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RACQUETBALL

VOLUME I NUMBER 1 • NOVEMBER, 1972 50¢





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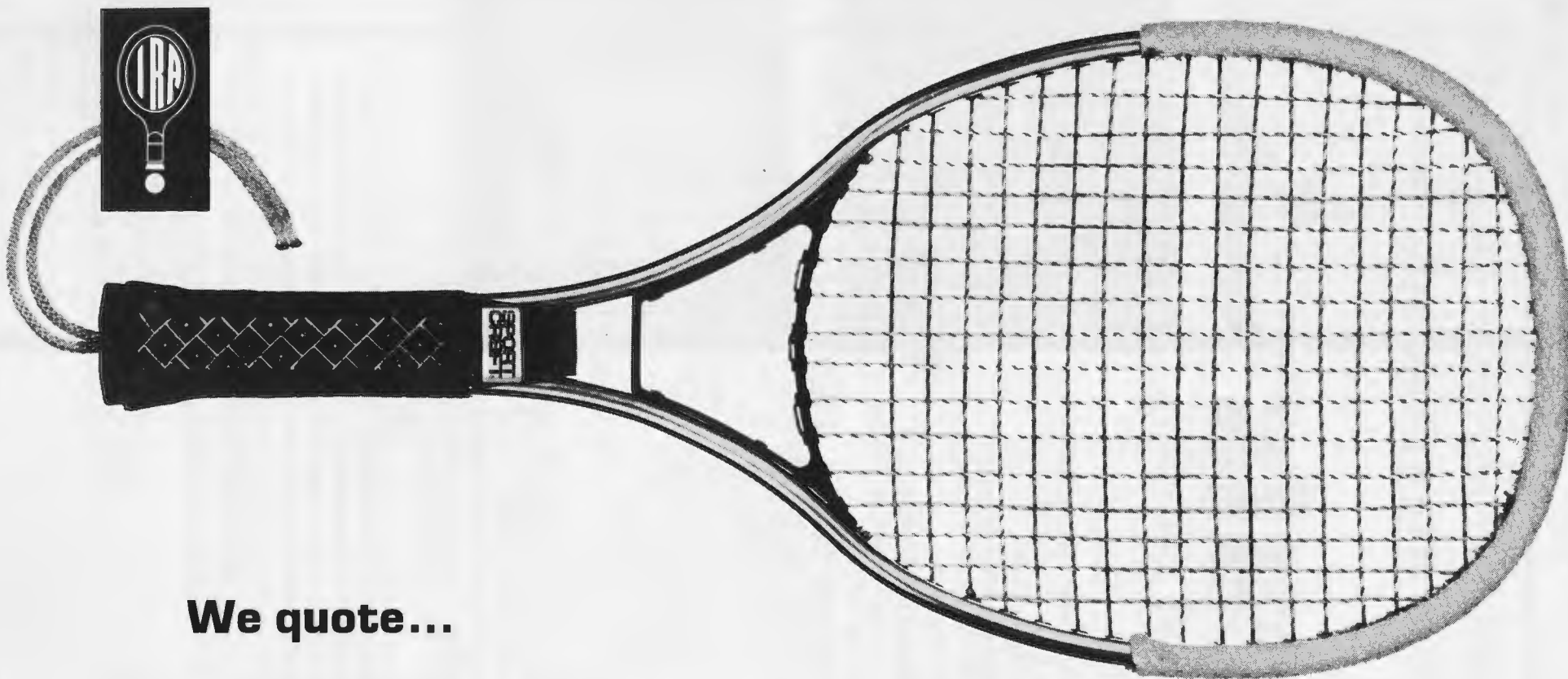
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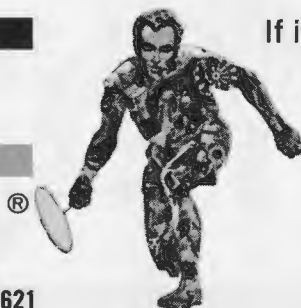
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ON THE COVER

Bill Schmidtke (left) following through against Charlie Brumfield in recent exhibition at Chicago's McClurg Court Sports Center. Schmidtke, former I.R.A. Singles Champ (1971) and Brumfield, current titleholder, aided editor Chuck Leve in compilation of racquetball instructional book. (See page 8). Photo by Arthur Shay.

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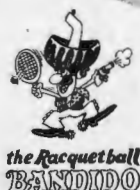
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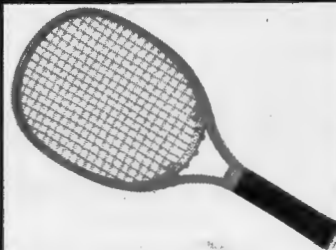


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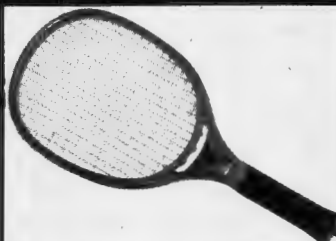
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From the editor . . .

The publication of a magazine is a bold endeavor by any association. With over 2,500 members/subscribers, we at the International Racquetball Association felt that we can support such a publication for a variety of reasons.

Our first consideration was to finally give racquetball its true recognition. The game is growing so rapidly with so much more in information, tournaments and feature happenings, that the time has come to devote full space to such events.

Being a section within *Handball Magazine* had its advantages. The racquetball world entered many areas otherwise unattainable, due to the over 12,000 handball members/subscribers. Racquetball was read in handball hotbeds and racquetball gospel preached in all corners of the globe. *Handball Magazine* served racquetball well in that capacity and for that we thank it.

But we no longer need *Handball* as a medium of expressing racquetball. The racquetball news has reached an entire continent. We feel we can make it on our own, due to the continuing support of our members. They will receive this publication, their friends will see it, their fellow players too. And the game will continue its meteoric rise in popularity.

As good as *Handball Magazine* was to racquetball it still had its shortcomings. We were only a section, a small section of another larger body. Understandably, this upset many of the racquetball people who could care less about handball, feeling that racquetball truly is the court sport of the future.

"Why should the official publication of racquetball and paddleball be called *Handball*?"

they wailed. It was a good point.

"Why should we be obscured in the back of another magazine?" was another cry.

It was also difficult to convince many racquetballers that they were actually getting something for their \$3.00 a year membership fees. Sending them *Handball Magazine*, with a small racquetball section did not persuade them much.

Another strong consideration was finances. Before this year, the I.R.A. could not consider the financial burden of its own publication. But membership has increased substantially; to the point in fact that we feel we can now give the racquetball people their own magazine. And we feel that the added membership spurred by this publication will help offset the production costs.

A section in *Handball* cost barely half of what this *Racquetball Magazine* costs to publish. But we feel that the expense is well worth it.

This publication will forever be dedicated to bringing you the best in racquetball news. We will continue to cover the game's top events, to let you know what is happening in the upper echelon of this tremendous court sport.

For the masses of average racquetball players we will continue to offer as many instructional articles as possible, to let you know how you can improve your skill, and hence your court enjoyment.

This, plus many other features and items, we feel will give you bi-monthly reading pleasure second to none. It is you who have made this publication possible. You will continue to support it. And it is to you that it is dedicated.

Charles S. Lene

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Inside Racquetball

Although the start of the heavy racquetball season was still a month or so away, six of the nation's top players gathered in Chicago August 5 for an exhibition/photography session.

The gathering was to launch the work on a new book to be authored by IRA Executive Secretary Chuck Leve, *Inside Racquetball*. Leve, himself an average player at best, has discussed the book and its contents with these players, conducted extensive interviews, and with the sequence and action shots, will mold together an instructional book on racquetball.

Publication is due for late Spring, 1973, by the Henry Regnery Publishing Company, Chicago, the same firm that published *Inside Handball* by Paul Haber and Mort Leve.

"I am hoping the book will be out by the time the International tournament arrives," said Chuck Leve.

After two hours of posed photography, the players went into action, pleasing an impatient crowd at the McClurg Court Sport Center in downtown Chicago.

Playing one game of 21 and calling it a match, Steve Keeley, East Lansing, Michigan and former National Paddleball champ (1971) defeated Paul Lawrence, Ann Arbor, Michigan also a former paddleball champ (1968) and currently ranked fourth in the I.R.A., 21-17. Then Bill Schmidtke, Port Edwards, Wisconsin, 1971 I.R.A. champ defeated Craig Finger, Ann Arbor 21-19. Finger was the 1970 I.R.A. titleholder.

Current I.R.A. champion Charlie Brumfield then took the court against Keeley and showed his prowess for the first time to a Chicago audience with a superb 21-11 victory.

Home-town favorite Ron Rubenstein then met Schmidtke and was on his best game, defeating the former champ 21-11.

Rubenstein is the number two ranked player nationally.

After a doubles exhibition in which Finger and Lawrence beat Schmidtke and Keeley 21-16, Brumfield took the court against Rubenstein for the third time in four months. For the third time Brumfield won, this time 21-18.

But Ruby was optimistic. "I'm getting closer," he said.

Thanks go to the staff of McClurg Court and especially Max Davidson, director of the center and his assistant, Steve Levinson. Closed circuit television was set up for the viewing pleasure of the building's apartment dwellers and the overflow crowd.

Later that evening the players were treated to a steak roast at I.R.A. President Bob Kendler's suburban Lake Forest home, with plenty of stimulating conversation.

Brumfield, Barely

The first annual Houston J.C.C. Open was a rousing success over the Columbus Day weekend, with 53 participants, many of them going both singles and doubles.

I.R.A. Open singles champ Charlie Brumfield, San Diego, captured the singles crown in Houston with a thrilling 21-18, 20-21, 21-18 victory over young Steve Serot, the lanky southpaw from St. Louis.

"It was a super match," said J.C.C. health and physical education director Sam Cohen. "Steve really made him earn his keep."

Third place open singles went to Jim Austin, Houston, who defeated Charlie Drake, San Diego 17-21, 21-13, 21-3.

"Drake just ran out of gas the third game," said Cohen.

Serot gained some measure of revenge in the open doubles when he and partner Biron Valier, Houston, knocked off Brumfield and Drake 21-18, 3-21, 21-11.

Third place went to Joe Zelson and Barry Garden, St. Louis, over Richard Spear and Bob Hill, Houston, 21-20, 21-18.

Zelson was upset in the Masters singles finals by Dallas' Richard Walker 21-18, 21-15. Walker continues his rapid improvement as shown in the I.R.A. Masters Invitational tournament Labor Day weekend (page 18). Miltie Karp, defeated Jesse Alto 21-16, 19-21, 21-17 in an all-Houston third place match.

"It was a super, super tournament," said Cohen. "We wanted it to be first class because it was our first one. We treated everybody royally and they said so themselves."

Bob Hill was director of entries for the tournament, but the hardest workers were Henry Lesky and Aron Pasternak, tournament co-chairmen. Henry and Aron kept things running without hitch on the four court facility.

Plans are now under way to make the Houston Open an annual tournament.



BRUMFIELD

No Tears

Charlie Brumfield, the nation's top player, added a hands against racquet victory to his rapidly growing stock, over Paul Haber, September 23.

The match was held at Mel Gorham's Sports Center, San Diego, less than a week after Haber dropped a three-game match to Dr. Bud Muehleisen (page 14). Brumfield topped Paul in two straight 21-14, 21-20 before a disappointing crowd of about 90.

Ed Meadows, local San Diego handballer did the refereeing, coming under heavy criticism from Haber both during and after the match.

"I scored 25 points in the second game," said Haber. "And still lost."

So what else is new?

Continued page 9

Jack B. Weil

Jack B. Weil, public information officer for the Northbrook, Illinois Park District, passed away in his home September 26. He was 51.

A former newspaper reporter, Weil was well-known among Illinois racquetball circles, both as a Masters player and tournament worker. He was instrumental in helping the then-new Illinois Racquetball Association conduct its first two state tournaments in 1971.

Two years ago, Weil began his own public relations firm, Jack Weil Associates. He also did free lance writing, covering the I.R.A. International Championships in Memphis for *Tennis Magazine*.

Weil met people easily in Memphis, eager to shake hands and spend a few minutes with the game's top stars. He was easily identifiable by his black beret, always atop his balding head, and by his rabid support for fellow Illinoisan Ron Rubenstein's quest for the title.

Jack related to friends that the biggest racquetball thrill of his career was that tournament in Memphis where he had the chance to meet and play Dr. Bud Muehlenisen in the opening round of the Masters singles bracket. And although Jack lost overwhelmingly (21-0, 21-1), he came off the court all smiles, happy with just the experience of being on the court with one of the greats.

We felt Jack Weil was great. We mourn his loss.

He is survived by his widow, Beverly, and daughter Rachel.

Hello, Washington!

Congratulations are in order for the newly-formed Washington Racquetball Association (W.R.A.), headquartered in Tacoma, Washington, and their newly elected president Sid Williams.

The group in Washington has taken a solid step forward with incorporation of the W.R.A. and the method followed by these avid racquetballers may well be the action to be taken for other associations.

According to the W.R.A. newsletter, sent to all W.R.A. members, the association was formed for the following reasons:

1—The promotion of racquetball in Washington State.

2—The forming of a cohesive group of Washington State players.

3—The hosting of sanctioned tournaments under adopted International Racquetball Association rules and regulations.

4—The setting up of a board of players to rate and determine individual classifications of play.

5—The elimination of tournament "sandbaggers" or persons entering tournaments below their playing ability.

All tournaments sponsored by the W.R.A. will be sanctioned under I.R.A. rules with results being submitted to International headquarters and *Racquetball Magazine* for publication.

Membership is \$2.00 per year for the W.R.A. and a major requirement is that members also hold an I.R.A. card, another \$3.00 per year. Membership

includes a subscription to *Racquetball Magazine*.

All monies derived from tournament entry fees and other manners will go toward the promotion of racquetball in Washington State, and any remaining monies annually reported to W.R.A. members.

No officer or board member of the W.R.A. will receive any money or special compensations for any office or title held.

The current list of officers are President—Sid Williams, Tacoma; Vice-President—Dan Buehler, Olympia; Secretary—F. Parks Weaver, Jr., Olympia; Treasurer—Art Redford, Tacoma.

Board members are: Butch Seyster, Wenatchee; Al Metz, Tacoma; Doug Moore, Aberdeen; Gene Altman, Bellingham; Doug Clark, Bellingham; Sharon Schmitz, McChord AFB.

The W.R.A. will host a number of tournaments annually, and hopes to draw many of racquetball's top stars to their competition.

Washington has experienced a racquetball problem similar to many areas of the nation, that of women players. It's not really a problem of sex, but of numbers.

As the newsletter states, "*The ladies are free to compete, but until our female entrants numbers grow sufficiently enough to merit a ladies division, they will have to compete against the men.*"

Talk about equality!

In any event, good luck Washington. It's nice to have you aboard.

