

# RACQUETBALL HANDBALL NEWS

August-September 1977 *Racquetball's most comprehensive publication* Vol. II No.8

**New ideas on NRC tour-see page 1**



Seamco's Bob Coate, Leach's Charlie Drake, and some of the Leach sponsored players on the NRC Pro circuit look over the new 1978 NRC contract.

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# RACQUETBALL HANDBALL NEWS

Vol. II No.8

National & Local August-September 1977



Jennifer Harding (l), Mike Yellen and Sarah Green have signed contracts to play for the Ektelon "Team of Champions" for the 1978 racquetball season.

## Harding, Green, and Yellen join Ektelon for 1978 season

SAN DIEGO — Ektelon has announced that the company has signed Jennifer Harding, Sarah Green and Mike Yellen to contracts to play for Ektelon during the 1978 tournament season beginning in September.

Ron Grimes, Ektelon's marketing director, said the company is very enthusiastic about the contributions the three players will make to the "team."

"It has long been our policy to seek out and sign to contract players who demonstrate not only outstanding potential on the court, but the right mix of personal qualities needed to advance the sport," said Grimes.

Harding, 26 and a resident of Milwaukie, Oregon, will

begin her third season of play with the Ektelon team. Shortly after joining Ektelon in 1975, she won the Portland Rose Festival racquetball tournament and took top honors in the IRA's women's national doubles championships. In 1976, she won the NRC's women's national doubles.

Green won the 1976-77 IRA and NRC national open championships, and the Southern Regional championship for the past three years. Green, 20, is a native of Memphis, and received partial sponsorship from Ektelon during the last half of the 1977 racquetball season. She is one of the younger members of the Ektelon team.

Yellen will represent Ektelon in junior division and

men's professional division events. At 17, he is a recognized top national professional racquetball prospect, though he'd only played the game for two-and-a-half years.

A native of Detroit, Yellen will graduate from Southfield Lathrup High School in January and plans to attend college under a scholarship grant from Ektelon. He is employed by the Southfield Athletic Club as an administrative assistant and racquetball instructor.

Green will enter her junior year at Memphis State University this fall.

Harding, a graduate of the University of Oregon, will continue in her post as manager of the Milwaukie Racquetball Club in addition to playing for Ektelon.

## COLGATE JOINS SEAMCO LEACH ON PRO TOUR

By Doug Blank  
Assistant Editor

Many new, exciting ideas will highlight the 1977-1978 Colgate Men & Womens Profession Racquetball Tour Co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco.

There are basically two very important changes for 1978. The first is the increased prize money. More than double both for men and women and the second is the new point system being instigated.

With the purchase of Leach Industries by the Colgate-Palmolive Co. this past year, Colgate has added their name to the sponsorship monies.

This years association with the NRC will be a little different. In years past the NRC had control of the Pro Tour and the sponsors gave certain amount of money donated monies for

the tour. 1978 will bring a different program. Colgate, Leach and Seamco will put up the prize money amounting to over \$150,000 and will pay the NRC a special indorsement fee to run the events with man power and advertising. 1977 prize was \$100,000. "Its beter for the sport to have sponsor control." Said Charlie Drake, Executive Officer of Leach Industries. "As racquetball brings more benefits to the sponsors more money will go to the sport and we could see even larger prizes. The minimum prize money on each stop now will be \$12,000 for the men and \$3000 for the women."

The first two events are scheduled for New York in October and Los Angeles in November.

Prize money has been increased dramatically for the Juniors Program also. Sources say Leach invested \$10,000,

Seamco \$10,000 and the NRC for \$22,000 keyed to the Juniors in 1977. For 1978 Leach and Seamco will each invest \$24,000. "as last year's," according to Chuck Leve, National Director of the NRC. "The easiest way to see the new system is to compare it to last year. In 1977, if you made it to the round of 16, you received one point in the rankings and approximately \$100. (all prize money in 1977 varied between certain tournaments) If you made it to the quarterfinals, it was three points and \$250. The semifinals found five points and \$500-\$600 money, second place received seven points and \$1000, and first place was rewarded with ten points and \$2000." said Leve.

"Our format for this year will be in the round of 16, losers receive three points and \$225.00 Quarterfinalists get five points and \$450.00.

Continued on page 3

## IRA holds largest Nationals ever

### Special Contribution

The 9th annual IRA National Championships were by far the largest with over 425 entries from 37 states and 3 foreign countries. Held at the Southfield, Michigan Racquetime Center, the tournament was a giant success. Hundreds of people watched players on two 3-Wall glass and 28 standard courts.

Not one winner repeated as new talent swept all divisions. The I.R.A. is looking forward to its 10th annual championships next May at a yet-to-be-determined site. The I.R.A. would like to thank the people of Racquetime, the Ford Division of Ford Motor Company and many others who made the Nationals the great success they were.

Results are as follows:  
MEN'S OPEN: Jerry Zuckerman (St. Louis) def. Eric

Campbell (Dallas) 21-8, 10-21, 15-12.

WOMEN'S OPEN: Karin Walton (San Clemente, Cal.) def. Jan Campbell (San Diego) 21-7, 21-10.

JUNIORS: Jeff Larsen def. Lindsay Myers 14-21, 21-17, 15-13.

MEN'S SENIORS: Jim Austin def. Joe Gibbs 21-10, 21-13.

WOMEN'S SENIORS: Sandy McPhearson def. Carol Greenburg 21-1, withdraw.

MEN'S MASTERS: Dr. Bud Muehleisen def. Bob Polleta 21-6, 21-7.

MEN'S B: Jim Cullen def. Larry Liles 21-16, 21-9.

WOMEN'S B: Lucy Zarfos def. Marcia Nelson 21-1, 21-3.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Tennesen-Dillon def. Hoff-McCarthy 21-6, 21-6.

GOLDEN MASTERS: Floyd Svenson def. Dr. Hal Matthews 21-11, 21-4.



Tournament Director Jerry Monell.

## CSRA to hold first State Championships

By Clay Scott  
Editor

The First Annual Southern California Amateur State Racquetball Championships will be held on October 14 in San Diego as announced by Tournament Director Jerry Monell.

This will be the first state tournament held by the California State Racquetball Association, which is the regional section of the United States Racquetball Association.

"This will be the first sanctioned state tournament for amateur players in California," said Monell. "This tourney will have all events for a very low price of only \$10.00."

The tournament will be held at the Atlas Health Club during the weekend of October 13-16 with all events. Prizes will include balls, shirts

and various electronic prizes.

"We've gone out to make this tournament for the amateurs a great experience."

This will be the first of two tournaments held in California. The Northern California region will be having their tournament at a later date. The state championship doubles will be held in about six months.

Monell has been working with Chuck Hanna, regional director, to make this tournament successful. Monell is well known for his work as tournament director for the Atlas Health Club and other courts around California. He also conducts clients in racquetball for the San Diego School District.

For further information, contact Chuck Hanna or Jerry Monell at 9453 Goodwick Court, San Diego, CA 92123, or by calling (714) 278-6342 or (714) 275-3344.



# Voit hosts Florida 3-Wall Championships

## Special Contribution

NAPLES, Florida — Despite unexpected rain storms, nearly 200 players throughout Florida participated in the AMF Voit Florida Outdoor 3-Wall Championships in this coastal city July 15-17. Competition did not finish on Saturday (16th) until 1:30 a.m. Results are as follows:

Men's Open: Greg McDonald of Gainesville def. Steve Farkas 21-7, 21-7.

Men's B: Gene Owen of Lakeland def. George Webb 16-21, 21-20, 11-5.

## Dana Point

DANA POINT, Calif. — The Dana Point Athletic Club celebrated the addition of four racquetball/handball courts to their existing health club on April 9th. A racquetball exhibition tournament participated by the Omega team of players and several other top West Coast amateur players set off the event. There was also an exhibition of play by the Los Angeles Fire Department Champion Handball Team.

Owner Tom Brown was very pleased with the opening.

"The players really did a fine job," said Brown. "People really enjoyed the tournament."

There were three divisions in the tournament. Larry Myers, 17, of Oceanside, Calif., just nipped 15-year-old Beaver Wickham, also of Oceanside, for the Men's Open Award.

Karin Walton, 1977 NRC South West Regional Women's Open Singles and Doubles Champion, defeated Patty Berneathy for the Women's Open award.

In the Men's B division, Eric Georgeson, winner of the 1977 Southwest Regional Juniors title (USRA), defeated Ken Retzer, ex-Washington Senator catcher. Bridgett Herron defeated Betty Hennessey in the Women's Novice division.

A Women's Open Doubles exhibition match was played on one of the clubs glass courts with the team of Karin Walton and Judy Clemens defeating Bette Weed and Patty Berneathy in three games.

Club facilities include four RB/HB courts, remodeled gym with instruction, heated outdoor pool and sauna. The courts are open for public play (non-reservation). For more information contact Dana Point Athletic Club, 24470 Del Prado, Dana Point, CA (714) 493-9390.

## new court clubs

**TORRANCE, Cal.**  
The Rolling Hills Plaza Racquet Club  
2600 Airport Drive  
(213) 530-9821

The five-and one-half acre site will feature eleven lighted screened tennis courts including one center court for tournament play, four enclosed racquetball courts, heated swimming pool, two-story clubhouse and separate junior clubhouse, spa and exercise room, men's and women's showers-locker rooms, pro shops. Club will be opening in December.

**ARCADIA, Calif.**  
Arcadia Racquetball Club  
101 E. Huntington Dr. No. 104  
(213) 446-2175

Nine RB courts, exercise room, men's sauna and spa, women's sauna and spa, TV and game lounge, health bar, pro shop, outdoor sun area, child care, glass back and gallery viewing, free lessons, open fall 1977, call for info. Mr. Dana Gaul.

**YONKERS, New York**  
The Racquetball Courts of Westchester I  
1919 Central Avenue  
Slated to open in November, 1977

Club will feature 18 top-quality courts, two glass wall courts, sauna, lounge areas, whirlpool and locker facilities for men and women. Also, child care center.

