

OFF THE WALL

News of the Utah Racquetball Association

June 1993

Vol. 5, No. 2

URA to Address Ranking System Flaws

by Steve Coray

Tournament racquetball has a problem to solve, not just at the statewide level, but nationally. That problem is how to evaluate a player's abilities and rank him/her in an appropriate category. Tennis has a very clear and accurate system that eventually assigns a numeric ranking to each player. This system guarantees a 3.5 player from Alaska will be roughly competitive with a 3.5 player from New York, or anywhere around the country for that matter.

In racquetball, however, the playing levels are much more ambiguous. A "B" player at one club may be a "C" player at another, or an "A" at yet another, all in the same town! If there is this much confusion at the local level, imagine the problem at the interstate level. How would you know what level to play if you were going to enter an out-of-state tournament?

Solving this problem is the challenge of the AARA, the sport's national governing body. One of the first steps they have taken is to attempt to describe each playing level. The AARA/PARI player classification descriptions are as follows:

What is a "Pro" Player?

The highest level of player plays in the Pro Division on the Pro Tour and in Pro/Am Tournaments, is allowed to play all tournaments that offer prize money and may retain amateur eligibility if all prize money is deposited with the AARA and applied against expenses.

What is a Club "Open" Player?

This person is classified as the highest level of amateur player, plays in most tournaments, local, state, regional and national levels, is rated higher than an "A" player, probably coaches or gives lessons and has completed clinics, maybe the Elite Camp.

What is a Club "A" Player?

A player who plays regularly and is a top player in the club, trains for racquetball and both backhand and forehand strokes are near equal, has high level of knowledge, high percentage in executing most shots and has no apparent weaknesses, perfected the kill shot and now re-kills opponents attempted kill shots, can and probably does compete in sanctioned tournaments and may seek to participate in the AARA Elite Camp and either has a coach or is seeking a coach.

What is a Club "B" Player?

Players who play regularly and have found time to practice on their own to perfect their shots, has a good knowledge of court strategy and positioning, offense and defense situations, is able to select the proper shot most of the time, probably is still inconsistent but improving, is developing patience and is able to accept tips on

their game from better players, shows interest in private racquetball lessons and instructional camps and participates in most club events, like club tournaments, leagues and round robins.

What is a Club "C" Player?

A player who has played over 6 months, plays frequently, and is developing strengths in the basics listed for a "D" player, level of knowledge is rising and can execute most shots with some precision, can safely attempt ceiling, pinches, pass shots and an occasional kill shot, has taken an occasional lesson and has attended a racquetball clinic, has started entering small tournaments and has an extra racquet.

What is a Club "D" Player?

A player who is just beginning to receive instruction, but lacks playing

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What's The Call?

by John Yorkey

1. In singles, Player A serves the ball after the referee has called the score. The referee stops play because Player A did not check to see if Player B was ready even though Player B was not signaling not ready. What's the Call?

- A) The referee should give a warning to Player A and replay the point.
- B) The referee should not have stopped play.
- C) Player A should be given a technical.
- D) The referee should call side-out.

2. During a rally the ball hits a designated court hinder but does not take a bad bounce. What's the Call?

- A) Play should be stopped immediately and a hinder should be called.
- B) Play should be continued for one more offensive shot.
- C) Play should stop and a side-out called.
- D) Play should stop and the server gets one serve.

3. On first serve Player A serves and the referee calls the ball short. Player A appeals the call to the linesman. One linesman agrees with the referee and the other disagrees. What's the Call?

- A) The appeal stands and Player A gets two serves.
- B) The appeal is overruled and it is now second serve.
- C) The appeal is disallowed because Player A did not make the appeal to the referee. It is still first serve.
- D) The appeal is disallowed because Player A did not make the appeal to the referee. It is second serve.

ANSWERS
 1. B) Although Player A did not check Player B before he served, the referee should not have stopped play. Since Player B (the receiver) was not signaling not ready, Player A has the right to serve.
 2. A) If a ball hits a designated court hinder, play should be stopped and a hinder should be called.
 3. C) The appeal is disallowed. All appeals must be made directly to the referee. The referee's call stands and it is now second serve.

