

Racquet World

Review

VOLUME 2 NO. 4
AUGUST 1978

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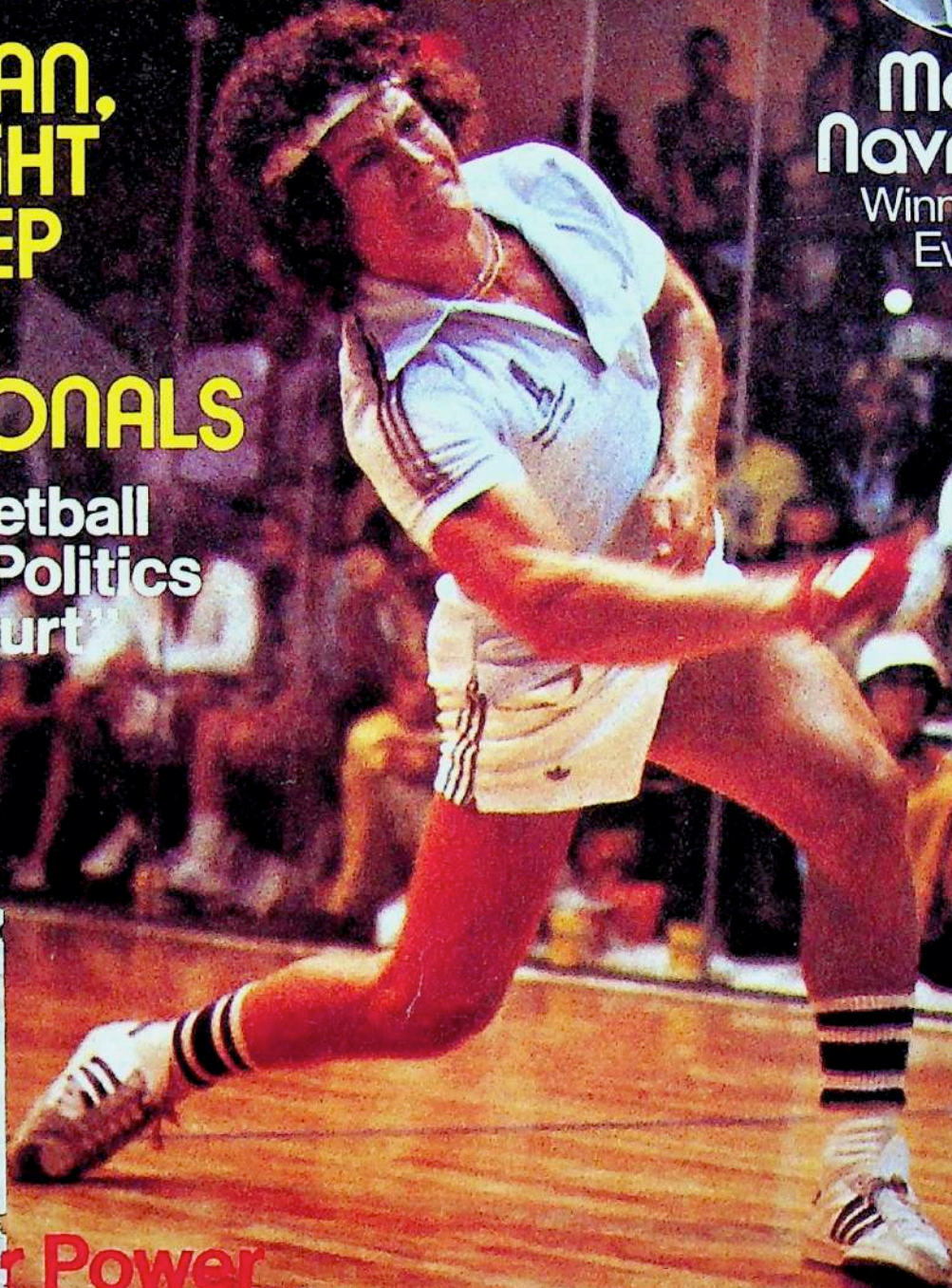


Martina Navratilova

Winning Means Everything

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**Racquetball
Takes Politics
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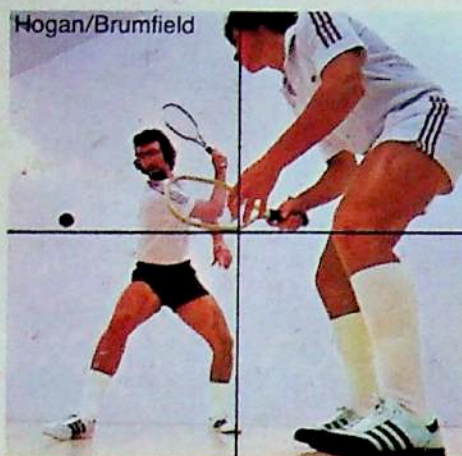
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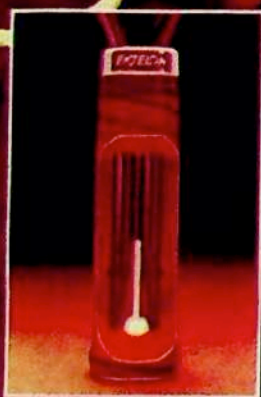


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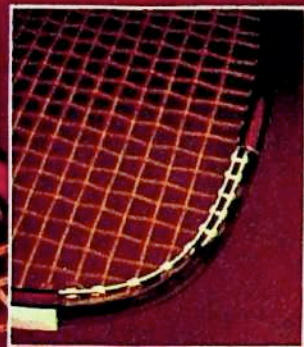
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Racquet World

Review

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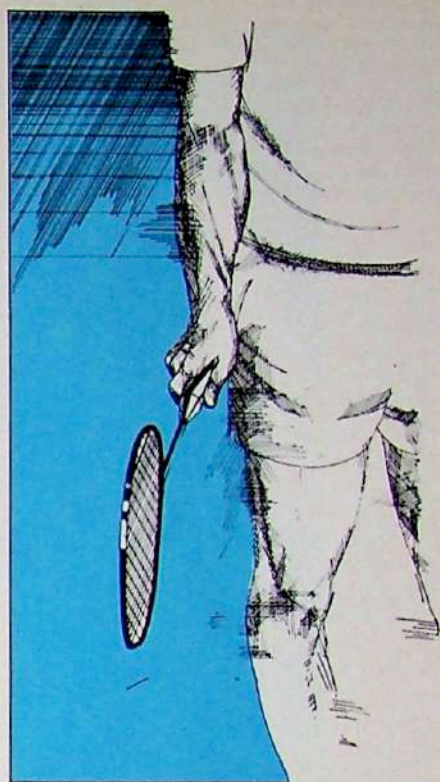
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This is the first in a series of features which highlights the people behind the scenes. None of the racquet sports would be where they are today without the countless hours that these people have devoted to the growth and popularity of their particular sport. If you know of anyone — a coach, a club manager, an equipment designer, a TV personality — anyone who has put forth that extra effort, we'd like to know about them.

ANYONE WHO has met Joy Koppel knows why AMF Voit asked her to be their racquetball promotions manager. Joy is young, attractive, athletic, an overachiever by nature. She is equally at home on the court, in front of a television camera, as well as working behind a desk. Her position has its excitement and glamour, but it also demands long hours at Voit's home office in Santa Ana, not far from Joy's home town.

Joy Koppel was born March 3, 1953 in Lakewood, California and has spent most of her life in Orange County. A 1971 graduate with honors from Tustin High School, she was the top girl athlete in her class: No. 1 in badminton singles, starter for the basketball team, No. 1 singles player on the school tennis team, and captain of the volleyball team.

After high school Joy continued her education and involvement in sports on an academic scholarship to Orange Coast College.

"I was a member of the tennis team there," she recalls. "A girlfriend asked

Who's Who off the Court

The Joy Of Racquetball

By Carole Charfauros



Photo by Carole Charfauros

me to compete in a racquetball tournament and I took two weeks to practice and finished second in the tournament. I was hooked after that."

When she transferred to Cal State Long Beach, she found the school had courts but no team, so she organized one and then interested UC Irvine, Orange Coast and Long Beach City College in forming a four-team league. She also taught the sport in extension classes while still a student at Long Beach.

"I've always been interested in working in sports, however, when I actually went out into the teaching world I found out it wasn't as exciting and challenging as I had expected it to be. When I got a job behind the counter at King's Racquetball Club I realized that I liked the business aspect of racquetball more than teaching."

While at King's Joy did color commentary for a PBS broadcast of a professional racquetball tournament which was televised nationally. Shortly afterward she accepted a management position at Jack Youngblood's South Coast Club in Huntington Beach.

"I was well known in Orange County as a tournament player, so when I went to check with Voit about distributing their blue racquetballs at Jack Youngblood's, they asked me if I'd play in their experimental tournament in Minneapolis," she says.



Photo by Todd Anthony

The tournament offered \$10,000 in prizes, equally distributed between men and women competing in Pro/Open, B/Intermediate, C/Novice, and Seniors divisions.

Joy had won several outdoor racquetball titles so she entered the Pro/Open division, had a great time, and finished fifth out of five girls. The tournament was small, but proved to be a huge success, with 30 minutes of television coverage and many celebrities getting in on the act.

Joy, too, must have been a success because on the flight back to California, Voit asked her to work for them full-time as their racquetball promotion's manager and women's sports advisor.

"It's a big job," she smiles. "I'm like a one-person team to cover all racquetball promotions on a national scale. In the six months I've been with Voit I've been all over the country to racquetball tournaments, sporting goods shows, and tennis industry shows."

Joy's job is not only to convince the public how good Voit products are, but also to convince Voit how big racquetball really is.

"Voit's blue ball has just gone so crazy," she says. "They had no idea it was going to be so popular . . . they hit a gold mine."

"As a result they're finding out how profitable racquetball can be. That's why they're devoting so much of their efforts toward new high quality products like the Impact 1. It's a fantastic racquet and more super products will be out in the near future," she adds proudly.

Her job really keeps Joy busy talking racquetball all day, so for a change of pace she plays on Voit's women's softball team. "I hit a home run a couple weeks ago. It was exciting," she beams.

Joy also enjoys a lot of artistic hobbies. "I'm somewhat creative. At least I like to think of myself as such. I love fixing up my house. I love doing creative things like macrame . . . when I have time," she laughs.

Even with her busy schedule Joy still has time to enjoy being a woman. Her plans for this summer include getting married. She and her fiancé have already chosen their dream house.

Joy does not consider herself a woman's libber, but she does support equal pay for equal jobs. "In fact I think women are harder workers. That might be a woman's point of view, but on the average they seem to get more done."

"I hate to say that I'm doing a man's job, but so many people look at it that way. Yet I still try to maintain my femininity. Nobody that I have worked with at all has challenged that. It's been nice to remain a girl and still get the job done."

"I just feel so fortunate being a woman in a brand new creative position."

Racquetball is fortunate, too, to be so well represented by such a wonderful person as Joy Koppel. ●

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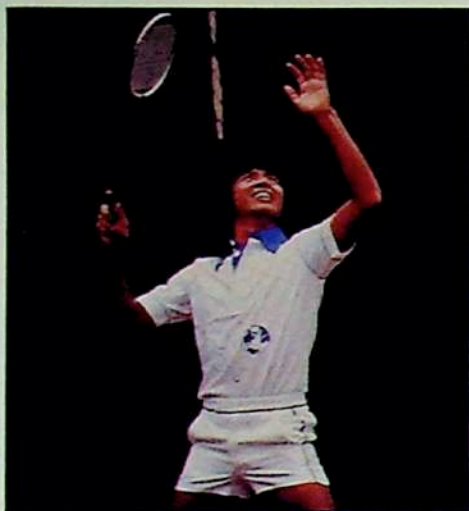
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Short Lobs

By Ben Press, USPTA Tennis Professional



Rudy Hartono Photo by Joseph Dittler

"Who is Rudy Hartono?"

If you asked the average American sports fan "Who is Rudy Hartono?" most of them wouldn't have the vaguest idea. If you asked the same question in any part of Asia, there would be virtually no one unaware of Hartono's unequalled exploits. He is and has been the world's badminton champion for the past 10 years and is as well known in his native Jakarta as Muhammad Ali or Chris Evert are here. He is a national hero, travels with his manager and advisor, and at home is rarely without a bodyguard to keep away the pressing hordes of fans.

Hartono was recently in San Diego when Bristol-Meyers opted to hold its Second Annual World Racquets Championship there. As the world's badminton champion, Hartono was one of the six invited participants. With the exception of Guillermo Vilas of tennis fame, none of the others were household names. They were Danny Seemiller, table tennis; Sharif Khan, squash; Hilary Hilton, paddle tennis; and Marty Hogan, racquetball.

Those of you who saw the CBS television showing of the Championship may still not have noticed Hartono. He came in dead last and, as a result, was not seen much. The badminton segment was the weakest of the four events played (tennis, racquetball and table tennis) which helped push Hartono even further into the background. Badminton was played outdoors and a swirling wind made playing conditions almost impossible, resulting in minimal time on national TV.

After the matches, Hartono left town as anonymously and as quietly as he entered. Ironically, only a few hundred yards from the Atlas Health Club, the site of the Championship, there is a permanent memento to Hartono's only equal: San Diego's Dr. David Freeman, a

former world badminton champion, who never lost a competitive match. He has his hand prints enshrined in cement at the Valley Swim and Tennis Club in recognition of his many accomplishments. For Hartono, this is a fine comparison as Freeman had to be one of the premier athletes of all time.

While watching the ersatz badminton, Hartono admitted that badminton and soccer are Indonesia's big sports with tennis making some slight inroads. In the World Racquets Championship, Hartono managed only a single point in racquetball against Seemiller, 1-21; no games against Khan in tennis, 0-6; and 19 points in table tennis while losing to Hogan, 19-21. He scored no game winning points, finished an unpredictable last, and took home only \$4,000.

Unquestionably, all six of the participants are super athletes. They all mentioned the daily regimen they employ to keep themselves in the best of shape for their respective sports. However, none of the racquet sports is more physically demanding than top level badminton and to stay on top as the world's best for more than a decade says something about the man, Rudy Hartono. Rudy, despite his seemingly endless successes, is only 28 years old and shows no signs of relinquishing his badminton throne.

The World Racquets Championship produced some interesting match ups and proved an interesting concept. Bristol-Meyers vice president Peter Spengler, whose brainstorm originated the Championship, said the Third Annual may also be in San Diego although the format may be changed. But this year's version owes much of its success to the presence of Rudy Hartono, a gentleman and a genuinely superb athlete. ○

Letters

RWR

CONGRATULATIONS

I feel that you have finally joined the ranks of such magazines as Tennis, World Tennis and Sports Illustrated.

Nice going! You may now start my subscription to RACQUET WORLD REVIEW. I would be pleased to receive this professionally done magazine at my door.

T. Rose
Spokane, Washington

TREASURE CHEST

Your July issue, in which you completely cover the recent World Racquets Championship, was truly outstanding.

It was an enormous effort on the part of the six athletes that competed. You accurately focused in on the action and provided your many readers with an issue to save and treasure.

Hopefully the competition will be an annual event. Thanks again for coverage.

Peter Spengler
VP, Advertising Services
Bristol-Myers Company

EQUAL COVERAGE

Regarding your article on "King of Kings" in the July issue, it was nice of you to mention Hilary Hilton. I mean, she was the only girl and many probably feel that your coverage of her was adequate. But I don't! As the only representative of the female population involved, you should have really played her up. That took guts to compete against all those sweaty jocks. And you handled it by giving her very little publicity — and an old black and white photo that was more black than white.

Susan Jones
Maui, Hawaii

AS OLD AS YOU FEEL

I found Larry Willens' article in your March issue quite interesting. Particularly his comments "A person is as old as he or she feels. And the San Diego Friars feel great. Perhaps we have dealt with our age better than others."

I would like to add that Larry Willens is considered by some as a permanent fixture in the Atlas Health Club therapy pool. He often complained of back problems . . . I often reminded him of his age. To this day he'll still swear that he simply leads a very active lifestyle!

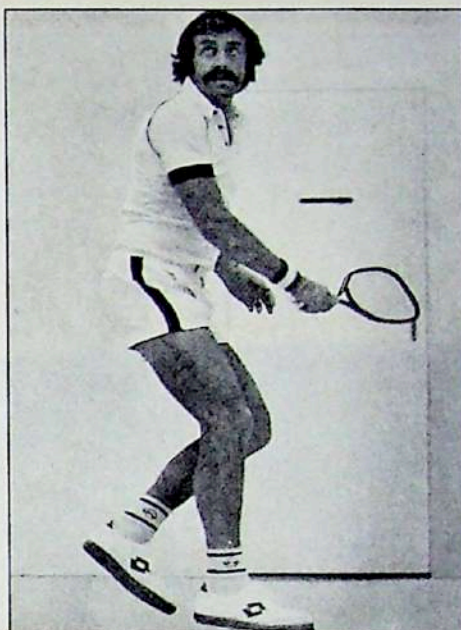
Ken Davidson
South Lake Tahoe, California

John Newcombe doesn't play racquetball in tennis shoes. Why do you?

Or are you one of those still playing in basketball sneakers? Either way, you're selling yourself short.

Let's look at it this way; nobody moves around in tennis shoes better than a champion like John Newcombe. But even he needs a special shoe when he leaves the grass, clay and asphalt tennis courts for the hardwood floors of racquetball.

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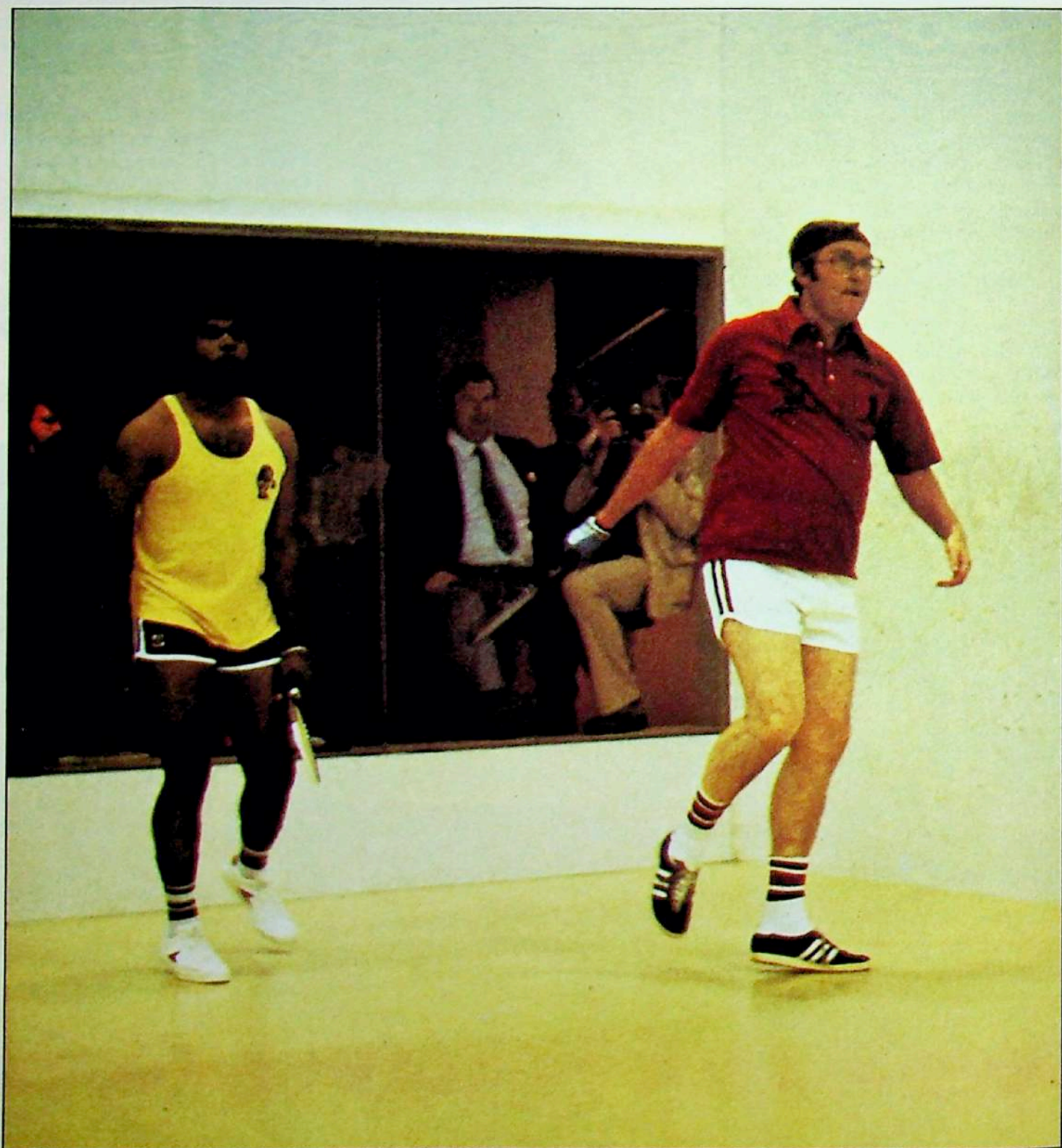
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RACQUETBALL



TAKES POLITICS "TO COURT"

COULD THE Z-serve decide the gubernatorial race in Illinois this year? Will party heads begin looking for candidates who can deliver the "racquetball bloc" in major elections?

Illinois Governor Jim Thompson addressed himself to these and several other tongue-in-cheek questions in June at a Citizens For Jim Thompson Fundraiser held at Chicago's Downtown Court Club. Republican incumbent Thompson goes for his second term in Illinois' Governor's Mansion in November and he is taking his racquetball racquet on the campaign trail with him.

The All-Star Sports Celebrity Night fete featured an exhibition match between "Big Jim" Thompson and former Chicago Bear star Gale Sayers, a mixed doubles contest between the teams of Marty Hogan-Janelle Marriott and Charlie Brumfield-Kathy Williams, and a Hogan-Brumfield meeting. LaVar Burton, star of the television extravaganza "Roots", was also in attendance.

The Kennedy's had their touch football, Eisenhower his golf, and Jerry Ford his swimming. Is racquetball on the way to becoming a political asset in a country that likes its leaders active?

"Absolutely!" Thompson declares. "Racquetball is twice as good for you as any of those others!"

Brumfield is even more certain in his comments. "If Jim Thompson makes President he'll do for racquetball what Ike did for golf!"

"Thompson is the first upper-level politician I know of who is a serious racquetball player," says Brumfield. "Of course the game is still a new phenomenon in many areas but with Thompson it isn't something he's just picked up because he thought it'd look good politically."

Thompson, 42, who at 6'6", 230 pounds deserves every inch of his "Big Jim" nickname, took up the game in 1976 at the suggestion of a close friend. Using a program of weightlifting and racquetball he lost more than 40 pounds and was able to maintain a fast pace throughout the 1976 campaign with the top physical conditioning he credits racquetball with providing.

Jon Hay, Director of Sales and Marketing for Vittert Sports and former Chicagoan who has long admired Thompson,

attended the fundraiser along with several other top racquetball figures. He thinks racquetball and politics will both benefit from the association.

"Racquetball will definitely get great exposure through politicians taking up the game," he says. "It's not a game of prima donnas which will make it an asset to someone in politics. Because it is such an active game it will appeal to younger voters too."

How does Thompson himself compare the active kind of campaign event to the traditional dinner-speech affair?

"There *isn't* any comparison," he laughs. "This is more fun for both me and the people attending. I think this is the kind of campaigning that can be aimed at the younger voters, the ones who can't afford those \$150 a plate dinners."

"The trouble with campaigning usually is that there are so many events with food and it's too easy to get fat," Thompson says.

Press secretary Dave Gilbert explains that there is no campaign "strategy" to use racquetball as an image-builder. "Racquetball is really just part of Jim's overall image as an active individual. He loves the game mostly for the exercise and a good workout."

Thompson plays at least once a week while he is in Springfield tending to state business in the capital. He usually manages to squeeze in at least one or two trips to the racquetball courts each week when his work brings him to the Windy City.

But despite the clout of his office "Big Jim" has not found a solution to one recurring problem on the racquetball courts. "Nobody wants to play 'Governor's racquetball,'" he complains with a smile. "That's the kind where the boss always wins. Unfortunately I haven't come up with anyone who wants to cooperate yet."

Although the All-Star Celebrity Sports Night was put on by his own reelection committee Thompson was unable to "persuade" Sayers to play 'Governor's racquetball' either. The Governor came out on the end of an unceremonious 21-10 final score.

"I'm about a C-minus player," Thompson says. "I enjoy the competition though. Whenever I can I try to

schedule matches with some of the younger guys on my staff even though I have trouble beating most of them."

"The game is just getting so popular everywhere," he says with a shake of his head. "I only wish I had more time."

His attraction to racquetball is deeper than simple fadism. "I wanted to learn one sport well enough to the point that I could hold my own in competition with other people," Thompson states. "I'm a big guy but I never really did anything in sports too much before racquetball."

"I played golf but it just takes too long to play and you can't get much of a workout either. I took a shot at tennis but when an instructor told me where to stand, how to swing and then had me taking mechanical swings at a ball thrown at me by a machine, I decided that wasn't my game either."

Thompson carried the 1976 election by 1.5 million votes, the largest plurality in Illinois gubernatorial history. He has established Racquetball Week in Illinois each March to coincide with the state tournament of the Illinois Racquetball Association. Through his Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Thompson has set up many programs in Illinois built around activities such as racquetball.

Thompson's wife Jayne attended the fundraiser but was not too conspicuous on the courts for a very obvious reason — the couple's first child is due in August. Normally she and the Governor do enjoy playing the game together. But there are those moments...

"The last time we played," admits "Big Jim", "I hit her right in the forehead with a shot. I'd have to say that we might not be making it on the mixed doubles circuit for a little while anyway."

Thompson likes to jog with Gov and Little Mo, the two family dogs, when he is in Springfield. After his morning running he heads for his office in a renovated Checker cab that he uses instead of the usual black state limousine as a money saving measure.

He has to fit his racquetball times in between the whirl of speeches, meetings and reviewing of pending legislation that fill an average day in a governor's life. This kind of schedule doubles Thompson's anticipation of campaign functions such as the racquetball fundraiser al-

(Text continued on page 14)

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(Text continued on page 13)



RACQUETBALL TAKES POLITICS "TO COURT"

ings, the food and drink were both delicious and abundant. Besides the free bar there was an irresistible assortment of catered meats, salads and desserts.

More than 250 guests bought tickets costing \$35 and donations to Thompson's campaign coffers could also be made in the form of volunteering a higher "admission charge".

Downtown Court Club operator Jim Browner and his father made a donation to the Thompson campaign equal to the cost of reserving the club for the entire evening.

The match between Thompson and footballer Sayers was billed as a "Point-A-Thon". Guests selected their favorite and wagered money on each point their hero would tally. Naturally, regardless of the outcome, all bets went to the "house", which belonged to Thompson for the evening.

Everyone received a "Play It Again, Jim" T-shirt donated by Vittert and the admission charge included court time for the evening on a first-come-first-served basis. Court time could be spent with Brumfield, Hogan, Williams or Marriott if they were available, plus author-pro Steve Strandemo. For those who were able to engage — and defeat — the Governor on the court there were free "I Beat The Governor" T-shirts too.

Local celebrities such as radio station WLS disc jockey Bob Sirott (who was among those to earn one of the IBTG T-shirts) were on hand. ABC's TV Chicago political editor Hugh Hill attended in a strictly social capacity (if it is indeed possible for a political editor and politician to get together away from their mutual area of interest).