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KEN PORCO

An interesting racquetball interview with the I.R.A.'s National Commissioner, a man who has tasted the sweetness of victory, but never dined on it.

Ken Porco is a physical tank. He stands 5'8", tips the scale at 195 and it's been said that a collision between Ken and a racquetball court wall is even money as to who will survive. At 34-years-old he still feels he is in his racquetball prime and is dedicated to attaining the goal of all tournament players, the International singles championship.

He has had his ups and downs on the court, but the ups were never quite high enough. In 1969, I.R.A.'s inaugural year, he lost to Charlie Brumfield in the semi-finals 11-21, 21-11, 21-8 and took third place. His 1970 performance was similar, losing 21-20, 21-20 to eventual champ Craig Finger in the quarter-finals; and in 1971 again to Finger 21-19, 21-16, this time in the semi's, taking fourth.

He has been more fortunate in doubles, capturing the International title in 1971 with Mike Zeitman, taking second in 1970 with Dick Ribisl and fourth this year with Bill Evans when Zeitman could not compete due to a back injury.

Due to his tremendous strength and physical power he is known as a power hitter, yet his style is not based on strength alone. He has one of the most unorthodox backhand strokes in the game, it being described as "inside-out" or "reverse" backhand, yet he maintains it is the only backhand he has ever known.

He was a tremendous high school and college athlete, winning 12 letters (four each in football, baseball and track) at the University of Louisville. After Louisville he signed for a bonus with Calgary of the Canadian Football League, but after three exhibition appearances, suffered a knee injury and was placed on injured waivers.

His wife Jean was expecting their first child at the time and rather than attempt to pursue his profession athletic desires in either football or baseball (he never hit below .300 in college), he decided to return to Pittsburgh, his home, to find work.

Nothing was available in the steel city and Ken and family returned to Louisville in 1960 where he took a job with the Louisville Jewish Community Center. Until recently he has been associate physical director at the Louisville Center, being instrumental in bringing racquetball to the city, and promoting its growth.

His most recent endeavor has been the beginnings of a private athletic club in downtown Louisville, meaning the termination of his association with the J.C.C.

A proud man, with tremendous skill, he has made countless friends throughout the nation in his racquetball and other athletic travels. The International Racquetball Association felt that his excel-

lent relationship with the players and his knowledge of the game on the local level made Ken ideal for the post of National Commissioner to which he was elected this year.

He welcomes the challenge of the booming sport of racquetball and is strong in his desires to see the growth trend continue its upward spiral. Here is an inside look at Ken Porco:

RACQUETBALL: Let's take the obvious first. How did you get started in racquetball?

PORCO: Back in 1962, there was a conference of physical education workers of Jewish Community Centers in Detroit and Ann Arbor, Michigan. We found that at the University of Michigan they played paddleball. Up until then I had only heard vaguely about paddleball and didn't really think much of it. When we got to Michigan, we were very impressed with their facilities and noticed right away that they were playing paddleball on their handball courts. At that time they were playing with a tennis ball dyed red.

Well, the game immediately caught my fancy, not only as a game I knew I could enjoy, but one in which my members could actively participate. I saw that it was easy to play and that you could easily get a good workout. I couldn't wait to get my chance at it. I had played squash



Porco: On defense



A forehand ceiling



The "unorthodox" backhand

and handball and this game really got me excited. That was 1962.

RACQUETBALL: That was a while back. How do you judge the game now?

PORCO: There is no question in my mind that racquetball has evolved into a much better sport than it was when it began. Certainly the ball we now have is much better to play with than a tennis ball or anything heavy like that. The ball, weight

ball to the people. They just have to see it and they immediately say to themselves, "I can learn to play that game."

RACQUETBALL: What do you feel have been the biggest changes in the game?

PORCO: The biggest change as I see it has been the equipment. I have been very happy to see the evolution of equipment first from the paddle to the strung racquet, which was really a godsend because

get my thinking and playing ability together.

RACQUETBALL: Along these lines, Ken, you seem to be snake-bitten in singles in the Internationals having never made the finals, although you have had some pretty close calls. Can you account for this?

PORCO: You can call it a reason, or happenstance, or you can call it anything you want. I have gone over the reasons in my own mind, thinking of everything from choke to bad luck, not thinking to inconsistency. I think it's a combination of all those things. I do not believe that during play I have ever choked or been afraid to lose. I've never done that in my life in any sport I have ever played. The breaks just didn't seem to go my way. My opponents played well, certainly. And I have good competition here in Louisville to play every day so there is no reason why I should lose in the late stages of a tournament. It's kind of getting to be a mental thing with me now and I've got to talk to myself and try and get some consistency to my game.

If you want to narrow it down to one reason, I think it would be concentration. When you're in a tournament you have to concentrate on every play. Forget about the ones that go bad.

RACQUETBALL: Taking specific examples, you seem to have had difficulty with Craig Finger, losing two years in a row with close calls. Have you thought about these matches?

PORCO: Yes. The funny thing is, every time I play those matches over in my mind, I go from the beginning and I win them all, every time I play. The really strange thing about this, talking about mental attitude, is that every time I played Craig I always felt I would win. I've gone in with confidence and played well at times but just not enough good plays put together. Craig kept the pressure on, and hung in there, to his credit.

"Then one fellow . . . brought a couple of racquets with him. These were the greatest things we had ever seen."

wise, is acceptable to everyone and makes the game better.

I prefer racquetball to paddleball for one reason, racquetball affords you longer life on the court. You can't get arm weary like you can in paddleball. I like paddleball, but do prefer racquetball.

RACQUETBALL: Did you play paddleball originally, then?

PORCO: Yes. We started off at the Center, to finish the original story, by immediately buying paddles after the trip to Detroit. I got some tennis balls myself and dyed them black, and we began to play. As I thought would happen, everybody wanted to play as quickly as possible. We never had enough paddles, we broke them constantly and were always ordering more. At that time we just loaned the paddles out. But it wasn't too long before everyone wanted their own paddle. And were asking, where can we get a good ball? Nobody knew anything.

Then one fellow came down from New England and brought a couple of racquets with him, the old Joe Sobek model. Of course, these were the greatest things we had ever seen. Once the strung racquet was seen everybody wanted one. We found out about the blue ball that was used at that time, went to the 1968 tournament in Milwaukee, and you can pretty well pick it up from there.

RACQUETBALL: How do you account for the fact that your members were so quick to change from handball to racquetball, especially in view of the resistance originally met with handball?

PORCO: Well, this is the universal question that we hear a lot. Racquetball is probably one of the easiest sports there is to learn. You can get in the court and with relatively no effort at all, you can be immediately successful. You put the racquet in your hand, you hit the ball against the wall, it comes back to you and you have completed a successful volley. This is why the game is so popular on all ability levels.

You can play this game without much athletic ability, with average athletic ability or with a lot of athletic ability. There are different grades of ability and that makes it fun on all levels. That's why it's so easy and popular a sport. No one person or particular thing sells racquet-

it was so much lighter than the paddle. Then came the lighter weight wood, everybody wanted that. Now comes the metal and fiber glass racquets in all sorts of sizes and shapes. These are the things I feel have made a real difference in the game, and that have helped to make good players much better.

As for the ball, we can go back to Milwaukee where we discussed what we wanted in a ball, and the ball argument can go on forever. Right now I feel Seamless is sincere in their desire to improve the ball. Unfortunately, it has taken much longer than we first anticipated.

RACQUETBALL: You are one of the strongest, physically, players in the game today. Do you believe in the adage that a player cannot win either singles or doubles if he enters both?

PORCO: I've got my own theory on that and I believe that each person has to decide for himself whether he can do both. There was a time when I felt you could not do both. However, judging by the last time I attempted to play both in two open events in a short tournament and came out of it fairly healthy, I'm convinced more now than ever that if you just take care of yourself physically during a tournament, pace yourself to some degree, and if you are in good shape, it

"Today, doubles has become as much a skilled game as singles. It takes a lot of different shots . . ."

can be done. There are a lot of players who disagree with this theory, I know. But I have at least proven it to myself that I can do it.

RACQUETBALL: But that recent tournament was Norfolk Memorial Day weekend and you did not reach the finals in either event. Don't you think your game suffered going both ways?

PORCO: No. I thought my opponents played very well, but I don't think I played as well as I could have. I'm getting into the habit of saying that and for some unexplainable reason I haven't been able to put it all together in a major tournament yet. Maybe it's that I just don't have it, but I feel that I can play better, and that it is just a matter of time before I do

He's certainly one of the most deserving players in the game today, but I felt I could have played better.

RACQUETBALL: You have had much better success winning titles in doubles. Do you feel you are a better doubles player than singles?

PORCO: Up until a couple of years ago doubles to me was always an "if-come." If I felt like playing I would, just something to pass the time. But in the last three years I have really thought of doubles as much more important as compared to the way I felt before. Today doubles has become as much a skilled game as singles. It takes a lot of different

Continued page 12

shots, the strategy is different, and it's a game you have to take seriously, because everybody else is. The fact that the Invitational doubles has been successful for four years now, proves that people are taking it seriously.

Doubles is on the rise in popularity in racquetball. I doubt that it will ever catch singles because I don't think you can substitute that one-on-one competition that makes singles so popular. Right now, I am enjoying doubles as much as I ever have.

RACQUETBALL: Has having switched partners so much affected your doubles play?

PORCO: I would say not. If you look at things, there are a lot of top singles players who are playing doubles with partners they haven't played with in months. This doesn't really make that much difference if you know the court techniques and the game your partner has. In fact it could be helpful because sometimes when you lay off playing for a while, when you come back you're more enthused and play well. I think the same thing applies when you have a partner you haven't played with in a while.

RACQUETBALL: You are right handed, yet you seem to prefer left side in doubles. Why is this?

PORCO: Mike and I have sat down and talked about this quite a few times. Originally Mike was on the left. The reason for the switch was purely physical, when I had back trouble two years ago. Because of that we toned down the responsibilities of the right side player. Mike would take more than his share. My injury was the main reason. But as we look over the situation when Bill Evans and I played together, the logical thing to do was to put the guy who has the better backhand on the left side. At that particular time Bill had the better backhand. So, my philosophy became whichever partner was playing best on the left, if

so the stroke I use is best for me. It might not work for most players. I try and curl my wrist in the cocked position and snap it on impact. I know it looks "hot dogish" a lot of the time, but it really is a natural thing for me.

It is not a reverse with my wrist like some people think. I actually hit in a sideways motion, bracing the flat part of the handle with my thumb, where most players use the tennis or handshake grip. I

"I would like to see the National Commissioner given more responsibility . . ."

know what it must look like, but that's the way I have to play.

RACQUETBALL: You are known as one of the premier power hitters in the game today. What are your feelings on hitting the ball hard?

PORCO: Again, these are comments you hear from people. I don't really believe I am one of the premier power hitters in the game. I feel you should use power or speed or velocity on the ball when you need it. I don't think that power is totally essential to win. Control is the most important thing. I feel there are people who hit the ball as hard, or harder than I do. When I teach racquetball, I teach that although you do need some velocity it is not essential and you can win by maintaining control of the game and keeping your opponent on the move.

RACQUETBALL: You have played a lot of football. Can you draw any parallel physically or mentally between the two sports?

PORCO: I don't think there is any real parallel between football and racquetball, except perhaps the quickness drills.

Mental preparation, or psyche, is a funny kind of thing to me. I think that some people misuse "psyche." It is a very individual thing and to me means to prepare yourself to be very serious

way for him to take. The basic responsibility of the National Commissioner is to see that tournaments are set up regionally and nationally.

I would like to see the National Commissioner given more responsibility to give more direction in making racquetball a better sport. I want to make the players happier and the rules more consistent. I think the National Commissioner must be a player, he must be experienced in the

game. He must understand the game, the players, and their needs.

I think when we next meet we will have many areas to discuss and that by this time next year I feel the National Commissioner's duties will be broadened.

RACQUETBALL: Do you feel you can serve as a liaison between president Bob Kendler and the Board of Directors?

PORCO: I definitely feel that that's a possibility, and I would be glad to work in that capacity.

RACQUETBALL: You have hosted the Invitational doubles now for four years. Has it been a good experience?

PORCO: The Invitational doubles has been great fun for me. Number one, the people here in Louisville, the racquetball committee at the Center, their wives and the overall interest taken has made it a pleasure for me. Really, I haven't had to do much. It's an effort of about 20 guys and their wives who take it upon themselves to make sure everybody is treated in as nice a way as possible.

We feel that for the most part, at least up to now, the guys have come to this tournament at their own expense. They have come for two reasons, they like to play racquetball, first, and because our people treat them so well.

RACQUETBALL: You have just left the Jewish Community Center. What will you be doing now?

PORCO: There is a group of men and myself here in town who have had the conception of a private athletic club for a long time. The idea of an athletic club isn't new, but here in Louisville we feel there is a need.

We had the idea about two or three years ago to build an athletic club either in the downtown or suburban area. We determined that the need was greater in the downtown area than suburbia. So we began to talk turkey with various people about it.

What really got the idea rolling was the new processes in court construction. We will be using the World Court System in our club and we can afford to build

"I don't think that power is totally essential to win. Control is the most important thing."

both players are right-handed, should play there. But we don't ever want to stay with that situation if it is going bad, so we call time and switch if we are playing poorly.

Part of the reason we lost to Serot and Valier last year was that I was too stubborn to switch. I was mad at myself for playing so poorly and my pride got the best of me.

RACQUETBALL: You have been criticized from time to time for using an unusual backhand. What is this stroke and why do you use it when it is against all fundamental racquetball form?

PORCO: You know, you only find out you have an unusual stroke when people ask you about it. I am a wrist player,

about the play, to the point of not thinking about anything else. In that respect, the parallel is there in any form of competition.

RACQUETBALL: This year you were elected I.R.A. National Commissioner. In the past this office has not been substantially utilized. What are your goals as National Commissioner?

PORCO: It was a great honor for me to be even considered for this post and to know that I am that popular with the players. To show my appreciation for their confidence in me, I want to be the best National Commissioner as is possible. However, if you read the by-laws there really is not that much for the National Commissioner to do, nor lee-

Continued page 37

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Chalk One Up For The Racquet!

Dr. Bud Muehleisen evened his hands versus racquet matches with Paul Haber by taking the second match in three games. And except for one Haber streak in game two, it was a breeze.

For the winner it was redemption, glory and satisfaction. For the loser, disgust and obscurities. For the fans, excitement, cheers and awe. All this and more when Dr. Bud Muehleisen defeated Paul Haber in the second of their continuing series of hands vs. racquet matches, at the grand opening of Ben Agajanian's Long Beach Athletic Club in Long Beach, California.

