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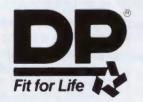
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(·) Jr. Vets - 25+	() Jr. Vets - 25+		
() Seniors 30+	() Seniors 30+		
() Seniors 35+	; () Seniors 35+		
() Seniors 40+	: () Seniors 40+		
() Masters 45+	() Masters 45+		
() Masters 50+	. () Masters 50+		it for Life
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() Golden Masters 70+	() Golden Maste		
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Off The Wall

Sponsorships

by Debbie Nohstadt



When the phone rang not too long ago, it was a junior racquetball player from Wisconsin. I had never met this young fellow, however

I'd heard some very positive things about his ability and court demeanor from one of our touring pro's. The young man was very interested in receiving equipment and clothing from our company. Thus, began a research project for me, and work for him as well.

Every year I get more than 250 requests from players at all levels who are interested in corporate racquetball contracts to endorse Head products. Not everyone who calls has the necessary qualifications, but each request is carefully reviewed — you never know when you might have a future world champion on the other end of the phone.

Why do we go through the time consuming process of evaluating players? What is the purpose of giving products to players at all levels in the sport of racquetball? What makes a person a worthwhile candi-

date for sponsorship?

Why do we do it? Sponsorships for qualified players are a worthwhile means for providing visibility for new products. By allocating equipment for professional players right down to selected 12 and under juniors the manufacturer is able to demonstrate new products to the racquetball community from national and regional events right down to the court club player. Most new products are introduced to the player community in the hands of sponsored players. When Head first introduced the midsize racquetball racquet, it was with Jerry Hilecher, veteran touring professional. And we all know now that bigger racquets are standard equipment for most serious players.

It's the same elsewhere. According to Theresa Nunn, Promotions Manager at Ektelon, "the quick acceptance for new products is due to the sponsored players." Nunn continues to say that, "sponsored players introduce new products to players at the court club level. The sponsored players are showing up for exhibitions or practice sessions with new things that the club players never knew existed." Mike Skinner, Product Manager at Head, says, "sponsored players offer the broadest exposure for racquetball products, plus, unlike advertising, sponsored players provide an opportunity for consumers to actually see, touch and play-test new products.

The high quality of new performance product is also evident when top level players endorse the product lines.

But who is that contract player? Ability is, of course an important factor in evaluating a player's potential for sponsorship. Another consideration is frequency of play. Someone who plays a regional tournament every weekend, increasing his or her visibility is a good person to have using our products. Another essential quality for a contract player is a positive court demeanor. A candidate who combines skill, and visibility with a good temperament has excellent potential for a player endorsement.

While not every person possesses all three qualities in equal percentages, evidence of all are essential to merit an endorsement contract.

The relationship between a manufacturer and a contract player is one based on loyalty to the brand name and to the individual endorsing that brand. It is a give/give situation whereby the manufacturer provides products, clothing, and in some cases money, in return for the

(continued on page 40)

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Racquetball®



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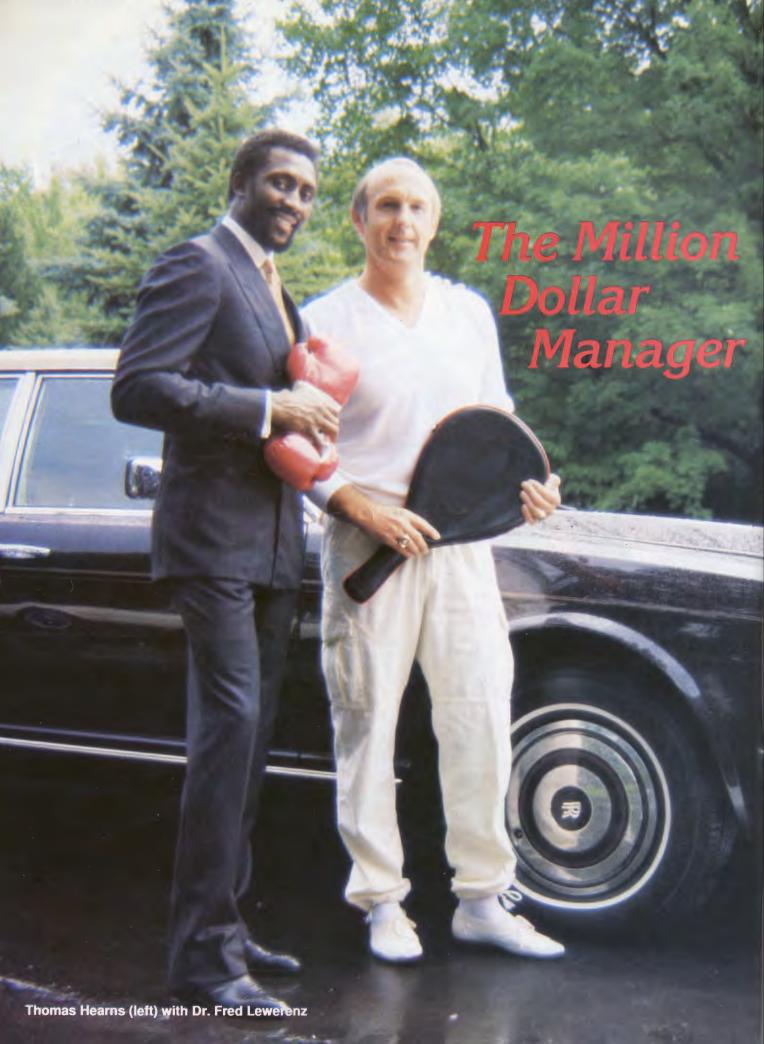


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Dear Mom, I thought I would write to you from here in Hollywood.

Yes Mom, Hollywood, the place where they made four movies about a guy who steps into a phone booth to drape a red towel over blue tights, flies around the world six times in one second, and lifts buildings with his tongue. The place where one guy with a machine gun and a bloodstained sweatband takes on the entire U.S. Army and wins, but in a whole bunch of other movies was this boxer who posed as a punching bag, but still won in the end for someone named Adrian. Yeah, Mom, that Hollywood.

Well, I wrote a great movie about a guy in racquetball, so I thought I

would tell you all about it.

In the movie, I called him Fred Lewerenz, and he did a lot of things. First of all, he was a doctor. He built up his practice to four sports medicine clinics, two in Detroit, one in Miami, and one in Hawaii. But along the way, he also decided to learn racquetball. I had this guy get good enough to play on two professional tours. In my movie, he didn't even start playing until he had almost completed his internship, at the age of 30.

But along the way, he also met this 13-year-old kid and spotted enough raw talent to believe the kid could be a future champion. I called the kid Mike Yellen, a good name for someone from the Detroit area. So Lewerenz changed his office hours at the clinic to play the kid twice a day, until Yellen was ready for the professional tour, where he beat a former national champion (Bill Schmidtke) in one of his first matches. Later the kid won five consecutive national championships, proving this Fred Lewerenz guy right.

I didn't think there could ever be overwriting in Hollywood, so I also had this Fred Lewerenz negotiate racquetball's first million dollar contract for that same kid. I know you like happy endings, Mom.

But that wasn't all. I really wanted a lot of action in my movie. So I had Lewerenz decide to do an old friend a favor and volunteer as sports physician for a ragged bunch of inner city Detroit kids who wanted to box. Well before you know it, this team (I called it the Kronk's team for a realistic touch) had a couple of

world champions and enough money to build their second gym only two blocks away from one of Lewerenz's clinics. Oh yeah, I also made sure that the boxing team had a total of six more world championship titles before the end of the movie. For the boxers, I used names like Thomas Hearns, Tony Tucker, Milton McCrory, Jimmy Paul. Hollywood goes for that kind of stuff.

There is more, Mom. The Fred Lewerenz in my movie also became the sports physician for a world champion figure skater, and a Hall of Famer in hockey and another in baseball and also a guy who makes millions in football. I also had him introduce them all to racquetball.



After all, it was a racquetball movie.

For background, Lewerenz has this big lightening bolt in his office with the letters 'TCB', which means Taking Care of Business. It was given to him by one of his former patients. 'TCB' was a motto for someone in the movie that I named Elvis Presley.

Well, I think I told you most of everything about this Fred Lewerenz, except that towards the end of the movie — a couple of years after helping Mike Yellen, the first kid — Lewerenz decides to help another racquetball player who lives in Hawaii. The second player, (I used the name Egan Inoue for the authentic Hawaiian touch) was ranked low, number 24, and he was thinking of quitting the tour until Fred Lewerenz came along at the last second with some advice and money.

Then funny thing, a few tournaments later, the kid from Hawaii

makes the finals of a professional tournament before losing to a legend (liked the sound of Marty Hogan for his opponent). Well, I didn't think anyone could ever overdo it in Hollywood, Mom, so I had the Inoue kid winning the very next tournament, which happened to be the nationals. Do you think that was overdoing it? For irony, I had him meet the first kid, Mike Yellen, in the finals. Maybe it was a little much, even for Hollywood.

Just so you know everything about my movie, Mom, I'd better tell you the Lewerenz fellow also has 12 different state titles in Michigan, and five different regional titles, all in racquetball, of course.

...Lewerenz changed his office hours at the clinic to play the kid twice a day, and when he decided the kid was ready, he sent the kid onto the professional tour, where the kid beat a former national champion (Bill Schmidtke) in one of his first matches...

That's most of it, except that at the very end, I have Fred Lewerenz become manager and agent of a third kid (I tried Chris Cole for a name because by then I was running out) who promises to be quite good. And, of course, Lewerenz doesn't do any of this for the money, because as you remember, Mom, he has all those sports medicine clinics he built up along the way.

And you know what Mom? I figured I had Hollywood beat after seeing the Superman and Rambo and Rocky movies, but they all thought the public would never believe Fred Lewerenz did all that in racquetball. It's what I get for trying to make a good racquetball movie. Goodby Mom, I shall sign off, your tired and disillusioned son.

P.S. Mom, Fred Lewerenz really does exist. He lives in Detroit and all the names I used in the movie are

(continued on the next page)

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Lewerenz

(continued from page 5)

the real names of real life people and all that stuff really is true.

Frederick K. Lewerenz is 45 years old. Fifteen years ago, during his internship after graduating from Northeast University in Kirksville, MO, someone introduced him to a sport that was starting to become popular. Racquetball. The journey from then to now has been good for him.

Lewerenz started early with the work pattern that has given him the time to do so much beyond his medical field. "I went into partnership and had a three day work week," he says. "That kind of situation happens a lot with young doctors, but most go looking for more work to make it a six-day week. I didn't because I wanted extra time for my family and other pursuits."

And, of course, the other pursuits included racquetball.

Lewerenz, at 30, was quite old compared to the professionals he ended up competing against on the



A star studded wall

Brownlee, who taught Yellen strategy, and Fred Lewerenz, Yellen was sent into the professional game. Later, after Yellen's awesome success, Lewerenz, in his agent role, was instrumental in negotiating Yellen's multi-year million dollar contract with Ektelon.

