

Off The Wall

Volume 11, Issue 1

A publication of the Utah Racquetball Association

March 1999

NOTICE

Annual URA
General
Membership
Meeting

Saturday
March 27, 1999
3:00 p.m.

(following the
State Singles
Championships
at the
Sports Mall)

See page 7
for details

Opening Shots

By Enrico Dubach, URA President



The racquetball season is at its peak as I write this article. The January, February, and March tournaments always appear to be the most exciting. Everybody seems to make a commitment to play after the holidays. When that wears off, a lot of players start thinking about the State Championships at the end of March. I've played most of the tournaments this year and it's great to see the same faces as well as some new ones. I usually play in my age division, but when I feel energetic, I play in the Open division too. It's great because I see my old time racquetball buddies in the age division and in the Opens, I get to see how a lot of the younger players are improving. It sure makes you reflect on your own mortality when one of the "kids" beats you for the first time. Probably because you know that it won't be the last time!

The URA Board has been very busy this year. After getting the racquetball season organized and launched in the fall, we put together the January newsletter in December. In January, Val Shewfelt, Rose Hernandez, and I attended the annual USRA Leadership Conference in Colorado Springs. Over 100 racquetball leaders representing 31 states attended this three-day conference. The conference was held at the Olympic Training Center. Things are pretty tense there

with all the controversy surrounding the Olympics. When I introduced our delegation from Salt Lake, I managed to lighten things up by mentioning that I had gifts for everyone. The conference is very informative and gave us all some good ideas about how we can improve racquetball in Utah.

We decided to fly into Denver and then drive to Colorado Springs. On the way down, we stopped by the Denver Athletic Club. They were hosting a Pro/Am racquetball tournament and we were able to watch a few Utah players competing in the early rounds. This was a very large tournament with at least 150 participants. Kristen Walsh and Christine McAlpine did us proud by winning both of their matches. I talked to Adam Anderson, but he didn't have a match until after we had to leave. We later learned that all three lost one or two rounds later. The competition was tough, but everyone was having a good time.

On the trip back to the airport after the conference, we managed to see the Men's Pro Finals featuring Sudsy Monchik and Cliff Swain. Cliff is currently ranked number one in the world, while Sudsy is ranked number two. I had never watched live professional racquetball. It was a neat experience and I recommend it to all of

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

Opening Shots	1
Letters to the Editor	2
Traveling League	3
Tournaments	4
High School League	7
Annual Meeting	7

Off The Wall

Volume 11, Number 1
March 1999

Editor

Hope Hendricks Dubach
URA Board Member

Advertising

Enrico Dubach
URA President

URA Officers:

Enrico Dubach, President
Marcus Dunyon, Vice President
Val Shewfelt, Secretary
Rose Hernandez, Treasurer

URA Board Members:

Greg Baker
Hope Hendricks Dubach
Alan Jorgensen
Mike Retford
Marianne Walsh

For *Letters to the Editor* or
any other inquiries, please
write to following address:

Utah Racquetball Association
P.O. Box 711684
Salt Lake City, UT 84171-1684

Newsletter Copy Deadlines:

June 1999 issue:
May 10, 1999

September 1999 issue:
August 9, 1999

December 1999 issue:
Nov. 8, 1999

March 2000 issue:
Feb. 14, 2000

Letters to the Editor

Let's Hear it for the Little Guys!

A pet peeve of mine has always been the feeling among some racquetball players and tournament directors that people only come to watch men's open matches. This mentality even exists at the USRA offices. If you have ever checked the day-to-day coverage of the Collegiate Nationals, the only divisions they mention are division 1. What happened to divisions 2-6? Did they not show up? Are they all just standing around watching the big kids play in division 1?

Some of the best sportsmanship and racquetball matches I have ever watched have been junior's, women's, and lower division men's matches. These players give everything they've got to the game. They try just as hard, but are still learning the fine points. They may not roll out as

many shots as the men's open players, but when they do, it's with a sense of accomplishment. If we don't support the players in these "other" divisions, we won't have any open players to watch in a few years.

