

National Racquetball

Vol. 10 No. 5

May, 1981 • \$1.50



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THE NATIONALS

- Predicting the Winners
- Where to Find Racquetball Camps
- Goodbye, Racquetball Elbow

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National Racquetball®

Vol. 10 No. 5 May, 1981 • \$1.50

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Joani Turner, a member of the Arizona Athletic Club, drove into the desert to remind National Racquetball readers that it's time to enter the Nationals. For indoor shots of Joani see page 13 and then turn the page for the Nationals entry, which carries a May 22 deadline. The dazzling list of amateur prizes is on page 10.

—Don B. Stevenson photo

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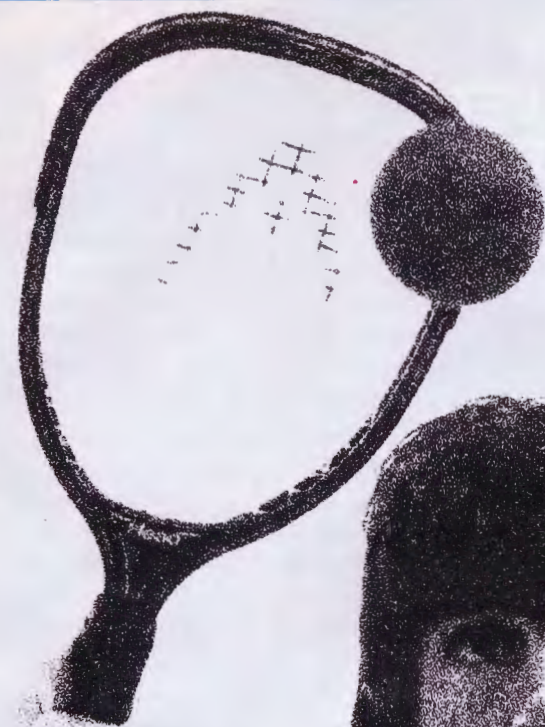
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The Aspen Club

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Cape Cod, Massachusetts

Hyannis Racquetball Club

August 3-28

We're happy to announce that our 1981 camps will be in 2 beautiful settings this summer—the mountains of Aspen, Colorado in July, and the Atlantic Ocean of Cape Cod, Massachusetts in August. Hopefully, our racquetball instructional program, along with these locations will excite you to come and join us for an enjoyable week of racquetball.

Basic tuition of \$350 for the instructional package includes: approximately forty hours of instruction at each five day session, teaching handouts, and numerous social activities. A \$100 non-refundable deposit must accompany your application for the session of your choice. The deposit will guarantee you a position in one of the seven sessions offered this summer. Upon receipt of your deposit you will be sent a complete information package of what you can expect at the Steve Strandemo Racquetball Camp this summer. Send application at right and address all inquiries to:

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July 20-24

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August 10-14
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Steve Strandemo Racquetball Camps



The luxurious Aspen Club will be the host facility for our first three sessions. Located in the mountains of Colorado, Aspen offers many exciting summer activities for you and your family, ranging from hiking, horseback riding, fishing, golfing and an excellent night life.

The next four sessions of camp will be located in historical Cape Cod, Massachusetts at the Hyannis Racquetball Club. Hyannis, located just minutes from the Atlantic seaboard, has a distinct New England atmosphere. August activities include sailing, deep sea fishing, golf and miles of sandy beaches. In the evening, great entertainment can be found at the world famous Melody Tent.

Both clubs are superb facilities complete with glass-walled exhibition courts, restaurants, jacuzzis, lounge areas and spacious locker rooms. In addition, hotel accommodations at both sites are within easy walking distance to and from the clubs. Also, Aspen and Hyannis offer convenient airport access from major international airports.

The Steve Strandemo Racquetball Camps offer expert instruction for racquetball players of any ability. Steve draws on his 6 years of previous camp experience to personally analyze each student's game and give the on-court instruction. In addition to extensive personal observation, video tape replay allows each student to see himself as Steve and his staff sees him. To achieve the goal of filling the individual learning needs of every camp participant, Steve and his staff are available at all times outside class to answer questions and provide individual help.

Each 5 day session will include on-court training and practice, lectures, demonstrations, chalk talks by Steve, teaching materials, individual video taping analysis, 1980-81 Pro tour video tapes and more. The camp will be a comprehensive approach encompassing all aspects of the game of racquetball. It is quite simply the most outstanding and respected racquetball teaching institution in existence.

These luxurious facilities in their beautiful vacation areas, combined with our solid instructional program, will provide you with a never to be forgotten experience.

Opinions

From Bob Kendler

The full value of the 1981 Leach Pro-Am Racquetball Tournament package—including fees, amateur prizes, scholarships and cash—is \$100,000.

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My How You've Grown

Let me take you down Memory Lane, if you please. It's Sept. 30, 1973 and Steve Serot is battling Bill Schmidtke for the first National Racquetball Club pro championship. The location is the Downtown Y.M.C.A. in Houston, TX. The overall prize money is \$5,000 with \$1,500 for first place and \$1,000 for second. Serot, the boy wonder from St. Louis and the youngest player in the tournament, is— you guessed it— the winner 21-20, 21-9.

The following month in Long Beach, CA Steve Keeley beats Charlie Brumfield for first place. Altogether there are four stops our first year and a total prize money of \$20,000. The real champions are the people who put up the money, giving racquetball a whole new image and telling sports fans everywhere that racquetball is here to stay.

Now let's get back to today. Money is still important to pro racquetball. But at this year's Nationals— amateur racquetball gets a new image, too, as players compete for a fabulous package of prizes donated by Diversified Products of Opelika, AL. This year's winners will play even better racquetball in the future as they start using their prizes— a selection of physical fitness equipment from the Diversified 96 page catalogue you see pictured here.



It is both fitting and proper that, as we make this announcement, we salute the man who is behind it. That man is Cal James, president of Diversified Products and, incidentally, the brother of Alabama's great governor— the Honorable Bob C. James. It should be noted that although Cal hasn't won any racquetball titles, he was prep All American at Baylor in Chattanooga and Varsity Football Letterman (1957, 58 and 59) and captain of the freshman football team (1956) at Georgia Tech. But that's not all.

He had two years of active duty as officer and instructor in Advanced Field Artillery, attaining the rank of Captain. And— believe it or not— the man who's backing racquetball today was coach of the 1962 Fourth U.S. Army Championship wrestling team. It is certainly to racquetball's credit that it attracts sponsors of the caliber of Diversified Products and men of the stature of Cal James. We can be proud, indeed, that the nation's leader in physical fitness products is now also the leader in racquetball.

Besides providing cash awards and prizes for the Nationals our sponsors have made sure all amateur players will have free seats for the pro events. Amateur participants will have tickets for every match, every day, so they can learn from and be entertained by the best in the game. And Carl Porter of the Arizona Athletic Club will supply hospitality the way only Carl Porter can.

As long as we are passing out bouquets, Charlie Drake also deserves a pat on the back. When you think how the pro tour has grown from its humble beginnings, you must give Charlie credit for a great

WHAT SOME PEOPLE DO TO THEIR FEET IS SIMPLY SHOCKING.



You slam them down. Twist them. Slam them down again. And then you wonder why your feet hurt and ache so much.

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support for your game
pro comfort
by Scholl



Look for Pro Comfort products at sporting goods and other fine retail outlets.

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part of that success. He is the man who has sold the idea of big awards, big tournaments and a big future to the big manufacturers. I can't say enough about Charlie's contribution to our success, and now—with another formidable business leader on the team—there's no end to what Charlie can do.

**1981
Leach Pro-Am
National Racquetball Championships
June 6-13 Tempe, AZ
Men's and Women's Amateur Prizes**

Donated by Diversified Products

All Women's Divisions

First Place: DP Orbacycle™ deluxe exercise bike

Second: DP Pacer 200 exercise bike

Third: Waist Trimmer situp exerciser

Fourth: Smart Belles and adjustable ankle weights

All Men's Divisions

First Place: DP Gympac™ 1000 Fitness System

Second: DP Superstar IV 75 Kilo Orbatron barbell-dumbbell set and DP deluxe chrome leg lift bench

Third: DP Superstar IV 75 kilo Orbatron barbell-dumbbell set

Fourth: DP 5 kilo executive dumbbell set and extra heavy tension hand grips

These prizes represent an estimated \$15,000 to \$20,000 in Diversified fitness products.

Evie & Bob Kendler

Bob and Evie Kendler

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5, 6

Save Your Records
for the 1981
National Racquetball
Most Improved Player
contest
honoring those amateur
players in each state whose
names have improved most
between June of 1980 and
June of 1981. See entry
on page 45.

From the National Commissioner



See You at the Nationals

This is the month when tournament fever reaches its peak. Here at USRA/NRC headquarters we're accelerating into high gear as we plan for the premier event of our season—the 1981 Pro-Am Nationals, which will take place this year from June 6-13 at the Arizona Athletic Club in Tempe.

Our 1979 Nationals were at this same deluxe facility, which has 14 courts, including two glass wall exhibition courts with seating for over a thousand, an outdoor swimming pool, a disco/lounge and all the other amenities of a health spa.

Carl Porter, one of the Arizona Athletic Club owners, is an expert when it comes to hosting NRC/USRA tournaments. In 1979 he said that he hoped to be selected as host of another Nationals and that the only way he could guarantee the return was to make the players want to come back. Well the players who know the facility are thrilled to be going back. And first timers can look forward to wonderful hospitality in a great facility.

Each year it becomes harder to outdo the previous year, and each year—when we accomplish that goal—I thank all of you marvelous racquetball players who make it happen.

As I've said many times the Nationals—like any other tournament—is for the losers. There will be only one winner in each bracket, but there will be hundreds of losers.

Our goal is to make sure that every one of those competitive losers goes home a racquetball winner—having had a week of plain old fun.

I'll see you there.

Joe Ardito

Joe Ardito

From the NRC National Director

A Personal Reason for Eyeguards

Unless you've had first hand experience with choroidal macular tears, hyphemas, corneal abrasions, retinal and vitreous hemorrhages or have a sophisticated medical background, you might not know anything about the types of eye injuries common among racquet sports activities. I would hope that your lack of familiarity would be a good reason for you to wear eye protection as a preventive measure.

It's often asked if the USRA/NRC is going to make the use of eye protection mandatory in their sanctioned events. At present investigation of this very topic is being undertaken, but as is so often the case in any national program, red tape gets in the way of a quick and desired decision—pro or con. But there's no question that we strongly *encourage* the use of eyeguards for playing racquetball.

Reports come in from various state associations as to the success of their own mandatory eyeguard rulings and the cooperation of the tournament players, as well as those court clubs who are making eye protection a must in order to play on their courts. As far as the pro tour goes it's great to see the increasing number of pros choosing to wear eyeguards. Since our pros are the ones who are admired by other players, both young and old, seeing the likes of Marty Hogan, Lindsay Myers and Steve Strandemo wearing eyeguards is an inspiration for the recreational player to do the same.

As far as my own personal experience relates to wearing eyeguards I still remember playing against a racquetball student for a series of points. When the opportunity came for the ace to show me his off-the-back wall return, he promptly showed me a variation of a straight in kill attempt and proceeded to mis-hit the ball in his eagerness, directly into my eye. It couldn't have been screwed into place with any tighter a fit. I was lucky there was no injury that prompt icing couldn't handle, but from that point (a hinder) on it's been eyeguards regardless of the playing situation.

Style and types of eye protection available today are so plentiful that any vanity concerns are not valid reasons for failure to wear eye protection, nor is the excuse of it being too difficult to adjust to because of hampered peripheral vision. Those are all stale excuses.

As documented in the 1981 January and February issues of the *Physician and Sports Medicine* eye injuries are

increasing as more players take up indoor racquet sports. Experience does not appear to protect players from potential eye injuries. As they gain experience, they tend to become more competitive. This means these players usually are less likely to give up center court control and thereby expose themselves to more eye injuries from the ball or racquet.

The article concludes that any eyeguard is better than no eyeguard. The open eyeguards may not prevent all direct shots, but they stop slashes around the eye from the racquet. At present there is no one officially approved eyeguard, though many kinds of effective eye protection are available. The recently developed eyeguards with bubble lens or the standard lens covering the openings seem to remove potential risk of trauma though an opening. Presently the Canadian Standards Association, in conjunction with eye surgeons of Canada, is trying to extend standards for eye protection in order to prevent ocular injury. In Canada sanctioned racquetball tournaments by the Canadian National Racquetball Association have required eyeguards since 1978.

Many feel that emphasis by racquetball instructors on defensive playing and the use of eyeguards by coaches and teaching/playing professionals are the ways to start making eyeguards a habit. All racquet clubs should recommend, sell and rent eye protection with all teaching pros wearing eyeguards during teaching and playing sessions. These nine tips taken from the *Physician and Sports Medicine*, as adapted from the *Journal of Physical Education and Recreation*, should prove helpful to you while playing:

1. Avoid looking back to watch an opponent returning the ball. However if you do, look out of the corner of your eye.
2. Wear good shoes to prevent slipping.
3. Give your opponent plenty of room to swing and follow through.
4. Toward the end of a close game don't crowd your opponent—you both might be tired, and this is when someone usually gets hurt.
5. When your opponent is striking the ball, it is safer to stand diagonally to his rear rather than directly at his/her side.
6. Avoid hitting an opponent with a ball or racquet—call a hinder.
7. Give your opponent the opportunity to get to and/or strike at the ball from any position.
8. Hinders should be called without a claim by a player, especially in close plays and on game points.
9. All players should have racquets with a thong that must be securely wrapped on the wrist when playing.

Remember you don't have to wait til it's official to wear eyeguards. You can let your own good sense require them.

Dan Bertolucci

Dan Bertolucci



From our Readers



Like Elephants

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Hurray for your personal opinion editorial in the February issue that I enjoyed reading and passing along in this office.

Was it W.C. Fields or a bankrupt sporting goods manufacturer who first said "There is no such thing as a free lunch—or a free racquetball."?

Any amateur or touring player forgets in less than a week the freebie racquetballs that he or she may have received but woe to the manufacturer who is distributing a product that is not top quality.

The consumer, thank goodness, has the proverbial elephant's memory so let's sell and provide the quality product for a growing and dynamic sport.

Harvey S. Kane
Bergenfield, NJ

Sunny Thanks

Dear Mr. Fuldauer:

Thank you for including us in your excellent feature on Sunbelt racquetball.

Charles Humphrey
Daytona Beach, FL

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Exciting

Dear Sir:

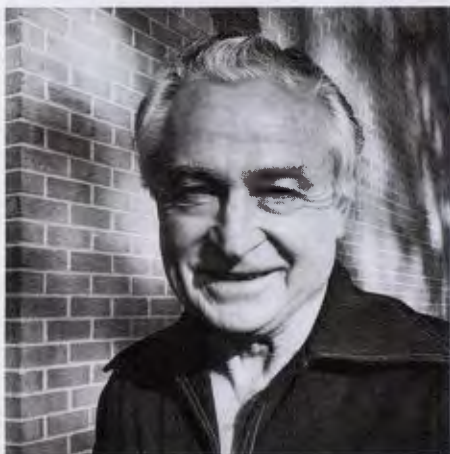
Recently I have become an employee and a member of a racquetball club in my area. I really enjoy it and I was pleased to find your racquetball magazine in the lobby. I thoroughly enjoy reading this magazine and I've decided to subscribe myself. Thanks for such an exciting magazine.

Dale M. Clark
South Boston, VA

Candid Compliment

Dear Carol:

Please give my public thanks to Lee Peoples, of Memphis State University, for



Here's the man who made it possible for Lauren Shay to catch the Memphis racquetball action in the four colors that appeared in National Racquetball's February issue.

his help at the Tanner/Coca Cola tournament. Without his expert management of the electrical system I never could have set up the floods that gave me the extra court light the photos required. He extended his help whenever I needed him. He's a true southern gentleman.

Lauren Shay
Deerfield, IL

Sensible Fantasies

Dear Sirs:

After reading your magazine for the last few months I would like to take this time to tell you how very much I enjoy it. Your total coverage of the sport, from opinions to instruction, I find not only interesting and informative, but truly something I look forward to reading every month.

I would like to mention that I have been an avid racquetball player for more than two years now and as time goes on I find myself loving the sport more and more.

That brings me to the second reason I am

writing you this letter. For the last few months I have been having (let's call them) fantasies about being an active owner or partner in a new or established racquetball club. At first this started out as being just a wild idea, but as the months have passed my enthusiasm has grown to the point that I seriously want to find out as much as I can about accomplishing this goal.

As the leading publication of the sport it would seem logical that you would be able to furnish me with information, direction and advice about becoming a club owner.

Martin Buckwald
North Merrick, NY

The best person to contact about club ownership and operation is Mort Leve, 8303 E. Thomas Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251. ED

Suitable Eye Protection

Dear Sirs:

I have just read your January, 1981 magazine and was most interested in the article about eye protection. I have been attempting to locate an adequate eye protection for my own needs. On page 24 photo d in the upper left hand corner of the photo is pictured a pair of protectors which may suit my needs. However there is no mention of a brand name in the article. Could you please supply me with that information?

Gary Anderson
Atascadero, CA

Please contact the author, James R. Gregg, O.D., 412 S. Rolling Hills Pl., Anaheim, CA 92807. ED

Van Thanks

Dear National Racquetball Magazine:

There is a story behind the enclosed subscription order that may interest you.

It was purchased for Bob Forsyth by the wrestling team at Glenheim High School. Bob and I play doubles every Thursday night at the Wheels Complex in Chatham, Ontario. The kids know how much we love racquetball and that I have a subscription to the magazine. So they took up a collection to buy a subscription for Bob in appreciation for his donating his van to the wrestling team this year.

Sandy Blackshaw
Blenheim, Ontario, Canada

Welcome John

Dear Editor:

First I would like to introduce myself. I am John Harteloh, 24 years of age, and I live



in Holland. I started playing racquetball 14 months ago. It was the kind of sport I had never heard of. I was so fascinated that I started to enter tournaments organized by Americans who

are with the U.S. Air Force in Germany. They told me a lot about the game.

They also gave me a couple of magazines with instructions and other articles to improve my game. I liked them so much that I wanted to have more. My American friends told me that I had to be a member of the USRA to get them, which is why I am applying to you.

As it is very hard to get any information about racquetball in Holland, I would very much like to become a member of the USRA so I can get *National Racquetball* magazine.

John Harteloh
Zwyyndrecht, Holland

Wrong Example for Fatigue

Dear Editor:

Everyone likes recognition and when I saw my picture in the March issue in the story on avoiding fatigue on the courts, I should have been pleased. However this picture that didn't identify me gave a totally opposite impression about something I feel very strongly about. It made me look exhausted and I pride myself on conditioning and trying to maintain top efficiency in tournaments. In fact in most tournaments I play in two divisions and I feel it most inappropriate for you to use my picture as an example of "lack of energy."

Burton Morrow, D.D.S.
Cerritos, CA

The picture, from our file of unidentified racquetball players, seemed to convey a tired player. We apologize for casting you in that unlikely role. ED



Joani Turner Will Be There

Joani Turner will be watching from the gallery as hundreds of amateurs from all corners of the country do battle for prestigious titles and the biggest bag of prizes ever offered at the NRC/ USRA sanctioned Pro-Am National Championships.

This year's Leach Pro-Am National Racquetball Championships June 6-13 at Tempe's Arizona Athletic Club will give men and women amateurs in every one of 25 divisions a chance to compete for fitness equipment that will lead the winners to future victories, as well. Details on prizes— including weights, benches, stationary bikes and a complete home gym system— follow Bob Kendler's editorial on page 10.

Tournament players who need motivation can spend the week between matches viewing the fitness prizes from Diversified Products. The equipment will fill a special space at the Arizona Athletic Club. *"D.P. reps will be on hand in the display area,"* says NRC Director Dan Bertolucci. *"I hope players will look for them and thank them for D.P.'s generosity."*

Bertolucci says no one needs to be told to look for Joani Turner. ●



— Don B. Stevenson photos



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THE GAME

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Upcoming Events

1981 LEACH National Pro-Am Racquetball Championships

Sanctioned by the NRC/USRA

The Arizona Athletic Club, with its 14 courts, swimming pool, lounge/disco and every other amenity a racquetball player could hope for, is preparing to host the 1980-81 Leach National Pro/Am Racquetball Championships sanctioned by the NRC/USRA.

The tournament June 6-13 will feature more amateur divisions of play than any other Nationals, with competition in 25 categories ranging from Open to Veteran Golden Masters for both men and women. And the top 32 men pros will battle for the title of 1981 National Champion.

As we said in 79, the last time the AAC was Nationals host, *"If they can't do it at the Arizona Athletic Club, then it can't be done."* Besides providing unbeatable hospitality the AAC offers varied between-match activities on its basketball courts, running paths, billiard rooms and tennis courts.

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they all wish the best of individual success to each and every one of you who are participating in the Nationals. Good luck!