Fred, who is as close to Yellen's game as anyone, thinks Yellen can stay the best for a couple of years. "Mike definitely has the ability. And

gave him that, and enough financial support to keep inoue on the tour. The results were immediate and meteoric. Egan finished the season ranked number five.

"When Egan Inoue talked to me, I said I would take the financial pressure off him if he would just concentrate on professional racquetball. Before he was playing the open and professional events, plus minor tournaments.

"Usually you will see that if an athlete is struggling, it is because of some personal or financial problem. I knew if Inoue could just concentrate on racquetball, he would be very good."

However, Lewerenz decided early not to let talent be the only the reason he would help a young athlete. "I've had a number of fine players approach me over the years, wanting a manager and agent, but I've always declined. What I need to see is more than just a player. I need to see someone who is a good person on and off the court, someone who doesn't make waves. I thought Egan was that type of player."

Lewerenz has also become involved with the career of Chris Cole, an outstanding young player who has won the Michigan State Championship for the last three years, (similar to Mike Yellen's start) and he says he is now open to helping more racquetball players.

Off the court, and in his doctor role, he also has an interesting list of patients. About seven years ago, an old high school friend, Emmanuel Steward, asked Lewerenz to help

(continued on page 38)

... "I've had a number of fine players approach me over the years, wanting a manager and agent, but I've always declined. What I need to see is more than just a player."...

pro tour. Even with his medical practice, he managed to make seven to ten stops a year. While he didn't threaten then reigning Charlie Brumfield, he was respectable, and making it to the quarterfinals was always possible.

But winning or losing didn't matter that much. He flat out loved the game. When he met Mike Yellen, they usually played twice a day. Lewerenz actually rearranged his office hours to play so often. He also knew Yellen had potential.

"Yellen started when he was 13. By 14 he was competing with me, and by 16 he was beating me. It wasn't hard to tell." So with the blessing of three people, Leonard Karpeles, Yellen's present coach, Tom

because of his style of game, he's not going to hurt himself. What will be tough for him, if anything, is desire. Winning five championships gives any player a new perspective, but if he still wants it, he can keep winning."

Fred's other 'kid', Egan Inoue, with his strong finish and tournament win at the Head/A'ME Nationals this year, may become the champion to replace Yellen. Lewerenz met Inoue on one of his frequent trips to Hawaii (yes, it is nice to have your own sports medicine clinic on the Islands). Fred, as usual, was looking for a racquetball game, and found more than enough competition from Inoue. One thing led to another, and Egan asked him for advice. Fred

Playing With Heart

When the beep-beep-beep forced Bob Barnett to stop during his second round match at the 1986 Arizona State Championships, it wasn't to answer a phone call. Instead, it was to obey a monitor telling Barnett that his heart rate had thumped past 175 beats per minute. Since he had already used all his time outs, his opponent donated one.

Two points after the time out, Bob Barnett lost the match, but he was pleased with the chance to play, and under the circumstances, grateful for the time out as a gift.

Exactly 72 days earlier — people like Bob tend to count those days quite closely — he had received another gift which also gave him more playing time. That gift was a new heart.

At 37 years of age Barnett had his first of five heart attacks. A bypass operation in 1974 only remained effective until 1978. And for the last 12 years, he lived with what he calls the "die tomorrow syndrome".

His doctor and Director of the University of Arizona Heart Transplant Program, Jack G. Copeland, says "He was as ill as anyone we have ever seen with severe heart disease. In fact, Bobby waited for a heart transplant while he was threatened almost daily with dying."

So on July 9th of 1986, Bob Barnett said goodbye to his wife, Maureen, and closed his eyes on the operating table for the chance to become heart transplant patient #98 at the University of Arizona Medical Center in Tuscon.

Bob says, "When I woke up, I couldn't believe it. My body was actually rocking in bed. It was the first sensation that I had, and I realized it was my new heart, strong like the way a race car idles."

He had not played racquetball since 1978 because of the heart attacks, but after his discharge on July 29, he began a training program of walking, with his expressed purpose to play in the September 1986 state championships nine and a half weeks later.

"Those of us who are active suffer fewer rejections. Before my operation, a guy named Gary Clarke, who does triathalons with a new heart, became my inspiration. So I figured what the hell, if he can, I can."

Bob proved he could too. In fact, as Dr. Copeland says, "He not only became the star of his early physical rehabilitation sessions, but also a champion of the new life he found after the operation. At the hospital, he was a much needed advocate of heart transplantation to potential recipients. They have taken much comfort from his words, and even more comfort in his nonverbal communication as a middle-aged man strong and active, living each day to the best of his ability and enjoying it."

But even Doctor Copeland, who strongly advocates racquetball as a "wonderful way for patients to recover normal strength and function", was nervous about Bob's first tournament attempt.

Bob says, "My wife likewise was quite sure the transplant had affected my mind, and in retrospect, considering the score, she was probably right!"

Still, with his T-shirt inscribed 'RECYCLE YOURSELF — DO-NATE YOUR ORGANS — HEART TRANSPLANT #98', Barnett played his tournament match, and survived, something that he exults in on a daily basis.

"After being given a second chance, I am so bloody glad to be on this planet. I really do smell the roses."

Part of his new life consists of racquetball, three to five times per week. That, and his way of living that also includes stress management and careful attention to a balanced diet, led to magnificent results at his one year checkup this July. The series of tests showed the output of his transplanted heart is better than that of the average man of his age.



Bob attributes that to the 'heart of a 25-year-old beating in the body of someone almost 50'. And sometimes that makes him a little sad.

"I almost feel guilty that a young man had to die for me to receive life. In fact, I feel I have a great debt to pay."

Bob received his new life because of the heart donation from a 24-year-old man who died of gunshot wounds. So, Barnett does two things. He spends time encouraging other heart transplant patients, both people waiting for new hearts and living with new hearts. And he promotes organ donation.

"People are frightened about transplants and they shouldn't be. I'm not nervous about anything I do with the new heart, I have no limitations. And what people should know is that they don't have to treat themselves gingerly."

As to organ transplants, Barnett implores people to consider carrying Uniform Donor Cards in their wallet or purse. "Someone's unexpected death is tragic, but it's also makes me sad to know healthy organs are simply put into the ground. One person with a donor card can save three lives by donating kidneys, liver and heart."

The longest living heart transplant patient lived more than 17 years after his operation, and according to Bob Barnett, anything over five years is 'pure gravy'. His goal is to become the longest living survivor, and he enjoys every day along the way.

He has one other goal, too. He wants to move out of the 'D' level in racquetball. And with a grin he tells you how he will do it. "Yup, I'll get into 'C' as soon as my knee gets better!"

Basics For Beginners — Using The Bird's-Eye View

by Mark Kessinger

The best way to think of the court when planning your strategy in the service box or during the game is to take the same perspective an imaginary Goodyear blimp would have hovering way above the court.

You would see a wooden rectangle with two red lines across the center, and a little speck as the server. For television viewers, a dotted line would quickly go from the speck to the front wall and then into a backhand corner. The announcer, in hushed tones, says, "the server will attempt a forehand drive into the backhand corner". Then the dotted line would disappear, and the serve would go into motion.

Then snap back to yourself, about to serve. Picturing the angle, and picturing yourself shooting it perfectly will greatly increase your chances of making the correct shot.

That applies not only to the

serve, but to any shot and series of shots you attempt. Learning the angles and learning what shots work best in a given situation is much easier when you use a bird's-eye view.

To get a better perspective of how that view works, watch several games from a balcony area. This shows very clearly who is in control of the game, and why. The player keeping the middle of the court is the one hitting the ball into the corners with accurate angles. On the other hand, by failing to place the ball, the loser will always be on the run against an opponent who knows the angles and when to use them.

Watching from above is a painless way to learn more about the game, quickly. O

Basics for Beginners are excerpts from Mark Kessinger's book Unlimited Racquetball, which is in the publishing stage.

PARI October tip — Don't let the walls jam your stroke

It's frustrating. You make it back to the corner to retrieve the ball, but somehow there is no room to swing. The walls have crowded your stroke and you end up hitting the ball weakly, or almost breaking your racquet. But it does not have like that.

Ideally, never get closer to the corners than arm and racquet length away. That saves you from worrying about hitting the walls, and also saves you from taking the extra step closer to

the wall that put you into trouble in the first place.

Watching the ball and relying on court sense to adjust for the amount of room helps, but that only comes with experience and a lot of trial and error.



An easier way might be to imagine an out-ofbounds line, like the lines that define a basketball court. Stand with your racquet extended to barely touch the wall. Look down and see where your shoes are. If they are three feet from the wall, draw the imaginary line three feet inside the walls, in a rectangle all the way around the court. That is your playing area, and you should never "step out of bounds".

With this method, you have effectively reduced your playing area without sacrificing your reach,

and you can also stop worrying about jamming yourself into the walls again! O
Dan Burleson
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Mike Ray

The new season promises better things



Nobody guarantees a professional anything in racquetball. No guarantee of ranking position, none of victory in any given match, and not even the assurance of injury-free play. Mike Ray knows that as well as anybody on the tour.

He started last season at a promising #6 and made it to the semifinals at the opener in Davison, MI. His end of season ranking was a

disappointing #13.

At the Head/A'ME Nationals in June, Mike had one last chance to rescue the faltering season; he badly needed a first round win over Brian Hawkes whose ranking had not even broken the top 25. Mike lost in a tiebreaker.

Then, barely halfway through the season, Mike took a dive on the ski slopes and injured his back. He was out of racquetball for nearly four weeks. That started a December to March slump.

"That was really the first time I'd been injured for more than a week. It affected my play, and that started a lot of my difficulties. I had about five poor tournaments in a row — the injury and the next four after.

"You lose confidence after a few bad tournaments and the slump becomes a combination of things. Worse, I had no local tournaments. Those are the ones that boost your confidence. Trying to break out of a slump and just going to pro-ams is tough."

Mike had more to deal with than just recovering from injury. In one year, from the beginning of the '86 season to the start of '87, Mike had shot from number 17 to the number six spot. That in itself affected the way he played.

"Because I'd had such a tremendous season last year, I pressured myself. It was the pressure of not only staying where I was, but trying to move up. Then I began losing to guys I'd never really lost to before."

So Mike toughed it out. He worked harder then before. ("That's something a slump will do for you. You worked on your game a lot.") He began reducing what weaknesses he had in his nearly faultless game style, and then came the nationals, and Brian Hawkes.

"I played alright. In fact, I played much better than I had been playing and I was happy with that. The loss might have been a little unlucky. I could almost swear that Brian dove and rolled out six rim shots in the tiebreaker. But the good thing is, that

Mike is moving to Jackson, Tennessee to begin work in a new chain of racquetball clubs, something that has been his ambition for some time. Mike says while he wants to compete until he can't lift a racquet, he has also been looking ahead to when his experience in racquetball and in clubs all over the country will be valuable in business areas. This move to Tennessee is a head start on that ambition, and he likes it.

