

THE SERVICE LINE



FALL 1983

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Bob Szuch -- Editor

FROM MY SIDE OF THE COURT

by BOB SZUCH

THIS IS THE FIRST NEWSLETTER IN WHICH I ASSUME TWO ROLES. FIRST, BEING EDITOR OF THIS PUBLICATION AND SECOND, THAT OF PRESIDENT OF THE MICHIGAN RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR PLACING THEIR TRUST IN ME AND I HOPE THAT I CAN LIVE UP TO THEIR EXPECTATIONS. I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO LET ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE MRA KNOW THAT MY LINES OF COMMUNICATION ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO EVERY MEMBER. I CAN BE REACHED AT EITHER P.O.BOX LISTED ON THIS NEWSLETTER OR SIMPLY CALL MY HOME NUMBER 683-3497. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL OR WRITE ABOUT IDEAS, CRITICISMS, OR CONCERNS THAT YOU MAY HAVE.

AVOID READERS OF "THE SERVICE LINE," WILL NOTICE THAT THE STANDARD FEATURE, "THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER," IS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE. I PREFER THIS COLUMN TO ADDRESS THE MEMBERSHIP. OCCASIONALLY, I MAY RESTORE THE PRESIDENT COLUMN BUT YOU'LL NOTICE THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT HAS TAKEN OVER THAT SPOT.

RECENTLY, THE MRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FORMED A DRAWS GUIDELINE COMMITTEE. THE PURPOSE OF THIS COMMITTEE WAS TO INSTITUTE GENERAL GUIDELINES IN THE SEEDINGS AND DRAWS FOR ALL DIVISIONS. THE COMMITTEE WAS COMPOSED OF: TED DUTCHER, JIM EMERSON, JIM EASTERLING AND MYSELF. HERE IS WHAT THE COMMITTEE CAME UP WITH:

FIRST, THE MRA COMPUTER POINTS WILL BE THE FIRST DETERMINING FACTOR FOR ALL DIVISIONS. ANY PLAYER WITH EQUAL POINTS WILL BE PLACED IN THE DRAW BY A RANDOM PICK. THE LOWEST POINT PLAYERS WILL GO INTO ANY RAT TAILS.

SECOND, THE MRA WILL SEED TWO PLAYERS IN BRACKETS OF LESS THAN 7. IN BRACKETS OF 7 THROUGH 31, THE MRA WILL SEED THE TOP FOUR PLAYERS. THE TOP EIGHT PLAYERS WILL BE SEEDED IN BRACKETS OF 32 OR MORE.

THIRD, THE MRA WILL TRY TO FOLLOW PLAYER COMMENTS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE REGARDING: STARTING TIMES, OPPONENTS, AND SAME CLUB PLAYER REQUESTS.

FOURTH, THE MRA WILL SCHEDULE THE LARGEST DIVISIONS FIRST. HOWEVER, ALL PLAYERS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO PLAY EARLY FRIDAY AT ANY TOURNAMENT SITE.

FIFTH, UNSEEDED TOP PLAYERS WILL BE BLIND SEEDED. THEY WILL NOT TAKE A SEEDED SPOT. THEY WILL NOT MEET A SEEDED PLAYER IN THE FIRST ROUND, IF THE DRAW IS LARGE ENOUGH.

SIXTH, MEMBERS OF THE SEEDING COMMITTEE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DO THE DRAWS FOR HIS OR HER OWN DIVISION.

SEVENTH, PHONE ENTRIES WILL BE GIVEN LESS LEEWAY THIS SEASON. SO PLAN ON HAVING YOUR ENTRY AND ENTRY FEE IN ON TIME.

FINALLY, THE PRO-OPEN DIVISION WILL BE SEEDED WITHOUT THE POINT GUIDELINES. THE MEMBERS OF THE SEEDING COMMITTEE FOR THAT PARTICULAR TOURNAMENT WILL SEED THIS DIVISION. PRIOR TOURNAMENT RESULTS WILL BE USED.

REFEREE CLINIC TO BE HELD AT FRANKLIN

THE MICHIGAN RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION WILL HOST A REFEREE CLINIC ON OCTOBER 18TH AT THE FRANKLIN RACQUET CLUB AND SPA. THE CLINIC WILL BEGIN AT 6 PM AND LAST APPROXIMATELY THREE HOURS. THE COST WILL BE FOUR DOLLARS PER PERSON FOR NON MRA MEMBERS. MRA MEMBERS WITH THEIR MEMBERSHIP CARD WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL ONE DOLLAR DISCOUNT. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT JIM READING AT 352-8000.

