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Features

- 17** **The Grand Finale**
1980 AARA National Singles
Championships
• Charlie Garfinkel
- 24** **Service Hinders**
Racquetball in the Military
• Tom Slear
- 37** **Pro Qualifying**
The Battle for Last Place
• George Bilgere and John Foust
- 47** ***SPECIAL SECTION* The
Best of Racquetball**
Humor, Feature, Instruction, Final
AARA Rankings

Departments

- 8** **New Directions**
Message From Our New Leader
- 9** **Receiving Line**
Letters to the Editor
- 10** **Players' Forum**
A New Way to Score

- 11** **Industry News**
People and Equipment

- 12** **Juniors' Page**
Youngsters on the Move

- 14** **Pro Page**
News from the Front

- 40** **Calendar**
Upcoming Tournaments

- 42** **First Service**
Court Club Openings

- 43** **Winning Points**
For Beginners Only
• Ralph Wickstrom

- 45** **Winning Points**
Fine-Tuning Your Footwork
• Mike Yellen

- 59** **AARA Constitution**
The Big Plan

- 62** **Scorecard**
Tournament Results

COVER: Photo by Deborah Cota

Volume 9 • Number 7 • July/August, 1980

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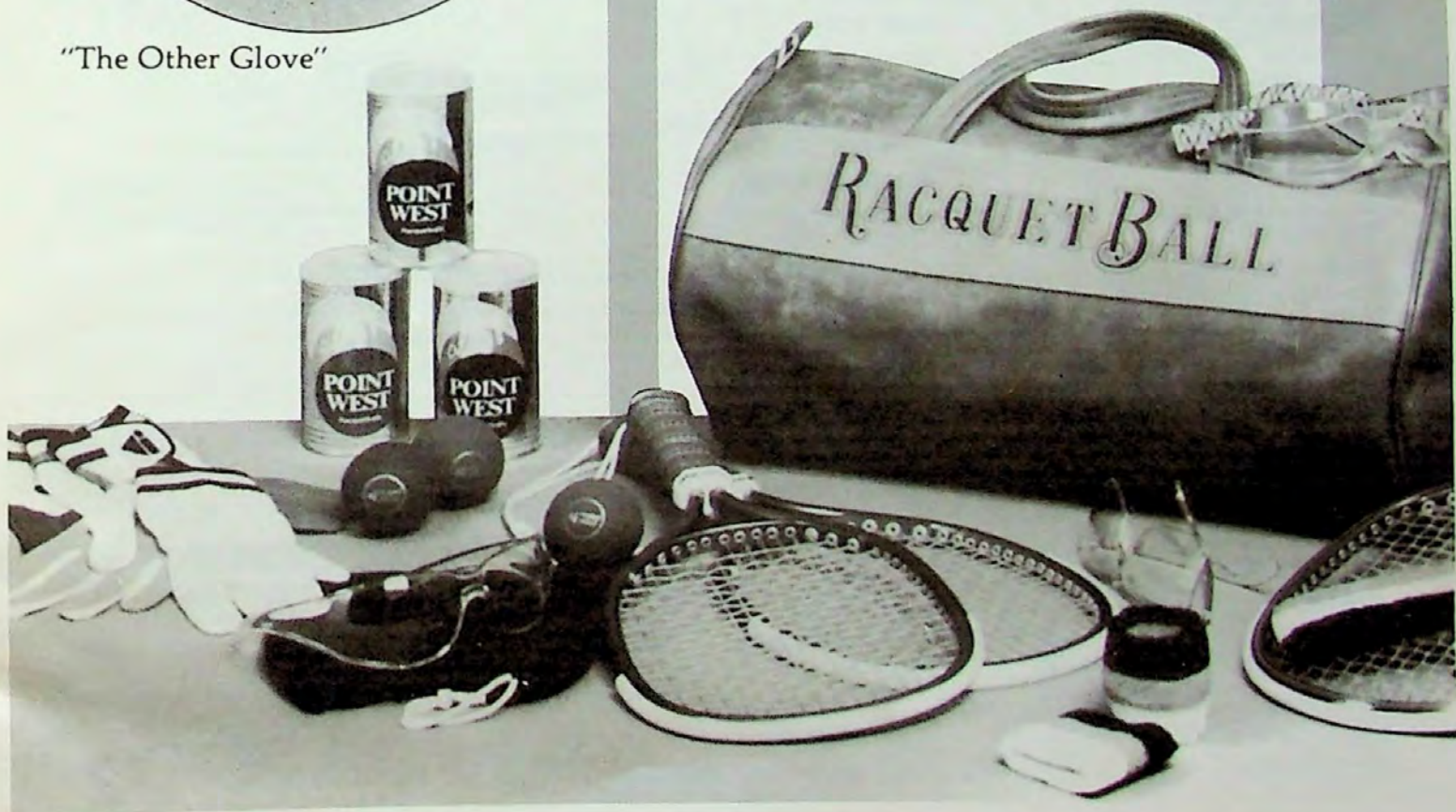
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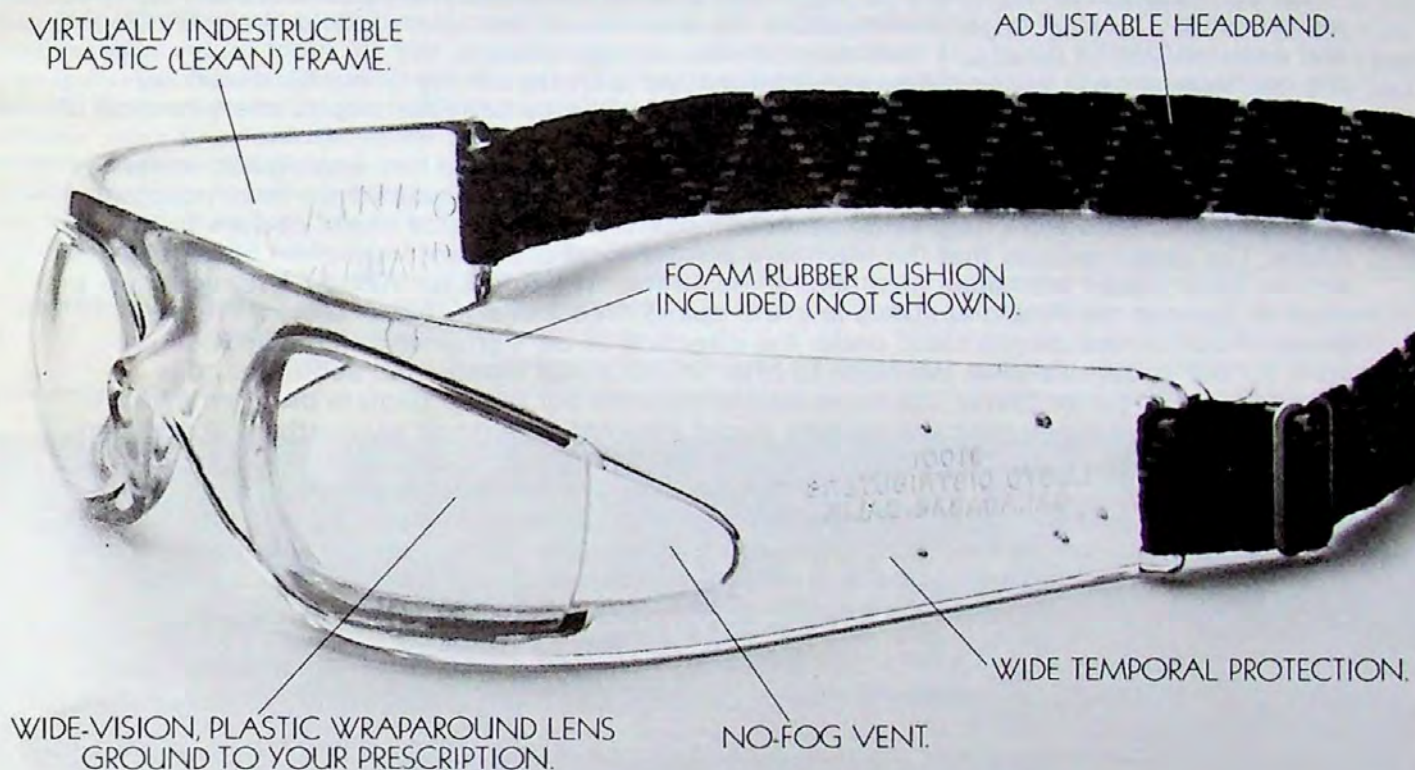
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NEW DIRECTIONS

Dear Members:

The 1980 AARA National Singles Championships are over, but the outcome of the week-long activities, we hope, will have impact on racquetball for many years. Among the many events held during the week in Miami were a highly successful tournament, several productive AARA meetings and many individual and group discussions about the positive direction in which the AARA is headed.

The AARA board of directors has elected me as their new president for the coming year. I accept this position with enthusiasm and a commitment to the continual growth of the AARA. We have a strong board who are willing to put forth the effort necessary for a superior association. Other officers include: Vice President, Bob Klass; National Commissioner, Fred White; National Rules Commissioner, Jim Austin; Secretary/Treasurer, John Lepore; and National Juniors Commissioner, Ed Martin.

The future is extremely bright for the AARA and for the amateur players that make up the membership. The total organization, under the direction of executive director Luke St. Onge and assistant Hallie Singer, is committed to the amateur players. We are most happy with the continual growth of our state organizations and with the efforts of our hard-working regional directors. We are expanding each day and will provide leadership to every section of the United States.

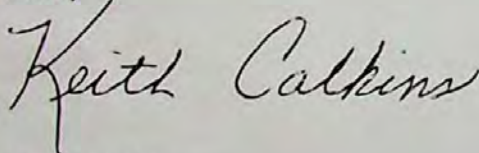
There are many immediate challenges ahead in 1980. The board has established some specific goals that will be given priority. We can accomplish our goals if we have constant *communication* and work hard as an association. We need the voice of the players in the AARA. The board realizes that the members are the most important ingredient to success and we have placed increased membership as an important goal for 1980-81. We also have a need to improve our financial status and will spend time and effort in this area. We are proud of our juniors program and under the direction of Ed Martin we will expand the program for our youth this year. We hope to offer instructional camps and additional tournaments for the junior player. We hope also to improve our intercollegiate program and will encourage more college men and women to get involved in amateur racquetball. In addition, it is our hope that our national ranking system will be more effective this coming year.

The board also discussed the need for a rules case book and for improvement in the referees in amateur racquetball. We therefore hope to get a certification program for referees established in the near future. Jim Austin, rules commissioner, needs your input and help in these areas. A copy of the rules book is included in this issue of the magazine, and we'll provide the membership with the new edition when it is printed this fall.

The board has also set a goal of 100 percent increase in sanctioned tournaments in 1980-81. We encourage each player to participate in our sanctioned tournaments and, when you run a tournament, we encourage you to get it sanctioned. We need your assistance in achieving this goal.

Also included in this issue of the magazine is a copy of the AARA constitution. After reviewing this document you will again be assured that our organization is for you — the players — and we cannot operate without your input. With this thought I again remind you to *communicate* with us. Assist us in making the coming year the best ever for the AARA. See you in Boston for the National Doubles.

Best,



Keith Calkins
President, AARA

P.S. There are many other exciting things happening with the AARA. Luke St. Onge will keep you informed of our involvement through this column. A special thanks to the Sportrooms for their efforts in Miami and to the National Commissioner Fred White, for his efforts. Congratulations to all the national champions!

RECEIVING LINE

Letters To The Editor

Your April article entitled, "Contempt of Court," was an excellent commentary on the current status of manners — or, more appropriately, the lack of manners — in racquetball today.

There exists many practical reasons for improving our sport's on-conduct, including the approval of image-conscious sponsors and tournament spectators. But perhaps the two most compelling reasons should be to set a decent standard for youngsters and to be able to live with ourselves.

I can assure you that the Women's Professional Racquetball Association will constantly strive to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship.

Thank you for having the courage to print what many have been saying for years. Keep up the good work . . .

Dan M. Seaton,
Commissioner, Women's Professional
Racquetball Association
Las Vegas, Nev.

■ ■ ■

What I appreciated more than anything about the 1980 National Singles tournament was your scheduling a 65-and-over division even though there were only two entrants. It is very important for the future of racquetball, in my opinion, to schedule these new divisions and to hold them at least for a few years regardless of the number of people who attend.

I remember that only two years ago there were only about five entrants in the over-60 division and only Ike Gumer and I had any degree of development to our games. This year, of course, there were 13 entrants in that division, and a lot of them were excellent racquetball players. I predict that the over-60 division could well go beyond the 16 bracket draw next year and that you will have several more entrants in the over-65.

So let me congratulate you on your decision to hold the over-65 event. It was a welcome change from the decisions some committees make not to hold a certain division if they don't get the exact number of entries they want. Do keep it up in the future.

My biggest suggestion for constructive

change for next year is not to require the older division entrants to play two matches in one day except in very special instances. We may like to pretend that we are about as young and strong as ever, but our level of play really goes down in that second match if the first one is tough.

I know that many people don't want a tournament to drag out too long and that it is out of consideration for these people that you schedule the event over such a brief period. From my own feelings, however, and from talking to others at this tournament, I believe they would much rather come a day early than have to play two matches in one day. The top seeded players, of course, get the byes, and when an unseeded player has to play a match in the morning and come back against a seeded player in the afternoon who hasn't had to play at all, the odds against an upset become too great. ■

Alex Guerri
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Racquetball welcomes correspondence from its readers. Letters are subject to editing for clarity and length.

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A NEW WAY TO SCORE

By Jim Austin

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Austin is a champion racquetballer, a teaching professional and president of the Houston (Texas) Racquetball Association. The AARA welcomes responses to his proposed changes in the current scoring system.

I have had the fun and pleasure of playing racquetball for the past 17 years. During this time I have seen a lot of changes in the rules of the game, some good and some bad. However, in all these years, and all of the rule changes, only a couple of times have we looked at the scoring system.

The AARA decided to try two out of three games to 15 points, which proved unpopular, and now uses two games to 21 with a 15-point tiebreaker. Some of the primary reasons for the scoring changes were to try to better control the time of matches, plus make the endurance fitness factor a little less important so all ages could play under the same rules. I feel that there are some major disadvantages to the current scoring system now being used. To wit:

1. Because only the server may score, there are sometimes periods in a game where there is no scoring, which is time consuming and boring to players as well as spectators.
2. The server gets to serve until the receiver puts him out. This is a tremendous advantage to the player with a strong serve. He starts with the front court control advantage and is the only player who can score in the rally.
3. The short tiebreaker game does not give a player much time to play catch-up if he gets off to a slow start. Also, even the shorter scored tiebreakers can be drawn out because of no scoring by the server.
4. With the current scoring system, controlling match times is virtually impossible. With more and more people playing racquetball and entering tournaments, some tournaments have used 31-point games in the first, and sometimes second, round to handle all the players who want to play. No one likes to pay a \$15 to

\$25 entry fee and play one game to 31 points; but something has to be done to accommodate this tremendous surge in new tournament players.

I would like to suggest a possible solution to the problems inherent in the present scoring system. The following system has been used by the Houston Racquetball Association in its city-wide tournaments and Chancellors Racquet Club in its house tournaments with great success.

Herewith, my proposed changes:

1. A match will consist of two out of three games to 21 points, scoring on every point (either person), not just the server.
 2. The server must rotate every five points.
 3. In doubles, each team gets five serves at a time, with the first server on the team serving all five serves the first time up and the second server on the team serving all five serves the second time up. They continue to alternate throughout the game.
- As I see it, the advantages of this system are manifold. Just a few are:
1. The person receiving the serve can win points. This helps to equalize the server's court position advantage. A player is awarded a point for every winning shot he makes.
 2. Strategy becomes a much more vital part of the game. The stronger server is neutralized somewhat. The receiver may retaliate aggressively now. Risky, low percentage shots may be attempted less with a point to be scored every time. There are critical points where the server or the returner may change positions with a one or three point advantage added to his score. (Example: server 3-receiver 2; the next serve can result in score of server 4, and he moves to the receiver position; and receiver 1, and he moves to the serving position; or server 3, receiver 2, and they change positions). These become key points in a game.
 3. No more boring, scoreless "innings" when serves exchange and no one scores. The game score never stalls,

every serve brings the game closer to its end. Possible closer scoring games, but takes less time. Probably no shut-out games, but a 21-5 game will end quickly. Spectator and player interest will not wane. Enthusiasm is maintained as the next game begins.

4. With the tiebreaker to 21 points, every player will feel like they have a fair chance to win even if they get off to a slow start in the third game. By scoring on every point, a three game match (even if all the game scores are close) will probably take not more than one hour.

5. Tournaments and activities will now run on schedule. Game match times can be better determined. The average game time will be approximately 15 minutes. It takes no longer to play doubles than singles. For club house tournaments and leagues, matches can easily be finished in a one hour time period.

6. Club players can play more games and finish matches on their one hour time limit. Clubs may be able to go to a 45 minute time reservation period in prime time to accommodate more members, but still give the members time to finish a match.

7. A comparable amount of exercise is generated. With a point scored every time by either person, more aggressive play results.

8. Tournament players will physically be better able to compete in both singles and doubles events without bringing themselves to exhaustion. Normally in a "C" or "Novice" division where there may be 64 or more entries, it becomes an endurance contest, not necessarily a skills contest. Also, all age divisions can compete under the same scoring rules.

One final note. Racquetball is the only major racquet sport that allows only the server to score. Also, the server's position in the court is greater than in any of the other major racquet sports. I feel that these two things give the server too much advantage in racquetball. The major reason racquetball is scored the way it is now is because it was patterned after handball, and the rules have not been significantly changed. If racquetball is going to continue to be able to enjoy its tremendous growth and popularity, the scoring rules as they now stand must be changed to accommodate this growth. My system may not be the complete answer, but I feel that it is a step in the right direction.

I would like to thank the members of the Houston Racquetball Association and Mike Carr, teaching professional, for their help and support in my research of these rule changes. ■

INDUSTRY NEWS



Strike Out

No one was more surprised than Dr. Murray Davidson himself when the foot aid he invented became a best selling item in sporting goods stores. Davidson, a Phoenix, Ariz., podiatrist, was simply meeting what he thought was an obvious need. He designed a heel cup, now called Tuli's, which acts as a latex rubber shock absorber for the foot. According to Davidson, a lot of people suffer from the pains of heel strike — the shock of the heel striking the ground when walking or running — and his new heel cup is designed to alleviate such pain.

Tuli's heel cups can be inserted in the heel of a sneaker or regular shoe, and are suitable for use by anyone who is on their feet a lot of the time.

Tuli's retail for \$9, and are available in sporting goods stores everywhere.

Moving Up

Robert H. Pfaender has been named western region promotion manager for Penn Athletic Products Company. Named to succeed him as eastern region promotion manager is Larry P. Keating, formerly a district sales representative.

Penn, the nation's largest manufacturer of tennis balls and a leading producer of racquetballs, is an operating unit of The General Tire & Rubber Company's Chemicals/Plastics/Industrial Products Group.

Pfaender, based in Orange, Calif., and Keating, based in Hackensack, N.J., will be responsible for tournament activities, ball adoption programs and special products in their respective regions.

Pfaender joined Penn in 1978 as eastern regional promotion manager after five years as a tennis pro and club manager in Florida and New Jersey. A native of Orlando, Fla., he attended Central Florida Junior College and Florida State University, where he played on the

varsity tennis team.

Keating joined Penn in 1976 as a sales service representative. In 1977, he became a district sales representative in Virginia and North Carolina, working out of Winston-Salem. He is a graduate of James Madison University where he earned a degree in business administration.



Kaye Barrett Droke

Moving Up II

Champion Barbell Manufacturing Company and Champion Sports Nutrition are now marketing their products together in a combined line.

Heading the newly formed operation as president is Kaye Barrett Droke. Ms. Droke, founder of Champion Sports Nutrition, has nearly three decades of knowledge and experience in the strength building products field and is considered one of the recognized authorities in diet and nutrition for athletes, according to information provided by Champion.

According to Ms. Droke, Champion Barbell Mfg. and Champion Sports Nutrition will provide the convenience of one common source for both strength and body building exercise equipment and supplies and athletic oriented selec-

tive nutritional products. Also, the newly-created operation has common management and ownership. Both Champion Barbell Mfg. Co. and Champion Sports Nutrition have become subsidiaries of Real-Life Athletic Research, Inc.

The Champion Barbell line includes professional and home gym equipment, strength and body building progressive resistance products, International lifting sets, and athletic accessories. Champion Sports Nutrition products include athletic proteins, electrolyte replacers, vitamins, minerals and digestants for active athletes, convenience Sports Paks, and more.

The parent company, Real-Life Athletic Research, Inc., has headquarters at 110 Gay Street, Arlington, Tex., 76010; 817-261-1139.



Three For The Road

It seems there's always room for one more product which will help relieve the woes of athletes who've overdone their exercise. And the new Jogger's Kit is one of those products.

The Jogger's Kit includes friction lotion, moisturizer and foot balm, and, according to the manufacturer, "is specifically designed to cater to the athlete in all of us."

The friction lotion can be splashed on after a shower or bath, or may even be used as an after shave. It is described as "an exhilarating body rub," which will help prevent chafing. The moisturizer, which also acts as a sun screen, may be used to "protect skin from sun, wind and rain." And, for the athlete with hot, tired, itchy feet, there's the foot balm — "a cool, soothing lotion that is guaranteed to make your feet happy again."

For more information about the Jogger's Kit, which costs \$6 plus \$1.95 for shipping and handling, contact Max Ames at Brief Encounter's, 1594 Second Avenue, New York, NY, 10028; or call 212-628-2663. ■

Descriptions of new products are as according to information provided by the manufacturer; products have not been tested by Racquetball magazine.

JUNIORS' PAGE



D. C. Lantz

MINOR PROBLEMS

by D. C. Lantz

(EDITOR'S NOTE: D.C. Lantz is AARA Midwest junior regional director. Here, she offers some humorous insight and advice to juniors with problem parents.)

Parents are great things to have. They feed you, clothe you and are old enough to drive. In the support and sympathy department, they're tops. Your joy is their joy. Your pain is their pain. And sometimes they are your pain — especially at racquetball tournaments.

What makes an otherwise reasonable adult turn into the "Phantom of the Gallery" whenever his or her junior player enters the tournament court? Who knows. While libraries are bursting with useful volumes on how to teach your monkey to roller skate or your cockatoo to answer the phone, there's not a lot of written material on the psychology of one animal we all know and love — the average parent.

My theory is that parents, like racehorses, are excitable and frequently irrational. The ordeal of filling out entries, driving to the club, reading the draw sheet — it's just too much for them, bless their hearts. They become overstimulated and begin to think that they, not you, will be meeting Marty Hogan's clone in the first round. In short, they lose their grip on reality.

What can you do? You can't deny that they're your parents, because everyone will see you leaving with them at the end of the day. You can't send them to their rooms, because you need them to drive you home.

Fortunately, your parents do have your best interests at heart and therefore, can be trained. Talk to them. Tell them that you love and need them, but you lose your concentration every time your mother screams "Kill the ref!" Explain that the sight of your father having a heart attack on the other side of the glass wall every time you skip a ball makes you double fault. Be diplomatic, break it to them gently, or you may never see another tournament. Then, give them another chance.

In the most extreme cases, there is

clearly only one solution to problem parents. Show them how to grip a racquet, show them to the nearest empty court and hand them a ball. Tell them that racquetball will release their tension and lower their obviously skyrocketing blood pressure. Soon they too will enter tournaments. Then you can watch helplessly, while they meet top seeds in their first rounds, (officiated by dimwitted refs and blind linespeople), not to mention forgetting everything you ever taught them. But, that's another story. . .

WHY JUNIORS?

by Jim Winterton

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Winterton is AARA junior regional director for the Northeast region, as well as coach of some of racquetball's outstanding junior players. Herein he offers his opinion as to why junior racquetball should be supported by court clubs everywhere.)

There are several good reasons for development of junior racquetballers across the nation. Only in a few areas of the nation is there a push toward junior development. For our sport to grow and prosper junior development is imperative. The following are six good reasons for your club to promote junior racquetball.

1. Grass roots growth:

It only stands to reason that the more good players you have at your club the more money you make. It also stands to reason that these players tend to play year round. Some of your adult customers may pay more up front but many of them are not with your club one year from today.

2. Promotion by programs:

Local media is interested in juniors' stories. Your leagues and programs can generate publicity. Also, the juniors programs tend to draw their parents and friends into the club and on the courts as well.

3. Good players generate publicity:

If you have a good juniors program at least one of your young players will become good enough to generate publicity. At the Winton Racquetball club in Rochester, New York, players such as Mike Levine have been covered extensively by the media.

4. Adding credibility to your instructional programs:

If you are turning out good junior players, an atmosphere of learning is created. The good junior player creates excitement and is good advertising for your teaching abilities.

5. Creating goodwill:

By becoming interested in junior players you become something other than a business that takes from its community. You

put something back by helping young people and this creates a positive image for your business. Your customers will be proud of a good juniors program and good juniors players will give club members players they can be proud of. People like to play at the club where the best players work out. Some examples of this would be the Atlas Club in San Diego and the St. Louis J.C.C. The people are proud of the good players at the respective facilities.

6. Helping young people:

In my opinion this is the most important reason for a good juniors program. When all of the extraneous rationalizations are used, people helping other people is what our existence on this planet should be about. The lifestyle kids learn through racquetball will help them live a quality life. Kids are not only learning how to play a game, but they are also learning values such as hard work, mental discipline and self-confidence.

These are six good reasons for your club to institute a juniors program. When you decide to start a juniors program — where and how do you begin? I suggest you start by contacting your AARA regional juniors director or Ed Martin, our national coordinator. He can put you in touch with the director in your area.

Junior Regional Directors:

NORTHEAST
Jim Winterton
Rochester, N.Y.
716-271-3700

EASTERN
Jack Daly
Braintree, Mass.
617-848-8080

MIDWEST
Dewane Grimes
Wichita, Kan.
316-945-8331

SOUTHWEST
Jack Nolan
Tempe, Ariz.
602-894-2281

SOUTHEAST
Fred Blaess
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
305-764-8700

MIDEAST
D.C. Lantz
Wilmington, Del.
302-658-1036

WESTERN
Jeff Hetherington
Rancho Cordova, Calif.
916-635-7354

CENTRAL
Ray Mitchell
Chicago, Ill.
312-745-9400

NORTHWEST
Gene Gibbs
Boise, Idaho
208-377-0040

AARA NORTHEASTERN JUNIOR REGIONALS Winton Racquetball Club Rochester, New York May 16-17-18

Boys 17-and-under: 1st: David Rosenblum; 2nd: Brian Hart; 3rd: John Negast.

Boys 15-and-under: 1st: Peter Bluestone; 2nd: David Taylor; 3rd: Sam Battaglia.

Boys 13-and-under: 1st: Sam Battaglia; 2nd: Tim Collins; 3rd: Jeff Latimer.

Boys 10-and-under: 1st: Tim Doyle; 2nd: Jim Merk; 3rd: Anthony DeFusto.

Girls 17-and-under: 1st: Tammy Hajjar; 2nd: Pam Gonyea; 3rd: Laura King.

Girls 15-and-under: 1st: Beth Latini; 2nd: Jessica Rubin; 3rd: Andrea Natal.

Girls 13-and-under: 1st: Ellen Crawford; 2nd: Lucy Taylor; 3rd: Lori Miller.

Girls 10-and-under: 1st: Cindy Doyle; 2nd: Sara Ali; 3rd: Dana Nuley.

Sportsmanship trophies went to Jeff Page and Lori Miller. ■

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PRO PAGE

GEORGE URQUIOLI



UP & COMING: 15 year old Stacey Fletcher of Warren, Mich. took the Women's Open title at the 1980 All Sport Pro/Am Classic at All Sport Fitness and Racquetball Club, Fishkill, N.Y. (May 30-June 1). Stacey's ranked 31 on the WPRA pro tour.



