

The Racquetball Reporter

Fall 1995

Volume V Issue 4

1995 RAM State Doubles to be held in Ann Arbor

by W.T. Blakeslee

The 1995 RAM State Doubles Tournament is set for December 2 & 3 at the One on One Athletic Club in Ann Arbor. Last year we tried to make the tournament as "people" friendly as possible. Where practical, in the small draws, we will try to make it a one-day tournament. A few players will have to play Sunday based on the number of players in the draw and court availability. Last year it worked out extremely well and many of you had Sunday at home. Entry fee of \$25 per en-

trant is excellent and you receive a sweatshirt worth almost that much just for playing, not to mention lunch, court time and trophies. This is a fun event and every year almost 100 RAM players participate. Where else could you have so much fun for so few dollars? You can even get some Christmas shopping in at the famous Briarwood Mall.

The entry form is available in this issue. Questions can be directed to tournament directors Tom Blakeslee at (810) 468-2787 or Lou Ellen Fecher at (810) 658-8097.

Michigan players represented at World Seniors Tournament

Six people from Michigan attended the World Senior Master's Tournament. Lesley Kishigan and Laura Patterson placed second in the Women's 40 event advancing to the playoff round on Saturday. Laura Patterson triumphed by winning the bronze medal, while Lesley lost in the quarters against some tough competition, but made a great showing for a first time player at this event.

Gordon Kelly also advanced to the medal round and emerged victorious as the gold medal winner in the Men's 55 division.

Also advancing to the medal rounds were Clee Melvin in Men's 40, Mike Stephens in Men's 45 and Mike Young in Men's 50. As an aside note: this was the first year Mike Stephens made it through the entire tournament without an injury!

It was a great tournament and we hope to have a larger Michigan contingent next year. Congratulations to all our Michigan racquetball players.

Submitted by Laura Patterson

Exhibition Set for General Motors Institute in Flint

The RAM Board is going to put on an exhibition at GMI in Flint on November 14, 1995. Jimmy Floyd, Mike Johnson, Nick Rallis, Marta Rubcich, Melody Gorno, Jack Huczek and Tom Blakeslee are all going to participate. GMI just completed construction of a new recreation center with three new courts. Currently, racquetball is the most actively played sport at the Institute.

For more information, please contact Tom Blakeslee at (810) 468-2787.

inside...

Racquetball One Series highlights
Hall of Fame display completed
State Doubles Entry enclosed

Page 2
Page 3
Page 5

Racquetball One enjoys Fall season

Petoskey

The first weekend in October was well worth the travel for all those serious racquetball players who headed north for Petoskey. Plenty of round robin action for everyone, great hospitality and a party of all parties! A special thanks to Bob Hull of the National Health & Racquet Club and his staff for another great job! So much fun that we plan to return in January. Bring your ski's and hit the slopes too! Muskegon players Bill Deluca and Dave Bushen controlled the top men's divisions and Melissa Daniel of Grand Rapids defeated Patty Noiles of Alpena in the Women's Open. Congratulations to all those who made the trip. See you in January!

Racquetball One Stop #4

Don't miss the pre-Christmas Holiday tournament at the Grand Rapids MAC December 9 & 10. A great chance to win some nice presents, and even finish your shopping at some of the states nicest malls! Round robin play once again, with doubles Saturday evening! A party is being planned for Saturday night. Joel Bonnett will demonstrate some of his skills in a special exhibition that is being planned! Set aside this date for lots of racquetball and fun!

Letter to the Editor

Help! Each year racquetball

tournament entries seem to decline! Not just in Michigan, but all across the country. Clubs are no longer interested in housing tournaments, and the ones that do, desire far too much money. Our sport is suffering and this is not the 1980's. As players we need to encourage other players to travel a little (to Grand Rapids, Lansing and Petoskey, for example) for a tournament. There are some people and a few clubs in Michigan that want to keep racquetball alive. These people work very hard and unless we can increase tournament participation the tournament format will not exist at the state and local level. Lets promote the sport we love!

Ken Bonnett

AARA Board Meeting Highlights

The AARA Board of Directors met at the National Office in Colorado Springs September 28 through October 1, 1995. The following are highlights of action taken during that meeting.

