



RACQUETBALL

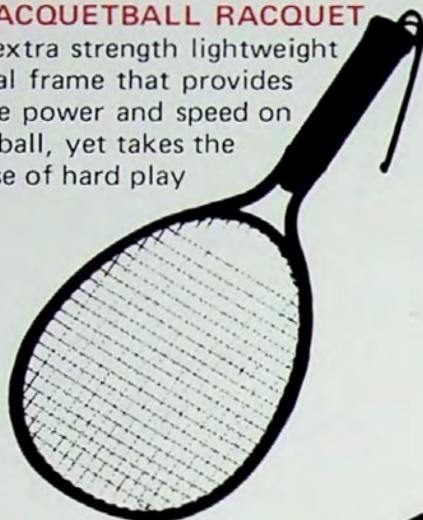
OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3

MAY 1974

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Can Anybody Here Beat Charlie?

Defending champion Charlie Brumfield of San Diego heads the field for the sixth annual IRA International Singles Championships, but faces several strong challenges in his quest for a third straight title.

The 25-year-old San Diego attorney defeated Steve Keeley of San Diego in a three-game struggle, 21-8, 13-21, 21-12, to win the 1973 crown and become the IRA's only two-time open singles king.

Brumfield won the National Invitation singles at Memphis and has tuned up his game with several other tournament victories this season.

Keeley returns for another bid at the top position and has been playing well since recovering from a bout with mononucleosis.

Two other challengers are prominent in pre-tourney speculation. Steve Serot, the high school whiz from St. Louis, was third last year, was runner-up to Brumfield in the Invitation and has several big wins under his belt. And Steve Strandemo of St. Cloud, Minn., who defeated Serot for the Klondike title last summer, has been enjoying the best season of his career, although he missed the Invitation.

STEVE . . . ?

or

STEVE . . . ?

or

STEVE . . . ?



BRUMFIELD

Close behind the top challengers ranks the trio of Bill Schmidtke, Mike Zeitman and Jerry Hilecher. The veteran Schmidtke, 1971 champion and fourth last year, is one of the game's toughest clutch players. Zeitman, hot and cold, barely qualified in the South Region, but was third in the Invitation and won the South's Super 16. Hilecher was the 1973 Intercollegiate champion, won the Southwest Region and placed fifth in the Invitation.

Dark horse candidates include Ken Wong of St. Louis, Jim Austin of Houston, Californians Bill Thurman and Paul Lawrence and the 1-2-3 Intercollegiate medalists of 1974, Randy Stafford of

Continued on Page 6

Racquetball Hall of Fame

Sobek, Muehleisen Honored

Joe Sobek, the "father" of Racquetball, and Dr. Bud Muehleisen, the first International Singles Champion, have been selected as the two charter members of the new Racquetball Hall of Fame.

They will be inducted into the honor group during the general membership meeting of the International Racquetball Association June 8 during the IRA Championships in San Diego, and will be presented plaques by the Citizens Savings Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles.

Sobek was selected in the category of Contributor. He is the man who invented Racquetball and was responsible for getting the sport started with a strung racquet.

Dr. Muehleisen, a left-handed dentist from San Diego, has been a major figure in the sport since it became competitive

on a national and international basis.

Dr. Bud won the first IRA International Singles Championship in 1969 and was Masters Singles (40-over) champion in 1972. Last year he became the first player ever to repeat as Masters champion and also the first to score a Masters "double" when he teamed with Carl Loveday to add the doubles championship.

In all, Dr. Bud has won 16 national and international titles in a five-year span. He also is regarded as perhaps the best instructor and clinician the sport knows.

Sobek, now a tennis professional at Greenwich, Conn., recounts the beginnings of the sport of Racquetball:

"In 1950, I left my normal occupation as a tennis and squash prof for the confinement of a desk job. My answer to the lack of physical activity was supplied at our local Greenwich YMCA. However,

there were problems as to what activity I could participate in conveniently. Handball was too painful for my hands, but paddleball was interesting because of its similarity to squash.

"After a short time of enjoying paddleball, I felt that a strung racquet would be far superior to a dead wooden paddle. I designed a racquet with the same weight and measurements as the paddle, but with the additional advantage of a strung hitting surface.

"My first order was for 25 racquets, which a manufacturer agreed to make, although he would lose money on such a small specialty order. The new racquet opened up a new game. Its resilient strings created all kinds of new shots and my friends and I were very pleased.

"However, soon we were faced with another problem. The ball we were using

Continued on Page 4



contents

MAY 1974

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 3

PAGE 9 A Tennessee Waltz

Randy Stafford wins Class A singles and leads the Vols to the Intercollegiate Championship.

PAGE 13 On to Cleveland

International Doubles Championships awarded to Rocky River, Ohio, for October 10-13, 1974.

PAGE 16 Close the Door . . .

Jerry Lapierre finds the racquetball court blocks out the world's everyday frustrations.

PAGE 17 Inside Racquetball

This month's instructional article covers the full range of offensive shots, by the book.

PAGE 26 Eye Protection

The best systems are "inconvenient" but they're worth it to avoid serious injuries.

IRA Board of Directors

President—DeWitt M. Shy, Memphis. National Commissioner—Ken Porco, Louisville. National Rules Commissioner—Dr. Bud Muehleisen, San Diego. National Coordinator—Gerard W. Lapierre, Woodmere, Ohio. Directors—Robert A. Challenger, Vancouver, B. C.; Charles Brumfield, San Diego; Dr. William A. Sellars, Dallas; Robert McInerney, Coronado, Calif.; Larry Lederman, Milwaukee; Smith Schippers, Memphis. Executive Director—Myron Roderick, Stillwater, Okla.

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East Region—Tom Sweeney, State College, Pa. South Region—Tom Stidham, Clearwater, Fla. Central Region—Fred Blaess, Schaumburg, Ill. Southwest Region—Marlowe Phillips, St. Louis. West Region—Wayne Player, Salt Lake City. East Canada—John Spitz-Spencer, Montreal. West Canada—Tevie Smith, Richmond, B. C. Juniors—William W. King, Memphis. Military—Capt. Ken Israel, Guam.

RACQUETBALL

Volume 3, Number 3, May 1974

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Hall of Fame . . .

Continued from Page 3

was a nondescript ball that had lain on their shelves for a long time. When we exhausted their supply, there were none to replace them. Finally, after canvassing all the sports stores within a reasonable distance, we asked our friends who traveled to distant cities to do the same.

"At this point, I decided to find the manufacturer of this play ball. I succeeded and ordered a minimum order of 150 dozen. Unfortunately, I was stuck with the balls because they were too lively and completely unsuitable for play. I had to wait two years before the ball lost its compression and would match the old play ball we had been using.

"During this waiting period, I approached one of the country's most reputable rubber ball manufacturers and they agreed to try to meet my rigid specs. After much time, heartache and expense, the present official ball resulted.

"With a fine quality racquet and ball, paddle racquets—now Racquetball—became a sensation in Greenwich. As people left Greenwich for other cities, they introduced the game to their new Y and the next thing I knew there would be a request for equipment. Although I was not equipped, or in the business, to handle their requests, I felt an obligation to do so because I was responsible for the game.

"Because the largest play is in the four-wall court I had to address myself, when it came to rules, to this court. Some felt the rules should be the same as handball, others thought—because of the racquet—it should follow squash, others made their own house rules.

"I decided there must be uniformity in rules if the game was to grow. Hence I organized a committee and compiled the present rules. I also formed the National Paddle Racquet Association to control the rules and promote the game."

That's how it all started.

On the Cover

This is the trophy you'll be shooting for at the International Singles Championships in San Diego. Handsome shadow-box awards, of varying sizes, will be presented for the first four places in each event, plus consolation champions.

The walnut frame contains an engraved copper plaque mounted on a plush velvet background and has been adopted as the official award for IRA International Championships.

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International Preview...

Continued from Page 3

Tennessee, Pete Wright of Texas Christian and Steve Smith of Memphis State.

Others, no doubt, will receive strong consideration when entries close and the field shapes up for the seedings committee's pre-tournament meeting at San Diego.

Peggy Steding of Odessa, Texas, was virtually unknown and definitely unseeded when she swept to the women's championship last year. Now, everybody knows about "Super-Tex" and she'll be the favorite as she defends her title.

Jan Pasternak, the 1971-72 champion and 1973 runner-up now playing out of Tempe, Ariz., and Jan Campbell of San Diego, who had the misfortune of "discovering" Peggy in her first match last year, rank as leading challengers.

Senior singles (35-over) will be a new division in the Internationals this year, but the names are familiar.

Ken Porco of Louisville won the senior Invitation this year, but lost to Charlie Garfinkel and placed behind The Big Bird in the Open Invitation. Myron Roderick of Stillwater, Okla., and Bud Muehleisen of San Diego are the top

challengers. Roderick was runner-up in the Senior Invitation and Muehleisen won the 1969 IRA Open and the 1973 IRA Masters crowns.

Invitation champion John Halverson of San Diego heads the Masters field, but strong opposition will come from 1973 runner-up Bill Sellars of Dallas, Richard Walker of Dallas and Gene Grapes of Pittsburgh, last year's Golden Masters doubles winner.

The new Junior singles division features 15-year-old Steve Trent of San Diego, but the spotlight also could fall on Craig McCoy of Riverside, Calif., if he elects to go in the age group competition. McCoy won the West Region title in Open Singles.

The Golden Masters singles, another new division, will be wide open, partly because of the limited tournament information available on the 55-over class.

The 1974 International Singles, separated this year from the Doubles Championships, will be played at the brand new Brown's Handball-Racquetball Club, located at 5205 Kearny Villa Way in San Diego. The only doubles in the tournament will be women's.

Competition starts at 8 a.m. Wednesday, June 5, with Preliminary Open Singles, a tournament established strictly to fill the Open Singles bracket of 64. Anyone who failed to qualify for Open Singles in the regionals may compete in Preliminary Singles if his entry was in hand by the May 20 deadline.

OPEN SINGLES QUALIFIERS

East—Charlie Garfinkel, Buffalo, N.Y.; Tom Kutas, Cincinnati; Mike Luciw, New Britain, Conn.; Charlie Shapiro, Butler, Pa.; Carmen Fellicetti, Brookville, Pa.; Mike Romano, Fitchburg, Mass.; Tom Sweeney, State College, Pa.; Mark Hiudt, Cincinnati; Craig Guinter, Montoursville, Pa.; Jerry Davis, Shaker Heights, Ohio.

South—Ken Porco, Louisville; Johnny Hennen, Chattanooga; Steve Smith, Memphis; Joe Ycaza, Atlanta; Chuck Cooper, Louisville; Dave Bledsoe, Knoxville, Tenn.; Marc Auerbach, Decatur, Ga.; Randy Stafford, Knoxville; Mike Zeitman, Louisville; Jim Cullen, Memphis.

Central—Steve Strandemo, St. Cloud, Minn.; Ron Strom, St. Cloud; John Rude,

Sioux Falls, S. D.; Paul Ikier, North Mankato, Minn.; Gordon Kelly, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Tom Wirkus, Fond du Lac, Wis.; Joe Wirkus, Reedsville, Wis.; Mark Hegg, Sioux Falls; Jim Santino, Lansing, Mich.; Mike Bergen, Minneapolis.

Southwest—Jerry Hilecher, Columbia, Mo.; Ken Wong, St. Louis; Jim Austin, Houston; Pete Wright, Fort Worth; Tom McKie, Richardson, Tex.; Luther Bernstein, Dallas; Virgil Thurmond, Dallas; Roland Treat, Stillwater, Okla.; Jerry Linton, Altus, Okla.; Wallace Hardy, Lawton, Okla.

West—Craig McCoy, Riverside, Calif.; Trey Sayes, Logan, Utah; Bob Lund, Portland, Ore.; Paul Lawrence, San Diego; Charlie Drake, San Diego; Michael Chaet, Los Angeles; Mark Deutsch, Phoenix; Morgan Sayes, Logan; Scott McComas,

California; Jay Jones, Culver City, Calif.; Pete Lubisich, Portland; Ron Mills, Salt Lake City.

East Canada—Manny Gregorio, Toronto; Ivan Velan, Montreal.

West Canada—Wayne Bowes, Lethbridge, Wes Hadikin, Winnipeg.

Exempt—Charlie Brumfield, San Diego; Steve Keeley, San Diego; Steve Serot, St. Louis; Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis.

REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

Open—Charlie Garfinkel, Buffalo, N.Y.; Ken Porco, Louisville; Steve Strandemo, St. Cloud, Minn.; Jerry Hilecher, Columbia, Mo.; Craig McCoy, Riverside, Calif.; Murdock Cranston, Halifax, N.S.; Wayne Bowes, Lethbridge, Alta.

Junior—Richie Wagner, Paterson, N.J.; Dean Nichopoulos, Memphis; Bob Adam Jr., Edina, Minn.; Jerry Zuckerman, St. Louis; Steve Trent, San Diego.

Women's—Gerri Stoffregen, Cincinnati; Evie Morguelan, Louisville; Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Mich.; Peggy Steding, Odessa, Tex.; Jan Pasternak, Tempe, Ariz.