INTERNATIONAL SQUASH Champion Heather McKay, 38, has broken into the ranks of professional racquetball. She turned pro this past January and defeated Shannon Wright in the All Sport Pro/Am Classic held at All Sport Fitness and Racquetball Club, Fishkill, N.Y.

Last Stop, McKay

Upsets marked the start of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) pro stop at All Sport Fitness and Racquetball Club in Fishkill, N.Y., in which 32 women pros competed for a \$10,000 purse and a final ranking before the first Women's Racquetball Nationals, which were held June 19-22 in suburban Chicago.

There were no surprises in the first round of the Fishkill tourney, but the second brought a string of upsets. The biggest of the day was the defeat of top seed Sarah Green of Las Vegas, Nev., by Elaine Lee of Lancaster, Penn., by the scores of 21-4, 21-11. Ranked 15th among the pros, Lee beat Green for the first time in five outings.

Third-seeded Lynn Adams of Costa Mesa, Calif., had an early demise as

17th-ranked Vicki Panzeri of Seattle, Wash., shaved her 21-19, 21-20. Other surprises included 25th-seed Bonnie Stoll of Stamford, Conn., over 9th-ranked Peggy Steding of Odessa, Tex., 21-13, 21-16. Twenty-second seed Martha McDonald of Gainesville, Fla., took 8th-seed Jennifer Harding of Milwaukie, Ore., 21-14, 21-7. This left only two of the top four players remaining in the quarterfinals — powerhouse Shannon Wright and squash sensation Heather McKay.

And when the inevitable happened — McKay and Wright facing off for first — McKay scored a decisive victory. McKay defeated Wright 21-10, 21-7.

An international squash champion, McKay took up racquetball less than two years ago and turned pro this past January. Wright, on the other hand, has dominated women's professional racquetball with 30 pro victories and five na-

tional championships.

McKay used a combination of pinch shots, forehand drives and backhand kill shots in order to keep Wright off balance. Wright tried to play her usual power game, hitting a number of excellent drive shots, but McKay was able to return. McKay's squash experience was evident, as she relied as much on placement as power or speed.

McKay picked up \$2,500 in prize money. Wright received \$1,500 for second. In the consolation round, Marci Greer of San Diego, Calif., defeated Bonnie Stoll 7-2, 7-2, 7-4, 7-2 (scoring based on an experimental pro-set system). Greer received \$900 for third place and Stoll was awarded \$600 for fourth.

The Fishkill tournament was the final stop on the WPRA tour, which began in September. It was the prelude to the Women's Racquetball Nationals, which were held last month. ■

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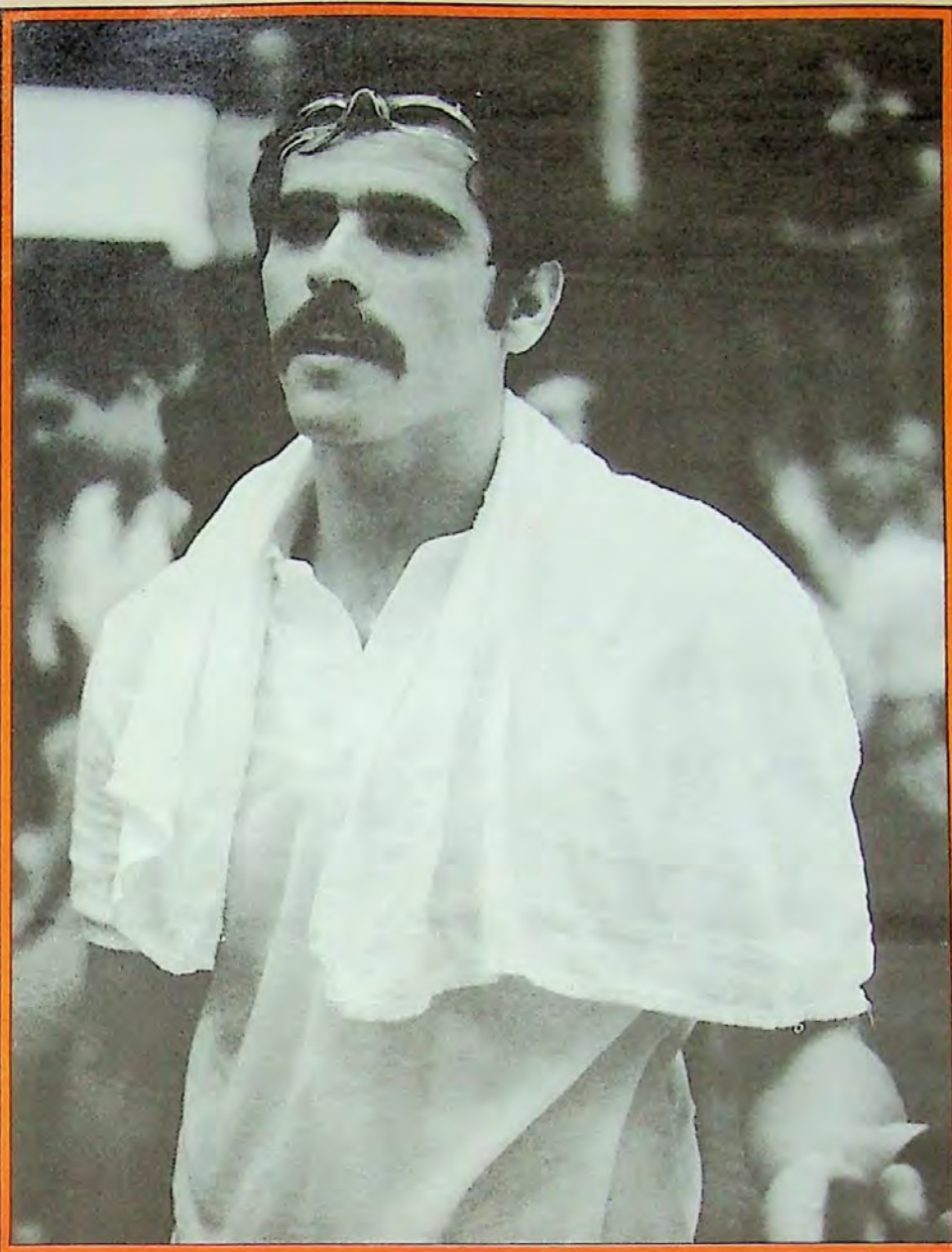
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DEBORAH COTA

Men's "Open" winner, Ed Andrews.

THE GRAND FINALE

The 1980 AARA National Singles Championships

By Charlie Garfinkel

The sun was shining outside, but inside the heat was on as competition got under

way at this year's AARA National Singles Championships.

Held May 22-26 at the Sportrooms in Coral Gables, Fla., this year's tournament was sprinkled generously with a seasoning of surprises. To wit: Carol Frenck of Newport News, Va., left no doubts about her abilities in the minds of those who saw her come forth to capture two national titles. Three other tournament champions were from Frenck's home state - giving Virginia the prize for most national champions present. Three former touring pros, Jim Austin, Charlie Garfinkel and Dr. Bud Muehleisen, captured titles in their respective divisions. And unseeded Mike McDonough won the award for best performance by an underdog. He managed three astonishing upsets in the early rounds, which took him to the Men's "Open" finals.

Men's Open

Although this year's tournament was chock full of success stories, the star that shown the brightest was the affable Men's "Open" winner - 23-year-old Ed Andrews of San Diego, Calif.

Andrews, who had previously won the Ektelon and Voit Nationals this year, came into the "Open" division as the heavy pre-tournament favorite. (It wasn't because he weighs 200 pounds either.) Sporting a Groucho Marx type moustache, the 6'3" Californian shows only his serious side on the court.

Despite the fact that he didn't lose a game throughout the tournament, Andrews' victories didn't come easily. He fought a hard battle for each and every one.

In the finals of the Men's "Open" he defeated the tournament's upset king, Mike McDonough of Boston, Mass., by the deceiving scores of 21-15, 21-4. McDonough, who has both a tremendous serve and a superb forehand, had defeated Bruce Radford, Keith Dunlap and Larry Fox to reach the finals.

Although most people believed Andrews would simply be too much for McDonough, the tournament champion struggled in the early going of the finals. He was down 6-0 before he came back with two forehand pinch shots to bring the score to 6-2. Three of McDonough's early points were scored on flat rollouts off his forehand, the other three points were Andrews skips.



Carol French of Newport News, Va., won both the Women's "Open" title and the Women's "Seniors" (30-34) title.

McDonough followed Andrews' two scoring pinches with two aces and two rollouts to move ahead 10-2. The spectators were dumbfounded. Andrews was missing and McDonough was so hot there were scorch marks on the front wall from his rollouts. Someone even suggested that he be given a saliva test.

Then it happened. As hot as McDonough had been, he suddenly went cold. Andrews took advantage of the situation to work his way back into the game and tie the score at 11-11. Five of his points had been scored on McDonough skips. Apparently shaken, McDonough skipped three more balls, to make the score 14-11 in favor of Andrews. An Andrews pass made it 15-11.

The never-say-die underdog rallied again and came back to 15-17. But Andrews had the national championship in mind and he scored the next three points on two rollouts and a perfect passing shot. McDonough hit an overhead kill to make it 16-20. Game one ended with a McDonough skip.

Game two was anticlimatic as Andrews kept playing better and better. Serving aces, rolling out forehands and backhands, hitting clean passes and moving like Spectacular Bid, Andrews didn't horse around as he overwhelmed McDonough to lead 11-0. The onslaught continued and a new champion was crowned when the game ended 21-3. McDonough, to his credit, played a great tournament.

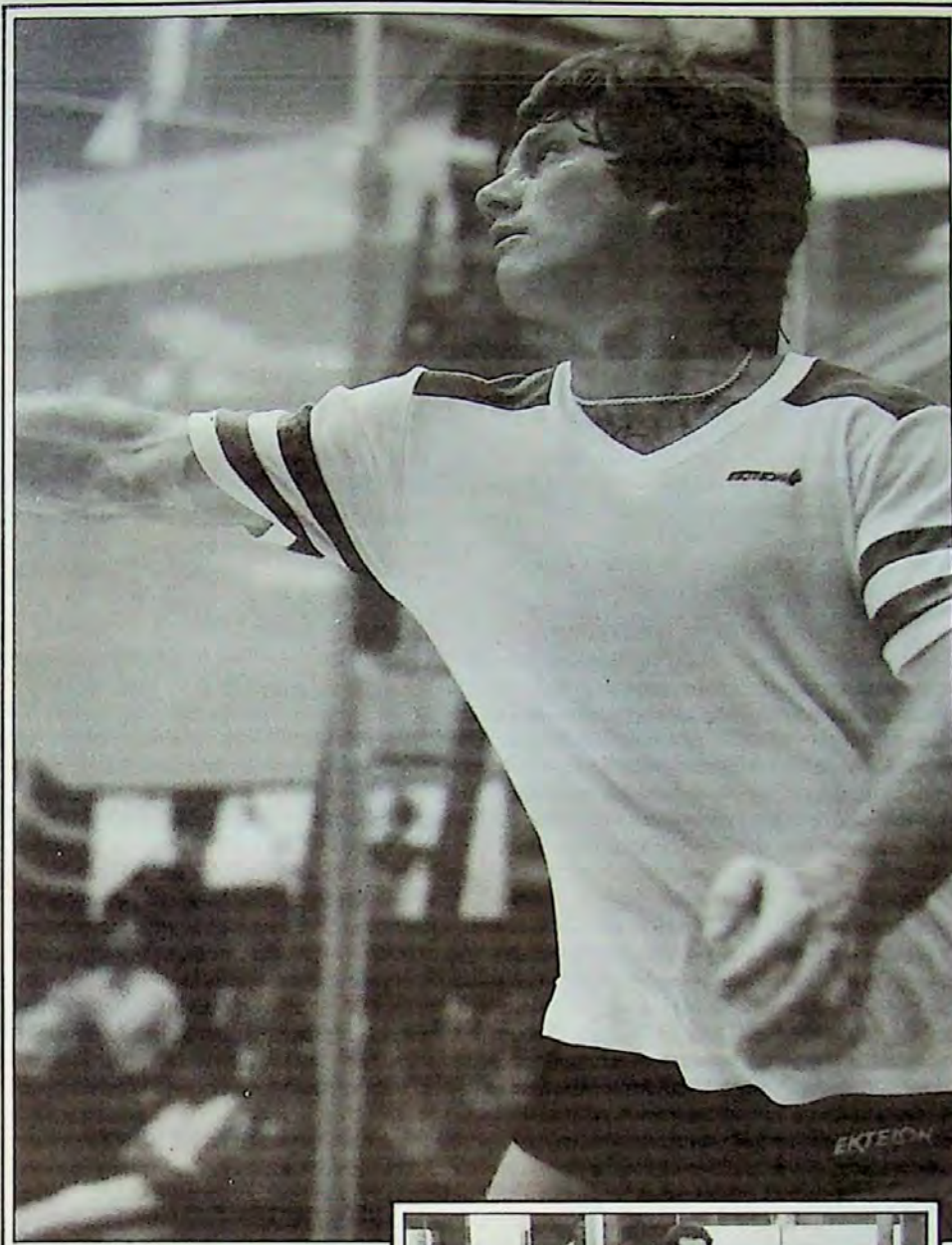
In fact, after the match, Andrews admitted that the pressure was really on in the first game against McDonough. "I was extremely nervous," he confessed, "but he started making some errors and I started playing like I can."

Indeed he *can* play well. It's no wonder, for he's had a good coach and mentor along the way — Dr. Bud Muehleisen. In fact, it was Muehleisen's advice on strategy that helped Andrews in his semifinal match against Mark Hegg of Colorado.

Hegg was playing well and Andrews found himself serving with the score at 16-20. After a brief time-out huddle with Dr. Bud, he switched to a high lob serve. The Muehleisen strategy successfully altered the tempo of the match. Two Hegg errors and three Andrews rollouts won the game for Andrews, 21-20. Game two was just as close as Andrews eked out a 21-19 win. Hegg went on to win the national "Seniors" (30-34) title.

In the other semifinals Mike McDonough defeated Larry Fox of the University of Michigan 21-15, 21-14. McDonough is not known for having an exceptional backhand, but in this match he was hitting backhands like a Marty Hogan clone.

Fox, on the other hand, reached the semifinals last year and again this year.



Mike McDonough



Ed Andrews (right) defeated Mike McDonough (left) in the Men's "Open" finals.

He was interviewed by this reporter both times and lost both matches. Although we fail to see the connection, Fox says he'll be wearing ear plugs next year.

In the Men's quarterfinals, Andrews defeated Bryce Anderson 21-12, 21-14 in two well-played games.

McDonough defeated current AARA Intercollegiate champion Keith Dunlap of Houston, Tex., 21-18, 21-18. Dunlap was down 18-4 in the second game, but rallied to tie at 18-18. Still, McDonough held tight and scored the last three points to win.

Mark Hegg defeated John Dunlap of Memphis, Tenn., in the third quarterfinal match. John, who is Keith's brother, made uncharacteristic errors — due in part to Hegg's excellent play.

In the last quarterfinal match Larry Fox won a hard fought victory over aggressive and rapidly improving Scott Clark of Virginia 14-21, 21-6, 15-11.

Women's Open

Carol French, a 32-year-old physical education teacher from Newport News, Va., surprised everyone this year by winning two national titles — the Women's "Open" and Women's "Seniors" (30-34) divisions. Probably the most surprised of all was French herself, who commented, "I thought I'd get knocked off early in the 'Open'. I felt that I was prepared enough to do well in the 'Seniors,' but it really was a shock to win both events." She's recovering nicely from the shock.

In preparing for the tournament, one might assume French to have undergone rigorous workouts the week before, running and playing racquetball each day, and practicing by herself. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the week prior to the tournament French didn't even play once. Although she concedes she did manage a little running.

However, when she's sticking to her normal routine, French does play racquetball every day. She is also an excellent softball and basketball player — and plays both competitively, as well as racquetball. She credits her ability to perform under pressure to this experience with team sports. Whatever the reason, her opponents will not argue the point — they know she does well under pressure.

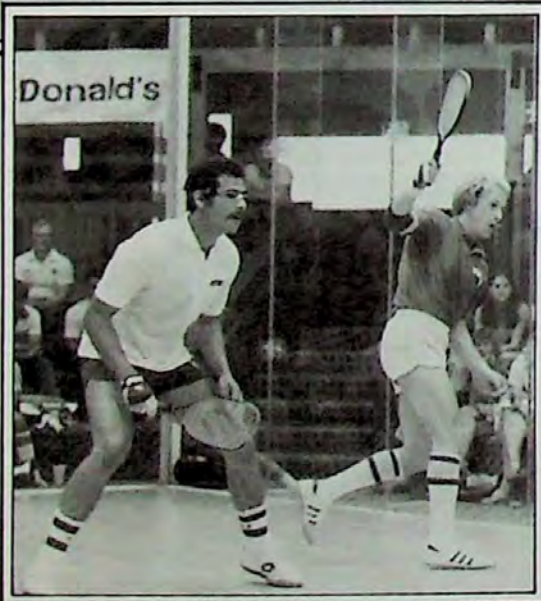
Cindy Baxter of Lewistown, Penn., was one of the unfortunates who had to play against French in her unstoppable run for the gold. French defeated Baxter in the finals of the "Open" by scores of 21-15, 21-20.

On her way to the finals, French encountered a number of tough competitors. In the round-of-16 she met Barbara Faulkenberry of the Air Force Academy, who is current AARA Inter-



DEBORAH COTA

Al Ferrari (right) fought hard, but lost in the finals of the Men's "Seniors" (45-49) to Dr. Bud Muehleisen (left).



JOHN LEPORE

Ed Andrews (left) squeaked past Mark Hegg (right) in the Men's "Open" semifinals.

collegiate champion. But French didn't pause as she poured it on to defeat the skilled Faulkenberry 21-8, 21-15.

Next she took on California's Mona Mook, and won 21-17, 21-15. In the semifinals French suffered her only game loss of the tournament in a 21-15, 14-21, 15-5 match win over Georgia's Karen McKinney.

McKinney scored a mild upset in the quarters over fourth-seeded Jamie Abbot of Montana 16-21, 21-13, 15-8. Baxter defeated Nancy Hamrick of Florida in the quarterfinals by scores of 16-21, 21-13, 15-8. She then defeated Iowa's Gail Allert in the semis 21-15, 21-12.

Men's Seniors [30-34]

After a fine semifinal match against Ed Andrews in the Men's "Open," in which he bowed to Andrews 21-20, 21-19, Mark Hegg of Colorado was ready to take on the finals of the Men's "Senior" division. Hegg faced off against Bruce Radford of Van Nuys, Calif., in the finals and came out with the victorious scores of 21-14, 17-21, 15-2.

Both Hegg and Radford have rather unorthodox training routines. Hegg runs five miles from his home to the club where he plays, then follows his run with an hour and a half of racquetball. Lucky for him — and his racquetball opponents — his wife usually follows in the car with a change of clothes.

Radford owns up to drinking a lot of beer and smoking a lot of cigarettes, besides playing three or four times a week.

Obviously these training methods are not for everyone!

Women's Seniors [30-34]

This event was the number two title captured by Virginia's Carol French. She accomplished this feat by outplaying a tough, but fatigued Linda Siau of Arizona, 21-11, 21-2. Both women had decisively defeated their opponents in the earlier rounds of competition.

Men's Seniors [35-39]

Jim Austin, known as "Mr. Clean," for his impeccable court attire, won his fourth straight AARA "Senior" singles championship. Austin, who resides in Houston, Tex., defeated Craig Guinter, who is nicknamed the "Assassin," because of the dour expression on his face.

Guinter, a five-time Pennsylvania state champion, lost to Austin by scores of 21-19, 21-10. The match was tough and exciting, as Guinter is the reigning Eastern regional "Open" singles champion and Austin is a Texan known for his lightning-quick backhand.



Mike McDonough was the tournament underdog who dove and shot his way to the Men's "Open" finals.

Austin uses a backhand serve and hits his forehand with a tennis swing. Guinter, whose power can be overwhelming, strokes his backhand with a swing that can best be described as a straight arm block shot. Guinter goes for the low percentage shots while Austin is a sure and steady player. The combination made for an entertaining exhibition for spectators.

Game one was nip and tuck all the way. Austin led 18-15 when Guinter began to power his way back, finally reaching a 19-18 lead. But Austin turned it around with two backhand rollouts and a wide forehand pinch to win the first game 21-19. In game two Austin continued where he left off. Guinter tired and was caught out of position by Austin's dazzling array of shots. Final score was Austin on top at 21-10.

In the semifinals Austin slipped by Ron Galbreath of Pennsylvania by scores of 21-7, 21-7. Guinter defeated Joe Icaza 21-1, 21-19 to avenge an earlier loss two weeks previous.

Women's Seniors [35-39]

Linda Siau of Arizona took her chances in two events this year, just as Carol French did. In the Women's "Seniors" (35-39) it paid off for Siau, although she lost in the "Open" to French. In the finals of the "Seniors" Siau soundly defeated Barbara Smith of Utah 21-1, 21-9, to capture the national title.

Although she was not in condition for the tournament, as she had hoped, Siau managed to fend off her opponents by playing the ceiling and waiting for the chance to hit a strong offensive shot. The strategy worked well, as she managed to throw her opponents off balance and thus secure a victory in this division.

Men's Seniors [40-44]

Going into the finals, Charlie "The Gar" Garfinkel of Buffalo, N.Y., and Dr. Bill King of Radford, Va., were familiar with each other. They had met five times before in various tournaments. Two of the matches had been decided by 21-20 games. Other game scores were 21-19, 21-18 and 21-17. Garfinkel held a slim 3-2 overall lead.

Therefore, the experts rated the final as a virtual toss up. In game one King was holding a 10-6 lead. He was keeping Garfinkel at bay with a wide variety of shots and passes. At this juncture Garfinkel found his serve again and ran off 12 points straight to gain an 18-10 lead. He won the game 21-12.

In game two King started going to the ceiling more. He waited for his shot and jumped out to a 9-3 lead by shooting some unbeatable backhands. But Garfinkel again came back. Slowly but surely he worked his way through numerous long rallies until the score was tied at 14-14.

Garfinkel finally managed to shoot ahead to 18-14 and promptly called a

time-out, while flat on his back. One spectator was heard to comment that it must be a world record, Garfinkel was actually speechless. (Rumor has it that the spectator was a member of Garfinkel's family.)

After the time-out, King came back to 16-18. But with two soft backhands Garfinkel upped his score to 20-16. A King error ended the long battle and Garfinkel won another title. This was occasion enough for him to note that he's now accumulated six national titles and needs only 2,367 more to catch up with Dr. Bud Muehleisen.

In the semis Garfinkel defeated Mark Wayne of San Francisco, Calif., 21-8, 21-5. Wayne surprised many by entering the tournament after a recent back operation. King defeated Jay Striem 21-4, 21-7 in the other semifinals. In the quarters King had a scare against Midwesterner Frank Low before he defeated him 21-14, 12-21, 15-11.

Women's Seniors [40 +]

In the Women's "40 +" Sue Graham of Virginia defeated Colleen Sloan of California 21-16, 21-12 in the finals. It was a round robin competition, and Graham proved just as steady against Shirley Elgaway, the other woman in the event.

Men's Seniors [45-49]

Crafty Dr. Bud Muehleisen did it once again. He won his 46th national

title. It wasn't easy for the racquetball magician though, and he had to dig deep into his famous bag of tricks.

Muehleisen (1969 National "Open" Singles champion), who hails from San Diego, Calif., defeated Al Ferrari of St. Louis, Mo. The former St. Louis Hawk professional basketball player put up a great battle before succumbing to Muehleisen 21-15, 21-19 in a match that could have easily gone to three games.

In game one Muehleisen was deadly as he quickly ran up a 17-4 lead. Most spectators yawned and said, "What else is new." However, after consulting with his coach, Bob "Charlie Coyote" Hardcastle, Ferrari played with new vigor. Muehleisen's concentration seemed to waver. Hitting hard drive serves and keeping the ball deep to Muehleisen's backhand, Ferrari came back to 15-20. Muehleisen ended game one with a forehand rollout, 21-15.

In game two Ferrari continued to play well and held a slight lead. Muehleisen and he jockeyed for position, with Muehleisen coming out ahead at 20-19. He was serving for the match.

Following Muehleisen's serve a long rally ensued. After five or six hits, Ferrari gave Muehleisen a plum off the back wall. He hit a hard passing shot down the right sidewall. Ferrari stuck his racquet out in desperation. His racquet somehow touched the ball and it floated lazily to the front wall. The ball then approached the sidewall at the speed of two miles per hour and Muehleisen smiled gleefully in anticipation of the setup.

But wait! The ball turned out to be a "miracle ball," as Charlie Brumfield would say. It cracked off the sidewall glass and rolled flat out.

The fans erupted! Ferrari had the serve. Or did he? With all of the commotion going on, no one noticed Muehleisen talking to the referee. He was appealing the serve because he thought it had been short. The linesmen overruled the referee and agreed with Muehleisen.

The crowd boomed, but the call stood. Muehleisen then served his second serve. After a short rally he managed to roll out a forehand and thus take game and match 21-15, 21-19.

Men's Masters [50-54]

In the Men's "Masters" Chuck Lake of Virginia flowed beautifully through the tournament to upset two highly-favored competitors and win the title. In the finals, Lake defeated the AARA's outgoing president, Bob Folsom, of Maine, by the scores of 21-19, 21-13. In the semifinals he defeated the superbly conditioned Californian, Al Rossi, in three games, 21-11, 16-21, 15-9.

Golden Masters [55-59]

Hal Gladstone of California defeated Don Goddard of Montana 21-6, 21-4 in the finals. Just as amazing was his 21-3, 21-5 win over Ed Lowrance in the semifinals. His only loss of a game occurred in his quarterfinal match against an opponent with the unlikely name of Joe Hero. Gladstone's expertise in the game of squash obviously helped his strategy in the racquetball matches, as he kept his opponents on their toes with beautifully executed sidewall pinches and gliding passes.

Golden Masters [60-64]

Fred Vetter returned to the national championships this year with renewed vigor, after recovering from a bad case of tennis elbow. His hard driving and aggressive game helped him in defeating Ed Lowrance in the

semifinals 20-21, 21-8, 15-6 and Luzell Wilde in the finals, 21-19, 21-10.

His shooting and passing game were especially impressive against Wilde. Wilde, who is 6'1" tall, appears much taller. His long reach enables him to return shots that other players can't get. Still, the motto "none better than Vetter," prove correct in the long run.

Golden Masters [65 +]

In the Men's "65 +" bracket, Ike Gumer of Louisville, Ky., emerged victorious over Alan Shepherd. Gumer, who has won previous national championships in other age categories, was hitting a superb forehand throughout the match.

Men's B

Mark Rapoport of Pittsburgh, Penn., defeated Blake Soule of Memphis State University, 13-21, 21-18, 15-14.

Women's B

Linda Baumier of New York defeated Debbie Sloan of New York, 21-6, 21-3.

Both "B" divisions were non-championship events.

TIME OUT



(Left to right) J. P. Kidwell of Miller Lite, Keith Galkins, president of the AARA, Luke St. Onge and Bob Beebe of Penn. enjoy a break during the Nationals.



During the Nationals, Hal Lettler (seated, left) Commissioner for Americans in Europe, addressed the AARA Board of Directors along with Hans van der Heijden of the Netherlands, who represented the International Amateur Racquetball Federation (IARF). Also present were Luke St. Onge (standing, left) and Bob Folsom (standing, right).