State Tournament Results

Men's

Open: 1) Jamie Sumner, 2) Trever Sudweeks, 3) Eric Storey, 4) Kyle Kamalu. **A:** 1) Troy Garner, 2) Allen Martinez, 3) Danny Spencer, 4) Tony Glavas. **B:** 1) Bob Snellman, 2) Jack Healy, 3) Steve Clark, 4) Hi Smith. **C:** 1) Brian Newschwander, 2) Fred Nash, 3) Saim Finifalsi, 4) Rick Corbridge. **D:** 1) Paul Lam, 2) Bob Schmidt, 3) Scott Randall, 4) Joe Vargas. **18+:** 1) Adam Anderson, 2) Craig Erickson. **25+:** 1) Jerry Steck, 2) Dave Timmons, 3) Ray Hoey, 4) Phil Burbank. **30+:** 1) Earl Thiebault, 2) John Yorkey, 3) Jim Derrickson, 4) Allen Martinez. **35+:** 1) Tom Sherman, 2) Steve Coray, 3) Tim Storey, 4) Mark Davis. **40+:** 1) Tim Storey, 2) Jim Wilking, 3) Dan Rideout, 4) Ray Lanoy. **45+:** 1) Lynn Corbridge, 2) John Clift, 3) Chris Segura, 4) Joe Callichio. **50+:** 1) Lynn Corbridge, 2) Tom Nystrom, 3) Jim Wilking, 4) Roger Flick. **18+ Under:** 1) Tony Glavas. **16+ Under:** 1) Eric Storey, 2) Ryan Ingleby. **14+ Under:** 1) Rick Corbridge, 2) Josh Healy, 3) Darrin Elgreen, 4)

Thomas Allred. **12+ Under:** 1) Darrin Elgreen. **10+ Under:** Jon Flick.

Women's

Open: 1) Jill Storey, 2) Brooke Robertson, 3) Dorothee Buchanan, 4) Val Shewfelt. **A:** 1) Peggy Johnson, 2) Diane Lucky, 3) Hope Hendricks, 4) Jozette Boone. **B:** 1) Tammy Boyce, 2) Sandee Roach, 3) Barbara McDaneil, 4) Cindy Jones. **C:** 1) Barbara McDaniel, 2) Karen Pearson. **D:** 1) Lori Thompson, 2) Krystan Walsh. **18+:** 1) Karen Pearson, 2) Cindy Van Orman. **25+:** 1) Jozette Boone. **30+:** 1) Marianne Walsh, 2) Jill Story. **35+:** 1) Marianne Walsh, 2) Jill Storey. **40+:** 1) Dorothee Buchanan, 2) Susan Stewart. **45+:** 1) Fran Behnke, 2) Rose Hernandez. **50+:** 1) Norma Carlisle. **16+ Under:** 1) Melissa Boyd. **14+ Under:** 1) Melissa Boyd. **12+ Under:** 1) Krystan Walsh. **10+ Under:** 1) Krystan Walsh.

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Rick Strout

Steve Coray

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Young People's Racquetball

THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU

I want to thank all of you who participated in the Young People's Racquetball "Off the Wall" Benefit Tournament. It was fun and fairly successful. There are so many of you I wanted to thank publicly at the banquet but I became so embarrassed I forgot everything that was in my brain at the time. Which, by the way, wasn't much after three days of working a tournament as many of you know!

I want to thank Steve Coray who spent the days prior to the tournament helping me with the draw sheets and telling me that the first event is always a learning experience for the following events. Thanks for helping me to keep perspective. And Steve always has a camera to capture the wonderful moments! Thanks, Steve.

Also, I want to thank Robyn Lyman for helping with some of the food at the fundraiser. Robyn wasn't able to play but came to rally and support! Thanks, Robyn.

