

Racquetball Reporter

Fall 1996

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Huczek wins 1996 Junior Nationals

by Sharon Huczek

Jack Huczek came home to Rochester Hills to celebrate America's birthday with three gold medals from the 1996 American Amateur Racquetball Association's 23rd U.S. Junior National Racquetball Championships.

There were 288 athletes from 36 states participating in this annual event held at Southridge Athletic Club in Greenfield, Wisconsin during the week of June 22-26, 1996.

Forty-two boys made up the 12 and under division and Jack successfully defeated all his opponents with a decisive final victory over Trevor Crowe (OR) 15-2 and 15-8.

Jack and his partner Corey Martin from Wisconsin continued the winning streak with a tie-breaker win over Trevor Crow and Bart Crawford (OR) 8-15, 15-8 and 11-1.

The third gold medal came in mixed doubles when Jack and partner Crystal Winfrey (OH) had fought a nail-biting battle against Bart Crawford and Kim Irons (OH). Final match scores



Jack Huczek displays his three gold medals earned at the 1996 Junior National Championships.

were 11-15, 15-9 and 11-10

Jack now holds six consecutive national titles along with four world titles. His victories this year also include winning the Men's A State Title and finishing second in the adult nationals this year in the Men's A division.

Jack teaches a junior program at University Racquet Club in Auburn Hills and gives private lessons. He is eligible to attend the U.S. Olympic Training Center summer.

1996 RAM State Singles Championships

by W.T. Blakeslee

This year's RAM State Singles Championships was almost like the old days, back at the Davison Athletic Club, the original home of big pro and amateur racquetball tournaments. The event was a huge success and by far and away the biggest and best tournament of the year. The reduced entry fee and new location attracted many of the stars of yesterday. Randy Minto, club manager, did a great job and if we can work it out, RAM would like to host the tournament there next Spring as well.

In the Men's Open division, it was an all Davison final with the underdog Mike Johnston winning the tie-breaker over Jimmy Floyd. Where are you Chris Cole and Bob Wilhelm? You would have enjoyed it!

The Women's Open division saw Lisa Ecker coming out of retirement to defeat Laura Patterson in the final match much to the delight of home fans at Davison.

For complete results of this star-studded event, please see pages six and seven of this issue.

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View of the President

by W.T. Blakeslee

Welcome back to the racquetball season! Included in this issue are highlights from last Spring's State Singles Championships, the 1996-97 RAM tournament schedule and many other interesting racquetball tidbits. I have been doing these articles for probably ten years and I must admit it gets harder to write these Fall articles every year, so if you want to contribute, please give me a call. I can use the help! Ever the optimist, I still think the basic backbone of our sport is the quality of the game itself, and in the end that will win the tie-breaker. Don't you think racquetball would have been a great addition to the Olympic Games?

Another reason for optimism for the upcoming year is that manufacturers still seem to be investing in equipment. Ektelon and Head seem to have some great racquets and equipment with Wilson and E-Force as wannabees getting much better and becoming more popular. Ken Bonnett is still running an expanded tournament

schedule, please support his efforts. This year he is adding doubles, reducing prices by trying to have some one day events. The State Singles and Doubles will be in the same locations as last year and hopefully just as successful. Ann Arbor will host the Doubles event and Davison will again see to a fine Singles event.

New for the AARA is all the regionals will be held the third weekend in April (April 17-20, 1997) and they are going to change our name to the United States Racquetball Association. Due to the 1997 Regional Tournament scheduled for April we are having to schedule the State Singles this year for the weekend of April 11-13, if we can secure the site and arrange other details.

Finally, the big national event is the new U.S. Open which Jim Hiser and Doug Ganim are the tournament directors. A huge purse or \$50,000 is anticipated as well as television coverage on ESPN.

See you on the hardwood soon!

\$10 A NIGHT LODGING IN PETOSKEY!