There is no tournament that can succeed without the efforts of the local committee that works diligently behind the scenes, usually without appropriate recognition. We would not like to be included among those who ignore these invaluable volunteers. So it is with sincere and genuine appreciation that we thank Arlene and Carl Dean, who spearheaded the total hospitality and management of the National Singles. It was under Arlene's enthusiastic involvement that the generous contribution (from McDonald's and Publix) of delicious meals for the duration of this major event was made possible. Jerry Kelleher and Bob Golub and the entire staff of the Sportrooms are to be commended for their patience and general pleasant approach in dealing with the many players whose questions

and needs never went unattended.

Our sponsors, Lite Beer and Penn Athletic Products, were most ably represented by J. P. Kidwell of Miller Brewing Company and Bob Beebe of Penn. These two men became a real part of all tournament activities and even were willing competitors in a "major" match between the sponsors.

Stokley Van Camp, a familiar and old friend, was on hand with Gatorade to refresh all tired and thirsty players.

But in thanking all of these important and helpful specific individuals and sponsors we would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge the players themselves who, with their outstanding show of good sportsmanship made the 1980 AARA National Singles Championships an exceptional experience.

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HOW RACQUETBALL RANKS IN THE MILITARY

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tom Slear graduated from West Point in 1973. He then served for five and a half years as an infantry officer, ranked Captain, at Fort Riley, Kansas. Now in private business, he is an avid racquetballer as well as a free lance writer.

HAVING JUST LOST, MY opening-round opponent in a 1977 racquetball tournament in Topeka, Kan., politely conceded defeat and then said, "I haven't seen you around at any tournaments, whereabouts do you play?"

When I replied that I played at Fort Riley, a military installation about 40 miles west of Topeka, he nodded in recognition.

"So you're in the military. That explains a lot. You guys have it fat — all the court time you want for free and plenty of time to play. I was at the Air Force Academy once and the facilities were unbelievable, at least 20 racquetball courts. I hear it's like that everywhere. And if you get pretty good, you're given time off from work to practice and compete." With that he departed, certain he had the explanation for his defeat at hand. After all, how could he compete against someone with so many advantages?

Well, as is often the case, perception when not tempered with experience falls far short of reality. True, when I left the Army in 1978, I had accumulated enough court time to insure bankruptcy had I been playing in a civilian club. But it is not all gravy. When the plusses and minuses are tabulated, the bottom line is that racquetballers in the military are not any better off, they just operate in a unique set of circumstances.

One obvious advantage to servicemen is the availability of abundant athletic facilities at little or no cost. An installation populated by 20,000 men and women in uniform and their dependents typically has two indoor and four outdoor swimming pools, two 18-hole golf courses, 10 bowling lanes, and five gymnasiums with one or two racquetball courts each.

"I got started in racquetball when I was stationed in Okinawa in 1973," says AARA military commissioner Lieutenant Commander Dan Samek of the Navy. "I would often times play as

long as four hours a day. Okinawa is an unaccompanied tour, so in the afternoon when I finished work, I would go right to the courts and play well into the evening."

Four hours of prime time is equivalent to roughly \$18 in a civilian club — way beyond the means of all but the most wealthy racquetball players. Unquestionably, free court time is a valued privilege among military players but as might be expected, there is a catch. In fact, several of them.

When court time is available at no charge, an opportunity is presented that is ripe for abuse. Reservations can casually be made with no thought of cancelling if more pressing commitments arise. Two players can assure themselves of many hours of racquetball by using fictitious names and calling for three or four consecutive court times. And most disturbing, as few racquetball players in the military are unaware, the individual taking the reservations can easily be influenced.

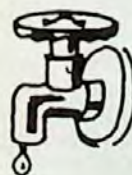
"I admit I cheated," says one enlisted man who worked at an Army gym in the Midwest. "Say a friend wanted a lunch hour court time which, under normal circumstances, is very hard to get. I'd just put his name on the reservation board the night before. Sometimes, if he forgot to call me in time, I would cancel another reservation and then play dumb. What could they do?"

Not much. With a civilian club, you could take your business elsewhere but in the military, you smile and try again.

The manipulation of reserved court time, however, is a minor problem to serious racquetball players in uniform. A little practice produces many ingenious ways to get the desired time. But what about the courts themselves? How precious is free time on courts that are not sized properly, have doors that won't fully close, or, for some strange reason, have telltales?

"Usually, there is not too much of a problem getting a court," says Ron York, a lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps who is one of the best players in the military, "but the quality is another matter. For instance, where I am stationed, two glass back wall courts were built in 1978, but the measurements were off. They are too narrow. Also, the walls are dark brown and the floors are concrete."

BY TOM SLEAR



Lieutenant Barbara Pagano, a member of the Army Ordinance Corps and an "Open" player for the last two years, recognizes the same problems.

"I have been to Army posts throughout the world," she says, "and I have never been unable to play because of a lack of courts. The trouble is that many are of marginal quality and not regulation size."

The low quality of courts is an example of the military bureaucracy at its weakest. A manager of a civilian club must keep close tabs on the demands of his market or his investment will dry up. The military, however, can remain immune from the challenges of the marketplace. As a result, courts are frequently designed and built without the advice of racquetball experts, and necessary repairs to existing courts have a way of being delayed interminably.

But there is a dim ray of sunshine on the horizon according to Sergeant Joe Fazio, a 17-year Air Force veteran who is also a teaching pro at a civilian club in San Antonio, Tex., where he is stationed.

"Based on recent experience, I really think the quality of military racquetball facilities is starting to improve. The problem I foresee is one of numbers. At one time the military had many underutilized courts. With the growth spurt racquetball has had in the military the last couple of years, particularly among dependents, that is no longer the case. The number of courts, regulation or not, is quickly falling behind the demand," says Fazio.

Once again, the bureaucracy is caught at its worst. Money is not budgeted by actual demand, but rather by the perceived demand of a bureaucrat sitting in an office far removed from the troops in the field. Consequently, unneeded squash courts and swimming pools are still being built, while lines are forming at the racquetball courts. Fortunately, the athletic chiefs within the individual services recognize the problem and though they don't control the purse strings, they are doing what they can.

"We know the priority among the sports-minded people in the service is racquetball," says Captain Steve Burger, assistant head of Marine Corps sports, "so we are building courts just as fast as the money comes in."

"The way racquetball has taken off," says Lieutenant Colonel Bill Delaino of Air Force sports, "I doubt if we will ever be able to meet the demand. But progress is being made. One hundred and eighty-one courts are scheduled to be built in Air Force bases throughout the world by the end of the year. The money has already been budgeted."

With the demand for racquetball at such a high pitch, local installations have gradually started to exercise some initiative. Gym hours have been expanded, in some cases, to 24 hours a day. At

remote, small bases where the priority for new courts is low, local athletic directors have supervised the construction of crude but functional homemade courts in unused buildings.

Still, the military is playing catch up, as Bill Delaino sees it, with little hope of success.

"Let's face it," he says, "if a marketing study were done, it would show a shortage of at least 50 percent. After all, racquetball is *the sport* right now, and the courts can be used at no cost. Under these conditions, I don't think the demand will ever be fully met."

Overall, though, the military has nothing to apologize for. A racquetball enthusiast can reasonably expect to get four hours of free court time a week in an adequate facility at just about any American military installation throughout the world. Maybe not ideal conditions, but not too bad either. That is until you aspire to be a competitive "Open" player. Then problems arise with the unpredictable nature of life in the service.

Perhaps the most appealing aspect of a military career is its constant variety. Before a particular job has a chance to settle into a routine, a whole new set of challenges is offered by a new position and possibly a relocation. Additionally, military training requires long separations from such luxuries as racquetball courts. Army units in Germany typically spend one-third of any given year on field training exercises. A naval officer assigned to a ship can expect six months yearly at sea. In short, military life is one of flux which does nothing for the development of racquetball talent.

"Maybe I'm a good case in point," says Barbara Pagano. "Right now, I'm stationed at Rock Island Depot and work as a buyer of small caliber ammunition. This September, I'll be in Monterey, Calif., attending the Defense Department's language school in preparation for an assignment in Greece. Every change means finding a new pool of players on my level which is a time-consuming process."

My own experience at Fort Riley was similar, but with an ironic twist. Of the five players who traveled to the 1977 Topeka tournament, two left the Army shortly thereafter, another assumed command of a tank company and was rarely able to find time to play, and the fourth was reassigned to the DMZ in Korea. I stayed at Fort Riley but my pool of players didn't.

"Of course there is another side to this," says Pagano. "The military way of life may make it difficult to practice regularly, but subtly the institution gives a great deal of support to racquetball. The military is an extremely athletic-conscious organization and when I play well, my bosses and friends offer encouragement that I don't think I would

receive on the outside. If I need time off to travel to a tournament, it will be given to me if there is any way possible."

Encouragement is also offered by the numerous tournaments held at the installation and regional level. The quality of play varies widely according to who happens to be stationed where at a particular time, but there is no entry fee, time off from work is normally no problem, and a good deal of publicity within the military community is given to the winners.

Competition at the higher levels, however, has developed slowly. The AARA military commissioner in 1977, Major Buck Brumble of the Air Force, took matters into his own hands and initiated a military tournament at West Point open to all active duty and reserve personnel.

"The only support given by the military was the use of the courts," says Samek, who took over for Brumble in 1978. "People had to take leave and pay their travel expenses. In 1979, I moved the tournament to Norfolk, Va., and ran it in a civilian club. This year, Ron York and Marcia Lutz (USAF) were the men's and women's 'Open' champions. (Pagano was second.) I would hesitate to call it a championship, however, because many good players from the West Coast cannot afford to come."

What Samek envisions next year is a number of regional tournaments that would preclude exorbitant travel expenses except for a select few invited to the final elimination rounds.

This October, the military will make its first attempt at sponsoring a legitimate championship at the six new courts at Lakland Air Force Base in Texas. All the services are invited to send four "Open" men and women and two doubles teams. Competitors will be given time off as well as travel expenses and per diem. But Samek sees a major flaw.

"For various reasons," he says, "only the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps are going to send teams to Lakland. There are too many good players in the Navy and Coast Guard to call it a championship. I still plan on running the tournament in Norfolk until the one sponsored by the military gets more support from the individual services."

Regardless, there are two tournaments now on the boards whereas a few years ago there weren't any. With more and better facilities coming along, the quality of racquetball has got to improve. But is that the main or even a desirable goal? As Sergeant Fazio told me, "The purpose of racquetball in the military is to help in the development of a physically conditioned force, which means not necessarily having a few good players, but a lot of people playing."

By that standard, the military is doing very well. ■

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AMF
Head

**We can make a difference
in your game**

With professional advice . . .

**Expert input improves
our products**

**Our pros also work to help
others improve**

Summer Camps and Instructor Programs

Probably Steve Strandemo's greatest goal is to improve the skill level of every racquetball player he can find. To that end, Steve has the ability to motivate and communicate with his students.

Head's annual intensive summer camps allow players of every level to work with Steve and improve in their game. Another successful Head program has instructors and club administrators around the nation review successful teaching techniques and business methods at the Head/Strandemo Instructor Programs.

Steve Strandemo

The most visible member of our advisory staff, Steve finished fifth overall in the 1978, 79 NRC standings. Besides playing professionally, he's leading our effort to help every player learn how to play better racquetball.

Steve works closely with our engineers to develop new and improved racquetball products and also works hard with our advertising and publicity people to develop meaningful learning aids and materials. He even contributes instructional articles to several racquetball publications.

The Racquetball Book which he conceived, arranged and wrote, is now forming the basis for a continuing series of Head instructional projects.

*Doug Cohen
Head Touring Professional*

Playing Professionals Advisors and Junior Players

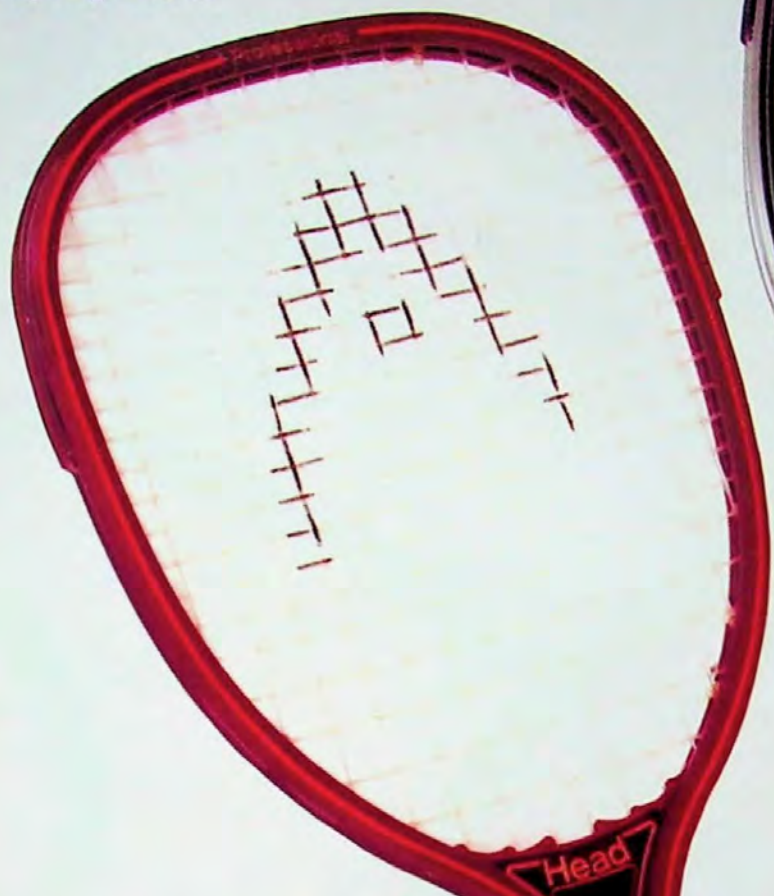
Across the country our network of dealers, players, pros and advisors keeps us informed about trends and tendencies in playing and product. They suggest improvements, programs and ideas to keep Head in the forefront of this fast growing sport of racquetball. Without their "ears to the ground" and "eye on the ball" we wouldn't be able to maintain the quality of products and ideas we'd like.

*This brochure is dedicated to all the
many people who insure
that our products
get better. Most of all,
to you, our customer.*



Racquets . . .

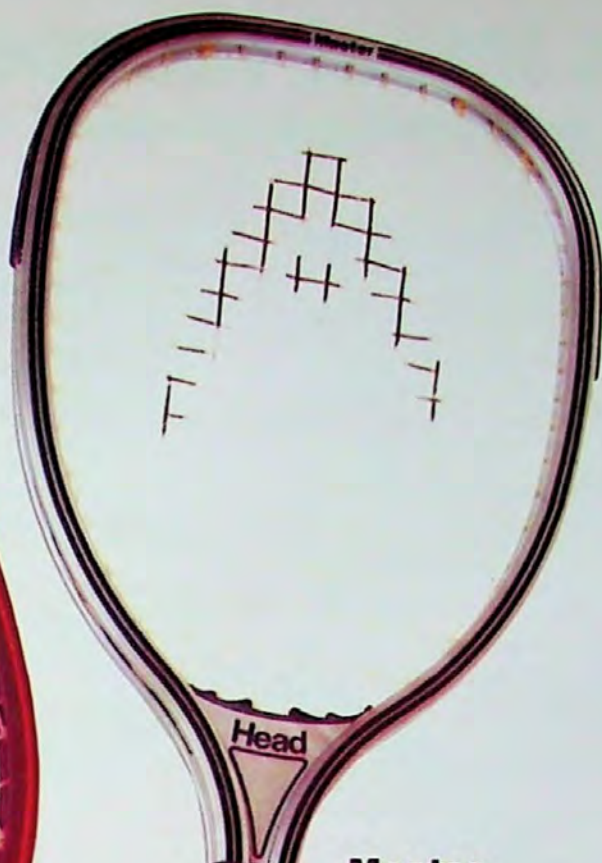
**Developed and produced
to play long
and play hard**



Professional

When it comes to power, the Pro really has it under control. Power I-beam 7005 Aluminum alloy construction combines strength with lightness to make this racquet more than just competitive. A foamed in place hourglass shaped handle positions your hand to generate that all important wrist snap power.

Its quadriform head creates a maximum size hitting surface, and a large "sweet spot." Pro's single hole stringing pattern means durability and allows consistent string tension. Its Zytel® nylon throat piece transfers all tension to the outside of the frame for optimum feel, control and extended string life. Then there's the itch you feel in your finger when you're ready to serve your winning point. You'll find that this racquet plays like its name implies. It is the Professional.



Master

No matter how powerful you are, you still need racquet control to win. Master's light, flexible aluminum extrusion is engineered for balance and control. That adds up to more ball control and more game control for you.

Master's string pattern is "tuned" to its shape and structure to put the right strings where you hit the ball. Head's unique nylon throat piece transfers the tension of those strings to the *outside* of the frame for durability, reliability, "feel" and playability. A vibration stopping foamed in place handle is contoured so your hand can automatically position itself. The handle is wrapped with a high quality perforated split leather grip. Master gets your winning game under control.

*Ask your dealer about
trying a demonstrator
Head racquet to help
decide which is best
for you.*

The latest racquet developments . . .

Enduro means lasting performance

The **Enduro** racquet design takes our concept of aluminum-fiberglass composite structures to a new level of excellence. Our unique combination of materials, mechanics and design delivers the power, durability and strength found in modern metal. All this is bonded to the control, "feel" and lightweight quickness that's inherent in fiberglass.

To complement our composite structure, we've beveled the inside edge of **Enduro's** aluminum topskins. This saves weight, improves racquet aerodynamics by cutting wind resistance, and measurably improves **Enduro's** flex characteristics.

Our innovative sandwich design is additionally reinforced by Tralon® strategically positioned in the shoulder area. This adds to the power and durability potential of the **Enduro**.

Our reinforced, strong, lightweight structure is surrounded by the most protective bumper guard available on any racquet. This guard acts as a cushion around **Enduro's** outside edge when racquet contacts floor, walls, or opponents. Furthermore a deep string channel molded into the bumper protects strings from abrasion and breakage.

A unique variable string pattern is "tuned" to **Enduro's** shape and structural characteristics. The variable pattern is specifically designed to position the right strings where the ball is usually hit. You'll "feel" the sweet spot more often when you hit with this racquet.

Vibration is practically non-existent. It's absorbed by both the aluminum/syntactic foam sandwich structure and a foamed in place handle. The handle's contoured "hour-glass" shape positions your hand properly for controlled but powerful strokes.

Of course there's only one sure way to prove that this **Enduro** racquet is right for you. Try it yourself. Ask your Head racquetball dealer to let you test a demonstrator.

Beveled inside topskin edges cut wind resistance, reduce racquet head weight and improve flexibility.

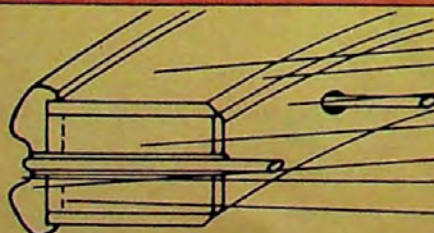
Aluminum/fiberglass sandwich structure molds high tensile strength aluminum to strong, light fiberglass reinforced syntactic foam for high strength with light weight.

Sculptured bumper guard surrounds entire outside edge for safety and helps prevent string breakage.

Quadriform head shape provides an excellent "sweet spot."

Variable string pattern is "tuned" to shape and structure of racquet. Pattern puts the right string where the best "hit" is. Added Tralon® reinforces shoulder area, improves power.

Open throat prevents twist and frame distortion on off-center hits; aids racquet control.



1. Aluminum top skins provide strength, durability.
2. Beveled inside edge reduces wind resistance and improves racquet flex.
3. Polyethylene sidewall in string area protects strings and racquet core.
4. Syntactic foam core provides structural integrity, absorbs vibration.
5. Polyurethane bumper guard wraps entire outside edge.
6. Deep channel in guard protects strings from abrasion and breakage.
7. Tralon® reinforces shoulders of frame.

Contoured foam handle facilitates proper grip, smooths out vibration and assists you to maintain a firm hold. Handle is wrapped with textured full grained leather non-slip grip.

The Graphite Express . . . engineered for non-stop power and durability

Engineered

Pioneering structural techniques are now refined and ideally formed for racquetball. A "blow molded" torsion tube of fiberglass and graphite reinforced epoxy forms this structure. Because each layer of graphite and fiberglass in the torsion tube is "laid up" (or assembled) by hand, the basic characteristics of this racquet can be "tuned" to just the right proportion of weight, balance, flex and stiffness. This all adds up to optimum weight distribution with maximum strength and power.

Blow-molded torsion tube of fiberglass and graphite reinforced epoxy is fine tuned for maximum strength and resistance to twist, excellent weight distribution.

An integral polymer bumper strip surrounds the perimeters of this high-performance, fine-tuned structure. It acts to protect players, court surfaces, and the racquet itself from sharp sudden impact. And, since the polymer is molded into both the inside and outside perimeters of the racquet, it doubly protects strings from breakage due to abrasion.

Still, the shape and form of this Graphite Express racquet is classic. Start at the hourglass shaped, foam-in-place handle. It promotes a proper grip on the racquet and acts to absorb unwanted vibration. Look at the distinctive Head open throat design that reinforces our quadriform head shape, minimizes racquet twist on off-center hits and thus aids control. Finally, observe the "business end," the quadriform head of the graphite express. It provides an excellent sweet spot and an optimum sized string area.

Polymer bumper strip molded to outside and inside perimeters protects strings from breakage; absorbs impact from contact with court surfaces.

Fine-tuned and Proven

To guide our engineers through the three year process of developing this Graphite Express concept for racquetball, the pro players, instructors and club managers that make up our Head advisory staff spent many hours testing and evaluating prototypes and preliminary designs. Because the Head "torsion tube" structure is so adjustable and adaptable over a wide range of flex patterns, the fine-tuning they recommended was easy to accomplish. In essence, their advice was simple. Give us power! Give us a good solid "hit!" Keep it light! Make the racquet good-looking!

We think our result speaks for itself. We strongly recommend that you let our design express itself to you. Test it. Try a demonstrator from our dealer. We at Head believe that we've put our advisory staff's suggestions into production. We think you'll agree that this is one fine racquet designed for your power game.

The engineering and player expertise represented in the first Graphite Express racquet could not be duplicated by any other manufacturer. The Graphite Express is the end result of years of testing and research tempered by the playability input of our professional racquetball advisory staff. But you be the judge. Try a demonstrator at our dealer.

Quadriform head shape affords excellent "sweet spot," provides large string surface.

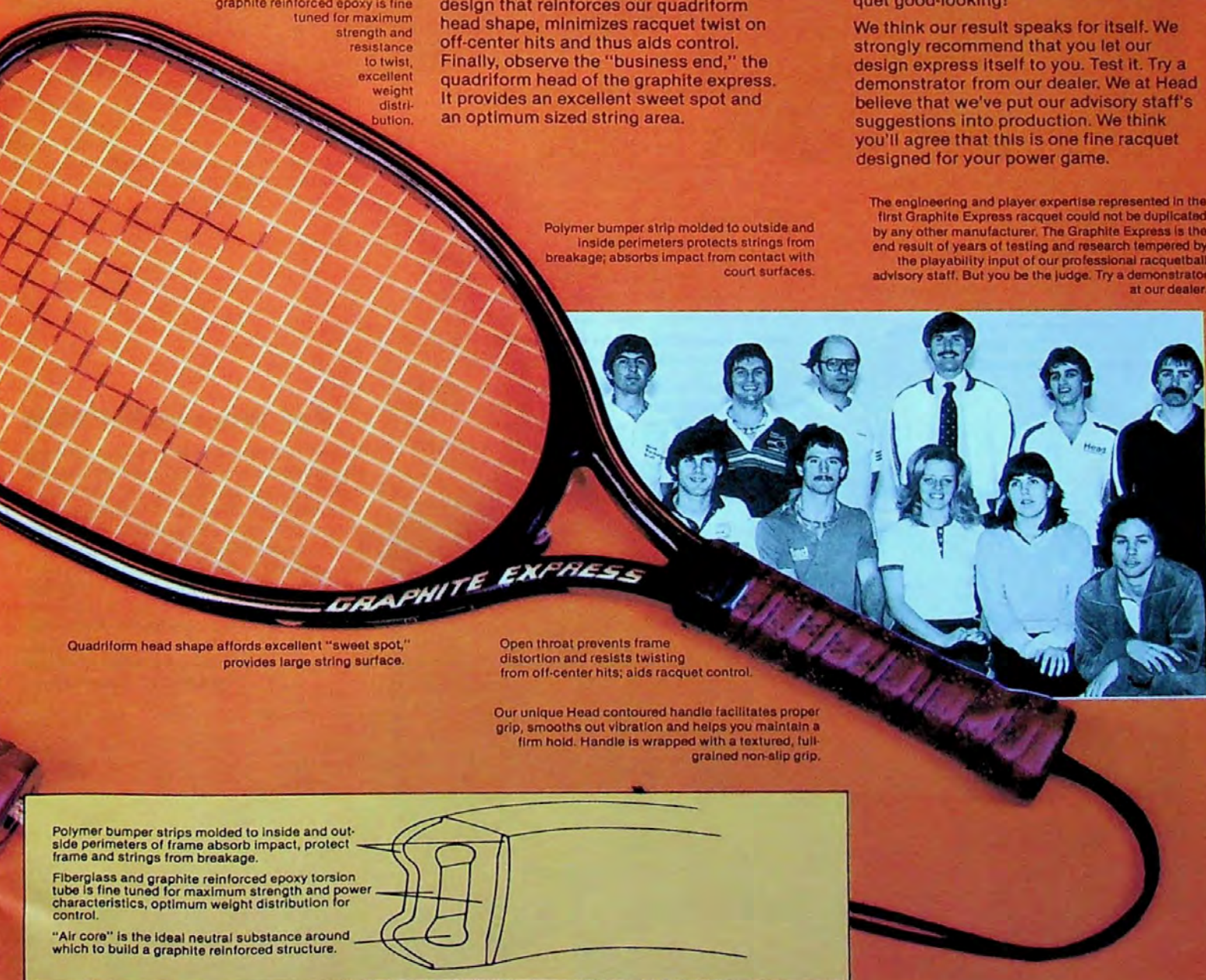
Open throat prevents frame distortion and resists twisting from off-center hits; aids racquet control.

Our unique Head contoured handle facilitates proper grip, smooths out vibration and helps you maintain a firm hold. Handle is wrapped with a textured, full-grained non-slip grip.

Polymer bumper strips molded to inside and outside perimeters of frame absorb impact, protect frame and strings from breakage.

Fiberglass and graphite reinforced epoxy torsion tube is fine tuned for maximum strength and power characteristics, optimum weight distribution for control.

"Air core" is the ideal neutral substance around which to build a graphite reinforced structure.

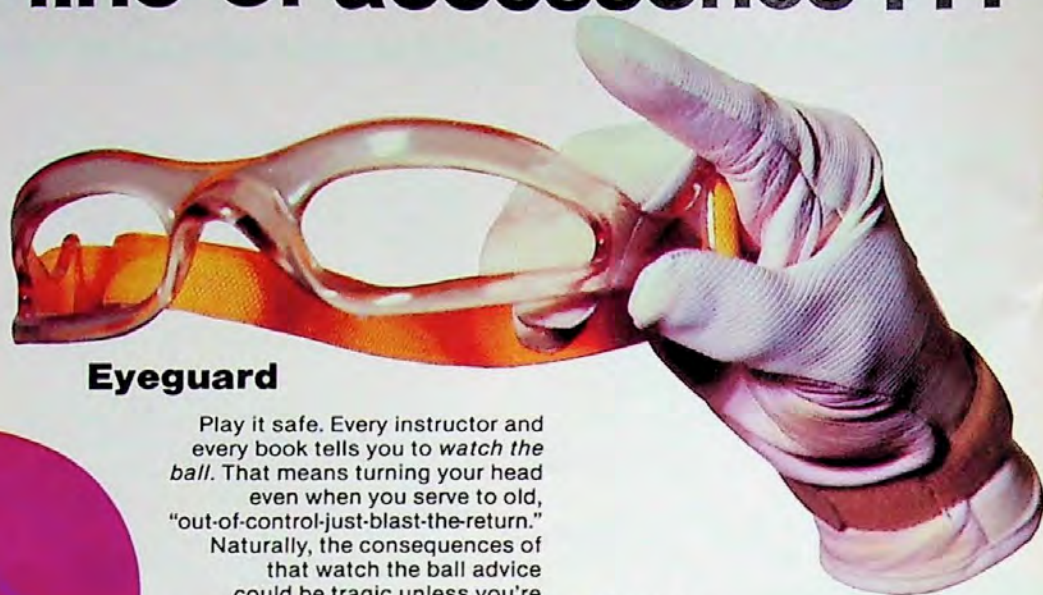


A complete line of accessories . . .