Senior—Charlie Garfinkel, Buffalo, N.Y.; Bill King, Memphis; Bob Adam Sr., Edina, Minn.; Myron Roderick, Stillwater, Okla.; Howard Ringwood, Salt Lake City; Phil Swartz, Vancouver, B.C.

Masters—Gene Grapes, Pittsburgh; Herman Abramovitz, Louisville; Jim White, Milwaukee; Richard Walker, Dallas; Rick Warner, Salt Lake City; George Morfitt, Vancouver, B.C.

Golden Masters—Jack Bowling, New York; Ike Gumer, Louisville; Ben Wirkus, Fond du Lac, Wis.; David Shoss, Dallas; Luzelle Wilde, Salt Lake City.

Four New Directors to Be Elected

Four new members will be elected to the Board of Directors during the general membership meeting of the International Racquetball Association June 8 in San Diego.

The new directors will be elected for three-year terms to succeed Larry Lederman, Gerard W. Lapierre and Robert McInerney, whose terms expire, and Myron Roderick, who resigned from the board to become Executive Director.

In accord with the IRA constitution, a nominating committee will present nominees for the four positions. Ad-

ditional nominations will be accepted from the floor and voting will be held among the general membership.

Three more directors will be elected in 1975, to succeed Ken Porco, Dr. Bud Muehleisen and Dr. William A. Sellars. Serving until 1976 are DeWitt Shy, president; Charlie Brumfield; Smith Schippers and the new Canadian director, John M. Chambers.

No present member of the board may be reelected until three years after his term expires.

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spot in the game, and offers a one-piece extruded frame.

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The Director Says:

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Dear Racquetball Friends:

It is now almost time for the International Championships and I am really looking forward to seeing a lot of you at San Diego.

I was in San Diego last weekend and the facilities at Brown's are going to be outstanding. I know that everyone is going to enjoy playing in this facility. We have tickets for sale and if you would like to reserve tickets, be sure to contact Bud Muehleisen as soon as possible. When you arrive and register, we will have a schedule for the matches and events, so be sure to check either at the hotel or Brown's as to the time you play.

As you know, everyone is eligible to play in the International Tournament except in Open Singles and you must have qualified through your regional set-up. If you did not qualify, you can qualify Wednesday, June 5, in a preliminary tournament starting at 8 a.m.

One thing I would like to point out is that all rules of the IRA will be followed for all players in the International Tournament. This means that the new rule pertaining to the shirt also will be followed. I know this is a rule that has a lot of questions about it, and we are going to bring this up at the general meeting so you as members can decide what you feel is best as far as shirt design is concerned. The Board of Directors does not really care, as long as the shirt is neat and it is what the members want.

As you know, the membership meeting will be a breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at the LeBaron Hotel and it will be free for all IRA members. At that time we will have the awards for the Man of the Year, Woman Athlete of the Year and Male Athlete of the Year. Also we would like to recognize the out-going Directors who have been such a great help to the Association.

We are very happy that it has been possible for us to start a Racquetball Hall of Fame. It is formerly the Helms Foundation Hall of Fame and is now called the City Savings Athletic Foundation Hall of Fame. They have let us induct two members to the Hall of Fame.

Our athlete is Dr. Bud Muehleisen. Of course, Dr. Bud was our first International Champion and has many national titles. The contributor member to the Hall of Fame is Joe Sobek. Joe, as you know, invented and created the sport of Racquetball and it is a great honor that we induct these two gentlemen into the Hall of Fame, at the membership breakfast.

Right after the membership breakfast, we will have our membership meeting and of course at the meeting we would like for the members to bring up anything they think ought to be improved or changed as far as the IRA is concerned. One of the items on the agenda for the membership will be the financial report for 1973.

We also will report the actions taken at the Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, June 4. We will have a report from our President, and also we will have election of four new Board members. The President, DeWitt Shy, has selected a nominating committee and it will present a slate of names to the Board of Directors, to be recommended to the membership. At this time the membership can present anyone that they would like to have as a member of the Board of Directors and they will be elected from the membership.

The Board of Directors has about 30 items they will cover in their day-long meeting. I know that we will successfully come up with some outstanding recommendations for the IRA.

I would like to inform you that Sports Illustrated magazine is going to cover the International Tournament—all four days. We hope they will write a very outstanding article concerning Racquetball.

Another item on the schedule at the International Tournament is a meeting of the State Chairmen who are present at the meet. We will have a National Convention of the State Chairmen sometime in the fall and those details will be worked out at this first state chairmanship meeting. I would like for each one of the State Chairmen who will be at San Diego to let me know.

I think over-all everything has been going real well with the International Association. We have moved our office and I have been working full time as of May 1.

If we can be of any help to you in any way, don't hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

Myron Roderick
Executive Director





Randy Stafford

Stafford, Vols Top Collegians

Randy Stafford of Tennessee defeated Pete Wright of Texas Christian in the Class A singles finals and led the Vols to the team championship in the second annual IRA National Intercollegiate on UT's home courts at Knoxville.

Tennessee outdistanced cross-state rival Memphis State, 39-28, for the team trophy with defending champion Illinois third at 17 points. Although there were only four universities in the team competition, 15 colleges from all areas of the country were represented.

Stafford defeated Wright, 21-19, 17-21, 21-11, in the finals, forcing the TCU ace to settle for second place for the second straight year. Wright was runner-up to Jerry Hilecher of Missouri in 1973.

Stafford, who had teamed with Davey Bledsoe for last year's doubles crown, was the Vols' No. 1 singles entry this time and reached the finals by downing Larry Putterman of Illinois, 21-11, 21-18, in the

quarterfinals and arch rival Steve Smith of Memphis, 15-21, 21-17, 21-20, in the semis.

In game three against Smith, Stafford held a 20-14 lead when Smith called time out, changed his shirt, "started from scratch" and ran off six straight points for a tie at 20.

Wright breezed through the upper bracket almost as though his opponents were "bye." He decked Mike Carr of Oklahoma State, 21-6, 21-10, in the quarters and Tom Whipple of Maryland, 21-8, 21-9, in the semifinals.

Smith finished third, 21-18, 21-9, over Whipple.

Jim Cullen of Memphis state rallied from a first-game loss and overpowered Bryce Anderson of Tennessee, 14-21, 21-16, 21-8, for the Class B singles title.

Cullen advanced to the finals by beating Jeff Ostreicher of Illinois, 21-9, 21-19, and Rusty Fogarty, UT independent, 21-14, 21-14. Anderson played through Gary Davis of Berea (Ky.), 21-14, 21-2, and Larry Curts of Oklahoma State, 21-20, 21-8. Curts downed Fogarty for third, 21-13, 13-21, 21-11.

Jeff Bowman and John Parks of Illinois won the doubles, 21-7, 14-21, 21-7, over Emile Catiginani and Mark Thomas of Tennessee.

Bowman-Parks trimmed Mike Fleming and Jerry D'Amore of Memphis, 21-7, 21-10, in the semis, while Catiginani-Thomas subdued Carl Rinderle and Mike Sladky of Winona (Minn.), 21-18, 21-15. Fleming-D'Amore finished third with an 18-21, 21-14, 21-17 victory.

Consolations were won by Mike Carr of Oklahoma State in A, Ron Dick of Tarrant (Texas) in B and Ernest Huff-Lothar Baumann of Berea in doubles.

Referee's Corner

Question: In a doubles tournament, if one of the players fails to show, or is injured, can the other player continue the match playing alone against the other team?

—Sam Cohen

Answer: No. A doubles team is considered as one unit and both players must be available to compete.

Question: How can a referee decide a player was visually hindered? In a recent match, I served from a position slightly to the right of center-court. I hit the ball low and hard down the right side, trying to take advantage of my opponent, who had taken a position well to the left of his normal receiving position. The ball did not pass close to my body but he called a visual hinder.

—Tom Johns

Answer: The only time a visual hinder can be called on a serve is when the receiver takes a center-court position and the ball passes so close to the server's body as to cause a screen. If the receiver is out of position and the ball does not pass close to the server's body, the difficulty is the receiver's own fault and it is not a hinder.

Referee's Notebook: A change has been proposed, and will be discussed, in the rule calling a dead-ball hinder on "any returned ball that touches an op-

ponent on the fly before it returns to the front wall (Rule 4.10, a-2).

As written, this rule does not permit any discretion concerning a shot which obviously would not reach the front wall anyway and would be a side out or lost point. Suppose, for example, the players are somewhat side-by-side and the hitter "fouls one off" and hits the opponent with what should be a losing shot. It is proposed that the referee should call a dead-ball hinder only if he felt that the shot had some chance—even a long chance—of striking the front wall.



Intercollegiate winners from left, front row—John Parks, Jeff Bowman, Mark Thomas, Emile Catiginani; back row—Davey Bledsoe, tournament director; Pete Wright, Randy Stafford, Bryce Anderson, Jim Cullen, co-chairman William Tagg.



The Buckley Twins

Double Trouble

If you think you're seeing double when you step onto a racquetball court in Illinois, you may be right. And you probably are running into double trouble if you're going to play against Mark and Patrick Buckley.

The 16-year-old twins from Orland Park, Ill., are two of the brightest young prospects in the country and they've given up other sports to concentrate on the courts.

After playing racquetball occasionally during an eight-month period, along with four-wall handball, they surprised the field in the Illinois state men's tournament by going to the third round before being stopped by older, experienced players.

Mark and Patrick are the sons of Vincent Buckley, an auto dealer who became a widower when they were 8 years old, and grandsons of former U. S. Congressman James V. Buckley.

"They enjoy racquetball more than any other sport," says their father, "and they keep begging me to take them to the Y so they can play the game." Dad doesn't mind a bit. "I am the happiest father in the world coaching them and playing with them in racquetball and handball," he says.

The twins have been active in tennis and track, but have given up those sports to stress racquetball and handball. They have plans to shoot for the IRA junior championship this year or next, and hope that 100 per cent concentration can produce 100 per cent improvement.

They run 12 to 15 miles a day for conditioning and each can run the mile in less than five minutes. So, if you play them be ready . . . they won't be standing still.

Cranston, Bowes Win Canadian Regionals

Showing great competitive spirit, Murdock Cranston of Halifax survived two injuries during a semifinal upset of Ivan Velan, then scored a 21-10, 21-19 victory over Manny Gregorio of Toronto in the open singles finals of the IRA East Canada regional tournament in Montreal.

Cranston's scores over Velan were 21-14, 11-21, 21-19. Gregorio ousted Bob Eastman of Montreal in a tough, three-game quarterfinal, then reached the championship round with another close triumph, 21-15, 15-21, 21-14, over John Spencer.

Murdock's great hustle resulted in first landing on his racquet hand, then opening a severe gash on his right eyelid.

Velan came back to take his long-time practice partner, Spencer, 21-4, 21-9, for third place. Cranston will play in the senior singles at the Internationals, so Gregorio and Velan will represent East Canada in open singles.

A promising young Montreal swinger, Kosta Daifas, didn't lost a game in the consolation singles on his way to victory

over Wayne Murphy of Toronto in the semis and R. Shkimba in the finals.

In doubles, the "Red Bandit" duo of Rick Colangelo and Lorne Munday put together two good strings to take the first game, 21-12, over Gregorio-Velan, but Munday's kill shot lost its consistency and they subsequently lost the match, 21-16, 21-17. Gregorio-Velan then took the finals, 31-16, over Spencer and the ailing Cranston.

In West Canada, at Vancouver, Wayne Bowes of Lethbridge defeated Wes Hadikin of Winnipeg for the open singles championship, then teamed with Bob Daku of Lethbridge to win doubles.

Other West Canada champions were Phil Swartz of Vancouver in senior singles, George Morfitt of Vancouver in masters singles, Wayne Smith of Vancouver in B singles, Brian Bowling of Vancouver in C singles and Gregg Caulfield of Burnaby, B. C., in novice singles.

Neither Canadian region crowned junior or women's champions.

Saskatchewan Open Snow Fun for Some

Plagued by blizzards and all kinds of transportation problems, the Saskatchewan Open still turned out some superb racquetball.

Lethbridge provided both finalists in open singles, with Wayne Bowes, reigning Canadian closed champion, turning back doubles partner Bob Daku, 21-18, 17-21, 21-10. The middle game was the first Daku ever had taken off Bowes in tournament play and he displayed his exhilaration at the time by letting out a loud yell and hugging his opponent.

The original entry of 36 local and 29 out-of-town players included some of the top stars of West Canada in open singles. Unfortunately severe blizzards the day before the tournament was to start resulted in cancellations from many out-of-towners.

All six entries from Winnipeg, three from Regina and three from Edmonton were unable to win against the elements and three from Lethbridge took about 29 hours to drive 400 miles. The draw became chaotic from cancellations and phone calls from other entrants saying

they were trying to get through. Some we still haven't heard from.

In probably the top upset of the tournament, Rob Napper surprised Roald Thompson, 1972 Saskatchewan Open champ and 1973 runner-up, 21-17, 21-19, in the second round. Napper has only been playing about eight months. But Bowes downed Napper, 21-6, 21-15, in the semis and Daku ousted Robin Tabb, 21-5, 21-4.

Doug Balsden, Saskatoon's top handball player, switched sports and showed his dexterity by winning B singles over Rick Peake of Lethbridge, 21-12, 18-21, 21-10. Jack Coffin of Saskatoon defeated Greg Rudichuk, Roy's 15-year-old son, 21-9, 21-7, in C singles.