Tennis and squash courts were also open to guests along with the club swimming pool. The pool was also the scene of a challenge swim meet between several Chicago Bears and members of the lovely Honeybears cheerleading team (won by the Honeybears to everyone's surprise).

But the evening belonged to racquetball without any question. "The general reaction is that everyone had an absolutely great time," said press secretary Gilbert. "We were surprised that virtually everyone there was interested in playing racquetball much more than any of the other things there were to do."

"This was the first one of these kinds of gatherings we've ever scheduled," he said. "If possible we plan to hold another in the summer sometime and maybe even one more again in the fall."

That would no doubt suit Thompson. "Most of the time I would rather play an hour or two of racquetball than bother eating lunch," says the Governor. "It's also a good way to get out frustrations for me — I can just visualize opponents' faces on the ball and I never miss."

Would he consider challenging Democratic opponent Micheal Bakalis to a racquetball "debate"? "I think the less I see of my worthy opponent, the better," he winks.

But there seems to be a place for racquetball on the campaign trail for Thompson. According to Gilbert, "When Jim was at the University of Illinois recently we took along some 'I Beat The Governor' shirts and announced that Jim would accept challenges from students. There were more sign-ups than we could have ever anticipated. It was incredible!"

Thompson has been mentioned as possible presidential material for the Republican party. But his staff cringes whenever reference to national office is made since they are only concerned with one race at a time.

Newsweek magazine, however, thought enough of Thompson's potential candidacy to briefly profile him following his 1976 gubernatorial victory. With his record of being tough on crime while serving as U.S. Attorney and Assistant Illinois Attorney General he has been touted as an attractive candidate, particularly with his active personal image that includes racquetball.

But if Thompson seeks to disavow any designs on offices other than the one he is presently campaigning for, he did find time to make his first "If-I'm-elected-President" campaign "promise" at the fundraiser.

"If I do get to the White House somehow, I will replace Jerry Ford's swimming pool with a racquetball court," he informed an obviously partisan crowd of racquetballers.

"I suspect though that the only way I'll get to play at the White House will be if Jim, Jr. invites his old man there as a guest."

Jim, Jr.? Jayne Thompson was unavailable for comment on her husband's choice of name — or whether their first child might turn out to be a Jayne, Jr. instead. She was too busy watching one of the exhibition matches.

Illinois' First Family is indeed a racquetball family. Jim Thompson's reelection effort may turn out to be one of the most "active" campaigns in history!

Baselines

19 Major Airlines Set Sights On Stewardess Tennis Test

Will American Airlines defend its title? Will Delta outlast United? Or what about Sabena's chances, or British Airways? Can Continental turn back Pan Am?

Sound like a typical strategy session between airlines? Right... no, wrong. It's a "war" between airlines all right, but the usual type. It's the battle that is being taken up by stewardesses of 19 international carriers as they prepare for the third annual Springmaid International Stewardess Tennis Tournament, September 25-29 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Stewardesses from a record 19 international carriers have already entered teams to compete in this unique test sponsored by Springs Mills, the manufacturer of Springmaid fabrics and a company with a tradition of mixing offbeat fun with business.

Committed so far for the four-day event at John Gardiner's Tennis Ranch are: Allegheny, Alitalia, American, Braniff, British Airways, Continental, Delta, Eastern, Hughes Airwest, Northwest, Pan American, Qantas, Sabena, Trans World, United, Western, Lufthansa, SAS and Swissair.

Each airline will field a five-player team — three singles and two doubles — as they compete for an overall team title plus singles and doubles titles. Airlines select their team members through a series of qualifying events. In some cases, these events are showcased by Springs Mills as part of key city Market Day activities.

Last year, the overall team title was won by American Airlines with 40 total points, followed by Continental with 32 and Pan Am with 22. American's Taffy Lewis won six singles matches to win that title from Delta's Karen Cochran, 6-1, 6-3. Continental's Helga Holt and Susie Spicer defeated Pan Am's Nancy Coates and Iris Stewart, 6-3, 6-4 for doubles honors.

750,000 Expected to Enter Mr. Peanut Competition

NEW YORK, New York — More than 750,000 youngsters are expected to compete in the second annual Mr. Peanut Target Tennis competition, making this unique test of skill and accuracy the biggest junior tennis undertaking in the century.

The program, launched last year by Planters Peanuts, a division of

Standard Brands Incorporated, will reach out through first round competitions in municipal parks and recreation systems and tennis clubs throughout the U.S.

Host facilities need only register to receive complete instructions and materials for staging first round events. The competition is open free of charge to girls and boys in three age groups: 12 and under, 14 and under, 16 and under.

Mr. Peanut Target Tennis, which often is compared to football's Punt, Pass and Kick, has been called a valuable aid in teaching accuracy and skill in basic tennis strokes. Many of last year's first round competition hosts continue to use the program as an instructional aid.

The competition has received the endorsement of the National Recreation and Park Association, World Team Tennis and the National Development Program of the U.S. Tennis Association.

While the competition was national in scope last year, emphasis was placed on the areas surrounding World Team Tennis cities. This year greater emphasis is being placed on developing competitive events in all major cities, not just WTT areas.

This will be accomplished through greater participation by municipal parks and recreation departments and tennis clubs throughout the country in the first round, and the structuring of district and regional playoffs prior to the national Mr. Peanut Target Tennis championship finals.

In 1978, winners of first round events are eligible for one of 20 district playoffs to be held between August 20 and August 25, with the exception of New York which will be held August 2 and August 3. The winners of these events will advance to one of six regional competitions to be held between August 28 and August 30 with the national Mr. Peanut Target Tennis championship scheduled for September 16 in conjunction with the World Team Tennis championships.

The district and regional championships will be staged at local tennis facilities under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Tennis Association.

Mr. Peanut Target Tennis is based on four basic strokes which can be tested in single-sided competition: forehand and backhand strokes, forehand/backhand volley, overhead and serve.

American also won the team honors in 1976, but Qantas' Barbara Hancock, who once played Wimbledon and Forest Hills, won the singles crown. American's Patsy Crow and Nancy Verhalen took doubles honors in 1976.

Ektelon Breaks Ground For 64,000-Square-Foot Plant

SAN DIEGO, California — Ektelon recently celebrated the start of construction on its new 64,000-square-foot manufacturing facility with a groundbreaking and barbecue.

Attended by local public officials and civic leaders as well as all 200 Ektelon employees, the event was held at the new plant site, 8929 Aero Drive in San Diego.

The San Diego-based manufacturer of racquetball racquets and accessory equipment, now located at 7079 Mission Gorge Road, was recently selected as San Diego's Marketing Company of the Year by the American Marketing Association.

Ektelon President Bud Held called his company's expansion "evidence of the phenomenal growth the sport of racquetball is enjoying nationwide."

"There is an unfaltering demand for our products throughout our present markets and new markets are opening up all the time. We're constantly under pressure to find more efficient ways to meet this demand and our modern and expanded facility will help greatly."

The company not only produces a complete line of racquetball racquets, the most widely used racquet stringing machine in the industry and a full line of racquetball

fashions, but also racquetball safety equipment and other accessories.

Omega Moves to Larger Quarters to Handle Increase

MARYLAND HEIGHTS, Missouri — Omega Sports, national marketer of racquetball racquets, has announced relocation of the company's sales office and warehouse facilities. The move was necessary in order to meet the expanding market share that Omega has captured since its entry into the racquetball market over two years ago.

The new address for Omega Sports is now 10850 Metro Court, Maryland Heights, MO 63043. Telephone numbers remain the same: Local — (314) 872-9007. WATTS number — (800) 325-4025.

According to John Prentis, president of Omega Sports, "The move will allow us to consolidate a number of marketing and distribution functions at the headquarters locations. This will improve our internal operations with increased efficiencies and, consequently, we will give even better service to our customers. We will continue to maintain our 'FAST-SHIP' delivery program."

Prentis reported that the need for larger quarters developed several years earlier than expected as a result of "Omega's rather startling success in rapidly attaining a leadership position in the marketplace."

Omega markets a complete line of racquetball racquets and is the only manufacturer to offer a five-year warranty on its featured top-of-the-line model, the Pro-II. ●



Ektelon President Bud Held gets a helping hand from two top Ektelon player professionals during recent groundbreaking ceremonies for Ektelon's new 64,000-square-foot manufacturing plant in San Diego. Mike Yellen, at left, and Jerry Hilecher, at right, help Held toss the first few spadefuls of dirt during a groundbreaking.

Roscoe Tanner

His Secret Is In The Leaves

By Linda-Marie Singer

If tennis balls could talk, they would probably scream each time Roscoe Tanner hits them at speeds up to 140 mph. Tanner, as you know, has such a smoldering serve that he undoubtedly wilts more cans of tennis balls than any other player just by looking at them.

"The ball feels as good as it's ever felt," states the former Stanford mighty man. And he should know.

Starting at age five, the young southpaw from Lookout Mountain, Tennessee (a comfortable suburb of Chattanooga), is carving quite a niche for himself.

Having turned pro in 1972, he is now rated No. 5 in World Championship Tennis point standings, and No. 3 in the Colgate Grand Prix. His most lucrative win to date came this February when he captured all the accolades at the American Airlines Games in Palm Springs. I say *all* because not only did he earn a glittering star for the singles, but he turned right around, along with partner Ray Moore, and walked off with the doubles prize. And \$41,800 is something to feel proud of.

Other top honors include: The Australian Open in January, 1977, two-time semifinalist at Wimbledon, a semifinalist at the U.S. Open, as well as a key member of the U.S. Davis Cup Team.

Evidently the confidence and desire to win have taken a happy toll for the tennis player who easily could be a new member of the Beach Boys rock group. Tall, tan, blond — take away the racquet and substitute a surfboard, and the picture would be complete.

Except . . .

The 11th ranked player in the world doesn't talk surfing; he talks tennis. "Being in good shape means everything to me. Against Borg, for example, in the Masters we played a three-setter. I didn't get tired at all." Tanner modestly omits that he received a standing ovation from the Philadelphia crowd when he defeated the reigning Wimbledon King.

"With people like Borg, Vilas and Connors, you *must* be in good shape. During the last three months I spent tons of time on ground strokes alone."

Always perfecting the "faster than a

speeding bullet" serve, the 26-year-old Tanner shares his secret. Strangely it doesn't revolve around the simple dynamics of serving, but the focal point of his strength is in the rustling of the leaves. Yes, leaves.

"It's essential to spend lots of time just serving buckets of balls. Then you have to learn how high your racquet is and toss it to that spot. I go out in the woods and hit leaves. Lots of them. That way you reach way up and learn where your racquet comes through. And you'll have a *consistent* serve."

Maybe some of the superstar's consistency should be credited to his



"It's essential to spend lots of time just serving buckets of balls. Then you have to learn how high your racquet is and toss it to that spot. I go out in the woods and hit leaves."



coach, Dennis Ralston. Not entirely Tanner's own, Ralston travels the circuit and is responsible in part for the steady climb of such outstanding players as Dick Stockton, Brian Gottfried and Harold Solomon.

"I'm so confident when Dennis is there. Especially if I'm playing in Palm Springs where I live during the winter months. The American Airlines was just like playing at home for me. I was pointing so hard for that tournament." It showed.

People like Colin Dibley, Manuel Orantes, Tom Leonard and Raul Ramirez can attest to that. "It's nice to know that all that practicing is paying off," he says gratefully. "We all do running drills, and at the end of a five-hour session, we play sets. I think that to be successful today

a pro must be able to play all styles. I think I proved that in the Palm Springs games. I can play the baseline as well as serve and volley."

Then with pert wife Nancy in charge of the ballpersons in Palm Springs, her mere presence seemed to spur him on. That along with listening to the soundtrack from "Saturday Night Fever", which he claimed "pumped me up", may have led to his dynamic performance.

Another Tanner-ism of course is serving an ace to bring himself back into the game when he's down. (Remember the leaves?)

"My opponents like to work my backhand with an approach shot. Against Orantes I remember that he drove one at me. It was a good time to pull one out, and luckily I did. I used my cross-court backhand over the net and underneath Orantes' racquet to win. It's a shot that Coach Ralston and I have been working on for weeks."

It paid off handsomely.

The rather calm appearance that Tanner exudes on the court can be as misleading as his serve. "Seeing me out there people think I don't have a lot of emotion, but they're wrong. It's all inside. I try to show as little as possible, so the other guy won't know what I'm thinking."

Striving to be Borg-like on the court, Roscoe admires the "true champions" of tennis today: Rod Laver, Arthur Ashe and Ken Rosewall. "They're not only great," says the admirer, "but they're also true gentlemen."

Recently at the Smythe Grand Prix, Tanner got a chance to play such a "true gentleman" — Arthur Ashe. Although on a comeback trail, it took Ashe three sets to unnerve Tanner's blitz-like approach, before finally winning the tie breaker, 7-4, and later the championship.

These days, however, tennis enthusiasts are seeing one of the *creme de la creme* in action. Determined to crash through the Holy Ten Barrier, Tanner points to this year's achievements as "one of the best shots I've had so far."

From Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, the message is clear: Borg, Vilas and Connors look out for the leaves!



So You Want to Play Badminton?

By Chris Kinard

About the author: Chris Kinard, of Pasadena, California, is presently the U.S. Men's Singles Badminton Champion, a title he has held five of the last seven years. Kinard is also the 1977 U.S. Intercollegiate Singles and Doubles Champion, the South African Open Men's Doubles Champion, Peruvian Open Singles, Doubles and Mixed Champion and a member of the U.S. National Team since 1969.

I HAVE BEEN asked to do a series of badminton instructional articles. Therefore, I feel that I should begin the series with a general article describing the order in which the different facets of badminton should be introduced to the new student of the game. The future articles will focus specifically on each facet mentioned in this general article.

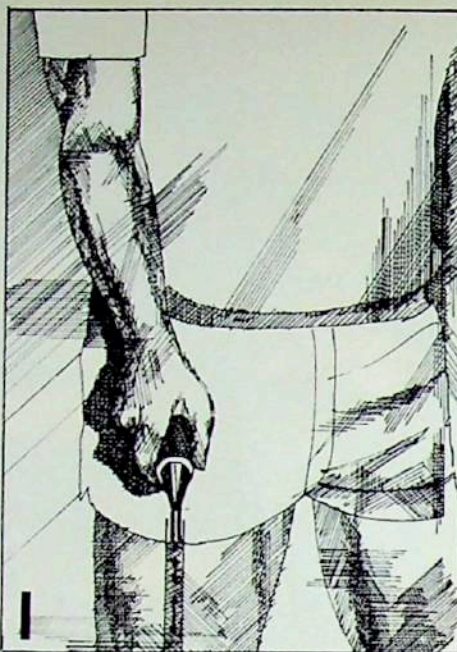
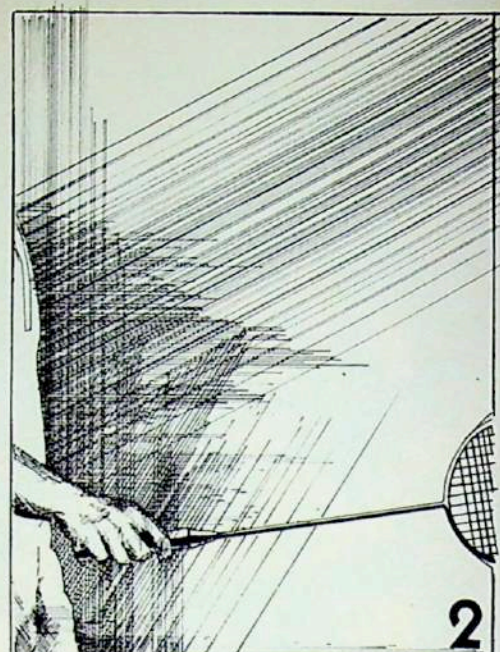
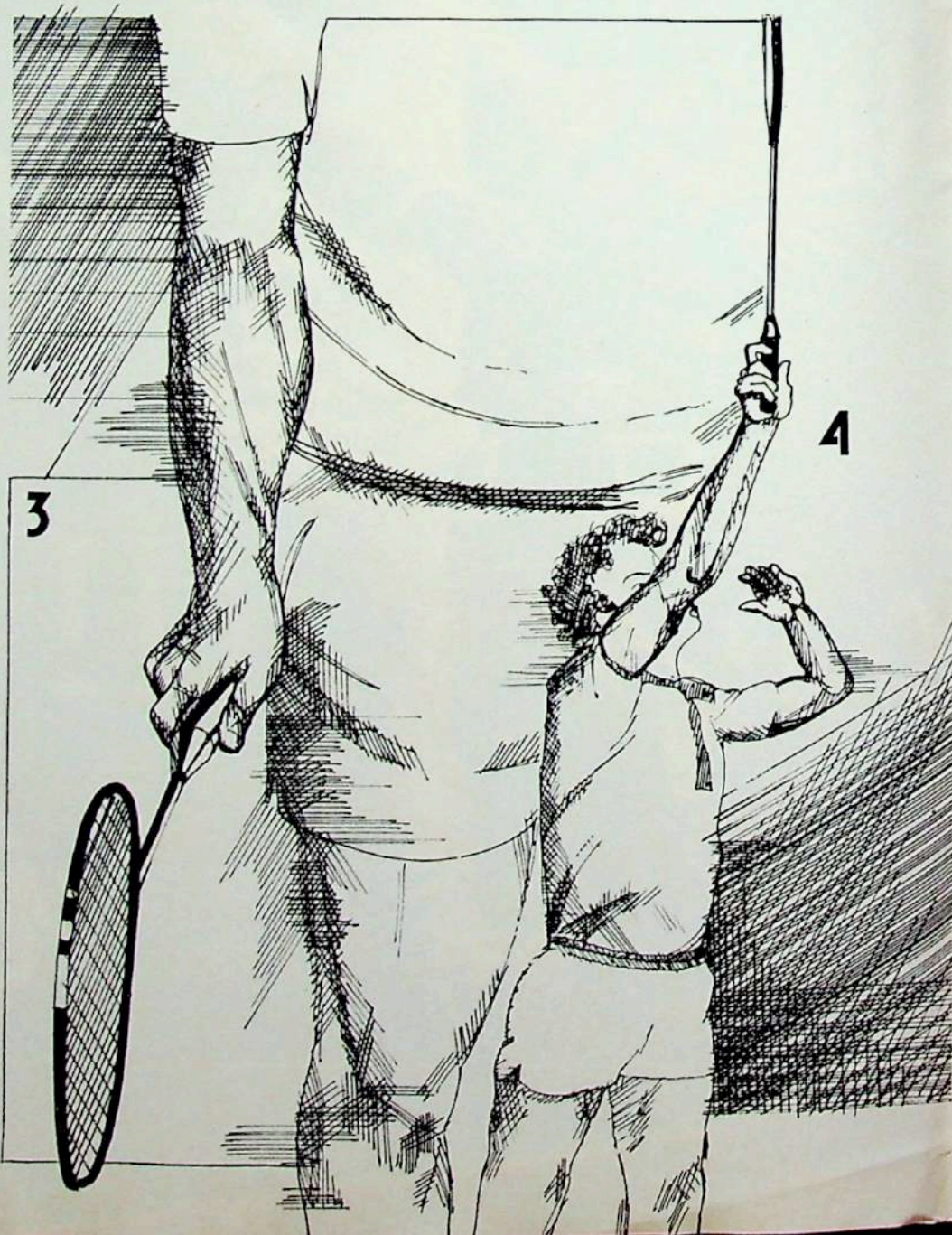
There is never enough importance placed on the proper grip when one takes up a new racquet sport. In badminton it is imperative that the player uses the "shake hands" grip for the forehand strokes and makes a slight adjustment when hitting the backhand strokes.

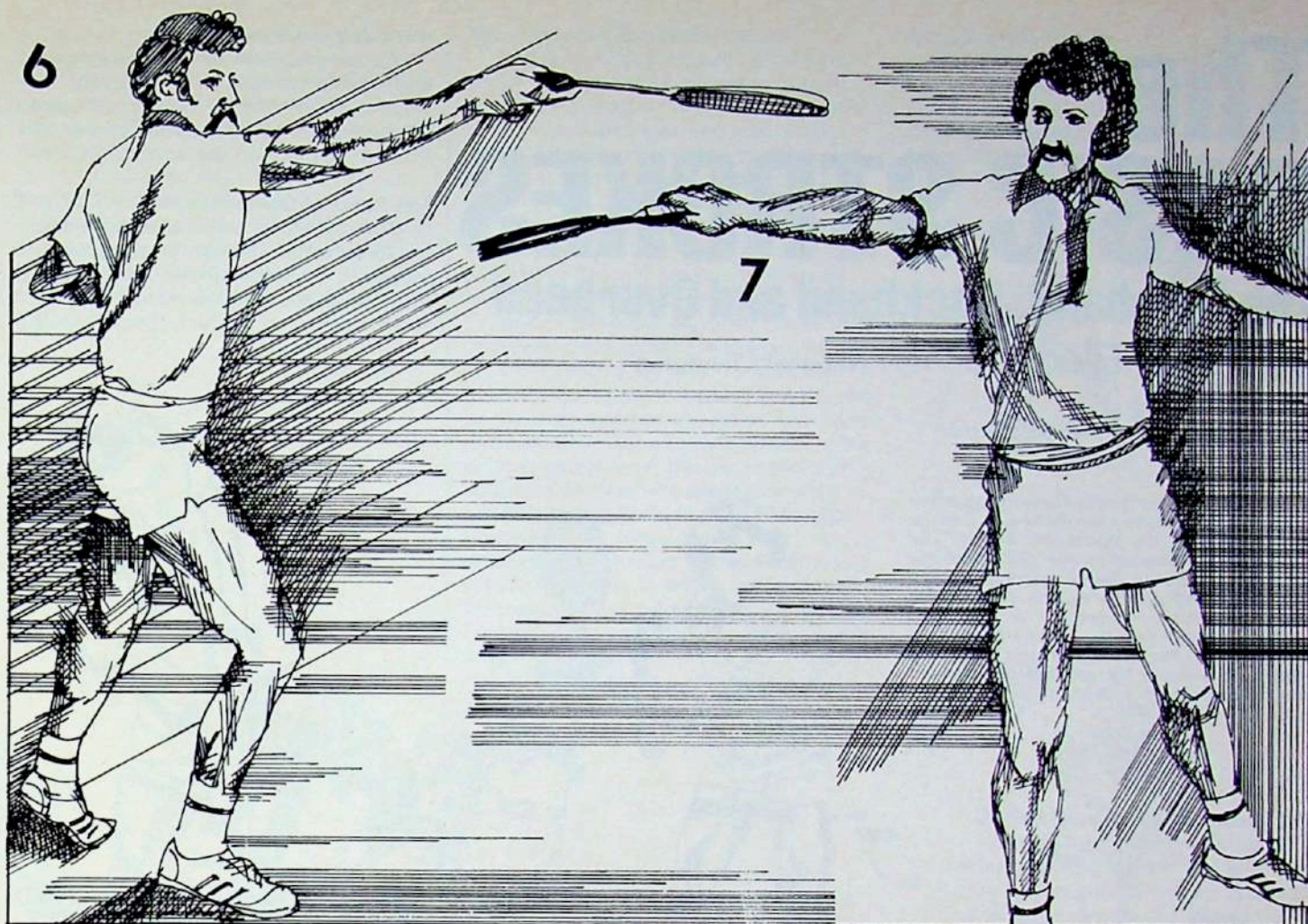
The forehand "shake hands" grip (see Figure 1) employs a loosely gripped racquet with the fingers slightly spread (see Figure 2) to permit free movement of the racquet. The "shake hands" grip allows the player more follow through, consequently more power, and the ability to hit the deceptive shots necessary for success in badminton.

The slight adjustment for the backhand shots is to move the thumb up on the flat part of the handle (see Figure 3). The player can hit with added power and accuracy by using the thumb to move the racquet faster through the bird.

Once a player has employed the proper grips, learning the basic strokes follow. Overhead shots along with net shots are the mainstays in badminton.

To execute the overhead shots (clear, drop or smash) properly the player must have the body positioned behind the bird (see Figure 4), and the player must contact the bird with the arm extended. Having the body behind the bird allows the player to contact the bird while it is still in front; thus allowing more shot options and the ability to move forward to the base position. This forward body movement will give added power. Also, by meeting the bird at the highest possible point (arm extended as shown)





the player is able to hit a variety of shots with only a slight change of racquet face angle.

For overhead backhand shots (see Figure 5), again the important factors involved in hitting the shots properly are to have the body behind the bird before the racquet contacts the bird, and the arm must be extended upon contact.

Net shots are used in badminton almost as much as overhead shots. The important point to remember when hitting net shots either on the forehand or backhand side (see Figures 6 and 7) is to meet the bird as high as possible (at the top of the net) with the arm extended as shown. By meeting the bird at the top of the net the player has more shot options such as re-dropping the bird or flicking the bird over an on-rushing opponent who has anticipated the re-drop.

As I said at the beginning of this article, I would touch generally on a few of the important factors involved in the very demanding sport of badminton. In future articles, I will cover the strokes in more detail, strategy for singles and doubles, competitive psychology and the conditioning needed to become a top tournament player.

In conclusion, I would like to make one point. There are many new racquet



sports being played; most are advertised as easy to pick up and that one can be a "good" player in a hurry. Badminton is not one of these sports. Badminton is the toughest racquet sport in the world. (For example, in a study conducted at UCLA which compared the amount of energy expended in badminton as opposed to tennis, the two badminton players' heartbeats were over 180 beats 75% of the playing time while the tennis players' heartbeats *never* got above 180 beats. All the players were members of their respective 1977 national championship tennis and badminton teams.) Thus, a new player must practice a great deal before feeling confident.

Don't let this discourage you. If you work hard, badminton will give you a lot of satisfaction and is an excellent physical conditioner. Also, for those of you who reach the top level, there is the opportunity for international competition in countries such as England, Denmark, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand where badminton is a national sport. It is common to see crowds of 20,000 viewing badminton matches in those countries.

Badminton is a very rewarding sport, so I hope all of you begin to play if you haven't already started.

Look for future articles to guide you along the way. ○

The BASIC STROKES

The Forehand, Backhand and Overhead

By Davey Bledsoe "1977 National Champion"

with Jim Feeler

The Conclusion of a Two-Part Series

Last issue, Davey Bledsoe began instruction on the basic strokes by showing how to execute the forehand in the traditional manner and revealing an advanced stroke technique the pros use to produce the fantastic ball speed that is dominating today's game. In this issue Bledsoe concludes instruction on the basic strokes by illustrating the traditional method of executing the backhand and overhead strokes and revealing his technique for developing a more powerful backhand.

The Traditional Backhand Stroke

Beginning racquetball players normally feel comfortable with the forehand stroke in comparison with a usually weak and awkward backhand. Consequently the forehand will assume the major offensive role in lieu of an effective backhand. Naturally the forehand will always be the more dependable stroke but there is no reason why the backhand cannot be developed into a comfortable and reliable offensive weapon. In fact this is mandatory if you expect your game to continue improving. Over-reliance on the forehand hampers the development of overall execution and court strategy, not to mention the frustration of losing to a lesser athlete because of a weak backhand. This is especially true when the mechanics of executing an effective stroke are so easy to learn.

The following illustrations depict the traditional method of executing the backhand stroke. Every player should be able to execute an effective stroke by this method before attempting any advanced technique.

The Top of the Backswing

Position yourself to make contact with the ball by facing the side wall and rotating your hips and shoulders toward the rear corner. (See Figure 1.) This should shift the bulk of your weight onto the rear foot. At the top of the backswing the racquet face should point to the side wall and be about shoulder high as a result of proper wrist and elbow flexion.