Plum balls

It's not just the color: highly visible, dayglow purple. It's not just the sound: an explosion off the front wall. It's not just the bounce or longevity of Plums. It's all this and more. Not so surprising, it's the ball of the future. More playable. More durable. More racquetball.



Eyeguard

Play it safe. Every instructor and every book tells you to *watch the ball*. That means turning your head even when you serve to old, "out-of-control-just-blast-the-return." Naturally, the consequences of that watch the ball advice could be tragic unless you're using our eyeguard. In case "old-blast-away" has any excuses about not knowing where you are, our sturdy polycarbonate plastic eyeguard comes complete with a bright orange headband and extra comfort padding.

Glove

Comfortable, soft, durable and washable deerskin palms are expertly sewn to breathable nylon uppers, all secured at the wrist with an adjustable Velcro® strap. The Head racquetball glove is designed for long lasting performance.

Shoes

Think about it. Racquetball isn't basketball, (you don't jump that much). It isn't tennis (no net), or boating (no water), or running (no track or road) or skateboarding (no hills), either.

What's needed is a shoe designed for the sport. And here it is: the Head Racquetball Shoe.

Gum rubber outsoles grip the court. Ballistics mesh outside quarter panels take the stress of lateral movement and provide excellent breathability, too. The mesh toecap resists the rigors of drag. Honeycomb structured built-in heel wedge keeps you forward on your feet—(in attack position). Tongue, collar and heel are all padded for comfort.



For Women/For Men

Sized and styled to fit you, we go to the trouble to build a racquetball shoe that's all ready for you to step out and win in.

Our ladies' shoes features the popular U-throat style that's specifically built to fit the character of women's feet. Our men's shoe is laced to the toe for added support and adjustability. These special purpose shoes are designed and built to fit every player, man or woman. So go ahead use them for basketball, tennis, volleyball, boating, or what have you. After all, if the shoes fit . . . wear them.



Racquetball Gear Bag

Big enough to hold clothes and equipment but small enough to slip fully loaded into your half-size wall locker. Carry it with either an adjustable (and removable) web shoulder strap or a pair of handle straps. The bag lets you stow racquets in an outside compartment while clothes and shoes are tucked safe inside. A pocket is included to separate wet from dry. The dimensions, 10"H x 8"W x 20"L, total approximately 1600 cubic inches of capacity.

Mini Tote

Anything, anytime, anywhere, this is one handy bag. Whether you're a player or a spectator. It's big enough inside for shoes, towel, clothes, thermos bottles, snack or what have you. A special outside pocket carries racquets or drawsheets. Either a shoulder strap or the carry handles can tote it away. Size 15"H x 5"W x 15"L totals approximately 1125 cubic inches

Carry all

A short, wide companion. This is Head's biggest capacity bag. Made to stand up even as check through baggage, the Carry all's one huge compartment is portable by either handles or shoulder strap. Great for those out of town tournaments. Size 12"H x 9"W x 23"L totals approximately 2480 cubic inches.



Plus little things that count . . .

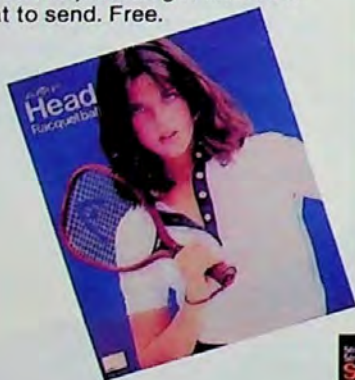
A collection of materials we've produced to make your game more enjoyable



Posters

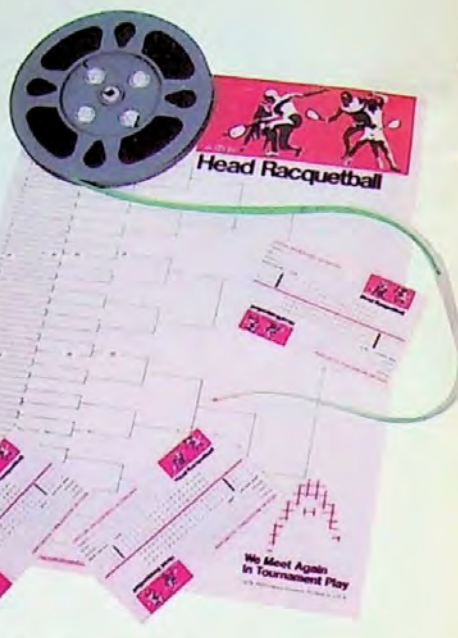
Up Against the Wall: Going for it; Him vs Her, and Strandemo—these four "We Meet Again" posters were produced to mark Head's entry to the world (and market) of racquetball. Write us for the "We Meet Again" series and we'll send all four. Free.

Then along the way we met this girl, write for the *Head racquetball girl* and we'll know what to send. Free.



Learning Aids in Strandemo's Strategy

This four poster series presents the very basics of how to play racquetball. Starting with *Serves and Returns* (1); through to the forehand and backhand *Strokes* (2); to *Scoring Options* (3); finally, *Hinders* (4), what they are and who's at fault. Write us for the Head Strandemo Strategy series of posters and we'll send them. Free



A film for Group Entertainment and Tournament Aids

Off the Wall . . . a light hearted 15 min. filmed look at the sport (and essence) of racquetball. Write us for full particulars about showing a print of "Off the Wall." This film is part of Heads continuing commitment to the growth of racquetball.

For tournaments we have 32/62 drawsheets and single match score cards. Let us know the size of your tournament and we'll take care of drawsheets and scorecards.



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AMF Head Division/Racquetball
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Boulder, Colorado 80301

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PRO QUALIFYING

The Battle For Last Place

You're a killer. You're the quickest person you've ever been on the court with, and some of the gets you make surprise even you. Your forehand kill off the back wall is so awesome that disheartened opponents figure it's your money shot — until they see your *backhand* kill. You've won every tournament in the state, and now that you're winning them in *other* states, the next move is obvious — turn pro. (See *Racquetball*, December, 1979.)

It couldn't be easier. Simply check your handy calendar for the date and place of the next pro stop, send in the entry fee, head for the airport with dreams of the big win, and — boom! — faster than a photon you're back home without so much as having *seen* a pro, much less upsetting one in a tense, round-of-32 match. Welcome to the qualifying rounds, the ordeal by fire for anyone who has the audacity to think he can break in to the big time.

There are 64 reasons why it's so tough; reasons with names like Egerman, Levine, and Harnett. The nation's top amateurs are all there together, and each of them is very concerned that he not be among the 56 players who will go home after qualifying day, a little wiser and considerably poorer. There will be only eight survivors by the end of the day. They will step into the eight open slots in the pro round-of-32 that begins the next day. Eight slots is not very many, and that's why everybody's trying so hard. Nor will a would-be qualifier find the draw to be arranged quite as comfortably as it was back home. As John Egerman,

Boise, Idaho's classiest racquetball export, observes, "You've got three matches in one day. That's bad enough, but they're *tough* matches from the very start. These guys are going all out to qualify, and if you try to work into it gradually, as you do when you're a top seed in an ordinary tournament, you'll find yourself up with the spectators real fast."

Egerman doesn't spend much time in the bleachers. The pros were a little uneasy after watching him breeze through his qualifying rounds at the Coors Racquetball Classic, the NRC Pro/Am tournament in Denver, Colo., last February. They figured Jerry Zuckerman, a third-year pro on the tour, would stop him in the pro round-of-32. After all, that's where the qualifiers always cash in — well, almost always. Apparently Egerman, who had qualified for the first time on the '79-'80 tour, was not aware of the odds against him and went through Zuckerman with the same style he had used to dispatch opponents of the day before: two quick games and a brisk handshake.

Something is wrong, the pros were telling each other as they looked down from their ethereal realm of the round-of-16. The other seven upstarts, those who, with Egerman, had managed to qualify, had obligingly followed the usual scenario. Promising young Mike Levine, (15 years old) from Rochester, N.Y., who had qualified a month earlier at the Memphis stop, bowed out in Denver after a respectable showing against Rich Wagner. The mercurial Ross Harvey, of Canada and, most recently, San Diego, Calif., went down shooting (and shouting) against Jerry Hilecher, hindered by a distracting handicap. "I forgot to empty my gym bag during the night and had to face Jerry with wet gloves," he sadly confessed. Kirk Williams, qualifying for the second time,

gave Mike Yellen something to sweat about in their first game, but finally went out like a lamb, as did the rest of the qualifiers.

Not a very impressive showing, you say. But consider what these guys are up against. In one day, usually Wednesday, a player hoping to gain one of the eight open berths in Thursday's pro round-of-32 must battle through rounds-of-64, -32, and -16: three matches against some of the hottest shots around. It's a system that a lot of people think is simply too demanding, and gives too great an advantage to the fresh pro (as if he needed *any* help) a qualifier must face the following morning. Kyle Kamalu, from Provo, Utah, tried to qualify in Denver but didn't quite make it. "I'd like to see the tournament organizers spread the qualifying rounds over two days instead of all in one shot. As it is now, if you're lucky enough to get through three rounds in one day against these guys, you can hardly stand up the next day," he complains. Mike Levine may have been feeling the effects of qualifying day when he lost to Wagner, but he doesn't entirely agree with Kamalu. On the contrary, Levine says: "It's definitely an advantage for the pro who has to meet a qualifier who has played three matches the previous day. But I think it *should* be tough. If you're in shape, three matches isn't that bad." Egerman feels the same way. "Three matches a day is OK — you should be in shape for it. But it would be nice if the matches could be spaced farther apart in the course of the day."

It should be noted, though, that this is youth speaking. Many of the players trying to qualify — Egerman, Levine, Harvey, and Brett Harnett, for example — are still in their teens. Harold Lujan, a veteran qualifier and current Colorado state champion who lost to Kamalu in the Denver qualifying rounds, is twice as old as Mike Levine. But if a three-match day

By George Bilgere



John Eggerman demonstrates front-court position in his losing quarterfinal effort against Steve Strandemo.

T here are 64 reasons why it's so tough; reasons with names like Eggerman, Levine, and Harnett.

has begun to seem like a lot of work to him, he is gracious about it. Lujan observes, "There are a lot of kids playing racquetball out there today. They put in the time and work, and they have the desire. They deserve to win. And when you get right down to it, it's really the best players who qualify under this system. These kids are in great condition. If I can go three matches, I'm sure it can't be too hard for them." Additional proof of the kind of stamina and resilience these athletes possess is that, in Denver, some of them entered both the pro qualifying and the men's amateur "Open" division. That's a lot of racquetball in a few days.

But even though the top players accept the current qualifying system, most of them have recommended some changes.

Ross Harvey would like to see the three matches spread over two days, even if it meant a greater expense to him in motel and food costs. However, some of the other young players point out that, while their schools are usually quite understanding about the class time they miss while travelling to tournaments, there is a limit. Harvey himself concedes, "If you really work at qualifying, your grades will show it." And famed racquetball pro Steve Strandemo suggests that the companies that provide full or partial financial sponsorship for some of the players might not take kindly to footing the bill for an additional day.

A recommendation that seems more popular is that there be only two qualifying rounds. The pro draw would then be expanded to 64 to accommodate more

qualifiers and more players with guaranteed berths. "It would take a little away from the pros and give a little to the qualifiers," says Lujan. "The pros wouldn't like it because they'd have to play an extra round. But a lot of the guys playing now are good enough to have a shot at the pros. The sport has grown and the system should grow with it. The kids deserve the chance." Kyle Kamalu also favors this change. "Some of the qualifying matches are as good as the first round in the pros. I think that enlarging the pro draw to 64, or even 128 some day, as they do in tennis, would not only give more guys a chance to play into the money, but give the spectators more to see. Maybe the sport's just too small for that now." But that's not how the outspoken Ross Harvey sees it. "The pro round of 64 is a great idea but it's not going to happen. The NRC doesn't want to see their pros get beaten early. And some of these qualifiers can do that." Harvey himself, for instance, has recently scored wins over Ben Koltun and Mike Yellen.

Harvey's complaint reflects a general discontent among amateur players who consistently qualify at the pro stops only to be stopped in the '32s by a Brumfield or a Yellen, then have to repeat the whole, grueling process at the next tournament. They feel that if the pros near the bottom of the 24 secure berths fail to



JOHN FOUST

John Eggerman (right) keeps Steve Strandemo on the move in game two of their quarterfinal match in Denver. Strandemo won the tie-breaker.

Something is wrong, the pros were telling each other as they looked down from their ethereal realm of the round-of-16.

win their first round three times in a row they should have to qualify, just as anyone else would. And there is a strong feeling among many qualifiers that some of the lower-ranked pros could not survive the qualifying rounds. "They would qualify," maintains Strandemo, "but I definitely don't think they should have to. Those guys have paid their dues. They deserve to hold their rank, even if it's a stationary rank that never goes above 23 or 24. Somehow, it's never 25, either. And I think if you talk to any of these young qualifiers in five or six years, when he's ranked 22 or 23, you'll find he thinks differently than he does now."

Breaking into the pros is tough, to be sure, but not impossible. Dave Peck,

now number two on the pro tour after Hogan, was still going through qualifying rounds a year ago. Lindsey Myers and Don Thomas have also come up recently. "The only way to get these old pros out of there," says Strandemo, "is for the qualifiers who really want it, like Eggerman, to get in there and take it away from them."

Ah, yes, Eggerman. When last we saw him, the pros were eagerly awaiting his comeuppance at the hands of fearsome Davey Bledsoe. But once again Eggerman rewrote the anticipated script, using a blend of smooth power and masterful pinch shots to put Bledsoe out in three games. If the pros had been uneasy before, they were downright scared now.

This kid, qualifying for his first pro tournament in the season, was in the quarters! Now the burden was on Strandemo. After game one he was wishing it was on someone else. For most of the way to his 21 points Eggerman looked as if he were playing a routine qualifying match, not the tournament's number five seed. But in the last points he seemed to lose a step or two. The efforts of the past two days had taken some of the crispness and power out of his shots. Midway through the second game he ran out of gas altogether, and Strandemo, still a great player at over 30, took the tiebreaker easily. "John just played too many matches," Strandemo said generously, "but as far as I know he's the first person ever to go through the qualifying rounds to the pro quarterfinals. By doing that he's probably not only eliminated having to qualify in the future — he's shown the other guys that it can be done."

Indeed it can and will be done. But the players who do it will be the Eggermans, the Harnetts and the Levines. And for those players it may be worth it — they'll make it eventually. In the meantime, there are a lot of other players suffering through the grueling workouts of the pro qualifying rounds, and getting nowhere. The also-rans, they're finding out it's not much fun when you're battling for last place. ■

R - A - C - Q - U -

JULY 4-6

Firecracker Open (3)
Court House I
47 Hartford Turnpike
Vernon, CT 06066
Ron Mirek
203-649-0597

Firecracker Open (3)
Kings Courts
Erie, PA 16509
Bob Oliver
814-868-9626

JULY 10-13
Summer Classic (3)
Don Kessinger's Court Club
2611 S. Mendenhall
Memphis, TN 38118
Bud Hurley
901-682-6661
901-794-9300

AARA National Juniors
Singles and Doubles (6)
Kangaroo Kourts IV
1988 Park Marina Dr.
Redding, CA 96001
Ed Martin
916-221-4405

Southern California
Grand Prix
Irvine Clubhouse (July 9-13)
17850 Skypark Blvd.
Irvine, CA

Rollout Racquetball Club
19350 Business Center Dr.
Northridge, CA

JULY 17-20
Summer Classic (2)
Don Kessinger's Court Club
1428 Merrill Dr.
Little Rock, AR 72211
501-227-6401

Southern California
Grand Prix
Racquettime
1350 Grand Ave.
San Marcos, CA

Bakersfield Courthouse
3500 21st St.
Bakersfield, CA

JULY 24-27
Southern California
Grand Prix
West Covina Athletic Club
3211 East Garvey Blvd.
West Covina, CA

Rancho Verde
Trojan Racquetball
28000 South Western Ave.
San Pedro, CA

JULY 25-27
South Dakota Outdoor
Racquetball Tournament (2)
Sioux Park
102 San Marco
Rapid City, SD 57701
Clint Koble
605-341-6678
605-394-4167

Arizona State
Championships (2)
Arizona Athletic Club
1425 W. 14th St.
Tempe, AZ
Jack Nolan
602-839-0036 (home)
602-894-2281 (club)

Long Island Seamco
Summer Classic (3)
Universal and Centre Courts
Long Island, NY
Bill Dotter
516-862-9241

AUGUST 1-3
Matata Open (3)
North Courts
4 Adar Swamp Rd.
Glencove, NY 11542
Al Seitelman
516-759-1700

AMF Racquetball Classic
for the Benefit
of Leukemia (3)
Racquetball Plaza
Central Ave.
Scarsdale, NY 10583
John Croke
914-472-1914

AUGUST 7-10
Southern California
Grand Prix
San Luis Obispo
Courthouse
1020 Southwood Dr.
San Luis Obispo, CA

Wallbanger Racquetball
Center
7402 Center Dr.
Huntington Beach, CA

AUGUST 8-10
Castle Oak-AMF Head
Racquetball Open (3)
Swimming, Bar-B-Q
Party, Fun
Castle Oak
Chesterfield (St. Louis) MO
Bob Hardcastle
314-532-0484 (home)
314-532-0500 (club)

AUGUST 14-17
Southern California
Grand Prix
Ventura Courthouse
3760 Telegraph Rd
Ventura, CA

Montclair Racquet Time
(summer shootout)
5515 Moreno
Montclair, CA

AUGUST 15-17
Bently Club Classic (3)
Bently Club
2301 Grimes Dr.
Harrisburg, PA 17112
John Friend
717-545-4231

Long Island
Championships (3)
Centre Courts
40 Maple Ave.
Rockville Centre, NY 11570
Bill Dotter
516-536-8700

National Car Rental—
Midsummer Classic (3)
Gainesville Racquetball
Club
Gainesville, FL 32601
Van Dubolsky
904-372-2120

AUGUST 21-24
Southern California
Grand Prix
Rocky's Racquet World
12111 Strathern St.
No. Hollywood, CA

Southern California
Grand Prix
Santa Ana Athletic Club
311 North Van Ness
Santa Ana, CA

C - A - L - E -

E - T - B - A - L - L

AUGUST 22-24

Blue Point Tournament (3)
Blue Point Racquetball Club
9 A Montauk
Blue Point, NY 11715
Garrett Jones
516-363-2882

SEPTEMBER 4-7

Southern California
Grand Prix
Stadium Racquet Club
5885 Rancho Mission Rd.
San Diego, CA

West End Tennis &
Racquet Club
4343 Spencer St.
Torrance, CA

SEPTEMBER 5-7

Georgia State
Championships (2)
Court South
Akers Mill, GA
Jim Cullen
404-995-2120

SEPTEMBER 11-14

Best of the East (3)
Racquettime
168 Franklin
Walwick, NJ 07463
Nick Elie
201-447-6565

Southern California
Grand Prix
Westlake Courthouse
31425 Augoura Rd.
Westlake Village, CA

Rancho Mesa Verde
Athletic Club
1600 Adams
Costa Mesa, CA

SEPTEMBER 12-13

75th Anniversary
Pennsylvania State Police
Racquetball Tournament (2)
Alpha Club
Camp Hill, PA
Bernie Howard
717-667-2209

SEPTEMBER 19-21

Newport Open (3)
Newport Playoff Club
267 Green End Ave.
Middleton, RI 02540
Dennis Culberson
401-438-1780

SEPTEMBER 24-28

Finals-Southern California
Grand Prix
Del Amo All Pro
Athletic Club
21345 Hawthorne Blvd.
Torrance, CA

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SEPTEMBER 26-28

Yogi Berra/Lite Beer
Grand Prix (3)
Yogi Berra's Hall of Fame
333 Gothic Plaza
Fairfield, NJ 07006
201-227-4000

Walsh Steel/Royal
Courts Open (3)
Royal Courts
Wilkes-Barre, PA
Bob Bakunas
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OCTOBER 10-12

Columbus Day Weekend
Shoot Off (3)
21st Point Club
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Albany, NY 12203
Vince Wolanin
518-489-3276

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Playoff Club
Needham, MA
Luke St. Onge
901-761-1172

OCTOBER 24-26

Capitol Courts/Ormsby
House Open (3)
Capitol Courts
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Rich Bennet - Mike Longero
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OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 2

Florida State Doubles (2)
Van Dubolsky 904-372-2120
Fred White 305-473-3912

NOVEMBER 14-16

Yogi Berra/Lite Beer
Grand Prix (3)
Yogi Berra's Hall of Fame
333 Gothic Plaza
Fairfield, NJ 07006
201-227-4000

NOVEMBER

Long Island Open (3)
Centre Courts and Universal
Racquetball Center
40 Maple Ave.
Rockville Center, NY 11570
516-536-8700
6000 Sunrise Hwy.
Massapequa, NY 11758
516-799-4000

DECEMBER 12-14

Blue Point Tournament (3)
Blue Point Racquetball Club
9 A Montauk
Blue Point, NY 11715
Garrett Jones
516-363-2882

FEBRUARY 13-15

Blue Point Tournament (3)
Blue Point Racquetball Club
9 A Montauk
Blue Point, NY 11715
Garrett Jones
516-363-2882

APRIL 10-12

Blue Point Tournament (3)
Blue Point Racquetball Club
9 A Montauk
Blue Point, NY 11715
Garrett Jones
516-363-2882

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tournaments in bold
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(3)-3rd level tournament
(4)-4th level tournament
(5)-5th level tournament
(6)-6th level tournament

N - D - A - R

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NEW COURT CLUB OPENINGS

Landisville, Pennsylvania

Indian Springs Racquet Club, located in Landisville, has been open now for 1½ years. The original facility includes seven indoor tennis courts, five racquetball/handball courts, a fitness center and full locker room amenities.

On May 10th, Indian Springs opened an additional building. This facility includes six racquetball/handball courts (two with glass back walls, blue tinted sidewalls for tournament play, and seating for 250 people). The club also offers membership to the "Fitness Center," equipped with 19 pieces of Nautilus Equipment, exercise bikes, aerobic dance classes for women, and outdoor running trails.

Indian Springs Racquet Club now has seven indoor tennis courts, 11 racquetball/handball courts, and a larger "Fitness Center." Indian Springs Racquet Club is located at 949 Church St., Landisville, Penn., 17538. Call 717-898-0101 for further information.

Albany, New York

The Twenty First Point Club racquetball facility opened last spring on the Albany/Guilderland City and Town lines in the state of New York. The Club consists of 12 regulation racquetball courts, eight featuring glass back walls. In addition, there is a smaller thirteenth court designed specifically for junior racquetballers. The junior court also has a glass back wall, so that parents may view the progress of their youngsters.

Other amenities of the club include saunas, a large coed whirlpool, exercise room and locker rooms featuring oak lockers. Designed by the award-winning architect, Clark Shaughnessy, the club was built by Vincent and Gregory Wolanin and is located on McKown Road off Western Avenue at McKowns Grove in Albany, N.Y., 12203; 518-489-3276. ■

STEP ONE

INSTRUCTION FOR BEGINNERS

By Ralph Wickstrom

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ralph L. Wickstrom coauthored the book *Racquetball and Paddleball Fundamentals*. He is a professor at Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin, and a free lance writer.

Beginning racquetball is filled with delights, temptations and frustrations. The beginner is *delighted* to find that the ball is very bouncy and stays within the confines of the court regardless of how vigorously or how poorly it has been hit. This early realization leads to the *temptation* to flail away at the ball and encourages the beginner to succumb to the attraction of the power game. The early delights and thrills connected to the use of power are great while they last but usually are short-lived. They give way to *frustration* when the ball repeatedly goes astray. The chronic inaccuracy of eager beginners finally breeds frustration and racquets and court walls suffer the consequences.

It is very important for the beginner to avoid problems associated with the power game during the early stages of stroke development. Among the key problems is the failure to move into the ball when hitting. This problem can be seen broadly as the *lack of forward impulse* in a stroke regardless of whether there is or is not enough time to turn and step into the hit.

In order for the problem to be understood clearly, one particular feature needs a bit more explanation. It is perfectly natural for beginners who are learning to strike objects with implements (as in badminton, golf, tennis, etc., as well as racquetball) to be "arm swingers." That is, they have a tendency to swing mostly with the arm or arms, as the case may be, without significantly involving the rest of the body. This leads to a swing that is primarily *around* rather than one which is an effective step-swing sequence of *forward and around*

movements. Moreover, the *around* aspect of the swing is exaggerated when the player tries to hit with increasingly more force.

To minimize the major difficulties connected with the development of power strokes, the beginner, either with the assistance of an instructor or by himself, should emphasize moving into the ball, should focus on the forward impulse of the racquet hand, and should stress accuracy in everything done in practice.

Rank beginners and those still operating at a fairly rudimentary level of skill will find the following drills of particular value in developing those aspects of technique needed for accuracy in racquetball.

1. *Drop and Hit*. Since this is a cross-court drill, the player starts in a semi-crouched position facing the front wall with right shoulder about five feet from the right sidewall (Figure 1). The ball is dropped from about knee height so it will land at a point away from the body and even with the forward foot. It is hit at a low imaginary target which is straight ahead, with a forehand stroke, and then caught or retrieved after it rebounds from the left sidewall. Each time the ball is dropped and hit, the entire body should move toward the target.

Drop and hit can be used to practice both forehand and backhand strokes but each should be dealt with separately. A player might hit eight to ten balls on the forehand side and then switch and do the same on the backhand side. This will provide enough hits to groove a stroke temporarily before changing.

Accurate dropping of the ball in relation to the forward foot is essential because it allows correct mechanics to be used in the strokes. Another point of technique that requires underlining is the proper movement of the racquet hand. It must move forward and continue in that direction after the ball has been con-

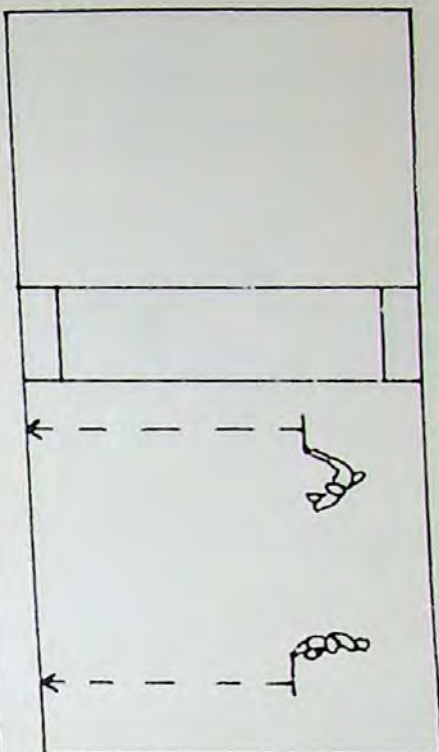


FIGURE 1

tacted. Emphasis on this movement is a great help in developing the idea of a forward impulse.