Ray Lambert of Saskatoon won masters singles over Al Haider of Regina, 21-8, 20-21, 21-12.

Bowes and Daku captured open doubles from Rudichuk and Thompson, 21-15, 21-4, and Tim Tarala and Ernie Husulak captured B doubles over David Hughes and Ernie Sapieha, 21-9, 17-21, 21-18.

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Denise Bray, Bill Dunn, Jan Campbell, Jan Pasternak

Supreme Court Open

Another for Brumfield

Some of the top players in the country were in the field of 180, but Charlie Brumfield dominated the open singles and doubles without losing a game in the Supreme Court Open at the 11-court facility in Sunnyvale, Calif.

Brumfield polished off Steve Keeley, 21-9, 21-16, for the title after handling Pete Lubisich, 21-7, 21-12; Dan Alder, 21-1, 21-16; and doubles partner Craig McCoy, 21-3, 21-5.

McCoy has become one of the top left side players in doubles and proved it with his outstanding shooting and steady defensive play as he and Charlie ran away with the title. Dave Charlson and Bill Dunn were the final victims, 21-12, 21-8.

The quality of play in Class B was excellent, with Roger Ehren of Los Angeles squeezing past Bill Stevens of San Diego, 21-19, 21-19. As usual, B singles was the largest draw.

Jan Campbell, playing superbly and rolling out backhand kills, overwhelmed Jan Pasternak, 21-2, 21-15, and projected herself firmly into the women's championship picture for the Internationals.

Supreme Court's Deryck Clay

outlasted Jim Trent of San Diego, 21-9, 20-21, 21-13, in senior singles and Gene McDonald of Los Angeles showed a hot hand in masters. McDonald upset top-seeded Al Rossi, 21-18, 21-20, in the semis after Al held leads in both games, then took care of Don Green in the finals, 21-12, 21-11.

In open singles, the round of 16 produced an upset and several surprising results. Charlson was knocked out by unseeded but fast-improving Jay Jones, 21-17, 21-13.

Charlie Drake, still trying to regain form after a six-month layoff, was eliminated by Alder, 21-6, 21-11. McCoy struggled by Ron Starkman, Dunn edged Len Stream and Mark Wayne barely outshot 15-year-old Steve Trent, each match going three games.

Brumfield blew by Alder and Keeley shot down Wayne in the quarters. McCoy had three tough games with Jones, while Dunn and Paul Lawrence staged a two-hour marathon with Paul's consistency pulling it out, 17-21, 21-14, 21-15.

Keeley dominated the first semifinal with Lawrence, 21-7, but Paul rebounded to win the second, 21-11. Keeley's en-

durance paid off in the third, 21-7, but he didn't have enough left to test Brumfield, who was on top of his game.

In the doubles semifinals, McCoy's forehand was red hot. His shooting forced Bill Thurman and Starkman to move up to cover the kills, then Craig and Charlie started driving and forced many setups and errors. The score was 21-8, 21-8.

Charlson-Dunn tried to keep the ball away from Keeley and force Drake into errors. They jumped to an early 15-9 lead, held on at 21-17 and then went from 11-0 to 18-4 and 21-9 in the second.

The Los Angeles team of Williams and Portune won B doubles over Chabot's Tony Krause and Gene Gibbs, 18-21, 21-16, 21-14.

OPEN SINGLES

Round of 16: Brumfield def. Lubisich 21-7, 21-12; Alder def. Drake 21-6, 21-11; Jones def. Charlson 21-17, 21-13; McCoy def. Starkman 21-12, 15-21, 21-17; Lawrence def. S. Dunn 21-10, 21-13; W. Dunn def. Stream 21-12, 14-21, 21-5; Wayne def. S. Trent 21-19, 10-21, 21-16; Keeley def. Stevens 21-9, 21-0.

Quarterfinals: Brumfield def. Alder 21-1, 21-16; McCoy def. Jones 21-13, 18-21, 21-18; Lawrence def. Dunn 18-21, 21-13, 21-14; Keeley def. Wayne 21-9, 21-14.

Semifinals: Brumfield def. McCoy 21-3, 21-5; Keeley def. Lawrence 21-7, 11-21, 21-7.

Finals: Brumfield def. Keeley 21-9, 21-16. Third: McCoy def. Lawrence by forfeit.

OPEN DOUBLES

Quarterfinals: Brumfield-McCoy by forfeit; Starkman-Thurman def. Lund-Lubisich 21-8, 21-5; Charlson-Dunn def. Marcus-Trent 21-14, 21-10; Keeley-Drake def. Wayne-Stream 21-16, 21-20.

Semifinals: Brumfield-McCoy def. Starkman-Thurman 21-8, 21-8; Charlson-Dunn def. Keeley-Drake 21-17, 21-9.

Finals: Brumfield-McCoy def. Charlson-Dunn 21-12, 21-8. Third: Starkman-Thurman by forfeit.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Quarterfinals: Pasternak def. Johnson 21-13, 21-10; Siau def. Massie 19-21, injury forfeit; Bray def. Noguchi 19-21, 21-17, 21-10; Campbell def. Ornstein 21-4, 21-5.

Semifinals: Pasternak def. Siau 21-12, 21-19; Campbell def. Bray 21-6, 21-4.

Finals: Campbell def. Pasternak 21-2, 21-15. Third: Bray def. Siau 21-15, 21-18.

Want an IRA Tourney in '75?

Bids are now being accepted by the IRA office from clubs and organizations interested in holding Invitational Championships during the 1974-75 season.

Separate singles and doubles Invitationals will be held in open, senior and masters divisions. Invitationals also will be considered for junior, women's and golden masters players if interest warrants.

The 1975 Intercollegiate have been awarded to Memphis State.

Because restructuring of the IRA regional lineup will be discussed at the annual meeting in San Diego, bids for the 1975 Regional and International Championships will not be considered until decisions are reached at the IRA convention. It is proposed that eight U.S. and two Canadian regions be established.

All bids submitted for any tournament should include a complete description of court facilities, available housing and transportation.

Expo 'World' Tourney Set

Racquetball players and fans are invited to attend the Expo '74 World's Fair in Spokane, Wash., and compete in the "World" Racquetball Championships August 1-3, 1974.

The tournament will be held on nine air-conditioned courts at Eastern Washington State College and the Spokane Elks Club. Two courts have glass backwalls for featured play.

Entry fee is \$18 for one event, \$7 for a second event, limit two. Competition will be held in open singles (limit 64), class B singles, class C singles, women's singles, senior singles, masters singles, open doubles and senior doubles (all limit 32).

Entry deadline is July 20. Entry blanks and additional information may be obtained from Pat Whitehill, World Racquetball Championships, Showalter 306, Eastern Washington State College, Cheney, Wash. 99004, telephone 509-359-7963 or 235-4520.

Calendar

JUNE

6-9: IRA International Singles Championships, Brown's Handball-Racquetball Club, San Diego, Calif. (Open, 18-under Junior, 35-over Senior, 45-over Masters, 55-over Golden Masters, Women's, also Women's Doubles). Preliminary qualifying tournament June 5 to fill 64 bracket for Open Singles. Entry deadline May 20. Dr. Bud Muehleisen, 9333 Loren Drive, San Diego, Calif. 92041, telephone 714-442-7333.

13-16: Rose Festival, Multnomah AC and Jewish CC, Portland, Ore. (Open, B, C, novice, senior, masters, women's singles and open doubles, consolations all events). Awards 4 places, 2 consolation. Dr. Peter Lubisich, 4419 SW Flower, Portland, Ore. 97221, telephone 505-246-5734.

21-23: Michigan Open, Oak Park Athletic Club, Lansing, Mich. (Open, women's, masters singles, open and mixed doubles, consolations all events). \$12 entry fee, \$8 second event, deadline June 12. Dr. Mike Byrne, Lansing Community College, 419 North Capitol, Lansing, Mich. 48914, telephone 517-373-7280.

JULY

12-14: Missouri Open, Spaulding Racquetball Club, St. Louis, Mo. (Open, B, senior, masters, golden master, junior, women's, consolations). Awards 4 places, consolation. Double elimination. Chuck Spaulding, Spaulding Racquetball Club, 200 Enchanted Pk., Manchester, Mo. 63011, telephone 314-391-6363.

17-20: Canadian Klondike, Edmonton,

MAY 1974



Doubles Finals At Cleveland

Executive Club West of Rocky River, Ohio, in suburban Cleveland, has been selected as host for the IRA International Doubles Championships October 10-13, 1974.

Competition will be held in open, junior, senior, masters and golden masters divisions with no advance qualifying required. In age-group competition, both players must meet age requirements as of the first day of the tournament.

The \$1.5 million Executive Club complex includes five courts in excellent condition, one of them glass-enclosed.

Facilities also include a swimming pool, whirlpool, steam and sauna rooms, physical fitness rooms, TV and card rooms, a pool table and massage room.

The Sheraton Inn is across the street from the club.

John Leech and former Cleveland Browns football star Dante Lavelli built the club, with Leech purchasing Lavelli's interest two years ago and embarking on a remodeling program including construction of the glass court.

Jerry Lapierre, IRA national coordinator and member of the Board of Directors, will assist in operation of the tournament.

This will be the first time the IRA Doubles Championships have been separated from the IRA International Singles, which will be held June 6-9 in San Diego. Women's doubles will be conducted at the San Diego tournament.

Alberta. (Open, B, novice, women's, women's novice, senior singles, open, senior doubles). For complete information, write Edmonton Racquetball Association, 10325-114 St. No. 22, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1S2.

AUGUST

1-3: "World" Racquetball Championships, Eastern Washington State College, Spokane, Wash. (Open, B, C, women's senior, masters singles, open, senior doubles). Deadline July 20. World Racquetball Championship, Conference Coordinator, Showalter 306, Eastern Washington State College, Cheney, Wash. 99004, telephone Pat Whitehill 509-359-7963 or 235-4520.

OCTOBER

10-13: IRA International Doubles Championships, Executive Club West,

Rocky River, Ohio. (Open, junior, senior, masters, golden masters only, no qualifying required). For complete information write IRA, PO Box 1016, Stillwater, Okla. 74074. Entry blank will be printed in future magazines.

11-13: Women's Open, Eau Claire YMCA, Eau Claire, Wis. (S&D). Eileen Joslin, Women's Director, Eau Claire YMCA, 700 Graham Ave., Eau Claire, Wis. 54701.

NOVEMBER

7-10: Canadian National Championships, Cote de Liesse Racquet Club, Montreal. Ivan Velan, Cote de Liesse Racquet Club, 8305 Cote de Liesse Rd., Montreal, Que. H4T 1G5. For full information on any Canadian tournament, write CRA, 10325-114 St. No. 22, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1S2.

Zeitman Wins South's Super 16

Joe Ycaza and South Region finalist John Hennen had visions of championship bliss in the South's Super 16 at Louisville Athletic Club until Mike Zeitman blew into the picture and settled all speculation.

Most of Dixie's top players were on hand, fresh from the regional at Birmingham including regional champ Ken Porco, Fred Michels, Don Rigazio, Bill Evans and Zeitman from Louisville, senior champ Bill King from Memphis and Davey Bledsoe from Knoxville.

But there were some surprising newcomers, starting with Ycaza from Atlanta. Joe first upset fourth-seeded Steve Smith in the quarters, 21-20, 9-21, 21-10. Smith had a tough time with

Michels in the first round and Michels went on to win consolations, 21-8, 21-19, over Rick Stevens of Memphis.

Ycaza's next match was against the veteran Porco in the semis. Joe grabbed the crowd's attention during warm-up with a brisk and vocal walk around the perimeter of the court. Then he attracted Porco's attention with a brisk 21-14, 21-14 win.

In the lower half of the draw, King and Evans staged one of the most punishing matches of the tournament in the first round. Both are excellent retrievers and the rallies were long and hard-fought before Evans emerged the victor, 21-16, 9-21, 21-13.

Zeitman was Evans' next opponent and

Mike started one game before Bill did, winning 21-donut, 21-19.

Mike then had his hoped-for rematch with Hennen of Chattanooga, who had upset Mike in the round of 16 at the South Region and almost kept him from qualifying for the Internationals. It was nip-and-tuck through 17 points before Mike put the game away with a three-point run and took the second handily for a 21-17, 21-13 decision.

The finals turned out to be all Zeitman as he easily controlled Ycaza's strategy, 21-11, 21-10. Hennen whipped Porco for third place, 21-8, 21-13.

Another regional all-star challenge match is planned for sometime in November.

Tune In Again Tomorrow...

Can This Marriage Be Saved?

By Sandy Cramer

I remember the first time I ever saw Dick; I knew that he was a hustler. What I soon discovered was that he spent most of his time hustling a small black ball in a handball court. Of course I quickly learned the terms of the game and with a little patience, court position, strategy and technique, I had him "hooked" within a year.

Shortly after we moved to San Antonio, Dick decided that I should learn to play racquetball. "After all," he said, "we should have at least ONE thing in common."

We found four outside, three-wall courts at a Catholic Parish Retreat. I think I spent most of the summer chasing after the ball. It hid everywhere: in the grass, the bushes, behind rocks, and occasionally it remained lost.

