

OFF THE WALL

May 1996

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Volume 8, Number 1

<<<<<< Match Point >>>>>>

Tom Shearman
U.R.A. President, 1995-96

The season has wound down and is essentially over for most of us. The lucky few, or, should I say, the intelligent few, who are planning to go to Regionals and possibly even Nationals, can hang on to their racquetball season until almost June. Of course, the Junior Traveling League starts in June and culminates an excellent three-day Junior State Championship, pool party, and banquet. I hope this casual plug is effective in giving those of us with children who have never participated in the junior events an added shove towards participating. We need juniors to love racquetball as much as we old farts do, or racquetball participation will continue to decline and clubs will continue to eliminate courts from their facilities in lieu of more profitable venues. So, get your kids on the courts this summer.

This past racquetball tournament season has been a mixed bag of ups and downs from my perspective. The events that have been held were well run for the most part, but attendance could have been better. The U.R.A. board of directors and myself have tossed around a lot of ideas regarding the decreased tournament participation over the past several years. Our general consensus is that we need to have a more balanced blend of tournaments throughout the season. For example, we're going to try very hard to schedule three to four weekend tournaments over next year's tournament season so that we can attract the individuals who can't play in tournaments during the week. Just to let you know, the weekend tournament sponsored by the Sports Mall in November 1995 had the second largest number of participants—the largest was the State Championships. In my opinion, the numbers speak for themselves. Also, Jim Wilking has proposed a Senior Men's Open division for players 35 and over. This would accommodate players who want to participate in an open bracket against players more

.... continued on page 2

General Meeting and Elections Scheduled

A meeting has been scheduled to hold our yearly elections and to discuss some topics that affect you as a racquetball player and U.R.A. member. The meeting will be held at the Redwood Center on Wednesday, June 12th, at 7:00 p.m.

This year we will elect a vice president, secretary, and three board members. The following people have been nominated: Vice President—Greg Baker, Randy Krantz, and Val Shewfelt; Secretary—Troy Pattee; Board Members—Cherie Barth, Scott Boyd, Marcus Dunyan, Jack Healy, Hope Hendricks, Terrance Holbrook, Mike Retford, Dave Timmons, and Marianne Walsh. If you want to nominate someone for any of these positions, nominations will be taken from the floor and write-in votes are welcome. However, proxy votes are not allowed. You must attend the meeting to vote.

Also on the agenda are the following tournament formats: Weekend, Senior Open Division, Juniors, Womens with no open division, and Open Division one serve rule. We will also discuss scheduling the tournament directors meeting and bidding for State Tournaments by clubs.

If you are a tournament director and are discouraged by past tournament participation, I encourage you to attend and participate in the discussions. You could come away with some information that will help make your event a bigger success.

Oh, did I mention there will be food? The U.R.A. will provide refreshments. See ya there!

Bryan Bennett
U.R.A. President, 1996-97

Match Point (continued)

their own age. The board and I feel that this new bracket could create a lot of excitement for the old-timers who can still play at an open level but can't keep up with the youngsters. We're going to try very hard to make this new bracket a reality for the upcoming season.

The Adult Traveling League for all intents and purposes has been a big hit. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to participate, but I've had excellent reports. Congratulations to everyone who helped to organize and run this excellent program.

Bryan Bennett will be the U.R.A. President for next season. Bryan has some great ideas and all he need is your support in order for racquetball to just keep getting better in Utah.

Please attend the general membership meeting on June 12, which is discussed in this issue. This will give you an opportunity to get the right people on the board, which ensures racquetball's continued success.

It's match point for this season's tournament schedule as well as my tenure as U.R.A. President. I've enjoyed my position as president and I've enjoyed this season. I hope it's been a memorable one for all of you as well.

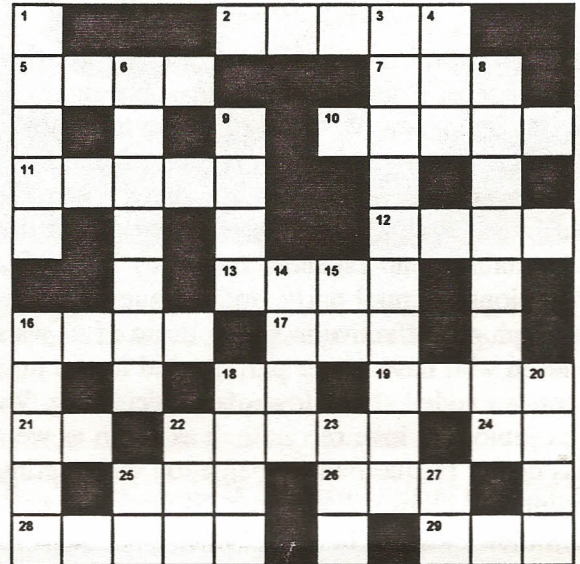
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Across:

