested in obtaining comments as to the location for the state singles tournament. The number of courts and proximity to players should be considered. Comments are to be aired at the next meeting of the Board. It was mentioned that outstate clubs should be given consideration since Detroit area facilities have been hosting this event for the past several years.

Jim Easterling raised the subject of people being hired to run the desk at the state singles worked out well and perhaps should be extended to the state doubles as well. Dianne Easterling said people can only earn \$500 per year without paying taxes. W. T. Blakeslee asked Jim to come in with a proposal directed to hiring personnel and that it will be considered as an agenda item at another meeting of the Board.

TOURNAMENT SUPPORT: W. T. will contact Ektelon to see if they will be willing to support our tournaments. Ektelon supports AARA nationally.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 1) **NEWSLETTER:** Jim Easterling reported the newsletter was in the mail with the tournament card inside and a Muskegon entry form. The next newsletter will be out in December.

- 2) **GRPA:** Rick Hall reported a men's and women's travel league will go this year. Jim Easterling desired more information so he can insert an article on this in the newsletter.

- 3) **SANCTIONING COMMITTEE:** Discussion concerning the Petoskey tournament where a person who called in to be inserted in 2 divisions to play after the deadline did not show and placed a stop payment order on his check for \$40.00 because he did not like his starting time.

A motion was made by Jim Easterling and seconded by Duane Russell that he not be permitted to play in the RAM state singles/doubles unless he pays the \$40.00 to the club in question to honor his obligation.

Dianne Easterling is to prepare a draft letter for W. T. Blakeslee to send information on the above problem to clubs around the state. Bill Gottlieb raised the point that RAM is responsible for promoting racquetball in the State of Michigan and therefore should also make club owners aware of problems.

- 4) **OTHER REPORTS:** Bill Gottlieb raised the question when we might get our proper name on the membership card. It should be RAM (Racquetball Association of Michigan) rather than MARRA (Michigan Amateur Racquetball Association).

The next meeting of the RAM Board of Directors will be held on October 6 at the Lansing downtown YMCA.

MOTION TO ADJOURN by W. T. Blakeslee; seconded by Dianne Easterling. Approved at 8:10 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,
Duane R. Russell, Secretary*

OCTOBER 6, 1987 - LANSING YMCA

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Blakeslee, Rick Hall, Jim and Dianne Easterling, Duane R. Russell

GUEST: Bill Gottlieb

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judy Gonyea, Sandy Cox, Lee Frederickson, Jim Hiser

MINUTES from the September 15, 1987 meeting were approved as mailed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Tom Blakeslee reported on the **Junior Scholarship Foundation Award (2000)**. Six individuals/entities comprise the Foundation at the present time: Mike Yellen, Fred Lewrenz, Ron Slavik, Jim Hiser, Tom Blakeslee and the RAM Board of Directors. There will be an effort made to get more people in the Foundation. The Foundation selects candidates to be award recipients. Scholarship and racquetball performance is required. A handout explaining **The Mike Yellen Junior Scholarship Foundation** was distributed. Recipients must receive consensus; if not, then it will have to be resolved by discussion and agreement.

Discussion took place which indicated the award recipient must go to college and actively participate in racquetball at the intercollegiate level. If racquetball is not offered then he/she would be expected to participate at the state level.

JACKETS FOR BOARD MEMBERS: Tom Blakeslee suggested that all Board Members get jackets to promote what we do and wear them. Cost would be approximately \$30.00 a piece. Jim Easterling made a motion to this effect and it was seconded by Duane Russell. After a general discussion it was decided to table the motion until more members were present. Tom was to do a telephone survey for now.

Jim Hiser will review items from the AARA Board of Directors meeting at the next regular RAM Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 1) **GRPA:** November tournament on November 6-8 at the brand new Michigan Athletic Club. End of January they will host the west Michigan Championship which is open to anyone. Rick Hall will prepare an article for the next newsletter about it. The MAC is interested in hosting the state tournament but would need the participation of another club to do this.