— Dan Bertolucci,
NRC Director

Ticket order form . . .



arizona athletic club

Backwall Seating Diagram

Row 15	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Row 14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Row 13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Row 13	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 11	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 10	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 9	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 8	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 7	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 6	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 5	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 4	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 3	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 2	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 1	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12

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- All backwall seats are cushioned, with the first five rows having backrests.
- Ticket entitles holder to a reserved seat for the entire seven day event.
- Prices are as follows:
First five rows • \$200 Second five rows • \$150 Third five rows • \$100.
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Attention: Dan Bertolucci

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4. All NRC/USRA rules apply including 5 minutes rest between all games and all matches played two games to 21 and third game to 11, if necessary. Winners must referee following match on court assigned to them.
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|---|--|
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| ☐ Men Amateur Singles Open | ☐ Women Veteran Singles (30+) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Singles (30+) | ☐ Women Senior Singles (35+) |
| ☐ Men Senior Singles (35+) | ☐ Women Veteran Singles (40+) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Senior Singles (40+) | ☐ Women Masters Singles (45+) |
| ☐ Men Masters Singles (45+) | ☐ Women Veteran Masters Singles (50+) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Masters Singles (50+) | ☐ Women Amateur Doubles Open |
| ☐ Men Golden Masters Singles (55+) | ☐ Women Veteran Doubles (30+) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Golden Masters Singles (60+) | ☐ Women Senior Doubles (35+) |
| ☐ Men Amateur Doubles Open | ☐ Women Masters Doubles (45+) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Doubles (30+) | ☐ Women Veteran Masters Singles (55+) |
| ☐ Men Senior Doubles (35+) | ☐ Women Veteran Golden Master Singles (60+) |
| ☐ Men Masters Doubles (45+) | |
| ☐ Men Golden Masters Doubles (55+) | |



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I hereby for myself and my agents waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I might have against the Arizona Athletic Club, The U.S. Racquetball Association, the National Racquetball Club, Diversified Products, Leach Industries, Seamco, Inc. and any of their agents, for any and all injuries received by me in connection with this tournament.

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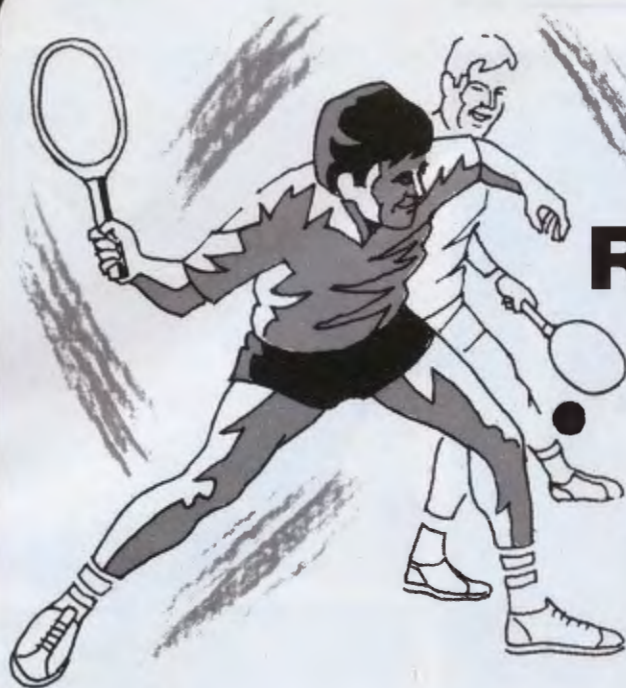
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Who Will Win?

Predicting the Outcome of the 1981 Nationals

by Dan Bertolucci

National Racquetball Club Director



Along about this time players and fans are beginning to wonder who will hold the hottest place in the Tempe sun at the Leach National Pro-Am Championships, June 6-13. Well even though there are two tournaments left at the time of this writing, rest assured no one out of the top 16 will be doing more than getting tan in Tempe.

This 1980-81 Leach/Seamco pro tour gave fans the upsets they love. Each one of the top four players had their victories, with Hilecher besting Hogan for the first time in four years in the Kings-Bank of Newport season opener. Yellen followed suit by taking the Coors Grand Prix I in Omaha, where Dave Peck lost in the round of 32 and little brother Gregg eliminated Hogan in the quarters. Going into the third event—the Robert W. Kendler Classic in Chicago—Yellen became number one for a week, but surrendered to the pressure as Dave Peck eliminated him in the semis and captured the crown in an impressive 11-10 tie-breaker win.

Not until the Catalina Hawaiian Pro/Am Racquetball Classic was Hogan able to get it all together with his win over Hilecher. Another notable event at the Hawaiian stop was a performance by Yellen so inconsistent that he lost to young Larry Meyers.

Since Hawaii Hogan has been able to string together some victories, but not without piling up tie-breakers and near first round upsets. So the questions are: *"Is Hogan the man to beat at the Nationals this year"* and *"Can he do it four years in a row?"*

The Nationals title is still Wimbledon, the Grand Slam, U.S. Open and Masters all wrapped up into one. Yes in racquetball it is the title with meaning. To prove that a pro worthy of being called the best by his peers and the media must win that event. It's a fact Hogan understands as he enters the tournament ranked number one, the fourth time in a row—the first man to earn that honor. And what separates Marty from the rest of the field is his ability to win the big ones. That's why I believe that Marty Hogan will win the Nationals. He is a true champion. Even with some tournament losses this season he has bounced back and stayed on top. I predict there will be no generous leads allowed his opponents or letdowns in his own performance. His magnificent career will include his fourth straight National title. If you ask his fellow players for their Nationals winner guess, you'll see stock go up in Marty Hogan Enterprises. And those competitors' opinions make it easier for Hogan.

Picking number one seems pretty straight forward this season, but the determination of the number two player—the June 13

finalist—is now up for grabs. Even though at the time of this writing Yellen is two, Hilecher three and Peck four, they have all beaten Hogan and thrilled audiences with stunning victories over each other. Each one has the ability to come back and go three if necessary, along with having the coolness needed to handle the pressure of playing for a share of the richest purse in the game today. As a reminder it's crucial for any of the pros to be in the bottom half of the draw because those in the top half will have to face Hogan before the finals—and what that generally means is a shorter week along with a shorter paycheck.

So then with the help of a lucky draw and the combination of power and control that are the necessary ingredients to give Hogan his share of problems, I like the 1979 Rookie of the Year to emerge as the finalist. Dave Peck has been able to play well this season and is right up there in the consistency department. Since he's beaten Hogan this year, he knows what it feels like to win and he has confidence in his ability to do so. Last season although Dave had won two events, neither had been by beating Hogan, so Dave placed unnecessary pressure on himself. This season he was able to get the monkey off of his back—the monkey put there not only by himself but also by his younger brother, Gregg, who became the first Peck to beat Hogan (in the Coors quarters).



Before a packed house in Chicago Dave Peck was able to take the crown from Hogan, and the El Paso pro has performed well in tight tie-breaker encounters since then. He's ready and is in the best physical and mental condition of his career. He will be tough.

If Yellen can stay fit and cool, he, too, has a good chance to emerge as a finalist. However some of his performances this season have fallen short of those we expected from the number two player. Being in the big one as runner-up two years in a row may not be enough to carry him into the finals this season. Too many other players are as hungry as Yellen. As in the case with Hilecher this year Yellen won't be a for sure bet unless someone knocks off Hogan along the way.

Hilecher has been in the top four all season long, with one short visit to the number two spot. Jerry needs to be in the bottom half if he wants to even come close. However he again will need to regroup for the Nationals, even though he's probably playing the best racquetball of his career since he's free of sponsor pressures. He's concentrating on playing racquetball and has given up the role of "captain of the debate team" while he argues with referees and linesmen.

On three walls of glass Hilecher can be a problem, especially if his serve is on. If





stamina and age don't become a factor working against Jerry and he plays racquetball to the degree he is capable of, he could be number two, but I doubt that he can beat Hogan again.

Rich Wagner is back, though just how far he can go remains to be seen as he makes his remarkable comeback after a miserable 1979-80 season. Holding down the number five spot at this writing Rich has a good chance of being the man to create an upset so long as he doesn't have to play Hogan before the semis. He's concentrating on the game, so he's playing up to his potential. Wagner's quickness, shotmaking ability and overall confidence make him a player to look for in the quarters—even the semis on a break. Whether or not Wagner will be dressed for action on the day of the finals has a great deal to do with desire and luck. Rich still is one of the most talented pros playing the game today and he's capable of winning.

If there were ever a player whose desire to win is so overwhelming that it sometimes gets in the way—it's Don Thomas. If that drive and dedication could be turned into points, Don Thomas would be the man to beat. Last season's brightest newcomer has made a mark this year by rising to sixth ranking. Thomas' style is power oriented, yet purposeful. He can compete

with all types and is able to counteract with shot selection and execution on a par with the best of them. Having beaten Hogan in an invitational event Don's tasted victory. I see Thomas in the quarters on his home court in Tempe. If Hogan is to be beaten early, Thomas might be the one to do it. If that's the case, then watch out for Thomas til the end.

Without a doubt Lindsay Myers is one of the most naturally gifted racquetball pros, and certainly the quickest ever to step foot on the court. It amazes me, however, that he isn't ranked any higher than seven. He is currently capable of beating anyone, but on the other hand he also is most likely to be beaten by a lower ranked seed. If Myers wants to do better than a quarter-final showing at this year's Nationals, he will have to train and work and not take his ability for granted. If Myers could prove he's as good as he and others think he is, then his victory could be one of the most impressive upsets since the 1977 Bledsoe-Hogan finals. I don't see that upset in the cards.

Steve Strandemo, the oldest regular on the tour, will at best be a sentimental bet this season, much the same as Charlie Brumfield was a year ago. Proving that desire can get you to the quarters will be the current number eight player's goal, but he's more realistically headed for a round of 16 finish. Although a fine player there



are too many equally talented younger players hungrier than Strandemo this season. It's time to move over for youth and think camp.

As far as others you might see in the 16s—but certainly no higher—look for the usual Craig McCoy, Ben Koltun appearance, along with the likes of Larry Meyers, a possible Dave Fleetwood and Gregg Peck. My picks this season for a long shot bet to reach the quarters are John Egerman, Scott Hawkins and Doug Cohen. Miracles can happen and they'll need one to get them any higher. However each one of these players is young, tough and talented. If they lack anything, it might be the experience to make a run at the title. With the best of the rest being made up of Bledsoe, Mark Morrow, Mike Levine, Keith Dunlap and—oh yes—Brumfield. Who? Yes the Brum. Look for all of them as first round casualties or at best a round of 16 breakthrough on a lucky draw. So what happened to Steve Mondry, Steve Keeley, Bret Harnett, Steve Serot, Dennis McDowell, Gary Merritt, etc, etc? Well first of all some of these former favorites have spent time trying to qualify for the round of 32 and when they have gotten there, they found the going pretty rough. They might consider joining forces with Jerry Zuckerman and Jeff Bowman forming a prayer group coalition. Their shots won't get them past the 32s, if that. As for Keeley—only a brother Jerold will be able to tell you where he might be found.

Dan's Nationals Bets

Current Rank as of 2/22/81

Odds

Marty Hogan • 1	1-2 The man to beat.
Dave Peck • 4	2-1 Second choice.
Mike Yellen • 2	4-1 Guaranteed semi. Better be ready.
Jerry Hilecher • 3	5-1 Long week should help. Hits hard, needs some help.
Rich Wagner • 5	8-1 Depends on draw. Could get lucky.
Don Thomas • 6	9-2 Not this year. But don't count him out.
Lindsay Myers • 7	10-1 Players hate to play him. Show me.
Steve Strandemo • 8	7-1 No way. Lights turned off in or before quarters.
Scott Hawkins • 18	12-1 Capable of brilliant play. Lacks experience.
John Egerman • 10	12-1 Hasn't put it all together, but close. Lacks experience.
Doug Cohen • 14	14-1 Quarters at best. See Hawkins. We'll hear from him next year.
Larry Meyers • 12	15-1 Won't have it together by Nationals.
Ben Koltun • 9	16-1 Wish I could say you will.
Craig McCoy • 9	16-1 Ask Koltun how you'll do.
Dave Bledsoe • 13	20-1 Consider retirement.
Charlie Brumfield • 23	19-1 Retired two years too late. No more miracles.
Dave Fleetwood • 15	21-1 Maybe two rounds. Doubtful.
Keith Dunlap • 19	21-1 Go for Sportsmanship of Year award.
Mike Levine • 21	22-1 I wish it were higher.
Steve Serot • 29	22-1 Adios.
Steve Keeley • —	— Brother Jerold says "no way".
Dennis McDowell • 25	— Belongs in Open.
Gary Merritt • 21	— Belongs in Open.
Mark Morrow • 20	— 16s at best.

Check the open and veteran open draw sheets for the other players.

As always these critiques of the above mentioned players are done objectively, reflecting ability demonstrated as of press time. I consider each and every one of them a personal friend and I cheer them all on to victory, for they are the game's finest talents.

Here, then, are the odds as I set them down today. A word of caution: I've been wrong in the past. ●



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on page 45.

Two Ways to Cope with Racquetball Elbow

Part One: Cure and Prevention Exercises

by Charlie Siddle

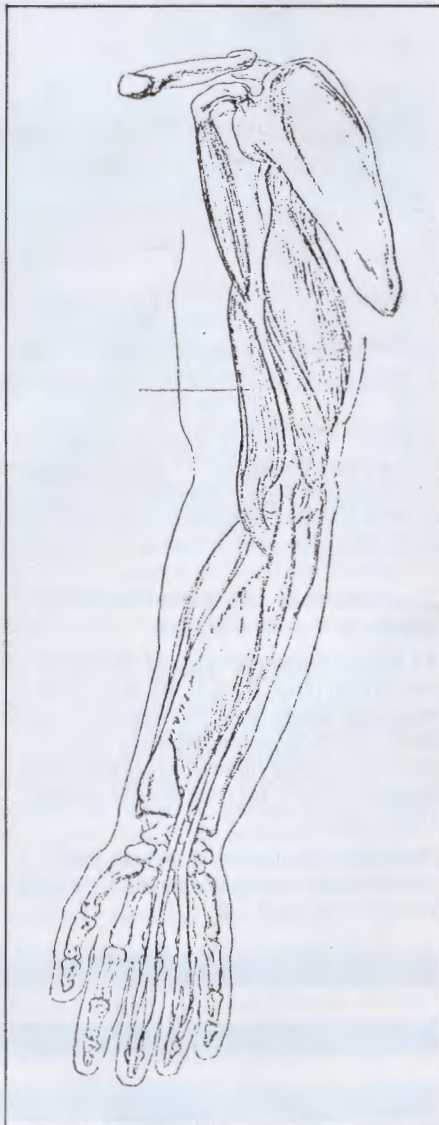
Charlie Siddle, part owner and manager of the Mission Valley Family Fitness Center in San Diego, holds a degree in kinesiology from Louisiana State University and has trained such pros as Racquetball's Charlie Brumfield and Don Thomas, as well as Ozzie Smith of the San Diego Padres and Charlie Smith of the Philadelphia Eagles.

With the growing popularity of racquetball throughout the country comes an increase in a most unwelcome sports related ailment—racquetball elbow. It is more commonly referred to as tennis elbow, tendinitis, or, if you're a baseball player, "Popeye."

What is racquetball elbow? Surgical experience indicates that it is an inflammation of the medial brachialis (bicep) tendon. (See chart.) The injury usually begins with a microscopic tear. In some cases this tear fails to heal properly and inflammation occurs around the damaged tissue. As a result the elbow area becomes tender and painful. For some the pain is mild and sporadic, while for others it can be severe and constant.

A common cause of racquetball elbow is incorrect technique. By incorrectly hitting the ball you are placing undue strain on the musculature of the arm. Racquetball elbow can also result from not warming up properly before you play. As in any other sport it is important to warm up your body, and in particular those body parts which will be working in direct correspondence with the activity.

If you do develop the symptoms of racquetball elbow, it does not necessarily mean that you have to give up the game. Initially you may have to take a few weeks off and rest. Then as soon as you are ready, you may start a simple rehabilitation program. The program should include two important phases—flexibility and muscular strengthening.



The Tendon that Causes the Trouble

Flexibility Phase

The first phase of the program—flexibility—should loosen the muscles of the arm. Work with stretching exercises that stretch out the bicep and the flexors and extensors of the forearm and wrist. (See photo one.) Pretend you are hitting a ball without a racquet in your hand. (See photo two.) Repeat this swinging motion 100 times and rest for one minute. After the minute rest do another 100 repetitions. Do a total of three sets. The first set should be slow and deliberate, while the final two sets should be a little brisker. Remember it is important to work your arm at a sufficient level but don't go overboard. Pace yourself.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Coming next:

Part Two—Acupuncture for racquetball elbow

Strengthening Next

The second phase of the rehabilitation program, muscular strengthening, involves the use of isometric exercise. An isometric exercise is a contraction of a muscle or muscle group against a fixed resistance. As a result little or no movement occurs at the joint. This is important because in the case of an injury like racquetball elbow such movement could conceivably further irritate the injured area.

The towel grip exercise is a good isometric exercise to employ when rehabilitating a racquetball elbow. (See photo three.) Grip the towel at both ends and extend your arms forward and straight ahead of you. Then pull on each end of the towel as if you were trying to pull it apart. Each contraction should last six to eight seconds and should be repeated three times.



Photo 3

The towel grip exercise contracts muscles of the forearm and the bicep muscle. These are the main muscle groups involved with the elbow problem. Now for a word of caution: if after a week of rest and rehabilitative exercise the pain is not diminished, consult a doctor. A physician may be able to provide a treatment plan designed to meet your specific needs.

Prevention is obviously the best way to approach a racquetball elbow. You've heard the saying "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Well it's true, especially if the prevention can keep you from sustaining what could be a serious injury.

Prevention

There is no known ideal prevention method for racquetball elbow. Still there are some general rules that should be observed. Stroke the ball properly, avoid stressful situations and exercise the arm to increase both flexibility and strength.

A good preventative exercise for the racquet ailment is the wrist curl. (See photo four.) Take a dumb-bell or a straight bar in an underhanded grip. Place the weight across a bench or rest the top of your wrist on your knee. Slowly flex your forearm and curl the weight upward. Be sure the arm stays put—don't lift it! Remember the movement should be occurring only at the wrist joint.



Photo 4

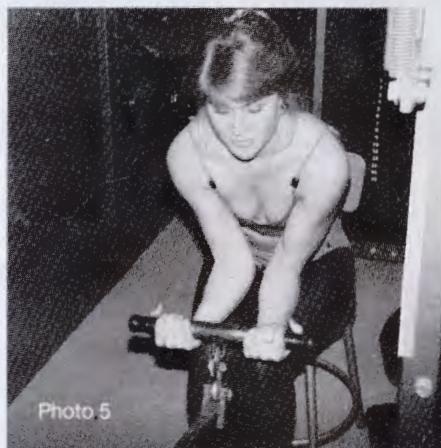


Photo 5

If it is available to you, you may want to try a multiple forearm exerciser. (See photo five.) This machine allows you to work the flexors and extensors in three directions: underhand grip, overhand grip and vertical grip.

There are certainly other exercises, techniques and machines that can be used to combat racquetball elbow. The ones I've listed are merely those that are most commonly available. If you have other suggestions to share with *National Racquetball* send them to me in care of the Editor, *National Racquetball*.

Good luck and have fun! ●

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by Dick Squires

National Racquetball East Coast Editor

1981 Connecticut State B Doubles Champs



I am the director of New Haven's Downtown Racquet Club. It has been called *"the finest racquetball and squash facility in New England."* Each year a lot of people run around on our 20 courts banging balls up against the milky white walls.

The other day as I sat at my desk agonizing over month-end statements and paying bills, I happened to glance out of my office's large picture window that offers an unobstructed view of four courts and the lobby. It was mid-afternoon—that slow time of day that confounds and frustrates all racquet club owners who go to desperate but usually futile means to sell court hours. I was, therefore, surprised to see a fairly good sized crowd of spectators watching two young men battling on the glass walled championship court.

My curiosity aroused, plus welcoming a break from the arduous accounting tasks before me, I ambled over to join the gallery. The competitors were both club members, and they were whacking the ball around the court at the accelerated speed of howitzer shells.

They displayed quite diverse styles. The dark haired lad was the *"shooter,"* hitting boldly for the ultimate rollout whenever the opportunity arose. His blond opponent was the control player, mixing subtle pinches with occasional hard, deep drives. (I personally prefer and recommend the latter style of play.) The brunette played at the club at least five times a week, whereas I had not seen the light haired youngster for several months.

One of the onlookers standing next to me was quite obviously awed, especially by the blond kid's smooth strokes and graceful speed of foot. During some of the elongated rallies this gentleman would audibly ooh and aaah and shake his head in disbelief at the dazzling *"touch"* shots the lad was executing. Suddenly he turned to me and said *"And he told me before starting to practice that he hasn't been on a court for almost half a year. It's almost criminal."*

The individual making that remark rarely misses a day playing at the club. His office is located in the same building, so his fun and exercise are merely an elevator ride away. The facility had become a vital, integral part of his life, and his face and body showed it.

When he first became a member, he appeared to be an overweight, middle-aged and underconditioned businessman heading inexorably toward a midlife coronary. Today, despite his stress filled occupation, he appears relaxed, in excellent physical condition and he truly loves racquetball. And while he has improved vastly over the past two years, he will probably never be any better than a so called *"club player."*

That is why, perhaps, he was so amazed by the seeming effortless ease with which that curly haired, blond youth moved about and hit the ball. The kid was always in the right place at the right time no matter where his equally adroit opponent hammered the ball.

As I continued to watch, particularly the tow headed lad with the striated, muscular legs of a jogger, I could not help but envision a lot of myself in him. About 25 years (and pounds) ago I also could run with his catlike agility and had similar reflexes on the tennis and squash courts. I, too, loved to hit change of pace shots that could jerk an adversary right out of his sneakers. In some ways it was more satisfying than just blasting every shot. So I rather admired the way this young man played.

At the end of the game a spontaneous smattering of applause accompanied these two fine athletes as they came off the court. The gentleman who had been so intently watching them play went up to the blond chap and asked *"How can you hit the ball so crisply and accurately when you haven't been playing any racquetball up at college?"*

The youth glanced over in my direction, winked, then turned to the man and replied *"I guess I must have been born with natural ability."*

There is a postscript to this story. The following weekend that same youngster returned to the club and teamed up with me to win the Connecticut Open B State Doubles title. His name is Gary.

