

National Racquetball®

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Wheelchair Winners

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In Oklahoma, Oregon

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Off The Wall

by Joe Massarelli



More on Glass!

Well, the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association show came and went in Atlanta with no portable racquetball court on display. And, the same was true of the recently concluded International Racquet Sports Association (IRSA) convention held in Dallas. But it wasn't for lack of interest by the racquetball community.

To the contrary, Chuck Leve's last few commentaries reported Joe Garcia's attempts to develop interest in the portable court at the manufacturer level, while at the same time trying to raise some money to get a demonstration court built for the two industry shows just mentioned.

Garcia approached the Racquetball Manufacturers Association (RMA) to see if this organization could muster support and funding for his demonstration court concept. RMA executive director, Gail Beaton, reports that the Association is participating in the funding, but the actual amount to be contributed by the RMA had not been finalized as of this writing.

However, according to our most recent conversation with Garcia, it appears that he has already raised enough money (including RMA's contribution) to put things in motion. Specifically, he plans his first demonstration site in a Chicago suburb as early as the latter part of June.

Most likely, the court will be erected in a major shopping mall

where high visibility and high public interest and awareness are possible. Demonstration matches will include racquetball, wallyball, squash and handball. Demonstrating all four sports is possible because of a movable back wall.

While the prototype will feature only two glass walls, future modifications allow for more glass walls to enhance viewing capability. The accompanying artist's rendering illustrates the viewer po-



tential with an all glass-wall court. Further, the free-standing design offers excellent advertising and promotional opportunities for the many sponsors Garcia hopes to attract.

As a matter of fact, the initial viewing of the court to be erected in the Chicago area is for prospective sponsors rather than the public at large, according to Garcia.

Of course, the advertising and promotional opportunities are immeasurable, but more important

is the visibility and public awareness that will be generated for racquet sports, claims Garcia.

If everything goes as planned, there will be a four-city fall tour and a four-city winter tour, and ideally, a national championship for each racquet sport.

On another front, we were recently visited by Leon McGlockton of Superior Courts, Inc. located in Houston.

This firm is embarking on a different approach, and although it's not exactly new (Fiberesin Industries developed and marketed a modular court), the company plans to sell its modular court to high schools, park districts, recreational facilities, country clubs and hotel complexes throughout the country.

Utilizing an expanded polystyrene paneling system, the court will be completely free-standing and fully self-contained. The exterior wafer board looks

like stucco, the interior walls are fiberglass and the flooring is maple. The module even features air conditioning/heating and showers, lounge and lockers if desired. Internal lighting is standard.

A basic court can be erected for about \$65,000 on a concrete pad provided by the buyer. Glass courts are also available, but McGlockton guesses these to run about \$75,000 to \$80,000. His mission while in Clearwater was to meet with the local high school

(continued on page 28)

FEATURES

15 Cover Story

Wheelchair champions duel at Harmarville Open near Pittsburgh.

16 Drexler's Victory

Marci beats Caryn McKinney in California.

18 Harnett Takes Tulsa

Bret overcomes Yellen at MPACT Oklahoma tourney.

20 MCI Pro-Am in Beaverton

Another win for Bret Harnett.

22 Dave Peck Captures Houston

Wrap-up of Warren Finn Tournament.

24 On Top in Japan

Air Force Tech Sgt. McDonald is headed for Pacific AF tournament.

INSTRUCTION

26 Split Personality

Suggestions on improving your score.

34 Return-of-Serve

A "how to" guide for amateurs, intermediates and pros.

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Off The Wall
By Joe Massarelli | 11 | Passing Shots
By Norm Blum |
| 4 | Letters To The Editor | 12 | Off Court Fitness
By Jean Sauser |
| 6 | Association Roundup
By Jim Hiser,
Caryn McKinney &
Luke St. Onge | 30 | Products Showcase |
| 8 | What's The Call?
By Mike Arnolt | 33 | New Products |
| 10 | Canadian Report
By Sigmund Brouwer | 42 | Schedule Of Events |
| | | 43 | Rankings |

On the Cover: Wheelchair Champions (l to r) Jim Leatherman, Gary Baker and Chip Parmelly. Geno Bonetti standing.

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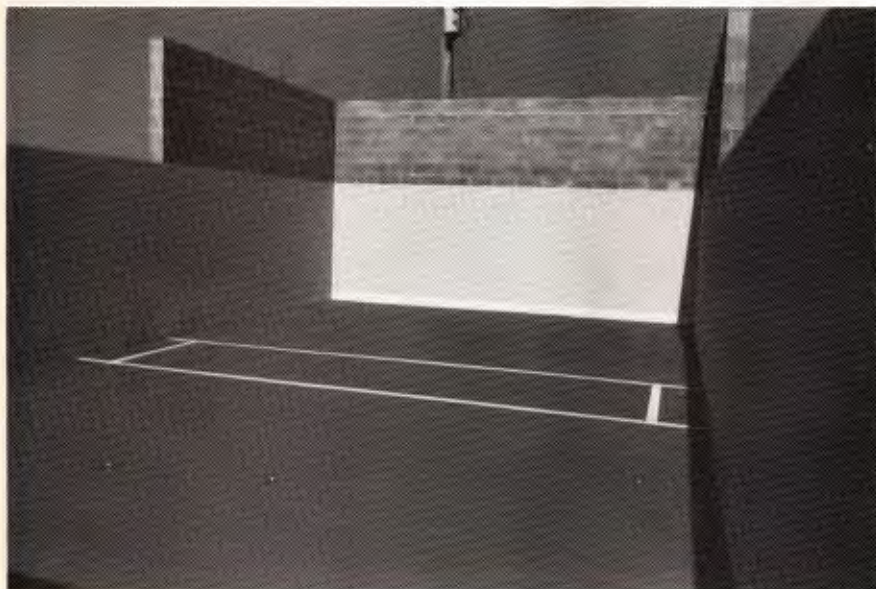
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A'ME

Letters To The Editor



Constructing a Court

I'm what you might call a racquetball enthusiast. My wife and I both play, and we have to drive 60 miles to the nearest court. I'm a farmer and in the winter when I'm not real busy I play as much as five times a week. Add my wife's two times a week and that's a lot of miles. My wife even asked me one day if racquetball had become a second occupation.

When I'm busy I don't have time to make the drive to play, so I designed an outdoor racquetball court. I've enclosed two pictures for you and thought I'd share my idea with other racquetball crazies.

The court is a standard size, the walls are made of 8 inch cement blocks. The front wall is about 13 ft. tall back to the front

service line. Then the walls drop down to about 8 ft. for the remaining part of the court. The floor is concrete with a 2 in. fall from front to back, and I left three blocks out of the backwall for drainage and sweeping.

I used tennis court paint and primer to give the floor some texture and coated the inside walls with white block sealer to give them some texture.

There's no ceiling so it's definitely a "shooters" court. The bounce from the walls and floor is excellent. I still need to get a door built and some wire around to catch those wild shots, but so far — you can't beat it! Material cost was less than \$2000.

**John and Diahn Campagna
Fowler, IN**

An International Issue

Congratulations to *National Racquetball* for your leadership role in the prevention of racquetball eye injuries in many articles and cover stories over the years and for so clearly delineating the issues concerning mandatory racquetball eye protection in your March cover story. Over the past decade, ophthalmologists have come to the realization that eye injuries in racquetball have reached epidemic proportions, with many injured players suffering permanent loss of sight in the injured eye. The sport has been carefully studied, and standards have been written in both Canada and the U.S. for eye protectors that will eliminate the vast majority of these preventable injuries.

Some manufacturers and players have complaints about eye protection, which we will try to address. As mentioned in the article, there are slight differences between the U.S. and Canadian standards. These exist because the standards committees have differences in views on the best means to test the products. However, most good protectors will pass both standards. It is a fact that Canada and the U.S. are two different countries with somewhat different laws and politics. It is inconvenient to test products twice, but for a multinational corporation that can expect to sell hundreds of thousands of eye protectors in each country, an outlay of several thousand dollars for proper testing and certification is not an unreasonable investment to verify that the products will give adequate protection.

A number of complaints have arisen from manufacturers whose products will not pass the standards. These manufacturers must understand that products advertised to reduce injuries must actually do so. It should be noted that no open (lensless) eyeguard will pass the standard, since even at relatively slow speeds, the ball deforms sufficiently to pass

(continued on page 9)



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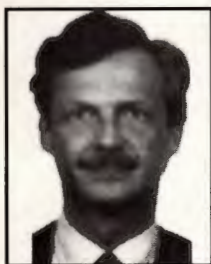
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Association Roundup



Jim Hiser



Caryn McKinney



Luke St. Onge

AARA

A Friend Moves On

by Luke St. Onge

Racquetball has lost a great friend. Recently, Greg Eveland, racquetball product manager for Diversified Products and president of the Racquetball Manufacturers Association, has chosen to move on to a career outside the sporting goods industry.

Greg, new to the industry in 1982 when Diversified Products bought the fledgling Leach Racquetball Company, took the time to research the marketplace as to where best to spend promotional monies.

After several meetings between the AARA and Greg, a long-term agreement was reached whereby necessary funding would be made available to the AARA to allow the association to grow and properly represent the amateur player in the sporting world. Greg will be sorely missed.

Having just returned from the U.S. National Masters Invitational Tournament held recently in Dallas, I would like to share some thoughts with you. The tournament was an extremely positive experience and speaks well of the future of the sport. At no other racquetball gathering is the axiom that racquetball is a lifetime sport more in evidence. Some 170 elite players squared off in a round robin format in age group divisions ranging from 45 to 74 years of age.

One of the highlights of the

Master Banquet was the recognition of Luzell Wilde, of Utah, who is the first AARA member to be recognized by the association as a Grand Masters National Champion by exceeding 2,100 gold points on the national amateur rankings. Luzell has numerous national titles, but the GMNR and the USA jacket will definitely have a special place in his sporting career. The Masters are a very special group, and our sport is fortunate to have such an exclusive group. ○

RMA

Refs and Judges

by Jim Hiser

Recently there have been numerous articles and letters to the editor regarding the problems of referees and line judges. Although the controversy exists both at the amateur and professional levels, the visibility of the RMA tour seems to have magnified the problem.

No doubt the tour has been plagued in the past with inefficient referees and poor player conduct. Not surprisingly, the former often lends to the latter and ironically vice versa. The honesty and court behavior of the players often determines the efficiency of the officiating.

How many times have you observed or heard of a problem when Ruben Gonzalez or Bret Harnett are playing? The recent change initiated by the Inter-

national Mens Professional Racquetball Organization (IMPRO), whereby all losers must referee up to the quarter finals, has gone a long way toward eliminating problems. The players, rightfully or not, have a greater respect for their fellow players as compared to an unknown club player. The familiarity of the professional player with the speed and rules of the game often reduces the possibility of conflict.

From the quarter finals on, the players themselves pay for authorized referees to officiate the matches. The funds come from the IMPRO treasury and the referee is usually selected from the pool of professionals who have lost in earlier rounds.

Line judges are a greater problem. Quite often professional players are not available and local players are used. The majority of matches have no problems but occasionally the unfamiliarity of the individuals with the speed and movement of players causes line judges to be replaced.

Although I agree this is not an ideal situation, until enough funds are available to pay, select and test a pool of line judges prior to the event, this problem will probably continue to exist.

In an attempt to reduce the problem the professional players will be utilizing a line judge light system designed by Roy Crowley of Tulsa, OK. Each line judge will hold a remote control switch which activates a red light for "disagree", green light for "agree" and no light for "no call". The referee only has to look at a control box to determine the appeal. This system not only speeds up the appeal process but reduces the interaction between player

and line judge. To further eliminate problems, the rule of "any appeal made to the line judge is automatically void" will receive greater enforcement.

The reduction of the number of appeals permitted has also been discussed but has not as yet been accepted by the players.

The professional game is different from the amateur game. National rankings, sizeable prize monies, endorsements, bonuses as well as one's livelihood, are often on the line. A wrong call or inexperienced official can sometimes cost players thousands of dollars. The players have a right to be concerned and demand the best!

As other parts of the professional game have evolved so will the officiating dilemma. The players, tournament directors and national governing bodies understand the problems and will continue to make improvements. ○

WPRA

Corporate Memberships

by Caryn McKinney

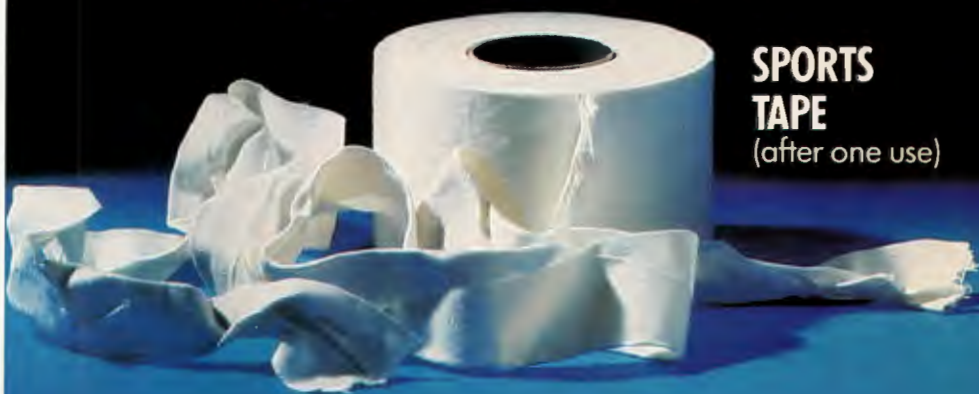
As many of you may be aware, running a racquetball/health facility is a difficult business. There is a variety of competition and plenty of it, constant decisions about staffing, standard and special programs, equipment, amenities to offer, etc. The WPRA views these problems as obstacles which we can help club owners remove. We are interested in assisting each facility to become more profitable and, therefore, have more funds available for special projects and expansion. Obviously, we'd like one of those special projects to be a WPRA tour event or professional seminar.

WPRA staff consultants have identified many of these ongoing needs and designed a corporate membership to assist every club owner. Founding club members will receive the following:

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- official WPRA banner,

(continued on page 41)

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What's The Call

by Michael Arnolt



Q: "A" level players who referee appear to call a hinder on any incidental contact, yet when they are playing a game they don't stop after casual contact. Just when contact is a hinder is unclear in the rules, particularly when there is contact on the follow-through. Can you simplify the rule? Am I correct that in matches without a ref only the hindered party can stop play?

— **Henry Grills, Palm Beach Shores, FL**

A: Henry, your questions and comments are thought-provoking. The rules certainly bear overhauling in areas, especially hinders and avoidable hinders. A solution, as I see it, is to use examples or provide a casebook along with the rulebook. This must be done keeping in mind your request to "simplify the rules". For now, I will say that most of your questions are covered in the *Guide to Referees*, a part of the AARA Referee Certification Program. On to your questions:

You are correct. In a match without a ref, it is only the hindered player — the one making or going to a position to make an offensive shot — who may stop play. The player must understand that the call is not an option call that may be made after completing a shot, but must be signaled before or at the moment of taking the shot.