- 2) **STATE TOURNAMENT:** Jim Easterling said he would like to see the state championship in Grand Rapids. There are several options which will need to be considered:

- a) Limit the draw.
- b) Use another club. If we have two clubs, we will have to staff two desks.
- c) Eliminate consolation.
- d) Eliminate signing up for two divisions.

- 3) **STATE DOUBLES:** Jim and Dianne Easterling will tend the desk for a fee. At the request of Tom Blakeslee, this item is being placed in the minutes and will be talked about further when we have more of the Board members present.

- 4) **REGIONAL DIRECTOR:** Tom Blakeslee is the Regional Junior Director. Jim Hiser will be involved with Adults for Region 9. Next year Jim would be the Adult Regional Director.

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Bill Gottlieb asked where we stood on the official name of the organization. Tom replied he had no answer at present but was working on it.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: They are due the second week in November.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the RAM Board of Directors will be held on November 10 at the Lansing downtown YMCA at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Jim Easterling; seconded by Tom Blakeslee. Approved at 8:00 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,
Duane R. Russell, Secretary*

Important Dates

AARA National H.S. Championships
St. Louis, Missouri - Feb. 19-21
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

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT...

W. T. BLAKESLEE

A new season, and as your new president I will only promise the following: provide leadership, promote new ideas, support Junior Racquetball and organize the best State Singles Tournament ever!

Sound like a campaign promise? No way, I basically won by default, no one else on the Board of Directors wanted the job. So there it is, leadership, ideas, Junior Racquetball, State Singles, and hard work.

Seriously, Racquetball growth has been declining for several years. The new sport of the late seventies now shares its court with Aerobics, Nautilus machines, Squash, Paddleball, Volleyball, Basketball, and

tanning equipment. Only the strong have survived.

The Pro Tournament is slipping. In our State we have fewer tournaments, clubs, and players. On the positive side, there are bigger than ever racquets which have provided more money for our sport. We also have a new \$5 Million club built around the sport of Racquetball.

I'm not sure why I took this position, probably for one reason only — I love this game, you love this game, lots of people love this game. Why not? Finally please don't tell my wife I'm president, she doesn't know I'm not sure she will approve; she might make me quit both things! See you on the court.

Tom

SPECTATING

THE BOOSTERS AND SUPPORTERS

"They also serve who only stand and wait."

The wives of Masters Plus players can usually be observed at racquetball tournaments cheering and encouraging their husbands. What do they get out of these tournaments?

BEATRICE HAHN says, "I enjoy watching the game and meeting people. I like to travel and when Lynn practices I either shop, stay and visit or do crossword puzzles. If he stays at practice too long he has to take me to dinner. Our two children, Tim and Becky, play racquetball for fun." When asked what has racquetball done for you and your husband? Bea said, "I have been able to see and meet the top Pro players like Mike Yellen and Marty Hogan. I can't imagine what our life would be like without racquetball."

BARBARA POOLE has been watching Leonard play racquetball for 5 years. She says, "I like to go shopping between games and enjoy meeting people and making lots of friends." Barbara has 3 daughters and 7 grandchildren. When asked, what has racquetball done for you and Leonard? She states, "It has helped keep Leonard's health up. Six years ago in November, Leonard had a heart by-pass operation and racquetball has helped him keep in condition." Barbara and Leonard have been married 41 years. She plays volleyball, bowls and does lots of walking to keep in shape.

Duane Russell

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

Referee/Rules Clinic

The Referee/Rules Clinic presented by Jim Easterling at Gateway Racquet Club on October 21st was attended by 12 members of the Metro Women's Touring League.

AARA rules were discussed — including the new rules effective this year. Some rules discussed included: ball hitting a player, faults, foot faults, crotch serves, screen serves, body contact, time outs, 10 second rule, hinders, avoidable hinders, contacting the ball behind the receiving line, technicals and technical warnings and forfeitures. Above all, a referee must remember — SAFETY FIRST.