2. *Forehand Rally*. This exercise is done in the same crosscourt direction as the *drop and hit* drill. Using the forehand stroke only, the player drops the ball, hits it, and continues to rally as the ball returns. If the ball cannot be kept within about two feet of the floor and straight, the rally should be stopped and a new one started. Consistency in the amount of hitting force and in early preparation for the next stroke helps set up a rhythm that is important in rallying. An attempt should be made to increase the number of consecutive, accurate hits in each rally.

3. *Backhand Rally*. Same as Drill No. 2 except that only the backhand stroke is used. It is especially important to stop the drill and restart whenever the ball is out of control and cannot be hit effectively. Beginners find it difficult to make contact ahead of the body consistently with the backhand and might have to return to *drop and hit* to regain the feeling of that aspect of the stroke.

An important side benefit of these, as well as subsequent drills, is the contribution they make to the development of "racquet face awareness." This is much more than just a fancy term. It is an important concept and a critical part of stroke technique. It means that the player is aware of the position of the face of the racquet and has it in the desired position when the ball is contacted. The act-

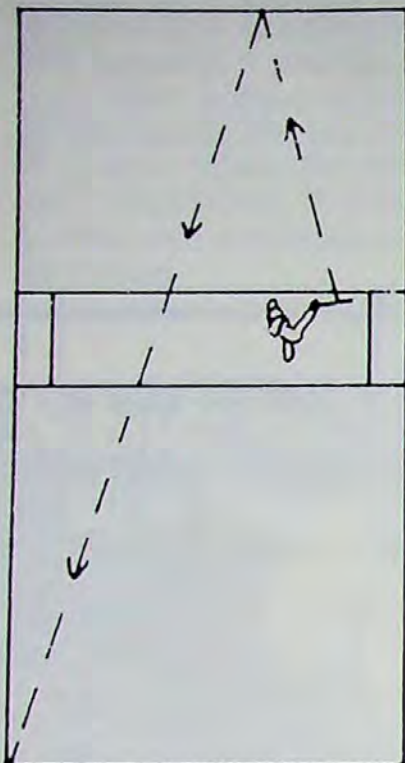


FIGURE 2

ual position of the racquet face at contact is produced by a combination of grip and stroke technique and can vary considerably. At point of contact, the racquet face could be anywhere in the vertical plane between the extremes of open (mostly facing upward) and closed (mostly facing downward) and anywhere in the lateral plane between the extremes of right or left. All the other aspects of stroke technique can be perfect, but the hit will be accurate only if the racquet face is in the correct position as the ball is struck. Since fast hitting is not important in the crosscourt drills already mentioned, the player has adequate time to deal with "racquet face awareness" as well as the forward impulse.

4. *Low Crosscourt Rally.* Controlled repetition of the low shot is the objective of this drill so forceful, erratic hitting must be avoided. The player simply drops, hits and keeps the ball going with either a forehand or a backhand stroke. The ball must be kept low and hit with approximately the same amount of force each time. A low ball coming back directly at the body is an awkward return for a beginner. It should be played with a backhand stroke and a forward pushing motion. Turning the body in preparation for hitting either a forehand or a backhand stroke is desirable because it puts the whole body in position to become involved in the forward impulse. If there is not enough time to turn and the body is still facing the target when contact is made, there is a tendency to

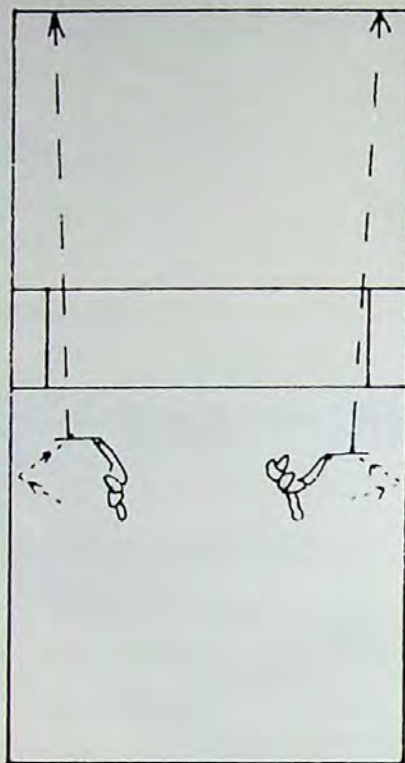


FIGURE 3

commit lateral errors by pushing or pulling the ball. For that reason, a continuation of the *forward* movement of the racquet hand is critical when making these forward facing returns.

5. *Crosscourt Power Serve.* A vertical piece of tape or some other easily removable target is placed on the front wall of the court to serve as a target. The target should represent the appropriate angle and height for a serve that will be low and into the backhand corner of the court. The player serves from a position in the service area about four to five feet from the forehand wall, and follows out at the target (Figure 2). As the power is increased in this type of serve, the previously mentioned tendency to rotate excessively and pull the ball off line becomes a problem. The result is a serve that goes at an obtuse angle, rebounds off the sidewall in front of the service line, and heads conveniently toward the receiver.

Two aspects of serving technique enhance the quest for the forward impulse and lessen the rotation that detracts from accuracy and effective power. The first point is the dropping of the ball from about knee height and well forward so the server must *step into* the hit. The low drop obviously will produce a low rebound and force the second point which is the use of the underarm rather than the waist-high sidearm swing commonly employed by beginners. This underhand power stroke is tremendously important in the overall racquetball

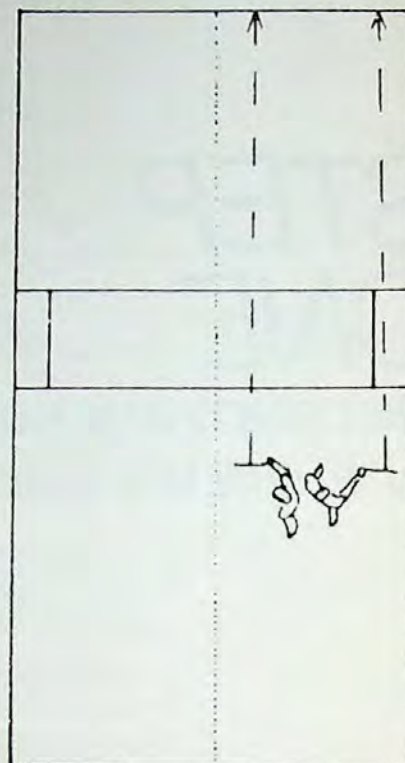


FIGURE 4

game. It is the basic stroke used in low shots, especially in attempted kills, from nearly every spot on the court.

6. *Forehand Down the Line.* The player stands five to eight feet from the right sidewall and about five feet behind the short service line, facing the wall, ball in left hand, and body bent forward at the waist. The ball is tossed gently so it strikes the wall a foot from the floor and a foot toward the front wall from the left foot (Figure 3). After the ball rebounds from the wall and bounces once, the player steps into the ball and hits it *down the line* with a smooth underarm forehand stroke. The follow-through is straight and low. It is essential to have low contact and low follow-through. The beginner typically tosses the ball too hard and is cramped or tosses it too high and is forced to use a sidearm rather than an underarm stroke. Beginning players also tend to swing too hard and by so doing are erratic and defeat the purpose of the drill. It is sometimes useful for a player to precede the drill with a few underarm throws (not tosses) down the line, to get the general feeling of the stroke.

7. *Backhand Down the Line.* This is the same basic drill as No. 6 except it is done to the backhand side (Figure 3). Success in the backhand drill is possible only if the toss against the wall is reasonably accurate and the ball rebounds in front of the forward foot allowing the player to swing out and through. Balls bounding off the wall behind the forward foot

usually end up being hit against the backhand sidewall rather than going straight down the line. Hard swinging again poses the problem of too much "around," and results in a pulled shot rather than one with the desired forward impulse.

8. *Deep Rally.* The player stands about five feet behind the short service line and rallies against the front wall keeping the ball in the right or the left half of the court (Figure 4). The rebounding ball may bounce more than one time before being hit, but may not be hit in front of the starting point. While this appears to be a very simple drill, it is deceptively difficult for beginners. Consistent forward impulse is usually lacking and after one or two hits the ball caroms off the sidewall or is mis-hit to the other side of the court. Continuity in the deep rally can be improved if the player turns before hitting, steps into the ball, and follows through after each hit.

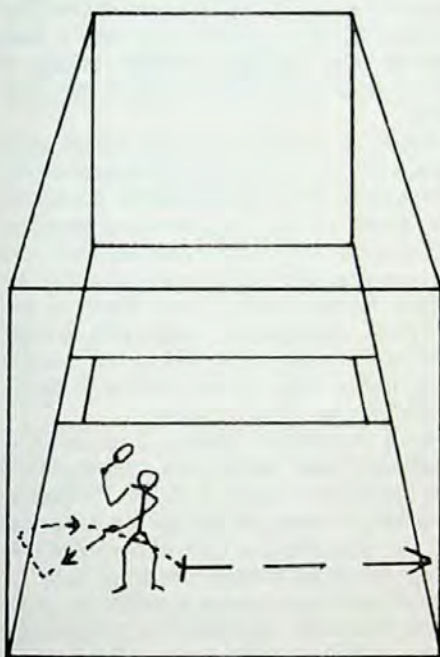


FIGURE 5

9. *Crosscourt Back Wall Drill.* The player stands facing the back wall, in a position about four feet from the left sidewall. The ball is thrown gently at the floor about a foot from the wall so it bounces against the sidewall and then rebounds toward the opposite sidewall (Figure 5). The ball is played low against the opposite sidewall with an underarm, forehand swing. A sideways step and weight shift provide the forward impulse for the shot. The tendency to over swing should be kept under control in favor of a smooth low follow-through. The same drill can be used for the backhand back wall stroke. The ball must rebound from the wall far enough so the player can step

into it with a sweeping forward swing and make contact off the forward foot. If the starting throw with the left hand cannot be managed, the ball can be dropped and hit against the opposite sidewall and then played with the underarm backhand back wall stroke after it has rebounded off the near sidewall.

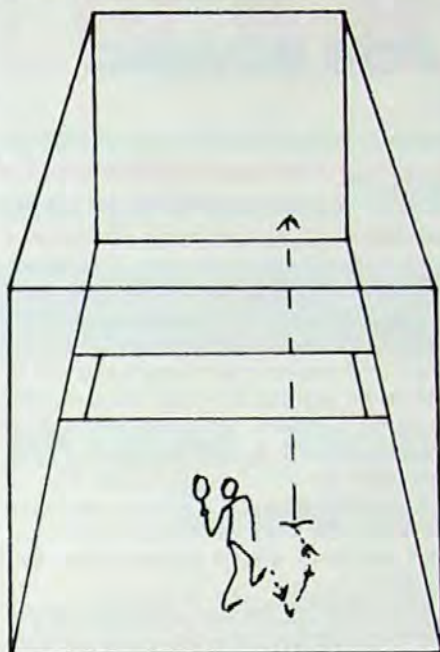


FIGURE 6

10. *Long Court Backwall Drill.* This is the same drill as No. 9 done from the back court toward the front wall (Figure 6). The ball must be contacted low and carried forward with a low stroke. Stepping into the ball and following forward with the racquet hand will help keep the ball low and straight.

Working with a low bounce off the back wall is vitally important in grooving the underarm strokes that produce low front wall shots. If the ball rebounds high off the back wall, beginners invariably use a sidearm or overarm stroke which has too much rotation, not enough forward impulse, and too much height.

The series of drills just described can be of considerable value in the improvement of certain aspects of basic racquetball strokes. However, the amount of value derived from any one of the drills is largely dependent upon how it is performed. A player must concentrate on proper execution and try to repeat with accuracy. Sloppy execution during a drill actually has a negative effect on skill development and finally is a waste of time. It must be remembered that a drill is controlled practice and a genuine effort should be made to stay within the specified controls. If that can be done, the goals of the drills can be achieved and there will be improvement in the forward impulse used in racquetball strokes. ■

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WINNING POINTS

FINE-TUNING

THE RIGHT STEPS FOR WINNING

By Mike Yellen

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mike Yellen, currently ranked number two on the pro circuit, is a member of the Ektelon professional player advisory staff.)

You see a lot of fancy footwork on the professional racquetball circuit. Everyone has their own style. Rich Wagner, for instance, scurries around the court like a chipmunk. Charlie Brumfield looks like he's always in the midst of one giant step; while Jerry Hilecher seems to get around by diving from one side of the court to the other.

While everyone has his own favorite style of movement, most are just variations of the same method. None are really exotic. Getting around a racquetball court is not such a complicated procedure. In fact, it's pretty basic.

I like to think of my footwork as fine-tuning a radio. When retrieving a shot, I start out with large, Charlie Brumfield type steps that will carry me across the court to the vicinity of the ball as quickly as possible. When the ball hits the front wall and I can see which direction it is headed, I'm tuning in my station. Then, as both the ball and I get to the same area of the court, I fall into a shuffle similar to the small steps Wagner always uses. Here I'm fine-tuning my radio for the best reception possible. I'm trying to get my body into the best position in relation to the ball. You can't do that when you take giant steps.

Sometimes, of course, you may be forced to take a Hilecher-like dive for the ball. Although in most cases it's much better to be able to step into your shots, as you'll have more control over where the ball is going. Therefore, your positioning on the court can have an important bearing on your footwork.

Ideally you want to be stepping forward toward the front wall and into the ball when shooting. Therefore, you position yourself a little behind the ball whenever possible. Few players have problems moving forward into position. That's a very natural movement. Footwork becomes important, though, when you have to move sideways or

backwards.

When you're forced to shoot toward the front wall while moving sideways or toward the back wall, you are going against the grain, in a sense. A good way to make it easier on yourself, then, is to try to maintain a position on the court which will enable you to reach the ball in time to be moving forward when you hit it. As we all know, the ideal position for most situations is center court — the seven-foot circle behind the short line. In addition, the way you position your body in center court will influence your footwork and your ability to get to the ball quickly.

When waiting for my opponent's shot, I always take up a position with my toes on one of two diagonals. I imagine these diagonals running from the front corners to the rear corners of the court, crisscrossing at center court. I line up on the same side of the court as my opponent behind me, my toes on the imaginary diagonal and facing the front corner on that side. This affords me a good view of my opponent out of the side of my eye and enables me to cover his shots with the least difficulty.



Once he gets to the area of the court where the ball is going to drop, Yellen switches from large strides to a shuffle step to get into the best position possible.

Naturally, this is a position for after the serve, or whenever your opponent is behind you. If you are receiving the serve or retrieving a shot to the back court, it is irrelevant. Then, you will be running forward and, as I mentioned, we don't have to worry about footwork in that situation.

After serving, I move back into this center court/diagonal position with a shuffle step, since I'm already in the area where I want to be. I don't need to take



Toes lined up on an imaginary diagonal, Mike Yellen can either step over with his right foot to cover a down-the-line pass or pivot on his left foot and step out with his right to cover a shot across the court.

large steps, as I could easily overrun the position.

The shuffle step is nothing more than pushing off with one foot, planting the other about shoulder distance apart, and bringing the original push-off foot up to it. If you've ever played basketball, the step should come naturally to you on the racquetball court. The shuffle works forward, backward or sideways.

The only potential danger is in crossing your feet during this movement. The result could be tangled feet and a hard fall to the ground. When taking a crossover step, make it wide of the other foot.

From my center court/diagonal position, I can cover a down-the-line shot in a single step. In the above photo, for example, I can cover my practicing partner, Nathan Martin's down-the-line shot just by stepping over with my right foot. If he shoots across court, I can pivot on my left foot, swinging my right foot around and back in the first of one or, maybe two, initial large steps before I break down into my shuffle step.

As I mentioned before, I want to be positioned just behind the ball so that I can step into it when I shoot. Whenever possible, I want to set up for a normal stroke, shooting the ball off my front foot while stepping toward the front wall.

But that's not always possible. In those situations when the ball comes right back at you while your feet are still planted a shoulder's width apart, don't worry about shuffling your feet around to get set up. Just shoot with an open stance, flicking the ball for a pinch or re-kill with your body facing front, if necessary. With any luck, your opponent will be out of position after his shot and you can cut the ball off and put it down before he has a chance to recover.

Remember then, large steps to carry you across the court and a shuffle to fine-tune your position. Lining up on one of the diagonals that cross center court will give you a head start on the ball and, of course, you should try to set up for it if you can. When you get this footwork formula down pat, it should be music to your ears — the music of victory. ■

The Best of Racquetball

Humor, Feature, Instruction Final AARA Rankings

HERE IT IS — THE BEST OF RACQUETBALL. WITH A NEW SEASON OF tournaments just around the corner, we thought it an appropriate time to take a look at what we did last season. As it was a good year for us, it was difficult to choose the "best." There were many things to consider, so to satisfy the curious, this is what we chose and why:

For humor, we couldn't resist another look at Ed Weathers' "Racquetball 2,000." Quite simply, it makes us laugh every time we read it. We hope you will too. And, fact or fiction, it provides some interesting food for thought on racquetball's future.

And speaking of racquetball's future — it was with this in mind that we found Tom Martin's "Courting Time, Racquetball Woos the Ladies," interesting to review. It's already outdated, we're glad to say. The lot of women racquetballers has improved considerably since we first examined this issue. For example, the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) has just concluded a successful season of tournaments with the first Women's Nationals — a commendable achievement for a group that was non-existent only last year. Furthermore, the top amateur event for women, the Women '80 tournament, had more participants this year than ever before. Women have come a long way — read Martin's article and you'll see just how far.

Not only have women racquetballers increased in number, but their overall skill level has also improved. In fact, the skill level of all racquetballers seems to have improved, as evidenced by increased tournament participation. We like to think this is due, in part, to our continued emphasis on instructional articles geared to all levels of players. So, naturally, we felt compelled to include one of our better instructional articles from the past year. And, since Mike Yellen has worked his way from the bottom of the list to the number two slot on the pro circuit, we thought it only fitting to repeat one of his articles. Who knows, perhaps it's his special method of "Drive Shots" that's helped him make his way to the top. At any rate, it couldn't hurt to take another look at what he says.

Finally, the 1980 AARA Rankings are included in this section. Based on AARA-sanctioned events, this is the first attempt to systematically rank the top amateur players in the country in each division. And, since this is the "Best of Racquetball," how could we *not* include the best players?

While we've tried to recapture some of the highlights from the past year, we do have big plans in the works for the coming season. In fact, given the nature of our work, we're always trying to surpass what's been done in the past. So, it's only natural we conclude by saying, this may be last year's best — but for this year, the best is yet to come.

RACQUETBALL 2000

A FANTASY

January 1, 2000 A.D. It's a beautiful day, crisp and cold, not a cloud in the sky. A great day to kick off the new century. But for Robert Martin, it's just another work day. Martin is chief tour guide at the famed Museum of Racquetball History, and New Year's Day is always one of the museum's busiest times. "Where do they all come from," Martin wonders as he prepares to conduct his fifteenth tour of the day. Pausing a moment to make sure he has everyone's attention, Martin begins his monologue—slowly, measuredly, confidently. It's a familiar spiel, one he has done many times before . . .

"Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to the Museum of Racquetball History. Are we all wearing our two-ply radial racquetball shoes—courtesy of the House of Henri, the last word in racquetball apparel? Good. You might well ask why the museum requires you to wear these shoes during your tour. The reason is simple. The floors of our galleries are very special: they're made of wood. Yes, wood—the very same material from which the earliest racquetball court floors were fashioned. Wood—which since the Oil Apocalypse of '88 has been forbidden for building purposes and is now available only as a fuel.

"Thanks to a special dispensation steered through the U.S. Congress in 1994 by then-Senator Milton 'Kill Shot' Meeker, the builders of our museum were allowed to use this precious material in the interests of authenticity. Other than the museum's full-scale replica of an ancient right-angled court—which we shall see later—there is only one other wooden-floored court in the country: the one President Meeker installed four years ago in the rec room at the White House. As we tour the museum, think what it must have been like for the early greats of our national pastime to have played the game on a surface cut from living trees. Those of us accustomed to modern day silicoid courts might well shake our heads in wonder.

"Speaking of the greats of racquetball history, let me now draw your attention to the ceiling of this, our entry-way rotunda. The painting you see far above

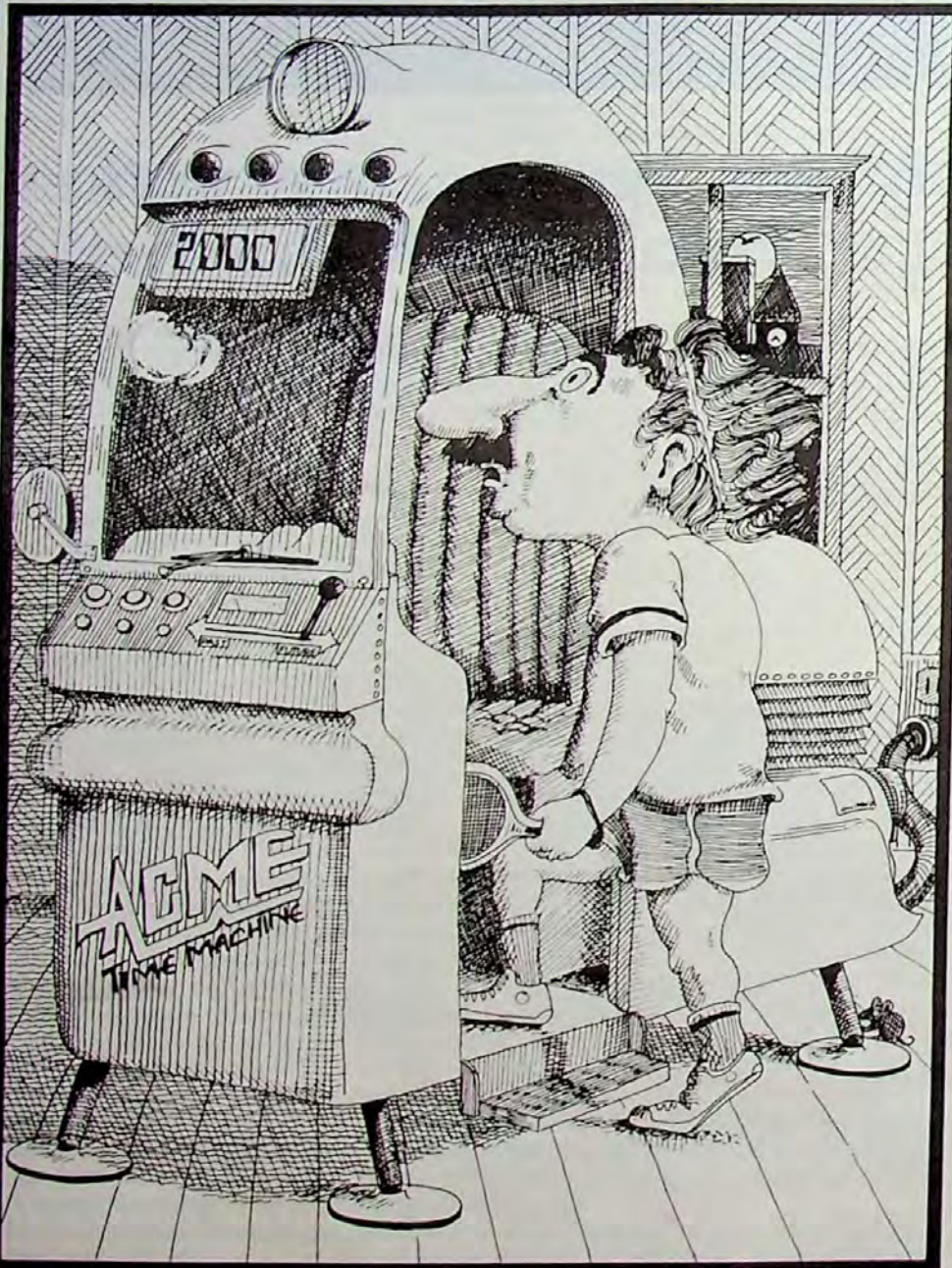


ILLUSTRATION BY EDDIE TUCKER

BY ED WEATHERS

us is titled 'The Roll-Out of Creation.' The main figure of the painting—the one whose right hand is reaching out to inspire new life into the reclining athlete and whose left hand cradles an ancient racquet—is of course the Father of the Game, Joe Sobek. A moment of silence is traditional among those who view the painting, for it was Sobek who saved us from the tyranny of that barbaric sport which but for him might have flourished in the land. I am speaking, as you know, of handball, which is now outlawed in civilized nations. Note the swollen palms of the reclining player, the agony as he extends his bruised fingers for healing and inspiration. Surely, 'Holy Joe' Sobek is worthy of such a memorial.

"The more astute among you, by the way, might recognize the painting as the work of the game's most renowned artist: Pablo 'Off the Wall' Warhol. Pardon me, sir? Yes, that's right, the same Warhol who first conceived—and so brilliantly executed—the notion that the walls of a racquetball court could be done in pastels. His genius lay in perceiving that turquoise walls, or pink, or plum purple, or any combination of colors, would add immeasurably to the pleasures of what was fast becoming a stuffy sport. Imagine being denied the challenge of playing on a purple court with a purple ball. How far our sport has come, so far in fact that the latest Nielsen ratings show that the 'Friday Night Shoot-Out' is TV's top-rated show. Now that's progress!

"But let us move on, into the first of the museum's two main galleries: 'The Hall of Celebrities.' Please feel free to ask questions at any time. . .

"This is 'The Hall of Celebrities,' funded by a grant from *People* magazine. Behind the glass of each exhibit is depicted in wax a scene featuring a major figure in the history of the sport.

"Here, for example, is shown Bob 'Call-Me-Godfather' Kendler, the undisputed patriarch of the racquetball world, as he gives audience to a line of the racquetball faithful who have come forward to kiss his white glove in exchange for his sanctioning their tournaments. It is said—though it is just rumor, mind you—that Kendler finally consolidated his power in the racquetball world on a January weekend way back in 1982, when he invited the heads of the 13 rival racquetball associations to his mansion for a 'Summit Tournament' and then arranged a round-robin, quadruple-elimination event that so wore down the competitors, none of whom could summon the courage to quit in mid-tournament, that all but one collapsed from exhaustion and gave up the game for life. Kendler himself, pleading that *someone* had to officiate,

At the dawn of the 21st Century, Bob 'Call-Me-Godfather' Kendler is the undisputed patriarch of the racquetball world, Luke 'St. Luke' St. Onge is the rebel leader of the banned AARA and Marty Hogan is the game's most well-mannered player.

did not play, and was left to pick up the pieces.

"Our next exhibit shows the one man who continues to challenge Kendler's rule: Luke St. Onge, who has for all these years remained executive director of the now outlawed American Amateur Racquetball Association. Periodically, 'St. Luke' and his hardy band of followers emerge from obscurity to challenge the very principles upon which the game is now founded. They believe, for example, that 12-year-olds should not accept \$500,000-per-year endorsement contracts from equipment companies, that silver plaques and a love of competition alone would induce a racquetballer to spend a weekend playing in a tournament, and—believe it or not—that some people would actually pursue the sport if no prizes of any kind were involved. What's that? No, son, I'm not making this up; some of the more radical of the sect actually believe such things. Here we see St. Luke spray-painting a court wall with the famous amateur underground slogan: 'Down With Money!' Shall we move on?

"Here is depicted 'The Greatest Sportsman the Game Has Ever Known.' That's right—Marty Hogan. Legend has

it that in his younger days Hogan was a hot-headed kid whose matches were best played in opaque courts, lest his gestures offend the spectators. It is also said that he won by simply creaming the ball. Perhaps there is some small hint of truth in the legends. But today, of course, Hogan, the crafty veteran, is known as a master of the ceiling ball who is so addicted to fair play that on the final point of the 1986 World Championships, he called a skip on his own apparent roll-out winner. There was some question at the time about whether this was a proper precedent to set for the younger players in the crowd, the media being especially concerned that the sport would lose its 'color' if everyone adopted such behavior. As we have seen since, of course, they needn't have been concerned. Here we see Hogan smiling graciously as he extends a hand to congratulate his victorious opponent.