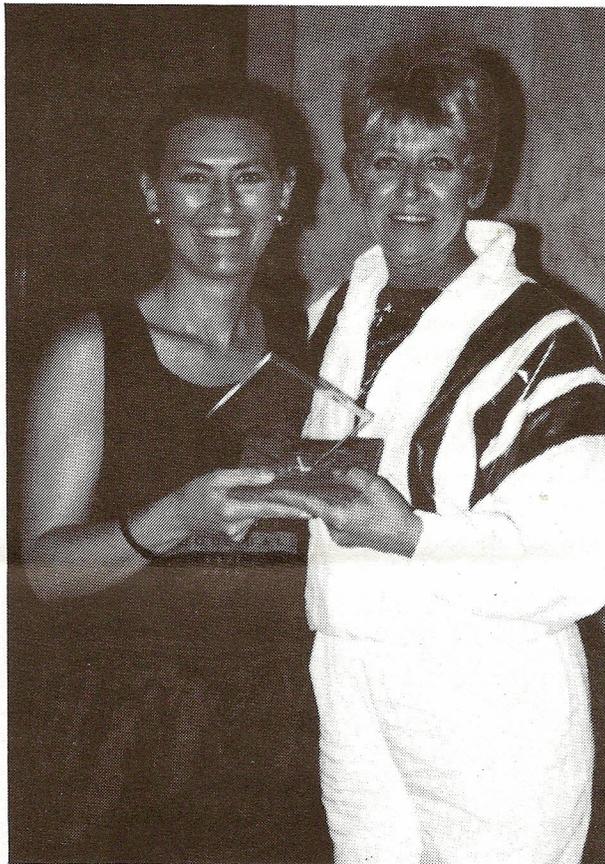
I want to thank, Tim, Eric and Karen Storey. What a great supportive group. Eric had several stitches in his foot and shouldn't have played, but did in the celebrity playoffs. Thanks, Eric! You are a great inspiration and positive influence in the lives of this group of young people. They look up to you and respect you. Tim was there doing only what Tim can do, living up to all of our expectations! All joking aside, Tim, you are a

great support system for Young People's Racquetball. Thank you very much for your kindness and your thoughtfulness. Thank you, Karen, for all the wonderful things you have done for this group. Barbecues at your home, coming to our fundraiser and also your kindness to all of us.

I want to thank Armino Guzman not only for his participation, but also for raising \$150 from his coworkers. You're great, Armino! Thanks to John Linehan for participating and allowing me to put him in an uncomfortable spot of coach versus obstinate player! Thanks to John Yorkey and Laurie Egbert for donating the trophies that we gave away. Thanks Sean Lucky for coming to support us and play in the celebrity matches. Thanks to all of you who came and played in the tournament and the celebrity playoffs and attended the banquet.

I want to thank Luzell Wilde for participating. It was such a great pleasure for me to meet a celebrity such as yourself. And what a nice and pleasant person you are! Thanks, Luzell.

The banquet was handled by one great guy and also board member, Rich Parks!! Rich lined up the chefs and chef students for this segment of the fundraiser. Rich



Cindy Jones and Norma Carlisle

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Tips From Rick

Be an Aggressive Player, But a Safe One

by Rick Strout

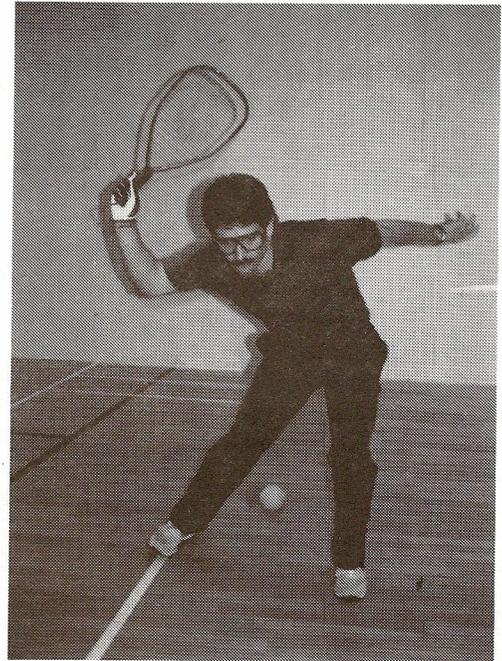
You are in a confined area, and both you and your opponent are swinging very dangerous weapons. Yes, consider the racquet a weapon. Getting hit with a racquet or the ball is not only painful, but in 90% of the cases, **your own fault!** Get clear of the other player and his racquet. Don't get mad at him if you get "ripped" when you're standing right in front of him. Don't get mad when that racquet grazes your scalp when you've covered too close. It is imperative that you design a game plan that will enable you to keep an eye on the opponent. Stay out of swing range by covering your opponent deep and to the side. In other words, stay back and stay safe. Knowing where your opponent is will keep you from getting hit, allow you to make your own shot, and give you the greatest strategy option to hit.