Initiating the Stroke

As you step into the ball rotate your upper body forward and shift body weight onto the front foot. (See Figure 2.) Swing the racquet forward but at this time do not extend the arm.

The Point of Contact

Power is produced by one continuous forward motion. Maximum torque is generated by a combination of body rotation, arm extension and wrist snap at the moment of contact. (See Figure 3.)



Although rotating of the upper body is critical in producing power, do not rotate or lift the feet. The racquet head should point to the side wall and the racquet face should be perpendicular to the side wall and floor.

The Follow Through

After contact with the ball the racquet carries down and around as shoulder rotation leads the lower body into a complete follow through position. (See Figure 4.)



The Advanced Backhand Stroke

Today most players are concerned about developing more power in their stroke. But most of the time this desire is translated into just swinging harder. Although some power can be obtained by the strong arm approach, more than likely a tired arm will be the only consistent result. A better method is to first understand how power is developed and then adopt whichever techniques will produce the desired results.

One of the most important principles of power development is the size of the arc in the swing. By this, I mean the distance the racquet travels from the top of the backswing to the point of contact with the ball. For example, visualize the difference between the backhand and forehand strokes. It's obvious in the backhand that the size of the arc is limited by the forward shoulder position. Even though the same shoulder rotation is made in both strokes the forehand arc will be greater because the racquet starts from further back. This is why more power is always produced in the forehand. Most techniques that increase racquet arc are important in

developing power. You can promote power in the backhand by having good hip and shoulder rotation and by facing the side wall before initiating the stroke. The reason why most beginning players have so little backhand power is because they begin the stroke by facing the front wall. This reduces the possible racquet arc to a minimum.

Although I emphasize the preceding principle I believe you will find that the following technique has a few new twists. But one word of caution, this is a very difficult stroke technique and I do not recommend it to anyone but advanced players.

The Top of the Backswing

The major difference between this stance and the traditional stance is in the exaggerated body rotation and wrist flexion that causes the racquet face to point to the back wall. (See Figure 5.) Another important difference is that the weight is divided equally between both feet.

Initiating the Stroke

As you step into the ball rotate your upper body forward and shift body weight onto the front foot. Swing the racquet forward and extend the arm. (See Figure 6.)



(Text continued on page 22)

THE BASIC STROKES

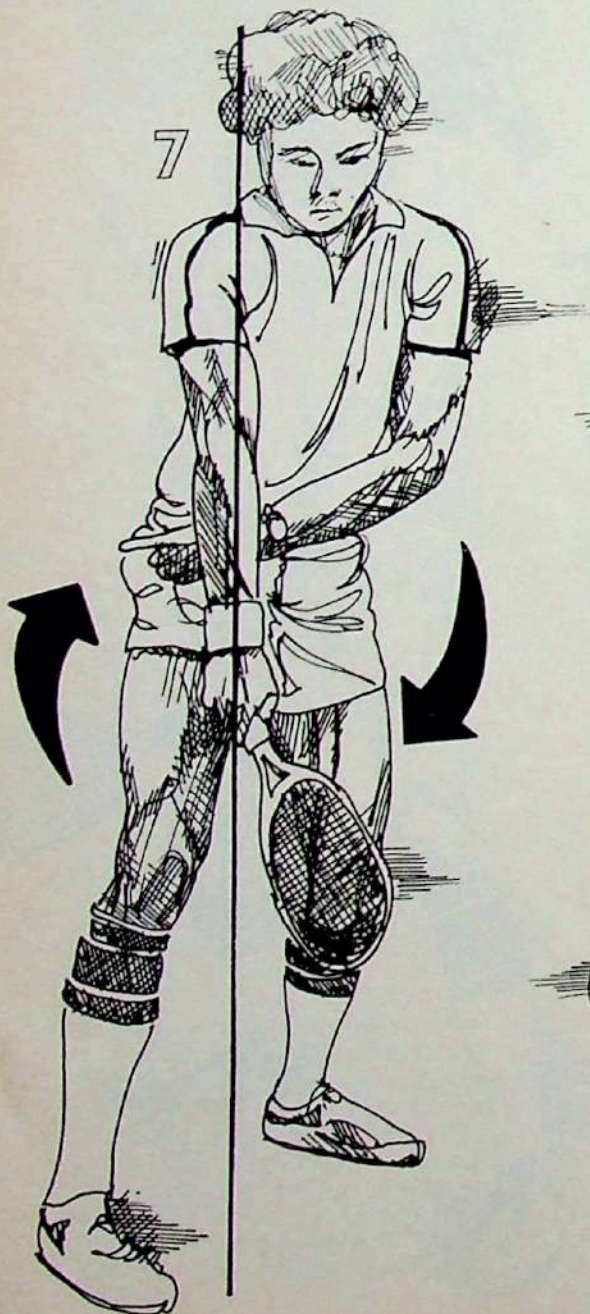
(Text continued on page 21)

The Point of Contact

This portion of the stroke can best be described as a whip motion. Power is created by a thrust forward and a reverse weight shift. The reverse weight shift is produced by straightening the lead leg and pushing away from the ball. This results in a transfer of body weight onto the back foot. At the point of wrist snap the racquet head should point down to the floor. (See Figure 7.)

The Follow Through

Continue to pull away from the ball and allow the racquet to carry around the body. (See Figure 8.) Notice that from the point of contact there has been no rotation of the feet.



8



The Top of the Backswing

Notice how similar the basic stance for the overhead is to a traditional groundstroke. The only difference is that the upper body is more upright. This is true in the backhand as well as the forehand overhead strokes.



Making Contact with the Ball

From this position the racquet face makes contact with the ball for a ceiling shot. On a drive or kill shot the racquet would make contact further forward and the body should assume a slight crouch. From the backhand stroke you hit ceiling balls and drives but you would never attempt a kill shot.

The Follow Through

After hitting the ball, follow through as if you had thrown a baseball.



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MARTINA NAVRATILOVA

Winning Means Everything

By Linda-Marie Singer

NOTHING's been the same in women's tennis since teenage sensation Martina Navratilova stepped from the shores of Prague, Czechoslovakia, onto the "banks" of Beverly Hills, California.

Inspiring, tenacious and bold easily describe the 21-year-old brunette. Formerly the epithets weren't as complimentary: dour, stubborn and petulant.

What, then, changed the new American? And how did she come to be accepted into the ranks of elitist tennis world?

First, yesterday.

By the time the 5'7" pudgy adolescent whirled on the scene, the 1973 tennis society was spotlighting the Fearless Foursome: Margaret Court, Billie Jean King, Evonne Goolagong and Chris Evert.

The Czech, however, was determined to play the odds and make it five on the top. Dazzling everybody with her amazing power, she proved her eagerness by melting into the computer rankings — thereby bursting into the limelight.

And burst she did.

Carrying a banner that read "Czechoslovakian National Champion 1972-1975," she began putting forth her best shot in this country, free from the oppressive constraints of her homeland.

"I guess I was getting to be a hero in Czechoslovakia. The Federation played it down of course. They didn't want me to become too good. They didn't care if I was No. 1. All they wanted was for me to go to school, set a good example for kids growing up, and get involved in politics, which I had *no interest* in ever doing."

Obviously it took an extraordinary amount of courage for the insecure teenager to think of defecting to America solely on the basis of playing her beloved game. And that's just what she did.

"I miss my parents a lot. We talk over the phone," she says plaintively. "We don't talk any spy stuff. No politics. Just tennis."

"What more can I say about why I

wanted to leave? One thing that always bothered me was that the male players have it better there," she comments in an even voice. "They've had more attention paid so they can play the Davis Cup. That's the biggest deal for the Federation. So if I were a guy, they probably would have given me anything I wanted. Well, that's the way it is, and I recognized it early enough."

In 1973, *Tennis Magazine* recognized her talent by awarding her Rookie of the Year for reaching the finals of the Italian and German Opens. But she didn't stop there.

In fact, her Czechoslovakian name


"I stay low key because
I still have to play
my next match. I'm not
going to win on what I've
done in the past.

I have to win
on what I'm doing now."


popped up frequently at the U.S. Open, where she made it to the semis twice, once in 1975 and again in 1977. Wimbledon fans saw her place in the semis in 1976, and capture the doubles crown that year.

For a while it seemed the names of Navratilova and partner Betty Stove were synonymous with doubles wizardry, as they won laurels at the Bridgestone Classic in 1977. Now, coupled with childhood heroine Billie Jean King, and both adorned in matching Ted Tinling outfits, they were this year's recipients of the Bridgestone title.

But that's not all to the Navratilova-King pairing. Cognizant of King's few remaining chances to set a new record

of 20 titles at the most honored British event, Martina "courted" Mother Freedom into sharing the bill with her. "It's almost unheard of," the "Old Lady" quipped, "that someone wanted to help me. Players just don't do that."

So, what kind of player is Martina Navratilova?

Critics would argue that the mighty southpaw has let herself be goaded into unpopular confrontations and unruly court-side manners that stalk her reputation to this day.

"I am an emotional person, and it's hard for me to keep things inside. I must tell people what I'm thinking..."

"Right now my wish is to have enough money so that I never have to play another set of tennis if I don't want to." This is the ex-Czech's special blend of deadpan humor, for as everyone knows, young Martina probably could retire us all for life. Salting away over \$240,000 since January of this year, it's an irrefutable fact that the Navratilova stock is worth a small fortune on the court these days.

And if stock prices have their advances and declines, so has the star's mercurial past, which has led to her good-natured present. She has shed her once volatile attitude and comes on as a perceptive woman who wants as much acknowledgement and love as the next person.

This brings us to today, and to someone who has given her the kind of empathy and support she needs — pro golfer/sidekick, Sandy Haynie. Many wonder whether it has been the Navratilova-Haynie relationship that has quieted the storm. Or perhaps it has been Martina's great love affair with America that changed her perspective. What about her improved concentration and unbeatable playing? Has it something to do with the deft coaching of Boston Lobsters' Roy Emerson? "Emmo" had this to say about his powerful teammate's chances for inheriting the star on the No. 1 dressing room:

"If Martina will really work harder

(Text continued on page 26)



Martina Navratilova Photo by Todd Anthony

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA

(Text continued from page 24)

on her game, I predict that she could leave Evert behind." In a sense, although Chris decided to take a long-deserved rest this season, it was Martina who took advantage of this break, and hauled home seven Virginia Slims titles in a row — plus the Finals championship.

Perfecting her top spin backhand and doing rigorous calisthenics to insure her agility and promote her stamina, it makes sense that the Kerry Reids, the Rosie Casals and the Wendy Turnbuls are going to have to put in extra time if they want to bypass this incredible woman. "Martina's a great athlete, and with a lefty serve, what more do you need?" moaned Kerry Reid.

How about success? Is it lonely being so successful? "No, it's very nice!" replies Navratilova laughingly. "It can get lonely, but I haven't been on top so long. It's much better than losing, I tell you! Now it seems that I get more attention from the press and I have to give more interviews."

How is she managing to stay so low key? "I still have to play my next match. I'm not going to win on what I've done in the past. I have to win on what I'm doing now."

Something else she's doing now is living by her new motto: All that glitters is gold. Clearly the most bejeweled woman on the court, she now lends herself to a more feminine and flattering look, perhaps to offset the muscular arms and powerful legs. However, it was Chris Evert who started it all by wearing a simple chain here and there — always the image of a *Mademoiselle* ad.

"I feel I can do anything I want with a tennis ball. I can beat Chris Evert with my style."

Then came Kristien Shaw's alluring make-up, Virginia Wade's winning coiffured look, Wendy Turnbull's "WT" pinky ring, and finally Martina's "au courant" collection. Certain to set a fashion trend even with weekend hackers, Navratilova complains that she has gotten nothing but bad press on her revamped style.

"It's funny that nobody wrote about my Gucci things until I defected. And then they all wrote, 'From Communism

to Capitalism All the Way!'

"People say, 'O.K. She's Americanized now,' but no one ever realizes that I never had the money to buy anything. It all went to the Federation.

"I feel I've been condemned for what other Americans take for granted. A car, a nice house and jewelry.

"Anyway, why doesn't the press write about Chris? She only wears one chain, yes, but then she switches it everyday!"

Now with her manager Sandra Haynie at her side, her court-side outbursts pass quickly, as she keenly eyes her place in tennis history. And since she's conquered the first jewel in the Triple Crown by winning the Virginia Slims, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open would make a perfectly matched set.

Already off to a thundering season with her first place Boston Lobsters, the World Team Tennis superstar seems undaunted by the past, as she looks to her new home in Texas to provide the security and friends she needs to survive the American assimilation process.

One thing's for sure, Martina's not flashing around a DALLAS COWBOYS ARE NO. 1 on her racquet cover for nothing. Evidently this is a reflection of her own winning spirit. And, who knows, maybe this fall we'll see Roger Staubach's helmet with a MARTINA'S NO. 1 sticker on it. Then her new home state will boast of not one, but TWO world champions. ○





Scott Boggan Photo by Malcom Anderson

IF YOU'VE GOT the opportunity and desire you can establish yourself as a top table tennis player in the U.S. within five years. Right now there are at least 10 competitors who have put in their mandatory time and are emerging as serious contenders for the top positions in the national rankings.

What sets this group apart from the rest of the crowd is that they began the maturation process at ages 9, 10 and 11 and now as 14, 15 and 16 year-olds, they are experienced players who will probably be responsible for the most exciting boost to American table tennis since the rise of national champion Danny Seemiller.

The junior's ascent to the top is virtually a collective assault, and leading the pack is 14-year-old Eric Boggan who

JUNIOR POWER

By Thomas Wintrich

last April was rated No. 5 in the country. He is the reigning Under 17 and Under 15 national singles and doubles champion and he is the only American to have beaten Danny Seemiller in the last two years.

Eric is followed closely by his older brother Scott who is ranked 11th in the nation and the No. 2 junior. Scott shares the Under 17 doubles title with Eric and many of his contemporaries were not disappointed when he became ineligible for the junior division.

Holding down the No. 3 junior spot is 16-year-old Rutledge Barry who presently is 15th on the national charts. When combined with his fellow New York buddies, the Boggan brothers, he constitutes one-third of the second best

(Text continued on page 28)

By Thomas Wintrich



Bill Haid Sparks Table Tennis Interest

Table tennis is undoubtedly the fastest non-growing racquet sport in the country. While tennis has skyrocketed in popularity over the past 15 years and racquetball appears destined to a similar growth, the world of American table tennis has changed little in the last half century.

The present mailing list of the 45-year-old United States Table Tennis Association totals less than 5,000. Of that number, fewer than 3,000 are listed as nationally rated tournament players in the organization's bi-monthly tabloid, *Table Tennis Topics*. In contrast, there were 65,791 registered *junior* tennis players in 1977. (N.Y. Times, 5/08/78)

The sport's lack of popularity is truly ironic since it is estimated that over 30 million people play ping-pong in the U.S. They do so mainly in their basements and garages and very few of them are aware that the game they play also exists as the exciting and difficult sport of table tennis.

The USTTA would like to change all that but thus far the amateur organization has been ineffective in promoting the sport's growth, even though its nine-man executive committee and general membership share the sincere desire to do so. It seems that the wheels of progress annually bog down as a result of differences of opinion, infighting, and a definite lack of a cohesive plan.

"But the times, they are a changin' . . ."

Just last December the USTTA executive committee voted to hire the organization's first executive director. The unprecedented action marks the group's acknowledgement of the need for professional management and the move is seen as a necessary first step toward constructive expansion.

The positive step forward so impressed manufacturers and importers of table tennis equipment that 11 companies banded together and pledged \$30,000 in 1978 and 1979 for the employment of such a director and the establishment of a USTTA headquarters. The companies' support was a definite vote of confidence that the USTTA is headed in the right direction and was a tribute to the conscientious efforts of President Sol Schiff, Vice President Bowie Martin, and the new director, in arranging the commitment.

The man chosen for the job is 56-year-old William R. Haid who officially assumed his position on January 24, 1978. Before joining the USTTA, Haid lived in Tempe, Arizona where he worked for Associate Lithographers as Associate Publisher and Advertising Director of *Tennis West*, a 32-page monthly tennis publication. Prior to that, he was Vice President of Blackwell Printing Company of St. Louis, Missouri, where he recently returned to live and open national headquarters for the USTTA.

As outlined in the March-April issue of *Table Tennis Topics*, Haid's duties will be to formulate and institute various programs and procedures designed to expand the number of table tennis participants in the U.S., increase USTTA membership, increase USTTA income, improve the image of the sport, and establish, maintain, staff and supervise a headquarters office.

Admittedly no small task for anyone to undertake and Haid has wasted no time in getting the ball rolling. In fact, his progress in the first four months has amazed the very same people who hired him and it does not seem premature to conclude that the USTTA certainly landed the right man for the job.

Obviously, Haid will not be able to accomplish the USTTA's goals alone but he will undoubtedly provide the spark that will ignite other member's interest and cooperation. Most importantly, his hiring is a positive reflection of the organization's desire to fulfill its own destiny and hopefully Bill Haid will be just the beginning of a new era in the history of the USTTA. ○

JUNIOR POWER

(Text continued from page 27)

men's team in the country. That was dramatically demonstrated at the last U.S. Open Team Championships in Detroit, Michigan where the amazing "3 Bs" narrowly missed winning the entire event.

The fourth best junior is Jimmy Lane of Fountain Valley, California. Lane skyrocketed to the top in just four years of play and many interested observers, especially the West Coast players, feel he definitely has the ability and determination to become the U.S. champion within the next three years. Undoubtedly possible, but obviously he shares that same quest with a host of other players and, like all of them, he eventually has to deal with numero uno — Mr. Seemiller.

But, what happens when you combine the top four juniors? Well, for starters, you can form an impressive teenaged team that could represent the U.S. in international competition. That's exactly what was done last April and the four superstars were sent to Stockholm to compete in the 1978 Swedish Junior Open where they met players from 10 other countries.

Although their success was limited, it was apparent that the Americans were capable of holding their own and that they lacked the international exposure more than the talent. After all, Eric Boggan did defeat the eventual winner of the Under 14 singles bracket but he did so in the Under 17 class and not when it really counted — when the two met each other in the younger division. Also, it took the winner, Michael Appelgrin, of the Under 17 singles to eliminate Eric from that event, however, the young Swede's victory only evened the score as Jimmy Lane had beaten him earlier in the team competition. Together, Eric and Rutledge advanced to the semifinals of the team event while Scott and Jimmy lost a heartbreaker in the qualifying round robin which kept them out of the finals. So, while the young Americans came home empty handed, the experience was invaluable and they proved themselves capable of competing with some of the best youngsters in the world.

American junior talent is hardly limited to four players and includes many other notables, some of whom have previously beaten the current first string. (Current is a necessary adjective when discussing individual rankings.) Snapping at the heels of the Boggans, Barry and Lane, are players like Mike Stern, Dean Doyle, Todd Peterson, Quang Bui, Dean Wong, Phil Panno and Erwin Hom. The list continues, to be sure, extending all the way down to

10-year-olds Sean O'Neil and Scott Butler. The depth of talent is still not as great as a country like Sweden but in America where table tennis is virtually unknown, the ability levels are expanding and improving yearly. It will be just a matter of time and no doubt money before the U.S. will catch up.

The women's side of the sport does not have anywhere near the depth of the men's team and it will probably take five to seven years for the junior girls to equal the 1978 boys' status. This can be attributed to the great discrepancy in numbers. The men dominate the sport by a margin of 25 to 1 and with less than 3,000 rated players that means that there are only a handful of women within the ranks.

It's another unfortunate irony of table tennis since it is the one racquet sport where women are most capable of competing equally with the men. (In Sook Bhushan, the women's champion, proves that with her No. 12 national standing.) But competitive equality is not really the issue or concern, rather it's the fact that table tennis offers a wide open opportunity for everyone. Sheer physical size or strength is not an advantage, which makes it an ideal sport for both boys and girls. The youngsters can begin on an equal basis and their mutual development may never fluctuate because of physical growth differences.

Indeed, many boys would be happy to parallel the talent progress of 16-year-old Kasia Dawidowicz of Denver, Colorado. Kasia is the top female junior in the country and she is in a class of her own among her peers. She began playing under the expert tutelage of her father, Bohdan, when she was only nine and has steadily developed into the sixth best woman in the nation. She employs a very aggressive, hard hitting, attacking style and possesses the footwork and smooth strokes necessary to make it to the top. It will surprise no one when she becomes a serious challenge to Ms. Bhushan.

Trailing Dawidowicz in the ability race are promising young women like Fann Yeen Lie, Georgette Rideg, Leslie Harris, Debra Payotelis and Cheryl Dadian. Their numbers and rating levels don't equal their male counterparts but they form a tight nucleus of aspiring competitors who will eventually exert pressure on Kasia and the older women. The quality of talent is certainly there, it's just too bad the quantity is so lacking.

The 1978 top juniors represent the table tennis graduation classes of the early 70s and each succeeding year is certain to add new names to the honor rolls. Most of the alumni will continue their competitive educations and they will soon be the experienced teachers inspiring a multitude of knowledge hungry youths.

The talent explosion has just begun and American table tennis will reap the benefits in the years to come. ○

Jim Lane Photo by Malcolm Anderson



"Nobody Said It Was Going To Be Easy"

"BOY! I'M SURE ready for this tournament today! I've been practicing hard all month and really psyching myself up to win a trophy. I can hardly wait to start. Oh, oh! They just announced my round robin group and I'm in the first match. Here we go."

Two hours later you're sulking in the bleachers after losing all your matches including a third game deuce that kept you out of class C competition. Nothing to look forward to now but an overdose of hot dogs and soft drinks.

"What went wrong, why didn't I win?"

Unfortunately, all that early determination didn't help at all. In fact, you set yourself up to expect too much. You wanted to win, therefore you had to win. It just doesn't work that way. Instead, you should be determined only to play your best. Don't worry about winning.

"Don't worry about winning? Are you crazy? Am I supposed to improve through apathy?"

No, not at all, but the fact remains that you must become adept technically before you can benefit from win determination.

"So what do I do, just take it easy?"

Exactly! Throw the strategy out the window or at least don't be obsessed by it. Concentrate on your strokes and getting the ball over the net. When you make a mistake don't fret over it, just take note of what you did wrong and try to correct for it next time. And please, please, realize there are going to be a lot of next times. If you accept that you will avoid a major obstacle — anger.

It just doesn't make any sense to get mad about your performance, especially during regular club sessions when you've got nothing to lose but the game. It's very self-destructive and leads you away from a healthy attitude and back to expecting too much of yourself.

Attitude — that's really the name of the improvement game and a proper one must include patience so that you can stay calm and play relaxed. It's a very slow, steady process, often one in which change is hard to isolate. However, at times you may notice that you put together a series of points with complete control or maybe even an entire game. That's an indication you're getting better. That's the feedback you've been looking for. Enjoy it, it feels good, but don't gloat over your accomplishments lest you fall victim again to the great expectation cycle. Just go on with your game, maintaining that calm attitude, working on your strokes, and returning the ball.

Keep that up and you will acquire the technical key to table tennis. It's called consistency and with it you become a different player. Your strokes will be smoother, more natural, your volleys will last longer, and you will score more points in losing endeavors. In short, your entire game starts to come together and your confidence will increase respectively.

Why, before you know it you'll be on the high end of that third game deuce. You may just win that class C trophy you wanted. How does that sound?

"It sounds great. But wait a minute, I'm just working on class C. It's going to take forever to get up to class A and there is still open championship after that. That's a lot of improvement!"

Well, nobody said it was going to be easy. After all, in table tennis, patience is paramount, but at least your newly acquired skills are cumulative. You don't have to start over each time. Just remember to take it as it comes and keep in mind that you have to lose a lot before you win.

Good luck. ○

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IRA National Championships

...and then there were two!

By Carole Charfauros

Photos by Albert McBride



While there were some surprise upsets in the International Racquetball Association's National Championships, the winners were no surprise. Marty Hogan and Shannon Wright both proved, once again, that they are the number one men's pro and women's pro.

The finals of the men's pro division matched up two frequent finalists: Charlie Brumfield and Marty Hogan. It was, as usual, a fine exhibition of racquetball even though the scores — 21-17, 21-7 — seem to indicate a routine match for Marty.

But as always, Brumfield was tough. Coming back strongly from a slow start in the first game, it looked like he might

do it. Brumfield's perfect passing game had Hogan running from one corner to the other, getting madder all the time. But the comeback was too late as Hogan tallied his final point to end Brum's chance.

The second game was Hogan all the way, but it took some hot rallies for him to earn the \$4,000 prize money. Hogan's trademark, the ace serve, came through for several winners.

Even at 20-7, Marty's mother, Goldie, could not be consoled. She continued chanting, "Come on, baby. Do it now!" right up until match point before she finally took a breath of air. She was also the first one to the court door to congratulate the new IRA Champ.

Shannon Wright had her moral support in her boyfriend, Jim Lewis. Before each serve she would look back to him for signals. Eventually her opponent caught on and started looking back too.

Janell Marriott must have gotten the signals straight. In the finals she came the closest to dethroning Wright. According to one representative from Wilson, the company that Wright plays for, "Janell Marriott is the only girl that

Shannon is afraid of."

Marriott definitely gave Wright cause to worry. The day before she had practically blown Peggy Steding off the court with her amazing kills and hard-driving game style.

The first game of the finals, however, Marriott seemed to lack the confidence to go for the winners. While she returned a lot to the ceiling, Wright waited for her chance to put the ball away. Wright never faltered the first game, winning 21-13, and looked like a shoe-in for a victory in two games.

