

Hot Off The Wall

The Newsletter of the Utah Racquetball Association

August 2005

OPENING SHOTS

Penn



By Randy Martin
URA President

Now that the temperatures have dropped out of the 100s it's time to dust off the rackets, a new season is about to start.

This season starts off with the **Fall Opener**, same name, new type of tournament. The Fall Opener will again be held at Marv Jenson, but it will be run completely by your URA Board. This tournament is a **membership drive**, and will be a great way to play a sanctioned tournament and get your USAR fees paid. The **Tournament cost is \$38.00 for adults and \$28.00 for juniors**, \$30 of the fee will go directly to paying for your USAR fee (\$20 for juniors). The remaining \$8.00 will cover the cost of the court rental, food and awards. The fee will be the same if you play one event or two, if your membership has not yet expired, we will add a year onto your membership. If you happen to be a lifetime member the cost will be \$8.00 for one or two events. This is a great way to get your membership renewed, kick off the season and play some racquetball.

We ended the season last year with State Singles held at the Orem Recreation Center. The tournament was a great success, with most of the credit going to Kay Patten and Joel Tualaiva and the excellent staff. Congratulations to Brian Pointelin for winning his fifth consecutive State Singles Title, by defeating newcomer to Utah, Jared Torres 15-12, 11-15, 11-9.

The General Membership Meeting and Banquet followed the Open Finals of the State Tournament. Pam Martin, Mike VanValkenburg and myself were re-elected to the board to serve another 3-year

term. I would also like to thank Salsa Leedos in West Jordan for providing all the food for this year's banquet. This is there first year helping us, and I think they did a great job.

This year I was honored to give the President's Award to Mike Van Valkenburg. Mike has done a great job being our Treasurer for the past two years. This is one of the most demanding and time consuming jobs on the board. Mike also serves on the Utah High School Board, coaches a Junior Team during the summer and a High School Team during the season. He is also a Master Barbeque Chef as I'm sure your aware if you've played any tournaments that he helps run.

The board selects the other year-end awards based on membership input. This years winners are James Boone for Most Improved Male, Valla Laboa for Most Improved Female, Kevin Day for Most Improved Junior, Chris Segura for Sportsmanship, Randy VanWagner and Wade Burkett for Tournament Directors.

On April 18th the board met to elect officers and directors for the 2005-2006 season. I was re-elected as President and Val Shewfelt was re-elected as Vice-President. Mike Van Valkenburg was re-elected as Treasurer and Janette Olsen was elected Secretary. Directorships were assigned to all board members depending on interest and past performance. We are always looking for more help so if you have an interest in making Utah Racquetball great you can contact me or anyone else on the board. The annual Tournament Director's Meeting was held on Saturday, July 9th, 9 a.m. at the Redwood Center. This is when we put together next year's tournament and traveling league schedule. This years State Doubles will be held at Sports Mall, and State Singles will be hosted by Marv Jenson.

Thanks again to everyone for helping make Utah Racquetball great, and will see you on the courts.