Let's not forget **eyeguards!**

Anyone practicing, drilling, playing a game, or for that matter just standing in a racquetball court **must** have eye protection on! It is crazy not to! Never, and I repeat never, get in a court **without** eyeguards. If they are difficult to get used to, try wearing them outside the court while doing other things. Try a different style. Believe me, there are plenty of different types to use, and various styles to try. You'll find a pair that works for you. Think of your eyeguards of being part of your strategy. As you

turn and cover your opponent, you need to look and see where he is. This not only gets you prepared for your next strategy-oriented shot, but by watching him, you put added pressure on him to make his next shot! Wearing eyeguards will not only keep you safe on the court, but will also improve your game by helping you watch the opponent and cover his miss-hits.

Enjoy the game more by being aware of your surroundings and be safe.



Rick Strout

(Rankings continued from page 1)

experience, is in the process of learning safety, rules, forehand and backhand strokes, experiments with Z serves, backwall shots, angles, passing shots and is ready to start participating in club leagues and friendly competition.

These descriptions help, but are still a long way from completing an effective, national system. Until such a system is devised and implemented, there are steps that we can take at the state level to improve the situation. Part of the problem with ambiguous skill levels arises from hazy or ineffective rules regarding when a player must "graduate up" to a higher ability bracket. Our state association has a rule, but unfortunately it is a mystery to most players and has not been sufficiently enforced by the URA board and tournament directors.

At the URA board meeting in May this problem was addressed. The board has created a rankings committee to accomplish two main goals. First, the committee, made up of male and female members of all ability levels, will review the current skill levels of all URA members. If they find that a player's ability is significantly higher than the bracket he/she plays in, the committee will recommend the player be reassigned to the higher bracket. The board will then approve or deny each recommendation and will publish the level

changes in the fall newsletter when the tournament schedule is announced (early August).

Any player who feels that he/she has been unfairly categorized can appeal the decision to the board **in writing** at any time. This appeal process would also apply to players who have been out of the sport for quite some time and may feel their skill levels have declined. Part of this classification project will have to deal with the problem not just once, but on an ongoing basis. The current classification list will then be forwarded to each tournament director during the season to help them regulate play in their tournaments.

In case you are clutching your chest in agony over the thought of being **forced** to move into those brackets with the **gorillas**, rest easy. The board is predicting that only one or two percent of its members will actually be affected by the move. And even then, there is still the appeal process available to straighten things out. The realignment should produce much more competitive tournament play for everybody.

The committee's second goal is to devise a more effective rule regarding when a player must move up to the next skill level. Their challenge is to devise a rule that moves players up soon enough to keep a reasonably narrow ability range in

(continued on page 8)

Summer URA Meeting June 15th

The next URA board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 15th at 7:00 pm at the Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center** in the racquetball gallery area. This meeting should be attended by all URA members who can possibly make it and will be extremely important because it will determine next year's officers and tournament schedule.

The URA board needs more people to get involved if it is to continue its goal to be a lot more than just a tournament sanctioning body. If you have ever considered getting involved, please attend this meeting. You should also plan to attend if you want to have any say in who gets elected to next year's board. If you were unhappy about any of the policies of this year's board, attend and make yourself heard. Last year we only had 15-20 people attend the most important meeting of the year, which sends a message that nobody cares about the sport. Please, plan to attend this year.

Tournament directors wishing to reserve one or more spots on next year's calendar must attend this meeting. When scheduling conflicts arise, preference will be given on the following basis: 1) those attending the meeting; 2) annual events; 3) regional conflicts. All clubs must be current financially with the URA to request an event. Sanctioning fees are due 30 days after the scheduling meeting or the dates will again become available for use by other clubs.

Luzell Wilde wins International Tourney

(Excerpt of article written by Mark Allred in the Davis County Clipper)

Luzelle Wilde recently returned from the Masters International Racquetball Tournament held in Phoenix, Ariz., where he picked up two gold medals to add to his collection of approximately 175-200 medals and trophies that he has earned from racquetball competitions held over the past two decades.