It was the first time a father and son combination had annexed the prestigious crown. ●

EXTRA!

To Bill Tanner on the Occasion of Being Awarded "Athlete of the Year"

by the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame
Feb. 13, 1981, Nashville, TN

by Bob Kendler

The time has arrived to hoist up a banner
As a lasting tribute to good ole Tanner
For athletic honors and fans untold,
He has beaten them all, both young and old.

It's great to have him sponsor our tour
It's racquetball's gain to have this do-er.
Players love Bill who's helped many a boy
Talent and character, to him, are pure joy.

Cotton had Memphis to make it so great;
Tanner brought racquetball to its popular state.
He'll make it more famous because he can win;
He's a red hot contender in each match he's in!

Let's give a thought of concern and of care
To players and workers from everywhere
Who give of themselves and their checkbooks, too
For the game that's become so important to you.

Bill there's no doubt about it, you're one of a kind
And we're delighted that we should find
A championship friend . . . supportive . . . secure
A winner indeed, and a pal for sure!

We had no intention of turning your head,
Just want you to know we meant what was said.
You've a right to be crowned "Athlete of the Year,"
For this we salute you and send up a cheer!

William B. Tanner



Shannon Wright a Superstar

Following the pattern that
Kathy Williams set in 1979 and
Heather McKay in 1980 Two
Time NRC Women's Champ
Shannon Wright took third
place in "The Women Super-
stars," which aired on ABC-TV
Sunday, March 1.

Wright won \$14,000 by tying
with basketball's Nancy
Lieberman in points accumu-
lated in the series of events
held Feb. 11-13 at Key Bis-
cayne, FL. Racquetball's
Wright was the only non-bas-
ketball player to finish in the
top three. Ann Meyers won
first and Carol Blazejowski
came in second.



Other contestants, none of
whom competed in their own
professional sport, were Leah
Poulos-Mueller (speed skating),
Gayle Olinekova (marathon

running), Dorothy Hamill (ice
skating), Patty Ann (bowling),
Tauna Vandeweghe (swim-
ming), Lisa-Marie Morerod
(skiing) and Jennifer Chandler
(diving).

Wright earned 30 points by
winning first in basketball,
second in the bike race and
tennis, third in swimming and
fourth in rowing. She also
competed in the obstacle
course and 60 yard dash.

Last year Three Time Men's
Champ Marty Hogan won third
in the overall men's Superstars
competition after taking first in
his preliminary division and
current Women's Champ
McKay took third in her TV
encounter. At the time
Williams competed in the
women Superstars she held a
number 12 pro racquetball
rank.

Healthy Reading

"Vitamins are organic compounds necessary in small amounts in the diet for the normal growth and maintenance of life of animals, including man.

"They do not provide energy, nor do they construct or build any part of the body. They are needed for transforming foods into energy and body maintenance. There are 13 or more of them, and if any is missing, a deficiency disease becomes apparent."

That excerpt is an example of crystal clear writing on complicated subjects that's yours for

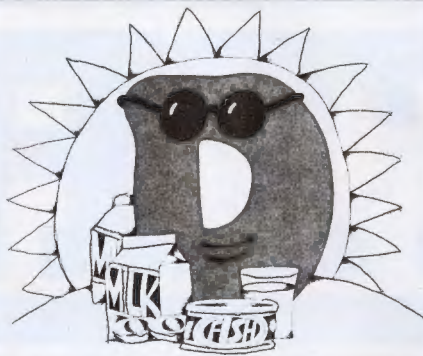


Illustration from the U.S. government pamphlet, "Some Facts and Myths of Vitamins."

government's Consumer Information Center, Department Z, Pueblo, CO 81009.

Among the pamphlets put out for consumers seeking unbiased information on nutrition are "Some Facts and Myths of Vitamins," "The Confusing World of Health Foods," "Dietary Guidelines for Americans," "More than You Ever Thought You Would Know about Food Additives" and "A Primer on Dietary Minerals."

the asking in booklets you can receive from the U.S.



The Dalmatian Doesn't Play

—Ken Hultford photo

Tony and JoAnnie D'Alessio play racquetball on their own court 40 miles from Honolulu on Oahu's north shore, next to the family home. Tony spent \$35,000 and much of his own labor to construct the building made of hollow tile and cement blocks, with all dimensions and details conforming to USRA rules. The court even has a small, but cozy, viewing area.

Sean's Space Game



Somewhere out there Sean Connery finds a racquetball court in this scene from the outer space Western, *Outland*, released May 2. The man who made double 0 a winner stars with Peter Boyle in the film, a Ladd Company production for Warner Brothers. If you're looking for more racquetball on the big screen, watch your neighborhood theater for *Night School*. Ektelon supplied racquets to Lorimar Productions for the thriller's racquetball sequence in a girls' school.

Save Your Records
for the 1981
National Racquetball
Most Improved Player
contest
honoring those amateur
players in each state whose
games have improved most
between June of 1980 and
June of 1981. See entry
on page 45.

McKay's Gracious Victory

Heather McKay, veteran squash champ and one of the top pros on the women's racquetball tour, won \$1,000 by beating Vern Roberts, number two on the United States Handball Association tour, in a hands versus racquet match Jan. 24 at Killshot, Ltd. in Bloomington, IL.

"I trained by going into a court and hitting a handball to become accustomed to the different bounce I would be experiencing," says McKay, who won over Roberts 21-15, 21-15. "I had never played against a handball player before."

"I think her squash background was a great help," says Roberts. The editor of the association's *Handball* magazine who has been playing on



—Gina Viola photo

the USHA pro tour for two years, added "squash gave her an amazing ability to control the ball. I never felt so helpless on a handball court before."

The opponents played with a standard Spalding handball that, according to Roberts, "traveled out of her racquet at speeds that felt like 180 to 200 miles an hour."

But despite the fact that McKay made him feel "helpless," Roberts enjoyed the encounter. "Her reputation is well deserved," he says. "She's a gracious lady."

Court Soccer Break

Court Soccer is taking off, after a flurry of response to last October's "New Games in Court" story in *National Racquetball*.

Lee Jones, Director Product Development of AMF Voit, reports that the first court soccer tournament was a success in December at the Dell Amo All*Pro Athletic Club in Torrance, CA and that formal court soccer programs are underway in at least four facilities: Y.M.C.A. of Springfield, IL; Point Set Tennis and Racquetball Club of Bay Shore, NY; Spaulding Racquetball Club of Hazelwood, MO, and Racquetball Plus and Nautilus of Decatur, IL.

The big break for the game is the decision by the California High School ruling body that court soccer is an individual sport, not in conflict with high school soccer. This allows coaches to let their students play the game without harming their eligibility for the school's team game.

One coach, Harry Bald of North Torrance High School,

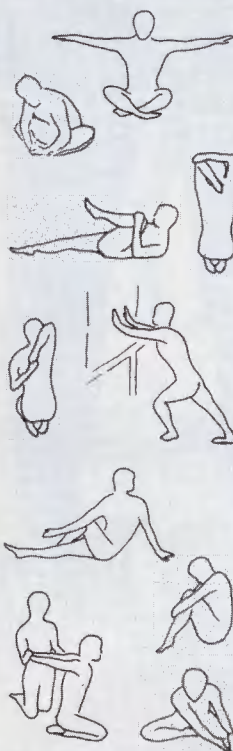
Court soccer as it looks in Torrance, CA



now uses court soccer once a week for a change-of-pace practice session for his team. Torrance Court Club gives Bald use of the courts for a dollar a session weekdays between 1 and 4 p.m.

Racquetball Stretches

The routines pictured here are the ones John E. Beaulieu recommends for racquetball players in his book, *Stretching for All Sports*.



Beaulieu, a Black Belt holder, has been using stretching exercises for 14 years as he trained for and taught karate. The forward to his book presents his case for stretching. Ronald E. Culp, athletic trainer for the Portland Trailblazers basketball team, writes: "In eight years of National Basketball Association training there have been noticeable changes. Years one through five offered our . . . players no sustained or organized stretching program resulting in numerous hamstring and groin injuries . . . Over the last three years a strong, daily, structured stretching program has resulted in the virtual elimination of those injuries . . ."

In his book Beaulieu suggests that athletes start with "pre-screening" exercises that reveal existing levels of flexibility before they begin a series of stretches that progress from easy to difficult. Photos and drawings explain each series.

Stretching for All Sports is available through The Athletic Press, P.O. Box 2314-D, Pasadena, CA 91105.

Racquetball Safety

From Head to Toe

The USRA staff recently compiled a basic racquetball safety list for the National Safety Council. Here's an expanded version of those safety suggestions.



A general word of caution: Never play racquetball in a rubber wet suit (the kind that manufacturers claim will help you perspire off extra weight.) It is important that you expose your body to the air so your body can dissipate the heat generated by racquetball's vigorous movements.

Head, mouth eyes

Head, mouth and eyes

- Racquets present the greatest danger to the head and mouth, while the ball is most dangerous to the eyes. Always wear eye-guards even when practicing.

- Give your opponent adequate space to make a complete swing with his or her racquet.

Shoulders

- When your opponent is behind you, look back to see where the ball is and where your opponent is going to aim it. (A word of caution here: do not attempt to turn around and look without wearing eye-guards and do watch your opponent actually strike the ball.) The object is to recognize the targeted area in which the ball is aimed, then to make sure you are not in the path of the ball or in too close range of the other player's swing.

- Give your opponent space. Don't assume that your partner will keep your safety in mind. Your opponent is watching the ball first and you second.

Back

- By all means wear the wrist thong while playing, in case the racquet should slip from your hand.

- Some specifics to remember that will help guard against eye injuries:

1. Play more defensively and less close.
2. Give the novice player more room.
3. Take more care at the end of a tight match or when tired.
4. Give the opponent a fair shot at the ball.
5. Shorten your swing.
6. Call hinders before you hit your opponent with the ball or racquet.
7. Wear eye protectors even if you're wearing prescription glasses. (Or use eyeguards made with your prescription.)

Shoulders

Knees

"Wall crashing" is the result of racing toward either side wall, overrunning the ball and slamming into the wall, usually shoulder high with the arm pinioned between body and wall. (See photo A.) Shoulder dislocation, bumps and bruises can result.

Legs

To correct this common problem:

1. Practice hitting from a racquet and arm's length from the wall. (See photo B.)
2. Do a series of 10 shots forehand and 10 shots backhand from each wall, trying to hit "wallpaper" balls (balls very close to the wall).
3. If a crash is imminent, learn to break your crash by using the hand and arm nearest the wall as a kind of shock absorber, insulating the body from the direct shock. (See photo C.)

Ankles and Feet

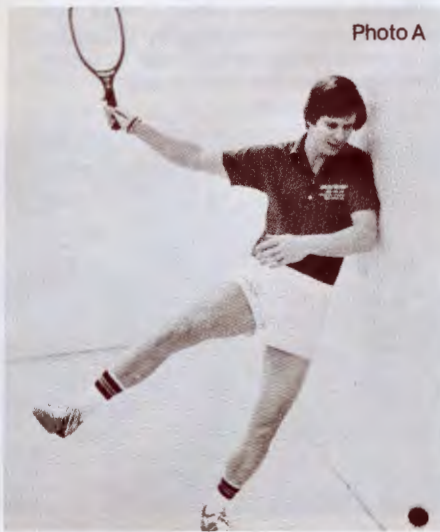


Photo A

Wall crashing can dislocate your shoulder.



Photo B

Break your crash with your hand and arm.



Photo C



Photo D

Warm up with the crossover.



Photo E



Photo F

Practice hitting from a racquet and arm's length from the wall.

Back

According to Robert G. Addison, M.D., of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, quoted in *National Racquetball* magazine, a racquetball player's back is most vulnerable when he or she is out of balance, out of control or reaching and twisting to make a shot.

To keep your body in good alignment:

1. When anticipating a shot have both feet firmly on the floor with your weight evenly distributed between them.
2. Bend your knees and hips.
3. Tighten your stomach and buttock muscles and be at right angles to the ball when you hit it.
4. Never reach for the ball with your feet and knees heading in one direction and your shoulders and torso twisted in another.

Do the muscle strengthening and warmup exercises described on these pages.

Lower trunk rotation is a good back warm-up.

Knees

The best way to prevent knee injuries is to avoid leaping or diving after the ball. Many times the first part of the body to strike the floor after a racquetball dive is the knee. This can lead to dislocations or bumps, bruises and floor burns. If you're entering a tournament in which you think you might have to be diving, wear a knee pad. (Experience shows you land on your right knee if you're right handed.)

Legs

Most black and blue circles, commonly known as "racquetball donuts," appear on the legs because the player is in the path of the ball as it is being returned to the front wall by the opponent. Though painful for a few seconds the bruises are not a serious injury. To avoid "donuts":

1. Give the other player a lane or zone which is the logical path for his or her shot to the front wall.
2. Avoid the practice of blindly facing toward the front wall when your opponent is hitting the ball behind you; glance back (wearing eyeguards) to see where the ball is most likely to land and move away from the path of the ball.
3. Move back toward center court after each shot you make to avoid being pinned in an awkward spot that makes you vulnerable.

More serious than "donuts" are the muscle and ligament tears that result when a player skips warmup exercises before a game. To help avoid tears and sprains always do five to 10 minutes of stretching exercises before you play. Wear warmups to add some heat before the body supplies its own warmth.

Ankles and Feet

Most racquetball foot injuries are caused by wearing the wrong shoes, slipping on a wet court floor or not doing warmups. A specific warmup exercise for the ankles is to point your toe up and down and then rotate each ankle 10 times. (See photos G, H.)



Photo G



Photo H

Ten ankle rotations can prevent a sprain.

Always take time to wipe the floor to remove drops of perspiration that fall to the floor during the game.

Footwear for racquetball players should provide support and ease of movement. Look for:

1. A reinforced toe. Without reinforcement the toe wears out, leaving a tear that is easy to trip on.
2. Good support.
3. A sole that grips without sticking and plants firmly on the floor. Gum rubber works well.
4. A toe that is squared off and level so the heel doesn't rock.
5. A tongue that's padded and slit near the top to accommodate laces, so they stay in place for the game's short, lateral movements.

Hawaiian top amateur player, Owen Lovell, had to sit out the Catalina Pro-Am Classic as a spectator last January after an earlier racquetball leap put him in a cast for a sprained ankle.



To ward off blisters wear a shoe with a padded collar and two pairs of socks. ●

Muscle-building and Warm-up Exercises for Your Back

General Instructions

1. Do the following exercises on a firm surface like the floor or an exercise mat; a bed is too soft.
2. Lie on your back.
3. Keep your stretches smooth and controlled. Breathe steadily and regularly.
4. Continue with each exercise until you begin to tire or, if your back is stiff, until your discomfort increases.

Abdominal Muscle Builders

1. Pelvic tilt—Bend your knees and, by tightening your buttocks and stomach muscles, press the small of your back against the surface you're lying on. When you have mastered the tilt with your knees bent, progress to doing the exercises with your knees straight.
2. Straight leg raises—Assume and hold a pelvic tilt. While keeping your knees straight and your ankle flexed upward, slowly lift your right leg off the

floor as high as possible and then return it to the floor. Repeat with the left leg.

3. Knee to nose—Assume and hold a pelvic tilt. Keeping your left leg flat, bring your right knee to your chest and your nose to meet the knee. Return your right leg to the floor and repeat with the left knee and then both knees. You may use your hands to pull your knees into your chest.

Warm-ups

1. Crossover—keeping your knees straight, touch the big toe of your right foot to the floor on your left as you turn your head to the right. Repeat touching the big toe of your left foot to the floor on your right as you turn your head to the left. Keep your shoulders flat on the floor.
2. Lower trunk rotation—Bend your knees and bring your feet up to your hips. Keeping your shoulders flat on the floor, rock your knees to touch the floor on the left and then the right. ●

Ask the Champ

by Marty Hogan

Three Time and Current Champion Marty Hogan, a Leach player who won the \$30,000 first prize in the June Nationals in Las Vegas, answers questions about improving your game in this exclusive *National Racquetball* series. Send your questions to Marty Hogan, c/o Ask the Champ, Managing Editor, *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

Balancing out the Strengths and Weaknesses

Question: A few months ago you asked for commentary about your idea for new rules that would give the server one serve instead of two with a shorter game. I was immediately impressed with the idea and tried it for size. The result was a minor revolution in my own interest in the game, which definitely moves faster and with more intensity than with the old rules by which it seemed that everything centered (like tennis) upon the technique of serving (ho hum). The new rules direct more attention to a whole action game and to my observation there is much more interest and challenge in general. Your idea for the new rules is also consistent with volleyball (greatest game there is) which also has one serve and a game of 15 points (if less than eight minutes). The new rules also add a dimension to the rotational sequence in cutthroat and doubles—when you blow it there's a better chance to get back to the bat.

Could you get some representation of yourself on the new ESPN sports cable-vision channel? Racquetball, like volleyball, is nearly non-existent there. I have never seen you play at all.

I don't know who called you all brawn and no brain, but he's a complete ass. You have given the game a better image than anyone. While there is a contender who does fit the all-brawn-less-brain image, it is not you. With all best wishes, I am,
David E. Dodge • Sanibel Island, FL

Hogan: Thanks for your comments about your one serve games. I feel a change in the scoring system would be good as one way to keep the players and the fans more excited about every point which takes place in a contest. But I think your method is a little too drastic for major competition. For one I don't believe everyone needs a one serve handicap. Serve and service return are the two most important parts to anyone's game. So I feel you would destroy the most offensive part of the game, the serve, and the most defensive

part, the serve return, which I feel during the length of the match, nullifies one player's strengths and another's weaknesses. The pros have tried new scoring systems in two tournaments that I have played and it has been very successful, and we are considering a new scoring system for pros to add to the excitement of what is already the most exciting game. Avoidable comments to the answer of this question:

I feel I have the best serve.

I feel I have the best return of a serve.

I don't care how many points we play up to, I will still win better than 90 percent of all tournaments I enter.

P.S. I just lost David E. Dodge as a fan.

A 20 week series on ESPN starting in early fall will feature Marty Hogan's part in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Racquetball Classic filmed in Winnipeg in May. Marty, who has won that tournament for the last two years, will supply instructional tips on the cable TV shows over the national sports network. Watch National Racquetball for more news about this series. ED

Question: I'm 17 years old and a C player at my club. I've been in a few tournaments where I finished second or third. What I was wondering was how did you get involved in tournaments all over? I like to travel and meet new people.

Ty Sauve • Mt. Pleasant, NJ

Hogan: Ty all I did was find entry blanks to tournaments that were near St. Louis. That I felt would get me the most experience. Traveling is expensive, so what you can afford is the limit.

You meet some great people through racquetball. Some of the finest individuals I have known I met on a racquetball court. But I have met some "different" people and I used the word different very loosely here. Be prepared for any circumstance.

Question: What do you do in your spare time away from racquetball? And do you think you will get married during your career?

Jane Stevenson • Beverly, MA

Hogan: Racquetball for me is a year round job. Most of my appearances are booked three to four months in advance. And I am usually booked up every week. But when I get a break, I usually like to stay home in San Diego and hang out with my favorite "people"—Ben, Tess and Annie Sue. Ben and Tess are two Doberman Pinschers. Annie Sue is the newest member of my family. She is a Shar-pae, which is a rare Chinese dog, the real wrinkly type that was on the cover of *Life* magazine. I am going to breed these dogs, which are very rare and expensive. My pups will be sold for \$2,000 each. They are truly the most fascinating animals I have ever seen. I will be receiving my male Shar-pae in a couple of months. Ben and Tess are married and have about seven children wandering the world. They did not permit me to tell you more about their lives because they are a very private couple.

As for getting married a good bet would be within three years. A great bet would be within five years.

A Hoganism for the player who is going to enter a tournament soon:

I never gave a hoot . . . for a man who lost and laughed.

Martin N. Hogan and George C. Patton •

To Thom Rosa, Plymouth, MN and Grant Shramek, Lincoln, NE: look for answers to your questions about rules and interpretations in *National Racquetball's* "What's the Call?" feature in a upcoming issue. NRC Director Dan Bertolucci is the rules master even I bow to.

Finding the Sweetspot

by Mike Yellen

In this exclusive *National Racquetball* series Mike Yellen, second place winner at the 1980 Nationals, discusses topics that come up in clinics he runs for his sponsor, Ektelon.

Remove all but the six vertical and six horizontal strings which cross at the sweetspot.



It isn't enough to get a piece of the ball. In order for your racquet to really do the job for which it was intended, the ball has to contact its sweetspot.

"Sweet" is a good word for it because that is exactly what it feels like when you hit the ball correctly. The contact feels sharp and firm. The ball explodes off the racquet face as though it was shot from a cannon.

"Spot" isn't such a good word choice because the sweetspot is really an area of the racquet five or six strings square. It varies in shape, size and position according to the shape of the racquet's face and how its weight is distributed. Although the sweetspot isn't in the geometrical center of the racquet, it is generally close to it.

We've all experienced what happens when

we make contact near the perimeter of the racquet. The ball just sort of blooms forward or may go off at an oblique angle.

The first occurs because all the strings aren't working together. The force is being damped and unnecessary vibration created. Also when a fast moving ball contacts the side of a wide faced racquet, it tends to turn the racquet face in your hand. You lose a degree of control.

By making contact near the center of equilibrium of the racquet face you minimize damping and maximize the spring inherent in the strings. You have greater control and power.

You can see how this works by taking your racquet and letting it bounce off the heel of your hand. When you contact the

sweetspot, the racquet springs out. Away from that area it doesn't bounce as high and may tend to turn in your hand.

The question, then, is "How do you increase the percentage of shots taken on the sweetspot?"