We learned that a lot of calls are based on the referee's judgement; i.e. screen serves; or whether a ball would have made it to the front wall if it would not have hit a player.

We also learned, as a referee, how to get the respect of a player — let them know you won't put up with profanity by issuing a technical — Rule 14.A.1.

Also, how to control the match by making calls loud and quickly. And that referees are human and can make mistakes.

A few points to remember as a referee: Know the rules; safety first; if you make a mistake — you can change the call; control the match — don't put up with unsportsmanlike conduct.

A few points to remember as a player: Know the rules; safety first; control your temper — it can work to your disadvantage; don't give the referee a hard time — you may be the ref in the next match!

Have a safe and knowledgeable racquetball season,
Mary Gisslander
MWTL Secretary

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.

AME

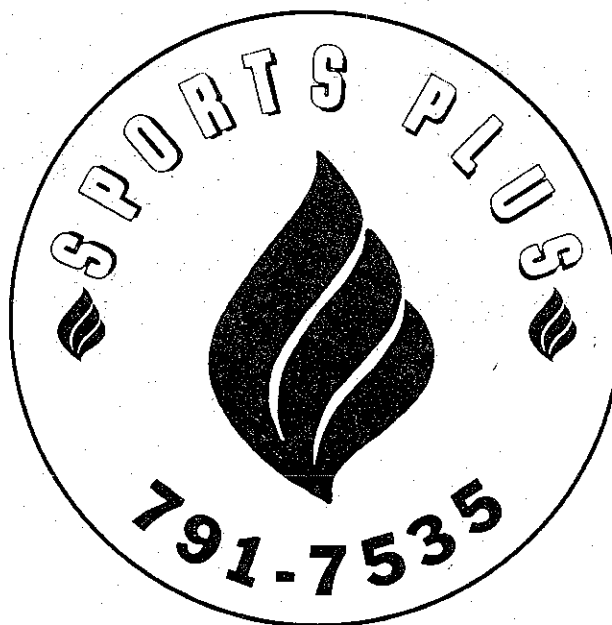
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Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons Remember November

The Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons Association's first tournament of 1987 was a big success! Many players from all over Michigan participated in this annual Fall event which was held at the beautiful Michigan Athletic Club (MAC). Singles and doubles competition attracted approximately 110 players.

The men's open final featured two of the youngest players who entered the division, MAC's sixteen year old Joel Bonnett and eighteen year old Larry Meeusen. Bonnett's recent hot streak in tournaments came to an end as Ferris State's Larry Meeusen's fine play won the match 11-6, 6-11, 11-10, 11-8. Meeusen took home the \$100 first prize and Bonnett \$50 for second.

In the women's A final, Laura Martin defeated Denise Gravelyn 11-1, 11-4, 11-10. Martin's consistent play dominated the division as she won all her matches in three straight games.

The GRRPA second event of the season is the \$1000 West Michigan Racquetball Championships January 29-31. Again this event will be hosted by Michigan's most talked about racquetball facility - the MAC. This tournament is open to all players regardless of residence.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

MENS OPEN

Meeusen over Bonnett 11-6, 6-11, 11-10, 11-8
Semis J Bonnett over M. Heckman 11-3, 11-3, 4-11, 11-4
L. Meeusen over C.C. Melvin 11-7, 11-7, 11-8

MENS A

G. Bedenis def. B. Kircher 10-11, 11-8, 6-11, 11-7, 11-8
Semis Bedenis over S. McNitt 11-5 tiebreaker
Kirchner over S. Tanielian 11-8 11-0 11-3

MENS B

Gabe Zussman def. Lee Frederickson 5-11, 11-10, 11-5, 11-6
Semis Zussman over J. Rackiewicz 11-5, 11-9, 11-8
Frederickson over T. Edsall 11-10, 11-9 8-11, 11-5