Men's C: Byron Lobsinger of Lake Worth def. Jim Simmons 15-10, 13-15, 11-2.

Men's Senior: Jim Foley of Naples def. Bob Munz 4-15, 15-8, 11-5.

Women's Open: Martha Byrd of Gainesville def. Marlene Martell 21-1, 21-2.

Bobbi Stoufer of St. Petersburg def. Virginia Guild 15-4, 15-7.

Women's Novice: Teresa Walsh def. Jeanne Atkins 11-15, 15-9, 11-3.

Juniors 13-15: Jim Carroll of Cape Coral def. Doug Newell 15-6, 7-15, 11-6.

uniors under 12: Frank Martell of Naples def. Dennis McGee 15-3, 15-8.

## Kendler is OK

SKOKIE, Ill. — The USRA is happy to announce that President Bob Kendler is out of the hospital and back at the office working full time after being in the hospital for a few days with a stomach disorder.

Chuck Leve, USRA Director jested that Kendler was in the hospital because "of all the high living he does and the parties he goes to all the time."

# Rolling Hills has groundbreaking ceremonies

## Special Contribution

TORRANCE, Cal. — City Officials presided over the ground-breaking ceremonies for the Rolling Hills Plaza Racquet Club on June 27th. The new managers will be Larry Merrihew and Frank Iacono.

Construction is now underway at the site located on the east side of Crenshaw Blvd., just north of Pacific Coast Highway.

Club facilities will include eleven lighted screened tennis courts including one center court designated for tournament play, four enclosed racquetball courts, heated swimming pool, two-story clubhouse and separate junior clubhouse, spa and exercise room, men's and women's showers and locker rooms, and pro shop.

Three types of memberships will be available: tennis, racquetball or health- in family, couple, single and corporate categories. Rolling Hills Plaza Racquet Club is offering 429 non-proprietary tennis memberships, 240 non-prop racquetball memberships and 200 non-prop health

memberships. All are resaleable.

Designed and developed by Courts of California, Inc., the complex will incorporate a 10,000-square-foot two-story clubhouse which will house a cocktail lounge and fireplace, exercise area, locker rooms, spa, proshop, and separate recreation room for television and card games. It had been designed to overlook the center court as a comfortable setting during tournaments and social events. All aspects of interior design have been planned to induce an informal atmosphere.

All club facilities are planned to stay open Monday thru Sunday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and all holidays except Christmas and New Year's Eve.

According to both managers, courts will be completed in early October; the \$1.5 million complex is scheduled for completion in early December. Both are optimistic about attracting memberships and commented, "there is even additional land on the leasehold available for possible future development of additional tennis and racquetball courts."



Ektelon Marketing Manager Ron Grimes observes as Ekteline representative Linda Doty answers a customer's inquiry.

# Ektelon opens the "Ekteline"

SAN DIEGO — Racquetball players and racquetball equipment dealers now can find professional answers to their questions via the "Ekteline."

Ekteline is a toll-free number (800) 854-2662 that links the caller with a special representative at the headquarters of Ektelon in San Diego, claiming to be the national leader in racquetball racquets, stringing equipment and accessory equipment. California residents should dial (714) 286-1188 collect, and ask for the Ekteline representative.

Ekteline offers racquetball players a fast, easy way to get professional advice on getting started in the game, choosing the right equipment and improving their skills. Since many members of Ektelon's professional racquetball team have offices at the company's headquarters, players will often find their questions being answered by men and women who know the game best.

Racquetball equipment dealers can use Ekteline to answer their marketing and sales questions. Dealer inquiries will be instantly

referred to the appropriate department head within Ektelon.

Ron Grimes, Ektelon's Marketing director, said Ekteline will give the company new opportunities to serve the racquetball community on a one-to-one basis.

"Ekteline means we can deal directly in a problem-solving capacity with the end-users of our products, the dealers and players," Grimes said. "By helping them, we will be helping to foster the growth of the sport and gaining valuable insight into our performance as a leader in the racquetball industry. If there's a problem brewing out there, we'll know about it quickly and take corrective measures."

Ekteline also will help the company spot potential new markets to be developed, Grimes said. Ekteline calls will be carefully recorded and the number and nature of the inquiries will be periodically evaluated.

Ekteline will be in operation during Ektelon's normal business hours 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Pacific Standard Time Monday thru Friday.

## IDEAL LOCKERS by Jay Hart

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IDEAL colors!!!  
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## It can be done

### Special Contribution

PLEASANTVILLE, New York — They said it couldn't be done. Impossibly high real estate values. Skyrocketing construction costs. Scarcity of prime building sites. An impenetrable preoccupation with the "prestige" sports. No, the pundits predicted, the New York Metropolitan area never sustain a sizeable slice of the racquetball pie.

But to Edward E. Klein, a suburban Pleasantville real estate developer and investment pro, one man's reticence is another man's challenge. The Racquetball Courts of Westchester I, at 1919 Central Ave. in Yonkers, in New York's affluent Westchester County, which is slated to open in November of this year, is Ed Klein's response. The Racquetball Courts of Westchester II, in the county's capital city of White Plains, with 17 courts, is on the drawing boards for early next year.

The Racquetball Courts of Westchester I, which will be managed by two top-ranking racquetball pros, is the first full-service facility specifically constructed for racquetball in the New York City area. The new \$2 million membership club will have 18 top-quality courts, two with glass walls to guarantee spectators a maximum share of the thrills of the game, as well as two luxuriously-appointed lounge areas and identical steam, sauna, whirlpool and locker facilities for men and women.

In addition, a bright, well-equipped, professionally-staffed child care center will permit young mothers—a largely untapped sports market, according to a study made by Ed Klein—to take full advantage of the 9 a.m.-3 p.m. time slots for a reasonable fee.

To fulfill its commitments as a major sports innovation to a populace that has little familiarity with racquetball, The Racquetball Courts of Westchester will emphasize instruction, including demonstrations, both private and group lessons, clinics and tournament strategy.

Memberships in the club will be limited to 2,000. The \$50 membership fee will entitle the holder to block book on a priority first-come basis for each of four 13-week sessions. Seasonal use of the courts will cost \$100 for one reserved hour each week, with no rate differential for prime time, and it includes the right to include renew at the same time slot each succeeding season or, if preferred, priority reservations for an alternative hour.

Charter memberships in the Racquetball Courts of Westchester I can now be obtained by writing Edward E. Klein, 109 Old Farm Road South, Pleasantville, NY 10570 or by calling (914) 238-9500.

# Holden regains marathon record

"Tiger Bill" Holden of Canoga Park, Calif. recently regained the world's marathon racquetball record playing a total of 60 hours and 20 minutes.

Holden broke the previous world's record of 51 hours and 5 minutes set in 1976 by two racquetball players in Stillwater, Oklahoma. During the marathon, Holden played 39 different opponents in 182 games, winning an incredible 163 of them.

Holden had some foot problems caused by a newly-designed athletic shoe which tore up the bottom of his feet. He was forced to play in old sneakers and socks dripping in blood from approximately the 25th hour to the end.

His opponents paid \$2 an hour with all proceeds going to the March of Dimes work to prevent, treat and cure

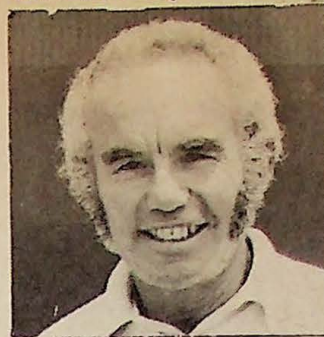
birth defects.

After more than 60 hours of play, with only the standard five minute breaks each hour, Holden emerged in excellent condition.

Holden explained that he did nothing special in preparing for the marathon. "I didn't change any of my regular habits and I just made sure I maintained my three balanced meals per day."

Judy Holden, Bill's wife, also had a few comments about her husband's performance. "I think he is crazy for trying to go for so many hours, but I think he's wonderful for helping out the March of Dimes."

Holden set the first world marathon racquetball record in 1975 at 40 hours and 19 minutes, but has decided he will not attempt to set anymore records in marathons.



## Ben Press

## The busiest of summers

Like all posh summers, this has been a very busy one. The demand for tennis lessons goes unabated, from dawn until dusk or as long as the aging body holds together. In the midst of all of this I try to play my usual complement of tournaments and racquetball at least twice a week.

Being at a resort hotel (the Hotel Del Coronado), I teach people coming from all over the country. At the tournaments, I see not only my Southern California friends, but many of the players participating from around the country. Now with increasing regularity, the subject of racquetball is creeping into the conversation. People that previously only played tennis are now asking where is the nearest racquetball facility. At the tournaments, we would often sneak away for a round of golf between matches.

Now they are asking me to play racquetball instead, which I really don't mind. I'm not as big a pigeon within the four walls as I am on the links. I find this change of events very interesting as tennis players, like the early resistance from the die-hard handball players, are now finding racquetball a very pleasing adjustment.

The tennis players are continually asking me why I play so much racquetball and doesn't the difference in stroke production cause some difficulty in both sports? My answer is always the same. I find racquetball a great conditioner, it steps up the reflexes and so long as you are able to concentrate enough, the different stroke requirements shouldn't be affected. Besides, I like the continuity of racquetball matches—they let me win dinner on occasion.

Along this same line, an ever increasing number of tennis facilities are now adding racquetball to their complexes. Here are several examples: A forty court club in Arizona is adding 17 racquetball courts. A twelve court indoor facility in Minneapolis is taking out one tennis court and replacing it with six racquetball courts. The new giant in racquetball club under construction in Orange County, California is building 76 tennis plus 17 racquetball courts. Locally in the San Diego area, the tennis clubs at San Carlos, Valley, Juegos de Juan and Atlas all have RB programs.

Racquetball remains a growing giant. The sport is experiencing unparalleled growth and popularity. However, building additional courts will not necessarily bring new people into the game. But what greater reservoir of potential new racquetball players than the 40 million tennis players. They are compatible sports and by at large, physically as demanding. Tennis is here and is proven. I feel racquetball can gain much only in a shorter time by becoming more affiliated with the tennis world.