The 41-year-old dentist topped handball's ex-champ 21-9, 18-21, 21-8 in a thrilling exhibition of both racquetball and handball skill September 17 before over 400 howling handball/racquetball enthusiasts.

As the scores indicate games one and three were all Muehleisen and game two was a battle royal. Each man had something to prove, Muehleisen to himself and his followers that the loss to Haber in Memphis earlier this year (*Handball*, February, 1972) was not the true exhibition of his game; and Haber, that such a victory was no fluke.

Significant by its absence in this match was the lack of wagering by proponents of either hands or racquet. Early in the exhibition week Haber let word out that his game was not "on" and consequently there was no off-court action. That is until minutes before game time when the opposite prediction came from the lips of the five time U.S.H.A. titleholder. A rush of dickering installed Muehleisen as six point favorite, a line that held up.

Game one stretched 18 innings and was

not in doubt from its mid-point. Muehleisen combined hard drives, back wall kills and dump kills to keep Haber off balance and defensive the entire game.

Before either man could break a sweat, Paul forged two aces, a pass and two kills into a 5-1 lead, and then managed only one point over the next 12 innings. Dr. Bud used a hard, low drive serve to both the left and right to obtain weak returns which he often put away.

Haber, as he did in the first encounter, gave Muehleisen more than enough room to shoot, laying back for the live handball's caroms off the back wall. But his offensive game was not there, his kills off the back wall were left two and three feet high and Muehleisen put away at least five drop shot re-kills that were impossible for Paul, in deep court, to cover.

Bud's run of 10 points in the tenth through twelfth innings put the game out of reach. He had good control, especially in retrieving Haber ceiling balls to his backhand, the one specific shot that was the key to his first match loss. Haber, on the other hand, could not come through when he had the shots, especially off the back wall.

First game, to the racquet, in a breeze.

Game two should have been a Muehleisen rout. He came out confident, not cocky as in Memphis. This time he was aware of Haber's great skill and potential to "get a hot streak." This time, said observers, there would be no hot streak.

And it seemed so when Bud grabbed

the early advantage, and held it through the first 10 innings. Again, minimizing his errors, electing to go around the walls, rather than risk the troublesome ceiling returns, was the key to his success. Haber's futility was full, to the extent of the Chicagoan double shorting his service in the eighth frame.

Then a change occurred, at 13-4 Muehleisen advantage. It was either Haber becoming aggressive, or Muehleisen relaxing with his lead, or both. In any event, Paul did get his streak, much to the delight of the handball section of the crowd.

In the 11th inning Paul killed off the back wall with his left for point five. A Muehleisen backhand error made it six, and an ace to the backhand, seven. Haber then killed twice, once with his right, and then with his left off the back wall to close to within 9-13 before being put out.

A weak backhand return gave Haber a kill attempt which he put away and regained the service in the twelfth. Again he tallied five times. A kill with the right was point 10, Muehleisen error off the serve, 11, another Muehleisen error, this one with his backhand for point 12 and a time-out for the San Diegoan.

Haber came back after the time-out and tallied twice more, both kills, both with the left to grab the lead, 14-13.

Again Muehleisen could not score and Haber regained the serve with a pass right. At this time Bud was not being effective. Haber had control of the rallies, forcing weak or poor returns and taking advantage of back wall set-ups.

Just as in Memphis, Muehleisen seemed to be too powerful with his racquet, hitting so hard that the ball always came off the back wall. Thus in the 13th inning Haber connected on two straight back wall kills and then his "patented" left hand left corner kill to forge to a 17-13 edge. It didn't last.

Dr. Bud came back with a backhand kill in the bottom of the 13th making it 14-17. Then in the 15th frame he tallied three times, a forehand kill, an ace, and a pass left to knot the score at 17-all.

The combatants traded points in the next inning and then Haber rallied for the necessary three points in the 17th frame. They came on two Muehleisen errors, and a kill to end it.

"He just got a hot streak," said the racquetball Masters champion.

It was more than that, however. Haber's decision to play offensive, becoming the shooter, was decided on two factors. First, his control was off, especially to the ceiling. Ceiling balls to the right (backhand) were not troubling Muehleisen as they had in Memphis, with Bud slashing them around the walls, forcing a defensive return. Secondly, it is punishing to play the retrieve type game Haber was playing against the racquet, and Haber well remembered the near-exhaustion he suffered after their first match.

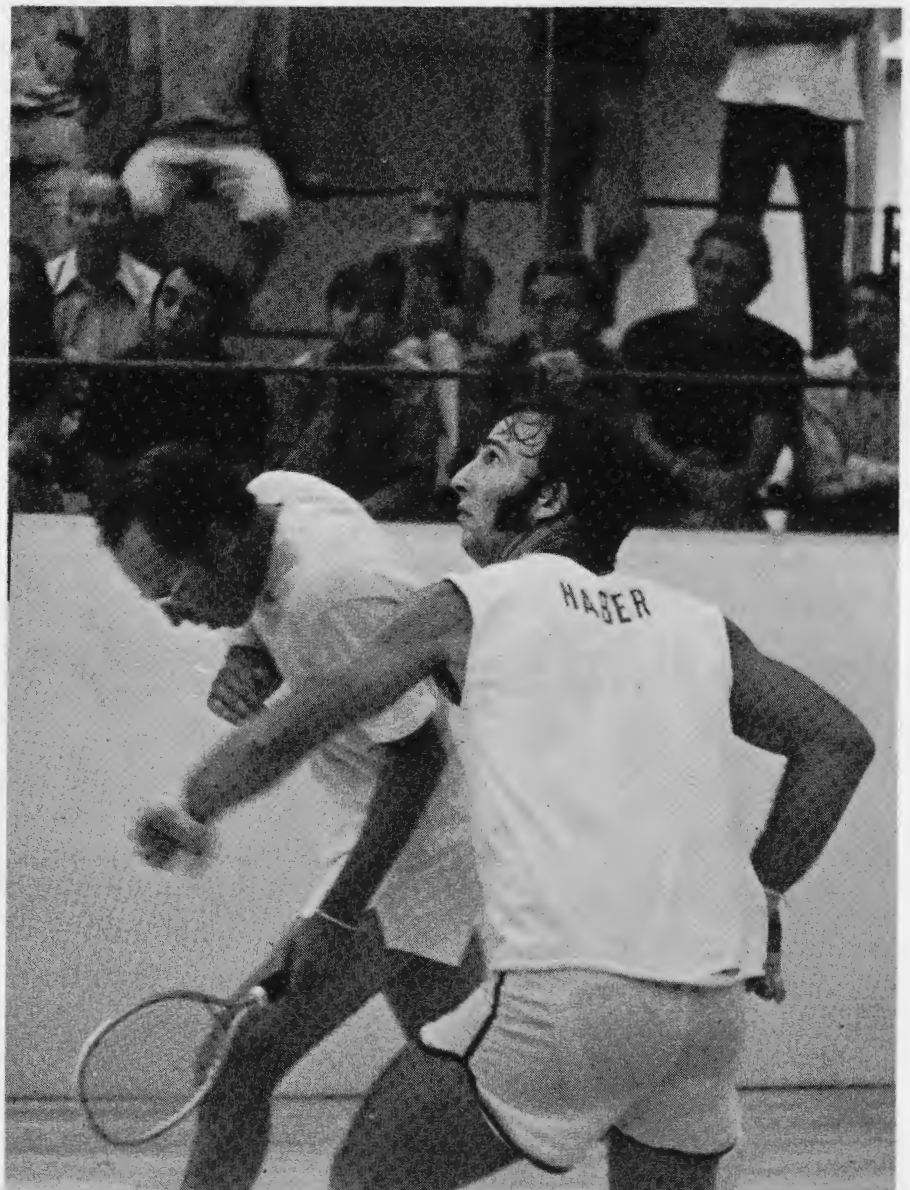
Thus he became a shooter, gambling that he would hit his kills. He did hit some, and the game's change of pace forced Muehleisen errors for the other points.

In game three, however, Muehleisen adjusted his game slightly, using hard drive serves to Haber's right and finally using the pass to his advantage. To this point, Bud had harnessed his power. He finally let it all hang out.

At one-all in the third inning, Muehleisen ran six points gaining a margin he never relinquished. Three kills and three passes counted in the scoring. They traded points or no points for the next few innings until Haber made an abbreviated "move," closing from 13-5 to 14-8.

But the show was over. Spurred on by the cries of "all the way, Bud," the

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(Top right) Dr. Bud Muehleisen taking forehand off the back wall sets to drive it into the front left corner. (Right) A switch of sorts as Muehleisen attempts to get out of Haber's way. Paul left more than enough room at all times in deference to Bud's racquet.



Haber smacks deep court ceiling return, aiming cross court to Muehleisen's backhand. Referee Stuffy Singer can be seen on stool above Muehleisen.

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former I.R.A. open singles champ plowed straight for 21. Haber never regained the serve, as Dr. Bud played letter-perfect racquetball, or handball, tallying a forehand kill for 15, and ace to the right for 16, a back wall kill for 17, two Haber errors to 20 and a pass right for the magic 21.

"I didn't really play all that well," said Muehleisen after the match. And although most observers took the comment tongue-in-cheek, the statistics actually prove Bud out. He out-erred Haber 32-21 in the three games and actually felt he should have won in two straight.

Haber, although consoled by everyone in sight, including I.R.A. and U.S.H.A. president Bob Kendler was disgusted with his game.

"I played like a big bleep," he said over a tall cold one. "I really thought I could beat him, especially after the second game."

To console the handballers, Haber's game was not sharp. The circulating "excuse" was that he had spent the past four months playing outdoor three-wall in preparation for the U.S.H.A. National 3-Wall tournament in Detroit Labor Day weekend. Consequently, his control and back wall shooting, which were both poor, suffered.

At the other end of the spectrum, however, Muehleisen had only two weeks to prepare for using an unfamiliar ball, the handball. Only two weeks, because prior to that was the I.R.A. Masters Invita-

tional Singles tournament (page 18), which he won.

So both men hope to be at peak form for the third and decisive match as yet undetermined in sight and date.

Notes: Bob Kendler was honored by Ben Agajanian with the dedication of the 600-plus seating court five at Aggie's Long Beach A.C. Kendler returned the favor with a warm acceptance speech in Aggie's behalf . . . Agajanian has put together the ultimate in court clubs. It's

plush yet practical and he has good men, led by Ed Kelly, to lend a hand. . . . Our thanks to Mel Gorham, also of court club fame, for his hospitality . . . Kendler and Chuck Leve returned to San Diego for meetings with key racquet manufacturers there and inspection of club facilities, while Mort Leve and Dan Callahan, U.S.H.A. Rules and Referee's Chairman, went north to Portland to check out the Multnomah A.C. as possible site for the handball nationals . . . Gorham is bidding for the same in racquetball at his now under construction, eight court facility in Oceanside, California.

Referee of the match was ex-handball national champ (1968) Stuffy Singer. He did a good job, controlling the match and letting no one get away with anything illegitimate . . . In preliminary play, Charlie Brumfield, I.R.A. open singles champ, defeated Roger Souders 31-9 and Jan Campbell, ranking third among I.R.A. women, topped Bette Weed . . . In handball prelim Dr. Steve August bested U.S.H.A. national champ Fred Lewis 31-17. Lewis was nursing a shoulder injury.

GAME ONE

MUEHLEISEN	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	5	2	0	2	0	1	2	2	—21
HABER	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	x	—9

Kills—Muehleisen 20, Haber 9. Passes—Muehleisen 5, Haber 1. Errors—Muehleisen 12, Haber 8. Aces—Muehleisen 3, Haber 2. Time-outs—Haber 2. Hinders—9.

GAME TWO

HABER	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	5	5	3	0	0	1	3	—21
MUEHLEISEN	2	0	1	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	x	—18

Kills—Haber 18, Muehleisen 11. Passes—Haber 4, Muehleisen 8. Errors—Haber 6, Muehleisen 13. Aces—Haber 2, Muehleisen 1. Time-outs—Haber 2, Muehleisen 1. Hinders—6.

GAME THREE

MUEHLEISEN	0	1	6	2	0	1	0	1	2	1	7	—21
HABER	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	x	—8

Kills—Muehleisen 13, Haber 11. Passes—Muehleisen 8, Haber 0. Errors—Muehleisen 7, Haber 7. Aces—Muehleisen 1, Haber 1. Time-outs—Haber 1. Hinders—4.

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(Above) Tournament "sleeper" Dr. Peter James gives it the soft touch as he dumps a kill into the front right corner against Carl Loveday. (Below) Gene Grapes sets up for his tenacious forehand kill attempts. Pulled groin muscle in the second day's action seriously hampered Gene's performances.



(Above) Artie Albert brings one home. (Below) Seven of the 10 and their rewards. Standing l. to r., Rizzo, Capozzi, Albert, Walker, Loveday, Bud Held of Ektelon who donated awards; Kneeling, Muehleisen and Sellars.



Bud Doctors The Masters

For the second year in a row, "Dr. Bud" proved why his is the best game among the Masters.

Dr. Bud Muehleisen, the 41-year-old sportsman-dentist, blasted his way to the top spot in the second annual IRA Masters Invitational tournament over the Labor Day weekend without losing any of the 31-point matches. Muehleisen compiled a perfect 82.8 score to finish first in the round robin affair, held at Mel Gorham's Sports Center in San Diego.

Dr. Peter James, just turned 40 from Bellingham, Washington, captured second place with 75.2 points, losing only to Muehleisen in his nine matches. Only 2.8 points separated the third through fifth places, and it took a strong comeback for Dr. Bill Sellars, Dallas to take the third place honors. Sellars won his last four matches to edge out Carl Loveday San Diego, (64.2), and Art Albert, St. Louis, (63.6).

Other finishers were: Richard Walker, Dallas, 51.2; Fred Rizzo, Hawthorne, New Jersey, 47.8; Gene Grapes, Pittsburgh, 43.0; Herb Capozzi, Vancouver, British Columbia, 42.6; and Al Rossi, San Francisco, 36.8.

The tournament had its share of surprises, but Muehleisen's performance was not one of them. Completely over the leg injuries that have plagued him in recent tournaments, "Dr. Bud" clearly controlled each of his matches.

"He seems to have a number which is your limit," said Rizzo, who lost to Muehleisen 31-13 in the second round. *"Last year it was 11. Nobody scored more than 11 against him. This year he eased up. It was 19."*

The best anybody did against Muehleisen was a 21-31 deficit turned in by Walker, who started slowly and came on strong in the tourney's last day an one-half. Shooting well, and showing a much-improved backhand, Walker played as

well as any of the players had seen him, in giving Bud a battle.

But the most exciting match involving Muehleisen came in round seven when Albert faced the IRA Masters champ in the first match of the tourney's last day.