Incidental contact, in a match with or without a ref, is not considered a hinder. The only time a ref or offensive player should stop play is when the player's shot obviously will be impeded, or because of safety. The decision which follows is whether the call

is a dead-ball hinder or avoidable hinder.

Contact on the follow-through normally will not stop play, unless there is a possible injury, or the offensive player was so shaken by making contact with the other player that he froze and failed to go after an obviously retrievable ball. When the player who is struck fails to retrieve the ball because of injury or otherwise, that shot generally will result in a point or loss of serve. An errant, wide, wild swing may result in follow-through contact and a dead-ball hinder.

Players in day to day matches, without a ref, could go a long way toward aiding play by calling avoidable hinders on themselves when unjustly making contact with the racquet or player, rather than force the offensive player into the position of replaying the rally.

Q: As an instructor, I get a number of the same questions. Those asked most often are: (1) What's the rule of thumb for calling a screen serve? (2) Is a serve that hits the back wall crotch good or bad? (3) Is the serve which goes into the gallery on the fly a fault, outserve or replayed? (4) Is a ball that passes between the legs of a player an automatic screen?

— **John Franks, Indianapolis, IN**

A: Thanks for the questions, John. Let's save the best, No. 1, for last.

No. 2 — It is called a crotch serve because it hit two surfaces simultaneously — floor and front wall, side wall and front wall, floor and back wall. That means it did

not hit the wall first. While a crotch serve to the front wall is considered bad (and results in loss of serve) because it did not hit the front wall first, a crotch serve to the back wall is good because it did not hit the back wall before touching the floor. The serve which hits the back wall first is long, and a fault serve.

No. 3 — The serve which goes out the back wall on the fly is not to be confused with the out-of-court ball during the rally. A served ball which goes into the gallery on the fly obviously would have struck the back wall, if it extended to the ceiling, and is a long serve.

No. 4 — The call of screen when the ball passes between the legs of a player is not automatic. If the players are close and the receiver obviously has no time to react or to see the ball, or chooses to hold up the shot, then call the screen. On the other hand, if the players are separated by such a distance that the offensive player appears to have a clear offensive shot, let play continue. When the play occurs during a league match or casual match, it is the offensive player's call or non-call. But remember, if you decide to take shot and miss it, you must live with it.

It's time for No. 1 — The screen serve dispute at least rivals, and probably surpasses, that of the avoidable hinder.

Some have said you should have clear view of the ball from the time it leaves the hand of the server. Marty Hogan wrote that you should be able to see the ball from the time it strikes the front wall and crosses the short line.

(continued on page 39)

Letters to the Editor

(continued from page 4)

through all open eyeguards thus far tested, and there have been many injuries to players wearing lensless eyeguards at the time of impact. Since the late 1970s, ophthalmologists have publicly announced that eye injuries were occurring with open eyeguards and the mechanism of penetration with the ball was absolutely proven in the early 1980s. We strongly suggest that no player should consider themselves to have reasonable eye protection with a lensless eyeguard and that manufacturers redesign (if possible) lensless eyeguards so that they will meet the minimal performance requirements of ASTM and/or CSA eye protector standards.

Some players will object to mandatory protective gear. However, the mandating of protective gear — when there is an unduly high risk of injury if readily available protection is not worn — is the only prudent course of action for any sport governing body. It is clearly the legal and moral responsibility of the sponsoring organization to see that the player is protected from predictable injury that is intrinsic to the very nature of the sport. No high school, collegiate or professional football player would be permitted to play without a certified helmet.

Eye injuries are intrinsic to racquetball and the injuries often have long lasting adverse effects on the injured player. The player can be assured of reducing the eye injury risk to a very small percentage by wearing eyeguards that pass the CSA or ASTM standards.

Use of effective eyeguards should add to the enjoyment of racquetball by greatly reducing the possibility that a game could become the cause of pain and loss of function.

Paul F. Vinger, M.D.
Chairman, American Society for Testing Materials, subcommittee for racket sport eye protectors

Michael Easterbrook, M.D.
Chairman, Canadian Standards Association, task force for racket sport eye protectors

(continued on page 28)

Q. and A. on Jock Straps



Q. What can happen if I don't wear a Jock Strap?

A. You can rupture or tear your groin muscles, causing rapid swelling, intense pain and, in some instances, irreversible damage.

Q. Don't my gym shorts and briefs provide the support I need?

A. No. Products such as gym shorts and briefs do not provide upward support and lifting action to the groin area. This is critically important for protection when exercising.

Q. Who has to wear a Jock?

A. All men involved in any type of exercise or sport are exposed to strain and tension in the groin that can result from sudden and strenuous physical activity. It is especially important for the young and athletic to wear a jock and develop the right habits, before something happens.

Q. Has there been any improvement in the design of Jocks?

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Canadian Report

by Sigmund Brouwer



Don't Cut Off Your Noses!

Is there anything about your face you would change?

Me, I'd like a Mel Gibson chin. In Michigan, my doubles partner laments he has more face to wash each day, and less hair to comb. Wayne, my friend in Alberta, still looks twice in a mirror to find his mustache.

But no matter how far short your face is from perfection, could you get angry enough to take a pair of garden shears and clip off your nose just "to serve your face right"?

Fifty-three people on the Canadian Professional Racquetball Organization (CPRO) mailing list have been asked to do just that. Lindsay Myers, CPRO president, sent them all a letter to "gather support for the option chosen by the members in Vancouver".

That option is a boycott of the Canadian Nationals to be held in May of this year.

The issue began with the Canadian Racquetball Association's (CRA) decision to cancel the CPRO stop at the nationals.

CRA did that to maintain their amateur racquetball. Their national team is impressive in international competition. The team, and all amateur racquetball in Canada, receives considerable support from the government through Sport Canada, which funds all recognized amateur sports north of the border.

Since amateur players can funnel prize money into a trust fund, the CRA legitimately feared its

national team players might put their best efforts into the professional draw, should it be presented alongside an amateur 'A' draw. The CRA did not want to crown an amateur champion who was not among the best amateurs in Canada (that is, not on the national team). Sport Canada might not understand, and at the very least, CRA's embarrassment would be painful.

So, no CPRO draw.

Nobody can blame CPRO for being upset. It was a difficult decision for the CRA, as good as it could be in the time and circumstance, and it hurt CPRO. But only determined nose-cutters would take that anger as far as a boycott.

A boycott will not change the CRA decision. And, if it won't accomplish anything, why do it?

Three reasons were given in the letter. Reason #1 was to change the decision, which won't happen. Reason #2 was to force the CRA to choose national team members from the CPRO ranks, even if the top CPRO amateurs avoid the National Championships. But, gee, if the boycott didn't happen, reason two would not be necessary.

Reason #3 was laughable in its childishness. It asks for a boycott to give the CRA the option to "take their own course of action and select a sub-standard national team from a category which will be sorely crippled by lack of attendance on the part of all CPRO members".

Translated into playground English, it sounds like this: "If I can't play first base, I'm taking my ball and bat, and I'm going home. Nyah, nyah, nyah, nyah, nyah."

Racquetball doesn't need this. It is finally gaining credibility — especially through amateur racquetball with accomplishments like gold medals in World Championships. Half the top CPRO players are amateurs and others are applying.

Why try to destroy a positive aspect of the sport in Canada, simply because a difficult choice had to be made?

Nose-cutters should be warned: Cutting off a nose doesn't change any of the features that made you angry. Cutting off a nose does harm. (It makes breathing a task.)

The process of cutting off a nose hurts. (Do any of the amateurs in CPRO expect to enjoy a year away from the national team if that is what happens?)

By the time this column makes print, the boycott decision will probably have been made. With luck, and maturity, the players will not support a boycott — they'll look for positive action to solve their problems.

CPRO shouldn't expect to become heroes by boycotting the national championships, because if spite wins, CPRO should know one more thing about the nose-cutting process.

It looks terrible. ○

Passing Shots

by Norm Blum



A GOOD EYE-DEA — No one can accuse the **AARA Rules Committee** of avoiding controversial issues. Next month at the AARA National Singles Championship in Houston, two rule changes are expected to be adopted. Eyeguards could be mandatory equipment for all players in AARA-sanctioned tournaments and a screen serve will become a fault. Rules Commissioner **Mike Arnolt** says both proposals have a 75 percent chance of passing.

A SUPER IDEA — There were 3,500 exhibits at the recent sporting goods "Super Show" in Atlanta, but no one had the product almost every racquetballer could use. How many times have you called the office not wanting the powers that be to know you are at the club? Despite placing both hands over the mouth piece, the sounds of racquetballs are never muffled. How about a device that will alleviate that embarrassing problem? . . . Those terry cloth sweat bands might become obsolete. "Bury the terry" is the slogan of **Raceaid**, a fledgling company. The sweatband works by conduction, not absorption . . . Want to warm up before your racquetball game? Try **DP's** new treadmill. The treadmill can reach 15 miles per hour, which translates into several four-minute miles . . . **Gene Nikich** of **Unique Products** can't explain it, but says he has sold more eyeguards to military installations in the U.S. and Europe than the rest of the nation combined.

ORIGINAL NAMES NEEDED — I'm as guilty as the next guy, but there isn't too much thought given to naming tournaments. I've seen more Shootouts and Classics than I care to remember. One good

tournament name seen on a t-shirt: The "No Excuse" Racquetball Weekend Tournament . . . Don't you hate players who never give their opponents credit, but instead say how lousy they played? . . . Laurels to **Mike Yokell** of Memphis. The Holiday Inn executive produced a tournament shirt that didn't look like a billboard, yet had half a dozen or more sponsors printed on it. Both the players and sponsors were happy, and isn't that what it's all about? . . . The last men's pro stop in Chicago was in the early 1980s, but **Dave Negrete** hopes to land a tournament shortly.

BACK ON TOP? — What's happened to **Gregg Peck**? Last year he was in the semifinals and finals of most of the tournaments and had a shot at the No. 1 ranking. This year he lost early in a few tournaments and is not a factor for the top spot. "He plays in a lot of those \$1,000 tournaments in Texas and it takes a lot out of him," one pro said. His brother, **Dave**, has shown flashes of his old brilliance. The national champ a few years ago, **Dave** injured his leg three years ago and reports say that it still bothers him . . . The surprise of the year has to be **Ed Andrews**. Andrews, in his early 30s, has beaten both **Marty Hogan** and **Mike Yellen** in tournaments this year. "He was always capable of winning, but in the past he always seemed satisfied after he beat Marty in a tournament and then would lose the next round," one pro said . . . For the first time in several months, **Caryn McKinney** and **Lynn Adams** weren't in the finals of a women's tournament January 30-February 1 in California. There

(continued on page 44)

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Off Court Fitness

by Jean Sauser



No Diving Allowed

In 1977, I wrote an article for *National Racquetball* entitled, "Diving - Look Before You Leap". The message, that diving may be hazardous to your game as well as your health, needs to be changed and updated. The new message is that diving on a racquetball court is not only foolish, it simply should not be allowed.

One of the things that prompted me to change my thinking to a harder line, believe it or not, was not the Reagan administration. It was a picture that ran recently in a major newspaper here in Chicago. Depicted was a local player sailing through the air like Superman after a racquetball.

I understand that this photo was printed to catch the reader's eye. In fact, I've printed and posed for diving pictures myself. However, for the first time, it struck me that far from making racquetball appear more exciting, such photographs are really conveying the wrong message about our sport!

This wrong message struck me again when I thought about an incident I had witnessed at my club last fall. The paramedics arrived out of nowhere to cart one of our C players off to the hospital. It seems he had done a home plate slide into the back-hand sidewall.

"Did you get the ball?" I said, teasing him in an effort to boost his spirits as he lay helpless on the stretcher.

"No," he said in obvious disgust with himself, "and I'll tell you

what was even dumber."

"What?", I asked, sympathetically.

"It was the first point of the match!"

Two months later they took the cast off. In that time he missed his favorite winter tour-

The message, that diving may be hazardous to your game as well as your health, needs to be changed and updated. The new message is that diving on a racquetball court is not only foolish, it simply shouldn't be allowed.

nement, gained 10 pounds and got terribly out of shape. The only good news from the incident was that he swore off diving forever. It was a hard way to learn an easy lesson.

At the professional level of play, the best of the rest seldom dive. On a bad day, you might see a Hogan, Yellen or Adams on the floor, but they'll probably tell you it's only in desperation. For the most part, you'll only see these superstars on their feet. They know that what it really takes to win is making your shots, not flying through the air after your opponent's.

In the '70s I held a view of diving as a buyer beware situation. Nowadays, I view it as a nasty habit that begins with a player diving and having some beginner's luck. Let's say he gets the ball and wins the match. It's exciting at first, but as time goes by, he gradually converts himself into a retriever instead of a shooter.

Then he starts to miss more balls than he gets when he dives. After that, he begins to lose more matches than he wins. From there, he gets lazy on his feet, forgetting to move his legs into good position before making a shot.

Bumps and bruises begin to appear on his body as he tries to remedy his failing game with even more diving. He is now diving every other point. It's Russian Roulette all the way as he flirts with injury every time he steps on the court. The end result of all of this is that diving has just unraveled another poor soul's racquetball game.

If this scenario fits you, pay special attention to the last part of this updated diving story. Diving should not be allowed, by you. By this I mean that you should not allow yourself to do it. You'll save yourself from injury. Your footwork will improve along with your game. Best of all, we won't have to put another rule into the rule books to protect us from ourselves! ○

Wheelchair Competition A Showdown of Champions

by Pat Gerity

It's not often that a Level 3 racquetball tournament held in Pittsburgh can claim the privilege of having two national champions and a medal winner participate.

However, the 7th Annual Harmarville Open, held February 6, 7 & 8 in the Pittsburgh suburb, makes that claim and backs it up with the distinction of featuring, as its top event, a wheelchair racquetball competition. The two national champions were Chip Parmoley, the current national wheelchair champion from Southern California and Jim Leatherman of Baltimore, a former five-time national champion. The 1986 Wheelchair Novice silver medal winner, Gary Baker of West Virginia was also on hand to defend his 1986 Harmarville B championship.

It was Geno Bonetti, one of the founders of the Harmarville Open, who encouraged Baker to compete in the Nationals. Bonetti, along with fellow tournament committee members Vic Pascarella, manager of the Wallbanger Racquet Club and veteran tournament coordinator Pat Gerity, planned and put together a superb tournament this year.



Gary Baker, left, battles it out with Jim Leatherman.

