

SUMMER 2001

In Memoriam -Daphne P.V. diBrandi • *1*

About MWRA • 2

USRA Maryland DC Sanctioned Racquetball Tournaments • 2

For Your Information • 3

USRA Member Application • 4

Tournament Results • 6

MWRA Rankings • Back Cover

From the Editor

The summer season is upon us once again, and this is a great time to reflect on the past racquetball season and start looking forward to 2001/2002. We are working on the next season's tournament schedule (to be published in the Fall newsletter), and I

want to point out one possible resurrected tournament—the Maryland State Games. Some of you may recall the MWRA's participation in the late 80s and early 90s. I'm told this used to be quite the tournament, with lots of participation and fierce competition. We

are working with the new State Games director to secure a tournament in the January timeframe. We are looking forward to bringing this tourney back into the mainstream schedule.

On another note, we are busy compiling all the responses to Larry's survey regarding how we should handle our losing record when it comes to breaking even in State championship tournaments (highlighted in the Spring newsletter). I believe Larry said he had a whopping seven responses!!! Folks, this is your association, and would like to make the decision on what to cut back on with your feedback.



So please take a minute or two to tell us your thoughts on how we can stop losing money on our State tourneys by e-mailing us at mdrball@aol.com. We will be implementing the appropriate measures starting with the Doubles Championships in November.

Thanks in advance for your input.

Finally, the Maryland racquetball community has lost one of its own; Penny diBrandi passed away on May 31. Always a friendly but fierce competitor, Penny will be missed on the courts at the Downtown Athletic Club.

Steve

In Memoriam - Daphne P.V. diBrandi

By Jim Haner, Baltimore Sun Staff

Daphne P.V. diBrandi, whose explosive racquetball shots echoed through the halls of the Downtown Athletic Club for a decade, died Thursday, May 31 of cancer at the Gilchrist Center for Hospice Care. Known to friends as "Penny," the champion player was 43.

Born in Porto Alegre, Brazil, to missionary parents from Frederick, Penny returned with her family to Maryland when she was an infant. Her father, the Rev. Herman A. diBrandi, was the rector of the church of the Nativity in Cedarcroft.

Ms. DiBrandi graduated from St. Paul's School for Girls in 1976 and went on to earn a bachelor of arts degree in literature from Deree-Pierce College in Athens, Greece. Later, she earned a master's degree in liberal arts from the Johns Hopkins University before going to work in the campus library.

For the past year, she had been a teacher at Valley Academy in Towson.

Among the longtime Bolton Hill resident's many passions, racquetball came to consume her about a decade ago, family and friends say. And with her usual tenacity, she learned the game well—so well that she was nationally ranked 18th in the 25+ division by the USRA last year.

"She was awesome," said her brother, Geoffrey C. diBrandi, 47 of Cupertino, Calif. "She was very fast and had a good power shot. She was definitely a power player." In 1998, Penny was crowned singles champion by the MWRA. The next year, the USRA awarded her the bronze medal in its consolidated national doubles competition after a series of games she played while suffering from what she thought was the flu.

A short time later, her illness was diagnosed as lung cancer.

"A hell of a player," recalled Sharon McNeill, her partner at the 1999 doubles championships. "She was a thin, little petite thing with a big ol' oversize racquet, and she was fierce. The men at the DAC feared her—the whole bunch of them. I don't know if any of them ever beat her."

DOWNtheLinews

Steve Graham

Editor

Sterling Spangler Design

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Hmmm?

Ideas? Opinions? Comments?

Give us a call and speak your mind...



Larry Seidl: 410•269•1976 Val Rogolino Jr.: 410•987•0980

USRA Maryland/DC Sanctioned Racquetball Tournaments

USRA 34th U.S. National Doubles Championship October 3-7, 2001 Las Vegas, NV

MWRA State Doubles Championships

Nov 2-4, 2001 Merritt Athletic Club - Annapolis

Hilton Hotels 6th U.S. Open Racquetball Championships

November 14-18, 2001 Memphis, TN

MWRA Board of Governors Representatives

Andrews AFB: Jeff Elder Aspen Hill Club: Will Ferguson Fitness Club of Gaithersburg: Ed Parra Bally's Greenbelt: Tom Miller Bally's Rockville: Bel Air: Bolling AFB: Willie Sutton Chesapeake: Program Director Columbia Athletic Club: Frederick YMCA: Fairland: Warren Riecke Fort Meade: Hagerstown YMCA: JCC, Baltimore: Harry Steinman Leisure: Merritt Annapolis: Larry Seidl Merritt Downtown Athletic Club: Alan Golombek

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You will notice that there are several clubs that do not have names associated with them. This is due to the fact that those people who were listed ARE NOT currently USRA members as reported on the latest membership list from Colorado Springs.

Anyone from these clubs who is a USRA member and wishes to become a Board of Governors representative, please contact Larry Seidl at 410-269-1976.

