

INTERNATIONAL

INTERVIEW:

SCOTT HAWKINS



RACQUETBALL

Nov. 1984 Vol. 2 No. 9 \$2.00 Issue #16



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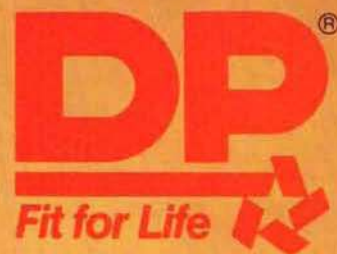
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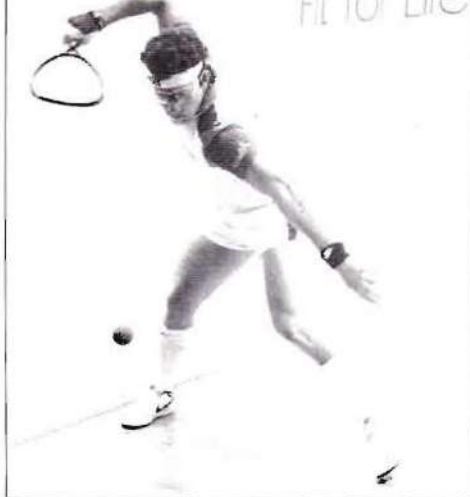
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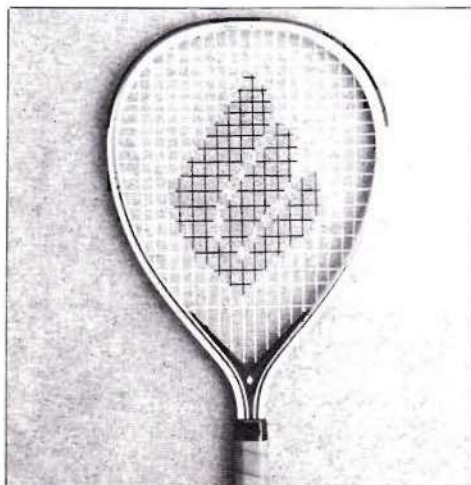
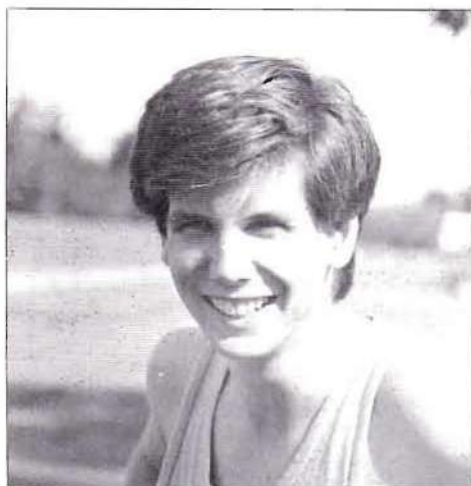
VOL. 2 NO. 9 ISSUE #16

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November 1984



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RACQUETBALL**



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IT'S NO JOKE



Jason Holloman
Publisher

Have you heard this one? How many psychiatrists does it take to change a light bulb?—Only one, but the light bulb really has to want to change. It's worth a chuckle, anyway, but here's one that isn't funny at all. What is the one thing that will guarantee continued growth in racquetball? Junior's programs in the clubs, but the clubs must really want to do them.

Why do the clubs in the U.S. have such a hard time putting together juniors' programs? Of course, maybe they just don't want to have young players around the club. I suppose the arguments against juniors' programs would be that there isn't

any money in having younger people in the club, that the older members frown on younger people racing around and that the adult social style of the club would be cramped with juniors around.

These are all pretty good arguments, but I look at tennis and golf and I think that the attitude these sports have toward their youth is very healthy. Yes, they are in the way a bit, but their enthusiasm is catching. True, young people do not have tons of money to spend at the snack bar, but they do bring their friends to play, and play and play.

Think of the other successful youth sport programs in this country—Pop Warner football, Little League baseball, Red Cross swimming programs, tennis summer camps—I'm sure you could think of others. Wouldn't it be great if we had racquetball up there with the rest of them?

It is possible, you know. Typically, a club is slow mid-morning, mid-afternoon and Saturdays. Sounds like we could have a few juniors around then without too much havoc. What if we started school intermural competition right after daily classes? It could probably be fairly simple to set up. All you would need to do is help organize something like, say, The Racquetball Club at your local high school and you're in business. Just think what could happen to a club if all the high schools in your area had tournaments. What if you could get the schools to give a sports letter in racquetball? You'd probably have to beat the kids away with a stick there'd be so many! It is a fun sport, after all.

Saturdays and summer are perfect times to get kids on the courts. Maybe give them some discount court time and set up a little kitty for Saturday tournaments for kids between 8 to 12 years old. It could be a round-robin in each age bracket and the winner could take home 4 to 5 bucks. Hey, it's better than mowing lawns.

These ideas are just off the top of my head and may be a little rough, but I think

you can get the gist of what I'm trying to say. With a little planning, juniors' programs would be fun and in the long run, profitable. Foreign clubs have seen that right away. The first thing they have tried to set up is juniors' programs because they know that without new blood any sport will slowly wither away.

If you have any suggestions about how we could have successful youth programs for racquetball, I would like to hear from you. Perhaps by summertime we could really have something.

A funny thing happens everytime we put this magazine together. Drew, our editor, calls together an editorial meeting and we all sit around a table and scribble on our little yellow note pads. Invariably, Drew looks up from his list of stories and says in a worried tone, "I don't think we have enough to fill up this issue." Not to seem disrespectful, I always nod in solemn agreement, but inside, I'm smiling, because I know what's going to happen. It always does.

What happens is that because an issue might look a little shy of editorial, we all go out there and drum up new and interesting stories, so by the time deadline day swings around, I've got a pile of manuscripts on my desk and no room to put them in the magazine!

Sure enough. That's what happened this time. Why, we had to throw out three really good articles! But, we kept the most timely ones for this month.

First of all, there is the racquet guide, or more properly, The New Racquets for 1984-85. This is not a list of all the racquets from all the companies. We did that last year. What this is, is a catalog of the newest offerings from the major companies... and just in time for Christmas, eh?

Next, I want you to read the interview with Scott Hawkins. The interview tells that it's not all peaches and cream to be a pro player. Scott is a fine gentleman and the pros are as good a guys as you'll meet, but sometimes talent and opportu-

ity do not lead to happiness. Turn to page 12.

Do you know the rules of the game? I'll wager you probably don't, at least, not all of them. There's a good reason for this ignorance, you see, the WPRA, the AARA and the men's pro game all have different rules! Otto Deitrich has provided us with an in-depth look at rules that you will find fascinating. He's a good writer and knows his subject. Otto's article starts on page 19.

Part five of Jerry Hilecher's series on the Greatest takes us back to the introduction of the drive serve into racquetball. You'd think the drive serve would have been around since the game's inception, but no, Jerry tells us that a player named Ken Guinty might have something to do with it, and he didn't even play racquetball! Details on page 21.

Steve Strandemo continues his Advanced Racquetball instructionals with Part Two of the Serve. It covers the "Z" and lob serves. It's required reading and there will be a test after you finish this magazine.

Also, Steve sent us a great story on his October visit to Japan. Great pictures and a good narrative from one of racquetball's finest teachers. Did you know that

the Japanese already have 1,000 seat glass exhibition courts? Neither did I. There are more interesting glimpses of Japanese racquetball in the article on page 30.

We've had a lot on Japan, mainly because everybody and his marketing firm have been flying over there lately to see what's up. However, let's not forget our neighbors to the north, Canada. If anyone is going to challenge America's dominance of racquetball, it's going to be Canada's strong players. Let me introduce to you in this issue, John Hamilton, Executive Director of the Canadian Racquetball Association and Lindsey Myers, President of the Canadian Professional Racquetball Association. Their interview is on page 33.

There are tournament results from various indoor and outdoor tournaments and naturally, our regular features such as the News and such—important stuff, so don't pass it up. Oh, yes. Check out the tournament schedule for the WPRA, the men's pros and the AARA. It started out looking like nothing was going to happen, but, apparently, International Racquetball is going to be hopping around frantically trying to cover it all for you. See you in December! ●

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DON'T LET THE MAGIC DISAPPEAR



Drew Stoddard
Editor

*You've got to remember,
If you lose the spirit
The magic disappears.*

Pablo Cruise

I want to share with you an experience I had a few days ago. I think you may find it interesting.

Last Friday I drove from our offices in Reno down to Santa Clara, California, to interview Scott Hawkins who was, until recently, one of the top players in professional racquetball. The result of that trip appears later in this issue, and I strongly urge you to read it all; it may not be the cheeriest piece we've ever printed, but it is certainly one of the most important.

I have wanted to do an interview with Scott since the day he called me a few months ago and said he was quitting pro racquetball. As a writer I knew it would make a fascinating story—"Top Player Calls it Quits at 22." I also thought it was

a story everyone needed to hear. But I hesitated calling Scott because I knew that talking about his years as a racquetball pro, and his problems with the game before he quit, would be an emotional experience for him. As it turned out, he handled it quite well. It was, however, a highly emotional experience for me.

Scott and I first met about five years ago. He turned pro about the time I started traveling with the tour as a photographer for another magazine. Traveling that much can become a pretty lonely experience—it was for me—and Scott and I quickly found that we had a lot in common (not the least of which was a fondness for offbeat movies). We became close friends, and it wasn't long before that freindship extended beyond just the time we were on the road.

So I was excited to see him again as I pulled up to his house—we hadn't seen each other since the Ektelon stop in May, the last tournament he ever played. It felt good to shake hands. We talked a little and then walked to a park near his house where he used to play as a kid. We sat on a little grass knoll, and with his eyes fixed on the blue sky above us he began to expose the painful side of life as a professional athlete. In the beginning, what he described was not foreign to me—I was once a young racquetball player obsessed with being the best. For a while he told the story I expected to hear.

But then, after we had talked for an hour or so, he started expressing feelings I had no idea he'd ever felt. He talked of the people around him, and of how they acted when his success suddenly turned to disappointment.

"I didn't need the blind mass approval," he said, "and I hated it when I got it and didn't deserve it. . . and these same people gushing on you, and then turning on you. I was aware of how superficial it all was, but I didn't really have a secure understanding. . . it hit me too much emotionally."

His voice broke as he described the confusion of betrayal, the pain of being worshipped one day and discarded the next. My heart broke as I heard him say

it—I was clearly part of the betrayal he felt. With a sick feeling in my stomach, I realized that our friendship had somehow gone into hibernation about the same time he dropped out of the top ten.

I reached over and turned off the tape recorder and asked Scott point-blank if he felt like I had betrayed him. Like a good friend he said no; that he understood I had just become busy with my job at the magazine, that there just wasn't time to be together any more. Like a dunce (and a typical man) I just nodded and let that explanation stand; it seemed good enough for the moment.

We finished the interview and said goodbye. As I explained why I couldn't stay longer, I climbed into my truck to head back to Reno for my all-important deadline.

As I drove back alone, I couldn't get Scott's words out of my mind. The more I thought, the worse it got. I couldn't deny to myself that somehow our friendship had cooled when his ranking began to drop. But why? That friendship was very important to me when he was 19 and had no ranking at all.

Then I remembered—sensitive person that I am—some of the stupid things I had done. I remembered the time we were having dinner in Portland when I razzed him about throwing a tantrum on the court that day in his match with Harnett, and then I laughed when he was obviously hurt. I remembered the Ektelon tournament in Anaheim, and how, after he lost, he asked me two or three times if we could get together and talk, and I said I was too busy shooting the important matches.

Most of all, I asked myself why? Why, in all that time we spent together—tournaments, going to the horse races in Boise, bumming around Monterey—did I never have a single clue that Scott was in so much pain? Why wasn't I the one who said I'd be there to support him whatever he decided to do?

Then something came to me. For months I've been quietly struggling with a problem in my own life; after being a fanatic for 14 years, my desire to play racquetball has been slowly dying since

about the time I took my position with this magazine. For lack of a better explanation, I've just chalked it up to getting older. But that wasn't it—the answer was hidden just behind Scott's well-chosen words. I had become so obsessed with excellence that I began discarding everything less, and in the process I'd pitched the very thing that brought me into racquetball in the first place—it was a way for me to spend time with people I loved. Somewhere along the way I lost the spirit, and when that happened the magic disappeared.

A lot of you who are reading this are still in the early stages of your infatuation with racquetball. At the risk of sounding preachy, I ask you to remember this: There is nothing magic about going into a big white box and viciously attacking a little blue ball. It may sound dumb, but it's true; racquetball doesn't matter, people do. That is the real spirit of sport, and the source of its magic.

When Scott and I shook hands and said goodbye on that sunny Friday afternoon in front of his house, we promised each other that we would take the time, and make the effort, to salvage an important friendship. It is a promise I intend to keep.



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Ektelon's new "Total Fitness System" introduced for 1984 is a major change in the area of clothing. This totally coordinated sportswear "System" enables the entire clothing line—from shirts and shorts to warmups—to complement each other in fashionable, stylish units.

Ektelon's "Total Fitness System" features only the finest in fabrics including cottons and blends. This year Ektelon will be adding to their easy care wash-and-wear fabrics the lightweight, new sportswear material, Polypropylene.

A total of 52 functional styles will be on the market this year. This innovative sportswear "System" will feature 24 vibrant colors for men and 23 rainbow



colors in the women's line.

The 1984 garment line was designed by Laura Evans, one of the country's top active wear designers. Evans has designed both men's and women's clothing lines for many of the top clothing manufacturers in the

United States and Europe. She has designed award winning lines for such sports as tennis, aerobics, skiing, running and swimming.

Ektelon's "Total Fitness System" in 1984 will offer the consumer creative styles, flashy

colors in an extensive, expansive and innovative line this season.

Ektelon, headquartered in San Diego, is a division of The Browning Company, of Morgan, Utah.



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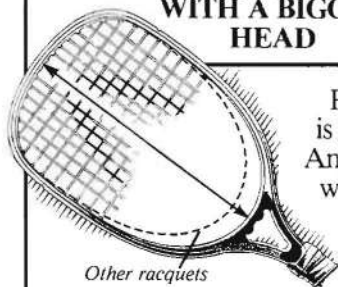
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For more information contact: C.P. Adams, Kaepa Inc., 800-531-5825.

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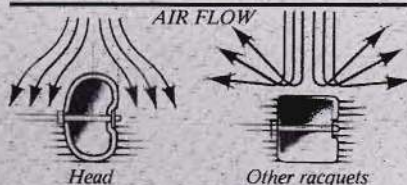


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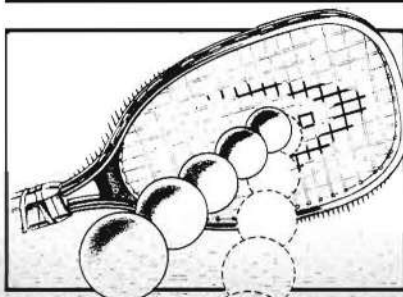
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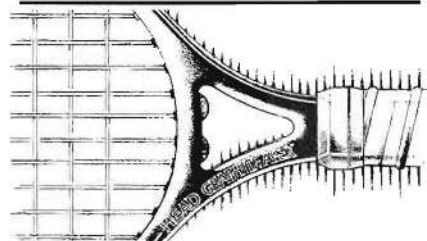
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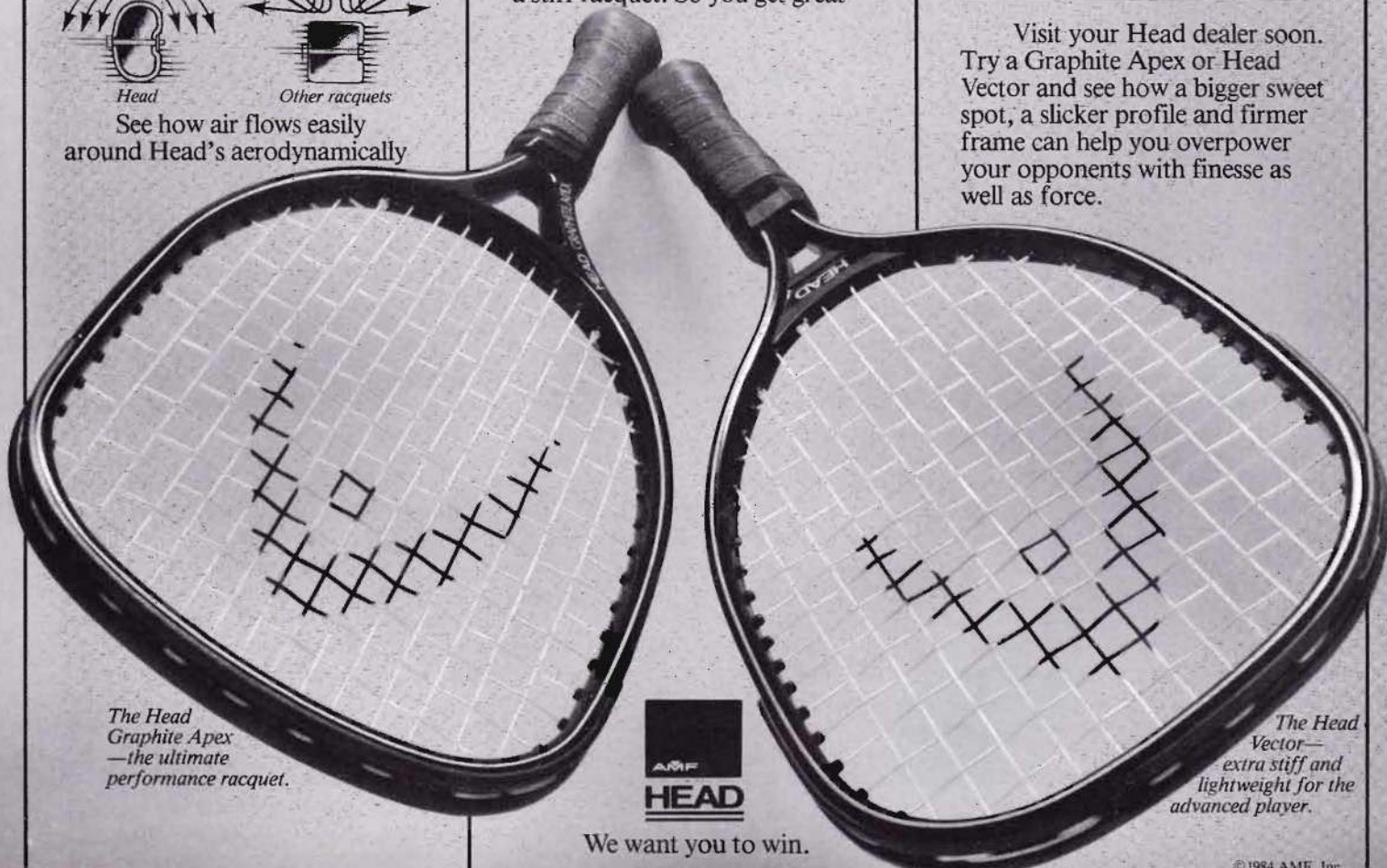
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\$2,500 Women's Only

The Tampa Bay Court House will be holding a women's only tournament on November 30 through December 2 with \$2,500 in prize money available to contestants. The tournament will have professional and amateur divisions and door prizes will be awarded to all amateurs who enter.

Considering that there is a major women's WPRA stop scheduled for the same time, the prize money will be up for grabs to new women pros. For more information about the tournament, contact Karl Nicks at the Tampa Bay Court House, 7815 North Dale Mabry, Tampa, Florida, 33614, or call, 813-932-5321.

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Editor's note:

We printed this letter a couple of issues ago, but somehow we didn't catch the numerous mistakes in typesetting which made the letter almost incomprehensible. We would like to apologize for the errors and print it again.

Dear Editor,

We have just concluded the 1984 Toyota-Lite Beer East Coast Classic here in Baltimore. I feel an obligation to publicly comment on the deportment of the professional players who participated in our event. Gerry Price, Ed Andrews, John Egerman, Rueben Gonzalez, Corey Brysman, to name a few, were cooperative and helpful throughout the entire weekend. The Gross brothers, and Jack Newman would be included as well. I would have to say that most all handled themselves very well. They met every starting time

and were respectful of the amateur referees that we supplied.

However, the real purpose of this letter is to commend Marty Hogan. A lot has been said about Marty both pro and con. I must admit to being extremely concerned about his attitude at this tournament, since I, like a few others I'm sure, had heard of his supposed "bad" reputation. Without question, Marty Hogan was cooperative, understanding and available at all times. The media in Baltimore were constantly putting themselves upon him for newspaper interviews, "live" TV cut-ins to newscasts, special requests that meant he had to be available at the club two hours before his starting time and, in general, constantly after him. He handled himself as the consummate professional. Every request for autographs was honored. On the court, he displayed professionalism with the amateur (does a professional exist?) referees and was sportsmanlike toward his opponents. I know I speak for the Baltimore/Washington/Pennsylvania people who attended this tournament... Thanks, Marty, for setting an example for racquetball players to follow!

I hope you will print this letter because I truly feel these players and the sport need more of this type of publicity. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Dave Pivec
Joe Larson
Tournament Directors

Dear Editor,

As subscribers, my son Jim and I read your September article, (U.S. wins IARF World Championship) with shock and dismay.

I quote, "Cascio's personal commitment was his participation in a non-ranking professional event in Baltimore, MD. (Cascio lost there in the round of 16)." This statement is inaccurate and irresponsible and did nothing to help amateur racquetball.

For the record, Jim could not

be 3,000 miles away from home for 12 days because his father was scheduled for throat surgery and a cancer biopsy and I asked him not to go to Sacramento.

Further, Jim and I did attend the Baltimore tournament for 1 day and we travelled by car a distance of 75 miles; hardly comparable with a 12 day California stay. Jim lost in the round of 16 as you so pointedly remarked in your article. It was an unkind comment in an otherwise well-written piece.

I have always encouraged Jim as he progressed from novice to amateur open champion. (#1-Ektelon Nationals, #2-DP Nationals, #3-AARA Nationals) and I have watched almost every one of his matches during that time. He is a fine gentleman on and off the courts and a credit to amateur racquetball. I wish I could say the same for some of those who were the first to throw stones.

Incidentally, congratulations to the U.S. Team. Our hearts were with them even though we could not be there.

Sincerely,
Frank Cascio

While we certainly sympathize with Mr. Cascio's comments, we have to wonder why none of the top AARA officials who were in Sacramento—including U.S. Team coach Ed Martin—were given the courtesy of any such explanation. It's not difficult to understand why most of them were so upset when, on the last day of the tournament, they received word that Jim had participated in the Baltimore pro stop. As for only going to Baltimore for one day, how long would Jim have been willing to stay had he continued winning?

Our comment about Jim's elimination in the round-of-16 in Baltimore was not intended to be unkind, or kind for that matter. It was simply a statement of fact, and we felt it was an important part of the Sacramento story. Considering most of the quotes we were given about the incident, the article

was a model of journalistic restraint.

Dear Editor,

I read your column entitled "The Magic of Numbers" with a great deal of interest.