This was the third year for the wheelchair event in the Harmarville Open. It has averaged 10 participants each year, but this year's event was especially exciting with the best wheelchair players in the country competing. In

addition, there were 273 entries in the 20 other events.

The finals of the wheelchair competition was a repeat of the 1986 national showdown between Parmoley and Leatherman. After a hard-fought, best of three match, Chip Parmoley once again came out on top, winning the Open Division.

There was also a Novice Division in the wheelchair event, which saw DeDe Fink take first place. Mark Jenkinson captured second, Becky Czerak took third and Joe Parson fourth place.

The success of the wheelchair event will guarantee the continuation of this popular event in future Harmarville Opens, and it should encourage other tournament directors to consider wheelchair competition. Beginning in 1988 Penn. State Singles will include a wheelchair division.

For more information, regarding AARA wheelchair events, contact: AARA, 815 N. Weber, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, or phone (303) 635-5396. ○



Tournament committee members Pat Gerity, left and Vic Pascarella.

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Drexler Wins WPRATourney in California

For the first time in 17 tournaments over the course of 2-1/2 years, Lynn Adams did not take home the winner's check at a women's professional stop. Instead it was Marci Drexler, 1985 Rookie of the Year, who edged Caryn McKinney in the finals, 11-4, 7-11, 6-11, 11-0, 11-4.

Drexler's first tour victory was only slightly tainted by the absence of Adams, who did not play because of an ankle injury. "I was disappointed I didn't get to play Lynn because I wanted to beat her," said Drexler. "Coming into the finals I wanted to serve well and be confident in my shots. I didn't play as well as I wanted to, but I made the shots that counted and ended the rallies when I needed to."

The finals of the Second Annual A'ME Pro-Am Racquetball Championships at the Los Caballeros Sports Complex in Fountain Valley, CA, marked the battle for the number two ranking. A year earlier McKinney earned the number three ranking at the same tournament and climbed to the second spot an event later. She held that ranking all season as she met Adams in the finals of every tournament last year.

That was the closest McKinney had come to winning a women's professional event. "I was up 2-1, but Marci served really well and I didn't put the ball away," said McKinney. "She hit a number of ace serves and put the ball away when I didn't get her out of the middle."

The Los Caballeros event had some unusual occurrences on the women's professional tour, which made it one of the most competitive tournaments in years. Two California qualifiers, Jackie Paraiso from San Diego and Mona Mook from Sacramento, worked their way to the semifinals.

McKinney was extended to four games by Paraiso, who had never gone beyond the first round in the few professional events she had entered. "I was really impressed with her improve-

ment. It was just phenomenal," said McKinney after the match. "Prior to seeing some of her earlier matches in this tournament, I wouldn't have expected I would have to work this hard."

Mona Mook, another qualifier ousted #4 seed Liz Alvarado in the round of 32 in four games on her way to a semifinal meeting with Drexler. In addition, only two players seeded in the top eight, McKinney and Drexler, were able to move past the second round of play.



Drexler and McKinney battling it out on the court.

Before this season, Drexler and McKinney had split victories in their two career meetings. But, Drexler handled McKinney in the Chicago semifinals on the way to her first championship match, which she lost to Adams.

The first game of the finals in the A'ME sponsored event was controlled by Drexler who hit an array of pinch shots from all over the court. "If Marci rolls them out I can't cover those things because I leave open all the other shots she can hit," McKinney said. "I'm not going to cover them unless she is leaving them up. The hardest shot to hit is the pinch, which she did very effectively when she needed to. I would rather let her hit the harder shot and cover the pass."

Drexler jumped out to a 5-1 lead on a forehand splat which was almost out of her reach. The 20-year-old San Diegan then ripped two serves to the backhand side which cracked out, and McKinney could not return. She finished the first game 11-4 on

(continued on page 40)

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MPACT Tulsa Open

Harnett Captures Oklahoma

Cliff Swain returned to Oklahoma in an effort to claim his third straight MPACT Tulsa Open. A combination of front wall glass and one of the game's most devastating serves made Swain the favorite to repeat again this year.

Although seeded fifth going into the tournament, Cliff was boosted by his reputation of previous years, strong support from local fans and extensive press and TV coverage.

Pre-tournament publicity and conversation already had Swain in a rematch with Marty Hogan for this year's title. What everyone failed to realize was Cliff had the most difficult draw of any the top 16 players. Not only was Egan Inoue the #17 seed, but he also possesses the fastest serve in racquetball.

Round of 32

The match began with Egan unleashing his racquet-like serves and easily capturing the first two games 11-5, 11-3. Swain fought

Bret Harnett reaches for a tough shot.



man of Chicago.

With Swain out of the competition, the conversation turned to 1986 National Champion Mike Yellen. This was Mike's first appearance in Tulsa and everyone knew of his dislike for front wall glass. Would Yellen be able to adjust and again make a second half surge for the National Championship?

Round of 16



Rubin Gonzalez gets ready as Brett Harnett slams the ball.

back, running games three and four, but could not continue his momentum into game five. Egan faced Cliff 5 out of the 11 points, winning the tiebreaker 11-4.

The other surprises in the round of 32 was the defeat of #16 seed Roger Harpersad of Canada by qualifier Charlie Nichols of Florida and the loss of #9 seed Mike Ray to Jack New-

Although Mike looked sluggish in his first round match against Bill Parodi of Texas, he began to adjust in his 16's match against Andy Gross of St. Louis, defeating Andy in four games.

Other round of 16 matches found Steve Lerner surprising Gregg Peck with an 11-4 tiebreaker win; Egan Inoue continuing to blast by Dave Peck; Jack

Newman outlasting Aaron Katz in four games; Marty Hogan outrunning Dan Obremski; Bret Harnett humbling Charlie Nichols in three straight and Ruben Gonzalez surviving a 2-1/2 hour marathon match against Jerry Hilecher 11-10, 9-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-8.

Gerry Price, who had survived an 11-9 tiebreaker victory over newly-retired Corey Brysman in the 32's, accepted an injury forfeit from the season's most improved player, Ed Andrews. Ed hurt his knee in the third game and was unable to continue.

Quarter Finals

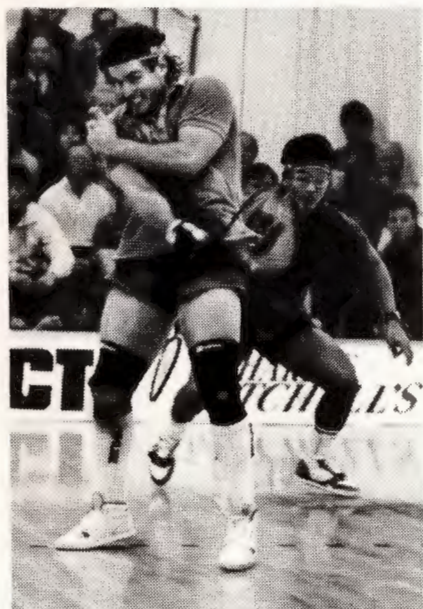
In the quarter finals, Yellen fought back from a two-game deficit to beat Steve Lerner 11-3 in the fifth. Steve couldn't miss in the two games, beating Mike 11-1 in the second game. Yellen switched to a forehand drive serve in the third game, which seemed to surprise Lerner. Yellen capitalized on Lerner's inability to make good service returns.

The Hogan/Newman quarter final had a little of everything. Hogan started by giving Jack a goose-egg in game one. Newman returned and rapidly ran off an 8-0 second game lead. Hogan became so frustrated he actually switched hands and played left-handed for the final point.

After the match Jack said he wanted to laugh but just tried to keep the ball in play so as not to

lose the point. Jack returned and won the third game 11-10 and went out to a quick 7-4 lead in the fourth.

Marty sometimes has difficulty concentrating and this often forces him to fight from behind. At 9-8, it looked as though Jack had the match won, with Marty diving all over the court. The momentum quickly changed as Newman missed an easy backhand pinch from the short line.



Dave Peck puts everything into his forehand as Egan Inoue keeps his eye on the ball.

Hogan won 11-9.

Ruben Gonzalez had little trouble with Gerry Price as Gerry suffered a back spasm early in game 2 and never recovered.

Bret Harnett was able to do what no one else could — return Egan Inoue's serve. Bret possesses the uncanny ability of returning almost perfect defensive ceiling balls from impossible positions. This forced Egan to deep court and neutralized his power. Harnett won in four games.

The Semifinals

Bret continued his dominance in the semi's, defeating Ruben Gonzalez 8,1 and 2. Bret's ability to continually put pressure on his opponent forced Ruben into a defensive game.

The Yellen and Hogan semifinal was a classic power versus control battle. Marty began game one with precise drive serves and strong cross-court passes. Marty

uncharacteristically also short-hopped Mike's lob serve forcing Mike to deep court. Marty won game one 11-6.

Marty's inability to get his first serve in forced him into Yellen's game for the remainder of the match. Mike's control of the ceiling game forced short returns which Yellen easily relobbed. Mike controlled the three remaining games 4, 8 and 1.

The Finals

In the finals Harnett went ahead to an early 7-2 lead. Mike quickly switched from a soft lob backhand serve to hard backhand drives along the right wall. Harnett attempted to rekill the drives with backhand splats but left the ball up in center court for Mike to rekill. Mike served out and won 11-7.

The next three games found Harnett going out to early leads in each game. The scenario of Harnett trying to kill from deep court and leaving Mike setups continued as Yellen came back from a 5-0 deficit in game 2 and 4-0 in game three. Fortunately for Harnett he began to hit unreturnable pinches and he won both game two and three 11-7. In game four Harnett continued his forehand splat barrage, easily winning 11-3. The victory moved Bret into solid position for the #1 ranking.

Mark Fairbairn and his organizing committee should be congratulated for hosting a first-class event. Only two months before, a major sponsor pulled out and it was questionable whether the Tulsa tournament would be held. With the support of the entire Tulsa racquetball community, especially Charlie Mitchell, a local restaurateur who provided the necessary financial support, the tournament was a success.

MPACT again continued their enthusiastic support of professional racquetball by sponsoring their second pro event of the season. Few tournaments receive such indepth and intensive media coverage as does the MPACT Open. This response is definitely a direct response to the energetic racquetball community within the Tulsa area. ○

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MCI Pro-Am Beaverton, Oregon

Harnett Takes Second in Row

The newly remodeled Griffith Athletic Park in Beaverton, OR once again hosted the nation's longest sanctioned professional event. With 50 professional players and more than 250 amateurs, this year's event was the largest in the tournament's history.

The 32s

Beaverton has a reputation for producing upsets, and this year was no exception. Seeds #10, #11, #12 and #17 all went down to defeat in the first round.

Dave Peck, who had defeated both Bret Harnett and Marty Hogan at the Houston Top Eight challenge the previous week, ran into hard-hitting David Gross from St. Louis who defeated him 11-9 in the fifth.

Number 11 seed, Jerry Hilecher, lost to persistent Aaron Embrey 11-6 in the tiebreaker. Jerry had played a tournament the week before and just ran out of energy in game five.

Number 12 seed, Aaron Katz, lost to the road-runner, Dolwayne Greene, in four. Aaron has steadily climbed in the rankings, starting as a qualifier in September, but could not contend with the speed and court coverage of Greene.

Egan Inoue could not get a first serve in, and when he did, it came off the backwall for an easy setup. Bill Sell capitalized on Egan's inconsistency, easily defeating Inoue in three games. The remaining matches went much as expected with the top seeds all advancing.

The 16s

Gregg Peck, Ruben Gonzalez and Mike Yellen defeated Aaron Embrey, David Gross and Bill Sell respectively in three straight games.

Ed Andrews renewed his world games rivalry with Roger Harripersad, defeating the Canadian 11-2 in game five.

Marty Hogan lost his first game to surprising "old new-

comer" Corey Brysman. Corey returned to the pro circuit the month before and had been playing some of his best racquetball ever. Hogan was able to squeak out game two 11-2 before finishing Brysman off in four games.

Cliff Swain ended his match with three aces to defeat persistent Dolwayne Greene 11-7 in the tiebreaker. Greene went ahead two games to one but was unable to contend with Swain's great drive serves.

Steve Lerner had little difficulty defeating struggling Mike Ray. After receiving last year's most improved player award, Mike has steadily dropped in rankings, only reaching the semifinals once in the 1986-87 season.

Bret Harnett edged out Gerry Price in four games. Harnett's tendency to "go for broke" with 39 ft. backhand splats paid off as he rolled out critical shots at game point in games two and three.

The Quarter Finals

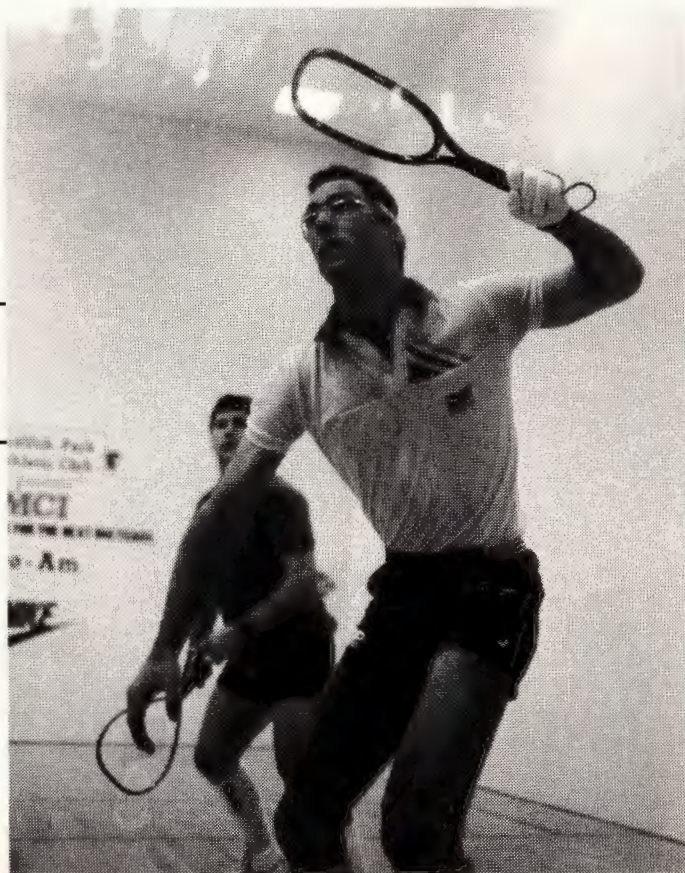
Gregg Peck finally broke his jinx of six quarter final losses by defeating Ed Andrews in game five 11-6. Andrew's inability in the tiebreaker to put away forehand pinches allowed Gregg to control center court.

Mike Yellen frustrated Ruben Gonzalez with precise wide-angle passes, giving him a tour of the court's deep corners. Although Ruben was able to win game two, the fatigue of constantly retrieving Yellen's passes caused Gonzalez to make numerous errors.

