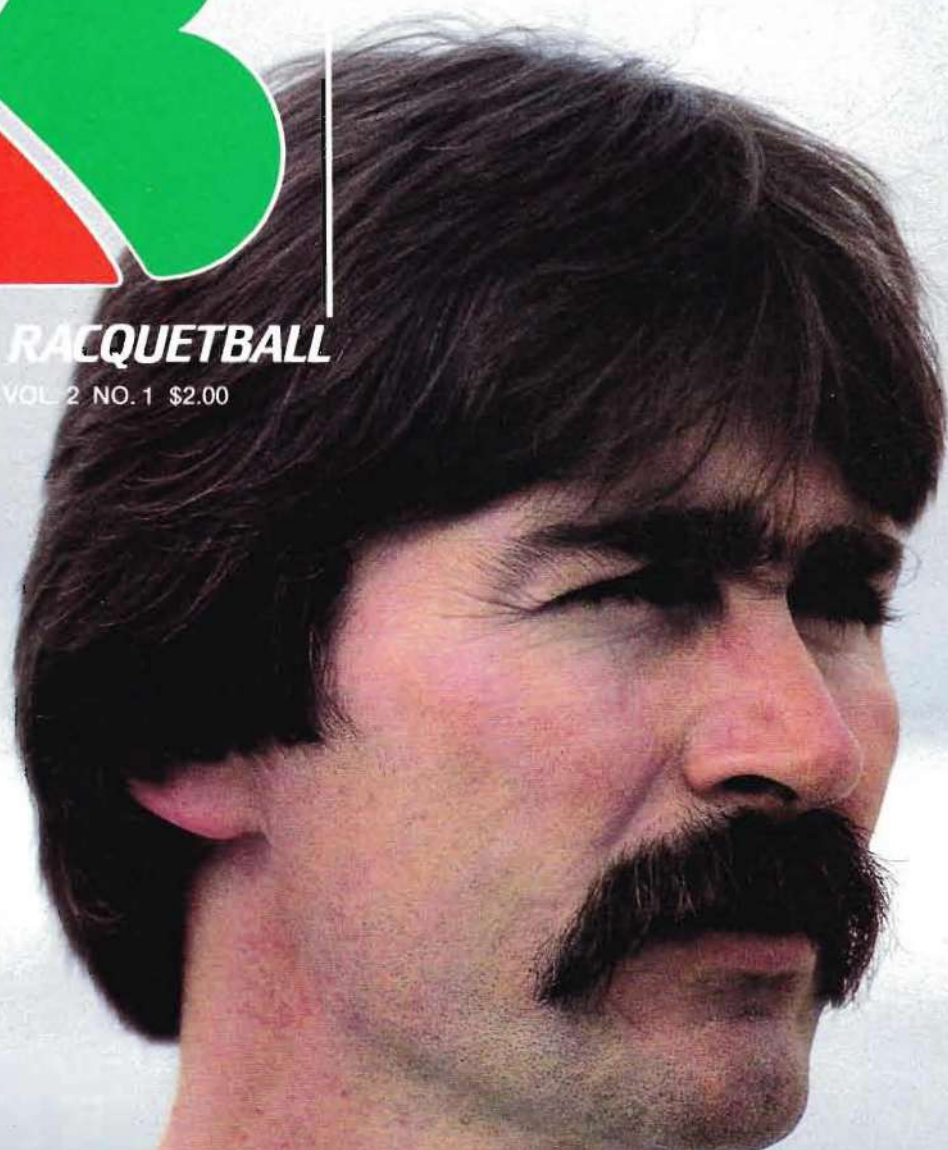


INTERNATIONAL



RACQUETBALL

JANUARY 1984 VOL. 2 NO. 1 \$2.00



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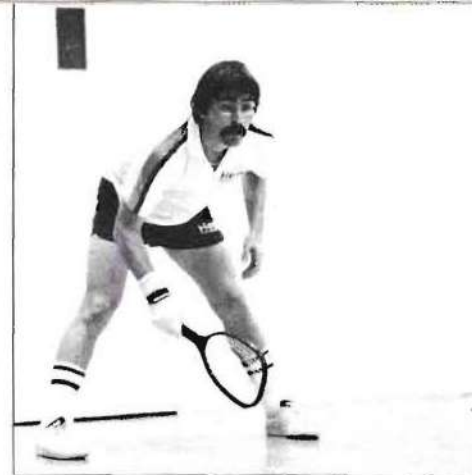


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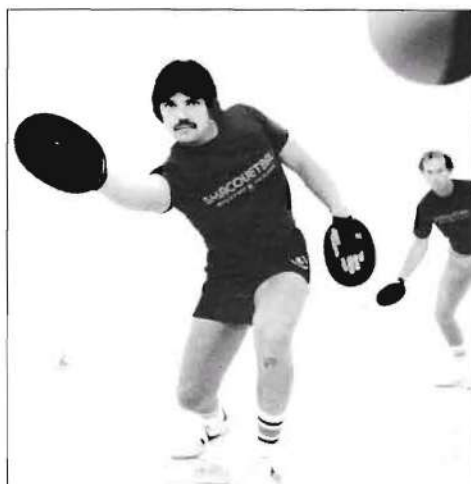
Vol. 2 No. 1

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RACQUETBALL**



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The Carson Plan:

A Creative Approach That Deserves A Chance



Drew Stoddard
Editor

If you are interested in professional racquetball, I want you to read something. I know, I know, many of you aren't really "in" to reading, but I think you may find this important.

What follows is the text of a letter that was mailed on December 22, by Jim Carson, a well-known Southern California racquetball promoter, to all professional men and women racquetball players and various other individuals who are involved with the pro sport. In the letter, Carson proposed that the best solution for the current problem with the men's sport is to bring both the men's and the women's tours under the sole direction of International Management Group. IMG is the world's largest sports management and promotion firm—they represent, among others, Arnold Palmer, Bjorn Borg, Wimbledon, The Olympics, and the Nobel Peace Foundation. IMG has also directed women's pro-

fessional racquetball for the last four years.

I believe the "Carson Plan" is workable, and while it is certainly not the only solution, right now it may be the best. There is no question about IMG's capability; they are the best in the world at promoting sports—no one else even comes close. The only real problem with Jim's innovative proposal comes from within the sport. Unless I miss my guess, any move to bring the men and women under the same management group again is going to run into severe opposition from a number of women players. Any agreement is likely to require some compromise from both sides. The alternative, doing nothing, is unacceptable.

Acceptance by the players of Jim Carson's proposal would constitute a bold move for the sport of racquetball. I think it's time for a bold move.

Here is the text of the letter:

An Open Letter To All Professional Racquetball Players and Supporters

PURPOSE: To present an idea and offer a format for all professional racquetball players to achieve growth of professional racquetball by working together, while still maintaining separate women's and men's tours.

WHY: The history of professional racquetball, like many other sports has had its peaks and valleys. For example, five years ago the men's tour was in a growth stage and the women's tour was struggling, and today the situation is the exact opposite. The constant factor throughout the entire history of racquetball, with the exception of the current women's tour, is that there has never been any professional sports management or marketing. This is not a judgment of the past, just an observation, that professional racquetball has been controlled from within the industry since its inception. By hiring a sports management business such as International Management Group (Enclosure III), pro-

fessional racquetball can begin to realize the long term growth and success it deserves.

HOW: By uniting the men and women professional racquetball players, with a common goal of promoting the sport of racquetball in a positive manner.

By hiring International Management Group (IMG) to represent all professional racquetball in the areas of sponsors, site negotiation, etc.

By working with the Racquetball Manufacturer's Association, in an advisory capacity to obtain feedback, suggestions, etc., which will help direct the growth of professional racquetball.

See enclosure II for a detailed format.

TIMETABLE: This letter is being mailed on December 22, 1983 to all WPRO and PRO members, members of the Racquetball Manufacturer's Association, Editors of International Racquetball, Racquetball Illustrated, and National Racquetball, and to IMG repre-

sentatives. The PRO timetable is outlined on the PRO feedback sheet, which is enclosed. The WPRO timetable would be to discuss the idea and decide if they are interested in pursuing it, and if so to be available to meet at the Ektelon Nationals in early May.

WHO: This letter is submitted by Jim Carson (Enc. I), with the hope that it will be reviewed with an open mind, and with thoughts of improving the sport of racquetball.

Respectfully Submitted,

JIM CARSON

ENCLOSURE I

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON JIM CARSON: I have been involved with the sport of racquetball for fourteen years as a player, agent, coach, club manager, consultant, etc. I have coached Lynn Adams and Terri Gilreath since the beginning of their careers. I'm the

Tournament Director for the Ektelon Nationals each year, and I make my living promoting sporting events in the Southern California area. This project has nothing to do with my company (Sports Promotions) nor the way I make my living. This is a labor of love. I think the sport of racquetball is one of the greatest sports in the world, and I am lucky enough to be in a position where I can help it grow. By being involved with racquetball as long as I have, I know almost all of the WPRA and PRO members, the members of the Racquetball Manufacturer's Association, the editors of all the racquetball magazines, and representatives of IMG. I feel that if I put forth some effort I can help the PRO get organized and headed in a good direction, and I can present a plan for all professional racquetball players to meet in May and decide if they want to work together for the growth of racquetball. For the record, I do not work for any of the groups mentioned above, nor have I received any financial assistance for this project. I have talked to IMG repre-

sentatives, and they are interested in discussing the idea with representatives of the PRO and WPRA. (PRO members please see PRO feedback sheet).

ENCLOSURE II

EXPLANATION OF FORMAT: The goal of this system is to have all professional racquetball players and supporters working together for the growth of the sport. There will be separate men's and women's tours, each one finishing with their own National Championship. Four times a season the men and women will play together, with one of these stops being the Ektelon Nationals. This format is similar to professional tennis with the players having separate tours except for the U.S. Open, French Open, etc.

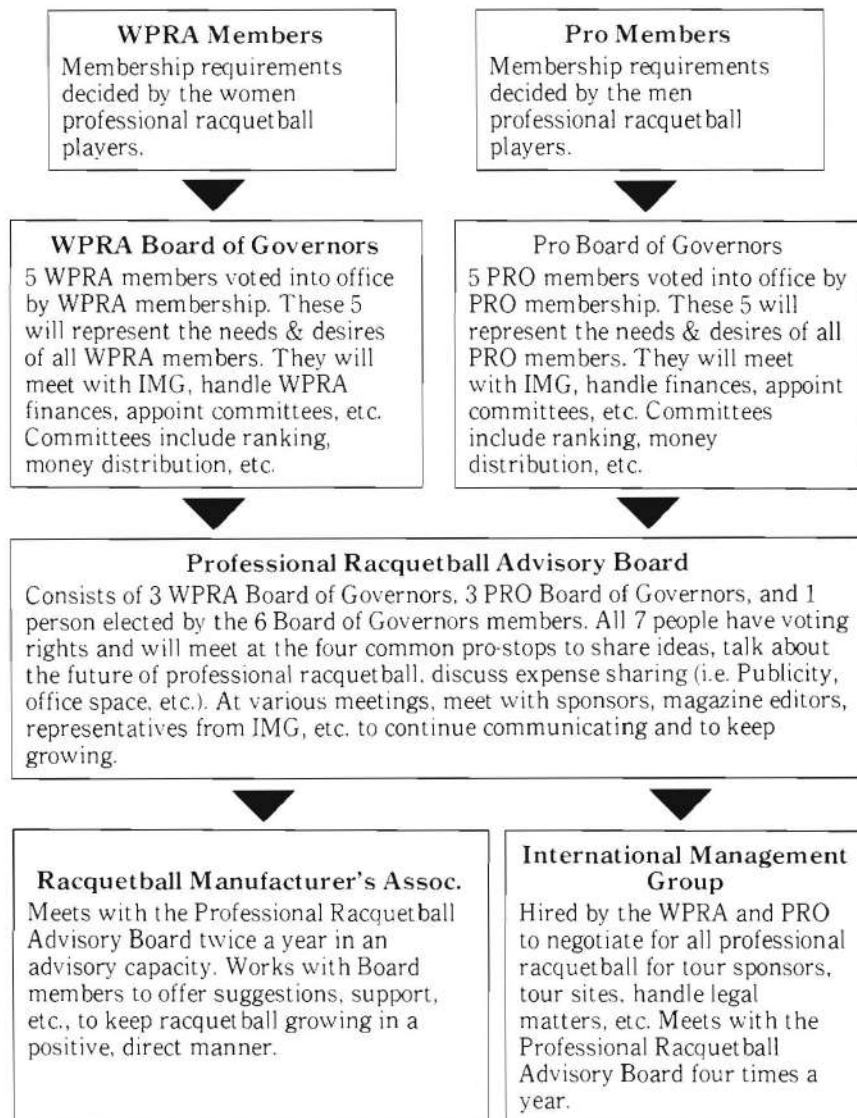
The Professional Racquetball Advisory Board (PRAB) can have a far-reaching effect on professional racquetball. After the men's tour gets organized, the PRAB can begin to work on lining up major programs. For example, they could seek cable and ESPN coverage of major tournaments, with the ultimate goal of contacting major network television to

find out what needs to be done to get on national television. They can then begin to meet these requirements within the two groups and proceed to pursue national exposure.

International Management Group (IMG) would represent all professional racquetball and will be able to negotiate from a position of strength. They can approach sponsors and tournament sites with innovative programs, having more to offer individuals and groups.

If you have any questions, suggestions, etc. please feel free to call me at work (714) 968-4313 or at home (714) 979-6942, or write me at the address below. Because of the nature of this project, if you call and leave a message, please let me know if I may reverse the charges when I return your call. If I get 20-30 calls from across the nation this would help a project that has no budget. Thanks!

18119 Brookhurst St.
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 968-4313



Resolute & Resolutions

"Frustration is not having anyone to blame but yourself."—Anonymous



Jason Holloman
Publisher

If you are an athlete, you have earned my respect. You are self-improvers. You are self-critical to your own benefit. You react to defeat not with self-deprecation, but with a resolve to do better next time. But sometimes wanting to be better is not enough. I'd like you to take a look at the words "resolute" and "resolution." I know you've heard those two words many times before and especially this time of year when we're all supposed to "turn over a new leaf" and improve our life with firm "resolutions" to do better. But what is a "resolution"? Let's take a look first at its root word, "resolute."

Resolute: Having or characterized by steadfast determination.

Ahh. Ever get that feeling that the more you try to find out the truth the less you understand it? What is "steadfast determination"? Well, "steadfast" means unwavering and faithful, and "determination" means settlement on a course of action, fixing a purpose. Fine. If you are a resolute person, you never waver from a course of action once you have decided what that course of action is to be. To me, an athlete is truly a resolute person. His course of action is to win against any and all opponents. The trouble is, when two athletes meet, though they both have steadfast determination to win, the one with more resolution will win. But what do I mean when I say "more resolution"? Well, here the plot thickens.

Resolution has many definitions and, of course, one of those is "the state or quality of being resolute." (Or, in non-dictionary terms, go back to square one.) Resolution also means, and I'm sure you're familiar with this one, "a formal statement of a decision, a vow." I'll speak more about that definition later, but what I want to bring to your attention is the last definition I have here in my dictionary. . . .

Resolution: Act or process of breaking or transforming into separate or simpler parts.

This is the type of resolution that will make an athlete great—the ability to break down his game and that of his opponent's into separate or simpler parts. Resolution in this meaning is a type of mental microscope that can uncover the secrets of the smaller parts. The whole is the sum of its parts. The total athlete is made up of the sum of his or her skills. If all the parts are in perfect working order, then the whole is perfect and unbeatable by anyone whose parts are not perfect. The secret to resolution is thinking small and perfecting the small things.

Ever hear of the guy who is the "Big Picture Man"? "He has great vision and can see the future possibilities." I'm sure you've heard that said about somebody. That person thinks big, but, I ask you, can a person who thinks big pull it off by himself if he doesn't pay attention to the details. No. First there is the vision of where you want to be. Then there is the down and dirty work of actually getting there step by step. Resolution is defining what those steps are.

So, resolution is taking a closer look. The trouble is that in improving yourself you are a little too close to the problem—yourself! This is where friends come in. In racquetball, your best friend is your worst enemy. It's that opponent you have the worst time beating because he is the one that plays on your weaknesses. If you can't learn from your errors by analyzing why you made the error, then you are your own worst enemy. You lack the ability of resolution, in which case, you need someone to do the analyzing for you. It could be your worst opponent or the best teaching pro you can lay your hands on. All you have to do is ask and then be willing to listen.

O.K. then, it's the New Year and it's time to try to be a New You. You must be resolute in your resolution to have better powers of resolution! So much for the double talk. Make the most of 1984. You won't regret it. Have a Happy New Year!

Yellen Wins Pleasanton

Top ranked Mike Yellen defeated Marty Hogan in the final of the 5th annual Wilson/Schoeber's Christmas Classic, in Pleasanton, California, December 7-11. Yellen topped Hogan in five games, 11-6, 5-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-7. The event attracted over 1,200 entries making it the largest racquetball tournament ever held. (Story on page 24).

Adams Wins in Plymouth

Lynn Adams defended her number-one ranking by defeating surprise finalist Caryn McKinney to win the Coca Cola WPRA Holiday Shootout at Game Point Racquetball and Health Club in Plymouth, Massachusetts, December 7-11. McKinney upset fourth-ranked Laura Martino and Janell Marriott to reach the final. (Story on page 32).

Gonzalez, Simonette Win Events

Ruben Gonzalez defeated Cliff Swain in the final of the Downtown Racquetball Club Pro/Am in New Haven, Connecticut. Janell Marriott won the women's division by taking out Bonnie Stoll in the final.

The juniors took over the men's open division as 15-year-old David Simonette, of Maryland, upset 17-year-old Cliff Swain, of Massachusetts, to win the Long Island Open, held at three locations of the Sportset Clubs. Jessica Rubin defeated Robin Levine in the women's open final.

The Long Island Open drew an incredible 930 entries from 15 states. (See story on page 34).

RMA Office Established

The recently formed Racquetball Manufacturers' Association has established an office at the headquarters of the Sporting Goods Manufacturers' Association in Florida. Don Bushor, of the SGMA, has been selected as the Executive Director of the RMA. Other officers selected within the RMA are: Greg Eveland (DP Leach), President; Bob Beebe (Penn), Vice President; Jacqui Black (Wilson), Secretary-Treasurer.

Mr. Bushor was not available at press time to comment on the current status and future plans of the RMA. It is believed that the RMA may become involved in establishing a men's professional tour, beginning next September.

Beaverton Confirms Pro Event

The very popular annual men's professional event in Beaverton (Portland), Oregon, has been confirmed for February 9-12, 1984. The event is co-sponsored by the Griffith Park Athletic Club and LaBatt's, and will be held at the GPAC in Beaverton. At press time the prize money had been tentatively set at \$10,000. (Schedule on page 45).

Ektelon Series Announced

Ektelon has announced the dates and locations for its 1984 Ektelon Racquetball Championships. Regional qualifying events have been scheduled in Boston, San Francisco, Baltimore, Houston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York/New Jersey, and Miami. Each event will offer 22 divisions of play, with the first-place finishers winning trips to the National Finals in Anaheim, in May. (For dates and locations see schedule on page 44).

Ektelon also announced that the Nationals in Anaheim will be televised on ESPN for the 4th consecutive year.

Continued on page 9

SO LIVELY, SO CONSISTENT, SO DURABLE, WE GUARANTEE IT. TWICE.