Albert, although a fine player, has lived continuously in the shadow of other excellent St. Louis players, Joe Zelson and Marlowe Phillips in the Masters brackets, and Steve Serot and Jerry Hilecher in the open. But neither Zelson nor Phillips could attend the tournament and Albert was invited. He arrived, with a point to prove.

After the first two days Art was solidly in third place, behind Muehleisen and James, both of whom he had yet to play, and they each other.

Art went into his match with Muehleisen optimistically, after all, he once took a game from Jim Austin in a Southwest Divisional, and recently had barely lost to highly-rated Bill Thurman in the International tournament. *"He's going to have to beat me,"* said Art. *"I won't play dead."*

Playing well, and getting more shots than he expected, Albert stayed with Muehleisen to 14-all and then raced to a 19-16 lead. At that point, Bud called his only time out of the tournament.

Later a spectator commented, *"He came off that court, sat down, put on a sweat band, set his jaw, and went out to do a job."*

Dr. Bud ran the next 15 points.

In his next match, which was against James, Muehleisen really turned it on, proving that there was definitely a decided difference between the numbers one and two in this tournament. James, who could have been dubbed the road-runner for his seemingly untiring retrieving, just couldn't stay on the court with Muehleisen. Bud controlled each rally sending James scurrying around the court. Final score was 31-8.

Round one produced no surprises, although two expected tight fights never

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Muehleisen readying for backhand ceiling against Albert, who gave him one of his few workouts.

	Albert	Grapes	Capozzi	James	Loveday	Muehleisen	Rizzo	Rossi	Sellars	Walker
Art Albert St. Louis	—	25-31	31-14	23-31	31-21	19-31	31-23	31-23	21-31	31-26
Gene Grapes Pittsburgh	31-25	—	13-31	27-31	31-26	9-31	0-31	11-31	18-31	31-15
Herb Capozzi Vancouver, B.C.	14-31	31-13	—	11-31	21-31	9-31	30-31	31-17	11-31	25-31
Dr. Peter James Bellingham, Wash.	31-23	31-27	31-11	—	31-25	8-31	31-14	31-18	31-9	31-14
Carl Loveday San Diego	21-31	26-31	31-21	25-31	—	19-31	31-19	31-18	31-28	31-27
Dr. Bud Muehleisen San Diego	31-19	31-9	31-9	31-8	31-19	—	31-13	31-7	31-19	31-21
Fred Rizzo Hawthorne, NJ	23-31	31-0	31-30	14-31	19-31	13-31	—	31-20	18-31	14-31
Al Rossi San Francisco	23-31	31-11	17-31	18-31	18-31	7-31	20-31	—	12-31	23-31
Dr. Bill Sellars Dallas	31-21	31-18	31-11	9-31	28-31	19-31	31-18	31-12	—	31-20
Richard Walker Dallas	26-31	15-31	31-25	14-31	27-31	21-31	31-14	31-23	20-31	—

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materialized, as Sellars defeated Grapes 31-18 and Loveday outpointed Rizzo 31-19. Round two had one of the tourney's most exciting matches as Loveday defeated Sellars 31-28, and Albert, running up a big lead, held on to defeat Rossi 31-23. Round three offered some excellent matches. Grapes and Loveday battled in a marathon before Gene defeated the San Diegan 31-26 to knock Loveday out of a share of the lead. Sellars played what he called "the best game of my life" against Muehleisen and lost 31-19. Walker and Capozzi, the two most physical participants, had a squeaker with Walker prevailing 31-25. After the first day Albert, James and Muehleisen were the only players undefeated.

The second day was crucial, and round four, the first on the second day, was critical. It began with James destroying Rizzo 31-14, and suddenly the eyebrows were going up. James was an unknown quantity having little tournament experience outside the Northwest and Canada. Now he was becoming a known quality. And feared. His style of run and retrieve, keep the ball in play, is devastating on most Masters, who consider running equally pleasurable with the bubonic plague.

Sellars knocked Albert out of first place, profiting perhaps from having seen Art's style the day before. Loveday and Walker had a close one with rotund Carl moving just enough to squeeze out a 31-27 victory. Muehleisen routed Grapes, who had trouble loosening up in each of his 9:00 a.m. matches, 31-9. And Capozzi, somehow, showed up to defeat Rossi, who somehow showed up to lose, 31-17. Then they had a beer.

Round five had the tourney's only 31-30 contest with Rizzo topping Capozzi,

after trailing 28-30. The shocker of this round was James devastating showing against Sellars, whom he defeated 31-9. In another tight battle, Grapes downed Albert, whose glow was fading, 31-25.

Highlight of the sixth round was James defeat of Grapes, 31-27. Gene gave it his all, trying to ride his forehand kills to victory although giving away 12 years. Close all the way, James pulled away at the end, with Grapes suffering a slight pull of the groin. Rizzo topped Rossi in this round, with Al playing with a pulled back muscle and sore legs. After two days, Muehleisen and James were undefeated, Albert still in third, with Loveday and Sellars close behind.

The final day was the battle for third place. Muehleisen and James were sure

to finish one-two, and although the order was undetermined at 9:00 a.m., there was little doubt. After Muehleisen's defeat of Albert, James topped Loveday 31-25, Sellars beat Rossi and Walker blitzed Rizzo leaving Albert, Sellars, Loveday and even Walker (though a longshot) a chance for third. Grapes re-injured his groin while losing to Capozzi and just went through the motions rather than forfeit.

The eighth round saw Muehleisen bury James to assure first place, and Albert tip Walker 31-26 to assure Walker of not gaining the top three. Sellars and Loveday also won keeping pace with Albert for the race to show. In the final round Albert lost his hold on third by bowing to James, 31-23. Loveday defeated Rossi, 31-18, but Sellars topped Walker to edge Carl for third on points. Albert fell to fifth.

Points were allotted in the following manner. Two-tenths of a point for each point actually scored (one point for every five) plus three additional points for winning the game. Top score, then, is 9.2 (31 times .2 plus 3). The best a loser can do is 6.0 points (30 times .2).

"Thank you's" on the tournaments are numerous. Mel Gorham, of course, for the use of his facility, and his hospitality at and away from the courts. . . . Russ Smith was everywhere at the courts, catering to players needs . . . Our thanks to referees, Bill Dunn, Charlie Brumfield, Charlie Drake, John Halverson, and others . . . Players were treated to the Saturday night San Diego Chargers-Los Angeles Rams football pre-season game, won by the Chargers . . . Sunday night Dr. Muehleisen had a steak barbeque at his home for players, wives and guests.



Dr. Bill Sellars shows the perfect form that helped him to the number three spot in the Invitational Masters Singles.

Hands against racquet, what does it prove? In reality, nothing.

Paul Haber has proved he has guts, competitiveness and tremendous handball skill. Dr. Bud Muehleisen has proved he can adapt to the bounce of the handball, that he can hit the handball over 200 miles per hour with his racquet, and that he, too has tremendous skill.

But these things were known before they ever started their series of matches. The personalities quite obviously were as different as rain and shine and that only made the match more interesting.

Yet, the matches did not mean that handball players are better than racquetball or the reverse. Hands versus racquet can be interesting, challenging and extremely entertaining. But it is this editor's feeling that the rubber match between Haber and Muehleisen should be their last.

The original goal of the entire series has already been achieved, that of national publicity for both sports. A leading sports magazine carried two full pages on the initial match, and a smaller article on the second. We believe top coverage will accompany the third.

Why, then, should it be the last?

Because the more it is played by Paul and Bud, the more publicity it gains, the more people want to try it. And we are



RACQUETBALL ROOM BY *Chuck Leve*

not in for promoting hands versus racquet in any manner.

In fact, hands against racquet matches should be attempted only by the highly skilled, and no one else. Even the rank beginning racquetballer can propel the handball 150-plus miles per hour with his racquet. And unless both players are extremely capable not only in skill, but court etiquette as well, the chance of injury is good, and serious, crippling injury possible.

The handball is a foreign object to a racquetballer. The ball is harder, livelier and smaller, bounces higher and travels faster than does the racquetball. For these reasons the racquetball player has far less control with a handball than he

would with a racquetball. And this means far greater chance of hitting the handball player with the ball.

The handballer in such matches is not used to the fantastic speed that the handball can gather. This speed makes the ball carom sometimes wildly around the court. Also the handballer must adjust his style of play against a racquet, laying back rather than charge. Can you imagine a player charging to cover an expected kill attempt and instead facing a pass directly at him?

Winning cannot be all-important in hands against racquet matches, safety must be the first consideration. At least a half-dozen times in their first two meetings, Dr. Muehleisen has altered his return, just to be sure of not hitting Haber with the ball. The difference is slight,—a ceiling ball instead of a drive, down the line instead of cross court. Yet the inexperienced player, wholly devoted to winning may not be able to or may not want to alter his shot. The result will be injury.

And there is too much injury already among beginners in the game today; we need no more.

* * *

Two tournament biggies this month, the Canadian Nationals in Vancouver and the Masters Invitational Doubles in New Castle, Pa. Both should let loose with a barrage of fine play, with most of the game's top singles players on hand in Vancouver, while the nation's best Masters do battle in New Castle.

Paddleball Divisional sites and dates are still being lined up, and paddleballers will be notified by mail as to the closest paddleball divisional to them. Winners, for the first time, of open singles and open doubles will receive round trip air fare to the N.P.A. Nationals (page 26).

December brings the rapidly-becoming-influential Holiday tournament in San Diego, being hosted by Mel Gorham's Sports Center. Mel and the west coast gang anticipate a couple of hundred entries, including women (would there be a Gorham's tourney without them?).

"I plan to make this tournament second in importance only to the I.R.A. Internationals," said Gorham recently. Knowing Mel, he can do it.



"Our foim is in da racquets—and we've got an offer youse can't refuse"

The Winner Comes In Second



Craig Finger knew he had to beat somebody in Chabot. It turned out to be Mike Zeitman in the semi's.

Never could a man be happier about finishing second. So it was when Craig Finger was buried in the finals of the Chabot Open by none other than IRA Singles champ Charlie Brumfield.

The tournament was held on Chabot College's six courts in Hayward, California August 11-12-13. Finger, the defending champion, was making his first tournament appearance after a year's absence due to school commitments. His only other appearance was a Chicago exhibition (see page 8).

With 11 of the nation's top 32 players on hand, the competition was high. And Finger, after an inconclusive showing in Chicago, knew he had better have his game "on."

Seeded second, he knew he would have to beat Louisville's Mike Zeitman for a shot at Brumfield. He also knew that Zeitman was his real test, not the champ.

"Mid-way through the First Game I thought I was going to beat Mike in two straight," said Craig. "But he played very well and came back to win that game. But even at that point I felt I had my control and could take him."

Finger did come back, despite grounding three shots in a row toward the end of game one, which he lost 21-15. But past tournament experience did not let this rattle him as he quickly did away with Zeitman 21-11 in the second game.

The third game, which tourney director Bill Dunn called "the best of the tournament" went to Finger, barely, 21-19. He had won the battle, but as the saying goes, lost the war.

"Unfortunately, I probably peaked too soon," said Finger, "because I had nothing left for Charlie. But I was just so elated at having beaten a top player like Mike."

When he reached the finals Finger was through. The year lay-off from tough tournament competition caught up with him that Sunday morning, - his legs were gone.

"There was no questions that I was drained," said Finger, "both physically and mentally. But that's what a long lay-off does. I'll spend much of this season getting in shape."

The combination of Craig's errors and

Continued page 23



(Above) Finger, Bill Dunn tourney chairman, Brumfield and Zeitman with the spoils of victory. (Left) Finger prepares backhand with Brumfield in perfect retrieving position.

OPEN SINGLES FINAL

GAME ONE

FINGER	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	-	-	3
BRUMFIELD	8	0	0	0	1	1	1	4	6	-	-	21

Kills — Finger 6, Brumfield 13; Passes — Finger 4, Brumfield 5; Aces — None; Errors — Finger 13, Brumfield 1; Hinders — 1.

GAME TWO

BRUMFIELD	0	2	0	6	1	0	0	5	2	1	1	3	-	-	21
FINGER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	X	-	-	3

Kills — Brumfield 14, Finger 9; Passes — Brumfield 8, Finger 2; Aces — None; Errors — Brumfield 3, Finger 11; Hinders — 2.

OPEN DOUBLES FINAL

GAME ONE

BRUMFIELD-DRAKE	0	0	1	1	4	5	2	0	0	2	0	3	3	-	-	21
CHARLSON-SOUDERS	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	3	2	0	1	X	-	-	13

Kills — Brumfield-Drake 14, Charlson-Souders 12; Passes — Brumfield-Drake 5, Charlson-Souders 4; Aces — Charlson-Souders 1; Errors — Brumfield-Drake 13, Charlson-Souders 18; Hinders — 20.

GAME TWO

CHARLSON-SOUDERS	3	4	4	1	0	5	0	1	3	-	-	21
BRUMFIELD-DRAKE	1	3	4	0	2	0	5	0	X	-	-	15

Kills — Charlson-Souders 15, Brumfield-Drake 10; Passes — Charlson-Souders 7, Brumfield-Drake 4; Aces — Charlson-Souders 3; Errors — Charlson-Souders 12, Brumfield-Drake 9; Hinders — 24.

GAME THREE

BRUMFIELD-DRAKE	0	1	1	0	0	6	3	5	5	-	-	21
CHARLSON-SOUDERS	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	X	-	-	8

Kills — Brumfield-Drake 11, Charlson-Souders 8; Passes — Brumfield-Drake 6, Charlson-Souders 5; Aces — Charlson-Souders 1; Errors — Brumfield-Drake 7, Charlson-Souders 17; Hinders — 13.

In open doubles Brumfield and Drake had little difficulty reaching the finals. They outclassed Craig McCoy and Al Shelby of Riverside 21-5, 21-8. Then the two San Diegans put it together against Zeitman and Finger in the semifinals outshooting them 21-13, 21-9. In the other half of the draw, Thurman and Len Stream of Chabot struggled by Abrams and Kutas 8-21, 21-19, 21-14. But the Chabot twosome were thoroughly beaten by the top seeded team of Charlson and Souders in the semis 21-11, 21-7. In the toughest doubles match of the tournament, Drake and Brumfield outmuscled Dave and Roger to win the title, 21-13, 15-21, 21-8. Souders and Charlson committed 47 errors in the three games, 17 in the last game; while Drake and Brumfield had 29 errors with only eight in the deciding game. Zeitman and Finger captured third by defeating Thurman and Stream 21-12, 21-12.

The women's singles was a grueling double elimination event. Jan Campbell from San Diego defeated Bette Weed, also of San Diego, in the finals of the first round 21-8, 21-14. Bette worked her way through the loser's side to claim the right to meet Jan again. This time Bette controlled the match beating Jan 21-9 in the first game and leading 19-12 in the second game when suddenly she twisted her ankle. It turned out to be a severe strain causing Bette to forfeit the match and the title to Jan. Carmen Pond of Riverside took third place.