MENS C

Lionel Guerra def. Bob Powers 11-4, 11-5, 11-7
Semis Guerra over T. Black 11-4, 11-8, 11-3
Powers over S. Zimmerman 11-2, 9-11, 11-10, 11-6

MENS D

John Huizenga def. Brent Zimmerman 11-10, 11-2, 11-3
Semis Huizenga over K. Holifield 11-3, 11-4, 11-6
Zimmerman over B. Hedden 11-9 tiebreaker

WOMENS A

L. Martin def. D. Gravelyn 11-3, 11-6, 11-10
Semis Martin over L. Callear 11-5, 11-3, 11-0
Gravelyn over P. Madsen 11-1 11-4, 11-10

WOMENS B

Chris Suever def. D. Cumberworth 11-11, 11-8, 11-3, 11-7
in D. Elimination

Melissa Smith 3rd

WOMENS C

Denise Michalski def. Kris Hakes 11-5, 10-11, 11-8, 11-9
Semis Hakes over J. Smith 11-9, 11-7, 11-3
Michalski over Kleckner 11-6, 11-9, 10-11, 11-9

MENS OPEN DOUBLES

Larry Longiellera/Mike Stephens def. Joel and Ken Bonnett 15-13, 15-11

MENS B/C DOUBLES

Winners were Jerry Rackiewicz & Randy Miles of Muskegon

Ken Bonnett

Roll Out Classic Tournament

The Roll Out Classic Tournament held at Court Rooms North in Port Huron on November 7-8, 1987 had the most relaxed atmosphere of any tournament I have participated in. This was a very welcome change from that of somber faces deep in thought hyping themselves up to a razor edge mental toughness preparing themselves for their next match and the opponents not even looking at each other between games for fear of exposing some hidden weakness.

The atmosphere at this tournament was that of league play at your home club. Everyone was talking, joking and ribbing each other of games past and games future. Even between games the opposing players talked to each other, joking about crazy rallies and congratulating each other on great shots and serves. The players made this tournament a referee's dream, no antics on the court, no questioning in anger of the referee's calls; the players were even calling double bounces, skips and avoidable hinders against themselves. If there is a Referee's Heaven it was in Port Huron this November weekend.

However, this atmosphere did not affect the level of play on the courts. The games were very intense and exciting with most matches going to the tie-breaker. The players made some of the greatest saves and back corner digs I have ever seen at tournament play thereby adding greatly to

the enjoyment of the spectators. Of the spectators surveyed the best match of the tournament was the Men's 35B final between Jesse Madden and Randy Guilds with Jesse Madden the eventual winner. Judging from the talk of the spectators the intense competition, fairness and respect for each other, the rules and the referee this match could have been nothing but great.

If all tournament players would conduct themselves on and off the courts as the players of this tournament did the number of tournament players would greatly increase and give Racquetball Tournaments a much better deserved name.

The results of this tournament are as follows:

MO Scott Worthy 1st; Sean McCune 2nd
MA Sean McCune 1st; Brad McIlhargie 2nd
MB Joe Turk 1st; Brian Winters 2nd
MC Ray Matthews 1st;
John Gryszewicz 2nd
MD Mike Stefanski 1st;
Gary Durand 2nd
MNov. Art Velez 1st; Scott Hale 2nd
M35B Jesse Madden 1st; Randy Guilds 2nd
M40B Ron Morse 1st; Claude Hadley 2nd
M45B Hank Gates 1st; Jim Gordon 2nd
WO Sandy White 1st; Ruth Peuler 2nd
WA Mary Gisslander 1st; Kim Tucker 2nd
WB Judy Walzak 1st; Sandy Cox 2nd
WD Sue Papke 1st; Julie Brown 2nd

Jim Gordon

Traverse City Hosts First Bud Light Super 7

The Grand Traverse Racquet Club in Traverse City was the host site for the first Super Seven tournament to be held in Northern Michigan. Although the club only had seven courts, over 150 entrants participated in the three day event. Jeff Plazak from Brookfield, Wisconsin escaped three tie-breaker matches and a 7-0 deficit to Chris Cole in the championship match to take home first place in the Men's Pro division. A new concept of blind draw doubles (open and lower division players' names are blindly drawn for partners) was a big success. Mike Anderson teamed with Chris Henry, Jr. to defeat Jim Floyd and John Brennan in the finals.