# USRA Junior Nationals has good turnout

By Doug Blank  
Assistant Editor

The USRA National Juniors Tournament drew 225 players from the United States and Canada and many of the favorites went home with their expected trophies.

In the Boys 17 and under, Larry Meyers (Oceanside, Cal.) scored the only real upset of the tournament by nosing out favorite Mike Yellen of Southfield, Michigan 11-21, 21-13, 11-8.

In the Girls 17 and under, Jeannie Abbott of Great Falls, Montana beat Laura Martino (Fountain Valley, Cal.) 21-11, 21-14.

The Girls 14 and under found Linda Hogan of St. Louis (that's right—Marty's sister) thumping Bobbi

Brennan 21-18, 21-14.

The Boys 15 and under had Craig Davidson (Riverside, Cal.) squeeze by Doug Cohen of St. Louis 21-10, 17-21, 11-5.

And the Boys 13 and under champion is Don Courman of Missouri as he knocked off Hart Johnson of St. Paul, Minn. 21-16, 21-9.

The trophies were awarded to the first through fourth places in the championship round, and the first and second places in the consolation round.

The players received 10 cents per mile for their journey to the Nationals in Chicago air fare after 500 miles, with the maximum of \$100. They also received room, board, hotel food, and a trip to the Great America Amusement Park in Chicago.

## NRC

Continued from page 1

The two semifinal losers get seven points and \$900. The second place man receives nine points and \$1800.00, while the winner gets twelve points and \$3600.00. This will be the standard format for the men in all of the tournaments this year."

Leve went on to explain why the new system was adopted. "One big problem we had with the system last year was the fact that all of the tournaments were open, with no restrictions on each other. The tournaments were in essence, too big. This created a large burden on the pros, who had to play many meaningless early round matches. With the new system, the top 20 players will be given an "exempt" status and entered directly into the round of 32. Also, the NRC will name four "at large exempts" not in the Top four, but are felt by the NRC to be do exemptions. An example of this would be Marty Hogan misses three tournaments because of an ankle injury, and by the point spread, drops out of the top 20. The natural thing to do would be to exempt him. This pretty much fits the top guys on the tour."

"Another example would be someone like Jerry Zuckerman, who, for example, is not on the top 20. But the tournament is in St. Louis, Zuckerman's hometown. He would definitely be a good draw, so he would be added. This gives us much flexibility in our ratings of a tournament. Everyone gets to play, but yet the top 32 are in the tournament. Last year, your rank was in position of the draw. A problem arose when you have so many tournaments on the schedule. You cannot advance on the ladder in the latter stages of

the schedule unless you become red hot and win a few tournaments, because everyone is locked into position. It is just like batting averages in baseball. You could hit 4 for 4 in a late season game, and your average wouldn't improve very much, if any. We also had the problem of many repetitious matches. It seemed like Hilecher and Bledsoe played about a million times last year, and Mc Coy-Wagner was a frequent confrontation. People were locked into position in the rankings."

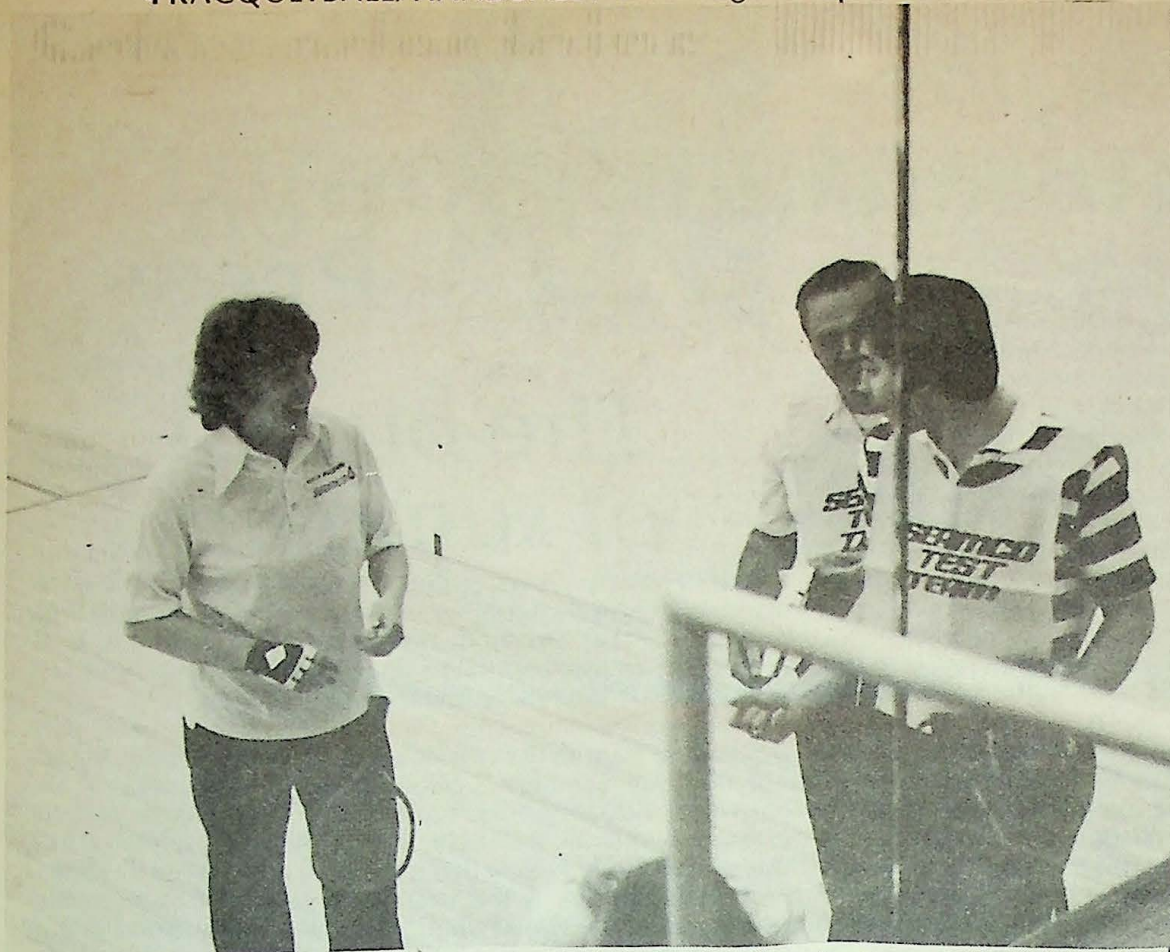
Leve also outlined the new ranking system and draw for this year. The number one and two ranked players would be placed at the top and bottom of the charts as usual. But the third and fourth seed would be drawn out of a hat to see whether they go in the top or bottom bracket. The same would fit for the 5-8 seeds, the 9-16 seeds, and the 17-32 seeds.

There are two advantages to this system. "First, this will eliminate all of the blind luck that many of the repetitious matches had last year, and second, this creates a fairer draw for all of the newcomers. Qualifiers at the bottom of the list don't have to necessarily play the first seed all of the time. Also, the last 16 have an equal chance at the champion. Every year we try to change the system a little bit until we feel we have the right system."

There is an exception to this rule. If the same match does occur for three tournaments in a row, then the player with the lower ranking will have his name put back into the hat and redrawn again.

Hopefully, this system will work to everyone's desire, and create interesting matches this coming year.





Kathy Williams, nationally ranked pro, checks her time against the Seamco Test Radar Gun during the NRC stop in Chattanooga last year.

## Hogan outshoots opponents in Test

### Special Contribution

Marty Hogan went up against a radar gun this past April, a radar gun provided by the Seamco Sporting Goods Company, the official ball manufacturer for both the U.S.R.A. and N.R.C.

Hogan, who along with a dozen other professional players, tested a number of Seamco balls, as that firm continues to seek out player in-

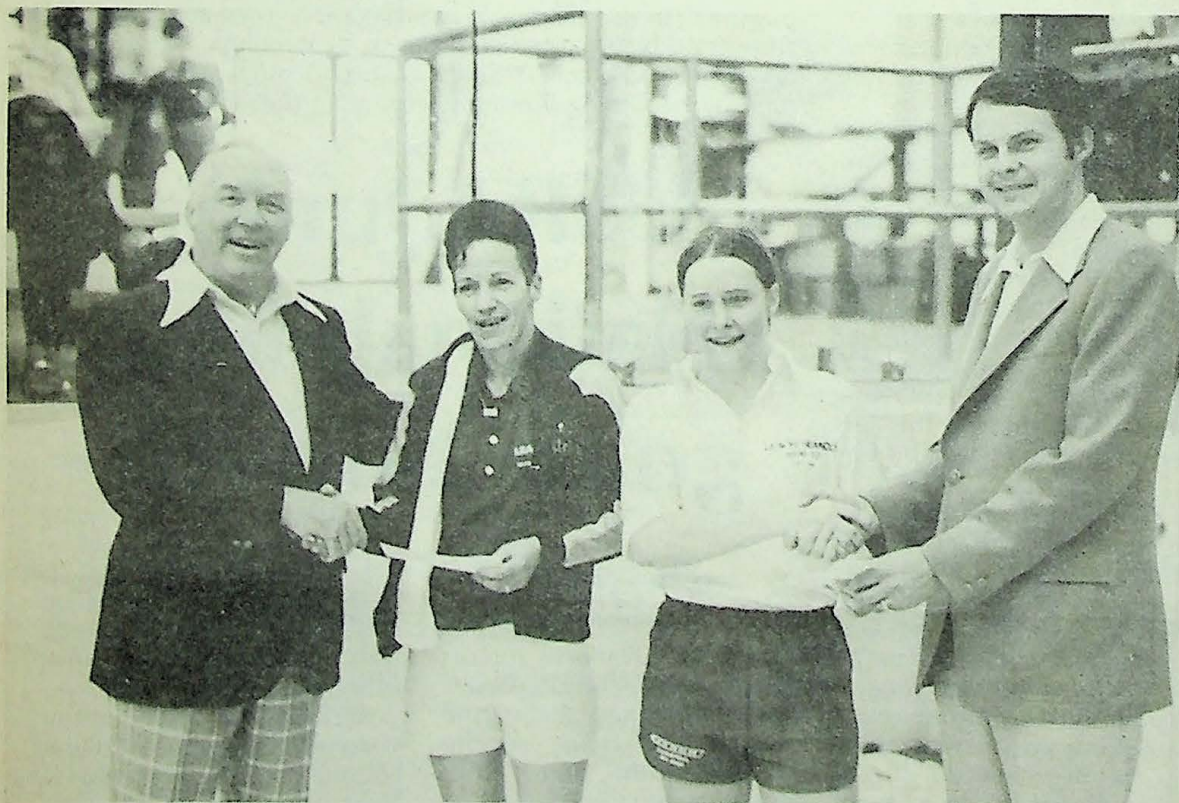
put in the evolution of a superior product.