We seldom saw anyone at these courts until one day we were informed that this was a private area and like Adam and Eve we were cast from God's Paradise.

Fortunately we soon moved to Turtle Creek Country Club where they had four beautiful handball courts. Thus, began my actual training which was to change my life. Thank goodness Dick only won when we played. Naturally, I took the losses lightly, crying only after the game was over, and cursing as softly as my anger permitted while playing.

"Dick, will you please stop yelling at me?" I'd scream.

"Turn to the side. Step into the ball. You're not moving!" was his acid reply. Well, it didn't take long to see that our marriage was heading for the rocks. So we stopped the lessons—but that didn't stop me. I worked out at least three times a week and played with any warm body that could hold a racquet. Gradually I improved. At least now I could hit the ball off the back wall (at waist level.)

Then one day Dick said, "I think you should enter a tournament."

"I think you're crazy, too," I replied. But nonetheless, we drove to Houston for my first tournament.

My nerves were so shattered that I shook when I even thought about my competition, but Dick encouraged me at every step of the way.

"You'll have to play in the men's 'B' bracket because only

one girl showed up. Are you going to play or not?"

"Play? Against men?" My heart fell to the floor and there was a lump in my throat as big as an orange but I answered, "Why not?"

As you can imagine, I quickly lost the first match. I reconciled and justified as much as possible. After all, it could have been 21-0 instead of the nine to ten points I won each game.

Then came consolations. We went three games. You know I think I might have won if Dick hadn't been giving me instructions from the gallery. But one thing I'm sure of: I wouldn't have lost Dick if I hadn't yelled, "Would you please be quiet and let ME play the game!" You could hardly blame him for going home without me.

"So what?" I said to myself. "Isn't adventure the spice of life?"

Suddenly I had second thoughts, "Perhaps I've over-seasoned the whole affair!" I decided to quit. And I did—for two miserable months. Then, a terrific thing happened. Eight girls at the Club began meeting on Monday and Wednesday nights. What luck!

Now we share our blisters, aches, pains and the whirlpool.

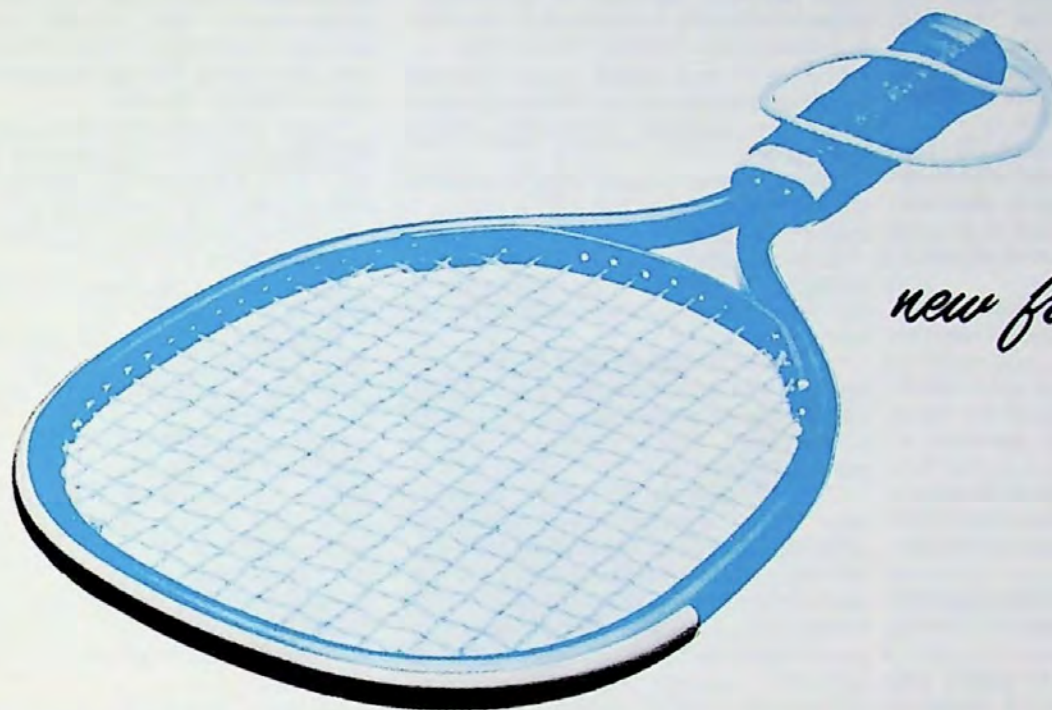
We don't push Women's Lib but we do encourage as many girls as we can to join us.

Now I want you to know that we are not preparing for "Nationals" but we do have fun, exercise and compete to win at the same time. We're all trying to improve our game. Why, sometimes I work on my backhand until I begin to see visions of Jim Austin. Actually, the ceiling shot is the toughest for us all—and patience. But we all agree that racquetball is the greatest!

I've even begun to teach my seven-year-old, Travis. Dick and I both believe that he should start his training earlier than I did.

You know, racquetball may not be the answer to household drudgery, babysitting blues or spats with the spouse, but for me it really helps. So why not pick up a racquet just for fun and sprinkle a little spice in your life?

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Close the Door on Frustrations

... a Whole New World



By Dan Coughlin
Cleveland Plain Dealer

Ten years ago Jerry Lapierre was a fat young man with a severed Achilles tendon. His hair was thinning and his stomach was growing. His only exercise was hobbling in and out of buyer's offices selling electronic components.

"I was 34 at the time and for the previous 12 years I was virtually physically inactive. I was a physical wreck" says Lapierre.

The prescribed therapy was obvious. Run.

"I had to find an alternative to running" says Lapierre. "I can't compete against myself."

Lapierre gravitated to a Central YMCA program to rehabilitate his leg a program that opened his eyes to a valhalla of a sweatbox.

"That's when I discovered racquetball," Lapierre says enthusiastically. "It's the best game to come down the pike since the year one."

Now 44 Lapierre is a lean 169 pounds 40 pounds less than he weighed 10 years ago.

"Four years ago a doctor looked me over and said I was in the best shape of any 40-year-old he ever examined" Lapierre boasts.

Racquetball has become more than a pastime for Lapierre it's an obsession. In fact racquetball is now his livelihood.

Several months ago he put his electronic sales job and his engineering degree from Lawrence Institute of Technology in mothballs and succumbed to an offer to manage the Chagrin Court Club.

The club had failed under several previous proprietors the latest of whom being pro rassling promoter Johnny Powers.

"The previous owners tried to make it too many things to too many people," explains Lapierre.

Although court clubs are beginning to spring up in several cities, this is one of the few that is geared exclusively for racquetball.

"This isn't a pipe dream," says caterer Harlan Diamond, who owns the building, which includes a huge banquet hall on the second floor. "Jerry has seen it work in other cities."

With 245 paid up members, Lapierre says he's already way ahead of schedule. Diamond, who purchased the building primarily as a facility for his catering business, has not made a cent on the athletic club since taking it over four years ago. He has enough faith in Lapierre's concept, however, to invest another \$200,000 in improvements this spring. Four indoor courts are now in use. Construction is under way to convert a swimming pool into four more courts. Plans are in the works for outdoor courts, including a glass-walled court that would

be used for major tournaments.

Among the devotees who play regularly at the Chagrin club are Ernie Kellermann, the former Browns' defensive back who is now with Buffalo, and Dave Jones, the end who spent three years with the Browns.

"Dave and I will play three games and we'll walk out with our tongues hanging out," says Kellermann. "Racquetball is a great game for quickness. It's a great conditioner for football. It's a great way of maintaining yourself."

Kellermann and Jones play at least three times a week.

"This game calls for quicker reactions than handball," pointed out Jones. "Handball is side to side. Racquetball is front to back."

"It would take three hours of tennis to equal the conditioning benefits of 45 minutes of racquetball," says Lapierre.

Handball is the forerunner of the court games and still is immensely popular. But racquetball, which had its origin in the late 1950's is rapidly overtaking it. Lapierre estimates there are from 2,000 to 5,000 regular players in Greater Cleveland.

Although handball, paddleball and racquetball are played on the same courts with similar rules, the differences are simple. Handball, as its name implies, involves only the hand and a hard rubber ball. Paddleball employs a paddle much like a pingpong paddle. Racquetball players use what can best be described as a sawed off tennis racquet and a softer ball.

"Because the ball is softer, it doesn't bounce as fast or as far," says Lapierre. "You have to run after it, which makes it a faster game for the individual."

Racquetball was affiliated with the United States Handball Association until 1968. The International Racquetball Association was formed, with Lapierre named to the board of directors.

"You know the best thing about racquetball?" challenged Lapierre. "Once you close the door of your court the rest of the world is blocked out. I could get rid of all my frustrations in there. If I had a bad day at work, I knew I'd play well that night."

Lapierre is playing better than ever, but his frustrations are fewer.

"We opened this club on guts alone," he says. Within just a few months we have twice as many members as I thought we would."

Lots of Folks Find the Answer

From the Evening News
Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Looking for a pastime that not only gives you a great workout in just 30 minutes but is also inexpensive, fun and available to men and women of all ages?

Racquetball is providing the answer for more and more people every year.

Racquetball is a relatively new game—only six years old in its present organized state—that has found appeal with physical-fitness-minded people all over North America.

The appeal of racquetball is vast, not necessarily meaning that everyone plays the game, but that it's an activity that can provide just about anyone—whether male or female, seven years old or seventy—with an exciting form of recreation that requires very little skill or expense.

"I know of no other sport that has such

appeal to all age groups," said Paul Benson, director of Upward Bound at Lake Superior State College and a racquetball enthusiast.

"I have found the sport to appeal not only to all age groups but also to people from all walks of life in North America," Benson said. "The sport has grown incredibly during the past five years," he continued.

Benson plays on an average of three times a week at the YMCA in Sault, Ont. He goes over with three or four others from this area and manages to get in a good workout during his lunchbreak or during an hour or so after work.

Facilities for racquetball will be made available in this area when the new sports complex at LSSC is completed in the fall of 1976. The complex will include four courts for racquetball, squash and paddleball.

inside racquetball

chapter 4 OFFENSIVE SHOTS

Reprinted from
INSIDE RACQUETBALL
A Publication of the
International Racquetball Association

With practice, you'll find that you can become a satisfactory racquetball player easily and quickly. Becoming an advanced player and a consistent winner, however, takes much more time, energy, and dedication.

The skilled racquetball player knows how to use both the offensive and defensive shots of the game. He is not restricted by his inability to execute shots with precision or by his position on the court. Because a good player is a versatile player, his opponent never knows what his next shot will be.

In this chapter you'll learn to hit the basic offensive shots: kill shot, drop shot, and pass shot. In addition, you'll receive some helpful tips about how to use these shots from 1971 international champion Bill Schmidtke and top-ranked player Ron Rubenstein.

KILL SHOT

The kill shot in racquetball is comparable to the strikeout in baseball. Like the strikeout, the kill shot ends the action and concludes the play. Yet while even the most expert racquetball player isn't able to kill every ball, the player who can't kill any ball is in serious trouble.

Any unreturnable shot that hits low on the front wall qualifies as a kill shot. The ultimate kill, the flat roll-out, is impossible to return because a player can't possibly get his racquet under the ball before it hits the floor twice.

There are two primary risks in executing kill shots. First, a player may hit the ball so low to the front wall that it drops short, hitting the floor before it hits the front wall. Second, a player may hit the ball too high on the front wall. If the ball rebounds into the court, your opponent will retrieve it quite easily.

Despite its pitfalls, a properly hit kill shot is a player's bread and butter. When the opportunity presents itself, a good player moves in quickly with his forehand or backhand kill.

Ron Rubenstein is one of the best backhand shooters in racquetball. Ron believes three factors helped him to develop an effective backhand kill:

competition, practice with others, and individual practice.

"I can't stress enough the importance of practice," he says. "The player should get out on the court and hit backhand kills and other shots over and over again, hour after hour. I got so I could hit kills in my sleep!"

To survive against good competition, every racquetball player should be able to hit a proper forehand and backhand kill. And if you've got tournament competition in mind, you'd better make sure that even your backhand kill is better than "just adequate."

There are four varieties of kill shots in racquetball: straight, side wall-front wall, front wall-side wall, and off-the-back wall. Any of these kill shots may be executed either with the forehand or backhand strokes.

Straight Kill: The straight kill (diagram 16) is an effective and commonly used kill shot. The player hits the ball straight into the front wall as low as possible. To hit the forehand straight kill, the player must strike the ball at calf

level or slightly lower, driving it into the lower right-hand corner of the front wall. The ball will travel almost perfectly parallel to the right side wall and come off the front wall low and along the side wall.

It is very important to hit kill shots at calf, not knee, level or below. "I really get down there," claims Bill Schmidtke. "I bend my back and my knees, reach about a foot out from my body, and hit the ball slightly more than a racquet's width above the floor. Sometimes I get so low that I actually scrape my hand on the floor."

Bill is a player who is known for his on-the-mark forehand kill shots. In fact, he won the International Singles Championship in 1971 on the strength of his forehand shooting. "If I'm going to win," says Bill, "I need to kill with my forehand. In fact, I've geared my entire game to making my opponent make the mistake that will give me this shot. Then I quickly take advantage of his mistake."

