

**RACQUETBALL TRIVIA #7 – Answers**  
**By Jim Easterling**  
**Wednesday 3-19-2025**

1. D. The Seamless 558 (a black ball) was the first racquetball advertised in the very first racquetball magazine. (Racquetball – 1972 November – Page 13)



2. B. Kathy Williams was the manager of the Racquetime Club.  
(National Racquetball – 1974 Sept. – Page 23)
3. A. Don Thomas signed a one-year contract with a clothing company.  
(National Racquetball – 1983 Sept. – Page 1, 10 and front cover)
4. The three players who had a #1 season ending ranking four times or more were Charlie Brumfield (1972-73-75 "NRC" – 75 "IRA" – 76), Marty Hogan (1978-79-80-81-89) and Mike Yellen (1983-84-85-86-87) "Pro Racquetball Stats" ([www.proracquetballstats.com](http://www.proracquetballstats.com)) This site is updated by Todd Boss.

5. C. The Seamco 558 (black ball) had IRA on it and its can for a very short period (one year?) because the Seamco 558 became the Official Ball for the amateurs at any NRC/USRA racquetball tournament. Therefore, other organizations like IRA could not use this ball.



(This is from Jim Easterling's collection)

6. The two people who received credit for the National Referee Certification program adapted by AARA were Michael Arnolt and Jim Hiser. (National Racquetball – 1984 Aug. – Page 34)
7. C. Andy Roberts was dressed up to look like the Terminator. The wording “He’s Back and He’s #1” was on the front cover of a racquetball magazine. (Killshot – 1992 Jan/Feb – Page 24 and front cover)
8. B. Ruben Gonzalez was the Pro who advertised “Integrity”. (Killshot – 1991 Nov/Dec – Page 9)
9. A. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Long Island Open had 964 players from 18 States. (Racquetball – 1991 March/April – Page 27)
10. The two Pros with their names on the copper color Ektelon racquets were Steve Strandemo and Mike Yellen.



11. The six people inducted into the USRA Racquetball Hall of Fame in 1997 were Lynn Adams, Heather McKay, Marty Hogan, Mike Yellen, Dave Peck and Chuck Leve.  
(USA Racquetball web site under Hall of Fame)
12. Jack Hughes was the co-founder of CARA who started an Educational Scholarship Award. He also served on the USA Racquetball Board and the Hall of Fame Committee.
- 13.D. Usher Barnoff is the contractor who has been managing the ranking system for numerous years. I spoke with Usher (7-25-21) and he said that he invented this system in 2003 and has been contracted by the National Racquetball Association ever since.
- 14.C. Sportcraft was the first racquetball racquet advertised in a magazine.  
(It was called a Paddle Racket) (ACE – 1969 August – Page IRA-5)



15. Big D is Derek Robinson who came in 2<sup>nd</sup> (in the Men's Pro) at the U.S. Open in 2003. Big D lost in the finals to Kane Waselenchuk. (Racquetball – 1998 Nov/Dec – Page Front Cover)
16. Doug Ganim and Dan Obremski are the Men's Open team who won National Doubles Racquetball Championships in 1986, 87, 89 and ten years later in 1998. (Racquetball – 1998 Nov/Dec – Page Front Cover)
- 17.D. Geoff Peters refereed a racquetball match between Dave Peck and Mike Yellen and the score was -3 serving 7. (I cannot verify this in a magazine but I was talking to Geoff Peters (11-17-21) and he told me about this game that he refereed in Chicago in 19???)
- 18.D. Lotto was the shoe worn by Mike Yellen and Jennifer Harding. (Racquetball – 1979 March – Page 10)
19. The two National Racquetball magazines - May 1979 and June 1979 – were published with two different front covers. One magazine had the regular cover and the other magazine had a cover with the words SAMPLE COPY printed on the front cover. I spoke with Chuck Leve (4-9-21) who was listed as the National Director and Editor in the magazine at the time and he said he had no idea why this was done. (USA Racquetball website and click on Publications)



- 20.A. The person to receive the very first AARA college scholarship was Eric Muller. (VHS tape of 1991 National Doubles)

## **DID YOU KNOW:**

That Dorance Frymire played barefooted in a tournament years ago?  
(I spoke with Mike Zeitman, sometime in 2024, and he told me that he did not remember his name but he played a person at a few tournaments a few times who played barefoot.)  
(ACE – 1969 June – Page IRA-3)

Did you know that Dayton made a steel frame racquet in 1969.  
(ACE – 1969 June – Page IRA-3)

The largest amateur Women's Only racquetball tournament (that I am aware of) was conducted in Sterling Heights, Michigan, Feb. 1-3, 1980. Approximately 201 women entered this tournament. I can prove that this tournament happened (MRA Newsletter – August 1979 – Front page) but I cannot validate the number of women. The tournament director, Kathy Zale, did not write an article about this tournament in our State Association Newsletter. The only reason I know there were ~201 women in this event is because I (Jim Easterling) assisted Kathy Zale complete the draw and helped run the tournament desk. Do you know of any amateur Women's Only racquetball tournament with over 200 women?

Chuck Leve gave Charlie Brumfield a technical, in a Pro match, before the match began.  
(YouTube – Chuck Leve Pro Racquetball Ref)

## **SOMETHING FUNNY:**

You know you're in trouble when . . .

The referee kisses your opponent for good luck.

They ask you at the front desk when you sent in your entry form.

The parking lot is empty when you arrive.

Your opponent has more than a dozen gloves on his bag.

There's a big crowd in the gallery and you don't know any of them.

It takes your opponent five minutes to select a ball.

At 7-7, your opponent calls time out and switches hands.

You hear the announcement, Last call for dinner and you're still playing the first game.

Your opponent has trouble fitting through the door.

You win the first point and your opponent throws a tantrum, calls a time out and changes racquets.

Your doubles partner tells you to just relax and let him take everything.

They ask you if you've had very much reffing experience as they hand you the card.

Your opponent is wearing a shirt that says, 1977 Nationals.

The referee turns out to be that stupid idiot you honked at in the parking lot.

Your racquetball bag feels unusually light.

The referee shows up holding a beer.

They call you to the front desk and ask you if you're in a hurry.

(This article was written by Tom Grobmisi – National Racquetball – Jan. 1985 – Page 7)

## **GREAT STORY:**

'Weirdest beginning to a match Award' goes to the referee who was assigned to the quarterfinal match in Atlanta between Caryn McKinney and Bonnie Stoll. After taking care of the pre-match business with the players, he flipped a quarter into the air to determine serve only to watch in dismay as it rolled around and around the court and finally came to rest . . . still standing on edge. I talked to Caryn McKinney-Russell on 6-16-21 and she talked to Bonnie Stoll and Bonnie said she mostly remember Caryn laughing as the coin kept rolling.

## **HELP:**

There was a paper tabloid called Wallbanger. I think this tabloid was published in the 1970's and 1980's. This tabloid included articles on racquetball, paddleball and other sports. If you have any of these, could you email me at [rbjim887@comcast.net](mailto:rbjim887@comcast.net) or call me at (517) 449-8942.