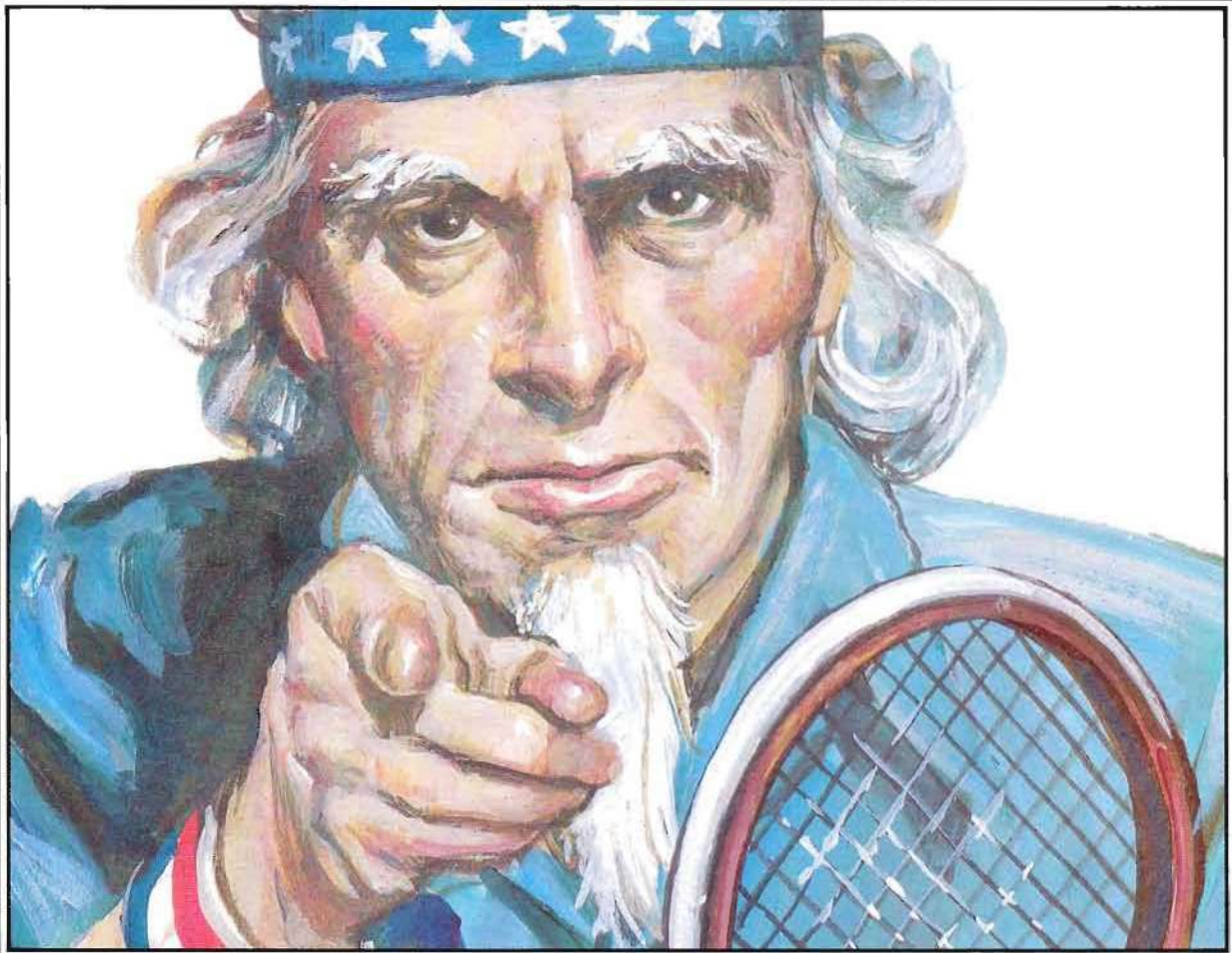
The only thing tougher than a Penn® Ultra-blue racquetball is the Penn Double Performance Guarantee behind it: "If any Penn ball should fail before the label wears off, return it to the place of purchase or to Penn for two new balls."

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- We want you to join the pros behind-the-scenes interviews, in-depth instruction written by the pros themselves, and superb photographic tournament coverage.
- We want you to join the pros as they battle in cities from coast to coast and beyond in the world of **International Racquetball**.



Strandemo Junior Centers Announced

Five new Strandemo/Head Junior Training Centers have been announced for the Spring. The centers, according to Strandemo, have been organized to offer junior players a weekend training center to help them prepare for the Junior Regionals or Nationals. The centers are co-sponsored by Penn and Adidas.

Tuition for the Junior Centers is \$185. Each participant will receive a new Head Vector racquet, a training center shirt, and a camp bag.

The dates and locations are:

March 9-11	Boston, MA
March 16-18	Davison, MI
March 23-25	San Francisco, CA
May 11-13	New York, NY
May 18-20	Orlando, FL

For information contact:

Strandemo/Head Racquetball
Camps
P.O. Box 24445
San Diego, CA 92124
619-268-87007

Another Eyeguard Alert

The following article appeared on the front page of the "Life" section of USA Today on Monday, December 26.

"Play Racquetball? Eye Guard Alert"

"Most racquetball players' eye guards don't protect eyes and may add to injury, says today's 'Journal of the American Medical Association.'"

"Up to 70,000 eye injuries occur each year in the USA from racquetball."

"Dr. Michael J. Feigelman of the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute in Baltimore tested 11 eye guards and eight athletic spectacles. Only four eye guards passed: Rec Spec, Carrera Viper II, Ektelon Court Goggles, and Sport Specs."

AARA News

A meeting for Regional Directors of the AARA has been scheduled for January 13-15, 1984, at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

A new fund-raising project for the U.S. National Racquetball Team has been announced. The U.S. Team sponsors—Lite Beer from Miller, DP Leach and Penn Athletic Products Company—will support any fund-raising project such as tournaments, marathons, raffles, etc., where the proceeds go to the U.S. National Racquetball Team. The first benefit was scheduled to take place on January 6-8, at the Racquetball Plus Club in Derby, CT. Anyone interested in hosting a similar benefit should contact

Continued on page 34



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the new generation
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action on the ball!***

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This sleek 16-gauge multifilament nylon string is jet black in color—the perfect companion for the new graphite racquets. Restrung your racquet with Super-Kill and you'll feel the difference in your first game—more power without sacrificing control—and lots more action.

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RACKET STRINGS

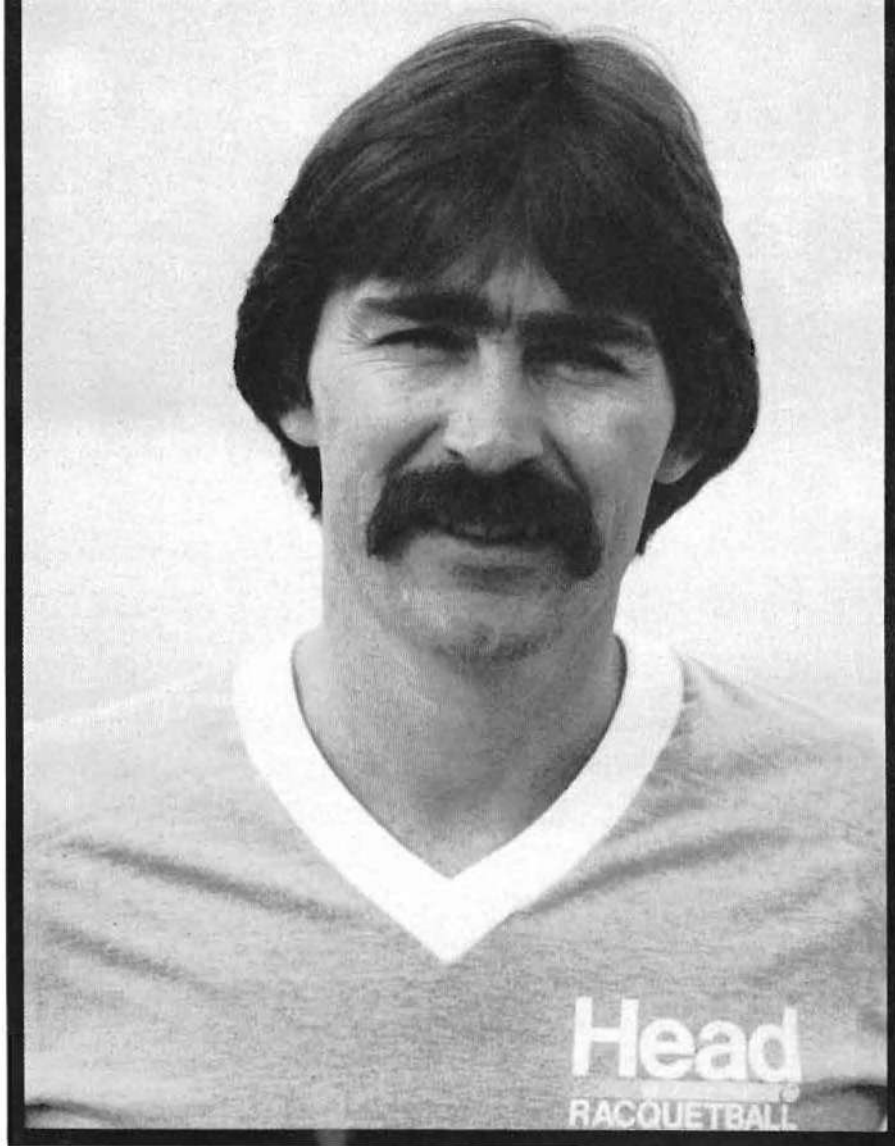
IMPORTANT NOTICE

I.R.B. Is Moving!

International Racquetball Magazine is moving its editorial offices from Salt Lake City, Utah to Reno, Nevada. Our new address will be: International Racquetball, P.O. Box 7548, Reno, Nevada, 89510. If you have inquiries about editorial or advertising, please send your mail to 575 Mill Street, Reno, Nevada, 89502. Our new phone number is 702-329-4511. We look forward to hearing from you in our new offices in "The Biggest Little City in the World." Thank you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE





STEVE STRANDEMO

Yes, Virginia, there is life after pro racquetball

Perhaps no player in the history of the game has played top-level racquetball so consistently, and for so many years, as Steve Strandemo. At the time he made the decision to end his professional playing career last season, he had maintained a top-10 ranking for virtually every season since the inception of professional racquetball in 1973. With Jerry Hilecher, Strandemo is the last of the original pro group.

Raised in Minnesota, Steve left his

position as a high school teacher in St. Cloud to join the great migration of early racquetballers to San Diego in the spring of 1973. His first major victory came a short time later when he won the Canadian National Championships, and he finished his first pro season ranked sixth.

Strandemo rapidly became known as one of the game's best control players, and yet he was one of the most adaptable players ever to play professionally. In 1975 he was runner-up to Charlie

Brumfield, the king of control, in the National Championships in Las Vegas. Two years later, with a different game style, he pulled off one of the most memorable upsets of all time when he beat Marty Hogan and won the first stop of the 1977-78 pro season in St. Louis.

Unlike most professionals, age was kind to Steve Strandemo. At an age when most players had long retired, he seemed only to become more consistent. Perhaps his best season was in 1979-80 when, at the age of 32, he finished in the semifinals or better in seven of the nine events he played.

His game was characterized by his vast experience and his uncanny ability to hold on to center court—sometimes fiercely. His tendency to play unusually close to his opponents once prompted another top pro to say, "When you play Strandemo, the only thing you can depend on is that he'll stay closer to you than the print on your shirt!"

But, as great as his playing career has been, Strandemo's real legacy is still being written. He is arguably the greatest racquetball instructor the game has ever known. Backed by his major sponsor, Head, he has pioneered the most ambitious instructional effort in racquetball. His well-known camps and clinics have already affected thousands of players across the country, and his innovative teaching methods have become the defacto standard for all instruction within the sport.

Steve is a prolific author as well, with two books and hundreds of articles to his credit. He is married and lives with his wife Terri and two daughters in San Diego.

We interviewed Steve at the Atlas Health Club in San Diego.

You've been around this game for a



Putting Scotl Hawkins away in Las Vegas, 1979.

"I think there are a lot of people out there who accept the plateau they're on who can be upgraded a half level to a level with some good instruction."

long time. When did you start playing?

I started about 1970, when I was in graduate school in St. Cloud (MN). I

played there for a couple of years, and then for two years while I taught high school. I started fighting my way up the regional ladder and found out all the best players were living in San Diego, so I moved out here. I picked a pretty good time to come out because I came in the spring, and they started the pro tour in the fall of that year.

It was a real advantage being here in those days because I got a chance to play the very best players in the world, at that time. It was just good to be in San Diego because that's where everything was happening—that's where Leach was based, and Ektelon. I worked with Ektelon for a number of years, and then in 1978 I signed with Head, and I've been with them for five years, in fact we just signed another contract. I've been very fortunate—they're a good company to work with.

Your first real break came at the Canadian nationals, didn't it?

Yes, it was called the Klondike, and it was a big tournament back then. We had the nationals in the U.S. and the nationals in Canada, and a lot of great players went up there to play. That was where I really began to build my confidence because I beat Serot, Hilecher and Schmidtke. I really started feeling like I could compete with the top guys, like I deserved to be there.

Then, right after that they started the tour, and I hung in there pretty well and got a reasonably high rank.

So you've been in professional racquetball right from the very beginning?

Yes. Of course, it was a whole different atmosphere then than it is now. The ball was slower, and we all had a very defensive approach to the game. We

Strandemo: always effective against Hogan.



Graphite 8000™



The Graphite 8000 is constructed of 80% graphite and 20% fiberglass. Our innovative new core design features a cork-filled frame which eliminates air pockets and ensures smooth string holes. The contour-molded bumper guard gives longer

string life and added protection. The narrow, contoured throat creates a perfectly balanced racquet. Put these unique features together and the result is a racquet that gives you power for the kill shots, control for the finesse shots, and consistency for an overall better game.

The Graphite 8000 gives you every advantage.

DP LEACH
Fit for Life 

played three games to 21—long games, long matches. A lot of times if you were in good shape, and you just stayed out there and kept hitting the ball, you had a good chance of winning. It was easier to beat the shooters then because you could weather their hot streaks better—they had to earn 42 points.

Now, it's a whole different game. As soon as we changed from 21 to 11 point games, those of us who were termed control players were forced to shoot. Because, in an 11 point game you can't let these young guys get ahead 6-1 with them serving, as hard as they can hit the ball. You have to go out and shoot first and make them retrieve.

You don't like the shorter rallies of today's game?

I just think the new scoring and the faster ball have changed the game quite

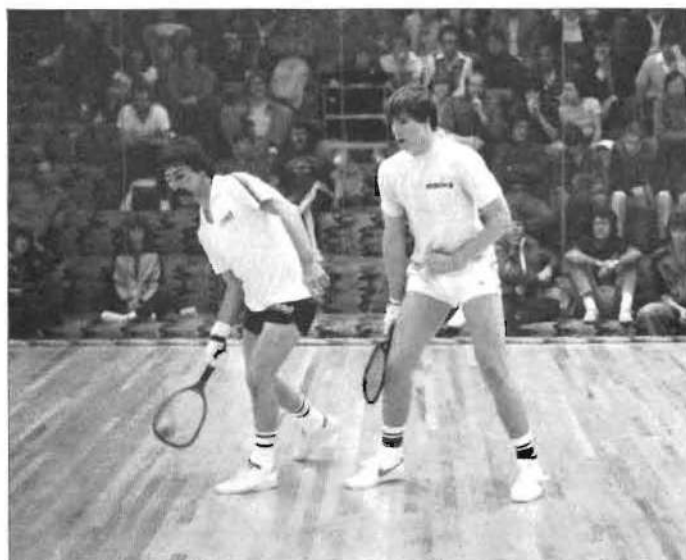
"The game does not require that you have 10 second speed in the 100 yard dash. You have to be pretty strong, you've got to be quick enough to cover the court, and you have to have endurance to weather those long rallies."

designer. She plays racquetball two or three times a week, and the girls play some. I'm just very happy right now.

Do you spend most of your time teaching and conducting racquetball camps?

Yes. We just came home from a two-week tour. We put on clinics and exhibitions in a number of states and did a couple of weekend camps. There are so many areas to hit that we'll spend a lot of time this year doing that.

This year, for the first time, we're running two winter camps in San Diego and Ft. Lauderdale. We wanted to do something at the height of the season, instead of just in the summer. We've changed the dates a little bit to Thursday through Sunday so that they will only have to take off a couple of working days.



Steve plays a young Gregg Peck in Denver.



Playing 15-year-old Bret Harnell at 1979 Nationals.

a bit. And I'm not sure that the length of the game is such a determining factor in whether or not it's entertaining racquetball. I think you've got to have the type of rally you get when the ball isn't so live, so that the guys have to use their athletic ability. Some of these guys have fantastic ability. Just throw them out a ball that correlates to that ability and watch the fans get excited about their play. But, throw them a ball that they can't catch up to, or they can't control and you won't see very good play.

I think that happens a lot in the amateurs, where the players might not be quite as quick. Too often they don't get beat by the other guy, they get beat by the ball, and that's very frustrating.

Why did you stop playing last year?

We spent a lot of time evaluating the

situation before I made that decision. I had hurt my back a little bit, and I looked at the number of events that were being played and the amount of time I was spending to keep myself in shape to compete at that level. We had to weigh out the factors of time spent vs. financial gain from the tour as opposed to spending more time with the camps, and doing some of the things I'd wanted to pursue but had never really had time to do. I talked it over with Terry, and with my major sponsor, Head, and we decided that this was the best way to go.

You mentioned your wife, Terry. How long have you been married?

We've been married four years now. It's great. We have a nine-year-old, Stacy, from Terry's first marriage. And, we have a two year old girl, Kendra...who's a real ball of energy! Terry is an interior

designer. So we'll do the winter camps, the summer camps, and we'll fill in the spring and fall with some special things. We'll be working with some junior's programs and working with instructors. Those are things I've wanted to do for a long time.

As far as the amount of activity, it's really increased since I stopped playing professionally. We're really busy, and it's fun.

You really enjoy teaching don't you?

Yeah, I think it was the school I taught for that couple of years before I came to San Diego. There are two sides of me. There's the competitive side, for sure—it was fun to be out there in the tour trying to beat those guys. But, there's also the instructor part of me. There are many things about this game

that can be taught. I think there are a lot of people out there who accept the plateau they're on who can be upgraded a half-level to a level with some good instruction. And, until you get a hold of those people, they're unaware of that. They kind of accept their position, and I don't believe you have to accept it. Whether it's our camp or someone else's, if it's run well, you can elevate the level of play of those people.

You know, there are some people who just play for the fun of it without a care of getting any better, and that's great. But, a lot of people who play would love to upgrade just a half-level, to beat some guys who are just nipping them right now. We've redesigned our programs in the last year or so, and in those programs we can see that progress. We can see it in 5 days. If I couldn't see that, I wouldn't do it. To just go out and teach for the financial gain, I think that would get old really fast.

Don't you use a lot of video taping in your camps?

Yes, and we've changed that a little bit this year. Now we give everyone their own personal videotape, of themselves in an actual game situation. That has really helped. The teaching is very factual that way. It's very unemotional.

"The younger players have an uncanny ability to score. Some of the shots they're choosing and hitting would never have entered my mind 5 or 6 years ago."

People don't get emotional about seeing themselves on tape?

It's a little emotional seeing yourself for the first time. But after a few minutes you start looking at yourself as just a racquetball player, and you find out if all the moving parts are working just right. And if they're not, you just try to re-program a little bit.

The taping has just made our teaching a lot easier. For instance, if I tell someone their racquet isn't up high enough and they think it is, we have a problem. But when they see themselves on tape, and they say, "I can't believe it's that low," then you're on common ground and you can start making changes. If we can do

that, and stay on them for five days, the changes are incorporated into their game and they leave a little bit different player.

What else do you do in your camps, besides taping?

We get the participants in game situations. We get them into drills. We work with them a lot on technique—it's a combination of working with their form and their strategy, trying to pull the two together.

Is there one thing that all people need help with?

Strategy—there are some very common errors. A surprising number of people don't understand that you have to give your opponent the proper hitting lanes. Many players are standing in the way, and that can be dangerous. We work on serving targets and serve returns. We work on center court, and correct position in a ceiling ball rally. With the right strategy, a lot of people are really surprised at how well they can play.

Where will your summer camps be this year?