Al Rossi of San Francisco won the Master's singles by beating San Diego's John Halverson 18-21, 21-16, 21-18. Bill Dabney, also of San Francisco, beat Chabot's John Wagoner for third, 21-20, 3-21, 21-12.

In what Mike Zeitman called "the best B competition" he'd ever seen, Mark Susson of the Balboa Bay Club won B singles beating Ron Starkman of Costa Mesa 13-21, 21-10, 21-13. Charlie Schumacher from Beale Air Force Base defeated Leo Marsocci, also from Beale 21-18, 21-19, for third.

The B doubles title went to a new and upcoming team from Los Angeles, Ron Banker and Dave Brubaker, as they defeated Balboa's Susson and Bill Fearing 21-19, 21-16. Third place went to Chabot's Wagoner and Don Green 21-19, 21-19, over Shelby and Pat Moran of San Diego.

The Chabot Racquetball Club on behalf of the 90 participants would like to thank Keith Calkins, unable to play because of recent knee surgery, for the superb hospitality room he put on, the best in the west. Thanks also go to Leach Industries and Ektelon for their donations which helped make the Chabot tourney a success. The Western Divisionals will be the next tournament held at Chabot College, March 2, 3, and 4. It promises to be the best Western Divisional yet.

From page 22

Charlie's sharp shooting left little doubt as to the outcome of the match. With Craig making 24 errors and Brumfield hitting 27 kills, the champ prevailed 21-3, 21-3.

In the upper half of the draw, the biggest upset occurred when Dave Charlson, San Diego, defeated Ken Wong, Indianapolis, a top 16 finisher in the 1972 Internationals, 21-15, 21-10. And Charlson didn't stop there. In the quarterfinals he eliminated the tournament's number five seed, Roger Souders, San Diego 21-9, 21-13.

Eighth seed Tom Kutas, Cincinnati was knocked out by Chabot's Deryck Clay in the second round 21-20, 10-21,

21-10. Clay in turn was ousted by Brumfield 21-10, 21-1. This put Charlson against Brumfield in the semi's of the upper half.

In the lower half, Charlie Drake, San Diego, who captured the doubles crown with Brumfield, had a rough time with Chabot's Mark Wayne. In a two and one-half hour matathon, Drake came out on top 21-13, 12-21, 21-17. However, Zeitman eliminated Drake in the quarterfinals 21-17, 21-7.

Brumfield had little trouble with Charlson in the other semi-final 21-5, 21-8. Charlson was forced to forfeit third place to Zeitman because of an elbow injury suffered in an earlier doubles match.

PLEASE! PLEASE!

Notify IRA in advance when you change your address. Second class material is not forwarded. Be sure to get every issue of RACQUETBALL. IRA—4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Ill. 60076.



C. R. A.

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Americans Sweep Canadian Klondike

Gee we had fun! Big names, good competition, willingness to help, we had this too, at the Third Annual Klondike Open Racquetball Championships, held July 19-22, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

The Open Singles prize of air fare paid to the 2nd Annual Canadian Open to be hosted by the Vancouver Racquetball Association, November 6th to 12th, along with a trophy, went to Charlie Brumfield who "upset" Dr. Bud Muehleisen (21-15, 21-6). Dr. Peter James of Bellingham, Washington defeated Len Stream of Hayward, Cal. (21-13, 4-21, 21-9) for the third place prize. Consolation was won by Bob Bear of Edmonton (21-2, 21-11) over B player Wayne Bowes (who entered Open for experience) of Lethbridge, Alberta.

The Open Doubles team of Len 'Hi' Stream and Bill Thurman (Chabot College material) won (21-14, 21-15) over Mark 'Hoe' Wayne and Bill Dunn (what can we do with these Chabot people?) and third place went to local team Jack Groff and Wes Hadikin (Current Alberta Provincial Champion). Sid Williams and Al Metz of Tacoma took the Consolation award by winning (21-19, 21-4) over local handball converts Walter Kondrosky and Gordon Hovind.

Masters Singles was won for the second year by local player Don Wynn, who defeated John Wagoner of Hayward, California (21-2, 21-6), with third place going to Dr. Hal Price of Phoenix, Ariz. Don Green, Hayward, defeated John Allen of Vancouver (21-18, 21-2) for Consolation.

Masters Doubles winners John Wagoner and Don Green of Hayward, Cal. defeated Herb Capozzi and Bob Pickell of Vancouver (21-10, 21-16). There was no Consolation bracket in this event.

The Ladies Open (first time in Canadian Racquetball history) was won by Linda Forcade (21-20, 21-11) over Sandy Shenton, with Rita Schweitzer taking Consolation (21-15, 12-21, 21-12) over Jan Sage. All girls are from Edmonton.

B Singles winner Ron 'Turkey' Starkman, Costa Mesa, California defeated Vancouver's Herb Capozzi (21-5, 21-6) and third place went to Stewart 'Donut' Stevenson of San Diego. Sid Williams of Tacoma won third place over Edmonton's Dr. Rick Alderman (21-10, 21-19).

Novice Singles was taken by Doug Clark of Bellingham (21-12, 12-21, 21-7) with second place going to Walter Kondrosky, Edmonton. Local player Harvey Kirkland took third place. Consolations went to Gordon Hovind (21-20, 11-21, 21-11) over Ron Pawlowski, both of Edmonton.

Continued page 25



(Above) Howie Rankin presents Herb Capozzi, "Mr. Hospitality" with an award for his avid support of Canadian racquetball. Capozzi, as usual, was not speechless. (Above right) The winners gather with their rewards, l. to r., Bill Thurman and Len Stream, victors in open doubles; John Kempo, president, Canadian Racquetball Association; Dr. Bud Muehleisen, runner-up open singles; Charlie Brumfield, title winner open singles; Howie Rankin. (Right) Brumfield, l., races forward for retrieve attempt of Muehleisen shot. It was the first time Canadians had ever seen Muehleisen lose.



Our Klondike event would not have been the same without the support of our Vancouver's Herb Capozzi and Associates; Dr. Hal Price; Gordon Kelly; and last but not least Dr. Bud Muehleisen; all of whom returned again this year. New faces this year will become old friends in years to come.

HONORARY AWARDS - Dr. Bud was presented with a scroll in appreciation of his continuing support and concern for racquetball in Canada and was made the first Honorary President of Canadian Racquetball Association. Herb Capozzi received a similar scroll for his avid support and help for our Annual Klondike Event . . . **NEW AWARDS** - We have instituted a 'Racquetball Nut' trophy and after a unanimous decision, it was presented to John Allen of Vancouver (63 years old). This is a Canadian

Racquetball Association award and was presented by John Kempo, President.

We've learned a few things up here in Canada, - 1) eliminate entrants with Chabot College affiliations, 2) watch out for Dr. Peter James (we'll hear more of him), 3) to expect even greater participation in '73 (Klondike event is always held within the last two weeks of July and is a 'family affair').

Special thanks to all who contributed to the great success of Klondike '72 - Dr. Bud, who conducted clinics and for being his same nice self; Herb Capozzi, for spirits and fashion trend setting; Mark Wayne and Len Stream, for Humor (?); Dr. Hal Price and Gordon Kelly, for coming back this year; Sid Williams, for things too numerous to mention; Spike Gelfand, for donating food for the U. of A. hospitality room; John Kempo, for

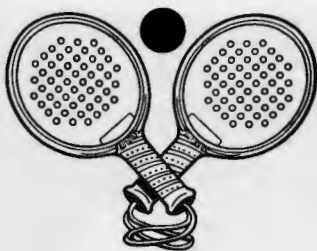
hosting the outdoor banquet (the rain didn't hurt a bit!); Annie Helms, who cooked all the banquet food - delicious as usual; Doug Clark, for showing everyone that he was having a good time; I.R.A., for publicity; U. of A., for court facilities and indispensable Chuck Moser; Ken Shearer (of Canadian Handball Fame) for great photography.

The list could go on and on . . . especially to local people without whose help, this 3rd Annual Klondike could not have been a success.

In editing, we would appreciate it if you could possibly leave in the nicknames, as per Charlie Brumfield's request.

Thanks.

MARILYN RANKIN
Edmonton



Bring Your Paddles to Eau Claire; Site of the '73 National Championships

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Preparations are in full swing here at the Eau Claire Y.M.C.A. for the National Paddleball Association Championships which are scheduled for February 1-4, 1973. With the able leadership of Diz Kronenberg and Bill Pire, our regular National Paddleball competitors, we feel the tournament is going to be first class from the first day the participants arrive in Eau Claire until the day they leave.

Eau Claire is a city of 44,000 located 85 miles east of St. Paul, Minnesota and is the gateway to the Northern section of our state and country. It is the focal point of the whole northwest of the state of Wisconsin. Eau Claire is blessed with an expansive city area, including beautiful parks, excellent shopping facilities, and since the tournament is being held in February, we might even be able to promise that there'll be a little snow on the ground when you arrive.

The Eau Claire Y.M.C.A. has what we feel are excellent facilities to host the National Paddleball Tournament. We have five excellent courts, which, if properly scheduled, should be able to handle the number of entries very well. Additional facilities that will be available to the participants are the Men's Health Club, featuring steam room, sauna bath, and sun lamps; adequate locker facilities; two gymnasiums; two swimming pools; a weight training room; running track; and a very complete and comfortable restaurant.

The Eau Claire Y.M.C.A. will be the official tournament headquarters (phone No. 715 832-3433). A hospitality room will be established at the "Y" for the hours that the tournament is being con-

ducted. In addition to this, we will have a Motel hospitality room located at the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge for the first two days of the tournament. Shuttle service will be available from the airport to the Y.M.C.A. or to the Motel facilities, and from the motels to the Y.M.C.A. during the tournament. The tournament banquet will be held here at the Y.M.C.A. on Friday nite, February 2nd, featuring a fish-chicken smorgasbord with all the trimmings.

We are planning a consolation bracket for the first round losers so everyone is guaranteed of playing at least two matches.

I would like to stress two points for the prospective participants.

1. That they must be members of the National Paddleball Association in order to participate. (Applications will be taken at the registration desk as participants arrive)

2. That since Eau Claire is the business center of the whole northwest part of our state, hotel and motel reservations are at a premium. Therefore, I would suggest that they get their entry blank in as early as possible so that hotel and motel information can be sent out to everyone at an early date.

The entry fee for the tournament will be \$15 per man for the first event, and \$10 for the second event with play being conducted in both singles and doubles for the open and masters divisions.

As I mentioned before, Eau Claire is ready to give paddleball players an experience like they have never had before. The weather may be cool, but our hearts are warm for paddleball and its participants. **EDWARD KOCH**



A look at the Eau Claire YMCA, host of the 1973 National Paddleball Association national tournament. The Y's five courts will be the scene of the best paddleball of the year.

TWELFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL PADDLEBALL ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SITE: Y.M.C.A. Eau Claire, Wisconsin

DATES: February 1-4, 1973

ENTRY FEE: \$15 per man first event. \$10 per man second event.

ELIGIBILITY: Current (1973) NPA membership

FACILITIES: 5 courts

TROPHIES: To first three places in each event

PLUS: Banquet Friday night, February 2nd; hospitality rooms, souvenirs to each entrant.

MAIL ENTRIES TO: Edward J. Koch
700 Graham Avenue
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Saturday, January 27, 1973

Please enter me in: OPEN SINGLES () OPEN DOUBLES () WOMEN SINGLES ()
MASTER SINGLES () MASTER DOUBLES ()

NAME _____ YMCA/CLUB/CENTER _____
(Please Print)

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME OF DOUBLE PARTNER _____ YMCA/CLUB/CENTER _____
(Please Print)

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the National Paddleball Association, the YMCA or their respective agents, representatives, successors, or assigns for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my competition in said tournament.

Partner's Signature _____ Ph. No. _____

Signature _____ Ph. No. _____

HOUSING INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Make Checks Payable To: Eau Claire YMCA

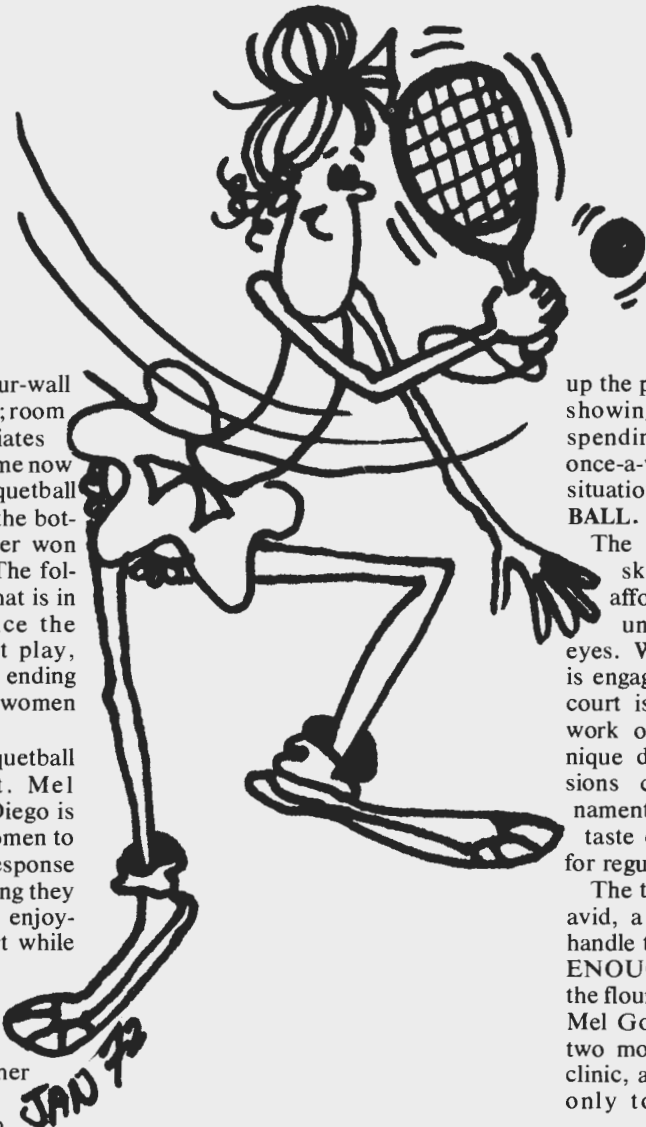
WELCOME TO RACQUETBALL!

By JAN CAMPBELL and BELLE MUSCHINSKE

Dedicated and die-hard four-wall players—take two steps sideways; room must be made for the intermediates and beginners! Mel Gorham, a name now synonymous with classic racquetball tournaments, is making room at the bottom for contestants who've never won anything and may not want to. The following articles merely suggest what is in store for you "Lifers." Notice the increase in B class tournament play, through C class, anybody play, ending with (Heaven forbid) teach the women to play!!