MRA Board Of Directors

Bob Szuch	President
Jim Easterling	Vice President
Dianne Driver	Treasurer
Judy Gonyea	Secretary
Jim Emerson	
Ted Dutcher	
Bill Gottlieb	
Gary Doty	
Peggy Doty	
Lee Frederickson	

MRA OPENS SEASON IN PETOSKEY

The MRA will kick off the 1983-84 MRA State Championship Series September 16-18 at the Little Traverse Racquet Club in Petoskey. This promises to be one of the best tournaments of the year as well as a vacation (from the heat!!!) in Northern Michigan. The club offers 8 back-wall glass courts for viewing, plus outside tennis courts for relaxation. At Harbor Cove, there are more tennis courts, a swimming pool and a private beach for your enjoyment.

This year's tournament will be sponsored by Wilson Sporting Goods, KHQ, Bata Shoes and Wheels Inn of Chatham, Ontario. The official tournament ball will be the Wilson TruBlue and Wilson is also supplying LaCoste style collared shirts. KHQ will have radio announcements 9-days prior to the tournament as well as live up-dates from the club with player interviews. So tune your radios into FM 106. Bata will again be giving shoes to all division winners and Wheels will give away door prizes of 3-day/2-night stays at their complex. I'm sure anyone who has ever been to Wheels will agree the place is FANTASTIC.

Consolation will be offered if the draw for the tournament is not full. To offer consolation, the tournament may begin as early as 2:00 pm on Friday. This will allow every participant to play at least two matches. The Team Concept will be back this year and begin in Petoskey. Last year's winners Courthouse West B of Saginaw will be defending their title. Tournament entry fees for adults will remain at \$20 again this year and junior division fees will be \$15. MRA memberships this year will be \$5. All new MRA members can pick up their membership cards in Petoskey if you join at this tournament. If you join for Petoskey remember the first entry forms you will have mailed to your home will be those for MRA #3 in Grand Rapids.

Housing this year will again be at the Harbor Cove Condominiums on scenic Little Traverse Bay. These fully-furnished condos sell for over \$200,000 and include (in all 2-bedrooms and larger) a microwave oven, two fireplaces and a washer and dryer. These condominiums will be available for tournament players at the rates below:

- 1-bedroom (sleeps 1-2 people)
- 2-bedroom (sleeps 4-6 people)
- 3-bedroom (sleeps 6-8 people)
- 2-bedroom with loft (sleeps 6-8 people)
- 3-bedroom with loft (sleeps 8-10)

\$ 90 - 2 nights; \$115 - 3 nights
\$135 - 2 nights; \$160 - 3 nights
\$170 - 2 nights; \$210 - 3 nights
\$170 - 2 nights; \$210 - 3 nights
\$210 - 2 nights; \$225 - 3 nights

This year there will be a \$50 deposit required in addition to your rent. The deposit will be returned to you 18-20 days after your stay. Please contact Julie Ris at 1-800-632-7131 for reservations.

I am sure you will agree that these condos are FANTASTIC. And your cost is as low as \$22.50 per night. So come and enjoy the private beach, the pool and the Northern Michigan scenery and manage to throw some racquetball in there too. We are looking forward to seeing you at Petoskey.

CLIMB WALLS IN A FLASH!

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With high abrasion gum rubber sole. Durable shock absorbent cushion. Breatheable, ballistic nylon mesh upper. Fully padded for comfort.

In men's hi- and lo-cuts; ladies' lo-cuts



Official shoe of the MRA

COURT CLUB GUIDES AVAILABLE

by DIANE DRIVER

Attention all Racquetball Club Owners, Club Managers, Program Directors and Racquetball Enthusiasts. The MRA now has available the first ever booklet entitled "WHERE TO PLAY IN MICHIGAN: A GUIDE TO MICHIGAN'S RACQUETBALL FACILITIES."

That's right--a guide to racquetball clubs in this state!! The booklet lists all clubs known to the MRA in Michigan including a few in the Upper Peninsula. In October of 1982, we sent out a survey to the clubs and continued with a follow-up survey in February, 1983. In April, we began to compile the information the clubs sent back to us.

This club guide is divided into areas, such as Detroit, Flint, 517 Area Code, Grand Rapids, Northern 616 Area Code, Southern 616 Area Code and 906 Area Code; and then the clubs are listed by city under these divisions in alphabetical order. The description of each club includes: club name; type of club--public, private, YMCA, etc; number of racquetball courts--number with glass; address of club; phone number; manager's name; program director's name; services available and programs available. Some clubs do not have any listed information as they did not respond to either survey.

We regret any club exclusions which have occurred and urge any club not included to contact either the MRA or myself, Jim Easterling, at (313) 946-7345. There will be printed updates to follow the original publication.

The MRA is pleased with the guide and think it has some value for club personnel as well as the racquetball player who travels throughout Michigan.

Court Club Guides are available for \$8.00 (plus \$1.00 for postage) by contacting the Michigan Racquetball Association, P.O.Box 23035, Lansing, MI 48909.

FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

by JIM EASTERLING

HELLO, FELLOW RACQUETBALL PLAYERS AND HACKERS. I AM VERY EXCITED OVER THE 1983-84 MRA SEASON. THIS YEAR, WE HAVE A LOT OF NEW THINGS WHICH ARE NICE FOR THE MRA MEMBERS AND CLUBS.

THIS SEASON WE ARE GIVING EVERYONE A STURDY PLASTIC MEMBERSHIP CARD. THIS CARD WILL HAVE YOUR NAME, CITY AND WILL ENABLE YOU TO CERTAIN DISCOUNTS AND BENEFITS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON. THIS YEAR WE WILL MAIL THE MRA TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORMS DIRECTLY TO YOUR HOME ADDRESS.

THE MICHIGAN RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION ALSO HAS A NEW CLUB GUIDE BOOKLET ENTITLED "WHERE TO PLAY IN MICHIGAN." IT'S A GUIDE TO MICHIGAN'S RACQUETBALL FACILITIES. THIS BOOKLET LISTS ALL THE CLUBS IN THE STATE. THEIR ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, AND ANY SPECIAL PROGRAMS THAT THEY OFFER. THIS SHOULD PROVE INVALUABLE TO ANY TRAVELING RACQUETBALL PLAYER. THE MRA IS SELLING THIS GUIDE TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP FOR \$8.00 (PLUS \$1.00 FOR MAILING.)

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THIS YEAR THE MICHIGAN RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH CERTAIN CLUBS, THAT WILL ALLOW ANY PERSON WITH A CURRENT MRA MEMBERSHIP CARD TO PLAY RACQUETBALL AT THEIR CLUB FOR ONLY THE PRICE OF THE COURT. THIS APPLIES TO CLUBS THAT ARE PRIVATE AND THE MEMBER MUST LIVE OUTSIDE A FIFTY MILE RADIUS OF THE PARTICIPATING CLUB. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW ON THIS EXCITING NEW ASPECT IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.

NEW DIVISION - PRO OPEN

by Lee Frederickson

The MRA has for a long time wanted to add a money division for those players who have climbed through the amateur ranks and stopped at open. Beginning in Grand Rapids, Nov. 11-13, 1983, a new division of unlimited potential expanding the ranks upward will make its debut. Entry fee will be \$30 per entrant, \$20 will be returned to the winnings pot, and \$10 will pay expenses. No shirt or trophy will be awarded. Entry money plus sponsor money plus any way we can figure to sweeten the pot money will be first divided between men and women in the same percentage as the number of entrants. Then the individual winnings will be divided with the following formula:

- 1st. - 1/2
- 2nd. - 1/3
- 3rd. - 1/12
- 4th. - 1/12

A good turnout in Grand Rapids would assure at least Three Money MRA Tournaments during the season.

**Smash me.
Crush me.
Splat me.
Kill me.**



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true blue.**

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MRA SPONSORSHIPS

by Diane Driver

The MRA is proud to present the sponsors for the first three tournaments of the 1983-84 State Championship Series. We extend a hearty welcome to our new sponsors as well as welcome back to those sponsors from last year. The MRA urges all racquetball players to support the sponsoring companies who support your tournaments!!!

New to the State Championship Series this year is Wilson Sporting Goods. The Wilson TruBlue ball will be the official ball for MRA #1, MRA #2, AND MRA #3. For MRA #1, we are returning to the Little Traverse Racquet Club in Petoskey and Wilson will provide LaCoste style collared shirts for this tournament. Joining Wilson in sponsoring the Petoskey tournament, we wish to welcome back Bata Shoes, KHQ and Wheels Inn. Bata will be providing shoes for each division winner and Wheels Inn will provide five 2-night/3-day stays as door prizes. Also, listen for MRA tournament announcements on KHQ, FM 106, when in Petoskey.

October marks the return to Woodland Racquet Club with a couple of new twists. If the October draw is below 250, consolation will be offered for the players. Also, this will be the second tournament where the Team Concept will be offered. Just a reminder, first place in the Team Concept Competition this year will be 50% of all the money collected in this competition throughout the year. Sponsoring MRA #2 will be Wilson Sporting Goods. Wilson will again be giving away LaCoste styled collared shirts to all tournament players.

MRA #3 at Racquetball Plus in Grand Rapids marks two new sponsors in addition to Wilson Sporting Goods. Viking Sports of California will be giving every division winner a pair of Bausch and Lomb eyeguards, every 2nd place finisher a racquetball glove and all semi-finalists a new grip. Also, WJFM FM 93.7 will be doing MRA commercials for the tournament. A new twist to the Grand Rapids tournament will be the Pro-Open division. This division will offer money to the men and women open players. Check for other articles in the newsletter on this new division.