Inside This Issue

Player Profile	2
Sanctioned Tournaments ...	3
Chocolate	4

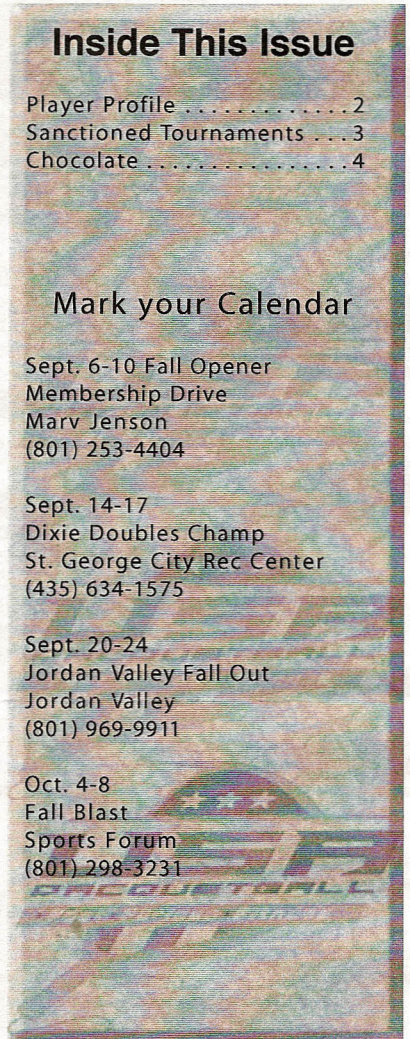
Mark your Calendar

Sept. 6-10 Fall Opener
Membership Drive
Marv Jenson
(801) 253-4404

Sept. 14-17
Dixie Doubles Champ
St. George City Rec Center
(435) 634-1575

Sept. 20-24
Jordan Valley Fall Out
Jordan Valley
(801) 969-9911

Oct. 4-8
Fall Blast
Sports Forum
(801) 298-3231



PLAYER PROFILE: MARCUS DUNYON

Penn



**By Brian Pointelin
URA**

It was my pleasure to get to talk to one of my great friends for this piece. A man who had left Utah and eventually saw the light to come home. In March of 2004, Marcus Dunyon left Salt Lake City for a great financial opportunity to do something he was very good at occupationally. After spending the last 16 months away from his family, his friends and his roots, Marcus made another decision to move. Fortunately for those of us who love this man, the move was back to Salt Lake City. I hope you enjoy reading this informative interview as much as I had conducting it.

BP: So Marcus, long time no see, it's good to have you back. I know this will be a weird interview for you because usually you are the one interviewing and not being interviewed.

MD: Yeah, a little different but I always have something to say as most people know.

BP: So you were in Lajitas, Texas, where is that exactly??

MD: Lajitas is not the end of the world but you can see it from there. Actually it is a beautiful resort in the middle of a huge desert about 100 miles from the nearest city called Alpine TX. Alpine is where the nearest McDonald's, Subway and grocery stores are located. Wal-Mart is the store the whole area goes to and it is 170 miles each ways and a full day trip, imagine that. Oh yeah, that was were the closest stop light was located too. In Lajitas, there wasn't actually a light just a stop sign that everyone ran.

BP: So what was the job, job title, etc?? You were at a resort, tell us a little about that.

MD: I was employed by the resort as the Director of Construction, Director of Property Services. It was a resort town, and there were a lot of projects in the works, most of them I was in charge of. When you see the old movies where there is a town in the middle of nowhere and not much else, this was similar.

BP: So, in the middle of nowhere, how far did you have to go to play racquetball??

MD: Closest courts were at a college named Sul Ross in Alpine, Texas. As I said earlier, Alpine is about 100 miles away from Lajitas, so I didn't play much.

BP: Sounds like you didn't play much racquetball while you were in Texas.

MD: I only played when I left the state and came back to Utah a few times, I went to play a few times in Texas, but it was too far. I was declared the unofficial West Texas State Champ and had a standing

invitation to anyone to play for the title, but no one ever challenged me. Of course the notice was posted on the local bulletin board at the Post Office next to the bank across from gas station and the Chili Pepper cafe in Study Butte. Look it up!!

BP: Unofficial West Texas State Champ, huh?? Sounds like we should play, hahaha.

MD: If we did that, you might win ONE title this season, but you gotta play me in Texas after you sign up on the bulletin board, hahaha. We could play all or nothing, your five straight singles titles against my West Texas title.

BP: What did you do for fun down there, other than sweat, lol???

MD: We did a little exploring of old mines, did a little target shooting. Too hot to spend much time outside. I watch more TV in my time in Texas than in my entire life. There was no radio or regular TV, so everything was done by satellite. There weren't any newspapers, but I could tell you all what happened all year in Chicago. It was the channel feed we received on the dish. It wasn't all bad though the people were amazing, hard working and honest.

BP: So did you get to keep tabs on stuff back home in terms of your sports teams, racquetball, etc??

MD: Yeah, the Utes football season, that was fun to watch their run to greatness. We were in the middle of nowhere, but we did have internet. haha

BP: What did you miss most about Utah while you were in Texas???

MD: Obviously my family and friends, the mountains, the cooler weather.

BP: So your wife Karen was down there with you for a little while right???

MD: "It's a good thing she made it down, I was going crazy without her, I started to have a Texas accent and walk bowl-legged. But as soon as she came down she straightened me up in both departments. I also found out that after being married for over thirty years to Karen I'm not very good without her. I'm lucky to be married to her and have her by my side.

BP: I know the answer to this question, but the readers don't. What would you say were the major influences in your decision to come back to Utah???

MD: The time had come for me to move on, anyone that knows me knows how important my family is to me and mainly for family reasons I made the choice to come back. It was different down there, as I said, nothing around, very peaceful, but to even go see a movie was a weekend event.