We're going to Aspen again, and we're talking now with some clubs on the East Coast. Aspen is a great place to hold a



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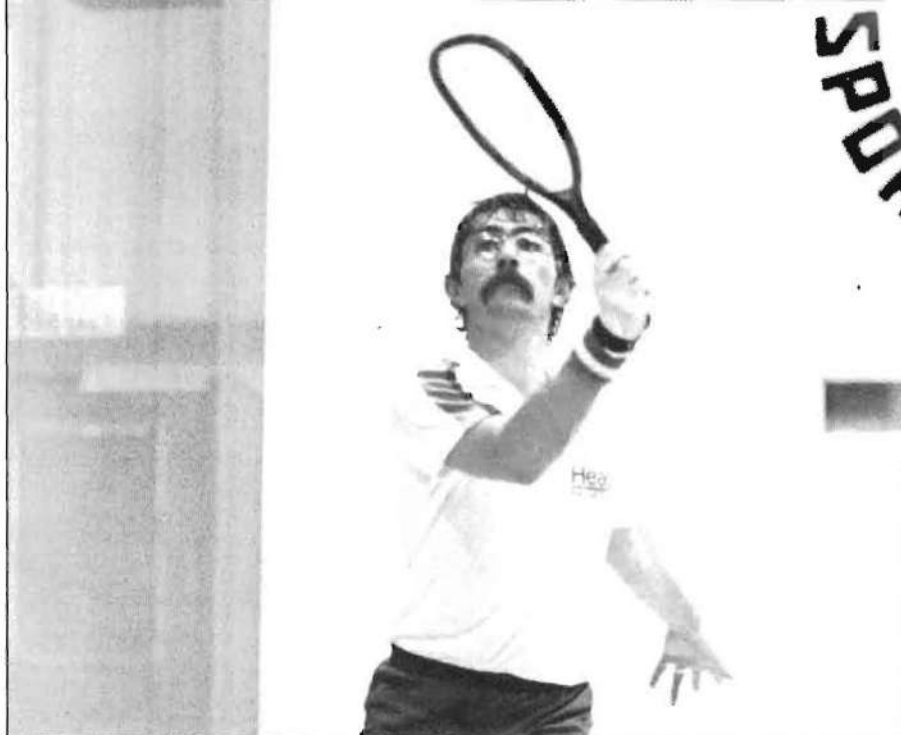
The velcro closure is well-placed for rapid adjustments during the heat of the game.

What's more, the Buckskin Glove retains all these characteristics. Wash after wash, game after game. Even when it's wet with sweat.

Available in more sizes than any other glove you can find, the Buckskin is surprisingly affordable at \$9.95. Pick one up at your sports club or shop or call Viking Sports at 800-535-3300.

Buckskin Glove

San Jose, California



camp—a super club, a beautiful place and there's a lot to do.

Do you miss playing professionally?

I miss the competitiveness of it. You know, I still get to play a lot of racquetball as I travel around, but going up to the tournament (in Pleasanton) was fun. And, sitting there watching, there were moments when I said, "Gee, I'd like to be out there." But, then you have to look at it realistically, too.

Do you think if you were still playing you could still play at that level?

I think as you get older, it's all dependent on how much time you want to play and train to keep your timing. I used to spend 9 months of the year training when I was on the tour. I think a person my age can compete if he wants to spend that time. I would hate for anyone to accept the fact that because they're older they can't play good racquetball. Because, to me, the game does not require that you have 10-second speed in the 100-yard dash. You have to be pretty strong, you've got to be quick enough to cover the court, and you have to have enough endurance to stay in there and weather those long rallies.

One thing to remember is that everybody misses. People in our camps sometimes have the idea that the top pros play this game perfectly. When we show them the tapes, and they see all the errors, they're really surprised. Everyone makes errors. And, if you're a little more experienced and can keep the younger players moving, you'll get a lot of shots. When you get your shots, you have to put them down.

Do you agree with those who say

that racquetball is sorely lacking in good instruction?

I don't want to make it sound derogatory to the instructors out there because by and large they do a good job. But, we do need to upgrade the instructional process and make even the instructors more aware of the realities of this sport. People have visions in their mind of how the game is supposed to be played that simply are not true.

For example, a lot of players and instructors are convinced that you have

to be able to kill the ball to be a really good racquetball player, and yet that's not true. You have to move the ball around, you've got to keep it off the back wall, and you're going to get plenty of kills just by keeping the ball down.

Also, we find we spend a lot of time just getting people to do the most basic things, like watching the ball. Many people have been taught never to turn back and watch for fear of being hit, and the game can't be played like that.

So, yes, I think the quality of instruction in the sport has got to rise.

What do you think of the pros today? Were the earlier pros better?

The game has really turned to offense. The younger players have an uncanny ability to score. Some of the shots they're choosing and hitting would never have entered my mind 5 or 6 years ago because they would have been too risky. I mean, they're shooting from anywhere! Also, when they changed the scoring, I had to adjust my whole thinking process. I had to try to develop more power, to hit from more positions, and to hit off balance. Those things, now, are just accepted as fact. The older players, if they were playing now, would have to adjust their games a lot. They would have to modify their strokes, and that's tough.

You have to remember that before Marty came along, this was really a control player's sport. He was really the first one who just started blasting. And, Marty went through 2 or 3 years of not winning—he hit it hard but he skipped a



"The whole thing was built on quicksand. Now we all are going to have to go in and do that real hard work to build the base racquetball never had."

lot of balls in. Then, all of a sudden, he started to combine some accuracy with the power he already had, and it flipped him around. It changed the whole game, and that style is still there. Power and accuracy will always beat accuracy.

You were there in Burlington in 1975, when it all started for Marty. Do you remember that weekend?

Yeah, that was the beginning of an era. I do remember it. I remember the sequence of matches after Marty beat Brumfield in the quarters. You could see it coming, you could see the confidence building in each match. (Laughing) And then the dam burst—I don't know if the young players today realize that's when it burst, but it was.

Besides yourself, who do you think has been the game's greatest player?

(Laughing) I would never put myself



Steve exhorts himself.

in that category. I think Marty is the most skilled player I've ever seen. He just has unbelievable athletic talent, to be able to control the ball at that speed, and hit it with that much power. And, it was always a pleasure to watch him because you never knew what he was going to do. You knew you might see something you'd never seen before. There was always that flair—there still is that flair.

Also, I've always thought Mike Yellen was as good as anyone who ever played. It used to be frustrating to watch him

because he wouldn't put the ball away, and he would get beat by players he had really outplayed. But now that he has learned to end the rally when he gets the chance, he's at the top of the game. With all of the tools he has, he is incredibly tough. I think if he can stay aggressive he's going to be awfully hard for anyone to beat.

What do you think about the current problems in the men's pro game?

It affects everybody. It affects racquetball in general. Because people at the club level need someone to look up to. They want to identify with Mike Yellen, they want to see posters of him, they want to know everything about him. They want to say, "Hey, I hit a few shots like that guy." But, they can't relate to anyone right now because so few of them get to see it.

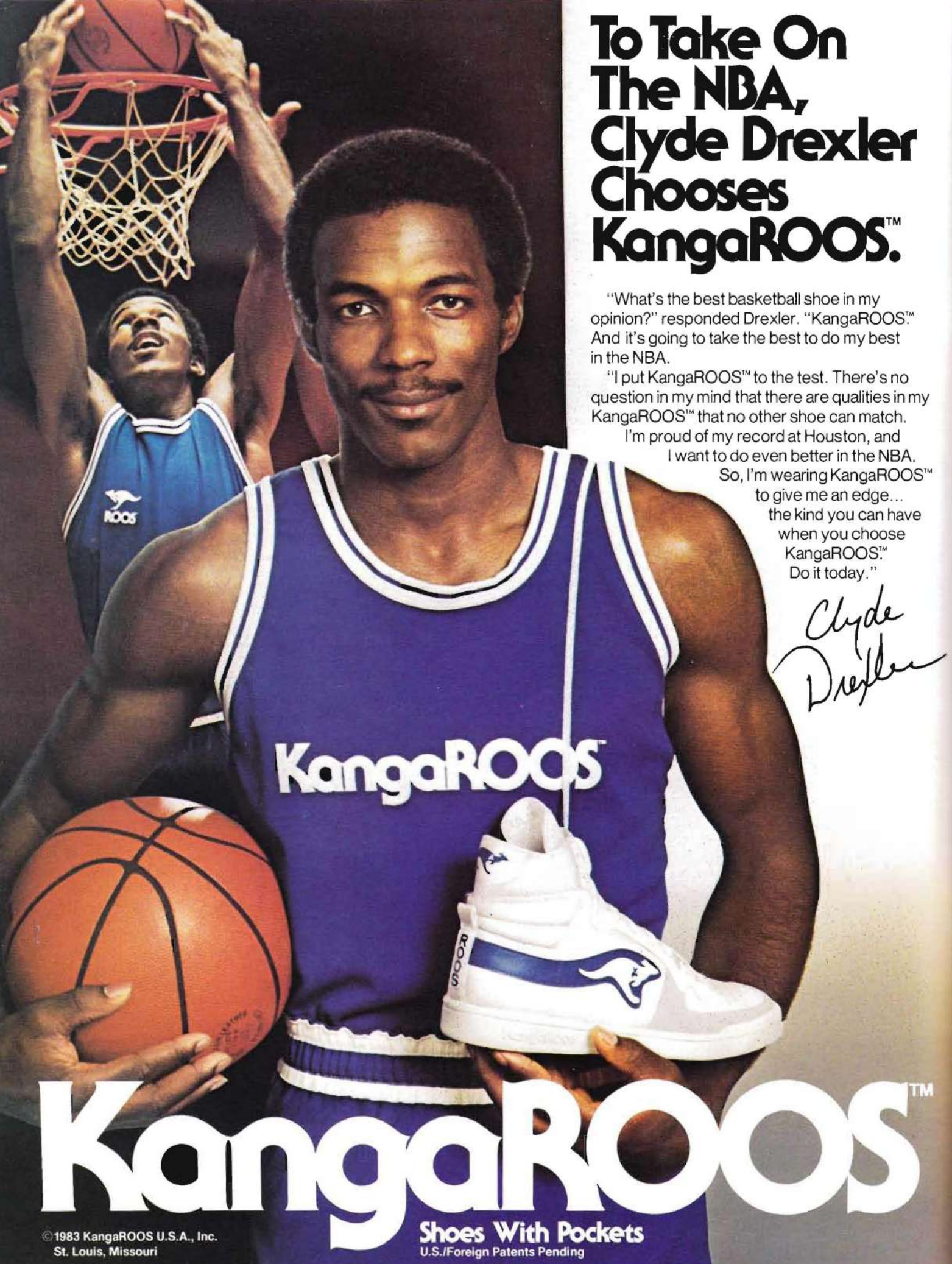
I think the sport just grew too fast. Everything went crazy. All the facilities were built and there wasn't any organization. We wanted great juniors, but there wasn't even an organization for juniors. We wanted good instructors, but there was no organization. The whole thing was built on quicksand. Now we all are going to have to go in and do that real hard work to build the base racquetball never had.

Do you think racquetball has the potential of being a good spectator sport?

Yes, I think so, when it is done well. I also believe it is televisable. It will take a little work, but it can be done. I don't think that the average player out there cares if it's a perfectly edited, network-type telecast. He just wants to see some racquetball. And, I believe the demand is out there right now.

Steve against Steve Keeley in Atlanta, 1979.



A full-page advertisement for KangaROOS basketball shoes. The central figure is Clyde Drexler, a Black man with a mustache, wearing a blue KangaROOS jersey with white trim. He is holding a basketball in his right hand and a white KangaROOS sneaker with blue accents in his left. In the background, another player in a similar jersey is seen jumping for a basketball shot. The text is arranged in the top right and bottom of the image.

To Take On The NBA, Clyde Drexler Chooses KangaROOS.™

"What's the best basketball shoe in my opinion?" responded Drexler. "KangaROOS.™ And it's going to take the best to do my best in the NBA.

"I put KangaROOS.™ to the test. There's no question in my mind that there are qualities in my KangaROOS.™ that no other shoe can match.

I'm proud of my record at Houston, and I want to do even better in the NBA.

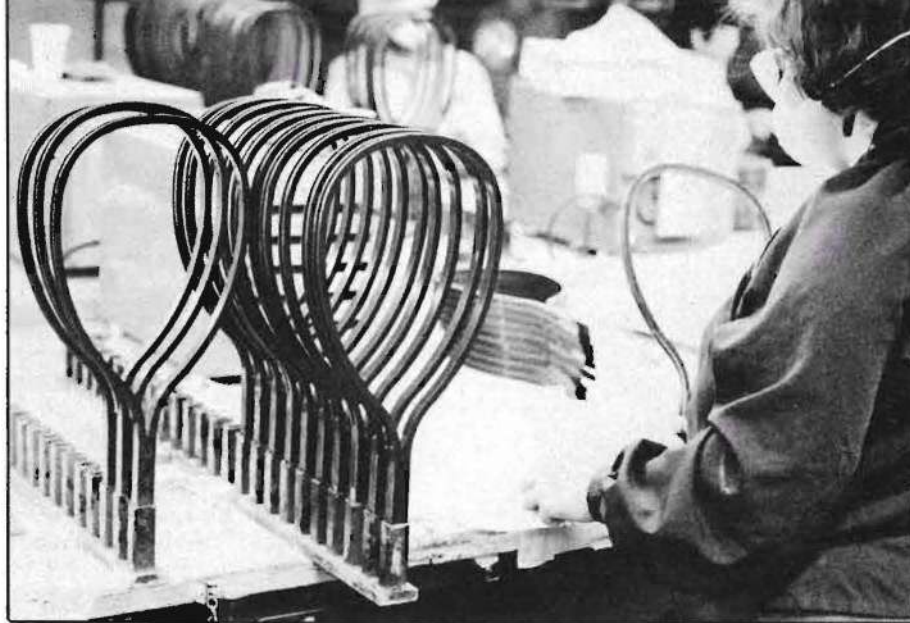
So, I'm wearing KangaROOS.™ to give me an edge... the kind you can have when you choose KangaROOS.™ Do it today."

Clyde Drexler

KangaROOS.™

Shoes With Pockets
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St. Louis, Missouri



SPECIAL RACQUET FEATURE: PART II

THE RACQUET RACKET

Racquets: How are they made, and why do some of them cost so much?

One of the logical consequences of the explosive growth we have seen in the sport of racquetball over the last decade has been the proliferation of racquets. In the short span of 14 years the number of racquets available to the average player has mushroomed from 2 to nearly 80, with retail prices that now range from \$18 to \$200. Unfortunately, as the selection has gone up, so has the confusion. Buying a racquet today can be a terribly frustrating experience, particularly for the new player. There is so little good information about racquet design available, and so much baloney, that most players are never able to adequately answer for themselves the three most often asked questions: "Is there really a difference in the way racquets play?"; "Why are some racquets so much more expensive than others?"; and, "Will a more expensive racquet really help my game?"

A few months ago, at the request of a number of our readers, we at Inter-

Buying a racquet today can be a terribly frustrating experience, particularly for the new player.

national Racquetball set out to find the answers to those questions. Like most projects we pursue, gathering information about the design, construction, and

performance of racquetball racquets turned out to be a much larger undertaking than we had ever imagined—what started to be an interesting two-page article quickly evolved into a three-month, two-part, 13-page feature. The first half of our research involved a comprehensive player-testing of 18 top racquets, the results of which were published in our December issue. What we found in that test was the answer to the first of those three questions; yes, there is a difference in the way racquets play.

This month, we want to answer the second question, "Why do some racquets cost so much?" To find the answer we went right to the source. In early November we were allowed to tour the racquet production facilities of two highly-respected firms—Ektelon and Richcraft. Ektelon, as most players are aware, is one of the largest manufacturers in the racquetball industry, and is largely credited with pioneering the



Leo Riley (left) and Barry Marrassi of Ektelon hold a raw aluminum frame.

For the next 8 years, most of the racquets that were introduced were based on some variation of those two designs—they were either formed aluminum or some type of molded plastic. The industry divided itself into two camps: The Ektelon group preferred aluminum to plastic because it was more durable and had less vibration; The Leach group touted plastic because it cost less, it didn't deform on impact like aluminum and it was more flexible, which, they said, gave greater control. The two groups began to search for some new design which would combine the best characteristics of both types.

In the spring of 1979, Ektelon introduced the "Composite 250 G," a racquet that immediately rewrote the book on racquet design. It was the brainchild of Ray Mortvedt, Ektelon's newly acquired Director of Engineering, and a specialist in graphite and composite construction. Borrowing on his experience in the aircraft industry, and on the work that was then being done in composite tennis racquets, Mortvedt designed a hand-laid continuous-fiber graphite/fiberglass racquet that was extremely strong, moderately flexible, and very light—250 grams. The "Composite 250G" was an immediate sensation and quickly became the most widely used racquet in tournament competition.

A short time later, Leach entered the market with its own composite racquet—the "Marty Hogan Graphite 240." The "240" was radically stiff, and weighed in at an unbelievable 240 grams, making it by far the lightest racquet ever produced up to that time. Aided by the visibility of Marty Hogan, the "240" quickly established itself as "the" racquet for the power player.

Since that time both Ektelon and Leach have continued to refine the

development of hand-made composite racquetball racquets. Richcraft is a Burbank-based company that is familiar by name to very few, and yet has had a strong influence on racquetball since the earliest days of the sport. Richcraft specializes in mold-making, but in recent years they have become increasingly involved with the manufacture of high-quality injection-molded racquets. They designed and machined the molds that formed most of the early Leach racquets, such as the very popular Bandido, and currently produce racquets for companies such as Wilson, Geostar, Aerolite, EST, and others. It is Richcraft that makes the Geostar 240G, a \$79 racquet that finished 4th out of 18 in last month's test.

It's important to point out that we approached these two companies, not because the racquets they produce are necessarily better than others, but because we felt that their two facilities could best give us a representative view of how the three basic racquet-types (metal, injection-molded, and hand-laid composite) are made.

A Brief History of Racquets

Perhaps the best way to understand why racquetball racquets have evolved the way they have is to take a quick look at the past.

The first step away from the old, original "sawed-off tennis racquet" came when Bud Muehleisen beat Charlie Brumfield at the 1969 Nationals with a Dayton steel racquet, a racquet which was quickly banned from the game. The following year Bud beat Charlie again, but this time he used a silver aluminum racquet that had been designed and built for him by Bud Held, the founder of Ektelon. The "Bud Muehleisen" quickly

became the standard within the sport—the extruded aluminum frame was strong, light, and relatively easy to produce. A number of other aluminum designs followed.

In 1971, Charlie Brumfield played in the National Championships with another new racquet design. This one was an injection-molded plastic racquet made by Bud Leach (if you're thinking by now that there were a lot of Buds, you're right!) which would eventually be called the Leach "Swinger." The "Swinger" was the first of many molded racquets that put Leach Industries in the forefront of racquet production in the mid 70's. Among the more famous molded racquets from Leach was the white Little Bandido that was used by Marty Hogan during his furious charge to the top of pro racquetball.

Molding racquet frames in the Richcraft factory.



According to Mortvedt at Ektelon, the problem with weight is no longer in the design but in public acceptance.

composite design with new racquets such as the CBK and the DP Leach 8000. Many other companies have since become involved in producing hand-laid composite racquets, including Wilson, Head, Voit, and Pro-Kennex.

While most of the effort of the big manufacturers has been directed toward composite designs, there has been some movement toward more sophisticated wood and metal racquets. DP Leach introduced the first lightweight steel frame, the "Marty Hogan Steel," which became quite popular until it was discontinued last year. DP Leach has also experimented with exotic wood laminates, such as in their current "Graphite 260." Ektelon has modernized the aluminum frame and largely eliminated the problem of deformation with their "Citori." And, Ektelon introduced their first all-steel frame, the "ST245," this year.