What Hogan did confirmed everyone's feelings and then some. The 19-year-old blasted the ball 142 miles per hour, by far the hardest of anybody tested.

"The next hardest was 106 m.p.h.," said Chuck Leve, the U.S.R.A.'s national director who watched the testing. "We all knew Marty could hit, but 142 is amazing."

And many who watched Marty and the radar gun are convinced Hogan didn't give it his best shot. He was tested just before the finals of the IRA stop in Chattanooga against Charlie Brumfield, and may have been saving his energy.

The Seamco testing was monitored by president Al Mackie and national sales manager Bob Coate. Additionally, a staff from Georgia Tech conducted the testing.



Congratulating Peggy Steding and Shannon Wright (r) number one and two seeded women's pros are Bob Coate (l) national sales manager of Seamco and Seamco's vice-president of finance Fred Buchholz.

## Firm to host Las Vegas RB

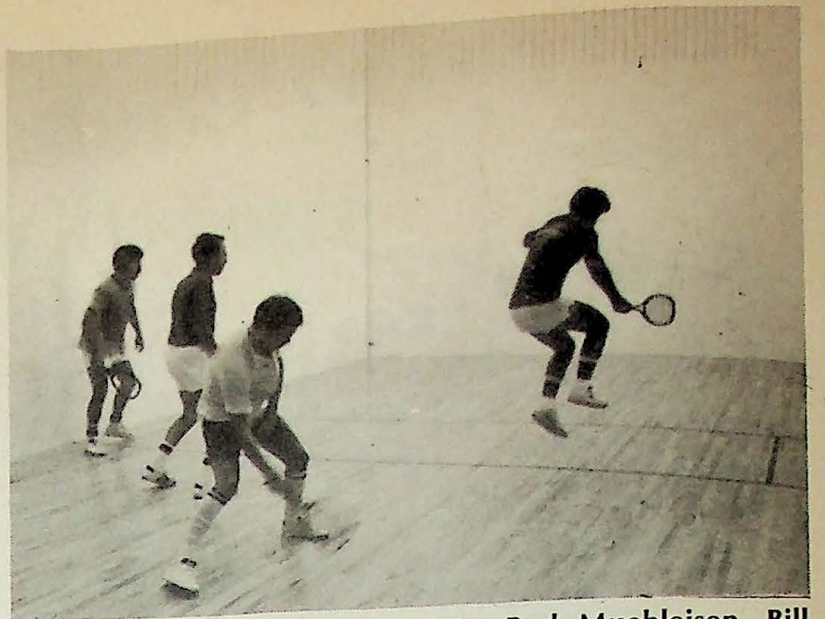
### Special Contribution

The Sunset Racquetsports of Overland Park, Kansas, will host a Racquetball Tournament at the Tropicana Hotel Racquetball Club in Las Vegas on Sunday, September 18,

1977, from 12 noon until 8 p.m. The tournament will coincide with the NATIONAL GOLF, TENNIS and RACQUETBALL TRADE SHOW, September 17-19.

The tournament will be for

only Court Club Owners, Managers and Sporting Goods Dealers. Those attending the Court Club Enterprises Seminar, the day before at the Tropicana, are also invited to participate.



(Left to right) Wayne Smyth, Dr. Bud Muehleisen, Bill Condratow, and Bob McNamara in their Senior Open Doubles Final of the Canadian Open RB tournament.

## Canadian Open held during Klondike Days

### Special Contribution

EDMONTON, Alberta, Canada — The 9th annual Canadian Open Racquetball Championships were held on July 20-23 during the historic Klondike Days Festival.

In the Men's Singles, Wayne Bowes of Edmonton defeated Bob Daku of Lethbridge, Alberta 21-19, 21-14. The Women's Singles found Dana Rassenti of Montreal nosing out Linda Forcade of Winnipeg 21-15, 21-10.

The Senior Open Singles found Dr. Bud Muehleisen of San Diego beating Bill Condratow of Vancouver 21-16, 21-9. In the Masters Singles Division, Bob McNamara of Minneapolis edged Ron Thompson of Regina 21-9, 21-7.

In the highly competitive Junior Men's Singles Division, Wayne Davidson of Edmonton showed his mastery of racquetball by beating tough

Wendell Talifer of Vancouver 21-18, 21-12.

The Men's Doubles found Bob Kraut and Gene Gibbs of San Francisco defeating Bowes and Daku 21-16, 21-20; while the Senior Open Doubles has Muehleisen and McNamara besting Wayne Smyth of Vancouver and Condratow 21-20, 21-5.

The tournament included more than 350 entries and was highlighted by a festive steak dinner and awards banquet with dancing afterwards.

Also, the annual "Racquetball Nut" award went to Muehleisen, which was presented to the person the Canadian Racquetball Association feels has contributed the most to Canadian Racquetball. Muehleisen is only the second American to be so honored in the seven years the award has been presented.



Charlie Brumfield vs. the new Seamco Sporting Goods Radar Unit.



# The story of a champion being dethroned

By David T. Northcutt  
Special Contributor

The stands at the Atlas Health Club, site of the 1976 and 1977 NRC National Championships, were filling up early in anticipation of a great match. To most people this Thursday night was like any other, but to racquetball fans in San Diego, it was a very special Thursday night. Chuck Leve, director of the NRC and referee of the upcoming match, was making sure that everything was going to run perfectly. No foul up would be permissible. Charlie Brumfield was defending his National Championship against Jerry Hilecher in the second quarter final match of the day.

Brumfield, as most of you know, is San Diego's five time National Champion, holder of all titles, and probably the most outstanding player over the years in our sports' short history. Jerry, a native of St. Louis, won the IRA Nationals in 1976 and also captured the first Pro tournament of the year, defeating Brumfield in an amazing and tough three game semifinal bout in Sacramento, California.

Brumfield walked up to the court acknowledging several friends in the stands, saying only a few words while putting on his glove. He walked onto the court as the crowd continued to pack in, taking their seats and positioning themselves for the best view. National Racquetball Club president Bob Kendler made his entrance, making salutations as he made his way to his seat.

Brumfield appeared very relaxed during his warm-up. Hitting several pinch kills to the right, one of his favorite shots, and alternating to ceiling balls. As Brumfield warmed-up, Hilecher walked into the court area. He was dressed in his warm-up suit and seemed a little tense.

As they warm-up, the stands continued to stuff with spectators. There wasn't a seat to sit in or a spot to stand on that wasn't taken. The excitement in the crowd filled the air so that one could feel the sensations of excitement and anticipation. All were wondering at the end of a long season with no victories, could Brumfield defeat Hilecher and continue on to the next battleground and be successful until he would meet Marty Hogan in the finals, for a re-match of last year. It was Brumfield's serve as referee Leve called "play ball."

Brumfield captured the first game 21-11, and exited the court in a "matter of fact" manner. He was very composed as he walked calmly over to the stairs and sat down, drying his glasses as he did. Hilecher seemed undaunted by his first game defeat. His face was full of the intensity that was needed to

overcome the National Champ.

During the first game, Jerry had hit many balls into the floor. "Shooters", who are cold, have that tendency for that kind of mistake. The shooter began a blazing hot streak in the second game. Brumfield, playing consistently controlled shots, forced Hilecher to retrieve well placed passes. The pace of the game livened as the score reached double figures for both players.

Both men found themselves on the floor several times during mind-dazzling rallies that seemed impossible to continue. Hilecher drove Brum to the backwall with several backhand flip ceiling balls. In a hurried scamper, Brum retrieved the ball and was back in center court in a

moment. The reverberation resounded through the court on into the gallery where it fell upon perked ears and mute tongues. Other times, the crowd erupted into an uproar of exaltation as they cheered on the phenomenal play displayed by both men.

As their scores grew closer to 21, Brum played safer and Hilecher played with reckless abandon. But reckless only in the sense of percentages. Hilecher attempted to kill on almost every shot, nearly all of which were rolling out to greet Brum. Hilecher continued his drive until he pocketed game number two by the score of 21-19.

It's winner-take-all in the race to eleven points. The crowd was to a pitch of frenzied excitement. It was by far the finest racquetball

match played up to this time. The tie-breaker would be the final decision in this match.

Brumfield had a definite look of concern on his face. Hilecher was filled with confidence and determination. It was evident as the players walked onto the court that a tremendous battle was about to ensue.

Brumfield was first to serve. With his ruffled hair and dampened goat-tee, he appeared as majestic as a lion, stant and unmoving. His glassy eyes were looking nowhere, yet everywhere. Hilecher awaited the serve with no gestures, no grimaces, preparing himself mentally for what was to come.

Brilliant play combined with precision shot gave Brum a 4-0 lead. The game pounded on with each player

relinquishing points only when the ball was placed so well that a dive was merely a hopeless gesture.