Someone else is also part of those plans. Mike announced his engagement to his long-time girlfriend, Holly Miller, near the end of August. He says, "I'm looking for-

...when Mike went to teach at the AARA's Elite Training camps, he spent a good deal of time trying to learn more about his own game..."I could ask these guys about my game, too. It helped and I've got a game plan for the new season..."

didn't affect my confidence."

So back to harder work, harder practice. In fact, when Mike went to teach at the AARA's Elite Training camps, he spent a good deal of time trying to learn more about his own game.

"I was working with these guys ike Stu Hasting (top ranked player from Michigan) and Jim Winterton (instructional writer for National Racquetball). I could ask these guys about my game, too. It helped and I've got a game plan for the new season."

He says his strength is consistency. "During the match I work on my stroke, my concentration, and I never give up two points in a row. If I make a bad shot. I come back with a shot to make up for it. I'm not a streaky player at all." He grins, "I'm also not as flashy as I'd like to be sometimes."

More than a few things are working in Mike's favor for the 1987/88 season on the RMA tour. His game is sharp again, he has confidence on the court again, and he is looking forward to playing. But off court, other changes will help him as well. ward to settling down and concentrating my efforts."

With all that, there is still one more omen that bodes well for Mike, and poorly for the professionals ranked above him.

The last time he lost to Hawkes it spurred him tremendously. That first loss was four years ago, a semifinal match in the amateurs of the DP Nationals, and that match, like the one in June, was a match where, again, Mike played as well as he could. He still lost, 11-9 in the tiebreaker. Brian Hawkes went on to win the tournament.

"Losing that tournament, and losing it like that against him made me really hungry for the 1984 DP Nationals. I wanted to win so badly, when I made it into the finals against my nemesis, Jim Cascio (1987 U.S. Amateur Champion), I won 11-0 in the tiebreaker."

Guarantees or not, Mike Ray is ready for the 1987/88 season. "I feel like I'm a year away from where I want to be, physically and mentally in racquetball. I'm looking forward to it, and I'm feeling good about it. Now all I have to do is wait and see."

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Instructional Tips from Fran and Jim

For A Better Backhand Ceiling Ball Brush The Lint Off Your Sleeve



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Is your forehand ceiling ball stroke "Rambo" and your backhand ceiling ball "Casper the Ghost?" Do you salivate when the ball is hit deep to your forehand and hyperventilate when the ball is hit deep to your backhand? Do you stroke the ball with your forehand and poke the ball with your backhand?

It is no secret that the backhand ceiling ball is one of the toughest shots to master and even the best professionals have to work hard on this shot. The backhand ceiling ball looks easy when the top players hit it with a lazy, easy motion. The racquetball spins perfectly off the ceil-

ing and deep into the back court.

You can hit the backhand ceiling ball the same way as the top players do. Try brushing the lint off your sleeve. When you are halfway through the backhand stroke angle your racquet toward the ceiling in the same motion you brush your sleeve. In figure 1 Jim is in position to hit a backhand ceiling ball. In figure 2 Fran is brushing the lint off her sleeve. That slight one half turn of the wrist will angle the ball to the ceiling. This movement of the racquet will also impart an under spin on the ball which causes it to bounce deeper in the back court. In figure 3 Fran has hit the backhand ceiling ball using the brushing motion. Notice the angle of the racquet and shoulders. Note that the shoulders do not have to be angles up, only the racquet has to be!

Next time you go to the racquetball wars brush that sleeve with the backhand ceiling ball. You'll be a salivating "Rambo" stroker in the backhand deep court not a hyperventilating "Casper" poker. No one will be able to brush you off with a backhand ceiling ball!

Fran Davis is sponsored by Head, Penn, Foot-Joy and California Fitness. Jim Winterton is sponsored by Ektelon.

Hitting The Splat Pinch

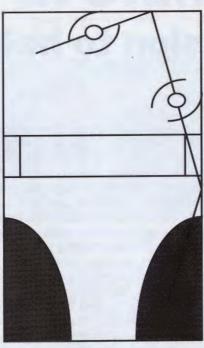
by Bret Harnett

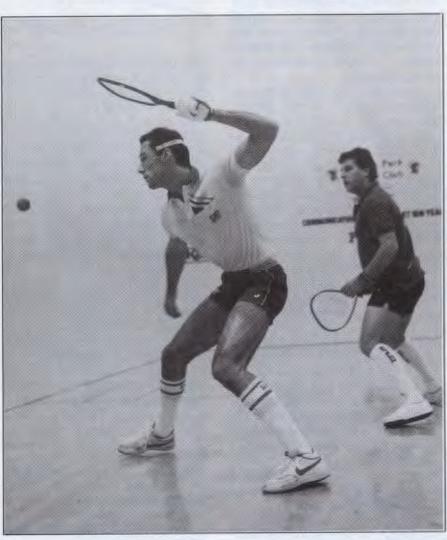
The splat shot is one of my favorite shots. If it is hit correctly it is almost unreturnable. Your opponent is playing center court and if you mix -up your shots enough, he cannot anticipate the splat.

Splat pinch — A wide angle pinch has spin (ball rotation) that follows the walls that it hits.

How to hit a splat pinch - The splat pinch is hit very hard into the side wall, and hits the front wall in towards the center, with forward spin.

When to hit a splat pinch — Anytime your opponent is playing deep and the position you're in is deep in either corner. O





Harnett's splat is an effective weapon on the pro tour.

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The Eyes Have It! Improving vision to help your game

by Dr. Leon Revien, O.D.

Sight is the primary channel of information accounting for 85 percent of the information we get to the brain. Yet, the average racquetball player spends less time developing this sense than other parts of his or her body. Since the average person uses only 40 percent of their sight potential, it is the one area open to much improvement, which of course, will lead to improvements on court

For those in racquetball, visual skills are even more important since it is the first link in good hand-eye-foot coordination, a must for every type of athlete. A complicated process of communication takes place between the eyes, muscles and brain, allowing the body to perform actions involving speed, exact timing, and accurate movement. By fine tuning their visual skills, racquetball players can improve performance by as much as 30 to 40 percent.

Visual clues also affect balance, an important factor in all sports. When players are forced into off-balance positions as they play, the eyes must adjust quickly to maintain balance and react correctly. The eyes must be free to center on the task without movement of the head and neck. The head and neck muscles must never be used to direct the eyes. Proper training will free the eyes to move independently of the head and neck with a minimum of effort and greatly reduce the possibility of off-balance errors.

Can these visual skills be improved through training? Most decidedly, yes.

The average person uses about half of all their senses — taste, touch, smell, hearing and vision. When one sense is lost, other senses compensate for that loss by being better trained. For example, a blind person's hearing and touch is much more acute than that of the

average person. Watch the eyes of a deaf person and note how much better they react to outside stimuli. The wine taster, whose sense of taste has been trained, can discern differences most of us cannot.

The object of a visual skills program is to improve the message to the brain by strengthening and refining the eye muscles. Since the impulses from each eye are transmitted through the optic nerve to the brain and then fused into a single image, the program should make the muscles move the eyes with precision and speed and improve synchronization of both eyes. Otherwise, when eye muscles are not coordinated, this process is weaker, resulting in poor performance on and off the court.

Although there are high-tech training programs on the market, you may want to start your program with some basic training. When you see an improvement — and you will — you may then want to move to more advanced techniques.

Training your eyes to respond quickly to movement. You will need a wall calender with medium-size numbers and a pencil with lettering. Make sure the room is well lit, and face the calender that is hung on the wall at eye level and position yourself 12 to 14 feet away. Hold the pencil at arm's length with the lettering facing you.

Focus both eyes on the pencil's lettering for a count of ten. Make sure your eyes remain focused for the entire count. Without moving your head, shift your eyes to the calender grid. Focus on the numbers in the Wednesday column. Repeat unitl there is a clear sense of patterned refocusing. Then move the pencil four inches closer to your eyes, and repeat. Continue until the pencil image begins to double.

Training your eyes to concentrate. Distraction by background, peripheral images, shad-



ows, color changes and extraneous sound and movements can ruin your shot. Train your eyes to fight this by hanging a tennis ball on a string. Push the ball so that it moves in a circle, then follow it with your, keeping your head still. Do it for three minutes, and vary your position so that you do not get accustomed to the background.

Developing hand-eye coordination. Use the same tennis ball set-up, and set the ball into motion. From double arm's length distance, follow the ball with your eyes, while tracing the ball's path with your dominant hand. Switch hands and repeat. This practice literally makes your hand an extension of your eyes.

Visual skills training cannot perform miracles or create ability. But, it has demonstrated quite dramatically that all mental and physical performance will markedly improve. Spend a little time working on your eyes, and watch your game improve!

Dr. Leon Revien, O.D., is a member of the Council on Sports Vision and the National Academy of Sports Vision. He has also developed ProVision, a hightech visual skills training program based on his work with professional teams and athletes. The serve in racquetball may be easily compared to the pitch in baseball since both actions are executed in an attempt to exploit an opponent's weakness. When you serve, you have a distinct advantage over your opponent — don't give up your advantage by letting your opponent have a second shot — beat them on the serve.

An analytical approach to the service game is a valuable weapon, and should be a major part of your game. With the five basic serves, drive, "Z", jam, lob, and overhead "Z", you can vary the height, direction, speed, spin and starting position to make an infinite number of workable combinations. So when you enter a match against someone you haven't played before, experiment to find any weaknesses in return of serve.

Your first six to twelve serves should be a mixture of types, speeds and placements of the ball. Serve shallow, then deep. Left, then right. Hard, then soft.

Place the returns into three categories: serves returned offensively, defensively, and setup or aces. Then, of course, concentrate on the serves that produced defensive returns or setups. Here are some tips to make that exploration for weaknesses a little easier.

1. Practice your serves alone and before the match.

2. Develop a variety of serves from the same starting position.

3. Before serving is the best time to control the pace of the game. Relax, take a good portion of the ten seconds allowed before serving to mentally review the serve you want to hit. Visualize your serve to the front wall target, and visualize it into the back court.

 Check the receiver to see if he or she is out of position.

After serving, favor in coverage the side to which you served.

6. Don't be afraid to serve to the forehand. Many players, because of constant serves to the backhand, end up returning serves better from the backhand side.

7. If you see your opponent lean-



Dave Peck's serve helped him win the National Championship in 1982.

ing one way, go to the other side.

8. If your opponent is short, serve high lobs and high Z-serves.

9. Try jam serves at large and slower opponents.

10. If your opponent is tall, serve drives, jams, and low Z-serves.

11. If your opponent waits close to the rear wall, serve to the front cor-

ners of the service area.

