

OFF THE WALL

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1994 NATIONAL JUNIORS RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT, CHATTANOOGA TENNESSEE

The third week of June each year is unique in that you can count on the temperature being very warm, and that the National Juniors Racquetball tournament is going on somewhere in the USA.

I had the opportunity of attending this year. The tournament was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. (Lookout Mountain, Signal Hill, Chickamauga, and a lot of other Civil War history took place around this area.)



There were five Juniors representing the State of Utah this year. They were Terrance Holbrook, Koting Phayleuhat, Melisa Boyd, Regan Healy, and Eric Storey.

Terrance played very well in Boy's 16 and really has shown a lot of improvement. He was also very involved in refereeing, applying the games he refereed towards his certification as an AARA referee. (He was also paid \$5.00 per match.)

Koting played Boy's 16, and got better with each match. He has the ability to become a very good racquetball player.

Melisa played Girl's 14 and won a Bronze Medal in the Blue Division. Melisa also picked up a partner at the tournament and played doubles. She is a great competitor and seems to rise to the level of her competition and always does well against anyone she plays.

Regan played Boy's 12 and won a Gold Medal. He had a great time at the tournament. Regan is my son, and I'm sitting here trying to think of what to say about him without embarrassing him. Just think of whatever you would say about a son that you are very proud of, and that is what I meant to say here.

see Chattanooga pg. 2

ERIC STOREY MAKES NATIONAL JUNIORS TEAM

Eric Storey was recently selected as one of the sixteen members of the National Juniors Team to represent the United States. He was selected by the National Coaches while playing at the Olympic Training Center at Colorado Springs, CO. He will represent the United States Team in December, 1994 at the World Championships.

Unfortunately for racquetball in Utah, Eric and his family are moving to Indiana at the end of this month. He will be Indiana's gain and our loss.

To date, Eric Storey has been the most successful junior player in the state of Utah. Congratulations Eric. We wish you well.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I'm excited about this year's Board of Director's and the goals and objectives for URA. Our new Board members are Randy Krantz and Jack Healy.

We would like to emphasize five major activities this year, 1) creating a URA Membership Directory, 2) enhancing the Juniors Programs, 3) Developing a rating/ranking system, 4) developing written goals/objectives for programs, and 5) developing the internal organization of URA.

Our competitive schedule is done. We will be hosting the Regional Tournament at the Sports Mall Murray this year. The State tournament will be held at the Orem Fitness Center. We appreciate the support of the tournament directors and each of you who participate to make the tournaments successful.

If you have any concerns about the URA, please address your questions to a member of the URA Board. Let's have a great season this year!

Roger C. Flick
URA President

Eric Storey won the Boy'S 16 Gold Medal in the Gold Division which means that Eric is the **National Juniors Champion** for his age. Eric also played Boy's 18 Doubles and won second place with his partner. I'm going to rah-rah Eric, and you are probably thinking it's going to be about what a great racquetball player he is; and you are right, he is. But, I would like to compliment Eric on what a neat kid he is. Eric always seems to have a smile for others, treats others well; and when he is on the court, he is a good sport.

Scott and Gail Boyd, Blaine Holbrook and I were chaperones. Tim Storey was also there with his family. I might add that Tim was successful in his bid for AARA board member. It looks like the Storeys will be moving very soon to Indiana. Tim has accepted a manager's position with a company located in Indianapolis.

On a personal note, I feel that the Juniors Tournament was run exceptionally well. The individuals from the AARA that oversaw the tournament pretty well kept everything on schedule and in control. Other than a very few instances where some parents were over-coaching their daughters or sons and the referees.

There were some very talented and gifted young athletes that played to their expectations and for the most part with great attitudes and sportsmanship.

We have a great opportunity this year to be **host** for the **Regional AARA Tournament**. In order to qualify for a National event you must play in the regionals.

The National Juniors Tournament will be held in the Los Angeles area next year. Wouldn't it be exciting to take a large group of our URA Juniors to the tournament to represent Utah! Well, it's up to US. We need to promote our Juniors Program as much as possible. We need as much help and support as we can get from all of you.