Tom Brownlee, a former pro at Michigan's Southfield Athletic Club who got me started in racquetball, also taught me how to make good contact with the ball. His technique was deceptively simple: he just removed all of my racquet strings except the six vertical and six horizontal strings that comprise the sweetspot. I had no choice but to learn how to hit the ball correctly because it just slid through the strings otherwise.

I recommend this technique for anyone.



Find the sweetspot of your racquet by lightly bouncing it against the heel of your hand. The racquet will spring away better when the sweetspot is connected.



Now when you practice, you will be forced to hit the sweetspot every shot. The ball will obviously pass right through the spaces in the corners of the racquet and rebound poorly from the one way string areas.

Naturally you don't want to unstring your best tournament racquet for the sake of this drill, but most players have an old beginners's model lying around. If not you can find a \$10 or \$15 racquet at one of the discount stores. Maybe a couple of your friends can split the cost with you.

In any case find your racquet's sweetspot using the technique I mentioned earlier and remove all but those strings. You can then use this modified racquet for drills and practice games.

You'll soon discover that the real lesson here is to keep your eye on the ball. Watching the ball all the way into the strings is the secret to making good contact.

We all know it. We just don't do it. This

racquet leaves you no choice.

Take a half hour a couple of times a week to go through all of your forehand and backhand shots. You'll spend some frustrating moments starting off, but you'll see that you soon get the hang of it.

Naturally there are some shots which are all but impossible to pick up with a racquet strung in this fashion, a wallpaper ball for example.

But I think that a little time working out with a six string racquet is a must for anyone with ambitions to join the upper levels of the sport.

Tom used it to become one of the top players in Michigan and the technique has done okay by me too. ●

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Stroke Success with a Ball and a Frisbee

by Terry Fancher

Information in this story is based on *Racquetball 1, 2, 3*, published by the Athletic Institute, North Palm Beach, FL, and written by Fancher, USRA director, who holds a masters degree in physical condition from the University of Wisconsin. Fancher is a veteran teacher and player.

Whether you're a beginner or an advanced player, you're looking for ways to improve your strokes. Often mere repeats of the stroke itself may do nothing but perpetuate incorrect techniques.

When you try these training aids, you'll find that you're looking at your strokes in a new light.

1. Forehand. Throw the racquetball to the front wall with a sidearm motion that you would use if you were throwing a baseball. The forehand swing is almost an exact duplication of a sidearm baseball throw. Step up to the short line on the court, and throw the ball with a lateral motion about four feet high on the front wall. Anyone who can execute this throw will find it easy to learn to hit a forehand. The only difference will be that the ball will be struck farther away from the hand by the racquet itself. Don't scoff at this aid just because you've been playing awhile. After you try the throw, you might discover that you've been stroking your forehand in incorrect ways that could include not extending your elbow on contact with the ball. This aid emphasizes that in a correct swing your elbow should precede the racquet.

To execute the throw properly:

- Turn the feet to face the right side wall, while bringing the right hand back along with the right foot. (All of these directions are for right handed players.)
- Move your left foot in the direction of the ball from the starting position and make a sidearm serve forward, directing the ball back to the front wall, snapping the wrist at the point of contact with the ball.
- Think of the turn, step and serve in that order with the hips leading the movement followed by the shoulders, arm and finally the snap of the wrist. Think of snapping a flyswatter with a lateral swing.

Forehand



Backhand



Off the Back Wall

2. Backhand. Throw a frisbee across your body from left to right. Making a backhand swing is very similar to throwing a frisbee after turning your body to face the left side wall. Just as you must bring a frisbee up to a position just behind the left ear, so must you bring the racquet to a cocked position prior to swinging at the ball with a backhand stroke. To make sure this frisbee training will help your backhand keep the following in mind:

- Turn the feet to face the left side wall by bringing the frisbee back along with the left foot. The right foot is about a foot in front of the left and the feet are shoulder width apart. Do not lean forward and bend from the hips during the backhand swing. For further preparation turn the hips and left shoulder as far toward the back wall as your body's flexibility will permit. This extra turn will allow you to make a more complete rotation as you throw the frisbee (and eventually as you hit the ball).
- Move your foot in the direction of the front wall at which you're aiming the frisbee and begin a lateral swing forward.
- Let the hips swivel toward the front wall and then allow the shoulders to move forward.
- Extend your arm completely and release the frisbee with a snap of your wrist.

3. Off the Back Wall. Carry a mug of water two-thirds full holding it by the handle (without spilling any) while running toward the back wall. In retreating to the back wall the backward motion should be a crossover step, left foot over the right or even a complete turn to face the back wall. Carrying the water is good for your off-the-back wall stroke for two reasons: (1) The water will spill if the glass is not held erect, just as the racquet should be and (2) the water will slosh around if the backward motion isn't smooth as it should be when retrieving an off-the-back wall shot.

4. Serving. Tape small bore paper rifle targets to the front wall. (You can buy the targets at discount stores for \$1.50 for 20 or so. I think it's better to tape these targets to the walls than to practice in a court with targets painted on it because it's easier to concentrate on the one target at a time.)



Drive: Put the target on the front wall, slightly left of center and about three feet up from the floor. Stand in the center of the court and picture the target on the front wall. Aim for the target with a forehand, remembering the correct way to use the racquet, based on the sidearm throw. Keep a closed stance as you face the right wall, so you don't pull the serve into the left corner. Drop the ball in front of your lead foot and away from the body, so you take a long stride into the serve. Start with

Serving



Forehand Ceiling



the racquet up in the cocked position and keep your head still while swinging, looking at the ball and keeping the target pictured in your mind. By hitting the target area on this drive serve, you will force the ball to rebound into the deep, left corner of the court.

Z: Place the target on the front wall a foot from the juncture of the front wall and right side wall, about six feet from the floor. Again face the right wall as shown in the photo. To generate enough force on the ball exaggerate the snap of your wrist as you stroke the ball. As you hit the ball with your racquet, think of throwing the ball into the target with a hard, sidearm motion, and—as in any serve—step toward the target with your left foot.

The rebound of this Z serve will force the ball to come back just behind your body (as server) and angle into the left side wall and kick out toward the receiver parallel to the back wall.

Lob: Think of an imaginary target (since it would be too difficult to pin the target up there) 12 feet higher than the target for the drive serve—about two-thirds up from the floor. To execute this lob serve stand in the same positions as before, but emphasize the slowness of your serve on its way to your front wall imagined target. Bring the racquet gently under the ball, causing the ball to hit the target and then arc high as the ball descends into the left corner. Think of lofting a softball to your target on the front wall with an exaggerated underhand throw. You might give yourself help with your lob by using another training aid—an actual softball, which you can throw at your target with an underhand pitch.



5. Ceiling Shot. Forehand. Throw a racquetball overhand toward the junction of the front wall and ceiling after facing the right side wall. Start the movement by bringing the ball six inches behind the ear and aim at a zone three to six feet away from where the ceiling meets the front wall with the ball striking the ceiling first. This is the same motion that you use with the racquet, which is drawn back and cocked long before you move forward to strike the ball.

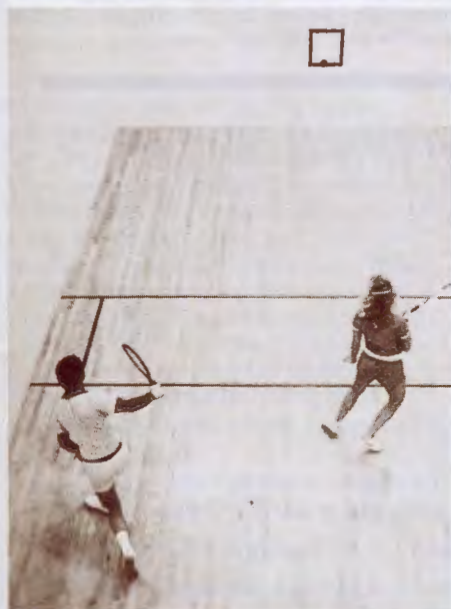
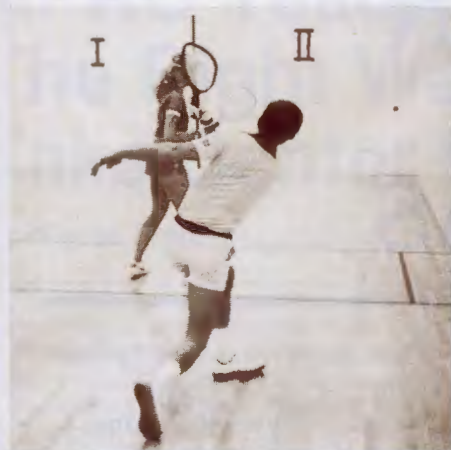
Throwing the ball forces you to use your body and your arm and to face the right side wall, all of which will improve your ceiling shot.

Backhand. Throw a frisbee at a 45 degree angle toward the ceiling after facing the left side wall. Aim the frisbee toward a



Backhand Ceiling

Pass Shot Down-the-line



zone on the ceiling three to six feet from the front wall. Preparation for this shot is important since it takes longer to execute than the forehand ceiling shot. Bring the frisbee into a cocked position six inches behind the left ear as the left foot turns to face the left side wall. Then release the frisbee as you transfer your weight to your right foot. Turn your hips and shoulders as far back as possible while you prepare for the throw and step toward your target with the right foot uncoiling your hips, shoulders and arm, and finally snap through with your wrist.

6. Pass Shot. Down-the-line. Attach a strip of two inch red tape on the front wall as high as you can reach, dividing the wall into two equal sections. Form the Roman numeral I in the left half and II in the right. Use these areas as broad targets for practicing accurate pass shots. Stand between center court and either the left or right side wall, depending on the zone to which you're hitting.

You'll find that you must take a full swing with an extended arm and that you must follow through if you are going to make the ball land in the front wall zone and then rebound to one deep corner or the other after the ball has glanced off one of the side walls. Practice this down-the-line pass into each zone, aiming for different heights within the zone from three feet to five feet.

V (Cross Court). Tape a one foot square in the center of the front wall with the bottom edge about three feet from the floor. Stand in the back court near one side wall, then the other. Take a forehand or backhand swing, aiming at the square so that the path of the ball will form a V on its route from your racquet back to the other side of the back court.

7. Killshot. Line up four empty racquetball cans a foot apart starting in the right hand front corner. Take a racquetball in your right hand, stand at the short service line and make a low sidearm throw while taking a long stride with your left foot toward one of the cans. Not having a racquet will force you to bend lower to strike the ball, thus maintaining the low, lateral movement necessary to hit a killshot. Go down the line, hitting each of the cans. To practice a backhand kill, use a frisbee and switch the cans to the other corner. ●

Pass Shot Cross Court

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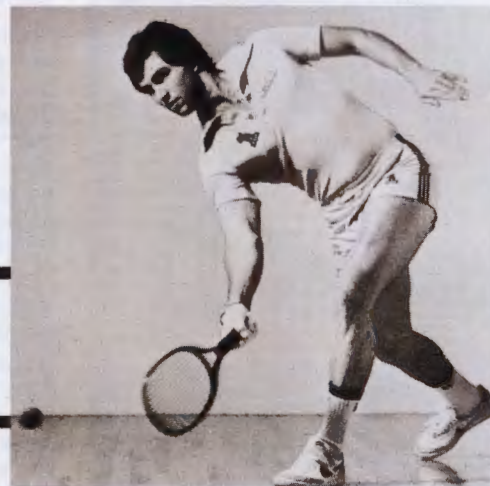
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APRO Teaches . . . The Right Way to Take Center Court

by Wayne Franke

Wayne Franke, who has earned APRO's "professional" certification, is manager/owner of Fall Racquetball Club in Menomonee Falls, WI. Franke holds a masters degree in physical education from Northern Illinois University. This article is part of an exclusive *National Racquetball* series by members of the American Professional Racquetball Organization, which certifies instructors at clinics around the country.

One of the biggest problems beginners have in playing racquetball is understanding the concept of playing center court.

After just a few hours of play novices discover that by staying in the middle of the court they can be more accurate with shots and that they don't have to move very far to return an opponent's shot. This is good positioning as long as the ball is being hit along the side walls. Problems arise when a player hits the ball into center court and tries to stay in center court, too. This can be dangerous for the player and frustrating for his opponent.

The player who "plunks" himself in center court in front of his opponent who is attempting a shot is not only hindering his opponent, but he also risks being hit by his opponent's racquet. As an instructor you must make the student aware of these dangers and convince him or her that proper positioning affords a better view of the opponent's next shot.

Teachers instruct beginners to position themselves properly according to the rules. The rules state that at all times you must give your opponent a direct shot and a cross court passing shot to the front wall. This means that when a player hits a ball into the center of the court, he must give up his center court position and move out of his opponent's way. This can be a hard concept to incorporate into play once the student has found taking center court is to his advantage. He must be taught that position is earned by hitting good shots that allow him to remain in center court.

Tell the beginner to watch the ball at all times—not to turn his back to his opponent and duck every time a ball is hit behind him. He can be hit by the return shot—or worse—his opponent's racquet, resulting in an avoidable hinder call. Then, too, he can't pick up the flight of the ball until it hits the front wall, so he's lost valuable reaction time.

Teach that proper positioning is three to four feet in front of the opponent and off the opponent's inside shoulder. ●

Give your students the following quiz:

1. Do you usually have three or more ball marks on your body after a match?
2. Have you been hit by your opponent's racquet more than twice in the last year?
3. Does your opponent often hold back on his swing and call for a hinder?
4. Have you been pushed by an opponent so that he can take his shot?
5. Have you ever had an opponent walk off the court in the middle of a match in frustration?

Score:

Three or more "yes" answers—We suggest more lessons.

One or two "yes" answers—The student is aware, but these mistakes should serve as a reminder.

0 "yes" answers—Your student has mastered the center court concept. Move on to other skills.



—photo courtesy Congress Park Circuit Courts

First in Ohio

APRO President Chuck Sheftel traveled to Congress Park Circuit Courts, one of the seven Dayton area Circuit Court clubs, to run a clinic Feb. 21 and 22 that attracted 13 racquetball instructors from Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky to the first APRO clinic in Ohio.

On Saturday teaching pros assembled on the court with notebooks and pens to watch drill demonstrations and discuss instructional methods, and on Sunday pros seeking APRO certification took a written and practical test.

The American Professional Racquetball Organization, whose members write this ongoing *National Racquetball* feature, offers teaching and certification clinics throughout the country. For dates and places contact APRO, 730 Pine, Deerfield, IL 60015, 312-945-4678. ●

APRO's third annual convention in Chicago July 31 to August 2 will feature Top NRC Pro Dave Peck as keynote speaker and a racquet testing session by *Racquetball Industry* magazine. Watch this APRO column for more information.

What's the Call?

by Dan Bertolucci

How many serves when the ball leaves the court?

Charles Kirschke from Redford, MI writes "a friend of mine was recently in a match where the following situation occurred: he hit his first serve short. His second serve was put into play and a four to six shot rally followed. The rally ended when the ball left the court, under rule 4.9(e) (1) which states: *"any ball returned to the front wall which on the rebound or on the first bounce goes into the gallery or through any opening in a side wall shall be declared dead and the serve replayed."*

His next serve was long and his opponent stated that he was out. I had never heard of this situation so I read through the rule books that I own. I came up with rule 4.9 (e) (1) but I cannot determine whether or not my friend's opponent was correct. I have also checked with the pro at the club where I play and she agreed with me that my friend was entitled to another serve, but she was unable to find the rule that supported her view in the shot that we talked about. Would you please send me the answer and your interpretation to this situation?

First of all congratulations on submitting one of the most thought provoking "What's the Call?" questions this office has received. For a brief moment or two your question puzzled even the most astute rules interpreters. In any case let me inform you that your interpretation along with that of your club pro's was the correct one. Since a legal rally had begun as governed by Rule 4.9.-Rallies. "Each legal return after the serve is called a rally . . .," an out of court ball as you described results in a replay of the entire rally, with two serves to the server. One way in which this situation might have been interpreted as a side out would have been if the server would have hit an "out of court serve—ie: any ball going out of the court on the serve is an out of court serve." "Out of Court Serves" fall under Rule 4.5-Fault Serves, which state that "The following serves are faults and any two in succession result in a hand out or side out . . . (f) Out of Court Serve."



—Chuck Farrer photo

Steve Ogden of the Cherry Creek Sporting House in Denver, CO had several problems develop during a recently concluded event. One area of concern was that revolving around "wet gloves"—whether or not they constitute a time out against the offender. The answer to Steve is "yes." If a player wants to change the glove and cannot do so during normal play stoppage or rest periods, then he or she must do so on his or her own time—namely by using one of the three rest periods available during the first two games and the two for the tie-breaker. ●

Dan Bertolucci is director of the NRC, governing body for professional racquetball, and is a longtime racquetball referee. Send him your questions about rules c/o National Racquetball, 4101 Dempster, Skokie 60076.





USRA State Affiliates

Rule Books Available for Your Tournament



USRA official rules are generally regarded as the most popular guide for tournament play around the country. Although a tournament may not be sanctioned by our headquarters, our rules may still be used by any tournament so desiring. At many amateur events there are often questions or disputes arising pertaining to rule interpretations. Tie-breakers, serving violations and hinders are just a few examples of confusing areas open to misinterpretation.

To help clear up some of the problems which occur on site during competition, tournament directors can have USRA rule books on hand. Just send us a copy of your tournament application and we will send you three official rule books to serve as your reference.

It is the responsibility of the tournament director to be the one true authority on disputed calls. With rule book in hand the director is much more likely to make the correct decision regarding a question arising.

Though the sport of racquetball is still experimenting with scoring systems, length of time outs and other variables, it is important to have a standard to go by until the dust settles.

Send your rule book requests for your tournament to me at USRA, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

—Terry Fancher



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Meet Your State Chairmen

Iowa's Greg Steger and Nick Palen

Just about the time Greg Steger was renting an old wooden racquet for 25 cents at the Davenport Y, Nick Palen was swinging a paddle at a racquetball at the University of Iowa over in Iowa City.

Now—12 years later—Steger, 32, and Palen, 30, have teamed up to represent the USRA as Iowa state co-chairmen.

The pair met often at tournaments, which they've been playing since 1974, and two years ago they offered to head racquetball activities in a state that, according to Steger, "is still in its infancy in terms of club and tournament players."

Racquetball growth has been orderly—but limited—in Iowa. "About one new club's been going up each year," Steger says. Today there are facilities in Steger's town of Davenport and in Cedar Rapids, where Palen lives, and in Muscatine, Mason City, Burlington, Ames, Sioux City, Des Moines and Iowa City.

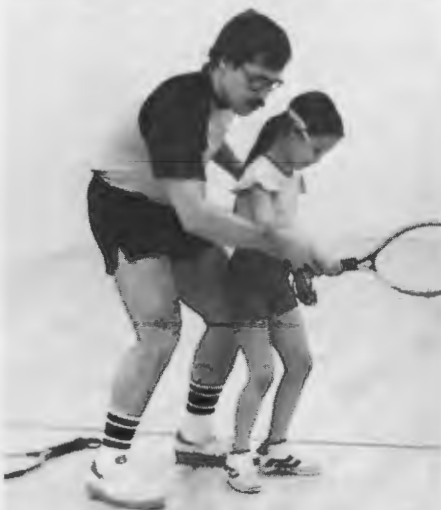
"The university in Iowa City has an active program with 20 courts, a challenge court and a league," Palen reports.

Palen, who's single, sells advertising for WMT-TV and spends a "scheduled 40 hours working, but many evenings and noons entertaining and traveling, so I only have time once a week to play racquetball."

Steger, salesman for Wicks Lumber, plays at least three times a week and he even has his wife, Terry, and daughter, Rachel, into the game. Terry plays regularly in tournaments and next year—when she goes into third grade—Rachel will begin lessons.

"Rachel was involved in racquetball from day one," Steger recalls. "We had a tournament shortly after she was born and we took her along and tied two chairs together as a crib so she could sleep through the matches."

Seven-year-old Rachel Steger, who grew up on racquetball, gets some informal instruction from her father, who's USRA Iowa state co-chairman.



Racquetball competition inspired Terry Steger to open The Trophy Shoppe in Davenport.

Nick Palen shares chairman's duties with Steger.



These days Rachel is wide awake at tournaments, which are a major part of the job for the Iowa co-chairmen, who agree that "the chance to get to know the players" is one of the greatest rewards of their volunteer efforts.

"I like this opportunity to help other people," Palen says. "I get several calls a week from people wanting to know what's happening with racquetball in Iowa. We've brought people together and we've offered quality tournaments."

"We play ourselves, so players give us their feelings," Steger says. "We were pleased about the state tournament (in March), which drew a record 180 participants, the biggest draw in Iowa so far."

"And people always are looking to us for guidance about everything from which bracket to play in to how to interpret the rules."

"There's a lot of room for racquetball to grow in Iowa. We plan to give the state the guidance to grow in the right directions."

Save Your Records
for the 1981
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contest
honoring those amateur
players in each state whose
games have improved most
between June of 1980 and
June of 1981. See entry
on page 45.



Enter *National Racquetball's* Third Annual Most Improved Player Contest

June 30 Is Deadline

National Racquetball's third annual Most Improved Player of the Year contest will be open for entries in June, with June 30 set as the deadline.

The contest, aimed at recognizing the amateur player whose name might not always make headlines in tournament results, will honor the men, women and juniors who have made the most exceptional progress while playing racquetball from June, 1980 to June, 1981.

One winner will be announced for each state in which a player qualifies for the award. (If 50 states come up with qualified candidates, we'll have 50 winners, but *National Racquetball* will make the awards only in those states where there's a player whose progress has been outstanding.)

Winners, whose stories and photos will highlight a fall issue of *National Racquetball*, will receive lifetime memberships in the United States Racquetball Association (including a subscription to *National Racquetball*) and a variety of equipment and instructional prizes. USRA staff members will select winners with the help of USRA state chairmen.