Jim Hiser

Traverse City Super Seven results are as follows:

MENS PRO

1st - Jeff Plazak 2nd - Chris Cole
Semis - Nick Rallis, Joel Bonnett

MENS OPEN

1st - Joel Bonnett 2nd - Jim Hamilton
Semis - Gordon Gallagher, Dan Dutcher

MENS A

1st - Mark King 2nd - John Brennan

MENS B

1st - Doug Gage 2nd - Dale Schaffer

MENS C

1st - Dan Lechowicz 2nd - John Katich

MENS D

1st - Steve Estes 2nd - Michael Stefanski
Semis - Tom Kollinske, Bob Dawson

MENS 30

1st - Randy Anderson 2nd - Larry Longeliere
Semis - Scott Worthy, Mike Hotra

MENS 35A

1st - Ken Bonnett 2nd - Jim Hiser

MENS 35B

1st - Michael Schaeffer 2nd - Al Mell

MENS 40

1st - Ken Bonnett 2nd - Bob Gravelyn

MENS 45A

1st - Jerry Gray 2nd - Thomas Shorum

WOMENS OPEN

1st - Lisa Ecker 2nd - Joetta Hastings

WOMENS A

1st - Julie May 2nd - Linda Cok

WOMENS B

1st - Lorna Rochecoan 2nd - Marlee Kleckner

WOMENS NOVICE

1st - Jackie Sigafouse 2nd - Tracey Rosenberg

WOMENS 19+

1st - Joetta Hastings 2nd - Kathy Stellema

BLIND DRAW DOUBLES

1st - Mike Anderson/Chris Henry
2nd - Jim Floyd/John Brennan

Macomb County Racquetball Association

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Macomb County Racquetball Assoc. First let me start by saying thanks to Meadowbrook Dodge and the staff of Court Room North for all their help to start our season off. And the hospitality was greatly enjoyed by all.

January 15, 16, 17, 1988 - Gateway Racquetball Club in Warren, keep this date in mind. This is our Doubles Tournament. Hope to see you there. Results from our Port Huron tournament:

MENS PRO M Ceresia def. C. Cole

MENS OPEN D. Larry Def. Al Tackett
MENS A Y Shank def. M. Heinbokal
MENS B J Turk def. P. Presutti
MENS C J. Gryszewicz def. J. Gordon
MENS NOVICE E. Wellman def. R. Kruse
MENS 30A S. Worthy def. J. White
MENS 35A J Hiser def. D. Toth
MENS 35B R. Hagenah def. L. Cole
WOMENS PRO/OPEN T. Troszak def. J. Hastings

WOMENS A M. Gisslander def. T. Perssia
WOMENS B D. Frankhouse def. C. Kruse
WOMENS C S. Pawloski

Pancho Gutierrez

September 2 1987

Dear Racquetball Reporter:

As the 87-88 racquetball season approaches I remember my thoughts at the end of last season. I remember my thoughts as my son turned 20. This time instead of worrying because he didn't work out enough, or whatever, I would like to let myself play proud papa. In essence I am a proud father and appreciate the accomplishments of Chris Cole before he was 20.

In the 1986-87 season Chris won the State Open Singles Championship for the third consecutive year. It was his fourth title in the last five years which meant he was 15 when he won his first, the next to last MRA title. He won the State Open Doubles, with Stu and four Super 7 tournaments. Of the 20 tournaments he entered he won 11, a remarkable achievement.