The backhand straight kill is struck even lower than the forehand straight kill. The player uses the backhand stroke to hit the ball low, somewhere between his calf and ankle, just off the instep of the foot that is closest to the front wall, and about one foot away from his body. The ball should be hit directly into the left-hand corner of the front wall.

Tournament players use the straight kill in about 70 per cent of all kill shot attempts. Many players prefer the straight kill to other kill shots since the ball strikes only one surface, the front wall.

Side Wall-Front Wall Kill: The second variety of kill shot is the side wall-front wall kill (Diagram 17). The player hits the ball low, with the racquet face opened slightly so the ball strikes the side wall first. When the ball hits the side wall, the ball caroms off so that it moves toward the front wall instead of away from it. Hitting the front wall slows the ball down further and makes it die as it hits the front wall.

"I use the side wall-front wall kill if my opponent is next to or behind me," says

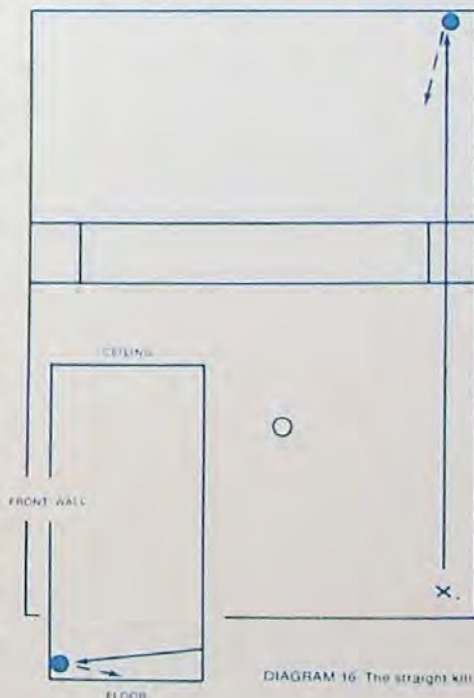


DIAGRAM 16: The straight kill

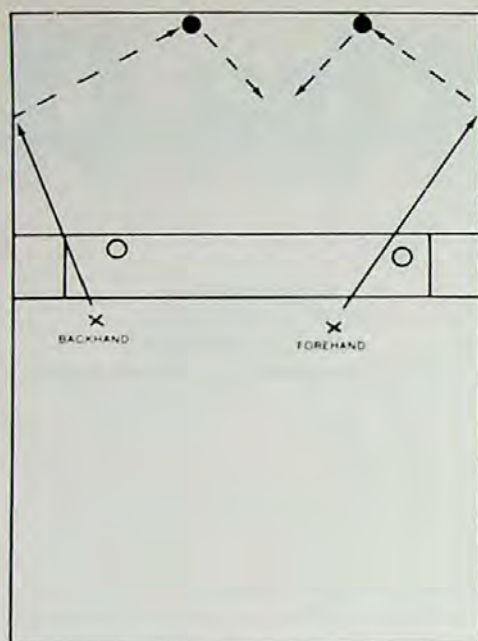


DIAGRAM 17. The side wall-front wall kill.

Bill Schmidtke. "By the time he reacts to the shot hitting the side wall, it's too late for him to retrieve the ball at the front wall."

The side wall-front wall kill can be hit from anywhere on the court, but it is most effective when you are near either side wall and your opponent is near you. Remember to hit the side wall first or the ball won't die after it hits the front wall.

A tip for beginners: The side wall-front wall kill is especially effective against players who do not watch the ball. If your opponent is not looking at you, use of the side wall in making kill attempts will be devastating.

Front Wall-Side Wall Kill: The front wall-side wall kill (Diagram 18) is the least common type of kill shot because it has the most pitfalls. It is hit with the basic forehand or backhand stroke to the opposite low corner of the front wall. If the shot is executed properly, the ball then angles into the closest side wall and rebounds off the wall onto the floor.

There are at least two pitfalls to the front wall-side wall kill shot. If, as the ball comes off the side wall, it angles wide, high, and out toward the center of the court, your opponent will have a perfect setup. Or, if the ball hits the floor near the front wall-side wall crotch, it will bounce high and provide a possible setup.

Remember that in the front wall-side wall shot, the ball's path is directed toward center court, exactly where you don't want the ball to go.

"I attempt the front wall-side wall kill only if my opponent is out of position," says Schmidtke. "Otherwise the chances for a setup off a missed shot are just too great."

Off-the Back Wall Kill: The off-the-back wall kill (Diagram 19) is used frequently and successfully by many top-

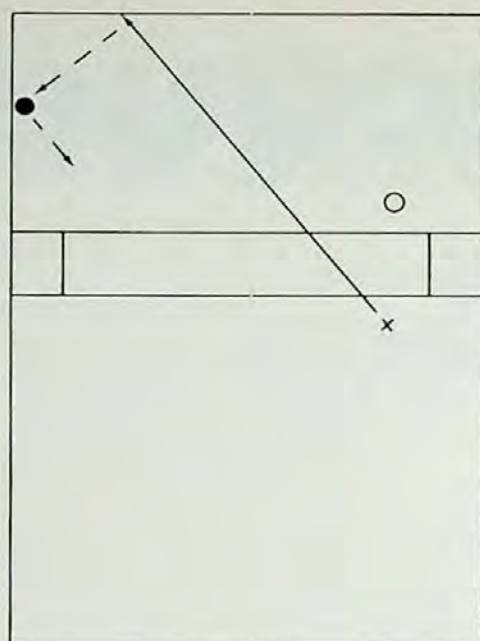


DIAGRAM 18. The front wall-side wall kill.

ranked racquetball players. The back wall is an added factor that helps give the player ample time to get set up for the shot.

When you see that a shot is going to come off the back wall, you should get into position in the hitting area and wait for the ball to drop low, but not so low that you can't get your racquet under it. Put your full power into your swing as you strike the ball into the lower right front corner, as though you were making a straight kill shot.

"I use the kill about 75 per cent of the time when I get a backhand shot off the back wall," says Rubenstein. "I try not to kill it if my opponent is in front court, however."

Most players use the kind of kill shot they can hit the best. By practicing and

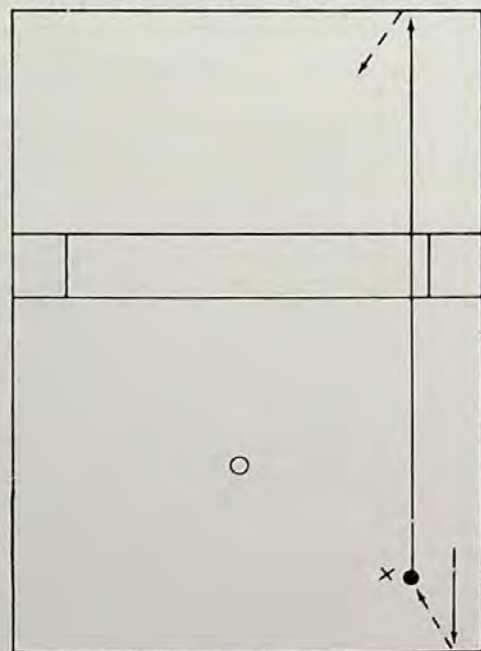


DIAGRAM 19. The off-the-back-wall kill.

playing you'll learn which type of kill shot works best in a given situation. When you can analyze a shot quickly, take it, and kill it, you know you're playing good racquetball.

DROP SHOT

The drop shot (Diagram 20) is somewhat like the straight kill because the player hits the ball to only one surface, the front wall, and then waits for it to die. The drop shot is used to strike a ball that has hit near the crotch of the floor and the front wall and then has bounced up. The player stands in front court holding his racquet low, with his wrist cocked back. As the ball bounces out, the player moves up court quickly—like a baseball player catching a ball on the short hop. The player connects with the ball by cocking his wrist forward and hitting the ball softly, out in front of his body. The ball should be angled to the right or left front wall. If hit softly enough, the ball will "drop" into the front wall and hardly rebound.

If hit too hard, the offensive drop shot can be a dangerous shot, easily picked off by your opponent as it rebounds. Also, because the drop shot is a slow, softly hit ball, your opponent will have a bit more time to retrieve it if you haven't angled it quite enough into the left or right side of the front wall.

When hit correctly, however, the drop shot can really surprise your opponent. The slow speed of the shot will be an excellent change of pace ball in a fast-hitting game. To retrieve your drop shot, your opponent often must make an every-consuming sprint from deep to front court. Even if he gets to the ball before it bounces twice, his setup for the next return will be so rushed that it will be weak and ineffective.

With the modern live ball, the drop shot requires a very light touch. Practice your

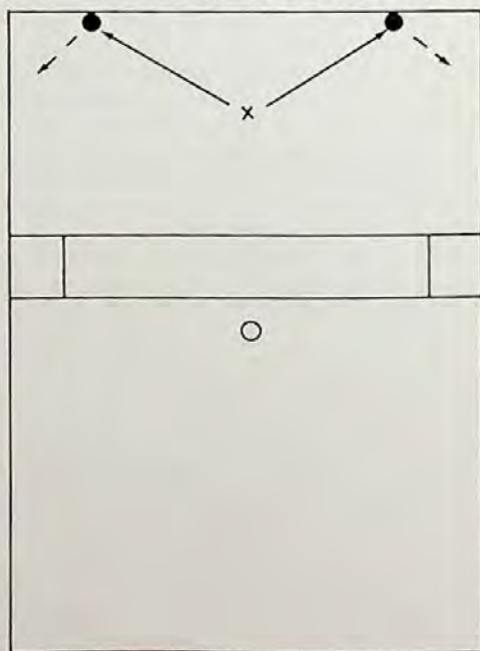


DIAGRAM 20. The drop shot.

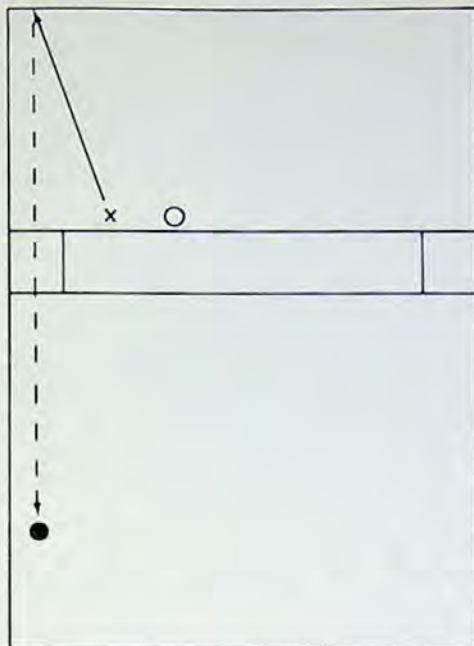


DIAGRAM 21. The down-the-line pass.

"soft" shots often, and you'll be ready with your drop when your opponent is daydreaming in back court.

PASS SHOT

The pass shot is executed by hitting the ball hard, past your opponent, for a point. It is probably the easiest of the offensive shots because it does not demand pinpoint accuracy. In a good pass shot your opponent can't reach the ball in time and thus wastes his playing energy. A pass is a good shot to use when you see your opponent leaning or moving forward in anticipation of your kill shot. A hard pass shot will be far beyond your opponent before he knows what's happened.

With practice, you'll learn to overcome the tendency to hit the pass shot so hard that it comes off the back wall to provide a setup for your opponent.

There are three types of pass shot: down-the-line, cross-court, and V.

Down-the-Line Pass: Use the down-the-line pass (Diagram 21) when you are standing in or near center court, with your opponent on your right or left. Keeping your body between the ball and your opponent, hit the ball in a line parallel to the side walls ("down-the-line") opposite your opponent. The ball should hit the front wall about waist or thigh level and rebound into the court without hitting the side wall.

Sometimes, however, the ball will strike the side wall in deep back court on the rebound. While this is not an incorrect down-the-line pass, it does open up the possibility that the ball will angle off to the back wall and provide a setup for your opponent.

Cross-Court Pass: The cross-court pass (Diagram 22) is a real shock shot, which is best used when your opponent is positioned far to one side of the court near one of the side walls.

The cross-court is stroked forehand or backhand from back court. The ball should hit the front wall at waist or thigh level near or at the midpoint of the wall. The ball will rebound cross-court, opposite your opponent, and into the back corner. Like the down-the-line pass, the cross-court pass must be hit with a light enough touch so that it doesn't come off the back wall. Learning how the ball reacts takes time, however, so don't get discouraged if your cross-court pass occasionally gives your opponent a setup. Keep trying, and one day you'll surprise both yourself and your opponent when you see that perfect cross-court pass drop in for a point.

V Pass: The V pass (Diagram 23) should be used only when you and your opponent are standing in front court at or near the center of the court. Hit the ball hard to the far left or far right of center on the front wall and at shoulder level. On the rebound, the properly hit V pass will strike the side wall shoulder-high near the short line and bound behind your opponent, who is standing in front court.

The V pass is an especially good shot to use in doubles when both opponents are in front court. If you attempt a V pass in singles or doubles when the opposition is in back court, you'll be hitting the ball right to the receiver.