- 2 1996 Utah Women's Open Champion
- 5 How some people win; good fortune
- 7 Post-racquetball hangout; tavern
- 10 Marty _____
- 11 1993-94 URA President
- 12 _____ a time out
- 13 An unreachable shot
- 16 Soft shot
- 17 Use this to swing the racquet; limb
- 18 Mike Retford Jr.'s Dad
- 19 Doubles partner
- 21 URA Secretary (init.)
- 22 Take a full 10 seconds to serve; a horse's home
- 24 Ladies Traveling League Coordinator (init.)
- 25 O.J.'s judge
- 26 Like a fox
- 28 An "easy" shot
- 29 Cures a squeaky hinge

Just For Fun!

How would you like to test your racquetball knowledge? Try this crossword, just for the fun of it! (The answers are on page 4 just in case you need some help.)



Down:

- 1 Swain; racquetball pro
- 3 Site of Utah's State Singles Championships
- 4 Embrace
- 6 A high defensive shot
- 8 One of the walls
- 9 An unsuccessful kill shot
- 14 American Amateur Racquetball Association
- 15 1994-95 Most Improved Female Player (init.)
- 16 Shots where your body hits the floor
- 18 Halt
- 20 Utter a cry
- 22 Hastings; Olympic Coach
- 23 Hallucinogenic drug
- 25 Hit _____!
- 27 Hello (slang)

Crossword by Hope Hendricks and Rico Dubach

TOURNAMENTS TOURNAMENTS TOURNAMENTS

Utah State Singles Championships - Tournament Results March 26-30, 1996 at Sports Mall

Division	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Men's Open	Adam Anderson	Sean Lucky	Steve Black
Men's A	Mike Retford	Nate Porter	Terrance Holbrook
Men's B	Robert Lopez	Jim Stone	Pat Vietti
Men's C	Doug Chambers	Kevin Dowdle	Eric Carver
Men's 19+	Steve Black	Cameron Boice	Todd North
Men's 35+	Jim Derrickson	John Yorkey	Enrico Dubach
Men's 40+	Richard Strout	Tom Shearman	Rick Jackson
Men's 45+	Alan Jorgensen	George Majors	Rob Jackson
Men's 50+	Robert Dycus	Tom Nystrom	Lynn Corbridge
Women's Open	Marianne Walsh	Christine McAlpine	Sheri Murray-Ellis
Women's A	Tracy Wentz	Sandy Mitchell	Susan Williams
Women's B	Jennifer Bennett	Janette Olsen	Jackie Bacon
Women's C	Amanda Van Orman	Candice Tueller	Ann Yust
Women's 25/30+	Julie Taylor	Tracy Wentz	Sandee Roach
Women's 35+	Marianne Walsh	Christal McLean	Laurie Egbert
Women's 55+	Sylvia Sawyer	Rose Hernandez	Norma Carlisle
Boy's 16 & under	Nate Porter	Adam Tueller	Brian Retford
Boy's 14 & under	Brian Retford	John Martinez	Sam Sneed
Boy's 12 & under	Sam Taula	Dustin Cederholm	Derrick Penman
Boy's 10 & under	Paul Bennett	Bobby Hitz	Robert Denny
Boy's 8 & under	Paul Bennett	Jonathon Dubach	Andy Shearman
Girl's 12 & under	Candice Tueller	Suzanne Martinez	Christina Herrera

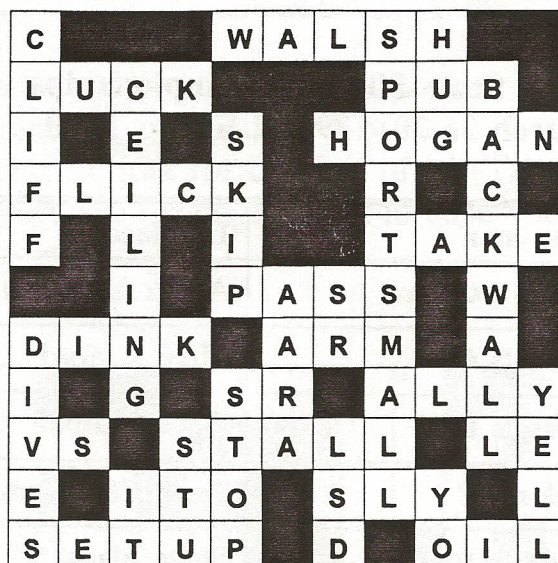
1995/1996 Player Awards

During the State Singles Championships at the Sports Mall this year, nominations were made for people who excelled in certain categories. Plaques were presented at the U.R.A. Banquet on March 29. The awards were the following:

Most Improved Male:	Nate Porter
Most Improved Female:	Kristen Walsh
Most Improved Junior:	Jennifer Bennett
Best Tournament Director:	Ruth McGovern
Sportsmanship Award:	Jim Wilking
Best Referee:	Dave Timmons

Three plaques were also presented to recognize special effort in promoting racquetball in Utah. Recipients for these awards were **Ruth McGovern**, **Rose Hernandez**, and **Val Shewfelt**. These special ladies deserve our thanks for the many hours they donate to make racquetball more enjoyable for all of us. Thank you!

Congratulations!



Answers to puzzle on page 2.

AARA High School Championships, St. Louis, Missouri, by Jack Healy

In early March, three of our Juniors traveled to St. Louis for the annual HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS. This tournament draws the very top players from all over the United States. The interesting thing about this tournament is that there are no age groups: everyone is seeded according to points earned during regular tournament play at home, and based on the tournament directors' knowledge of the individual players. The three who represented the state of Utah were **Terrance Holbrook**, **Adam Tueller**, and **Rick Corbridge**. The chaperons were **Lynn Corbridge** and **Blaine Holbrook**.

Utah's best finish came from Terrance and Adam's doubles team. They took 3rd place in the Gold Division in the Mixed High School category. (Mixed is a doubles team of two players from different high schools. There was also a doubles division for players from the same high school.)

Terrance also made it to the round of 16 in the singles, which put him in very good company with some of the top players in the nation. The individual who beat Terrance in the tiebreaker went on to the semi-finals before losing.

Terrance's tough play and good sportsmanship will go a long way to possibly earning a place on the Junior Olympic team.

Adam played well through all of his matches and placed 4th in the Blue Division. Adam recently earned his driver's license so everyone watch out!

Rick Corbridge was edged out in the first round of play. I'm sure that will not be the last they see of Rick in future play. Actually, Rick's real passion is football and he is currently one of the top decathlon athletes in the state.

A BIG THANKS to these juniors for representing the State of Utah and to all of GREAT junior players who really enhance the sport of RACQUETBALL.

REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS.....

Albuquerque, New Mexico, April, 19-21, 1996, by Bryan Bennett

The Albuquerque regional was a great tournament. Utah had 16 participants: 13 Juniors and 3 adults. Notable finishes were as follows:

Jennifer Bennett	....	2nd place, Girls 14—Doubles w/Kristen Walsh 3rd Place, Girls 14—Singles 4th Place, Womens B
Paul Bennett	.....	2nd Place, Boys 8—Singles 2nd Place, Boys 8—Multi-Bounce
Christina Herrera	...	1st Place, Girls 12—Doubles w/Suzanne Martinez
Terrance Holbrook	...	3rd Place, Mens AA
Bob Martinez	.....	4th Place, Boys 10—Singles
Suzanne Martinez	...	1st Place, Girls 12—Doubles w/Christine Herrera
Kimberly Walsh	.....	3rd Place, Girls 10—Singles 3rd Place, Boys 10—Doubles w/Nicholas Royley
Korey Walsh	.....	2nd Place, Boys 6—Multi-Bounce
Kristen Walsh	.....	1st Place, Girls 14—Singles 2nd Place, Girls 14—Doubles w/Jennifer Bennett
Marianne Walsh	....	1st Place, Womens 35+ 3rd Place, Womens Open

Boise, Idaho, April 25-28, 1996, by Jack Healy

I have to start out by saying A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL! Nine players represented Utah. And, the Courthouse in Boise was a great place to play. The tournament was run very well, they had great food, and a lot of very friendly people attended. Our ladies did the best:

- ◆ **Sylvia Sawyer** took 1st in the Womens 55+ and 4th in the Womens 45+
- ◆ **Cherie Barth** took the Consolation in Womens Open and 2nd in Womens 35+ (whoops, Cherie, I forgot, I meant to say Womens 29+)
- ◆ **Sandee Roach** took 1st in the Womens 25+ and 2nd in Womens A
- ◆ **Val Shewfelt** took 1st in the Womens B Consolation and played well into the second round of Womens 35+