The simple solution to this dilemma might be to have an independent rating service like ARHS handle the pro-rankings. We have to political axe to grind therefore we would be totally unbiased plus, the "magic of numbers" is our area of expertise.

Talk to Luke St. Onge and take a look at the program we will be reporting for AARA this season.

There are a lot of different approaches to the rating and ranking of player performance and we have probably spent more time studying and developing systems than any other single source in racquetball today.

Publishing has always been a politically tenuous business with so many masters to serve. I can see the difficulty of also attempting to do the pro-rankings.

Good luck on your second publishing season.

Kindest regards,

American Racquetball Handicap System
Patrick J. McGlone
President

We certainly agree that the ARHS system might be a good answer to the problem of rankings in the men's professional game. In fact, we will shortly be doing a story on the recent agreement between the AARA and ARHS for the latter to do all of the national amateur rankings.

The problem, and one of the points of the article, is that there is currently no governing body for the men's pro game, and hence no one who can give ARHS or any other group the authority to keep the men's rankings. It is certainly our hope that some type of governing body will soon appear, and it will then be our pleasure to publish their official rankings regardless of where they are kept.



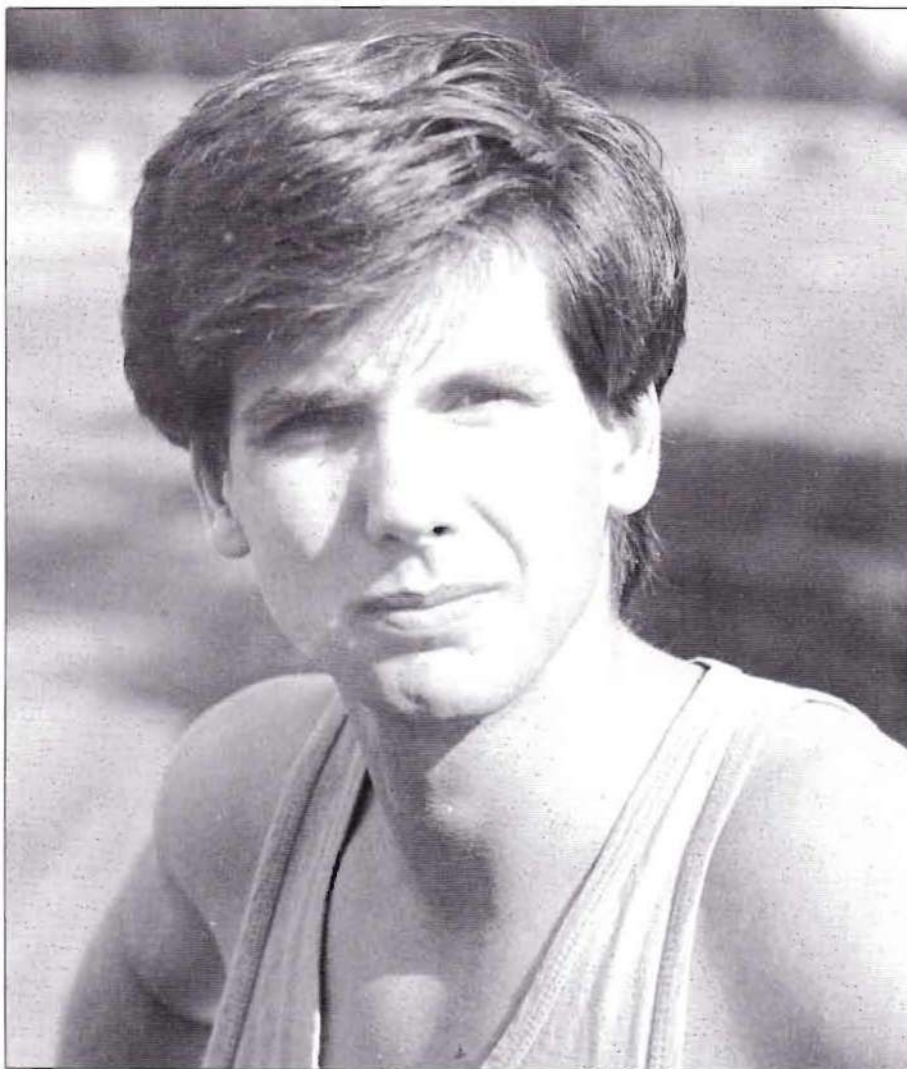
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INTERVIEW:

Scott Hawkins

The Story of one man who said "no"

***The most lauded Junior player of all time
talks about the dark side of life as a
Professional racquetball player***

Every month, in this magazine, we attempt, through the use of interviews, to bring you the story of an individual who represents a type of excellence within the sport or industry of racquetball. With this interview we continue that tradition. But this is a different kind of success story.

There has, perhaps, never been a player

who has come to the game of men's professional racquetball with a more assured future than Scott Hawkins. In 1978, Scott became the most lauded junior player of all time by winning—in the span of four months—every top 17-and-under title in the world of racquetball; USRA, IRA, Canadian, and IRA Dou-

bles. The following year, Hawkins signed a precedent-setting five-year contract with Ektelon and turned professional.

Within two years of turning pro, Scott's ranking had risen to #8 in the world. In October of 1981, at a ranking pro stop in Minneapolis, Hawkins defeated Gregg Peck in the round-of-16, and then became



Scott battling with Steve Strandemo at Las Vegas Nationals in 1980

"At the Hawaii stop Charlie Drake wanted to make me one of the twelve, and I said that was great. Unfortunately, by then the disillusionment had set in hard."

one of the first players to ever beat Marty Hogan in straight games, 11-8, 11-9, 11-6, in the quarterfinals. At the age of 20, he had beaten the world's best players and seemed destined for a future at the very top of the men's professional game. His game was universally respected as one of the soundest and most effective serve-and-shoot attacks in racquetball.

Then something happened. After playing a sporadic season in 1982, Hawkins' ranking went into a screaming nose-dive as he began to drop out of every tournament in the first round. His fellow players watched in amazement as Scott lost match after match in the same way; he would win the first two games with ease, be leading in the third, and then strangely go to pieces. By the middle of the 1983-84 season his professional ranking had dropped to #19.

In May of this year, at the age of 23 and heading into his prime, Scott Hawkins withdrew from the Austin pro stop and announced that he was officially retiring from pro racquetball forever.

What happened? The story that Scott tells in this interview, a story of the torment and triumph of self-discovery, should be required reading for every young boy who yearns to be a professional athlete.

Today, Scott lives with his family in Santa Clara, California, a community in the heart of the Silicon Valley about 40 miles south of San Francisco. He is a college student, majoring in psychology, and plans to attend the University of San Francisco next year to do his graduate work.

We interviewed Scott at his home in Santa Clara.

What kind of memories do you have of your years as a professional racquetball player?

Most of them are good ones. Racquetball was all I really cared about then. It was fun; my challenge in life was getting better and better at racquetball. I saw it as enjoyable. I never thought about the money, I just wanted to win. I wanted to play my best and beat those guys that I watched as a kid, and it was fun.

I remember that tournament in Minneapolis. I was playing so well in that tournament; I beat Gregg Peck in the first round and then beat Marty in the quarters. That was about two months before I

had my first thoughts of quitting. The following fall was the beginning of my third season, and that's when the Catalina thing started. I think that had a lot to do with some of my early doubts. That Christmas of 1981 was when I first had thoughts of quitting racquetball.

You had so much success in your first two years as a pro. What happened?

It started to turn that fall of 1981, when I was one of the players who was kept out of the Catalina tour. I wasn't completely blackballed like some of the others, because (my agent) Bob Petersen talked

Scott Hawkins with fellow junior and friend John Egerman



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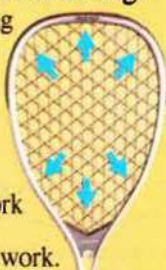
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them into letting me be the alternate—I got to play most of the tour events. But that whole season was like the time in Minneapolis. I wasn't playing that much, and (John) Weaver called me up and said, "We need you in Minneapolis tomorrow to play." So I showed up—I was glad to go—and I played well. Then I went back home not expecting to play for another couple of months, even though I got called the following month to go to New York. I ended up playing most of the stops that year, but I never had more than a few days notice.

So it was really the political part that started bothering you?

At that stage it took a lot of the fun out of it, because at the time all I cared about was playing. Up until the very end one of the best things about racquetball was the training. I enjoyed training every day, and when I had nothing to train for I found it very hard to push myself. So, a lot of the tournaments I did play I wasn't really ready for.

Then in 1982 you were made a part of the Catalina tour?

In January, at the Hawaii stop, Charlie

(Drake) said he wanted to make me one of the twelve, and I said that was great. Then we had problems back and forth with signing the contract so it didn't really take effect until the second season. Unfortunately, by then the disillusionment had set in hard. Also, in the spring of 1982 I suffered knee problems—tendinitis in my left knee which put me out for about six months.

Did the game itself become less fun?

The game was always fun. It was what went with it that wasn't fun. Once I started to come out of obscurity and became one of the people that was being noticed and being put somewhat on a pedestal, that's when times became difficult.

In what way?

Even though as a racquetball professional you're not a major celebrity, we were what you might call minor celebrities. We were celebrities within the realm of our sport. You walk out on the street and no one recognizes you which is great—you don't have to pay that cost. But within the game there's a lot of recognition. I went to Japan last summer and

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"I had my chance to put it away. I totally blacked out. To this day I don't know where those three points went. That's when I realized something was seriously wrong."

they recognized me there. I did not enjoy being a celebrity in the racquetball world. I didn't enjoy my interaction with people in that light.

In the spring of 1983 you had a string of losses in matches you seemed to be winning easily. Do you know what happened?

I think I do know. I was in fantastic shape; my game was probably the best it ever was. I mean, (Bret) Harnett demolished everybody in Hawaii in January; I played him the first round in February and for the first two-and-a-half games he didn't even get a chance to get started against me. And it was like that in almost every match. But then, when it came time to win, I'd turn off—I'd turn off mentally. That really hit home in Toronto that April, when it was a critical point in that third game against Jerry Hilecher, and I had my chance to put it away. I totally blacked out for three points. I thought the score was 7-7; Bertolucci called the score and it was 10-7, Jerry was serving. To this day I don't know where those three points went. That's when I first realized something was seriously wrong, and that's when I started a lot of serious introspection to try to figure out why I was turning off.

Did you figure it out?

I believe it was... when it came right down to it, I didn't want to win, because I didn't want what would happen if I won. There are things that go along with winning, and with being a top racquetball player. There's a certain lifestyle—at least that's what I thought—and that wasn't too attractive to me. I saw the way the top players lived and acted, and that

type of lifestyle just was not what I wanted. I think all along I was telling myself that's what I wanted, but in reality it wasn't. So I developed this terrible conflict where I'd push myself to win, but I couldn't bully myself beyond a certain point. I couldn't force myself into that realm.

There was something else. A lot of things changed with the Catalina tour. That ended some people's careers; people like Mark Morrow and Davey Bledsoe. They were people that knew there was life beyond the racquetball club, the video arcade, and the hotel bar. And with a lot of them leaving the game, I felt I didn't have anyone to talk to and do things with when I was on the road. My interests were very different from most of the players on the tour. I became very lonely, and I'm not much of a loner. I started feeling like I was wasting away between the hotel and the club.

Was there a specific moment when you decided, "That's enough"?

I did say I'd quit in the spring of '83, but a few weeks later I decided to just turn it into a sabbatical. I left the country, went to Hong Kong, spent a month in Japan, and got a lot of time to think. I decided, well, I'll come back in the fall and give it another shot. But I was just going through the motions. Then, last May, on the eve of going to Austin, a friend of mine told me she was tired of seeing me rip myself apart with it all. She told me to either give it my all, or get out before I ate myself up. And she told me that no matter what happened she'd be there to help me pick up the pieces.

Well, before when I thought of quitting, all I could think of was regressing back to these other areas of school and work, and that seemed really depressing. But now I had this strength behind me. The next morning I was supposed to leave for Austin. My plane was leaving in a half-hour and I was still sitting on the couch with my towel wrapped around me from the shower, and my Mom looked at me and said, "Aren't you going to go?" And I said, "No—I'm packing it in."

It was funny. That night before, when someone said they were behind me I felt superhuman, I felt I could go for it (playing). But when it came right down to it, what it did was give me the strength to quit. That's what I really wanted to do. I wanted to quit.

How did you feel that day?

Relieved. I got dressed, went back to my friend and took her out to lunch, and it was like life was beginning all over again. That terrible weight was off my back, of always forcing myself to do something that I really didn't want to do; of always forcing myself to be something just because I had the talent, and the opportunity, and believing that's what every young boy should be if he has the chance.

Do you resent the years you spent playing competitive racquetball?

No. I'm glad I went through it. Looking back, I wish I hadn't stayed in it so long. A lot of it was unnecessary, but I'm glad I didn't get out before I was sure I was doing the right thing. I just wish I'd had some insight into what I really wanted earlier, instead of just going along doing



what I thought I was supposed to do.

Where was the pressure coming from to stay with it so long?

It was me, completely. When I was on the court, out in front of the crowd, that was one of the best experiences I've ever had in my life and I loved it. I loved the training. But on the whole, there was just too much that I didn't enjoy that ruined the rest of it. Once I realized that, and I realized there were many other areas in my life that I needed to touch and expand upon to make me happy, then making a change was almost easy.

I'll tell you what the real clincher was for me. Last March in Cheyenne we were all (the pros) watching Gerry Price play in the quarterfinals, and we were kidding him about something, and one pro player turned around and said, "At least he's still in the tournament." I asked him what that had to do with anything, and he said, "That has everything to do with it; that's the only thing." That's when I realized I couldn't live with everybody, myself included, feeling like our whole lives revolved around whether we won or lost. If we won our lives were good—we were good. If we lost things were terrible, and we were going to go home and be depressed for a couple of weeks until the next tournament. I said to myself, "You know, there's something seriously wrong here."

Sometimes I think we all just played for the admiration. I'm happy when the few people I respect pay me a compliment, but I don't need the blind mass approval. And I hated it when I got it and didn't deserve it. And then these same people

turning on you, that really turned my stomach. It just hit me too much emotionally.

You mean people turned on your when you lost?

You didn't have to lose. You could throw a tantrum on the court. They wouldn't understand what you were going through. They do that with athletes now. I'm sick and tired of hearing about what a jerk Carl Lewis is. Man, I don't know how people like that function with the situation their lives are in. People don't understand. No wonder they act the way they do; no wonder they have to have that abrasive front to survive. People don't understand that, they just don't like him.

You had some problems with your own behavior, didn't you?

One of the reasons I quit was I did not like myself when I was on the racquetball court. Even at the beginning when I was enjoying racquetball, it was all so stressful to me. And no matter how hard I tried, I would just burst; everything about the competition would just eat me up. Also, I think part of it is my role models in Northern California acted that way, and it was OK. Then I kept it going myself.

It's kind of hard to describe. It's like there was one personality that was Scott, and another that was the way racquetball players are supposed to act. And, the whole time I played racquetball there was a terrible conflict between the two—between the way I thought I was supposed to behave, and the way I wanted and needed things to be. It was like that from the time I was a little kid playing

"If we won, our lives were good—we were good. If we lost, things were terrible, and we were going to go home and be depressed until the next tournament."

around the club until the very time I quit. It was a conflict, and I've never been one to adjust to things and adapt. That's my biggest problem in racquetball, and in my life is living with the lies.

Do you have any advice for the young players who are coming into the game now?

The biggest problem is the illusions that are laid out in front of you since you're young about what it's like to be a professional athlete. I was a little jock when I was a kid; all I wanted was to be a professional athlete, it didn't matter which sport. And there were a lot of great things about it. But I think most people live a life of illusions, and never really understand what they want, or need. I'm not saying that being a professional athlete is unhealthy; racquetball might be the greatest passion in your life that needs to be fulfilled. But for me it was just one of them. I needed much more fulfillment in my intellectual needs, and in the way I need to interact with people.

So, the only real suggestion I have is to not try and force it when you feel that something is wrong—like you're missing something. You don't have to be number one; you don't have to make your living at racquetball or any other sport if you feel like there's something else you want to do.

There's another thing. Part of breaking the illusion of what it's like to be at the top is to realize that you don't have to be like people were in the past. You can have playing success on your own terms. You don't have to sign yourself away to be on the road doing clinics all the time; you don't have to do all the endorsements. What good is all the money when what

Scott following loss to Mike Yellen in finals at Modesto pro-stop in 1979



you're doing makes your life miserable? I'm not trying to sound cynical, because I don't feel cynical. I just regret that I didn't understand myself better earlier. If I had I don't think it would have taken something as serious as quitting at the peak of a season.

Dou you mean you could have gone on?

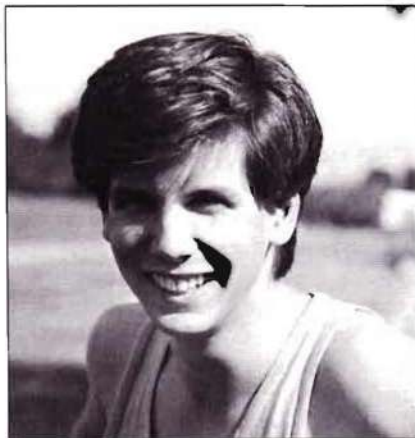
I think I could have gone on in a limited capacity. I don't see any possible way now. But, I'm still young, still in good shape, my skills are still good.

If someone came up with a million dollars for a tour, you wouldn't go back?

No. But, if someone came up with a million dollars for a tour the players could afford a coach; that would interest me. I think there are some bright people in racquetball, but I think the true intellectual end of racquetball is virgin frontier.

You don't think that today's players have tapped their potential mentally?

Hardly anyone today is coming close to their potential, except a few people like Dave Peck, Steve Strandemo and Mike Yellen. These are players who have a



true understanding of racquetball, but there are others that have twice the talent that these guys demolish. By the time I began to understand the game my interest was going—I was just wasting talent like a lot of other young serve-and-shooters out there.

It was just ridiculous watching John Eggerman and myself going out there and hitting the ball so much better than Steve Strandemo, and then watching him give us a clinic—because he understood. I think these guys, and a few others, have a clue as to what's going on, but I don't

think they've run with the ball very far.

What are you doing with your life now?

I'm going to school; that's my biggest passion right now. I'll probably be in school until I'm 30 by the time I get into graduate school and get my Ph.D in psychology. That's something that makes me feel real good right now. I think it will keep me interested and challenged for the rest of my life.

Do you play racquetball anymore?

In the five months since I quit, I've played maybe half a dozen times. I'm finding it very hard going back and playing I want to teach, but I'm having a hard time going back into a club, because I still have a lot of bad associations with racquetball. I think of racquetball and I think of a lot of pain and torment, and I'm still having trouble shaking that. I think with time I will.

Are you happy?

Yeah, I'm very happy. I feel like I'm a little kid who knows a secret that no one else knows. I feel like I'm on the right line, and I have a lot of things to look forward to in my life. ●



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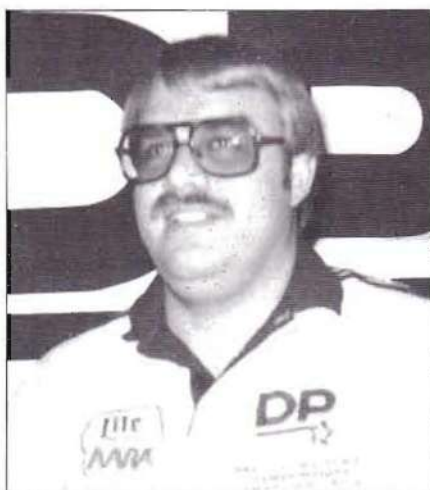
RULES: HOW DIFFERENT CAN THEY BE?

Looking at the differences between the AARA, the WPRA and the Men's Pro game

An article about the rules of racquetball may seem like a boring subject to some, but, then you haven't read this story yet. It is a fascinating area of much contention and we think you'll agree with us that Mr. Deitrich clarifies some of the gray area. Otto Deitrich has a long history in dealing with racquetball refereeing and racquetball rules. He has been the final referee in many national amateur and professional tournaments since 1975. He is on the Rules Committee in the AARA and helped the WPRA put together their rule book in 1983. He is also involved with the International Amateur Racquetball Federation. Mr. Deitrich is a native of St. Louis and currently resides in Atlanta where he writes frequently on the rules of racquetball.

Players who succeed in developing their racquetball skills to the professional level are confronted not only with opponents such as Mike Yellen and Heather McKay, but also with several rule differences which must be learned and applied if they are to become successful in the sport. This article will examine the major differences between amateur and professional rules so that both players and spectators can better understand the game.

In no area are the rule differences more dramatic than in the scoring systems currently in use. Since the beginning, points in racquetball have been scored only by the server. This tradition still holds in the amateur and men's professional ranks. A few years ago, however, the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) took a bold step away from the origins of the game by adopting a set of rules which called for a point to be scored on every rally that didn't end with a hinder. This change was made for several reasons including increased spectator interest by giving them quicker paced matches. It has also been pointed out that the change brought racquetball scoring



by Otto Deitrich

"In no area are the rule differences more dramatic than in the scoring systems. Tradition still holds in the amateur and men's pro ranks, but the women have taken a bold step..."

more in line with other racquet sports (such as tennis and squash) which award a point to the winner of every rally regardless of who served the ball. Neither the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA), which governs both men's and women's amateur racquetball, nor the men professionals have been convinced of the need for a change in the way points are scored.

The AARA rulebook calls for a match to consist of the best two of three games. A rule change that went into effect on September 1 calls for a game to be won by the first player to score 15 points or, in

the case of the third game (the tiebreaker) 11 points. But whenever points are awarded to the winner of every rally as they are in women's professional matches, they accumulate a lot faster. Accordingly, the WPRA plays the best three of five games for the match. All women's professional games are played to 21 points except for the fifth game (the tiebreaker) which is to 15. Moreover, WPRA rules require that each game be won by at least 2 points. As a result, games can go well beyond the established minimum number of points before they are concluded. Men professionals use yet another format. They play the best three of five games for the match, but the games are only to 11 points. Many professional players, both men and women, feel that the three out of five game format provides greater spectator interest and gives a player a better chance of coming back from a slow start in a match.

The next most obvious difference between amateur and professional rules concerns the serve and the return of serve. In the men's professional ranks, a fault serve is the result if the server crosses the short line (the line closest to the backwall) before the ball does. In the past, this rule has been used (some would prefer to say "abused") by players to cancel a defective first serve. It seems that they would rather sacrifice their first serve than give their opponent a service return set-up. Both the AARA and the WPRA have enacted rules to stop this tactic. Effective September 1, the amateur player who crosses the short line ahead of the ball will lose the serve immediately. The WPRA took a somewhat different approach by completely eliminating the short line foot fault so the server may now cross over the short line as soon as she has hit the ball. Of course the server must remember to stay out of the receiver's way or an avoidable hinder can be called.