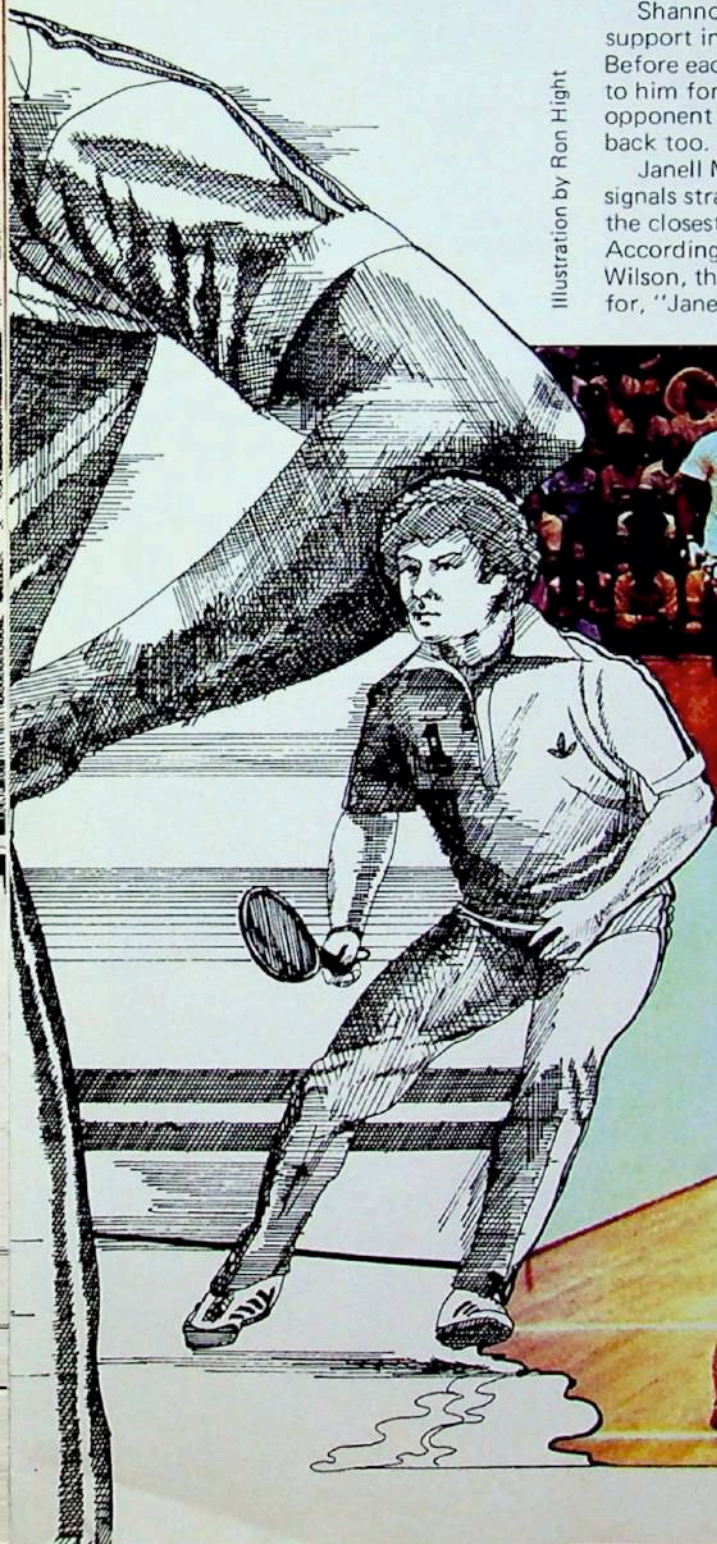
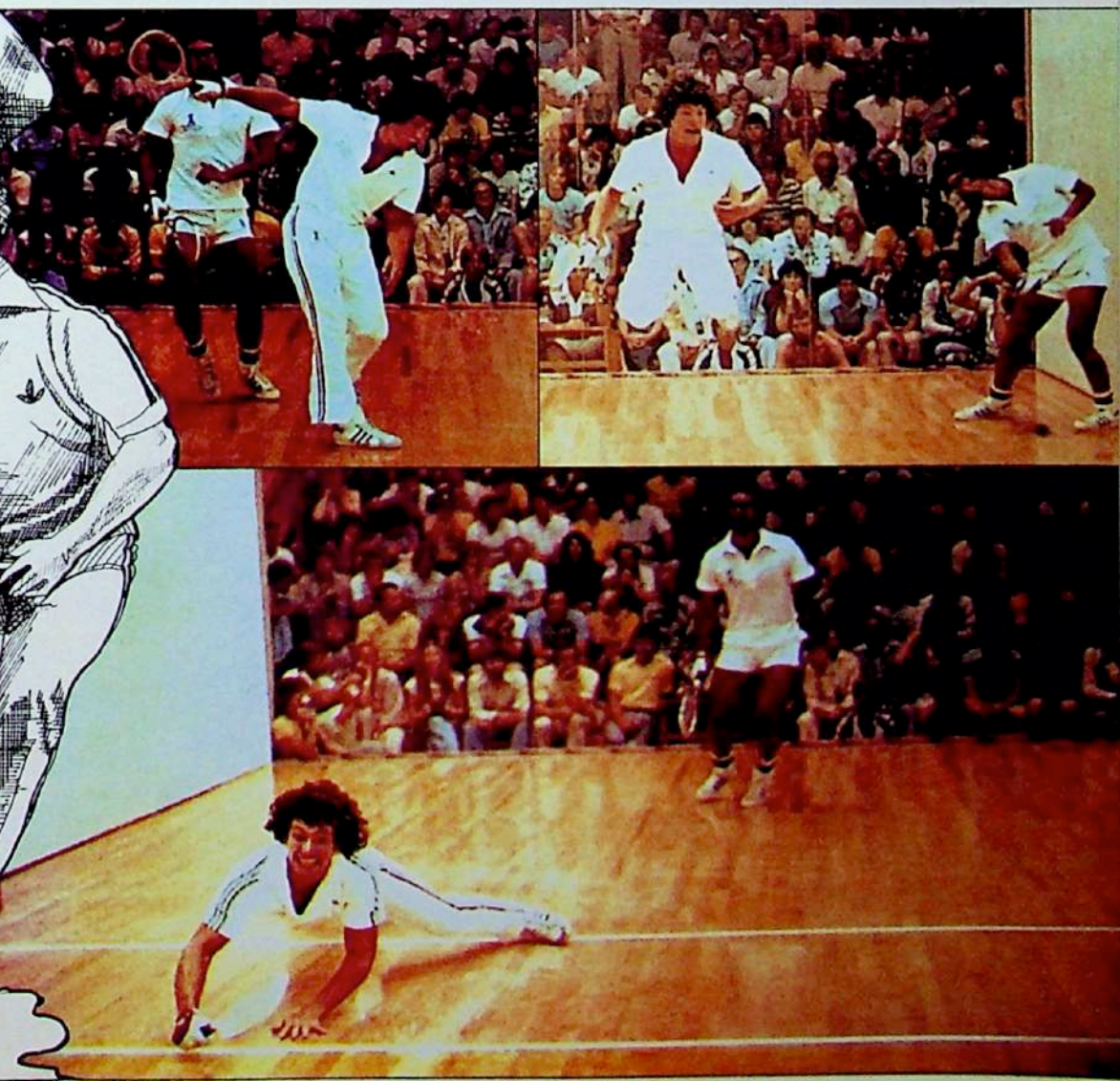
Marriott, on the other hand, had other plans. After a pep talk from fellow pros, Kathy Williams and Sally Murphy, she was ready to go in firing the ball.

The second game was suspense-filled, action-packed racquetball, with most of the spectators hoping for a tie-breaker match. The game was never certain for Marriott who had to fight the whole way to a 21-19 win.

Now the two started on equal terms once again. The first two games were erased from the slate; this was to determine who would take home \$1,000 and the title.

(Text continued on page 32)

Illustration by Ron Hight



... and then there were two!

(Text continued from page 31)

Wright looked strong throughout the tie-breaker with Marriott's confidence trailing behind. At 7-10 Marriott made one last effort to get back into the match by tying the score at 10. It was the last point she earned as Wright swept away from her 15-10.

After the match Marriott shook Shannon's hand (which she refused to do before the match, commenting on Wright's ability to pick up double bounces). But this time Marriott had to admit, "That was the fairest match I've ever played against Shannon."

Along with the favorites, Brumfield and Hogan, there were also two surprise semi-finalists in the men's pro division: Steve Strandemo, making a comeback, and 18-year-old Mike Yellen, coming up through the ranks.

Strandemo was having an excellent tournament. Wasting no time with Eric Campbell, Strandemo almost gave him the doughnut both games with scores of 21-2, 21-1.

Next Strandemo met former IRA national champ, Jerry Hilecher, in a gruelling three hour cat and dog match. Nearly every rally ended in debate. In the end Strandemo outdebated Hilecher 21-17, 13-21, 15-13.

In the quarters, Strandemo met another familiar face who is also making a comeback this season — Steve Serot. But Strandemo was fired up and never lost his intensity as he finished Serot off 21-10, 21-13.

This put Strandemo in the semis where he hasn't been lately.

Mike Yellen was also playing exceptionally well. In the round of 16 he took out Craig McCoy, who many agree is the pro with the most potential. (Of course they probably said that before they saw Mike Yellen who's only been playing racquetball since 1974.)

The match between Keeley and Yellen in the quarters was one of the most exciting matches of the tournament. They both play control and patience like the old style back in the days of the slow ball. They both used plenty of ceiling balls and garbage serves. But unfortunately they both couldn't win. Yellen squeaked out a win 21-13, 18-21, 15-12.

Next Yellen came up against the leader of the new style of power racquetball, Marty Hogan. Instead of playing Hogan's game, Yellen kept the pace slow, playing conservatively from deep court, shooting up front, and picking up nearly everything that came off Hogan's racquet.

Yellen shot out to a 6-1 lead the first game, keeping the gap until 13-7 before Hogan took his first time out. Hogan came back ready to get serious, finally catching Yellen at 19. Then Hogan gave

up the game with two skip balls from 39 feet.

The second game was more of the same thrilling rallies. Yellen played it cool and consistent while Hogan had outbursts of emotion. One time Hogan threw himself to the ground after a Yellen kill and didn't get up for several moments. When Yellen went over to see if he was alright, Hogan jumped up, raced back to ready position and demanded that Yellen serve the ball, laughing all the time!

At 20-17 Marty served game point. He won the rally and walked off the court victoriously. Then Yellen held up the broken ball and the ref called Hogan back on the court.

Marty took it casually, but Goldie Hogan did not. Peggy Steding kidded her by saying, "Mama's going to have a heart attack if you don't hurry up and get this over." Luckily for Goldie, Hogan won the next rally as "Mama" sighed in relief.

In the tie-breaker Hogan was more than Yellen could handle. Hogan knows when it counts and if he wanted to go to the finals he had to give it his all in the third game. Hogan took it without much resistance from Yellen 15-7.

The semis in the women's pro division were not nearly as exciting. There were

Below: Lindsay Meyers climbs the walls during his victory match against David Peck in the Men's Open Amateur Division. Opposite Right: Lindsay Meyers explodes a forehand past David Peck in the Men's Open Finals.

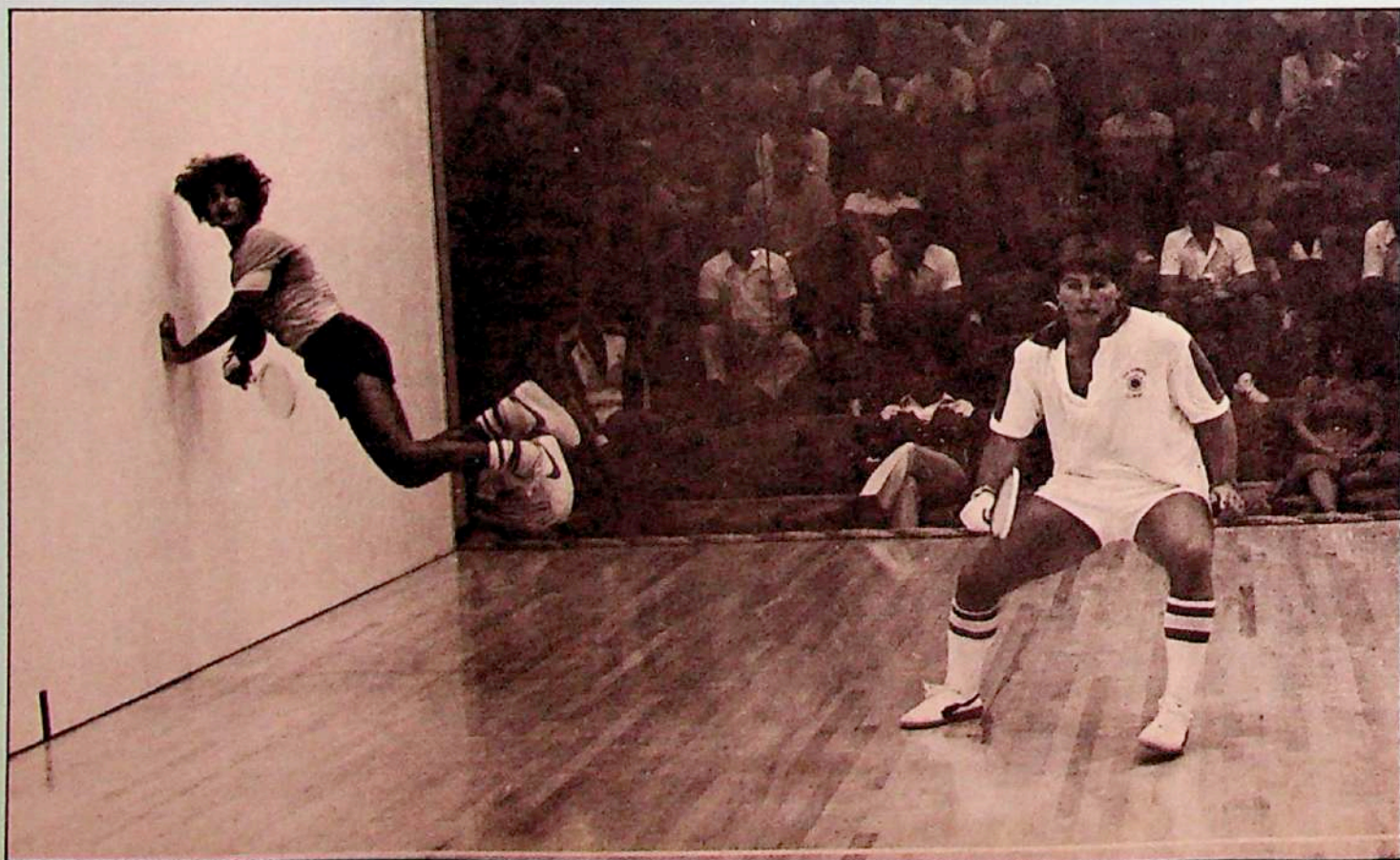


Photo by Carole Charfauros

no surprise semi-finalists and no close matches.

Janell Marriott was shooting and retrieving well, capitalizing on Peggy Steding's errors. After her 13-21, 11-21 loss to Marriott, Steding complained, "How can I be tired? I didn't do anything . . . sometimes you have those days that even if you shut your eyes you couldn't miss. Sometimes, like today, you couldn't hit anything even if it came right into your lap."

Jennifer Harding probably felt the same way Steding did. She was not up to her usual quickness and any confidence she had in her backhand was gone. She hit many forehands into the back wall rather than using her backhand. Wright's around the world shots had Harding off balance.

Harding joined Steding to collect her \$500 check after losing to Wright 13-21, 13-21.

Speaking of bad days, what happened to the 1977 NRC National Champion, Davey Bledsoe? Well, Bledsoe didn't get past his first match with Don Thomas. Bledsoe lost in two quickies 13-21, 7-21 and didn't even have the consolation of losing to the winner.

Thomas lost to David Fleetwood who lost to Charlie Brumfield who lost to Marty Hogan, which leaves Bledsoe at the bottom of the barrel. Oh well, there's always next time.

Hardhitting Mark Morrow gave a good showing against Hogan in the quarters with scores of 17 and 15. However, David Fleetwood came closest to the big upset when he came up against Brumfield in the quarters. Playing unbelievably well, Fleetwood had a 20-10 lead over Brumfield in the first game. But the game wasn't over yet. Brumfield came back even tougher, all the way to 19 before Fleetwood squeaked out game point.

Rumor has it that Bledsoe bet Brumfield \$500 that Fleetwood, a fellow Wilson player, would win. Brumfield, decided to punish both Bledsoe and Fleetwood for challenging his reputation.

Fleetwood probably wished that Brumfield would have made the second game as quick and painless as the 21-9 score indicates. No such chance! Brumfield refused to kill anything; he just kept the ball in play with passing shots that kept Fleetwood racing from one end of the court to the other.

Before the third game the general consensus was that Fleetwood was so dead that Brumfield would walk home with the match. No such chance! Fleetwood came back to the court as fresh as ever to give Brumfield a run for his money. Fleetwood lost 13-15, but won \$500 for an excellent tournament. (Just enough to pay off Bledsoe's bet with Brumfield.)

In the women's quarterfinals no match went to the tie-breaker. Shannon

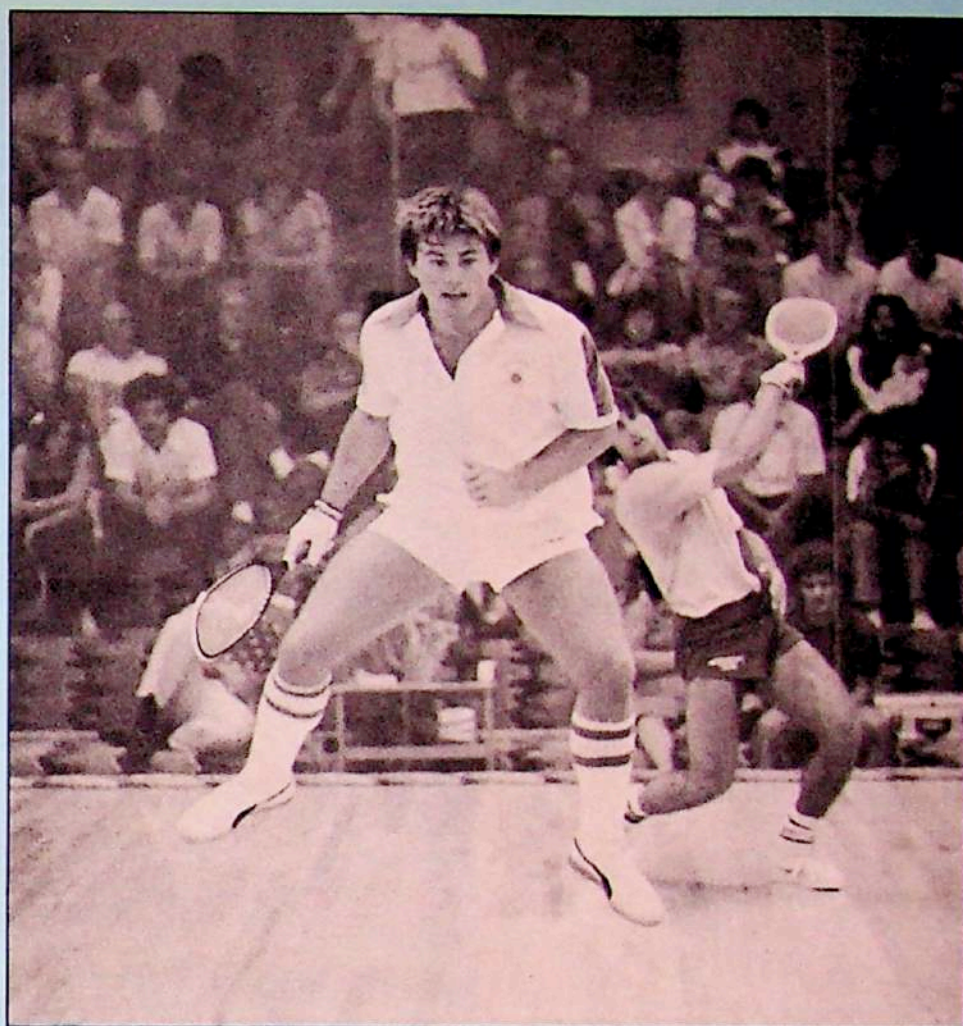


Photo by Carole Charfauros

Wright destroyed Karin Walton (who was the first to defeat Wright after she won the 1977 Nationals) 21-15, 21-4.

Jennifer Harding came back from 3-13 to beat Marci Greer 21-13. "She beat Marci 18-0!" exclaimed Shannon Wright as a spectator. The second game Greer again had the lead 12-11, but again she couldn't hold it. Harding won 21-13.

Steding had a go with Jean Sauser, coauthor of several books with Art Shay, before beating her 21-20, 21-14.

Marriott breezed by Pat Schmidt 21-12, 21-14. Schmidt had already had her moment of triumph when she upset number four ranked Sarah Green in the first round 21-9, 21-14.

The tournament was hosted by the Denver Sporting House. Mike Zeitman and his father Irving did much of the dirty work. Bill Fay kept everyone entertained between games with his trivia questions. As the "Monty Hall of Racquetball", Fay gave away prizes donated by various manufacturers.

The highlight of the entertainment was Richard Cendali and his "Skip It" Kids. These kids could do anything with a jump rope. They were later joined by pros Davey Bledsoe, Steve Keeley and Mike Zeitman, all of whom at one time or other have been pros at "Skip It." Even Peggy Steding got in on the act by

purchasing a jump rope and instruction manual. "I think it's about time I take up a new sport," she joked.

The IRA provided a free banquet for all players and manufacturers. Awards were given to all IRA officers who were stepping down, including President Bill Tanner. The IRA gave plaques to their selection of deserving players. Jerry Zuckerman and Karin Walton won the amateur honors for their excellence last season. Marty Hogan and Shannon Wright won the pro awards.

In his acceptance speech (he was the only one to say more than thank you), Hogan commented on how small the prizes of 10 years ago seem now compared to \$4,000. Then he continued, "And in another 10 years, when I'm standing here again . . ." the prize money of today would seem rather insignificant.

THE OTHER WINNERS

Men's Open: Lindsay Meyers def. David Peck 21-7, 21-13; **Women's Open:** Hope Weisbach def. Jamie Abbot 20-21, 21-17, 15-13; **Men's B:** Jay Wilkinson def. Brian Laughter 21-3, 21-5; **Women's B:** Linda Hogan def. Gale Allert 21-12, 8-21, 15-6; **Men's Seniors:** Jim Austin def. Mark Wayne 21-12, 21-13; **Women's Seniors:** Barbara Leaviti def. Sandy McPherson 9-21, 21-20, 15-4; **Masters (45 & over):** Dr. Bud Muehleisen def. Frank Leydens 15-10, 15-6; **Golden Masters (55 & over)** Floyd Svenson def. Gene Grapes by forfeit.

HOGAN. WRIGHT SWEEP NRC NATIONALS

By Carole Charfauros

LAST YEAR Marty Hogan just couldn't lose. He had won nearly every tournament of the season, but somehow he lost the nationals.

This year Marty Hogan won nearly every tournament of the season... many without losing a single game. But somehow no one was so sure that he wouldn't lose again. And he nearly did.

The first game of the finals against Charlie Brumfield was merely routine for Hogan. Making a comeback this season, five time national champion, Brumfield, displayed his winning style, but even that wasn't enough to threaten the boy wonder.

Kills, pinches, passes, all at incredible speeds flew from Hogan's racquet, while Brumfield frantically tried to retrieve them. All his effort still wasn't enough as Hogan took the game 21-12.

With the pressure on Hogan relaxed for the second game, Brumfield came back even stronger. Now Hogan's shots were going increasingly into the floor as Brumfield's brilliant play forced errors.

The score remained fairly even until Brumfield shot down the home stretch with a 20-16 lead. Everyone, probably even the two on the court, was anticipating the 11 point tie-breaker where anything can happen. Then it dawned on them: Hogan MIGHT lose.

In 1976 18-year-old Hogan surprised many people by taking second to legendary Charlie Brumfield. In 1977 he surprised everyone by placing second in the nationals after dominating the entire season. Was it possible that Hogan could finish second for the third year in a row?

While these thoughts were racing through the minds of 600 spectators, Hogan began inching back into the game.

Three times Brumfield served game point. Three times Hogan regained the serve. Before anyone had time to realize what had happened — Hogan WON!

Even Brumfield's supporters would have to admit that Hogan deserved the title. For two years he has been announced as the world's greatest racquet-

Photos by Carole Charfauros





ball player, all-time highest money maker, inventor of the new power racquetball . . . all without a national title. Now he finally has that, too.

Hogan probably played his best match against Ben Koltun in the semis. Koltun has been known to give Hogan a run for his money, but this tournament meant too much to Hogan.

Killing the ball in mid-air, on the floor, climbing the walls, Hogan blasted his way past a stunned Koltun 21-6, 21-9. It was probably one of the quickest semis in racquetball history.

In contrast, Brumfield had almost more than he could handle with Mike Yellen, surprise semi-finalist. Brumfield didn't seem too pleased with the neck-and-neck battle he was having with this 18-year-old rookie, and did everything he could to intimidate Yellen. Shots out of nowhere blasted into Yellen's body, but nothing seemed to phase him. Yellen just kept right on playing well.

Brumfield took the first game 21-16. Yellen came back to win the second 17-21. That brought them down to the tie-breaker.

Brumfield started out strong with a 7-3 lead. For many players it would have been time to give up hope. Not Yellen. He came back to tie the score 7-7, then moved on to match point.

Then Brumfield really got mean. For every point he scored, Yellen got a nasty look. At 10-8 Yellen served what looked like an ace, but Brumfield's nasty looks must have worked on the referee and linesmen. They called it short and the match continued.

While Yellen was unable to score the one point he needed, Brumfield racked up the final few and won the match. On the way off the court Brumfield tried to trip Yellen, but still the kid kept his cool. Congratulations, Mike.

The only three gamer in the quarters was between Mike Yellen and Jerry Hilecher. After a slow first game and 14-21 loss, Yellen came back to win the second game 21-17.

In the tie-breaker, up and coming Mike Yellen knocked off last year's semi-finalist, Jerry Hilecher 11-5. It just hasn't been Hilecher's year.

Rich Wagner gave Hogan quite a scare in the first game of their quarter final match. Wagner was playing better than he ever has against Hogan, but couldn't quite do it, losing 18-21.

Without a first game win, Wagner seemed to lose all hope of winning the next two against awesome Marty Hogan. Hogan took it easily 21-13.

Koltun played exceptionally well against Steve Serot in the quarters. Both players have been consistently finishing in the semis all season, but only one could make it this time. Koltun left no doubt about who should do it as he cleaned up Serot 21-7, 21-17.

(Text continued on page 36)

HOGAN, WRIGHT SWEEP NRC NATIONALS

(Text continued from page 35)

Jay Jones would have been happy enough to make it to the quarters in the nationals, but he played against Brumfield as if he wanted to go even farther. The scores, 21-19, 21-13, indicate how much Jones wanted to win, but Brumfield must have wanted it even more.

The only match that might be considered an upset in the round of 16 was Yellen defeating Craig McCoy. The others went according to seeding: Hogan defeated Jerry Zuckerman, Wagner defeated Mark Morrow, Koltun defeated Charlie Rish, Eric Campbell fell to Serot, Hilecher defeated Steve Keeley, Jones defeated Larry Meyers, Don Thomas fell to Brumfield.

The big surprise of the round of 32 was the sad, but true fate of the 1977 national champion, Davey Bledsoe. Pressured by the label of "flake" Bledsoe's season has gotten worse and worse. In what should have been his attempt to reclaim his title and disprove the disbelievers, Bledsoe fell to rookie Larry Meyers. Meyers, the 1977 National Junior champion, has just begun playing professionally.

Hogan collected \$7,000 for his victory, widening the gap more between his earnings and that of the number two all-time money maker, Charlie Brumfield.

NRC WOMEN

DEVASTATING WOULD definitely describe Shannon Wright as she raced through the draw to claim her second national championship. Just 21 years old, Wright looks like she has many victories ahead of her.

Wright has all the tools to stay on top: power, control, anticipation, strategy, determination, and the will to win. She plays her opponents with all she's got, finding their weakness and capitalizing on it.

Wright came into the 1978 nationals as defending champ. The question was not so much who would win it, but who would be the runner-up... Jennifer Harding, Janell Marriott, or Peggy Steding? Of the three challengers Steding surprisingly went out in the quarters, Marriott lost in the semis, and Harding was defeated in the finals.

The score of the finals against Harding was the most devastating: 21-3, 21-8. That's certainly going out in style!

In the first game Wright played nearly errorless ball. Harding was helpless to do anything to stop the onslaught of kill shots, passes, and ace serves.

The second game started a little more hopeful for Harding. Wright actually skipped a few shots and let the score remain rather close. But it only lasted

until Wright started cracking the ball just as well as in the first game.

Marriott looked like she might be able to stop Wright or at least give her a work-out. The game went to Wright 21-18, but looked like their typical neck-and-neck battle.

Wright decided not to fool around the second game. She nearly blitzed her arch rival 21-2. Marriott hardly had time to catch her breath before it was over. At least Janell can be proud that she scored a combined total of 20 points on Shannon. That's more than anyone else did.

Jennifer Harding had a little more trouble with rookie Karin Walton. Last year Walton won both the IRA and USRA national amateur titles. This year she was the first to beat the newly crowned national champ, Shannon Wright. Now to finish off a better than average rookie year, Walton went out 21-18, 21-18 to Harding. Not bad for starters.