Pass shots are most effective when struck firmly with a great deal of force. If you find yourself facing an opponent who continually "blasts" the ball, be patient and stay in back court. Hopefully, your opponent soon will tire his playing arm and slacken off.

In any case, don't try to match your opponent's hard hits, especially if you aren't naturally a power hitter. The player who concentrates on his speed and playing skills, not just sheer muscle power, will be most successful in defeating his opponent.

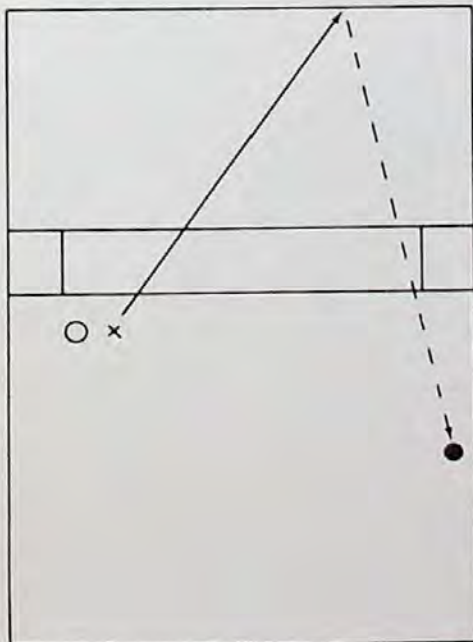


DIAGRAM 22. The cross-court pass.

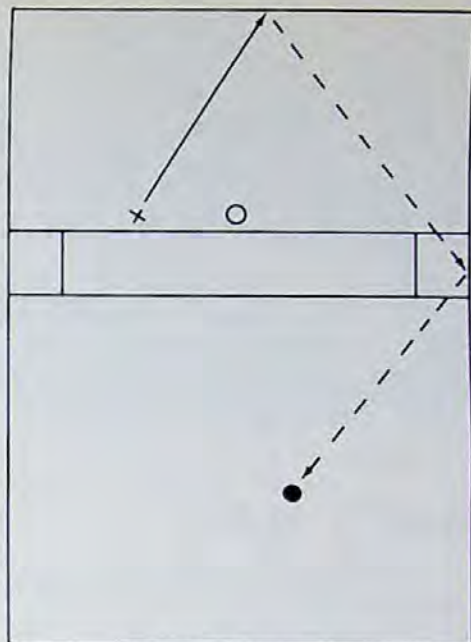


DIAGRAM 23. The V pass.

Canada Set

Montreal and the Cote de Liesse Racquet Club have been confirmed for the Canadian National Championships November 7-10, 1974. Details and entry forms will be available soon.

For information, write to Ivan Velan, Cote de Liesse Racquet Club, 8305 Cote de Liesse Rd., Montreal, Quebec, H4T 1G5.

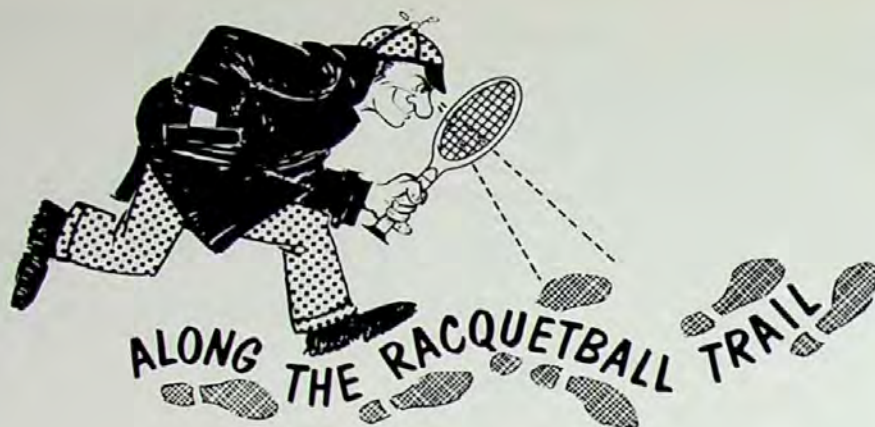
Montreal also is preparing a bid for the 1976 IRA International Singles Championships, during the Olympic Games.

Three new racquetball courts are in the plans for the Montreal Squash Club to open in the fall of 1974. It will be the largest squash facility in North America, with 22 American and British courts, indoor track, sauna, whirlpool, dining facilities, etc., and will be located in downtown Montreal.

Three-Wall

The National Three-Wall Outdoor Racquetball Singles Tournament, scheduled June 28-30 at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, Calif., has received IRA sanction as an open tournament but will not be an International Championship in 1974.

Competition is scheduled in open, senior, masters, class B, class C, women's and women's B divisions. Entry deadline is June 21 and entry fee is \$10. For entry blanks and further information, write to Barry Wallace, Orange Coast College, 2701 Fairview Road, Costa Mesa, Calif. 92626, office telephone 714-556-5890, home telephone 714-556-0515.



Serot's Sharp

Sharp-shooting Steve Serot, presently regarded the nation's No. 2 player, won the championship of the St. Louis JCCA tournament with a 21-15, 21-10 victory over Ken Wong. The event drew 250 entries in the various categories.

Cris Ackerman, a young college student, came to the top of the women's division by beating Goldie Hogan, 21-2, 21-10.

Other winners were Dick Marshall in men's novice, 21-20, 21-19 over Bruce Samuels; Marty Hogan in men's B-1, 21-12, 16-21, 21-13 over Scott Guberman; Steve Cohen in B-2, 21-12, 21-7 over Earl Kessler; Joe Zelson in masters, 21-14, 21-12 over Arthur Albert; and Herman Beitch in golden masters, 31-17, over Sam Goldman, JCCA racquetball chairman.

Nancy Shayer won women's B, 21-16, 21-11, over Marsha Funk and Sandy Brown took women's novice, 21-9, 21-2, over Cheryl Berliner.

Wong joined Southwest Region junior champion Jerry Zuckerman in Class A doubles and defeated Serot and Zelson, 21-12, 21-15, for the championship.

Rick Grosz and Jim Myers defeated Samuels and Mark Raisher, 21-9, 6-21, 21-6, and Chuck Eichler teamed with Paul Katcher to upset Bob Weinstein and Frank Miskit, 21-18, 11-21, 21-19. Zelson and Fred Kreis won masters doubles over Len Marks and Marlowe Phillips, 21-5, 21-5, while Dick Silverstein and Jack Sofian took golden masters over Larry Ginsberg and Gus Goesalov.

Nancy's Champ

Nancy Fandel of St. Cloud won the singles championship and Ginny Tennent and Sue Swansberg repeated as doubles queens in the Brainerd, Minn., YMCA women's tournament.

Lorraine Gaetz and Betsy Hayenga were second in doubles in the all-St. Cloud finals.

Ruby Rambles

Ron Rubenstein won handily all the way in the Illinois state singles tournament. The event at Aurora YMCA was the biggest and best in state history with 130 entries in four divisions.

Rubenstein downed John Hart, 21-8, 21-6, in the finals after earlier victories over Bob Traul, 21-1, 21-4, and Don Webb, 21-8, 21-6. Webb defeated Fred Blaess, 21-6, 21-20, for third place.

Bob Troyer, last year's runner-up, captured masters singles Bechard, 14-21, 21-19, 21-5, with Phil Dziuk third.

Shirley Lind won women's singles, defeating Davenport, 21-15, 21-4, in the semifinals and Suzanne Carow, 21-16, 21-10, in the finals. Frances Deuster was third.

Denny Kemble, a newcomer to Illinois racquetball, won Class B, which drew some 70 entries. Many of the B players polished their skills in this tournament and will be open division from now on.

Thanks go to Tim Rush, Jim Stotz, Ben Eilert, Chuck Leve and many others for their fine tournament management.

Charlie Who?

Charlie Brumfield swept through open singles, allowing an average of seven points per game, and teamed with Ron Starkman to win open doubles in the Mel Gorham Holiday Classic.

The tournament drew 250 entries in nine events, but ran smoothly despite the tight schedule.

Brumfield downed Craig McCoy, 21-6, 21-3, in the semifinals and went on to trim Bill Dunn, 21-13, 21-6, for the title. Dunn reached the finals with a 21-8, 21-19 win over Dan Alder.

Craig McCoy and Roger Souders extended the Brumfield-Starkman duo in the doubles finals, 21-6, 13-21, 21-10.

Other champions were Allen Kent in Class B, Naylon and Cormier in B doubles, John Halverson in masters singles, Betty Johnson in women's B and Barb Farkas in women's novice. Ron Goldman outlasted a field of 64 in C singles.

Reuschel Wins

Seedings held up as top-ranked Jim Reuschel of Burlington defeated second-seeded Paul Reinhardt of Shelburne, 20-21, 21-17, 21-13, to capture the championship of the first Vermont state singles tournament at the university's Patrick Gym in Burlington.

Using a powerful ceiling game and backwall kills, Reuschel pulled out the marathon finals after advancing with victories over Ned McFarland, 21-5, 21-8, and John Kruger, 21-12, 21-15.

Kruger, chairman of the two-day event, placed third by beating Santos Padilla, 21-14, 21-13. Padilla scored the major upset of the meet by toppling third-seeded Burt Moffatt of the Randolph Downtown AC.



Vermont champion Jim Reuschel is congratulated by chairman John Kruger as runner-up Paul Reinhardt looks on.



John Cushing (left) finally "saulted" Paul Benson away in overtime.

Saulty Affair

John Cushing, a squash instructor and converted racquetball player from Sault, Ont., captured top honors in the first-ever Northern Ontario-Upper Peninsula Open.

Cushing defeated Paul Benson, 21-10, in the championship playoff after the two had divided a pair of best-of-three meetings. Benson won the first, 21-17, 21-17, but Cushing came back against the Sault, Mich., player, 14-21, 21-7, 21-14. Gary Brown of Menominee was third.

The three-day, double elimination meet, with 20 entries, took place at Kincheloe AFB and the Family YMCA in Canadian Sault Ste. Marie.

Hilecher Elected

Dan Hilecher of St. Louis has been elected state chairman for Missouri. Leonard Marks will serve as vice chairman and Joe Zelson as secretary-treasurer.

Hilecher may be reached at 14553 Pembury, St. Louis, Mo., telephone 314-469-1989.

Courts Royal

Racquetball has come to the nation's capital and its Virginia suburbs with the opening of the Courts Royal in Fairfax County, Va., the only club of its kind in the metro Washington area.

Located just off the Capital Beltway, Courts Royal features four racquetball-handball courts, two squash courts, a sauna, pro shop and exercise room and is completely air-conditioned. The Frampton courts have glass backwalls for spectator viewing.

Additional clubs are planned in the greater Washington, D. C., area and a bid for the 1976 Internationals is being considered as part of the nation's bicentennial celebration.

MAY 1974

Alberta Open

Wayne Bowes is beginning to have trouble beating his doubles partner, Bob Daku, but he did it again in the open singles finals of the Alberta Open.

Bowes was extended to three games before taking an 18-21, 21-12, 21-5 decision. Vic Hartfield of Edmonton won consolations over Larry Yopyk of Calgary, 21-20, 21-4.

The Lethbridge duo of Bowes and Daku captured open doubles over Rob Dingman and Bob Bear of Edmonton, 13-21, 21-9, 21-10.

Other champions were Jody Fry in women's singles, 17-21, 21-17, 21-12, over Barb Aasen; Mike Szkorupa in B singles, 21-5, 21-7, over Murray Paddon; and Al MacMillan in C singles, 21-18, 5-21, 21-10, over Mike Mooney.

Metro League

McClurg Court and Buehler YMCA finished first and second in Division A, while Duncan YMCA and Northwest YMCA were 1-2 in Division B in the Chicago Metropolitan Racquetball League.

There were 12 teams in action this year, up from eight in 1973. The league comprised YMCA teams, a Jewish Community Center, a college team and one from a private club. Weekly duals consisted of three singles matches and one doubles.

Won-lost records also were maintained for individuals. Top winners were Fred Blaess, Graham Moore and Roger Eggert of Buehler, Jim DiVito of Duncan and Al Henke of Lake Forest College. Art Michael's management was a key factor in league success.



Joe (left) and Tom Wirkus, 1-2 in Wisconsin, are flanked by Hal Raether, club manager, and Bob Keenan, tourney director.



Jim White (right) and Bill Schultz Sr. were 1-2 in Wisconsin Masters.

All in the Family

Joe and Tom Wirkus had the Wisconsin state finals all to themselves, with Joe coming out on top, 21-14, 21-18, at the Milwaukee Handball Club.

Joe defeated Bill Jukich, 21-10, 21-16, and Tom dispatched Dan Trost, 21-15, 21-19, in the semifinals. Jukich won third place, 21-16, 21-16, and Mark Vetter took consolations.

Mike Wherry won the senior title, 21-16, 21-0, over Mike Macedon with Claude Manning third, and Jim White downed Bill Schultz Sr., 21-9, 21-9, in the masters finals with Diz Kroenberg third.

The state doubles title went to Dan Trost and Mike Mullins over the Wirkus Duo, 21-18, 15-21, 21-8, with Jukich and Al Sterner third.