In general, the racquet industry seems to be following these four trends:

(1) Racquets are getting lighter. While the average weight a few years ago was 265+ grams, high-end frames are now available as low as 230 grams. And there

is some indication they are going even lighter. According to Mortvedt at Ektelon, the problem with weight is no longer in the design but in public acceptance. "A 220 gram CBK plays just fine," he says, "but people just aren't ready for it."

(2) Frames are getting stiffer. The theory seems to be that as the weight goes down, the stiffness must go up to efficiently transfer energy to the ball. Some of today's most popular designs are extremely stiff.

(3) Strings are getting longer. Many of the newer racquet designs have eliminated the throat piece completely to make way for longer center strings. This allows for tighter string tensions and results in a larger "sweet spot." As one racquet engineer told us, "Longer strings are sweeter strings."

(4) Grips are getting smaller. This is primarily due to a surprising shift in consumer demand. Where 4 1/8" used to be considered standard, many racquets no longer even offer that size. 3 3/8"-4" seems to be the current standard. A smaller grip allows for more wrist snap.

The development of hand-made composite racquets has solved many of the problems of racquet design for manufacturers—composites are light, stiff, and for the most part, very durable. But composites have created a new problem for the potential racquet buyer—expense. When the "Composite 250G" was introduced, it carried a retail price of \$79.95, which was extreme in 1979. Now it is not unusual for an average club player to own two or more \$100+ racquets, and it is possible to spend as much as \$200. Why has the price gone up so fast?

To answer that question, let's take a look at how the three racquet-types are produced:

Aluminum Racquets

Despite the recent successes of the more exotic racquet frames, there are



All racquetball racquets are strung by hand.

The Space-Age Ingredients

Boron:

Current price - \$200/lb.

Tensile strength - 500,000psi (one of the strongest materials known).

Tensile modulus* - 58,000,000psi (nearly twice that of steel).

Density is slightly less than aluminum.

Graphite (Carbon):

Current price - \$50/lb.

Tensile modulus* - 50,000,000psi+

Half the weight of aluminum.

Twice the strength of steel.

The 60-by-15 foot payload-bay doors on the space-shuttle Columbia are constructed entirely of graphite.

Kevlar:

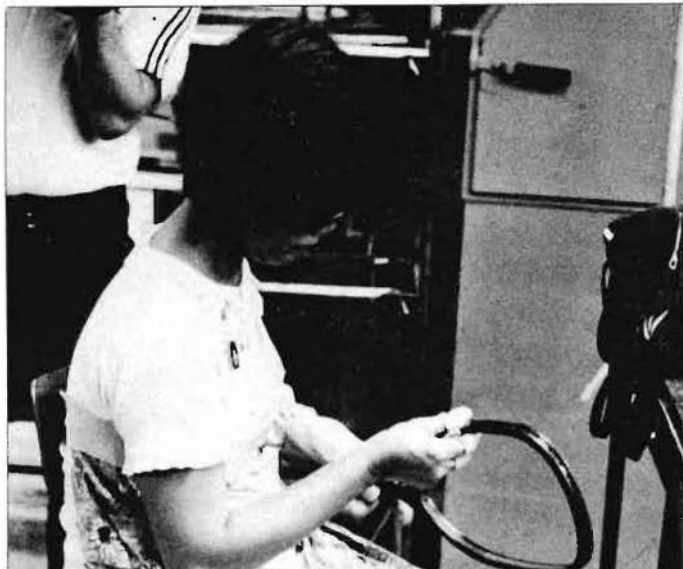
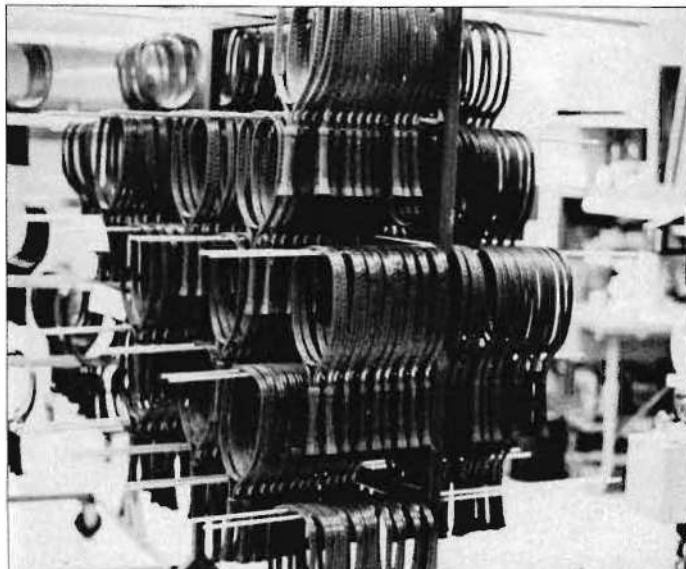
Current price - \$300/lb.

Tensile strength - equal to that of boron, but with only half the weight.

Kevlar is so strong that it is used to make bullet-proof vests, and is the primary material in the new military helmets that are capable of stopping a high-speed .30 caliber bullet fired from a distance of 24 inches.

*Modulus is the term for stiffness.

Ektelon worker cleans up a rough 250G frame.



still many companies, both in the U.S. and overseas who manufacture aluminum racquetball racquets. Aluminum frames continue to sell well because they offer good playability, good durability, and very good value.

Most aluminum frames are constructed in the same way. Long strips of extruded aluminum channel, which are produced in bulk by a company such as Alcoa to the manufacturer's design, are cut to length and then bent around a pattern to form a particular head shape. In some cases the string holes are drilled prior to the bending, in others (such as Ektelon) the drilling is done after the frame has been formed. Throat pieces are then secured into place when used, and the frame is anodized, which gives the racquet its color. The handle, which is either wood or foam, is then attached, the racquet is strung (by hand) and the

are strung and gripped.

Again, the material costs are low, and there is little labor involved in the actual frame molding process. The greatest expense with the process, of course, lies in the molding machine and the molds themselves.

One of the objections to molded racquets in the past has been their lack of durability. Most racquetball players have had the experience of breaking a molded racquet, usually on the side of the frame at one of the racquet holes. The reason for this, according to Ron Richards at Richcraft, is that when the older designs were molded with integrated racquet holes, a weak "junction" was formed every time the molding material was forced to flow around a hole-forming pin and meet itself on the other side. The solution, in the most recent designs, has been two-fold: (1) the racquet holes are

"With the graphite racquets we stopped testing after 150,000 shots without the slightest sign of degradation."

few years ago, and we simply didn't feel that the expense of the process was justified. We feel that molding produces an extremely good racquet without the labor intensive problems of hand-laying."

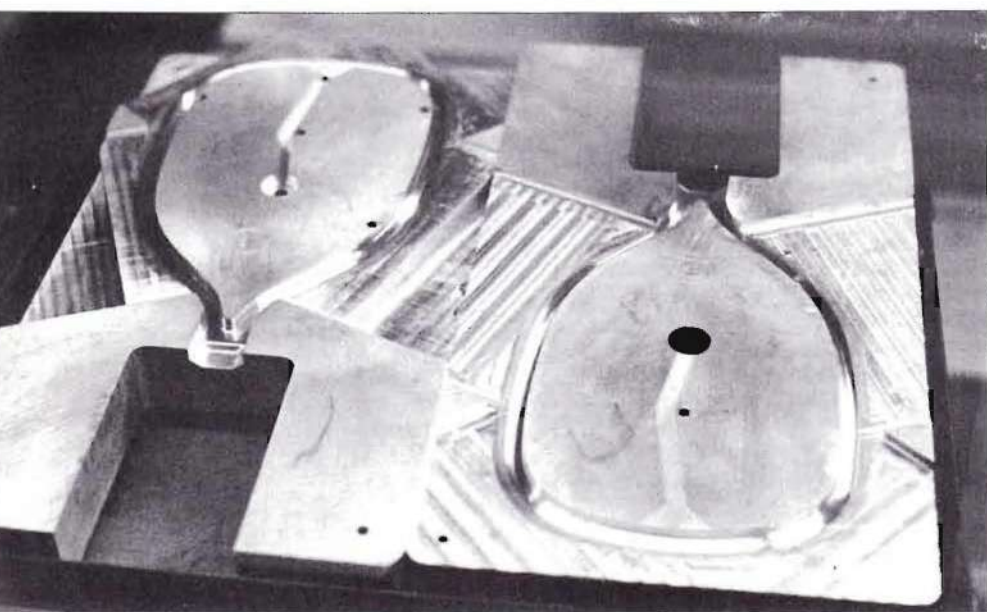
Hand-Laid Composites

Let's answer the important question right away. Take our word for it, the reason hand-laid composite racquets are so expensive is because they cost so much to make. If we ever had any doubt about that claim, it disappeared when we saw the process for ourselves. Ektelon's estimates, and these should hold true for other companies, are that hand-laid composite racquets cost 3 to 15 times as much as aluminum racquets in materials, and 10 to 20 times as much in labor. The number of people, and the amount of time required to produce a single racquet is incredible.

Describing the actual process of building a composite is more difficult than the other types, both because the process actually varies between manufacturers, and because the companies tend to be secretive about their specific process.

These racquets are called composites because they are usually constructed of a combination of materials that include graphite (carbon), fiberglass, boron, and Kevlar (see insert). Continuous rolls of these materials are supplied to the manufacturers in either parallel, woven, or braided form, the most common of which seems to be a woven "fabric." The frame is constructed by hand-rolling a particular combination of fabrics. Patterns are cut, oriented properly, saturated with resin, placed by hand into a mold, and cured with heat. This process alone takes 2½ to 5 hours for a single racquet!

Composite racquets differ in the type and amount of materials used. They also differ in the "fiber-orientation"; certain manufacturers feel that changing the



An opened racquet mold, with the orifice at top of frame.

grip is applied.

The relatively low cost (18 to \$85) of aluminum racquets is due to two things: aluminum in bulk is inexpensive, and there is little hand labor required during construction.

Molded Racquets

Most racquets referred to as plastic, glass, and fiberglass are of this type. In this process very short (¼" or shorter) fibers of glass or graphite are mixed with molten nylon, which is then hardened and pelletized. The actual racquet frame is made by remelting the pellets and squeezing the material through an orifice into a racquet mold. Using this method, a racquet frame can be produced approximately every 45 seconds. The frames are then finished, painted, in some cases holes are drilled, and they

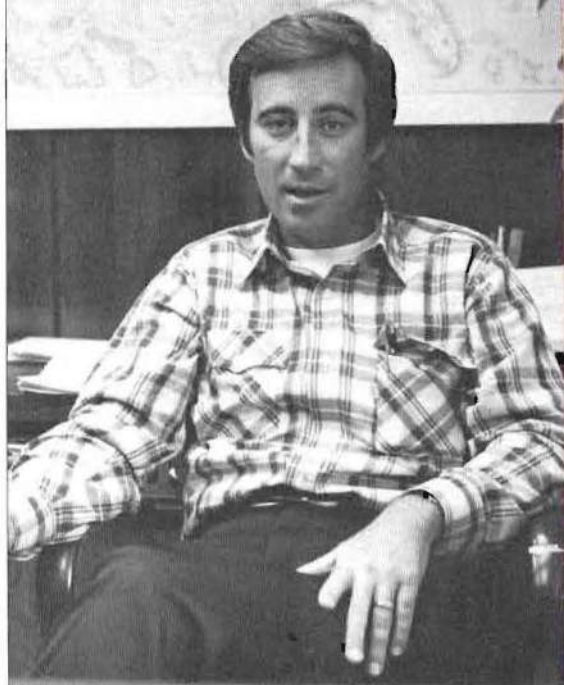
drilled by hand and after the solid frame is formed; (2) the molten material is injected at the top of the racquet and flows equally down both sides so that no junction is formed anywhere in the hitting portion of the frame.

While the necessity of hand drilling is debated within the industry, obviously it does take some time, and that is why certain high-end molded racquets (such as the Geostar "240G" and the Wilson "Sting Graphite") are more expensive.

We should add that many companies continue to mold their racquets, not only because it is a less expensive process, but because they believe it actually produces a frame that is equal to or better than the hand-laid composites. Says Richards, "We were very involved with hand-made composite tennis racquets a



Attaching the grip to the racquet.



Ron Richards of Richcraft.

angle at which the fibers of the fabric are placed relative to a reference axis changes the structural properties, and, therefore, the "feel" of the racquet.

After the frame has cured and cooled, it has a very rough appearance and goes through a number of cleaning and finishing stages before the holes are drilled. Drilling was one of the most difficult obstacles during the development of the process—special machines had to be designed to slowly drill single holes in the extremely tough composite frames. Handles are then affixed, frames are hand-painted (that's right), hand-strung, and gripped. Virtually every step in the process is done by hand.

There are, as we mentioned earlier, many variations in the process. One area where companies differ is in the design of the frame core. While Ektelon prefers to use a solid-core thin frame, the Wilson "Composite Plus" and Head "Graphite Express" both utilize a hollow tube design. DP Leach fills the hollow center of their "Graphite 8000" with cork, to dampen the vibration. The "Hogan Graphite" from Pro-Kennex utilizes a step-up frame construction, like a steel golf club shaft.

When done well, all of these processes produce very light racquets with good stiffness and incredible strength. How strong are these racquets? Paul Roy, of Aldila Incorporated, one of the first to manufacture graphite tennis racquets explains:

"We have this machine that shoots out balls at 100 miles per hour. A wooden racquet fatigues after it hits 5,000 balls. A metal racquet is good for up to 20,000. With the graphite racquets we stopped testing after 150,000 shots. There wasn't the slightest sign of degradation."

The Final Question

There are, no doubt, some of you who

are saying to yourselves at this point, "That's all well and good, but will a more expensive racquet really help my game?" The answer is an unqualified "maybe." Obviously, the manufacturers want you to believe that buying one of their luxury-priced composite racquets will immediately help your game. But remember this: the fact that a Rolls Royce is handmade doesn't mean it performs better than any other car, it just means it's made by hand. Is a Rolls worth \$100,000? Yes, for some it is. In cars, and in racquetball racquets, every person has to decide individually how much difference there really is, and whether or not that difference warrants the added expense.

For what it's worth, these are our conclusions:

(1) In terms of cost-of-production, the

higher prices of the hand-made composite racquets are justified.

(2) The actual difference in playability between racquets becomes more important as a player's skill level goes up; i.e., the game of a beginning player will most likely not benefit greatly by switching to a premium racquet.

(3) Regardless of their playing characteristics, hand-laid composite frames offer a tremendous advantage in terms of durability. It is not unusual to see club players using composites that are now nearly 5 year old!

(4) While it is true that most players can learn to play with any racquet, as a general rule, and for whatever reason, the more expensive racquets do seem to play "better." And that advantage should translate into more points per game for intermediate to advanced players. ❧

Hand-drilling an injection molded racquet.



PLEASANTON



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RACQUETBALL

IT WAS NO FLUKE

**Mike Yellen
Wins Schoebers'**

It is one of the harsh realities of professional sport that no matter how often you win, you must always prove yourself at least one more time. In the public's perception, you are your most recent performance. Consider the case of Mike Yellen:

Last April, after floating around the top five for a number of years, Mike suddenly aligned all the pieces of his methodical game and stunned the sport by sweeping four consecutive tournaments, winning three national titles, and earning for himself the world's number one ranking and the crown of National Champion. Given the circumstances of the time, that grand slam may well have been the greatest single accomplishment in the history of professional racquetball. And yet, two months later when Yellen lost the heart-breaker to Marty Hogan in the finals at Davison, people were already speculating that his awesome year-end blitz had been little more than an unrepeatable fluke.

And so it was that Mike Yellen came to Pleasanton to prove a point. By the time he left, there were none who doubted. Mike Yellen is no fluke.



Mike Yellen holds onto center court in the final.

Mike Yellen brilliantly outplayed Marty Hogan in a final match that promised professional racquetball's #1 ranking, at the 8th annual Schoeber's Christmas Racquetball Classic, in Pleasanton, California, December 7-11. For the fifth time in their last seven meetings, Yellen capitalized on Hogan's streaky play to win in five games, 11-6, 5-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-7. The victory pushed Yellen 9 full points ahead of Hogan in the pro rankings, giving him the most commanding lead that any player has held over Hogan since 1975.

Not all of the records that were set at the Schoeber's event, however,

were set on the court. Aided by this year's unusually thin professional tournament schedule, the popular Northern California event, which is sponsored by Wilson, attracted more than 1,200 amateur and professional entries, making it by far the largest racquetball tournament ever staged in a single location. The professional entries alone numbered 57, and included 22 of the top 25 players in the world.

As they played throughout the tournament to capacity crowds on the fabulous front-wall, white-glass exhibition court at Schoeber's, Mike Yellen and Marty Hogan left little

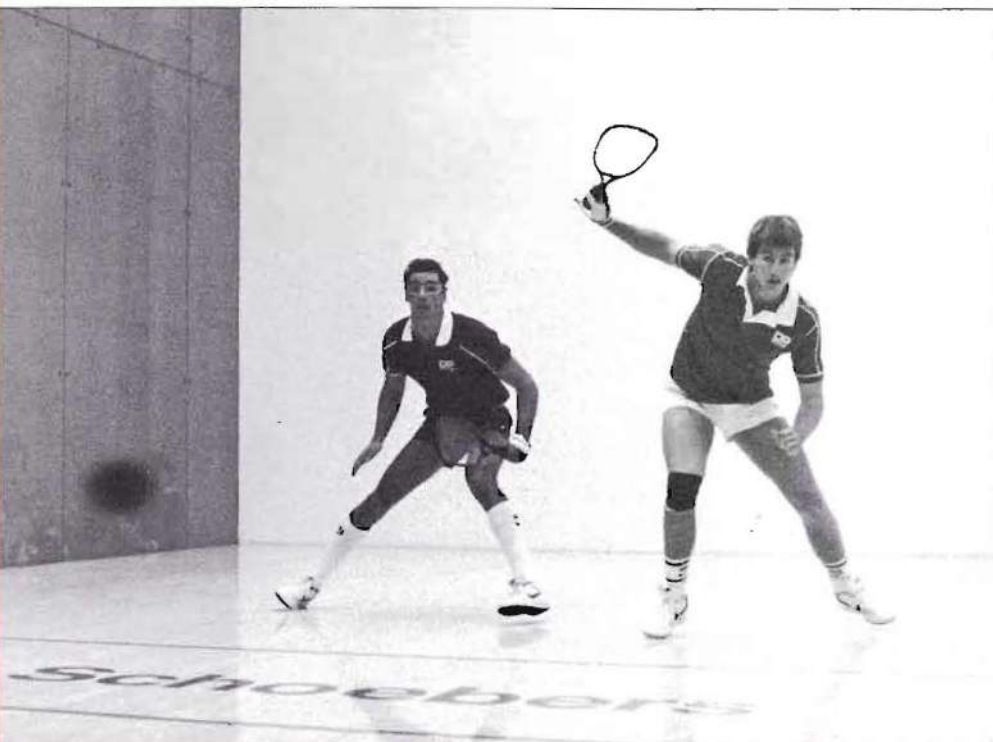
doubt that men's pro racquetball has become a two-horse race, and the two horses seem to be pulling further away from the pack. Since Dave Peck suffered a leg injury at the end of last season, no player has been able to seriously threaten either one.

Hogan floated through the upper bracket with ease, taking out Craig Davidson, Craig McCoy, Ed Andrews, and Bret Harnett in the semis. Yellen went through Jeff Conine, Doug Cohen, Jerry Hilecher, and Ruben Gonzalez. Only his match with Hilecher was close, with Yellen winning in five.