Bret Harnett continued his dominance by defeating Steve Lerner in four games. Again, it was Bret's power and awesome deep pinch rollouts that proved the difference.

The sportsmanship of the nation's #1 player also surfaced in game three. With the game tied 10-10, Steve hit a perfect backhand pinch. After a controversial

Bret Harnett
closeup — in
the finals in
Beaverton, OR.



skip call the play before, Steve jokingly asked the referee if "that was good?". Bret, also joking, said "I appeal". Surprisingly, the line judges both disagreed with the referees "good" call, indicating the shot skipped. Lerner

on Yellen's serve Gregg skipped relatively easy backhand shots. Yellen took an early 8-3 lead, which Gregg could not overcome. Yellen won 11-5.

Bret Harnett and Marty Hogan battled back and forth,

Mike Yellen trying to battle back, to no avail.



fell to the floor in astonishment as Bret smilingly went to the service box. The crowd was stunned, since the shot was obviously good. After a brief discussion, Bret handed the ball to Steve, accepting the side-out and good shot. Steve and the crowd congratulated Bret on his integrity. Bret eventually lost the game 11-10 but not the respect of the Beaverton crowd.

In the tournament's most exciting quarter finals match, Marty Hogan defeated Cliff Swain 11-10 in the tiebreaker. Marty lost the first two games as Cliff started out with three straight ace serves. Hogan responded by winning games three and four and took an early 6-0 lead in the tiebreaker. Cliff served his way back to a 10-8 lead, then came the turning point. With Marty trapped on the left side, Cliff skipped a mid-court backhand pinch. At the game's conclusion, both players were congratulated with a standing ovation from the capacity crowd.

Semifinals

In a seesaw battle, Gregg Peck and Mike Yellen alternated victories with Mike Yellen winning the serve in the tiebreaker with a one point advantage. Mike's consistency and refusal to make unforced errors proved the difference in game five. Four times

each winning one game at eight. Although the scores in games three and four (6 and 7) indicate an easy Harnett victory, each match was close, with both players exhibiting tremendous retrieving abilities. At one point Marty had the crowd standing in awe as he made four full width court dives to retrieve Harnett's passes. Both players ended the match exhausted with Harnett continuing to the finals.

The Finals

The first game of the MCI finals was some of the best racquetball seen all year. Both players capitalized on their strengths with Bret hitting deep court kills and Yellen cutting off errant Harnett passes with soft, short court pinches. It was soon evident game one might determine the match winner. At 10-10 Yellen served a skin-tight back wall forehand Z serve. With little option but to let the ball as hard as possible, Harnett did just that, with the ball hitting three walls before barely making the front wall. Yellen had a setup from two feet. Mike decided to hit a wide-angle pass which, fortunately for Bret, came off the back wall. Again Bret made a desperation get setting Mike up in center court. Uncharacteristically, Yellen again left the ball off the back

(continued on page 40)



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Warren Finn Tournament

Dave Peck Wins in Houston

by Simon Wiederman

Gourmet racquetball was served at the Houston Jewish Community Center February 5-8: a unique round robin tournament with the eight top ranked professionals invited to participate. The field consisted of #1 ranked Bret Harnett, #3 Marty Hogan, #5 Cliff Swain, #6 Gregg Peck, #7 Mike Ray and #8 Ruben Gonzalez, with #9 Dave Peck replacing #2 Mike Yellen, who was unable to attend because of a business commitment, and #19 Lance Gilliam replacing the injured #4 ranked Ed Andrews.

The eight players were divided into two divisions by ranking. The Blue Division included Harnett, Swain, Ray and Dave Peck; with Hogan, Gregg Peck, Gonzalez and Gilliam in the Red Division.

Day One

The first day's matches on Thursday saw Cliff Swain beat Dave Peck easily 11-8, 11-1 and 11-7. In the second match, Gregg Peck got off to a comfortable two-game lead, 11-7, 11-2, but could never get the third game as Lance Gilliam came back to win the last three games 11-7, 11-8 and 11-4. Bret Harnett showed why he is ranked #1 by overwhelming Mike Ray 5-11, 11-0, 11-1 and 11-0. The last match of the evening found Marty Hogan beating Ruben Gonzalez 11-6, 11-5 and 11-9.

Many of the viewers were sponsors and JCC members who had never witnessed professional racquetball before. They were amazed at the super level of play — how the pros made seemingly impossible 'gets', the fabulous shots, awesome power, and marvelous movements. The pros simply thrilled everyone and made many new racquetball fans.

Day Two

Friday's matches saw a form reversal as three of Thursday's losers came up with the winning



Dave Peck and Marty Hogan are all smiles after their grueling match.

touch, starting with a big upset by Dave Peck over Harnett in three games, 11-2, 11-10 and 11-9. It looked like the Dave Peck of his championship years and was a sign of things to come. Friday's second match had Gregg Peck take the measure of Gonzalez in three games, 11-1, 11-6, 11-8. Match 3 was won by Ray over Swain 11-10, 11-10, 11-7 as Ray's game was up a couple notches from the night before. The last match was the irrepressible Hogan beating a fast-rising Texan, Lance Gilliam.

Day Three

After two rounds going into Saturday's final round, everything was still up for grabs. The Blue Division saw Dave Peck, Harnett, Ray and Swain all tied with one win and one loss each. The Red Division had Hogan with two wins, Gregg Peck and Gilliam with one win and one loss apiece, and Gonzalez with no wins and two losses. The excitement was at a high pitch as the capacity crowd gathered for the first match between Dave Peck and Mike Ray. If Dave won, he would be one of

the finalists and win he did, as he continued to dominate with a convincing hard-fought three game victory, 11-9, 11-9, and 11-10.

The second match was the one everyone was waiting for — the feature, the glamour guys Marty Hogan and Gregg Peck going head to head. If Marty won, he would advance to the finals. If Gregg won and Gonzalez defeated Gilliam in the final match, Gregg would be brother Dave's opponent in the finals. However, should Gilliam defeat Gonzalez after Peck won, there would be a three-way tie for first between Dave Peck, Marty Hogan and Lance Gilliam and the tie would be broken by whichever player lost the least games.

The Peck-Hogan match lived up to its billing with both men playing outstanding racquetball. Peck won in five games 11-6, 11-8, 6-11, 6-11 and 11-8. So, it was down to the last match before the crowd would know the Red Division finalist. Gilliam took it, beating Gonzalez 11-7, 11-6 and 11-3.

The tiebreaker found Hogan
(continued on page 40)

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On Top of the Heap in Japan

by Sgt. John P. Smith

Eight years ago, Randolph McDonald's body sent him a clear message — quit playing basketball. His ankles and knees were shot after years of pounding up and down hardwood floors. Hard landings from thousands of rebounds had taken their toll.

At 28, McDonald found he was a man without a court.

That was before a friend at Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois introduced him to racquetball. While McDonald says, "Once I got used to running around in a box, I fell in love," it was a rocky affair at best.

There were elbow problems from an arm that wasn't used to swinging an 18-inch racquet. Then there were those players he met — the ones with what he calls "big heads". He met them one-by-one. And, they beat him one-by-one.

But that was in the beginning. Today, the 36-year-old technical sergeant, assigned with the 432nd Component Repair Squadron, finds himself on top of the racquetball heap at this base tucked away in northern Japan.

He captured the 1985 and 1986 Misawa Intramural Racquetball Championships and is headed for the Pacific Air Forces tournament slated for April. It's a tournament he was unable to compete in last year because of duty commitments.

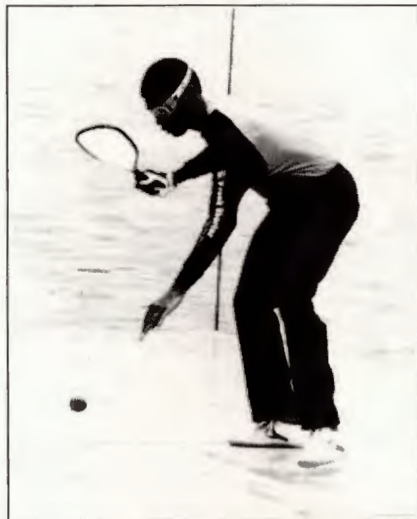
But while he has yet to face command level competition, McDonald, who grew up in Dallas, feels comfortable in his role as Misawa's racquetball ambassador.

"There are some very dynamic players here," he says. "We try to give each other the kind of competition that improves our games."

Off the court, McDonald has been instrumental in establishing the newly formed Misawa Racquetball Club. As club president, he says the club is designed to bring racquetball to the masses

here.

"Besides regular tournaments, we want to hold clinics for young people, families, anybody who wants to learn to play racquetball," McDonald says.



Practice is a key ingredient to McDonald's success (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Freda Caccavale).

The idea is to have something going on all the time. It's a job that has been made easier with the opening of nine courts in the base's new gym complex.

When McDonald isn't playing a match, he's preparing. More often than not, you'll find him in the weight room, exercising his arms and legs or taking aerobics classes with his wife, Karla.

"I like workouts. I like to sweat. I like to do things to improve my being."

But most of all he likes competition. He thrives on it. He has since that base championship three years ago at McClellan Air Force Base, California.

One game from the title, he was faced with the prospect of playing the one person he had never been able to beat.

McDonald went through his pre-game ritual, which includes praying, and then told himself: "I will win this one."

He remembers entering the cubicle and playing with a vengeance. He also remembers losing that first game.

"But the second game," he says, "there was some kind of spark inside me. I was ignited."

"Everything flowed in the right direction. I made all the right shots. It was the best game I've ever played."

Riding the crest, he went on to take the third game and the base title.

But the sweet taste of winning his first major championship will always have a slightly sour edge. "I feel like I won by default," he says. The best player on base was away on temporary duty at tournament time.

While winning is great, McDonald insists, it's the competition that comes first. "I enjoy the game. Use it to relieve stress. It's really a fun thing for me. It's not a situation where I have to win."

"Losing is part of the game. I understand that."

It's a part he is not too familiar with however. He credits his success to following two basic rules:

"Never panic. Take time to concentrate and never rush anything."

"Relax, no matter what the situation is. Whether it's a tight match or a loose match, you've got to be able to control yourself before you can control the ball."

It's a method that has worked more than 90 percent of the time.

It's also a method which has earned him the label of "slow starter" by many in the game. "Maybe I am," he says, "but that's just my way of relaxing and getting into the game." ○



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Assuming a Split-Personality: A Systematic Approach to Scoring Big

by Brad Kruger

Two years before I had even thought of turning pro, an aging court warrior handed me a piece of advice. It was a note, scratched onto a napkin in ballpoint, and was barely legible. It read:

"Server: Shoot aggressively/retrieve conservatively — Receiver: Retrieve aggressively/shoot conservatively."

He promised that if I followed these rules, my game would improve four or five points . . . overnight.

Of course, I didn't believe him. Four or five points overnight? C'mon. I figured him for the type to be attracted to rooms with white walls, and maybe not just racquetball courts.

But anything scratched onto a napkin in ballpoint deserves a try. So I tried to prove him wrong. And I couldn't. By changing my personality between serving and receiving, my scores improved.

The key to his advice lies hidden in racquetball's scoring system. Amazingly, only a handful of players, and most of the pros, take advantage of it.

What the pros and that handful realize is that making mistakes when serving does not affect the score. Making mistakes when receiving not only affects the score, but hurts you.

By taking advantage of that knowledge, your game can improve immensely, like the aging court warrior promised, overnight.

Think of your average game to fifteen. How many shots do you skip in the receiver's position? A rough average is six, maybe seven shots. Well, that's half a game right there . . . given away! And the only reason your score stays close to your opponent's is that he has been making the same errors. Cut out those errors, and watch your scores improve!

In order to do it overnight, begin thinking of yourself as two

different people as you play. And to understand why, you should know the secret behind racquetball's scoring card.

How the Score Is Affected Differently

Think of competitive racquetball as a race to 15 (put on your track shoes!). Whether pass shots are your specialty, or if you're a mean, lean killing machine, anything that raises your

Try to think of competitive racquetball as a race to 15. Whether pass shots are your specialty, or if you're a mean, lean killing machine, anything that raises your score closer to 15 is a friend; anything slowing it down is a foe.

score closer to 15 is a friend; anything slowing it down is a foe. The first person to reach that far-off number wins.

As server, if you win a rally, you make a point. But if you lose the rally, you do not lose a point. You change positions and become the receiver, and the scorecard is not affected.

The receiver is affected oppositely. If he wins the rally, the score does not change. He only changes positions and becomes server. And if he loses the rally, his opponent gains a point.

On the scorecard, then, at best, the server has a positive effect on his scorecard; that is, he wins a point. At worst, he has a neutral effect on his scorecard.

The receiver, at best, however, has only a neutral effect on his score. At worst, he loses a point.

On the scorecard, the server has everything to gain and nothing to lose. The receiver has nothing to gain and everything to lose.

This means that assuming two different roles — a split personality as it were — will help make the most of your respective positions as server or receiver.

Role of the Server "Shoot Aggressively/Retrieve Conservatively"

As server, you are never penalized on the scorecard, so you can afford to take chances. You can try low percentage shots, or zany pass shots, because if you miss, you lose nothing. If you hit your shots, you gain a point, and dramatic impact. Remember, you have everything to gain and nothing to lose. Lay

siege to the court, rush everything and open fire!

This, of course, doesn't mean trying a Charlie Brumfield special overhead-reverse-pinch-kill roll-out from 39 feet when you're a novice-level player. It just means you can go for shots that are at the edge of your ability level.

Retrieve conservatively? It means your priority is offense, aggressively making the point winning shots. Since not reaching a ball before it bounces twice doesn't hurt your score, don't kill yourself to get it. You can afford to ease up and not chase every ball until your legs drop off. Save your energy, you're going to need it as receiver.

Role of the Receiver "Retrieve Aggressively/Shoot Conservatively"

In the receiver's position, no matter how well you play, the scorecard will not change for your benefit. You are in the neutral or negative position, with everything to lose, and nothing to gain but a positional change. If you lose this rally, your opponent is one point closer to the end of that race to 15.

As receiver, fortify your po-

sition and safeguard your score. Your racquetball radar system should be flashing "defense, defense".

Shoot more conservatively because you can't afford to make mistakes. Hit only the shots that have the highest chance of winning. One pro used to chant, "I shall kill no ball before it's time".

This doesn't mean go into a defensive shell, and hit only defensive shots. That's a fast way to get shell-shocked! Go for your aggressive shots within your ability level, but try these only when you are sure you can hit them. Otherwise, hit a safer pass or ceiling ball and wait until the time is right for your final blow.

Pass when a kill is not easy, and go to the ceiling when a pass isn't easy.