Chairman: Larry Seidl, *Merritt Annapolis*

USRA Representative: Val Rogolino Jr., *Severna Park*

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About MWRA

The Maryland Washington Racquetball Association (MWRA) is an independent, nonprofit racquetball player group and is not affiliated in any way with any vendor or equipment manufacturer. Dues are renewable every year and includes membership in both the MWRA and the United States Racquetball Association (USRA).

Down the Line News is the official publication of the MWRA. We welcome your comments and views! Send your letters to the editor, advertisements, and other correspondence to us at:

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Tournament Results

American Cancer Society Benefit Tournament

Merritt Athletic Club, May 4-6, 2001

Division Men's Single	First Place	Second Place
Open	Matt Gehling	Travis Woodbury
А	John Broadland	Chris Wilmoth
В	Sean Walker	Charles Levine
С	Patrick Knox	Scott Violette
D	Kevin Lockwood	Rich Lovett
30+ B/C	Patrick Knox	Mike Violette
35+	Steve Simpson	Steve Myers
40+	Marc Maschal	Steve Myers
45+	Jamie Velasco	Parris Woodbury
50+ B/C	Dean Smith	
55+	Morgens Norlem	
60+	Grant "Spoony" Morr	ill
16-	Kevin Lockwood	
14-	Justin Williams	
12-	Aaron Cowell	
10-	Jeffrey Flaesch	
Women's Sin	alas	
A	Yvonne Nelson	Janice Ryan-Arnold
В	Danielle Emerson	Sharon McNeill
С	Cicely Samuel	Rita Flynn
25+	Danielle Emerson	Cicely Samuel
40+	Rita Flynn	
45+	Evelyn Specht	
Men's Double	25	
Open	Marc Baron	Jamal Harris
	Steve Simpson	Stephen Lee
A	Jeff Nelson Sean Walker	John Broadland
		Mike Huntley
С	Tom Kammerer Michael Schaefer	Larry Hill Bill Ebare
50+	Mike Perry Reggie Cornish	Larry Hill Bill Ebare
Women's Dol	Veneitia Bell	Tina Davenport
	Ann Winder	Susan Flaesch
Mixed Doubl		
	Lou George Sr. Ann Winder	Chris Wilmoth Janice Rayn-Arnold
		Janice Rayn-Amolu
Player Appreciation Tournament		
Merritt Athlet	ic Club-Security – May 19-	20, 2001

Player Appreciation Tournament (cont.)

Men's Do	ubles	
Open	Stephen Lee	Mike Perry
	Jamal Harris	Jimmie Dorsey

Team Maryland/D.C. at the Ektelon USRA 34th National Singles Championships

Congratulations to Team Maryland/D.C. for a great showing at this year's National Singles, held May 23-28, in Houston, Texas.

- Roger Aronoff, Washington, D.C., Men's 50+ Round of 32, Men's 50+ A/B Champion
- T.J. Baumbaugh, Rockville, Women's Open Round of 32, Women's Elite Quaterfinals, Women's 25+ Round of 16
- Dale Clark, Pikesville, Men's D Round of 16, Men's 35+ C/D Round of 16
- Jeff Elder, Ft. Washington, Men's 30+ Round of 32, Men's 35+ Round of 32
- Dan Fowler, Rockville, Men's Open Semifinals
- Doreen Fowler, Rockville, Women's Open Round of 16, Women's 30+ Quarterfinals
- Matt Gehling, Annapolis, Men's Open Round of 32, Men's 24-Finalist
- Barry Gribble, Washington, D.C., Men's D Round of 16, Men's 30+ C/D Finalist
- Ira Holland, Laurel, Men's Open Round of 64, Men's 30+ Round of 16
- Willie "Doc" Johnson, Baltimore, Men's 40+ A/B Round of 16, Men's 45+ A/B Round of 32
- Patrick Knox, Washington, D.C., Men's 30+ C/D Champion, Men's C Round of 32
- Glen Kubany, Olney, Men's 45+ C/D Round of 16, Men's 50+ C/ D, Round of 16
- Sandy Kubany, Olney, Women's Open Round of 32, Women's 45+ Round of 16
- Bill Milbach, Silver Spring, Men's A Round of 64, Men's 35+ A/B Round of 32
- Steve Myers, Frederick, Men's 40+ Round of 64, Men's 40+ A/B Champion
- Mogens Klit Norlem, Annapolis, Men's 55+ A/B Semifinals
- Gail Schaefer, Randallstown, Women's 55+ Quarterfinals, Women's 55+ A/B Finalist
- Karissa Sparks, Washington, D.C., Women's 25+ C/D Champion and Women's D Finalist
- Ronnie Yorski, Laurel, Women's 45+ A/B Quaterfinals, Women's 50+ A/B (Round Robin)

States fielding the largest teams at the National Singles were:

- 1. Texas (147)
- 2. California (38)
- 3. Illinois (31)
- 4. Ohio (30)
- 4. Virginia (30)
- 6. Florida (25)
- 7. Pennsylvania (22)
- 8. Louisiana (20)
- 9T. Maryland/D.C. (19)
- 9T. North Carolina (19)
- 10. Colorado (17)

