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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**US OPEN NATIONAL RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP – PAST AMATEUR CHAMPIONS  
TO PLAY IN MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB 2010 MAC OPEN**

*USA Racquetball sanctioned event to benefit Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation*

Grand Rapids, *Mich*, January 13, 2010 – The Michigan Athletic Club 2010 MAC Open, a Racquetball Association of Michigan circuit event, will be held January 23-24, 2010 at the Michigan Athletic Club located at 2500 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, MI. The premier event is sanctioned by USA Racquetball as well as the Racquetball Association of Michigan. Singles play will consist of men, women and junior divisions ranging in ages from 8 to 75 years old.

Competing in the 2010 MAC Open are two former US Open National Racquetball Amateur Champions, Brandon Cortese and Shannon Kohl (see attachment for complete BIOS). Cortese is the current Michigan State Singles Open title holder as well as the Michigan Male Player of the Year award recipient. Cortese is the club pro at the MAC, East Hills and Orchard Hills athletic clubs and is sponsored by Team HEAD. Kohl won the Michigan State Singles Open in 2008 and currently holds the Michigan State Doubles title with Joel Bonnett. Kohl was introduced to racquetball at the age of 4 and has traveled the country competing in racquetball tournaments since the age of 18.

2010 MAC Open play will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and continue on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. A complete schedule will be posted on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 PM on the following website: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=6033> or by calling 616-540-7925. Registration is open to anyone that wants to play by contacting Twayne Howard at [Twayne.Howard@MichiganRacquetball.net](mailto:Twayne.Howard@MichiganRacquetball.net) by January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Admission is free throughout the weekend and tournament proceeds will benefit the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation.

For more information on the Michigan Athletic Club 2010 MAC Open, please contact Twayne Howard, President of the Racquetball Association of Michigan and 2010 MAC Tournament Director, at [Twayne.Howard@MichiganRacquetball.net](mailto:Twayne.Howard@MichiganRacquetball.net)

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About the Racquetball Association of Michigan:

The mission of the Racquetball Association of Michigan is to provide racquetball-related information and RAM membership opportunities to all racquetball players in the state of Michigan.

About West Michigan Sports Commission:

The West Michigan Sports Commission's main goal is to promote Michigan's West Coast as the premier venue for hosting a diverse level of youth and amateur sporting events, enhancing the economy and quality of life in the region.



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**Brandon Cortese, [bcortese@msn.com](mailto:bcortese@msn.com)**

Graduated from MSU in 2005 and has been working in Corporate Finance for Amway since that time. Married to wife Sarah for just over year now and looking to start a family. I'm currently 27 and have been playing racquetball since I was about 13 years old.

My fondest racquetball memory is playing at the West Michigan Open in front of my family and friends in a pro event last year and getting a chance to play the greatest racquetball player of all-time - Cliff Swain. Racquetball has blessed me with many life-long friendships.

- US Open National Championships Champion, 24 & Under – Amateur Skill Level
- (2) Michigan State Singles Open Titles
- (2) Michigan State Doubles Open Titles
- (2) Michigan Male Player of the Year Awards
- (25+) Open Division Tournament Titles
- 2008 & 2009 Michigan Athletic Club - MAC Open Champion
- Club Pro – Mac, East Hills and Orchard Hills athletic clubs
- Sponsored by Team HEAD for last eight years

**Shannon Kohl, [Shannon.Kohl@yahoo.com](mailto:Shannon.Kohl@yahoo.com)**

Currently working at Amway in Global Transportation at the age of 27, I have been playing racquetball a long time. I grew up around the game of racquetball and was introduced to the sport via my father at the age of 4. I've played college level baseball as well as college golf and I'm convinced there is nothing that compares to the intensity, workout and mental toughness of a great racquetball match.

I have traveled the country as a junior competing in numerous junior national events and regional events up to the age of 18. I still try and make it to the national singles and U.S. Open annually to give it my best against the best pros in the world. I enjoy playing in Grand Rapids and being in front of family and a "home crowd."

I will admit that nothing is better than facing Brandon in the finals of any tournament; I bet he would say the same. He has become the hometown "rival" on the court. We have both established some life long friendships through the game, including ours. That usually starts about 10 minutes after the match is over!

- US Open National Championships Champions, 24 & Under – Amateur Skill Level
- Michigan State Singles Open Title
- (3) Michigan State Doubles Open Title
- Michigan Male Player of the Year
- Member of Team HEAD for last 5 years