I'm not saying the men's open players aren't good, they are—and they know it. Winning for them is sometimes taken for granted. In the other divisions, winning is still exciting and fulfilling.

I've heard a lot of comments this year about smaller tournament draws—especially in the junior's and women's divisions. If we don't support them and show them that we care and we want them playing the game, they will eventually drift away. Racquetball needs EVERYONE at EVERY level.

Val Shewfelt, URA Secretary

SWISS BOY

Since 1963

- BEAM Built-In Vacuum Systems
 - IRON-AWAY Ironing Centers
 - AUDIOTECH Intercom Systems
- Portable Vacuums • Sewing Machines & Sergers
 - Sales, Service & Repairs

305 North 200 West • Bountiful, Utah • 84010
(801) 298-3656

Opening Shots

(Continued from page 1)

you. Sudsy Monchik won in three games (they play best of five games to 11). Their athleticism rivals that of any other sport. The pros have quite a few rule differences, but I found two differences especially interesting. First, they don't use line judges. The referee's call stands and there are no appeals. The ref was very good, but only human. It was very interesting to watch the players contain themselves when he made a bad call. Second, there is no such thing as a court hinder. If the ball bounces funny off the lights or a protrusion, they just play it! The sportsmanship was very good and it was a great way to end a weekend of talking about racquetball, not playing it.

We just finished the URA Directory. A copy is enclosed with this newsletter. Save it and use it. It's great having a book with all the players as well as clubs and instructors. Please support the advertisers. Special thanks to Steve Coray from Equity First. He has worked out a program where Equity First will rebate \$100 to the URA for every mortgage loan they write for a member of the Utah Racquetball Association. See their ad on the back page for more details.

We will have our annual General Membership Meeting on March 27, 1999 at 3:00 P.M. following the State Championships at the Sports Mall. We will be giving year-end awards and holding elections for three new board members. The year-end awards will be given to players and tournament

directors for their accomplishments in the following areas:

- Most Improved Male Player
- Most Improved Female Player
- Most Improved Junior Player
- Best Referee
- Best Sportsmanship
- Best Tournament Director

The URA Board will make the final decision for these awards, but we would like your input. If you have any suggestions, please talk to one of the Board Members.

We can use your help on the Board! Do you love the sport of racquetball? Do most forms of exercise bore you? Does it bother you when you see clubs close down or when they remove racquetball courts for something else? Would you like to be able to help shape racquetball for our kids? If so, why don't you **run for a position on the Board of Directors for the Utah Racquetball Association!** The URA Board is responsible for the promotion of racquetball in Utah. We have done a lot the last few years. We have more clubs asking to hold sanctioned tournaments than we can accommodate. The Traveling League involves over 150 of the top players in the area. The Junior's Summer League attracted more than 100 kids last summer. This newsletter becomes more comprehensive and informative with each issue. The Membership Directory is great for all our members.

We need your help! These programs need dedicated people to organize and run them. A few hours

a month from a few people really goes a long way. It doesn't take a lot of time and you learn a great deal about what it takes to run a tournament. Board meetings are held once a month. Each Board Member must attend one or two sanctioned tournaments each year (tournaments you're probably already going to anyway) to help process new memberships and assist the tournament director. If you have writing skills, we could use some help with this newsletter! At the end of the year, we all get together to hold the State Singles Championships.

We have three openings on the Board. If you can spare a little extra time, you can give a lot back to racquetball. Please call me or any other board member if you would like to be put on the ballot or if you just want to help out. Remember, the elections will be held after the State Singles Championships on March 27.

We will be having a raffle/auction fundraiser during the week of State Championships. If you have any items you can donate, we would really appreciate your help. See you on the courts! *

Traveling League Standings:

1. Redwood	51
2. Sports Mall	48
3. Bountiful Rec	36
4. Marv Jensen	31
5. Sports Forum	27
6. Alta Canyon	19

TOURNAMENTS

Rocky Mountain Masters

By Marcus Dunyon, URA Vice President

The Rocky Mountain Masters Racquetball Tournament was held over the two-week period of December 3rd through the 12th. Once again Ruth McGovern hosted a great time for all. The Masters is a tournament in which experienced players enjoy playing. The competition is great, and so is the atmosphere created by the players. I highly recommend that if you did not have a chance to play this year that you make a special effort to put this tournament on next year's schedule. You won't regret it!