Division

Open

А

В

С

25/30+

Men's Singles

First Place

Stephen Lee

Steve Droski

Steve Simpson

Mike Perry

Joe Brown

Second Place

George Tuch

Patrick Knox

Stephen Lee

Giovanni Cortorreal

Jimmey Dorsey

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7

MWRA**Rankings**

1050

650

205

130

105

230

210

150

100

85

200

200

200

140

130

Rankings are based on all USRA sanctioned tournaments (in-state and out-of-state) within the 12-month period as of June 4, 2001. For more information on how the rankings are determined, visit the USRA Rankings page at http://www.usra.org/usra/pub&ref/01ranks.htm

1. 2. 3. 4.	n's Open Dan Fowler Matt Gehling Eric Blood Ira Holland Stephen Lee
1. 2. 3. 4.	n's A Steve Graham Chris Wilmoth Daniel Nedd Jimmy Dorsey Chris Goodwyn
1T. 1T. 1T. 4.	n's B Jeff Nelson Robert Georgantas Steven Droski Charles Levine Don Joy
1.	n's C Patrick Knox Jeff Brown

mon 3 0		
 Patrick Knox Jeff Brown Sean Walker Jody Stiles John Flahart Greg Knutson 	460 200 180 165 50 50	Men's 45+ 1. Robert House 2. Jamie Velasco 3. Tom Chandler 4. Daniel Nedd 5. Warren Riecke
Men's D (Club C)		Men's 50+
1. Jimmy Falcon 2. Barry Gribble 3T. Joe Beale 3T. Dale Clark 5T. Ralph Defelice 5T. Kevin Lockwood	200 175 100 100 50 50	 Terry Michnya Kevin Dorr Don Holler Dave Evans Ken Weinstein
5T. Fawad Syed`	50	Men's 55+
Men's 25+ 1. Stephen Lee 2. Jason Colangelo 3. Chris Wilmoth 4. Steven Best 5T. Rob Cherry 5T. Jamal Harris	175 150 105 100 30 30	 Kevin Dorr Warren Riecke Jerry Philips Ken Doane Joseph Hill Mogens Norlem Bill Winowitch

1. 2	Erik Blood David Meagher	450 300 265 85 75
1. 2. 3.	n's 35+ Steve Simpson John Kerr David White Jeff Elder Chris Brown	290 210 155 100 75
<i>Me</i> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5T.	n's 40+ Robert House Steve Simpson Steve Myers Chris Brown Bob Compton Arnaldo Mancebo	320 250 225 190 110 110
1. 2. 3	Jamie Velasco Tom Chandler Daniel Nedd	250 200 150 115 105
	Don Holler Dave Evans	520 220 150 80 75
1. 2. 3. 4T. 4T. 4T.	n's 55+ Kevin Dorr Warren Riecke Jerry Philips Ken Doane Joseph Hill Mogens Norlem Bill Winowitch	700 250 150 50 50 50 50

Wa	man'a Anan		
1.	<i>men's Open</i> Doreen Fowler	525	
2.	T.J. Baumbaugh	385	
3.	Shannon Feaster-	180	
	Stewart		
4.	Ruth Hough	105	
5.	Jackie Gopie	90	
Wo	men's A		
1.		300	
2.	Dyan Anderson	230	
3.	Janice Ryan-Arnold	165	
4. 5.	Beth Wade Maria Riford	100 80	
5.		00	
Wo	men's B		
1.		300	
2T.	Eleanor Adcock	265	
21. 4.	Sharon McNeil Becca Polignone	265 160	
4. 5.	Danielle Emerson	115	
0.	Barnelle Emerson	110	
	men's C		
1.	Selma Cuadros	360	
2.	Dyan Anderson Danielle Emerson	300 165	
3. 4.	Becca Polignone	165	
4. 5.	Fran Gower	105	
-			
	men's D (Club C)		
1. 2.	Karissa Sparks Debbie Firlie	650 125	
2. 3.	Claudia Villarroel-Sot		
0.		0.00	
Women's 25+			
1.		225	
2.	Danielle Emerson	50	

Women's 30+ 1. Yvonne Nelson 2T. Doreen Fowler 2T. Janice Ryan-Arnold 4. Jackie Gopie 5T. Dyan Anderson 5T. Bev Supanick 5T. Ronnie Yorski	150 100 20 10 10 10
<i>Women's 35+</i> 1. Bev Supanick	100
<i>Women's 40+</i> 1. Bev Supanick 2T. Jackie Gopie 2T. Beth Wade 4. Rita Flynn	200 100 100 50
 Women's 45+ Brenda Loube Ruth Hough Sandy Kubany Evelyn Specht 	175 150 75 50
<i>Women's 50+</i> 1. Ronnie Yorski 2. Evelyn Specht	250 150
<i>Women's 55+</i> 1. Gail Schaefer	450



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