At the Phoenix tournament, Wilde took first place in the Men's 70+ division and also brought home a gold medal for his participation on the USA team that took first place in the team competition. But the 74-year-old Wilde is quick to point out that while winning trophies and competitions is a lot of fun, the most important thing to him is simply having a hobby that he enjoys and that he is able to be a part of. "We need to stop calling people 'senior citizens' and start calling them 'chronologically gifted,' gifted to have gotten that far. We need to ask what we can put into our quality of life."

Wilde has racked up more than 35 first place titles at national tournaments, including 1988 which he calls his best year when he won the national championship in both singles and doubles in both the 65+ and the 70+ divisions.

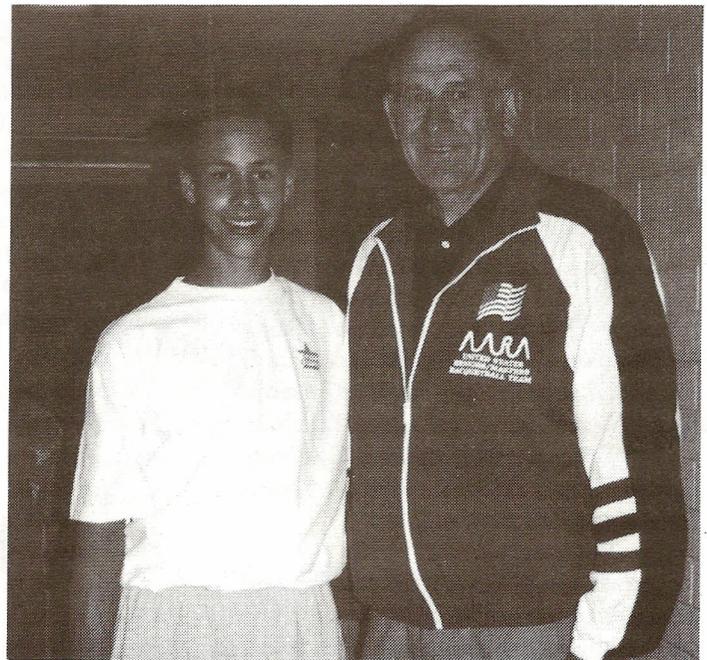
Summer Ladies' Programs

Summer is here again. Many of us seem to forget about racquetball through the summer months. Come tournament time in the fall we get mad at ourselves because we haven't played enough. Let's keep in mind that we have the Ladies Traveling League still going on through September. Also, most of the facilities all have leagues that we can join. What better way to stay on top of the game by than by joining one through the summer! Use your tournament schedule as a directory and call the tournament director to find out the times and cost. They would love to have you join with them!

If you are looking for someone to play doubles with or just plain looking for someone to play with, give me a call. If you have any suggestions concerning women's racquetball, please feel free to call me about that too! I would like to have a women's tournament within the next two months. It would be a short, fun one and I have a few gigs in mind. Hopefully it won't be too far away. If you have any ideas you would like to share with me, give me a call. I would really like to hear from you!

Thank you,

Laurie Egbert
Utah Women's Council
576-1055



*Utah's National Champions
Eric Storey and Luzell Wilde*

Wilde said the best thing about playing racquetball is all the friends he has made all over the country. "Even the guys who come to the tournaments and don't win have a great time being with all the other guys. Racquetball is a great sport. It's done a lot for me. I've got great friends all over the U.S."

also came to all of the board meetings and assured me the entire event would work out just great. Thank you, Rich, for your never ending support. Anyone who knows about boards knows what a jewel Rich Parks is! What a nice finishing touch! Thank you, Rich.