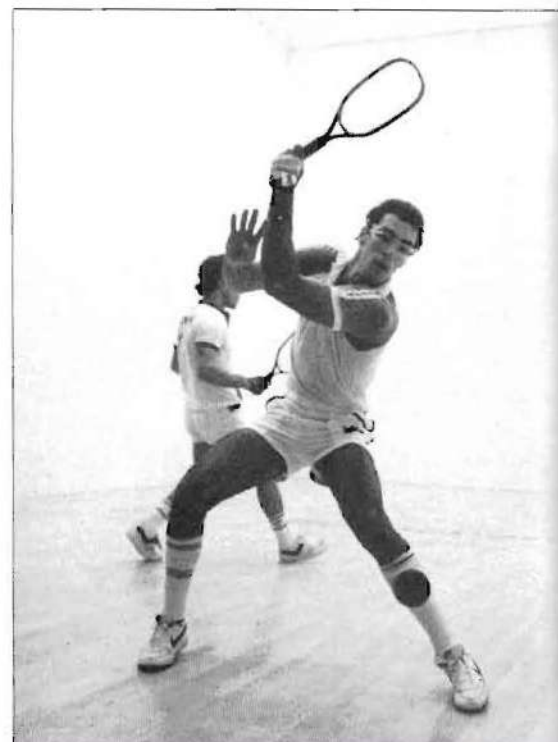
With the promise of another in a series of great finals between racquetball's reigning titans, the gallery at Schoeber's was jammed more than an hour before the latest episode of the Mike and Marty show was scheduled to begin.

The match began in typical fashion—with Marty sleeping in the back court, Yellen racked up a quick 9-0 lead, and held off a mild Hogan comeback to take the game 11-6. The last four times Yellen and Hogan have faced each other, one of them has blown the other away in the first game. The first three were: Chicago - Yellen, 11-0; Atlanta - Hogan, 11-1; Davison - Hogan, 11-1.

This time, the first game made it clear that Hogan was going to have some problem with the speed of the ball. The Schoeber's event used the Wilson "True-Blue," a ball that proved to be very popular with both the players and the spectators, but



Gregg Peck blasts a backhand in loss to Harnett.



Harnett sets up on a backhand against Egerman in 16s.

one that is a little slower than Marty prefers. The Wilson was perfect, however, for Yellen's percentage game—Hogan was going to have to adjust.

Marty adjusted quickly. Taking a little velocity off the ball, he relied on the pinpoint accuracy everyone says he doesn't have, and took game two with ease, 11-5.

Those who watched the final will probably always remember it for what happened in the third game. Poor Mike Yellen! After playing 15 minutes of flawless racquetball, Mike had rolled to another 9-0 lead, and seemed assured of taking the always-crucial middle game. But Hogan would have none of it. Marty took the serve, and, aided by five unreturnable aces, scored 11 straight points to win 11-9. It was as good a serving exhibition as Hogan ever gave. Yellen walked off the court with an expression that seemed to say, "Geez... why do I have to work so much harder for my points than he does for his?" At that moment, there were few watching who weren't absolutely certain that Marty Hogan was just minutes away from taking back his #1 ranking.

But Mike Yellen understands Hogan's game very well. He took the court for the fourth game, and continued his relentless "millstone" strategy; i.e., keep playing perfect percentage racquetball and eventually the pressure will wear down your opponent like a millstone around his neck. Hogan's hot-streak cooled, and Yellen took game four, 11-6.



As only Mike Yellen seems to understand, one key to beating Hogan is to not panic when Marty gets hot: "He's going to have his streaks, but he always cools down." Hogan came out in the final game hot once more. He bolted to a 4-0 lead, and then proceeded to go, as they say, "into the tank." From that point the contest was over—the millstone had done its job. Yellen no longer had to chip away at Hogan, he ran all over him. The score reversed from 4-0 Hogan to 9-5 Yellen. Marty inched back to 9-7 before losing his last serve on a backhand straight into the floor. Two points later Mike

Yellen walked away with one of the sweetest victories of his career, winning the final game, 11-7, and taking the match.

"You just can't let it get to you," said Yellen of Hogan's amazing serves in the third game. "I was up 9-0, and suddenly the game was over, but I was still playing fine—I wasn't doing anything differently. You just have to accept the fact that he has those moments, and keep playing your game. If he doesn't allow you to play, you can't score any points. But you can't get discouraged."

It was a stunning loss for Hogan—

Hogan vs. Harnett: a blaster's dream.



Ed Andrews forcing Hogan into the air in the quarters.





Harnett trying to keep the ball away from Hogan in quarters.

it effectively removed any doubt about his motivation. No longer can he, or anyone else, claim that he lost his #1 ranking because he was not "hungry." The fact is, Hogan has been a hungry #2 for six months now, and he is only falling further behind. It is beginning to appear that this time even the great Hogan may not be able to stop the tenacious charge of Mike Yellen.

Not only was the Schoeber's pro draw unusually large, but the format included a round-of-64 eliminating the need for the qualifying rounds that have become the norm for pro stops during the last few years.

The first ranking casualty of the tournament came in the round-of-64 where 17th-ranked Scott Hawkins

was beaten by young David Gross of St. Louis. Hawkins, a national junior champion and once one of the hottest young pros on the tour, was playing in his first pro event in nearly 8 months.

Three upsets shook the round-of-32. Mike Ray, a very talented rookie from Atlanta, destroyed Don Thomas, the tournament's #8 seed, in three games, 11-7, 11-7, 11-10. The defeat was a costly one for Thomas, dropping him two spots in the rankings, to 9th.

Another rookie, Scott Oliver, of nearby Stockton, played the tournament of his career, by eliminating Rich Wagner in the 32's, 11-9, 11-7, 2-11, 11-9, and then taking out third ranked Dave Peck in the 16's. Oliver's pro ranking jumped from 20 to 14.

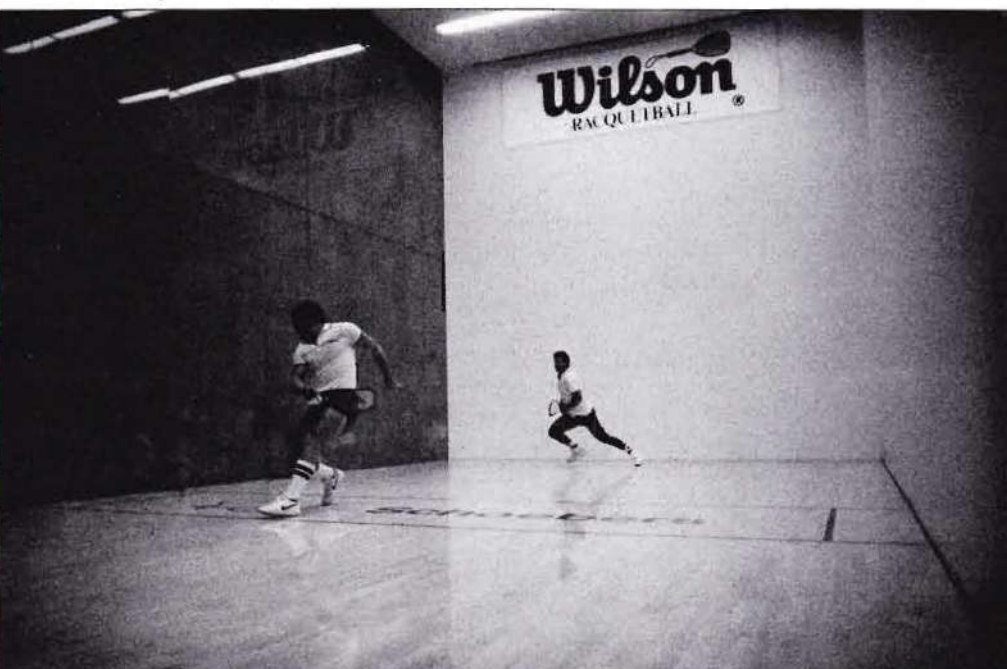
The most heart-breaking match

for the local spectators took place in the 32's when their home-town boy Gerry Price was beaten in five games by Canadian blaster Lindsay Myers, 11-7, 1-11, 11-4, 4-11, 11-7. Price, one of the game's best young players, became the most recent of a long line of players to learn that it is difficult, if not impossible, to win at your home club.

Two very important matches were played in the round-of-16. Scott Oliver, to the deafening screams of his loyal fans, dove his way to an astonishing upset over third ranked Dave Peck, 11-9, 6-11, 11-2, 11-6. Peck, who was playing in his first ranking event since suffering a serious leg injury last summer in Atlanta, was obviously not moving well. While his shots appeared sharp, he was simply unable to counter-attack Oliver's retrieving speed. Peck's respectable performance certainly seemed to support his claim that he is recovering well from an injury that occurred less than 5 months ago. But the loss may have been a costly one; Bret Harnett, making a comeback of sorts, finished in the semifinals and pulled within 2 points of passing Peck for the number three position in the rankings.

John Egberman, playing some of his best racquetball in a year, came extremely close to ousting Bret

Mike Yellen receives award from Steve Dunn.



Hogan serves a perfect ace in game three.

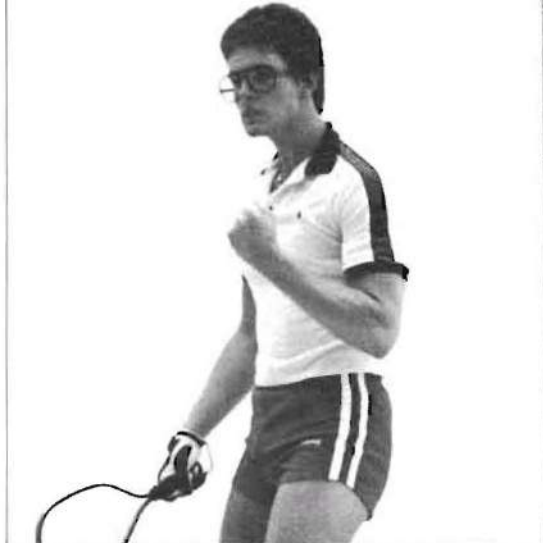
Harnett in what was, by far, the most important match of the round-of-32. Eggerman, of Boise, Idaho, totally dominated Harnett in the first two games of their match, 11-1, 11-5, showing some of the brilliance that won him three national juniors titles. After dropping the third game to Harnett, 11-4, Eggerman took a 10-6 lead in the fourth game, and was serving for the match. In a furious, pounding exchange, a diving get by Harnett left Eggerman with a plumb in center court shooting directly over Harnett's sprawled body. With Bret at his mercy, Eggerman nervously drove the shot into the floor. Harnett regrouped and won the match, taking the last two games, 11-10, 11-7.

While the defeat was bitter for Eggerman, it was devastating for Gregg Peck. Had Eggerman hit the front wall anywhere on that one shot, the Harnett defeat would have automatically thrust Peck into the top four, regardless of what else happened in the tournament. Harnett, however, went on to beat Peck in the quarterfinals. Instead of jumping to number four, Peck dropped to sixth—he was passed by Ruben Gonzalez, who finished in the semifinals. Ah yes, fortune is so fickle.

When Harnett and Peck took to the court in the quarterfinals, there was a feeling in the air that this time it was Bret's turn. Since the middle of last season, Gregg Peck had beaten the third ranked Harnett three consecutive times. One of the pros watching the match voiced what many were thinking: "You just don't beat a guy like Harnett that many times." Where he had been shakey in the early tournament rounds, Harnett suddenly began to connect with his rockets against Peck. Gregg's solid play was not enough to hold back Harnett's revenge. Bret

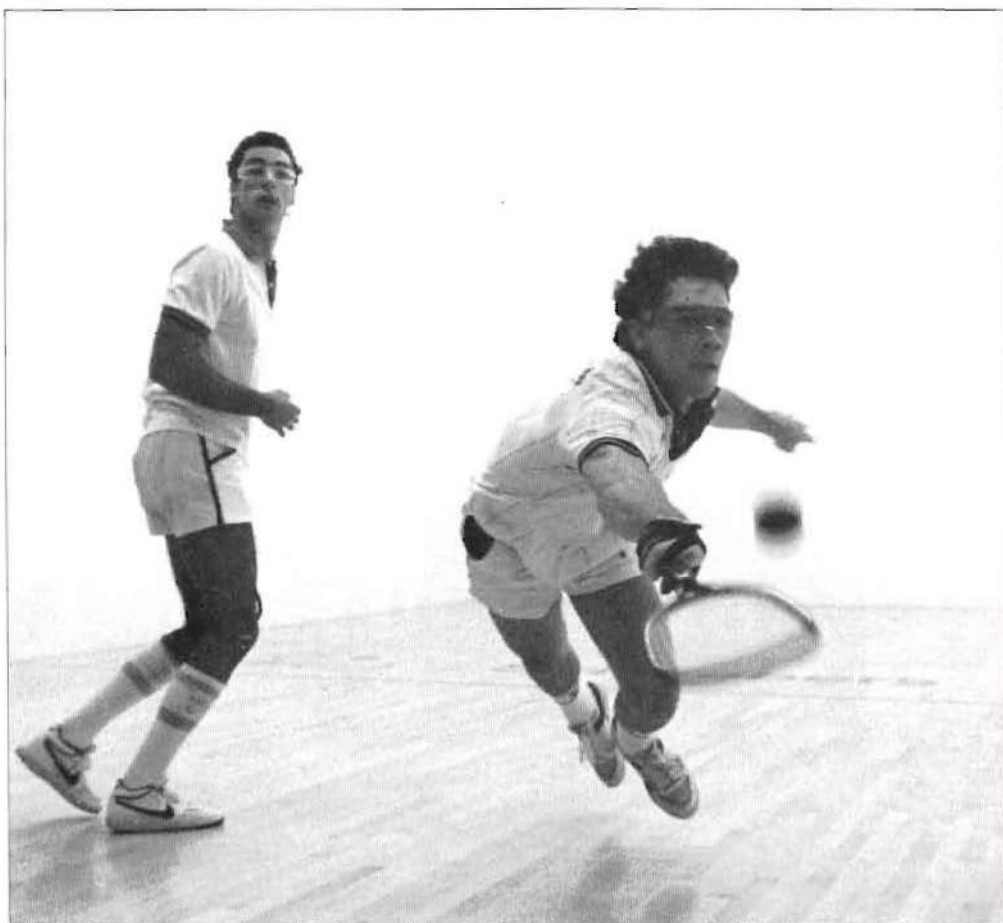
won in five games, 11-7, 3-11, 11-4, 7-11, 11-5.

Scott Oliver barely had time to think about his upset of Dave Peck before it was time for his quarterfinal match with Ruben Gonzalez. Though the match was really no contest, the diving display put on by the two agile players was one of the most spectacular shows of the event. Gonzalez won in four, 11-7, 11-10, 4-11, 11-5. Ruben was in the semifinals, benefitting for the second time by the early elimination of number three seed Dave Peck (the



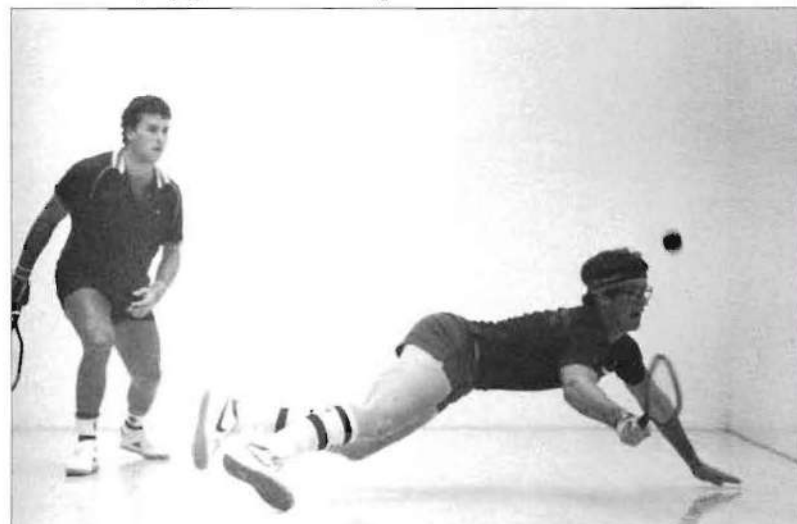
Eggerman goes to the back wall against Harnett.

Gerry Price exhorts himself.



Scott Oliver during upset of Dave Peck.

Powerful Jeff Conine dives during loss to Yellen.





Hilecher retrieves during loss to Yellen.

first time was last June in Chicago).

While the other 55 pros were fighting for their lives, Marty Hogan and Mike Yellen were literally "playing" with their opponents.

The semifinals pitted Yellen against Ruben Gonzalez, in a repeat of the final of the Chicago Nationals, and that ultimate matchup of finesse and grace (uh huh), Marty Hogan and Bret Harnett.

Predictably, Yellen eased by Gonzalez, a player with whom he has never had difficulty, 11-7, 11-8,

11-5.

And, although Hogan was never really pushed by Harnett, the show was everything the crowd had hoped for. Playing as though they had made a pact to purge the loathsome ceiling ball from the game, the two highly-skilled power players blasted, darted, and dove for nearly two hours before Hogan triumphed, 11-9, 7-11, 11-8, 11-6. The semifinal finish was a comeback of sorts for Harnett, who was the defending champion in this event, and who has

been having problems with the early rounds. With the exception of Atlanta, Pleasanton was his first appearance in the semis since the Austin event last March.

In the men's open division, Kyle Kamalu, of Provo, Utah, defeated top-ranked U.S. amateur Dan Ferris, of Minnesota.

As might be expected, running a tournament with 1,200 entries can create some unique problems. The event was actually run over two weekends, with many of the lower divisions being played the week prior to the pro and open events. Our hats go off (in fact, in Pleasanton they were blown off) to Bill Dunn, the tournament director, and his assistants for running a first class professional and amateur event. Now, if they could just do something about the rain.

SCHOEBER'S CHRISTMAS RACQUETBALL CLASSIC

Pleasanton, California

December 7-11, 1983

PLAYER SEEDS:

1. Marty Hogan
2. Mike Yellen
3. Dave Peck
4. Gregg Peck
5. Brett Harnett
6. Ruben Gonzalez
7. Jerry Hilecher
8. Don Thomas

ROUND-OF-64:

Davidson def. Sacco; Sell def. Klein; McCoy def. Bargas; Andrews def. Green; J. Britos def. Johnston; Ray def. Lowe; Fitzpatrick def. Ballard; D. Gross def. Hawkins; Egerman def.

Mike Yellen locks Gonzalez in back court.



Scott Oliver dives against Ruben Gonzalez.



Akau; Lerner def. A. Gross; Hawkes def. Doyle; Hildebrand def. Snead; Texeria def. O'Brien; Oliver def. Plotkin; Wagner def. Foes; Price def. Appel; Myers def. Johnson; Kamalu def. Morey; Gonzalez def. Antes; Ferris def. Cadwalader; P. Britos def. Beardsley; Newman def. DePalma; Cohen def. Johnson; Brysman def. Barr; Conine def. Brunfeld.

ROUND-OF-32:

Hogan def. Davidson; 5, 9, 10.
McCoy def. Sell; 9, (3), (6), 6, 10.
Andrews def. J. Britos; 3, 5, 6.
Ray def. Thomas; 7, 7, 10.
Harnett def. Fitzpatrick; 9, 5, (9), 7.
Egerman def. D. Gross; 7, (9), 2, 5.
Hawkes def. Lerner; 10, (9), 2, 5.
G. Peck def. Hildebrand; 5, (6), 7, 6.
D. Peck def. Texeria; 2, 2, 9.
Oliver def. Wagner; 9, 7, (2), 9.
Myers def. Price; 7, (1), 4, (4), 7.
Gonzalez def. Kamalu; (7), 6, 6, 7.
Hilecher def. Ferris; 3, 4, 7.
Newman def. P. Britos; (5), 5, 10, 8.
Cohen def. Brysman; 1, 1, (6), 7.
Yellen def. Conine; 7, (7), 2, 4.

ROUND-OF-16:

Hogan def. McCoy; (10), 7, 8, 5.
Andrews def. Ray; 9, 5, (10), 7.
Harnett def. Egerman; (1), (5), 4, 10, 7.
G. Peck def. Hawkes; 2, 7, 3.
Oliver def. D. Peck; 9, (6), 2, 6.
Gonzalez def. Myers; 5, 7, 7.
Hilecher def. Newman; 4, 8, 5.
Yellen def. Cohen; 10, (9), 10, 8.