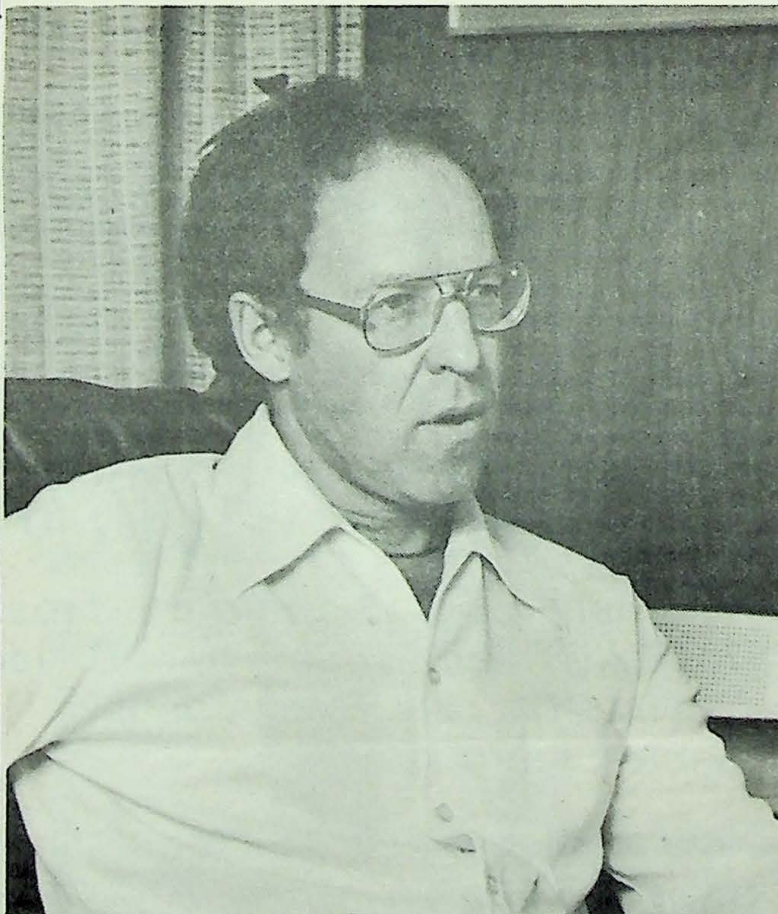
Successfully thwarting Brumfield's serves Hilecher countered with an amazing offensive drive. With a 10-6 lead, a Hilecher victory seemed all but assured.

The champion was not down yet. Brumfield brought together all of the concentration that has earned him 26 national titles. Executing perfect cross-court passes, he worked Hilecher into committing errors that he could capitalize on. Point by point, Brumfield brought the game to 9 serving 10. The crowd was estatic. In the upper gallery people were climbing and crawling anywhere so that they might

Continued to page 6

## M-M COURT SYSTEMS PRESENTS:

# Ask Dr. Bud about Racquetball!



**Dr. Bud Muehleisen**  
President, M-M Court Systems  
1977 I.R.A. Masters Champion  
1977 U.S.R.A. Masters Champion  
1977 Canadian Seniors Champion

For Dr. Bud to answer your questions, please send your correspondence to: M-M Court Systems, 2160 Fletcher Parkway, San Diego, Ca. 92020.

DEAR DR. BUD: Although I've never taken one of your clinics, I've seen you play several times. I'm a novice with a great love for the game. How can I improve my game faster?

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DEAR EAGER: I'm often asked this question by players of all calibre. Instruction, practice and competition are the three keys to success. If a player will take this constructive approach, he or she is well on the way to improving one's game as quickly as possible. To determine what makes the ball go up or down and/or right or left is the key to the foundation of the game. The sooner the individual is able to determine this on the court, the sooner he will derive even more enjoyment from the game.

DEAR DR. BUD: I've been reading the M-M ads for two years and have been comparing them with other companies in the racquetball industry. What makes M-M Court Systems so unique?

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sirs:

Outdated as this article may appear, I feel that mention should be made of an excellent racquetball tournament held last December 17th. in which no publicity was sought, asked or given.

The host site was the Century Racquetball Club of West Los Angeles, a beautiful ten court facility, and only three months old/new when the tournament was held, with the full backing and enthusiasm of all concerned, when the reason for the tournament was given- all proceeds to be donated to the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

Singles events only were held, in A, B, C, Novice and Masters Divisions, with over 200 entrants. All matches went off on time and tremendous enthusiasm was shown by members and guests, by filling the gallery for each and every match, and being only one week before Christmas, the holiday spirit was prevalent. Add the free beer, wine and cheese that was available to everyone, and one can see why this was one of Los Angeles' finest racquetball moments.

Thanks must be given to Leach Industries, who donated shirts (worth \$18.00 each) to all entrants, and an ample supply of Seamco balls were also donated.

Charlie Brumfield came up from San Diego, and with the help of the club's resident pro, Jay Jones, auctioned off many items donated by local store owners, and Nike donated shoes and bags. Many of the club employees really helped to get the auction going by bidding between themselves, buying the item, then donating it back for resale.

One of the items donated for the auction was a beautiful

diamond pin, and because Charlie really liked it, he started the bidding himself, then the rivalry usually shown on the court surfaced during the auction, when Jay constantly outbid Charlie. When the bidding reached \$50.00, it was decided that Charlie and Jay would go down on the court and play the best of three games, with the winner getting the pin for the \$50.00 donation. I was fortunate indeed, to be asked to referee the match. Needless to say, there was great excitement and fun, with the first two games split, and Charlie just taking the third game. Jay told me later with a smile that he let Charlie take the last game, as the pin would not have looked good on him.

The trophies presented to winners and runners-up in all divisions were the finest and the largest I have ever seen, and being the proud recipient of one of them myself (Winner-Masters Singles), I can vouch that it measures 2'6" in height. Incidentally, in spite of the expensive trophies, free beer, wine, etc., the whole tournament was made possible on an entrant fee of only \$10.00.

The tournament just had to be a success as we were honored to have as a guest, Bobbie Bible, the West Coast's answer to Billy Graham, and a darned good racquetball player as well. With giving his blessing to the tournament it enabled us to raise \$2500 for the Children's Hospital. When the owner of the club, Al Coler, heard how much had been raised, he was so touched, that he pulled out his checkbook and made a personal donation of \$500.00.

Is another similar charity event planned around Christmas, 1977? You bet your life it is!

Sincerely,  
Bernard Cromwell

Dear Sirs:

Your newspaper is read in my household within five minutes of its arrival. There are three racquetballers in our home and each of us very thoroughly enjoy reading the News.

We miss one area of coverage which could be increased: professional referees for racquetball! If there is a school, or is one in the planning stages, a course of instruction which will turn out quality, or above average referees for the sport?

Although I prefer singles

matches, I had the good fortune to referee a doubles match for Doc Hanna and Dan Seaton while at the tournament in Las Vegas. It was both exhilarating and frustrating. Had there been other players not of the quality of Hanna/Seaton, my gig as referee would have been miserable. I did learn, however. I have refereed many matches and enjoy it tremendously. I and my family would welcome a professional school for referees. We feel it is sorely needed.

Sincerely,  
Mike La Bonne

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## A Champion is dethroned

Continued from page 5

get a better glimpse of the game.

Brumfield served a Z serve to Hilecher's backhand. A ceiling ball by Hilecher brought Brumfield to the back wall where he in turn hit a ceiling ball. Hilecher was first to break the rally with an attempted kill down the left wall. Brum countered with a cross-court to the right. A desperation return by Hilecher brought the ball left side wall, front wall, right wall where it bounced into center court for a plum. Brumfield attempted a pinch kill but left the ball eight inches up on the front wall. A diving get by Hilecher kept the ball in play only to give Brum another set-up in center court. Brumfield again left the ball about eight inches up on the front wall, with the ball driving down the right line. Miraculously, Hilecher made it up and another dive again saved the rally. Individuals in the crowd were crying out for Brumfield to kill the ball. Hilecher's shot rebounded off the walls for a center-court set-up for the third consecutive time.

For an unknown reason, Brumfield was unable to kill the ball. A right corner pinch again came out too high. Hilecher was in position and passed Brumfield down the right line. A diving get by Brum saved the play but as it came off the left side wall, Hilecher accomplished what Brumfield could not and rolled the ball out to relieve him of the serve. There were 38 shots exchanged during the rally.

The psychological uplift Hilecher received from winning such an intense rally was evident as he walked up to the service box. Brumfield

gained serve once more, but to no avail. Ten seconds later, it was over.

Brumfield extended his hand in congratulations. Hilecher had a slight smile on his face, but it was still too early after the game for him to unwind and completely enjoy his victory.

There was no smile on Brumfield's face and understandably so. Walking off the court he acknowledged Charlie

Drake's presence, picked up his bags and made his way to the showers. In the crowd, there were mixed emotions. Many were crying. Some for joy, others for grief. The "Old Pro" had been defeated by a young, upcoming player.

Will he return to the throne next year? No one really knows, but one thing is for sure. No one else will ever again win 20 tournaments in a row, for there will never be another Charlie Brumfield.

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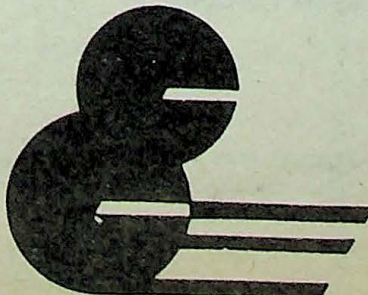
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# Maryland holds State Singles Championships

## Special Contribution

BALTIMORE, Md. — The 1977 Maryland State Singles Championships were held on April 16 and 17 at Towson State College. The event was sponsored by the Maryland Racquetball Association and the Maryland Handball-Racquetball Association. The souvenir T-shirts were donated by Ektelon and the balls were supplied by Seamco.

In the Men's Open, Richard Driesen (Rockville JCC) defeated two-time Maryland State Champ Tom Whipple (Players Club) in two games 15-6, 15-13. Whipple breezed into the quarters where Tom Olson (Whitemarsh) had ideas of the big upset, but Whipple managed to pull it out 15-11, 7-15, 15-10. In the semifinals, Whipple played Charlie Sullivan (University of Maryland) and defeated him 15-5, 15-9.

Driesen, on the other hand, went three games both in the quarters and the semis. For third place, Sullivan defeated Tom Cutler (Rockville JCC) 15-9, 15-11.

Sullivan also won the Seniors title, defeating defending champion Larry Becker (Baltimore JCC) 15-5, 15-10. Ben Lipira (Towson Y) took third place by defeating John Mautz (Easton Y) 15-3, 15-4.