12. If your opponent prefers waiting closer to the front, or has begun moving up, drive serve or hit high lobs to the rear of the area.

13. Some players use extra long racquets for more power and greater reach. However, the extra length may be cumbersome in back corners and near the side walls. High lobs and Z-serves as close to the sides and corners will take advantage of this weakness.

14. Never change a successful service game.

15. Always change a losing service game. O

Lou Fabian, author of Racquetball: Strategies for Winning, and former coach of Dan Obremski, Molly O'Brien and others, shares 15 tips on how to make the serve a more lethal part of your game.

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The Right Stuff: Becoming A Sponsored Player

by Linda Mojer

In the corporate world of racquetball, it takes more than a string of tournament wins to obtain a dream sponsorship. Instead, when giving sponsorships, the major manufacturers all seem to share an emphasis on racquetball profiles among their players, both on and off the court. A winning record certainly helps, but visibility that leads to sales is crucial to the player who hopes to become sponsored.

On the whole, sponsors prefer to sign players who believe in their product, not just someone looking for free equipment. From their marketing standpoint, active tournament players who already prefer and use a their favorite racquet are as

influential as the state champion who takes the title using the newest model in the company line.

Good sportsmanship is also highly valued by all the companies; sponsored players are expected to be as responsible as any salaried corporate representative.

While the value of equipment contracts varies between companies, the average product value in sponsorships ranges between \$200 and \$1,000, depending on the racquet selected and the types of products available from each company. Ektelon, for example makes all types of racquetball accesories. Smaller companies may only have a racquet and bag to offer.

Players looking for sponsorship should always choose to approach a company whose racquet best suits their style of play. Even the most valuable sponsorship is of little use if the player cannot use the equipment to his or her best advantage and promote it in good faith.

THE SPONSORS Ektelon

Reflecting its position as a company involved only with racquetball, Ektelon has a sponsorship program designed to take advantage of differing aspects of the sport.

Several different sponsorships are available for club pros, instructors and junior programs. Players in each of these categories receive equipment packages ranging in value from \$800 to \$1000, depending on their racquet choice.

Sponsored "tournament players" receive the standard equipment package plus a fixed amount of funding for tournament travel. This type of sponsorship is limited to individuals recognized primarily for their playing ability. A separate category of "advisor players" is selected from the ranks of active tournament players who also have the opportunity to promote Ektelon products 'in the field' through clinics and promotions. Some sponsored players are appointed as regional or state "senior advisors", serving as marketing and sales liaisons in specific areas. Ektelon depends upon those individuals to provide both an important link between the company and the playing community, and also for input on up-and-coming players.

Players interest in Ektelon sponsorship in any of these categories should contact the Ektelon advisor representatives in their area for more information and a possible recommendation. O



The common message from the major equipment manufacturers regarding sponsorships is that the player need not be a national, regional or even state champion to be of value as their ambassador.

If you find that a weekend without a tournament is like a day without orange juice, you may be just the type of racquetball enthusiast that one of these companies is looking for. And if you are a winner, all the better ...

A'ME, Ed Speer, 244 Mercury Circle, Pomona, CA 91768 Burt, Greg Maloley, 24 Tupelo Road, Westport, CT 06880 DP, Lanier Johnson, P.O. Box 100, Opelika, AL 36803 Ektelon, Teresa Nunn, 8929 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA 92123-9929 Head, Debbie Nohstadt, 4801 North 63rd Street, Boulder, CO 80301-3238 Pro Kennex, Randy Floyd, 9606 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92126 Richcraft, Gary Mason, 2814 New Spring Road, #207, Atlanta, GA 30339

Head

Head Racquet Sports makes racquets for different sports, yet has turned much of its influence and backing to the promotion and growth of racquetball. Head sponsorship programs are divided into national and field levels.

Administered through the national office in Colorado, field sponsorship programs are guided by 20 sales representatives across the country, all with budgets for selected teaching/club pros in their areas. These sponsorships are geared toward players who are highly active locally but not necessarily competitors at the national level. Field sponsored players receive an equipment package which includes two to three racquets, Head clothing and accessories, plus a discounted price list for additional items.

National sponsorships come from the brightest and best of the racquetball community. They are divided among the male and female touring pros, a national advisory staff, a junior pro team, and "Team Head" consisting of selected age group competitors. Players with national sponsorships receive more equipment than with field sponsorships, plus travel money given on a discretionary basis.

At present, just under 100 sponsored players are included within these four national sponsorship designations. Head extensively scouts competitors of all ages at national championships for this sponsorship. While scouting, Head also looks for balance between personal demeanor and racquetball tal-

ent before awarding players a contract at the national level. For juniors, this means good behavior on and off the court, combined with solid skills. For adults, it is the ability to remain competitive, yet be versatile in promoting Head in a professional manner. For this special combination, Head players are rewarded with lucrative equipment contracts and benefit incentives. For example, the 16 members of the junior pro team receive a three-day weekend camp in a different part of the country each

Both the field and national levels work together closely; field players have the chance to qualify and advance into the ranks of the national sponsorship programs.

Again, exposure and visibility of the product line is important to the corporation, but player progress also appears to of concern to Head Racquet Sports.

Diversified Products

Until recently acquired by an independent businessman from Alabama, DP has of necessity maintained a low profile over the past months. However, DP is firmly in racquetball at present with a new line of mid-sized racquets on the drawing board.

As yet, their regular sponsorship program remains unchanged with the new ownership, and includes an equipment package of racquets, clothing, bags and gloves. In addition, players at the "gold pro" level receive cash bonuses in varying amounts for winning national cham-

(continued on the next page)

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Sponsorship

(continued from page 19)

pionships. DP is also involved in junior program support, providing the complete equipment needs of entire teams whose drive and success has been shown through tournament play.

In exchange for this support, sponsored players are expected to represent DP with good sportsmanship and honesty throughout active tournament careers. Like the other manufacturers, DP asks that their players keep themselves and the product highly visible in the racquet-ball community.

Regional DP representatives make sponsorship recommendations based on players' tournament record and potential to increase awareness of DP. Players who would like to seek DP sponsorship can contact their state AARA director for the name of their regional representive, then forward a letter and resume for consideration.

Richcraft

Based in Burbank, CA, Richcraft is a subsidiary of a high-tech aircraft company which, over the past 17 years, has also researched and designed injection-molded racquets for other manufacturers. Now making their own racquets, Richcraft has only recently begun a basic, grassroots sponsorship program.

Regional representatives choose areas of high racquetball activity and pinpoint players with considerable local influence on the sport through personal involvement and tournament standings. Potential sponsored players are offered an equipment, clothing and accessory package in exchange for product visibility, promotion and regular tournament participation. As the Richcraft company grows, additional products are expected to become part of the equipment sponsorship.

Pro/Kennex

Pro/Kennex is another relatively new equipment manufacturer which teamed with Marty Hogan to develop and promote its products on a national scale. Presently, the company receives 400-500 sponsorship requests per year, and uses no hard and fast rules regarding approval. Each request is considered on its own merit, with consideration of improved sales and the expansion of racquetball as a whole in any given region.

Most of their sponsored players are highly ranked winners with a conspicuous involvement in the sport. Teaching/club pros are also good candidates for sponsorship with this company, whose equipment package consists of two racquets of choice, clothing and accessories. A written request and resume of accomplishments to the promotional director of Pro/Kennex is sufficient for consideration.

Burt

The Burt line of racquets is less than one year old. Their marketing and sponsorship efforts have been concentrated in the New England area where tournament players are maintaining high state rankings using the equipment. In response to these favorable indications, Burt sponsorships are now available on three levels.

The first is geared to the teaching/club pro, with a standard equipment package of two racquets, clothing and bag. The second level provides equipment and expenses to regional and national champions, while the third is limited to professional level competitors.

A'ME

While not an actual racquet manufacturer, the A'ME grip company does promote racquetball and gets up to 50 sponsorship requests a month from players and tournament organizers.

By using A'ME grips on their racquets, many of the top name touring pros have secured bonus contracts which give cash incentives for wins at certain levels. Active and noteworthy amateur players and instructors are also eligible for sponsorships which include grips, clothing, accessories and promotional materials for club use.

The company requires written requests for sponsorship, and players should submit a letter and list of accomplishments.



Racquetball Shoes And Your Feet

by Dr. Paul Ross

With the fall weather nearing, it is likely that many of us will be coming indoors and playing more racquetball. Naturally, all summer you were wearing your racquetball shoes outside as your casual "sneaker", and now realize that a new pair of shoes is a necessity. Or worse, those shoes that you loved for playing racquetball just wore out and are no longer available.

When you go to look for a new pair, spend time investigating and inquiring. It will be well worth it. First of all, only racquetball shoes should be worn on the racquetball court. Not running shoes, not aerobic shoes, not basketball shoes, and not tennis shoes. The shoes designed by the various manufacturers for racquetball today, take into consideration the nature of the sport and the surfaces it is played on. When looking for shoes, you also must be aware of your own foot structure and its requirement in a racquetball shoe.

Your foot type can generally be divided into two categories, although, of course, there are foot types that fall between the two. You will probably have rigid/high arched feet or a flexible/low arched feet. Your foot type can be easily determined by examining your foot prints when exiting from a swimming pool. If you are high arched, there will be dry ground observed beneath your arch, and if you are low arched, there will be no dry ground seen under your arch.

Each of these foot types have different priority requirements of the shoe. The flexible/low arched foot goes through excessive flattening motion. This flattening out motion, or pronation, is what allows the body to absorb the shock and pressure of each step. However, increased flattening out motion over extended periods of time can result in a variety of overuse injuries, including heel spurs, bunions, shin splints, etc. Therefore, the type of shoe needed by someone with a flexible low arched foot will be one that has a

rigid heel counter, built in arch support, a fairly firm midsole, with ankle support from 3/4 to high-top for control of ankle instability associated with flat feet.

The rigid/high arched foot type, on the other hand, is a very poor shock absorber during each step. Therefore, you would be more prone to increased joint pain, especially the ankle, knee and hip. Also there tends to be increased discomfort to the ball and heel of the foot, where

add increased shock absorption capacity or control the foot function in an existing shoe. Many times, replacing the existing innersole with spenco, sorbithane, Scholl's innersole or other shock absorbing material is all that is necessary to decrease the amount of trauma to your foot. This is especially true for the rigid high arch feet. Available arch support products range from those which are prefabricated ones like Scholl's or spenco arch supports, to

...First of all, only racquetball shoes should be worn on the racquetball court. Not running shoes, not aerobic shoes, not basketball shoes, and not tennis shoes...

the majority of weight bearing takes place with this foot type. Shoe qualities, then, that you look for would include good shock absorption, a more flexible midsole, good shock absorbing innersole with arch support, and a 3/4 to high-top support to control any ankle instability.

Besides the shoes, two other areas should be taken into consideration — the type of socks and innersole materials available.