And last but by no means least I want to thank all of the YPR students. They worked their buns off! They did a pretty good refereeing job. And they had a lot of fun. I know there are some behavior problems. All of us are working very diligently on those issues. There are two things that we would appreciate your help with: 1) Anyone witnessing inappropriate and unacceptable behavior should bring the offensive behavior to the attention of the YPR student exhibiting the behavior; 2) There is a need for follow through with me, their coach, about the inappropriate behavior. These two things are a must for our program to be successful. **I want all of you to know and I want all of them to know that I am extremely proud of each and every one of them!**

Event Winners:

Women's Open/A: 1) Sue Stewart, 2) Val Shewfelt, Cons.) Sandee Roach; **Women's B:** 1) Shannon Jonas, 2) Norma Carlisle, Cons.) Laurie Egbert; **Women's C/D:** 1) Meridin Rhodes, 2) D'Arcy Dixon-Pignanelli, Cons.) Laurie Noda. **Men's Open:** 1) John Yorkey, 2) Tim Storey, Cons.) Steve Coray; **Men's A:** 1) Steve Clark, 2) Bob Snellman, Cons.) Mike Retford; **Men's B:** 1) Rich Lawrence, 2) John Linehan, Cons.) Bruce Pietsch; **Men's C/D:** 1) Regan Healy, 2) Gary Howard, Cons.) Josh Healy.

Thanks again to all who participated and helped us raise funds that will allow us to continue our program. And thank you to all of the people who wanted to participate but couldn't.

Sincerely and with love,

Cindy C. Jones
Founder/Director
Young People's Racquetball

The Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Regional Racquetball Tournament was held March 4-6 at the University of Colorado in Boulder. The Rocky Mountain Region covers the states of Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico as well as parts of Idaho, Wyoming and Nevada.

Tournament Results:

Combined Men's and Women's Teams: 1) BYU, 2) U of Colorado, 3) U of Northern Colorado, 4) Utah State University, 5) Weber State University, 6) U.S. Air Force Academy, 7) AIMS Community College, 8) New Mexico Highlands University, 9) University of New Mexico. **Men's Teams:** 1) BYU, 2) U of Northern Colorado, 3) U.S. Air Force Academy. **Women's Teams:** 1) BYU, 2) U of Colorado, 3) AIMS Community College.

Utah players' final standings:

Men's Singles: Division 1: 1) Jerry Steck (BYU), 3) Ray Hoey (Utah State). **Division 2:** 1) Brian Campbell (BYU), 2) Art Mullins (Weber State), 4) Sean Widauf (Utah State). **Division 3:** 1) Jason Harris (BYU), 2) Mike Kammeyer (Weber State), 4) Scott Holt (Utah State). **Division 4:** 1) Nathan Passey (BYU), 4) Mike Lavar (Weber State). **Division 5:** 1) Danny Spencer (BYU). **Division 6:** 1) Chris Crawford (BYU).

Women's Singles: Division 1: Brooke Robertson (BYU). **Division 2:** 2) Cindy Van Orman (BYU). **Division 3:** 1) Christine McAlpine (BYU), 3) Christine Wheeler (Weber State). **Division 4:** 1) Val Shewfelt (BYU). **Division 5:** 1) Melissa Hendricks (BYU). **Division 6:** 1) Karen Pearson (BYU).

Men's Doubles: Division 1: 1) Steck/Campbell (BYU). **Division 2:** 1) Harris/Passey (BYU), 3) Holt/Lavar (Utah State), 4) Mullins/Neuenschwander (Weber State). **Division 3:** 1) Spencer/Crawford (BYU). **Women's Doubles: Division 1:** 2) Robertson/Van Orman (BYU).

The World Intercollegiate Racquetball Championships were held in Phoenix, Ariz. April 14-18. The BYU men's and women's combined teams took third place overall and the women's finished their division in second, behind South west Missouri State. The men's team finished in sixth position.

Medal winners were: **Mens Singles: Division 4:** 4) Nathan Passey. **Division 5:** 4) Danny Spencer. **Division 6:** 4) Chris Crawford. **Women's Singles: Division 2:** 3) Cindy Van Orman. **Division 3:** 3) Christine McAlpine. **Division 4:** 2) Val Shewfelt. **Division 5:** 2) Melissa Hendricks. **Division 6:** 2) Karen Pearson.

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Team Utah's First Year a Big Success!



With the end of the tournament season, Team Utah has completed its first year and will take a break until late July. The racquetball conditioning program was designed to build skills and improve conditioning, rules knowledge and enjoyment of the sport through regular practice in a team environment. Program organizers Rick Strout and Steve Coray are proud of Team Utah's accomplishments, some of which are listed below.