Racquetball One's annual outing to Petoskey in October is always the most fun of all Racquetball One events. Lots of round robin play, great hospitality, a party (free cover and first cocktail) at the Flying Dutchman Saturday night, and now a chance for those interested to **SLEEP CHEAP** at the club for only **\$10 per night**.

Bob Hull and his staff are providing this option so many of the players can once again reduce the cost of the trip to beautiful Petoskey! Those adults interested (no children please) in tossing their sleeping bags at the club should reserve a spot when they call in for their starting times. Don't miss the best all around event of the season.

Racquetball Association of Michigan

RAM Board of Directors

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(810) 373-5255

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Ken Bonnett
(616) 975-9080

Junior's Committee
Sharon Huczek
(810) 373-5255

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

Racquetball One excited for '96-97

by Ken Bonnett

The 1996-97 season will allow all those players who like to play a lot, to do it all in one day if they so desire. This focus will allow players to car pool on Saturday morning to the tournament, play some serious racquetball, and return home the same evening. All for a reduced round robin entry fee of \$29.00 singles and \$24.00 doubles. There are no lodging fees and Friday and Sunday home with family and friends.

The six event schedule will also cater to those serious doubles players as two of the six events will be round robin doubles tournaments. November 23, two weeks prior to the State Doubles Championships, will allow players to tune-up in Lansing, at the MAC. January 25, 1997 will be a double finale. It will be held at the Jewish Community Center Health Club in West Bloomfield.

The new season opens with our traditional October outing to beautiful Petoskey. Plan to stay over night at this round robin singles event and party at the Flying Dutchman Saturday night. Other singles events will be held in Grand Rapids and East Lansing at the MAC's.

On the eve of my 50th birthday, the 1996-97 Racquetball One season of one day events begins in Petoskey at the National Health and Racquetball Club. The past couple of years there has been criticism regarding the cost of round robin events and tourna-

ments in general. Please understand that running a first class event requires significant funding. The biggest expense is the renting of the athletic facility. Some tournament directors own their own clubs and do not reflect the cost in their entry fees. I have done everything I can to make it a win-win situation for everyone. The cost of hospitality has also increased,

sponsors are becoming harder and harder to find. It is difficult to convince sponsors to get involved when they see how our sanctioned number of players has dropped in the Michigan.

Racquetball One has a new number (616) 975-9080. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call.

RACQUETBALL ONE 1996-97 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

October 5, 1996
Singles Event
Petoskey

November 23, 1996
Doubles Event
Lansing

December 14, 1996
Singles Event
Grand Rapids

January 25, 1997
Doubles Finale
West Bloomfield

February 15, 1997
Singles Event
Grand Rapids

March 22, 1997
Singles Finale
Lansing

Benefit tournament rewarding for all

by Diana Trombley

At the end of May, Total Sports in Mt. Clemens, hosted a tournament entitled "Friends helping Friends." Anyone who picked up and entry form or entered the tournament would agree to just that.

Due to the great success of the event we were able to help Jerry and Linda Eldred in a time of great financial and emotional need due to a major medical setback suffered by Jerry in recent months.

The tournament was put together by many helping hands in just four weeks. Special thanks to

the Straitmans who donated court time, drinks and helped keep the courts clean. Mike Easthope printed the entry forms and Dave Easthope supplied the shirts. Special raffles were held courtesy of May Glen from Wearables who donated an outfit of choice to the winner and Total Sports donated a one year membership. Nutritech donated cash and sponsored a player. Al and Pat Klann served as tournament directors and also video taped portions of it. The list of thank you's can go on and on. We were very pleased with the great response from all those who participated and do-

nated their money and time.