I am a proud father not only because of his playing record but how he has conducted himself off the court. For example, when he was 16 the junior racquetball team was in debt. He raised money by holding a tournament, with prize money; he handled all of the responsibilities himself. He raised hundreds of dollars. For the last three years he has been a chaperone for the junior team. He was a chaperone at the same time he was a member of Team Michigan and a participant in the national tournament finishing third his last year. He was the only player not to have a chaperone listed for him and the AARA waived that rule for him. It meant that those in charge of the team and those in the AARA office thought enough of his character to give him extra responsibilities.

Finally, over the years, he has been offered more money and equipment than that given by his personal sponsors. He felt that honesty and loyalty were more important than personal material gain; therefore, he stayed with Ektelon (7 yrs.) and Asahi (3 yrs.) I am proud of Chris and I believe the people in the state can be proud of him too.

Sincerely,
Larry L. Cole

BUD LIGHT — HEAD PRO-AM

Continued from page 1

MENS B	1st Steve Lerner	Ohio	MENS 40A	1st Jim Hiser	Michigan
	2nd Mark Kowalenski	Michigan		2nd Tom Perna	Ohio
	Semi Gary Cimbala, Mike Wagner			Semi Mike Stephens,	
MENS C				Pancho Gutierrez	
	1st Mike McPherson	Michigan	MENS 40B	1st Gary Clark	Michigan
	2nd Adrian Webb	Ontario		2nd Eddie Sargent	Michigan
	Semi Troy Altenburg, Jeff Lewerenz			Semi Dave Lapczyk	David Wagner
MENS D			MENS 45B	1st Charles Wheelihan	Michigan
	1st Robert Pfeiffer	Michigan		2nd Bill Gentile	Michigan
	2nd Ralph Morascio	Ontario		Semi Glenn Weaver	Bill Gray
	Semi Steve Estes, Mark King		MENS 55	1st Lynn Hahn	Michigan
MENS NOVICE				2nd Jim Herron	Ohio
	1st Richard Totin	Michigan	MENS 55B	1st Wally Moore	Ohio
	2nd Wm. Hein	Michigan		2nd Ed Williams	Ohio
	Semi Dean Yoho, Vince Sandagua		MENS A DOUBLES	1st Jimmy Floyd/Mark Isley	MI
JUNIORS 18 & UNDER				2nd Bob Wilhelm/Stu Hastings	MI
	1st Joel Bonnett	Michigan	MENS B DOUBLES	1st Jeff Clark/Mork Powers	Ohio
	2nd Adam Priamo	Canada		2nd Neil Gibson/Corey Osborn	Ca
	Semi Patrick Allen, Neil Gibson		MENS C DOUBLES	1st Marv Riley/Mark Niedzieski	MI
JUNIORS 16B				2nd Troy Altenburg/Scott Dunn	MI
	1st Mike Sabatini	Pennsylvania	WOMENS OPEN	1st Cindy Doyle	New York
	2nd Dale Stevens	Pennsylvania		2nd Kathy Nichols	Canada
JUNIORS 14A				Semi Barb Harrison, Joetta Hastings	
	1st Mike Sabatini	Pennsylvania	WOMENS A	1st Carol Collins	Michigan
	2nd Dale Stevens	Pennsylvania		2nd Colleen McDonald	Canada
BOYS 12 & UNDER				Semi Teri Youngblood, Sandy White	
	1st Scott Zimmerman	Michigan	WOMENS B	1st Judy Hill	Canada
	2nd Brent Zimmerman	Michigan		2nd Jill Stanley	Michigan
MENS 25+			WOMENS C	1st Kris Scott	Canada
	1st Al Tackett	Michigan		2nd Jenny Roach	Canada
	2nd Sig Brower	Canada	WOMENS D	1st Angela Salanki	Canada
	Semi Blain Harris, Jack White			2nd Karen Durocher	Canada
MENS 30A			WOMENS 19+	1st Tracey Troszak	Michigan
	1st Dave Rodriguez	Michigan		2nd Rene Thornton	Canada
	2nd Bob Wilhelm	Michigan	WOMENS 30+	1st Beth Gutowski	Michigan
	Semi Ben Stanley, Lee Bentsen			2nd Barb Harrison	Ohio
MENS 30B			WOMENS A DOUBLES	1st Cindy McTaggart/	Canada
	1st Terry Lawlor	Michigan		Colleen MacDonald	
	2nd Al Todek	Michigan		2nd Jane Reed/Candy Cohen	Illinois
	Semi Gerald Tucker, Al Klann		SWEETHEART DOUBLES	1st Elan Rafael/Kelly Hill	Canada
MENS 35A				2nd Denise Stokes/Jack Fogle	
	1st Stu Hastings	Michigan			
	2nd Rick Vanderlind	Michigan			
	Semi Mike Stephens, John Free				
MENS 35B					
	1st John Gervasi	Michigan			
	2nd Brian Winters	Michigan			
	Semi Ron Leszczynski, Mike Melnick				
MENS 35C					
	1st Jim Gable	Ohio			
	2nd Denny Pash	Ohio			
	Semi Keith Schaffer				
	Scott McConnelee				