To provide a margin of safety for the

serve during the return of serve, amateur and professional rules all define a safety zone which extends from the short line to an imaginary line 5 feet behind the short line. However, the rules covering this zone are not the same. Both amateurs and men professionals are required to remain outside of this zone until the ball has bounced in the zone or has completely cleared the zone. The WPRA rules, however, allow the receiver to enter the zone as soon as the server makes contact with the ball. The woman professional cannot, however, hit the ball before it bounces in the zone. Violation of this rule in both amateur and professional ranks carries the same penalty—immediate loss of the rally (point for the server). The emphasis is clearly on safety. In fact, if a woman professional elects to return a

"In an attempt to eliminate the problem of screen serves, the WPRA has declared that the screen serve is a fault serve. The amateurs and the men consider the screen serve a deadball thus allowing the server to serve again."

ball on the fly, no part of her body or racquet may enter the 5-foot safety zone. This differs from the amateurs' and men's professional rules which require only that the ball be contacted outside the zone but permit the follow-through to carry the receiver into the 5-foot zone but not over the short line.

Rest periods offer another area of distinct contrast in the sport. Amateurs are allowed three 30-second timeouts per game except in the tiebreaker where only two are allowed. Between games, amateurs are allowed 5 minutes. Men professionals have only one 30-second timeout to use per game and are allowed only 1 minute between games. The WPRA rules also permit the players only one 30-second timeout per game but provide for a 2-minute break between all games except the fourth and the fifth when a

5-minute break is allowed.

In an attempt to eliminate the problem of screen serves, the WPRA has declared that a screen serve is a fault serve. Because this call involves the subjective judgement of the referee, it cannot be appealed like the other types of fault serves. Amateurs and men professionals still consider the screen serve to be a deadball serve thus allowing the server to take the serve over again.

Men professionals still do not recognize the "hit by the ball" rule which says that if a ball obviously does not have the direction or velocity to reach the front wall on a fly, no hinder results if the ball touches a player. Both the AARA and the WPRA have such a rule.

Of course there are a few other, less significant differences in the rules. If you are interested in exploring them in greater detail, I suggest that you obtain a copy of the association rulebooks. The AARA's 1984-85 rulebook should be available by the time this magazine is published. A copy can be obtained by sending your name and address along with 75 cents to AARA National Headquarters at 815 N. Weber, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Rulebooks are sent free of charge with each new AARA membership or renewal. Copies of the WPRA rulebook can also be obtained free of charge, but they ask that you enclose 50 cents along with your name and address to cover postage and handling. Send your request to the WPRA at 3097 Fernheath, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. An interesting feature found in the WPRA rulebook is a "Referee's Tip Sheet" which highlights rules which they feel deserve special attention because "... they differ from the 'normal' rule, they're usually misunderstood, or they're just important." An alternative way to get a copy of either association's rulebook is to simply pick up a copy at the next AARA or WPRA sanctioned tournament you attend. There is usually a supply of them available for those who are interested. It's unfortunate that I must report that the men's professional rules were last published in 1980 by the now defunct United States Racquetball Association. Today, for all practical purposes, the rules are recorded only in the minds of those who carry on the sport of men's professional racquetball in spite of the absence of an official sanctioning body. Hopefully, the initiatives of the Racquet Manufacturers Association will not only restore the sport to its former glory, but also result in the publication of a set of written rules to govern men's professional racquetball. ●

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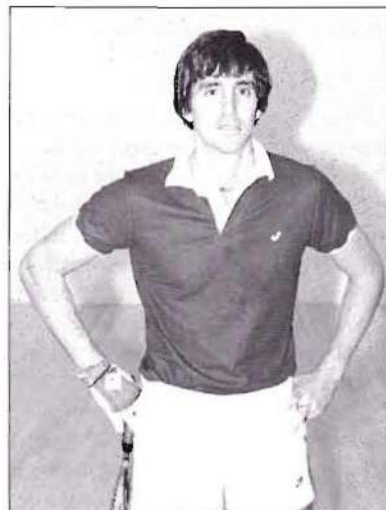
Many people ask me who started the serve and shoot power game. Many believe it started in St. Louis with Steve Serot and myself. Steve and I did have an important impact but, as you will see later in the article, one other person should get some of the credit. For those old timers who played racquetball in the late '60s and early '70s, you will remember that the game was played with a very soft and slow ball. Since it was virtually impossible to hit effective hard serves, the top serve of the day was a high lob serve deep to their opponent's backhand. Back in those days, I was a pretty normal impatient and cocky kid and didn't want to hit soft serves. I can remember my dad after watching me take another beating, telling me, "I wish I could give you my lob serve." The lob serve of that era, caught the left side wall about two feet off the ground, and then three feet in front of the back wall. Since the ball was mushy, it would die in the back left corner and be very difficult to return.

At the J.C.C.A. in St. Louis, many of

Who Invented The Drive Serve? It's Not Who You Might Think...

GREATEST

by Jerry Hilecher



the younger racquetball players played handball as well. During Christmas vacation in 1971, a group of young handballers went to Miami to play in the junior national handball tournament. St. Louis did herself proud by winning first, third, and fourth in the under seventeen division and first and second in the under fifteen class. Steve Serot won the under fifteens while I finished third in the under seventeens. The only reason I even mentioned this tournament in another sport is very simple. I feel on these four wall outdoor courts in Miami's Flamingo Park, power racquetball was born. Steve and I were privileged to be at this tournament and watch a young 18 year old representing the New York Athletic Club by the name of Ken Guinty. He possessed the most devastating drive serve that I had ever seen. He would stand in the center of the service box, rock back with his right foot and then forward with his left, making ball contact about four feet from the right side wall. He would then hit rocket-like serves down the right side wall or cross court into the left corner. I watched as he hit ace after ace in winning the under 19 year old division. I knew that his serve would work in racquetball and that the game would never be the same again. Not long afterwards, racquetballs were being produced faster and firmer than the ones previous, and the drive serve was here to stay.

The drive serve that helped me rise in the pro ranks was a mix of power and deception. I was able to learn from Ken Guinty that movement in a walking motion not only created additional power, it also made the serve impossible for the defender to read where the serve was going. I added a z serve to the right and left sides to the two drive serves and I concentrated on using the same motion no matter

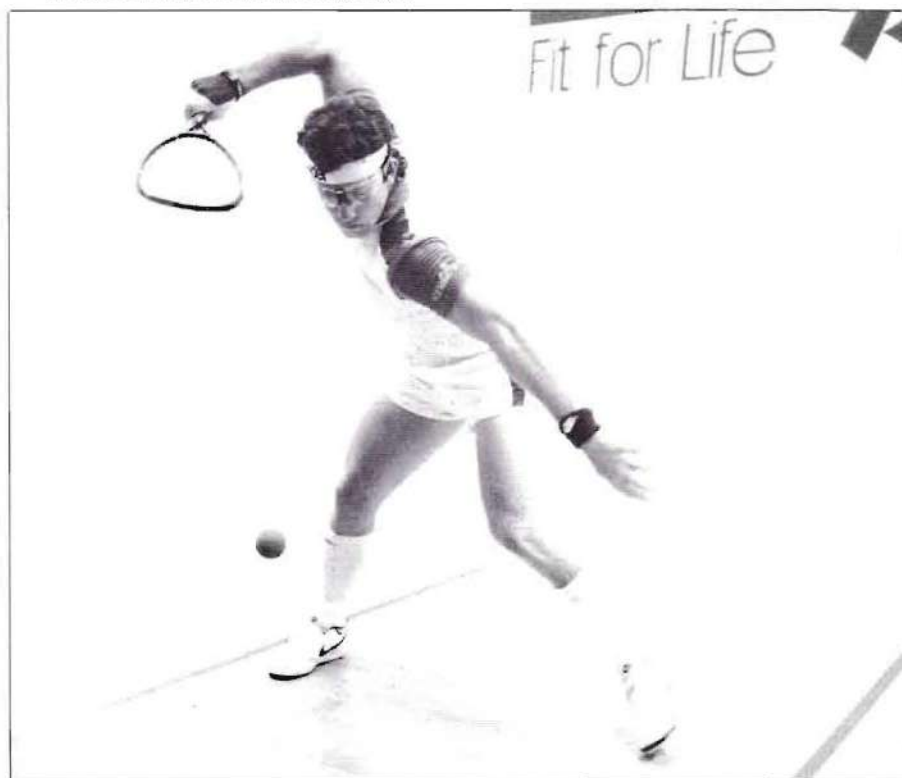
which serve I used. By mixing up the pace of the serves I was able to keep my opponents off balance and unable to be aggressive with their returns.

The greatest serving performance I ever took part in was in 1976 at the Sacramento Pro stop. The tournament was the first of the season and first ever played on front wall glass, which really aided my deceptive delivery. The serve had a definite influence since the four acknowledged top servers of the era, Brumfield, Strandemo, Hogan, and myself, were all in the semis. Playing Charley Brumfield in the semifinals, I can

remember serving reverse z's to Charley's right while he would be diving to the left expecting serves to his backhand. The finals offered a classic confrontation between Marty Hogan and myself. Ace serves were as common as kill shots, and no lead was safe. I started the match red hot and rode my serve to a 21-10 first game win. The second game was a reverse of the first with Marty winning 21-7. In the third, my changing the angles and speeds in the serves were enough to keep him off balance and allow me to win the tiebreaker 11-4.

continued next page

The awesome power serve of Marty Hogan



The Marty Hogan Serve:

While Marty didn't launch in the era of the power serve, he certainly added to it. When Marty blasted his way to his first pro tournament victory in Burlington, Vermont in '75, he did so with a different type of drive serve. While most of the heavy hitters used some modification of my walking serve, Marty originated a style all his own. He was the first to effectively use overspin in his serves.

Marty starts his motion with his left foot about a foot in front of his right, with both straddling the short line. He drops the ball towards the front wall and with his right foot planted, takes a step forward with his left. His body motion is almost stopped by the time he uncoils his powerful pendulum stroke. His great power is generated from strength in his forearms and the quick opening in his hips. At point of contact, Marty comes up and over the ball, putting an overspin on it. Since his point of contact is in front of his body, this spin is very natural and doesn't take away from his power. The end result is a blistering serve that stays down after hitting the floor. Marty doesn't try to fool you with different angles and speeds. He just follows the Nolan Ryan philosophy, "You and I both know what's coming but there is nothing you can do about it." In the last couple of years, Marty has changed his serving philosophy. He no longer puts everything he has into a serve unless it's a

"Marty doesn't try to fool you with different angles and speeds. He just follows the Nolan Ryan philosophy, 'You and I both know what's coming, but there is nothing you can do about it!'"

critical point in the match. Realizing, as many pros before him have, that there is only so much power you can draw upon, Marty now uses lob serves as well as off speed drive serves to save his arm. When he needs the big serve, however, it's usually there.

There have been many great servers over the years, but the greatest serving spectacle I ever witnessed was also on front wall glass, during the 1980 N.R.C. nationals in Las Vegas. The front wall consisted of two feet of white panes from the floor up with the remainder being glass, with the right wall make-up being the same. Bruce Christensen, ranked 26 at the time, had been playing on the pro tour for about a year. His game was known for having a great serve, but no one real-

ized what effect that serve would have on front wall glass. I am convinced that deception in the serving motion is the key to an effective serve, especially when playing in conditions such as front wall glass. Bruce created this deceptive motion through a big walking serve. Bruce had tremendous power and being left handed he was able to take a huge walking step into the left wall and blast the serve down the line to his opponent's backhand, or crash a cross court ace to the right. His opponents were wobbly kneed as they readied themselves to return serve. Bruce knocked Brumfield out in the first round, Lindsay Meyers in the second and was tied at 8 all with Mike Yellen in the quarters before losing.

Speaking of left-handers, it is curious to note that many of today's lefties are also known as great servers. Brett Harnett, Bruce Christensen, Steve Mondrey, and up and comers Andy Gross, and Cliff Swain, all have mastered the partial screen down the left side. The lefty has the advantage of driving his serve to their opponent's backhand, a very effective weapon in his offensive arsenal.

With the balls slowing down and becoming softer the last few years, the serve is again undergoing changes. Dave Peck brought back the high lob serve by standing next to the right wall, picking a spot high up the front wall and lofting his serve towards the deep left corner. Many players have followed suit, adding at least a couple of defensive serves to their portfolio.

My ingredients for having a strong serving attack is simple; you must create deception in your service delivery, be able to mix up the pace of your serves and hit the lanes or marks which will keep the ball from going into the center of the court, and most importantly be confident. You must look at the serve as being the initiation to winning the point. The pace of the serve will dictate the pace of volley.

With so many strong servers, it is difficult for me to pick just three for my greatest list. Hogan, while sometimes erratic, has to head the list. Mike Levine isn't a big name in racquetball circles but he certainly has a big serve. Mike is one of the few players that serves as much to his opponent's forehand as he does their backhand. His serves are harder than Hogan's but lacks consistency with various balls and court conditions.

My choices for greatest servers of all time:

- (1) Marty Hogan
- (2) Bruce Christensen
- (3) Mike Levine

Jerry Hilecher's power serve to the forehand side



THE NEW RACQUETS

Our 1984-85 Racquet Guide

Last year in *International Racquetball*, our racquet guide included all of the racquets from the current manufacturers—72 in all! That's a lot of racquets to choose from, so this year we decided we would pare down the choices a little bit and just show you the new offerings for the 1984-85 marketing season. Still, the list has 35 new racquets in it. However, we've given you more in-depth information on the racquets this time around, plus the addresses and phone numbers of the manufacturers in case you have a question about one that strikes your fancy.

In looking over the list, there is surpris-

ing diversity. Oversized, mid-sized, hand-layed composite, injection-molded composite, titanium, aluminum, graphite, boron, nylon and fiberglass. Then there are different throat designs, stringing patterns, strings, etc. It is confusing, so, if you have a question about what's right for you, call up the manufacturer and ask or go to your club pro. They will have some suggestions, but, what it really comes down to is what kind of player you are: power? control? advanced? novice? Each type of player is best off using a racquet designed for his level of play and game style. We're sure you will find one that will suit you in this survey.

Diversified Products Racquets

D.P. Industries out of Opelika, Alabama, is a highly successful company dedicated to fitness and fitness related sports like racquetball. The list of players they sponsor includes #1 women's pro Heather McKay and #3 and #4 men's pros Greg Peck and Bret Harnett. There are six racquets represented in their catalog and three of them are new. The following information is from their catalog. For more information contact: D.P. Industries, P.O. Box 100, Opelika, AL, 36802: 205-749-9001.



The 44-1000 DP Boron Graphite

The newest, most advanced racquet in the game + Boron fibers provide maximum strength in areas of greatest stress + Plus combination of durable graphite and light, powerful boron + Supremely efficient frame with little vibration + Unique string pattern + Smooth leather 3% and 3% grips + 245 grams + Molded bumper guard with grommet strip + Graphite strings + Full length deluxe vinyl cover + \$159.00



The 44-1112 DP Graphite USA

Extra firm flex for the advanced player + Constructed of 100% graphite + New core

design eliminates air pockets and ensures smooth string holes + New head shape + Molded bumper guard with grommet strip + Graphite spiral strings + Leather 3% and 3% grips + 250 grams + Full length deluxe vinyl style cover + \$139.00



The 44-1109 DP Graphite 8000

Firm-flex designed for all players + Constructed of 80% graphite + New core design eliminates air pockets and ensures smooth stringing holes + Modified teardrop head shape + Molded bumper guard + Graphite strings + Deluxe cordura nylon cover + Leather 3% and 3% grips + Unique flared handle + 250 grams + \$110.00

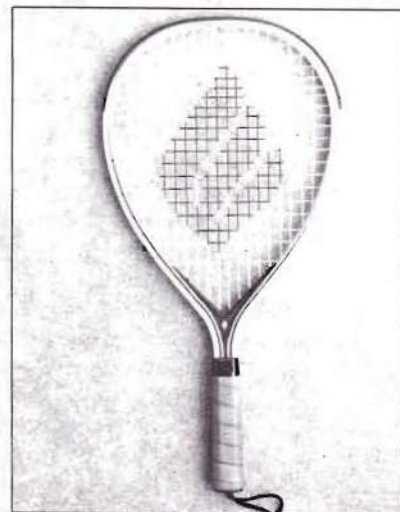
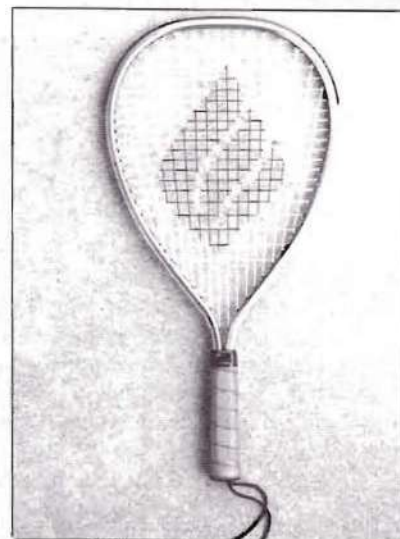
Ektelon Racquets

The Ektelon company is well recognized throughout the industry for its contribution to new racquet design and commitment to the growth of racquetball. Ektelon is the sponsor for #2 men's pro Mike Yellen and #2 women's pro Lynn Adams. This year, Ektelon unveiled four new racquets to its line bringing the total to 14. Most interesting are the two new oversized or "Macro" racquets. The AARA has recently approved the use of the Macro racquets in tournament play. The following information is from their press releases and catalog. For more information contact: Ektelon, 8929 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA 92123: 619-560-0066.

The Maxum

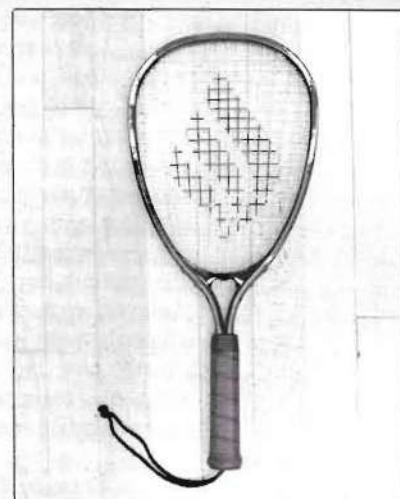
50% larger hitting area and 80% larger sweet spot than conventional racquets + Single cell channel Seis 7005 aluminum alloy + moderately stiff + Designed for beginning through advanced play + Thin profile + Weighs only 245 grams which is lighter than most conventional racquets + 45 lbs. of string tension and a sunburst stringing pattern for maximum power + 3 11/16, 3 15/16, 4% and flared leather grips + \$75.00.

(Pictured at the top of next column)



The Contra

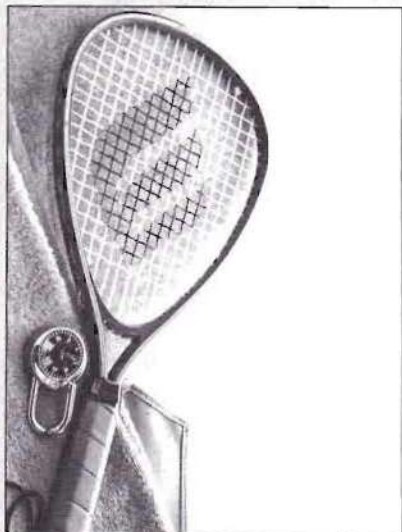
50% larger hitting area and 80% larger sweet spot + Flexible 6061-T6 aluminum alloy frame with graphite reinforced throat piece to stabilize frame for flex control and reduced head twisting + 245 grams + 45 lbs. string tension + Sunburst stringing pattern + Designed for beginning through intermediate players + 3 11/16, 3 15/16, 4% and flared leather grips + \$45.00.



The Excel Graphite

Concentrated "chopped" graphite fibers to stiffen the frame and deliver extra power without adding weight + Modified teardrop shape widens the sweet spot + Designed for intermediate through advanced power players + 30 lb. sunburst string pattern + 240 grams + One year frame warranty + 3 11/16, 3 15/16, 4 1/2 and flared leather grip + Sand colored vinyl cover + \$70.00.

(Pictured at the bottom of column)



The Axon Graphite

Injection molded "chopped" graphite/fiberglass in nylon matrix for superior control and stiffness + Designed for beginning through intermediate players + 245 grams + Teardrop design thin frame for increase swing speed + One year warranty on frame + 3 11/16, 3 15/16, 4 1/2 and flared leather grips + 25 lb. string tension + \$40.00.

The AMF Head Racquets

Head racquets are very popular and, after seeing their upgrade sheets, it's easy to understand why. Head looks for problems and fixes them. It looks like they get good feedback from players and sales reps and they listen. Head is offering five new racquets this year, and two, not pictured here, the Apex and the Graphite Express, have been updated. A new butt cap system and restructured graphite fibers have improved the durability of the Apex at 245 grams and a new grommet/bumper system has eliminated string breakage in the Graphite Express at 250 grams. All racquets have received cosmetic changes, structure changes and new full-length covers. Head is introducing a mid-sized racquet this year called the Boron/Graphite Impulse. The following notes were taken from spec sheets sent to us from Head. For more information contact: AMF Head, Box CN-5227, Princeton, NJ, 08540: 609-799-9000.

The Boron/Graphite Impulse

Mid-sized shape like that of the Apex + 246 grams + reinforced Boron/Graphite design (tor-

sion tube construction) + Considered to be the most flexible composite in our line + Designed for the intermediate to advanced player who is purchasing their first composite racquet for control and moderate power + Full length cover + Slightly head light + Endorsed by Steve Strandemo + \$90.00.

(Pictured below)



The Vector

CU-74 tubular aluminum provides superior strength and stiffness with extreme light weight + Graphite/nylon throat piece and patented grommet and bumper strips for outstanding string and frame protection + Slightly enlarged (9%) quadraform head shape for maximum hitting surface area + Hourglass foam handle + Monsanto Elastimer shockguard + Extreme light weight + Head light + 245 grams + 30 to 34 lbs. string tension with 16 gauge strings + Recommended for the intermediate through professional + \$80.00.

The Master

6061 aluminum I-beam construction + Our lightest aluminum racquet yet durable for high-level play + Graphite/nylon reinforced throat piece + Patented grommet/bumper strips + Quadriform head + Hourglass foamed handle + Monsanto Elastimer shockguard strips + Light

weight, head light + 250 grams + 28-32 lbs. string tension with 15 gauge strings + Recommended for beginning through intermediate players + \$55.00.

(Pictured below)



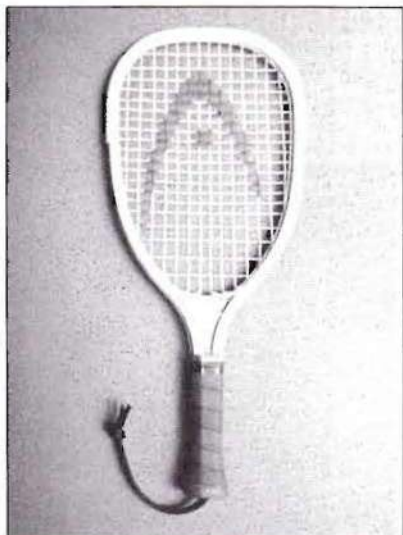
The Professional

7005 aluminum I-beam extrusion for our strongest most durable aluminum racquet + Light enough for professional play + Graphite reinforced throat piece and replaceable interlocking grommet and bumper strips for outstanding string and frame protection + Quadraform head shape + Hourglass foamed handle + Monsanto Elastimer shockguard strips that reduce virtually all vibration + Head heavy + Full length cover + 258 grams + 30-35 lbs. string tension using 16 gauge string + recommended for the intermediate to professional player + \$68.00.