QUARTERFINAL ROUND:

Hogan def. Andrews; 8, 7, 6.
Harnett def. G. Peck; 7, (3), 4, (7), 5.
Gonzalez def. Oliver; 7, 10, (4), 5.
Yellen def. Hilecher; 4, (10), (9), 4, 2.

SEMIFINAL ROUND:

Hogan def. Harnett; 9, (7), 8, 6.
Yellen def. Gonzalez; 7, 8, 5.

FINAL ROUND:

YELLEN def. Hogan; 6, (5), (9), 6, 7.
TOTAL PURSE: \$12,000



Schoeber's manager, John O'Donovan; director, Bill Dunn; Wilson rep, Steve Dunn; Ass't manager, Bob Smith



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McKinney Falls to Adams —at Plymouth—

by Sandy Genelius



It may have taken a bit longer than the Mayflower's crossing of the Atlantic in 1620, but "pilgrimage" is not an inappropriate word to describe Caryn McKinney's racquetball career.

After two years of toiling on the women's tour as a professional, the Atlanta resident finally reached the promised land for any racquetball player—the final of a major pro tournament. Charging through the draw, McKinney, 25, found herself facing Lynn

Adams as she usually is heading into a final worked to McKinney's advantage. "I usually face Heather (McKay) in the finals of most tournaments, and for some reason, my concentration and motivation were not where they should have been in the first game," stated Adams. McKinney, on the other hand, was totally prepared. "I thought Lynn would expect a lot of pinches, which is what Brenda (Barrett) did in their semi-final match. Lynn was just waiting for those shots and, because her anticipation and reactions are so good, she seemed to win most of the points. I wanted to keep her deep in the court and, hopefully, off balance."

McKinney's game plan worked to perfection in game one as she kept Adams pinned in the back of the court for most of the contest. The Georgian, who is in perhaps the best physical shape of her career, utilized an effective combination of serves and excellent mobility to keep the game close. In addition to two four-point scoring bursts midway through the game, at 16-14 in McKinney's favor, she completed her third run of four straight points on a forehand down-the-line pass, two pinches and an Adams' skip to find herself within one point of victory. Adams scored two quick points on a pass of her own to pull within four points at 16-20, but McKinney cracked a perfect cross court forehand kill shot to go one up on Adams.

Games two and three were a different story as Adams' mental toughness and concentration were restored. This time the Californian took control of the tempo of the points and continually put McKinney in defensive positions on the court. Down 2-4 in the second game, Adams strung together seven straight points on a combination of passes and pinches to pull to a 9-4 lead. Although McKinney made periodic comebacks, they amounted to a total of only nine more points. At 15-6 in her favor, Adams conducted a clinic in perfectly executed

shots as she cashed in on three consecutive kill shots, a backhand wide-angle pinch and a forehand pass down-the-line to surge to an 18-8 lead. An ace, a McKinney skip and an Adams backhand kill sealed game two and evened the ledger at one game each in the match.

Game three proved to be much the same as McKinney appeared tentative on the court. After constructing a 7-1 lead, Adams' relentless attack allowed her opponent to score only five more



Caryn McKinney

Adams in the December 11 final of the \$6,000 Coca Cola WPRP Holiday Shoot-out at Game Point Racquetball and Health Club in Plymouth, Massachusetts, after upsetting two other players en route. Although Adams, the current number one player in women's racquetball, defeated her opponent by a 16-21, 21-13, 21-6, 21-18 score, McKinney's unflagging spirit provided plenty of action and drama for the enthusiastic courtside gathering and allowed her to advance two notches into the elite top ten in the WPRP rankings.

The fact that Adams was not as moti-



Lynn Adams

points in the game. McKinney left too many balls up and Adams took advantage of the errors with a succession of pinches, passes and kill shots. She scored the final six points of the game to win easily.

"In the second and third games, Lynn just got on a roll, as she so often does," said McKinney. "She combined good serves with powerful shots and gave me fewer opportunities to be aggressive. You have to earn every point against Lynn, and I had too many errors to do that, most of which were forced by her."

The two women saved the best for last as the fourth game offered the most

excitement and drama of the afternoon. Adams raced to a 7-0 lead and appeared to be heading toward her second victory of the 1983-84 WPRA season. McKinney, however, returned to her game one form and, down 1-8, scored the next five points to edge closer at 6-8. The match remained closely fought for the next several points, and McKinney battled back to trail by only one point at 11-12. Adams then got down to business and scored regularly with her patented kill shot to run the score to 19-12 in her favor. McKinney was not done, though, as she fought back for a second time by scoring the next five points, the last on a beautiful wide-angle pinch, to once again pull within two points at 17-19. This is usually the juncture in a match where Adams works her mental magic and closes out her opponents. The Plymouth final proved to be no exception as she took advantage of a McKinney skip and killed the next two balls to claim victory, one which she acknowledged was not easy.

"The two strongest points of Caryn's game are that she is extremely confident on the court and, therefore, is not intimidated by any opponent; secondly, she is very realistic about her skills and plays within her skill level. This is not to say that she is any less talented than other players, but by realizing her physical limits, which every player must do, she is rarely rattled when an opponent makes a great shot or when she misses a shot of her own. She doesn't let herself become upset by these kinds of things, which are going to happen in every match, and accepts them as part of the game. Also, the increased time she has been putting into getting in shape is definitely paying off for her."

It paid off for McKinney in the semifinals where she defeated Janell Marriott, 21-12, 23-21, 16-21, 21-16, who is ranked four notches above her in the WPRA rankings at the number eight position. Marriott, of nearby Warwick, Rhode Island, had been playing very well in her two previous matches against Joyce Jackson and Jennifer Harding, but could not effectively counter McKinney's aggressiveness and mobility. "I felt so good on the court," stated McKinney about her showdown with Marriott. "Janell played well, but I seemed to be able to kill everything in the first two games, and I think she didn't attack as much as she should have. I got a little overconfident in the third game but managed to come back in the fourth."

The other semifinal pitted Adams against Brenda Barrett of Miami, Florida. The last time the two met was in Anaheim in the spring of 1983, where Barrett eliminated Adams in a tiebreaker in the quarterfinals of the tournament,

which has proved to be an annual hometown heartbreak for the Californian. Adams was prepared for the rematch, however, and had little difficulty with Barrett, whom most players agree is the hardest hitter on the women's tour. Barrett, who was pleased with her overall performance in Plymouth despite the setback at the hands of the game's number one player, resolved to become

more serious in her training methods in preparation for the next pro stop.

The quarterfinals provided two key upsets as McKinney easily defeated an ailing Laura Martino, the WPRA's fourth-ranked player and tournament's number two seed, by a 21-14, 21-9, 21-7 score. Martino, who had been receiving treatments for a back ailment, was unable to stretch and bend to reach most

Tour Talk—Notes From The WPRA Circuit

by Sandy Genelius

New WPRA Tour Sponsor Joins Team

The Women's Professional Racquetball Association has added another Official Tour Sponsor by reaching an agreement with Tecnifibre, a Bellingham, Washington-based manufacturer of synthetic string. "We are extremely happy to become associated with Tecnifibre," said WPRA President Jennifer Harding. "As the tour continues to grow, we feel that the merchandising opportunities offered by the WPRA will also expand. Tecnifibre is just beginning to market their racquetball products in the United States and we look forward to growing with them." Tecnifibre joins current WPRA Tour Sponsors AMF Voit, whose Rollout Bleu is the Official Ball of the circuit, and KangaROOS, the Official Shoe of the tour.

WPRA Event Benefits CF

The most recent WPRA tournament at Game Point Racquetball and Health Club in Plymouth, Massachusetts, netted over \$5,000 for the Massachusetts Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, thanks to the efforts of Tournament Director Kathy Moylan, along with all WPRA players who participated. The WPRA is extremely happy and proud to have been a part of such an outstanding fund-raising effort and congratulates Gregg, Kathy and the entire Game Point staff, as well as Public Relations Director Florence Tambone, for their success.

WPRA Membership Packets Hit the Streets!

The brand new WPRA Membership Counter Card and Brochures have hit the streets—or, more correctly, the clubs! The red, white and blue counter cards and accompanying brochures detail the many benefits available to members of the WPRA. Over 1,000 have been printed and distributed to clubs all over the country. For anyone interested in joining the WPRA who has not seen the new materials in his or her club, please contact the following for more information: Women's Professional Racquetball Association Membership, c/o 28

Hillside, Verona, New Jersey, 07044.

Martino-Chamberlain Showdown

Touring pro LAURA MARTINO, the WPRA's fourth-ranked player, recently had the opportunity to play a doubles match against WILT CHAMBERLAIN in El Paso, Texas. Chamberlain, of course, is the seven foot giant who most experts agree is one of the best players to walk onto a basketball court. Martino, who competed in basketball in high school, would much prefer sparring with Chamberlain on a racquetball court, however. "He wasn't the quickest player on the racquetball court because he's so big," said Martino. "I'm glad I don't have to fight with him for rebounds, though."

WPRA Blitzes Boston Media

Other than the Celtics' continuing victories and the Red Sox' trade for slugger Mike Easler, the hottest sports story in Boston the week of December 5 was women's racquetball. The action began on Monday with a round robin at the Boston Athletic Club in which LYNN ADAMS, TERRI GILREATH, JANELL MARRIOTT and CARYN MCKINNEY humbled approximately 20 members of the Beantown media including pro footballer TIM MAZETTI, who doubles as the weekend sports anchor for the CBS-TV affiliate on Thursday, during which the WPRA's current number one demonstrated the shots that put her there to the show's hostess. Friday evening offered not only a live and lengthy demonstration and interview with BONNIE STOLL and DIANA HARDEK on the "Live on Four" show but also an interview of Adams on the Upton Bell show, the number one sports talk show in Boston. To top the week off, JOAN RIVERS (yes, the Joan Rivers) plugged the tournament in an interview on the "Live on Four" show two days earlier. Rivers was in Boston for two concert appearances and also serves as National Chairman for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, which was the beneficiary of our tournament. By all accounts, there was little doubt that at the end of the week, virtually all of Boston knew the women pros were in town!

of McKinney's shots and fell to her more mobile adversary. The other upset occurred in the top half of the draw when Barrett upended ninth-ranked Peggy Gardner of Escondido, California, 21-17, 21-14, 15-21, 21-9. In the other two quarterfinal clashes, Adams defeated 19-year-old Stacey Fletcher of Warren, Michigan, 21-14, 21-13, 21-17, and Marriott slipped past Harding by a 21-17, 21-15, 21-13 score.

The round of 16 was highlighted by two upsets as well when Barrett, starting her mini-streak of victories in the tournament, claimed an easy victory over San Antonian Marci Greer, 21-14, 21-12, 21-12, who came into the tournament ranked seventh on the WPRAs listing. Harding, of Milwaukie, Oregon, scored an upset win over sixth-ranked Terri Gilreath, 21-12, 21-19, 22-20, as the El Toro, Californian's first-round loss streak on the 1983-84 tour reached two. In other first round matches, Adams swept past Mary Dee, 21-8, 21-15, 21-14; Fletcher defeated Marcy Lynch, 21-19, 21-7, 21-15; Gardner narrowly escaped with a 22-20, 17-21, 22-20, 7-21, 16-14 win over Francine Davis; Marriott barely subdued Jackson, 7-21, 21-18, 21-15, 17-21, 15-13; McKinney vanquished Molly O'Brien, 21-16, 21-16, 21-10; and Martino struggled to a 21-18, 21-18, 21-18 win over Diane Bullard.

O'Brien, of Sellersville, Pennsylvania, defeated Diana Hardek of Windham, New Hampshire, 15-12, 15-12, in the Women's Open final and earned a \$200 credit toward travel expenses to the WPRAs Nationals at the RiverBend Athletic Club in Fort Worth, Texas, on May 31-June 3. The WPRAs will award such a credit to each different winner of the Women's Open division at all WPRAs-sanctioned events on the 1983-84 tour.

Additional sponsors of the tournament were Cohasset By The Sea, which provided complimentary rooms to the pros; Weylu's Restaurant, which hosted a media press conference the Monday before the tournament; the Boston Athletic Club, which hosted a media round robin the same day; Ocean Spray; Budweiser Light and Tacki-Mac Grips. The proceeds of the tournament benefited the Massachusetts Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

COCA COLA WPRAs HOLIDAY SHOOTOUT

Plymouth, Massachusetts

December 9-11, 1983

PLAYER SEEDS:

1. Lynn Adams
2. Laura Martino
3. Terri Gilreath
4. Marci Greer



News from page 9

their state or regional director, or the National Headquarters in Colorado Springs.

Penn Athletic Products has announced a new program to help underwrite the expenses of the U.S. National Racquetball Team. Penn will place counter posters in all court clubs and some retail outlets throughout the United States soliciting help for the U.S. Team through membership in the AARA. It is estimated that over 1.5 million applications will be distributed. In return for the \$6.00 donation, each contributor will receive a high-quality luggage tag, and a year's membership in the AARA. The \$6.00 donation is tax deductible for income tax purposes.

Lite Beer from Miller will again be the major sponsor of the 1984 Adult Regional Championships. This year marks the third consecutive year that Lite Beer from Miller has sponsored the AARA major adult events. Lite Beer from Miller is also a major sponsor of the U.S. National Racquetball Team, and is the only major manufacturer who has made a long-term commitment to the sport of racquetball outside the racquetball industry.

ROUND-OF-16

Adams def. Dee; 8, 15, 14.
Fletcher def. Lynch; 19, 7, 15.
Gardner def. Davis; 20, (17), 20, (7), 14.
Barrett def. Greer; 14, 12, 12.
Harding def. Gilreath; 12, 19, 20.
Marriott def. Jackson; (7), 18, 15, (17), 13.
McKinney def. O'Brien; 16, 16, 10.
Martino def. Bullard; 18, 18, 18.

QUARTERFINAL ROUND:

Adams def. Fletcher; 14, 13, 17.

New Shoes From Yamaha

The Yamaha Sports Group, a division of Yamaha International, recently introduced their new MLX and PLX leather tennis shoes at the NSGA show in Anaheim.

According to their press release, "Racquetball players will find both models to be excellent choices for the kind of traction and support needed while on the court. The MLX's cup sole construction, dual density rubber outsole, and polyurethane foam insole assure optimum performance and comfort. Yamaha's top-of-the-line PLX shoes feature a supportive leather upper plus styling similar to Yamaha's popular PM-1."

Suggested retails are \$58.95 for the MLX, and \$64.95 for the PLX.



New String From Ashaway

Super-Kill is the new, 16-gauge, textured racquetball string developed by Ashaway. It is the newest generation of racquetball string produced by the 160-year-old Rhode Island string company. Super-Kill's multifilament nylon core and new wear-resistant cover make it a tough, resilient string that holds tension well. The string is jet black in color making it the perfect companion for the new graphite racquets. The string is available now from Ashaway, Rocky Mountain Sports, and Moody.

Barrett def. Gardner; 17, 14, (15), 9.
Marriott def. Harding; 17, 15, 13.
McKinney def. Martino; 14, 9, 7.

SEMIFINAL ROUND:

Adams def. Barrett; 12, 15, 14.
McKinney def. Marriott; 12, 21, (16), 16.

FINAL ROUND:

ADAMS def. McKinney; (16), 13, 6, 18.

TOTAL PURSE: \$6,000



Two New Products From Unique Sports

"Suncap" from Unique Sports is feather light. Just slide it on. Comes with strap so you can use it in active sports. Sponge lined for comfort. One size fits all. . . available in red, yellow, blue, white.

Retail price is \$1.98.

"Shoe Pocket" is a handy new product from Unique Sports that holds keys, ID, change, etc. Just attach it under shoe laces. . . or you can attach it to your belt. Comes in assorted colors. Retail price is \$1.25 each. For more info:

Unique Sports
5687 New Peachtree Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30341

New Sportswear Line

A new line of shirts and shorts designed specifically for racquetball has been introduced by Ripe Plum Sportswear. The name is patterned after the look of the ball and means "set up shot." Suggested retail price for T-shirts is \$8.00 and shorts are \$17.00. For more info:

Ripe Plum Sportswear
9842 Hamilton St.
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

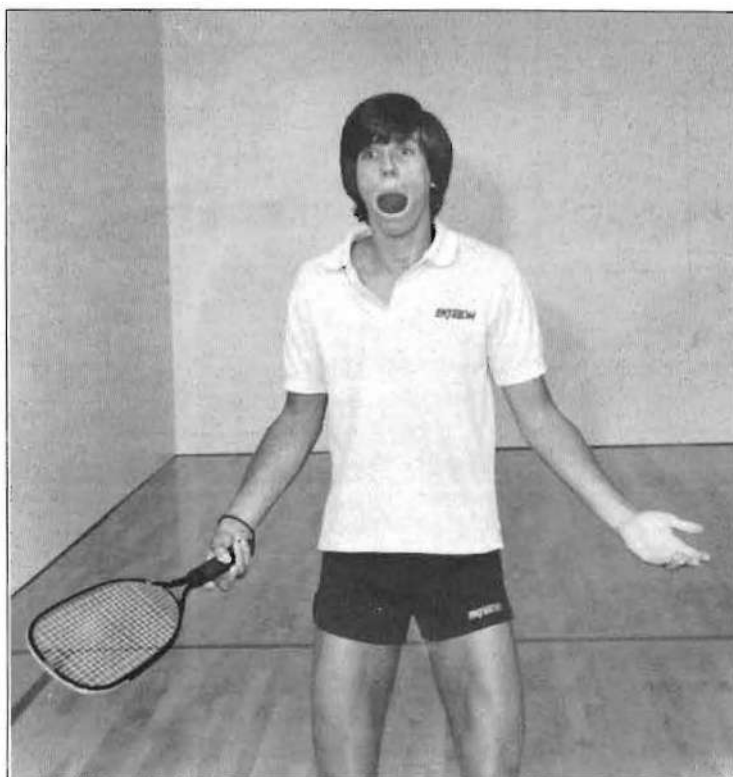


Triple Thick Socks

The new tube socks announced by the Cushees Sock Division of Tennis Togs are extra heavy from heel to toe. They are made on larger needle machines with a heavier gauge yarn to produce a sock that is triple thick. As with all Cushees socks, they are guaranteed for one year in normal use. For more info:

Tennis Togs
2520 N.W. Second Ave.
Boca Raton, FL 33431

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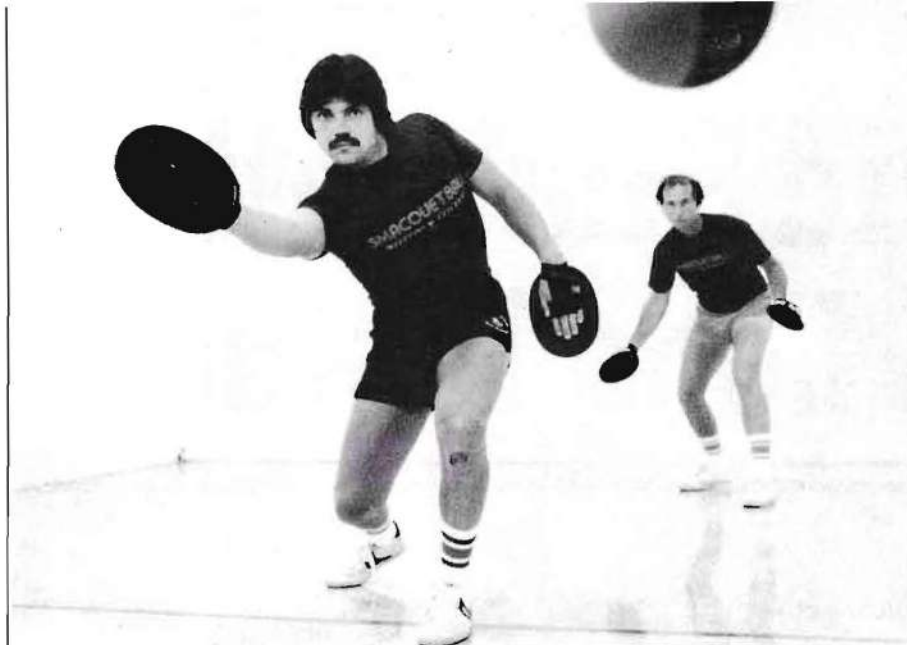
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Here Comes *Smacquetball*

A CROSS BETWEEN HANDBALL AND RACQUETBALL

Okay, let's just come right out and say it; some people get bored just playing racquetball all the time! That's right, even in this sport that has given new meaning to the word fanatic, some of us secretly long for a break from our daily routine of "bottom-board bombardment."