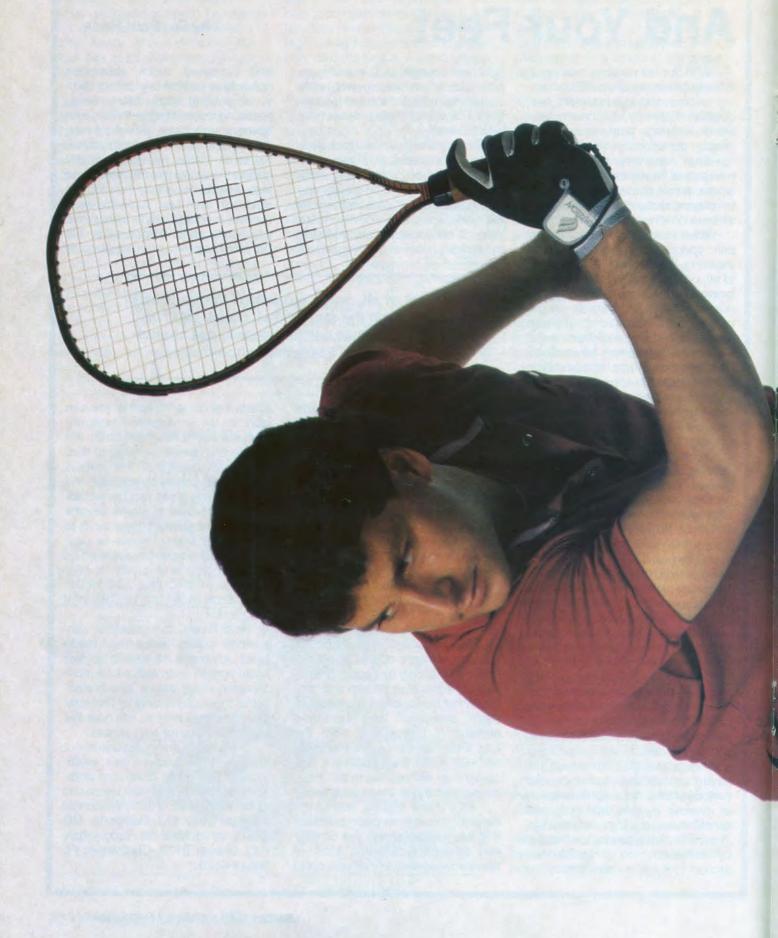
Wearing two pairs of socks can create increased friction and heat in the shee, which then causes irritation and blisters. Thor-lo and Wig/wam are just two of the manufacturers who produce double thickness socks so that only one pair is necessary. The stitching pattern and fabrics in the socks allow for excellent shock absorption and increased removal of perspiration from the foot. They may cost a little more, but are well worth the investment, because they will last five to ten times longer than the average tube sock.

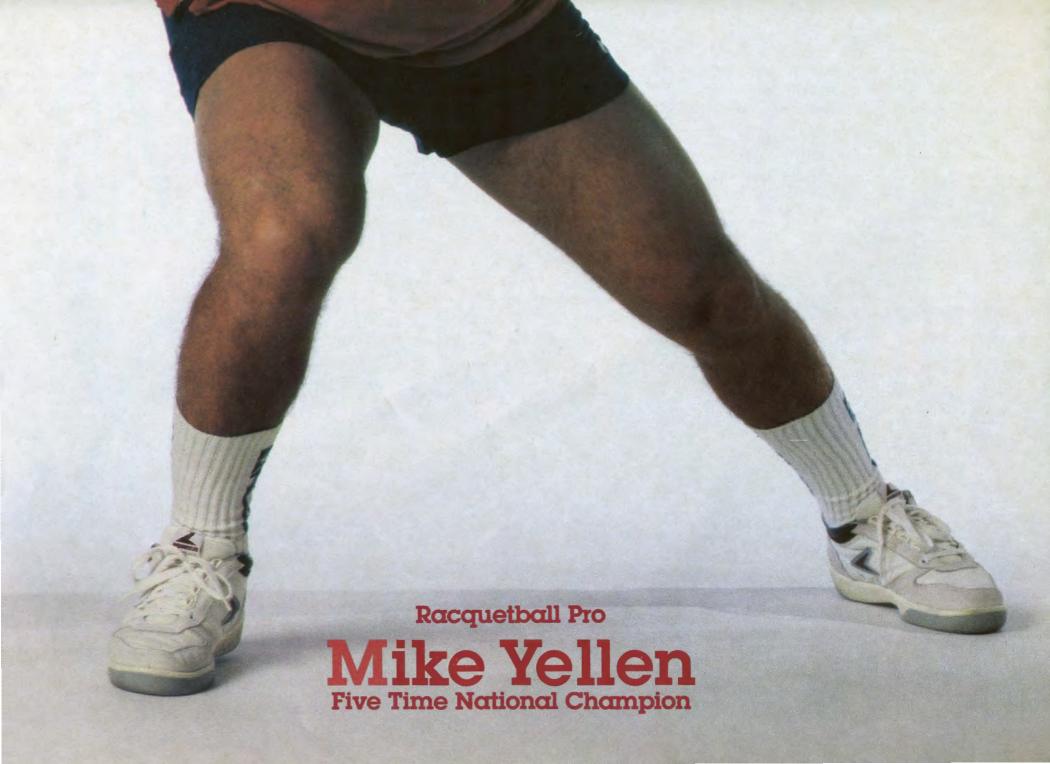
Then there are the various innersole and arch support products that are available over the counter and through mail order. Most of these are excellent in their attempt to others that come in kits that you can fabricate on your own. These are intended more for those with the flexible and low arched type of feet.

The availability of the various racquetball shoes throughout the country many times can be limited, so you may have to check several athletic gear stores in your area to compare as many brands as possible. Evaluate each brand based on your foot type and quality of construction of the shoe. Generally, when it comes to cost, you get what you pay for.

And finally, the quality of racquetball shoes today has made great advances compared to five years ago. In time, with a little more research using player and professional input, the quality of footwear for racquetball players will near the quality of those for our runners.

If you have any questions about the selection of proper shoes, evaluation of foot types or related problems, you may send your questions to: Dr. Paul Ross, at 8218 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 112, Bethesda, MD 20814, or to National Racquetball, P.O. Drawer 6126, Clearwater, FL 34618-6126.





SHOES FOR THE NEW SEASON

On the following pages, a total of 16 pairs of shoes for racquetball have been highlighted. Some are inexpensive, others aren't, but details of their construction are included to help you start deciding — before visiting the shoe store.

Outsoles, the part of the shoe that grips the floor, are usually made of a type of rubber, or of polyurethane, a chemical compound that's lighter and more durable than rubber.

The insole is the footbed of the shoe, the part that comes in contact with your feet. It is usually removable, and sometimes washable. It can also be replaced with orthopedic supports if necessary for your feet. (See the Dr. Ross article on choosing shoes on page 21.)

Midsoles are a layer of material between the insole and outsole, generally designed for maximum shock absorption. Generally it is made of EVA, an abbreviation for ethylene vinyl acetate, a foam made in different densities. EVA is very good for comfort, but tends to break down faster than other shoe components.

Finally, addresses of the different manufacturers have been included should you need help finding local retailers, or if you want further information on the products.

Saucony

Hancomy T&R

entacia solid robber midsola EVA insola: removable sizes available: (W) 5-11 retail prior: 044.85 Hyde Athletic Industries, F.O. Box 8040, Peabody, MA 01691

Head

Head Pro Elite

upper: napa leather outsole: gum rubber/hard rubber midsole: EVA insole: removable sizes available: (M) $6^{1}/_{2}$ -13, (W) 5-10 retail price: \$48.00

Head Edge

upper: napa leather outsole: gum rubber midsole: EVA insole: removable sizes available: (M) 6¹/₂-13, (W) 5-10 retail price: \$44.00

Head Professional

upper: leather/nylon mesh outsole: gum rubber/hard rubber midsole: EVA insole: removable sizes available:
(M) 6½-13 retail price: \$39.00
4801 North 63rd Street, Boulder, CO 80301-3238



Converse

Converse Delray

upper: canvas outsole: fully stitched

rubber

Converse Aurora

outsole: natural and

upper: nylon-lined leather

midsole: none

insole: non-removable

sizes available: $(M) 6^{1}/_{2}-12, 13$

retail price: \$28.95

Converse A.C. Converter

upper: leather outsole: natural and synthetic rubber midsole: two-layer EVA insole: removable sizes available: $(M) 6^{1}/_{2}-16$ retail price: \$45.95 One Fordham Road,

North Reading, MA 01864



Foot-Joy

Foot-Joy Pro Court Tuffs 30

upper: leather/mesh outsole: gum rubber midsole: EVA insole: removable sizes available: (M) 7-12, 13, 14 retail price: \$49.95

Foot-Joy Tuffs

upper: split suede with nylon double mesh outsole: gum rubber midsole: EVA insole: removable sizes available: (M) 7-12,13, 14 (W) 5-10,11 retail price: \$34.95

Foot-Joy Pro Court Tuffs

upper: leather/Poly Pek nylon outsole: white rubber midsole: EVA insole: removable sizes available: (W) 5-10, 11 retail price: \$42.95 144 Field Street, Brockton, MA 02403



Etonic / Lotto / Nike

Etonic Reactor

upper: white polybag/ leather outsole: gum rubber midsole: EVA insole: non-removable sizes available: 4-12, 13 retail price: \$34.95

Lotto Lido

upper: full grain leather outsole: gum rubber midsole: EVA insole: removable sizes available: (M) 6-12, 13 retail price: \$59.99 2301 McDaniel Drive, Carrollton, TX 75006

Nike Cross Trainer

upper: perforated full-grain leather outsole: solid rubber midsole: polyurethane insole: removable sizes available:
(M) 6-13,14, 15,
(W) 5-10, 11, 12 retail price: \$59.99 3900 S.W. Murray Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005



New Balance / Adidas / Reebok

New Balance CT900

upper: leather
outsole: rubber/
polyurethane
midsole: polyurethane
insole: removable
sizes available:
(M) 6-12, 13 B, D, EE
retail price: \$90.00
38 Everett Street,
Boston, MA 02134

Adidas Indoor Court

upper: nylon with velour trim outsole: two-density rubber insole: non-removable sizes available: $3^{1}/_{2}$ -13 retail price: \$29.95 15 Independence Blvd., Warren, NJ 07060

Reebok Boast

upper: napa pigskin/

nylon mesh outsole: rubber midsole: EVA insole: non-removable sizes available: (M) 6½-13, (W) 5-10 retail price: \$39.95 150 Royall Street,



Readers' choice for NR Players of the Year

The professional tours bring the best of action, excitement and spectacular skill to racquetball. And each month during the 1987/88 season, National Racquetball will ask its readers to choose their favorite players.