To get to the semis Walton had to get by the number two seed, Peggy Steding. Steding, the five-time national champion was bothered by the three wall glass and lack of visibility. For the first time in her racquetball career she went out in the quarters, losing 8-21, 21-17, 4-11.

The other tie-breaker match of the quarters was between Marriott and Martha MacDonald. MacDonald had been coming on strong towards the end of the season and really played tough against Marriott. Still Marriott took the match 21-17, 15-21, 11-3.

Harding and Wright had it pretty easy in the quarters. Wright knocked off Rita Hoff 21-10, 21-4. Kathy Williams, always in the top eight, lost to Harding 2-21, 15-21.

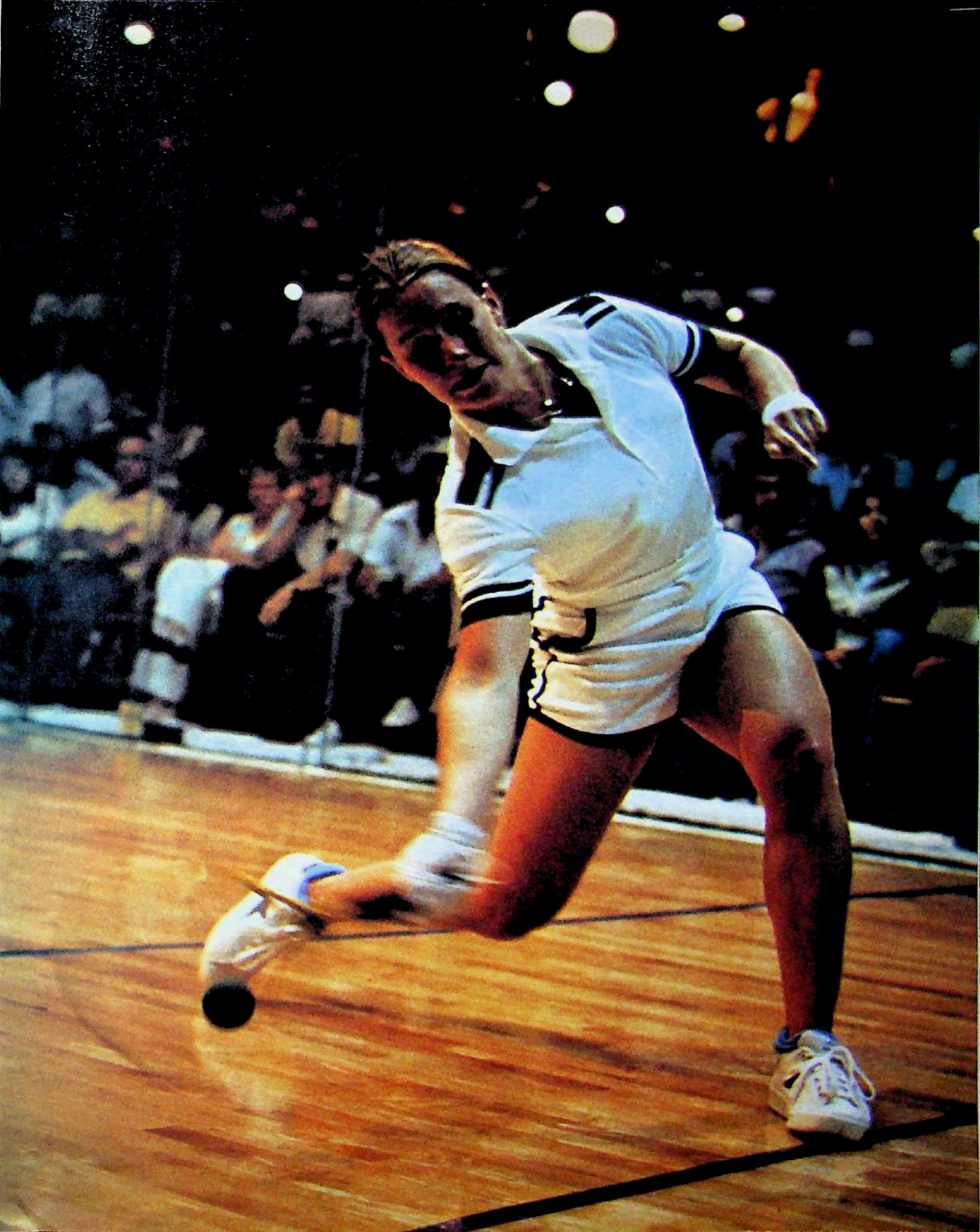
The only surprise in the round of 16 was Hoff over Sarah Green 21-4, 21-7. Green surprised everyone in her rookie nationals last year by finishing in the semi finals. Since then she has steadily dropped from her number four ranking to a consistent first round loser. Better luck next year.

The other matches went as expected: Wright defeated qualifier Susie Dugan. Martha MacDonald defeated Sue Carow. Janell Marriott defeated qualifier Laura Martino. Jennifer Harding defeated qualifier Marci Greer. Jan Pasternak fell to Kathy Williams. Peggy Steding defeated Jean Oeschenger.

Wright chalked up \$3,500 for first place, half of the men's prize money. That's the highest in women's racquetball history.

But the money isn't the only reason that Shannon Wright wants to win. She's a natural competitor. Recently she has learned to tone down her aggressive behavior, much to the fans' approval, who voted her Female Player with the Most Christian Attitude. Keep up the good work, Shannon!

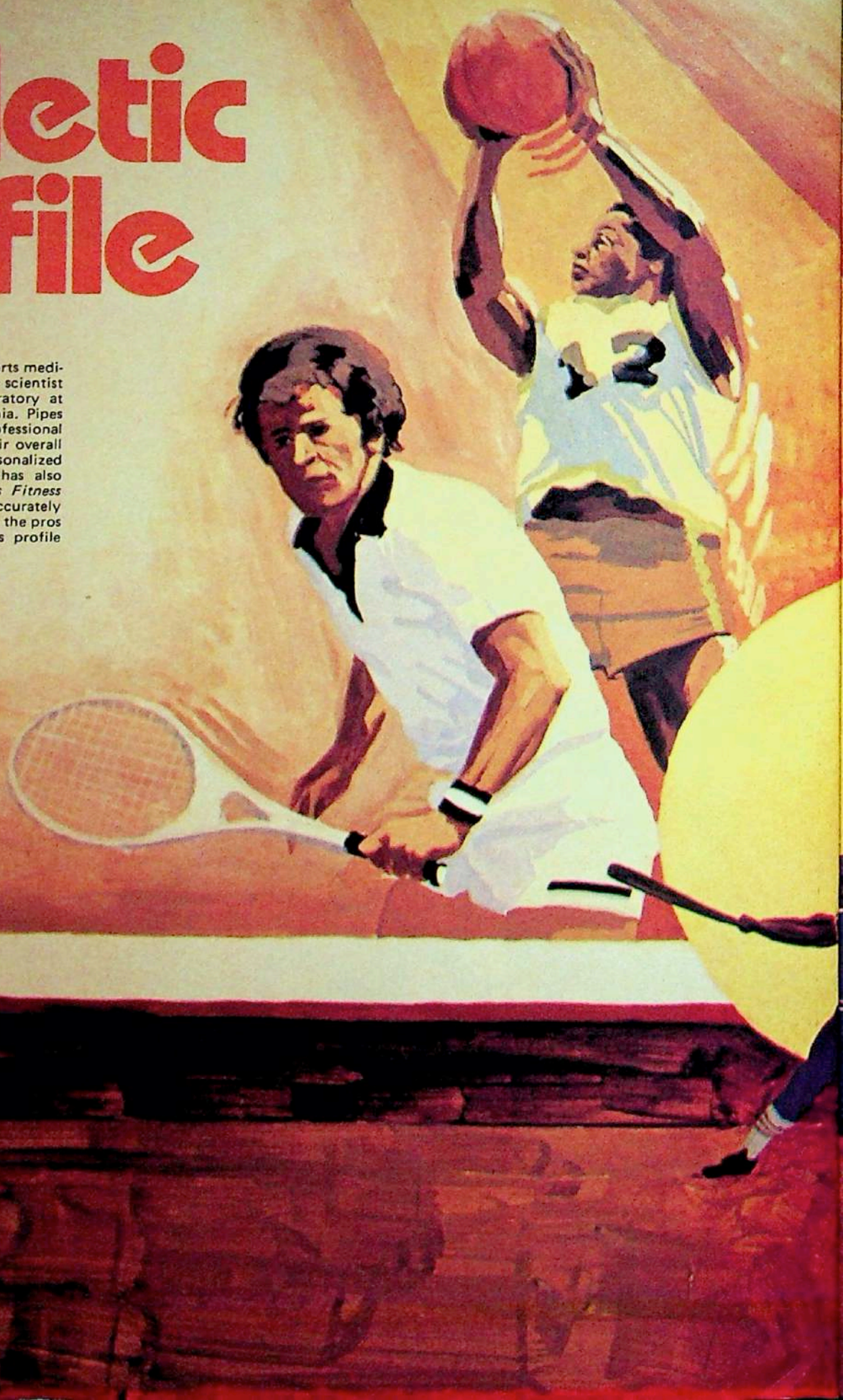




The Athletic Profile

By Thomas V. Pipes
Exercise Physiologist

Editor's Note: In addition to his sports medicine practice, Dr. Pipes is a research scientist for the Human Performance Laboratory at the University of Southern California. Pipes has worked with thousands of professional and amateur athletes to evaluate their overall physical condition and design personalized fitness programs for them. Pipes has also authored a book entitled *Dr. Pipes Fitness Prescription*, which tells you how to accurately test your physical condition the way the pros do and to shape a personal fitness profile around your favorite sport.



TO THE CASUAL observer, many athletes are less than impressive when found in civilian clothing. Some appear much larger than the normal person on the street. Football linemen and some basketball players seem to be the most readily visible. Most athletes are not so detectable. Exactly how do you tell the difference between a tennis player and a baseball player, a golfer or a bowler?

The fact is, it's almost impossible to detect many athletes in a crowd. But

they are different. There's something about them that makes them what they are — superstars. If you walked up to a professional golfer, a baseball player or a racquetball player, how would you be able to tell what the individual does for a living?

Doctors, scientists and coaches have asked themselves this question for years. The feeling being that if they could detect something in the individual, something different from others, they could predict how great the athlete would be.

Within the last five years a new scientific discipline has emerged on the scene. Termed sports medicine, this new discipline tends to provide valuable information on athletes and the different problems they face. Recently, work has centered into an area called "exercise physiology", the study of how the body functions during physical activity. It is felt that equipped with the knowledge of the physical demand of the sport, it

will be possible to train and condition athletes with a more scientific bend. What has grown out of this is the evaluation or quantification of athletes: what makes them tick.

Just what are the desirable characteristics of an athlete? What should an individual have to be physically equipped for the rigors of professional sports?

Aside from the obvious, such as height in basketball and bulk as a lineman in football, how do you tell the difference between athletes in different sports?

Over the years my colleague, Paul Vodak, and I have had the opportunity to perform many different tests and evaluations on many people. From corporate business executives to housewives, from basketball players like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to jockeys such as Willie Shoemaker. What we found, in some cases, was quite surprising. The

(Text continued on page 40)



Ron Hight

Illustration by Ron Hight

The Athletic Profile

(Text continued from page 39)

basic areas that we covered were body composition (how much body fat and muscle they had), the function of the heart, lungs and blood vessels, and how strong they were.

We have known for sometime that height and weight tables are erroneous when attempting to find ideal body weights for people. We began using a technique called "hydrostatic weighing" (underwater weighing). This evaluation was borrowed from Archimedes, who, a couple thousand years ago, discovered that when an object is weighed in water the density could be determined. We measured the density of the athlete's body in much the same way. We placed them in a chair and dunked them into water. When we weigh people in this manner we are able to find out how

much of their body weight is fat. Since the density of the various body tissues is known, it is possible to divide body weight into a fat component and a lean component. Basically, muscle, bone and organ tissues weigh more than water (they are denser) and they sink. Fat, however, is less dense and it floats. This technique allows us to determine the ratio of fat weight to total body weight. This results in a percentage of fat for each athlete or individual. This is an extremely accurate technique that allows us to predict an ideal or optimal weight for each individual.

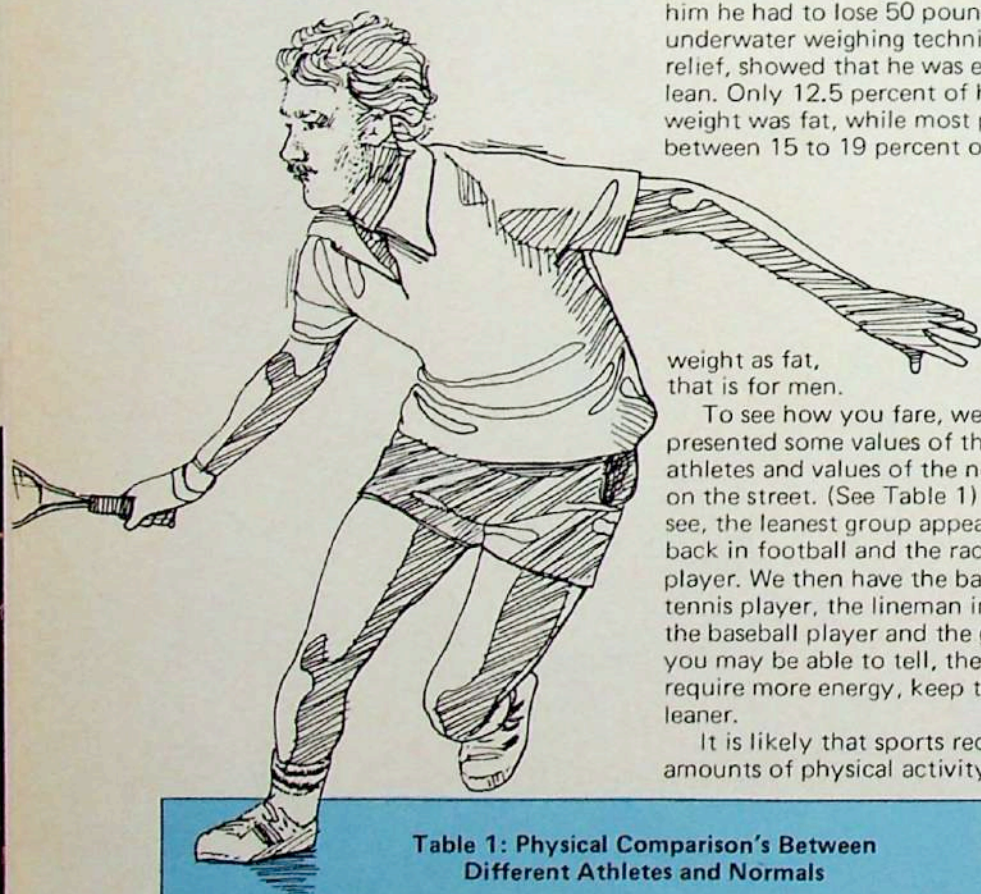
This technique was developed out of a need for survival more than anything else. I once had the dubious chore of determining a plain weight for one of the San Francisco 49ers. He stood about 6'4" and weighed 282 pounds. By any height and weight table I had looked at, he was at least 50 pounds overweight. When I examined him, I could see that he did not carry any excess fat. Believe me, I was not going to be the one to tell him he had to lose 50 pounds. The underwater weighing technique, to my relief, showed that he was exceptionally lean. Only 12.5 percent of his body weight was fat, while most people carry between 15 to 19 percent of their body

excess fat. This allows the athlete to move more efficiently without the burden of excess and unnecessary weight. On the other hand, the sports that require little in the way of immediate physical activity allow the athlete to carry around a little extra fat with little or no decrease in performance.

As with athletes, people seem to gain excess body weight as they grow older. It's not necessarily natural, it's just that most people become less active and will gain more excess body fat.

The function of the heart and lungs becomes an important aspect in sports requiring high amounts of activity. Body fat can be determined relatively easily but it's more difficult to look inside and see how the heart, lungs and blood vessels are doing. This type of test is normally done with a motorized treadmill and sometimes a bicycle. This allows the individual to exercise while being monitored. We monitor their heart rate with special monitoring equipment and different scopes to be sure all works well. We also examine the efficiency of the whole system. This is done by measuring the amount of oxygen the individual uses. All the cells of the body use oxygen to function. As the individual works harder, the heart, lungs and blood vessels gear up to deliver the needed oxygen to the muscles. Everyone has a maximum limit — a point at which the body does not consume any more oxygen. We call this a maximum oxygen capacity. These values can be raised by training but to a large degree, they are already set by heredity. These values are examined in terms of body weight so we see values of milliliters of oxygen consumed for kilograms of body weight. This may sound confusing but it is quite simple. Think of it as the amount of oxygen the body can use. The athletes that are most vigorous in their sports, use the most oxygen. The highest ever recorded approached 100 milliliters per kilogram for a cross country skier. This is quite high when you consider that a normal healthy 20 year old uses about 45 milliliters per kilogram. If you look at the table again, you can see how the athletes stack up. Most athletes have the ability to use more oxygen than normal healthy individuals. This is particularly true of athletes in vigorous sports such as basketball and racquetball. It appears as though golf and bowling do not fit in this category.

Strength and muscular endurance play a large part in almost every sport. It has always been felt that all things being equal, the athlete with the most strength will be the most successful. When we evaluated individuals, we found a few simple facts. First, the larger athletes have the ability to produce the largest amount of force. Jack Youngblood of the Los Angeles Rams



weight as fat, that is for men.

To see how you fare, we have presented some values of the different athletes and values of the normal people on the street. (See Table 1) As you can see, the leanest group appears to be the back in football and the racquetball player. We then have the basketball and tennis player, the lineman in football, the baseball player and the golfer. As you may be able to tell, the sports that require more energy, keep the athlete leaner.

It is likely that sports requiring high amounts of physical activity burn any

Table 1: Physical Comparison's Between Different Athletes and Normals

Participants	Relative Body Fat	Muscular Strength	Maximum Oxygen Capacity
Basketball	10.0%	143%	62 ml/kg
Football			
Back	8.0%	162%	58 ml/kg
Lineman	13.0%	109%	52 ml/kg
Baseball	14.0%	75%	48 ml/kg
Tennis	10.0%	92%	48 ml/kg
Golfer	14.8%	72%	42 ml/kg
Racquetball	8.0%	87%	58 ml/kg

fits this bill. Secondly muscular endurance, the ability to perform a skill over and over, seems to be very high in all athletes.

In our table of values, we have presented the percentage of the athlete's body weight that can be lifted overhead. You could see that those sports requiring high muscular strength have it and those that do not, don't. Regardless of the sport, most professional athletes seem to maintain high levels of muscular strength and endurance.

If you wonder about these types of tests, if they really determine the physical prowess of athletes, consider what happened to us once. An athlete, who shall remain nameless, had gained far too much weight on the off season. He was sure that he would be cut from the team unless he could get his body fat level down. Well, by the time training camp came around, he was still far too fat. After going through the underwater weighing, he approached one of my colleagues and offered to pay him \$100 for each pound of fat he would take off the record. It would have totaled \$2,000 and did so readily. However, we did not accept his nice offer and he was cut the next day. Believe me, they take these tests seriously.

Until recently, the businessman and housewife could not undergo this type of testing, mostly because of the cost and lack of facilities. The series of tests would have run somewhere around \$200 each. Now research has come up with different ways to find the same answers. We have been able to utilize less expensive equipment to perform the same tests and yield the same results. Rather than using stethoscopes and EKG equipment, the heart can be self-monitored through a technique called palpitation. Rather than use expensive dynamometers to assess strength, you can use everyday household items. Rather than dunk you in water, you can use a simple device to determine your relative body fat.

You may wonder why all this testing is necessary. The reason is very simple. Before you can do anything about the state of the individual's fitness, athlete, businessman or housewife, you have to know the level of fitness. You need to know how well the body is put together. You need to know how functional the heart, lungs and blood vessels are. How strong the muscles are and what possible risk for injury there is.

When you go through this kind of testing and evaluation, an inescapable conclusion will unfold. People become professional athletes because of their physical superiority. Whether it is their physique, their ability to use oxygen or their physical strength, they do have some special tools that allow them to do what they do and this is what makes them superstars.

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DAVE REYNOLDS leaned back in the black naugehyde chair and watched the stock quotations flicker across the automatic ticker tape. The order for 500 shares of Xerox he had just received from Jason Westbrooke pushed his commission total to \$40,000, a career high for him at Blythe Dillon Securities.

He savored the warm, successful feeling coming over him. He thought himself a cut above the other brokers, dressed and acted the part, and this recent sale proved it. Next Wednesday, when the weekly commission stats were posted, he'd be at the top — highest monthly and year-to-date commissions. At 34 he was six feet of success.

Completing Jason's order form, he

placed it into a silver pneumatic cylinder and routed it to the order department.

A sixth sense told him that these actions had been recorded. Turning in the chair, he saw Russ Madden hulking over his shoulder. The fluorescent lights from the ceiling reflected off Russ's premature bald spot, giving a lighthouse effect. Dave turned and stuffed the pad of order forms into the front desk drawer as Russ brought down a line-backer's thigh on the top left desk corner.

"All set for racquetball this afternoon?" Russ shaded his voice with a taunting tone.

"Yeah, Russ." Dave's eyes shifted to the ticker tape.

"Bet I take you three for three."

"We'll see." Dave cut it short.

His eyes returned to Russ, and for the first time Dave realized how big he was. He wasn't tall, but large, spread-out. And, for the first time he noticed Russ's carelessness. His clothes were color coordinated, all greys, but coordinated like the parts of an unmade puzzle.

"Hear you had lunch with Jason Westbrooke last week. That's my account, Russ."

"It was just social, Dave." The words chiseled through the cold. "No harm meant."

Dave read evasion in Russ's eyes. It was supported by an unconscious quiver of his lower lip and the stuffing of both hands deep into slightly frayed pants

Prime Time

pockets. The rattling of loose change convinced Dave of his conclusions.

"That's the third time, Russ."

"What?"

"You know. Don't play games."

The rest of Dave's day went easily, a few calls, a few more commissions. He worked through lunch, skipped the usual dry Manhattan, and completed a market analysis he had been postponing.

The racquetball game was set for 3:30, so at 3:00 he headed out of the office. He had seen Russ leave earlier. Probably wants to get in a few practice shots, Dave had thought at the time.

Within minutes, Dave sardined the Porsche 924 into the rush of metal capsules carrying toxic passengers back to the suburbs. It was a 15 minute drive to Chuck Adam's Racquetball Spa, even in heavy traffic, so he dropped into fourth and found a slot that let his reflexes do the maneuvering.

He thought of Russ Madden. The guy was a poacher, an account robber. That was worse than grave robbing. And it was the third time that Dave had caught him. But Jason Westbrooke was big money. And the poaching had to stop or who knew how far it could go?

Dave slammed the emblemized stick shift into third and slalomed around a 13-foot Winnebago laden with decals. Tourist! He cursed to himself.

He almost missed the E Street turnoff and had to drop into second to screech a right turn onto Bay Blvd. The tires squealed as he pulled into Chuck's Spa. He left at least two dollars worth of Michelin rubber back at the corner.

Chuck Adam's Racquetball Spa was a square, unimposing building but Dave knew it was like a Chinese puzzle, a large box concealing eight smaller boxes. The cement prefab walls stood 20 feet high and, except for the blue neon sign, the building could have been a warehouse. Russ's Toronado was parked in one of the white lined stalls.

Dave walked in carrying his duffel bag full of sports gear. Inside, his nostrils flared from the smell of air conditioned sweat. The front room was sparsely furnished with black, foam-cushioned chairs. In the center stood a round table wallpapered with *Racquet World Review*. Along the west wall a display counter enshrined racquets, T-shirts and shorts, and behind the counter lounged a well-built youth, the attendant.

Dave rested the bag on the case.

"Reynolds, playing with Madden,"

Dave said.

"Court three. That'll be \$4.75, prime time."

"Thanks." Dave watched his money disappear into the cash register drawer,

grabbed his bag, then headed for the locker room.

Changing quickly into the gladiatorial outfit — shorts, T-shirt, headband, socks and shoes, he crammed the bag into the locker, and snapped shut the combination lock. Then he gave it a yank to be sure.

Court three was the second on the right of a long hall that looked more like a hotel than a spa. Shrieks of joy and frustration oozed from behind doors one and two. It was quieter behind number three. Just the steady thump, thump of a ball being pounded against a wall.

Dave looked at the black and white plastic signs above the peephole in the door:

COURT THREE PLAY AT YOUR OWN RISK

He rapped the wooden door with his silver aluminum racquet, then cautiously swung the door open. Russ was on the right side driving shots down the wall.

He was going for a ball close in the right corner. Swinging, he struck the wall, etching a red line on the already smeared surface.

"Damn," he cursed, as he checked his racquet.

(Text continued on page 45)



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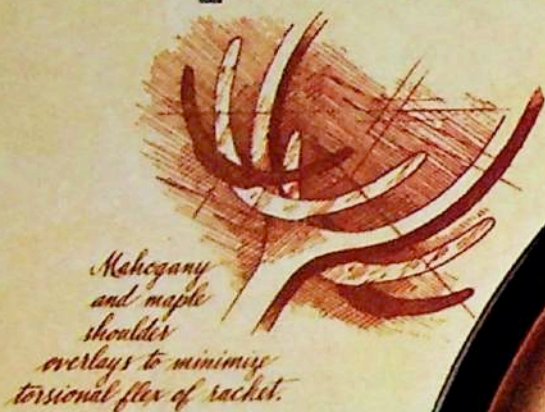
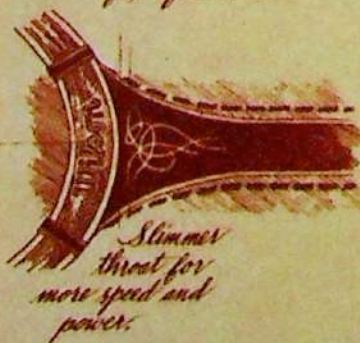
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ADVANTAGE

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We're not number one for nothing.

Prime Time

(Text continued from page 43)

"Racquet okay?" asked Dave.

"Yeah. About time you showed."

"It's three-thirty."

"Want to volley for serve?" Russ asked.

"How about a few rallies first? Let me get warmed up."

"Sure."

Russ hit a low drive to the front wall and Dave stretched and returned a deep lob to the left rear corner. Russ retrieved it and sent the ball ricocheting off the right side, dropping short of the front wall.

"A few more like that, and I'll be ready," said Dave.

He won the volley for serve and stepped into the red-lined service box. His first serve was a low power drive into the right rear corner. Russ stretched for it, but couldn't reach it.

"1-0," Dave said.

His next serve was a second low power drive, this time to the left rear corner. Russ returned it, but with a weak backhand shot that sent the ball high off the front wall. Dave used an overhead smash, a kill shot, to send the ball cracking into the wall three inches above the floor. The ball bounced twice before Russ could reach it.

"2-0," Dave smiled.

His third serve was a deep lob back to the left corner. Russ picked it up easily and smashed the ball into the 'v' formed by the left and front walls. The pinch shot sent the ball dropping listlessly to the floor.

"2-0, your serve." Dave moved to the back center court.

Russ's first serve was a low drive up the left side. Dave reached for the ball, hit it, but his backhand return was soft. Russ chopped it into the right front corner just above the floor.

"2-1," said Russ seriously.