Also, but not least, our thanks to the following hotels for their agreeing to act as tournament headquarters for MRA tournaments.

Remember when reserving your rooms in these hotels mention that you are a MRA tournament participant. Thanks to Harbor Cove in Petoskey, Holiday Inn in Howell, and Holiday Inn East in Grand Rapids.

TEAM CONCEPT

by Ted Dutcher

The team concept for the 1983-84 tournament season will have some changes. The biggest change will be in awards. Instead of the prizes given last year at each tournament, there will be cash awards for the 1st thru 4th place finishers at the end of the season. Points can be accumulated at MRA 1 thru MRA 7. The entry fee will be \$12.00 per team at each tournament entered. The team can have from one to four players competing for points at a single tournament. The players who are competing on a team must be listed on that tournament's entry blank and have paid the entry fee. A team may have a maximum of six (6) players on its roster. The team roster must be submitted prior to the first tournament at which a team intends to compete in. The team players can be in different classes or all in the same class. They may be in any division. Players may not change teams during the season and they may be on only one team during a season. Points will be awarded as follows to each team player: 1st place 10 points: 2nd place 5 points: 3rd place and 4th place (semis) 3 points: quarter finals 1 point and each player gets one point for entering. The team totals will be the totals of all players on that team. Standings and point totals will be posted at each tournament and printed in the MRA NEWSLETTER. The biggest change of the year will be in awards given out. Instead of the prizes given last year there will be cash awards given for the 1st thru 4th place season finishers. This will be for the final season standings only. 95% of the monies taken in on TEAM CONCEPT ENTRIES during the season will be returned as follows: 1st place 50%: 2nd place 30%: 3rd place 10%: 4th place 5%. So get your friends together and form a team and compete in the MRA TEAM CONCEPT.



VIKING SPORTS

JOIN THE MRA NOW...

AND RECEIVE

- ** The MRA Newsletter "THE SERVICE LINE" published 4 times per year
- ** Eligibility to play in 7 state-wide MRA tournaments plus the STATE DOUBLES and STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS
- ** Tournament entry forms mailed right to your home (DON'T FORGET YOUR ZIP CODE)
- ** A MRA membership card
- ** Discounts on referee clinics, court club guides, club guest fees and more
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PO Box 23035, Lansing, MI 48909

STATE DOUBLES/STATE JUNIORS CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Jack Lobaido

March 25-27 marked the MRA State Doubles/Juniors Racquetball Championships. They were held at the Mt. Clemens Racquetball Club in Mt. Clemens. The two-day tournament draw was a record 80 teams in Doubles, and 45 Juniors entrants. The tournament brought some exciting racquetball being played in Doubles, and with the up and coming Juniors battling it out for their State titles, the weekend was filled with thrilling non-stop action. As an added note, I would like to thank the Mt. Clemens Racquetball management and staff for putting together another one of their outstanding tournaments.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS:

Men's Open:

Brian Mitchell Def. Bob Wilhelm
Fred Hernandez Dale Hetherington

Men's A:

Jim Hiser Def. Tom Blakslee
Ben Stanley Kerry Marks

Men's B:

Mike Hotra Def. Rich Smith
Ron Bugarin Bob Johnston

Men's C:

Jack Sisinger Def. Roman Jaworicz
Alex Bireescu Joe Svabsky

Men's D:

Terry Lawlor Def. Bob Jones
Mike Lawlor Mark Pleins

Men's Senior's A:

Tom Brownlee Def. Ron Slavic
Fred Lewerence George Ackerson

Men's Senior's C:

Ed Jacques Def. Ken Dosenbach
Al Micelli Don Lafferty

Women's Open:

Nancy Foser Def. Barb Randle
Carla Teare Irene Ackerman

Women's A:

Bridget Albosta Def. Mary Ann Szpont
Patty McAllum Debbie Nirganaka

Women's B:

Donna Murray Def. Janet Insko
Terry Hamden Gloria Schilkey

Junior Boys 17 & Under:

Mark Heckman Def. Troy VanBemmel

Junior Boys 15 & Under:

Chris Cole Def. Aaron Metaj

Junior Boys 13 & Under:

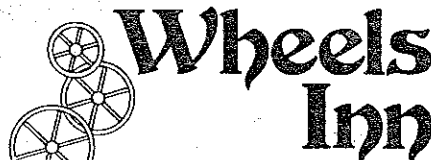
Jim Floyd Def. Nick Rallis

Junior Girls 17 & Under:

Kerry Niggemyer Def. Kim Steinbach

Junior Girls 15 & Under:

Kelly Schmelter Def. Courtney Mys



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Chatham, Ontario, Canada N7M 1R2

For Reservations

Call 1-519-351-1100

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