The Standard

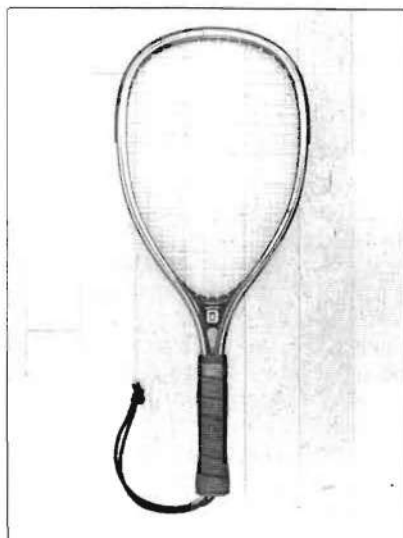
6061 aluminum extrusion for stiffness and light weight + Nylon throat piece and patented grommet/bumper strips + Quadriform head shape + Hourglass foamed handle + 255 grams + 28-32 lbs. string tension using 15 gauge string + Recommended for the beginner and intermediate player + \$36.00.

(Pictured at top next page)



The Olympian Racquets

Olympian racquetball racquets are a subsidiary of Bud Leach, Inc. For those of you who don't know who Bud Leach is, he is the one who invented some of racquetball's first racquets including the first fiberglass racquets. Olympian is dedicated to educating the player about what he needs in a racquet, what certain kinds of racquet designs can and can't do and what various racquets should cost versus what the consumer is charged. Olympian has 12 racquets in their line, three which are new. The following information is from their catalog. For more information contact: Olympian Racquetball Racquets, 5567 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123; 619-292-2000.



The Ultimate

Brown and gold tapered teardrop flex frame + 7000 Series "I" beam control extrusion + 14/20 open end string pattern with 30 lbs. tension + 15 gauge hy-sheep multifilament nylon string + 245 grams + 3 3/4 hourglass handle with tan cowhide grip + \$29.95.



The Graphite Composite

Black and gold tapered teardrop design + 9% graphite, 26% fiberglass and 65% nylon + Comes with headcover + 14/20 conventional string with 26 lbs. tension + 15 gauge black multifilament nylon string + 250 grams + 3 3/4 straight handle with gold embossed black cowhide grip + \$24.95.



The Cheetah

Dark brown modified quadraform design + 30% fiberglass and 70% nylon + 16/18 conventional stringing with 26 lb. tension + 15 gauge light amber string + 245 grams + 3 3/4 hourglass handle with tan cowhide grip + \$19.99.

Omega Racquets

Omega is another impressive racquetball manufacturer with nine racquets in their line, two of which are new this year. Omega has pioneered the development of a new stringing pattern called Mad Raq stringing and scientific analysis of this new pattern has shown that it is superior to conventional stringing. Copies of the analysis are available upon request. The copy below about the racquets was provided by the manufacturer. For more information contact:

Omega, 9200 Cody, P.O. Box 14926, Overland Park, KS 66214; 913-492-3994.



The Titanium

Omega introduced the only titanium racquetball racquet in the world. Lightweight, strong and flexible, titanium is used in the most sophisticated aircraft and missiles, and now in Omega's new racquet. Combined with exclusive Mad Raq stringing, the combination of power and control plus lightweight strength make it a winner. Graphite composition yoke + Integrated grommet strip and bumper + 3 3/4 and 4 inch leather grips + \$100.00.

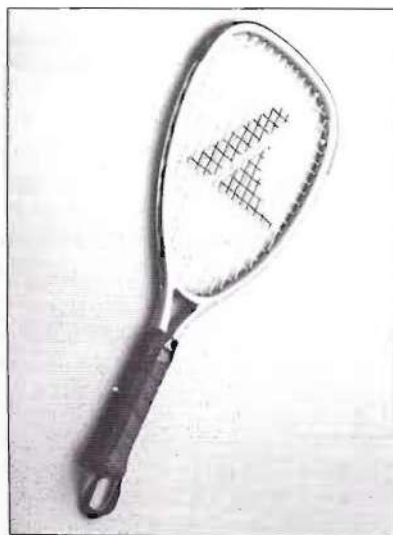


The Star 1000

Engineered for durability, the Star 1000 is composed of squared tube 7005 aluminum and a graphite composite integrated yoke and frame construction. The Mad Raq stringing puts a better "bite" on the ball for control and dampens vibration with ball shock being dispersed in six directions instead of four. 234 grams + Sewn-in bumper + Integrated handle-frame goes all the way to the butt cap + \$70.00.

Pro-Kennex/Marty Hogan Racquets

Pro-Kennex is a world-renowned manufacturer of tennis racquets and as of 1983 they stepped in with #1 pro Marty Hogan to take advantage of their name and expertise to market racquetball racquets. Pro-Kennex has great confidence in their products and stand behind them with a two-year warranty on all Marty Hogan Performance racquets—the longest warranty in racquetball. There are six racquets in the Marty Hogan line and four of them are new this year. Last year the Marty Hogan Graphite and the Marty Hogan Comp were introduced. This year's models have introductory copy provided by the manufacturer. For more information contact: Marty Hogan Racquetball, 7444 Trade Street, San Diego, CA 92121: 619-271-8390.



The Marty Hogan Bronze

The Marty Hogan Bronze is a graphite/fiberglass composition offering the ultimate value in high-performance composite racquets + Constructed of compression molded hair-pin, a unique step down component which maximizes the balance and flex characteristics + 60/40 graphite-fiberglass mix surrounding a vibration dampening foam core + Calfskin leather grips in 3%, 3% and 4 inches + 230-245 grams + Comes with vinyl cover + **\$69.95.**

The Blaster 46

The new Blaster 46 is a high-performance, durable aluminum racquet + Aerospace aluminum combines the playability of a graphite composite with the durability of aluminum + The wishbone design provides a larger, more forgiving sweet spot + Ideal for the serious player + Composed of Alcoa 7046 aluminum-zinc-magnesium alloy + Custom foam handle system + 3% and 3% leather grips + full thermal cover + **\$39.95.**

(Picture at top next column)



The Blaster 05

The new Blaster 05 is a tough, high-performance aluminum racquet at a very affordable price. The aerospace quality aluminum alloy features excellent fracture toughness and fatigue resistance. In short, it will last! The wishbone design is a lightweight and well-balanced weapon suitable for players of all levels + Alcoa 7005 aluminum-zinc-magnesium alloy + Foam handle system + 3%, 3% leather grip + vinyl cover + **\$34.95.**

The Graphite Blaster

The new Graphite Blaster is an injection molded graphite/fiberglass racquet which combines the power of graphite with the flexibility of fiberglass + Well-balanced and durable + 20% graphite, 80% fiberglass + foam handle system + 3%, 3% leather grips + vinyl cover + **\$29.95.**

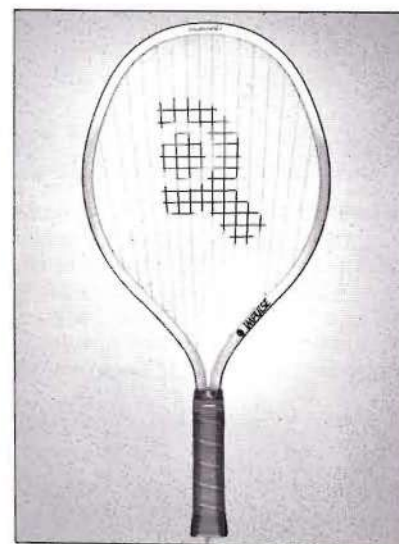
RichCraft Sports Products Racquets

With 37 years of advanced technology and tool design for high-tech industries combined with an equal amount of experience in racquet manufacturing behind it, RichCraft Sports Products has launched its first season of racquetball racquets. The products are so new that we have very little literature to guide you through the seven racquets they are offering this year. RichCraft is the second manufacturer to enter into the oversized racquet market. What information we were able to print was obtained through phone conversations with the company. For more information contact: RichCraft Sports Products, 2033 Hidden Crest Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020: 619-447-5260.

The Impulse

This 7000 Series aluminum oversized racquet was designed in a modified oval shape that brings the center of playing away from the top of the racquet therefore avoiding torque problems + The playing platform (sweet spot) feels substantially larger than the actual increase in racquet size + A nylon inner-liner and a string bumper that covers the entire racquet is an exceptional extra + 16 gauge string at 45 lbs. of string tension + Radiant sunburst stringing pattern + 250 grams + Recommended for beginning through advanced players + **\$65.95.**

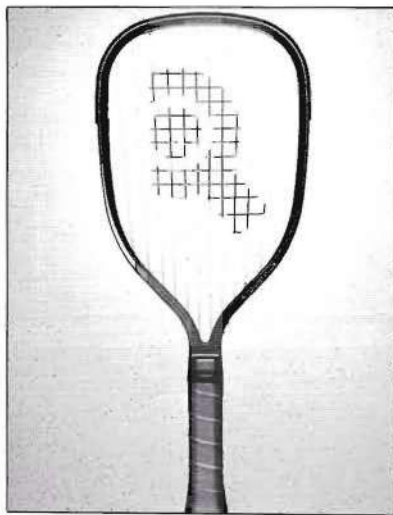
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The Classic II

Graphite composite racquet + Quadriform head + A new triangular cross-section absorbs more vibration than the standard rectangular cross-section + An inverted throat innovation improves torquing characteristics while allowing the long main strings to be anchored to the open throat design for a larger sweet spot + Stiffest racquet in line and is designed for the intermediate to advanced player + 16 gauge strings at 38 lbs. tension + 245 grams + **\$75.00.**

(Pictured top of next page)



The Turbo Plus

Graphite composite racquet + Quadriform head + Triangular vibration dampening cross-section + Open throat design + More flex than the Classic II and slightly lighter at 240 grams + 16 gauge strings at 38 lbs. tension + designed for intermediate to advanced players + \$75.00.



The Spectrum 240

Graphite composite racquet with substan-

tially more graphite than the Turbo Plus and Classic II + designed for the advanced player + Slightly stiffer playing characteristics + 240 grams + 16 gauge strings at 38 lbs. tension + \$60.00.



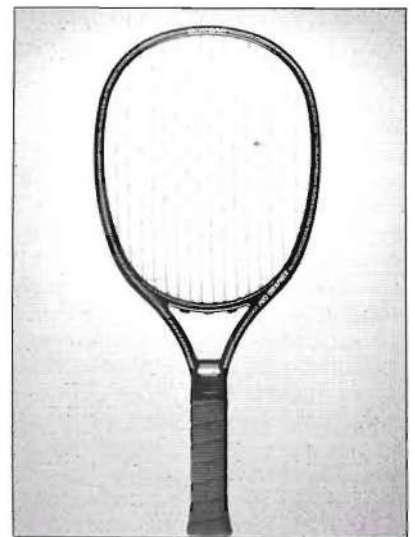
The Laser

Graphite composition racquet + Quadriform head + Best all-around racquet in the line with a good balance of flex and stiffness for control and power + 250 grams + 16 gauge strings at 32 lbs. tension + Designed for the intermediate to advanced player + \$45.00.



The Pro-Flex

Fiberglass/nylon composition + Oval head design + Most flexible racquet in the line + Designed for beginning players for more control + 16 gauge strings at 30 lbs. tension + 250 grams + \$19.95.



The Pro-Graphite

Graphite/fiberglass composition + Oval head + Slightly lighter and stiffer than the Pro-Flex + Designed for the player looking for the familiar feel of an injected molded racquet but with the extra power provided by carbon reinforcement + 247 grams + 16 gauge strings at 30 lbs. tension + \$24.95.

Voit Sports, Inc. Racquets

Voit Sports, Inc. used to be AMF Voit but was recently sold to the aggressive Reltron Company, another sporting goods manufacturer, this last August. Voit Sports is excited about racquetball and their record for high quality products is well-known. Of the eight racquets in their line, three new ones are out for your inspection. The copy was taken from their Court Sports Catalog. For more information contact: Voit Sports, Inc., 5741 Rostrada Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621: 714-739-0123.



The Impact 1XP

This smashing success for hard hitter starts out strong with a rigid 7000 Series aluminum alloy I-beam frame + It's teardrop head is per-

fect for the power player + 14/20 string pattern with 16 gauge string + polyurethane foam handle + floating nylon throat piece + stitched-on bumper guard + 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ and 4 inch leather grips + Head cover included + 265 grams + **\$59.95.**



The Impact 1XC

Finesse players are sure to appreciate this new dimension in control and flexibility + 7000 Series aluminum alloy I-beam construction + 15 gauge 16/20 stringing works in concert with a floating nylon throat and foam handle to dampen vibration + Stitched on bumper guard + 250 grams + 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ and 4 inch leather grips + Head cover included + **\$59.95.**



The Impact 1XL

This free-swinging racquet delivers an exceptional blend of power and control + 6000 Series aluminum alloy I-beam construction + 15 gauge 12/14 strings keeps the ball on the strings longer for added finesse + Stitched on bumper + Floating throat design provided exceptional stability + 245 grams + 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ and 4 inch leather grips + Head cover included + **\$59.95.**

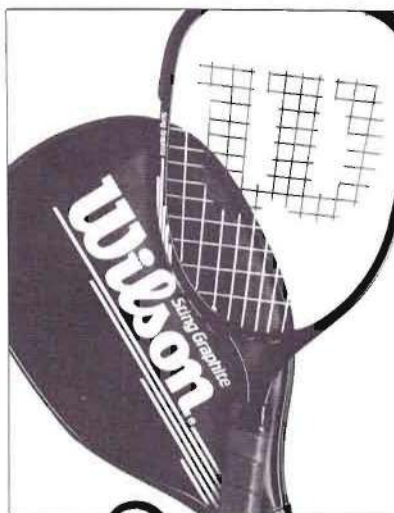
Wilson Racquets

Just because Wilson is last in our list due to alphabetic sequence, it shouldn't be last in your considerations for racquets. The Wilson name is synonymous with excellent sporting goods, racquetball racquets included. Unfortunately, we don't know exactly how many racquets Wilson offers in its line, but they did send us four that they thought should be included in the new racquet category. The information was sent to us by the manufacturer. For more information contact: Wilson Sporting Goods, 2233 West Street, River Grove, IL, 60171: 312-456-6100.



The Composite Plus

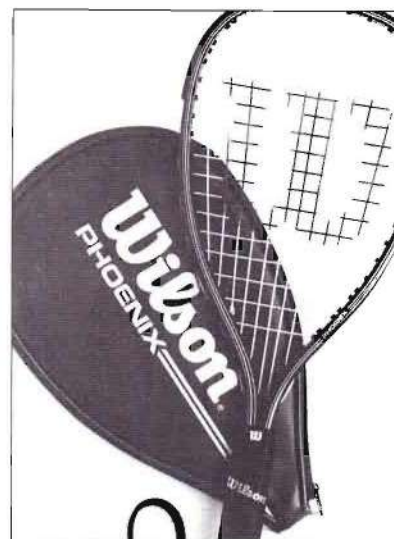
Composite material plus an advanced design distinguish the Composite Plus as a high-tech racquet + Hand-layed graphite and fiberglass construction produces stiffness and flex where each is needed—playability is "dialed-in" + Special throat design for added stability and reduced torque + Strung-in bumper and grommet strip for added string protection + Foam-filled vibration reducing handle + 245 grams + 3 11/16 and 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch leather grips + Thermal cover included + **\$120.00.**



The Sting Graphite

The Sting Graphite is an injection composite

blend of graphite and fiberglass in a nylon matrix offering exceptional power without sacrificing control + Quadrangle headshape offers a larger sweet spot + Radiant string pattern with variable density creates a uniform tension for more uniform ball response + Lightweight—240 grams + Hourglass handle with 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ and 4 inch leather grips + Thermal cover included + **\$75.00.**



The Phoenix

The Phoenix has a unique rectangular aluminum extrusion that provides a lightweight racquet with stiffness for power and speed + Flared head shape with open throat for larger sweet spot + Radiant stringing + Has the popular "W" imprinted on the top cap + Strung-in bumper and grommet strip + Foam-filled handle + 3 11/16 and 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch leather grips + 260 grams + **\$65.00.**



The Flare

The Flare is made of high strength aluminum in a unique tubular extrusion + Lightweight but very strong + Popular "W" imprint on top cap + Strung-in bumper + foam-filled handle to absorb vibration + very light at 235 grams + 3 11/16 and 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch leather grips + Cover included + **\$52.00.**



An interview of Steve and Mr. Ohyama conducted by Mr. Ueyama who was also the referee for the exhibition match

STRANDEMO IN JAPAN:

A Week Of Teaching In Japan As Seen Through The Eyes Of America's Premier Instructor

As the growth of racquetball spreads around the world, the international demand for the sport's best teachers is increasing dramatically. Many of racquetball's top players, including Mike Yellen, Lynn Adams and Jennifer Harding, have recently returned from clinic and appearance tours in Japan, the current hotbed of international racquetball growth.

In early October Steve Strandemo, considered by many to be the top instructor in racquetball, was invited to spend one week in Japan's heart—the cities of Tokyo and Yokohama.

"In Japan right now," says Strandemo, "racquetball is going through a growth period like it did in the United States in

1977-78, when the sport was just catching on. It was exciting to be part of it for a week."

Like others who have traveled to the Far East recently, Steve was impressed, and a bit surprised, by the passion the Japanese have developed for the sport. He arrived in the country just in time to attend one of the largest open tournaments on the Japanese Racquetball Association's season, which was held at The Baschamichi Racquetball Club in Yokohama.

"It was one of their biggest tournaments," he says, "and it was very well attended. There were about 250 players in both the men's and women's division, and in all the different playing levels and

age brackets."

Steve is quick to point out that he was immediately struck by the quality of play. But he was equally surprised by the facility where the tournament was played.

"On the top floor of the club there is an exhibition court and a seating arena that can easily hold 1,000 people. It was built strictly for an exhibition arena. They have mechanical bleachers that move in from all three sides at the push of a button. At the top it has 'sky boxes' where cameras or VIPs can be seated. There's also a glass pane in the front wall for television cameras."

The large television court was utilized during the tournament not only for play, but for an exhibition match between

Steve and Shoun Ohyama, which was filmed for the Tokyo Broadcasting Company for later replay on one of the area's sports shows.

After the exhibition and a clinic that followed, Steve witnessed an awards ceremony, Japanese style. "It was one of the most impressive ceremonies I have ever seen, similar to the awards presentation of a mini-olympics. It included music, spotlights, and presentations of medals to the players, and took nearly two hours. It was so different from racquetball tournaments in the States."

Steve spent much of the next week visiting clubs throughout the Tokyo area. He was surprised at some of the differences between the clubs that are being constructed by the Japanese and those in the U.S.

"Their clubs are well designed and well built. The Japanese have been strongly influenced by people who had visited the U.S. and convinced them to put glass on all their courts. Every court in every club I visited had some type of glass for viewing. When you walk into one of these clubs, racquetball players are instantly visible, which I think is really good for the exposure of the sport."

According to Steve, the Japanese clubs are also smaller than their American counterparts: "We visited one three-court facility. The largest was the new Big Bang Racquet Club which had nine courts, and just opened the last Sunday we were there."

In the course of his clinic series across the Tokyo area, Steve had a unique opportunity to spend an afternoon with the Japanese College Racquetball Association: "This was a group of 40 very keen college students who didn't have racquetball courts at their schools, but would hold activities at one of the local clubs. It was really great to see. We had a question and answer period and then got all of them on the court to work in the afternoon. They were just very keenly interested—they were gaining an education and racquetball had become a very important part of their life."

It has been said that racquetball is an ideal sport for the Japanese people—or perhaps the other way around. In terms of body type, they are built much better for the game than most Americans.

"I went over with a really open mind," Steve says, "not really knowing what the quality of play would be. I was really taken back by the quality of play they have reached. Overall, the Japanese are a very athletic group who are taking to



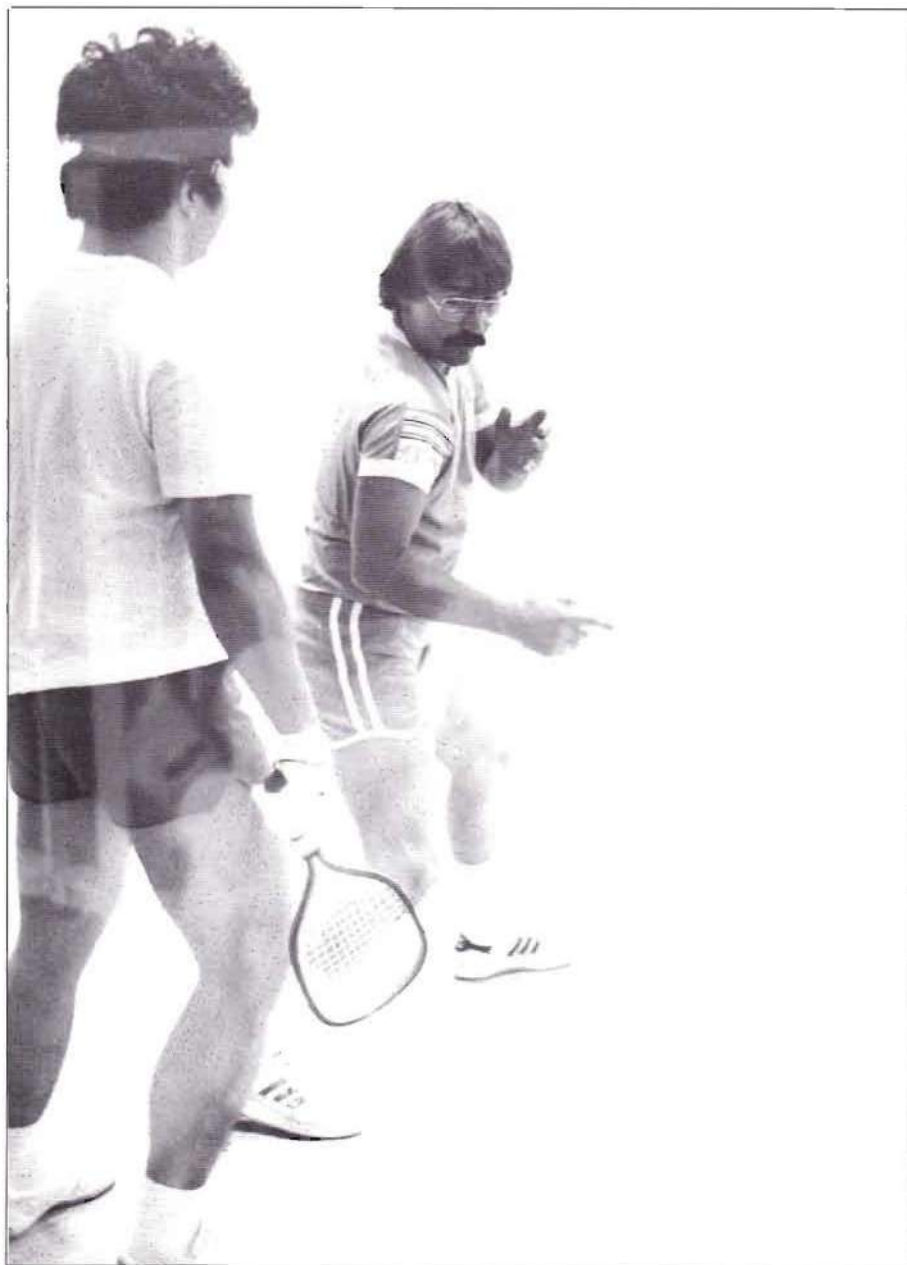
Steve presenting the 1st place trophy in the Men's Open division to Mr. Naoi. Second place was awarded to Mr. Kiuchi (between Steve and Mr. Naoi)



Mr. Ohyama and Steve during their exhibition match at the Bashamichi Classic. This match was filmed by the Tokyo Broadcasting System for replay later on their network

Japanese players displaying the current issue of International Racquetball





Steve demonstrates proper forehand technique to one student

Photo by Ken Shinn

The staff that coordinated the Bashamichi Classic. In the top row, second from the right, is Mr. Ishihara who arranged Steve's trip to Japan



racquetball very quickly. I was impressed with their movement on the court. They have excellent movement on the court—they are very quick and very strong.