Recognizing that fact, a few inventive manufacturers have begun to offer new games for the racquetball court. One example is "wallyball," a highly enjoyable aberrant of volleyball where the ball, and your body, ricochet off the court walls—it tends to attract people who've absolutely no regard for either life or limb.

Then, of course, for those who have the stomach for hours of mindless, screaming pain, there is always handball.

Now a new spinoff has been introduced by inventor Chuck Steel, a Huntington Beach aviation engineer. The sport is called Smacquetball, and it is actually a cross between racquetball and handball that is played with two fiberglass-reinforced nylon "hand-racquets," one strapped to each hand. "The handball players like it because it uses the same principles of their sport but the hand-racquets make it faster," says Steel. "The racquetball players are taking it up because it provides a new challenge

and works both sides of the body."

In fact, Steel invented the sport because of his own frustration with handball.

"I played handball a couple of times, but there was no way I was going to damage or develop my hands to play that sport," he explains. "I got to thinking about it and wondered why nobody developed racquets for the hand."

The advantages of Smacquetball for the handball player are obvious—less pain. But tennis and racquetball players have also become intrigued with the new sport because it does away with everyone's most frustrating stroke—the hideous backhand. That's right, folks... with a paddle on both hands, Smacquetball is a game of only forehands!

Smaquetball offers an additional advantage for tennis players—it allows them to work on their tennis stroke. The swing is more akin to a tennis stroke rather than the wrist flick used in racquetball.

Since Steel introduced the game to Southern California about 18 months ago, it has received good acceptance both as a racquet sport, and as a conditioning program. For example, Smacquetball has become a favorite off-season sport for many of the Los Angeles Rams to build agility and fitness.

Garrett Giemont, the Ram's weightlifting and conditioning coach, likes the sport because it gives players a good workout and builds lateral agility. "In Smacquetball," he says, "a player reacts to the ball on the right, left, forward, and backwards. It is definitely aerobic and it's good agility work."

The hand-racquets themselves resemble car-stereo speakers that are strung. They are attached to the hands with specially designed velcro wrist straps. And, while you do get the hang of it quickly, putting these racquets on for the first time can be an amusing experience! (Not to mention trying to pick up the ball).

The ball used for Smacquetball is also unique. Designed and manufactured by AMF Voit, the non-pressurized ball is two-tone orange and blue to aid players in tracking the ball's spin during play.

Smacquetball is being marketed by AMF Voit, and by Steel's own company, Steecon Enterprises. For more information, contact:

Steecon Enterprises
17202 Sandra Lee Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
800-854-0561, Ext. 905



David Simonette Wins The Long Island Open

AARA

7th Annual Long Island Open
Sportset Fitness Centers
Long Island, New York
November 10-13, 1983

Over 750 people crowded into the Sportset Club to witness the final round of the Long Island Open (November 10-13) between 15-year-old David Simonette of Maryland and 17-year-old Cliff Swain of Massachusetts. The two youngsters, who are both current national junior champions, were the number 1 and 2 seeds in the event. In an exciting match that could not have been much closer, Simonette upset top ranked Swain in three games, 13-15, 15-14, 15-14. Following the match, Simonette stated that the victory was his biggest win ever.

In the women's open division, 18-year-old Jessica Rubin defeated Robin Levine. It was Jessica's fourth try at the title.

The huge annual tournament drew 930 entries from 15 surrounding states, including over 230 women. 39 categories of play were offered and over 1,400 matches were played. The event was sponsored by Lite Beer from Miller, Wilson Sporting Goods, and Boening Bros. Distributors.

The event distributed over \$25,000 in awards and prizes.



David Simonette

Men's Open: 1-David Simonette
 2-Cliff Swain
Women's Open: 1-Jessica Rubin
 2-Robin Levine

Men's Doubles: 1-DiGiacomo/Mont'Ibano
 2-Diemar/Luft
W'men's Doubles 1-Burden/Perrotty
 2-Ruhn/Friedman

Trying to keep up with 1,400 matches!



Cliff Swain (left), and Simonette receive awards.



by Dave Peck

Practice, practice, practice. There is no substitute for practice in sports. Not if you want to win.

Most of you have read racquetball instructionals where writers end in-depth stories saying how unless you work at the shot, don't expect to master it.

In most cases, that's true. But in racquetball, there is one aspect of the game that doesn't physically or fundamentally lend itself to practice—and that's diving for a shot.

Diving for a racquetball is an action/reaction type thing. You don't plan it. It just happens. Usually, you're caught off guard, or off balance. The only chance you have to keep the ball in play is to hit the floor and hope for the best.

It's the type of situation no one really wants to practice. I mean, floor burns and scraped knees aren't bad in competition, but by yourself on a court somewhere? Think again.

But for all of the above, let's not think diving can't be an important part of your game. As my Ektelon teammate Mike Yellen can tell you, it can make a difference in who collects checks and who doesn't.

First of all, if you're giving your opponent too many setup shots, you're getting caught in "no man's land" in front court, or you're just plain out of position.

But if your positioning is correct and you have to hit the hardwood, there are certain points to remember.

Point No. 1: Diving is a defensive shot. You are trying to stay in the point, or game. That means almost all the time, your goal is to get the ball to the ceiling. That will allow you time to recover.

In rare instances—within 20 feet or so of the frontwall—you may want to try for a kill. That just depends on your skill level, the speed of the shot, and how dangerously you want to live.

The shot itself is not difficult, only, at times, painful. The most important point is to keep your racquet hand up and out in front of you. The racquet face should be up to help get the ball to the ceiling, the racquet out in front to get the ball quicker.

Since court floors aren't known for their sliding surfaces, when you dive, try to land on your chest, not your knees. Use your free hand to balance your body and keep yourself up off the floor as much as possible.

Don't dive if the score is 0-0, 3-2, or 6-5 in the first or second game to 21. Dive when it's 9-9 in the tiebreaker, or 17-15 with the game on the line.



DIVING:

THE DO'S AND DON'TS

The reason I say this is because of injuries. I've seen many players dislocate a shoulder, break a wrist and receive a concussion one time after hitting a wall. After all, many times the head is the first thing that makes contact.

Once you have made the decision to dive, you can't rest on the floor (as much as you would like to). You have to spring up, find the ball, and prepare to play your opponent's next shot (often a kill). A common mistake by most players is congratulating themselves on a dive shot well hit, then turning around to a point that's just about over. Remember, react!

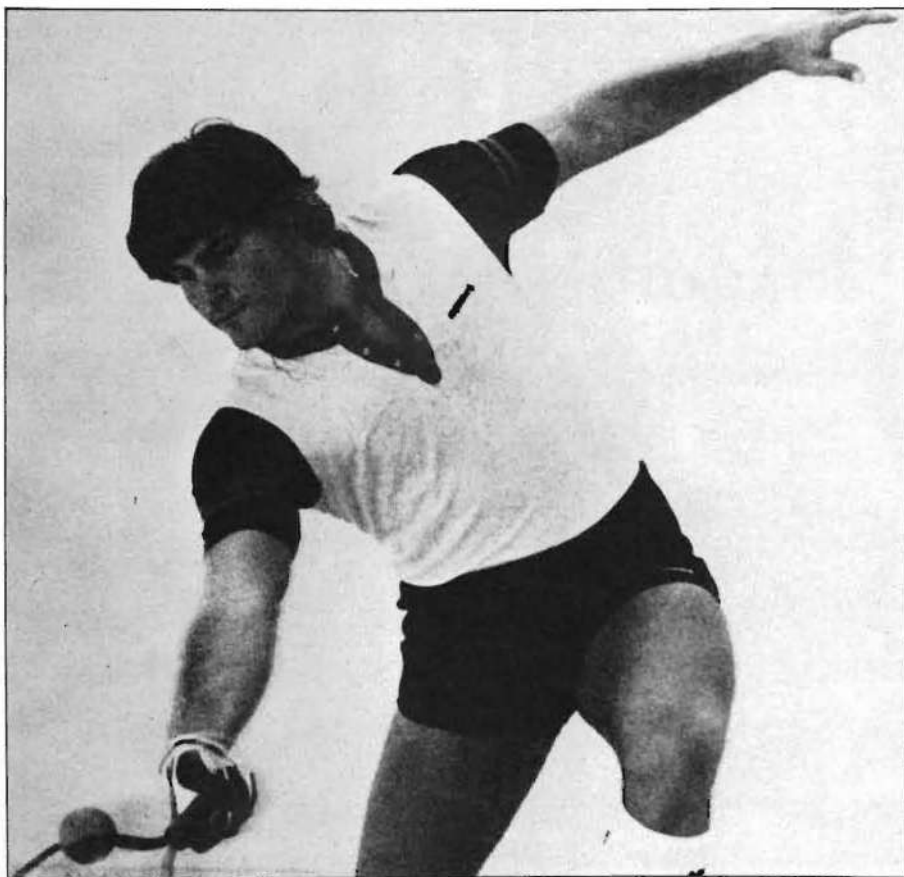
The final two things that can help you

with diving (without practice) are anticipation and agility. As you mature as a player, a sixth sense develops where you can almost anticipate that you're going to have to hit the floor to return a certain shot. Don't waste time thinking too long. Do it. Then scramble to your feet.

Agility exercises will help in your diving and recovery time. Skipping rope, running drills within the court, anything that improves quickness and coordination will help.

All that's really left, then, is to win the game. Because if you have to dive during a game, it's always nice to see your opponent going down when it's over.





The PINCH Volley

by Dave Peck

Every player who picks up a racquetball racquet has his favorite shot. For some it's the simple fore hand or backhand stroke; for others a drive or Z-serve.

Those who know me, or have seen my play, would probably wait at least two seconds before saying my favorite bread-and-butter shot is the left-side-

wall, front-wall pinch volley. For me, the reasons relate in part to the overall idea behind the volley: to change the tempo of the game, to keep your opponent from sagging to the back of the court, and to retain center-court position. But after long hours of practice, I feel I've perfected the shot enough to not only spice up rallies, but end them as well.

The main adjustment to hitting the pinch volley is time—you don't have much. If you're in the front court and a ball is whizzing by from knee to chest high at 100 m.p.h., your first inclination is to let it hit the back wall and play the plum. Consider *my* first inclination: The pinch-volley. You gain the element of surprise and you capitalize on your opponent's position behind you or in deep court.

But you have to be quick and precise with the pinch volley. Taking the ball out of the air near the front court, around the service area is tough; you have to have a feel for what you want to do and know where the ball is supposed to go.

Let's start with how to hit a pinch-volley first. Your swing should be compact. Volleying requires a punch stroke, not a full swing. You don't have time for a full backswing and a complete hip and shoulder rotation. Use an open stance and punch at the ball, instead of taking a big stride. Staying solid is the important factor in control, as is keeping those baby blues glued to the point of impact. Your grip should be firm. Remember, the speed and spin of the ball will be extreme. If you're not ready, your racquet could twist in your hand.

The next step is where to hit the shot. Mike Yellen, my Ektelon teammate, gets kinda mad at me sometimes because I've perfected the pinch enough to angle shots from just about anywhere along the service line. For you, though, the best tip to know is, how low you hit the ball isn't important. The key is spotting the shot. Hit the left-side wall within a foot of the front. It will come off real close to the front wall. Then you've got yourself a winner.

As I mentioned, a good time for this shot is when your opponent is hugging the back wall, or you've just hit a good pass and all he or she could do was flick it back off the back wall. Volleying with the pinch cuts down the opponent's recovery time. He's out of position to start with. With the pinch, you make him quickly pay for it.

The other time to pinch-volley is when you and your opponent are side by side. Volleying into the other side of the court (his side wall to front wall) capitalizes on your body position. Hitting this shot is not easy. If it was, more pro players would be using it. It requires some foresight and a deft touch.

The secret really isn't one: Hours of practice. A favorite shot only becomes a favorite because you can perform it skillfully and with confidence. The pinch-volley will work for you. All you have to do is work with it.

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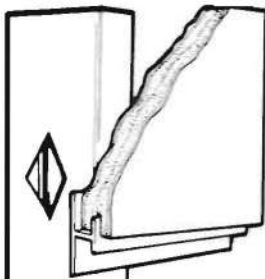


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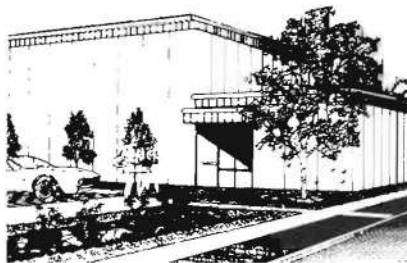
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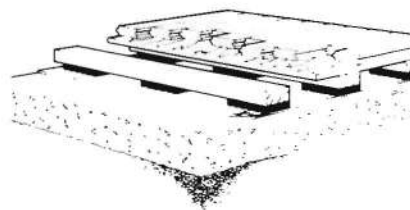
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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Winning by yelling, screaming, pouting, shouting and being down-right nasty is not acceptable in sports. In our February issue of International Racquetball, we'll take a look at the Brat Syndrome and talk about Sportsmanship, or the lack of it, in racquetball.

Ever heard of the Racquetball Manufacturers Association? Next month we will have an update on this important organization through the eyes of Don Bushor, the current Executive Director. He's a man that could change the way you think about racquetball!



Who is Dave Peck? He's quite a guy as you will find out in our in-depth interview next month. As one of racquetball's most respected stars, we think you'll find his story fascinating.

And, of course, we will have more tournament action covered in our pages next month along with our new expanded Master Tournament Schedule. See you in February!

Head to Head Competition

Here are the head to head statistics for the top 15 men and women professionals.

The women's chart was compiled by IMG for the Women's Professional Racquetball Association. Those tournaments included on the chart are: (1982-83) Toronto, CBC, Vancouver, Lafayette, Atlanta, Quebec, Melbourne, Fl. Worth, Tucson, Bangor, San Francisco, Seattle, Anaheim, Chicago, (1983-84) Atlanta, Auburn, and Plymouth.

The men's chart was compiled by International Racquetball Magazine from tournament records. Those events included on the chart are: (1982-83) Stockton, Westminster, Burnsville, CBC, New Haven, Pleasanton, Hawaii, Palm Desert, Beaverton, Cheyenne, Austin, Toronto, Anaheim, Chicago, Atlanta, (1983-84) Davison, Stockton, Amarillo, Walnut Creek, and Pleasanton.

Women's	H McKay	L Adams	S Wright	L Martino	V Panzeri	J Marriott	M Greer	T Gilreath	P Gardner	H Stupp	C McKinney	J Harding	B Poe-Barrett	J Jackson	S Fletcher
HEATHER McKay		4-5	5-1	2-0	2-0	5-0	2-0	2-0	2-0	2-0	2-0	3-0		3-0	2-0
LYNN ADAMS	5-4		3-0	2-0	2-2	1-0	5-0	5-0	1-0	3-0	3-0	2-0	1-1	3-0	3-0
SHANNON WRIGHT	1-5	0-3		1-0	3-1	2-1		1-1	1-0		4-0	2-0			2-0
LAURA MARTINO	0-2	0-2	0-1		1-2		1-1	0-1	1-0	0-1	1-2	1-1	2-0	1-0	1-0
VICKI PANZERI	0-2	2-2	1-3	2-1			2-2				1-0			1-0	1-1
JANELL MARRIOTT	0-5	0-1	1-2					1-1	2-0		1-1	2-0		1-1	
MARCI GREER	0-2	0-5		1-1	0-1					1-1	1-0		1-1		
TERRI GILREATH	0-2	0-5	1-1	1-0	2-2	1-1			1-0	1-1	1-0	0-2		2-0	
PEGGY GARDNER	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-1		1-2		0-1					0-1		
HEATHER STUPP	0-2	0-3		1-0			1-1								
CARYN McKINNEY	0-2	0-3	0-4	2-1		1-1	0-1	0-1				2-0			1-0
JENNIFER HARDING	0-3	0-2	0-2	1-1	0-1	0-2		2-0			0-2		10-	2-1	
BRENDA POE-BARRETT		1-1	0-2				1-1		1-0		0-1				
JOYCE JACKSON	0-3	0-3		0-1	0-1	1-1		0-2				1-2			
STACEY FLETCHER	0-2	0-3	0-2	0-1	1-1						0-1				

TO READ THIS CHART: For any player, the won/loss record against every other player is read horizontally opposite his/her name.