There was a full draw of 64 in the Men's B Division. Eric Foley (Columbia Athletic Club), Regional Juniors Champ, outlasted all of his opponents before beating Vaughn Dille (Columbia Athletic Club) 12-15, 15-6, 15-4. Chuck Duda (Columbia AC) took third place by defeating

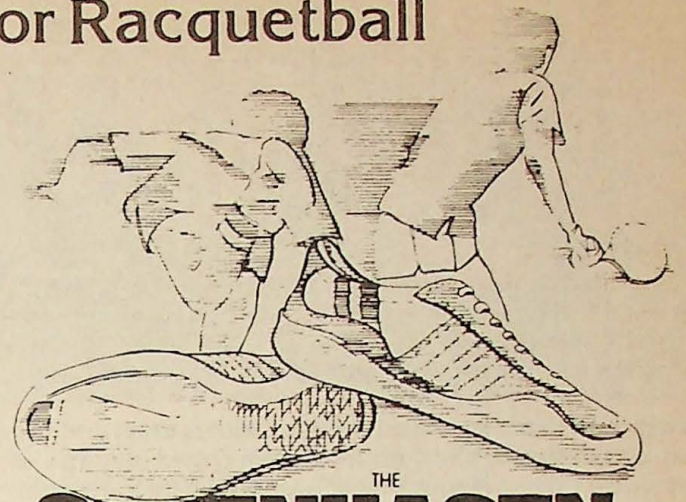
Dennis Serpico (Columbia AC) 15-6, 15-8.

Some of the best action came in the Women's Open division. The eventual champion, Brenda Loube (Rockville JCC), met her doubles partner, Carol Clements (Whitemarsh), in the Finals after easing through the earlier rounds, and beat Clements 15-9, 15-8.

In the match for third place, Helga Forest (Columbia AC) beat Margo Barton (Morgan State) 15-5, 14-16, 15-4.

In the Young Men's Division, Henry Friedlander (Baltimore JCC) captured the Masters Crown by beating tournament director Don Potter (Towson Y) 15-11, 15-3.

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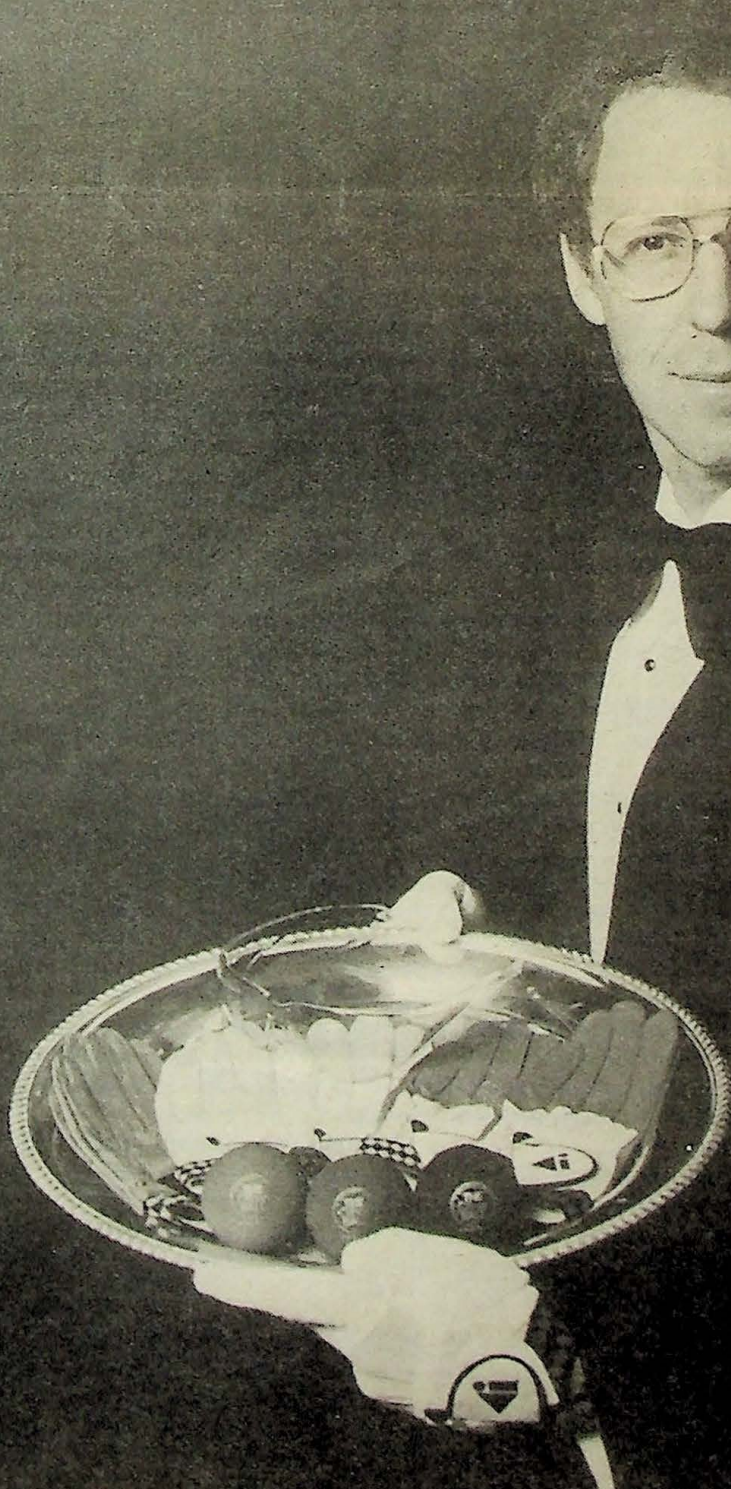
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Photos will be returned only when accompanied by a self-addressed envelope of correct size and with proper postage.

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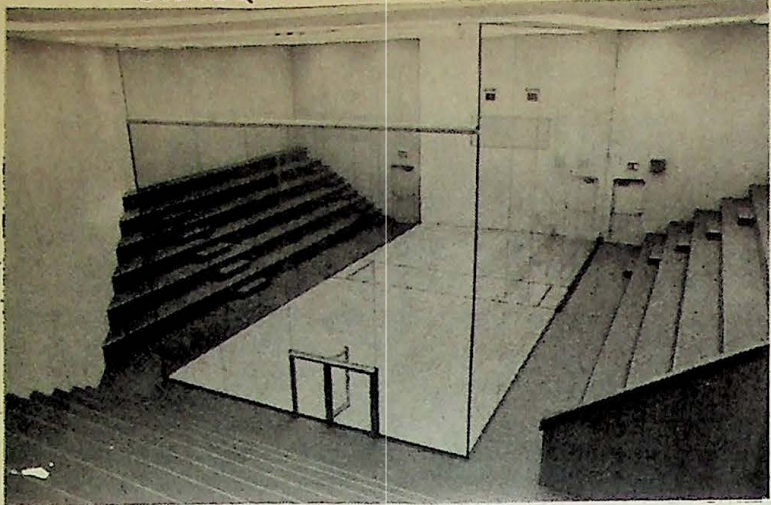


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Photo by Robert Henderson Design

## King's Court Complex opens in California

### Special Contribution

WESTMINSTER, Cal. — King's Racquetball Court, Orange County's newest racquetball facility, has officially welcomed players with their grand opening and ribbon cutting on Saturday, July 30. Present at the ceremony were Charles Hohl, E.O. Rodeffer (owners), Westminster Mayor Joy Neugabauer, Miss Westminster and members of the Westminster City Council, Chamber of Commerce and Ambassadors Club.

King's Racquetball Court features 19 air-conditioned racquetball/handball courts, and luxurious facilities for both men and women. A large co-ed Jacuzzi surrounded by green plants is available for a refreshing pick-up after the game.

Three of King's courts have one or more glass walls. One of the courts, appropriately named the "Royal Court", has three glass walls and courtside seating for 450 spectators. This "Royal Court" is one of the most expensive ever built in the United States, and has been planned to permit extensive television coverage of tournaments and professional competitions. A specially constructed front wall with opening TV port permits exclusive coverage of front and rear court action, which is often the most extensive and intense in the game. Local TV stations have expressed interest in covering tournaments with KOCE-Channel 50 of Golden West College scheduled to televise live the finals of the King's Joust Tournament on Saturday, August 27th.

Players at the court do so by obtaining one of five types of "play licenses." These licenses, an exclusive feature of King's, permit players to purchase enough play time for their own desires and needs. This eliminates the usual high initiation fee with monthly dues, and places racquetball play well within the financial reach of all.

Tournament play in the glass courts at King's is assisted by the latest in sports electronic gadgetry. Digital read-out scoring controlled from within the courts keeps the score in front of the players and spectators alike. A unique electronic "Hawk-eye" system scans the floor and the front wall to identify faults in a game which rockets the ball at speeds often exceeding 100 mph.

The professional staff of 14 including pro-players and physical conditioning trainers offer programs such as FREE child care while playing, weight reduction and weight training, and various levels of instruction from beginners to pros. An on-premises pro-shop features a full line of racquetball accessories and sports clothing.

Hohl, owner and General Manager, has dedicated King's Court to serving the racquetball player, and catering to a growing sports activity in Southern California.

# Thurman, Walton big winners in Santa Ana Tourney

### Special Contribution

SANTA ANA, Cal. — Four hundred players converged on the Santana Courts on July 21-24, to vie for first place in the nineteen events at the second annual Aloha Tournament. All participants were treated to the Santana hospitality and enjoyed all of the action. The winners earned their victories as each event was filled to capacity with players coming from all parts of California.

The Men's Open hosted a strong draw of 26 players with many top players going out early. Bill Thurman of Riverside came out on top after besting Newport Beach's John Davidson in the semifinal and Steve Mondry in the quarters. Davidson had an impressive round of sixteen match win over Washington state's IRA Junior National Champ Jeff Larson, who was up for his first bout in a California Open draw. The other finalist, Brian Cloud of Tarzana, beat Kirk Williams of Los Angeles in the sixteens and continued his string of upsets with wins over R.O. Carson, who held the third seed and Santana's club pro, Mike Alderson, in the semifinals. The final was where the dark horse victories ended as Cloud found the experience of Thurman more than he could handle.

