

Here's to our health: Toasting the trainers

The USHA's Sports Medicine Team, consisting of Dr. John Aronen, Ray Chronister and Kevin Regan, was honored with the first Carl Porter Award. Here are excerpts from Porter's speech:

My only regret is that there is not enough room on the plaque to name it for all the members of our team who stepped up in 1982 to save the USHA. Names such as Joe McDonald, Ron Emberg, Fred Lewis and the other members of the USHA's first democratic board of directors. And names such as Bob Peters and Vern Roberts, the two-man gang who ran and revived the association for us.

I know they all join me in being extremely pleased that the first recipients of this award set the standard so high that it is almost out of sight for future prospects. Our long-time Sports Medicine Team of Dr. John Aronen, Ray Chronister and Kevin Regan, all military men, have made a voluntary contribution to our annual national championships far beyond any call of duty.

In 1984, when the nationals were being

Kevin Regan shows how it's done as he tapes the ankle of national champion Paul Brady. It's work like this that won the Porter Award for the Sports Medicine Team.



Chronister, Aronen and Regan receive their awards in the presence of Porter at the banquet.

held in Baltimore, John was the director of sports medicine at the Naval Academy and team physician for the Midshipmen's varsity teams. A former handball player who had been forced to give up the game for orthopedic reasons, he was approached about an elbow injury by Ray Leidich.

When the talk ended, Dr. Aronen had volunteered to set up a sports medicine/training corner for the Baltimore nationals. He talked his right- and left-hand athletic trainers from the Naval Academy, Ray and Kevin, into likewise volunteering their expertise and services for the week, and his-

tory was launched.

This year their team covered its 23rd consecutive nationals, 10 to 12 hours a day for seven straight days. For more than two decades, these three have given up their vacation and leave time to doctor, nurse and educate our handball population at the nationals.

Today Dr. John is retired and living in San Diego. Ray is still caring for athletes at Annapolis. Kevin retired from the Navy and is in the private sector in Albuquerque.

Yet each year they continue to set aside a week in June to reunite and bring cutting-edge, state-of-the-art sports medicine expertise and treatment to our nationals. When he was inducted into the USHA Hall of Fame, Naty Alvarado Sr. praised them for the role they played in his winning 11 national singles championships.

Perhaps most amazing, however, is that neither John, Ray nor Kevin has played a single game of handball in all these years. They have sacrificed for us, followed us and cared for us not because they play the game but because they have come to love it and to treasure the camaraderie they have developed with the men and women who play it. They are, in a word, family.