Senior doubles were won by R. Kreuter and R. Stenlund over C. Manning and W. Plazak, 21-8, 21-17, with White and John Fazio taking masters doubles and Hap Hahn and W. Schaller golden masters.



It's Zeitman

While Louisville—particularly the JCC—has long been a hotbed for racquetball locally and nationally, the sport is gaining rapidly in enthusiasm in other parts of Kentucky. The state association set a membership goal of 100 and already has passed it by 25.

The big event of the season was the state tournament, which drew 100 individual entries to the Louisville AC. Mike Zeitman and Ken Porco wound up in the finals, with Zeitman the ultimate winner in three games.

Fred Michaels and Alan Hyman upheld their top seed in open doubles by defeating Zeitman and Bruce Kranz in two games.

One of the big upsets came in the masters division when Ike Gumer defeated his doubles partner and South Region champ Herman Abramovitz for the singles title, 21-11, 21-20. Bill Simon and Erv Goldstein upset Gumer and Abramovitz in doubles, 21-11, 3-21, 21-17.

In women's singles, Kay Evans continued her domination by downing Teresa Darland, 21-19, 21-16. Darland and Suzanne Lane came back to win doubles over Evans and her sister, Marjorie Polites, in a close three-game finale.

The largest entry was in B singles, where Hal Broderson defeated his doubles partner, Doug Gordon, in three games. The two teamed up to win doubles over Denny Robbins and Mack Parker.

Several other tournaments have been held in Kentucky.

The Eastern Kentucky Class B at Morehead State drew 50 participants with Evans Wright winning men's singles, Wright and Jim Daopoulos men's doubles, Ted Ray masters singles, Vicky Stambaugh women's singles and Stambaugh and runner-up Teresa Darland women's doubles.

Gary Davis, a junior from Berea College, won the state intercollegiate over Mark Nuremburg of Eastern Kentucky in three games.

The Central Kentucky tournament at UK drew more than 60 participants with Tom Shivel winning men's singles, Jim Daopoulos and Don Detjan men's doubles, Pentti Teraslina masters singles, Teraslina and Ray masters doubles, Kay Evans women's singles and Teresa Darland and Suzanne Lane women's doubles.

Tom Shivel best Bill Emmett for the Ashland city title.



Kentucky champ Mike Zeitman is congratulated by runner-up Ken Porco, as they flank state chairman Leigh Jones.

Vermont Grows

Racquetball is growing in Vermont despite a shortage of facilities, state chairman John Kruger reports. Burlington, the state's largest city with a population near 45,000, is the center of interest with seven usable courts at the University of Vermont.

The total number of courts in the state is 14, three of which are virtually unusable. Racquetball classes and intramurals at the university provide the most activity, with extreme pressure on the courts by students, faculty and staff.

He's the Guy

Guy Natale upset two-time defending champion Joe Jackman to win the New Castle, Pa., championship, 21-16, 21-17. Leonard Perretti was third and Augie Smarelli fourth.

Natale kept Jackman on defense and he was unable to unload his fast kill shots.



Guy Natale

Gar Repeats

Charlie Garfinkel had to go three games to turn back Chuck Wurzer, 21-12, 10-21, 21-15, in the hard-hitting finals of the Western New York Class A championship. Garfinkel's experience, forcing Wurzer with passing and three-wall shots, paid off in the third game with his sixth straight title.

One of the highlight matches of the Buffalo tournament saw 59-year-old Jack Bowling, East Region golden masters champ, go 80 minutes and three long games before bowing to 22-year-old Joe Aguglia. The match drew a rousing ovation from the gallery. Sunny Hill had 13 years on Al Mahoney, but had trouble winning two games and reaching the semifinals against Garfinkel. Hill placed third when Paul Smaldone was unable to continue playing with the flu and 101-degree fever.

The Garfinkel-Wurzer match was broadcast on local television, a first for western New York. Tournament co-chairmen Joe Dsida and Paul Brodnicki had valuable help from John Greenauer at Northeast YMCA.

The Jury's In

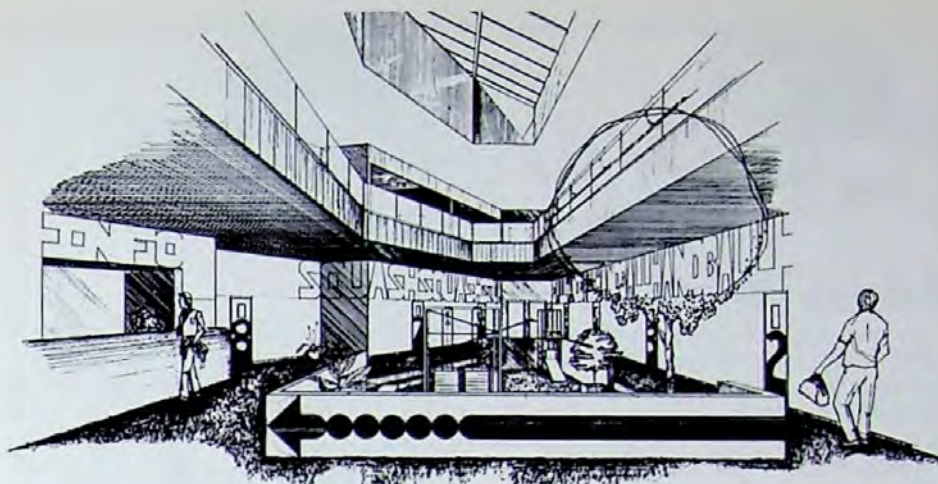
Dick Jury of Lansing defeated Ray Bayer of Okemos, 21-4, 21-7, to win the open singles championship of the Michigan state paddleball tournament. Jury, seeded third, had ousted top-ranked Dan McLaughlin of Troy, 21-10, 21-14, in the semifinals.

Bill Terry and Tom Connin of Lansing won open doubles, Al Hosner of Vicksburg masters singles and Erv Saultman and Lou Giampetroni of Flint masters doubles.

Pretty Foxy

Site work is under way for construction of a two-story, 16,000 square foot racquetball and handball facility, the Fox Hill Club, in Overland Park, Kan. The club will be owned by a group of local investors who have purchased a 49,000 square foot tract at I-435 and Roe Blvd.

The court complex will be the first of its kind in greater Kansas City and will feature a skylighted garden courtyard with access to the eight courts. The club will offer locker and lounge facilities, exercise and conditioning equipment, saunas and pro-shop areas.



Architect's sketch of Kansas City's new Fox Hill Club.

Summer Camps

Detailed instruction in racquetball and handball will be featured at the Storm Meadows Athletic Club's summer camp program in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Racquetball instruction during sessions July 7-13, July 14-20 and July 21-17 will be provided by Charlie Brumfield, Steve Strandemo, Charlie Drake, Steve Keeley, Bill Schmidtke and Ron Rubenstein.

For details, write to Storm Meadows Athletic Club, PO Box AAA, Steamboat Springs, Colo. 80477.

Dynamite Duo

Dynamite Mike Romano and partner Bill Welch teamed to defeat a well represented team of Tom Murphy and Dave Wolanski, 21-3, 21-15, to capture the Massachusetts state doubles championship at Fitchburg YMCA.

It was the second year in a row for the champions. Leo Woodcome and Dave McNamara took third place. Physical director Irwin Spoones was commended for his organization of the tournament.

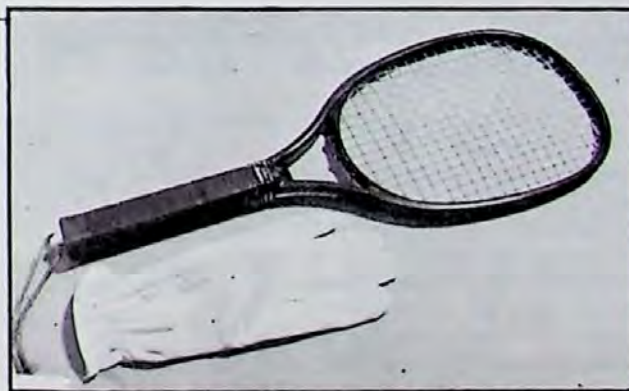
Youngstown

Racquetball is becoming increasingly popular at Youngstown State University in Ohio since the opening of the Beeghly Health & PE Building two years ago. It houses four racquetball courts and two squash courts, all booked continuously.

A pyramid tournament was set up and total participants leveled off at about 27. The top six players are Gordy Longmuir, Lou DiDinato, Duke Barret, Tony Whitney, Dick Bee and Ron Richards.

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Adrian Wins

Phil Adrian of Wichita captured the Kansas state singles championship by beating Gary Steele of Wichita, 21-5, 21-14, in the finals of the first state tournament held at the Wichita Central YMCA.

John Casson of Topeka took third place over Wayne Campbell of Wichita, 5-21, 21-17, 21-18, while Glenn Ferguson of Wichita won consolations.

John Paulin of Wichita won Class B over Ernie Ruelas of Hutchinson, 21-13, 21-14, with Fred McMillen of Wichita third. Dean Lemmon of Topeka is masters champion with Jim Gist of Wichita second in round-robin competition.

The tournament drew 37 entries. Tourney officials were Kent Taylor, Wayne Campbell, Gary Steele, Vic Schimming and Rich Holden, all of the Wichita Racquetball Club.



Chuck Wurzer and The Gar

Same Old Story

Buffalo, N. Y., city doubles champions for the fifth straight year are Charlie Garfinkel and Chuck Wurzer. They defeated Ron Hill and Paul Smaldone, 21-15, 21-2.

A week later, Charlie and Chuck won the New York state doubles title for the fifth year by beating Joe Tarantino and Joe Tyree from Niagara Falls, 21-5, 21-19.

Charlie is regarded a strong contender for the International Seniors Championship this year and Chuck will join him next season.

Two at Omaha

The Downtown YMCA of Omaha sponsored city Class A and B championships on succeeding weekends, giving B players the opportunity to enter both tournaments.

Class A had 19 singles and eight doubles entries, with John Raducha defeating Dick Damin, 18-21, 21-17, 21-16, in a two-hour finale. Raducha downed Beckman and Hamlin trimmed Hansen in the semifinals, but Beckman and Hansen teamed up to win doubles over Morin and Wawryzniak.

The Class B tourney a week later drew 20 singles and eight doubles entries, with Reeves winning the singles crown over Morin, 21-15, 21-10, and teaming with Heagerty to capture doubles.

Safety Is No Accident

By Joe Finn
Downtown Detroit YMCA

After 48 years of playing and teaching handball, squash and racquetball I firmly believe that the following safety precautions will substantially improve the average club racquetballer's game and cut down on injuries.

1. Get rid of that shillelagh—the wooden racquet. It is shorter, heavier, badly balanced and has more air resistance than aluminum or composition racquets. Some aluminum racquets even have rubber bumpers.

2. You only have two eyes, but it is a firm rule of any sport to keep your eye on the ball. It helps you to anticipate the next shot and prevents racquet blows from the rear. Don't wait till you get hit. Get an eye guard now or better still, sturdy frames with large ground plastic lenses.

3. Face the sidewall whenever you can in returning the ball. It cuts down on dangerous follow-throughs and is much easier on your spine than hitting facing the front wall.

4. The stop and go of racquetball is hard on leg muscles and pulled or torn tendons can be very painful and lay you up for weeks. I highly recommend running or swimming at least every other day. The gained stamina and the

ability to get your legs in position to make the shot are worth the effort.

5. Keep your elbow bent while making the shot. It shortens the swing, cocks the racquet for wrist action, and helps prevent "tennis elbow."

6. Wear lightweight, light colored warm-up pants. A hard ball to the legs is painful and eventually will cause you to flinch and prevent you from assuming your position.

7. If perspiration or long hair is getting into your eyes, wear a head band.

8. Warm up before actually playing. This can be a quarter-mile jog or sitting up exercises.

9. Be sure the thong fits snugly around your wrist. A flying racquet is dangerous.

10. As a club rule, I approve of a line drawn on the rear wall, 6 feet high and parallel to the floor. All balls striking over this line on the fly are out. This prevents the receiver who doesn't look back from being hit with the racquet.

11. Don't hit the back wall first. It is not a good shot and you may hit an opponent who certainly is not expecting it.

12. Be courteous. Give your opponent plenty of room to see and make the shot. If there is no referee and he asks for a hinder, give it to him and he may do the same for you.

Well Dunn

Bill Dunn outlasted Pete Lubisich in a three-game semifinal, then went on to win the Columbia River Open championship at Portland, Ore., with a 21-11, 21-12 victory over Ed Gause.

Dunn downed Lubisich, 21-9, 20-21, 21-9, in the semis, while Gause was ousting Bob Lund, 21-19, 21-19. Lund placed third.

Jennifer Harding was the women's champ with a 21-8, 21-6 win over Sue La Londe.



Bill Dunn (right) and Ed Gause, with tourney director Sonja Sharp.

Gunter Tops

Craig Guinter of Williamsport won the Pennsylvania state singles championship at Penn State by defeating Tom Sweeney of the host school, 21-11, 21-12. It was the first time in the state finals for both players.

Ageless Gene Grapes teamed with Dr. Al Schattner to win open doubles over newcomers Carmen Fellicetti and Ron Galbreath of Clarion, 21-15, 21-14.