Open Doubles hosted a strong group of teams with the San Diego team of Jim Pool and Gary Lusk taking top honors over John Davidson and Michael McGovern. The Saturday night semi-final between Davidson-McGovern and Alderson-Thurman was one of the best of the tournament. Left-handed Davidson wasn't missing, but Alderson and Thurman were determined to make it a close match for the upset victors to move into the Finals. The other semi match put number one seed team of Pool-Lusk against Larson-Ron Starkman. It was a good match but the final position was never at stake as Lusk-Pool dominated the match.

Though the Women's Open draw wasn't large, the quality was high and gave spectators a good match to view in the final. The match-up was

between the old rivals and friends Karin Walton and Judy Clemens. Karin dominated the first game but just pulled the second one out in time to beat Judy in two. The semis saw Evie Morguelan playing in her first tournament in well over a year giving a fine effort against this year's number one amateur, Karin Walton. The other semi matched San Diego's Karen Seavello against Clemens.

Howard Wendel wanted the B's and he got it as he bested Mike Nowak in an exciting finals match.

Bruce Hand came all the way down from Northern California and found that once you reach the quarters, it's not so easy to win the C Division after winning the tie-breaker against Long Beach's Willie Shaw. The semis put Bruce up against Louie Lucero and in the finals, he was able to pull it out against a tired, but still tough Tim Russell. The other C-semifinal saw a much-improved Mando Yeppers put forth a good effort against Russell. Battling through the 64 man draw in the Novice Division was tough, but John Flores and Paul Carlson managed to pull through into the finals. It wasn't easy, but Flores managed to win the tie-breaker and first place. The semis put Flores against Bob Ashmore and Carlson besting Joel Baldwin.

The so-called "Old Men's Division" proved that experience comes with age as every division filled to almost capacity to see who could come out number one in their age group. Senior Division Final was a fine match between La Mirada's Jim Moore and Allen Weckerly of San Diego. The semis saw Earle Castle fall to Moore's control and Canada's number one Senior player, Murdock Cranston fall to Weckerly. The Senior B Division was almost as tough with Lee Pretner pulling it out over Duane Cain. Pretner's semifinal win came over Bruce Hoegh and Ed Kleim found a semifinal defeat from Cain. The Masters proved they were the masters in racquetball in an exciting final in which Dick Kendall

beat Bill Carroll. Even the Golden Masters turned out and showed they have still got what it takes. In an exciting 11-10 tie-breaker, Nick Sans just barely pulled it out over E.O. Rodeffer.

With many of the Juniors enroute to Nationals, the draw for the younger division was minus a few faces, but the field was still a good one. Herky Penalosa of Long Beach found San Diego's Darren Weckerly more than he could handle in the Junior Final.

The women are getting much better and it sure was proven in the tournament. In the Women's B division, Gail DaVall lead the group with a final win over Cindy Moore. Women's C Division saw Sandy Van Dyne with a final win over Tracy Cain. Van Dyne had a tough time reaching the finals in a tough semifinal match with San Diego's Chris McGirr. Women's Novice division action saw Paula Piz-zifred find a final win over Chris McGirr.

The doubles draws were filled to capacity and all the matches were exciting. Dan Contreras and Mark Ludwig from Hayward took home the B Doubles crown with a final win over Bob Moore and Pete Maccarrone of Manhattan Beach. The Center Courts team of Chuck Garabedian and Robert Boriskin took the C Doubles with a win over Mike Combs and Richard Jones in the Finals. In the Senior Masters Doubles, the exciting finish saw Ron Starkman and Jerry Northwood come out on top by defeating Jim Moore and Murdock Cranston.

Mixed Doubles is growing rapidly and the size of the draw proved this. In the Lower Division Mixed Doubles, it was an all Riverside final with Mark Reyes and Darlene Hiemstra defeating Steve Paulos and Paula Piz-zifred. In the Mixed Upper Division, Jim and Kathy Pool squeaked by Gary Lusk and Karin Walton in the three game final.

All proceeds from this very successful tournament will be donated to the Pop Warner Football Program in Santa Ana.

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# Schroeder joins club as head professional

## Special Contribution

NILES, Ill. — Rod Schroeder, the Midwest Professional Tennis Association's 1977 "Pro of the Year," has joined Tam Tennis Club and has been named Resident Head Professional.

An accomplished tennis player in a career spanning thirteen years, as well as a leading coach and instructor for seven years, Schroeder will be in charge of all lesson programs and related member activities at the private indoor tennis and racquetball club.

Prior to joining Tam, he gained extensive experience as a teaching pro at several Chicago-area tennis clubs. Most recently, he served as Head Pro at Courts on 22 in Deerfield, Ill.

Schroeder is a registered USPTA and MPTA pro, the national and regional organizations for qualified teaching professionals. He also serves as secretary of MPTA and edits the Association's award-winning publication, Tennis Annual.

Schroeder's teaching qualifications include impressive results in coaching nationally ranked junior tennis players. His current group of proteges numbers seven Chicago-area youngsters ranging in age from 12 to 16 years.

A product of tennis teams at Bloom Township High School in Chicago Heights (1964-1966) and Carl Sandburg High School in Orland Park (1966-1968), Schroeder excelled as a player at the University of Illinois from 1968-1972. In his senior year, he was first in singles and first in doubles on the Illinois team and was named to the All-Big Ten tennis team that year.

As a playing teaching pro, he took the Illinois State Open Singles Championship in 1975 and was on the doubles championship team in 1976. He currently plays against other teaching professionals in the Midwest Indoor Circuit and ranks first in doubles and third in singles competition.

In his new position at Tam Tennis Club, Schroeder is assembling a new staff of leading tennis and racquetball teaching professionals. "Our aim is to offer member-oriented lesson programs and league and tournament activities second to none," he remarked.

Toward this end, he hopes to instill his own philosophy of developing rapport with each student as the essential element in producing results. "Any success and recognition I have enjoyed as an instructor can be credited to the fact that I love to teach and get involved personally with my students. My staff will share this attitude, because students

gain confidence and learn more when they know their instructor really cares and would rather be teaching than doing anything else," he explained.

Tam Tennis Club is located at 7686 North Caldwell Avenue in Niles, on the site of the old Tam O'Shanter Country Club. The air conditioned facility opened in the fall of 1972 and has eight indoor tennis courts and five indoor handball/racquetball courts.

Further information concerning Club membership is available any day of the week at the clubhouse or by phoning 967-1400.

## the center courts

RACQUETBALL / HANDBALL



Racquetball comes to the movies—Michael Crichton poses with a group of actresses after their audition for a racquetball part in the movie, "Coma." Crichton wrote the screenplay for the best-seller book, "Coma," and will direct the movie for M.G.M.

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## San Diego Chapter

# Profile of a growing Association

By Marla Brayshay  
Special Contributor

The sport of racquetball is growing by leaps and bounds in the United States. It is quickly becoming the nation's most popular sport. San Diego is the hotbed of all racquet activity. There are approximately 10 professional players and eight alone live in San Diego County.

Racquetball is a take-off from tennis and handball. The ball is similar to a handball with a lot of bounce, and the racquet is short in length with tennis-size head. In the county, there are roughly 25 racquetball facilities. All the schools are offering racquetball as an additional physical education course.

Because San Diego has such an expanding population of athletes interested in racquetball, the San Diego Racquetball Association was created to combine an organization which would combine the different levels and form a competitive league.

The SDRA was founded on March 3rd, 1974 with a goal to promote the sport of racquetball and the sportsmanship, an essential part of the game.

John Steinbacher, president and founder of the SDRA, moved from Los Angeles to the San Diego area as an "A" ranked squash player. Upon coming to the southland, there wasn't an organization or courts to facilitate his needs for squash racquets, so he became interested in racquetball. The rules are similar, but the strategy is different.

"The purpose of founding the SDRA is to form a players' association at the local county level and sponsor various activities," said Steinbacher. "The outcome of this organization is 17 clubs participating throughout the county and three leagues composed of seven clubs each."

Racquetball could easily become the businessman's sport. Steinbacher says many

men work out at their particular racquet club for an hour or so, shower and then go back to work. The exercise from racquetball is concentrated and is a great conditioner.

Clubs are located around the county for executives to take time after work to exercise or stop by on their way home. Many high school and college students prefer playing late at night when they receive discount prices off the prime time rates. A racquetball club in San Diego County may join the SDRA after receiving approval of 75% of the member clubs and paying a \$10 yearly fee. As to date, the people playing in racquetball leagues is estimated to be close to 500 persons. All belonging to the SDRA are eligible for sponsored league play.

"The form of government is democratic (majority rule) with some minor powers delegated to committees," said Steinbacher. "Each officer, members of the Board of Directors and each participating club has one vote on all SDRA matters."

To be eligible for legislative matters, the voter must be present for the debate of an issue and the vote. No one person may ever cast more than one vote.

To be a ranked player, you must win with a first or second place in the division to be moved ahead to the next division. Once a player exceeds to another division, he cannot play in the lower division, unless he cannot keep his higher ranking.

"A lot of professional players don't play in tournaments because they don't like to keep up with their ranking and statistics," said Steinbacher. "There is never competition within each specified ranking, but some work just hard enough to keep their position and never advance on the ladder."

If a person does well in a given class or three rounds of play, the player is considered in that specific class. Once

you have reached a certain division, you cannot digress to a lower class. You always play the next advanced player.

As a rule, however, if a player consistently loses in the first round of a tournament in a particular class, then he can drop down or go back to the class from which he began.

The SDRA follows the National Racquetball Club statistics on ranking an individual for tournament play. The ranking policies are as follows: NOVICE — A player may play in novice divisions until he wins any trophy or award in any major tournament "C": A player may play in "C" division activities until such time as he (she) wins one first or two seconds (in doubles or singles). "B": Rules are the same for the "B" players as the "C" above. "A": A player may play in "A" or open division activities until winning \$250 in prize money. Players then achieve professional status.

