

OFF THE WALL

August 1996

A quarterly publication of the Utah Racquetball Association

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President's Message

by Bryan Bennett
U.R.A. President

As newly elected U.R.A. officers and board members, we have three major responsibilities:

- finding ways to promote growth in the sport of racquetball in Utah
- exposing more non-U.R.A. members to sanctioned events
- enhancing our formats to meet the desires of existing U.R.A. members.

To administer the organization, we must consider the AARA requirements and then must juggle our personal and work schedules. This is quite a task. That's why I'm asking for your support. What I'm really asking for is for each of you to support your own ideas. I'll explain.

For the past couple of years, you, the U.R.A. membership, have been asking for more weekend tournaments. Last year the Sports Mall held a very successful weekend tournament with over 100 entrants. At our annual meeting in June 1996, a discussion took place and you, the U.R.A. membership, decided you wanted four or five weekend tournaments a year. These tournaments should be spread out so that there is never more than one weekend tournament per month. The tournaments should also be located at different clubs around the valley, which should promote traveling to these tournaments. During this discussion, you determined that we should get more out-of-town

would not require taking a week off work to play in a tournament.

I'm very pleased to report that, with the cooperation of four clubs, there will be four weekend tournaments this year. The tournaments are as follows:

Bountiful Rec Center / *Bountiful Bash*
Director: Sandi Gunn
Oct 25-27, 1996

Sports Mall / *Ice Breaker*
Director: Tony Glavas
Nov 22-24, 1996

Salt Lake Community College
Directors: Dave Timmons
Chris Johnson
Dec 20-22, 1996

Marv Jenson Recreation Center
Director: Doug Scott
Feb 27-Mar 1, 1997

These four facilities and tournament directors are willing to try something new to support your ideas and help us, as a board, live up to our responsibilities.

I would like to encourage each of you to reward the support of the Bountiful Rec Center, Sports

Next years meeting will be held on Saturday night following the conclusion of the State Singles Tournament.

Dear U.R.A. Members:

Welcome to the new racquetball season! We hope everyone had an exciting summer and are ready to get back into the swing of things. The upcoming year has a few changes for the tournament season. We would like to get our member's opinions on several topics that the board of directors has been discussing. Or, for that matter, we would like to hear about anything you want to tell other U.R.A. members. Let us know what you think about weekend, junior, and women's-only tournaments; adjusting tournament fees (shirt vs. no shirt; trophies or no trophies); one serve rule for open play; tournament participation (or the lack of), or what you think about this newsletter.

We encourage you to write to the Board of Directors. We want to hear from you and would like your thoughts and opinions known to all U.R.A. members. We will try to print as many letters in this newsletter as possible. We hope to increase participation in tournaments, but we need your help by letting us know what you want. Please send your letters to the following address:

Board of Directors
Utah Racquetball Association
1306 West 1100 North
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84116

See you on the courts!

Juniors Team Racquetball A Hit!

by Enrico Dubach
U.R.A. Board Member

Racquetball excitement continues through the summer as junior players representing eight clubs from Ogden to South Jordan compete each week. Each club has a team of up to 10 players ranging from 8 to 18 years old. The season started with a Rules Clinic given by John Yorkey on June 11. The juniors learned the rules and how to referee a match. Each week two clubs meet and compete in a team format. All matches are refereed by the juniors. A skills clinic was held on July 16 at the Redwood Center. Adam Anderson demonstrated what it takes to be State Champion by directing the juniors as they competed in various skills such as kill and passing shots. Awards are given to the team who accumulates the most points by summer's end. Referee testing and certification is done on August 14. The season climaxes with the State Juniors Championships held at the Redwood Center on August 15-17. This tournament culminates with an awards ceremony and Barbecue for all participating teams on August 17.

Ruth McGovern of the Redwood Center has done an excellent job (as usual) to organize this League. The clubs have donated court time and the support of the parents has been great. As of press time, the season is 3/4 over and all the kids are looking forward to the tournament in August.

As a coach, it's very rewarding to watch our juniors grow and improve with each week. I recommend that you watch these kids play. The growth of our sport is dependent on a strong juniors program. This was evident last year with the strong improvement shown by the younger players during the regular tournament season. Are you introducing your kids to racquetball? If not, you're both missing out. ☺

U.R.A. Annual Meeting Held

On June 12, 1996, the U.R.A. held its annual meeting and elections.