"In the course of the trip I had a chance to play most of the top men and women in Japan. They have a good grasp of the game. They just needed a little refinement in a few areas: serving angles, serve returns, ceiling ball rallies, and how to position yourself to be most effective in center court. They also needed to start hitting on the run, and to know that it is a totally acceptable part of racquetball. It will take them a little time to do it, but with the proper guidance they are soon going to be able to compete on the same level as the American and Canadian players.

"I think I was most impressed by their attentiveness, and the interest they showed. Also, they are willing to work—they're not averse to hard work at all."

How does an American racquetball instructor communicate with Japanese players?

"My Japanese is very minimal, and although many of the players I taught spoke a small amount of English, it wasn't enough for the pace we needed to go. So, our interpreter was very important. That was a different experience for me—I had never worked through an interpreter before. You have to make sure that your thoughts are very clear and simple, to make it easy for the interpreter to get things across. I was a little amazed how quickly and efficiently we got that accomplished."

The Japanese people thanked Steve by giving him a party before he left: "It was at the Kioi-Cho Racquetball Club, on the Saturday evening before our last day. People from all the clubs we visited were there. They gave me one of the nicest gifts; a very valuable Geisha Girl doll enclosed in a glass case.

"The last day we did an exhibition and clinic at the Grand Opening of their newest and largest club: The Big Bang Racquet Club. They said about 1,200 players came through the club that day. It is a beautiful facility: glass courts—side wall and back wall, life cycles, Nautilus machines. I watched for a short time the Japanese aerobic instructors putting on a demonstration."

"I really want to thank (my sponsor) Head Racquet Sports and Mr. Ishihara for a very worthwhile experience. It was great for me to be so well received, to be appreciated, and to find people that were so receptive to information. It was the type of feeling that made me want to stay and help."



CANADA

*JOHN HAMILTON OF THE CRA AND
LYNDSAY MEYERS OF CPRO TALK ABOUT THEIR
FAVORITE SUBJECT—CANADIAN RACQUETBALL*

What's going on with CPRO (Canadian Professional Racquetball Association) this year?

Meyers: Lots. We hope. I've sent off the contracts to all of the potential tour stops in Canada and we are just waiting for their return. We should have the same number of stops we had last year—eight or nine.

When is the first stop?

Meyers: Actually, we had our first pro stop in July. Our schedule is more spread out over the year than the American pro stops. The next stop is scheduled in Vancouver, B.C. this November 8-11. It's called the Grey Cup CPRO/Am because of a professional football final that takes place then. The sponsors for the tournament are Molson's beer, Voit, CP Air and Nautilus. There will be \$6,500 in prize money for the Canadian pros. After that, the year looks real busy, especially in the spring.

Does CPRO have a ranking system for its players?

Meyers: We are testing a couple, this being only our second year. We had one last year and it seemed to run okay, but this year we're running testers along side it to see whether or not the seedings correspond with the rankings, but, I think it will take a year or two to find one that is suitable for the league. One of the reasons it is difficult right now to finalize the ranking system is because there are so many

players that come in and out of the game throughout the year. So, until we get a firm base of players playing racquetball for an actual living, rather than for a secondary source of income like they do now, it may be hard to come up with a fair system of ranking.

What do you use for a scoring system in Canada?

Meyers: We're using three out of five to eleven—the same basic scoring system as down there. I was the one who introduced it into Canada and everyone seems to agree with me that it's a good system. There are lots of things that we are doing in Canada that are similar to down there. We're even getting the CRA, the amateur organization, to switch their serving rule to the U.S. five foot safety rule.

What does CRA stand for?

Hamilton: The CRA is the Canadian Racquetball Association and it is much like the AARA in the United States, but it encompasses all of the racquetball associations in Canada both amateur and professional. CPRO, or the Canadian Professional Racquetball Association, is one arm of the CRA. In fact, the pro nationals were a part of the amateur nationals and were held at the same time. It works out great because they have a chance to have input into our programs and vice versa.

Do the pros and the amateurs work under the same set of rules?

Hamilton: For the most part, yes. There are some exceptions like the scoring system. They use the five games to eleven which seems to be the route most people are going now. I think it's a little more exciting. We have been using the international scoring system of two games to twenty-one and a tie breaker to 15, but during this past year and a half we have opened it up and have allowed amateur tournaments to use different scoring systems and a lot of them seem to be going toward the 15 point games or five games to eleven.

Do you think it's a good idea to open up the sport to change like that?

Hamilton: We feel that if we have too strong a hold on racquetball, that it will choke itself or rebel anyway. Our philosophy is that if there are any problems, we open it up and let the players decide for themselves through trial and error. We don't want a dictatorial type association bossing everybody around.

When something has resolved itself, how do you make it official?

Hamilton: We have a sixteen person board of directors. Ten of those people are appointed by our provincial groups, which are equivalent to the AARA state organizations, and one representative is from CPRO. The other five people are elected at large.

Are you an elected official?

Hamilton: No. I am an employee of the

Association like Luke St. Onge is employed by the AARA.

Does the CRA have any rulings on the oversized racquets coming out now?

Hamilton: Ektelon has approached us, but on things like that we like to let the players decide what they would be most comfortable with. Don't think that we're not afraid to tackle something controversial, remember, our association made eyewear mandatory in tournament play back in 1978—almost 6 years ago! So, when the question of oversized racquets becomes an issue, we'll let the players decide.

Has any eyeguard company ever approached the CPRO as a sponsor?

Meyers: Not yet, no. It would seem like a natural market to me, though. Many clubs make eyeguards mandatory, also, and even guests are required to wear eye protection. If you counted up all the players that have to wear some sort of eye protection, it should be an impressive figure.

How many racquetball players are there in Canada?

Hamilton: We feel there are 360 to 400 thousand regular players. The sport is very healthy here and it's getting better.

Actually, there was a survey that the government took three years ago that placed the number of racquetball players at 1.3 million, but that took into consideration people that had only played once.

Are most of the regular players members of private clubs?

Hamilton: Yes. Private clubs, Y's and Community Centers. Canada is very much like the U.S. in that regard, but by far the largest player group is in private clubs.

How does the association round up sponsors? Is it a problem for the CRA to fund itself?

Hamilton: Well, we get a fairly substantial amount of support from the federal government. For those of you who don't understand the politics of Canada, let's just say that things are a little more socialistic up here and the government supports the idea of excellence and participation in sports. They fund, to varying degrees, the sport governing bodies. I'm speaking to you from building that's in a suburb of Ottawa, the nation's capital, and this office is subsidized, my salary is subsidized. I have a secretary that's...

Subsidized?

(Laughs)...Subsidized—the whole thing

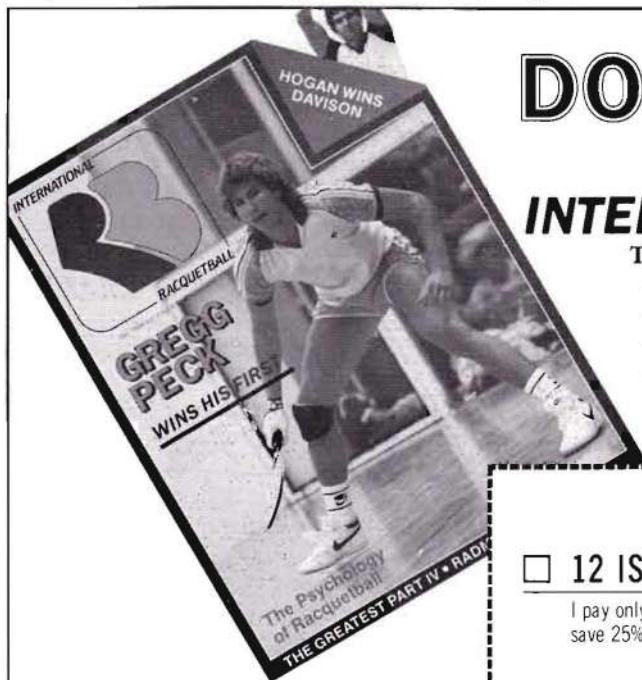
is. We operate on a budget of about \$400,000 a year and approximately 150 to 170 thousand of that comes from the government in one way or another in the form of direct contributions or subsidized services.

How is the money used in the association?

Hamilton: Basically, most of it is used to run the national office and run the various programs of the association. We got about a third of the cost to send our team to the World Games from the government and AMF Voit, as our major sponsor, picked up the rest.

It was a close match between the U.S. and Canada. I thought Canada was going to win.

Hamilton: We gave the U.S. a good run. And it's to our credit that Canada's Ross Harvey came away with the International Singles Championship. The American media didn't seem to think we were going to do that well, but we did come in a strong second at the World Games. I'm sure Canada is capable of taking first in international competition. ●



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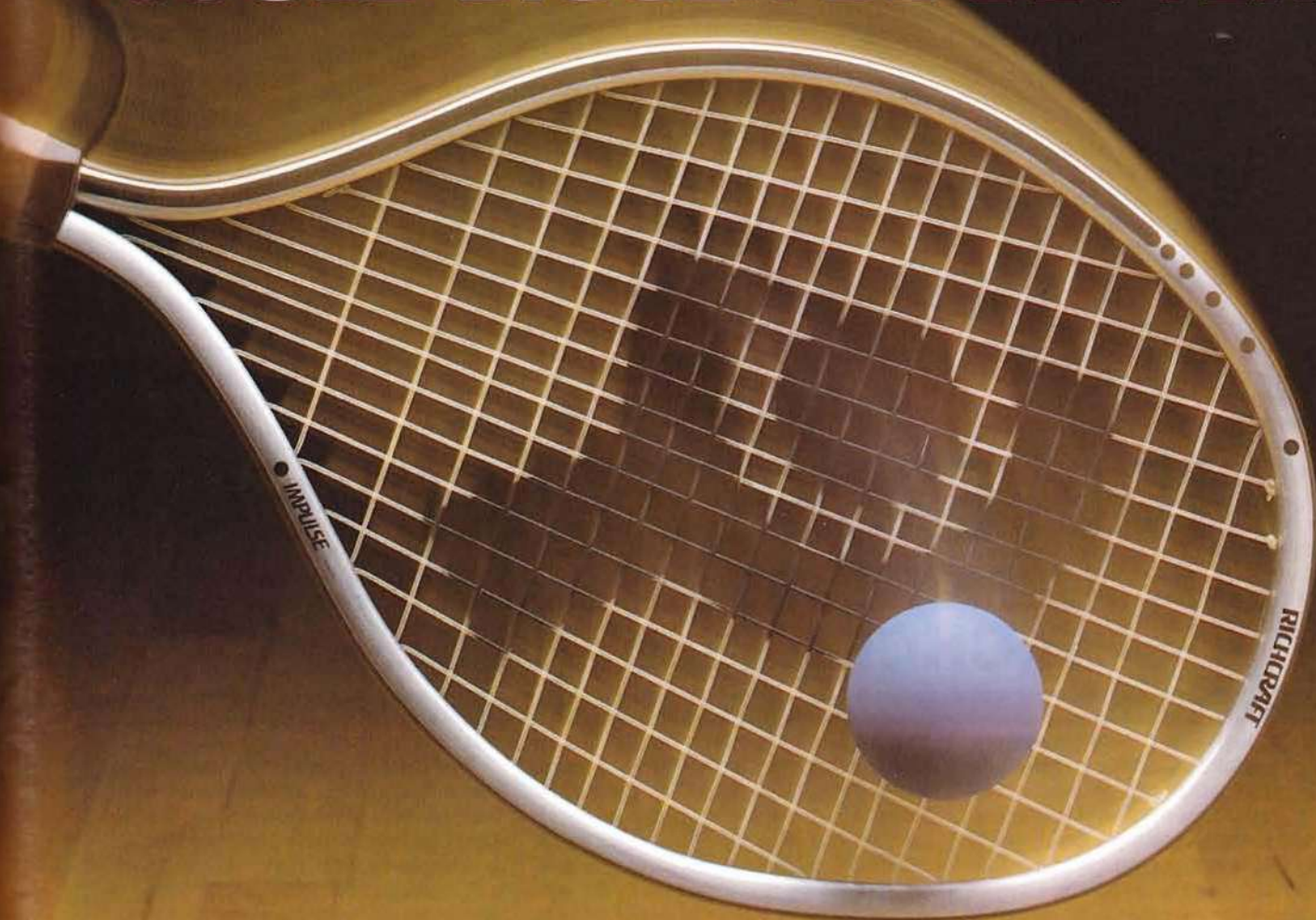
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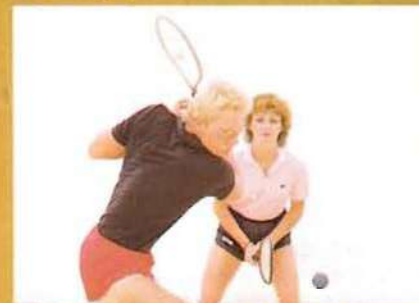
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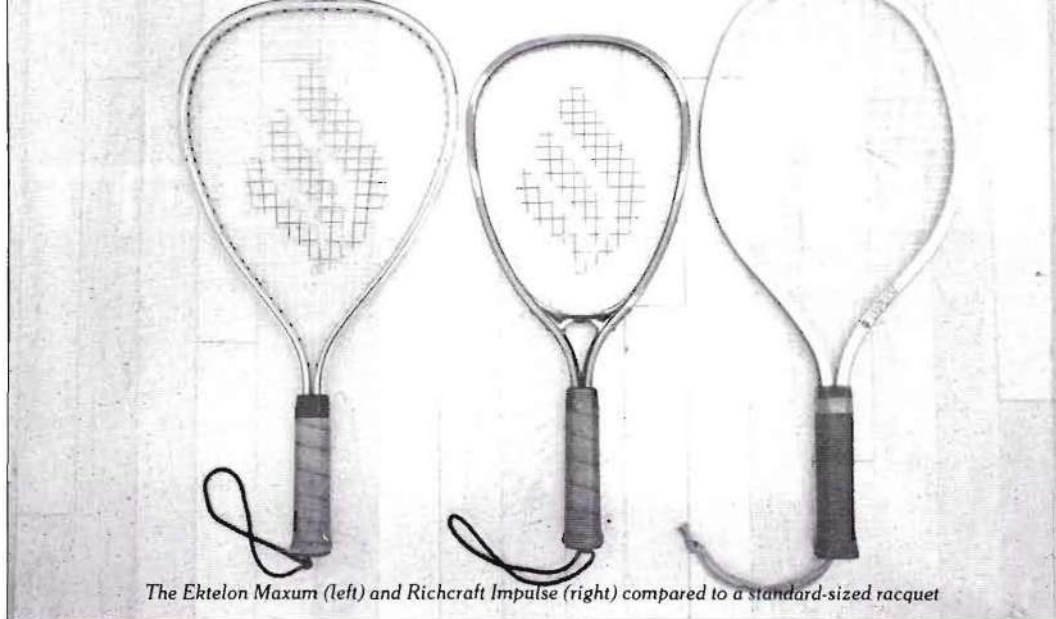
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RACQUET REVIEW:

THE OVERSIZED RACQUETS

EKTELON MAXUM

RICHCRAFT IMPULSE

Racquetball racquets have evolved continuously since the invention of the sport in the 1950s, as manufacturers have struggled with the problems of weight, durability, and playability. The technological marvels of graphite, boron, and Kevlar that are commonplace in the sport today are a far cry from the sawed-off tennis racquets that were used by the pioneers of racquetball. But, while nearly every racquet characteristic has been the subject of experimentation and change, one area has remained essentially constant: racquet size.

In June of this year Ektelon announced the introduction of two new oversized, or "macro" racquets, the Maxum and the Contra. These racquets constitute a radical departure from any previous racquet design, with frames that offer hitting surfaces nearly 30 square inches larger than conventional racquets. They are longer, wider, and are strung at much higher tension. Their introduction has also caused some controversy in the sport, particularly in the AARA, which is the only body in racquetball that has a rule governing racquet size in its rule book. (The AARA recently announced a moratorium on enforcement of that rule for one year to assess the impact of oversized racquets on the sport.)

In September a second manufacturer, Richcraft (which has built racquets marketed by other companies for many years), introduced the Impulse, an oversized frame which is markedly different in appearance than the two Ektelon designs.

The oversized racquet concept was spawned in tennis about ten years ago with a racquet called the Prince, which was so successful among begin-

ning and intermediate tennis players that it is estimated Prince now controls nearly 40 percent of the worldwide tennis market. The concept behind the new oversized racquetball racquets is the same that made the Prince so successful: Increased size of the sweet spot (that portion of the strings where the ball is contacted solidly) gives the average player a better chance of hitting an effective shot.

Early critics of the new oversized racquetball racquets have claimed that, unlike tennis, racquetball players have little difficulty making solid contact with the ball. Ektelon and Richcraft obviously disagree. Since both racquets are just now coming to market, it is likely to be some time before we know who is right.

Evaluating the new oversized frames presented an interesting challenge for us. Since nothing like the Maxum or Impulse has ever existed, either racquet is likely to feel foreign to anyone who plays regularly with a conventional frame. Therefore, the research for this review was done in two parts. First, we enlisted the help of a league of beginning and intermediate players at our local club to play with the racquets for an evening and then give us their early impressions. (Thanks to Dino Paolini and the Reno Athletic Club for their help.) Second, for the past four months staff members of International Racquetball—ranging in play from beginning to advanced—have been playing regularly with the Maxum, Contra, and two versions of the Impulse.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

While the reaction to oversized racquets varies greatly from player to player, certain impressions

seem to be universal.

The differences in feel between oversized and conventional frames are not subtle. Nearly everyone involved with this test agreed that oversized racquets offer some performance benefits but also present some drawbacks.

The natural result of enlarging the hitting surface is the increased size of the "sweet-spot." Ektelon's literature claims a sweet-spot increase of 80 percent, and it is a noticeable difference. The oversized racquet seems to contact the ball solidly more often than a conventional racquet. It is also more forgiving on shots that are contacted off-center, particularly those that are hit high up on the racquet face. For some this becomes most obvious when hitting ceiling balls, perhaps the most difficult shot in the game to hit squarely.

There is a price to be paid, however, for that increased hitting surface. Once you get outside the sweet-spot, vibration becomes a real problem. In fact, frame vibration was the most common complaint about the oversized racquets we encountered. That is probably to be expected; the oversized frames are constructed of aluminum extrusions that must span a much longer unsupported distance than normal racquets, without adding weight (all of the racquets tested weigh approximately 245 grams, about the same as standard high-performance frames).

It is difficult to determine how severe the vibration problem really is, because the only standard of comparison is the state-of-the-art conventional frame which is virtually vibration-free. Ten years ago, when racquet vibration was the subject of much discussion, it became accepted that if the vibration didn't result in loss of control, or sore-

ness in the hitting arm, it was not a serious problem. Judging by that erstwhile standard, the vibration of the oversized racquets seems to be within acceptable limits. During our evaluation there were no complaints of lack of control; indeed, most players notice a good *increase* in control. Likewise, we have had no reports of arm soreness due to vibration. We should also note that most players don't seem to notice the vibration at all after using the racquet for a couple of days.

One myth successfully buried during our evaluation is that the oversized racquet will change the game because it will add so much power. The oversized racquet definitely does *not* add power; it adds control and, for most players, slightly *decreases* power. That is because in racquetball power is achieved by "snapping" the wrist at the moment of impact with the ball. Because of the increased length and overall size of the new racquets, wrist-snap is slightly impeded.

This point probably explains why some players like the oversized racquet so much better than others. Racquetball players can be neatly divided into two groups according to stroke preference: the "pushers" and the "snappers." The pushers tend to guide the ball forward with a controlled, mild wrist-snap, while the snappers crack the ball at the end of a pendulum swing much like the crack of a whip. (Both strokes are effective—Mike Yellen is a pusher, Marty Hogan is a snapper.) Pushers take to the oversized racquet very quickly, sometimes without any adjustment at all, while snappers are frequently unable to ever adjust to the increased size.

The increased length and size of the macro racquets causes most players to have timing problems in the first couple of hours of play. The most common problem is that kill shots tend to rise two or three feet on the front wall. This is probably due to the slight slowing of the wrist-snap, and seems to disappear with most players in a short time.

One concern that has been voiced about the new racquets concerns safety. Some in the industry feel that increasing the size of racquets may increase the possibility of getting hit by one. That doesn't seem to be true. A number of our testing players used the racquets (four of them) in doubles matches, and there was no noticeable increase in racquet hazard.

Despite the few adjustments one has to make to play effectively with an oversized racquet, most players who participated in our evaluation were pleasantly surprised. Nearly 60 percent of those who played with the racquets for less than an hour said they would play with one on a regular basis. Nearly half said they would buy an oversized.

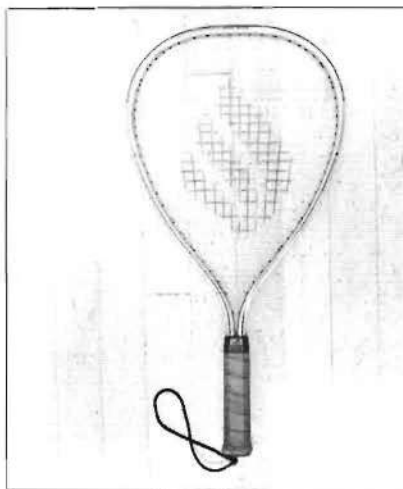
If our experience here at the magazine is any indication, macro racquets may be addicting; our test was concluded some weeks ago, yet many here continue to use one regularly. Beware: For some players, switching back to a standard racquet after adjusting to an oversized can be very difficult.