For the Men:

- ◆ **Matthew Christensen** played some great racquetball against some tough players and made it into the 2nd round in the Mens Open
- ◆ **Craig Ericson** took 2nd in the Mens 25+ and also made it into the 2nd round of play in the Mens Open
- ◆ **Jack Healy** made it to the 2nd round of the Mens A's and to the semi-finals consolation in the Mens 45+
- ◆ **Dave Timmons** made it to the quarter finals of the Mens A's
- ◆ **Phillip Burbank** also played but, unfortunately with a deadline for this article, in I was unable to reach him for his results

Congratulations to everyone who played!

BYU Wins 1996 Rocky Mountain Regional Racquetball Tournament, by R. Flick

Defending last year's regional championship, the combined men's and women's racquetball team once again won the regional tournament. The BYU team hosted and participated in the annual regional meet held at BYU on March 7-9. BYU hosted 80 participants representing eleven college/university teams from Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Arizona. The BYU combined team scores in men's and women's singles/doubles divisions put BYU in the number one spot. However, it was the women's team who provided the winning total division scores to put BYU in first place.

The combined scores were as follows:

1. Brigham Young University (1880 points)
2. Arizona State University (1000 points)
3. United States Air Force Academy (840 points)
4. Utah State University (530 points)
5. Boise State University (380 points)
6. Rick's College (160 points)
7. Weber State University (150 points)
8. Utah Valley State College (90 points)

According to the American Collegiate Racquetball Association rules, the University of Colorado and Salt Lake Community College men's teams could not be included in the combined scoring because they did not have a women's team.

Treasure Valley Community College's Tammy Brockbank, a member of the national racquetball team and last year's national champion, won the Women's Division 1. In all the remaining women's divisions—except for one—BYU took first place.

Scoring for the women's divisions were as follows:

Women's Singles:

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Division 1 | 1st Tammy Brockbank (TVCC) |
| | 2nd Christine McAlpine (BYU) |
| | 3rd Julie Taylor (BYU) |
| | 4th Becky Biskup (USAFA) |
| Division 2 | 1st Lori Witlock (BYU) |
| | 2nd Neel (USAFA) |
| | 3rd Heather Christensen (BSU) |
| | 4th Amy Brunette (WSU) |
| Division 3 | 1st Darla Wenger (BYU) |
| | 2nd Amy Rogers (USU) |
| | 3rd Amanda Van Orman (BYU) |
| | 4th Kornacker (USAFA) |
| Division 5 | 1st Valerie Woodbury (Rick's) |
| | 2nd Valerie Hunt (ASU) |
| | 3rd Janette Olsen (BYU) |
| | 4th Shari McKee (USU) |
| Division 6 | 1st Jacquie Bianchi (BYU) |
| | 2nd Lisa Chavez (ASU) |
| | 3rd Angela Timothy (Rick's) |
| | 4th Jillinda Chadwick (USU) |

Women's Doubles:

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Division 1 | 1st McAlpine/Taylor (BYU) |
| | 2nd Biskup/Neel (USAFA) |

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------|
| Division 3 | 1st Van Orman/Whitlock (BYU) |
| | 2nd Rowley/Chavez (ASU) |

In several semi-final and final matches, BYU lost by one point in the tiebreaker. BYU's number one player, Steve Black, demonstrated that he could stay up with the nationally ranked Javier Moreno (USC). Pitted against Moreno—the number one ranked player from Mexico—Steve lost in a 11-10 tiebreaker. Other BYU men's players who played exceptionally well included Hyrum LaTurner, Ben McClure, and Geoff Barney.

Scoring for the men's divisions were as follows:

Men's Singles:

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| Division 1 | 1st Javier Moreno (USC) |
| | 2nd Wade Ward (U of W) |
| | 3rd Steve Black (BYU) |
| | 4th Anthony Voorhies (ASU) |
| Division 2 | 1st Luis Munoz (USC) |
| | 2nd Chris Hall (ASU) |
| | 3rd Matt Christensen (USU) |
| | 4th Rick Brockbank (BSU) |
| Division 3 | 1st Luis Bustillos (CSU) |
| | 2nd Damion Zamerano (ASU) |
| | 3rd Chris Crawford (BYU) |
| | 4th Mike Browning (BSU) |
| Division 5 | 1st Shawn Royster (USU) |
| | 2nd Hyrum LaTurner (BYU) |
| | 3rd Bruce Lowry (UVSC) |
| | 4th Dave Sidwell (USU) |
| Division 5 | 1st Tim Watkins (USC) |
| | 2nd Ben McClure (BYU) |
| | 3rd Matuszak (USAFA) |
| | 4th David Capener (BYU) |
| Division 6 | 1st Christian Guerra (USC) |
| | 2nd Geoff Barney (BYU) |
| | 3rd Chad Beck (SLCC) |
| | 4th Chad Martin (USAFA) |