Then, starting in November, National Racquetball will highlight your choices for RMA and WPRA players of the month. After the national championships, the RMA and WPRA Players of the Year will be announced from season's total ballots.

So follow the action at the tournaments - and through National Racquetball features on each event - and vote! It's as simple as sending this month's signed ballot to National Racquetball.



COMING IN NOVEMBER

Joe Garcia and the portable court racquetball's showstopper unveiled

Brumfield remembers Hogan and "The Rivalry"

Dave Peck on how to counter the splat shot

Humor

The Shoe Store Shuffle

by Mark Toljagic

I like buying shoes.

Okay, it doesn't rank right up there with teasing pit bull terriers and jogging through the streets of East Beirut on my list of exciting things to do, but it can be fun. Avoid-thesales-help is the game I like to play at the local mall.

The idea is to rack up as many seconds as you can inside a shoe store before a salesperson velcroes himself to you and asks the proverbial question, "Can I help you?" I once spent over six minutes in a Kmart shoe department before I was cornered by two employees. They must have been a tag team.

The trick, though, is to hang around outside until a decoy blunders in as bait for the well dressed sales help (how can they afford those suits on next to minimum wage?). Then you swoop past the distracted personnel, drink in the display - making note of the interesting shoes and their prices - and slip out before the sales manager aims someone in your direction. It's exhilarating stuff.

In an age of self-help everything and warehouse shopping, the shoe store is an increasingly inconspicuous throwback to another time. Think about it. An attendant kneels before you and slips shoes on your feet while you sit back and agonize whether you socks stink. His or her fingers poke and prod around the shoes as you stand in them, and they ask if you feel comfortable. ("Yes, and will the fingers be included with sales tax?")

You then proceed to walk gingerly, doing the shoe store shuffle, with your eyes glued to the floor as if

the new shoes are a critical threat to your tootsies. The only thoughts in your mind are, "Am I walking funny. How's my posture? Why is the salesman staring at me?" It seems to be a ritual.

Then there is you and me — the jocks. We aren't satisfied with family shoe retailers for our athletic shoes. After all, we know valuable extra points are determined by the status of our shoes. So we want professional advice. We take our business to the sports outfitter, someone who's traded in their tweed jackets for running gear.

We listen to them compare EVA materials and pronation patents and we nod a lot, putting a lot of faith in their learned opinions. We try on their wares and hop around on their hardwood floors, confident in the knowledge that we're getting first-

rate consultation.

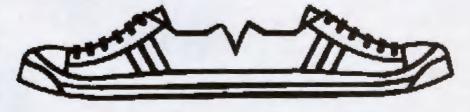
Then, after two hours of pro and con on the various makes, we decide on a pair and pledge to return after work tomorrow with cash in hand.

Maybe this is why people in the shoe business have a touchy sense of humor. I was at a party once where I met a shoe store owner. "I'm in ladies footwear," the owner confided over his cocktail glass.

I glanced down at his feet and blurted out, "Don't worry. Your secret is safe with me."

He didn't even smile. "Why don't you come in some time and pick out something for your wife for Christmas?" he asked with an edge to his voice.

He just wanted to sic his salespeople on me. O



Letters To The Editor

Thanks For July

I would like to congratulate the entire NR staff for putting together a great July issue. It has been a long time since I have been that engrossed with a NR issue.

The fitness articles were very informative and they complement each other extremely well. I must have read and reread it at least five times to make sure that I didn't miss anything. I enjoyed reading it and I am still flipping through the pages. My copy does not look good...the pages are ruffled and the corners are bent and I love it.

I think that the July issue will serve as a good reference for players as well as instructors. Congratulations, keep up the good work and thank you.

Herb Leong Richland, WAO

Set The Records Straight

Re; Incorrect results in the June issue. The results for the AARA Region 15 Singles Championships held at the Pacific West Club. April 16-19. The Boy's Junior 12 and Under listed Jason Nishimura as placing 4th, it should have listed him as placing 2nd. Jason was also the Boy's Junior 10 and Under Champion.

National Racquetball Magazine is not at fault as this is the way the results were published in our AARA Newsletter, and this is probably the way it was sent to the magazine. Thank you.

Patti Nishimura Spokane, WA O

Joe Will Be Missed

We note with sadness the death of Joe Massarelli, publisher of National Racquetball. I was sorry to read the news in your "Off the Wall" column.

I am sure that Joe tried to promote racquetball to the utmost and set new directions for the game.

I enjoyed the columns Joe wrote, and will miss them as a steady reader of your publication.

As editor-publisher of Racquet Voice, a national squash publication, I know the challenges Joe faced, but also the satisfactions like seeing juniors in the game mature into top-notch players.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Joe's family, and know National Racquetball will carry on to its best.

Hank Katten Racquet Voice West Haven, CT

Ed. note: Thank you for your sympathy and confidence, Hank. Thanks to all of our readers who have taken the time to write to us. We appreciate your support.

Curbing Poor Sportsmanship

In reference to Mike Frisbee's letter in the July issue regarding watching an ill-behaved player, who happened to be an Ektelon sponsored Junior. I feel there are more things that can and should be done to curb unsportsmanlike behavior.

The referee should have control of the situation, know the rules, and be able to enforce them, but we know from practical experience that this isn't always the case. When I have seen instances like this. I make it a point to find the tournament director as quickly as possible, advise him of the problem, and take him to the court where the inconsiderate player is, with the expectation that something will be done.

Mr. Hiser's comment that Mr. Frisbee's letter might make some people realize they may be presenting a poor picture to the spectators, assumes those people will have read your column, I'm inclined to think that most of those people don't realize that they have a problem, and figure it must be someone else who does those things.

(continued on page 38)

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Asahi - Men's MX-3 Boca
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Association Roundup

AARA

Elite Training Camp

by Luke St. Onge



I have just had the pleasure of observing the U.S. National Elite Racquetball Training Camp recently held at the

Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO. What growth we've had since our first Elite Camp in 1984. The organization, the purpose, the physical demands, the dedication of the clinicians and the professionals along with the expertise of the guest lecturers left nothing to chance in preparing for the athletes who qualified and attended the camp. The feeling and aura of the Elite Training Camp has changed. Our athletes and organization is now treated with respect where as in the first camp, we were treated as an oddity and with curiosity. Racquetball has been accepted and is now an integral part of the [Olympic] movement.

The U.S. National Team has changed in prestige as well. In 1984, the Team was treated with little respect by the racquetball population and even contempt in some quarters. In 1987, after winning two World Championships, traveling extensively throughout Europe, South America, and Asia, and dominating competition in this hemisphere, the team is treated with respect and has become the hero of the sport. Every sport needs role models and hero's for its athletes to look up to. In Junior Week as well as Open Week at the Camp, the overriding goal of the athletes was to make the U.S. Team.

The Camp under the direction of Jim Hiser, has taken on a new importance. Players have to qualify through the Regionals, and that makes for a high level of teaching,

and the interaction between elite athletes, clinicians, and teaching professionals is a true give and take situation. The athletes have the opportunity to explore goals, diet, purpose, sports physiology, conditioning, weight training, attitude adjustment, dreams, visions, and virtually every aspect that makes a champion a champion. The manufacturers recognize the tremendous importance of the Elite Camp for our sport by supplying products and top touring professionals and clinicians for the three weeks.

The direction of the Elite Camps is unique amongst most sports in that the junior and open week camps cover the young aspiring players of the sport, and the age group centers itself on preparing upper age athletes from 35 to 70 for the World Masters Games and national age group competitions.

The National Elite Camp has a special place in our sport. If the "gloom and doom club" so prevalent within racquetball would hold its annual convention amidst the elite camp, their opinions would soon change. It's great to be a part of it and its great to see the special athletes that have chosen racquetball for their sporting careers.

CRA

Canadian Association News

by Bill Houldsworth



On behalf of the C.R.A., I would like to thank National Racquetball for the opportunity for a monthly news report as part of the Association Roundup.

For the first roundup column, I would just like to include some mis-

cellanous items Canadian readers might find of interest.

Our Long Term Plan, for C.R.A. direction, which took over thirty volunteers countless working hours, was officially passed by the Board of Directors at their May meetings and subsequently passed at the 1987 Annual General Meeting. It is now in the hands of the provincial associations. Contact your provincial president to become involved and put the plan into action.

Tournament organizers can order their souvenir Fox shirts and Penn racquetballs for sanctioned tournaments from the C.R.A. office. Please give at least four weeks notice of the event for safe delivery.

Due to increasing costs, membership fees have risen to \$15. Of the increase, 80% will go to the provinces to help them with costs. The split to provincial associations is now at 50-50.

The C.R.A. is increasing its efforts to find new corporate sponsors and has been negotiating with three new companies for sponsorship of the 1988 Senior Nationals. We have also put out a call for companies who are interested in becoming associated with the C.R.A. with an official racquet and glove. We presently have an official ball (Penn) and an official eyeguard (Leader).

Just a reminder to all Canadian racquetball fans that the C.R.A. is a non-profit organization, and donations are tax deductable.

RMA

Where The Pros Give Back



by Jim Hiser

Who says professional players never give back to the sport? For three weeks every summer a group of professional players and instructors, both men and women, work 15 hour days sharing their experience and knowledge with over 120 amateurs from the U.S. and select foreign countries.

The AARA national elite training camps, held annually at the Olympic Training Centers in Michigan and Colorado, have been supported since inception by professional players. Without their support and participation the camp would not function.

This diverse group of instructors, comprised of representatives from the WPRA, IMPRO and PARI, are sent by their national sponsor to participate in this unique experience. The camp offers the opportunity for amateur participants to interact with professionals in a 24 hour basis. The professionals interact far beyond their instructors capacity. They train side by side with the students, rising at 5:30 a.m. for physical testing and normally entertain questions and discussions until late at night. Although the atmosphere is sometimes exhausting and intense, the sharing of professional and amateur philosophies is stimulating.

Although instructors schedules are demanding, they seldom complain. Not all professional players participate in the program, but those who do realize the importance of their roles as ambassadors for the sport. They give of themselves and their time to bridge the gap between amateur and professional, with the sport prospering because of their participation.

The elite camps thanks the following professionals for their efforts:

WPRA — Lynn Adams, Caryn McKinney, Bonnie Stoll, Fran Davis, Molly O'Brien, Kathy Langlotz

IMPRO — Jerry Hilecher, Mike Ray, Dan Obremski, Jim Cascio, Mike Anderson, Hart Johnson

PARI - Stu Hastings, Jim Winterton

WPRA

WPRA Offers New Clinic Program

by John Samford

Hardly a day goes by that we do not receive a call from a club

wishing to attract new members into their racquetball program. Because one of the major objectives of the WPRA is to reach more people for the sport of racquetball, we are always ready to try and support clubs in their effort to promote the sport.

The association now offers (continued on page 40)



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Yes, we're interested in a clinic at our club.