"I suggest you take a few minutes to wander around 'The Hall of Celebrities.' Among the greats you will see are:

"Charlie Brumfield, still playing at the age of 50 and ranked fifth for the twentieth consecutive year. . .

"Fletcher X Nevers, whose California court club enjoyed notoriety in the late '80s for developing a version of the sport that was played without balls and with unstrung racquets. 'Gutless' Nevers preached that racquetball in its purest form was 'all in your mind. . .'

"And Hall of Famer Bud Muehleisen, shown here holding a copy of his degree from dentistry school. Muehleisen, you will recall, was a dentist by training, and he carried his degree around with him to racquetball tournaments to remind everybody to call him 'Dr. Bud. . .'

"Not to mention 'Shotgun' Shelley Killroy, who in 1990, unbeknownst to the tournament's sponsors, entered herself in the U.S. Men's Racquetball Championships. Her treachery was not discovered until she stepped up to the victory stand to collect her first place check for \$1.2 million. There she proceeded to thank all those who had helped her, including her husband Lavell, who, she explained, had watched the kids while she practiced. She was of course banned from the game for life.

"Enjoy a few minutes on your own. We will meet back here in five minutes to go into the 'Hall of Artifacts. . .'

"This, ladies and gentlemen, is the 'Hall of Artifacts.' Here we find examples of the earliest racquetball equipment and clothing, preserved intact for posterity.

"This display, for example, tells the

history of the racquetball ball. This black, mushy, tangerine-sized object is a sample of the earliest racquetballs. For nearly 20 years, this was standard equipment for the sport. One wonders how the game survived during an era which showed so little imagination.

"Next is this group of balls, which emerged in the late '70s. The same size and compression as the first balls, they suggest the sport's first tentative gropings toward color. A cautious blue here, a blushing plum there. Hardly daring.

"The first major attempt to revolutionize the game came with this next ball. You will notice that it is much smaller than the others—no bigger than a lemon—and that it is pure white. By 1983, adherents of the game had grown so proficient that they killed virtually every shot they got their racquets on. This ball was developed to make the game challenging again. Here, bounce it. Whoops! See? Drop it from your head and it bounces back up to your nose. Because of its action on sidewall shots, it was known as the ZZZZZZ-Ball. Its brief vogue ended, though, in 1987 with the Supreme Court case of *Bushy vs. Kangaroo Courts*, when the Justices ruled that the club was indeed liable for multiple contusions suffered by one of its patrons in a fastest-serve contest.

"But racquetballs were never again the same. Here is the famous Seamco Square Ball, for example; when it hit the corner, it stayed there—hence the term 'stuck shot.' Here, the Fosdick Phosphorous Ball, developed in the late '80s when the Energy Apocalypse was at its worst and the game was often played in the dark. And here, the 10-pound Macho Ball, popular with professional football players, weight lifters, Japanese sumo wrestlers and other such hair-on-the-chest types.

"The history of racquets is likewise shown in our exhibits here—from the primitive, club-like wooden weapon of the sport's early days to the elegant lines of the \$52,000 Steuben Double-Swan All-Glass Tempered model that is the latest fashion today. Look around for yourselves, though I suggest you pay particular attention to those instruments which reflect the interface of technology and sport: the IBM-Polaroid Spock I model, a sonar-directed, computerized racquet which so simplified the sport that even Charlie Garfinkel could play; Leach Industries' Razor's Edge model, a nifty little racquet with super sharp edges designed to discourage opponents from hindering; and the racquet of the future—Spalding's Lodestone I, which employs a strict magnetic field instead of strings, thereby, it is said, increasing the size of the 'sweet spot' by as much as 50

per cent.

"Elsewhere in this gallery are a variety of other racquetball equipment and assorted paraphernalia. In this case, for example, are the original laboratory notes of Professor Earl Dunnin, the inventor of 'Oh Wow!,' the high-potassium drink with the secret ingredient that made cramps a thing of the past. Like thousands before you, you might wish to puzzle over the last page of those notes—never deciphered—which is believed to contain the antidote to the bizarre side effects of the drink when taken in excessive doses. Professor Dunnin himself is thought to have died of such an overdose. He was discovered one morning sprawled on the floor of his private court, racquet in hand, a smile on his face. His invention is now strictly regulated and dispensed in small quantities to competitors before each tournament match. It is said a cult has grown up around the drink in Malibu, where glassy-eyed zealots are periodically found running through the streets wearing inner tubes from the tires of a 1954 Desoto and shouting, 'Side out! Side out!'

"There are other interesting exhibits here. So take a few moments to look around if you like; there's no hurry. When you're finished, we'll move on to the high point of the tour—'The Authentic Right-Angled Court.'"

"Back so soon? Then let's not waste time. Follow me. . .

"Around this corner and. . .voila! What you see through this glass wall, ladies and gentlemen, is an exact replica of an original racquetball court. Don't crowd, now. You'll all get your chance. Excuse me, sir? Oh! Ha ha! Yes, it is a bit like seeing a log cabin, isn't it? Notice the primitive shape, the bland coloring,—but, ah, the exquisite wooden floor! That little door in the back court? Why, son, that's how they entered! In their naivete, the pioneers of the sport believed that it was impossible to design a full-size door that could provide an even bounce. Consequently, that little door was responsible for millions of claustrophobics never even trying the game and is said to have retarded the development of racquetball by at least 20 years. However, it was certainly the *shape* of the court that most demanded reform. That elongated cube gave rise to the saying, 'The only thing worse than being stuck in concrete shoes is being stuck in a concrete-shoebbox racquetball court!'

"But in 1983, Euclid K. A. Kopernak developed a pentagon-shaped court that began a revolution in court designs. This

pioneering effort was followed by a number of spin-offs (the Trollop Trapezoid and the Gonzo Circle, to name just a couple), until today we have adjustable courts which can be shaped to suit any player's fancy. This year, for example, the National Championships will be played on three differently shaped courts—each player getting a chance to choose one of the courts for the first two games of a match, while the tiebreaker will be played on a court chosen at random by the tournament director. Compare this with the situation that prevailed in the sport's early days, when *all* matches were played on courts that were virtual duplicates of the one you see before you now. The modern mind boggles at our forefathers' capacity to endure such regimentation. Let us reflect for a moment on our good fortune in living in the flexible, exciting world of the 21st Century. . .

"It is time now to end our tour. Please feel free to wander about the museum at your leisure. As you leave, you may pick up your street shoes at the back counter. And before you go, please check out our gift shop and newsstand. There you will find the latest in racquetball memorabilia, including postcards showing action photos of last month's U.S.-Iranian racquetball exhibition, as well as recent issues of the 56 different racquetball publications. (My employer has requested that I draw your attention to two publications in particular. First, please note the latest copy of *Racquetball Illustrated*, which features as its cover story an interview with Fidel Castro, part of the magazine's special 'Racquetball In the Third World' issue. Then there's *Racquetball*, the most prestigious of the sports magazines, which this month features such timely and relevant articles as 'Why Breathing Is Bad for Your Game,' 'Racquetball in Mongolia,' and an *exclusive* interview with John R. Slabovsky, a Brooklyn delicatessen owner who has never played the game but would like to. What's that, sir? Oh, yes, there was once a magazine like the one you described. I think it was called... *National Racquetball*. But it evolved many years ago into a combination beauty guide-cookbook-religious primer and consequently no longer covers the sport, something which its competitors claimed it never did, anyway.)

"Thank you for your kind attention. If you have enjoyed today's tour, please tell your friends. Remember, it's people like you who have made our national pastime what it is today. You know what they say, 'A Racquet A Day Keeps the Blues Away.' Ha, ha.

"Thank you again for your attention. Gratuities will be accepted." ■

COURTING TIME

Racquetball Woos The Ladies



Maureen Boulette, of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, has been described by some of her friends as "a Gloria Steinem type." She says that's not entirely correct, but she'll admit to being a fighter when the need arises. And when Boulette began playing racquetball almost four years ago, the need definitely arose.

"Only a few women belonged to this club when I joined," she remembers. "And the men really had trouble accepting us. They would bang on the doors and tell us to get off the court, even before our time was up. Sometimes they'd even move the clocks ahead so we would think our hour was up. It was pretty hard to take. But I had just gone through a divorce at the time and I wasn't about to let any man get me off the court."

Boulette and the other women at the Shrewsbury club stuck it out and now, she says proudly, "The men are all for us; we're accepted completely. I can honestly say that at my club people really feel that women are on the same level as men."

This seemingly miraculous transformation mirrors much of what has happened throughout the country in racquetball. In the last four years, women have risen from an insignificant minority to a major force in the sport. The overall growth of racquetball has been remarkable, but its growth among women has been an integral and perhaps even more important phenomenon. Today, depending on whose figures you believe, women comprise from 30 to an amazing 45 per cent of all racquetball players in the United States. And, if present growth trends continue, the number of women players may actually surpass that of men in the next five years.

The increase in female players is being felt in every facet of the sport. As recently as a year ago, amateur tournaments had so few female participants that only one or two women's divisions were necessary. Now, many of these same tournaments offer a full slate of women's events and most of them are filled. At the professional level, it is common to find as many as 35 women competing in qualifying rounds for only four openings. But perhaps the most important recognition of women has occurred among court club owners. They are now facing the irrefutable fact that unless courts are filled during the daytime hours, their clubs will start folding. And the group that owners are desperately banking on to fill the vital daytime hours

is—you guessed it—women.

Women are attracted to racquetball for many reasons. It is, for most women, an easy sport to learn. Women, like men, begin making good contact with the ball usually during their first lesson. Golf and tennis, on the other hand, are not nearly as easy to pick up. They both require much more patience in the early stages and many women don't care to subject themselves to this frustration.

Joy Koppel Fujimoto was one of those who had soured on tennis when she started playing racquetball seven years ago in California. Expertise in tennis had always eluded her, but Fujimoto finished second in a local racquetball tournament only two weeks after she first tried the short racquet and the closed court. "The skills transferred very easily from tennis," she says. "But I still couldn't believe the thrill of finishing that high in the tournament so soon after I started playing." Fujimoto, who now serves as assistant manager of Santana Courts in Orange County, California, calls racquetball "an instant success sport."

In addition to being easy to learn, racquetball provides women with a very active form of recreation. The old days of playing canasta, bridge and mah-jongg in the afternoon are gone. The '70s have ushered in a new generation of women concerned with fitness and exercise; racquetball is a perfect activity for them.

The game offers housewives a chance to get out for a while and provides career women an outlet for the tension of increasingly stressful jobs. But unlike exercise programs at the spas, racquetball also offers these women a chance to excel, to see themselves improve in a sport and to share this enjoyment with their playing partners—all while getting an excellent workout.

These advantages have attracted thousands of women to the sport, but a few stumbling blocks have also appeared along the way. In order to excel at racquetball, women, like men, must run and sweat, be aggressive and competitive. That aspect of the sport apparently turns a lot of women off. According to Jean Lehr, one of two women on the Board of Directors of the International Racquetball Association, women have traditionally been discouraged from exhibiting aggressive behavior. They've been taught since girlhood that it's just not lady-like to get all hot and sweaty. "When I was growing up in Pawnee, Oklahoma, people didn't encourage girls to be

By Tom Martin



“Getting hot and sticky in the close confines of a racquetball court is uncomfortable and many women don’t like it.”

-Martha Lepore

competitive,” Lehr says. “Back then, if you were an active girl, you became a cheerleader. In fact, since I played in the band, they didn’t even make me take gym. They figured I got all the exercise I needed by marching.

“I remember being scared to death when I played in my first tournament. I loved meeting the people and playing, but I had a strong fear of competing.”

Elaine Lee, who, along with Francine Davis, won the IRA’s women’s open National Doubles title last October, feels that most women are gradually becoming accustomed to the idea of competition. “Women are beginning to realize that you can be competitive without being disgusting,” she says. “I tell the women I coach that there’s nothing distasteful about being aggressive on the court, whether you’re a man or woman. You can be courteous to your opponent, but you should always play to win.”

That may be true. But the intensity of the sport, including the heavy sweating so much a part of it, really does bother some women, among them Martha Lepore. Lepore, along with her husband, John, has been active in amateur racquetball in Massachusetts for several years, serving in a number of administrative capacities. But although she is an avid tennis player, Lepore could never make the transition to playing racquetball. Part of her trouble was in adjusting to hitting balls off the back wall, but she also found the increased perspiration unpleasant. “I know a lot of women who feel this way,” she says. “When I play tennis, it isn’t so bad. You’re outside in the fresh air and you’re not really aware of it. But getting hot and sticky in the close confines of a racquetball court is uncomfortable and many women don’t like it.”

Maureen Boulette, the woman who stood her ground in Shrewsbury, feels, however, that you can be feminine on the court and still play hard. “Women that I’m working with at this club aren’t afraid to run and sweat and win,” she says. “As for myself, I don’t want to go out looking masculine on the court. But I’d rather have people impressed with the way I play than with the way I look.”

For women trying to develop that kind of competitive attitude, tournaments are the ultimate challenge, the proving ground where girls become women. Tournaments also offer women players a chance to demonstrate a real commitment to the sport, a way of showing their detractors (who still crop up from time to time) that racquetball isn’t just a passing fancy to them.

Carol Mason, who began playing racquetball 5½ years ago in Massachusetts, has seen women’s enthusiasm for tournaments

there grow tremendously. In response to that enthusiasm, she decided to run an all-female tournament last year called Women ’78. The tournament was by no means a blockbuster—it had only 42 participants and no sponsors—but the excitement it generated was sufficient to persuade Mason to hold the event again this year. It proved to be a wise decision. Women ’79 drew 144 participants. (See page 33.)

Mason hopes the tournament was more than just a fun weekend for the women. “Tournaments are an excellent way for women to improve their game,” she observes. “But, more than that, they give women an opportunity to provide support for each other . . .

“Women in the past haven’t really been encouraged in developing their total personalities. So it’s very important for them to see each other training for a sport and for physical fitness in general. I think it’s sort of symbolic; it shows that it’s just as valid for a woman to make the commitment to go away for the weekend and play in a tournament as it is for a man. It helps a woman’s self-confidence to leave her husband with the kids and come play racquetball. This new confidence extends beyond the tournament into her business and personal life, too.”

Mason admits, however, that some people have expressed reservations about the all-woman affair. “A couple of men have said, ‘The sport just isn’t ready for this kind of tournament.’ They claim they’re in favor of women participating, but I don’t think they take the women seriously. The enthusiasm at this tournament proves the women *are* ready.”

The women’s tournament picture has not been without problems, though. Women have complained of unfair treatment at many tournaments. The little things, especially, can be a problem, as Maureen Boulette points out. “For a long time,” she says, “the shirts at some of the tournaments would only come in large sizes, perfect for the men but too big for the women. Now the smaller sizes are being given out, too. That may sound like a small thing, but it’s part of what makes a tournament fun. Some of the women’s trophies and prizes used to be inferior but that’s getting better, too. In Massachusetts the treatment of women has improved a lot.”

One example of the kind of misunderstandings still present at some tournaments occurred recently in Worcester, Massachusetts. Women paid the same entry fee for a tournament there as the men, but were only scheduled for one 21-point game per round, whereas the men played two. Sue Chapman, a member of the club involved, says the mixup resulted more from a genuine lack of understanding than from any ill-will. “It’s a new club and it was our first tournament,” she says. “The people running it figured the women wouldn’t want to play more than one 21-point game. But we explained that we would and they assured us that next time it will be

straightened out."

Elaine Lee, voicing an opinion shared by many other women, thinks the women's division can actually be a draw for a tournament, offering spectators a chance to see a unique style of play that is markedly different from the men's. "There's a real difference in the women's game," she says, "more control and a little less power. We're also noticing that the men love to watch the women's matches. They're discovering that a good, controlled game can be just as exciting as a slamming power match. And they're not just watching to see the pretty girls; they're really watching the game."



When racquetball was just getting started back in the '60s, it was often difficult to find a court on which to play. Most courts were located at either the local "Y" or at an existing handball facility. In many cases, these establishments had the look of undernourished closets—musty, sweaty affairs, reeking with macho and devoid of frills. The closest thing to a green plant was the mildew on the shower stalls. If you were a woman looking for a clean facility with piped-in music and pictures on the wall, members of the old clubs generally suggested the nearest beauty parlor.

But during the racquetball boom of the '70s, court club owners began cleaning up their act—and their facilities. They planned appealing decor to improve the image of the clubs. They added babysitting services for mothers with young

children. Women's directors were hired to plan special activities for the ladies, including leagues and tournaments held during the daytime hours. Some owners even began employing women as assistant managers and, in some cases, club managers (a move long overdue, many women argue).

Mike Mjehovich, a representative of Supreme Court Clubs (operating in Nevada and Tennessee), says the increasing presence of women has changed the overall atmosphere at the clubs. "We've come a long way in upgrading the quality of the facilities so they would be more appealing to the ladies," he says. "When the sport first got going, club owners were anticipating that women would make up about 10 per cent of their traffic. Many of these owners were old handballers who figured the women's market would be soft. But though handball was unpopular with women, racquetball caught on fast. So what we have at our clubs now is something like 40 per cent women. We're having to catch up."

"At some clubs, for instance, the ladies' locker rooms were only a third the size of the men's. So we've expanded them and added steam baths and Jacuzzis. Now the women's facilities are equal to the men's. The women also tend to notice when the place isn't clean, so we're making the clubs spotless—a place they'd like to come back to."

"We're starting to see a lot of couples playing together, too," he adds. "In the past, a guy might have left his wife at home and gone to play softball or basketball. Now, the two of them come out and play racquetball together. And the women are giving the men a good match."

Indeed, men and women can now frequently be found battling each other on the racquetball courts. Some people speculate that the nature of play on the courts is even changing

Money Courtship

One sure sign that women have become a force to be reckoned with in racquetball is the increasing attention being paid them by major equipment manufacturers. These firms have detected the smell of big bucks in the women's market, and many have begun courting the ladies in earnest with a variety of special products and promotional efforts.

Leach, Ektelon and Omega Sports, among others, now offer racquets specially designed for women. KORI of California features a whole line of racquetball sportswear for the fashion-conscious woman player. And Saranac, a Green Bay, Wisconsin glove manufacturer, has begun marketing a racquetball glove exclusively for women.

"I think everyone is realizing that women are essential to the future of the sport at every level," says Ektelon's Tom Stofko. "That's one reason we currently have 8 of the top 16 female pros under contract."

Big-name endorsements, in fact, are quickly becoming as common on the women's scene as they are among the men. Women are now treated to pitches for racquetball products from players like Jennifer Harding or Shannon Wright. And many manufacturers employ women as models and product demonstrators for advertisements and sportswear expositions.

All of this high-powered attention is calculated to help manufacturers nail down a share of the active and apparently growing women's market. "We're showing growth figures of over 400 per cent in court club openings and equipment sales," says Susan Crummey, eastern regional sales manager for Omega Sports. "That's an

amazing rate and it's largely a result of increasing participation in the sport by women. And it's not over yet."

Some women, though, still have major bones to pick with racquetball equipment manufacturers. Crummey talks of companies that are devoting their efforts solely to selling products to women at the sake of promoting the sport itself. She points out that, "Much more needs to be done in promoting the sport, especially to women. This means sponsoring their leagues, putting on local tournaments and all the rest." Other women argue that some manufacturers' promotional pitches to women are offensive at best, and in a few instances downright sexist. Finally, women say that in many areas the selection of women's sportswear and equipment is still limited and hard to find. "I have yet to find a top that really fits me," remarks one woman player.

Such differences aside, however, the courtship between women and the various manufacturers is likely to continue and even intensify over the next few years. As Tom Stofko says, it's simply a matter of good business sense.

"Our data indicates that currently about 35 per cent of all players are women," he notes. "And we know that women purchase a large percentage of racquetball equipment, including men's equipment for their husbands and boyfriends . . . (Overall), women purchase from 65 to 70 per cent of all consumer goods in this country. That's a huge amount of purchasing power. As a manufacturer, you'd simply be foolish not to address this group."

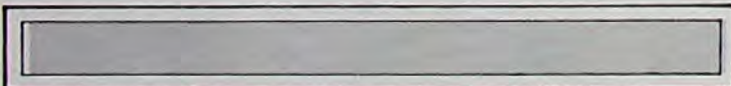


"It's just as valid for a woman to make the commitment to go away for the weekend and play in a tournament as it is for a man."
-Carol Mason

as women players become more prevalent. The men aren't cursing as much, some say, and temper tantrums have decreased markedly. This is, of course, debatable. But one feature at many courts has taken on a whole new significance as competition between men and women increases. It's called the challenge court.

Challenge courts are used in many different ways, but they basically function much like "King of the Hill." A player retains possession of the court as long as he or she can beat all challengers. When the holder of the court loses, the successful challenger takes over. The International Fitness and Racquetball Center in Oklahoma, where Jean Lehr is employed as director of communication, has two such courts, and, according to Lehr, response to them has been overwhelming. "We weren't sure how the women would react to the idea," she says, "but they're challenging the men all the time. Whether the women win or lose, it does a lot for their game to play these guys. It sure builds their confidence, too."

"And the men seem to love it when the women challenge. They are great about encouraging the women and accepting them as serious players. Everybody is really having fun with the whole idea."



While women's amateur racquetball seems fairly secure at the moment, more than a few thunderclouds loom over the women's professional scene. Dissatisfaction with the present tour and uncertainty about the future are two common topics in discussions among the female pros. Though they share the

feeling that something is wrong, they are deeply divided over just what can be done about it.

On the current National Racquet Club (NRC) Pro Tour, women in theory share the spotlight with the men. But many maintain that instead of sharing the spotlight, the women are in fact playing in a male shadow. Consider some of the disparities in the current organization of the tour:

- Women usually receive \$1,300 for a first-place finish; the men receive \$4,500.
- The women's segment of the tour is composed of 16 slots; the men have 32.

— Most of the women's matches are scheduled during daytime hours; the men usually play in the more heavily-attended prime-time hours.

— Each of the 32 male competitors is guaranteed at least \$250 per tournament; the women receive a \$125 guarantee.

These differences, among others, have prompted some of the tour regulars to speak out in favor of breaking away from the men. Meetings have already been held by the women in the interest of forming a separate women's players' association. One of the primary functions of such a group would be securing sponsorship from major corporations for a separate women's tour. But the players are divided on whether or not they have the power to support such a tour.

Sarah Green, at 22 one of the youngest players on the tour and currently ranked tenth, thinks the time might not be right. "I think we should receive amounts closer to the men's prize money, but not exactly the same," she says. "I'm not sure we really do have the same drawing power yet. The level of play also has a way to go. Shannon Wright is excellent and those of us from number 2 to about number 11 are pretty evenly matched, but after that it drops off a lot. I don't think we've reached the level of competition you find in women's tennis, for instance. There you have so many good players."

Other women on the tour, however, think they could make it as a separate group and get better prize money as a result. "It's sickening," says Francine Davis, often described as the best pro on the east coast. "We need to separate from the men. In this tournament (a recent Coors tournament in Denver), there were 35 women trying to qualify for only four positions. And as far as the drawing power is concerned, we played two all-women stops last year and they were both completely sold-out. The response was unbelievable."

The women have indeed shown that they can produce crowds in the all-women events held so far, such as the Ektelon/Natural Light Pro Invitational held February 2-4 in St. Louis. Tom Stofko, a representative of Ektelon, says the reception for the tournament was excellent. "We had a full house," he reports. "That and the two all-women stops last year give a good indication that the women can do it on their own."

Jennifer Harding, currently holding down the number two slot behind Shannon Wright, feels female pros are popular largely because most spectators identify readily with the way they play. "We're not as powerful as the men," she concedes, "but the fans like the way we play. We tend to have much longer rallies, the ball goes a little slower and it's easier to keep up with what's going on. The men have much shorter rallies—just serve, volley and it's over. That's not too much fun to

watch. Sure, the fans like the diving moves the men make, but that's not the way an average person plays."

At present, the women's tour is dominated by Shannon Wright, who is roughly an equivalent of Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova and Tracy Austin all rolled into one. In 2½ years, she's lost only four matches. She could probably even tell you the number of points she has conceded in the same period. Opinions about Wright vary widely: some say she plays too much like a man, others that she still isn't quick enough. But no one can deny the fact that Shannon Wright will earn more than \$100,000 this year through tournament winnings and endorsements. That's about five times more than her closest rival on the tour. In fact, about the only sure bet on the women's tour today is that in every tournament she enters, Shannon Wright is practically guaranteed the number one seed. She's that good.

While she is understandably reluctant to criticize the current tour, Wright does recognize its shortcomings. "We've got this tour by the grace of people like Charlie Drake (president of Leach, Inc.) and the other sponsors. It's sure better than nothing. I haven't seen too many companies coming forward and offering to put up the money for a separate women's circuit," she says wryly.

That vital word—sponsorship—is one heard in just about

every conversation about women's pro racquetball. Who will put up the money? The women argue that what Virginia Slims did for women's tennis, some company can do for women's racquetball. Wright certainly shares these feelings: "I can see a separate women's tour jumping ahead of the men's, if we have the sponsors," she says. "I think in another year we'll be at a competitive level more comparable to women's tennis. We're all improving with each tournament. But, at the moment, there isn't enough incentive for young girls to get into the sport. We need TV, which means using a slower ball. And we really need the separate circuit so that the younger amateurs will be enticed into working toward joining the tour." She pauses, before adding: "All of that will be dependent on one thing . . . sponsorship."



ne man who certainly knows all about sponsorship is Charlie Drake. His company, in addition to being one of the leading makers of racquets, balls and other equipment, is also a prominent sponsor on the current pro tour. As Drake puts it, "I spend more money on women's racquetball than anyone in the country." He says that if the women think they can get more money by having a separate tour, "they should certainly

A Woman For All Reasons



Elaine Lee could well be racquetball's—and women's—answer to the Renaissance man. As a player, administrator and court club manager, she is involved in virtually every aspect of the game. In a way, Lee exemplifies the new breed of racquetball woman.

In 1978, Lee captured Pennsylvania's women's singles championship, and this year she was part of the team that took the state's women's doubles title. Her biggest victory to date has been the IRA's national women's open doubles championship, which she and Francine Davis won in Washington last October.

But, although she is a superb competitor, Elaine Lee is also much more than that. In June of 1978, she was

elected to the national Board of Directors of the IRA, and is now one of only two women in that governing body. And as if tournament play and board duties weren't enough to keep her busy, Lee also helped open the Greenfields Court Club in Lancaster, Penn., about a year and a half ago and now works there as assistant manager and teaching pro. Racquetball, in short, keeps Elaine Lee pretty busy.

That's all the more remarkable since Lee is a virtual newcomer to the sport who began playing only two years ago. She was immediately attracted to racquetball. "I've always been active in sports and I love competition," she says. "In racquetball, I've been more successful than in any other sport I've tried." When she first started playing, Lee often had trouble finding an open court at the local "Y". Finally, her playing partner "said that he would build a court club, if I would help him run it. I said I would and he did it." She works full-time at the club and coaches both women and men.

She is also deeply involved in her work with the IRA board. "One of my primary interests is in seeing that women get treated as equals with the men, both in tournaments and in the sport as a whole. In the past year, we've seen tremendous progress toward that goal."

With all that Lee is doing, it's hard to imagine how she ever finds time to get on the court and just *play*. But, judging from her tournament record, she appears to be doing well enough. In fact, she's now seriously considering turning pro. "I'm helping put my husband through school at the moment," she explains. "But as soon as he graduates, I'll probably give the tour a try." And how does her husband, Robert, feel about his wife's love affair with racquetball? "He's all for it," she says.

Lee does plan to take a little time off from the sport in the next year or two to go on a cross-country bicycle trip with her husband. But she probably won't pedal far before she starts looking for a court club. After all, next to her marriage, Lee says, "Racquetball is my whole life."