Your officers and board members and the 1996-1997 racquetball season are President: Bryan Bennett, Vice President: Val Shewfelt, Secretary: Troy Pattee, Treasurer: Rose Hernandez, and Board Members: Scott Boyd, Rico Dubach, Hope Hendricks, Mike Retford, Tom Shearman, and Tracy Wentz.

During this meeting it was voted on and passed that the men's and women's open divisions will get only one serve in U.R.A. sanctioned tournaments.

Other topics of discussion included juniors tournaments (we have four on this year's schedule), women's tournaments, and more weekend tournaments (we have four on this year's schedule).

Next years meeting will be held on Saturday night following the conclusion of the State Singles Tournament.

URA Traveling League

by Mike Retford
U.R.A. Board Member

1995-1996 saw the first year of the new traveling league. Six clubs participated, with each team playing one another once at their home club and once at the opposing team's club. The teams were made up of men, women, and even a few juniors. Each tournament consisted of four men's singles matches, two women's singles matches, and one men's, women's, and mixed doubles match. Each match was played in the regular tournament format. The player who won their match earned a point for their team. Points were accumulated during the season and at season's end the points determined the seeding for a tournament that began in May.

First place went to the team from Sports Mall. Coach Tony Glavas commented that "the team was great and had a lot of support, but the Sports Mall women were the ones who came through for the team when it counted." Second place went to the Redwood Center's team, Deseret Gym took third, and the Bountiful Recreation Center was fourth. The other participating teams were Alta Canyon and Towne & Country. The season ended with a banquet at the Redwood Center where a plaque was awarded to the Sports Mall and Redwood Center for taking first and second place, respectively.

The traveling league gave everyone the opportunity to play for the pride of their home clubs. The participants enjoyed meeting other players and playing at different facilities. Ruth McGovern led the effort in organizing the teams and setting the schedule for the season. The U.R.A. extends their thanks to Ruth for her excellent work. We are looking forward to an even better 1996-1997 season with additional teams and players. An organizing meeting for the clubs was held on Tuesday, August 6th, at the Redwood Center. If you are interested in participating in the league, contact your club representative, Ruth McGovern (Traveling League Coordinator), or Mike Retford (U.R.A. Traveling League Representative). If your club does not field a team this year and you still want to participate, we can place you on a team. So no excuses. Get out and play. It's a lot of FUN!!

Let your fellow players know
what you do and . . . support
racquetball too!

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When we play tournaments, we meet lots of great people. Let them know what you do off the court and show your support of racquetball at the same time!

Put your business card in the U.R.A. newsletter for only \$25. Two issues are only \$40. For more information, contact Rico Dubach at 298-5066.

SLCC Builds Premiere Racquetball Facility

by Enrico Dubach
U.R.A. Board Member

The U.R.A. board had the pleasure of touring the new racquetball courts at the Salt Lake Community College. A new athletics building houses basketball courts, volleyball, weight lifting, and a jogging track. Of course, the most interesting were the racquetball courts! In a row, six new courts gleamed with glass back walls. The locker rooms were spacious and clean. Dave Timmons and Chris Johnson manage the courts and encourage everyone to visit and check them out.

The facility is open to the public with very reasonable entry fees. Call the Lifetime Activity Center at 957-5808 for more information. The college is located at 4600 South Redwood Road. Be sure to attend their first sanctioned tournament on September 17 through 21.

U.R.A. RANKINGS (Top 10)

Men's Singles...

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Adam Anderson | 6 Trevor Sudweeks |
| 2 Jamie Sumner | 7 Tony Glavas |
| 3 Steven Black | 8 Robert White (TIE) |
| 4 Rick Corbridge | Craig Ericson |
| 5 Richard Strout | Glen Aitken |

Women's Singles...

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Marianne Walsh | 6 Christine McAlpine |
| 2 Julie Taylor | 7 Sandee Roach |
| 3 Sheli Bodily | 8 Kristen Walsh |
| 4 Cherie Barth | 9 Susan Williams |
| 5 Sheri Murray-Ellis | 10 Cindy Richards |

The U.R.A. rankings will now be a regular part of this newsletter, which will be distributed on a quarterly basis. So, keep an eye out for upcoming issues. Your name might appear in the near future!


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