The masculine haven of the racquetball courts is a thing of the past. Mel Gorham's Sport Center in San Diego is offering a program introducing women to the racquetball world. And the response is fantastic! The gals are discovering they can achieve instant success and enjoyment their first time on the court while trimming away the winter flab.

A Mel Gorham Novice player who wanted to learn more about racquetball, decided to share the answers to her questions with other beginning women. Jan Campbell and Bette Weed, two of the top women players internationally picked



up the pace from answering questions to showing them how!! Now 56 girls are spending up to one-and-a-half- hours, once-a-week in a six-week "workshop" situation called **LADIES RAC-AT-IT-BALL.**

The clinic teaches basic racquetball skills and court etiquette plus affording the girls playing situations under Jan and Bette's discerning eyes. While the majority of the clinic is engaged in regular rotation play, one court is set aside exclusively for drill work on individual problems or technique development. The last two sessions culminate in a play-off tournament. This gives the ladies a true taste of competition and primes them for regulation tournaments.

The turn-out for the first clinic was so avid, a second clinic was scheduled to handle the overflow. **THAT WAS NOT ENOUGH!!!** In order to accommodate the flourish of females wielding racquets, Mel Gorham's Sports Center is offering two morning clinics, and third evening clinic, and building a waiting list second only to *Who's Who Of San Diego*

Continued page 30

2ND ANNUAL MEL GORHAM'S HOLIDAY RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

San Diego, CA.

December 15-16-17, 1972

SANCTIONED BY THE INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Please enter me in: OPEN SINGLES () WOMEN'S DOUBLES () MASTERS SINGLES ()
OPEN DOUBLES () B DOUBLES () B SINGLES ()

NAME _____ IRA CARD NO. _____

(Please Print)

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME OF DOUBLES PARTNER _____ IRA CARD NO. _____

(Please Print)

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Mail entries to Charles Drake, Mel Gorham's Sports Center, 960 Turquoise St., San Diego, CA, 92109.

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the International Racquetball Association, or Mel Gorham's Sports Center or their respective agents representatives, successors, or assigns for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my competition in said tournament.

Partner's Signature _____ Ph. No. _____

Signature _____ Ph. No. _____

Make Checks Payable To: Mel Gorham's Sports Center.

Entry fee: \$10.00 per event. Entry deadline: December 10, 1972.

2ND ANNUAL PHOENIX OPEN RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

Phoenix, AZ Downtown YMCA

December 1-2-3, 1972

PLUS: CLINIC BY DR. BUD MUEHLEISEN!

Please enter me in: OPEN SINGLES () OPEN DOUBLES () B SINGLES () MASTERS SINGLES ()

NAME _____ YMCA/CLUB/CENTER _____

(Please Print)

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME OF DOUBLES PARTNER _____ YMCA/CLUB/CENTER _____

(Please Print)

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Mail entries to Keith Talley, 350 N. 1st Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85003.

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Phoenix Downtown YMCA or their respective agents representatives, successors, or assigns for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my competition in said tournament.

Partner's Signature _____ Ph. No. _____

Signature _____ Ph. No. _____

Make Checks Payable To: Phoenix YMCA.

Entry fee: \$8.00 for first event; \$5.00 for second event. Entry deadline: November 24, 1972.



San Diego's Jan Campbell, a Mel Gorham Sports Center regular and third ranked woman player in the I.R.A., gives expert instruction at one of Gorham's clinics.

From page 28

Women. If allowed, the ladies could take over the entire facility at all hours. So, gentlemen, make your court reservations early; the Ms. know a good thing when they play it . . . And they play it well!!!

B DIVISION

The last week-end in August, Mel Gorham's Sport Center hosted a B and C tournament with a hundred or so C challengers and a hearty minority backing of B players. Rick Morris and Ken Creese took respective first and second place in the B division with a 21-18, 21-17 singles sweatout. Stan Berney, a driving Master, found his talent unthreatened by Joe Devin. Joe disabled just prior to the match in a vain bodily attempt to relocate a court side-wall, forfeiting the third place slot.

A pair who's combined ages wouldn't qualify them for the Masters league knocked on the doubles door of B class. Steve Trent and Craig McCoy gathered up their 15 years each and ran rampant over the team of Creese and Moran. Age overcame, however, and the kids from the Bandido bunch relented a 21-17, 18-21, 21-17 match to Creese-Moran. The third place title was no easier to obtain. Frosty Lorenzo and Gary Gorrem duplicated a 21-17 score in their winning match against Los Angeles' Starkman and Fearing.

C DIVISION

The level of B competition has become so tough now that the average player could not even hope to compete and go past his first match. This has resulted in a stagnation of the B entries . . . the same people entering each time and there would be no new blood. With this in mind, we have added the C division for those not *quite* so serious that they faithfully and religiously work out every day, and for those who haven't entered a tournament before, or at least not very many. The average player has a chance to enter and stay in at least a few rounds or go all the way.

Our C division had a very good turnout. The singles bracket had a round of 64 and the doubles was a full round of 32. Doubles championship went to the Meeker-Luhnow team, 21-12, 20-21, 21-11 with Northwood and Wagner as runners-up. Third place went to Ogden-Sedgewick over Stuber-Seltzer 21-6, 21-9.

Singles winner was Aaron Korn 21-17, 21-4 from the San Diego Jewish Community Center. Runner-up was San Diego Gulls Goalie, Ken Broderick. Third place went to J. Ogilvie over W. Carroll, 21-1, 21-11.

The C division was extremely successful and may well become a pattern for future tournaments.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

We had a special women's division, created mainly for women who had never competed in a big tournament before or who had very little tournament experience. It took a little coaxing—most were sure they weren't ready yet, but when they were told all combatants were beginners, we got some definite positive response. A good number of them were gals who had just started in our first Monday night clinic. Others had hit the ball around for fun periodically but none had really played for very long and this was their first official tournament.

And they were competitive! We had both doubles and singles events. The winners of the doubles were Mary Ann Johnson with partner Nan Harris 21-6, 21-3 over Paula Halverson and Lynn Ziegenfuss from Carmen Ranch. Third place went to Janet Sandstrom from Leach Industries and her partner, Patti Damron over Alice Earp-Mariann Rybak 21-17, 21-11.

Singles championship went to Kathy Brumfield with Donna Dietrich placing second. Scores were 21-11, 21-12. Third place went to Azelda Cadwell, who went three punishing games against Kathy.

The girls were all nervous but admitted through wins and losses that they all had a great time, learned a lot about themselves and racquetball, and were very enthusiastic about participating in another tournament.

You Can't Play the Game Without a Thesaurus

To have a complete racquetball repertoire, one must be able to speak the language, but maybe not fluently.

By STEVE KEELEY

Racquetball and paddleball players have, out of necessity, invented several interesting words and phrases which apply specifically to their sport. It is time someone enumerated on these expressions to facilitate communication among participants and followers. What follows, in alphabetical order, is such a list of phraseology which I have picked up at tournaments throughout the country. Any additions known to readers may be sent to the "IRA Letters" section of this magazine.

CHANDELIER - This often constitutes a hinder and is the word uttered by the referee when the ball strikes the lighting fixtures within the court. The expression originated in Paterson, NJ where the lighting actually consists of an apparatus which hangs down from the ceiling. On these courts the force of a well hit ball into the chandelier brings down a deluge of racquetballs which had previously been trapped within the chandelier itself.

DELAY TACTICS - The means by which a player attempts to stall in order to rest or to throw off his opponent's timing. They include such tactics as asking the referee for an exchange of balls, wetting the ball so it has to be dried before play can resume, or continually serving the ball long into the back wall and then slowly walking after it. Others include faking an injury or sliding your sweaty body along the floor when diving for the ball and then asking for a towel. Wipe the floor slowly. Another old dependable that many players have long employed is tying one's already tied shoe laces.

DONUT - This was actually originated by handball's Paul Haber as far as I can determine and is synonymous with "zero" when referring to the score attained by one's opponent.

DONKEY KICK SHOT - Perhaps the most difficult shot ever to be invented, this was improvised by Charlie Brumfield, racquetball's International champion. The "Brum's" friends had made mention of the donkey shot previously, but the first time I witnessed its utilization was against myself last summer. With the ball coming to Charlie's right

side almost out of reach and near the right side wall, Brumfield dived and rolled the ball off, at the same time (while flying in the air) pushed off the side wall and tripped up my legs with his (the "donkey kick") as I attempted to cover the ball. I have experienced nothing to compare with the humiliation of being the victim of the donkey kick shot.

FATIGUE FACTOR - The element of extreme lassitude which usually becomes apparent in the final game of a grueling three game match. Example: the 1970 National Paddleball tournament had Craig Finger playing Brumfield in the finals. Brumfield had run Finger throughout the match and in the third game Craig could at best wearily respond by using the back wall for support while awaiting Brumfield's serve. This is the fatigue factor at its ultimate. As a post script, Craig got even with Charlie by defeating him in that same year's racquetball tourney en route to the International championship.

FREAK BALL - An out of the ordinary shot hit from an out of the ordinary position for a rolloff. Example: the three-quarter court backhand overhead rolloff into the right hand corner.

FRONT COURT POSITION - This, according to the game's master strategist, Dr. Bud Muehleisen, is the key to winning doubles. It simply involves maintaining position in front of your opponents (in the region of the service box) and waiting for the plum ball set up (see later under "plum ball"). If your competitors have front court position drive them back with a lob or ceiling ball and regain the territory.

GARFINKEL SERVE - The serve employed by Charlie Garfinkel of Buffalo to defeat the highly favored Brumfield in the 1971 International racquetball tourney in Salt Lake City. This service appears to be very ineffective from anywhere but the receiver's standpoint (especially since it is to the receiver's forehand). The person serving stands in the middle of the service box and essentially serves an around-the-wall ball (Z-ball). That is, the ball goes front wall to left side wall and into deep backcourt on

the right side. Easily executed and difficult to offensively return, the Garfinkel serve requires but a few practice hits to master.

ISOLATION BALL - This is the strategy utilized in doubles play which involves hitting almost every shot to one player. The result is the picked-on player undergoes the fatigue factor and his partner becomes so mentally bored from not hitting the ball that he is unprepared for even the most routine plum ball. In national paddleball doubles competition the isolation factor is employed much of the time among the better teams.

PLUM BALL - Synonyms for this term include "easy shot", "pumpkin ball", "routine set up" and the "90% roll off".

This concludes the first half of the alphabet. The next issue of *Racquetball* will contain the remainder of the list of expressions with which every racquet and paddle player should familiarize himself. Look in the next issue for such terms as superpinch, tour of the court, veteran hinder, wallpaper ball and others.



Keeley and the freak ball: takes one to know one.

Being six feet six inches tall and weighing 200 pounds, I always tell everyone how graceful I am on the racquetball court. This is a standing joke around tournaments and especially in Buffalo, New York, my home-town.

My image (not to mention my shoulder) was shattered last January in the finals of the Cleveland Open Doubles Tournament. Chuck Wurzer and I were playing Ron Salvador and Angelo Vecchio of Cleveland. On the very first point, Salvador hit a bullet down the right sidewall that looked as if it would come off the back wall. It didn't. It was impossible to get. Why I went for it, I'll never know.

Yet from the backhand side of the court, I took off straight across the court for that wall. As I gained full momentum, I slipped or tripped, and went head and shoulder first into the wall. I felt a large lump on my head, and I was relieved to find out that it was only my nose.

However, when I tried to lift my arm, I had excruciating pain through my shoulder. I couldn't even lift my arm.

At first, I was panic stricken. I must have broken my arm. The scapula looked as if it was ready to break through the skin at any moment. I was given a 45 minute injury timeout. Of course, it did no good. I had done something and it sure wasn't good.

They wanted to take me to a Cleveland hospital, but I decided to go back to Buffalo. We drove back and I went immediately to the hospital for x-rays. They showed that I had a complete separation where the shoulder (clavicle) and scapula meet. This meant an operation as soon as possible.

My wife's cousin is a doctor, and we contacted him. He said he'd do the surgery. The only thing that bothered me was the fact that he was an orthodontist. Seriously, he is one of the best surgeons (orthopedic) in the country. His name is Dr. Burt Kwasman, and I am forever indebted to him.

As they prepared me for the operation, they came in to shave around the aggravated area. I was a little worried when they started to shave my tongue. I was now ready to be operated on. A pin was placed in my shoulder to remain for six weeks. And although the doctor assured me I'd be as good as new, I was still worried. I had always heard that once you're cut, you're never the same.

As I lay in the hospital, I first thought of the I.R.A. Eastern Divisional Championships being played that very day. I also thought of a possible shot at the International Championships going down the drain. I was really low. Then I started to worry about even playing well again. I knew I'd play, but how well? Dr. Kwasman had assured me many times, yet the doubt lingered.

I was in the hospital three days, stayed home from school for a week, and a week later had the stitches taken out. My arm was put in an elastic cast. It and my shoulder

It Only Laughs When I Hurt

A serious racquetball injury and how to survive it. In the first person as only the author can.

By CHARLIE GARFINKEL

der looked like an emaciated toothpick. It had been 20 days to the day that I had had the separation. It was time to begin the long road back.

I then realized that the entire comeback was up to me. My mental attitude and willingness to work hard to build up my shoulder and arm, would be the main things that would bring it back. I stopped feeling sorry for myself, and was ready to get to work.

Dr. Kwasman told me to do an arm exercise 1,000 times a day. This meant about 45 minutes of flexing and unflexing. Because of the pin, I couldn't lift my arm very high. I could also run if I wanted to put up with the throbbing in my shoulder, but had to run with my arm in the sling.

As I stepped out on the gym floor at the Buffalo Athletic Club, I was going to jog 12 laps (one-half mile) to ease into it lightly. I couldn't believe it. After the fourth lap, my legs and stomach were killing me. I was short of wind and my ankles felt as if I had had shin splints all my life.

I'm a person who has always tried to stay in top physical shape, and I couldn't believe what was happening to my body.

It was pretty easy to figure out, though.



THE GAR

After working out five or six times a week every week for 18 years, I hadn't done a thing for 20 days.

But, the human body is an amazing piece of architecture. At the end of two weeks, I was up to a mile and a half. I gradually built up to two miles a day; plus two miles a day on the bike; and an hour of arm exercises a day. These again were just flexing exercises; but I did this six times a week for three and one-half weeks. My arm was still in the sling.

At the end of six weeks (almost to the day of the operation) the pin was removed. Dr. Kwasman said I could start swinging the racquet immediately. Forty-five minutes later, I was on the B.A.C. court. I played for 30 minutes; ran, and did my exercises.

When I was done playing, my t-shirt felt unusually wet under my sweatshirt. When I took it off, the upper right side was completely soaked with blood and the incision was puffy. I was really scared.