One final point. Both Ektelon and Richcraft have indicated that they expect the oversized racquet to be accepted best by beginning and intermediate players. Our tests found that to be only partially true. How one is impressed by the

oversized racquet seems to be more dependent on playing style than playing level. Stated simply, if your game is built around control—pinches, passes, ceiling shots, etc.—you owe it to yourself to give one of these racquets a try.

EKTELON MAXUM

According to Ektelon, the Maxum is the result of more than two years of research. That is not difficult to believe. Consider that prior to 1979, no manufacturer was able to produce any playable racquet frame that weighed under 250 grams. The head of the Maxum is 20.5" by 10.5" in length and width compared to standard frames which are approximately 18.5" by 9". The hitting surface is nearly 50 percent larger than a conventional racquet, and yet the weight has been kept at a featherlight 245 grams, the same weight as the high-performance CBK.



Ektelon Maxum

The design of the Maxum is similar to Ektelon's aluminum designs of the past few years. In appearance it resembles an enlarged Magnum 2, only with a more teardrop shape. As has become Ektelon's trademark, the Maxum has no throat-piece; Ektelon believes that the longer strings that are possible with a throatless design help increase the size of the sweet-spot.

The challenge of constructing a racquet of this weight, that was at the same time stiff and stable enough, required the creation of an all new aluminum extrusion by Alcoa called "7005 thin profile." What is most impressive about this aluminum frame is its resistance to deformation. A big drawback to aluminum racquets in the past has been their tendency to deform or bend on contact with the wall or floor. The Maxum we tested has been brutalized by a number of top-notch wall bashers, and so far there has been no visible deformation whatsoever. What makes this accomplishment quite remarkable is that the frame of the Maxum has to support a constant string tension of 45 pounds, much higher than any standard racquet.

The handle of the Maxum is the standard foam with leather grip that has proven itself well on Ektelon's other racquets.

Because of the exaggerated teardrop shape, the sweet-spot of the Maxum is very large and is

located toward the top of the racquet head. And yet, with no throat piece, shots can be hit solidly almost all the way down to the top of the handle. The only time the racquet seems unstable is when the ball is contacted at the very edge of the hitting surface; and considering the size of the surface, that shouldn't happen often.

Our only complaint with the Maxum is one that could be leveled at many racquets on the market today. In the effort to control weight, Ektelon has joined the trend toward thin, brittle bumpers, which tend to chip on contact with the wall or floor. Our racquet is already missing about an inch of bumper on one side. Since these bumpers are held to the racquet by the strings, they cannot be replaced without re-stringing the entire racquet, and, while that's nice for stringers, it is a nuisance for players. Again, this is not a problem unique to the Maxum; many of the best racquets on the market today have 3-hour bumpers. Can't somebody come up with a bumper that is both strong and light?

It is obvious that Ektelon put a great deal of research and effort into designing this racquet. The Maxum breaks new ground, and yet it is capable of staying on the court with the best standard-sized racquets produced. Whatever the playing public may eventually decide about oversized racquets, the Maxum represents a remarkable achievement in racquet design.

RICHCRAFT IMPULSE

Richcraft is a name that is not familiar to most racquetball players, and yet many have played with racquets that were produced by this Burbank, CA, company. Among other things, Richcraft produces the dyes that are used in injection molding machines, and in fact made most of the dyes that formed the original Leach fiberglass racquet frames.

The Impulse is just part of a new racquet line, the first that Richcraft has marketed under its own name.

The Impulse is an aluminum (Alcoa 7000 series) oversized racquetball racquet designed for players from beginning to advanced playing levels. Its head shape is described by Richcraft as



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"modified oval," and is much different in appearance than the Ektelon Maxum; the flare in the head of the Impulse is located down toward the handle, which then narrows toward the top.

The purpose of the unusual head design is to move the sweet-spot toward the handle, and the resulting feel is quite unique. The Impulse feels much less like an oversized racquet than the Maxum; the *apparent* swing weight is less (although the actual weight is close to the same) giving it more a feel of "mid-size." This characteristic seems to make the Impulse somewhat easier to adjust to for many players. Although it is moderately flexible, the racquet has an extremely solid feel, and vibration is only apparent when the ball is struck at the very widest part of the racquet face or the very top.

The Impulse is a throatless aluminum extrusion design, with a unique nylon interliner that supports the strings. The 16 gauge string is held at 45 pounds and is arranged in the now popular "sun-burst" pattern.

Richcraft varies the weight of the Impulse by offering different weight bumpers. The bumper is a single piece of soft nylon that stretches all the way around the racquet head to the handle. It is very resistant to breakage, and can be replaced without restringing—good job, Richcraft.

We actually tested two versions of the Impulse, 252 grams and 245 grams. Both racquets were accepted very well, with a slight preference for the heavier model. Richcraft has informed us that they

"How one is impressed by the oversized racquet seems to be more dependent on playing style than playing level."

will probably market only one model, and they are leaning toward a weight of 250 grams.

Despite its increased size, most players adjust quickly to the Impulse. Because the head narrows toward the top, there seems to be less initial problem contacting the walls and floor than with the Maxum (a problem which seems to disappear shortly with either).

Actually, our only suggestion to Richcraft has nothing to do with the Impulse itself, it has to do with the Richcraft logo. Our racquet testers confirmed that we were not the only ones who thought the modified "R," though attractive, looked like a hammer-and-sickle. For those who are interested, Richcraft produces the Impulse in Burbank, CA,

not the Soviet Union.

Politics aside, the Impulse is a fine racquet, and may even prove to be slightly more palatable than the radical Ektelon design. At \$65.00 retail, the Impulse is priced about right for the market for which it is intended.

CONCLUSION

If we use tennis as an example, oversized racquets will probably take some time before they catch on with the playing public. The appearance of the racquets is so radical that many players seem self-conscious walking onto the court with one. If the oversized concept truly offers an advantage for the average player, that stigma should disappear with time.

Racquetball has become popular in this country because it is a fun way for people to get the exercise they need. Oversized racquets are intended to make the game more fun; if they actually do, as they did in tennis, the Maxum and Impulse will become the precursors of a new generation of racquets. We feel our tests showed that many—not all—players do enjoy the game more with a larger racquet.

Whatever racquetball players decide about this new concept, the Maxum and Impulse are excellent examples of state-of-the-art racquet design and construction. Ektelon should be congratulated for a bold and creative new step. Both Ektelon and Richcraft should be proud of these fine, and important, new racquets.



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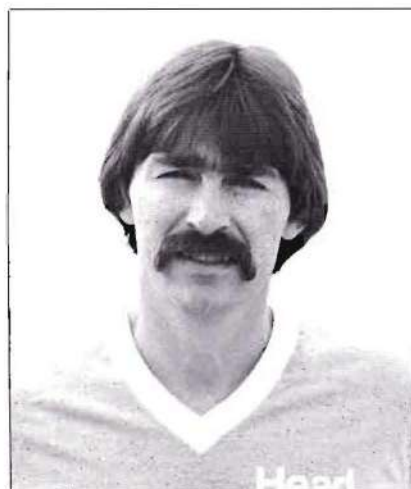
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PART 4: THE SERVE

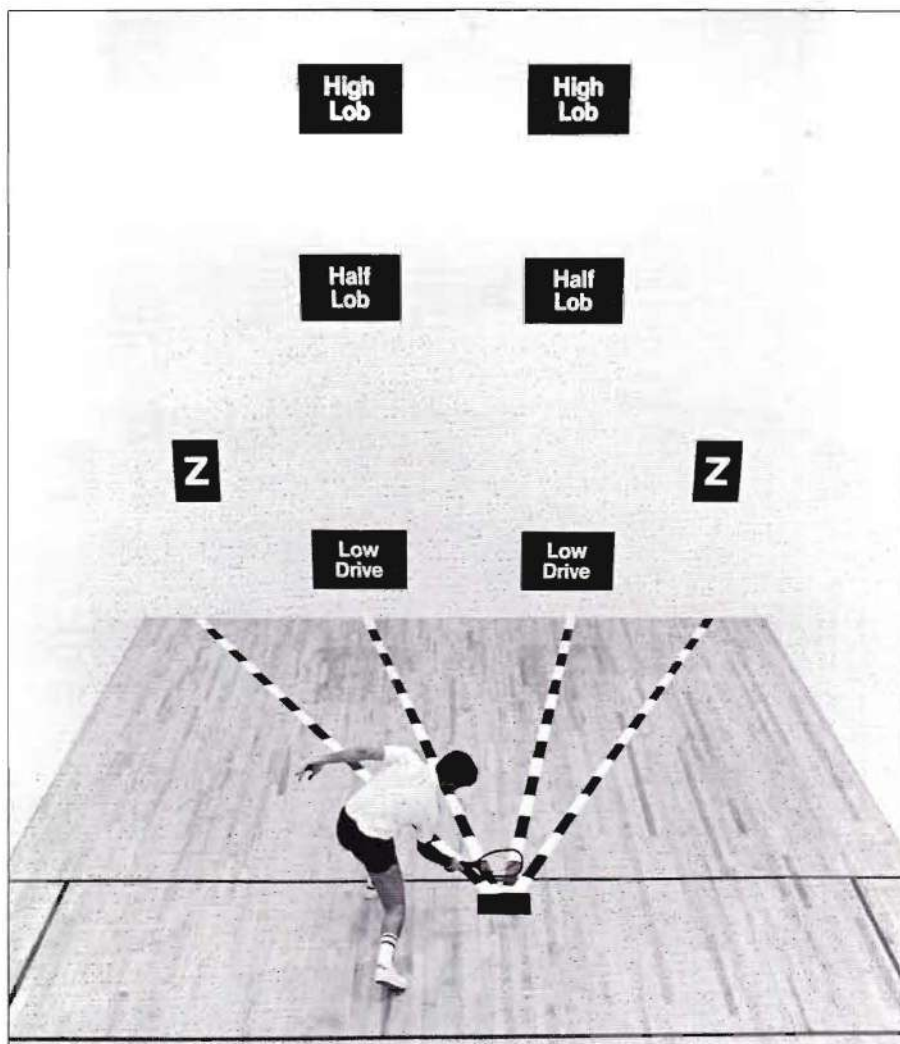
Editor's Note:

This article, *Part Four in Advanced Racquetball* has been divided into two parts because of its length. The first part of *The Serve* covered the drive serve and appeared in our October issue. If you wish to get the book *Advanced Racquetball*, please write to Steve Strandemo, P.O. Box 24445, San Diego, CA 92124.

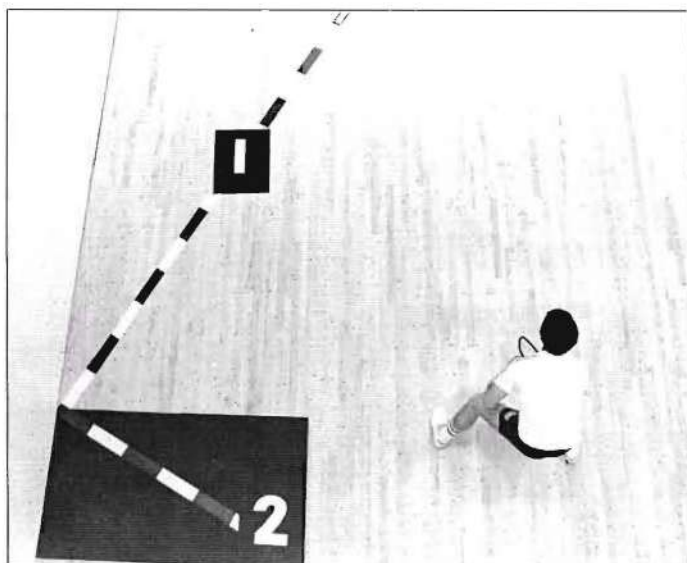
Good serving is built upon many individual approaches: your location in the service box, your step motion into the ball, your stroke, and your method of relocation. Yet in striving for an expert serve there's not some unique overall style you must uncover, achievable only by the pros. This chapter will give you the key guidelines that you can actually tackle on your own in practice. Then, as you play, there's always an objective measurement of your effectiveness: *how consistently you can get the ball deep into the back corners and, by doing so, either (1) have the possibility of an ace, (2) force a weak return, or (3) cause your opponent to go defensively to the ceiling.* Conversely, you want to minimize his good offensive opportunities by keeping the ball from coming off the walls as a setup.

The "Z" Serve

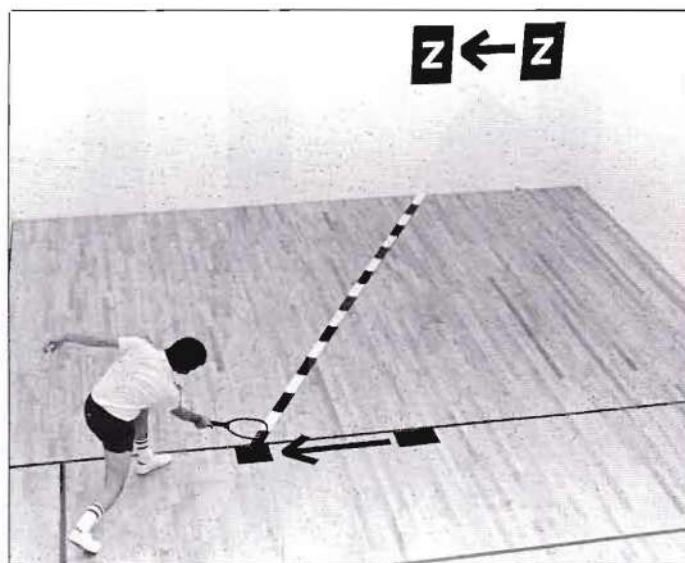
You've played the game long enough to know how important it is to have an aggressive "Z" serve that causes your opponent grief by traveling deep and tight into both back corners. I'm also sure you've often paid the penalty for missing your desired front-wall targets. So here again, practicing alone and with a friend will enable you to find those exact targets that yield the ideal pattern: front wall, side wall, floor, opposite side wall—and keep the ball off the back wall as a setup. Although this pattern is more crucial to success than velocity, always try to combine both for increased difficulty. First master hitting your front-wall targets, practicing



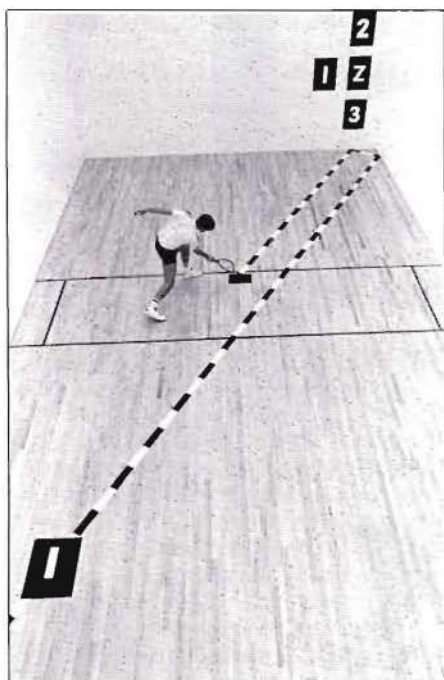
These are your important front-wall targets on the serve, when contacting the ball from the middle of the court. Remember that when you readjust your position in either direction, these targets will all shift accordingly and, because of the angles involved, some of them will be eliminated—either because your location will make them impossible to hit or to avoid being guilty of a screen.



The properly executed "Z" will take its first bounce on the floor, then carom into the side wall and (if allowed to go past) will ideally take its second bounce before coming off the back wall.



If you move off to the left to hit your "Z" serve, just remember that your target has to move accordingly.



The lines on the court indicate the path this "Z" serve will take when properly executed, with the first bounce occurring deep and close to the opposite side wall. The numbers on the front wall represent incorrect target areas. A ball striking Area 1 will angle more down the middle of the court and carom off the back wall, then the side wall—coming off as a setup for your opponent. If the ball hits Area 2, it will follow the correct "Z" path but come off the back wall as a setup. Area 3 is too low; the ball will take its desired path but come in short of the back wall, allowing the returner to hit an offensive return.

with different balls (pressurized and pressureless) and at different speeds to see how they tend to react off the last side wall; then work on improving your pace within that pattern.

In terms of positioning, most players are discovering that it's easier, safer, and equally effective to move a few feet to either side of

center to hit. This shifts the front-wall targets farther away from the side wall, making them easier to see and diminishing the fear of hitting the side wall first.

When practicing, learn to read the ball as it comes off the front wall so that you have a good idea where to relocate as you move back—particularly if you've hit short and you sense that your opponent is going to move up and cut the ball off after it bounces and before it reaches the side wall. Also be ready to give him the proper hitting lanes for his cross-court kill or pass attempt should the ball jump off the side wall for a set up.

The Lob Serves

These serves are mandatory not simply as safe second attempts, but either to introduce a deliberate style of play that may get the rally started in your favor or to change the pace of the game or the match.

The Half-Lob Serve

The half-lob has actually become an important tactical weapon in the power game, thanks to a rule change since my first book. There's now a 5-foot zone behind the service box and, in tournament play, the returner loses the point if the referee judges that his racquet has entered that imaginary zone trying to "fly-kill" the serve before it bounces. Instead of taking that risk, most players let the ball bounce, and since a good lob bounces up around shoulder level, a ceiling return usually is dictated.

Therefore, your goal is to have this serve land in the 5-foot zone or slightly beyond, a strategy that many times neutralizes the power player. (The half-lob "Z" generates the same ceiling return by taking a high bounce and kicking into your opponent about shoulder height.) Also, as much as you want to serve aggressively to keep your opponent off-balance when he hits, there are days when your execution is shaky and his returns are crisp and accurate, putting you constantly on the defensive. Here's where you can't be shy about changing your strategy and going to your half-lob; at least you'll get safely into the

rally.

Neither lob serve requires any real footwork—just a nice comfortable stroke, with or without a step into the ball. This is a direction shot, so keep your wrist basically firm as you swing, and concentrate on an easy shoulder and arm motion. You'll bring on too many problems, especially under pressure, if you try to flick your wrist to generate speed on this shot.

Directionally, keep this serve off the side wall, but try to keep it close to the wall and into the back corners. The ball is traveling so slow that any contact with the side wall will send it out as an absolute plum for your opponent.

The High-Lob Serve

Hit this serve with the same easy but secure arm and shoulder motion, so you're not dependent on wrist action. Ideally, try to have the ball graze the side wall at about 35 feet as it comes down. This keeps the ball close to that wall and pushes your opponent deep into the corner. The danger, of course, is that the slightest error on your part will cause the ball to either catch too much of the side wall and carom out toward the middle of the court, or simply miss the side wall and rebound straight off the back wall for a setup.

The Second Serve

Since many of your low-drive first serves will be landing short, don't slight your second serves in practice. And when you play, enamored as you might be with the power game, keep two basic goals in mind:

1. Go with a second serve you know you can easily get in play. Why gamble with a side-out and simply hand the serve back to your opponent by trying a low-drive under this added pressure? Instead, work on hitting a controlled "Z" or an accurate lob.

2. Avoid giving your opponent an offensive opportunity. Your best choices here again will be the controlled "Z" and the different lobs, since both serves get the ball in play with more ease, while coming into your opponent's hitting

KILL OR BE KILLED.

You thought you would never get this serious.

You started out just playing for the exercise. Soon it became an obsession. The points got longer, the play became more intense. Your head was in the game, but you just didn't have the shots. No touch. No Z. No kill.

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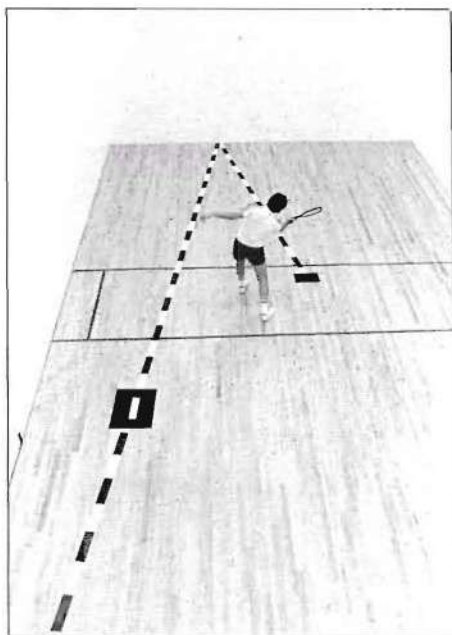
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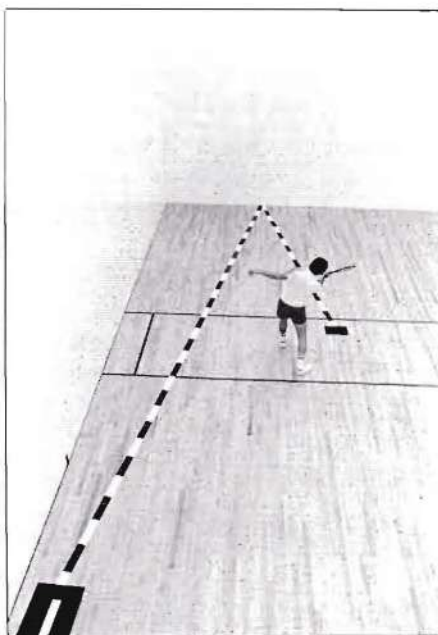
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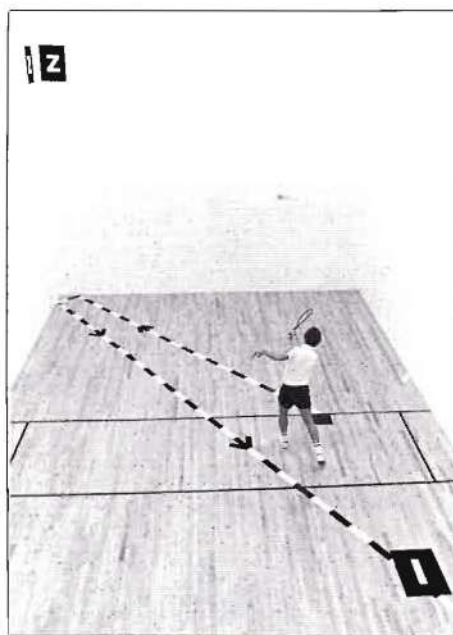
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In most situations, try to have the half-lob serve land within the 5-foot zone behind the service box, for it will then arc toward the back wall and carry into the returner's hitting area around shoulder level, usually dictating a ceiling-ball return.



Effective high-lob serves land deeper in the court (as shown here) or graze the side wall on their descent. However, they can also take their first bounce just behind the service box, providing the ball has been hit to the front wall on a very high arc.



The high "Z" lob is an increasingly popular off-speed serve, thanks to the current 5-foot rule on service returns. Top players fear breaking the imaginary plane if they try to volley or shorthop this serve, so they let it bounce and usually go up to the ceiling with their return.

zone at about shoulder height.

Camouflaging Your Serve

Camouflaging your intended serves (low-drives and hard "Z"s) is important at top levels of play, since deception costs your opponent split seconds in anticipation and can thus lead to weaker returns and more setups. However, first master a basic two-step motion into the ball—and groove your front-wall targets—or you may only fool yourself with tricky plays. This one motion can actually take you a long way, but in tougher competition you may need to develop a second and third footwork style in order to keep opponents off balance. At the pro level, I'm forced to hit the same serves out of different motions because opponents can easily groove into one motion and begin to time my hit.