Assume the role of the grappler, doing everything in your power to prevent a loss of rally. This means running hard. If your opponent's shot bounces twice before you return it to the front wall, he's a point closer to the end of the race, so retrieve every shot as if your life depended on it.

Even if the ball looks like it will bounce twice, chase after it. You'll surprise yourself. And if you're surprising yourself, how do you think your opponent will feel?

In essence, as receiver, force your opponent to earn his points. Don't give them away. Shoot conservatively and run down every ball you can.

(As a nice side benefit, larger and long term improvement on the scoreboard comes from the wear and tear on your opponents. With only the idea of retrieve and "keep the ball in play" in mind as receiver, you'll pick up many more shots than in previous matches. Most opponents search within their own game for an explanation, rather than credit your newfound speed. As a result, they try even harder to hit shots you cannot pick up, and make even more errors! That means more points for you!)

In Close Matches

In a close match, at around 14-14, the roles aren't as clearly defined. It is not unusual for the server to shift his playing role towards that of the receiver's.

At this time in the match, rallying a point is not the only important factor. Maintaining the position of server also becomes a priority. Nobody wants to throw that away. When the score is close, most servers will shoot a little less aggressively, and track down every ball possible.

But as server, it's your choice. You can try the tougher shots for the game winner, and missing doesn't cost you the match. Keep in mind, though, that a miss means a trip to the re-

ceiver's position . . . where the pressure gnaws at you.

An Advanced Tip

If you're an advanced player, feel confident to try zany shots, or shots that are out of character for your game . . . being careful, though, to do this only when you are serving.

For example, when serving, a power player might try hitting a few touch shots; a ceiling ball master might try a few rollouts — just

(continued on page 41)

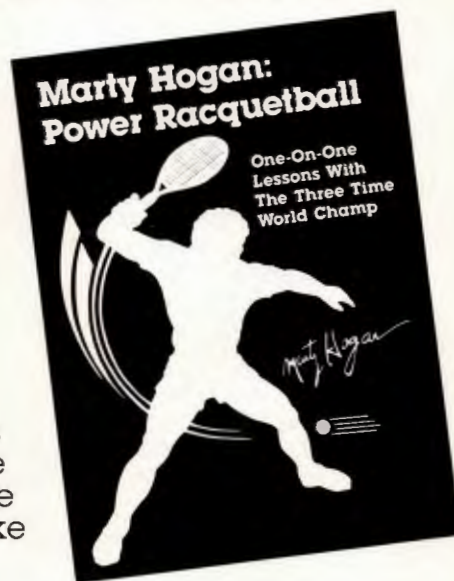
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Off the Wall

(continued from page 1)

board to determine their interest in possibly buying one or more courts for area high schools. Funding could be by bond issues.

While Superior Courts, Inc. is a relatively new firm, their marketing goals and direction certainly enhance what's happening elsewhere throughout the sport and within the industry.

Maybe the portable glass court will become a reality sooner than we anticipated.

Rest assured that this magazine will do everything in its power to promote the testing and evaluation of this concept.

As soon as definite dates are available we'll report them in the magazine and keep you posted. If any of you have the opportunity to take a look at the prototype near Chicago, write to us or give us a call and let us know your opinion of this latest development in our sport. ○

Letters to the Editor

(continued from page 9)

Get the Facts Straight

Normally, I find that *National Racquetball* reports factually and accurately, but I must take exception to Chuck Leve's First Serve column (February 1987, page 4) in which he says that "not a single company" would support financially the Joe Garcia portable demonstration court prototype. To the contrary, Ektelon underwrote its \$3,500 portion, as I believe is also the case with Head Racquet Sports. I am the vice chairman of the Racquetball Manufacturers Association (RMA) and I can tell you that this Association is planning to provide financial support as well.

I would like to know if IRSA is willing to support the portable court concept. The total burden should fall not only on the manufacturer, but should be shared by all those involved in the industry.

Mark Wentura
Vice Chairman RMA
Senior Product Manager, Ektelon

Editors Note: Leve claims that at the time he wrote his commentary, these were the facts presented in his conversation with Garcia. Chuck realizes that things change rapidly in this sport, and the magazine was already on press when these revelations came to light. So, as of this writing, here are the contributors. Ektelon, Head Racquet Sports, Leader, Esco International, Exerflex, Reese Industries, E.I. du Pont, Racquetball Manufacturers Association and Fiberesin Industries. And, again that's as of this writing.○

Instant Replay

I never get a chance to see the pros in action. The next best thing is having such matches video taped. Are matches ever video taped? If so, can you please inform me where they could be purchased.

Thank you.

P.J. Wong
Brooklyn, NY

Editor's Note: We are not aware of any professionally taped racquetball events other than the Ektelon Nationals which were aired on ESPN via a videotape after the Nationals were held in late April. Actually, because the pros play such a fast-paced game, the instant replays in slow motion proved to be most enjoyable. You can contact the program director at ESPN by calling (203) 584-8477 and say you want to see more racquetball!○

If you would like to write a letter to the editor, please send your comments to:
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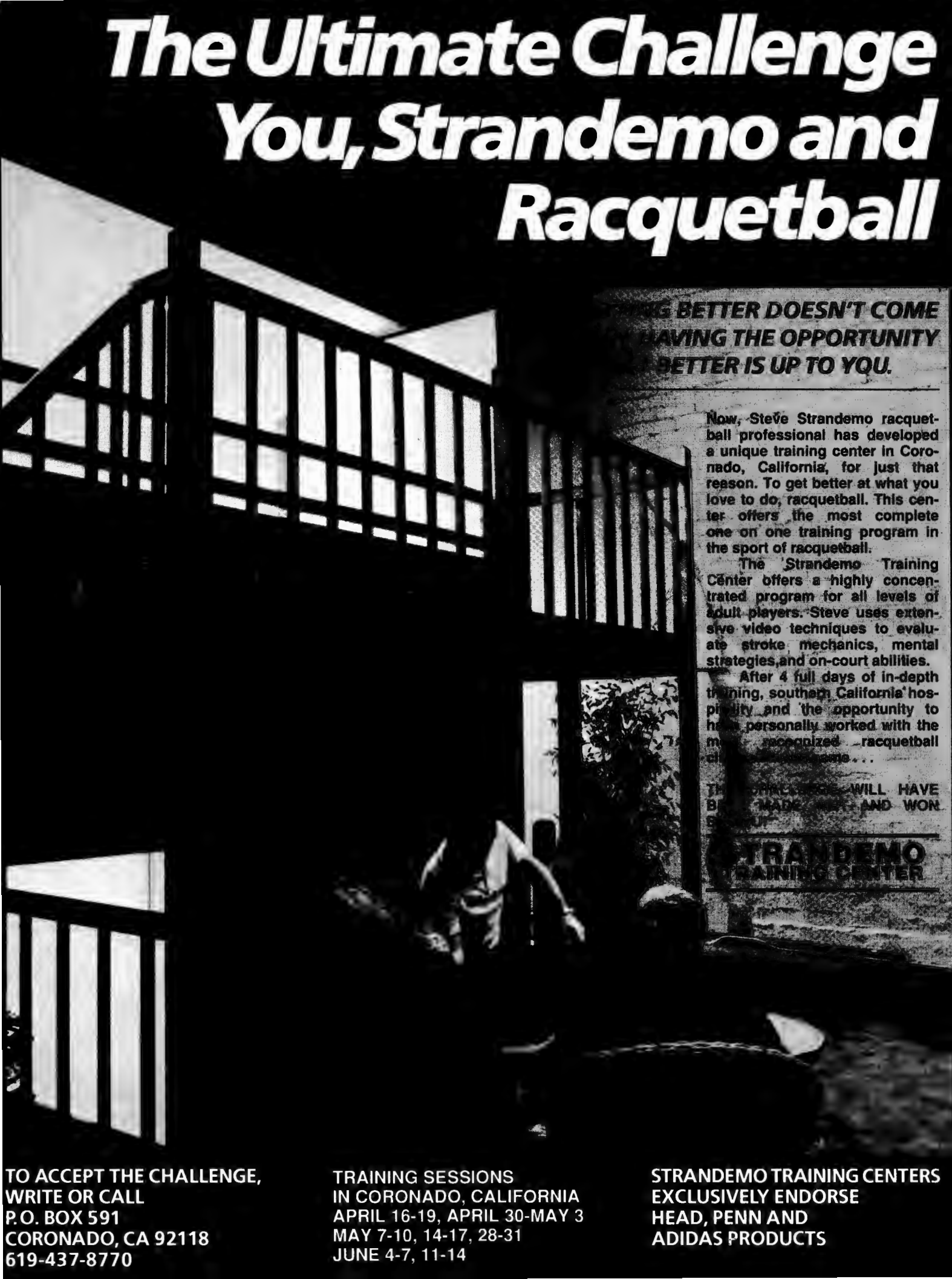


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Improving Your Return-of-Serve Style

by Lou Fabian

"I don't care where you serve," says Marty Hogan, "because I'm going to kill everything you serve." Hogan positions himself near the back wall and starts moving forward with the serve to play the serve on the run.

"Boy, am I going to hustle on this play," says Steve Strandemo. Steve is 6 ft. from the back wall, hunched over, with his legs spread wide. Strandemo believes he can move faster from a wide, upright stance.

Charlie Brumfield thinks the best strategy is to gamble one way or the other. Since 90 percent of all serves go to the backhand, move to the left a few times. Brumfield will move far to the left before the server even hits the ball. The server will then think twice and you may catch him/her off guard. Brumfield also believes it is better to be aced several times from incorrect guesses than to remain in center court and return none of the serves effectively.

These champion racquetball professionals have developed return-of-serve strategies which complement their style of play. However, a fundamental but often forgotten premise for students of racquetball is to practice and execute only techniques which are within their physical ability. Perhaps none of these positions is the best way for you to cover the ball. Only Marty Hogan can get away with his kill method. Steve Strandemo tries to cover the entire court, and Charlie Brumfield attempts to outguess the server. The less-experienced player will need to blend these styles into one which will be effective and consistent against different servers for themselves.

Remember, the serve is still the most powerful weapon in racquetball today. The advantages of a superior service game outweigh every other racquetball skill

in determining who wins. However, the return of serve is as significant as the serve in determining the outcome of a rally. If the all-powerful serve is where the game of racquetball is won, then the return of serve is where the game is lost.

Position, Anticipation, Concentration

To receive the serve, position

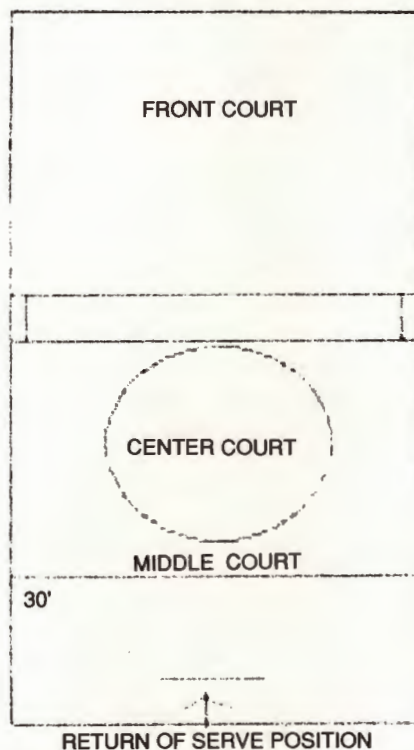


Diagram 1. Gain and maintain center court position.

yourself approximately 4 ft. from the back wall in the center of the court (diagram 1), do not lean to either side. Stay on your toes, knees slightly bent, in a crouch position. Your racquet should be in front of your body, and you should use a backhand grip with your wrist cocked. Maintain your body motion by swaying slightly; it is easier to start moving when you sway! Keep your eyes on the ball from the time the server enters the service box.

Anticipation, a practiced play,

and setting up for the return are most important to remember if you are going to return the serve. If an opponent crouches low, expect a drive of Z-serve; crouch and remain low while moving for the return. If a server stands erect, expect a lob serve. Rise out of your crouch position, and keep your racquet about waist-high. Your first movement should be toward where the ball has been served. Use a crossover step in either direction; this will provide you with a good hitting position when you return the ball. While you cross over, your shoulders should face the back wall. With your wrist cocked, bring your racquet back into the hitting position. You are now ready to hit a solid return.

Off the court, practice this technique. Try to make your mind blank, close your eyes and imagine the front wall of the court. Locate the ball on the front wall and gradually move closer towards the ball until you can see the seam. Look past this seam into the texture and crevices of the ball's surface; this technique will improve your ability to concentrate on the ball.

You might think mental practice techniques would be useless against the first-rate serve. Not true! The techniques can be very helpful to you in tournament play after only a few months of experimentation. The more alert you are mentally, the quicker and more accurate your reactions will become against any opponent. This concentration will help you to slow down your perception of time, giving you extra ability to see and place the ball accurately. By meeting the ball before it hits the sidewall and cutting off the angle from a serve, you gain a great advantage. Reaching center court before the server gains control of this area is very important for winning games. If either a top-flight amateur or a professional perfected this technique, a minor

revolution in the game of racquetball would take place. The long-standing advantage of the server would be reversed.

During your practice sessions, try to master specific returns for every serve imaginable. After you have anticipated what serve your opponent is going to hit, mentally select your return, and imagine yourself executing it perfectly.

Beginners:

Think of Center Court Control

Regardless of your level of play, your return of serve must have thought behind it. The overwhelming factor in winning is the achievement and maintenance of center court position (*see diagram 1*). Whether you accomplish this by a good serve, a well-placed return of serve, or by controlling center court throughout the rally, the player who controls center court will usually win the match.

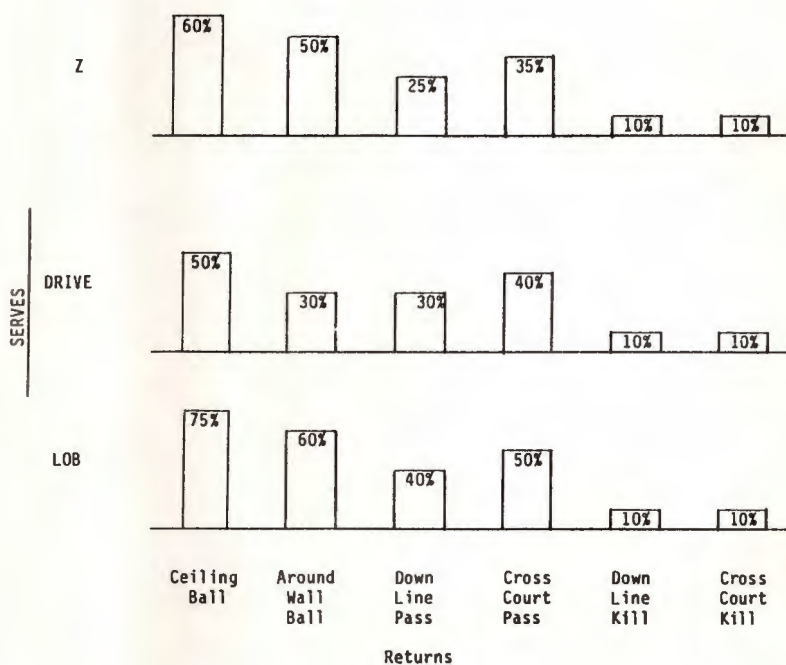
The receiver is located near the back wall while the server is near center court at the beginning of play. The purpose of the service return is to win the exchange of the serve. The most effective defensive shot is the ceiling ball. As Table A reveals, a ceiling ball is a high percentage shot even for the beginning player. Almost any serve has a large margin of error allowable, if you hit a decent ceiling ball. After you hit a ceiling ball return, move forward into the center court, and watch the server for a clue as to his/her next shot. React accordingly!