Since the program began in July, 1992, Team Utah has had over 70 different players of widely varying skill levels attend at least once and has had well over 500 total attendances! This figure includes men and women of all ages from Park City to Bountiful. Several juniors were also involved with the team.

The program supported the AARA and the URA in a variety of ways. Team Utah donated \$133 to juniors' racquetball in the form of first time AARA fees for 9 new junior members. Team Utah boosted attendance at sanctioned tournaments and produced players who had a much more comprehensive understanding of the rules that govern the sport. Also, Team Utah waived attendance fees for any active URA board member. This came to over \$105 and was in appreciation of their volunteer work to promote racquetball in Utah. Team Utah challenges other programs in the state to become more involved in the efforts of the URA.

To reward the regular attendance that was necessary to master the skills being taught, Team Utah awarded \$600 worth of clothing back to the most diligent members. In addition, Team Utah helped its members attend the regional tournament in Boise by paying out \$450 to attendees in the form of entrance fee rebates. In fact, most of the Team Utah players who attended the Boise Regionals had their entire \$40 entrance fee covered by proceeds from the program!

Team Utah players who attended at least 10 sessions include: Sherrie Barth, Ken Borton, Jennifer Brown, Kathy Case, LaRaine Chamberlain, Steve Clark, John Clift, Mark Davis, Hope Hendricks, Ryan Inglyby, Cindy Jones, Randy Krantz, Robyn Lyman, Rick Marden, Sherrie Nielsen, Bruce Pietsch, Ray Quintana, Mike Retford, Chris Segura, Bob Snellman, Marianne Walsh and Jim Wilking.

Rick and Steve want to thank Ron Anson with Penn for supplying team balls and the Sports Mall and the Towne & Country in Woods Cross for providing court space for the program. Late this season Team Utah was pleased to add Sean Lucky to its staff.

With more and more people becoming involved, Team Utah's plans for the 1993-94 season are to continue sessions in Salt Lake and Bountiful and to expand into Utah Valley. To stay in touch with the program's plans, contact Rick at 571-6378 or Steve at 328-2071.

Ladies Traveling League Schedule

Here is a list of the times still left to play for the Ladies Traveling League.

June 5	Alta Canyon Recreation Center
July 10	Jordan Valley
August 7	Cottonwood Heights
Sept. 11	SportsMall

Play begins at 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Ladies pay \$3.00. If you have any questions, please call Norma Carlisle at 261-3426 or Rose Hernandez at 943-3190.

Juniors and the Grand Junction Regionals

There were 13 juniors from Utah who attended the Junior Regional Tournament in Grand Junction, Colorado. Several of those came home with trophies. Something just as important was the participation and the enthusiasm represented by our juniors. Renae Storey was a very positive example of this; she has never played in a tournament before the junior regional! Congratulations and thanks to all participating juniors for a job well done. You should be very proud of yourself, we are!

Eric Storey 1st boys 18
Tony Glavis 5th boys 18
Renae Storey 4th girls 18
Kristen Walsh 2nd girls 16
Melissa Boyd 3rd girls 16
Nick Versluis 2nd boys 16
Kristen Walsh 2nd girls 14
Melissa Boyd 3rd girls 15
Josh Healy 2nd boys 14
Chris Lindbloom 3rd boys 14
Regan Healy 4th boys 12

Did we Miss You?

Currently, the URA newsletter goes out only to AARA members in Utah. We will soon be sending it also to clubs, news agencies, selected players from surrounding states, etc. If you have any ideas about people or organizations that should also receive our newsletter, please contact Steve Coray at 328-2071.

(Rankings continued from page 4)

each bracket without moving them up so fast that the upper levels become unnaturally large. Their rule recommendation will have to take into consideration factors like the size of the tournament, success in higher brackets (for those players playing two skill levels) and the frequency of finals or semi-finals success. Any rule change the board actually adopts will also be published in the fall newsletter.

The URA Board feels these are positive steps toward achieving a fair, consistent solution to an important tournament issue. Kris Justesen has been placed in charge of the rankings committee and would appreciate any constructive ideas you have to offer. You can contact her at 263-9380.



URA Meeting!
7:00 pm
Tuesday, June 15th
Cottonwood Heights
7500 S. 2700 E.
943-3160

Meet at the racquetball courts!



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