One common strategy, for example, is to take your low-drive motion to the left, but pound the ball down the right wall for a possible ace or to draw a weak return. Or, come off that motion to the left but instead of hitting a low-drive down the left wall, snap a hard "Z" that travels to the opposite back right corner. The key, of course, is to make the right adjustments in your front-wall targets and to execute properly. Let's say that your "Z" to the backhand corner has been working well, and you sense that your opponent is leaning toward that corner as you go to hit. This will make the low-drive down the right wall—using the same motion—much more effective. Don't be afraid to use strategies like this; you'll need all of them and more against advanced players.

Strategy on the Serve

Here are some tactics that may help make your serve more effective.

- Think before you go to serve. Having your serve in mind as you enter the service box will free you to concentrate on your target area as you catch your breath.

- Don't lose your concentration if your opponent is using the 10-second rule by holding his racquet up in the air as you're preparing to start your step motion. In a tournament, ask the referee to explain his interpretation of the rule if you feel your opponent is using it to deliberately and unfairly slow down play—but don't get flustered; just accept it as a part of this particular match.

- Most of your serves will likely go into your opponent's backhand corner (normally his weaker side), but *don't ignore the virtues of good forceful serves to his forehand*. First of all, this keeps your opponent from "cheating" to his backhand side—mentally, in anticipation, if not physically. If you're always attacking the backhand, his readiness will help compensate for this weaker stroke. Second, he may not be accustomed to moving right and effectively returning your tough serves. A "Z," especially, that is snapped quickly into the right corner might handcuff him before he can get properly set up for his return.

- Against most good opponents, you must vary your serves as the match progresses, but when your opponent has a definite weaker side (forehand or backhand)—exploit that area the best you can and keep the screws tightened.

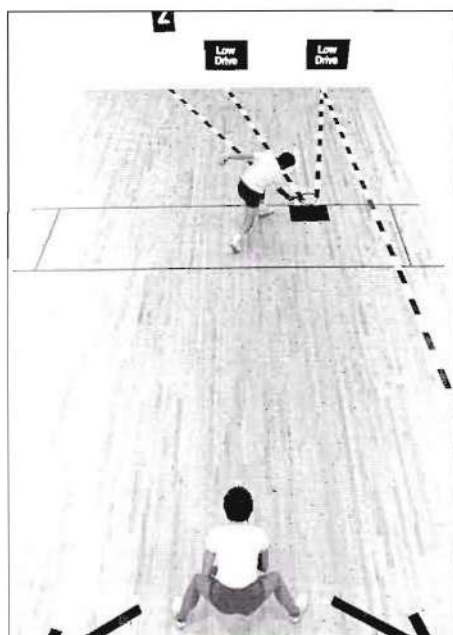
- Avoid predictability in your serve selection and direction. Mix up your serves—with a purpose in mind—so that your opponent doesn't gain an important edge in anticipation, where he's "seeing" the ball coming before you even hit it. I used to hit all of my first serves at the same hard pace, but eventually I realized that my effectiveness was diminishing as the match progressed, with many of my opponents teeing off on their returns. I've since become a smarter server and I'm not a mechanical machine who says, "I will simply try to outhit you." Today when I'm playing, I'll serve aggressively, then change the pace with slower "Z"s and half-lobbs.

I'm always looking for ways to get my opponent out of his rhythm and cause some weaker returns. Also, I keep moving around in the service box so he's constantly seeing something a little different. If one serve isn't working, I'll move to a new spot and try the same serve but from a different angle. In doing this yourself, however, remember: you must have a good feel for your different target areas, for they will be constantly changing in relation to where you contact the ball.

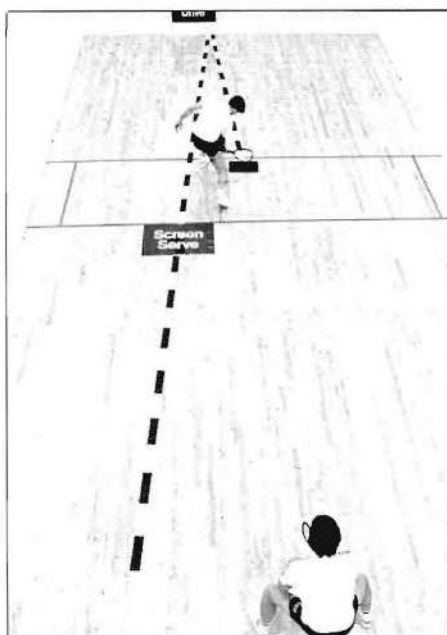
- Let's say you're in a knock-down match, midway through the second game, and you've been mixing your serves up, but your opponent is hot and nothing is working effectively. What's a possible solution, short of simply getting better execution of your serves? My final approach is to focus on what I feel is my opponent's biggest weakness, since it has the greatest chance of breaking down under persistent pressure. Maybe his weakness hasn't surfaced yet, but I know if I can keep pounding away, I may finally begin to get the slightly weaker returns I need. And when I get these scoring opportunities, I know I have to capitalize on them. So what it may come down to, late in the second game or tiebreaker, is this: play the percentages by serving to your opponent's most exploitable area, because it will probably break down the quickest with time running out and the pressure mounting.

The Problem of Screen Serves

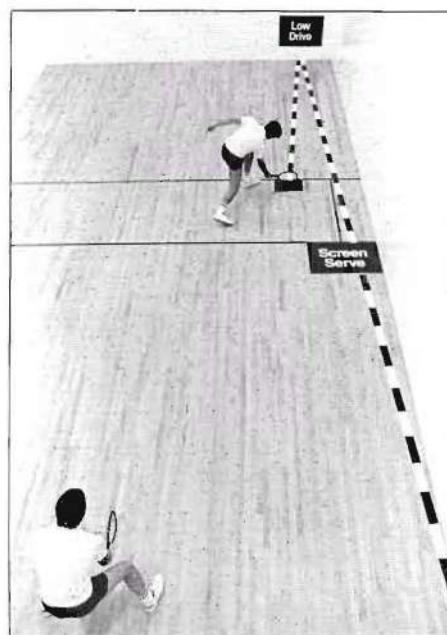
Screen serves are illegal, and they hurt the spirit of the game, but many players (including myself) have learned to hit them, taking advantage of a rule that is difficult to interpret and enforce. Basically, the rule states that the returner must have full view of the ball before it passes the server's body. (In reality, we're talking about low-drives hit from several areas in the service box.) Technically, there must be at least 18 inches between the server's body and



When you move away from the middle of the court to serve, you may eliminate one of your "Z" options. By moving to the right, the server here can hit low-drives to both back corners and a "Z" to his opponent's forehand, but he creates a virtually impossible angle for hitting a "Z" to the backhand corner.



Screen serves usually only come into play on low-drives, where the ball is hit low enough into the front wall for the server to block the returner's view of the ball. This is a subjective ruling in most cases, and one of the hardest interpretations in racquetball today.



Moving off to the left, the server is denying his opponent a good view of the ball before it passes by his body.

The returner appears to have a clear view of the ball here, but is often screened when the server steps in this direction.

the ball, to either side—but who can actually determine this margin when the ball is traveling 100 miles an hour or faster? Obviously interpretation enters in, along with inconsistency and controversy when a referee is doing the interpreting.

Screens may not be a problem in day-to-day matches around the club if you and your opponents try to play the game fairly, with a mutual respect for two basic rules: (1) the returner should be able to see the serve before it passes the server's body, and (2) the returner should not have to move his position in order to see the serve. Unfortunately, screens can cause considerable bickering in league and tournament play, where some players try to bend the rules as much as humanly possible.

Practice and Evaluation Tips

1. You don't need a lot of time to work on your serve—perhaps just 10 minutes out of a practice session or before you go to play a match—but practice hard. Remember: precision and consistency in hitting your target areas are absolutely crucial.

2. Set aside time by yourself on the court to concentrate on mastering the total movement: your two-step motion (on low-drives and hard "Z"s"), hitting your target area, and then relocating quickly and in good control—visualizing an opponent's low-zone return or defensive ceiling return.

3. Practice your two-step motion in front of a mirror so you can see the actual movements involved (as compared to the photos in this chapter). You can even mark off a 5-foot area in your living room or the back yard and then rehearse the motion without a ball.

4. Try to have part of one of your matches videotaped and you'll see for yourself just how effectively you're relocating to a position where you're as ready as possible to cover your oppo-

nent's return. In your mind you may think you're efficient—until you see yourself on the television screen. If you notice that you're slow getting back, this may be the reason why you're constantly being jammed or easily passed by an opponent's low-zone returns. (Of course, a friend can also watch for these things as you play.)

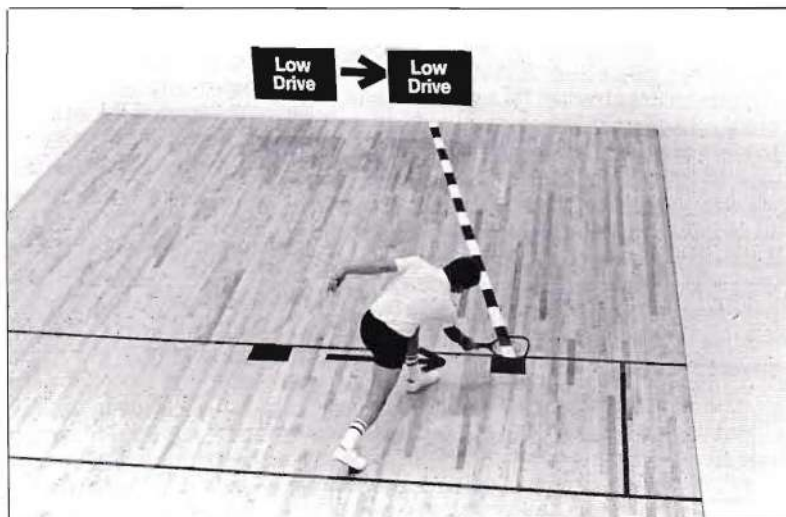
5. Put black tape on the front wall to mark your desired low-drive and "Z" targets when hitting from a specific location in the service box. Then try to groove your footwork motion and your stroke so that you contact the ball in the same relationship to your target as often as possible.

6. When you begin serving from different positions in the service box, and at different angles, remember that geometry is at work and

you must do your homework in practice by recalculating your targets. Getting all your front wall targets fixed in your mind takes diligence and concentration, but this is a fact of life for advanced players.

7. Practice hitting all your serves into both back corners so that you have a flexible attack for different types of opponents, especially that left-hander you always seem to face in the quarterfinals or semifinals.

8. Evaluate your serving accuracy. Your low-drive may *sound* great as it booms off the front wall, but when you objectively study it—by measuring fifty low-drives in practice or by having a friend chart one of your matches—you may discover that a high percentage are actually coming off the walls as setups. The same attention should be given to all your serves. ●



Notice how the server's low-drive target moves significantly to the right in relationship to his new hitting position.

GERRY PRICE CAPTURES FAT CITY OPEN #8

Gerry Price of Castro Valley, CA, whipped Bill Sell of Huntington, Beach, CA 11-5, 11-8, 11-3, to capture the \$2,000 first prize at the Eighth Annual Fat City Open Racquetball Championships held at Quail Lakes Athletic Club in Stockton, September 27-30. Gerry was at his finest—not losing one game the entire tournament. He cruised by Greg Bargas in the 16's; took apart Rich Wagner in the quarters 11-8, 11-4, 11-2; and met Ed Andrews in the semi's. The outcome was no different in this match—he beat Andrews in three straight 11-8, 11-2, 11-10. Other finalist Bill Sell, upset #1 seed Scott

Oliver, 5-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-8, 11-4, in the semifinals before bowing in the finals to Price.

In the women's finals, Marci Drexler defeated Theresa Nunn 11-5, 11-7, 11-8 to take home the \$500 first prize.

Scott Oliver and Gerry Price took the \$700 first prize in doubles by blasting Bill Sell and Brian Hawkes in the finals 15-3, 15-13. There were 290 amateur and pro players entered in the tournament.

Fat City Open
September 27-30
Stockton, California

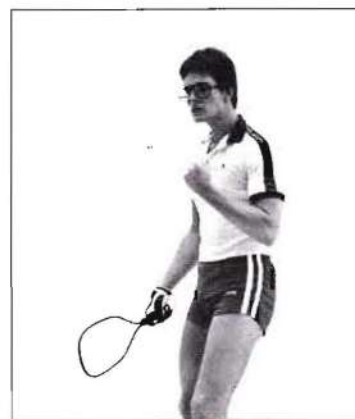
Seeded Players:

1. S. Oliver

2. G. Price
3. E. Andrews
4. B. Hawkes
5. B. Sell
6. S. Lerner
7. R. Wagner
8. M. Martino

Round of 16:

Scott Oliver d. Mike Bionfeld 2,6,3
Wade Beardsley d. Mark Martino 8,11,10
Bill Sell d. Mike Lowe 3,5,8
Brian Hawkes d. Stan Wright 4,9,10
Ed Andrews d. Paul Marino 9,4,2
Steve Lerner d. Scott Jensen 2,6,3
Rich Wagner d. Charles Scott 9,4,2



Gerry Price

Gerry Price d. Greg Bargas 6,2,3

Quarterfinals

Oliver d. Beardsley 3,5,6
Sell d. Hawkes 9,8,(1),4
Andrews d. Lerner (6),5,4,7
Price d. Wagner 6,2,3

Semifinals

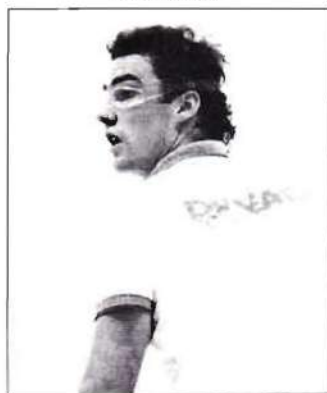
Sell d. Oliver (5),9,(7),8,4
Price d. Andrews 8,2,10

Final

PRICE d. Sell 5,8,3 ●

HARNETT WINS AT POMOMA VALLEY OPEN

Bret Harnett



The final match looked like a battlezone with Brett Harnett and Jeff Conine firing cannon-powered roll outs at the Second Annual Pomona Valley Championships.

Forty foot kills were as regular as machine gun fire in the September 27-30 tournament at the Claremont Club in California. When the shooting stopped, Harnett's pinpoint accuracy and quickness defeated Conine, 15-13, 15-5.

Conine, who was playing in his first tournament in a year and possibly the last of his career, last appeared 12 months ago when he overcame Ed Andrews in the finals of the Fifth Annual Irvine Clubhouse Shootout.

The 18-year-old freshman accepted a baseball scholarship at UCLA. So now, he will be striking out batters with his 94 mile per hour fastball instead of rolling out 100 mph kill shots.

Harnett breezed through the

preliminary rounds by defeating Mickey Bellah and Dan Factor. In the semifinals he overpowered Dave Johnson 15-11, 15-9.

Conine had no problem with Craig McCoy in the semis in a 15-4, 15-5 victory. He also had a fairly easy time with second seeded Corey Brysman in the quarterfinals. Conine won 11-3 in the tiebreaker after pounding Brysman 15-5 in the first game and losing the second one, 15-13.

Conine teamed up with McCoy

to overcome Brysman and John Mack, 15-12, 15-10, in the doubles final. In the men's "A" final, Brad Bona defeated Vince Jimenez 15-13, 15-12 and Neil Fettig overcame Hal Brown in the men's "B" final. National champion Vance Lerner dominated men's masters by dropping Gary Davis while Colleen Cardas overcame Judy Peterson in the women's "B" final.

The tournament included 220 entries and was sponsored by Ektelon, Nike, Sport Grip, and Ripe Plum. ●

ANDREWS TAKES SIXTH ANNUAL WESTERN COOKOUT

Ed Andrews defeated doubles partner Mark Martino, 15-14, 15-8, in the Sixth Annual Western Cookout and Racquetball Shootout at The Irvine Clubhouse, Irvine, California. The September 12-16 tournament was sponsored by Labatt's Beer, DP, Nike, Pen, Straw Hat Pizza,

A'ME, Sir Speedy Printing, RCM Sports, and Thorn EMI Computer Software, Inc., and Sports and Fitness.

Before the singles final, Andrews and Martino overpowered Clay Ballard and Scott Winters, 15-8, 15-10. Martino ripped four straight ace serves in the second game to gain the momentum after trailing, 10-5.

Neither Andrews or Martino had any trouble in the early rounds of singles competition. Andrews dropped Dennis Majher and Mike Martinez while Martino overpowered Marci Drexler and John Mack.

In the first game of the finals, Martino had an 8-2 lead, but Andrews persistently chipped away at the advantage. A change of pace midway through the game benefitted Andrews, who still trailed 9-7. He scored after two backhand lob serves gave him an easy set up for a kill shot, the other point came when Martino skipped in the service return.

When they switched back to the power game, Martino was

continued next page

HARDING LABORS TO WIN OUTDOOR EVENT

by Carol Herd

Actually, it was three "days of labor" in the scorching Southern California sun at Santa Ana College for more than 250 outdoor racquetball enthusiasts who participated in the 1st Annual Labor Day Classic.

In the three open divisions of play, competitors battled for over \$1,000 in prize money—which is rarely offered in outdoor play—with three-time outdoor national doubles champion Mark Harding of Westminster taking home top prize money of \$300.

Ray Medina, also of Westminster took Harding to an exciting fifth game tiebreaker in the championship match of the men's open singles division before Harding managed to put him away with 16-21, 20-22, 21-13,

21-15, 15-13 scores. Medina, third in the 1984 outdoor national's open singles division, claimed \$100.

Harding then teamed with Paul Olson of Westminster, his doubles partner of more than four years, to battle for the top money in the men's open doubles division, but the 1983 outdoor national doubles champions could not quite overcome Jaime Barker of Huntington Beach and Bill Chadwick of Norco, who gave the many sunburned but happy spectators another tense five-game championship match. The Barker-Chadwick team split \$250 when they downed Harding and Olson 21-12, 9-21, 21-18, 18-21, 15-13.

In the women's open singles division Dede Catherman of Fountain Valley was taken to a tie-breaking fifth game match by her long-time friend and doubles partner Sherri Knecht of Huntington Beach. Catherman easily swept the first two games 21-9, 21-9, but Knecht made a strong 21-12 third game comeback and managed to squeak by in the fourth, 21-19. Catherman, with two fresh defeats on her mind, then rallied for the tiebreaker, winning 15-9 to pocket \$100, while Knecht claimed \$75.

These two women then combined to snatch the men's B doubles consolation trophies away from local favorites Stan Lopez of Santa Ana and Joey Romo of Irvine in a 21-15, 21-16, 21-19 match.

Nationally, outdoor, in women's open singles play, Knecht holds the #3 spot while Catherman holds #4, as determined at the July 1984 outdoor Nationals in Costa Mesa, California.

Players and spectators got a special treat at this tournament when Lynn Adams, the #1 outdoor woman singles player in the world, and for the moment the #2 titlist on the Women's

Professional Racquetball Association tour, came out for the tournament. (She's #2 for the 83-84 season, having narrowly lost in overall season points to arch rival Heather McKay in their unending see-saw battle to be top dog of the WPRA.)

27-year-old Adams, of Costa Mesa, who began her racquetball career outdoor at Costa Mesa's Orange Coast College seven years ago, managed to make it into the semifinals in a division that had 31 men, including most of the top national outdoor players and an indoor club pro or two.

She knocked off top-seeded outdoor national singles champion Dan Southern (1980, 2nd in '81, '82 and '84) of Huntington Beach in the quarterfinals in an exciting 15-10, 15-12, 13-15, 10-15, 15-9 match, but when she came up against Ray Medina in the semis she couldn't quite pull it off, but she played an excellent 21-15, 14-21, 21-18, 21-19 match, almost forcing him to tiebreaker.

Adams forfeited to Westminster's Greg Freeze for the third place spot, after suffering a slight elbow injury when she dove for a ball on the cement in her semifinal morning match.

At the start of the tournament, Adams was asked why she decided to risk injury and play outdoor (that cement's darn hard on skin and bone) with the WPRA tour starting in October and she said, "I love to play outdoor. The people are a lot of fun. It's a nice break from the indoor circuit.

"But I'm very realistic about my chances in a men's open division. If I happen to win some matches along the way, that makes it that much more fun," she grinned.

Her remarks seemed quite modest by Sunday when she was right up there with the top men. In the open doubles division she and her husband, Jim Carson, made it all the way to

the quarterfinals in a field of 24, and were only knocked out of the running by the championship team of Barker and Chadwick in another hard-fought 15-9, 16-18, 17-15, 15-10 battle.

Adams showed her championship style and sportsmanship when she returned to the tournament on Sunday afternoon to referee (from her forfeit loss for third), having already reffed and gone home after her semifinal morning loss. (In outdoor play, losers referee, not winners.)

The eight Santa Ana College outdoor courts are quite different in size from Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa and Golden West College in Huntington Beach, the two most popular spots in the nation for outdoor tournaments.

Essentially, Santa Ana College courts are indoor courts, minus back wall and ceiling, while Orange Coast and Golden West courts are "short wall" and much wider and longer than indoor spec's.

Indoor players adapt very quickly to the Santa Ana courts, and tournament director Carol Herd hopes that the combination of court size and prize money will attract more top Southern California indoor players to the projected four tournaments a year to be held there.

"It could become a real battle ground between indoor and outdoor players," she says.

In the November 23, 24, 25 Thanksgiving weekend tournament at Santa Ana College, an 'A' singles men's division with prize money will be offered for the first time outdoor.

There's nothing quite like the atmosphere at an outdoor tournament. You can kick back on the grass under a tree or canopy and keep your eye on several matches at once, or catch 40 winks between your own rounds. You can also work on your suntan if you're so inclined; or be sure and bring a gallon of

Andrews from page 45

able to extend his lead to 12-9 with a backhand jam serve which hit the crack, and two backhand kills. Still, Andrews managed to tie the score at 13 with an ace serve.

Martino was the first to make it to 14 on a set up off the back wall, but, he made two crucial mistakes to give Andrews the win. Martino went for a winner but skipped the point and he lost the game when he was stuck along the forehand wall as Andrews passed him on the other side.

In the second game, Martino trailed 6-1 and 10-3. The closest he came to Andrews was 11-7, then Andrews regained control for a 15-8 win.

In the women's open division, Marci Drexler, a top amateur and rising professional, edged Karen Walton-Trent in the tiebreaker.

The tournament drew over 250 participants, mostly from Southern California. However, several came from the San Francisco Bay area, and one entrant came from as far away as Chicago. ●

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sun screen, otherwise.

Throw in a few dozen miscellaneous kids, a few dogs (not on the courts), the frisbee, softball and football hurlers, lots of friends and family there to watch you play and picnic, and it's easy to see why Lynn Adams says, "I love to play outdoor. The people are a lot of fun."

This was a charity-sports event and the second racquetball tournament ever held at Santa Ana College. Sponsor was the Santa Ana Neighborhood Housing Services, a non-profit community organization, which has ear-marked tournament profits for its neighborhood youth project, in which young people from the community are hired and trained to do home repairs for the elderly, handicapped, single mothers, and anyone else who qualifies.