- 1 Accepted the 1994-95 financial audit submitted by Ken Waugh and Associates
- 2 Publish the AARA Due Process Procedure in the next rulebook and in the Racquetball Magazine
- 3 Revised the U.S. Team Coaching Procedure in the next rulebook and in the Racquetball Magazine
- 4 Awarded four \$500.00 scholarships to Kim Russell (GA), Kori Grasha (NY), John Stanford (FL) and Tricia Boots (PA)
- 5 Accepted the scholarship rating system.
- 6 Voted down any new rule changes for consideration in 1996
- 7 Requested the national Rule Committee to review the round robin tiebreaker system

8 Established firmly that the third weekend in April would be the AARA Regional Weekend beginning in 1997

9 USOC Male Athlete of the Year - Michael Bronfeld; USOC Female Athlete of the Year - Michelle Gould

10 Elected four members to the AARA Hall of Fame Contributor category: Gary Mazaroff and Keith Calkins Athletes: Mary Low Acuff and Johnny Hennen

11 Established a task force to re-examine allocation of AARA current finances and restructuring of the national office towards a more dynamic position for the AARA in the sport to create new life and energy for the sport in the United States

12 Selected team managers and team leaders for the Tournament of the Americas and World Championships.

Published courtesy of the AARA

1996 Leadership Conference

January 11-14, 1996

U.S. Olympic
Training Center
Colorado Springs, CO

*A conference
dedicated to the
leaders of our sport*

Hall of Fame display completed

The "Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame" is now completed and located at the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing, Michigan.

The Hall of Fame, established in 1984, used to be housed at the Davison Racquet Club. It has been revamped and is now up for public viewing. The inductees have a 5 x 7" color picture and a brief biography of themselves permanently displayed on a plaque. The craftsmanship of the display is truly eye-catching as it is made of redwood and has been sandblasted for a nice finish. Part of the display has been coated in 23kt gold. It is quite a tribute to those who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Mike Anderson of Sparta, Michigan designed the display and put it together the plaques and Mark Casey of Berkley, Michigan designed the large sign highlighting the display.

The Hall of Fame has been going through the process of being revamped since September of 1994 and at this time I would like to thank Mike Anderson and Mark Casey for their excellent work on the project. Jim Woolcock and his junior racquetball players get a big thank you for selling raffle tickets to help pay for all of this. Also, I would like to thank Carl Porter, the owner and Mike Combes the manager of the MAC for allowing the Hall of Fame to be displayed in their Lansing facility.

Current members of the Hall of Fame are: Lynn Hahn, Frederick



The Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame display located at the Michigan Athletic Club in Lansing, Michigan.

Lewerenz, Tom Brownlee, Jim Hisei, Jim Easterling, Stu Hastings, Bob Wilhelm, Dennis Wood, Irene Ackerman-Chura, Donna Henry-Brewer, Larry Jay Fox, William Alan Gottlieb, Steve Keeley, Gordon Kelly and Kathy Williams-Harrison.

You can also enjoy one of our Hall of Fame members on the first racquetball collectors card. Lynn Hahn graces the first of its kind and is on sale through Jim Easterling. The price is \$2.00 for a regular, \$10.00 for an autographed in silver card and \$20.00 for one autographed in gold. Quantities are limited, so please don't wait.

Feel free to contact Jim Easterling regarding the Hall of Fame or racquetball cards at (517) 887-0459 or 321 Village Dr., Lansing, Michigan 48911.

Thanks to all those who support these racquetball endeavors.

OUR APOLOGIES

In the last issue of The Racquetball Reporter an error occurred in the printing of the State Singles results.

We apologize to Twayne Howard for the misspelling of his name, as he was the Men's D second place winner.

Congratulations Twayne and we are sorry for the error.

Total Sports hosts Women's Tourney

The Warm-up Tournament held the first weekend of April at Total Sports was a special event for Women racquetball players. RAM tried to encourage greater participation in the lower skill divisions by 1) promising not to combine skill divisions without player permission, and 2) providing on-court coaching of the B-C-D and Novice divisions by the Open and A players. Playing a round robin format, the women played a full day of racquetball.

In Women's C, a close battle occurred at the top with Becky Kent edging Kris Elwart by 5 points to capture the first place trophy. Becky had beaten Kris in the first match of the day for both players. This proved to be the difference, as Kris finished the day without losing a match while Becky split games with Donella Rak. Also playing in C were Marilyn Baruster and Sue Cary.

The C division matches were refereed by the Open and A players. After each match, the referee would give each player one or two pointers on their game. Those with 'old habits' finally got the message to try a few changes after hearing the same suggestion from several different players. The players appreciated the tips, and the Open and A players seemed to enjoy the chance to share their racquetball knowledge.

In the A division, Sharon Huczek had an easy time as she went through the tournament without losing a game. Second place went to Denise Knoll. Also

playing were Carrie Bergum, Lou Ellen Fecher, Jacki Guy and Karen Visgar.