He served a high lob to the right rear corner. It bounded far enough off the back wall for Dave to get into position for a forehand smash. But, as Dave moved forward, positioning for the shot, Russ backed up. Both met in a mid-court collision, Russ driving Dave to the hardwood floor.

"Hinder," yelled Russ.

"Hinder?" Dave questioned. "You backed into me. Should be my serve."

"Okay, okay. We'll play it over."

He did that on purpose, thought Dave. He saw he was in trouble and he

backed into me on purpose. He's as bad on the court as he is in the office.

Russ served again, sending a high lob to the left rear corner. Dave flipped the ball down the left wall. Russ retrieved it, snapping his wrist forcibly into the ball and ripped it into the opposite corner. The ball made a cracking sound as it hit.

Dave, caught out of position, made a Hogan dive, stretching out prone to the floor, and knicked the ball with his racquet edge. It sailed to the front wall.

Russ pinched it into the corner.

"2-2," Russ said with slight sarcasm.

The score seesawed. The match continued like a fast moving chess game, both players jockeying for center court to control rallies and trying to take advantage of momentary weaknesses. Several times Dave's low passing shot forced Russ to the perimeter of the court and Dave smashed Russ's return into a corner.

But Russ always came back with aggressive forehands and strong driving serves.

Dave led at 15-13. Both he and Russ were sweating heavily, but the sweat proved a lubricant for aggressiveness. Russ served a high lob to the right rear corner. And then Dave saw it. Russ stood facing him, in a direct line between Dave and the front wall.

He's exposed himself, Dave thought. His heart beat an extra beat, juices sped to the muscles in his right arm. He sighted his target and his whole body arched to the ball. Dave watched it sink into the nylon strings and take off on a true course toward Russ's Adam's apple. The ball traveled with terrific speed, but it seemed too slow for Dave. How long ago had he hit it? A second, five, ten? A minute?

Russ only had time for a half a blink before the ball struck its mark, and pushed the protruding cartilage against his windpipe. He coughed, slouched, gasped for air, and fell to the floor.

Dave grabbed the ball and smashed it against the front wall. He opened the door and turned back, staring at the bluish hulk.

Prime time, he thought.

He calmly walked up to the attendant, told him there had been an accident on court three and to call an ambulance.

Russ spent two hours in surgery and three weeks recuperating in Bay General Hospital. Dave visited him once, apologized for the accident.

Russ insisted it was his fault for turning to face Dave's forehand. "I should have known better," he said.

Dave took a spread eagle stance, folded his arms, and glared at Russ.

"Well, if you had kept your mind on the game and off my accounts it never would have happened," he said.

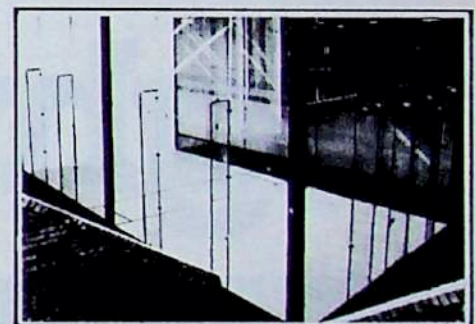
When Dave left the room, he felt confident Russ would not cause trouble on the court or at the office.

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Racquet World Review/45

Adrenalin plays a big part in the individual play of an athlete. It builds slowly and then explodes in an attempt to give the player the needed energy.

Adrenalin is produced, or more properly, secreted from the adrenal medulla in the body. Whenever there is a sudden need for energy or a response to stress, a rapid discharge of adrenalin into the bloodstream initiates a series of changes in the body that permit it to cope with the situation.

Adrenalin readies the body for action by increasing the heart rate and blood pressure to improve the flow of blood to the muscles, and by opening the blood vessels of the arm and leg muscles to permit more blood to flow to them. Adrenalin also stimulates the liver to convert glycogen to sugar to raise the blood sugar level so that the muscles will have an increased supply of energy.

Usually when watching a tennis match one can tell when the adrenalin starts to pump. The player begins to slap the leg, bounce up and down between points, and perhaps run off a series of well-played points. The entire game begins to exhibit an accelerated pace.

After a big match, one would think

that the players would go home and continue through the day and night as any normal person would. But that is not the case. Since adrenalin does not build up in the system easily, neither does it leave easily.

In a daytime match, the player will eventually wind down as the course of the day goes on, but this becomes a problem at night. The problem is a frequent one in World Team Tennis, as all matches are played at night and some end very late.

Tennis players report that the after-effects of adrenalin will last two to three hours. Some players are able to cope with the adrenalin and go to sleep almost immediately but others will stay awake most of the night trying to relax.

Dr. Earl Woods, Jimmy Connors' personal physician, contends that, "Adrenalin can be used in various ways depending on who the individual is and that person's particular tolerance level." He described one unusual instance involving Connors: "When Jimmy won the U.S. Pro Indoor Tournament at Philadelphia earlier this year he had a five-set match with Brian Gottfried the night before. The adrenalin from the night before

(with very little sleep) carried over into the final match with Roscoe Tanner. Jimmy beat him in three sets."

There are many nicknames given to the feeling of left over adrenalin: pumped up, wound up, tightly strung, wired, but they all exist and are caused by adrenalin in the body.

Must a player lie in bed for hours after a match . . . physically exhausted but so mentally alert that sleep is impossible?

"Sleep is important," said Dr. Woods. "Without sleep your entire sensory perception is off, your thinking and timing are dulled. The mind is like a battery and must be recharged regularly or it will not function as expected."

What is Dr. Woods' remedy for ridding the adrenalin from the system? "When one is excited about something to the point of not being able to sleep a diversion must be found until the physical fatigue can outweigh the mental, or in other words, just wait for it to come."

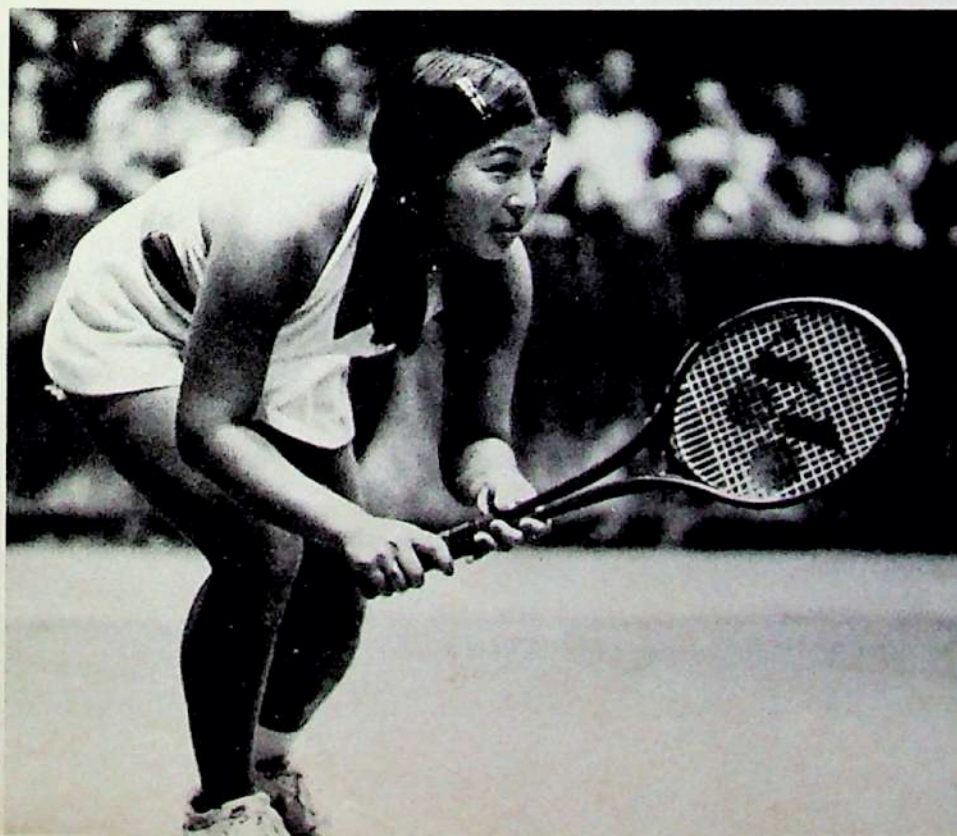
Many players agree with Woods that waiting is all that can be done. But the players nevertheless try to conquer this problem by creating diversions of their own.

Tightly Strung

By Joe Ditlet



Guillermo Vilas Photo by Joseph Ditlet



Annie Kiyomura Photo by Rich Gural

A few of their diverse ideas follow:

Bjorn Borg — "There is nothing you can do . . . just wait . . . wait for sleep to come. If playing late, I have that problem. It always takes two or three hours before you can come down to sleep. If you've been playing, it's not going to be easy to relax."

Mark Cox — "Get drunk. Just kidding of course, but a few drinks do help when you just can't sleep. There's not a lot you can do. Once you're asleep it's okay but being awake at 3 am when you have to be up and on a plane at 7 am is no fun at all."

Rod Laver — "Cold beer . . . always . . . and lots of it."

Virginia Wade — "I don't really like to drink that much like some of the others do. I don't care for beer but sometimes a half a beer will help to calm me. What really helps *me* is to eat. I can always relax after a good meal."

Julie Heldman — "Go out and dance? I often couldn't get to sleep, but I had my own way that my mother had taught me when I was very young. She always told me that if you couldn't sleep make good use of all those hours . . . turn over and read."

Annie Kiyomura — "I can't say that there is one way to go to sleep. I sleep great when touring with Team Tennis. It's when I get back to my own room that I have trouble getting to sleep. Sometimes I play pillow games to get to sleep. For example, first I sleep on the left pillow, then the right one, then in between them. If I'm still having trouble, I bury my head under them . . . then I usually end up sleeping without either."

Guillermo Vilas — "Sometimes I go to dance but there is nothing to help. You have to just wait. I try to sometimes write after I play late, but I cannot write when I am not relaxed."

Francoise Durr — "It is not an easy thing to do, to relax after a match. When I have Topspin (my dog) with me, we go for late walks. That often relaxes me."

Frew McMillan — "I like to get away from the scene. It also helps to drink something. A couple of beers might do the trick, but I like a little hot tea and TV as well."

Chris Evert — "I usually go out — either dancing or out to dinner — or just socialize for an hour or hour and a half, and then that's it. I just can't stay in my room alone, you know, I get antsy. I have to do something . . . usually two hours after the last match I can go to sleep."

It seems that the general consensus of the players is to . . . do something. Whether it be to eat, drink or just socialize, each player has his or her own method of relaxing. Some methods work, some don't. But eventually the time elapses and relaxation sets in.

Until someone comes up with a sure-fire remedy for going to sleep, what about counting sheep???

○

Chris Kinard

The Jimmy Connors of Badminton

An Interview with U.S.
Badminton's Dominant Player
of the 1970s

Racquet World Review: Some have called you the dominant U.S. player of the 1970s — why?

Chris Kinard: I suppose it's because I have been the U.S. Champion in five of the last seven years, and have been on every U.S. international team since 1969. Also, in 1977, I was the first player in history to accomplish the feat of winning the U.S. Open Singles title and the U.S. Intercollegiate Singles and Doubles titles in the same year.

Racquet World Review: What about your international experience?

Chris Kinard: I won the South African Open Doubles title in 1971, the Peruvian Open Singles, Doubles, and Mixed titles in 1974 and 1976. I also participated in the World Championship in England in 1973 and 1975.

Racquet World Review: How long have you played and how did you get started in badminton?

Chris Kinard: I have played 15 years, starting at age 11 when my father introduced me to badminton. He always encouraged me to keep playing but never forced me to play.

Racquet World Review: How has your game progressed to the point where you are now?

Chris Kinard: My father helped me for the first seven years. I concentrated on doubles during my junior tournament years, trying to perfect the proper strokes and strategy. Then, at about the age of 18, I became the protege of former U.S. Champion and World Doubles Champion Joe Alston. Joe felt that in order to really gain recognition I had to become a stronger singles player. So, because of his constant help, I won my first U.S. National Open Men's Singles Championship in 1972. Just as

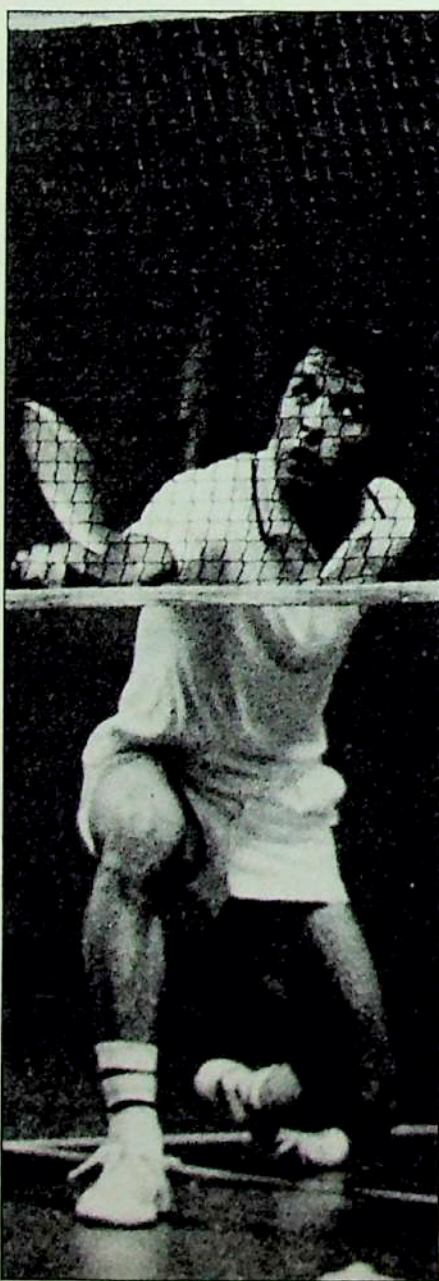


Photo by Bill Foy

Joe had predicted, after that first Championship, I began to get invitations to play in South Africa, Peru, Mexico, Canada, England, Denmark and Indonesia.

Racquet World Review: Why badminton and not tennis?

Chris Kinard: I felt that badminton was a much more demanding sport than tennis or any other racquet sport. Therefore, the challenge to succeed was tougher, and I just wanted to see if I could do it. Sure, I regret the fact that there isn't big money in badminton as there is in tennis.

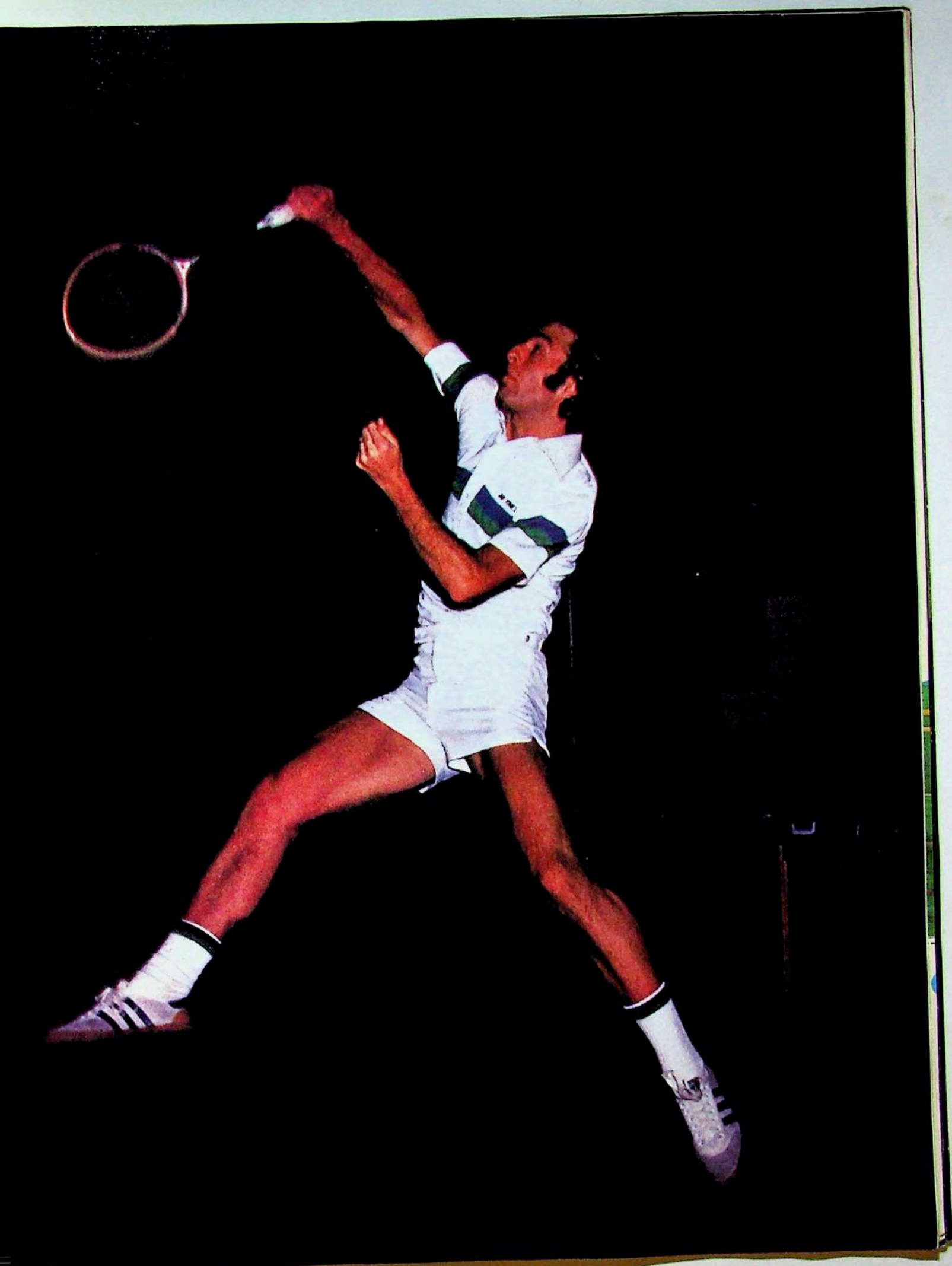
Racquet World Review: Do you have any evidence that badminton is more demanding than tennis?

Chris Kinard: Yes, aside from my own strict training, there was a study conducted at UCLA last year . . . which I was involved in. All the players were members of their respective 1977 National Collegiate Championship badminton and tennis teams. We played our sports for the same amount of time, and the results were that the badminton players' heartbeats were above 180 beats 75% of the playing time; the tennis players' heartbeats *never* reached 180 beats. The results are an indicator of the much higher physical demands on badminton players.

Racquet World Review: What training do you go through to prepare yourself for major tournaments?

Chris Kinard: I spent over a year training in Indonesia, because they are the World Champions. I have now incorporated into my training what I learned in Indonesia. About three months before the major tournament season I begin physical training which consists of daily

(Text continued on page 50)



Chris Kinard

(Text continued from page 48)

morning windsprints, various jumping exercises, reflex exercises to increase my reflex speed, and rope jumping. In rope jumping, I usually do about 2,000 single jumps and end up with 1,000 double jumps. I play five or six nights a week for about three hours each night.

Racquet World Review: Why are the Indonesians the World Champions?

Chris Kinard: In the first place, badminton is the national sport in Indonesia as it is in Thailand, Malaysia, Denmark, China and Singapore. In Indonesia, badminton is government subsidized, and the players are put into formal training camps three to six months before major international competitions. Secondly, the successful players are rewarded quite handsomely, especially in a country where the per capita annual income is about \$100. The rewards range from gifts of houses to cars and motorcycles, not to mention monetary compensation for the effort they put into badminton.

Racquet World Review: How well do you do against the Indonesians?

Chris Kinard: Fairly well. I spent about a month and a half in one of their training centers, and I held my own against some of their top players. However, for me to do consistently well, I have to be able to play the Indonesians in as many world tournaments as possible and that has been difficult due to the fact that badminton has been an amateur sport. Therefore, beyond training, I have had to go to school (I graduated from UCLA in 1977) and work, all at the same time.

Racquet World Review: Why did you say badminton "has been" amateur? Is it professional now?

Chris Kinard: Well, as a matter of fact, the International Badminton Federation voted in favor of Open (Professional) badminton in May. This vote will allow the players to play for unlimited amounts of prize money.

Racquet World Review: Will the vote for professional badminton hurt badminton's chances of being in the Olympics?

Chris Kinard: As a player, I sincerely believe the Olympics would not help badminton that much. Just because a sport is in the Olympics doesn't guarantee how much coverage it will get by the media. Besides, tennis not being in the Olympics certainly hasn't hurt its popularity, has it? Badminton has no

problems interest-wise in the Asian countries and some European countries where it is common to see crowds of 20,000 for big tournaments. Badminton in the U.S. has suffered because of the false belief of some people that it is a backyard sport. Playing badminton outdoors is like playing tennis on ice. I have never played badminton outdoors. Hopefully, with badminton now professional and already popular in other parts of the world, some of the national T.V. networks will begin to televise this tremendous, exciting spectator sport.

Racquet World Review: Getting back to you personally, what have been some of the problems you have faced while being the dominant U.S. player in the 1970s?

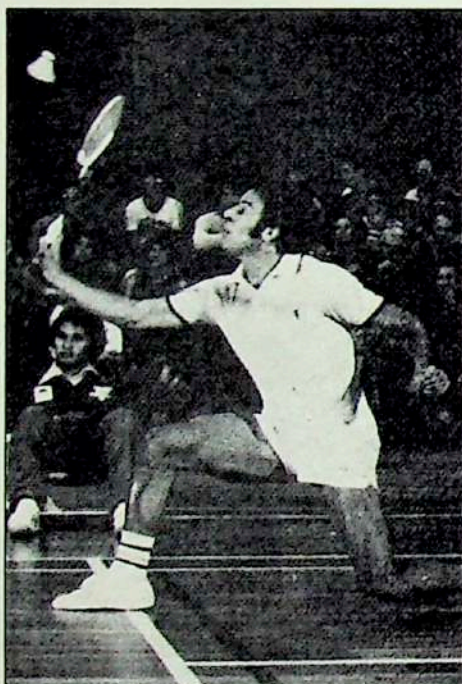


Photo by Bill Foy

Chris Kinard: This may sound funny, but the first national championship I won in 1972 was the easiest. Every championship since then has been very tough mentally. The first time was easiest, because I had nothing to lose. Someone else was champion, so he was expected to win. If I had lost, no one would have been surprised. Each successive national championship has increased expectations for a 'Kinard' victory. Also, after 1972, everyone was gunning for me. Therefore, in every championship I won after that first one my feeling was one of relief, not actually the so-called "thrill of victory". Don't misunderstand me, I was overjoyed at winning, but there was definitely a new feeling of relief.

Racquet World Review: What else have you gotten out of badminton?

Chris Kinard: Aside from all the travel and good friends I have made all over the world, I met my wife, Utami Dewi, through badminton. She is from

Indonesia, and I met her when she came on a 1972 U.S. tour with the World Champion Indonesian team. She has been a world-ranking singles player and was a member of the 1975 Indonesian World Champion Women's Uber Cup team.

Racquet World Review: Will she continue to play in the U.S.?

Chris Kinard: Yes she will, and this makes training for me a little easier. We train together and help each other through drills on our individual weaknesses. Also, her being the Indonesian Champion for several years insures mutual understanding of the mental pressures involved in being champion.

Racquet World Review: What are you training for now?

Chris Kinard: I have been invited, as one of the 12 top players in the world, to play on a pro tour in Asia in September. We will play first in Jakarta, Indonesia and then on to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. So I'm preparing myself for that tour along with the Mexican and Canadian Opens which will be in November. Then in January, 1979, the U.S. begins play in the American Zone of the Thomas Cup (equivalent to Davis Cup). The winner of this zone will go to Indonesia for the Thomas Cup finals.

Racquet World Review: How much longer will you play badminton?

Chris Kinard: Badminton is such a physically demanding sport that you find very few top singles players over the age of 34 or so. I will continue to play competitive singles until about that age; then I will concentrate more on doubles. Because badminton has now gone professional, I feel an added interest in remaining in the game for a while longer. Besides, I truly love the sport.

Racquet World Review: After badminton what do you plan to do?

Chris Kinard: I hope there never is an "after" badminton. After my competitive days, I plan to stay close to the sport in some capacity, whether it be coaching younger players or promoting the sport. Badminton has been a part of me for more than half of my life.

Racquet World Review: What are the prospects for badminton's future?

Chris Kinard: I feel the future is extremely bright. Major colleges are already offering scholarships for proficient badminton players; consequently, almost all the high schools have badminton in their curriculums. Also, with the sport now professional, new sponsors will be more likely to invest money in the staging of major tournaments and tours similar to those in tennis. ○

NEW ZEALANDERS were treated to some outstanding examples of badminton when the final rounds of the 8th International Uber Cup Competition were held in Auckland this past May. To the uninitiated, the Uber Cup is a Nationalized Team competition for women, along the lines of the more well-known Davis Cup competition in tennis. Held every three years, the competition is named after Mrs. Betty Uber, one of the early stars of the game who initially promoted the team championship concept and donated the beautiful challenge cup trophy.

The first Uber Cup contest was held in 1956 with the U. S. dominating the competition to become the first holder of the cup. The Americans successfully defended their title in the two succeeding contests, but since then have fallen on hard times as the Asian countries have taken over. In 1966 Japan succeeded in defeating the U.S. They defended their claim in 1969 and 1972 until finally losing the cup to Indonesia, the current defending champion, in 1975.

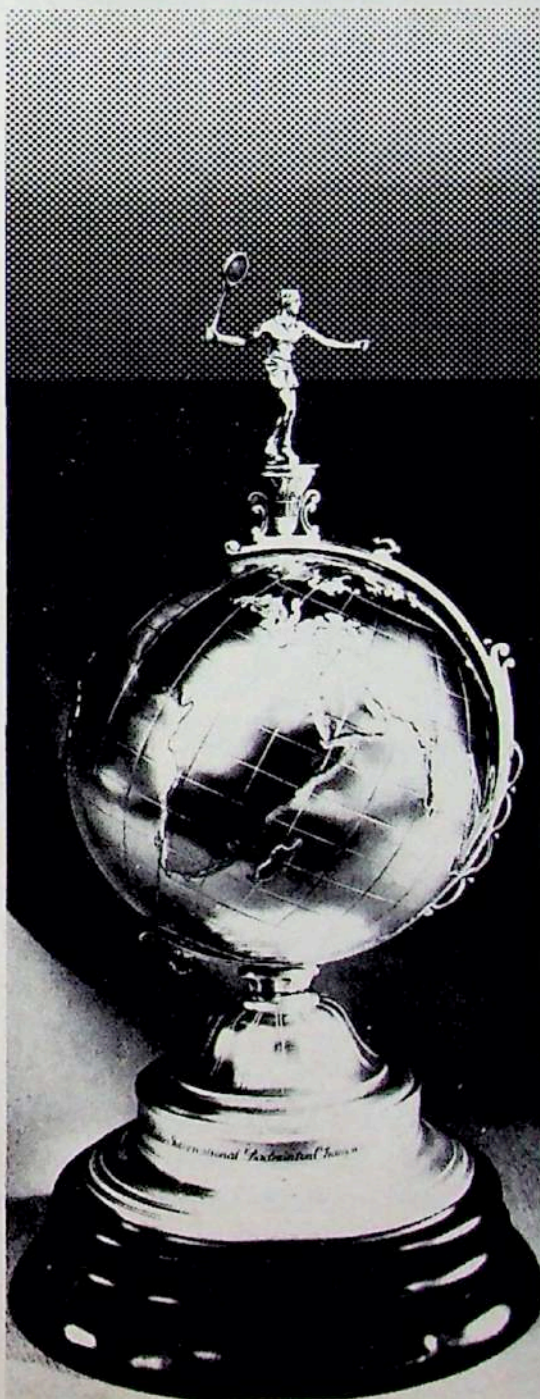
Six nations were involved in the final rounds of this year's competition, including Indonesia (the defending champion), New Zealand (the host country), Japan (Asian Zone), Australia (Australasian Zone), Denmark (European Zone) and the U.S. (Pan-American Zone).