Table A represents the skill levels for club players. The percentage represents the expected rate of success if the shot is executed correctly. This does not mean you will win the rally, it means you will neutralize the serve.

Intermediate Players: Control the Rally

The intermediate player must develop a minimum of two serve returns for every serve. Determine which returns are more easily mastered and learn those first. Be versatile, but within your personal limitations. Attempt only shots that you have practiced and can execute well in game situations. Referring to Table B, the intermediate player can expect a higher percentage of success from these suggested returns: the ceiling ball,

Table A: Beginner Level
Percentage of success for various returns of different serves.



around-the-wall ball, down-the-line pass, and crosscourt passing shot. Shots with the largest margin for error which can be hit while moving, standing still, on and off balance are the shots which will finish the job with minimal risk. Remember, it is vitally important to practice these shots with different serves!

Another suggestion on the return of serve is to move up and play the ball offensively on the fly, or shot hop, as often as possible. Hit the passing shot either down-the-line or crosscourt. These shots can be anywhere from 6 in. to 3 ft. high, so a perfect shot is unnecessary. You need just enough to draw the opponent out of the middle so you can glide into center court. Do not let the ball trap you to one side or in the back corners. Remember, hit an aggressive return (pass shot) if the ball can be taken below the waist. Be aggressive because the pass must be hard enough to get past the server, but not so high that it comes off the back wall. Hit a ceiling ball or an around-the-wall shot if the ball must be taken above the waist. If nothing else seems to be working, em-

ploy the Third Law of Racquetball, keep your returns down-the-line.

Advanced Players: End the Rally with the Return of Serve

The advanced player's purpose on the return of serve should be to end the rally without losing points. An advanced player is not necessarily a player who attempts to kill the ball every time. The advanced player can vary from four to six returns, both offensive and defensive, from any serve. Even more important, the advanced player is wise enough to know his limitations.

Divide your body into hitting zones to learn your specific capabilities. By playing the ball from the knees down, you should be capable of hitting any defensive shot, any passing shot, and a good percentage (50 percent) of pass/kills. From waist level, defensive balls have a high percentage, and passing shots are still a good bet, but the overall success in kill shot attempts drops. Above chest level, defensive balls have a very high percentage, pass shots become mid-to-low percentage, and kill shots become very low

(continued on next page)

percentage. Therefore, you must learn not to beat yourself when trying to control the center court.

Table C should be further interpreted to reflect the height of the ball the receiver is about to return. Lob and Z-lob serves are chest level serves, Z's and jams are waist level serves, while drives are knee level and below. For example, with the ball in the high contact zone (lob serve), the advanced player can only depend on a kill shot on two-out-of-ten attempts — not an acceptable level of success. The ceiling ball, on the other hand, is equally effective in gaining center court and works eight-out-of-ten times.

Observe the server's tendencies. The server may telegraph play intentions, so have a friend observe the match while you concentrate on the ball. If possible, watch the opponent in an earlier match. Where does the server move after the serve? Some players will give up the first five points while watching the opponent's tendencies. With this information, they will hit serve returns which exploit these tendencies later (*diagrams 2-5*).

Practice each serve return from the same serve. For example, on the Z-serve, cut the ball off before 34 ft. on the side wall. Return down-the-line or crosscourt according to which

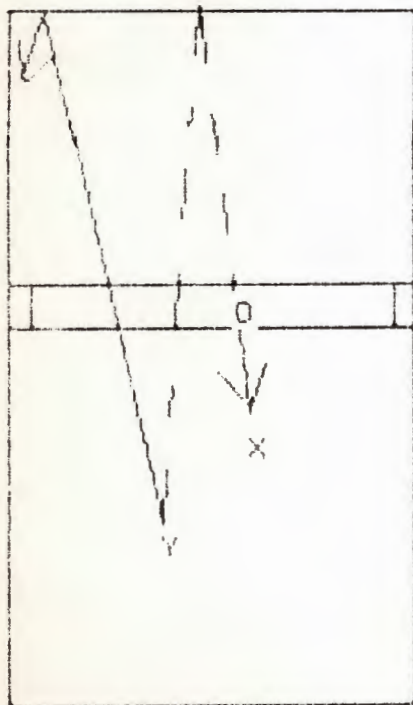
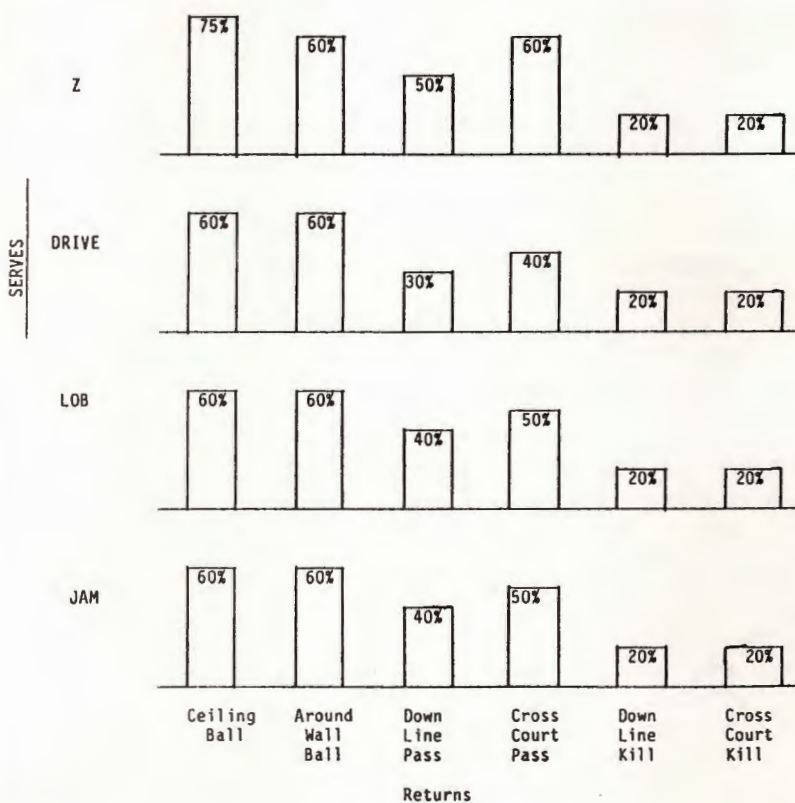


Diagram 2. Straight kill.

Table B: Intermediate Level
Percentage of success for various returns of different serves.



direction the server turns. A right-handed server hits the Z and turns with the serve, so cut the ball off before the side wall, and return the serve down-the-line (*diagram 6*). If the server turns to the left, away from the ball on the serve, cut the ball off before it reaches the side wall, and hit your return crosscourt (*diagram 7*). Hit a ceiling ball if you can't cut the ball off. If the serve is going to hit the back wall, follow it until it drops into a high percentage zone for you. Use this information about the server, and the specific serve to determine the best return of serve possible.

Teaching Professionals: Guard Against Common Errors

Because the return of serve is the most difficult phase of racquetball to learn, your patience can be sorely tested. When frustration mounts, confidence suffers and poor execution follows. Indecision, poor shot selection,

and attempting poorly practiced shots are other factors contributing to bad serve returns. The teaching pro should emphasize these basics: Stay with shots you know best, and don't change your mind in mid-serve. Don't look back! Concentrate on the approaching serve, and execute good returns.

What to do With Each Serve

The following suggestions are for practice returns based on different types of serves, and solutions to problems students may encounter.

Drive Serve

The drive serve, the most popular serve in racquetball, is a power serve which can be accurately controlled by the server. It is senseless to think you can return most drive serves offensively. Many professional racquetball players return the drive serve to the ceiling unless the ball is

poorly served. As the charts indicate, the ceiling ball has an unusually high percentage return for all levels of play.

A good server can disguise the serve so you may not have time to react if you are watching the ball.

Anticipate! Look through the ball to the front wall if you are having difficulty picking up the drive serve when the server is in the middle of the service box. If you see the ball hit the front wall, the ball is coming to the right side. If you cannot see the ball hit the front wall, the ball is going to the left side.

A little-known, but effective, technique employed by several highly ranked pros is overplaying the forehand side of the court. This does not mean playing out-of-position, but rather watching for the serve to come to the forehand side, then shooting a

straight or crosscourt kill. The server will become wary of serving to your forehand. Predictably, the rest of the serves will come to the backhand. The receiver now plays the backhand side by going to the ceiling, unless the serve is hit poorly or comes off the back wall.

For example, the receiver is right-handed. The server hits a drive serve which caroms off the side wall toward the middle. The receiver should either switch from backhand to forehand grip and shoot it to the left front corner, or keep the backhand grip and hit the ball crosscorner. Drive serves off the back wall should be shot straight into the front wall. As you gain confidence, you can anticipate the backhand serve, move as the ball is served, and shoot more offensive shots.

Many pros position for the drive serve, playing to hit the

crack between the side and back walls. They are then ready with short, quick backhand strokes which keep the ball in play if the serve hits the crack. If the ball hits two walls, they turn around with their forehand for the easy kill.

Lob Serve

The lob serve is the next most widely used serve in racquetball: it is best used against the blaster or the player who shoots everything. This serve is slow-paced and does not generate low returns. The only effective, aggressive return of a lob is to short hop or hit the ball out of mid air for a down-the-line passing/kill shot. This is a difficult return to execute. Cutting off a lob on the fly or shot-hop will force the server back faster without time to set up, allowing the receiver time to move into center court. Choose a spot behind the hash mark to attempt the cutoff, either a short hop or fly. Turn sideways, use a short stroke, put the ball down-the-line, and move to center court.

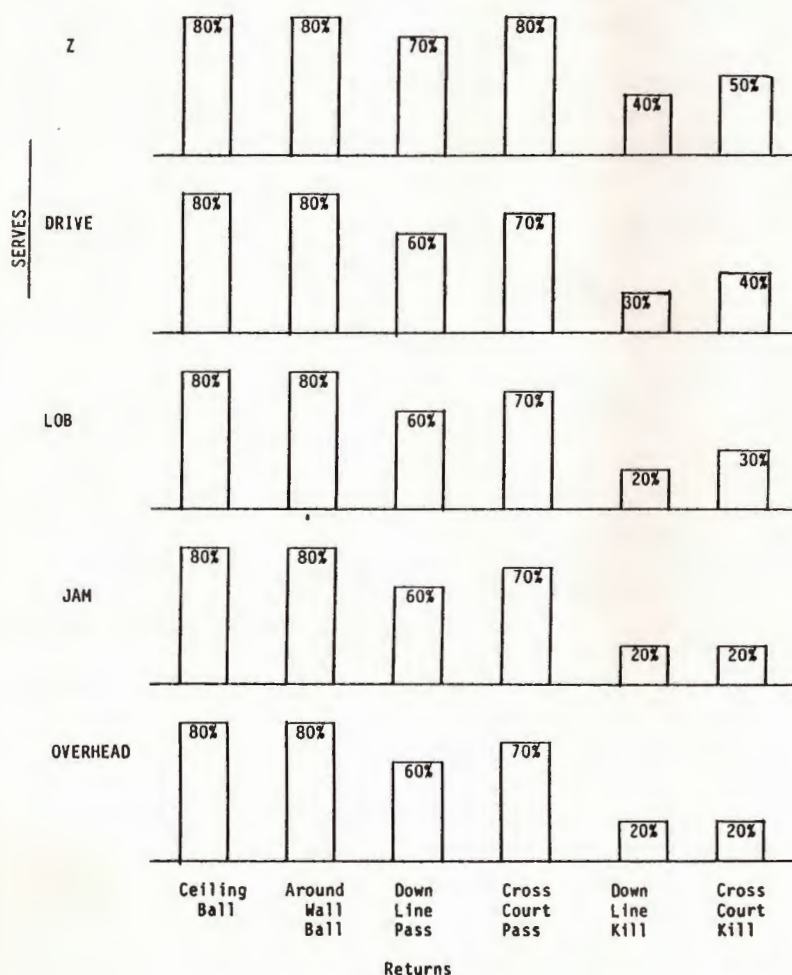
Some players advocate the crosscourt pass in this situation because of its easier execution. The crosscourt pass is directed to your opponent's forehand and is easier for the server to cover. Do not hesitate while you are moving in. Hit a firm shot, then glide into center court. Do not worry about a hinder! The server must give ample room for your return.

The better percentage return for most players is the well hit ceiling ball. Do not fool yourself into thinking you can kill a well hit lob serve from 38 ft., especially with the server in front of the service line waiting for an easy rekill. When the lob serve does carry off the back wall, make your opponent pay the price by permitting the ball to drop into a lower contact zone and hitting an aggressive offensive shot.

Z-Serve

The Z-serve requires greater judgment than either the drive or lob serve because of its speed, various angles, and heights the ball will take into the back court. The return of the Z-serve described earlier is an advanced

Table C: Advanced Level
Percentage of success for various returns of different serves.



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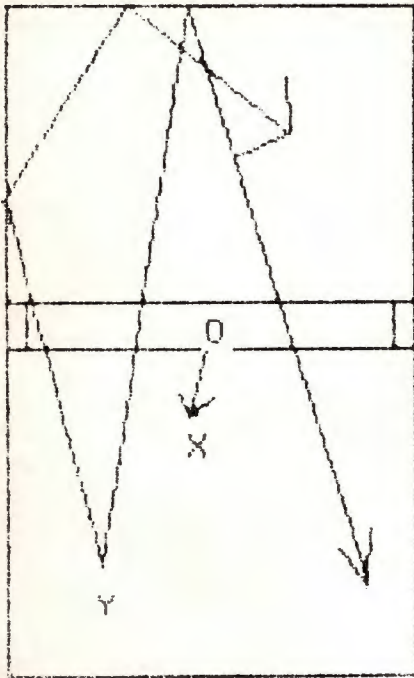


Diagram 3. Pinch or crosscourt pass.