Your Name_

Club Name

Your Address_

City/State/Zip_

Telephone (____)

Exhibition matches and camps also available. Club inquiries welcome.





Schedule of Events

1987 AARA Schedule

October 2-4
Pac West
5227 South Puget Sound
Tacoma, WA 98409
Sid Williams
(206) 473-2266

October 9-11 1987 NC State Doubles The Sports Center 5951 Cliffdale Road Fayetteville, NC 28304 Mike Dimoff (919) 379-0550

October 10-12
Park Avenue Open
Park Avenue Racquet &
Fitness Club
714 Park Avenue
Orange Park, FL 32073
Connie & Mickey Smith
(904) 783-2889

October 16-18
Down East RB Classic
Greenville Athletic Club
140 Oakmont Drive
Greenville, NC 27834
Terry Cruz
(919) 756-9175

October 22-24 National Doubles Arizona Athletic Club 1425 14th Street Tempe, AZ 85281

October 23-25 Chatham/Olympic Open Chatham Racquet & Athletic Club 1000 Colwell Street Pittsburgh, PA 15219 Rosemarie Croce (412) 642-4200

October 23-25
Cool Cucumber
Lakeland YMCA
3620 Cleveland Heights
Blvd.
Lakeland, FL 33803
Grace Page
(813) 644-3528

October 30-November 1
9th Annual White
Rose Classic
The Athletic Club-Sawmill
3880 Carol Road
York, PA 17402
Doe Devivo
(717) 755-0991

November 6-8 Florida State Outdoor 4 Wall Tournament Auburndale Rec Center 202 W. Park Street Auburndale, FL 33828 Keith Johnson (813) 967-7265

November 13-15 Sarasota YMCA Tournament Sarasota YMCA 1075 S. Elucid NE Sarasota, FL 33577

November 20-22 Cold Turkey RB Classic Omega 40 1 So. Old Kings Road Ormond Beach, FL 32074 Scott Nelson (904) 672-4044

November 20-22 Turkey Shoot Sports Club of Asheville 9 Kenilworth Knoll Asheville, NC 28805 Colon Woop (704) 252-0222

November 20-22
2nd Annual David
Greise Memorial
Montgomery Athletic Club
5765 Carmichael Parkway
Montgomery, AL 36117
Jack Sorenson
(205) 277-7130

November 20-22 9th Annual Turkey Shoot Nashville Supreme Court 4633 Trousdale Nashville, TN 37204 Jerry Dixon/Vicky King (615) 646-2567 December 4-6 Killshot Kommittee South Fl. Racquet Club 5555 Ravenswood Road Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312-8631 Eva Russell/Vince Biondi (305) 923-8631

December 4-6
Tar Heel Open
Omni Sports Club
301 Executive Park Blvd.
Winston-Salem NC 27103
Charlotte Harris
(919) 260-3663

December 27-30 Jr. Orange Bowl Miami Lakes Athletic Club Main Street Miami Lakes, FL 33014 Bill Higgs (305) 821-1150

RMA Tour Schedule 1987-88 Season

October 14-18 Skyline Clubs at Crystal Gateway Arlington, VA

November 19-22 Cambridge Racquet Club Vancouver, B.C.

December 9-13BQE Pitner Racquet Club Woodside, NY

January 13-17Flat Iron Athletic Club Boulder, CO

February 3-7 Tulsa Racquetball & Aerobics Club Tulsa, OK

March 24-27 Michigan Athletic Club Grand Rapids, MI April 13-17
Burnsville Racquet Center
Minneapolis, MN

Nationals Site and Date TBA

WPRA Tour Schedule 1987-88 Season

October 3-6 Alaska Athletic Club Anchorage, AK

October 9-11
Pacific West Sport &
Racquet Club
Seattle, WA

December 4-6 Los Cabelleros Sports Club Los Angeles, CA

February 26-28, 1988 Shawnee at Highpoint Philadelphia, PA

March 10-13 Westerville Athletic Club Columbus, OH

April Atlanta Sporting Club Atlanta, GA

June 2-5
Riverbend Athletic Club
Dallas-Fort Worth

For AARA information contact: Luke St. Onge (303) 635-5396

For RMA information contact: Jim Hiser (313) 653-9602

For WPRA information contact: John Samford (817) 654-2277

What's The Call

The Rules Do Vary

Q: Various states use rules which differ from AARA rules and impose those rules in AARA sanctioned events. For instance, Wyoming has changed the number of timeouts per game, decisions on out-of-play balls, serve position for drive serves, etc. Why do these differences exist within AARA sanctioned events? Also, with the spread of racquetball to other countries and continents is there an effort being made for a standard set of international rules?

John Greer, Casper, WI

A: When the AARA became the sole sanctioning body for racquetball in 1982, it learned a valuable lesson from the now defunct United States Racquetball Association (USRA). The membership there wanted a voice in the growth and development of its sport, which it wasn't getting. The AARA saw the importance of allowing the state affiliates some autonomy.

As a result of that independence, states experimenting with various rules have provided the AARA with solid evidence (which otherwise would not have been available) to support rule changes. Notably, those changes include the adoption of the drive serve rule to prevent intentional screening of the receiver, calling a screen serve a fault serve, and a receiving line rule that provides safety without handicapping the offensive-minded player.

The variance in rules has not been a problem because of an AARA directive which requires rule modifications appear on the entry form and at the tournament site.

As for racquetball internationally, John, the sport is played at an organized level in 55 countries on five continents. With the exception of the U.S. and Canada, they use the same rules, those written by



the International Racquetball Federation (IARF). CRA and AARA rules vary slightly. With the exception of the new rules taking effect in September, the primary differences between AARA and IARF are as follows: tiebreaker is played to 15; permission from the referee is required for a player to leave the court; the third technical results in a forfeit; rest period between the second and third games is 10 minutes; lensed eyewear designed for racquetball is mandatory.

Under CRA rules players cannot leave the court without permission, the match is forfeited after three technicals, a five minute rest takes place before the tiebreaker and lensed eyewear is required. As you are aware, the AARA has no limit on technicals, tiebreakers are to 11, allows five minutes before the tiebreaker and, effective December 1st, lensed eyewear will be required.

Enforcing The Eyeguard Rule

When it becomes mandatory to "wear lensed eyewear designed

for racquet sports" the question about enforcement will certainly become an issue. Will it become enforced selectively? What kind of support will there be for the enforcement?

Because of the way the rule penalty is stated, my guess is that the opponents of those who do not wear the required eyewear will request the enforcement, as it will be to their benefit.

The penalty, automatic, is a technical and timeout for the first infraction and a forfeit for a second infraction in the same match. Just like a short serve, skip ball or avoidable hinder; the player is going to want an obvious infraction which benefits him to be called.

Addressing The Issue

Have a rule that perplexes you, an on-court experience as a player or referee that wasn't resolved? Address your questions and comments to: What's The Call, 8444 Seabridge Way, Indianapolis, IN 46240 or c/o National Racquetball.

Lewerenz

(continued from page 6)

with a group of inexperienced boxers. Steward is now well known to boxing enthusiasts as the coach of the famous Kronk's boxing team.

"With the Kronk's team, I started out just helping, volunteering. Those kids were from the inner city and couldn't afford to pay much. Then, after Hearns won big in 1980, the team became more famous and could afford more. They built their second gym two blocks away from my office."

Hearns, for example, is part of the Kronk's team and is like family to Fred, enough so that Fred's sons will stop by the Hearn's house (complete with indoor swimming pool shaped like a boxing glove) to watch television, or quiz the champ about his garage full of Rolls Royces.

Lewerenz's sports connections in Detroit led him to patients such as Al Kaline, a former superstar with the Detroit Tigers, Alex Delvecchio, the Red Wings Hall of Famer, and Billy Sims of the Lions. His racquetball connections led him to Elvis Presley.

"I knew Presley's physician, Dr. George Nichopolous, from tournaments in Memphis. So once, after a concert in the Silverdome, he introduced me backstage to Elvis, who himself played racquetball. It was a natural to be his physician whenever he came into this part of the midwest."

Lewerenz has contributed a lot to racquetball. The RMA's commissioner, Jim Hiser, says, "Fred's very generous. He never asks for anything when he does something, and he is always grateful for anything he gets in return."

Jim has known Fred ever since they happened to be sitting along-side each other during a tournament that was running three hours behind on the draw. Their frustration led to a brainstorming session and the formation of Michigan's Super Seven tournament series. Lewerenz supplied the original financing, Hiser the management. The series concept has done well; it is copied in three other states and Hiser has had at least a dozen requests for information on the series.

Fred Lewerenz doesn't broadcast his racquetball activities. His private medical office has the momentos of years of dealing with world champions, and down the hall some space is given to a few of the plaques that mark tournament victories. Other than that, he just likes to play racquetball, which he does five or six days a week, sometimes twice a day.

As to a shot at Hollywood, maybe not. But then again, you never know what could happen with a...good manager.

LOOK WHO'S PLAYING WITH TACKI-MAC NOW!!

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Letters

(continued from page 31)

I would have also made the club management, if different from the TD, aware of what had happened and the final solution whatever it may have been. And assuming the Junior was an Ektelon team member, and not just wearing the shirt, I would have written to Ektelon and advised them that I would no longer support their products, no tournaments that they sponsored, and would advise all my racquetball friends to do the same. Racquetball must not be spoiled by the minority; but it's up to each of us to not allow those incidents to occur, and to not support sponsors or tournaments that are unwilling to monitor their team members or entrants.

J.D. Palmer O

Lilburn, GA 30247

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IMPORTANT: When properly worn, this eyewear is designed to reduce the possibility of serious eye injury to a player's eyes when struck in that region by a ball in the normal course of play. Even while properly wearing Ektelon eyewear there is a chance that a player may sustain some eye injury. Accordingly, the designer, manufacturer and Ektelon make no representation that their eyewear will eliminate the possibility of injury.

PROPER WEAR: Proper wear means not modifying this eyewear in any way whatsoever and always wearing it with adjustable headstrap and cushioned padding. All players should be safety conscious and exercise common sense and good judgement when playing racquetball.

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Humor

How Seasoned Are You?

If you remember the Dayton Steel racquet with piano wire strings, score 10.

If you played with an original Schmidke XL, score 10.

If you played with a Little Bandido and broke it, score 10.

If you've ever taught someone how to play, score 10.

If you've never taken a lesson, subtract 10.

If you have pictures of yourself playing the game, score 10.

If you no longer play with the people you started out with, score 10.

If you've ever played with the other hand due to injury or for the challenge, score 10.

If you've ever bent a racquet frame out of shape from play alone (hitting the wall doesn't count!), score 10.

If you've ever glued your sneakers back together, score 10.

If you refuse to dress up for the game, and wear t-shirts and non-coordinated outfits, score 10.