The URA is working on a plan to create a point system that would allow Juniors who are interested in earning their way to the Nationals. As part of this goal they would also be able to earn other things, like team shirts, jackets, racquets, balls, gloves, eye protection, and possibly lessons from some of our teaching pros.

As part of this effort we will need to raise moneys through whatever means available: donations from our local players, businesses and corporations, group projects and fund raisers. If any if you out there have any GREAT ideas or know of places that would allow a group of youth to come in and do certain projects to help earn money, please let us know.

To all the URA members I would like to make a very special request: Please promote our sport of

Racquetball. Invite your friends, family, co-workers and make a special effort to encourage the youth out there to come and play! Racquetball has been good to us. Let' give something back to racquetball.

Thanks for putting up with my ramblings,

Jack L. Healy

P.S. Information about the Olympic format for tournaments, and the National Junior Olympic Team will be mentioned in future URA newsletters.

JUNIOR REGIONALS

Utah saved the regional tournament in Phoenix this year. There were 16 Juniors from Utah that attended the tournament. Even though everything that could have gone wrong did, several of the Juniors came home with medals. Of course some of them haven't received their medals; four months after the fact. Anyway, putting all of this aside, we can be very proud of the Juniors who represented Utah!

- Melissa Boyd: 1st Gold Div./ Girl's 16
- 2nd Gold Div./ Girl's 14
- 3rd Gold Div./ Girl's 14
- Kristen Walsh 1st Gold Div./ Boy's 16
- Eric Storey 3rd Blue Div./ Boy's 16
- Terrance Holbrook 2nd Blue Div./ Boy's 16
- Mike Hadley 1st Red Div./ Boy's 16
- R.G. Smith 2nd Red Div./ Boy's 16
- Kotin Phayleuhat 2nd White Div.
- Josh & Regan Healy Boy's 14 Doubles
- Regan Healy 1st Gold Div./ Boy's 12
- Christina Herrera 1st Blue Div./ Girl's 10
- Suzzane Martinez 3rd Gold Div./ Girl's 10
- Bambi Sims, Lakwana Robinson, John Martinez, and Bob Martinez played but did not place.

Cindy Jones

STATE JUNIORS CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1994

The State Junior Championships were recently held at the Redwood Parks and Recreational facility. As usual, Ruth McGovern, tournament director, conducted a fine tournament. Results were as follows:

GIRLS 12 & UNDER:

1st-Kristen Walsh, 2nd-Candice Tueller

GIRLS 14-16:

1st-Melisa Boyd, 2nd-Kristen Walsh, 3rd-Stacey Stewart, 4th-Kelly Stewart, Cons: Erin Henry.

BOYS/GIRLS 10 & UNDER:

1st-Jonathan Flick, 2nd-Candice Tueller, 3rd-Dustin Cederholm, 4th-Christina Herrera, Consolation-Bob Martinez.

BOYS 12 & UNDER:

1st-Rob McGovern, 2nd-John Martinez, 3rd-Tom McGovern, 4th-Mark Hodgkinson, Consolation-James Cooper

BOYS 14 & UNDER:

1st-Nathan Porter, 2nd-Adam Tueller, 3rd-Rob McGovern, 4th-Carlo Argyle.

BOYS 16-18:

1st-Aaron Goodmar, 2nd-Terrance Holbrook, 3rd-Nathan Porter, 4th-Adam Tueller.

TEAM JUNIORS

Team Juniors is the brain child of Ruth McGovern. Team Juniors consisted of five teams of nine players each that played a league format for six weeks during the summer. There were three racquetball facilities that were involved with the Juniors: Redwood Multi-Purpose Center, Town & Country, and Cottonwood Heights. Ruth patterned the program after the Jr. Jazz format and streamlined it for racquetball.

Midway through the schedule Marianne Walsh made a player appearance and held a contest of skills for the Juniors. They won shirts, racquetballs, and other items.

Ruth is hoping for enough support from volunteer coaches, racquetball facilities, and the URA to proceed with the program next year. Team Juniors ended with the Masters Juniors Tournament, held at Redwood, along with an awards ceremony and a banquet—pool party. The awards ceremony and the banquet added a very special finishing touch for the tournament and for Team Juniors. Thanks Ruth!