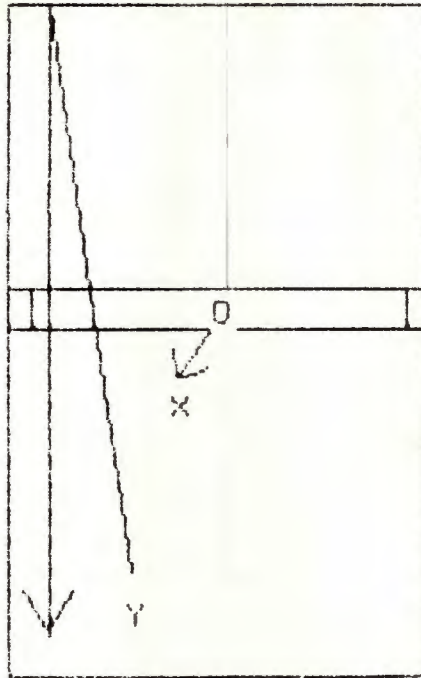


Diagram 4. Ceiling ball.

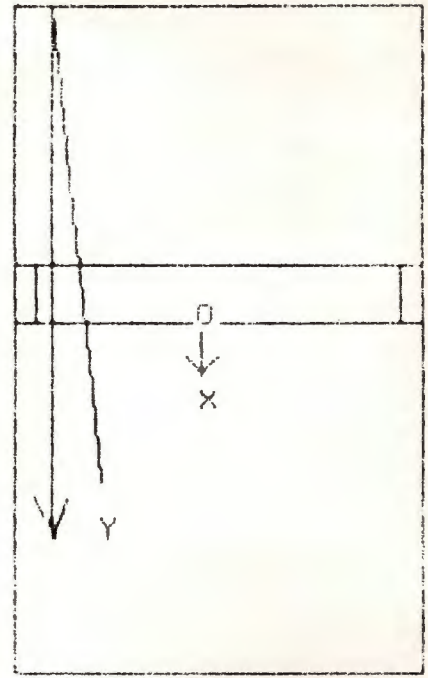


Diagram 5. Down-the-line pass.

technique used by top players.

Find the point on the side wall 34 ft. back from the front wall. If the ball hits the side wall in front of this point, you can effectively hit a straight pass/kill or pinch shot depending upon your contact height. If the ball is going to angle and hit the side wall deeper than 34 ft., cut it off with a ceiling ball. Don't let the ball hit the side wall too deep; otherwise, you will play yourself into a corner. If you should let the ball pass, be absolutely sure the ball will rebound off the back wall for a down-the-line pass/kill or cross-court pass/kill.

Jam Serve

The jam serve is primarily used in racquetball doubles; however, it is finding a place in singles as a serve that makes the player run for the ball. The jam serve can be used by a server to determine whether you are alert and adept at handling serves into your body. Fleet-footed players can let the serve go to the back wall and shoot a down-the-line kill. Merely mortal players should go to the ceiling or hit around-the-wall balls.

Do not let the ball hit the back wall, or you will be forced to move in two different directions at once. Also, avoid reaching in

front of your body to play the ball to the ceiling; this will result in your playing the ball poorly. Let the ball come to you, turn sideways, and then play it to the ceiling. An offensive return for the jam serve is to play it out of mid air down-the-line. The serve will come to you in the middle, and the server must move or be tattooed.

Z-Lob Serve

The Z-lob serve is hard to

return offensively. The opponent will have a sure point 90 percent of the time if you misjudge the ball. The Z-lob serve is difficult to gauge because the server can easily vary the height, speed, and direction on every serve.

The best strategy against this serve is a ceiling or around-the-wall ball. If you can deflect this serve before it hits the side wall, hit an around-the-wall ball. Otherwise, go to the ceiling. Do not let

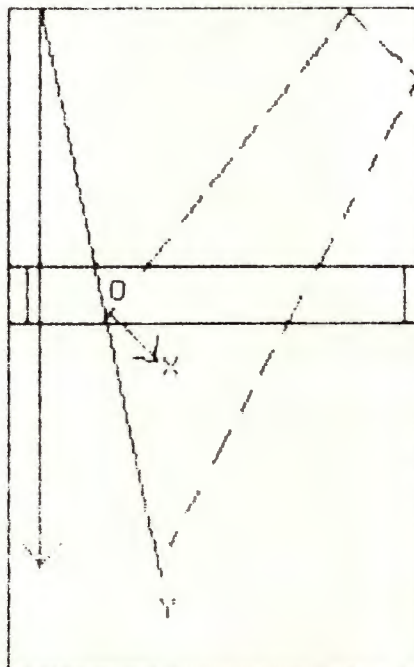


Diagram 6. Return of Z-serve down the line.

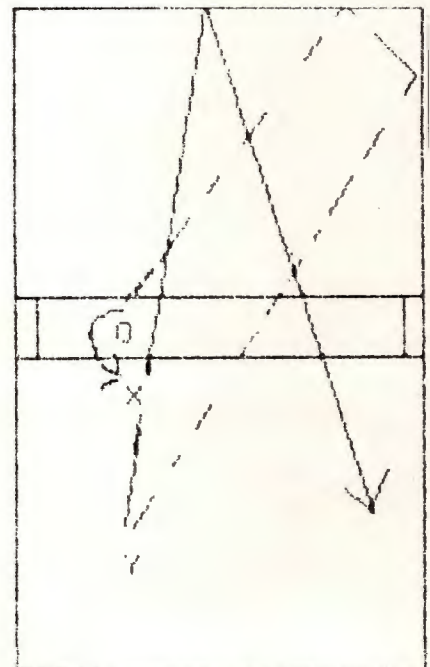


Diagram 7. Return of Z-serve cross-court.

this serve hit the back wall for a setup unless the ball hits above 4 ft. The spin and sharp dropping angle of the ball will require more time and distance for you to execute an effective kill.

Off-Center Serves

Occasionally, you will play an opponent who stands to the extreme left or right of the service box. This creates a lot of angles for you to cover, but the server has given you center court position, an advantage which can be exploited. The technique used by the pros is watching the front wall, because many players will use front wall targets to direct their serves. This method is especially good when the server is at either side of the service box. The body position and motion will not telegraph whether the server will hit a drive serve down-the-line, drive crosscourt, or a Z-serve. Instead, watch the front wall, pick up the

serve when it strikes the wall target, then react accordingly. Attempt a return which will make the server run the farthest from center court, while you move to center court. This technique will tire your opponent, and give you many easy shots.

A Simple Strategy for the All-Around Game

If you anticipate a specific serve, select a suitable return and practice it mentally. Review your return options should the serve be a complete surprise. When you are in doubt or caught off-balance, remember to hit a ceiling ball. These mental pictures are known as the *Return of Serve Anticipation Theory* and should be used before every serve.

There are three situations which can occur on the serve return. When you correctly predict the serve, you should select a serve return, practice it mentally,

then execute your shot! For example, if you can see that the server is about to hit a lob serve, you should mentally practice moving forward and shot-hopping the ball down-the-line.

The second situation is uncertainty of what the serve will be. Plan a specific serve return! Review your options. If the server is positioned on the left side of the service box, anticipate a Z-serve to the backhand. You should mentally practice cutting it off and going crosscourt with the return. Be prepared for a drive serve to the right and be ready to hit a return down the right side wall.

The third possible situation is when you have no idea about which serve to expect. Review your basic serve return strategy: kill or pinch to the right, ceiling ball to the left, etc. As the ball is served, choose an option, stick with it, and then execute it to the best of your ability. ○

What's The Call

(continued from page 8)

Steve Strandemo believes you should be able to have a clear, continuous view of the ball from about three feet in front of the service line. The former USRA defined a screen ball as one which passes within 18 inches of the body. The AARA rule basically calls for the receiver to have an unobstructed view of the ball as it passes the server or server's partner.

The first priority of having an unobstructed or reasonable view of the serve is the responsibility of the receiver to place himself in reasonably good court position — no more than one-half step left or right of center, three to five feet from the back wall.

The key to the call by the referee (or receiver in a match without a ref) is not to make the call too quickly, or too late. Though this is certain to be the subject of discussion in a future column, please accept the following explanation: So long as the receiver has good court position, the receiver is entitled to an unobstructed view of the ball from the time the ball approaches the front service line and it clears the server. ○

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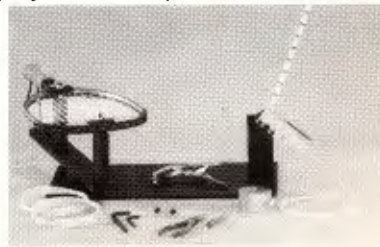
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Drexler Wins

(continued from page 16)

an overhand pinch hit with her back against the backwall glass.

McKinney came back to even the match in the second game, after they battled to a 7-7 tie. She scored on a forehand and back-hand pinch, which Drexler missed on two back lob Z-serve returns, 11-7.

In the third game, McKinney gained the edge with an 11-6 win and held a 6-2 advantage before Drexler came back for three straight points on a backhand kill and two ace serves.

McKinney, however, did not allow Drexler to get any closer. She pulled away by scoring four straight points for a 10-5 lead. McKinney finished off the game with an ace serve to Drexler's forehand for an 11-6 win.

"In the second and third games, I was not moving my feet around," said Drexler. I was a little nervous of losing. But, all I did was switch around my serves, and things fell together."

Drexler came out in a frenzy the fourth game by blanking McKinney, 11-0. Her dominance continued into the tie breaker as they played even to 3. Drexler then hit an ace serve and overhand smash. McKinney tried to slow Drexler down with a diving forehand which rolled out for her fourth point. Still, Drexler was able to finish off McKinney and win her first professional event by scoring six straight points.

On the way to the championship, Drexler did not lose a game. She overcame Kathy Treadway, Diana Fletcher, Kay Kuhfeld and Mona Mook in the semifinals, 11-7, 11-6, 11-4.

McKinney also had a fairly easy road the first three matches by defeating Lin Wetherby, Joy Paraiso and Terri Gilreath in the quarter finals. Gilreath defaulted because of a wrist injury after losing the first two games.

But McKinney had her hands full in the semifinals with a four-game battle against Paraiso, 11-7, 11-7, 3-11, 11-5.

"She is a power player and likes to hit the ball hard so I used a lot of lob serves, jams and Z-serves so they would kick into her body," McKinney said. ○

Dave Peck Wins

(continued from page 22)

with three games lost, Gregg Peck with five games lost and Gilliam with five games lost. The finalists would be Dave Peck and Marty Hogan — the older pros and long-time rivals.

The Finals

What a show the two put on! Unbelievable gets, awesome kill shots, their intensity level high, and after four super games, still tied. In the fifth game, Hogan went up 8-1, but Peck fought back. The big guy was flying, getting to balls that seemed put away. He tied the score and then put the game away, 11-9 to win the \$4,000 first place prize money. Scoring was 9-11, 11-5, 6-11, 11-10.

Dave, who was professional champion in 1980-81, but who suffered a severe leg injury three years ago, seems to be back to the level he once enjoyed. He was outstanding here in Houston; the rest of the year should be interesting.

The First Annual Warren Finn Memorial Tournament exceeded all expectations as the Houston JCC was attempting something new in an unfamiliar setting. The glass court could only accommodate about 100 spectators, so the numbers were not large, but these great players and fine young men made a tremendous impact for the game of racquetball.

MEN'S OPEN:

Quarter Finals — Drew Kachtik d. Nathan Jilek 15-5, 15-9; Mark Malowitz d. Mike Guidry 9-15, 15-9, 11-10; Charlie Garrido d. Mark Hickey 15-8, 15-4; Javier Chapa d. Joe Lucas 15-4, 15-8.

Semifinals — Kachtik d. Malowitz 15-9, 15-1; Garrido d. Chapa 15-9, 12-15, 11-4.

Finals — Kachtik d. Garrido 15-9, 15-2.

MEN'S A:

Quarter Finals — Fred Sanches d. Cliff Fritchie 15-13, 15-11; David Wiederman d. Marty Skolnik 15-7, 15-12; Blair Davis d. Mike Hudman 15-3, 9-15, 11-2; Efrain Gonzalez d. Pat McGinty 15-10, 15-7.

Semifinals — Sanches d. Wiederman 15-7, 15-11; Davis d. Gonzalez 15-0, 15-7.

Finals — Davis d. Sanches 6-15, 15-5, 11-9.

WOMEN'S OPEN:

Quarter Finals — Caryn McKinney d. Renee Lockey 15-0, 15-0; Marci Greer d. Mary Pat Sklenka 15-6, 15-4; Andrea Katz d. Gail Woods, 15-12, 15-11; Liz Alvarado d. Jennifer Risch 15-4, 15-1.

Semifinals — McKinney d. Greer 15-2, 15-13; Alvarado d. Katz 15-8, 15-4.

Finals — McKinney d. Alvarado 15-9, 15-4.

WOMEN'S A:

Quarter Finals — Kathryn Vetort d. Jan Kuethe 15-10, 15-11; Jean Hellstrom d. Tina Langford 15-5, 2-15, 11-7; Jan Lawrance d. Melissa Caraway 15-4, 15-7; Lollie Butler d. Peggy Kall 15-8, 15-13.

Semifinals — Vetort d. Hellstrom 15-13, 15-8; Butler d. Lawrance 9-15, 15-7, 11-1.

Finals — Butler d. Vetort 15-9, 9-15, 11-7. ○

Beaverton Pro-Am

(continued from page 21)

wall and Bret again left a ceiling ball shot in center court. This time Mike turned to his forehand and surprisingly skipped the ball.

How many times had anyone ever seen national champion Mike Yellen miss three opportunities for game point?

Yellen's disappointment was evident as he went behind in game two, 8-0. Although he won game three, Mike never again showed the initiative he exhibited in game one. Bret won the final game 11-0, capturing his second straight RMA tour championship.

The management at Griffith Athletic Club indicated this was their most successful tournament (more than 100 amateur entries were turned away, and exhibition seating was completely sold out a week prior to the tournament).

The early support of MCI and Nike, coupled with the enthusiasm of the Oregon community allowed Deiri Doty and her experienced crew the extra time necessary to organize such a large event. ○

Split Personality

(continued from page 27)

to keep the opponent on guard. Even if these alter-ego shots miss entirely, the message to the opponent is, "Hey, my game is well rounded — I'll try anything."

You'll keep him off balance, you'll make him pay attention for the rest of the match and, with luck, he'll be afraid to challenge your message. Trying the out-of-character shots when serving means you chance losing only position, not a point.

Practicing the Split-Personality Roles

As server you are the aggressive wolf, on the court to destroy your opponent with banzai-like attacks.

As the receiver, you are the enduring and elusive prey, doing everything in your power to survive long enough to become the server.