*"The fans like the way we play...
The men have much shorter
rallies...That's not too much fun
to watch."*

-Jennifer Harding



do so." But he warns that getting sponsorship is not as easy as the women might think.

"To get sponsors," Drake says, "you've got to be able to show a return on investment. If a company can't demonstrate that they're making something on a tour event, men's or women's, they aren't going to put up any money."

"That means more than just drawing the fans. That's only part of what a sponsor looks at. You've also got to get exposure in the local media, which means publicity for the sponsoring company. And you've got to motivate people to buy products. We estimate that for a sponsor's investment of \$25,000, he's got to show a direct increase of \$250,000 to \$1,000,000 in product sales to make it worth his while. If women can promise that kind of return, they should be able to get sponsors."

As far as the current women's prize money is concerned, Drake maintains that the situation has improved considerably in the last few years. "Women who were playing for \$1,500 in total purses a couple of years ago are now getting that much for first place. I've never known a professional athlete who didn't want more money; it's natural. But in this sport, overall prize money has gone from \$40,000 in 1976 to more than \$300,000 now. That's not too bad."

Some sponsors doubt that women can generate the publicity necessary to make a women's tour profitable. They also complain that women are playing in so many different types of events that they're starting to lose their professional credibility. While the women want more money on the pro stops, they are still playing in tournaments where the top prize is only a color TV set. Although their main reason for doing this is the chance for competition, sponsors have reservations about the practice. One sponsor (who wished to remain anonymous) made this comparison: "Women are playing in some tournaments and providing their product—which is entertainment—for next to nothing. Then they come to us and want big purses for tour events. In a way, it's like me coming to you with a racquet that I sometimes sell for \$50 and other times for just three. If I decide to ask you for \$50, what would you do?"

Trying to determine the future of women's racquetball at both the amateur and professional level is almost as hard as returning one of Shannon Wright's serves. Most comments about the amateur side of the sport indicate a pretty sound future. While some people harbor the fear that overbuilding without simultaneous promotion will hurt the sport, the

general feeling is that amateur participation will continue growing at a rapid pace.

One area that many do feel is a potential roadblock to future growth is the lack of opportunity for youngsters, both male and female, to play racquetball on a regular basis. Public racquetball courts are non-existent in most parts of the country; young players must either have access to unlimited funds or belong to court clubs in order to get invaluable practice time.

Undoubtedly, though, it is the female professional who faces the most uncertain future of all. "You hear a lot of things," says Sarah Green. "It takes a lot of money to sponsor a tournament. One week we hear there won't be a tour and the next week it's back on again. I just hope we have a future."

While the sport as a whole may not be dependent on the pros for its existence, few would dispute the fact that the professional tour adds glamour and excitement to the game. It was the heavy exposure of women's tennis, after all, that gave that segment of the sport credibility and made multi-millionaires of the top female players. Exposure of pro players invariably increases amateur participation in a sport, and many think the same thing could happen in women's racquetball.

Some observers, though, think the women still lack a star to bring them that kind of exposure. They maintain the sport lacks a personality the likes of, say, an Evert, or a King or a Lopez. When players with that kind of charisma come along, these observers speculate, TV coverage will also increase and then... look out.

Regardless of how the pro squabbles resolve themselves, one thing is certain: women are showing that they are here to stay as a force in racquetball. Perhaps more than any other sport, it has given women the chance to prove they can be just as assertive, competitive and, ultimately, dedicated to sport as their male counterparts.

In a way, that type of dedication was symbolized by a near-tragic incident that occurred recently at Elaine Lee's club in Pennsylvania. One of her novice students, a woman, experienced the most feared injury in the sport: she missed a ball and it smashed into her eye at top speed. For days, doctors feared that she would lose her sight in that eye. "We were pretty certain she'd never want to play racquetball again," Lee remembers.

They were all wrong, however. The woman did regain her sight, and as soon as the bandages were off and the wounds healed, she was back on the racquetball court again... ready and eager to play. ■

WINNING POINTS

DRIVE SHOTS

THE OFFENSE SPEAKS

By Mike Yellen

Mike Yellen is the sixth-ranked professional in the country and winner of the Montreal Pro-Am. The 19-year-old Southfield, Mich., native is a member of Ektelon's professional player advisory staff.

Fast and hard, low and accurate, drive shots are an offensive must for any serious racquetball player. They break rhythm and win rallies.

There are two principal kinds of drives and one less effective drive. The most consistently effective drive shots are hummers that move directly parallel to a sidewall. Often as equally effective, though, as the down-the-liners are the cross-court classics which hit the sidewall three quarters of the way back and either bounce twice before reaching the back wall or die at the wall. Least effective but often successful is the screamer hit directly at your opponent, coming too fast for any but a weak return.

There are many advantages to drive shots for players at all levels. Dictating aggressive racquetball, the drive will put your opponent off balance and will make it difficult for him or her to build any kind of rhythm during the match.

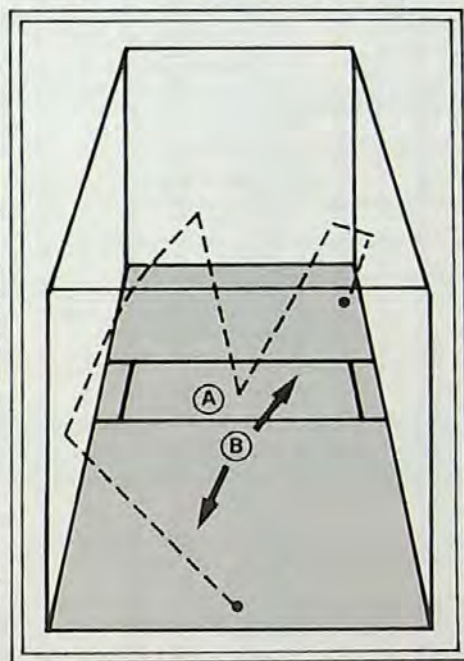
To be specific, the good drive down the line or cross-court will make it impossible for your opponent to get a racquet on the ball, while a drive right at the other player standing close to the service line or mid-court will, hopefully, leave him startled and unable to recover in time for a return.

Concerning the down-the-wall and cross-court drives, these shots don't necessarily have to be play stoppers to be successful. An alternative objective is to move your opponent out of position, thereby forcing a weak return to which you can choose another shot to kill or drive, pinch or roll away.

Now let's have a look at the mechanics of the drive. The most important element of a good cross-court

drive is the angle. It must be wide enough to prevent your opponent—who should be near mid-court—from cutting the shot off and blasting it back at you.

If the angle is even a bit too wide, the ball will rebound off the sidewall too soon and hang far enough in the center of the court for access by your opponent. This



Player A in the diagram has the option of (1) hitting a down-the-wall drive or (2) a cross-court drive, forcing Player B into the back court to retrieve the ball.

will also be the case when the ball is hit too hard and too high, affording the other player a shot from the back wall.

Barring these mistakes, your drive should force your opponent out of center court enabling you to take this coveted position, and put him in the back court trying to hit a ball while he is moving away from the front wall.

A drive which reaches the back wall can also be effective by making your opponent run to back court only to find the ball dead and unplayable. This is only true if the ball is not hit too high.

The same is true of a down-the-wall

drive, which is a little more difficult to execute because the wall tends to inhibit your stroke. But then, your opponent will have the same problem with the ball on its rebound, perhaps worse if the ball is hit correctly. Then it's known as wallpaper.

However, if the ball bites at the sidewall on a down-the-line shot, it may result in a plum for your opponent, for the ball will slow down, change direction and head for middle court. It is worthwhile here to stress again the importance of hitting the ball low. A high ball will certainly reach the back wall, giving your opponent the opportunity of making you the defender.

Of the two most effective drive shots, i. e., down-the-line and cross-court, the former is more difficult to execute precisely. This is because the sidewall cannot be used to slow the ball down in its journey to back court. Therefore it is easier to miscalculate and find the ball coming back from the back wall. The objective is to make the ball hug the sidewall. It must be hit at just the right speed and height, with not even the slightest angle.

The third type of drive is the most ineffective and therefore not used often, unless the opponent is very close to the front wall.

In order for it to be effective, it must come at your opponent at about waist high, slightly to the forehand and very hard. The other player should be in the mid- to fore-court area.

If the ball reaches him too high, he can duck out of the way and pick it up when it comes off the back wall. Too low and he may very likely kill it. But, if it is hit hard enough and in the right spot, it will probably result in a weak return.

This is a very tricky shot, with a low percentage of effectiveness. It is most effective in doubles when a pass may get by one of your adversaries only to be picked off by the other. Most players prefer to shoot away from the opponent, thereby forcing him or her to move out of position and center-court.

Since the cross-court drive is the most effective and easiest to execute, you will encounter this shot more than any other. If it's done well, you haven't a chance, unless you see it coming or anticipate. Then cut it off mid-court with a drive down-the-line.

In general, you should try to take the game to your opponent, mix up your shots and break your opponent's rhythm and balance. Drive shots are a good way to accomplish all of these. ■

FINAL 1980 AARA RANKINGS

MEN'S B

1	M. Rappaport	PA	500
2	B. Soule	TX	200
3	B. Deighan	OH	100
4	G. Hunter	FL	100
5	B. Jackson	AL	100
6	M. Ladge	MA	100
7	M. Marler	PA	100
8	G. Townsend	RI	100
9	M. Chabot	RI	95
10	T. Bevelock	PA	80
11	B. Fissette	MA	80
12	B. Oliver	PA	80
13	G. Martinez	PA	75
14	T. Taylor	FL	75
15	J. Cascio	NY	70
16	M. Diamond	NY	65
17	T. Griffith	ME	60
18	T. Rodolakis	CN	60
19	C. Brysman	FL	50
20	J. Chabot	RI	50
21	T. Chodosh	TX	50
22	M. Cook	TN	50
23	B. Benson	Ont	50
24	M. DiPardo	RI	50
25	T. Dunn	FL	50
26	S. Emma	MA	50
27	R. Englander	NJ	50
28	S. Farkas	FL	50
29	R. Huggins	OH	50
30	M. Gardner	CN	50
31	D. Hammond	OK	50
32	M. Hardeman	TN	50
33	R. Hubel	OH	50
34	R. Huggins	OH	50
35	G. Lawson	KY	50
36	T. McRae	TN	50
37	E. Prentice	PA	50
38	R. Quartuccio	ME	50
39	R. Quinn	CA	50
40	R. Quinn	CA	50
41	J. Slate	NC	50
42	R. Smith	FL	50
43	D. Spear	MA	50
44	S. Stevens	AR	50
45	J. Swartz	FL	50
46	B. Titus	GA	50
47	M. Tumelio	TX	50
48	M. Violette	ME	50
49	B. Weij	NJ	50
50	D. Ziegler	GA	50

MEN'S OPEN

1	E. Andrews	CA	680
2	M. McDonough	CA	540
3	T. Ranker	PA	385
4	J. Dunlap	TN	290
5	G. Viera	MA	285
6	G. Maloney	MA	270
7	P. Paneralla	CT	260
8	S. Clark	VA	250
9	K. Dunlap	CO	230
10	M. Hegg	CO	200
11	M. Luciw	MA	195
12	M. Romano	MA	180
13	J. Cullen	OH	170
14	L. Fox	PA	150
15	M. Rappaport	PA	150
16	R. Gonzalez	NY	140
17	B. Anderson	TN	120
18	C. Horton	NY	115
19	M. Mjehovich	TN	115
20	C. Guinter	PA	100
21	G. Merritt	TX	100
22	B. Radford	OH	100
23	C. Mathewson	PA	100
24	E. Foley	MD	100
25	J. Kwartler	TX	100
26	V. Niedernhofer	NY	100
27	J. Larson	OH	100
28	R. York	MO	100
29	S. Dunn	CA	100
30	P. Brennan	MA	95
31	R. Capiti	NJ	95
32	J. Jones	PA	95
33	D. Aceto	MA	90
34	S. Larrabee	MA	90
35	F. Lesperance	MA	90
36	A. Mandlich	MA	85
37	B. Burnette	MA	80
38	K. Taylor	OK	80
39	R. Olson	ME	74
40	S. Johnson	PA	70
41	K. Chambliss	OK	70
42	J. Amatulli	IN	70
43	E. Stover	MA	70
44	T. McCailliffe	FL	65
45	P. Salazar	OH	65
46	B. Dehm	CT	63
47	G. Cassidy	MA	60
48	B. Daniel	AR	60
49	T. Giordano	NC	60
50	D. Janelle	MA	60

MEN'S SENIORS

1	J. Austin	TX	615
2	C. Guinter	PA	315
3	D. Giordano	OR	280
4	R. Wehrle	GA	220
5	J. Powell	PA	215
6	F. Acosta	NC	200
7	J. Laraja	MA	160
8	J. Jordan	AL	150
9	J. Icaza	FL	150
10	B. Muehleisen	CA	150
11	W. Mas Dario	DE	110
12	D. Cahill	MA	105
13	M. Call	WA	100
14	B. Dunn	CA	100
15	F. Lettier	NJ	100
16	W. Marshall	IL	100
17	J. Scheinbaum	CA	100
18	J. Sergentanis	NJ	95
19	W. Pierce	MA	90
20	B. Kehout	NJ	85
21	E. Johnson	IL	80
22	H. Coleman	MA	79
23	L. St. Onge	TN	78
24	R. Galbreath	PA	75
25	V. Oliver	GA	75
26	M. Friedman	ME	70
27	J. Nocera	CT	70
28	T. Waltz	CT	70
29	L. Hines	TN	65
30	K. Hollowell	NC	65
31	J. Krevsky	PA	65
32	P. Crumme	MA	62 1/2
33	E. Castillo	TX	55
34	K. Kechlik	TX	55
35	J. Lotempio	NY	55
36	C. Minor	MS	55
37	S. Berry	IL	50
38	M. Call	FL	50
39	J. Drepp	FL	50
40	D. Elliott	CO	50
41	G. Gullette	CA	50

WOMEN'S B

1	J. Leon	FL	50
2	R. Masey	TX	50
3	T. McKie	TX	50
4	H. Peele	MA	50
5	B. Pinola	PA	50
6	R. Riley	FL	50
7	R. Rios	WA	50
8	P. Rowe	MD	50
9	M. Wayne	CA	50
10	C. Frenck	VA	600
11	S. Siau	AZ	200
12	M. Callahan	MA	150
13	K. Lentz	PA	150
14	J. Yates	ID	100
15	A. Swilford	TN	75
16	D. Benoit	MA	50
17	J. Cotterall	CA	50
18	R. Pickett	VA	50
19	F. Rapow	TX	40
20	P. Diverde	CA	30
21	N. Julia	VA	30
22	P. Eyer	CA	20
23	J. Thornton	NC	20

WOMEN'S 30+

1	M. Hegg	CO	500
2	B. Radford	CA	200
3	J. Schwartz	FL	200
4	K. Taylor	OK	150
5	M. Luciw	MA	120
6	C. Nieves	TX	105
7	C. Duda	MD	100
8	J. Henderson	CA	100
9	D. Jones	CA	100
10	C. Senters	IL	100
11	A. Coocson	TX	50
12	V. Dubolsky	IL	50
13	L. Liles	TN	50
14	B. Kraut	CA	50
15	R. Romano	MA	50
16	E. Stover	RI	50
17	C. Whitlow	ID	50
18	R. Worthington	MD	50
19	J. Zabry	IL	50
20	G. Loizzo	RI	30
21	B. Partison	CA	30
22	S. Saperstein	NC	30
23	D. Schag	CA	30
24	D. Walsler	CA	30
25	A. Belmontes	CA	20
26	P. Brennan	MA	20
27	J. Bystone	AL	20
28	J. Jones	PA	20
29	G. Kathan	NC	20
30	D. Peters	NC	15
31	D. Culbertson	RI	15
32	J. Helner	NC	15
33	P. Hennickson	RI	15
34	J. Indelicato	CO	15
35	K. Lamkin	CO	15
36	D. Lawrence	AL	15
37	L. Liles	TN	15
38	M. Meyer	RI	15
39	G. Neal	CO	15
40	B. Nussman	NC	15
41	P. Ricard	CO	15
42	B. Shields	AL	15
43	B. Siegal	GA	15
44	D. Smith	MA	15
45	B. Wellintz	NC	15
46	P. Brennan	MA	10
47	R. Zewe	PA	10
48	E. Stover	MA	5
49	J. Indelicato	MA	3
50	J. Emes	PA	3

WOMEN'S OPEN

1	C. Baxter	PA	523
2	C. Frenck	VA	500
3	J. Simon	MA	388
4	C. McKinney	GA	370
5	E. Ehrlich	MA	268
6	C. Alba	PA	215
7	L. Farlos	CO	200
8	B. Faulkenbury	TX	180
9	S. Farnig	CA	150
10	S. Bishop	CA	150
11	M. Mook	CA	150
12	T. Tillotson	VA	150
13	J. Abbott	MT	150
14	M. Lynch	NY	130
15	G. Allert	ID	125
16	S. Hurwitz	CT	118
17	J. Myers	NC	115
18	N. Hamrick	CA	115
19	B. Allweis	CA	110
20	B. Burkett	FL	110
21	M. Lutz	VA	100
22	K. Borge	NJ	100
23	D. Gossick	FL	100
24	M. Callahan	MA	100
25	P. Mattson	PA	100
26	M. A. Gless	NY	98
27	M. Copley	TX	98
28	L. Martino	CA	80
29	S. McClintock	MS	80
30	J. La Point	MS	70
31	G. Woods	CA	65
32	B. Bludeau	TX	60
33	M. Wells	PA	60
34	M. O'Brien	PA	55
35	B. Olsen	ME	54
36	J. Adler	TN	50
37	B. Anderson	CA	50
38	F. Davis	NJ	50
39	M. Goldman	MD	50
40	D. Henry	MI	50
41	L. Kennedy	OK	50
42	I. Kirkland	CA	50
43	J. Segall	TX	50
44	R. Thomas	CA	50
45	A. Wirick	MO	50
46	B. Witt	VA	50
47	M. Boulette	MA	45
48	T. Hajjar	PA	45
49	S. Belanger	ME	40
50	S. Brubaker	PA	40

WOMEN'S 45+

1	B. Muehleisen	CA	600
2	A. Ferarri	MO	270
3	P. Talbot	NJ	255
4	C. Wickham	MA	215
5	B. Folsom	ME	200
6	J. Streim	CA	150
7	P. Columbo	NY	120
8	S. Sandoval	IL	100
9	C. Lake	CA	100
10	J. Mooney	CO	100
11	D. Reinhard	WA	100
12	W. Schmidt	MA	90
13	S. Marcus	FL	75
14	J. Crevsky	PA	70
15	P. Whitehill	WA	65
16	J. Lepore	MA	63
17	R. Thornton	TN	60

WOMEN'S B

1	F. Webber	NY	60
2	G. Adams	VA	50
3	H. Coleman	RI	50
4	J. Cottrell	CA	50
5	S. Garafalo	MA	50
6	H. Long	VT	50
7	H. Leddens	CO	50
8	T. Letiwiler	MA	50
9	F. Ollieiser	IN	50
10	V. Z. Pawlton	OK	50
11	P. Prichard	TN	50
12	P. Stankis	CT	50
13	C. Buschner	MA	45
14	F. Elia	MA	45
15	J. Solio	MA	44
16	J. Joiner	TX	40
17	R. Walker	TX	35
18	E. Malla	OK	30
19	E. Economody	MA	30
20	L. Fonseca	NJ	30
21	L. Hurrell	NJ	30
22	D. Jones	VA	30
23	F. Kilbridge	ONT	30
24	B. LaTouche	VA	30
25	V. Z. Lawton	OK	30
26	E. Lowrance	TN	30
27	M. Martin	MA	30
28	C. Phillips	AR	30
29	E. R. Schaub	MA	30
30	C. Wiles	NC	30
31	I. Cowley	NJ	25
32	J. Bennett	NY	20

WOMEN'S 30+

1	L. Baumlir	VA	500
2	D. Sloan	NY	200
3	D. Benoit	MA	103
4	C. Grazier	PA	100
5	T. Watkins	FL	100
6	T. Clark	AL	80
7	V. Daily	AR	80
8	S. Lacey	Europe	75
9	R. Callahan	GA	70
10	J. Skirboll	PA	70
11	C. Kester	PA	63
12	G. Sotille	NY	60
13	S. Belanger	ME	50
14	K. Bender	Europe	50
15	C. Chaney	TX	50
16	P. Dillard	TX	50
17	P. Dorsheimer	TN	50
18	D. Isabell	PA	50
19	J. Johnson	MA	50
20	D. Koontz	IL	50
21	N. Kriss	MA	50
22	L. Kuchenreuther	FL	50
23	S. Lacey	MA	50
24	S. Laperle	MS	50
25	K. Lamkin	CO	50
26	N. McCuskey	TN	50
27	B. McDonnigal	PA	50
28	J. Myers	NC	50
29	C. Nestle	NY	50
30	P. Plumbo	NJ	50
31	B. Nussman	MA	50
32	M. Smith	TN	50
33	M. Stewart	PA	50
34	R. Wadsworth	MA	50
35	J. Bryant	MA	40
36	S. Feldman	NY	40
37	S. Guidry	TX	40
38	P. H. L. Moore	RI	40
39	I. Castelle	PA	35
40	M. Boulette	MA	30
41	J. Boyer	MA	30
42	S. Bern	PA	30
43	K. Campbell	GA	30
44	N. Hahn	MA	30
45	M. Kane	NY	30
46	N. Katz	RI	30
47	H. Luperman	MA	30
48	D. Miller	MD	30
49	C. Kester	PA	30

CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN AMATEUR RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

Section 1 — Name

The name of the organization shall be the American Amateur Racquetball Association.

Section 2 — Definition

This corporation is a membership corporation and shall have no capital stock. This corporation is one which does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to any member, officer or director, and no part of the earnings of this corporation, if there be any earnings, or the assets of this corporation, shall inure to the benefit of any member, officer or director thereof. The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to athletic, charitable, health and educational purposes. Furthermore, in the event of the dissolution or liquidation of this corporation, any and all surplus, capital or assets shall be distributed to one or more funds, foundations or corporations selected and chosen by the Board of Directors of this corporation and conducted solely and exclusively for religious, athletic, health, charitable or scientific purposes, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any person, member, officer or director and no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.

ARTICLE II

Section 1 — Purpose

This American Amateur Racquetball Association is a non-profit organization for educational purposes designed to foster the development of the sport of racquetball in the United States. The Association offers institutions and individuals who desire to join in membership for the advancement of racquetball an opportunity to participate and contribute to that growth. These purposes are fulfilled through the aims and objectives.

Section 2 — Aims and Objectives

- A. To perpetuate, improve and extend the sport of racquetball in the United States.
- B. To stimulate the interest of people in healthy sport participation through racquetball.
- C. To supervise and administer a continuing racquetball program for all age groups for the purpose of stimulating interest and developing athletes through careful preparation and planning, utilizing existing facilities, resources and coaching.
- D. To unify and coordinate the efforts of all agencies interested in promoting racquetball and permit all interested parties to have a voice in the development of the sport in the United States.
- E. To create and maintain research projects that will benefit all parties interested in racquetball.
- F. To provide a clearinghouse for the distribution of coaching aids, literature, films, research materials and rules collected from sources in the United States, Canada and other countries.
- G. To establish an effective means of communication for the transmission of useful ideas whereby coaches and athletes will be informed of the latest developments and techniques in racquetball.
- H. To give prompt attention to valid suggestions on how to improve the conduct of administration in racquetball in the United States.
- I. To establish regional, national and international series of racquetball clinics.
- J. To maintain records and disseminate information pertaining to all phases of racquetball.
- K. To train and certify competent racquetball officials.
- L. To raise money and finance improvement in the sport of racquetball.
- M. To operate exclusively for educational and charitable purposes.

ARTICLE III

Section 1 — Membership

- A. Membership in the American Amateur Racquetball Association shall include the following classifications:
 1. Individual or competitive member: This membership shall be open to any individual who as a sponsor or competitor or interested booster wishes to participate and contribute to the growth of racquetball.
 2. Institutional member: This membership shall be open to each individual institution or organization which sponsors and supports a racquetball team or teams.
- B. The members of this corporation shall be those persons and institutions who shall pay a membership fee prescribed by the Board of Directors and shall hold valid membership cards.
- C. The members of the American Amateur Racquetball Association shall assist the Board of Directors in an advisory capacity and render such assistance as may be requested by the Board of Directors from time to time.
- D. Certificates of membership shall be of such form and design as the Board of Directors may elect, and each certificate shall be signed by the President, or at the direction of the President, the same shall be signed by the Executive Director, and said certificate shall express on its face its number, date of issue, date of expiration, the name of the member to whom it is issued and the official insignia of the American Amateur Racquetball Association.
- E. The President shall appoint a committee of at least five (5) members of the Board of Directors whose duty it shall be to elect one or more persons as player and/or contributor to be honored in the Hall of Fame for Racquetball. It shall be the duty of said committee to select only such persons to be so honored who have demonstrated sportsmanship, high personal qualities and outstanding proficiency in playing racquetball or who have made outstanding contributions to the welfare and advancement of the sport. Such elections shall be of persons who shall have retired from serious racquetball tournament competition in open singles and/or doubles play for a period of at least (5) years.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1 — Insignia

The Association shall have such official insignia as the Board of Directors may decide.

ARTICLE V

Section 1 — Officers

The officers of the Association shall be President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, National Commissioner and National Rules Commissioner, each to be elected by and from the membership of the Board of Directors. Each of these offices is to be held by a separate individual member of the Board.

Section 2 — Definition, Terms and Duties of Officers

A. President

1. The Association shall have a president who shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by the Board of Directors at a special meeting of the Board of Directors which shall follow immediately the annual meeting of the membership of the American Amateur Racquetball Association.
2. He shall serve a term of not more than three years, starting from the adjournment of the Board of Directors meeting at which he was elected.
3. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association membership, Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and shall be an ex-officio member of any and all operating committees.
4. The president shall be responsible for the affairs of the Association and, with the assistance of the Executive Director, shall execute and administer the policies established by the Board of Directors.

B. Vice President

1. The Association shall have a Vice President who shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by the Board of Directors at a special meeting of the Board of Directors which shall follow immediately the annual meeting of the membership of the American Amateur Racquetball Association.
2. He shall serve a term of not more than three years, starting from the adjournment of the Board of Directors meeting at which he was elected.
3. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence.

C. Secretary-Treasurer

1. The Association shall have a Secretary-Treasurer who shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by the Board of Directors which shall follow immediately the annual meeting of the membership of the American Amateur Racquetball Association.
2. He shall serve a term of not more than three years, starting from the adjournment of the Board of Directors meeting at which he was elected.
3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be chairman of the operating Committee on Finance.
4. The Secretary-Treasurer shall periodically review the systems and procedures of the Association and submit appropriate recommendations to the President and Executive Director.
5. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep records of the proceedings of the meetings of the membership, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and shall make a report of these activities to the membership of the American Amateur Racquetball Association.
6. At the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary-Treasurer, with the assistance of the Executive Director, shall provide for an audit of Association funds and accounts by qualified auditors, provisions for payment of which shall be made within the American Amateur Racquetball Association.
7. The Secretary-Treasurer, with the assistance of the Executive Director, shall present to the Board of Directors prior to the end of any fiscal year, a proposed operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year.

D. National Commissioner

1. The Association shall have a National Commissioner who shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by the Board of Directors at a special meeting of the Board of Directors which shall follow immediately the annual meeting of the membership of the American Amateur Racquetball Association.
2. He shall serve a term of not more than three years, starting from the adjournment of the Board of Directors meeting at which he was elected.
3. The duties of the National Commissioner shall consist of assisting the Executive Director in obtaining commitments from the various cities to act as hosts for invitational, divisional and national tournaments to be held annually, to appoint area commissioners to aid in the purposes and programs of the American Amateur Racquetball Association; and to serve as chairman of the draw and seedings committees at all invitational, divisional and national tournaments of the Association.