Santa Ana College administration generously donated the courts and AMF Voit donated balls and other sports equipment.

HEAD TO HEAD COMPETITION

This is the Head to Head Competition Chart for the top 15 men and women professionals.

How to read this chart: For any player, the won/loss record against every other player is read horizontally opposite his/her name.

Men's	HOGAN	YELLEN	G. PECK	HARNETT	D. PECK	GONZALEZ	HILECHER	OLIVER	PRICE	ANDREWS	HAWKES	NEWMAN	SELL	THOMAS	LEVINE
M HOGAN		2-5	0-1	5-1	3-0	1-0	2-0	2-0	2-1	3-0	2-0	3-0		3-0	
M YELLEN	5-2		4-1		3-1	2-0	3-0	1-0	1-1	1-0	1-0	1-0	2-1		1-0
G PECK	1-0	1-4		3-3	0-5	1-1	1-0	0-1	2-0	1-0	1-0		2-0		
B HARNETT	1-5		3-3		1-0	2-0	2-0	0-1	2-1	1-0	1-0				0-1
D PECK	0-3	1-3	5-0	0-1		3-0	0-1		1-1	1-1	0-1	1-0			1-0
R GONZALEZ	0-1	0-2	1-1	0-2	0-3		1-0	1-1	0-1			1-0			1-0
J HILECHER	0-2	0-3	0-1	0-2	1-0	0-1		1-0	0-1	1-1	1-0	1-1	2-0		
S OLIVER	0-2	0-1	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-1	0-1		2-0	0-1		0-1			
G PRICE	1-2	1-1	0-2	1-2	1-1	1-0	1-0	0-2		1-0		1-0	1-0		
E ANDREWS	0-3	0-1	0-1	0-1	1-1		1-1	1-0	0-1		1-0				1-1
B HAWKES	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1		0-1			0-1					1-0
J NEWMAN	0-3	0-1				0-1	1-1	1-0	0-1					1-0	
B SELL		1-2	0-2				0-2		0-1					2-0	
D THOMAS	0-3											0-1	0-2		1-0
M LEVINE		0-1		1-0	0-1	0-1				1-1	0-1			0-1	

Women's

	McKAY	ADAMS	WRIGHT	GILREATH	PANZERI	DAVIS	MARRIOTT	McKINNEY	JACKSON	BARRETT	GARDNER	GREER	HARDING	STOLL	STUPP
H McKAY		4-2	2-0	1-0		2-0	1-0	2-0	2-0			1-0		2-0	
L ADAMS	2-4		2-0	2-0	2-0	1-0	1-0	3-0		3-0		1-0		1-0	1-0
S W-HAMILTN	0-2	0-2		1-0	1-0				1-0		1-0		1-0		
T GILREATH	0-1	0-2	0-1					1-0	2-1		1-0		0-1		
V PANZERI		0-2	0-2			1-1	1-0							1-1	0-1
F DAVIS	0-2	0-1			1-1		2-0	0-1	1-0		0-1	1-0			1-0
S MARRIOTT	0-1	0-1			0-1	0-2		0-1	1-1	1-0			3-0	1-0	
C McKINNEY	0-2	0-3		0-1		1-0	1-0			1-0	1-0	0-1			
J JACKSON	0-2		0-1	1-2		0-1	1-1						2-0		
B BARRETT		0-3					0-1	0-1			1-0	1-0			1-1
P GARDNER			0-1	0-1		1-0		0-1		0-1			1-0		
M GREER	0-1	0-1				0-1		1-0		0-1					
J HARDING			0-1	1-0			0-3		0-2		0-1				
B STOLL	0-2	0-1			1-1		0-1								
H STUPP		0-1			1-0	0-1				1-1					

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MEN'S PRO STOPS

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
NOV 15-18	Kings Court Racquetball Club 3000 South Blackburn Amarillo, TX 79109 Tony Rea (806) 359-5438	\$6,000
DEC 6-9	Schoeber's Racquetball Spa Pleasanton Club 44250 Warm Springs Blvd., Suite #9 Fremont, CA 94539 John O'Donovan (415) 651-1584 *Total money tentative	\$12,000*
JAN 23-27	Arizona Athletic Club 1425 West 14th Street Tempe, AZ 85281 Jack Nolan (602) 894-2281 *Total money tentative	\$10,000*
FEB 6-10	Tulsa Pro/Am (918) 587-8883 or (918) 254-1843 Mark Farbairn *Minimum prize money	\$10,000*
FEB 18-24	Griffith Park Athletic Club 4925 S.W. Griffith Drive Beaverton, OR 97005 Devri Doty (503) 644-3900 *Tentative	\$10,000*
MAR 1-3	Crack Shooter Open Rocky Mountain Health Club 1880 Estland Road Cheyenne, WY 82001 Steve Gallassini (307) 634-8884 *Total money tentative	\$10,000*
MAY	Ektelon Nationals STBA	\$22,500
JUNE	DP Nationals STBA	\$40,000

WOMEN'S PRO STOPS

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
NOV 30-DEC 2	Celebrity Courts 500 Quaker Lane Warwick, RI 02886 Frank Rawcliffe (401) 826-1800	\$ 6,000
JAN 17-20	Sports Gallery Jim Carson (714) 968-4313	\$10,000
FEB 15-17	Racquets Edge Recreation Center Vermont Leslie Brenker (802) 879-7734	\$ 6,000
FEB 22-24*	Stamford RB & Fitness Club 49 Brownhouse Road Stamford, CT 06902	\$ 6,000

Peter Donahue

(203) 324-6160

*Date Tentative

MAY	Ektelon Nationals STBA	\$18,700
JUNE	WPRA Nationals Ft. Worth, TX Ken Newell (817) 284-3353	\$22,000

NOVEMBER

Nov. 8-11 Turkey Shoot *3 Sundown Dewitt Whitewaters Parkway DeWitt, NY 13214 Jim Winterton 315-446-0376	Academy Court Club 5555 McLeod NE Albuquerque, NM 87109
Nov. 9-11 3rd Annual Miller Lite Open *3 Supreme Courts Washington, PA John Feiak 412-228-4545	Nov. 15-18 1984 Turkey Shoot Rallysport 2727 29th St. Boulder, CO 80302 Phil Rhoades 303-449-4800
Nov. 9-11 Fireplace Connection Gillette Parks & Recreation 1000 Douglas Highway Gillette, WY 82716 Jim Crisp	Nov. 16-18 1st Annual TV Facts Open *3 Boulevard Racquet Club Boulevard Mall 1185 Niagra Falls Blvd. Buffalo, NY 14226
Nov. 9-11 Michigan Championship Series *3 Grand Rapids, MI Diane Drivers 900 Long Blvd. #423 Lansing, MI 48910	Nov. 16-18 4-Wall Outdoor State *4 Recreation Center 202 W. Park St. Auburndale, FL
Nov. 9-11 Cedardale Holiday Open *3 931 Boston Rd. Haverhill, MA 01830 Ed Henley 617-683-4870	Nov. 16-18 6th Annua Turkey Shoot *3 Nashville Supreme Court 4633 Trousdale Nashville, TN 37204 Jerry Dixon 615-832-7529
Nov. 9-11 Riva Open Racquetball Tournament *3 Royal Racquet Club 1718 Rollins Road Burlingame, CA 94010 415-692-3300	Nov. 16-18 Alpha Health Spa Sunset Open *3 Idaho Falls, ID
Nov. 9-11 "Think Snow" Mountain Valley Court Club Rt. #16 North Conway, NH 03860 Susan Rowan 603-356-5774	Nov. 16-18 Broadwater Club 4920 Highway 12 West Helena, MT 59601
Nov. 9-11 WRA #7 *3 Tyrone Racquetball Club 6690 Crosswinds St. Petersburg, FL 33710	Nov. 16-18 Coors/Kelo Pro Am Russell Courts 817 W. Russell Sioux Falls, SD 57104 605-338-9902
Nov. 14-18 Men's & Women's A,B,C,D *3 HeatherRidge Racquet Club 13321 E. Iliff Aurora, CO 80014 Bob Vigil 303-755-3440	Nov. 16-18 Court Club East *3 916 S. Gouverneur Wichita, KS 67207 316-683-1442
Nov. 15-18 Academy Awards	Nov. 16-18 Indiana State Doubles *4 Sports Illustrated 3150 45th Street Highland, IN 46322 Fred Bojrab 219-924-0690
	Nov. 16-18 Long Island Open *3 Sports Set RB & Fitness 10 Gordon Dr. Syosset, NY 11791 Al Seitelman

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

516-496-3100

Nov. 16-18
March of Dimes Open *3
Court South
100 Olde Towne Rd.
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
Sonny Harmon
823-2120

Nov. 16-18
Mid Court's Turkey Shoot Open *3
20 N E Dixie Hwy Route 707
Stuart, FL 33494
Shirley Smith
305-692-9488

Nov. 16-18
Mr. Steak Open *3
Wall Street Racquet Club
3120 Bradshaw
Sacramento, CA 95827
916-363-4838

Nov. 16-18
Player Cup Invitational *3
Benefit for US Nat'l Team
Davison Racquetball Club
G-2140 Fairway Club
Davison, MI 48423
313-653-9602

Nov. 16-18
RCM Sports Open *3
Kings Court
260 Mayfield Mall
Mountain View, CA 94043
415-965-2409

Nov. 16-18
YMCA Open
Casper YMCA
Casper, WY

Nov. 17-18
Lehigh Valley Open *3
Allentown Racquet Club
Allentown, PA 18011
Mary Musiewicz
215-821-1300

Nov. 19-21
Fall Racquetball Classic
Evergreen Athletic Club
2932 State Highway 74
Evergreen, CO 80439
Barry Riddle
303-674-6902

Nov. 23-25
Annual Turkey Shoot *3
King Court Racquetball Club
Erie, PA
Fran Mifsud
814-825-8626

Nov. 23-25
Racquetball West Tournament *3
7777 SW 39th Street
Davie, FL 33328

Nov. 25-27
Jr. & Adult Doubles *3
Sheridan YMCA
417 N. Jefferson
Sheridan, WY 82801
Jay McGinness

Nov. 29-Dec. 2
Christmas Classic *3
Schoeber's Racquetball Club
534 Owen Ct.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
415-846-0950
CONTINUED ON DEC. 6

Nov. 29-Dec. 2
Auburn Freeze Out *3
27 William Street
Auburn, NY 13021
Dorothea Hughes
315-253-5304

Nov. 30-Dec. 1
Cheyenne Classic *3
Cheyenne Rocky Mountain Fitness Center
1880 Westland Rd.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
634-8884

Nov. 30-Dec. 1
"The Works"
246 Rt. #16
Somersworth, NH 03878
603-742-2163

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
2nd Annual East Longmeadow Open *3
Racquetball East Fitness Center
44 Crane Ave.
E. Longmeadow, MA 01028

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Cascade Open *3
2725 169th St. SE
Bothell, WA 98011
206-481-4081

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Gold Rush *3
Stone Mountain Athletic Club
5895 Memorial Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
404-296-1333

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Kentucky Racquetball Assoc. Tour Stop
1984 Bluegrass Open
Northpark Racquetball Fitness Center
Lexington, KY

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Royal Racquetball *3
Suffolk County
Old Country Road
Coram, NY 11727
732-5500

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Sports World/Bannock Civitan *3
Pocatello, ID

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Super Seven *3
Coliseum RB Club
Jim Hiser
313-653-9602

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Tampa Bay Courthouse *3
7815 N. Dale Mabry
Tampa, FL 33614
Carl Nicks

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
The Courthouse
Box 4365
3821 Stevens
Missoula, MT 59801

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
U.S. Nat'l Women's Invitational *5
Tampa Bay Courthouse
7815 North Dale Mabry
Tampa, FL 33164
Carl Nicks
813-5321

DECEMBER

Dec. 3-7
Holiday Classic *3

Plaza Athletic Club
650 N. Pearl Lock Box 124
Plaza of the Americas
Dallas, TX 75201
Steve Whiffen
214-922-0110

Dec. 6-10
Christmas Classic *3
Schoeber's Racquetball Club
534 Owen Ct.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
415-846-0950

Dec. 6-9
Santa Fe Holiday Classic
Santa Fe Courthouse & Spa
1931 Warner
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dec. 6-10
Singers '85
International Athletic Club
1630 Welton
Denver, CO 80202
Cynthia Howard

Dec. 7-9
Family Fitness Center
2510 Oakmont Way
Eugene, OR 97401
Dianne Gregoire
687-2811

Dec. 7-9
Holiday Classic *3
Burien RBC
Burein, WA
Sid Williams
5227 S. Puget Sound Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98409

Dec. 7-9
Kentucky Racquetball Assoc. Tour Stop
Greentree Racquetball Club
Clarksville, IN

Dec. 7-9
Michigan Championships Series *4
Blanc Racquet Club
Michigan

Dec. 7-9
Racquet Power Tournament *3
3390 Kori Road
Jacksonville, FL 32223

Dec. 7-9
Summit City Open
Singles & Juniors
Summit City
5928 Trner Rd.
Ft. Wayne, IN 46805
Janet Coffey
219-485-1671

Dec. 14-16
1984 Space Coast Open *3
Body Tech
1525 W. Nasa Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32951
305-768-2757

Dec. 14-16
Grand Rapids Patrons Tour *2
Holland, Michigan
Lee Fredrickson
616-672-7736

Dec. 14-16
Universal Sports & Courts
715 13th Ave. S. Box 6548
Great Falls, MT 59406

Dec. 15-16
MAC Christmas Classic-Juniors
Montgomery Athletic Club
5765 Carmichael Pkwy
Montgomery, AL 36117
Turby Treadway
227-7130

JANUARY

Jan. 4-6
New Year Open *3
Mountain Valley Court Club
Rt. #16
North Conway, NH 03101
Susan Rowan
603-346-5774

Jan. 4-6
Sundown East Leukemia Benefit *3
Sundown East
6810 Kinnett
East Syracuse, NY 13057
315-437-1303

Jan. 4-6
Super 7 *4
Rose Shores Racquet Club
MI
Jim Hiser

Jan. 10-12
New Mexico Invitational
Tom Young's Athletic Club & Spa
2250 Wyoming Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Jan. 11-13
3rd Annual Adirondack Open *3
Glen Falls YMCA
Dennis Bradle
Star Route Box 130
Glen Falls, NY 12801
518-789-1036

Jan. 11-13
Indy Open-Singles
Court Club
3455 Harper Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46240
Sonny Moon
317-846-1111

Jan. 11-13
Metropolitan Health Spa *3
Pocatello, ID

Jan. 11-13
Michigan Championship Series #6
Oakland Racquet Club-MI

Jan. 11-13
New Jersey Mixed Doubles Champs
The Atlantic Club
1904 Atlantic Ave.
Wall Township, NJ 07719
201-223-2100

Jan. 11-13
Powell Open *3
Mountain West Club
740 Lane 9 1/2 RR3
Powell, WY 82435
754-5775

Jan. 11-13
UCP Benefit *3
Supreme Court Club
155 Ashley Ave.
West Springfield, MA 01089
Ken Pulsford
413-781-0181

RANKINGS

MEN'S RANKINGS

The men's pro rankings are based on a 10-tournament rotating schedule. For each new ranking event that is added to the list, one event (the oldest event on the previous list) is dropped. The ten events used this month are:

- Chicago, IL, 1983
- Atlanta, GA, 1983
- Davison, MI, 1983
- Pleasanton, CA, 1983
- Beaverton, OR, 1984
- Anaheim, CA, 1984
- Austin, TX, 1984
- Atlanta, GA, 1984
- Davison, MI, 1984
- Stockton, CA, 1984

The ranking system utilizes the following point system:

- Winner 120 pts
- Second 90 pts
- Semifinalist 70 pts
- Quarterfinalist 50 pts
- Round-of-16 30 pts
- Round-of-32 10 pts
- Round-of-64 2 pts

The total points accumulated by a player during the 10 listed events are totaled and divided by the number of events in which he participated (called the divider). The largest possible divider is 10, and the minimum divider is 4.

The earliest round of a tournament where points are awarded is the first round in which the top seed appears, even if he draws a bye. No points are awarded for qualifying rounds.

If a player has entered himself in the draw and forfeits, he is awarded 0 points and his divider is increased by 1. (Forfeits are signified on the ranking chart with an "F").

The women's rankings are the official rankings of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA).

The amateur rankings are the official rankings of the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA).

MEN'S PRO RANKINGS SEPTEMBER 4, 1984

THIS MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	M. Hogan	91.00
2	M. Yellen	81.11
3	G. Peck	65.00
4	B. Harnett	62.22
5	D. Peck	60.00
6	R. Gonzalez	56.00
7	J. Hilecher	47.78
8	S. Oliver	47.14
9	G. Price	45.56
10	E. Andrews	36.00
11	B. Hawkes	30.00
12	J. Newman	28.00
13	B. Sell	27.50
14T	D. Thomas	26.67
14T	M. Levine	26.67
16	D. Cohen	26.00
17	C. Brysman	23.33
18	S. Lerner	22.50
19	R. Wagner	21.67
20	J. Egerman	21.43
21	C. McCoy	17.50
22	A. Gross	17.43
23	C. Swain	16.00
24	M. Ray	15.71
25	M. Antes	15.50
26T	L. Myers	15.00
26T	L. Gilliam	15.00
26T	S. Moskwa	15.00
26T	E. Terry	15.00
30	D. Gross	14.44
31T	B. Koltun	12.50
31T	M. Martino	12.50
31T	D. Obremski	12.50
34T	P. Britos	10.00
34T	B. Valin	10.00
34T	D. Simmonette	10.00
34T	B. Mitchell	10.00
38T	D. Johnson	8.00
38T	J. Sacco	8.00
40T	L. Fox	7.50
40T	D. Ferris	7.50
40T	K. Vantrease	7.50
43	D. Green	5.50
43T	M. Plotkin	5.50
45T	K. Kamalu	5.00
45T	D. Negrete	5.00
45T	J. Cascio	5.00
45T	G. Texeria	5.00
45T	J. Nolan	5.00
45T	S. Perry	5.00
45T	S. Gonzales	5.00

WPRA RANKINGS SEPTEMBER 4, 1984

THIS MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Heather McKay	322.00
2	Lynn Adams	302.50
3	S. Wright Hamilton	165.00
4	Terri Gilreath	117.75
5	Vicki Panzeri	94.50
6	Francine Davis	93.00
7	Janell Marriott	88.50
8	Caryn McKinney	88.00
9	Joyce Jackson	66.00
10	Brenda Barrett	59.00
11	Peggy Gardner	48.75
12T	Marci Greer	40.50
12T	Jennifer Harding	40.50
14	Bonnie Stoll	40.00
15	Heather Stupp	36.75
16	Laura Martino	32.75
17	Liz Alvarado	28.00
18	Molly O'Brien	26.00
19	Marcy Lynch	24.00
20	Carol Pranka	22.50
21	Martha McDonald	20.00
22	Mary Dee	18.00
23	Diane Bullard	15.50
24T	Rita Hoff Scott	15.00
24T	Stacey Fletcher	15.00
26	Val Paese	13.00
27T	Babette Bell	12.50
27T	Trina Rasmussen	12.50
29T	Leslie Clifford	10.00
29T	Marci Drexler	10.00
29T	Monique Parent	10.00
32	Susie Carlos	7.50
33	Jean Sauser	6.00
34	Suzanne Robert	5.50
35T	Kay Kuhfeld	5.00
35T	Peggy Steding	5.00
37T	Donna Meyer	3.00
37T	Elaine Riley	3.00
39T	Diane Adams	2.50
39T	Cindy Baxter	2.50
39T	Kippi Bishop-Thulin	2.50
39T	Susie Campbell	2.50
39T	Lisa Devine	2.50
39T	Cindy Donnelly	2.50
39T	Carol Dupuy	2.50
39T	Lynn Farmer	2.50
39T	Dot Fishl	2.50
39T	Melodie Fox	2.50
39T	Terri Graham	2.50
39T	Carrie Healy	2.50
39T	Tamara Low	2.50

AARA NATIONAL MEN'S RANKINGS JULY 12, 1984

NAME	REG. POINTS
1. Sergio Gonzalez	685
2. Tim Hansen	593
3. Dan Obremski	570
4. Dennis Aceto	550
5. Cliff Swain	550
6. Andy Roberts	480
7. Fred Calabrese	380
8. Mark Morrison	375
9. Jim Cascio	370
10. John Bouchard	317
11. Don Costleigh	305
12. Bubba Gajtner	293
13. Mike Ray	280
14. Brian Titus	279
15. Jim Cullen	260
16. Randy Olson	257
17. Dan Ferris	250
18. Gene Fitzpatrick	247
19. Scott St. Onge	235
20. Mike Lowe	230
21. Jim Owen	220
22. Tony Gabriel	215
23. Tom Neill	210
24. Brian Mitchell	204
25. Don Kelly	200

AARA NATIONAL WOMEN'S RANKINGS JULY 12, 1984

NAME	POINTS
1. Cindy Baxter	550
2. Mary Dee	500
3. Terri Graham	370
4. Susan Sanders	317
5. Joy Eon	314
6. Dot Fischl	300
7. Mary Holroyd	290
8. Joyce Beaudoin	280
9. Jan Curtis	260
10. Kathy Gluvna	255
11. Martha Adams	230
12. B. Bell	230
13. Robin Levine	230
14. Chris Upson	220
15. Marie Younger	210
16. B. Crawley	200
17. Terri Latham	200
18. Jessica Rubin	200
19. Malia Kamahoahoa	175
20. Elaine Mardas	175
21. Melanie Britton	170
22. Kate Conway	160
23. Mary Lyons	160
24. Toni Bevelock	150
25. Janet Simon	150



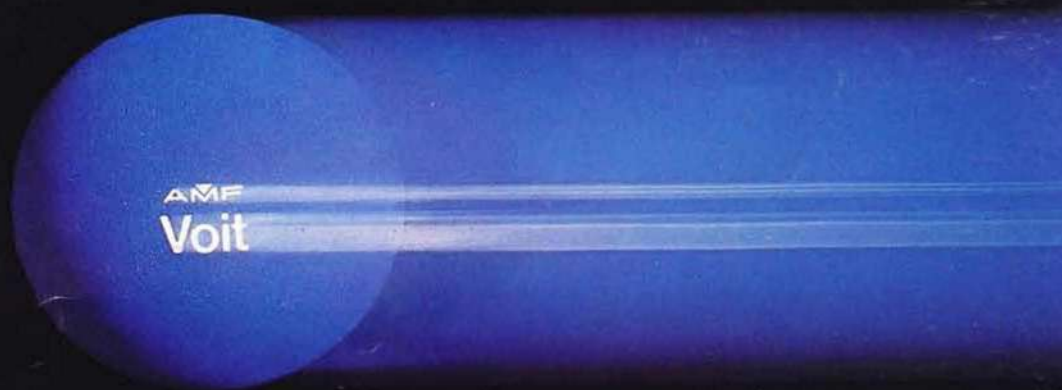
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