Since losing the cup in 1966, the U.S. had rapidly faded as one of the powers of woman's badminton, due in part to a general lack of interest and understanding of the game in this country, coupled with a shortage of funds needed to send the best players abroad to play in major world-class tournaments and to gain crucial international experience. The Uber Cup contest is strictly an amateur event, as are all competitions in badminton at this time. In order to raise the funds necessary to travel to New Zealand, team members combined with the U.S. Badminton Association to sponsor raffles, tournaments, exhibitions and the like to raise the money. In spite of these problems, the Americans fielded a relatively young and inexperienced, yet highly enthusiastic and dedicated group of players to challenge for the coveted Uber Cup.

Perhaps the most important move made toward improving the caliber of play of the U.S. team was the appointment of a permanent coach last year to instruct and supervise the training of a representative team. This responsibility was handed to Sombat Dhammabusaya, a native of Thailand where he was one of the top players. Since coming to the U.S. 12 years ago, he has turned to coaching many of the top junior and adult players in Southern California with remarkable success. Since most of the top women players reside in

Uber Cup Competition

By Cheryl Carton



Southern California, Dhammabusaya immediately set up biweekly training sessions in addition to the players' normal training and tournament schedule. The results were immediately gratifying as the Americans improved their games to such an extent that they defeated a well-regarded team from Taiwan to win the Pan-American Zone and advance to the final round for the first time since 1969.

Representing the U.S. abroad for the first time in nearly a decade, Dhammabusaya named the following players to the team:

No. 1 singles — Cheryl Carton of San Diego, Ca. Age 24, current U.S. National Singles champion.

No. 2 singles — Cindy Baker of New York. Age 29, 1974 U.S. National Singles champion, lost in the semifinals in 1978 to Pam Bristol.

No. 3 singles — Judianne Kelly of Westminster, Ca. Age 29, 1975 U.S. National Singles champion, lost in the semifinals in 1978 to Cheryl Carton.

No. 1 doubles — Diana Osterhues of Torrance, Ca. and Janet Wilts of Aspen, Co. 1977 and 1978 U.S. National Doubles champs — ages 25 and 24 respectively.

No. 2 doubles — Judianne Kelly and Pam Bristol of Flint, Mi. Age 24, 1978 U.S. National runners-up. Pam has long been the dominant force in U.S. women's badminton with numerous championships in all events — she also represented the U.S. team as its captain.

The competition began with preliminary matches pitting the U.S. against New Zealand and Japan vs. Australia while Indonesia and Denmark drew byes into the semi-finals. Once the opening ceremonies were concluded the U.S. proceeded to blitz their hosts to the tune of 7-0. The Americans surprised their opponents with their quick attacking strategies in both singles and doubles and dropped only one game along the way to victory. The following evening saw an even more devastating display of prowess as the Japanese proceeded to annihilate Australia by the same 7-0 score. Led as usual by their stalwart champion Hiroe Yuki, consistently one of the top ranked players in the world, the Japanese appeared merciless in their attack, and were never pushed. The competition therefore moved to the semifinals which matched the U.S. against defending champion Indonesia, while Japan took on the European winner, Denmark.

It was at this point in the competition that the U.S. Team was finally overpowered. Although they battled to the bitter end, the Americans could not seem to pull out the crucial points against a young but talented and more experienced Indonesian team which had been playing throughout the world for

(Text continued on page 58)

Vic Seixas

Still Going Strong

By Joseph Dittler



IT WAS LATE afternoon, and the onshore breeze was beginning to cool the air. Across the table sat Vic Seixas, sipping a cold beer. The scene was the old Hotel del Coronado, in California, and Seixas had just finished an exhausting workout. He was visiting Coronado on his way to Las Vegas where a Grand Masters tournament was to be held, and was using this visit as an opportunity to recover from a minor hand operation which had kept him away from the game for an entire month.

"Who is Vic Seixas?" you ask. Vic Seixas is 55 years old and plays in the Tennis Grand Masters, a tour of tennis playing veterans of years past. He is a past Wimbledon winner and former number one in the world.

Even today Seixas possesses much of the talent which made him number one. The list of titles and championships won by Seixas is awesome. Some of the big ones were: The Australian Open (doubles in 1955 with Tony Trabert), French Open (doubles in 1954-55 with Trabert, and mixed doubles in 1953 with Doris Hart), Wimbledon (singles in 1953, and mixed doubles 1953-55 with Hart and again in 1956 with Shirley Fry). Seixas also won in the U.S. Open at Forest Hills (singles in 1954, doubles in 1952 with Mervyn Rose and in 1954 with Trabert). To add to this, he won the U.S. Open mixed doubles with Doris Hart for three years running (1953-55).

As with all great men, Seixas has stories told of him that rival those told of Davey Crockett wrestling the bear. For Seixas, it was said that his legs were so strong, he could jump six feet in the air to hit overheads. "I never could jump six feet," admitted Seixas, "but," as he smiled and winked, "I often jumped five feet ten."

Vic Seixas is most familiar to tennis players for his participation in U.S. Davis Cup competition.

"I played 58 matches over a seven-year period," he said. "I was the captain in 1952 and a non-playing captain in 1964."

In fact, Seixas has played more Davis Cup matches than any other player, a record not likely to be broken in the near future.

With the recent political problems surrounding the Cup, i.e., the apartheid policies of South Africa and the breaking of commitments by players, the future of Davis Cup competition is in doubt.

"It's a pity that the Davis Cup has lost so much of its importance," said Seixas. "It was caused by open tennis,

and I'm not sure I know the answer to it all.

"It was once the major objective of all tennis players to play for their country in the Davis Cup. I know that it was one of three major goals in my career; the other two being Wimbledon and Forest Hills.

"One possible answer," he continued, "might be to have the Cup played in a shorter period of time like the Olympics. It could be held all at once at one location, and the players could then set aside the time on their calendars. Thus, all the players could play the event at once and not have it conflict with their tournament-packed schedules."

Does a man like Seixas have an all-time favorite match? "It's really hard to say," he admitted, as his face showed the strains of remembering. "They were all so different . . . and you relate them to what you won and what they meant."

"The 1954 Davis Cup match between the U.S. and Australia meant a lot to me. From the point of view of winning the Cup back it had great importance (the U.S. won 3-2, after losing the Cup to Australia the four previous years), but I beat Ken Rosewall in the final round of play in a match that I *really* wanted to win. Rosewall was particularly tough for me. The serve and volley have always been my strong points, and to play against Kenny I had to play my own game. He was a terribly steady player and I always had to take my chances at the net. He had tremendous passing shots, and believe me, I got passed on many an occasion. As for the big titles . . . Wimbledon and Forest Hills were, of course, very important to me."

In that 1954 Davis Cup match, Seixas and Rosewall played for a record breaking crowd of 25,578 at White City Stadium in Sydney, Australia.

Seixas' career has spanned decades. A sample of his talent is visible in a comparison of his past rankings. At age 19 Seixas was ranked in the top 10 in the U.S., at age 41 he was again in the top 10, a feat not easily accomplished in any sport.

Presently playing the Tennis Grand Masters, alongside such other great players as Pancho Gonzalez, Frank Sedgman and Pancho Segura, Seixas wonders what his future will bring. "It's getting harder and harder to play the Masters, I half expect to be put out to pasture any day now," he admitted.

When discussing tennis, or more specifically tennis in the Grand Masters, the women often come into the

conversation. There are many great women players alive today and it is only natural to wonder why they don't have a successful tour of their own. Does that potential exist? "No," says Seixas, "and for two reasons. One, you can't get any women to admit to being over 45 (a requirement for playing the Grand Masters) and two, not many women can still play competitively at that age."

Of all the great players who traveled the globe, Seixas has played most and . . . beaten most of them. Of those who were particularly difficult for him to play, he admits that Sedgman was the toughest but that, "Lew Hoad was rough to play when he was on. Particularly towards the later years of his career . . . he was almost unbeatable."

It is nothing new to hear the players, sportscasters and tennis writers continue to say that "Jimmy Connors may be the best now, but he never would have held a stick to the great Bill Tilden." The answer to that does not exist as Tilden will never be able to defend himself nor his titles.

Seixas puts this into a different perspective when he says: "I never played Tilden, I only saw him play and that was towards the end of his career, past his prime. But trying to compare him to Connors or the top players of today is like trying to compare boxers of the past with those of today. You just can't do it."

"Tilden had a style completely different from those of today, and he probably would have changed it to play the courts and the players as they are now. What more can you say about a man than that he was the 'best' of his era? You just can't pay a man a greater compliment than that."

Speaking of tribute, Tony Trabert — current Davis Cup captain and personal friend of Seixas — had this to say about Seixas, "Another player with Seixas' strokes would not have been the champion or won the matches that Vic won. He possessed very unorthodox strokes. The big difference in his game was sheer athletic ability . . . competitive spirit . . . and an undying desire to win for his country and himself."

And so, Vic Seixas, the man who was known around the world for his fairness to his competitors, continues to play the game, is still the gentleman the stories speak of and will probably play the game forever.

It is unimaginable that he will ever be "put out to pasture," but more likely that his pastures will be those of "plenty" for years to come. ○

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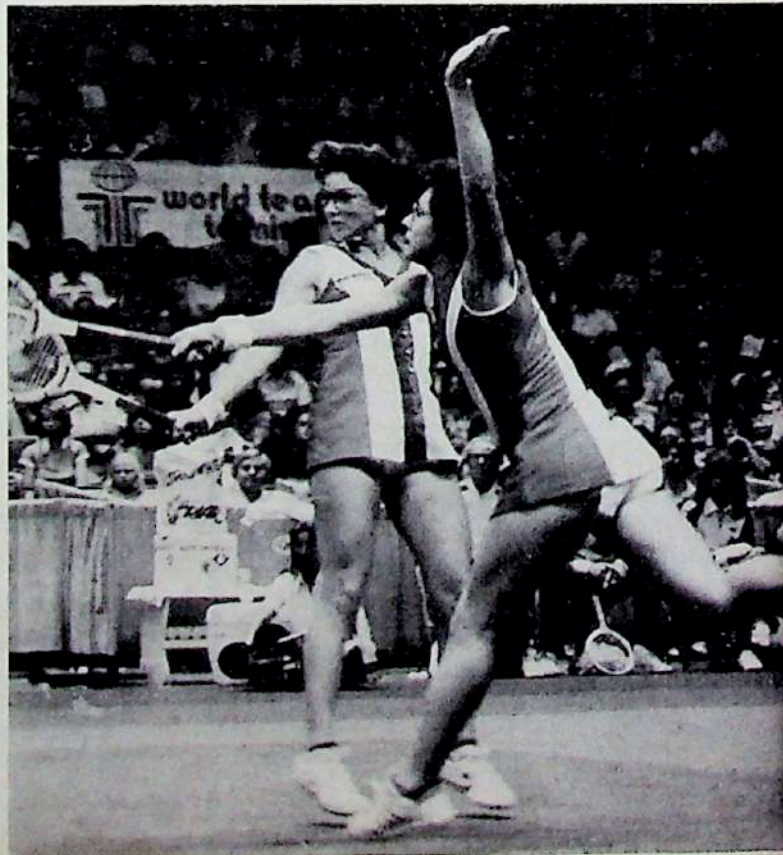
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World Team Team Statistics

(as of Wimbledon break)

As the players of World Team Tennis take time off for Wimbledon break, the league standings and player rankings have time to level off for viewer consumption.

Women's Singles				Women's Doubles			
	GW-GL	GWA	SW-SL				
1. Navratilova (B)	142-78	.645	20-4	1. Navratilova/Stevens (B)	52-33	.612	8-1
2. Evert (LA)	138-97	.587	19-7	2. Holladay/Navratilova (B)	83-58	.589	12-3
3. King (NY)	100-83	.546	12-7	3. King/Russell (NY)	112-79	.586	14-6
4. Wade (GG)	132-110	.545	16-9	4. Guerrant/Reid (SD)	148-114	.565	19-8
5. Fromholtz (I)	134-118	.532	16-10	5. Barker/Shaw (P)	112-91	.552	13-8
6. Reid (SD)	130-142	.478	13-5	6. Cuypers/Stove (S)	68-64	.515	9-5
7. Casals (A)	95-115	.452	9-12	7. Evert/Kiyomura (LA)	110-109	.502	11-13
8. Russell (NY)	46-56	.451	2-7	8. Casals/Durr (A)	74-76	.493	9-7
9. Turnbull (NO)	64-81	.441	6-9	Redondo/Stove (S)	67-69	.493	6-7
10. Redondo (S)	82-106	.436	5-15	10. Kloss/Wade (GG)	69-76	.476	7-8
Men's Singles				Men's Doubles			
1. Gerulaitis (NY)	133-99	.573	16-8	1. Mayer/McMillan (GG)	143-104	.579	18-6
2. Nastase (LA)	110-93	.542	13-8	2. Emerson/Roche (B)	105-86	.550	14-5
3. Cox (A)	66-57	.537	7-6	3. Cox/Drysdale (A)	150-137	.523	17-10
4. Laver (SD)	143-135	.514	16-12	4. Gerulaitis/Ruffels (NY)	113-105	.518	11-10
5. Pattison (NO)	100-96	.510	9-11	5. Case/Laver (SD)	142-133	.516	14-13
6. Roche (B)	104-104	.500	10-10	6. Masters/Stone (I)	115-109	.513	10-11
7. Drysdale (A)	61-62	.496	7-6	7. Gorman/Stewart (S)	97-82	.491	7-9
8. Walts (P)	103-107	.490	11-10	8. Ruffels/Stolle (NY)	29-31	.483	2-3
9. Mayer (GG)	115-120	.489	10-16	9. Kachel/Stewart (S)	41-46	.471	4-4
10. Gorman (S)	114-124	.479	12-13	10. Pattison/Riessen (NO)	100-113	.469	7-12
				Mixed Doubles			
				1. Kiyomura/Nastase (LA)	82-59	.582	10-3
				2. Guerrant/Case (SD)	151-112	.574	19-7
				3. Fromholtz/Stone (I)	42-33	.560	6-1
				4. Russell/Ruffels (NY)	91-75	.548	12-5
				5. Casals/Amritraj (A)	47-39	.547	6-2
				6. Richards/Lucas (NO)	43-36	.544	6-1
				7. Durr/Amritraj (A)	89-75	.543	10-5
				8. Stevens/Estep (B)	41-36	.532	4-3
				9. Kruger/McMillan (GG)	86-76	.531	9-7
				10. Stove/Stewart (S)	102-94	.520	10-8



Total Offense — Women

1. Navratilova (B)	227-169	.621	40-8
2. Guerrant (SD)	305-337	.573	39-15
3. Stevens (B)	9-76	.566	12-5
4. King (NY)	235-187	.557	28-15
5. Evert (LA)	257-216	.543	31-21
6. Russell (NY)	284-248	.534	32-22
7. Holladay (B)	161-142	.531	18-12
8. Kiyomura (LA)	250-225	.526	27-21
9. Reid (SD)	284-263	.519	32-24
10. Wade (GG)	235-219	.518	26-21

Total Offense — Men

1. Emerson (B)	162-135	.545	21-9
Amritraj (A)	157-131	.545	19-8
3. Case (SD)	298-251	.543	33-21
Gerulaitis (NY)	257-216	.543	28-19
5. McMillan (GG)	278-243	.534	29-21
6. Mayer (GG)	272-241	.530	29-24
7. Nastase (LA)	240-216	.526	25-19
8. Roche (B)	216-196	.524	25-15
9. Drysdale (A)	230-212	.520	26-17
10. Cox (A)	225-209	.518	24-18

Minimum number of game played to qualify for top ten leader: 60
for total offense: 120

LEAGUE STANDINGS

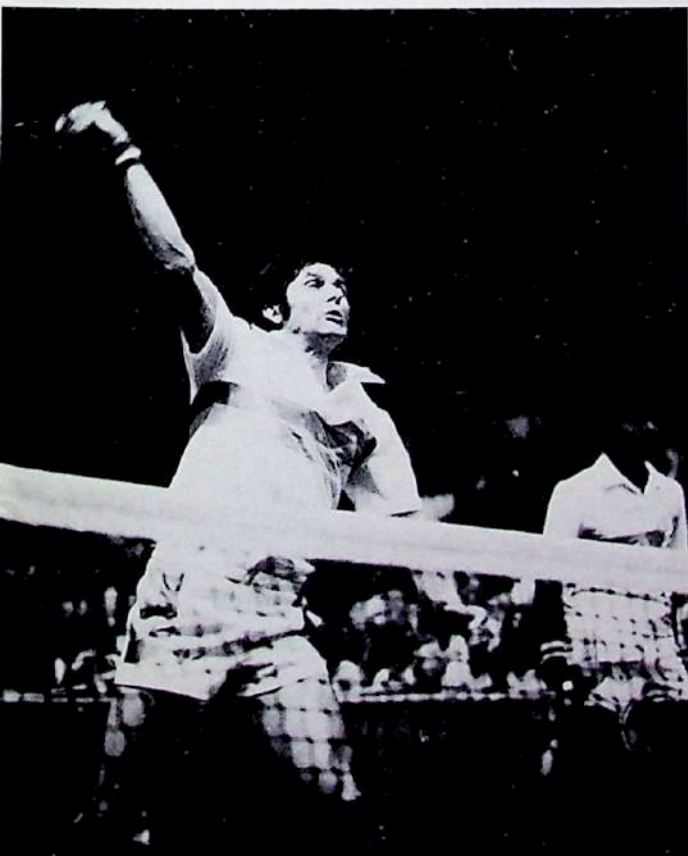
EASTERN DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	MB
1. Boston Lobsters	19	5	.792	—
2. New York Apples	14	14	.500	7
3. Anaheim Oranges	12	16	.429	9
4. New Orleans Nets	8	12	.400	9
5. Indiana Loves	9	17	.346	11

WESTERN DIVISION

1. San Diego Friars	19	9	.679	—
2. Golden Gaters	17	10	.630	1½
3. Los Angeles Strings	14	12	.538	4
4. Phoenix Racquets	9	15	.375	8
5. Seattle Cascades	8	19	.296	10½

Photos by Tricia Michelle



Tijuana's Frontón Palacio has jumped this summer into the top ranks of the jai alai world with the arrival of eight star players, seven of them Basque, from Bridgeport, Conn., and Macao, off the coast of China.

Their arrival is the latest development in a long-range program designed by Players' Manager José Alberdi and the owner of the Fronton, Mariano Escobedo, to bring the finest jai alai talent available to Tijuana.

"We don't have the best *cuadro* (slate of players) in the world, and we can't expect to with the money they can pay players in Bridgeport, Hartford and Miami," Alberdi says, in his quiet, matter-of-fact way.

"But we now have one of the best." He pauses to consider. "Right now we are one of the five best frontons in the world, in terms of players. We have players here now that can go up against anyone in the world and expect to win."

The arrival of the Basques has galvanized the other players. The crowd easily notes a new tension in the cancha.

"What can you do?" shrugs Jara, one of the better Mexican players in Tijuana who admits to having gotten a bit lazy lately.

"We can't let them wipe us off the court. Don't expect them to get away with that."

But consider the names: Lecube, Chirtu, Tony, Valdez, Arreaga, Kata, Yarza, Barruti, Jayo. Names recognizable anywhere in the professional jai alai world. All Basque except Valdez, who is Alberdi's brother-in-law, came into the game under Alberdi's tutelage when Alberdi himself was recognized as one of the best players in the world.

Eyebrows were raised when Juan Valdez was contracted last year to play in Bridgeport, the No. 1 *frontón* in the world. He had had a knee injury that required surgery, and — much more important in the Basques' critical eyes — he had never played anywhere but in Tijuana.

The eyebrows were quickly lowered. Valdez last winter turned into one of the pre-eminent front court players at Bridgeport, dominating that area with his power (he is 6' 3" and 205 lbs.) and drive to prove himself against the Basques. He will return to Bridgeport late this fall.

Escobedo, as the *frontón's* owner and general manager, is particularly pleased with Alberdi's success in recruiting Basque players through his contacts with other players' managers around the world. The "Basque telegraph" is paying dividends in Tijuana.

Alberdi has recruited three *pelotaris* from Macao, and another will arrive later this fall, along with one from Spain. All are Basque.

The Tijuana *cuadro* now includes 11 Basques out of 30 players.

"Mexican players are getting better year after year," Alberdi says, "but — excuse my chauvinism — jai alai is still a Basque sport. We grow up with it. They don't. Neither do the Americans, although they are developing some very good players in the jai alai schools in Florida. The Cubans are farther along, still, because jai alai is part of their culture, too."

Back to the newly arrived Basques:

Arreaga (Francisco Javier Arreaga, 35, from Marquina, Viscaya) is a wily veteran who has learned to use his head to compensate for his declining ability to match the younger players physically. His ability to use the side wall and catch his opponent going in the wrong direction makes him one of the better *zagueros* around today. He played in Tijuana before going to Macao.

Kata (Domingo Totorica, 27, from Arbecuejue, Viscaya) has the speed to defend the front court against anyone, the eye and reflexes to use the front

JAI ALAI

By James Redfern

corner for a quick kill — and an uncanny ability to anticipate his opponent's shots and be there when the *pelota* arrives.

Jayo (Jose Marie Jayo, 27, from Bolivar, Viscaya) is a percentage player who handles either the front or back court, but excels as a *zaguero*. His flamboyant style makes him a favorite with the jai alai *aficion*.

Those who have been to Las Vegas' blackjack tables recently may recognize a familiar face in Yarza (Javier Maria Yarza Urquiola, 25, from Beasain, Guipuzcua), who has been out of jai alai action for nearly three years due to his participation in the ill-fated players' strike there and in Florida.

Jai alai is not exactly a labor organizer's paradise, and the owners of *frontons* closed ranks and blackballed everyone involved in the strikes, banishing some of the best players in the world from the game in the United States. Yarza survived by working as a blackjack dealer in Las Vegas, keeping his jai alai game honed in after-hours sessions with professional friends. Now he is back in the pro ranks — an experienced, all-around front court player widely respected in the jai alai world. (If anyone expects his

blackballing for nearly three years to have affected his go-to-hell attitude, however, they can forget it. He is still Yarza.)

One of the best "killers" in jai alai is in Tijuana for the summer-fall season before returning to Bridgeport: Lecube (José Maria Lecube, 32, from Motrico, Guipuzcua). His accuracy with kill shots from the front court, and his ability to send his opponents scrambling for his shots off all three walls, has earned him the reputation of being one of the best players anywhere.

And speaking of "killers" in the front court, Chirtu is back in Tijuana following the Bridgeport season. Chirtu (Alfonso Azcaturrieta, 28, from Bolivar, Viscaya) is well-remembered by Tijuana fans for his vicious attack — in marked contrast to his easygoing style outside the *cancha*. When you have seen Chirtu stop a *pelota* coming at well over 100 mph off the front wall 20 yards in front of him and smash it back through his opponent's defense you have seen the best you are ever likely to see in jai alai.

Tony (Antonio Mugartegue, 32, from Berriatua, Viscaya) is making his first appearance in Tijuana, and fans are seeing him do regularly what many players haven't accomplished in their playing life.

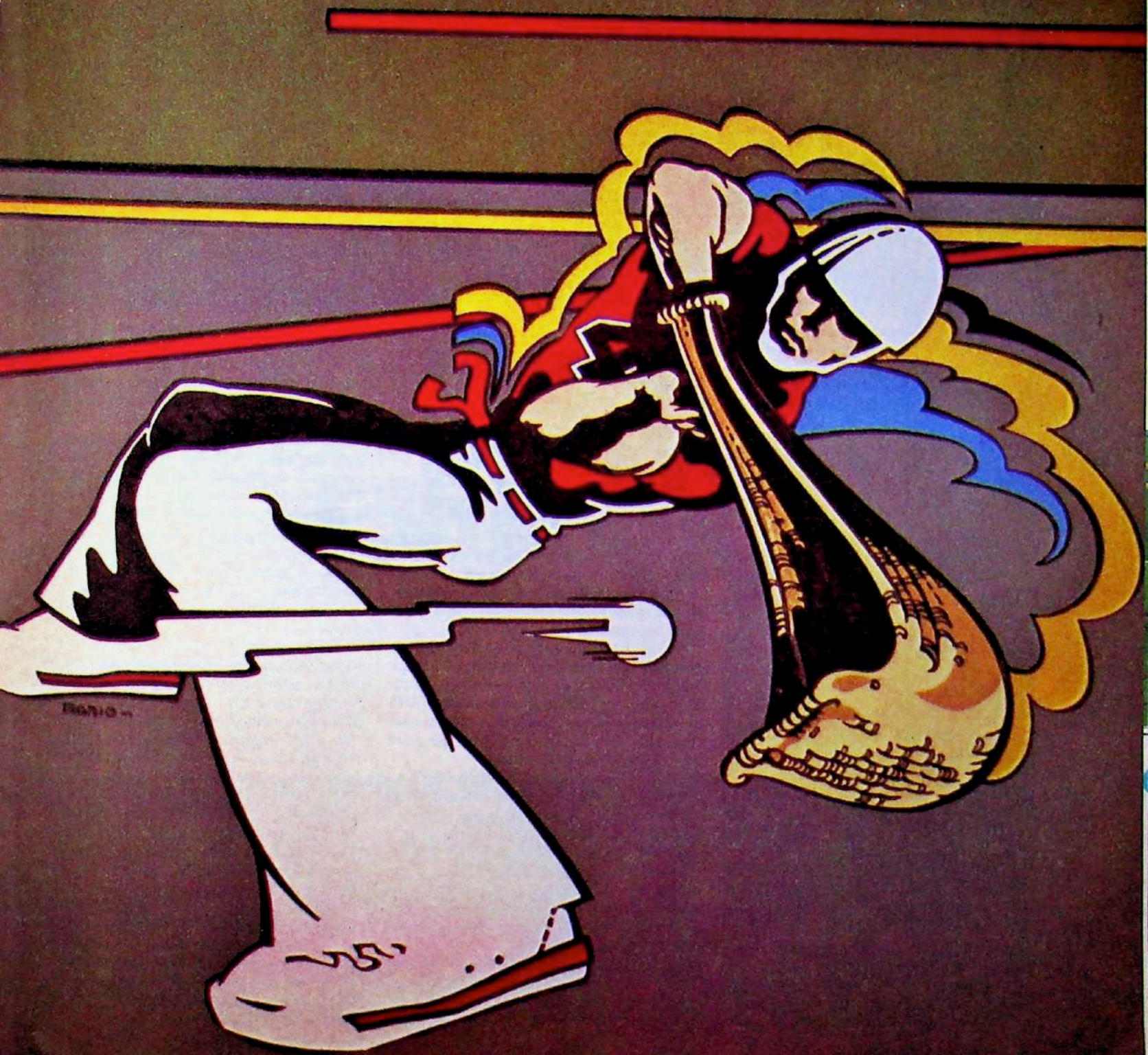
His speciality is the *honrón* (home run) — driving the *pelota* so hard into the front wall that it carries to the back wall and then the length of the court to the front again — without touching the floor. He also works the side and front wall carom well, keeping his opponents off balance.