In the men's singles competition held the first week, regulars such as Tom Shearman, Glen Aitken, Lynn Corbridge, and Bryan Bennett came out to play. Glen got a nasty leg-pull, yet he still fought with the competitiveness we all have come to

expect—taking second place in the Men's 30 O/A Singles. Tom Shearman had a successful two weeks with wins in the Men's 25 O/A Singles, Men's 25 O/A Doubles (with partner Gene Rolfe), and second place in Men's 40 O/A/B. Way to dominate, Tom!

The second week brought the women out and even though the turnout was the smallest in years, it was great to see the women competing. In fact, the final between Laurie Egbert and Heather Montanez was probably one of the most entertaining of the week. Both women battled tooth and nail and there were several swings in momentum. After three exhausting games, Laurie pulled out a close win. Congratulations Laurie! The other results are below:



Printing • Copying • Typesetting
Graphic Design • Color Copies
Office Products • Fax Service
Scrapbook Supplies • Signs
Banners • Screen Printing

Gordon Holbrook
Owner

29 West 400 North • Bountiful, Utah 84010 • (801) 298-5071
10 South Fairfield Rd. • Layton, Utah 84041 • (801) 444-0937
22 West 650 North • Clearfield, Utah 84015 • (801) 825-4324

MARCUS L. DUNYON
2217 Tierra Rose Dr.
West Jordan, Utah 84084

MAINLAND FUNDING SERVICES

NATIONAL BUYERS OF
Real Estate Paper • Business Notes • Income Streams

Office (801) 955-6007 • Fax (801) 955-5037

Men's 25 O/A
1st Tom Shearman
2nd Marcus Dunyon

Men's 30 O/A
1st Tom Shearman
2nd Glen Aitkin

Men's 35 O/A
1st Bryan Bennett
2nd Tom Shearman

Men's 40 O/A/B
1st Larry Moon
2nd Tom Shearman

Men's 45 O/A/B
1st Dennis Fisher
2nd Barrie Brewer

Men's 50
1st Doug Douville
2nd Steve Parker

Men's 35 B/C
1st Sean McArdle
2nd Julian Negugogor

Men's 25-30 B/C/D
1st Mark Sandoval
2nd Julian Negugogor

Men's 40-45 C/D
1st Wayne Woolston
2nd Ryan Nielson

Men's 25-30 Doubles
1st Shearman/Rolfe
2nd Negugogor/Sandoval

Men's 40-45 Doubles
1st Moon/McNabb
2nd Conway/Clift

Women's 25-35
1st Laurie Egbert
2nd Heather Montanez

New Year Yahoo Starts 1999

By Enrico Dubach, URA President

On January 5th through 9th, Salt Lake Community College hosted the first tournament of 1999. Dubbed the "New Year Yahoo," this tournament brought droves of players hoping to work off all the holiday excess with some competitive racquetball. Nobody was disappointed. With over 60 players competing from Tuesday through Saturday, quite a few pounds were lost!

Steve Black won the Men's Open Finals against Tony Glavas. After Steve easily won the first game, Tony almost took the second, but lost 15 to 12. Vicki Bennion won the Women's Open in a Round Robin with Christine McAlpine taking second. Detailed tournament results are below.

Men's Open

1st Steve Black
2nd Tony Glavas
3rd Blair Spencer

Men's A

1st Doug Douville
2nd Paul Buchi
3rd Chris Gale

Men's B

1st Jon Xanthos
2nd Mark Sandoval

3rd Craig Masters

Men's C

1st Mark Sandoval
2nd Terry Orchard, Jr.
3rd Dave Bouy

Men's 30+

1st Jerry Schultz
2nd Bryan Bennett

Men's 35+

1st Enrico Dubach

The facility at SLCC has six glass-backed courts—one of the city's finest.

The facility at SLCC has six glass-backed courts—one of the city's finest. (The locker rooms and showers are definitely the nicest around.)