There are 5000 active racquetball players in the county. The nucleus of players are in the "C" division. To achieve status in the higher divisions requires much more skill and physical stamina. That racquetball ball isn't as easy to get to as it may appear. After an hour or so of a racquetball workout, your body is definitely worked out!

Many people think racquetball is a sport of flailing your racquet at a little black object, but it does require a certain skill. Strategy is developed after playing for long periods of time or working with pros. There are certain racquet positions that when stroking the ball, you get a squash or ping pong sound.

When hit solidly, the ball squashes against the wall and flattens out. Then it bounces with an angle to the opposite walls. The objective is to hit the crotch (right angles or two corners of the wall) and bounce back. The back wall is used and can be developed to be a very tricky shot.

For all SDRA sponsored events, the public is always invited and welcomed to attend. Racquetball players are a different breed of people. Just like any other person who is involved in something they like best, they stick to what they believe and enjoy. It has been known for a player to be hit in the face and practically have his nose removed by a racquet waiting defensively for his opponent to make his play. Spectators can even come in contact with physical danger, as the ball flies out of control over the top of the court and hits a spectator in the eye.

Racquetball is a sport of endurance and stability matched with quickness and reflexes. The court is not that large (10 feet by 40 feet), but you really travel over the court surfaces.

The difference between an average player and a good player is the ability to reach the ball and hit it accurately.

"San Diego is the strongest area for racquetball," said Steinbacher. "This is the hotbed and the founding spot for the sport."

Racquetball is booming so

wide in San Diego, that a division for the Women's Racquetball League was also formed. A unique aspect of this league is that babysitting is provided while the women are competing for their particular club.

Many tennis players switch to racquetball and vice-versa. The old myth that once you become good in a sport, you must only stay there, is not true. Many athletes now intermingle each sport. There are drawbacks to these however. Racquetball requires more wrist movement than tennis, so your techniques do get mixed up.

For all active racquetball players and enthusiasts, get out and take notice of what the SDRA has done for the sport of racquetball. Tournaments are played nearly every weekend and the players do enjoy the public's support. If you are not interested in tournament play, watching ranked players psychologically helps your own game. It also kindles the fire to get on the court more often.

The main objective is to have fun!

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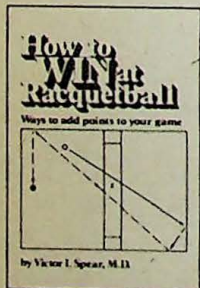
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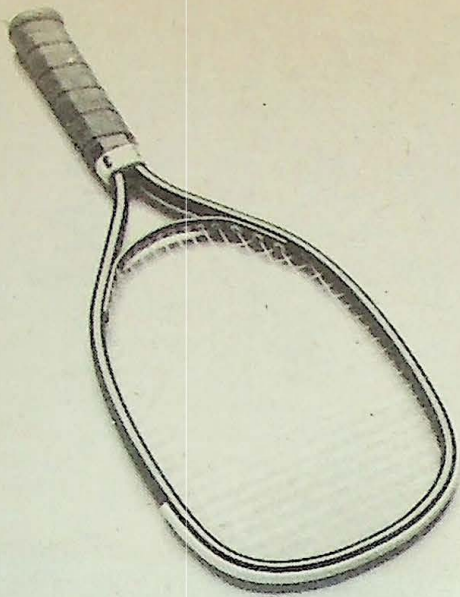
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# new products



Ektelon announces a new racquet designed especially to meet the needs of junior racquetball players. Named the DEMON, the new racquet is the shortest and lightest made by Ektelon. It measures 17 1/2 inches long and weighs only 240 grams.

The Ektelon Demon features a large, modified rectangular head shape to assure greater ball response and a tighter string pattern for increased control and longer string life.

Demon's aluminum frame has been anodized in eye-catching metallic green and carries Ektelon's famous one-year, full-service warranty against defects. Strings are warranted for ninety days.

A special leather grip was designed by Ektelon engineers for the Demon and is available in sizes small (4 1/8") and extra-small (3 5/8").

Ektelon will begin accepting orders for the racquet on September 1st. For more information on this racquet or the Magnum Flex, call (714) 286-1188.

Ektelon's new "Magnum Flex" racquetball racquet combines the reach and power of its classic Magnum racquet with a new flexibility that offers control game players better feel for the ball.

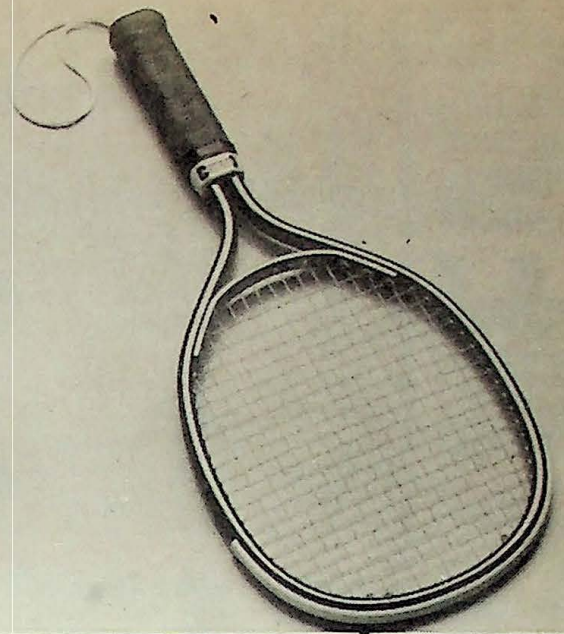
The Magnum Flex, which weighs 270 grams and measures 18 1/2 inches overall, features I-beam aluminum extrusion frame construction for flexibility and strength. The frame is anodized in "midnight" metallic blue and carries Ektelon's full-service, one-year guarantee against defects. The racquet is superbly balanced and equipped with a tough protective vinyl bumper.

Magnum Flex strings are made of neutral heat-welded nylon and are guaranteed for 90 days against breakage.

The new racquet's quadriform head shape has been optimized by Ektelon engineers to produce a large "sweet spot" for accurate performance.

Magnum Flex is available with either textured rubber or raised leather grips in sizes extra small (3 15/16"), small (4 1/8"), medium (4 5/8") and large (4 1/2"), and each Magnum Flex comes with a handsome vinyl head cover.

Ektelon will begin accepting orders on September 1st.



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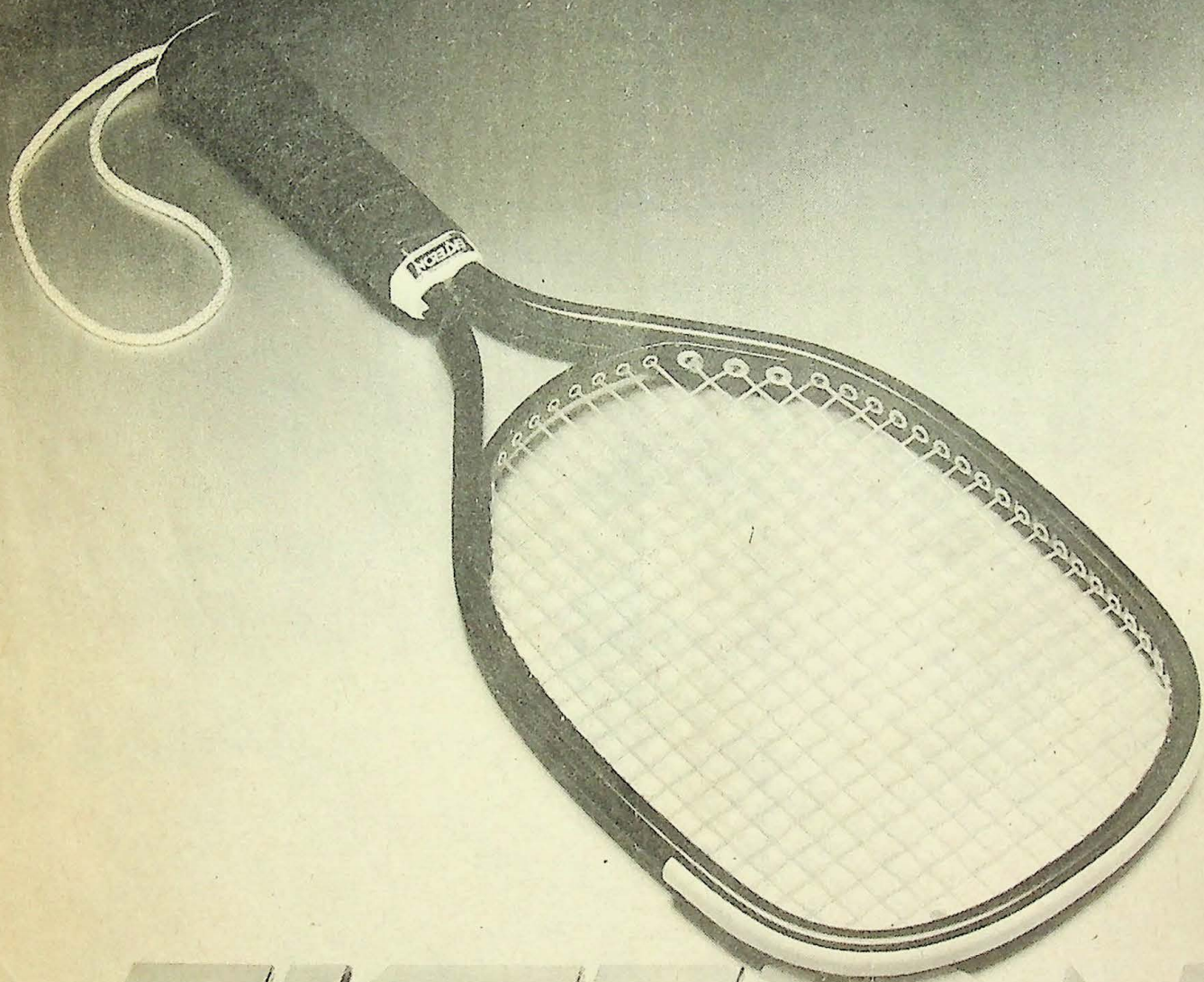


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