E. National Rules Commissioner

1. The Association shall have a National Rules Commissioner who shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by the Board of Directors at a special meeting of the Board of Directors which shall follow immediately the annual meeting of the membership of the American Amateur Racquetball Association.
2. He shall serve a term of not more than three years, starting from the adjournment of the Board of Directors meeting at which he was elected.
3. The duties of the National Rules Commissioner shall be to take such steps as shall be necessary in order to determine the identity of such persons having qualifications to act as referees in racquetball contests and who shall be familiar with the published rules relating to racquetball play and racquetball contests and tournaments; and further to designate the referees to act in that capacity in racquetball contests and tournaments. He shall take such steps as shall be necessary in order to explain, interpret, and revise the written rules of racquetball. All such explanations, interpretations and revisions are to be submitted by the rules committee to the Board of Directors for approval. Approval of any rule revision or interpretation will consist of a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors. In addition the Rules Commissioner shall be chairman of the Rules Committee.

Section 3 — Removal and Replacement of Officers

- A. An officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.
- B. If an officer of the Board dies, resigns or is removed a new officer will be elected by a majority of votes cast by the Board of Directors.

Section 4 — Executive Director

- A. An Executive Director of the American Amateur Racquetball Association shall be employed by the Board of Directors at such compensation as is agreed upon by the Board of Directors.
- B. The Executive Director shall serve until his resignation has been accepted by the Executive Committee or until his removal by said Executive Committee with approval of the Board of Directors.
- C. The Executive Director, under supervision of the Board of Directors, shall be in charge of the operation of the American Amateur Racquetball Association and shall be responsible for carrying out the details of the organization according to the policies and regulations established by the Board of Directors. He shall have general supervision over all income of the Association and supervise the disbursement of funds in accordance with the budget approved by the Board of Directors.
- D. The Executive Director shall be a member, ex-officio, of all operating committees and shall keep, or cause to be kept, all minutes of same. He shall have charge of all records of the Association. All checks and drafts of the American Amateur Racquetball Association shall be issued by the Executive Director.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1 — Governing Bodies

The Association shall have two governing bodies:

A. Board of Directors

1. The formulation of policy for the American Amateur Racquetball Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors.
2. The Board of Directors of this corporation shall number 10 members of which at least 20% are active participating racquetball players.
3. Members of the Board of Directors shall serve no more than three (3) years, or until their successors are selected. Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by and from the membership of the American Amateur Racquetball Association, each for a term of three (3) years, and no member of the Board of Directors shall be selected again until three years after his term shall have expired.
4. Each member of the Board of Directors must be at the time of his selection and throughout his term, a member in good standing of the American Amateur Racquetball Association.
5. The Board of Directors shall have the right to reject the application of any prospective member of the American Amateur Racquetball Association whose public actions have been judged detrimental to the welfare, image and well being of racquetball and, further, the Board of Directors shall have the right to suspend or terminate the membership of any person whose actions have been judged detrimental to the welfare, image and well being of racquetball.
6. The Board of Directors may employ administrative assistants, a publicity director, and/or such other persons as may be required for the proper conduct of the corporation and for the performance of such duties as the Board of Directors may delegate, providing same are not contrary to law, and at such compensation as the Board of Directors may deem proper.
7. At all meetings of the Board of Directors, six (6) members shall constitute a quorum and the actions of the Board of Directors at such meetings shall be binding upon all members of the Board of Directors and the members of the American Amateur Racquetball Association and its employees.
8. The Board of Directors shall appoint an Executive Committee comprising the officers of the American Amateur Racquetball Association (President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, National Commissioner and National Rules Commissioner), plus one member at large chosen by and from the Board of Directors to advise the Executive Director in the management of the Association.
9. The Board of Directors may authorize the Executive Director to sign all contracts and other instruments in writing, subject to prior approval of each such contract or instrument by the Board of Directors.
10. The President is authorized to conduct mail, telegraphic or telephonic polls of the Board of Directors. When balloting is completed, the Executive Director shall be charged with recording the votes and reporting the results to the Board of Directors by mail, telephone or telegraph. The President shall assume and perform all other usual and customary duties, functions and services of the chief executive.

B. Executive Committee

1. There shall be an Executive Committee which shall consist of the following voting members: President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, National Commissioner, and National Rules Commissioner. In addition there shall be one member at large elected by and from the Board of Directors.
2. The Executive Director shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee is empowered to act for the Board of Directors between meetings and shall transact business and administer the affairs of the Association and the Board of Directors.
4. The Executive Committee shall approve the membership of all operating committees.
5. The Executive Committee shall meet at such times and places as it shall determine or upon the call of the President, or upon the call by a majority of its members.
6. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of four (4) voting members.

ARTICLE VII

Section 1 — Annual and Special Meetings

- A. The annual meeting of the members of the Association shall be held at the location, city and state of the National Amateur Singles Championship tournament on any day during the week of said National Amateur Singles Championship tournament.
 - B. Immediately following the annual meeting of the membership, the Board of Directors shall meet in special session solely for the purpose of electing officers to succeed those officers whose terms are expiring.
 - C. The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at such location and date as determined by the Board of Directors.
 - D. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall also be called by the President on thirty (30) days notice, or on the written request of six (6) or more of the members of the Board of Directors.
- All plans, arrangements, programs, budgets and like subjects affecting the welfare and policies of the Association shall be prepared and actuated by the Executive Director. All such plans, arrangements, programs and budgets shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1 — Elections

- A. A nominating committee of five (5) members shall be appointed by the President from the Board of Directors prior to the expiration of the terms of directors, to select and nominate candidates for the Board of Directors. Such list shall be certified by said nominating committee and submitted to the membership of the American Amateur Racquetball Association at the annual meeting of the Association.
- B. Additional nominations for said Board of Directors may be made from the floor at the annual meeting of the Association membership.
- C. Election shall be made at the annual meeting by a majority of votes cast by members in good standing.
- D. Should the voting fail to produce a majority for a sufficient number of candidates to fill existing vacancies on the Board of Directors, those candidates receiving a majority shall be declared elected and those candidates failing to receive a majority shall be voted upon again for the remaining position or positions until said positions are filled by a majority vote.
- E. Three of the members of the Board of Directors shall be elected each year at the annual meeting of the Association membership.

Section 2 — Removal of a Director

- A director may be removed from the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at its annual meeting.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1 — Amendments to the Constitution

This constitution may be amended at any regular annual meeting of the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote of the directors present and voting.

Section 2 — Bylaws and Amendments to the Bylaws

- A. Such bylaws as deemed necessary for the operation and advancement of the American Amateur Racquetball Association may be adopted by the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting by a majority vote of those directors present and voting.
- B. The bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors by a majority vote of those directors present and voting.
- C. Proposed amendments or additions to the bylaws shall be submitted to the Executive Director at least forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting at which said amendments or additions are to be considered. The Executive Director shall mail a copy of any proposed amendments or additions to the members of the Board of Directors no later than thirty (30) days preceding any such meeting.

ARTICLE X

Section 1 — Committee on Committees

A Committee on Committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for the purpose of presenting to the Board of Directors a list of nominees for the various operating committees.

Section 2 — Structure of Operating Committees

The following operating committees are hereby established by the American Amateur Racquetball Association:

- A. Membership: The Committee on Membership shall conduct research into means of attracting new membership and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.
- B. Junior Development: The Committee on Junior Development shall take such steps as it deems necessary in order to promote interest in racquetball play among the youth and shall recommend to the National Commissioner the time and location of holding tournaments for junior players within certain age groups.
- C. Public Relations: The Committee on Public Relations shall be concerned with publicizing Association activities, planning and developing official publications and assisting the Committee on Finance in raising funds.
- D. Rules, Records and Eligibility: The Committee on Rules, Records and Eligibility shall keep necessary historical records and be held responsible for eligibility requirements and rules.
- E. Finance: The Committee on Finance shall investigate and suggest procedures for the raising of funds for the administration of the Association.
- F. Extension of Racquetball: This committee shall be concerned with the promotion and extension of racquetball in states and areas where competition is non-existent or limited.
- G. Legal: All legal questions of the Association shall be referred to the Legal Committee and designated counsel.
- H. Manufacturers: The Association will work cooperatively with the professional enterprises and associations in developing better equipment and facilities for racquetball. To assure this, full consideration must be given to racquetball playing area construction and specifications of equipment by proper administrators and architectural authorities.
- I. Intercollegiate: The Intercollegiate Committee will be concerned with activities dealing with competition at the college levels.
- J. Education and Research: The Association will acquire information on publications and disseminate pertinent information developed in this and other countries. Further, it will initiate research projects in cooperation with existing research organizations including the American Medical Association, the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, the Athletic Institute, et al. A library of publications and films will be established for use by Association members.
- K. Athletes' Advisory: This committee shall consist of active contestants and will report to the Association ways of bettering the program. Such methods may include international exchange programs for players and coaches.
- L. State Organizations: This committee will be responsible for working with state directors and their committees, will develop new ideas and improve the organizational structure in each state.
- M. Promotion: This committee will be responsible for developing promotional ideas for the Association in all areas of the United States.
- N. Officials: The Committee on Officials shall be responsible for training and providing officials for tournament competition. The program for training and certifying officials will be organized at state and national levels through this committee.

BYLAWS AMERICAN AMATEUR RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION ARTICLE I

The "Official Rules of Racquetball of the American Amateur Racquetball Association" is adopted as herein printed as a bylaw of the American Amateur Racquetball Association.

ARTICLE II

The attached "Players' Bill of Rights" is adopted as a bylaw of the American Amateur Racquetball Association.

Scorecard

RACQUETBALL welcomes all tournaments to report their results. Please list all rounds of each event. Scorecard will report as many rounds of each tournament as space allows.

For reasons of space and clarity, tournament results submitted for listing in "Scorecard" should be arranged as shown in the example below. Entries using this format stand a better chance of being included in the "Scorecard" section.

Men's Open
Semifinals: John Smith over Peter Smith 21-7, 21-15;
John Doe over Peter Doe 21-20, 21-13.
Finals: John Smith over John Doe 21-20, 13-21,
21-16.



New Faces

At a recent meeting in Germany, the European Racquetball Association (ERA) elected these new officers for the coming year. The ERA is the governing body of racquetball in the military.

Officers, from left to right, are: Jack Rashleigh, treasurer; Hal Leffler, commissioner, 11th region; Roger Wilson, 1st vice president; Patti Wilson, secretary; Jim Mattingly, 2nd vice president; Don Luehm, president.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RACQUETBALL CLASSIC Sacramento Handball Racquetball Club Sacramento, California May 2-4

Women's Open: (Round Robin) 1st: Mona Mook; 2nd: Donna Smith; 3rd: Dana Miller; 4th: Holly Ferris; 5th: Cindy McGovern; 6th: Vicki Craig.

B Singles Championship

Quarterfinals: Margaret McEntee over Bettye Swart, 15-10, 15-9; Sandy Robinson over Leslie Taylor, 7-15, 15-9, 15-11; Michelle Morrow over Kathy Schmidt, 15-9, 2-15, 15-11; Star Corley over Karen Dunigan, 15-13, 15-10.

Semifinals: McEntee over Robinson, 15-9, 15-2; Corley over Morrow, 3-15, 15-11, 15-2.

Finals: Corley over McEntee, 16-14, 15-3.

B Singles Consolation

Quarterfinals: Bettye Swart over Linda Haines, 13-15, 15-8, 15-2; Terry Harwood over Jean Baker, 15-0, 15-13; Mary Sazio over Cyncl Calvin, 15-11, 15-12; Karen Dunigan over Geneen Domino, 15-4, 15-13.

Semifinals: Harwood over Swart, forfeit; Dunigan over Sazio, 15-11, 15-4.

Finals: Harwood over Dunigan, 15-4, 15-1.

C Singles Championship

Quarterfinals: Michelle Gilbertie over Regina White, 15-9, 15-9; Yvonne Rowland over Carolyn Felker, 16-14, 15-5; Brenda Bredemeler over Charlie Swigert, 15-1, 15-7; Jackie Shaffer over Marcia Wright, 15-7, 15-9.

Semifinals: Gilbertie over Rowland, 16-14, 15-12; Shaffer over Bredemeler, 15-12, 8-15, 15-9.

Finals: Gilbertie over Shaffer, 7-15, 15-7, 15-5.

C Singles Consolation

Quarterfinals: Mirjana Susa over Loretta Palaca, 15-9, 15-2; Terri Harris over Ona Flores, 15-13, 15-8; Tanya Niskromoni over Irene Miyasato, forfeit; Shirley Thompson over Denny Blehm, 15-11, 10-15, 16-14.

Semifinals: Harris over Susa, 15-3, 15-4; Thompson over Niskromoni, 15-4, 15-2.

Finals: Harris over Thompson, 15-6, 15-1.

D Singles Championship

Quarterfinals: Barbara Bryant over Kris Smith, 15-5, 15-11; Carolyn Insell over Debby Freeman, 15-4, 15-3; Nancy McDonald over Karen Kaer, 15-3, 14-16, 15-13; Delanie Comer over Lynn Wallace, 15-9, 15-6.

Semifinals: Bryant over Insell, 15-8, 4-15, 15-11; Comer over McDonald, 15-12, 2-15, 15-12.

Finals: Bryant over Comer, 15-11, 15-4.

D Singles Consolation

Quarterfinals: Bobbi Konecne over Cherylann Mendonca, 15-8, 4-15, 15-7; Susan Smith over Cyndy Sattler, 15-7, 12-15, 15-7; Jan Yrigoyen over Chris Smith, 15-1, 15-8; Pam Santich over Karen Mullins, 15-2, 15-1.

Semifinals: Smith over Konecne, 15-4, 15-2; Santich over Yrigoyen, 15-11, 8-15, 15-7.

Finals: Smith over Santich, 15-12, 15-5.

Juniors 15-and-Under: (Round Robin) 1st: Annette Farace; 2nd: Joann Smith; 3rd: Laura Elkins; 4th: Kim McNinch.

Juniors 11-and-Under Championship

Quarterfinals: Stacy Sattler, BYE; Shelley Wallman over Mindi Noll, 15-3, 15-2; Kim Rabold over Jamie Elkins, 15-9, 15-11; Rodie Martin over Jennifer Sattler, 15-1, 15-9.

Semifinals: Sattler over Wallman, 15-3, 15-5; Martin over Rabold, 15-1, 15-13.

Finals: Sattler over Martin, 15-8, 15-7.

Juniors 11-and-Under Consolation

Semifinals: Mindi Noll, BYE; Jamie Elkins over Jennifer Sattler, 15-0, 15-0.

Finals: Jamie Elkins over Mindi Noll, 15-5, 15-2.

Open Doubles: (Round Robin) 1st: Mona Mook-Star Corley; 2nd: Holly Ferris-Donna Smith; 3rd: Cindy McGovern-Bettye Swart; 4th: Vicki Craig-Linda Haines.

B Doubles

Quarterfinals: Terry Harwood-Karen Dunigan over Carolyn Felker-Carolyn Insell, 15-3, 15-8; Margaret McEntee-Michelle Morrow over Marcia Wright-Terri Harris, 15-6, 15-6; Irene Miyasato-Donna Parlo over Shirley Thompson-Mary Sazio, 15-3, 18-16; Leslie

Taylor-Cyncl Calvin over Pam Santich-Carol Burnett, 15-4, 15-3.

Semifinals: Morrow-McEntee over Harwood-Dunigan, 15-11, 15-8; Taylor-Calvin over Miyasato-Parlo, 15-13, 11-15, 15-8.

Finals: McEntee-Morrow over Taylor-Calvin, 15-6, 15-5.

C Doubles

Quarterfinals: Denny Blehm-Jan Tucker over Maryellen Landers-Monica Shorts, 15-6, 15-5; Kathy Schmidt-Gayle Ebisu over Carol Lovett-Bobbi Konecne, 15-2, 15-0; Chris Smith-Jan Yrigoyen over Nancy Barber-Linda Wiggins, 15-10, 15-3; Susan Smith-Mary Allison over Mirjana Susa-Chris Pommerenck, 15-2, 10-15, 15-4.

Semifinals: Schmidt-Ebisu over Blehm-Tucker, 10-15, 16-14, 15-12; Smith-Allison over Smith-Yrigoyen, 15-8, 15-7.

Finals: Schmidt-Ebisu over Smith-Allison, 15-2, 15-2.

SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Executive Park Athletic Club
Colorado Springs, Colorado
April 24-27

Men's Open:

Quarterfinals: Mark Hegg over Paul Salazar; Kevin Chambliss over Steve Krum; Beryl Hunter over Marc Sanford; Jack O'Conner over John Vohland.

Semifinals: Mark Hegg over Kevin Chambliss; Jack O'Conner over Beryl Hunter.

Finals: 1st: Mark Hegg; 2nd: Jack O'Conner; 3rd: Beryl Hunter; 4th: Kevin Chambliss.

Consolation: John Vohland.

Men's Seniors 30 +:

Quarterfinals: Kent Taylor over Peter Ricard; Glenn Kathan over Ken Lamkin; Alex Closson over Glenn Neal; Carlos Nievus over Rock Doddridge.

Semifinals: Kent Taylor over Glenn Kathan; Alex Closson over Carlos Nievus.

Finals: 1st: Kent Taylor; 2nd: Alex Closson; 3rd: Carlos Nievus; 4th: Glenn Kathan.

Consolation: Rock Doddridge.

Men's Seniors 35 +:

Quarterfinals: Jim Austin over Grant Summers; John Giannoni over John Fuhrmann; Dixon Elliott over Joe Peters; Bruce Brookens over David Norris.

Semifinals: Jim Austin over John Giannoni; Dixon Elliott over Bruce Brookens.

Finals: 1st: Jim Austin; 2nd: Dixon Elliott; 3rd: John Giannoni; 4th: Bruce Brookens.

Consolation: Denis Jalbert.

Men's Seniors 40 +:

Semifinals: Dick Dobbin over John Ormanoski; Red Horton over Gerald Beattie.

Finals: 1st: Dick Dobbin; 2nd: Red Horton; 3rd: John Ormanoski; 4th: Gerald Beattie.

Consolation: Tom Weatherly.

Men's Masters 45 +:

Semifinals: John Mooney over Myron Roderick, forfeit; Frank Leydens over V. Z. Lanton.

Finals: 1st: John Mooney; 2nd: Frank Leydens; 3rd: V. Z. Lanton; 4th: Al Horton.

Consolation: Loran Smith.

Men's Golden Masters 55 +:

Semifinals: Jack Domnik over Acton Sample; Roy Salem over George Dwyer.

Finals: 1st: Jack Domnik; 2nd: Roy Salem; 3rd: George Dwyer; 4th: Acton Sample.

Men's B:

Quarterfinals: Andy Cobb over Bill Simmons; David Norris over John Giannoni; Les Whitaker over Barbara Faulkenberry; Ken Lamkin over Rock Doddridge.

Semifinals: Andy Cobb over David Norris; Les Whitaker over Ken Lamkin.

Finals: 1st: Les Whitaker; 2nd: Andy Cobb; 3rd: David Norris; 4th: Ken Lamkin.

Consolation: Neal Arnove.

Men's C:

Quarterfinals: Richard D. Iorio over Bruce Haupt; Clay Camerer over George Hunter; Denny White over Tom Weatherly; Ralph Bender over Mark Bauer.

Semifinals: Clay Camerer over Richard D. Iorio; Denny White over Ralph Bender.

Finals: 1st: Denny White; 2nd: Clay Camerer; 3rd: Ralph Bender; 4th: Richard D. Iorio.

Consolation: Stewart McPherson.

Women's Open:

Semifinals: Barbara Faulkenberry over Linda Schulte; Janice Corsie over Beverly Branch.

Finals: 1st: Barbara Faulkenberry; 2nd: Janice Corsie; 3rd: Beverly Branch; 4th: Linda Schulte.

Consolation: Gail Burden.

Women's B:

Quarterfinals: Gail Burden over Debbie O'Conner; Sherrie Smith over Pam Bathfelder; Barbara Beethe over Chris Conner; Kathy Branum over Mary Bean.

Semifinals: Gall Burden over Sherrie Smith; Kathy Branum over Barbara Beebe.
Finals: 1st: Gall Burden; 2nd: Kathy Branum; 3rd: Barbara Beebe; 4th: Sherrie Smith.
Consolation: Debbie O'Conner.
Women's C:
Quarterfinals: Margaret Douglas over Miriam Crane; Dollittle Skaggs over K.T. Cobb; Sally Coddington over Carol Swinney; Norma Bauguess over Joanie Hunter.
Semifinals: Miriam Crane over Dollittle Skaggs; Sally Coddington over Norma Bauguess.
Finals: 1st: Miriam Crane; 2nd: Sally Coddington; 3rd: Norma Bauguess; 4th: Dollittle Skaggs.
Consolation: Laurie Scavee.

EKTELON/PERRIER CHAMPIONSHIPS
 Chicago, Illinois
 March 7-9

Men's Open: 1st: Bob Deuster; 2nd: Jack Newman; 3rd: Jeff Siegel; 4th: John Amatulli.
Men's B: 1st: Doug Jacobson; 2nd: Doug Dulrak; 3rd: Bruce Butterfield; 4th: Dave Budreaw.
Men's C: 1st: Nick Pisano; 2nd: Charles Greither; 3rd: John Connolly; 4th: Jerry Mettite.
Men's Novice: 1st: Jeff Etchison; 2nd: John Reichwein; 3rd: Jack Knobloch; 4th: Ron Elkins.
Open Doubles: 1st: Glen Gibellina-Sean Moskwa; 2nd: Bob Deuster-Scott Sulli; 3rd: Jeff Siegel-Scott Hemphill; 4th: Andy Witt-Tom Golaek.
Women's Seniors: 1st: Bev Franks; 2nd: Sue Carow; 3rd: Aylie Kelleher; 4th: Mary Precht.
Women's Open: 1st: Barb Allweis; 2nd: Caprice Behner; 3rd: Nancy Kronenfeld; 4th: Camille McCarthy.
Women's B: 1st: Diana Drenel; 2nd: Connie Howe; 3rd: Margaret Olawoye; 4th: Jean Akers.
Women's C: 1st: Pam Crosssett; 2nd: Carol Braje; 3rd: Rose Pisano; 4th: Judy Beckwith.
Women's Novice: 1st: Candy Cohen; 2nd: Lisa Keiser; 3rd: Sue Ruff; 4th: Jackie Libula.
Men's Masters: 1st: Saul Sandoval; 2nd: Nate Karras; 3rd: Sherwin Eller; 4th: Dorsey Boulton.
Men's Seniors: 1st: Ron Johnson; 2nd: Victor Oliver; 3rd: Shelly Clar; 4th: Marshall Waldo.

RAIAARA STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP
 Chalet Sports Core
 Willow Springs, Illinois
 March 21-23

Men's Open: 1st: Jim Scheyer; 2nd: Rick Dern; 3rd: Dave Negrete.
Men's A: 1st: Ed Lindfors; 2nd: Tom Connelly; 3rd: Dale Eggert; 4th: Bill Howk.
Men's B: 1st: Keith Vanderveen; 2nd: Rich Bouche; 3rd: Mike Frinter; 4th: Ron Garfinkle.
Men's C: 1st: Dale Weber; 2nd: Brian Liddy; 3rd: Bob Darpos; 4th: George Olson.
Men's D: 1st: Leo Hambly; 2nd: Bob Dressell; 3rd: Glenn Marino; 4th: Craig Strelchen.
Men's E: 1st: Mike Hepp; 2nd: Dave Ritter; 3rd: Ron Sallemme.
Men's B 35+: 1st: John Dolby; 2nd: Marshall Wright; 3rd: Gerald Cudar; 4th: Bob Burton.
Men's A 45+: 1st: Saul Sandoval; 2nd: Phil Dziuk; 3rd: Dan Day; 4th: Rich Porter.
Women's Open: 1st: Judy Sawicki; 2nd: Sue Carow; 3rd: Nancy Kronenfeld; 4th: Sue Prischling.
Women's A: 1st: Elena Carbajal; 2nd: Joan Azeka; 3rd: Chris Evon.
Women's B: 1st: Connie Howe; 2nd: Rose Magliano; 3rd: Marilyn Fischer.
Women's C: 1st: Lois Daniels; 2nd: Chris Vorreryer; 3rd: Haline Geras; 4th: Karen Baxter.
Women's D: 1st: Deb Schwartz; 2nd: Sharon Enger; 3rd: Mary Jo Belcore.
Women's E: 1st: Pam Walls; 2nd: Kathy Quackenbush; 3rd: Rita Bubinas.
Junior Women: 1st: Mary Jo Peracdiaro; 2nd: Kim Cooling; 3rd: Diane Slazas; 4th: Gia Mitchell.
Men's A 40+: 1st: Ron Johnson; 2nd: Shelly Clar; 3rd: Don Cipriani; 4th: Bob Stoy.
Boys' 13: 1st: Steve Gaetjens; 2nd: John Hempil; 3rd: John Novi; 4th: John Palty.
Boys' 15: 1st: Eric Scheyer; 2nd: Vince Del Guidice; 3rd: Mark Dowling; 4th: Charles Tennacclaro.
Boys' 17: 1st: Sean Moskwa; 2nd: John D'Amico; 3rd: Stewart Gaetjens; 4th: Jeff Arnold.
Golden Masters: 1st: Al Hanke; 2nd: Ralph Shively; 3rd: Tim Rusch; 4th: Emil Cemplin.
Men's A 30+: 1st: Harvey Miller; 2nd: Ron Johnson; 3rd: Gary Lolzo; 4th: Herb Griggs.
Men's B 30+: 1st: James Stanhaus; 2nd: Sam Sallerson; 3rd: Jim Champion; 4th: Paul Rodgers.
Men's A 35+: 1st: Marshall Waldo; 2nd: Shelly Clar; 3rd: Tom Grayson; 4th: Russ Munscheil.

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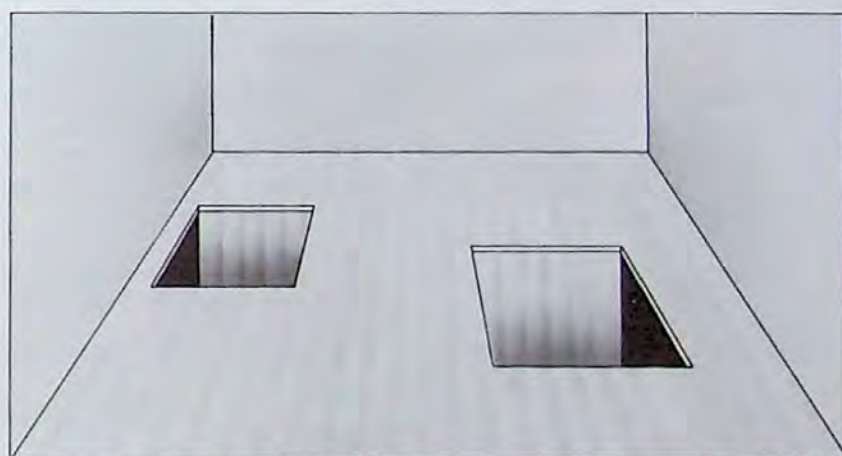
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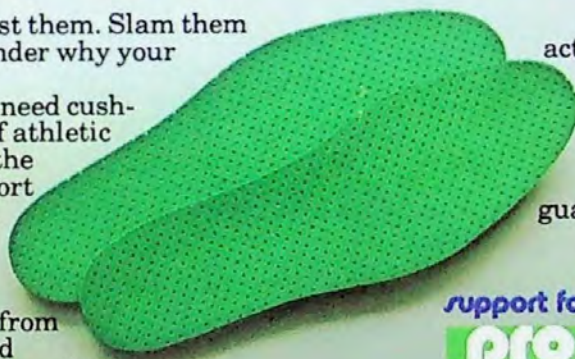
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