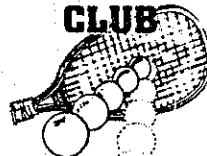
Tournament Calendar**1987-88 SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS**

Dec. 4-6	Super 7 #3/29th Street Fitness Center	Grand Rapids
Dec. 18-20	Sports Plus Christmas Double Up/Clinton Rac. Club	Mt. Clemens
	Rollout Classic/tba	tba
Jan. 8-10	Super 7 #4/Saginaw Valley Health Racquet Club	Saginaw
Jan. 15-17	Riverview 1000/Riverview Racquet Club	Grand Rapids
	MCRA Challenge Series Doubles/tba	tba
Jan. 22-24	MICHIGAN COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS/ Ferris State College	Big Rapids
Jan. 29-31	Rollout Classic/Ann Arbor Court Club	Ann Arbor
Feb. 5-7	West Michigan Championship/tba	tba
Feb. 12-14	Super 7 #5/Rose Shores East	Roseville
	MIDWEST REGIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS/tba	tba
Feb. 19-21	AARA REGION 9 ADULT & JUNIOR 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
	Swing Into Spring/Saginaw Valley Health Rac. Club	Saginaw
Mar. 18-20	RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP/ Grand Blanc Court Club	Flint, MI
Mar. 25-27	Rollout Classic/tba	tba
	Pro Stop/tba	tba
Apr. 8-10	Super 7 #7/Coliseum II	Taylor
Apr. 15-17	RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP/tba	tba
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.

**RAM Facility Listing****Holland Health & Racquet Club**572 E. Bth St.
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-141720 Aerobic Classes Weekly
22 Nautilus Stations
2 Free Weight Rooms
10 Racquetball Courts
Whirlpools
Dry Heat Saunas
Suntanning
Indoor Running Track
Masseur/Masseuse
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) 589-0900Detroit 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
Free Weights
Lifecycles and Lifeflower
Stairmaster
Training Salon
Nursery
Whirlpool and Saunas
Nutrition Counseling
Personalized Fitness Programs**29th Street Fitness Center**2701 29th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(between Breton & Schaeffer)
(616) 942-519011 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
Sauna & Whirlpool:
In Men's & Women's Lockers
Guests Are Welcome**Woodland Racquet Club**

7524 W. Grand River - Brighton Michigan 48116 - (313) 227-7373

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
(313) 743-4510Flint's Friendliest
And Most Comfortable ClubHome 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)
(Treadmill and Bike)
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