We'll be looking for your entry!



Entry for National Racquetball's 1981 Most Improved Player Contest

Name _____

Address _____
number street

city

state zip

Phone _____
(area code)

Age _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

When did you start playing? _____

(name of facility and address)

List evidence that indicates your improvement

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Please enclose all supporting evidence (label each piece with your name) including score cards, draw sheets and letters of recommendation from pros or other instructors. Name of person submitting the entry if not the contestant.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____
(area code)

Please mail to Terry Fancher, USRA,
4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076



Tournament Results

Please send tournament results and clear black and white action photos to Renee Coplan, USRA, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076. Type your results double spaced, including name of tournament, dates and place with scores listed in style you see on these pages. Use first and last names the first time you mention a player (in doubles matches, too) and last names only after that.

Allow two months or more for your tournament writeup to appear here.

California

The California Way Second Annual Winter Rollout took place Jan. 8-11 in Pasadena and Artesia.

Results

Men's Open Singles

Quarters: Lerner d. Jon Woodard 21-15, 21-17; Stevens d. Guy Texiera 20-21, 21-19, 11-2; Mack d. Mark Martino 21-19, 1-21, 11-9; Massari d. Bruce Radford 21-15, 21-9

Semis: Lerner d. Billy Stevens 21-19, 17-21, 11-5; Mack d. Dan Massari 21-7, 21-14



—Jesus Sousa photo

Men's Open Singles Winner Steve Lerner dives for the ball in a quarters match against John Woodard during the January tournament at the Pasadena Club.

Finals: Steve Lerner d. John Mack 21-8, 12-21, 11-10

Men's B Singles: Vince Iannolo d. Robin Dixon 21-10, 21-15

Men's C Singles: Tom Eisner d. George Perez 17-21, 21-11, 11-3

Men's Novice Singles: Steve Vogel d. Rubin Ortiz 21-8, 21-8

Men's Beginning Novice Singles: Rick Zamora d. B. Fujikuni 21-11, 21-12

Men's Veterans Singles: Bruce Radford d. Jon Woodard 19-21, 21-18, 11-10

Men's Seniors Singles: Sam Sutherland d. Jerry Conine 21-12, 21-13

Men's Masters Singles: Donn Gartrell d. Bill Sherinyan 21-9, 21-18

Women's Open Singles

Quarters: Martino d. Marci Drexler 21-6, 21-7; Gilreath d. Linda Moss 21-15, 21-16; Bishop d. Desiree Armijo 21-10, 21-9; Moore d. Cindy Donnelly 21-17, 21-9

Semis: Martino d. Terry Gilreath 21-18, 21-15; Bishop d. Cindy Moore 21-9, 21-17

Finals: Laura Martino d. Kippi Bishop-Boatright 21-16, 21-19

Women's B Singles: Cindy Donnelly d. Sue Wilson 21-19, 21-17

Women's C Singles: Jennifer Choy d. Nancy Welliver 21-17, 21-13

Women's Novice Singles: Rena Hetzer d. Carolyn Williams 21-10, 21-17

Women's Bag. Novice: Kay Sharp d. Justine Orelli 21-7, 21-3

Women's Seniors Singles: Joy Desantis d. Pat Kennedy 21-10, 21-5

Men's Open Doubles

Semis: Massari/Mack d. R.O. Carson/Mike Noack 14-21, 21-14, 11-8; Gurnoe/Stevens d. Matt Waidelich/Tom Edwards 21-15, 21-19

Finals: Dan Massari/John Mack d. Leo Gurnoe/Bill Stevens 21-17, 21-5

Men's B Doubles: B. Vananzi/B. Bible d. H. Wright/P. Brooks 8-21, 21-16, 11-4

Men's C Doubles: R. Magana/R. Hollingworth d. B. Clark/S. Layton 12-21, 21-10, 11-2

Mixed B Doubles: Geri Preciado/Mando Preciado d. Bill Martinez/Patty Fruhwirth 14-21, 21-17, 11-2

Mixed C Doubles: J. Choy/G. Perez d. K. Norton/D. Trager 21-17, 21-16

Mixed Open Doubles

Semis: Martino/Martino d. J. Hagy/R. Torres 21-15, 21-0; Sheffield/Bishop d. J. Conine/S. Wilson 21-16, 17-21, 11-3

Finals: Mark Martino/Laura Martino d. Greg Sheffield/Kippi Bishop 21-13, 21-12

Nebraska

The Coors Light Open took place Jan. 9-11 at Sports Courts of Omaha.

Results

Men's Open-1st-Tony Upkes, 2nd-Mark Domangue

Men's BA-1st-Maury Damkroger, 2nd-Eric Runge

Men's BB-1st-Jerry Coughlin, 2nd-Wes Gradin

Men's CB-1st-John Steffel, 2nd-Randy Wenz

Men's CC Blue-1st-Dick French, 2nd-Gene Ryan

Men's CC Red-1st-Mark King, 2nd-Ray Warren

Men's D White-1st-Paul Baumann, 2nd-Brad Jerome

Men's D Green-1st-Al Streeter, 2nd-Dave Stewart

Men's Seniors-1st-Craig Olsen, 2nd-Wayne Nelson

Men's Seniors B-1st-Jerry Coughlin, 2nd-Frank Quinn

Women's B-1st-Kathy Edwards, 2nd-Nancy Lee

Women's CB-1st-Susan Sealy, 2nd-Sandy Gross

Women's CC-1st-Cindy Clayman, 2nd-Andy Steenburg

Women's D-1st-Karen Lux, 2nd-Terri Cook

Wisconsin

The Racquetball Club of Kenosha hosted the Miller Lite Southeast Open Jan. 9-11.

Results

Men's Open: Dale Brandes d. Will Mulvaney 12-21, 21-11, 11-3

Men's B: Mark Hackbarth d. Craig Ellsworth, forfeit

Men's C: Ed St. Peter d. Lance Escue 19-21, 21-11, 11-5

Men's D: John Zea d. Tom Baltrus 21-4, 19-21, 11-1

Men's Seniors: Darryl Greenmeier d. Gib Kurtz 21-12, 21-5

Women's Open: Margie Fish d. Regina Parks 17-21, 21-18, 11-6

Women's B: Beth Haebig d. Sue Yates 21-10, 21-8

Women's C: Bonnie Connolly d. Mary Hoey 21-17, 11-12, 11-4

Women's D: Evon Leach d. Barb Nerdahl 21-10, 21-1

Iowa

The Second Annual Iowa Park and Recreation Association Racquetball Tournament was held at the University of Iowa Fieldhouse Jan. 16-18. USRA State chairman Greg Steger came in second in the Men's Open.

Results

Men's A

Finals: Scott Nau d. Greg Steger 21-13, 20-8 (default)

Third: Bill Riker d. Al Kleinendorst 21-10, 21-8

Cons: Tom Duke d. Bill Blanchard 21-6, 21-18

Men's B

Finals: Ted Berry d. Dennis Healy 20-21, 21-11, 11-8

Third: Steve Strauss d. Dave Nowack 13-21, 21-17, 11-4

Cons: Bill LaVelle d. Jan Johnson 9-21, 21-2, 11-2

Men's C

Finals: Doug Conklin d. James Berneking 21-16, 16-21, 11-5

Third: Michael Frantz d. Laura Shawver 13-21, 21-15, 11-9

Cons: Tom Kopp d. Mike McCarthy 21-20, 21-12

Women's C

Finals: Kathy Hanks d. Deb Horney 21-6, 21-4

Third: Carla Burbach d. Jan Lettenberger 21-6, 21-13

Cons: Patty Marsh d. Cathie Britt 21-14, 21-19

Illinois

Scott AFB was host for the Air Force Region IV Racquetball Tournament Jan. 14-21, with 50 players from 13 Air Force bases and 11 states competing.

Results

Seniors

Finals: Henry, Scott AFB d. Tapia, KI Sawyer AFB 21-17, 21-15

Open

Finals: Maclean, Offutt AFB d. Misteale, Tinker AFB, Injury forfeit

Women's

Finals: Lythgoe, McConnell AFB d. Neel, Offutt AFB 21-17, 21-13

Texas

The Fort Worth Athletic Club was the site of the USRA Texas Singles Championships Jan. 22-25.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Mark Pasche d. Russ Joiner 21-17, 21-12; Gary Brown d. Ronald Gardin 21-4, 21-10; Tim Pace d. Mark Gilmore 21-16, 21-17; Skip Merrill d. A.J. Allen 21-9, 21-12

Semis: Pace d. Pache 21-4, 21-12; Merrill d. Brown 21-10, 21-8

Finals: Merrill d. Pace 21-17, 21-16

Cons: Johnny Ware

Men's B

Quarters: J.B. Gross d. Rufus Martinez 21-0, 21-0; Kenneth Woodfin d. Ray Aronowitz 10-21, 11-21; Randy Rich d. Johnny Ware 21-12, 11-12; Chris Snyder d. Stanley Lemon 21-0, 21-0

Semis: Gross d. Aronowitz 21-10, 21-10; Rich d. Snyder 19-21, 21-13, 11-4

Finals: Gross d. Rich 21-5, 15-21, 11-4

Cons: John Eftekar

Men's C

Quarters: David Ragsdale d. Steve Gross 4-21, 21-11, 11-9; Eddie Guillen d. Jeffery Brucker 21-8, 21-11; Stanley Lemon d. Jerry Gage 21-15, 21-19; Steve VanMeter d. Dan Fick 21-17, 21-19

Semis: Guillen d. Lemon 21-0, 21-0; VanMeter d. Ragsdale 21-13, 21-19

Finals: Guillen d. VanMeter 21-14, 15-21, 11-0

Cons: Ford Lowcock

Men's Novice

Quarters: Gary Long d. George Murphy 21-10, 21-7; Steve Soderborg d. Mickey Allen 17-21, 21-9, 11-3; Joseph Farrell d. Donnie Josefy 13-21, 21-9, 11-3; Jerry Smith d. Tom Warner 21-13, 21-16

Semis: Farrell d. Long 21-14, 21-10; Smith d. Soderborg 21-18, 21-10

Finals: Smith d. Farrell 21-10, 21-17

Cons: David Albrecht

Men's Veteran

Quarters: Don Scales d. Danny Howell 21-20, 21-11; Mark Newport d. Tim Heublein 21-15, 19-21, 11-5; Alex Closson d. John R. Pierce 21-11, 21-21, 11-6; Tom Chodash d. Arvil Noel 15-21, 21-20, 11-3

Semis: Newport d. Closson 21-0, 21-0; Scales d. Chodash 21-13, 21-9

Finals: Scales d. Newport 21-14, 21-15 **Cons:** Ron Wickers

Men's Senior

Quarters: Tom Chodash d. Roger Baker 21-4, 21-12; John R. Pierce d. F.A. Underwood 21-18, 21-10; Ronald Gardin d. Don Childs 21-15, 12-21, 11-10; Patrick McGinty d. Rufus Martinez 10-21, 21-9, 11-6

Semis: Chodash d. McGinty 21-12, 21-9; Pierce d. Gardin 21-20, 16-21, 11-2

Finals: Chodash d. Pierce 21-13, 21-0 **Cons:** Dalton Walton

Men's Veteran Senior

Quarters: Jim Kehoe d. Ray DeBorde 21-17, 21-3; David Trostel d. Nathan Dove 21-9, 21-0; Roland Senter d. Jon Jordan 21-9, 21-4; Roger Baker d. Carl Long 21-12, 21-9

Semis: Trostel d. Baker 21-17, 21-17; Kehoe d. Senter 21-13, 21-9

Finals: Kehoe d. Trostel 21-16, 5-21, 11-6 **Cons:** Ray DeBorde

Men's Masters

Quarters: Joe Pifer d. George Bartlett 21-18, 21-5; Al Pardoe d. R.D. Ramirez 17-21, 21-13, 11-6; Jim Rich d. Ken Sone 21-17, 21-13; H.G. Wells d. Charles Brandt 17-21, 21-11, 11-7

Semis: Pifer d. Wells 21-5, 21-8; Rich d. Pardoe 21-8, 21-14

Finals: Rich d. Pifer 21-20, 21-19 **Cons:** David Trostel

Men's Veteran Masters

Round Robin: 1st-Joseph Lambert, 2nd-Jim Rich, 3rd-Bob Jackson, Cons: Bill Reese

Semis: Ragow d. Moore 21-8, 21-4; Senter d. Bunch-Priest 21-15, 14-21, 11-8

Finals: Senter d. Ragow 21-14, 10-21, 11-8 **Cons:** Ginny Luscomb

Men's Golden Masters

Quarters: Fred Ricketts d. John B. Pearce, Sid Ruffu d. John McCarthy, Jack Hood, d. R.E. Snyder, Ben Voorhies, Jr. d. Harry D. Pruitt

Semis: Ruffu d. Ricketts, Hood d. Voorhies

Finals: Hood d. Ruffu **Cons:** Harry Pruitt

Women's Open

Quarters: Beverly Branch d. Nancy McKinnon 21-14, 21-16; Becky Bludau d. Linda Wilson 21-8, 21-16; Leslie Hall d. Robin Lasher 21-18, 21-12; Mariann Merrill d. Pat Joiner 21-17, 19-21, 11-8

Semis: Bludau d. Hall 21-11, 21-11; Branch d. Merrill 21-16, 21-19

Finals: Bludau d. Branch 21-17, 6-21, 11-3 **Cons:** Sherrie Smith

Women's B

Quarters: Julie Spallas d. Robin Lasher 21-0, 21-0; Jennifer Risch d. Patricia Paulsen 21-8, 21-3; Pat Joiner d. Diane Fields 21-19, 21-14; Sylvia Howell d. Janie Bunch 21-16, 14-21, 11-3

Semis: Joiner d. Howell 21-18, 21-14; Spallas d. Risch 17-21, 21-16, 11-7

Finals: Joiner d. Spallas 21-17, 21-19 **Cons:** Diane Fields

Women's C

Quarters: Helen Moore d. Jennifer Purdy 21-6, 21-0; Monica Guerva d. Mary Label 21-6, 21-2; Deborah Kreimborg d. Lily Kehoe 21-19, 21-17; Holli Robertson d. Carla Hord 20-21, 21-14, 11-5

Semis: Robertson d. Moore 13-21, 21-16, 11-9; Guevara d. Kreimborg 21-5, 21-11

Finals: Guevara d. Robertson 21-5, 21-17 **Cons:** Mari Warrick

Women's Novice

Quarters: Betty Maines d. Dana Deviney 21-7, 21-6; Colleen Daly d. Rochelle Johnson 19-21, 21-5, 11-3; Cheri L. White d. Joan Pettus 21-18, 13-21, 11-9; Holly Neal d. Pat Knight 21-16, 21-13

Semis: White d. Maines 21-3, 21-1; Daly d. Neal 21-11, 12-21, 11-5

Finals: White d. Daly 21-12, 21-7 **Cons:** Laura Martin

Women's Veteran

Quarters: Linda Senter d. Lily Kehoe 21-3, 21-11; Faith Ragow d. Mari Warnick 21-6, 21-6; Janie Bunch-Priest d. Ginny Luscomb 21-16, 21-18; Helen Moore d. Rose McGinty 21-9, 21-18

Illinois

Killshot Ltd. in Bloomingdale held the Super Bowl II Jan. 22-25.

Results

Men's Open: Ric Dern d. Dave Negrete 21-11, 21-19

Men's A: Jim Thompson d. Cornelius Bibb 16-21, 21-10, 11-8

Men's B: Jim Jeffers d. Jim Russo 21-17, 21-15

Men's C: Steve Smith d. Tony Sophia 21-17, 3-21, 11-7

Men's D: Platt Hill d. Dave Oliphant 20-21, 21-15, 11-4

Men's Novice: Jim Boban d. Pete Marines 16-21, 21-20, 11-6

Men's Seniors: Herb Grigg d. Don Cipriani 21-5, 21-14

Women's Open: Stacey Fletcher d. Colleen Shields 21-7, 21-7

Women's A: Diana Hardek d. Pat Mickesh 21-3, 21-10

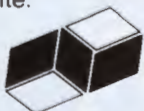
Women's C: Rita Green d. Karen Wilken 21-4, 21-7

Women's D: Carol Mayer d. Marlene Graziano 21-6, 21-17

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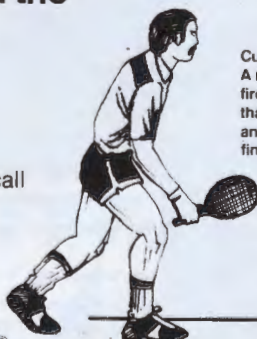
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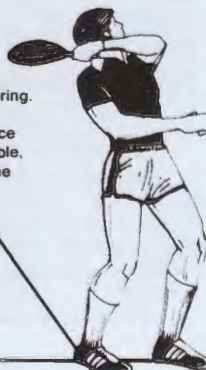
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California

Newport Beach's Sporting House hosted the Winter Classic Jan. 22-25.

Results

Men's Open Singles

Semis: Mack d. L. Gurnoe 21-11, 21-18; Stevens d. H. Solomon 21-15, 21-11

Finals: J. Mack d. B. Stevens 19-21, 21-19, 11-1

Men's B Singles: M. Kaplan d. S. Jenkins 21-11, 7-21, 11-3

Men's C Singles: P. Maranon d. C. Menina 21-7, 21-20

Men's Novice Singles: T. Truitt d. R. Watamura 21-9, 21-8

Men's Beginning Novice Singles: G. Fast d. S. Abdo 21-14, 17-21, 11-6

Men's Veterans Singles: J. Blandino d. J. Covault 21-10, 21-16

Men's Senior Singles: R.O. Carson d. B. Fearing 21-18, 15-21, 11-5

Men's Master Singles: D. Libby d. B. Hamm 21-17, 21-9

Women's Open Singles: K. Bishop d. L. Martino 21-17, 21-14

Women's B Singles: A. Sorenson d. D. Armijo 21-13, 21-2

Women's C Singles: P. Kurtiniatis d. T. Larson 21-9, 21-12

Women's Novice Singles: R. Francisco d. P. Butler 21-15, 21-11

Women's Beg. Novice Singles: K. Temple d. C. Dameron 21-17, 21-16

Juniors 17 and Under: P. Brooks d. E. Hudson 21-7, 21-3

Juniors 15 and Under: K. Watson d. J. Gonzales 21-20, 16-21, 11-6

Juniors 13 and Under: M. Silva d. P. Zurmuhle 21-12, 21-10

Juniors 11 and Under: G. Smith d. J. Runnels 21-19, 21-9

Men's Open Doubles: Stevens/Gurnoe d. Sheffield/Mack 21-15, 21-19

Men's B Doubles: Martinez/Jenkins d. Olsen/Jelnick 21-13, 13-21, 11-6

Men's C Doubles: Christian/Lundin d. Basanez/Irving 21-15, 11-21, 11-7

Mixed C Doubles: Sorenson/Stutheit d. Salcido/Condon 12-21, 21-6, 11-10

Minnesota

Burnsville Racquet and Swim Club in Burnsville held its grand opening tournament Jan. 23-25.

Results

Men's Pro-1st: Dan Ferris, 2nd-Gary Peterson, Cons-Del Kauss

Men's Open-1st: Dave Klemm, 2nd-Craig Stirtz, Cons-Dale Hauger

Men's B-1st: Ron Knutson, 2nd-John Beane, Cons-Mark Ramlo

Men's C-1st: Bruce Erickson, 2nd-Leon Barringer, Cons-Dennis Ring

Men's Novice-1st: Jim Reynolds, 2nd-Bernie Connors, Cons-Rick Varholdt

Men's Veterans 30 & Over-1st: Al Pederson, 2nd-Tom Gonser, Cons-Roy Halvorson

Men's Senior 35 & Over-1st: Bill Schmidtke, 2nd-Mike Gorman, Cons-Paul Peterson

Men's Master 45 & Over-1st: Jerry Cavanaugh, 2nd-Max Fallek, Cons-Don Griffiths

Women's Pro-1st: Carol Osterberg, 2nd-Martha Corwin, Cons-Linda Kauss

Women's A-1st: Mary Pederson, 2nd-Judy Franke, Cons-Kathy Ostrowski

Women's B-1st: Jane Salen, 2nd-Margie Agnew, Cons-Sue Ann Baranauckas

Women's C-1st: Judi Reid, 2nd-Janie Tilsen, Cons-Sue Franke

Women's Novice-1st: Mary Whalen, 2nd-Cindy Peterfeso, Cons-Michelle Robbin

Women's Senior 35 & Over-1st: Mary Wendorf, 2nd-Nancy Harrer

Junior 17 & Under-1st: Mark Larsen, 2nd-Dave Hauger

Junior 15 & Under-1st: Mike Perron, 2nd-Eric Malmberg

Junior 13 & Under-1st: Todd Stead, 2nd-Phil Ruiz, Cons-Peter Sandeen

Junior 10 & Under-1st: Jonas Beugen, 2nd-Brett Eiken

Mixed Doubles A-1st: Carol Osterberg/John Kellnar, 2nd-Jan Mahoney/Pat Page, Cons-Andrea Brosch/Mike Vanverden

Mixed Doubles B-1st: Molly Koch/Chuck Weum, 2nd-Dee Ware/Bruce Earhart, Cons-Barb Hopson/John Beane

Michigan

Keatington Racquetball Club in Pontiac was the site of the first annual Keatington Racquetball Club Detroit Lions Racquetball Tournament Jan. 30-31. Matches were between players from the Detroit Lions Football Team against each other, best of five games to 11 points. A purse of \$1,000 was split between eight places with the winner getting \$300. Leonard Thompson was the overall winner, beating a tough Horace King.