Men's Doubles:

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| Division 1 | 1st Munoz/Moreno (USC) |
| | 2nd Black/Boice (BYU) |
| | 3rd Voorhies/Hall (ASU) |
| | 4th Erickson/Christensen (USU) |
| Division 2 | 1st Bustillos/Guerra (USC) |
| | 2nd Crawford/LaTurner (BYU) |
| | 3rd Browning/Christensen (BSU) |
| | 4th Avram/Riedel (USAFA) |
| Division 3 | 1st Royster/Watkins (USC) |
| | 2nd McClure/Capener (BYU) |
| | 3rd Lopez/Zamerano (ASU) |

Sylvia Sawyer, BYU Coach and Regional Collegiate Director was unable to attend for personal reasons, but was responsible for its success due to her up-front planning. Students from the BYU team helped in hosting the tournament along with the assistant coach, Roger Flick.

BYU Wins 1996 World Collegiate Racquetball Tournament, by Roger Flick

The BYU racquetball team defended its title by winning the 1996 World Collegiate Racquetball Tournament, held April 10-13 at the Los Caballeros Athletic Club in Fountain Valley, California.

The Rocky Mountain region was well represented at the World Collegiate Tournament with BYU and University of Southern Colorado. BYU won the men's and women's combined team scoring. The BYU women's team took first place, a great achievement for the women's team. The BYU men's team placed sixth overall. The University of Southern Colorado men's team took first place. All BYU players received medals.

Notable finishes for BYU players were:

Women's Singles:

- Division 1 4th Christine McAlpine
- Division 2 1st Julie Taylor
- Division 3 1st Lori Whitlock
- Division 4 1st Darla Wenger
- Division 5 1st Amanda Van Orman
- Division 6 1st Jacquie Bianchi

Women's Doubles:

- Division 1 2nd McAlpine/Taylor
- Division 2 1st Whitlock/Wenger
- Division 3 1st Van Orman/Bianchi

The women's team contributed eighty percent of the points for the overall combined team scores. Christine McAlpine placed an impressive fourth place to the top three players in collegiate racquetball. She played out further than any other BYU women's player to date. BYU's Julie Taylor, playing in Division 2, beat Britt Engle, one of the top seeded female players in the country. Also from the Rocky Mountain region, Tammy Brockbank from Treasure Valley Community College, won the women's first place. This is Tammy's second straight win for her division.

The men's team finishes were as follows:

Men's Singles

- Division 1 3rd Steve Black
- Division 2 1st Cameron Boice
- Division 3 3rd Chris Crawford
- Division 4 3rd Hyrum LaTurner
- Division 5 3rd David Capener
- Division 6 3rd Ben McClure

The men's division scoring contributed twenty percent to the overall combined team scores. Tough competition was encountered by the BYU men's players who, because of the seeding, were eliminated earlier in the playout format. One of the finest men's doubles matches was played by BYU's Steve Black and Cameron Boice against Nichols College's Shane Wood and his partner. Shane Wood won the singles championship last year. Steve and Cameron won the second game and came close to winning in the tiebreaker, 8 to 11. It would probably have been the biggest upset in the tournament had they beaten the top-seeded men's doubles players. The men's number one position was won by Eric Mueller from Harvard, the three-year AARA collegiate scholarship winner.

Approximately 220 players representing 40 colleges/universities participated in the tournament. BYU racquetball coach, Sylvia Sawyer, and assistant coach, Roger Flick, were pleased at the outcome of the tournament. Both coaches expected the BYU team would place somewhere in the top three.



BYU's Julie Taylor took first place in Division 2 at the 1996 World Collegiate Tournament. Photo by John Yorkey.



Adam Anderson makes an awesome get en route to winning the 1996 State Singles Championship. Photo by John Yorkey.



Jennifer Bennett, Candice Tueller, and Adam Tueller (L to R) watch a match at the State Singles Championships. Photo by John Yorkey.

Don't forget the U.R.A. Elections on June 12th (see page 1).

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