FINAL RESULTS FOR TEAM JUNIORS

- #1 Town & Country
- #2 Redwood Team 2
- #3 Cottonwood Heights
- #4 YPR
- #5 Redwood Team 1

UTAH PLAYERS PLACE IN THE WORLD SENIOR RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

BYU Coach, Sylvia Sawyer, placed third in her age category in the recent World Senior Racquetball tournament held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The first and second place winners were exceptionally strong players. Sylvia, however had a very tough time playing for third place as her opponent played a tough hitting match. She dropped one game to her, but through her smart and patient playing was able to come back and win in a tie breaker, 11-4. Spectators were surprised

with her win since she was so outmatched as far as strength and speed were concerned.

The format was round robin, three games to 11.

Also, Utah's Jim Wilking played well by making it to the final eight in his division before being eliminated in the 55+ Division. He placed second in his flight. He is anxious to sharpen his game so he can return next year to make it to the final four, and hopefully, the final two. Good luck next year!

Luzelle Wilde was not able to participate in the tournament due to a recent illness and was noticeably missed by his opponents. Luzelle has always participated in this tournament and has usually come out on top in his division.

The World Senior Racquetball Championships held in New Mexico is one of the finest tournaments held for age divisions 35 and up. Next year all you seniors and above should plan on participating in this tournament. Last year we had six who attended; this year we had only three.

WORLD SENIOR GAMES 1994

Over 50 yet? If so, you qualify for participation in the World Senior Games at St. George. Applications must be in ASAP. The deadline is Sept. 20, 1994. The Senior Games for racquetball begin Oct. 19 (Wednesday) and finish Oct. 21 (Friday). For an application, call World Senior Games, 801-583-6231, or you can pick up an application at 1355 So. Foothill Drive, Suite 103, Salt Lake City, UT 84108.

The following sports are offered, First Week: Cycling Duathlon, Golf, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Second Week: Basketball, Basketball Free Throw & 3 Point Shoot, Bowling Horseshoes, RACQUETBALL, Road Races, Soccer, Table Tennis, Track & Field and Volleyball. The format for Racquetball will be round robin. Roger Flick is the tournament Director.

REFEREE CERTIFICATION

Summer is almost over and another racquetball season is close at hand. It's time to get ready for the new season and most of us will start tuning up. That means getting on the court and hitting "Old Blue" around. Forehands, back hands, drive serves, lob serves, the splat, the pinch and maybe a few ceiling shots. One important part of the game that is frequently over looked is tuning up on the rules. Now is the time to read through the Official Rules of Racquetball. Refresh yourself on all the rules and regulations. See if there are any new rule changes and plan to attend a Referee Certification clinic offered by your club or tournament director.

In August I gave a clinic at the Redwood Multi-Purpose Center for the Juniors State Championship. There were fourteen participants

and six passed the test with 80% or better. Four missed passing by only one answer and are anxious to take the test again. These juniors are well knowledgeable on the rules, and it is reflected in their play. So, to all you adult players that are not certified, ask your club or tournament director to schedule a clinic and get your referee card. Let's help out all tournament directors this year and be ready to referee any match when called upon.

John Yorkey



BRONZE MEDALIST: Melisa Boyd of Centerville receives third-place medal from national AARA chairman Tim Storey.

Boyd takes third at national event

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—Melisa Boyd, 15, of Centerville, recently earned the bronze medal at the American Amateur Racquetball Association championships.

The tournament involved more than 200 junior players from throughout the United States. Over a five-day span, 700 matches were played at the Sports Barn on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga.

Boyd won the bronze medal in Girls 14 blue division after defeating Haley Hobart of Florida in the finals. A hard-fought battle ended with Boyd winning the match in a tiebreaker, 11-9.

Prior to nationals, Boyd won the Girls 14 regional championship in Casper, Wyo., and the Girls 16 title in Phoenix, Ariz. Her performance in Tennessee qualified the south Davis County resident for the upcoming World Junior Championships in Jacksonville, Fla., in December.

Boyd, who will be a sophomore at Viewmont High School this fall, will play in the Utah State Championships later this month in Salt Lake City. She is the defending champ.

**Utah Racquetball Association
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