Detroit Lions who played for \$1,000 at the Keatington Racquetball Club are left to right, front row, Dexter Bussey, Horace King, John Arnold, Leonard Thompson; back row, William Gay, Garry Cobb, Homer Elias, David Hill.

Results

Quarterfinals: Leonard Thompson d. Dexter Bussey; John Arnold d. David Hill; Garry Cobb d. William Gay; Horace King d. Homer Elias

Semifinals: King d. Cob; Thompson d. Arnold

Finals: Thompson d. King

Consolation Semifinals: Gay d. Bussey, Elias d. Hill

Finals: Elias d. Gay

Indiana

The Seymour Athletic Club in Seymour hosted the 1981 Koccolene Open Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

Results

Junior Boys-1st: Doug Prather, 2nd-Mark Prohal, Cons-Bo Pritchett

Women's Open-1st: Jane Pritchett, 2nd-Dina Pritchett, Cons-Carolyn Redmond

Men's Open-1st: Jim Hamilton, 2nd-Howard May, Cons-Mike Skene

Men's B-1st: Jim Kern, 2nd-Roger Schuman, Cons-Carl Nunemaker

Men's C-1st: Tom Russell, 2nd-Woodie Fox, Cons-Larry Hodson

Women's B-1st: B.J. Thomas, 2nd-Michelle Miller, Cons-Nancy Zeigler

Women's C-1st: Ann Gandolph, 2nd-Diana Huffer, Cons-Patti Terkhorn

South Dakota

The 1981 Lewis Drug-Pepsi-KPAT Pro-Am Tourney was held at Racquetball of Sioux Falls Jan. 30 - Feb. 1, with 250 entrants making it the state's largest tournament.

Results

Men's Pro

Semis: P. Ikier d. T. Upkes, M. Hegg d. D. Constable

Finals: Hegg d. Ikier 13-21, 21-16, 11-4

Men's B

Semis: D. Gross d. D. Schneider, S. Willis d. G. Roth

Finals: Gross d. Willis 21-7, 21-15

Men's C

Semis: C. Janousek d. J. Synhorst, D. Case d. L. Jacobson

Finals: Janousek d. Case 21-13, 21-10

Men's D

Semis: D. Howland d. L. Kjergaard, M. Dittberner d. B. Schmeller

Finals: Dittberner d. Howland

Men's Seniors

Semis: W. Nelson d. G. Elrod, D. Hoalman d. R. Harley

Finals: Nelson d. Hoalman

Men's Masters

Semis: D. Robar d. J. Magstadt, B. Friesth d. R. Lindwall

Finals: Friesth d. Robar 21-20, 21-9

Men's B Doubles

Semis: Harley/Chunka d. Hoalman/Kouri, Roth/Elrod d. Hansen/Spelts

Finals: Roth/Elrod d. Harley/Chunka

Men's C Doubles

Semis: Mundhenke/Rasmussen d. Murray/Aakhous, Christian/Hansen d. Fellicetta/Brown

Finals: Mundhenke/Rasmussen d. Christian/Hansen

Women's A-B Singles

Semis: T. McVay d. D. Upkes, K. Meidinger d. D. Drees

Finals: Meidinger d. McVay

Women's C Singles

Semis: W. Gunderson d. L. Ladwig, C. Johnson d. M. Stengle

Finals: Gunderson d. Johnson 21-10, 21-5

Women's D

Semis: P. Pick d. J. Westphalen, D. Tunqe d. S. Becker

Finals: Tunqe d. Pick 21-14, 11-21, 11-8

Women's Doubles

Semis: Upkes/Veldkamp d. Erger/Denne,

Campbell/Peterson d. Drees/Rowth

Finals: Campbell/Peterson d. Upkes/Veldkamp

California

The President's Tourney was held Feb. 5-8 at the Hacienda (CA) Health Club.

Results

Men's Open Singles

Semis: Texiera d. Greg Sheffield 21-19, 13-21, 11-6; Mack d. Deron Jones 21-3, 21-16

Finals: Guy Texiera d. John Mack 19-21, 21-16, 11-1

Men's B Singles: S. Rossi d. D. Forysthe 19-21, 21-13, 11-3

Men's C Singles: B. Bouchereau d. G. Perez 21-7, 21-11

Men's Novice: D. Stromen d. P. Montano 18-21, 21-8, 11-10

Men's Beginning Novice: C. Flanery d. D. Hyman 21-14, 21-3

Men's Seniors: B. Albert d. E. Ross 21-12, 21-10

Men's Masters: G. Winterdurn d. V. Lerner 9-21, 21-17, 11-9

Women's Open: C. Moore d. M. Drexler 21-15, 21-3

Women's C Singles: J. Braasch d. P. Lorenz 21-16, 21-18

Women's Novice: C. Georgino d. M. Pimentel 21-8, 21-6

Women's Beginning Novice: C. Bailey d. J. Chavez 21-10, 21-6

Women's Seniors: T. Esser d. K. Cash 21-5, 21-9

Men's Open Doubles: Jones/Tash d. Hanson/Edwards 13-21, 21-17, 11-2

Men's B Doubles: Santana/Sanchez d. Bordato/Watamura

Men's C Doubles: Olsen/Dufrense d. Perez/Asucan 13-21, 21-16, 11-10

Mixed C Doubles: Beck/Lorenz d. Monroe/Meza 21-12, 17-21, 11-10

Illinois

Finalists in the third annual Budweiser St. Valentine's Day Massacre held in conjunction with the W.P.R.A., tournament Feb. 12-15 at Killshot, Ltd. in Bloomingdale, IL, were:

Results

Men's Open: Jim Scheyer d. Sean Moskwa 21-13, 21-13

Men's A-Scott Brechon d. John Negrete 21-16, 21-18

Men's B-Bob Clar d. Vince Del Guidice 16-21, 21-14, 11-9

Men's C-Platt Hill d. Paul Bennett 21-16, 21-14

Men's D-Mike Klehr d. Mike Osika 21-14, 21-5

Men's Novice-Wes Schwebke d. Chris Veri 21-9, 21-10

Men's Senior-Herb Grigg d. Ron Johnson 19-21, 21-1, 11-4

Men's Masters-Saul Sandoval d. Tom Monk 21-9, 21-16

Women's Open-Caryn McKinney d. Linda Forcade 21-13, 21-3

Women's A-Laurel Davis d. Kelly Swanson 21-16, 21-15

Women's B-JoAnn Hall d. Nina Guthrie 21-9, 21-2

Women's C-Betty Chapman d. Debra Miiller 21-15, 21-18

Women's D-Joyce Morgan d. MaryAnn McCullough 21-4, 21-17

Women's Novice-Sandra Krautz d. Cathy Pulls 21-10, 21-19

Women's Senior-Alyce Kelleher d. Bev Franks 21-15, 21-12

Ohio

The Supreme Court Racquetball Club in Columbus held a Valentine's Day Open Doubles Tournament Feb. 13-15.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Bill Whipple/Ron Woolard d. Tim Anthony/Bruce Baer 14-21, 21-11, 11-4; Dave Kovanda/Jon Hauck d. Scott Snow/Bill Todor 21-11, 18-21, 11-4; Jim Knickerbocker/Jim Hausserman d. Keith Burnard/Don Bruschi 21-15, 19-21, 11-8; Phil Stepp/Bobby Saltsman d. Art Payne/Steve Wingate 21-18, 21-13

Semis: Whipple/Woolard d. Kovanda/Hauck 21-13, 21-19; Stepp/Saltsman d. Knickerbocker/Hausserman 21-18, 21-8

Finals: Whipple/Woolard d. Stepp/Saltsman 21-4, 21-5 3rd: Kovanda/Hauck d. Knickerbocker/Hausserman 21-15, 21-6

Women's Open

Semis: Michele Cullen/Beth Happe d. Heidi Gilman/Elaine Mardas 15-21, 12-19, 11-5; Rose Samson/Vicki Strazishar d. Beth Caldwell/Inge Lees 21-20, 21-12

Finals: Samson/Strazishar d. Cullen/Happe 21-19, 21-4 3rd: Gilman/Mardas d. Caldwell/Lees 21-3, 21-12

Mixed Open

Quarters: Phil Stepp/Elaine Mardas d. Art Hune/Michele Cullen 21-11, 21-10; Tedd Whitney/Linda Reamsnyder d. Dave Kovanda/Rose Samson 21-14, 20-21, 11-5; Bill Whipple/Janis Whipple d. Steve Wingate/Sylvia Johnson 21-13, 21-9; Scott Snow/Vicki Strazishar d. Don Bruschi/Cindy Kinman 21-12, 21-16

Semis: Whitney/Reamsnyder d. Stepp/Mardas 13-21, 21-17, 11-7; Snow/Strazishar d. Whipple/Whipple 21-15, 21-2

Finals: Whitney/Reamsnyder d. Snow/Strazishar 18-21, 21-16, 11-6 3rd: Stepp/Mardas d. Whipple/Whipple 21-12, 21-18

Men's B

Quarters: Bill Hazen/Fred Purneau d. Dave Shaeffer/Mark Wihl 21-17, 8-21, 11-7; John Watson/Brian Stickel d. Dan Newhouse/Tony Adams 21-14, 21-20; Larry Irvine/Bob Bukovec d. John Littlejohn/John Heft 21-11, 21-20; Kish Bharwani/Jerry Mapes d. Bill O'Laughlin/Brian Fagan 21-20, 21-20

Semis: Watson/Stickel d. Hazen/Purneau 21-20; 21-12; Irvine/Bukovec d. Bharwani/Mapes 21-16, 21-16

Finals: Irvine/Bukovec d. Watson/Stickel 21-15, 12-21, 11-2 3rd: Hazen/Purneau d. Bharwani/Mapes 21-15, 21-15

Women's B

Round Robin: 1st-Vicky Conley/Sue Westfall, 2nd-Lisa Liggett/Sharon Hooks, 3rd-Becky Kovach/Jan Draper

Mixed B

Semis: Jim Roberts/Anita Lorenzo d. Bob King/Sacha Hattori 21-11, 21-7; Brian Stickel/June Bender d. Farley Piper/Karen Piper 21-10, 21-13

Finals: Roberts/Lorenzo d. Stickel/Bender 13-21, 21-18, 11-10 3rd: King/Hattori d. Piper/Piper 21-10, 13-21, 11-6

Consolation Winners

Men's Open: Pat Motil/Dave Valinsky; **Women's Open:** Sylvia Johnson/Maureen Holmes; **Mixed Open:** Jon Hauck/Robin Muldoon; **Men's B:** Brian Ford/Bruce Quill; **Women's B:** Deb Henry/Linda Brazell; **Mixed B:** Jeff Culp/Becky Buffington

Minnesota

Kandi Courts in Willmar was the site of the Q102 Heart Fund Open Feb. 13-15 sanctioned by the USRA.

Results

Men's Open Single: Hart Johnson d. Craig Wagner 7-21, 21-7, 11-2

Men's B Singles: Roger Poganski d. Greg Dahlgren 10-21, 21-17, 11-5

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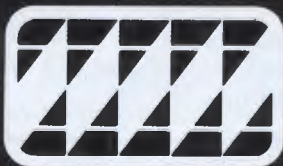
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Men's C: Ron Carlson d. Wally Peterson 21-15, 16-21, 11-7
Men's Novice: Troy Walker d. Alan Egge 21-19, 14-21, 11-5
Seniors A: Bob Drengler d. Dennis Hoialman 21-12, 12-8
Seniors B: Geoff Partidge d. Dave Smith 21-16, 21-19
Men's Open Doubles: Taunton/Taunton d. Pederson/Stirtz
Men's B Doubles: Johnson/Schmitt d. Hoialman/Kouri, injury forfeit
Women's Open Singles: Marrisue Soutor d. Jacque Coplin
Women's B Singles: Jodi Dezurik d. Holly Duevel 17-21, 21-18, 11-6
Women's C Singles: Jean Hanson d. Jean Dotzler 13-21, 21-1, 11-6
Women Novice: Cathy Waldemar d. Kathy Hedglin 14-21, 21-14, 11-6

Semis: Matthews d. Gautier 21-3, 21-11; McDowell d. Gonzalez 8-21, 21-19, 11-7
Finals: McDowell d. Matthews 21-8, 21-12



Men's Masters 45 +

Preliminaries: Ron Maggard, bye; Arnold Leshman d. Harlow 21-17, 21-3; Duke Libby d. Bill Branta 21-6, 21-10; Dennis David, bye
Semis: Maggard d. Leshman 21-6, 18-21, 11-4; Libby d. David 21-4, 19-21, 11-7
Finals: Libby d. Maggard 21-16, 21-3

Men's Golden Masters 50 +

Quarters: Robert Harper d. Dan Hilecher 21-9, 21-5; Mike Wohl d. Carlos Sena 21-19, injury forfeit; Fred Koran d. Seymour Ekelman 21-9, 21-17; Gene MacDonald d. Joe Ramos 21-13, 21-17
Semis: Harper d. Wohl 21-17, 12-21, 11-8; MacDonald d. Koran 14-21, 21-19, 11-10
Finals: MacDonald d. Harper 20-21, 21-20, 11-5

Women's Open

Preliminaries: Brenda Poe, bye; Donna Rae Furlong 21-7, 21-12; Marion Clement d. Carrie Montano 21-16, 20-21, 11-4; Melanie Britton 21-3, 21-20
Semis: Poe d. Furlong 21-3, 21-3; Britton d. Clement 21-12, 21-9
Finals: Poe d. Britton 21-7, 21-7

Women's B

Preliminaries: Alicia Vidal, bye; Yolande Goldman d. Debra Cohen 21-13, 6-21, 11-5; Rosemary Aicardi d. Ellen Grossberger 21-5, 21-20; Tracy Watkins d. Nancy Brown 21-16, 21-5
Semis: Vidal d. Goldman 21-20, 21-14; Aicardi d. Watkins 21-15, 14-21, 11-7
Finals: Vidal d. Aicardi 21-15, 21-19

Women's C

Quarters: Eleanor Smith d. Annette Desormey 21-11, 17-21, 11-7; Karen Hoff d. Esther Vidal 21-8, 21-2; Arleen Roca d. Shirley Elgaway 21-9, 21-7; Sandy Sweeney d. Martha Fernandez 21-9, 21-10
Semis: Smith d. Hoff 21-19, 21-8; Sweeney d. Roca 21-4, 21-6
Finals: Sweeney d. Smith 21-11, 21-8

Women's Novice

Preliminaries: Carol Delgado d. Laurie Turner 21-14, 21-3; Lourdes Andrews d. Dianne L. Holt, forfeit; Patty Meeks d. Phyllis Davis; Aida Seda d. Joyce Maggard
Semis: Delgado d. Andrews 18-21, 21-11, 11-7; Seda d. Meeks 21-8, 21-13
Finals: Delgado d. Seda 21-11, 21-13

Florida

The Kunnan/Leach Tournament of Champions took place March 18-22 at the Sportrooms of Coral Gables.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Matt Matthews d. Mark Morrison 21-9, 21-18; Bubba Gautier d. Remy Laroche 21-16 21-18; Dennis McDowell d. Gary Brown 21-5, 21-13; Sergio Gonzalez d. Shawn Brown 21-20, 21-11

Dennis McDowell of Bloomington, IL, Men's Open Winner, takes care of Miami's Sergio Gonzales in the semis before beating Matt Mathews of Tampa in the finals.

— DA KOTA photo

Men's B

Quarters: Tommy Dunn d. Ben Upton 11-21, 21-3, 11-2; Marty Berger d. Alfredo Cabanas 21-12, 14-21, 11-10; Charles Lopez d. Jorge Perez 21-14, 21-8; Jed Dance d. David Jupiter 21-4, 21-15

Semis: Dunn d. Berger 21-7, 21-12; Dance d. Lopez 17-21, 21-16, 11-7

Finals: Dance d. Dunn 21-11, 21-19

Men's C

Quarters: Ed Torkelson d. Michael Durkin 21-15, 20-21, 11-9; John Hartney d. Joe Delgado 21-19, 21-14; T.J. Ferro d. Mike Gonzalez 16-21, 21-7, 11-4; Jorge Martinez d. Marc Kalbac 16-21, 21-10, 11-10

Semis: Hartney d. Torkelson 21-13, 21-18; Martinez d. Ferro 19-21, 21-10, 11-5

Finals: Hartney d. Martinez 21-5, 21-20

Men's Novice

Quarters: Jacques Lemieux d. Bill Graham 21-6, 21-2; John Garcia d. Don Bell 14-21, 21-11, 11-5; Alberto Deleon d. Brannon Riggs 21-17, 21-15; Jocelyn Berube d. Juan Villegas 21-8, 21-20

Semis: Garcia d. Lemieux 21-20, 1-21, 11-0; Berube d. Deleon 21-16, 19-21, 11-10

Finals: Berube d. Garcia 21-18, 21-4

Men's Seniors 30 +

Quarters: Robert DeRoberts d. Pete Montano 21-15, 21-14; Marc Burns d. Bruce Pearlman 21-10; 21-8; Jerry Kelleher d. Gary Mammelle 20-21, 21-8, 11-3; Mike Desormey d. Gene Owen 21-7, 21-11

Semis: DeRoberts d. Burns 17-21, 21-9, 11-4; Desormey d. Kelleher 21-17, 21-12

Finals: Desormey d. DeRoberts 21-7, 21-14

Men's Seniors 35 +

Quarters: Ed Remen d. March Gardner 21-6, 21-8; John Brown d. Jack Sussman 21-19, 21-7; Gary Goldfaden 21-9, 21-19; Joe Serabia d. Dave Brubaker 21-7, 21-12

Semis: Remen d. Brown 21-5; 21-4; Serabia d. Goldfaden 21-13, 21-8

Finals: Remen d. Serabia 21-2, 21-11

Men's Masters 40 +

Quarters: Pete Crummey d. Frank Pasquale 21-13, 21-19; Harvey Ruvin d. Ken Scott; Tom Truxell d. Jim McCauley 21-13, 21-14; Fred White d. Tony Murguia 21-10, 21-13

Semis: Crummey d. Ruvin 21-14, 21-9; White d. Truxell 21-19, 8-21, 11-7

Finals: White d. Crummey



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Upcoming Events

June 5-7

The fifth annual Dayton Area Racquetball Tournament (DART) at the Dayton Court House, Dayton Circuit Courts North and Dayton Circuit Courts East for the benefit of the Children's Medical Center. Contact Bruce Dawson 513-885-5260

July 9-12/July 16-19

USRA Junior Regionals; See entry in June National Racquetball

Aug. 10-15

USRA Junior Nationals; Charlie Club, Palatine, IL



Friendly Arguments Add to the Game

At the time of day when many of his former buddies are sitting down to big lunches in Miami, Jack Wildman is lifting weights in West Orange, NJ, warming up for his racquetball game.

The 75-year-old ex-handball champ and his wife, Frances, have chosen to stay up north where they can watch the seasons change and get their exercise at the Metropolitan YMCA and YW-YMHA in West Orange, near their Elizabeth, NJ home.

Frances swims close to 30 laps a day, but Jack's sport is racquetball—a game he puts above all others for physical and mental conditioning.

"It's the most enjoyable and quickest way to get a good workout," he says. "The competition and friendly arguments add to the pleasure of the game."

Arguments are only fitting when Wildman faces one of his regular opponents—New Jersey Governor Brendan T. Byrne, 57, who was prosecutor of Essex County when he met Wildman, an attorney. Wildman introduced Byrne to paddleball, the game that Wildman substituted for handball (*"it got too hard on my hands"*) 20 years ago. Now Byrne and Wildman play racquetball at the West Orange Metropolitan Y and the YMCA in Newark.

Another frequent opponent is Joel Jacobson, 62, the New Jersey state energy commissioner, who competes against Wildman at the Courtime Racquetball Club in Lyndhurst. Then there's Sol Stone, 64, the former athletic director at the Metropolitan Y, and Jim Hanna, a mere 50, and former soccer pro who, Wildman admits, *"wipes me off the court. I've never seen a man so fast."*

Wildman has no choice but to play younger men. *"I can't find anyone my age to play with,"* he explains.

Wildman's retirement from his law practice five years ago is the only part of his life that's in keeping with his age. Racquetball is his substitute for lunch—after only a light breakfast—as he arrives at the Y around 11:30 a.m. and spends a half hour or so in the exercise room getting ready to play.

"I warm up with stretches—do a little weight lifting—so I won't get a cramp in my arm or my foot. At my age I can't walk into a court and start playing strenuously."



Jack and Frances Wildman arrive at the West Orange, NJ Metropolitan YWCA-YW-YMHA, each ready for a different form of exercise.

Jack Wildman's racquetball skills are a classic blend of handball and paddleball prowess.



Wildman, whose doctor gave him the okay to play after installing a pacemaker last May, offers more advice to men and women his age who want to play racquetball:

- Take lessons and learn the rules to help avoid injuries.
- Don't let your opponent rush you along. Take at least 15 to 20 minutes to stretch, and then warm up in the court by hitting a few balls with each of the strokes you'll be using.

- Sit down for five minutes after you've played before you hit the shower. Start with a hot shower and gradually turn the cooler water on to help you cool down. ●

Good Deeds that Pay Their Way

Sponsored Summer Sessions Benefit the Club and the Campers

by Dick Squires

National Racquetball East Coast Editor



Club Director Dick Squires, Head Pro Will Verhoeff, New Haven Boy's Club Chief Administrator Robert Sheeley, First Bank Senior Vice-President Jay Jaser and Club Instructor Nick Meucci, back row left to right, pose with a graduating class.

Last summer we filled many empty courts three days a week with a racquetball camp which offered separate instructional sessions at our Downtown Racquet Club for New Haven inner-city youngsters and for retarded kids from nearby Durham School for Special Children.

All the court time, "graduation" diplomas and T-shirts were paid for by First Bank and Miller Beer, who co-sponsored the camp. Both companies received some excellent publicity in the local newspapers and on television.