You Are This Seasoned:

100 pts. Old man of racquetball 90 pts. Very comfortable in upper

age bracket of play

80 pts. Grew up with racquetball instead of mom and apple pie

70 pts. Seasoned, nay, grizzled veteran

60 pts. Spring chicken category

50 pts. Junior age brackets

40 pts. Yes, at one time they did make racquets without graphite

30 pts. Whippersnapper

20 pts. Two-bounce player

10 pts. Do you have a racquet?

0 pts. Do you know racquets have strings? O

Association Roundup

(continued from page 33)

clubs the opportunity to host a sanctioned WPRA clinic in their city. A top ten ranked WPRA professional will conduct a one or two day clinic specifically designed to meet the needs of your club.

We have found through the clinics we hold at each tour stop, that amateur players, fans and interested spectators enjoy the opportunity to meet the top professional players, and they value the skilled instruction and technique received from players who rank among the world's best.

The clinic is an excellent tool for introducing the sport to your non-racquetball members, attracting new members and generating media coverage. And of course, those attending will receive instruction from one of the world's best players.

If you are interested in this unique and exciting program, please feel free to contact our office for full details. Write or call, 3825 Green Oaks Blvd., Suite 400, Arlington, TX 76016, (817) 654-2277.

The number of clinics we can schedule each year is limited. The scheduling will be on a request priority basis only. Mark your calendar!

Off The Wall

(continued from page 1)

player's quality endorsement of the product lines. The loyalty between player and manufacturer enables the two to share ideas concerning general racquetball promotions and specific suggestions for new products. These are very important areas for player involvement with the manufacturer. It is through working together that success is achieved.

Oh, and what happened to Andy Thompson, the young man from Wisconsin? Our hunch and his hard work paid off. He recently made it to the semifinals in the Boys 14 and under at the Junior Nationals in Columbus and won the Sportsmanship award for the tournament. O

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Newsbriefs

1987 U.S. National Doubles Championships

From October 22-25, the Arizona Athletic Club in Tempe, AZ will host the U.S. National Doubles Championships, sanctioned by the AARA. It promises to blend the drama and expertise normally seen in singles competition with the fast-paced action of doubles. Over 600 of the top racquetball amateurs from the U.S. and Canada will be vying for the coveted gold medals.

Last year's winners, Dan Obremski, PA and Doug Ganim, OH, will return to defend their title against such top teams as Tim Doyle, NY and Bill Sell, CA; and against Andy Roberts and Scott Reid, both from Tennessee.

The women's open event will feature last year's champions Mona Mook and Trina Rasmussen from California. Among their tough competition will be the team of Michelle Gilman and Connie Martin from Oregon.

The gold medalist in the men's and women's open events will automatically become members of the U.S. Racquetball Team that will compete in the World Championships in Hamburg, Germany in 1988.

For more information, contact Luke St. Onge at the AARA, (303) 635-5396.

Tournament To Benefit Special Olympics

The Merritt Fitness Center in Woodlawn, MD has invited top national players and the best of the military and wheelchair players to compete from October 23-25 at the First Annual Racquetball Tournament to benefit the Special Olympics of Maryland.

The tournament offers \$1,000 in prize money in the open division and is expected to draw at least 300 players over 22 divisions. The emphasis of the event is to stress disability awareness, and all proceeds

will be donated to the Special Olympics of Maryland.

Tournament director says much of the cost of the tournament may be tax deductible, and encourages any players interested in attending to contact her by writing to 6364 Piney Ridge Dr., Sykesville, MD 21784.

DP Under New Ownership

Diversified Products, the nation's largest physical fitness equipment company, has returned in ownership to an Alabama base. A mid-August announcement revealed Montgomery real estate developer Jim Wilson Jr. acquired DP from previous owner Grand Metropolitan PLC, a diversified London-based corportation.

DP specializes in the manufacture and distribution of sporting and fitness equipment around the world, and has operations located in Alabama, California and Swansea, Wales. New owner Wilson, says plans are being made for expansions in U.S. and U.K. manufacturing operations. O

WPRA Sportsmanship Award

Mary Dee, a member of the Marty Hogan Racquetball professional playing staff, has been named recipient of the 1987 Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) Sportsmanship Award, as voted by her fellow professionals on the WPRA tour.

A native of Derry, NH, Dee is currently ranked 18th on the WPRA circuit and fourth in the AARA women's open division. She has been playing racquetball professionally for the past eight years and is the assistant coach of the U.S. National Racquetball Team, coached by Larry Lyles of Memphis State University.

Welcome Our New Medical Editor

You may have noticed that our masthead has a new addition, Dr. Paul Ross, D.P.M., our new medical editor. His contributions to the magazine will include articles and yes, consultations, on the other features we run that cover health issues for active racquetball players. In fact, Dr. Ross is more than happy to answer any sports related medical questions

sent to him care of National Racquetball, P.O. Drawer 6126, Clearwater, FL 34618.

Dr. Ross is 33 years old and has been practicing podiatry for eight years in Bethesda, MD, with a major emphasis on sports medicine and foot surgery. He has been playing racquetball for about 10 years, and every week runs 15-20 twenty miles, cycles 75-100 miles and hits the nautilus equipment at least three



Sports and medicine are a great mix for Dr. Paul Ross.

times. As he says, "I've had my share of injuries and it's made me only too aware of the mental and physical requirements for recovery."

His first article as medical editor appears in this issue, where he discusses the best way to choose new racquetball shoes. We enjoyed it, and hope you do, too. O

WTS Contracts With AARA

WTS International (Bethesda, MD) has contracted with the AARA as their exclusive agent in finding a title sponsor or sponsors for the 1987-88 national amateur racquetball championships. Says Gary J. Henkin, president of WTS, "We are very pleased to be associated with the AARA and are looking forward to a prosperous relationship."

Available sponsorship opportunities include the U.S. National Singles Championships, U.S. National Doubles, U.S. National Junior, U.S. National Intercollegiate, and the U.S. High School Championships, as well as an involvement with the U.S. National Team. Promotional exposure also extends to the numerous regional preliminary events for each respective champi-

onship mentioned above.

In addition, sponsors will also have the option to be involved with any or all of the 1,300 AARA sanctioned events which take place at various clubs throughout the U.S.

WTS International is a tennis and racquet sports management firm. The company provides qualified teaching personnel, program, retail and consulting services to more than 100 clubs, resorts and camps nationwide. O

Military Racquetball

National Racquetball would like to hear from members of the military around the world who are racquetball players. Anyone interested, please send any military news or feature ideas to The Editor, National Racquetball, P.O. Drawer 6126, Clearwater, FL 34618-6126.

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Passing Shots



GO TO JAIL — Open player Curtis Winter of Jacksonville, FL, had to do some explaining to his boss one Monday morning. On

Sunday he called in sick, but played in a racquetball tournament. His picture was in the sports section of the Monday morning paper. Winter, by the way, is training to be a police officer.

YOU WEAR EYEGUARDS? -It's a known fact tournament players are leery when they're about to compete against someone they've never played before. If an opponent is wearing a shirt from a national tournament or has 12 gloves dangling from the handles of his gym bag it creates fear. Carolyn Hagler, a women's B player, had a first hand experience with this equipment phenomena. A fellow, who never played in any leagues or tournaments, asked Carolyn how good she was. Carolyn didn't have a resume handy and simply wanted to play. However, the fellow persisted, and then asked the sixty-four dollar question: Do you wear eyeguards? When she answered in the affirmative, the fellow replied: "You really must be good." "No, just smart," she answered.

HOLLYWOOD! — The sport of racquetball will receive some bigtime exposure early next year. A racquetball club will be one of the location shots in a movie that will feature a box-office star. Stay tuned to this column for further details.

Marty Hogan is the only active player who writes racquetball instructional books, but Ektelon says a Mike Yellen book will be published next June...John Austin, brother of former tennis star Tracy Austin, on the sport of racquetball: "I found it wasn't difficult reaching the "B" level, but like any other sport, it takes talent and hard work to reach the top level. "...For all you skiers who also want to play racquetball, check out the

Copper Mountain Resort in Colorado, just outside Vail. They have four courts and they'll try and arrange a game for you...Racquetball is a year-round sport and club owners need to promote the fact that they have "air conditioned facilities." Heat waves were the norm, not the exception, throughout the nation this past summer...Congratulations to pro racquetballer Ed Andrews who recently got married...Ektelon's Total Racquetball catalog is slick and truly a first-class publication. You can tell the company is placing more emphasis on the amateurs. In past years they had biographies on Mike Yellen and Lynn Adams. This

"FISH STORIES...In the locker room I overheard one player describe how he destroyed his opponent. The very next day I heard the opponent describe in detail how he had won..."

year they have a picture of each with a small caption. The publication also features an application to join the American Amateur Racquetball Association. The AARA is banking on a good response...Personal Plug: First Coast Promotions has designed an oversized racquetball charm for the holiday season...In an effort to raise money for the U.S. National Team, the AARA is selling sweatshirts on a mail order basis. All members receive a flver with their membership packages...The AARA recently received a check from Russia with no explanation. Luke St. Onge, executive director of the AARA, has no clue why it was sent and, worst of all, can't read Russian. About 35 percent of the directors at sanctioned tournaments don't bother to check for memberships. It's up to the players to police this

by Norm Blum

situation and confront the tournament directors...Club pros say they receive more requests to play than for lessons.

FISH STORIES - Why do players lie about their games? In the locker room I overheard one player describe how he destroyed his opponent. The very next day I heard the opponent describe in detail how he had won...Do you know why racquetballs are blue? They provide best visibility on the court...Scuffing baseballs with sandpaper and emery boards was "in-thing" this past season. Racquetball is known for people who do things to the ball to make it livelier...How many people do you know who put the ball underneath hot water before they play or always manage to get the ball wet prior to serving? I guess cheating is prevalent in any sport.

Racquetball can be addictive and change lives. Just ask Aaron Katz. The Brooklyn, NY native graduated with a psychology degree at the State University of New York at Binghamton and moved to Texas, but not because of the quality of life or job opportunities. Katz, ranked 14th on the pro tour, chose Dallas for the "quality of racquetball."...Things I like: Tournaments that run on time, plenty of hospitality and nice-looking t-shirts. Things I dislike: Players who take 10 minute breaks between games, chronic complainers and certified referees who think they know everything.

You can tell the following statement came from a "C" player: "No block, no hinder."...

Folks sure are skeptical. Mike Yellen is always asked if he uses the Toron because he wants to or receives pressure from the company. Yellen says it is by choice... Yellen, the five-time National Champ can still make the women swoon. Two female fans were comparing Yellen souvenirs: Female No. One: "He signed my shirt 'You melt me." Female No. Two: "So what. He bought me dinner and gave me his last purple Ektelon shirt." Cute. O



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Left: Standard models available in crystal (sbown) and tortoise.

Below: Caryn McKinney, #2 on the WPRA pro tour, uses Action Eyes exclusively.





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