But it is his power that has convinced some of the sternest critics in jai alai that he may well be the best back court player in the world.

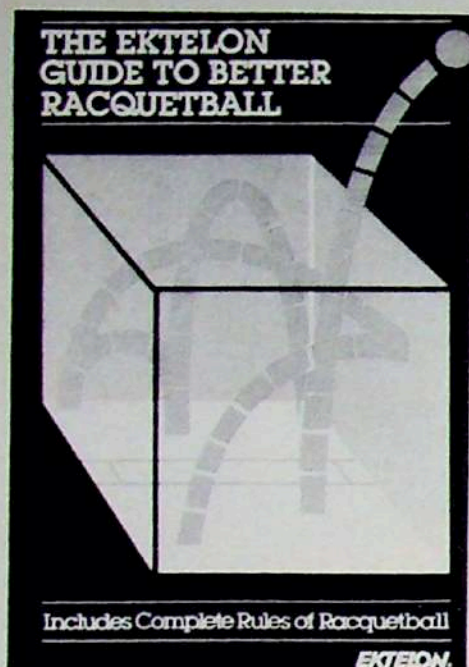
Another recent arrival from Bridgeport is Barruti (Javier Astaroa Arrequi, 28, from Vallavia, Viscaya) who can play either front or back court, but whose speciality is the back, where he handles returns from either side with equal ease. He also has the skill most prized in *zagueros*, second only to power: he floats seemingly effortlessly in the area he has to defend, always there when the *pelota* arrives. It looks easy when Barruti does it, but ask any *zaguero* how it is done and he will have a hard time explaining it. Instinct, they finally say.

Last winter's seemingly endless snowstorms in the east, coupled with a taste of sunny southern California weather, convinced Barruti he should work on his tan rather than return to Bridgeport this winter, as Lecube, Chirtu, Tony and Valdez intend to do.

Alberdi has signed him for a year contract at the Fronton Palacio — good news for management and also for Tijuana fans, who are seeing the best jai alai played in that border city in at least the last 10 years.



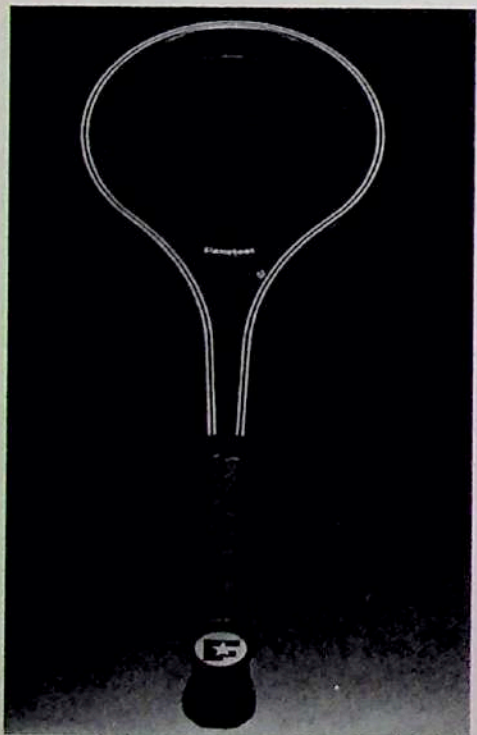
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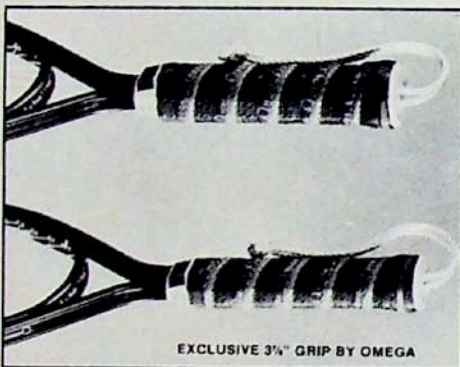
**Fansteel Tennis Inc. Introduces
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Fansteel Tennis Inc. has developed a new graphite fibre tennis racquet which demonstrates selected filament orientation to effi-

ciently meet the principal stresses in bending and torsion. Protected under several material, process, production and product patents, Fansteel's unique processes produce a racquet without seams, secondary joining or attachments. Static, dynamic and player tests have been completed to verify structural integrity, durability under accelerated dynamic conditions, and racquet playability.

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The racquet design is traditional head shape with an open throat and twin shaft configuration, providing excellent balance and response and resistance to torque (twisting). Molded-in string holes provide a smooth seat for the strings for longer string life. Polyurethane finish provides mar resistant, long wearing coating. The grip is made of shock-absorbing urethane foam and is available in sizes from 4-1/4 to 4-7/8; frames are available in XL, L, M and H weights.



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Omega Sports continues its innovation in the racquetball industry with the addition of the smallest grip size offered by any manufacturer. The new 3-7/8" circumference grip is presently offered on three Omega racquets: the Pro-II, MTD and Esprit. Omega has developed this grip size in response to the trend for better players to use smaller grips in order to achieve easier and more powerful wrist action.

Until recently, most players followed the direction that "the larger the hand, the larger the grip". This is a carry over from tennis which requires a stiff wrist with no snap. With experience, however, racquetball players have discovered that the smaller grips allow more power through better wrist snap.

In addition to the 3-7/8" grip, Omega's top-of-the-line racquet, the Pro-II, also offers another exclusive: the only 5-year warranty available in the industry. The MTD is Omega's most versatile racquet with a modified teardrop headshape for power and flexibility with an expanded hitting surface. The Esprit is designed especially for women with a modified teardrop headshape, lighter weight, and with a pale metallic blue frame.

Omega offers a complete line of racquets for all levels of play. For more information, contact Omega Sports, 2366 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63141 or call (314) 872-9007.

Uber Cup Competition

(Text continued from page 51)



the past year in preparation for this contest. Although on the surface the 0-7 loss looks somewhat discouraging, the final tally was deceptive as the U.S. pushed the champions to their limits on more than one occasion with some fine play. Indeed, in all four opening matches the Americans had opportunities to down the defending champions, but could never seem to put their opponents away. On the whole the experience gained from this level of competition was invaluable and the U.S. team will surely be heard from in the future.

The second semi-final contest pitted Denmark against Japan and opened with the featured player match-up of the competition as Hiroe Yuki took on Lene Koppen. Both players have been World Champions at one time, and this contest proved a memorable experience for all of those in attendance. Lene is a highly conditioned athlete who gracefully covered every inch of the court in retrieving Yuki's most deceptive shots time and again, while playing virtually errorless. In the end it was her tireless consistency which more than balanced Yuki's superior shotmaking ability to lead Denmark to a 1-0 advantage. Unfortunately, that was the best Denmark could do as Japan's superior depth made itself felt and went on to defeat the European challenger by a 6-1 score.

Once again the finals present an all-Asian contest between the two nations which have dominated the Uber Cup Competition for more than a decade of intense rivalry. Indonesia belied its role as an underdog by jumping off to a 1-0 lead when Verawaty Wiharjo scored a stunning upset over Yuki in the opening match. Japan quickly recouped to win the next two singles matches and gain the lead 2-1. Another surprise victory in the first doubles match claimed by Verawaty and her partner Imelda Wiguno knotted the contest at 2-2 and it looked as if the defending champions might be able to retain their crown after all. However, Japan flashed the tenacity that has often made its doubles teams so formidable to sweep the next three matches and claim the Uber Cup trophy by a 5-2 margin of victory. ○

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RWR

Would you like to tour Mexico? Would you like to be an internationally known tennis player and be as well known to Mexico as Ilie Nastase and Martina Navratilova are to the United States? Maybe you would like to be paid 23,000 pesos (\$1,000) a month for starters plus bonuses, and have all your expenses taken care of. All this can be found in a new era of Mexico . . . the Mexico of sport . . . Mexican Team Tennis.

Of course this is not a league of Mayan descendants playing with golden racquets and wearing jewel-encrusted headbands, as rumor would have you believe, and players don't make thousands of dollars. Truthfully, the thousands refer to pesos, not dollars, and the league is actually a struggling endeavor with a "maybe so, maybe not" future ahead of it.

As a tax write off to escape the escalating taxes of Mexico, a business group (owners of the bus and rail transportation Tres Estrellas de Oro) from Mexico City created Mexican Team Tennis. In its second year, the league is made up of eight teams representing two geographic areas, the north and the south of Mexico. The teams are Oaxaca, Guadalajara, Mexico City, San Carlos, Guaymas, Hermosillo, Queretaro and Monterrey. The Mexican league needs players, so if you have the time to travel and the desire to play (and the talent), this may be the way to go.

The level of play is not as high as that of their American counterpart WTT (World Team Tennis) in that only a few players are of world class. These are Joaquin Loyo-Mayo, Marcelo Lara and possibly two or three other men. The women, although making up half of each team, are virtually club players. The women of Mexico lead very conservative and traditional lives and, although young players are starting to fill the ranks, the present level of competition among Mexican women is just that . . . conservative and traditional.

Each team is allowed to recruit two foreign players, one man and one woman. Thus far only Americans have applied, and very few at that. San Diego brothers, Guy and Harry Fritz are two who have played Mexican Team Tennis. And a La Jolla girl, Robin Harris, is another.

Walter Redondo, from National City, has considered playing this year. For him MTT would offer experience, travel and a pocket full of pesos, which he wouldn't mind at all. Since turning professional last year, Redondo has found it difficult to win enough money to keep traveling and playing, and MTT could be his temporary answer.

Each team is made up of six to eight players, including the player coach, as in World Team Tennis. No-ad scoring is

Mexican Team Tennis

Myth or Reality

By Joseph Dittler

Photos by Cheryl A. Traendly



utilized, and at six all, a tie-breaker is used, although in Mexico it is known as muerte subita, or sudden death. Play varies from indoor to out, as well as playing surfaces from "Play On" and clay, to carpet. In the States, WTT plays all matches on carpet and indoors.

The teams don't have nicknames like the Apples, the Racquets and the Friars, but are known by their locations, i.e., Guaymas, Oaxaca and Guadalajara. Unlike soccer, in which a referee may be killed by the crowd for a questionable call, Mexican Team Tennis umpires are received with much respect from players and spectators alike. As in World Team Tennis, half-time entertainment exists in the form of music, and crowd participation is encouraged. But as Tony Novelo, owner of Estero Beach, a tennis resort in Baja California puts it, "You don't have to encourage Mexican people to participate. It comes naturally to us."

Novelo was approached by the organizers of MTT in hopes that a team could be started in Baja. Novelo's resort camp, on the beach just south of Ensenada (65 miles south of San Diego), would be a perfect spot for a team tennis franchise.

Ensenada is also the home of Raul Ramirez, the hero of Mexico and the cause of all the excitement.

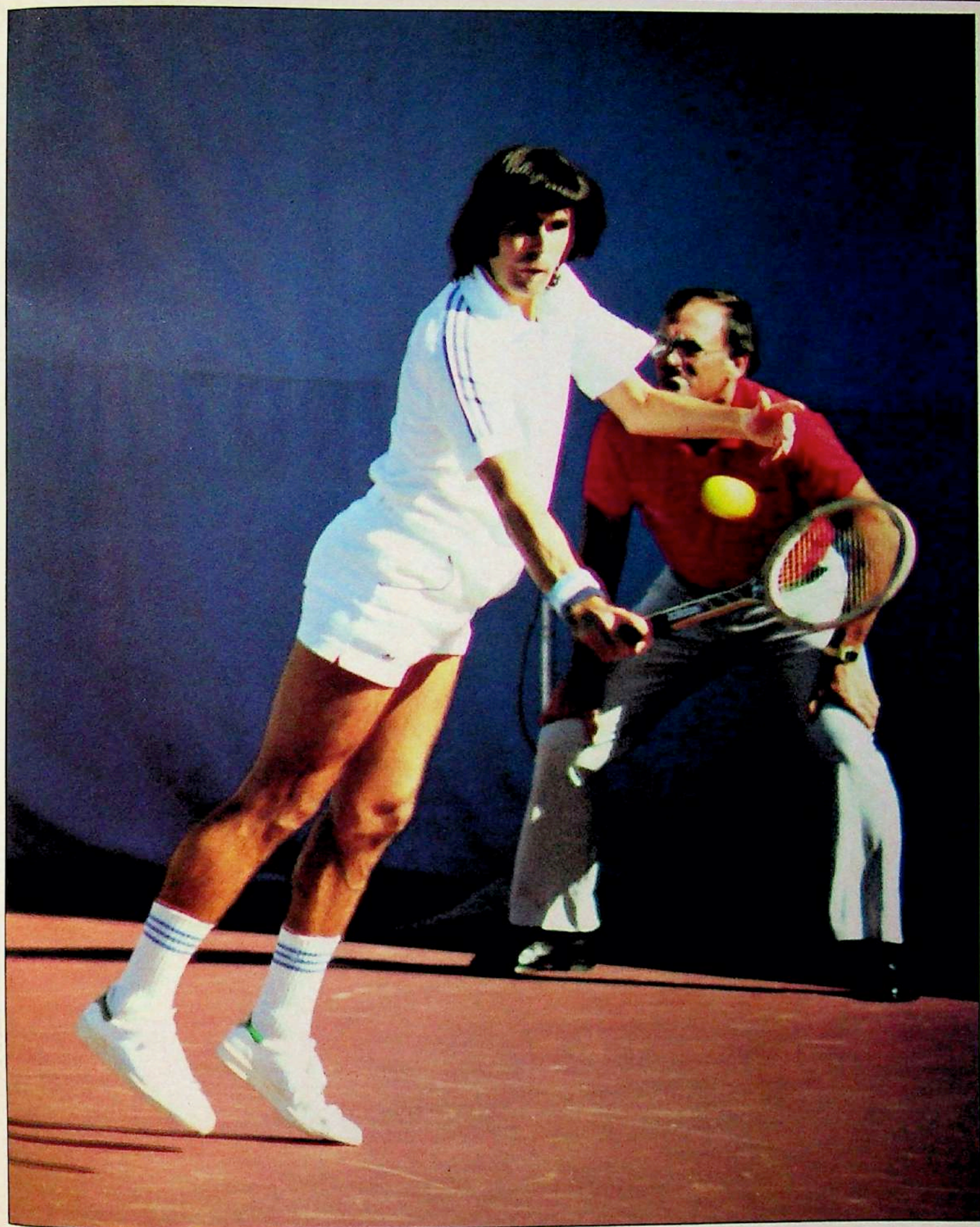
"Of course we would like to have a team here," said Novelo, "but we would want Raul to be on it. Right now team tennis is not in his plans, as his manager feels that it would hurt his game." Ramirez was offered an undisclosed amount of money to play team tennis, which was rumored to be very high, but he turned it down.

Raul's father, Raul Ramirez Sr., who lives in Ensenada and owns several businesses there, also favors team tennis, and added, "I strongly believe in all aspects of tennis: team tennis, tournaments, clinics, etc. This whole movement towards more tennis is good for Mexico and good for families, because tennis keeps the family together."

Often drawing upwards of 3,000 spectators at MTT matches, admission is set reasonably low with seats selling for \$2, \$3 and \$4.

Team tennis is becoming popular in Europe also, and with the retirement of the Soviet team from WTT play in the United States, it is possible that a team from Mexico will someday be added.

And so, if MTT is to survive, new players will have to be acquired (especially women). For those interested, this may be the chance to put their high school Spanish to good use, and if the time and talent are there, Mexican Team Tennis could offer a year or two of valuable, spendable experience.



Paul Ramirez Photo by Cheryl A. Traendly



Photo by Tricia Michelle

Photo of the Month

"Portrait of Ion Tiriac, a nice guy."

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A Closer Look At Tennis Star

Lindsey Beaven

By Linda-Marie Singer

"I reckon I was a weird kid. Existentialism and nihilism before I was 16. Can you imagine that? My father almost flipped when I told him I wanted to major in religion. He was a bit worried for me." — Lindsey Beaven

THE WORRYING didn't last long. Although their teenage daughter was engrossed in a religious pursuit, and eventually received her Bachelor of Divinity from the University of London, she was equally enthralled with the game of tennis. What wasn't in the parent's minds was for their "little girl" to wind up: 1) A professional tennis player; 2) A Unitarian; and 3) A New Yorker.

For Lindsey Beaven, the No. 65 ranked women's player in the world, life after college has been anything but typical or conforming. Rebelling against her own religious experiences, her motto in life has become patterned after a Gershwin tune: "It Ain't Necessarily So." She explains her philosophy: "There are no final answers to anything. I don't know if this means I'm a contrary person, but I find myself questioning everything. I can't stand dogma and find that life is too unpredictable."

True to form the Britisher did another unpredictable thing: She "escaped" from Great Britain to New York as she found life too restrictive there, while America seemed to produce a stabilizing effect on her mind and her game. The end result? She feels happier and her ranking — stuck at No. 124 in 1976 leaped to No. 66 in 1977.

This spectacular leap in points is accredited to taking Bee Pollen from England as an athletic supplement, and undergoing rigorous eye training to see the ball quicker and better. Of course she's also indebted to Apples teammates, Billie Jean King and Virginia Wade.

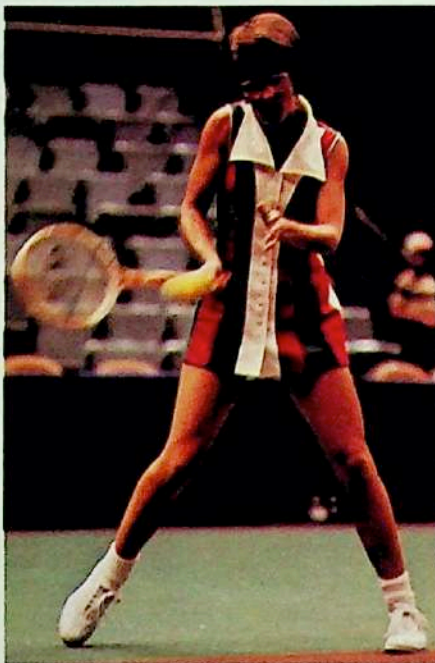
"They taught me a lot," Beaven says. "My approach has become a more relaxed one. Now I feel better prepared to play. And watching someone like Billie Jean is inspirational. Her technique is fantastic! How *does* she do it? And Virginia. I admire her for she plays as if she has to overcome something to achieve the end result."

Since 1972, Beaven's results have added up to a dedicated tennis devotee. She's had high points in her career, and is especially proud of the tournament she played at the much publicized Mutual Benefit Life Open in South Orange, New Jersey last summer. Although she defeated her opponent, Renee Richards, no one could have guessed that Beaven

was going through an emotional upheaval in her life, "so that win was very crucial. It helped me get my fighting spirit back. I pulled through three 3-set matches, and the event was such a big one. You can't imagine that I had to overcome so much."

Many months later, she is no longer facing such an emotional bout as an inner struggle to rekindle her fighting spirit back into the game. Battling younger challengers, the 28-year-old needs the concentration and steadiness to rescue her out of a temporary slump.

"Did you know how I celebrated my 28th birthday? I lost to Val Ziegenfuss



at the Avon Futures in San Diego in the very first round! How about that for a present?"

Unfortunately, the pattern was repeated at the Avon event of Northern California, when teenage whiz, Lisa Kearnly downed the more experienced player. "Lisa played well," stresses Lindsey. "I hadn't concentrated on my game. Actually I started thinking, 'If I were her, I would be doing this and that against me.' Sure enough she did!"

These two Avon duels brought mixed emotions as Lindsey couldn't help remembering that last year she won the futures of Jacksonville. So why then was she off to such a slow start this season? "I find I share a common problem with many players — a good imagination. You begin to think of the next point or how you should have played this one, instead of giving full force to the game."

One thing's for sure. When it comes to concentrating on different styles, Beaven is recognized as one of the most intellectual and observant players on any tournament circuit. This may be due in part to the precariously fortunate situation of sitting between Apples teammates Billie Jean King and Virginia Wade. Lindsey's had time to scrutinize both tennis greats and learn from them since much of her World Team Tennis experience has unfortunately been relegated to bench warming.

Watching the Futures contestants, for instance, she is quick to note the differences between those players and the ones on the Virginia Slims. "The Slims people will hit the ball a fraction of a second *earlier* than these girls. Watch Billie Jean the way I have. She's all over the ball. Whenever we rally, I'm so amazed that the ball comes back so quickly! Also, note the way the less experienced players seem to position themselves as much as 10 feet *behind* the baseline. You'd never catch someone like Virginia Wade standing there, let me tell you!"

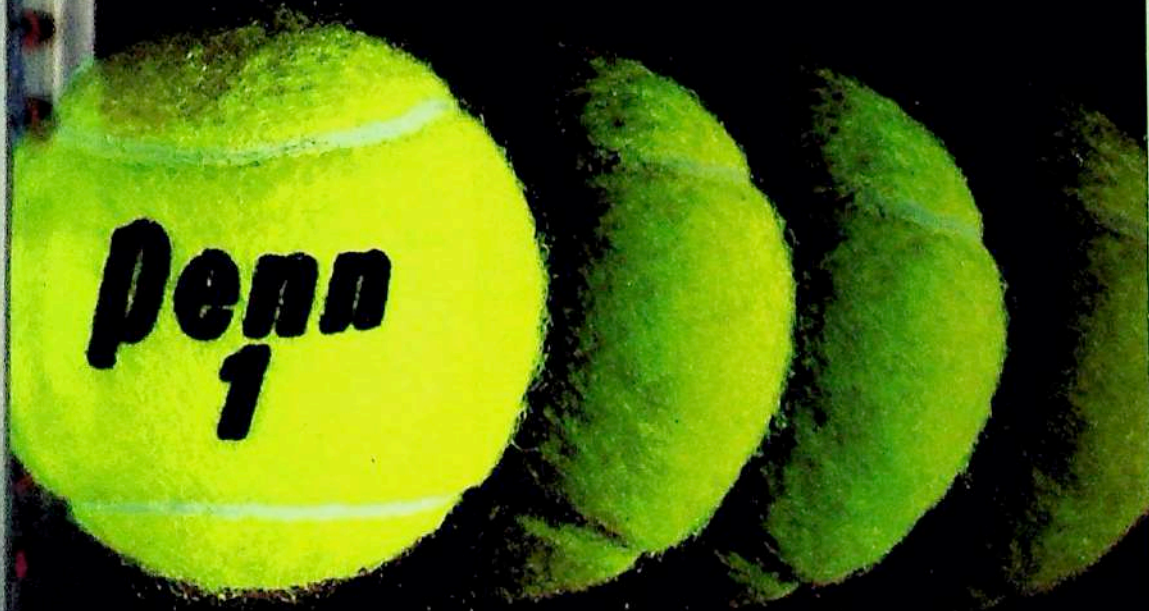
So while perfecting new techniques and smoothing out old ones, Lindsey is beginning to give some thought beyond a professional year-round tennis career. She's turned down offers to coach at two prestigious Ivy League universities — Princeton and Yale, because "I'm still not ready to let go of tennis just yet," yet admits she would like one day to combine sports with academia. "I could relate to that, because I went through it. Sometimes I think it would be nice to go back to school again. Everything's so safe there."

In the meantime she seems to be in no hurry to make any rash decisions. About the only impetuous side to her personality seems to be her talent to amuse her friends with her wry sense of humor. Wearing spaced-out eye glasses or cracking jokes, the articulate Britisher is polished, open, and easy going.

Admitting that while many of her goals have been realized, one has passed with much joy. "At 14 I wanted to be . . . 27. Yes, 27. It was the *best year* of my life, because I knew things would be developed and unknotted by that time."

Even now this perky brunette maintains a bubbly outlook on life. With her devotion to the tennis world, and the solace from the Unitarian Church, Beaven will keep on playing to awaken the fighting drive. Judging from her determination, Princeton and Yale will just have to wait. ○

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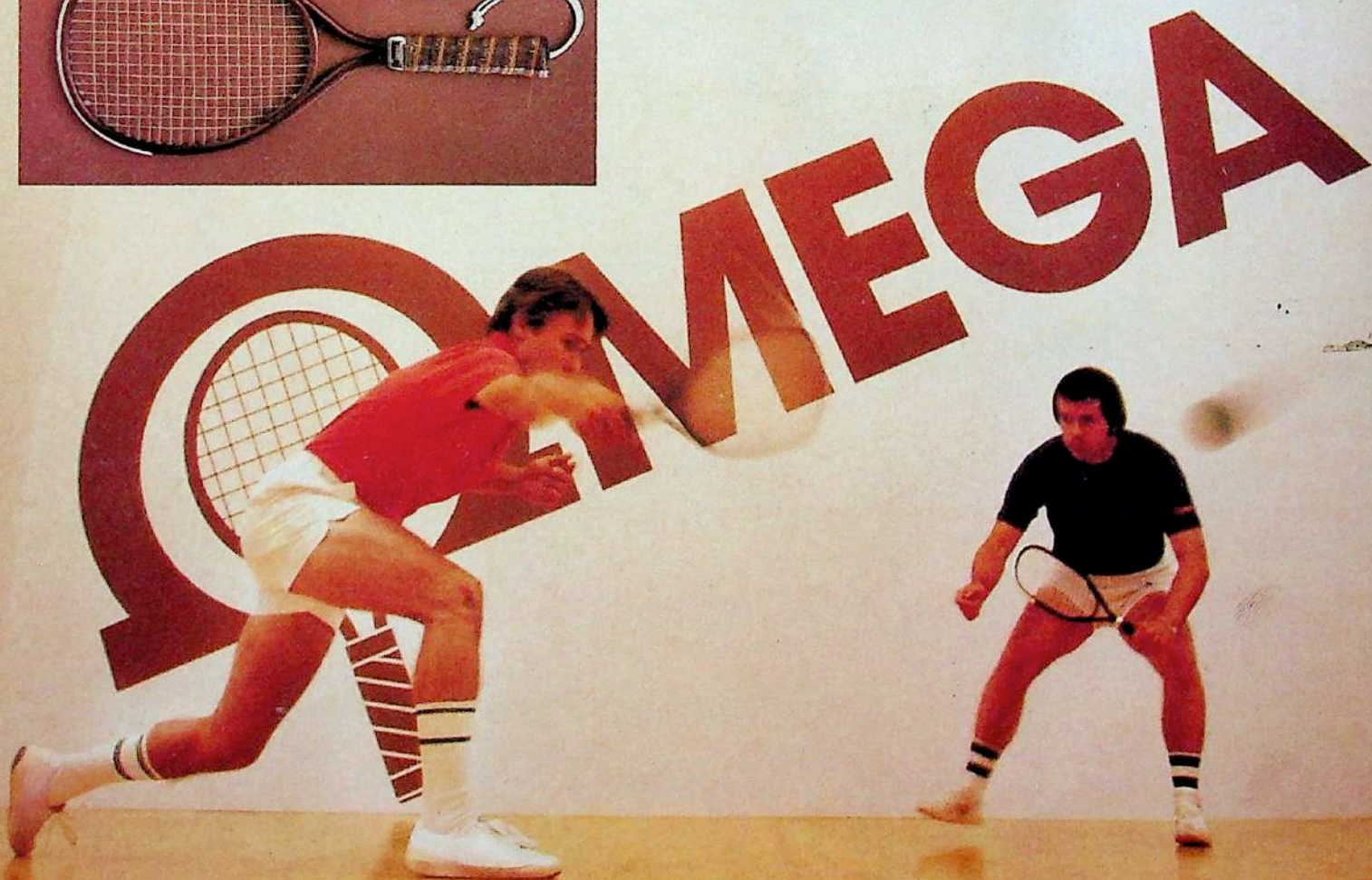
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