BP: So, job-wise, you are set for a while, no other plans to leave again???

MD: Not real sure there are a couple irons in the fire that might take me out of the state from time to time for a project, but my goal is to stay in Utah as much as possible. Right now I am working down in Provo at the Courtyard Marriott, so that is good, but you never know, I want to be here though.

BP: That's good, my back still hurts from unpacking that truck with you, hahaha.



BP: Here's a series of questions like the Budweiser Hot Seat on ESPN:

1. Texas' brutal heat in the summer or heavy winter snows of Utah??

MD: Snow, absolutely snow. You can always get warmer, it's very hard to get cooler in 122 degrees of heat down there.

2. The 19th Hole at the Lajitas Resort or one of the Wasatch Mountain Courses?? And you must explain the 19th Hole at the Resort.

MD: Wasatch Mountain course, although the 19th hole at Lajitas you hit into the Rio Grande, it's pretty cool, but any course here is better than Lajitas.

3. Favorite sports moment from the past year?

MD: Without a doubt, it was the Utes undefeated football team and watching them win a bowl game when everyone thought they were over-rated.

4. What is more beautiful during a sunset, the Rio Grande or Wasatch Mountains???

MD: The Wasatch Mountains, can you tell that I didn't like it in Texas.

5. Favorite sport to play and why???

MD: Toss up between softball and racquetball, but truly wrestling would be my choice because of the individualism and it was tough, but I was really good at it back in the day.

BP: Well, Chief, you have definitely been missed by all of the gang here in Utah, one last question. What can you take away from your experience in Texas, good and bad???

MD: There was nothing really bad about my move to Texas, it was a great adventure and I got to work and play in an area of the United States that I never would have gone to under any other circumstance. They asked me to stay which was nice and I left with wonderful friends and relationships both personally and professionally. I found that the people in Lajitas were some of the finest people one could ever want to meet. One last thing I will say is that until you live in a remote place like Lajitas and literally in a place where there are no real services that we take for granted, it is impossible to realize how great the state of Utah is and how fortunate we are to live here.

BP: Thanks for your time Marcus, it is great to have you back in Utah.

MD: Thanks Man!! See y'all at the dern tournaments partner. Oh I mean, later guys.

BP: One of my parting thoughts for this article is that I am glad to have Marcus back, as many of you will be as well. While he was gone, our lives went on, we played our tournaments, we dealt with our issues. I was fortunate enough, with a few others, to not only stay in touch with Marcus on a regular basis, but to continue to support the man we all care about and love when he was in need. I can't tell you how much of an inspiration Marcus has been to me, not just as an athlete striving to be the best I can be on and off the court, but also as a person, striving to be the best I can be. If I can be half of the man that Marcus is and how he handles all of the things that he and his family have been dealt, I will be a very wealthy man in life. I am glad that my "caddie" is back, and wish him and his family nothing but the success and health that should be granted to them. Welcome home Marcus.

HEY LADIES DO YOU LIKE CHOCOLATE:

Penn



**By Pam Martin
URA**

Well here we go with a whole new session of racquetball and all of the ladies I talk to are saying, "I really would like to play more this year!" Don't get me wrong, I love to hear this its just that I hear it every year! Every year the draws for the women's divisions start out great and then after a few tournaments are over every body starts coming up with excuses why they can't play. I know what you are thinking, and yes I am just as guilty as every one else.

This leads to my question about the chocolate, I figure if you are like me and the other women I talk to, you LOVE chocolate. This leads then to the terrible realization that we must now burn all those calories we have been consuming. So Val, Janette and I put our heads together and have come up with a plan to help you out. We are calling our new idea the Saturday Salad Shooters. Our plan is to get together on the third Saturday of each month at Marv Jenson and play some racquetball. We will get started at 10:00 am and try to finish up around Noon. We will also have three skill level groups to break up into beginners, Intermediate and Advanced. There will be a small fee and a small salad to share

and the recipe for your salad. Don't worry if you don't have time to make a salad its not a requirement, just a request. I know I mentioned chocolate but someone told me that defeats the whole calorie burning thing, although I am still searching for a chocolate salad recipe and if I find it, I am bringing it. One last thing if you bring a friend I will have a nice little gift for you. I've heard bribery sometimes works!

If you have any questions or thoughts I would love to hear them, you can reach me at 280-4222. I will have some fliers and info for you at the Fall Opener.

P.S. Ruth is also planning a women's only round-robin tournament in October so keep your calendar open.



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