Division winners are as follows:

Mens A

Jim Panasiewicz

Mens B

Mike Easthorpe

Mens C

Brad VanHoose

Mens D

Brad VanHoose

Mens Novice

Tom Cavalli

Womens A

July 31 1996

Dear Friends,

In April of this year I was admitted to Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak with a case of pneumonia. At the time it didn't seem like any big deal, since 1981 Beaumont has kind of been like a second home to me. Well, to get to the point, after a month in the hospital with a couple of stays in intensive care, I learned two things. The first is something I already knew, just how important your health is and to take advantage of every chance you get. What really hit home though, was that there are no guarantees in this life and that your health, in fact, your life itself, can be taken from you in one split second. The other thing I realized is that you don't know how many friends you have and how important they are to you until you are put in that situation.

The second thing, is the main reason for writing this letter. Words hardly seem enough to express the feelings that Linda and myself share. But to all the people who called, visited, sent cards, letters, expressed concern, played in the benefit tournament, and sent donations to the tournament, a very heartfelt thank you. Your concerns and best wishes meant the world to us.

One last thing, on the subject of the tournament. I would like to give special thanks to Diana Trombley for taking the time to organize it. Ed Straitmans at Total Sports for donating the courts and once again to all who participated and sent donations. It was truly one of the nicest things that has ever happened to Linda and me. It will never be forgotten.

Sincerely

Jerry and Linda Eldred

Seniors tournament scheduled for November

by Jim Easterling

The Davison Athletic Club will be the host site of Michigan's 8th Annual Invitational Open Seniors Masters Racquetball Tournament. The Midwest Seniors Masters Racquetball Series consists of one tournament in each of six or seven states each year. The only tournament of this series to be held in Michigan this year will be November 1-3, 1996 at the Davison Athletic Club.

This tournament is for men and

women 35 years or older. It is round robin format with no referees. This is the 8th year for this tournament and as usual there will be a banquet and auction supporting the United States National Team and Michigan's Hall of Fame.

Some of the best players in the Midwest and Canada attend this tournament. If you only go to one or two tournaments a year, you don't want to miss this one. Mark your calendar now.

Referee Clinic Lansing YMCA

October 5, 1996
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Cost: \$10.00

*For more information,
please contact*

Jim Easterling
(517) 887-0459

Michigan Hall of Fame solicits nominees

by Jim Easterling

The Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame was developed in 1984 by the Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM) to honor those who demonstrate outstanding achievement, leadership or contribution to the sport of racquetball in Michigan.

The award is based upon consistent excellence in one or more of the following areas:

ABILITY

Through demonstration of exceptional playing skill in state, regional and/or national tournament competition.

LEADERSHIP

Through generous giving of time and talent for the advancement of racquetball in Michigan by running tournaments, conducting leagues, lessons and serving on state associations or other racquetball activities.

CONTRIBUTION

Through generous support, including money, facilities or products, for the advancement of racquetball in Michigan.

If you know someone who qualifies and that you would like

to see in the Hall of Fame, please send a letter with their full name, address, phone number and a brief description of why you think that person deserves to be in the Hall of Fame to:

Hall of Fame Inductee
321 Village Dr.
Lansing, MI 48911-3760

The deadline for inductee letters is **December 1, 1996.**

1996 State Singles Results

MENS OPEN

Finals Mike Johnston def. Jimmy Floyd
Semis Randy Anderson
Mike Anderson

MENS A

Finals Jack Huczek def. Rick Davenport
Semis Ray Emerson
John Gervasi

MENS B

Finals Tom Kehoe def. Jeff Reneaud
Semis Van Conway
Hershel Sloan

MENS C

Finals Duane Costanzo def. Mike Huber
Semis Diego Pizzo
Randy Ransom

MENS D

Finals Chris Pendell def. Vince Sessions
Semis Gregory Sparks
Bob Ponteous

MENS 19/25

Finals Jack White def. Jason Berneth
Semis Brad VanHoose
Rich Leu

MENS 30B

Finals John Cather def. Hershel Sloan
Semis Gary Balavitch
Mohammed Naveed

MENS 35B

Finals Ron Papke def. Diego Pizzo
Semis Pat Brady
Mark Thompson

MENS 40 B

Finals George Goudie def. Van Conway
Semis Scott McConnelee
Jerry Leija

MENS 30A/35A

Finals Mike Anderson def. Larry Fox
Semis Jack White
Dan Verbeck

MENS 40

Finals Randy Anderson def. Jim Woolcock
Semis Tom Blakeslee
Kim Hyde

MENS 45A/OPEN

Finals Tom Blakeslee def. Bob Gravelyn
Semis Jim Easterling
Kim Hyde

MENS 45B

Finals John Cocker def. Mike Jahn
Semis Jack Nash
Chuck Vanhoose

Mens 50A

Finals Joseph Tomilson def. Ed Barter
Semis Rick Parkhurst
Bill Hagedorn

MENS 50B

Finals Sixto Calvo def. Vince Callahan
Semis Stanly Kurzman

MENS 55

Finals Paul Becker def. Art Murphy
Semis Dale Lund
James Emerson

MENS 60

Finals Elliott Rott def. Dale Lund
Semis Stanley Kurzman
Charles Kaiser

WOMENS OPEN

Finals Lisa Ecker def. Laura Patterson
Semis Paula Saad
Lesley Kishigan

State results...

WOMENS A

Finals Denise Knoll def. Diana Trombley
Semis Delois Leaphart
Terri Harris

WOMENS C/D

Participants Terry Truvillion
Judy Porter
Juli Suuppi
Crystal Suuppi

WOMENS 25/35A

Participants Delois Leaphart
Paula Saad
Michele Moore
Melody Gorno

WOMENS 35/40B

Participants Diana Trombley
Terry Truvillion
Terri Harris
Judy Porter

WOMENS 40A

Finals Laura Patterson def. Lesley Kishigan
Semis Cindy Seiders
Karen Green

JUNIORS 12

Participants Marlena Verbeck
Lindsey Anderson
Ian Emerson
Bruno Gervasi

Juniors 14/16

Finals Jack Huczek def. Dave Pearson
Semis Wayne Clason
Joe Budzynski

1996-97 RAM TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Oct. 5	Singles/Petoskey Racquetball One
Oct. 19-20	Singles/Players Club
Nov. 1-3	Seniors/Masters Davison
Nov. 13-17*	US OPEN - Memphis, TN
Nov. 23	Doubles/Lansing Racquetball One
Dec. 7-8	RAM STATE DOUBLES Ann Arbor
Dec. 14	Singles/Grand Rapids Racquetball One
Jan. 25	Doubles Finale West Bloomfield Racquetball One
Feb. 8	Total Sports - Mt. Clemens
Feb. 15	Singles/Grand Rapids Racquetball One
Mar. 8-9	Singles/Playes Club
Mar. 22	Singles Finale/Lansing Racquetball One
Apr. 11-13	RAM STATE SINGLES Davison
Apr. 17-20*	Adult Regional - Canton, OH
Apr. 24-27*	Adult Regional - Chicago, IL
Apr. 26-17	Womens - Metro League (TBA)

*National Events

Join the Racquetball Association of Michigan

Membership includes:

**Membership card, AARA official rule book, travel and equipment discounts*

**AARA medical, life and liability insurance at sanctioned events*

**Four issues of the RAM newsletter, The Racquetball Reporter*

**Six issues of the AARA national publication, Racquetball Magazine*

**RAM sanctioned tournament entry forms mailed to your home*

**Eligibility to play in all sanctioned tournaments and receive state and national ranking points*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SUPPORT THE U.S. NATIONAL TEAM
(DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

DATE _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Home Phone _____

_____ \$20.00 Adult Competitor

_____ \$15.00 Junior Competitor

_____ \$10.00 Junior Competitor (without Racquetball Magazine subscription)

_____ \$15.00 Racquetball Magazine subscription only

MAIL TO: RAM, 3152 S. Henderson, Davison, MI 48423

Racquetball Reporter

The Racquetball Reporter
3152 S. Henderson Rd.
Davison, MI 48423

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1996 State Singles Results

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