Tournament directors Chris Johnson and Gene Rolfe did an excellent job keeping the matches flowing. With candy from Hershey's, bagels from Einstein Brothers, and pizza from Papa Murphy's, the hospitality was good and plentiful. Chris and Gene

would like to thank Jon Xanthos and Mary Anne Simmons for their help with the tournament. They would also like to thank Tony Glavas from Precision Sports for his support. This tournament was part of the Precision Sports Series so winners earned points toward prizes at the end of the year. Thanks, Tony!

Men's 40+

1st Tom Shearman
2nd Marcus Dunyon

Men's 50+

1st Doug Douville
2nd Mike Doilney
3rd Craig Masters

Women's Open

1st Vicki Bennion
2nd Christine McAlpine
3rd Sandee Hinman

Women's A

1st Vicki Bennion
2nd Val Shewfelt

Women's B

1st KaRynn Christensen
2nd Mandy Thomas

Woman's 40+

1st Val Shewfelt

Alta Canyon Avalanche

By Enrico Dubach, URA President

Tim Dolbin always does a great job running this annual tournament at Alta Canyon Sports Center. Everybody always talks about how the courts are "different." Some say they're slower and some say they're faster. I think players are just trying to explain why they lost! Everyone agrees that Alta Canyon is one of the finest racquetball facilities in Salt Lake. The courts are in top shape and fun to play.

The tournament ran from the 19th through the 23rd of January. With lots of last minute entries, everyone was busy playing all week. Steve Black and Brad Bona met

in the Men's Open Finals. The first game was very hard fought with Steve pulling it out in the end. He went on to win the second game and claim the championship. This was Steve's second first place win in 1999. Considering this was only the second tournament of the year, that's pretty good. Good job, Steve!

The Women's draw was disappointing. The Open division didn't carry and the A division had to be combined with the B division. Val Shewfelt prevailed, winning the Women's A/B Singles event. The results in all the divisions are listed on the next page.

Alta Canyon Avalanche Results:

Men's Open

- 1st Steve Black
- 2nd Brad Bona
- 3rd Glen Aitken

Men's A

- 1st John Kitchens
- 2nd Nate Porter
- 3rd Victor Quinonez

Men's B

- 1st Mark Sandoval
- 2nd Clarence Verhoef
- 3rd Barry Monk

Men's C

- 1st Cameron Burnside
- 2nd Milton Talkington
- 3rd Chris Clift

Men's D

- 1st Dan Robison
- 2nd Cameron Burnside
- 3rd Darryl Hoopes

Men's Novice

- 1st Dave Horton
- 2nd Justin Christiansen
- 3rd Nick Newberry

Men's 35+

- 1st Don Sanderson
- 2nd Enrico Dubach

Men's 40+

- 1st Tom Shearman
- 2nd Victor Quinonez

Men's 50+

- 1st Pat Conway

2nd John Clift

- 3rd Darryl Hoopes

Men's 55+

- 1st Ray Brown

Boy's 18 & under

- 1st Justin Christiansen

Boy's 16 & under

- 1st Chris Cecka
- 2nd John Sanderson

Boy's 14 & under

- 1st Quang Nguyen
- 2nd Dan Christiansen

Boy's 10 & under

- 1st Spencer Hales

Women's A

- 1st Val Shewfelt

Women's B

- 1st KaRynn Christensen
- 2nd Dawn Bollinger
- 3rd Jennifer Judd

Women's Age

- 1st Kiersten Armknecht

Women's 35+

- 1st Dawn Bollinger

Woman's 40+

- 1st Val Shewfelt
- 2nd Jennifer Judd

Girl's 10 & under

- 1st Jessie Ballard

Orem Open Tournament

By Val Shewfelt, URA Secretary

The Orem Fitness Center hosted the Orem Open on January 27-30. With a draw of 80 participants, this was their biggest tournament in many years. Cash awards were made in all men's divisions and also in the women's open. Adam Anderson took home a large chunk of cash by winning both men's open singles (\$1000) and men's open doubles (\$250) with his partner, Sean Lucky. On the women's side, Susan Williams won women's open singles (\$200) and teamed up with Vicki

Bennion to win the open doubles (\$100). Other winners are listed below.