Two things help you in assuming these roles. One is a simple mental adjustment between rallies. Actually take a couple of seconds after every rally to review your position and remind yourself who you will be in the next rally.

The second thing is physical. Begin making yourself do five pushups at the end of every game for every ball you skipped in as receiver. In a big hurry, you'll notice how often you give away points, and in a bigger hurry, you'll cut down on them!

The biggest advantage in understanding the split-personality system comes when your opponent lacks the same understanding. Let him constantly make errors and give away points without even knowing it.

Then try to keep a straight face as he skips in points for you! He's practically sharpening the spikes on your track shoes for that race to 15. ○

About the writer: Brad Kruger is a former Canadian Junior National Champion and National Open Doubles Champion. He is a journalism graduate from San Diego State University and currently a teaching pro in Vancouver, Canada.

WPRA

(continued from page 7)

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— WPRA "Pro Tips", a quarterly newsletter with tips on racquetball performance for club members
— opportunity to host a WPRA tour event
— plus — Operational Training Materials for all areas of club management: accounting, food services, computers, marketing, etc. (Please call our office for details).

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women because 92 percent of all retail purchases are made by women and an overwhelming majority of women are involved in some athletic activity. Therefore, we will be generating new memberships for your club and offering professional support to help your facility generate a more significant bottom line.

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Needless to say, there is a need within racquetball facilities throughout the country, and the WPRA is ready to assist. If you or your local club management is interested in our Corporate Program, please contact our office at (817) 654-2277. ○

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Schedule of Events

1987 WPRA SCHEDULE

May 7-10
\$12,000
Westerville Athletic Club
Westerville, Ohio
Denny Vincent
(614) 882-7331

May 28-31
WPRA National
Championships
RiverBend Athletic Club
Fort Worth, Texas
Mary Pat Sklenka
(817) 284-3353

1987 AARA SCHEDULE

April 2-5
Illinois Racquetball
Association State Singles
Diane Gabrisco
(815) 469-9065

April 3-5
Cardiac Classic
Regency Courts
2402 Wooten Boulevard
Wilson, NC 27893
Mike Dimoff (919) 291-7675

April 3-5
Delaware State Doubles
Pike Creek Court Club
4905 Mermaid Boulevard
Wilmington, DE 19808
Ed Young (302) 239-6688

April 3-5
FAC Milk Pro-Am
Fairmont Athletic Club
3328 West Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13219
Dick Malone

April 3-5
Junior Regional 9 Champ.
Coliseum Racquet Club
8715 Telegraph
Taylor, MI 48180
Jim Hiser (313) 292-3940

April 3-5
NJ State Open Singles
Spa 23 & Racquet Club
381 Rt. 23
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444
John Denley (201) 851-0700

April 3-5
Royal Open
Royal Racquetball Club
607 Middle Courty Road
Coram, NY 11727
Mike Jones

April 3-5
Super Seven 8
Coliseum Racquet Club
8715 Telegraph
Taylor, MI 48180

April 3-5
Womans Downeast
Racquetball International
North Windham, ME
(207) 892-3231

April 3-5
21st Point Tournament
21st Point
Youngstown, OH

(216) 758-2334

April 7-11
Ogden Athletic Club
1221 East 5800 S.
Ogden, UT 84403
Ed Dillback (801) 479-6500

April 8-12
Grand Junction Athletic Club
2515 Foresight Circle
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Ray Jamsay (303) 245-4100

April 8-12
Spring Shootout
CSU Racquetball Club
REC Sports Dept., 204 Moby
Fort Collins, CO 80523
Gary Coonan
(303) 221-1859

April 10-12
Adult Region 1 Champs.
Cambridge Racquetball Club
S215 1st.
Cambridge, MA 02142
Paul Hendrickson
(617) 491-8989

April 10-12
Adult Region 3 Champs.
Allentown Racquetball Club
601 Union Street
Allentown, PA 18101
Mary Musewicz
(215) 821-1300

April 10-12
Adult Region 6 Champ.
The Club Olympiad
2120 N. Woodlawn
Wichita, KS 67208
Bob Piper (316) 686-4000

April 10-12
Adult Region 7 Champs.
Racquetball & Fitness Club
of San Antonio
7700 Torino Drive
San Antonio, TX 78229
Cliff Dille (512) 344-8596

April 10-12
April Fool's Beach Party
Sports Illustrated
3150 45th Street
Highland, IN 46322
Fred Bojrab (219) 924-0690

April 10-12
Ram State Singles Champ.
321 Village
Lansing, MI 48911
Jim Easterling

April 10-12
RI State Doubles Champ.
Newport Athletic Club
66 Valley Road
Middletown, RI 02840
Roger Gradey
(401) 846-7723

April 10-12
West Virginia State Champ.
Olympic Sports World
2804 Birch Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
Jerry Harmon

April 10-12
Woodbridge Open

The Club at Woodbridge
585 Main Street
Woodbridge, NJ 07095
Tammy Campanella
(201) 634-5000

April 11-12
Junior Regional 5
Montgomery Athletic Club
5675 Carmichel Park
Montgomery, AL 36177
Jack Sorenson
(205) 277-7130

April 16-19
Adult Region 15 Champs.
Pac West
5227 South Puget Sound
Tacoma, WA 98409
Sid Williams (206) 473-2266

April 21-25
Adult Region 12 Champs.
Sports Mall
5445 South 900 E.
Salt Lake City, UT 84117
John Packard
(801) 261-3426

April 23-26
Indiana State Singles
Court Club
3455 Harper Road
Indianapolis, IN 46240
Burt Nickelsberg/Mike Arnolt
(317) 776-0222

April 23-25
Ohio State Singles
Sawmill/Westerville
Columbus, OH
(614) 889-7698

April 23-26
Signature Classic #5
4 North Dubois Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120
Dave Negrete
(312) 398-4656

April 24-26
Adult Region 11 Champs.
Kings Court
700L Cahill Road
Edina, MN 55435
Tuk Peterson

April 24-26
Junior Region 2 Champs.
142 Landing Avenue
Smithtown, NY 11787
Al Seitelman
(516) 360-0979

April 24-26
Morris County Open
Olympic Racquetball Club
Randolph Park West
Randolph, NJ 07869
Debbie Russo
(201) 328-0660

April 24-26
Penn Monroe Open
Racquetball Championships
The Racquet Club of Pitts.
Racquet Lane
Monroeville, PA 15146
Judi Stadler

April 24-26
Three Days In April
Riverview Racquet Club

4940 Plainfield, N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
Roy White (616) 363-7769

April 27-29
Golden Masters
Singles & Doubles
Invitational Falcon Complex
2495 Luke Court
Buford, GA 30518
Dorn Romig (404) 963-6434

April 28-May 2
Y.M.C.A.
737 East 200 S.
Salt Lake City, UT
Ruth McGovern
(801) 533-9622

April 30-May 3
Pontiac Open
Pikes Peak Y/USO
P.O. Box 1694
Colorado Springs, CO 80901
Gary Alexander
(303) 471-9790

May 1-3
H.D. Hotspurs Open
Tacoma Athletic Club
5227 South Puget Sound
Tacoma, WA 98409
Sid Williams (206) 473-2266

May 1-3
New Jersey State Champs.
Kings Court
525 Riverside Avenue
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071
Jon Denley (201) 851-0070

May 2-4
Blue Point Open
Blue Point Court Club
9 A Montauk Highway
Blue Point, NY 11715
Ron Digiacomio
(516) 363-2882

May 7-9
Adult Region 14 Champs.
Garden Racquetball &
Athletic Club
2000 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940
Ed Martin

May 7-10
Invitational
Denver Sporting Club
5151 DTC Parkway
Englewood, CO 80111
Don Kriete (303) 779-0700

May 9-10
Junior Region 8 Champs.
North Hills Athletic Club
N-85-W 15960 Appleton
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
Alvin Barasch
(312) 763-7300

May 13-17
Mountain Madness
Evergreen Athletic Club
2932 Highway #74
Evergreen, CO 80439
Cheryl Haller/Kip Lyle
(303) 674-6902

May 13-17
Spring Classic Pepsi Cup
Aurora Athletic Club

2953 South Peoria
Aurora, CO 80014
John Foust (303) 750-3210

May 14-17
Signature Finals #6
4 North Dubois Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120
Dave Negrete
(312) 882-4636

May 15-17
Junior Region 7 Champs. RB
& Health Clubs of Houston
5890 Point West Drive
Houston, TX 77036
Chuck Albores
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May 15-17
River Festival Tournament
The Club Olympiad
2120 North Woodlawn
Wichita, KS 67208
Bob Piper (316) 686-4000

May 15-17
Severence AC Tournament
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Cleveland Heights, OH
(216) 291-5550

May 15-17
Super Seven Finale
Backwall Racquetball Club
2 Ajax Drive
Madison Heights, MI 48071

May 15-17
Third RB Spring Thing
Omega 40
P.O. Box 1141
Ormond Beach, FL 32074
Scott Nelson (904) 672-4044

May 21-25
National Singles
Houston YMCA
1600 Louisiana Avenue
Houston, TX 77002

FOR RMA INFORMATION

Contact: Jim Hiser,
Commissioner
(313) 653-9602

FOR WPRA INFORMATION

Contact:
Caryn McKinney
(404) 636-7575

FOR AARA INFORMATION

Contact:
Luke St. Onge
(303) 635-5396

RANKINGS

The sources for these national rankings are as follows: Men's - Official RMA Pro Racquetball Tour rankings; Women's - Official WPR A Tour Rankings; Amateur - Official national rankings.

RMA Official Rankings March 31, 1987

1	B. Harnett	444
2	M. Hogan	442
3	M. Yellen	401
4	E. Andrews	318
5	C. Swain	263
6	R. Gonzalez	250
7	S. Lerner	237
8	G. Peck	234
9	G. Price	179
10	E. Inoue	168
11	M. Ray	172
12	J. Hilecher	155
13	D. Obremski	151
14	A. Katz	145
15	R. Harripersad	143
16	D. Peck	141
17	A. Gross	96
18	L. Gilliam	100
19	J. Newman	100
20	D. Gross	96
21	C. Brysman	72
22	D. Green	74
23	J. Egerman	73
24	J. Cascio	71
25	B. Sell	70

WPR A Official Rankings March 15, 1987

1	L. Adams
2T	M. Drexler
2T	C. McKinney
4	M. O'Brien
5	V. Panzeri
6	T. Gilreath
7	K. Kuhfeld
8T	C. Evon
8T	M. Lynch
10	L. Alvarado
11T	F. Davis
11T	D. Fischl
13	J. Paraiso
14	M. Mook
15T	C. Nichols
15T	S. Robson
17	T. Bevelock
18	J. Marriott
19	J. Harding
20	B. Stoll
21	M. MacDonald
22T	A. Katz
22T	R. Whitmire
24	M. Dee
25	T. Rasmussen

AARA National Rankings Men's Open February 25, 1987

1	A. Roberts
2	D. Ganim
3	K. Vantrease
4	T. Hansen
5	M. Lowe
6	D. Kelly
7	T. Montalbano
8	D. Negrete
9	J. Sumner
10	C. Nichols

AARA National Rankings Women's Open February 25, 1987

1	T. Rasmussen
2	M. Mook
3	C. Baxter
4	M. Dee
5	C. Evon
6	E. Mardas
7	C. Fried
8	C. Doyle
9	T. Latham
10	K. Despain

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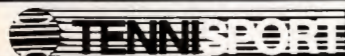
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Newsbriefs

Ektelon Nationals Canceled, Fall Programs Expanded

Ektelon has announced the cancellation of its 1987 Ektelon National Racquetball Championships, which were scheduled to be hosted in Pleasanton, CA, April 29-May 3. The announcement was made by Norm Peck, vice president and general manager of the world's largest manufacturer of racquetball equipment and accessories, according to the manufacturer.

"Our decision to cancel the Ektelon Nationals coincides with a major expansion of our efforts directed to the novice and intermediate racquetball community," said Peck. "We're exploring new avenues to promote growth of the sport at both the adult and junior levels. Our new fall programs will reflect this orientation.

"The men's and women's professional tours are now well organized," said Peck. "Ektelon will continue to support the pro-

fessional game through endorsement contracts with players, such as national champions Mike Yellen and Lynn Adams.

"We are allocating funds for additional programs which will add vitality to the sport and keep it in a growth mode."

Ektelon, headquartered in San Diego, is a division of Brown-ing of Morgan, UT. ○

Adams Signs New Ektelon Contract

Lynn Adams, four-time national women's professional racquetball champion, has signed a five-year sponsorship contract with Ektelon, continuing a relationship established at the beginning of her career. The announcement was made by Norm Peck, Ektelon vice president and general manager. ○

Passing Shots

(continued from page 11)

were no upsets. Lynn sprained her ankle prior to the tournament. It was the first pro stop she missed in nine years. McKinney lost to **Marci Drexler** . . . **Mike Yellen** has played in more than 200 exhibitions and sports an impressive 200-3 record . . . It wasn't a good weekend for Yellen at an Orlando exhibition. Not only was he rejected by a waitress, but he lost a dinner bet to this columnist. After seeing me warm up, Yellen bet dinner that I would lose my match. Little did he know that my doubles partner was an up-and-coming star.

SHOP TALK DEPARTMENT

— The hardest part about sporting goods trade shows is having the stamina to talk to people non-stop for three or four days. By the end of the weekend, their minds must be mush . . . Glad to see **Gil Vieira** back in racquetball. After a stop-over at **Yamaha**, he's the new national sales manager for **Ektelon** . . . **Head's** promotion coordinator is **Debbie Nohstadt** . . . And controversial **Charlie Drake**,

who headed **DP Leach**, is taking an active role with **Pro Kennex** . . . **Diversified Products** probably wouldn't mind if it had more customers like **Pat Powers** of Bradenton, FL. Powers placed a \$4,000 order and within weeks needed to duplicate the order . . . If a club were sharp, they'd send their club pro to a **Steve Strandemo** camp. It would pay back quickly . . . Someone who drives 45 minutes each way to play racquetball three times a week can be classified a true racquetball fanatic . . . Quote, unquote from a frustrated male racquetball player. "I've lost to every woman racquetball player who will play me."

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH DEPARTMENT — I'm not too keen on the proposed rule of screen serves resulting in faults. The sport needs fewer rules, not more. Things I like: Courts that have all the lights working, open viewing aerobic classes and not having to wait more than a few minutes for the challenge court. Things I dislike: crowded challenge courts, dead balls and people who carry rule books in their socks. ○

Never let it be said that you don't give it your all. If the ball hasn't bounced twice, you're going to try to get it, no matter what. And Head shoes can help



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The new Head Pro Elite is a mid-high shoe designed to give extra support, long wear, and exceptional comfort.

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