As in most of the tournaments this season, the Open draw had a strong turn-out. With 10 players in the round robin, the group was split into 2 flights, with the only flight winner, based on points, advancing to the finals. This made every point count. In Flight A, Laura Patterson was seeded first. After splitting her first match with Paula Saad and then beating Jan Insko, Laura came up against Michelle Moore. With her forehand clicking, Michelle played Laura tough. They split games, with Laura taking a 5 point victory. This proved to be the deciding factor, as Laura won the flight over Michelle by 4 points, after beating Marge Chedraue.

In Flight B, Lesley Kishigan was the top seed. Everything was working for Lesley, and she made her way through Kathy Trotter, Marta Rubcich, Betty-Ann Gilliland and Pam Parkhurst without losing a game.

Lesley and Laura then faced off in a best of 3 games to 11 finals. But although Lesley had not lost a game all day, the long matches took their toll, and Laura handily beat Lesley in two games.

Instead of trophies, the 1st and 2nd place winners were given a choice from a small section of prizes. Prizes were donated by Marta Rubcich, Laura Patterson and Marine Hardware in Harrison Township.

Thanks to all those who participated. RAM apologizes for the delay in publishing these results

State Rankings as of September 26, 1995

1. California	1870	21. Idaho	358	41. Vermont	107
2. Florida	1348	22. Alaska	353	42. North Dakota	107
3. Illinois	1137	23. Utah	348	43. Delaware	95
4. Ohio	1130	24. Maryland	346	44. Nevada	94
5. Texas	1078	25. Tennessee	345	45. Alabama	65
6. New York	1029	26. New Jersey	336	46. Rhode Island	64
7. Pennsylvania	885	27. Wyoming	306	47. Mississippi	64
8. Minnesota	784	28. Connecticut	303	48. West Virginia	61
9. Missouri	624	29. Nebraska	272	49. South Dakota	49
10. Colorado	593	30. Kentucky	261	50. Hawaii	41
11. Indiana	576	31. New Hampshire	258	51. D C	25
12. Massachusetts	553	32. Montana	200	52. Puerto Rico	7
13. Washington	537	33. Iowa	193		
14. North Carolina	538	34. Louisiana	183		
15. Virginia	536	35. Arkansas	180		
16. New Mexico	471	36. Maine	170		
17. Michigan	467	37. South Carolina	169		
18. Wisconsin	414	38. Oklahoma	148		
19. Georgia	387	39. Oregon	141		
20. Arizona	365	40. Kansas	120		

*Published courtesy of
the AARA*

Racquetball Association of Michigan
presents the
STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

December 3 & 4, 1995

at

One on One Athletic Club, 2875 Boardwalk Dr., Ann Arbor, MI

Phone: 313-761-4440

Directors: Tom Blakeslee (810) 468-2787 and Lou Ellen Fecher (810) 658-8097

Fees: \$25.00 per person/\$50.00 per team/per event **Lodging:** Courtyard Marriot (313) 995-5900
\$15.00 per person/second event Holiday Inn Holidome (313) 665-4444
Non-AARA members add \$20.00

AARA Sanctioned: *Yearly AARA membership required. AARA Rules will prevail. Two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11.*

Trophies and Awards: Trophies will be awarded to first and second place winners in all divisions. Semi plaques will be awarded in full (draw of 16) divisions only. Each entrant will receive a complimentary **SWEATSHIRT**.

Starting Times: Play begins Saturday, December 2, 1995. Divisions are limited to draws of 16. Call the club Wednesday, November 29th after 6:00 pm for starting times. **NO Friday play.**

Referees: Losers must referee or pay \$5.00

Tournament Ball: PENN ULTRA BLUE

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 25, 1995

Name _____ Partner 1 _____
Address _____ Partner 2 _____
City _____ Zip Code _____ Club Affiliation _____
Phone: days _____ nights _____ Date of birth ____/____/____

Sweatshirt size (circle one) M L XL XXL*

*Please enclose \$2.00 for XXL

Make checks payable to RAM and mail to:

RAM STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

3152 S Henderson Rd

Davison, MI 48423

Entry Fee: _____

AARA: _____

Extra XXL: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Waiver clause: I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all claim for damages I may have against RAM, the host club, tournament staff and their agents, for all injuries suffered by me in conjunction with my participation in this tournament.

Signature _____

Guardian's Signature _____

(if under 18)

DIVISIONS

circle correct choices/limit two events

MENS WOMENS

Open	25+	40B	60+
A	30A	45A	Mixed Open
B	30B	45B	Mixed A
C	35A	50A	Mixed B
D	35B	50B	Mixed C
	40A	55+	Mixed D

*Divisions may be combined if less
than 8 teams enter a division
Alternate Division _____*

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

inside...

State Doubles Entry Form
Racquetball One Update
Hall of Fame Display