The tournament concluded Saturday with an awards presentation and drawing for door prizes. A special thanks goes out to the number of women who participated in this tournament. It was nice to see the women's draws with five and six people in the division. Thanks also go to Joel Tuailleva and Ryan Walker for running another successful tournament

Men's Open

- 1st Adam Anderson
- 2nd Steve Black

Men's A

- 1st Lorin Jensen
- 2nd Shawn Pike

Men's B

- 1st Aaron Ford
- 2nd Ron Scoville

Men's C

- 1st John Foster

2nd Eric Benefield

Men's D

- 1st Eric Benefield
- 2nd Jared Loo

Men's All Age

- 1st Dennis Fisher
- 2nd Alan Jorgensen

Men's Open Doubles

- 1st Anderson/Lucky
- 2nd Black/Bona

Men's A Doubles

- 1st Jensen/Leavitt
- 2nd Dibble/Scoville

Women's Open

- 1st Susan Williams
- 2nd Christine McAlpine

Women's A

- 1st Vicki Bennion
- 2nd Kim Blake

Women's B

- 1st Sandra Thomas

2nd Shannon Bridge

Women's C/D

- 1st Kathy Doman
- 2nd Sandra Thomas

Women's O Doubles

- 1st Williams/Bennion
- 2nd McAlpine/Hinman

High School League Continues

By Marianne Walsh, URA Board Member

The high school league continues to grow in popularity. The effort of all the coaches and players is really beginning to show in the play levels. We had our third match of the season at Sports Mall on January 16, 1999. Following are the team and individual results:

TEAM POINTS

1st	Sports Mall	28
2nd	Skyline	24
3rd	Waterford	23
4th	Viewmont	21
5th	Cypress Hills	19
6th	Copper Hills	11

ADVANCED

1st	Brian Retford, Sports Mall
2nd	Chris Dyke, Waterford
3rd	Tyler Fellows, Waterford

INTERMEDIATE "A"

1st	Chris Cecka, Sports Mall
2nd	Craig Peterson, Skyline
3rd	David Mitchell, Skyline

INTERMEDIATE "B"

1st	Dallas George, Viewmont
2nd	Pete Jass, Skyline
3rd	Mike King, Waterford

BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE

1st	Aaron Pretsch
2nd	Tyson Kelley, Viewmont
3rd	Nathan Cranney, Orem

The fourth and last match of the season was held at Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center on February 6, 1999. These are the team and individual results from

that match.

TEAM POINTS

1st	Skyline	40
2nd	Sports Mall	33
3rd	Waterford	27
4th	Viewmont	14
5th	Cypress Hills	10

Individual player standing by category:

ADVANCED:

1st	Kristen Walsh, Skyline
2nd	Chris Dyke, Waterford
3rd	Cody Christiansen, Viewmont

INTERMEDIATE "A":

1st	Quang Nyguen, Sports Mall
2nd	Craig Peterson, Skyline
3rd	David Mitchell, Skyline

INTERMEDIATE "B":

1st	Ben Currey, Copperhills
2nd	Eric Bergin, Skyline
3rd	Jake Mckay, Skyline

INTERMEDIATE/BEGINNER:

1st	Nathaniel Cranney, Orem
2nd	Steven Willden, Viewmont
3rd	Charles Shoemaker, Bingham

The State High School Championships are scheduled for February 18th through 20th at the Sports Mall. The National High School Championships will be held in Portland, Oregon on March 5th through 7th. Good luck to all of our high school players!

Annual General Membership Meeting and Elections

The Annual General Membership Meeting and Elections will be held Saturday, March 27, 1999 at 3:00 p.m. following the State Singles Championships at the Sports Mall. The Board of Directors has three openings.

Board Members serve a three-year term and officers are elected from the Board. Board Member responsibilities include attending monthly board meetings, assisting with two tournaments per year, and assuming responsibilities of an Officer or Director. If you have any questions, or would like to serve on the URA Board, contact Marcus Dunyon at (801) 964-2138 by March 13, 1999.