I called Dr. Kwasman immediately and told him what happened. He said, "Charlie, I took the pin out an hour and a half ago. You played and your shirt is soaked with blood. That's great!! Now you stupid!!!--**?!, stay off the court until tomorrow. When I said immediately, I didn't mean immediately!!"

Actually, I had done nothing wrong except work far too hard the first day. Each day I started to play more. My strength and mobility were weak, but I had the doctor's assurance that the separation was set perfectly.

From there, I increased my court and exercise time to two to two and one-half hours a day. I played at least an hour and a half every day for three weeks. It was coming back. I was still having a great deal of difficulty hitting my forehand fluidly, because the shoulder was so stiff.

Four weeks from the day I had the pin out I entered the city of Buffalo doubles tournament. Chuck Wurzer and I eeked out a 21-14, 13-21 21-12 victory in a two hour match over Paul Smaldone and Sonny Hill. I hit well off my backhand, but my forehand was still weak. Chuck's steady play on the right side pulled us through.

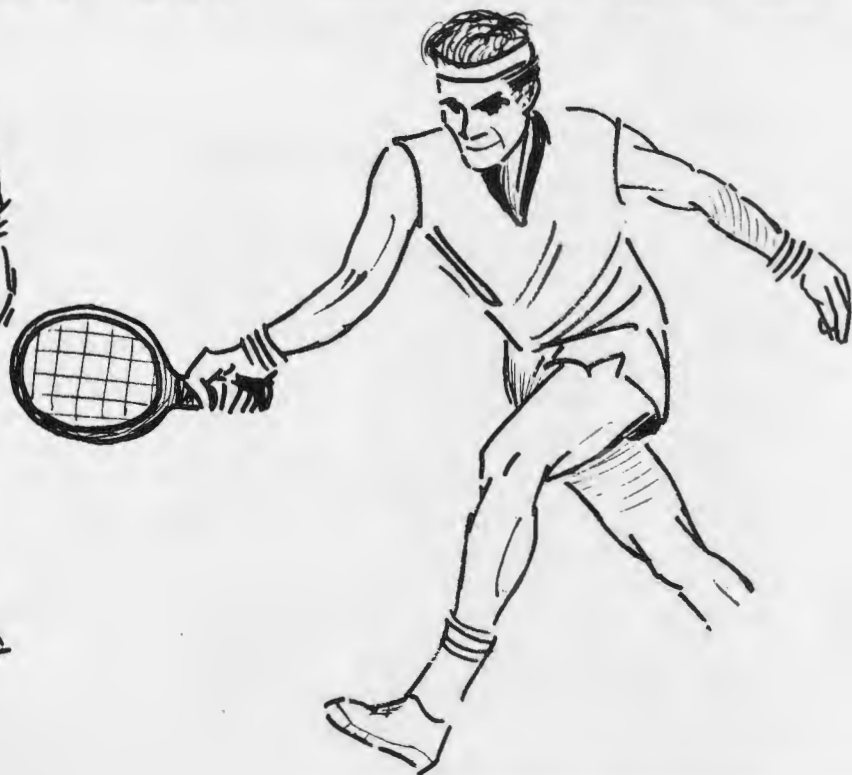
We went on to capture the state doubles, again over Hill and Smaldone, this time by the scores of 21-10, 21-6. My backhand was as good as ever, and my forehand was coming.

In the city singles finals two weeks later, I defeated Smaldone 21-18, 21-15, in an extremely hard fought match. My forehand was starting to come around.

A summer has passed now. Thank goodness my arm feels and reacts 100%. I was very lucky. My only reminder of

Continued page 34

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Think Your Way To Victory

The second of a two part series (part 1 in August Handball Magazine) guiding the tournament player-to-be on the mental aspects of racquetball.

By CRAIG FINGER and PAUL LAWRENCE

Okay, you have practiced, in your own manner, and have now arrived at a tournament. First of all, your confidence should be high enough that you think you can win your first match. What can you do before and during this first and hopefully later matches, that will assure you of producing the best performance you can from the talent which you possess? There are two periods in which you will have to regulate your mental confidence and motivation. The first is pre-match, the second, during the match.

For the pre-match and match beginning, one of the simplest and least thought about factors that can regulate performance is tension. Psychologists have known for years that a little tension can improve performance, but a lot of tension actually hurts performance in a skilled task. Therefore, it is not particularly good to be too tense or nervous. What is desired is a mild, controlled level of tension and confidence. A little tension is better than none at all.

If you feel yourself getting too nervous, just remind yourself of your strong points and the offense you will use to defeat your opponent. Also tell yourself that all you can ask of yourself is to play your best. If you do that you will have nothing to be sorry or mad about, whether you win or lose.

On the other hand, if you do not feel any pre-game tension, then it's time to start worrying. Perhaps you should think about your opponent's strengths and how you will counter them. But whatever you do, **DO NOT WORRY ABOUT LOSING.** If you worry about losing, then you are beginning to doubt your own ability, and this negative thinking will be the last thing on your mind before each shot. You will have enough to think about on the court without the added worry of losing. Besides, when you think about the match, your opponent, strategy, etc., it makes you more aware of the factors in the match and might help you see the factor that will help you to win.

In addition, you should fully expect any match between yourself and an equally skilled or better player to be a physically demanding match. That is part of what the whole game is about. Set your sights on some hard, fast running. You must be in condition when you step on the court; it should not be on your mind

before or during a match. Besides, running is supposed to be good, that is, it feels good when you stop. So, enjoy it.

"During the match" psychology of building confidence and the will to win can be manipulated in different ways. Few of the top players today follow the same methods of "getting up" and "staying up." Each has his own style of self-motivation. You should choose the manner which best fits you.

TAKE THE OFFENSIVE. This is the first and most evident way of sustaining your momentum or breaking a losing streak. Percentages indicate that it is hard to win points when your opponent has you off balance and running all over the court, playing defense. Go for a few winners and you will feel better, and you will both fatigue and worry your opponent, if you are successful.

CONTROL THE PLAY. Right from the start of the match try to establish total dominance and control of the play. This can be done by either showing offensively that you can move your opponent at will, or defensively that you can retrieve any shot that your opponent can hit. Such total dominance is a way of intimidating your opponent. When he realizes he has virtually no control of the match, this can totally break his spirit and can turn the game into a rout in your favor.

If you can establish defensive control of the match by retrieving everything, then you may force your opponent to become impatient and err. If his conditioning is not at peak level, he may not be able to trade 30 strokes per point with you without succumbing to the fatigue factor.

GET THE TURNING POINTS. You have all heard of the so-called turning point in a match, whatever the sport. Well, it is true that any one point can ever be exactly pin-pointed in a match, unless it comes at a 20-20 situation. However, there are often several "important" points played in each game or match. An important point would be one which would place one player far enough ahead of his opponent that he now has a safety margin to rest on. The leading player can then shoot freely and the trailing player must play errorless racquetball.

So, take note of these important points,

and occasionally gamble on them. If you win the gamble and hit a winner then you have added to your opponent's notion that you are not a choke and that you can win the important point when you have to. And if you do win the point, then you have proven to yourself that you can hit winners and this helps build confidence.

PLAY FUNDAMENTALLY CORRECT. If all else fails, or if you are the type of player who plays better totally relaxed, then forget about the match score and concentrate more on fundamentals. Keep your eye on the ball, lean into it, stroke smoothly and enjoy just hitting the ball well. Perhaps what was wrong with your game was something fundamental that you had overlooked or were careless about in the heat of battle. Concentrate on playing well and not on losing.

When the tournament is over and whether you have won or lost, why not take a break? If you are losing and can't figure out why, maybe you are over-racquetballed. It can happen to even the best. Take however long is necessary. Jog, swim or do something else to stay loose and relaxed, and just wait until the urge to play comes back. It will, so don't worry, and you will come back stronger because of it. You will forget your old errors and your confidence will come back with your game.

It Only Laughs

From page 32

the injury is an occasional twinge and an aching scar. Otherwise, I feel fine.

I feel that there are a few general guidelines a person with an injury can follow. They are:

1. Keep telling yourself that you will play again, and just as well as ever.
2. Listen to your doctor, no one else. (I had more people telling me what to do. Such things as using weights, different gimmicks, more rest, therapy etc.) No one knows your operation like the doctor that operated on you.
3. Work as hard physically as you can. You will not hurt the injury. (Make sure your doctor has given his okay.)
4. Don't be concerned with winning or losing when you start to play again. Progress will come.
5. Most important—**DON'T EVER GIVE UP!!!**

In closing, I would like to thank my wife for having the patience to put up with the time involved in working to restore my shoulder, and her constant encouragement when I may have gotten a little down.

It's great to be back playing, and I soon hope to be as graceful as ever.

Masters Doubles Invite To Be November 17-19

The New Castle, Y.M.C.A. will host the first annual I.R.A. Masters Invitational Doubles tournament, November 17-18-19. The competition is limited to 10 teams, who will play three matches daily on a round-robin basis.

Heading the list of teams expected to compete are I.R.A. Masters Doubles champs Joe Zelson and Marlowe Phillips, the lefty-righty duo from St. Louis. Zelson-Phillips defeated Dr. Vince Cutshall and Don Erickson, Sioux Falls, South Dakota for the I.R.A. title in Memphis last February, and the bruisers from the north are anxiously awaiting a re-match in New Castle.

The number three ranked team in the nation, Herb Frank and Tom Stidham, Clearwater, Florida will also be on hand in an attempt to make it to the top. Another strong entry will be Dr. Bud Muehleisen and Carl Loveday, San Diego. Muehleisen, the I.R.A. Masters singles titleholder by-passed the Masters doubles in Memphis at the International tournament to play open doubles with Dr. Chuck Hanna. In Loveday he has a crafty, skilled partner and they will be tough to beat.



Little Jamie Micco will be outsized, but probably not outcuddled during the Masters Doubles Invitational tournament. Jamie is the official tournament mascot.

Racquetearing With Ray and Lois



*Now that colored outfits are approved on the courts,
I wonder what Dr. Muehleisen would think of
some nice cheery paper on these walls!?*

Former I.R.A. open doubles champs, Bob Yellin and Don Wallace, New Britain, Connecticut are also entered, and they can give the best a tough match. The other teams in the tournament are Chet Howard, runner-up in the I.R.A. Masters tournament, with Ivan Bruner; Bailey Pritchard and John Doyle, Memphis; Earl Dixon, Indianapolis and Sam Caiazza, New Castle; Gene Grapes and Dr. Al Schattner, Pittsburgh and Ron Salvador-Jerry Pace, Cleveland.

Carl A. Cialella, ex-mayor of New Castle, is tournament chairman, with able assistance from Sam Caiazza, Dan DiVitto, floor manager, and Len Perretti, hospitality.

In this round robin affair, each team plays the other once, thus no team is ever eliminated from play, and a true winner can be decided on the following point sys-

tem:

1 point—awarded for every five points scored in a match.

3 points—awarded to the winner of each match.

Each match will consist of one game, played to 31 points. This formula was developed a year ago by Caiazza for the inaugural Masters Invitational Singles tournament, and used successfully in that tourney again this year.

Four time-outs will be allowed each team in deference to the Master's age and added length of the games without rest.

The players will be treated to a dinner at the Sons of Italy Hall Friday evening and a Saturday night banquet. Other surprises are in store for the players, thanks to the New Castle Racquetball Association and their president James Scrazzo, Jr.



Good Times

Dear Chuck:

Just returned to Tacoma from the Klondike Open Racquetball Championships. Wow! What a tournament! What facilities! What hospitality! And what fine people!

In all the tournaments I have traveled to and from, I have yet to see anything approaching the organization, support and concern shown to each and every entrant and their families by the Edmonton Racquetball Association. To thank all of them would be impossible, to mention a few, I will.

Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Ken Wilson, John Kempo, Don Wynn, Zoltie, Howie Rankin, and Marilyn Rankin. Marilyn Rankin is beyond description in her efforts to organize and promote this great sport of racquetball. Marilyn houses and feeds players, entertains their families, meets airplanes, transports players to and from matches, keeps scores, posts games, and will give you a bandage if you are hurt.

There were entrants from Arizona, California, Michigan, Washington, Vancouver, B.C., and all parts of Canada. Names like Muehleisen, Brumfield, Thurman, Rankin, Dunn, Wayne, Capozzi and many, many more each a champion in their own way. With people like that competing you have to play your best, and everyone did.

Thank you for your help in the past and keep up the good work with the Magazine. Hope to see all of you in Vancouver in November.

SID WILLIAMS
Chairman, Tacoma Racquetball Club
Tacoma, WA

Bad Times

Dear Chuck:

I was dismayed to read in this month's edition of (Ugh) *Handball Magazine*, what I think are attempts at impugning my racquetball reputation.

I find no fault in declaring Ron Rubenstein the best in Illinois (*Handball*, August, 1972), but I find it degrading to declare it took me three games in the quarter-finals to defeat Tony Arnieri, who I consider a B player. In fact, I don't even think he is the best B player at his YMCA. I have never lost to a B player of any caliber in a tournament, and surely not one of his caliber.

Furthermore, I take exception with the statement, "Upset Fred Blaess." The only person who could have possibly thought my victory was an upset, was Fred Blaess himself. Everyone else knows I have been the second best player in Illinois since Sam Carl turned to Masters.

I find myself at this time forced into early retirement, due to the fact that I am living in a state where not only am I number one, but also numbers two through 10. So, because of this unhappy event, I wish to have my last days

in Illinois remembered for my true ability.

Hoping that you set the record straight, I remain, admonishingly yours,

SONNY MARCUS
13101 S.W. 70th Ave.
Miami, FL 33156

(The record is straight.—Ed.)

Utah State U.

Dear Mr. (Chuck) Leve,

Here at Utah State University we are very interested in organizing chapters of both the Handball and Racquetball Associations. I have been in touch with Wayne Player, Manager of the Deseret Gym in Salt Lake City and currently the secretary for both organizations in the State of Utah. He recommended that we form our own chapters (but participate with them in their tournaments) and gave me your name.

Although a small school of 8,300 with 1900 faculty and professional staff, we have extremely nice facilities—6 courts divided equally between handball and racquetball, in a large building with gymnasiums, pools, gymnastics, dancing, boxing, wrestling, weight training, steam rooms and carpeted dressing rooms. The courts are used continuously during the school year from 7:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. In all, there are between 225 and 250 faculty and student men that play handball and approximately the same number of men playing racquetball. Additionally between 50 and 75 women play racquetball. These women are interested in forming their own chapter.

We anticipate that between 30 and 40 men would initially join each of the Handball and Racquetball organizations and between 10 and 15 women would form the women's racquetball chapter. We base these figures on the number of participants in the past three Intramural and Open tournaments.