While the club received profuse thanks for its willingness to open its doors to these underprivileged youngsters, we also sold unbooked courts during the slow days of summer. It was one of those projects that really benefited everybody.

Bob Sheeley, executive administrator of the New Haven Boy's Clubs, told me why he was so delighted with the entire program. "Most of our boys and girls are brought up in a rather poor environment. Normally they would never have gotten the opportunity to even see the inside of such a posh club, let alone to be exposed to a lifetime sport such as racquetball."

"What else do you suppose the camp has meant to them?" I asked.

"Well they realize, some of them for the first time, that there is a better life out there beyond the only environment they have ever known. If they one day wish to join a club such as yours, they know they will have to do something to improve their lot. It becomes a marvelous incentive to strive and better themselves."

Microcosm of Life

The camp meant something quite different to the retarded children. Dave Condon, director of Durham School, explained "Our primary goal is to help these mentally and emotionally disturbed boys and girls to re-enter the community and live a reasonably normal life. A sport such as racquetball provides them with three very important requirements that they must learn before leaving the school. First they must be willing and able to follow instructions. Secondly they have to improve their hand/eye coordination and finally they must play within certain specific rules. In other words your racquetball clinics represent a sort of microcosm of life for these kids looking for a second opportunity for a normal existence."

Will Verhoeff, my assistant and the club professional, worked with the city kids for a couple of hours every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning and the special children in the afternoons. The groups contained about 16 pupils ranging in age from 10 to 20, and a couple of our club staff members helped out.

A typical two-hour session consisted of 10 minutes of introduction and what particular strokes or strategy were going to be taught that day. This was followed by 20 minutes of flexibility and strengthening exercises in one of the courts. Then came the group instruction on a single facet of the game. Subsequently the instructors split the group into pairs and the children attempted to practice whatever they had just been taught.

At the end of the initial hour there was a soda and cookie break, during which time Will would demonstrate further by playing against another instructor or, for fun, he would challenge one of the better youngsters to a five point game. He also showed them the art of stringing racquets.

After the 10 minute rest period there would be a question and answer session, or a rousing game of Simon Says or a relay race, with the winners being awarded a nominal prize, i.e. sweat band, ball, etc.

Nautilus and Walleyball

Next half the group went to the club's Nautilus fitness center while the remaining youngsters either played some more racquetball or competed in teams "walleyball." A few of the more avid students played a round robin singles contest of abbreviated games. The final moments were consumed in reviewing the day's lesson and previewing what they would be learning during the next session.

"In teaching racquetball to younger kids," Will Verhoeff said, "it is important to present the basics in short doses and intermingled with a lot of different activities. In this way we are able to retain their enthusiasm for the game."

Before implementing this program I had been warned that we would have to "bolt all the doors and keep everything under lock and key" because "these are tough kids. They'll tear the place apart." In reality this was not the case. They all treated the club with respect and consideration. We did not "lose" a single racquet or ball, which cannot be truthfully claimed for the other nine months of the year! It was as if the facilities became their club during the two weeks they were here.

"As a matter of fact," Verhoeff said, "several of the youngsters who had graduated asked me if they could still come back and play here. A couple of kids came down with their parents and actually joined as full time junior members. They somehow found the 30 bucks. It was really quite satisfying."

New Club Listings

Black Butte Racquetball Club
Havre, MT 59501

Broken Arrow Racquetball & Fitness Center
1800 S. Aspen
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Cambridge Racquetball Club
215 First St.
Cambridge, MA 02142

Edgewater Park Racquetball Club
2522 Route 130
Edgewater Park, NJ 08010

Ichibon Racquetball Club
Hi-way 71 South
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Mountain Home Racquet Club
515 Coley Dr.
Mountain Home, AR 72653

Oakwood Racquet Club
351 Oakwood Ave.
Waukegan, IL 60085

Security Court Club
2076 Lord Baltimore Dr.
Baltimore, MD 21207

The Supreme Courts Racquetball and Fitness Center
4020 Jackson Blvd.
Rapid City, SD 57701

Texarkana Racquet Club
#1 Court Side Line
Texarkana, AR 75501

While the retarded children were the more difficult ones to work with, they were also more excited and genuinely enthusiastic. Merely making solid contact with the ball was like hitting a home run in a Little League baseball game.

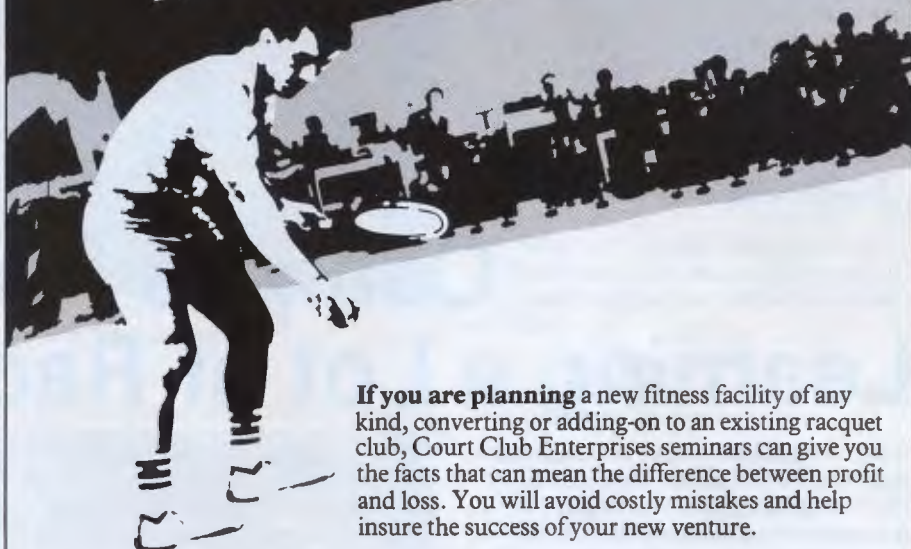
One day following "commencement" of a particular group, one of the inner-city "graduates" approached Will and gave him a prolonged hug. Bob Sheeley, from the Boy's Clubs, quietly whispered to me. "That says it all. My kids don't hug people too readily." ●

In addition to his duties as *National Racquetball's* East Coast Editor Squires is director of New Haven's Downtown Racquet Club.

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—Peter Harleman photos



Pro Rita Hoff, right, establishes rapport with the author.

Dear Mom:

by Patricia Harleman

Camp Is Fun and I'm Learning a Lot of Racquetball

It was with a healthy dose of skepticism that I went off to Janell Marriott's and Rita Hoff's Racquetball Camp last summer to try something different in terms of improving my "Club B" game, something I had built up with two years of league play and very few tournaments.

Like most of the 15 other campers I was hopeful of discovering some hidden reservoir of talent as well as picking up a few professional hints that could improve my game.

Actually I felt that I already had a pretty good hold on what the game of racquetball is all about. I knew about ceiling balls and down-the-wall passing shots. I just wanted to see if a real "pro" could help me out. The answer I and everyone in the camp discovered was an unqualified yes.

The basic procedure for the five day camp called for a lecture in the morning, followed by pairs of us practicing what we had just learned. Six of the campers were men and nine were women. Two campers were Tournament A players, and two were sponsored Open players considering turning pro. The rest of us were what racquetball clubs are all about: good, solid, average players who wanted to improve their game.

Rita and Janell's attention was not tied to the caliber of the player. Janell, with her perfectionist's approach to the game (always accompanied with a wry, little smile), or Rita, with her intuitive, reassuring manner, dissected everyone's game, sometimes via videotape.

Afternoons at camp were basically a repeat of the morning—lecture followed by on court instruction—but an added challenge was a chance to play Rita and/or Janell who, in between blowing you off the court in a friendly manner, would point out areas of possible improvement in your game.

As might be expected along with basic instruction in such things as the forehand stroke, we learned drills, warm up exercises and a host of little techniques for improving our games. More often than not Janell was the basic lecturer, and Rita served as the demonstrator, but whether we were trying to bang out 10 ceiling balls in a row with a partner (easier said than done) or testing Rita's special around-the-wall ball, we were constantly scrutinized, analyzed and helped by Rita and Janell.

Luckily camp was not all work and no play. Night time—if your aching body

could tolerate it—was given over to films, parties, a concert and a beer or two or sometimes even more.

On the final day Rita and Janell went over doubles play, and we all participated in a campers handicap tournament. Janell did the handicapping, and, as usual, she was tough—but with a smile.

Following our tournament—we all felt like students who had crammed for the finals—the big event of the day was a doubles match Rita and Janell had scheduled with the local pro and the top men's player at the club. Janell had told us of her early days as a racquetball player when one of her "friends" (all Janell's "friends" are "boyfriends," according to Rita) had always let her leap out to an 18 point lead or so, and then had spent the rest of the game running her all over the court and laughing until he eventually decided to win.

We were, of course, a little bit interested in how well Rita and Janell would do, especially since they had spotted the men 18 points. Too many, we felt, but Rita turned loose her wicked backhand, and Janell blasted away with her forehand and boom, score 21 to 18, Hoff and Marriott.

National Racquetball's Preliminary 1981 Camp Guide

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Instruction at Storm Meadows Racquetball Club

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July 6-10, 13-17, 20-24 Aspen (CO) Athletic Club
August 3-7, 10-14, 17-21, 24-28 Hyannis (MA) Racquetball Club

The Don Thomas Racquetball Camp

c/o Terry Fancher, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076, 312-673-4000
August 9-14, 16-21
Instruction at What's Your Racquet, Wall, NJ
Discount to USRA members

The Mike Yellen Racquetball Camp

c/o Terry Fancher, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076, 312-673-4000
Instruction at the Charlie Club, Palatine, IL
Discounts to USRA members

All camps are for adults unless specified for juniors.

(Note discounts for USRA members at Mike Yellen and Don Thomas camps)

That reliable racquetball camp tool—the videotape—gives Janell Marriott a new view of her game.



The second game was a bit closer with the men scoring two points, and we campers were careful to point out the source of that problem to Janell: she fed the ball to the men in the front of the court.

The week's finale was a Camper's Banquet where Rita passed out gag gifts and then prizes and everyone replenished the calories they had lost that week. All in all racquetball camp with pros who give you time and attention is one of the real bargains left in this world. And besides it helps your game. ●

Camp Choice Questions

Answers to the following will help you choose the right camp.

1. What is the student-teacher ratio?

More important than the overall size of the camp is the amount of personal attention you can expect. Look for a maximum of five students per teacher.

2. How much instruction do they offer?

You should expect about three hours a day on court and one hour for lectures.

3. Is court time available for practice and play?

Aim for an hour of additional court time, but that's about it if you want to avoid lactic acid buildup that can give you sore muscles.

4. Is videotaping available?

Seeing yourself play helps you spot your own flaws with the teacher's help.

5. Who gives on court instruction?

The big name pro should evaluate your overall game at least twice during the camp session and should be handy to answer your questions. The members of the working staff who are on the court with you should be experienced teachers and may vary from session to session. Since most camps list only the head pro, you might check to see who else is teaching at the session you're planning to attend. ●

—Terry Fancher

Next month: Racquetball camp roundup, plus tips for getting ready for camp from Jeff Shearer, now in his fourth year operating the country's largest racquetball camp.

—Carole C. George photos

Shannon Wright

Wright Wins Off Loose

Some people predicted the 11-point scoring system the Women's Professional Racquetball Association adopted this season would shorten the matches and make them less exciting. But Shannon Wright's finals victory at Pacific West Sport and Racquet Club in Federal Way, WA proved that theory wrong on both counts. The match lasted two and a half hours and had the spectators on the edge of their seats all 150 minutes.

The 2-3, 3-0, 3-1 game scores camouflage the closeness of the match. As Wright put it *"I kinda wiped her in the second set and if you look at the total games it was seven games to four. So overall I got a lot more points and a lot more games."*

But when you consider that each individual game was usually determined by a few points either way, it's easy to see how closely matched the top two women in professional racquetball really are. In fact the tie-breaker was one game apiece before Wright nosed across the wire first, winning the final game 11-9 to claim the \$2,500 check for first place.

Even with this second place win McKay retains her number one ranking. She feels that she didn't play too badly. *"No way"* is she used to playing two and a half hour matches, but McKay doesn't use that for an excuse. *"I think at the crucial times we had really good, long rallies, but I was the one who left the shot loose. Shannon went for the shot and got it."* Her strategy for the next tournament, simply stated, is to beat Shannon.

Wright, on the other hand, isn't so sure that will happen. She quickly points out that she hasn't lost to McKay since the Nationals last June. Of course she's lost to other players, and her ranking suffered because she skipped the Chicago tournament to compete in the Superstars TV

by Carole C. George

Shannon Beats Heather as Women Bring Pro Racquetball to the State of Washington

McKay's Shots...

competition. (see EXTRA!) Wright explained *"From seeing Heather hit those ceiling shots you can tell that she's getting a lot more tentative when she plays me. I think she realizes that it's going to be really, really tough for her to beat me anymore."* Wright described her own play as *"okay... I didn't play super dooper because I've only been playing about a week and a half since the Superstars"* (which aired during her finals match in Washington). *"And before that I hadn't been playing for a month or a month and a half while I was training for the Superstars."*

While the outcome of the next Wright/McKay match-up is still debatable, the names of the semi-finalists are not. McKay and Wright may trade off numbers one and two and Lynn Adams and Marci Greer may do the same for the number three and four rankings, but the four of them have consistently finished in the semis or better nearly every time.

Wright's and Adams' match was as emotional as usual for the two close friends, and it ended in a win for Wright, 11-5 in the fifth game of the second set. Before that the games were generally a lot closer. From the beginning Wright looked strong. She jumped right out with an 8-1 lead and took the game 11-9 despite Adams' midgame comeback. The next game the strategy reversed with Lynn getting off to a fast 7-1 lead before winning 11-6, the same score by which Wright won in the set's third game.

The first game of the second set was the most exciting. The game fell into a pattern with Wright leading and then Adams closing the gap before Wright led again and Adams closed it tighter.

At the wire Adams was able to tie the score, but Wright finally got the lead—13-11.

The next game was Adams'—11-8, then Wright's—11-7 then it was Adams winning 11-8. With the games at two apiece Adams failed to provide the competition the fans expected, and Wright clinched it 11-5.

McKay and Greer had their first rematch since Greer had upset the squash champ in the semis of Boise. This time the script was more expected. Out of the seven games they played Greer was only able to win one of them. Still the match had its engrossing moments. In the first two games McKay refused to go into overtime, winning 11-9, 11-9. Greer's back court kills got hot enough to win the next game 11-5, but she cooled off as McKay finished the set with an 11-3 victory.

In the second set McKay skimmed past Greer with an 11-9 win, then charged past to win 11-3. In the third and final game of the second set McKay was behind 7-3. Never one to give anything away, even when she can afford it, McKay made a magnificent comeback to tie the score at 8. The lead waivered in both directions before McKay's *"better late than never"* effort paid off with a 13-11 decision.

While McKay, Wright, Adams and Greer dominate the top four positions, at least twice as many women have been in line for the next four all season. At the beginning the anticipated quarter-finalists would probably have been Janell Marriott, seasoned pro tour player and current W.P.R.A. president; Bonnie Stoll, who had jumped from the amateur ranks to a spot as high as number five; Rita Hoff, another experienced W.P.R.A. board member, and Sarah Green, a frequent finalist.

Going into this tournament, however, the players who were seeded to finish in the quarters were Karin Walton-Trent, who pulled the surprise of the NRC 1979 season when she won the Nationals;

Heather McKay



Marci Greer



Linda Prefontaine, a favorite from Eugene, OR; Laura Martino, the 1980 W.P.R.A. amateur champion, whose best pro finish was the semis in Chicago, and Peggy Gardner, who is still billed as an upset winner every time she makes it to the

W.P.R.A. Rankings as of March 1

1. Heather McKay	610	15. Jennifer Harding	90
2. Shannon Wright	520	Vicki Panzeri	
3. Lynn Adams	390	17. Kippi Bishop-Boatwright	80
4. Marci Greer	370	18. Jean Sauser	70
5. Laura Martino	180	Mary Dee	
6. Karin Walton-Trent	170	20. Sheryl Ambler	60
7. Fran Davis	160	Sarah Green	
8. Elaine Lee	140	Brenda Poe	
9. Peggy Gardner	120	23. Susie Dugan	50
10. Rita Hoff	110	Peggy Steding	
Janell Marriott		Melanie Taylor	
Linda Prefontaine		Hope Weisbach	
13. Martha McDonald	100		
Bonnie Stoll			

Lynn Adams



quarters. As for the top four—there were no surprises at the Federal Way tournament this third W.P.R.A. stop of the current season. In the 16s the favorites took their matches in straight sets,

(McKay over Kippi Bishop-Boatwright, Greer over Hoff, Adams over Jennifer Harding and Wright over hard fighting hometown favorite, Vicki Panzeri), while the challengers played tie-breakers.

Fran Davis battled back and forth with Gardner 1-3, 3-1, 2-1 before pulling ahead by two points to win the third game of the tie-breaker, which she followed with a 3-0, 3-0 defeat against McKay. Bonnie Stoll and Walton-Trent played another see-saw game—Walton-Trent dominating the first set 3-0, Stoll coming back with a 3-2 win and Walton-Trent winning the tie-breaker 2-0 before she bowed out courtesy of her favorite rival, Marci Greer 3-1, 3-2.

Elaine Lee and Prefontaine tried to take it to the maximum 13 game limit of the W.P.R.A. scoring system, but Lee won in 12 games 3-1, 2-3, 2-1. Martino also was forced to play 12 games in her round of 16 match against young Brenda Poe, who pushed up her pro ranking earlier by upsetting Marriott. Martino beat Poe 3-2, 1-3, 2-1. ●

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Danny Thomas, Founder

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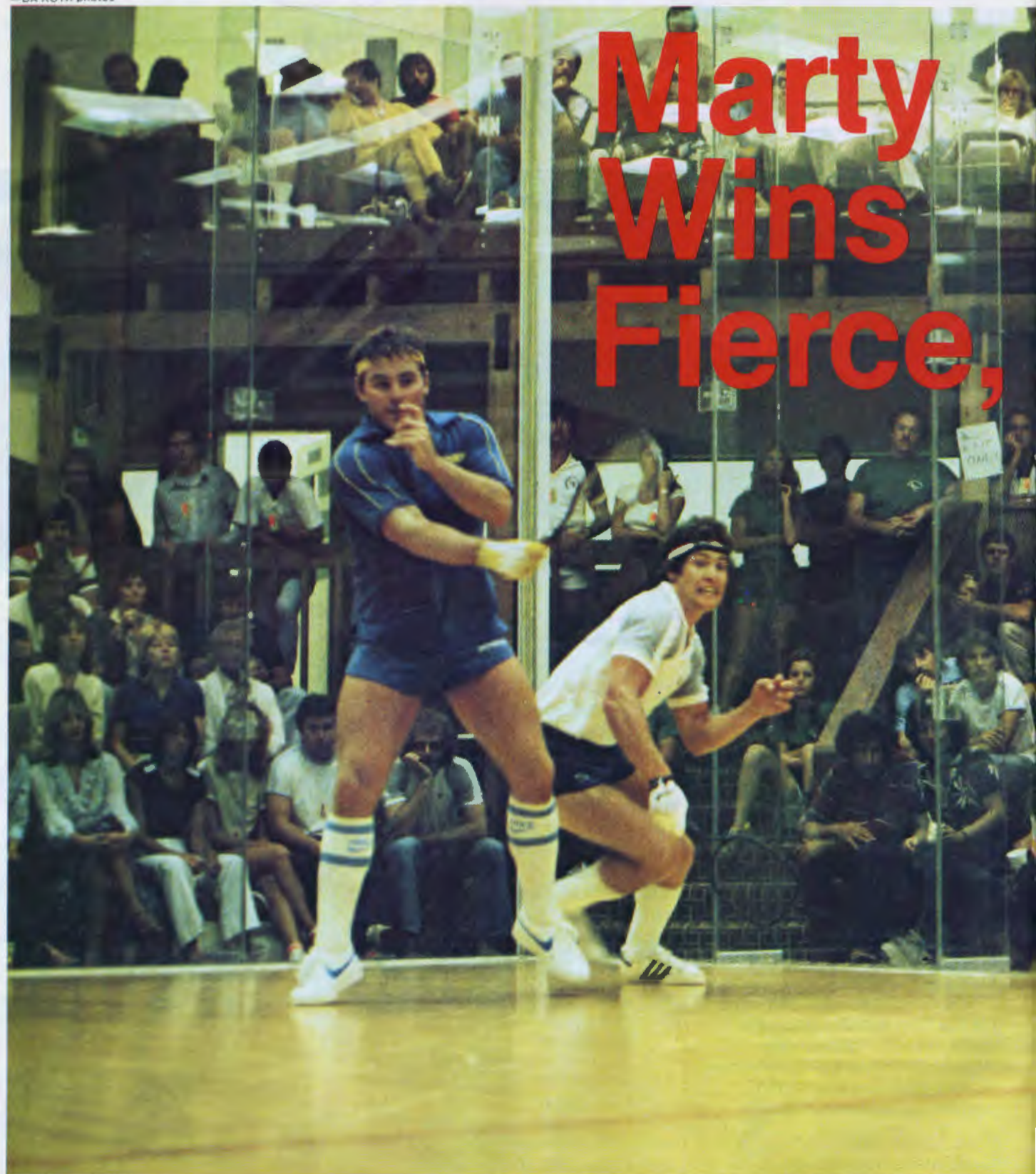
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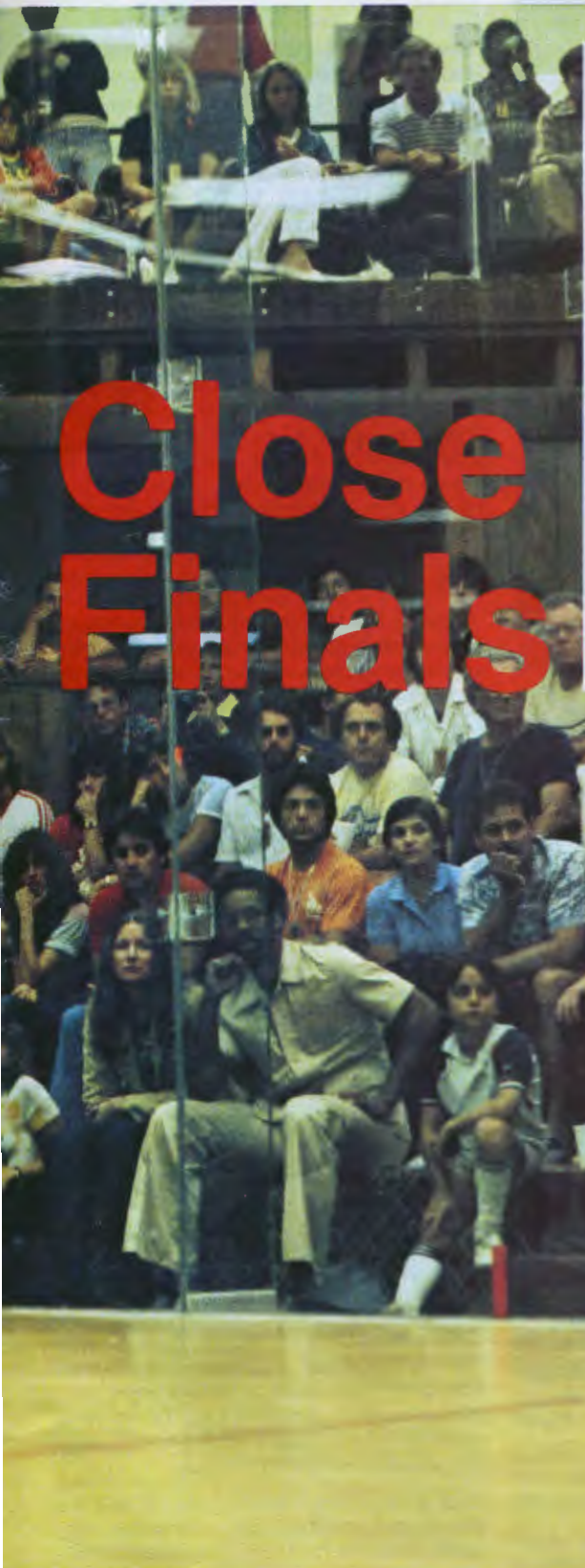
MOUNTAIN RESORT

—DA KOTA photos



Marty Wins Fierce,

Hogan Beats Dave Peck by a Point a Game in Match that Treats Miami Fans to a 15 Shot Rally



Close Finals



To be sure it was the most exclusive event on the 1980-81 National Racquetball Club Leach/Seamco tour. And to be sure racquetball fans in the Miami area were talking throughout the week, expecting Three Time National Champion Marty Hogan to be challenged again by his leading nemesis, Dave Peck.