Men's	M Hogan	D Peck	M Yellen	B Harnett	G Peck	J Hilecher	G Price	E Andrews	D Thomas	S Lerner	J Egerman	R Wagner	D Cohen	R Gonzalez	S Hawkins
MARTY HOGAN		3-1	2-5	4-1	2-0	3-0	1-0	3-0	4-0	2-0	2-0	1-1	1-1	1-0	1-0
DAVE PECK	1-3		3-3	1-3	4-0	0-1		1-0	1-0	2-0	1-0	1-0	1-0		
MIKE YELLEN	5-2	3-3		1-1	2-1	4-0	1-1	2-0			1-0	1-0	3-0	3-0	
BRET HARNETT	1-4	3-1	1-1		1-2		2-0	1-0			1-0	0-1	1-0	1-0	1-0
GREGG PECK	0-2	0-4	1-2	2-1		1-0	1-0	1-0			1-0	2-0	1-1	0-1	
JERRY HILECHER	0-3	1-0	0-4		0-1		0-1	1-1		1-0		1-0	0-2	0-1	1-0
GERRY PRICE	0-1		1-1	0-2	0-1	1-0			1-1		1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	
ED ANDREWS	0-3	0-1	0-2	0-1	0-1	1-1			1-1	0-1	0-2		1-1		
DON THOMAS	0-4	0-1					1-1	1-1			1-1	0-1	1-0		
STEVE LERNER	0-2	0-2				0-1		1-0						0-1	1-0
JOHN EGERMAN	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1		0-1	2-0	1-1				0-1	0-1	1-0
RICH WAGNER	1-1	0-1	0-1	1-0	0-2	0-1	0-1		1-0					1-1	1-0
DOUG COHEN	1-1	0-1	0-3	0-1	1-1	2-0	0-1	1-1	0-1		1-0				
RUBEN GONZALES	0-1		0-3	0-1	1-0	1-0	0-1			1-0	1-0	1-1			
SCOTT HAWKINS	0-1			0-1		0-1				0-1	0-1	0-1			

Master Tournament Schedule

AMATEUR EVENTS SCHEDULE

JANUARY

Jan. 12-15
New Mexico Invitational *3
Tom Young's Athletic Club & Spa
2250 Wyoming Blvd. N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Jan. 13-15
Court Club *3
3455 Harper Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46420
Jeanie Meiring

Jan. 13-15
WOKO Open *3
Off the Wall Racquet Club
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Steve Marcotte, 617-431-1430

Jan. 13-15
Racquet Power - Tournament *3
3390 Kori Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223

Jan. 20-22
1984 Connecticut Open Championships *4
Downtown Racquet Club
230 George St.
New Haven, CT 06510
Syndi Gary, 203-787-6501

Jan. 20-22
Southern Athletic Club *3
745 Beaver Run Rd.,
Lilburn, GA 30342
404-923-5400

Jan. 21-23
Harbour Pines Racquet Club - Tournament *3.
P.O. Box E.G. 816
Melbourne, FL 32935

Jan. 26-29
Kennedy Pontiac Invitational Grand Prix *3.
Royal Spa and Court Club
2101 E. Bloomfield Hwy.,
Farmington, NM 87401

Jan. 26-29
Winter Fling
Kings Court
Westminster, CA
Jim Carson, 714-968-4313

Jan. 27-29
AARA Mixed Doubles *4
Racquet Club of Cedar Knolls
119 E. Frederick Ave.
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927
Lonnie Algood, 201-753-2300

Jan. 27-29
Economy Supermarket 1st Annual Open *3.
Beaver County YMCA
732 3rd Ave.
New Brighton, PA 15066

FEBRUARY

Feb. 3-5
Cancer Open - Parkersburg Racquetball Club *3
29th & Birch Sts.
Parkersburg, WV 26101
Keith Hawkes, 304-295-9125

Feb. 3-5
5th Annual DP Leach/Miller Lite Tiger Open *3
Racquet Club
467 N. Dean Rd.
Auburn, AL 36830
Bob Huskey, 205-887-9591

Feb. 3-5
2nd Annual St. Valentine's Day Open *3
21st Point
McKown Rd. off Western Ave.
Albany, NY 12203
Vince Wolanin, 518-489-3276

Feb. 3-5
The Racquet Racquetball Club Tournament *3
Rt. 15 & 45 West
Fairfield, IL 62837
618-847-3333

Feb. 4-6
Clinton Court Open *3
Beaver One
Box 5163
Clinton, NJ 08809
201-735-6556

Feb. 6-10
3rd Annual Military R/B Tournament *3
Show Boat Hotel
2800 Fremont St.
Las Vegas, NV 89104
Stephen Ducoff, 702-385-9123

Feb. 9-12
Ektelon Regional - San Francisco
Schoeber's
3411 Capitol Avenue
Fremont, CA 94538
415-791-6350

Feb. 9-12
Supreme Courts Open *3
4100 Prospect Ave., N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Feb. 10-12
Ektelon Regional - Boston, Gamepoint Racquetball
& Health Club
Aldrein Road
Plymouth Industrial Park
Plymouth, MA 02360
617-746-7448

Feb. 10-12
Full Court Club *3
3501 N. Chadham Ln.
Muncie, IN 47302
Jim Bartlett

Feb. 10-12
Junior Circuit *3
Fairfield Court Club
1471 Holiday Ln
Fairfield, CA
707-429-4363

Feb. 10-12
Paul Masson Mixed Doubles *3
Ricochet Racquet Club
219 St. Nicholas Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Lonnie Algood, 201-753-2300

Feb. 10-12
St. Valentine's Massacre *3
Rally Sport
2727 29th St.
Boulder, CO 80302
Phil Rhoades, 303-449-4800

Feb. 10-12
Florida State Singles *4
Site to be announced

Feb. 17-19
Courtside Open *3,
Courtside at Cromwell
10 Hillside Ave.
Cromwell, CT 06416
Deb Didato, 203-635-5400

Feb. 17-19
North Carolina State Intercollegiate
Sports Center
Fayetteville, NC
Jim Yang, 919-864-3303

Feb. 18-19
NY State AARA Championships *4
All Sport Racquet Club
Rt. 17
Newburgh, NY 12550

Feb. 24-26
Alabama State Singles *4
Court South
100 Olde Towne Rd.
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
Bob Huskey, 205-823-2120

Feb. 24-26
East Coast Open *3
Woodbridge Racquet Club.
295 Main St.
Woodbridge, NJ 07095
Warren Searles, 201-634-5000

Feb. 24-26
Miller Lite/AMF Head Open *3
Off the Wall Racquet and Fitness Club
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Steve Marcotte, 617-431-1430

Feb. 24-26
Woodbridge Open *3
585 Main St
Woodbridge, NJ 07095
201-634-5000

MARCH

Mar. 1-4
Ektelon Regional - Houston, Courts, Etc.
14690 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
713-497-7570

Mar. 1-4
SGI Lite Open (Singles) *3
Rio Grande Yacht Club,
2500 Yale Blvd. S.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Mar. 2-4
Ektelon Regional - Baltimore,
Merritt Racquetball & Fitness
2076 Lord Baltimore Dr.
Baltimore, MD 21207,
301-298-8700

Mar. 2-4
Florida Intercollegiate
The Club
825 Courtland St.
Orlando, FL 32805
305-644-5411

Mar. 2-4
New Hampshire State Singles *4
Off the Wall Racquet & Fitness Club
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Steve Marcotte, 617-431-1430

Mar. 2-4
New Jersey State Doubles *4
Riverview Racquetball Club
111 Hindley
New Milford, NJ 07646
Lonnie Algood, 201-262-4500

Mar. 2-4
Off the Wall Tournament *3
3100 Willowcreek Rd
Portage, IN 46368
Sue Moran

Mar. 2-4
Connecticut State Singles *4
Cedar Hill Racquetball Club
375 E. Cedar St.
Newington, CT 06111
Bruce Barit, 203-666-8451

Mar. 8-11
So. California Battle of the Clubs
Los Caballeros
Fountain Valley, CA
Jim Carson, 714-968-4314

Mar. 9-11
DP Leach Captain Crunch Classic *3
Montgomery Athletic Club
5765 Carmichael Parkway
Montgomery, AL 36117
Turly Treadway, 205-277-7130

Mar. 9-11
West Virginia Racquet Club *3
Waddles Run Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
George Frazier, 304-242-5688

Mar. 16-18
Ektelon Regional - Los Angeles, Racquetball World
22235 Sherman Way
Canoga Park, CA 91303
Lee Estes, 213-884-5034

Mar. 16-18
Irish Fund Festival *3
Racquet Club of Meadville
Corner French and Poplar Sts
Meadville, PA 16335
Nancy Manning, 814-724-3524

Mar. 22-25
Region #10 Championships *5
Racquetball of Greenbriar
1275 W. 86th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46260
John Franks

Mar. 22-25
New Mexico State Singles *4
Academy Court Club
5555 McLeod N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Mar. 23-25
Ektelon Regional - New York/New Jersey
Ricochet Racquetball Club
219 St. Nicholas Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
201-753-2300

Mar. 23-25
3rd Annual Endless Motion Open *3
Shadowbrook Racquetball Club
R D #6
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
Sue Kaufmann, 717-836-6336

Mar. 23-25
1984 Alabama State Penn Intercollegiate
Auburn University Memorial Coliseum
Auburn, AL 36830
Bob Huskey, 205-745-6295

Mar. 30-Apr. 1
Executive Court Club Spring Open *3
Manchester, NH 03101
Mary Dee, 617-668-4752

APRIL

Apr. 5-8
1984 Dr. Pepper & Bud Light Classic *3
The Racquet Place
2401 20th Place South
Birmingham, AL 35223
Bruce Gouin, 205-870-0144

Apr. 5-8
Singles & Doubles
Tournament House
Riverside, CA
Jim Carson, 714-968-4313

Apr. 6-8
Ektelon Regionals - Miami/Ft. Lauderdale
Holiday Courtrooms
750 West Sunrise Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311
305-764-8700

Apr. 6-8
March of Dimes Open *3
Off the Wall Racquet & Fitness Club
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Sheila Devine, 617-431-1430

Apr. 6-8
Nevada State Singles & Doubles Championships *4
Spring Mountain Racquet & Fitness Club
3315 Spring Mountain Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Apr. 6-8
Northeast AARA Regional Championships *4
Site to be announced

Apr. 12-15
Durango Racquetball Classic *3
Court Club of Durango
Durango, CO 81301

Apr. 12-15
Ektelon Regional - Chicago,
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
830 East Roosevelt Road
Lombard, IL 60148
312-629-3391

Apr. 13-14
President's Council of Physical Fitness
& Sports Clinic
University of Tennessee
Chattanooga, TN

Master Tournament Schedule

Apr. 13-15
AARA New Jersey State Singles *4
Court Time Meadows
205 Chubbs
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071
Lonnie Algood, 201-933-4100

Apr. 13-15
Region 4 Singles *3
The Complex
I-85 at Sewanee Rd.
Sewanee, GA 30174
Theresa Collins, 404-945-8977

Apr. 13-15
West Virginia State Tournament *4
Parkersburg Health and Racquetball Club
Parkersburg, WV 26101
Kevin Becker, 304-277-1352

Apr. 26-29
New Mexico State Junior Championships *2
Executive Sports Club
40 First Plaza at the Galeria
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Apr. 27-29
Nigerian Open *3
Downtown YMCA
526 North 20th St.
Birmingham, AL 35203
Dennis McKee, 205-324-4563

May 10-13
Region 5 Regionals
Sportplex
500 Gadsden Highway
Birmingham, AL 35235
Bob Huskey, 205-838-1213

June 1-3
Billy Bowlegs Classic *3
Racquetball West
125 Miracle Strip Pkwy.
Ft. Walton Beach, FL
Mike Wood, 904-244-6106

(*2, *3, *4 - AARA notations for tournament difficulty)

LAST MINUTE TOURNAMENT LISTINGS

Jan. 20-22, 1984
Salem Kiwanis Open Racquetball Tournament (3)
Salem Racquetball Club
Manor Parkway
Salem, NH 03079
(603) 893-8612

Jan. 27-29, 1984
3rd Annual Daniel Webster Classic (3)
The Works
246 Rte. #16
Somersworth, NH 03878
(603) 893-8612

Feb. 17-19, 1984
1984 Masters Invitational (3)
Tucson Athletic Club
4220 E. Bellevue
Tucson, AZ 85712
(602) 881-0140

Feb. 24-26, 1984
Laconia Racquetball Club Tournament (3)
Laconia Racquetball Club
O'Shea Industrial Park
Laconia, NH 03246

March 16-18, 1984
Tennessee State Championships (4)
Nashville Supreme Courts
4633 Trousdale
Nashville, TN 37204
Jerry Dixon

MEN'S PROFESSIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
FEB 9-12 (Ranking)	Griffith Park Athletic Club Presents The LaBatt's Pro Am 4925 S. W. Griffith Drive Beaverton, OR 97005 Devri Sharp 503-644-3900 *amount tentative	\$10,000*
FEB 20-24	The Cowboy Open The Racquetclub 201 W. Lakeway Rd. Gillette, WY 82716 Clint Koble 307-682-1437	\$7,000
MAR 1-4	Crack Shooter Open Rocky Mountain Health Club 1880 Westland Rd. Cheyenne, WY 82001 Steve Galassini 307-634-8884	\$7,500
MAY 2-6 (Ranking)	Ektelon Nationals The Sports Gallery 2560 E. Katella Ave. Anaheim, CA 92806 Jim Carson 714-968-4313	\$22,500
JUNE TBA (Ranking)	DP/Leach Nationals Undetermined	\$40,000*

WOMEN'S RACQUETBALL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 1983-84 SEASON

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
JAN 26-29	BEVERLY, MA	12,000
FEB 2-5	QUEBEC, CANADA	10,000
FEB 9-12*	PALM DESERT, CA	6,000
FEB TBA*	SEATTLE, WN	14,000
MAR 8-11	BANGOR, ME.	6,500
MAR TBA*	MIAMI, FL	15,000
APR 5-8	VANCOUVER, BC	8,000
APR TBA*	TORONTO, ONTARIO	6,000
MAY 2-6	ANAHEIM, CA	18,700
MAY 31-JUN 3*	FT WORTH, TX	20,000
JULY 12-15	ANCHORAGE, AK	6,000

*Tentative

For more information, contact:

AARA EVENTS
AARA - LUKE ST. ONGE
303-635-5396

WOMEN'S EVENTS
IMG - SANDY GENELIUS
216-522-1200

Rankings

MEN'S RANKINGS

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

- New Haven, CT, 1982
- Honolulu, HI, 1983
- Beaverton, OR, 1983
- Austin, TX, 1983
- Toronto, ONT, 1983
- Anaheim, CA, 1983
- Chicago, IL, 1983
- Atlanta, GA, 1983
- Davison, MI, 1983
- Pleasanton, CA, 1983

The ranking system utilizes the following point system:

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

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

WOMEN'S RANKINGS

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

The current rankings include the most recent WPRA stop in Plymouth, Mass.

AMATEUR RANKINGS

The men's and women's amateur rankings are the official rankings of the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA). The AARA publishes state, regional, and national rankings of all AARA members monthly. For information about amateur rankings, contact your state AARA director, or the AARA headquarters in Colorado Springs.

MEN'S PRO RANKINGS DECEMBER 11, 1983

THIS MO.	LAST MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	1	Mike Yellen	100.00
2	2	Marty Hogan	91.00
3	3	Dave Peck	65.00
4	4	Bret Harnett	63.00
5	6	Ruben Gonzalez	58.57
6	5	Gregg Peck	58.00
7	7	Jerry Hilecher	45.56
8	9	Ed Andrews	41.11
9	7	Don Thomas	38.89
10	10	Gerry Price	36.67
11	10	Jack Newman	34.00
12	12	John Egerman	32.00
13	13	Steve Lerner	30.00
14	20	Scott Oliver	30.00
14T	14	Mike Levine	30.00
16	16	Doug Cohen	26.00
17	19	Bill Sell	25.00
18	17	Scott Hawkins	24.40
19	18	Craig McCoy	24.29
20	15	Rich Wagner	23.00
21	20	Corey Brysman	20.00
22	23	Ben Koltun	18.00
22T	22	Brian Hawkes	18.00
24	22	Lindsay Myers	17.50
25	34	Kyle Kamalu	13.00

WPRA RANKINGS DECEMBER 13, 1983

THIS MO.	LAST MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	1	Lynn Adams	297.13
2	2	Heather McKay	280.50
3	3	S. Wright Hamilton	174.38
4	4	Laura Martino	115.88
5	5	Vicki Panzeri	100.63
6	6	Terri Gilreath	90.50
7	8	Janell Marriott	80.07
8	7	Marci Greer	75.50
9	9	Peggy Gardner	62.50
10	12	Caryn McKinney	55.57
11	10	Jennifer Harding	54.88
12	14	Brenda Barrett	53.33
13	13	Stacey Fletcher	42.86
14	11	Joyce Jackson	42.00
15	15	Heather Stupp	34.67
16	18	Diane Bullard	31.93
17	16	Francine Davis	31.63
18	17	Bonnie Stoll	29.00
19	19	Martha McDonald	25.63
20	20	Rita Hoff Scott	23.33
21	22	Barbara Maltby	22.50
22	21	Gail Woods	20.00
23	24	Jean Sauser	19.33
24	25	Molly O'Brien	18.86
25	23	Carol Pranka	17.50

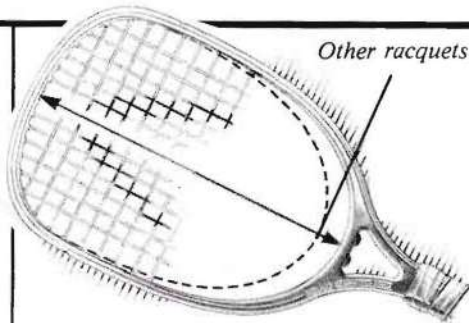
U.S. AMATEUR MEN'S RANKINGS AARA NATIONAL RANKINGS DECEMBER 21, 1983

NAME	ST	RG	REG. POINTS
1. Sergio Gonzalez	FL	04	370
2. Dan Obremski	PA	03	260
3. Dan Ferris	MN	09	250
4. Jim Cascio	PA	03	220
5. Bubba Gautier	FL	04	198
6. Tim Hansen	FL	04	163
7. Fred Calabrese	FL	04	150
8. Andy Roberts	TN	05	150
9. Mike Ray	GA	04	130
10. Mitch Campbell	FL	04	115
11. Craig Guinter	PA	04	115
12. E Inoue	HI	14	115
13. Dennis Aceto	MA	01	110
14. Jim Bartlett	IN	10	100
15. John Bouzis	WY	13	100
16. Scott Elliason	CT	01	100
17. B Hawkes	CA	14	100
18. Rick Keefer	WY	13	100
19. Mike Levine	NY	02	100
20. A Roberts	TN	05	100

U.S. AMATEUR WOMEN'S RANKINGS AARA NATIONAL RANKINGS DECEMBER 21, 1983

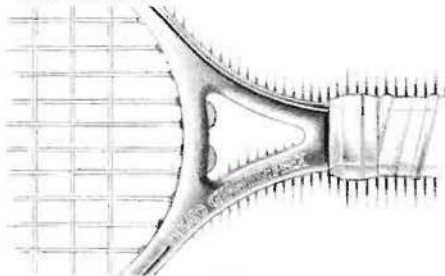
NAME	ST	RG	REG. POINTS
1. Cindy Baxter	PA	03	300
2. B Crawley	GA	04	200
3. Melanie Britton	FL	04	170
4. Susan Sotelo	FL	04	150
5. B Bell	FL	04	130
6. Chris Upson	PA	03	130
7. Mary Holroyd	FL	04	120
8. Elaine Mardas	OH	09	115
9. Nan Higgins	MA	01	110
10. Mary Benson	WY	13	100
11. Mary Dee	NH	01	100
12. Kathy Kamahoahoa	VA	03	100
13. Gail Lauteria	FL	04	100
14. Jessica Rubin	NY	02	100
15. Susan Sanders	GA	04	100
16. Marie Younger	IN	10	100
17. A Barneburg	GA	04	90
18. Kate Conway	PA	03	80
19. Joy Eon	ME	01	80
20. Dot Fischl	PA	03	80

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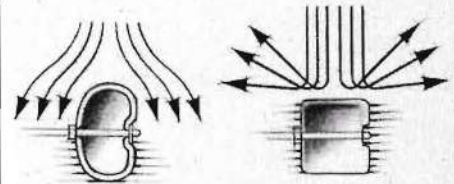
Because you see, we must make them available to your competition as well.



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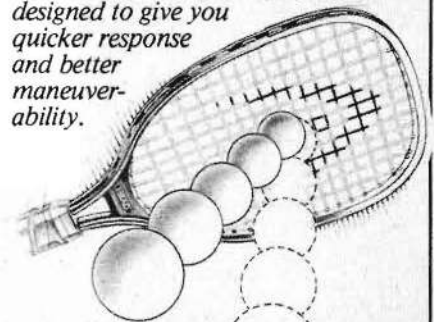


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With a stiffer frame, more power is transferred to the ball instead of absorbed by the racquet. It also helps the ball follow a truer, more accurate path as it rebounds off the racquet face.

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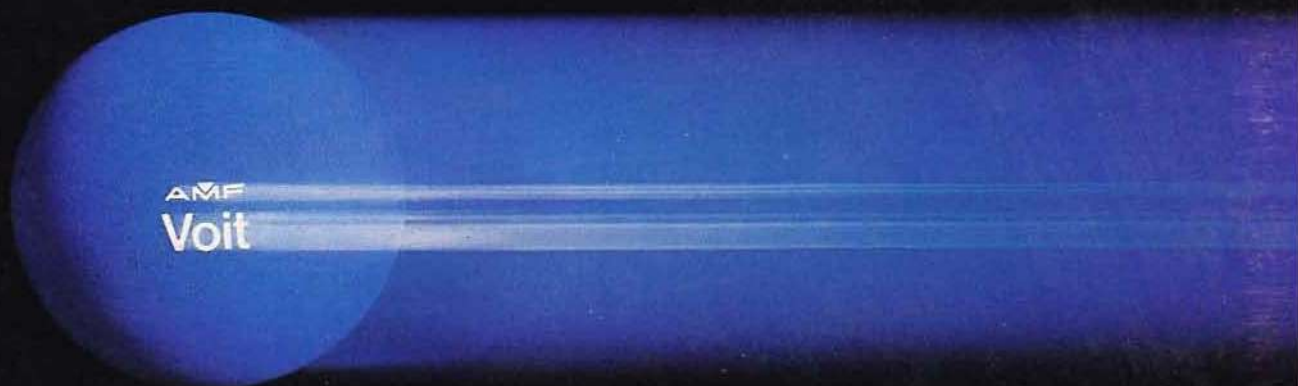


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