Based on our standings in play at USU and the play we have participated in Salt Lake City we think we have about the following class rankings:

	A	B	C
Handball	2	9	29
Men's Racquetball	1	7	32
Women's Racquetball	0	1	14

The calibre of racquetball has improved faster in the past year than handball, and we think this trend will continue. By tournament time, 1973, we feel there will be about five men playing class A racquetball and four or five at the same level in handball. In as much as there was only one court on campus until April of 1971, we feel great progress has been made.

Would you please send us all the information you can regarding both organizations, their publications and, if possible, a sample booklet of organizational by-laws. We are planning our organization for the last week in September, so there should be adequate time to receive and disseminate your information.

On the night of each organizational meeting we are planning to have a clinic and a short round-robin tournament with some of the better players from Salt Lake City. We are thinking of using this plus a subsequent ladder tournament to establish our initial class rankings (we will have Masters as well).

We would greatly appreciate any suggestions you can give us.

DOUGLAS C. PERRY
Utah State University
Logan, Utah 84321

five courts in what it would take to build two courts in the normal poured concrete manner. This is one of the main reasons the club became a feasible, working plan. That, plus the fact that these new court systems do perform well, they play virtually the same as concrete and plaster, and they hold up real well.

We'll be the Louisville Athletic Club,

enough courts. The Center could use more courts, the Y.M.C.A. could use more courts and even if they had more courts I think the Louisville Athletic Club would still be successful because of its location and theme.

I feel more courts only enhance the sport. As a consequence more people will want to play. The more courts the merrier. It will make the game more popular.

RACQUETBALL: By using pre-fabri-

thinking about court construction are thinking as much as possible about keeping costs down. With the pre-fabricated courts you don't have to build a building. This was our reasoning in Louisville. Although we would prefer to have our own building, the money angle was tough. Location and space were not there.

*"I feel more courts only enhance the sport . . .
The more courts the merrier."*

with five courts, three of which will have glass, one of which will be able to seat 500 spectators. We will be primarily handball and racquetball to start with, and if we become popular enough we will go into squash, running track, swimming pool, the whole works. It will be a complete athletic club, but we have to do it in phases for financial reasons.

RACQUETBALL: What will your duties be?

PORCO: I will be club director. I resigned from the Center November 1 and my duties from now until completion of the club will be to solicit members and help supervise construction to make sure everything is built the way we want it. And I will also be keeping those members who have signed up already, up to date on the progress of construction.

We anticipate that we'll be operating in six or seven months. And, although we would have preferred not to open in the spring or summer, since the facility will be completely air-conditioned, including the courts, we feel the club and racquetball will know no season. People have to come downtown to work anyway, and it is the businessmen we are going after.

We feel it will be a plus factor for us to be open not during a man's leisure time, but during his working hours. He'll be able to come down, eat his lunch there, shower, steam, or work out and be back in the office in an hour, hour and a-half.

RACQUETBALL: Was it difficult to leave the Center?

PORCO: Very. I've been there for 12 years and made countless number of friends. The people have been very kind to me, making me feel good by saying, "sorry to see you go" and all that. But as far as I'm concerned, I'm really not leaving. I'm going to try and keep as close a contact with the Center as I possibly can. I haven't worked out the details yet, but I hope to continue teaching, and certainly plan to play there between now and summer. So, they won't be rid of me as easily as they think.

RACQUETBALL: Do you feel there is room in Louisville for two good racquetball facilities?

PORCO: I don't ever think there are

cated courts you have committed yourself and your club to a new product in the court sports. Do you feel that these courts are the courts of the future?

PORCO: I definitely think they are. The reason is strictly financial. You can build these courts inside a shell and most guys

Phoenix Open

Southwesterners will want to catch the Phoenix Open, December 1-2-3, at the Phoenix Downtown Y.M.C.A. Events are open singles and doubles, B Singles and Masters singles. An added highlight will be a clinic by Dr. Bud Muehleisen.

Entry fee is \$8.00 for the first event and \$5.00 for the second event, deadline November 24. Keith Talley, physical director of the Y is the man to send entries to. Check the entry form on page 29.

I.R.A. Tournament Schedule

NOVEMBER, 1972

- 8-12 Canadian Nationals, Vancouver, B.C., MARC, VAC, Kempo
- 17-18-19 Masters Doubles Invitational (IRA) New Castle, PA YMCA, Caiazza

DECEMBER, 1972

- 1-2-3 Linahan Open, Winona, MN YMCA, Bob Ferris
- Phoenix Open, Downtown YMCA, Keith Talley
- 15-16-17 Mel Gorham Holiday, San Diego, Gorham's, Drake
- 16-17 Invitational Singles (IRA), Court House, Mpls., Greenberg

JANUARY, 1973

- 12-13-14 Cowboy Open, Okla, St. Univ., Stillwater, OK, McKie
- 19-20-21 Illinois State Doubles, Evanston YMCA, Duda
- 26-27-28 Cornell Open, Richmond, VA YMCA, Bolton
- Niagara Falls Open, N.F. YMCA (NY), Paul Traver

FEBRUARY, 1973

- 1-4 Paddleball Nationals, Eau Claire, Wisc., Kronenberg
- 16-17-18 Illinois State Singles, Northwest Suburban YMCA, Des Plaines, Michaely.

MARCH, 1973

- 2-3-4 IRA Central Divisional, Milwaukee H.B.C., Patch
- IRA Eastern Divisional, Penn St. Univ., Sweeney
- IRA Western Divisional, Chabot College, Dunn
- IRA Southwestern Divisional, Tulsa YMCA, Merryman
- 3-10 (HANDBALL NATIONALS)
- 16-17-18 IRA Southern Divisional, Clearwater, Fla. YMCA, Stidham
- 23-24-25 Chicago Open, U. of I. Chicago Circle, DiVito

APRIL, 1973

- 3-8 IRA Internationals, St. Louis, JCCA, Hendin

MAY, 1973

- 4-5-6 Paterson Open, Paterson NJ YMCA, Rizzo
- 26-27-28 Norfolk Invitational, Norfolk VA JCC, Taylor

Handball Roundup . . .

By MORT LEVE

In this first issue of RACQUETBALL Magazine we are allotted a page to keep somewhat current on developments in the world of handball in between our regular issues. Court buffs now will receive a magazine monthly if they desire both handball and racquetball coverage. As previously HANDBALL Magazine will publish bi-monthly . . . Feb., April, June, August, Oct., and Dec., with RACQUETBALL Magazine coming out in the other months. The move will no doubt benefit both the USHA and IRA and pave the way to bigger and better things in COURT SPORTS!

* * *

After due deliberation the St. Louis JCCA has decided it cannot handle our 1972 National Juniors scheduled for Dec. 28-30, so at the present time we are negotiating for a new site. St. Louis will be hosting the IRA nationals next April and felt it just couldn't do justice to an additional national event. To any prospective host the responsibility format for this tournament is quite simple . . . housing and food for some 70-85 youngsters of the under-15, under-17, and under-19 age category for the three-day event. USHA allots up to \$50 travel allowance for each out-of-state entrant, provides balls and trophies, hosts the awards banquet, and provides national hqs. personnel. The host organization receives the \$10 entry fee, so has a "nut" of approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500. Any interested facility can call Mort Leve collect at Area Code 312, 673 4000.

* * *

With the influx of private Court Clubs your national headquarters is serving as a general clearing house. We are most willing to discuss: (1) Building plans; (2) Concise information on court construction; (3) Assistance on potential Club management. We have several fine people available and can arrange personal interviews; (4) General information on Court Club developments.

Along these lines we are planning a Court Club management seminar early next year in Chicago. USHA & IRA will co-host this worthwhile weekend get-together to exchange ideas, foster good will, and work toward mutual benefits. Mel Gorham, who now has the successful Sport Center in San Diego, and another underway in Oceanside, replied that he was very much for such a seminar and will definitely attend.

* * *

Once again our good friends at SPORTS ILLUSTRATED have "overlooked" the real sum and substance of "Hands Against the Racquet". The skills of these games are entirely overlooked in lieu of the usual hackneyed and jaundiced "Namath Approach" of wine, women and song. And, in their scorecard brief report, SI had the wrong site, naming San Diego instead of the grand opening event at the Long Beach A.C., and had the wrong scores. They did bat .333, with the correct winner. Meanwhile, we wearily note pages and pages in this weekly publication on safaris, bird watchers, old-time gun slinging hustlers, et al.

* * *

Exciting plans for a million dollar-plus tennis-handball-racquetball complex in Northbrook, Ill. (suburb of Chicago, known as "Sports Town U.S.A."). Chuck Lind announces that plans are now being finalized with hopes of completion by Sept. 1, 1973. Included will be six handball-

racquetball courts, four indoor and four outdoor tennis courts, indoor swimming pool with sliding glass doors that will lead to an outdoor patio area. Chuck has done extensive research and hopes to provide the "ideal facility" in the growing North Shore area of Chicagoland.

* * *

Pete Tyson has the drums beating for the 23rd national USHA open championships at the University of Texas, March 3-10. There are 200 rooms available at the Villa Capri Motel, located within walking distance of the Gregory Gymnasium 13-court facility. This will be our third visit to Austin (1965-1969) and affords us a truly marvelous complex in which to stage this No. 1 event on our calendar. We have received inquiries on reserved tickets. Full information can be obtained from Pete, #36, Gregory Gymnasium, University of Texas, Austin, TX. 78712. An entry blank will be contained in the December issue of Handball Magazine.

* * *

JUST OFF THE SHORT LINE . . . Alvis Grant, veteran Masters campaigner, is still No. 1 in any competition at his Dallas A.C. Alvis was recently crowned '72 champ . . . To many inquiries we have had . . . once again, there is no relationship between team handball as portrayed during the Olympics on TV and our man-to-man handball game. Team handball has been played in Europe for years and is a soccer-basketball type of game, using the larger ball. U.S. got involved through its European Army bases . . . Dr. Jim Tanner reports his arm healing and hopes to be back on the courts before long. And, Jim wants to stage a "World Series" in singles at his Birmingham Y.M.C.A. Top four players on a round robin basis. These top four may be determined from the upcoming national invitational singles at the Washington A.C., Nov. 17-19.

FLASH!

FLASH!

FLASH!

Jim Jacobs and Oscar Obert elected to the United Savings Helms Athletic Foundation Handball Hall of Fame . . . official announcement and full story in December HANDBALL Magazine.

Steve "Mr. One Wall" Sandler upset in quarterfinal round of National USHA One-Wall tournament held in Brooklyn's Brownsville Boys Club by 20-year-old Marcel Goldfarb, 21-7, 21-19. Ranks with the all-time handball surprises.

* * *

A Rudy Harris star-studded production at the Fargo-Moorhead YMCA over the Oct. 13-15 weekend, honoring USHA President Bob Kendler. Rudy gathered in hundreds of birthday wishes for Bob, including one from President Richard Nixon, another from Chicago's Mayor Richard Daley . . . in addition Rudy collected almost \$2,000 in Perpetuation Fund life memberships, produced the first Can-Am handball and racquetball tournament, went to the finals of the Masters doubles with his partner, Mel Heim . . . other than that he m.c.'d the testimonial banquet with Bob as keynote speaker, along with some sage words from Tom Clifford, president of North Dakota University. Paul Haber appeared in an exhibition, playing 21-pointers with St. Paul's Billy Yambrick and Paul Schulz, winning 21-10, 21-6 respectively. Paul traveled west from there for showings in Montana and then back to St. Paul for the "Top Four" Round Robin doubles classic.

* * *

Saddened we are to report the passing of Bob Brady, former national USHA singles champion (1953) and one of the game's all-time greats. A native of Montana, Bob gained court fame as a representative of San Francisco's Olympic Club. The Bob Brady story will be told in the December HANDBALL Magazine.

HAIL TO RACQUETBALL!

...and a salute to
the many followers
of this great indoor sport



Best Wishes From

D.B.FRAMPTON & COMPANY 33 SOUTH JAMES ROAD • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43213

PRODUCERS OF **"SPORTS COURT SYSTEMS"** FROM COAST TO COAST

Pat. Applied For

A Voice With Which To Speak . . .

Long ago we learned that nothing takes the place of lively discussion and a free exchange of ideas in the building of an association. By giving the player a voice in the planning and promotion of our sport, we uncovered a gold mine of progressive thinking that has contributed substantially to our growth. That is why we dedicate this magazine to you, the player. It is yours in every respect, — to voice your feelings and share in the thinking of players everywhere.

If all of you will help us make this a newsworthy, inspirational undertaking, — *Racquetball Magazine* will become one of your favorite publications. For us it will be a sounding board for new ideas and an image builder for the player as well as the sport. It can be a powerful force for good, but only if we make principle the basis of its editorial policy. *Racquetball* should always be the channel through which right thinking can be expressed and right ideas promoted.

We want you to help us accomplish all this. Write as often as you wish. We pledge to publish your newsworthy thoughts to allow all racquetballers to share in bright, new ideas. Human interest stories appeal to everyone as do instructional articles. Tournament results are also good, along with the social affairs that involve the players, their wives and their families. Please don't hesitate to tell us about your family or your club's racquetball activities; and send along sharp, clear pictures that are more casual than posed. You will be surprised how interested we are in your family and friends. In this way we can add priceless personal appeal to *Racquetball Magazine*.

Those of you who have watched our progress from the beginning will note that every year we leap another giant step forward. First it was standardization of the rules, — then we improved the equipment, a project at which we still work hard. Then we staged impressive International and National tournaments. National publicity followed every move we made and suddenly court

clubs sprang up everywhere. The court boom was on.

Invitational tournaments have become tremendously popular and the cry of "no courts" has faded into the background. Women were invited to compete and the effect has been shattering. Whole families have become thoroughly infected with the fun and sociability of racquetball, christening a whole new life style.

Now comes the next big step, perhaps the biggest, in *Racquetball Magazine*. We hope you will like it and more than all else, we hope you will become both a critic and a sponsor. We need your views and we have no pride of authorship. Let's all work together to make racquetball a fun game and the publication fun reading. It's going to be a long while before the magazine will pay for itself, but if we have your help we won't mind waiting one bit.

All we need is more membership. This publication will make membership more attractive. It will spread the gospel to more people. It will give us more pride in what we are doing and reward those for work well done. You just can't beat a little good press when it comes to making good friends.

From here on, it is all up to you. Alert us to good material, send us good pictures and we will have a good magazine. Let us all become part of that fabric which is slowly but surely emerging as the tie that binds us all together. It will be nice to know that we will regularly be a guest in your home and that you will be a guest in ours. We can talk to each other through the medium of *Racquetball*. We can make many new friends and open new areas for travel simply by letting one another know that this is a fraternity of friends interested in each others well being. That is the purpose of this magazine.

Speak up and speak out fellow members, — this is the voice of the player.

BOB KENDLER

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