The fans were not disappointed.

The third annual \$25,000 Kunnan-Leach Tournament of Champions March 18-22 culminated in another marathon match between the golden boy of racquetball and the west Texas maverick. Hogan ended up repeating his wins of the previous two years at the same site—the Sportrooms of Coral Gables just outside of Miami. This was Hogan's fourth win of the season.

The seventh stop on the NRC tour was a special one in that only 12 players were invited. As in the past the top eight seeds from the previous NRC season were matched against Canadian National Champion Lindsay Myers, the USRA National Open Champion—this year Bret Harnett—and two sponsor selected players—Davey Bledsoe of Wilson and Gregg Peck of Leach.

The 1979-80 seeds for the season were Marty Hogan (1), Dave Peck (2), Mike Yellen (3), Jerry Hilecher (4), Steve Strandemo (5), Don Thomas (6), Ben Koltun (7) and Charlie Brumfield (8).

The surprise of the tournament, and a pleasant one, was Charlie Brumfield. Brumfield has missed a few tournaments this season and has slipped from his eighth ranking to 21. Many observers have

Class racquetball prevailed at the January Tournament of Champions, where Miami fans watched Marty Hogan beat Dave Peck in the finals . . .

by Thomas J. Morrow



been saying that racquetball's original showman and top strategist was "over the hill." Brumfield had advanced to the round of 16 only twice this year and no further.

"It really gets me the way people are quick to think Charlie is through," said Jerry Hilecher during the tournament. "He's the smartest player on the tour, but he's a strategist, not a power player. If some newcomer is matched with Brumfield and beats him, it's a big deal—everyone thinks Charlie is over the hill. If Charlie beats him, no one notices—it's got to be frustrating for him. With a slower ball Charlie can beat all of us."

But if frustration was on his mind, Brumfield's playing didn't show it as the former five time National Champion outwitted young Gregg Peck in the first round 21-12, 8-12, 11-7. Brumfield was hitting his shots like days of old and the gleam of victory was once again in his eyes.

Ben Koltun, favoring a sore right knee, held his own with Six Time Canadian National Champion Myers, but eventually succumbed 21-14, 21-18.

Don Thomas, who has been having problems with his game and confidence, dropped a tie-breaker to a hungry and aggressive Bret Harnett 13-21, 21-9, 11-7. Harnett had come to Miami with few victories in this his rookie season and was anxious to let the old pros know his presence.

And, at 34, Steve Strandemo showed he's one of the youngest-in-heart players on the tour as he methodically and patiently defeated Davey Bledsoe 20-21, 21-15, 11-8.

In the second round on Thursday the losers (Peck, Bledsoe, Thomas and Koltun) had another chance before going home broke. They were pitted against the tournament's top four seeds—Hogan, Dave Peck, Hilecher and Yellen.

But the afternoon and evening were no kinder to the morning losers. Hilecher downed Thomas 21-18, 21-11; Yellen walked by Koltun 21-12, 21-11; Peck handily defeated Bledsoe 21-11, 21-2 and Hogan got revenge on his earlier Omaha embarrassment by beating young Peck 21-10, 21-13.

The purse structure of the Tournament of Champions was a winner-take-all scheme in which the winner of each match collected a check. Round one winners received \$750; quarter-final winners \$1,500; semi-finals \$3,000 and the champion collected an additional \$7,000, making top prize money \$12,500.

In Friday's quarter-final round Hilecher and Strandemo dueled for more than two hours with the 26-year-old Hilecher emerging victor at 21-19, 21-20. Brumfield continued his fine play and nipped Yellen in the first game of their match, but found himself trailing badly in the second. The young man from Southfield, MI kept Brumfield on the run and edged him in the tie-breaker 11-8.

"I'd rather play Hogan, Peck or Hilecher than Yellen," said Brumfield prior to the match. "This guy'll run your legs off and then pound you in the ground."

Dave Peck, who had to drop out of the Houston tournament the previous month due to an injured index finger, was beginning to release much of that nervous energy that had been stored up for the past two months. He easily defeated the youngster Harnett 21-14, 21-7, as he honed his awesome backhand for the approaching semi-final and championship rounds.

In the final match of the quarters Myers gave Hogan one of the finest matches of the season as the two battled point-for-point for more than two hours, with Hogan edging beyond the Canadian 21-19, 21-19. Myers has had problems gaining beyond the quarter-finals of any of the tournaments thus far this season, mainly due to Hogan, Peck, Yellen and Hilecher. But in Coral Gables Myers' play seemed steadier and his shots more consistent than ever before.

"It wasn't like last year, at least," quipped Myers, referring to his finals' defeat at last year's Tournament of Champions. "Hogan had to work to beat me in this tournament this year."

In keeping with their current national standings the top four seeds of professional racquetball found themselves in the semi-final round on Saturday with Yellen challenging Peck and the St. Louis boyhood chums, Hilecher and Hogan, clashing once again.

In the first match Yellen and Peck collided in an exhibition of power shots that had the audience in awe. If anyone was wondering whether the taped index finger on Peck's right hand was a hindrance, those thoughts were dismissed as he out-powered Yellen in two games.

Peck and Yellen exchanged points with the score 6-4 in Yellen's favor before Peck began to hit a series of backhand killshots from mid and back court. But Yellen rebounded and kept pace, even pulling ahead to 13-10 before Peck made his move. The move was short lived as Yellen displayed his strong comeback power by pulling within two points of Peck at 17-15.

Though Yellen was certainly playing in fine form, it was eight of Peck's skips during the first game that kept the score close. Twelve of Peck's scores came from his powerful backhand killshots.

Peck finished the first game by slamming three backhand shots (two kills and a pinch) from the back court, winning 21-17.

The second game was certainly as close, if not closer, than the first. Peck continued to dominate play with his powerful backhand. It was as if he didn't know how to use his forehand, an assumption he repudiated later in the game with an ace serve and five forehand killshots.

... and Hogan win over Jerry Hilecher in the semis.

There are some observers outside the game of racquetball who think the profession is filled with rowdy, impolite kids with little sense of class and sportsmanship. The Tournament of Champions was a showcase for racquetball's sportsmen as displayed in the second game between Yellen and Peck.

With the score at 7-5, Peck's favor, NRC Referee Terry Fancher, USRA director, ruled a hinder by Yellen after he had scored a beautiful killshot down the right side. Peck, however, disagreed and asked that the point be awarded to his opponent. The audience was in full agreement and loudly applauded the Texan for his sportsmanship.

Yellen took advantage and tied the score at 7-7, then the two continued to play neck-and-neck at 9-9, then 10-10. Peck scored five quick points on two forehand kills, a backhand pinch and a gift skip from Yellen. At 14-11 Yellen, not wishing to be outdistanced, answered with four points of his own with two pinches, a kill and a pass shot.

With the score 16-14 Yellen again began another scoring drive and pulled ahead with 18 points on two backhand kills, a forehand kill and a skip from Peck. Yellen seemed confident and the audience sure that the match would go into a tie-breaking game as Yellen slammed two more backhand shots, one a kill from the back court and the other a reverse pinch.

Peck responded with a forehand killshot to take the second game 21-18.

In the tie-breaker Peck led off on a scoring drive that soon had the tally at 5-1. Yellen responded with two more points on a Peck skip and a backhand, back court kill-shot down the left side. But Peck was filled with more of that nervous energy and he continued his scoring drive, making more use of his forehand. Three forehand kills, a backhand center drive kill and a pass later the score was 10-3.

Yellen wasn't about to roll over and yield the \$3,000 check to Peck without a fight. The 20-year-old from Michigan responded with a five point drive that brought the score to 10-8.

On paper it would appear that Peck had left the court or was playing dead. In reality, however, both of these players are so evenly matched that neither could be dominant from day-to-day or tournament-to-tournament.

Yellen scored again when Peck let a would-be overhand killshot skip. At 10-9 Peck finally regained the offense and finished the match with a forehand kill down the right side.



In the second match of the semis the Hogan-Hilecher contest was rather anticlimatic in the shadow of the earlier matchup between Peck and Yellen.

Hogan and Hilecher have played each other so many times over the years since they began learning the sport at the Jewish Community Center in their hometown of St. Louis, MO that there are no surprises for either of them. The top seeded Hogan, now 23, has to rely on his concentration and physical condition to keep ahead of the profession's great athletes like Hilecher. Hilecher, noted for his formidable strength and fearless dives, is one player never to be taken lightly, as Hogan found out early in the tour at this season's opener in Westminster.

But since Honolulu Hilecher had not been playing up to his potential. He made no excuses for his performance. It's just a fact of life—you can't play 100 percent, 100 percent of the time. In this down period Hogan put Hilecher away in Honolulu and again in Houston with little effort compared to the tough play Hilecher usually gives. It would be no different in Florida.

In the first game Hogan jumped to a quick 8-1 lead before Hilecher got into the ball-game catching up 8-7.

Hogan scored two more points and then another before Hilecher answered. Hilecher slammed a killshot past the champion and was given two gift skips to aid him in the catchup. But with the score at 21-10 Hogan took over and never looked back as he ran nine points on Hilecher to end the first game 21-10.

In the second game Hilecher managed to stay closer to the champ but still seemed off stride, a little down in his concentration.

Hogan made the most of the situation, leading 15-10 before Hilecher made a serious challenge in the second stanza. But a five point lead for a player as strong as Hogan is dangerous and he kept the distance between them, ending the game and match at 21-16.

As many had predicted the top matchup in professional racquetball was, again, a reality. For the fourth time in the 1980-81 NRC season Dave Peck would be challenging professional racquetball's top money winner and most dominant player, Marty Hogan.

The Hogan-Peck series stood at 2-1, going into Coral Gables. Peck had denied Hogan the Kendler Classic top prize money in Palatine, IL in November, but Hogan got revenge from the Peck family in Memphis and Honolulu, ousting the former University of Texas-El Paso linebacker from those tournaments' semi-final rounds.

Coral Gables was the postponement of the Houston tournament for which Peck worked, long hard hours to make a good showing before his home state audience. On Monday evening before the Houston tournament was to begin, Peck dislocated his right index finger and was unable to grip his racquet.

"I worked harder to prepare for that tournament than any other one this year," said Peck in Coral Gables. "But I'm even more ready for this one, and Hogan's not going to get off with an easy target here."

Hogan just responded with his usual wry grin as he began to warm up in the three glasswalled court at the Sportrooms.

The match between Peck and Hogan has to be likened to tennis' Borg-McEnroe challenge. It would be impossible to put two more exciting and talented players in the racquetball arena than Marty Hogan and Dave Peck. Not only is this rivalry fierce, it is one of mutual respect, admiration and friendship.

In the first game of the final round Hogan took the initial serve with a forehand kill down the center. Peck answered with a seldom seen overhead, right-corner pinch. Each player awed the audience with fireworks from their personal shot arsenals. Leading 9-6 Hogan suddenly seemed to lose concentration and the trailing Peck gained confidence. The Texan began a scoring run that didn't stop until the score stood at 17-9, with the fans wondering what had happened to Hogan.

With anyone else as an opponent a 17-9 lead for Dave Peck would have been lights out. But Hogan isn't just anyone and the top seed began firing a variety of shots, taking advantage of Peck skips and shooting his way to within two points of Peck at 18-16. Peck was unable to control the game further, with Hogan firing another four points, pulling ahead 20-18. But Peck wasn't ready to give up either, and he quickly scored on successive forehand kill and pinch shots to tie the initial game 20-20.

Hogan regained the offense and quickly slammed a backhand, back court killshot to take the first game 21-20.

Jim Martz, tennis columnist from the *Miami Herald*, was in the audience witnessing his first professional racquetball game. Prior to the Hogan-Peck match he told *National Racquetball* that he had played one game of racquetball but wasn't sure that the sport could equal the excitement of tennis.

"I'm quite impressed," said Martz after the first game of the finals. "This sport definitely has potential."

In the second game the excitement continued to build as Hogan and Peck battled it out. Their meeting was not unlike the three previous matches they had played during the tour. If anything seemed different, it was the anger and frustration the players, especially Peck, pointed to themselves over missed shots.

In quarter-final battles Hogan outplayed Lindsay Myers while, left to right, it was

Peck over Bret Harnett, Hilecher over Strandemo



"It's my only way of releasing nervous energy," explained Peck. "I know it sometimes doesn't look good to the crowd, but you have to understand the frustration and pressures you're under when you're confined inside the glass box under the lights."

Understanding this point makes Peck seem less angry and Hogan less brash. Playing professional racquetball is pressure work and it requires full concentration and great physical strength and ability.

In the second game the story for the first half of the contest was that Hogan ran away with the score. He led 11-2 before Peck showed any signs of life. Then it was 13-4. But alive he did come and for the next 20 minutes the audience was cheering and yelling for the stocky Texan as he pulled the score to 16-10. That 16th point for Hogan was a skip gift from Peck, but not until after an unbelievable 15 exchange rally between the two players.

At 16-10 Peck did the same thing Hogan had done to him in the first game. He began a long scoring drive that didn't stop until the score was tied at 16-16.

Peck scored 16 points on three forehand kills and pinch shots, two skips from Mr. Hogan and a backhand, left-corner pinch.

And after Hogan scored his 17th point on one of his famous 140 m.p.h. forehand killshots down the right side, Peck answered with three more points courtesy of Hogan skips. Hogan was visibly losing his concentration and control. He managed to bring the score to 19-19, before skipping another point to Peck.

Peck led with a one point advantage and the capacity crowd of more than 400 was wildly cheering, hoping for a tie-breaker.

Peck lost the offense and Hogan fired a pass shot down the right side that Peck



missed as he slipped and fell. Hogan finished the match on another pass shot that had Peck diving for and missing.

"You know how close we played because two shots cost Dave \$7,000," Hogan told the audience after the match, when Leach Industries Vice-President and General Manager Charlie Drake handed the check to the champion.

"It was a tough comeback on both of our parts in both games," Peck said after the tournament. "I just made some errors right at the end—they were mental errors on service return."

Did the big prize of \$7,000 have anything to do with the way either of them played? "Absolutely not," replied Peck. "We both play to win—we're competitors. We win because we don't like losing. The money is a reward for our efforts."

Peck said he was not all that dissatisfied with his play, although he felt that he should have won, barring the mistakes.

"I should have won, but playing that close of a match with someone great like Marty is rewarding," said Peck. "It was fun."

"This is a great tournament run by great people," said Hogan later. "Coming to this tournament is what we look forward to the most, next to the Nationals."

Hogan said Peck is playing better than ever.

"But I'm also playing much better," said Hogan. "Peck is playing really tough, but don't rule out Yellen, because I have a feeling from the way he played Peck in the semi-finals, it will be Yellen I'll have to face in the finals at Tempe."

Hogan is pleased with his comeback from his lackluster play during the first part of the season. He thinks his intensity is where it should be for the Nationals.



and Yellen over Charlie Brumfield.



The Kunnan/Leach Tournament of Champions at the Sportrooms of Coral Gables March 18-22

Quarters: Marty Hogan d. Lindsay Myers 21-19, 21-19; Jerry Hilecher d. Steve Strandemo 21-19, 21-20; Mike Yellen d. Charlie Brumfield 20-21, 21-3, 11-8; Dave Peck d. Bret Harnett 21-14, 21-7

Semis: Hogan d. Hilecher 21-10, 21-17; Peck d. Yellen 21-17, 18-21, 11-9

Finals: Hogan d. Peck 21-20, 21-20

The champ pointed out to reporters after the match that he felt it important to eliminate Peck in two games.

Why?

"I think it is important when I play someone with the momentum that Peck has to not let him win a game," explained Hogan. "If he had taken me in either of the games, I would have been able to still take the match, but I don't want to give him any confidence at all. I know how to play the pressure points better than anyone else. When the score is 20-20, like it was in both games, Peck only got one serve in each—that's all I'll ever give anyone, so they'd better make it good." ●

National Racquetball Club Rankings as of Feb. 22, 1981

1. Marty Hogan
2. Mike Yellen
3. Jerry Hilecher
4. Dave Peck
5. Rich Wagner
6. Don Thomas
7. Lindsay Myers
8. Steve Strandemo
9. Craig McCoy
10. John Egerman
11. Gregg Peck
12. Larry Meyers
13. Dave Bledsoe
14. Doug Cohen
15. Dave Fleetwood
16. Ben Koltun
- Bob Bolan
18. Scott Hawkins
19. Keith Dunlap
20. Mark Morrow
21. Mike Levine
- Gary Merritt
23. Charlie Brumfield
24. Gary Berberet

Note: Tournament of Champions, an invitational event, did not change rankings, which are based on open tournaments.

Notes of the Tournament . . .

Sportrooms of Coral Gables is now the permanent home of the annual NRC Kunnan/Leach Tournament of Champions. Fans agreed that this third annual event inspired the best play to date, as you can see in the story on these pages . . . The pre-tournament banquet at the club, which the Sportrooms hosted for pro players, was the occasion for Tournament Director Carl Dean to give each pro a personalized crystal mug engraved with the title of the tournament. Pros also feasted at La Concha, the restaurant in



Pros get a press box view of another court sport.

World Jai Alai Miami, before they watched and placed their bets on their favorite singles and doubles teams in a court sport even faster than their own games. The racquetball pros watched the matches from the press box, where they had clear view of the curve of the pelota. The evening was courtesy of the Sportrooms owners, Bruno Cerchiai and Ed Torkelson . . . On the amateur side the Publix food chain stocked the hospitality room with nourishment ranging from fried chicken to Haagen Das ice cream . . . Others, beside the

Sportrooms owners, who deserve thanks for the tournament are Pete Crummy, Sportrooms manager; Carl Dean and his wife, Arlene, who spent their anniversary directing events; Oscar Gonzales, returning for a third year as T. of C.



Oscar Gonzales heads a towel boy staff.

towel boy, this time with the assistance of Greg Beal and Chris Crummy; Bill Schmidtke, Larry Lee and Terry Fancher, referees, and the man who presented Pro Winner Marty Hogan and Runner-up Dave Peck with keys to the city—Dade County Commissioner Harvey Ruvin, subject of *National Racquetball's* "Who's Playing Racquetball?" March feature. ●

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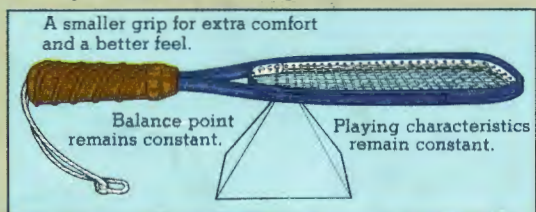


Lady Swinger

Lady's AC-250

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Our Lady Swinger took last year's Women's National Championship.

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