Patti Wallish and Chris Brown of Pittsburgh captured the round-robin women's doubles competition and Wallish was first in the singles round-robin ahead of Eileen Turiak of Pitt and Braun.

Luke St. Onge was unanimously elected IRA state chairman for Pennsylvania, succeeding Sam Caiazza.

Other tourney trophies went to Bill Swan of Penn State in B singles, 21-19, 21-17, over John Musewicz of Scranton; Tom Jones of Scranton in A consolation and Don Thomas of Scranton in B consolation. Sixty players competed with the "middle range" showing dramatic improvement.

Fort Lauderdale

The Fort Lauderdale YMCA has just completed its first racquetball tournament. Until two years ago the membership would allow only handball on the Y's four-wall courts and until now the only tournaments were handball.

Martin Leddy, who joined the YMCA about 18 months ago, has started to spearhead racquetball in the south Florida area and is helping to shape the growing number of players into a strong and active club.

The racquetball tournament ran over a period of three weeks with participants from West Palm to Miami Beach. Ken Hendricks beat Don McIndoe, 11-21, 21-12, 21-14, in Class A singles, Tom Bart and Jim Lane defeated Bill Jones and Hendricks, 9-21, 21-9, 21-19 in open doubles and Larry Kennedy downed Gerry Greenside, 21-19, 21-15, in B singles. There were 17 entries in A, 15 in B and 19 in doubles.

Kill, Kill!

Californian Bill Dunn of Chabot out-killed Trey Sayes of Logan, Utah, 46-27, in the two-game finals and won the Idaho State Championship with a 21-13, 21-14 victory.

Dunn trailed 13-8 in the first game, but took control with a run of seven. Sayes jumped to a 6-0 lead in the second, only to have Dunn bounce back with two runs of four and gradually pull away.

WANTED : Another 125-Year-Old Doubles Team!

From the Houston Chronicle

At the Jewish Community Center in Houston, Aaron Pasternak and Henry Lesky are gearing themselves for furious action on the racquetball court.

"We've challenged any two players in the country of comparable total age," says Pasternak.

His age and Lesky's add up to 125 years.

Pasternak, a retail grocer, tells a remarkable story. Just three months after he underwent open heart surgery he was back playing racquetball.

"I work from six to noon every day and then play two to three hours in the afternoon—and sometimes tennis at night. What do doctors say? One said exercise was OK and another one said take it easy."

Pasternak is tall, lean, lithely muscled, tanned. He says he stays in condition all the time, is usually in bed by 10, doesn't drink, smokes only cigars.

Lesky, a retired businessman, has long been playing competitive games such as racquetball, tennis and golf.

"I haven't had a sick day in my life," he says. "I think exercise is a therapy no doctor can give you. It's a mental relaxer. You can extend your longevity 20 years with systematic exercise."

Lesky, 68, is short, heavy-set, tanned. Besides excelling in athletics, he's a champ bridge player and participates in bridge tournaments all over the country.

He and Pasternak have both been in racquetball tournaments, masters division, in Houston, Dallas and Galveston. They are just two of many in physical fitness programs for older people at the JCC. One is Dr. Irving Mandell, a 75-year-old dentist.

Pasternak has passed on his skill on the racquetball courts to his daughter, Jan, a 19-year-old blonde who attends Arizona State. She is a two-time international women's champion, winning in 1971 and 1972 and placing second last year.

Now Pasternak and Lesky swing racquets in the walled-in area that is similar to a handball court. The game is fast-paced and they scramble around, with quick backhands and forehands. The ball thumps and cracks against walls and floor.

Game over, they nimbly start a new one. It makes you tired just watching them.

Peggy Doubles

International women's champion Peggy Steding of Odessa, Texas, brushed aside the men and won the Mid-America Racquetball Classic at Salina, Kan.

Peggy reached the open finals by defeating Gary Steele of Wichita, 21-9, 21-11, then won the title with a 21-15, 21-17 win over Kent Taylor of Wichita. Wayne Campbell, beaten by Taylor in the semis, came back to take third place.

Peggy also won the women's championship with a 21-1, 21-2 victory over Linda Schulte of Wichita. Sharon Brundage of Garden City was third, defeating Dixie Wilson of Topeka.

The men did salvage trophies in Class B., where Vic Dyck of Topeka turned back Dennis Clark of Garden City, 21-17, 21-14, with Larry Swank of Hutchinson third, and in masters, with Jim Gist of Wichita winning over Don Dirks of Buhler, 21-18, 21-14.

Still the Earl

The largest state championship in Indiana history drew 80 participants from 19 cities to the Indiana University campus in Bloomington with Earl Dixon of Indianapolis taking top honors.

Bloomington had eight of the final 16, but the title match was all-Indianapolis as Dixon beat Jim Knauer in an exciting three-game struggle, 21-19, 20-21, 21-15 to repeat as champion.

The semifinals saw Dixon defeat Brian Parrott, a law student at Indiana U, 21-18, 21-14, while Knauer downed Tom Garner of Bloomington, 21-10, 21-15.

Camille McCarthy of Indianapolis defeated city rival Pat Foltz, 4-21, 21-15, 21-18, in a hard-fought, two-hour match for the women's crown. Al McClure of Fort Wayne used a fantastic forehand kill to defeat Jon Ohlheiser of Anderson in the senior finals, 21-7, 21-16.

Eye Protectors May Be Inconvenient...

By Joe Zelson

Some months ago, after Aaron Fenster (one of the top handball players in the St. Louis area) was hit in the eye and ended up having to spend three days flat on his back with his eyes completely covered, several of us racquetball players were at the St. Louis JCCA, and Dr. Ben Milder (an ophthalmologist and racquetball player—perhaps we should say a racquetball player and ophthalmologist) joined the conversation, suggesting that it was time to give serious thought to the problems of eye injuries in racquetball.

His suggestion just happened to come at a particularly appropriate and receptive moment since I've been hit in the eye twice—neither case resulted in a serious injury, but I've been involved—and it just happened at the time that I had just recently had a conversation with an individual covered under a Health & Welfare Plan that I'm involved with. This

individual is losing his sight, and he was telling me what his life is currently like as a result of his sight deterioration. It was not a very happy conversation.

Anyway, Ben Milder's suggestion happened to hit at the right time, and so he and I decided that we would embark on an investigation, to see if we could come up with some good eye protection for racquetball players. We wrote Myron Roderick, IRA Executive Director, telling him our ideas, and Myron encouraged us to proceed, offering the full support of IRA.

We've been investigating various forms of eye protection, and have come up with some alternatives which we feel it's time to present to the members. Before we get into the specifics of our recommendations, we wish to make several important points:

First, we found no eye protection method which did not



Some Trophy!

Ashland Chemical of Columbus, Ohio, and the Ashland Oil Corporate team playing out of Ashland, Ky., are continuing their series for the Broken Racquet Trophy, which is just what it sounds like.

In the most recent encounter, Ashland Corporate posted a 53-36 victory to even the series. Playing for the Corporate team were Jerry Boyles, Don Detjen, Bill Emmett, Art Emmons, Chuck Simpson and Bill Workman. The Chemical team included Dan Lewis, John Loyd, Doug Martin, Charlie Webb, Rob West and Ed Von Doersten.

New at Mobile

Over a thousand visitors were on hand when Downtown YMCA of Mobile, Ala., held a grand opening of two new racquetball-handball courts, each with a large gallery and glass backwall.

Pete Tyson of the University of Texas conducted a handball clinic, Macy McKay and Lucy Stafford played a racquetball exhibition and Tyson beat Green Bay Packers quarterback Scott Hunter in a hands vs. racquet exhibition.

It's an Art

Art St. Martin captured the Class A singles championship for the second straight year at the Towson YMCA closed tournament, defeating John Marek, 21-4, 14-21, 21-10, in the finals. St. Martin also won the handicap tournament over Dr. Ben Lipira, 21-10, 21-12.

Dr. Kurt Von Maur won Class B, 21-19, 19-21, 21-6 over Pat Rutledge, while Marek and Jerry Tucker prevailed in doubles, 21-2, 21-4, over Ed Stauffer and Ernie Becker.

Latin Music

Although originally from Uruguay, it was agreed Cesar Farell of University of Iowa has lived in the state long enough to qualify for Iowa tournaments. Cesar responded by winning the state seniors in Keokuk without losing a single game. Jerry Lucas of Keokuk was second, Burdette Hansen third and Floyd Gallogly fourth.

The state YMCA singles title in Marshalltown went to 22-year-old Steve Chase, with Bernie Nielson of Marshalltown the runner-up in the field of 24 players. Helmut Braun of Waterloo was third and Monte McCuniff fourth. In one of the best matches, McCuniff defeated Farell in 2½ hours. The first game lasted 45 minutes with each player serving match point seven or eight times.

Dick Bishop and Bill Logan of Keokuk successfully defended their state doubles championship at Davenport, Bishop thus becoming the only two-time tournament winner this year. Neilson and Braun teamed up to finish second with Sheldon and Tonkin third.

Hello, Irving

Senter Recreation Center in Irving, Texas, was the scene of the IPAR Open tournament with 48 contenders. Andy McQuistion defeated Steve Guerry, 21-8, 21-5, in the finals of the double elimination event with Bill Connoley third. Billy Cansler won Class B over Quanah Parker, 21-16, 16-21, 21-20, with Lewis Patrick third.

Canadian Director Chosen

John M. Chambers of West Vancouver, B. C., has been selected by the Canadian Racquetball Association as its member of the IRA Board of Directors.

Chambers will serve the remaining two years of the term of Robert A. Challenger, who has resigned because of the press of business obligations. Chambers will take office at the annual Board of Directors meeting June 4 in San Diego.

Chambers' address is 4050 Ripple Place, West Vancouver, B. C., telephone 604-926-2355.

... but Eye Injuries Are a Whole Lot Worse!

have some disadvantages. In other words, there's no method of protecting your eyes which doesn't cause a certain amount of inconvenience, or discomfort, or loss of peripheral vision, or distortion, or some other inconvenience. That's disappointing, but we've concluded that that's the way it is—so each person will have to decide on his own personal odds and personal assumption of risk that he wants to live with.

Secondly, there's no way to avoid the risk of being hit in the eye with the ball. Whether you look back or not, whether you turn away as the ball is hit, whether you've got great reflexes or only average, it doesn't matter—we've concluded that there's no way to avoid the possibility of being hit in the eye. We can't quote all the specific cases, but I know enough (myself, Bill Sellars, Kenny Wong, Aaron Fenster, and, last weekend, Ivan Bruner, to name a few).

Our objectives in the investigations were as follows:

(1) Safety:

Whatever method we come up with as the recommended method, it of course has to be the safest possible. That means that the eye protection piece must be designed in a way that, if hit by the ball, it doesn't result in eye injury; and if the product is glass or plastic, it must provide the protection and, in addition, pass the safety standards of the problems of shattering, etc.

(2) Comfort:

For the eye protection product to be successful, it must be reasonably comfortable for the players to wear.

(3) Minimum Obstruction of Vision:

We have two categories of situations in this area—those who normally wear glasses, and those who don't. For a player who wears glasses, there's a simple solution—purchase a pair of nylon-reinforced safety frames with unbreakable lenses of your prescription. For players who don't wear glasses, the wearing of these athletic glasses isn't the most desirable method, we've concluded.

This minimum obstruction of vision requirement is an important one. If it provides much loss of peripheral vision, the better players won't wear it (it hurts their games too much). And if the better players aren't wearing it, the mediocre and aspiring players, who will imitate the better players, also wouldn't wear it, etc.

(4) Cost:

Our cost objective was to be as low as possible, of course; but we felt that the product meeting our other objectives was more important, up to a point, of course.

So... we got various types, tested them by wearing them when we play, evaluated whether they provide adequate protection, had them destroyed to see their destruction characteristics.

We considered (and rejected) the gray, handball-type double steel piece, since you lose too much upward and downward peripheral vision, and no good player that we've ever gotten to try it is willing to continue to wear it. We tried a number of industrial safety glasses.

Interestingly enough, one of the pairs of safety glasses that we were most impressed with had a side problem—it gave fine eye protection and peripheral vision, and its cost is low—but if you get hit hard on the lens, the plastic is such that it cuts your nose and forehead.

Of course, I'd rather have a cut nose and-or forehead than eye problems, but it made us feel we needed some kind of

rubber nose-piece or something.

We think we found two types of protective eyewear which come closest to meeting our requirements. They're not perfect, but they're the best we found in meeting the greatest number of our objectives.

Both are polycarbonate transparent one-piece glasses—one's a wraparound called a "Lunaire." We've tested the Lunaire and it's almost unbreakable—we think the protection afforded by it if you're hit with the ball is excellent. If you're hit by a racquet, it's possible that the bridge of your nose or your forehead could be cut (not severely), but you're a lot better off with a cut forehead than an eye injury.

The frame could conceivably break at the bridge, but to do so, we had to hit with all our might repeatedly with the side frame of a racquet.

The other type is called a "Brow Rest Goggle," consisting of a one-piece contoured polycarbonate lens which snaps into the frame (we couldn't break this one at all).

Accordingly, both the Brow Rest and the Lunaire will be made available through IRA headquarters to your club—we anticipate the selling price to each one will be between \$2 and \$3.

If you wear glasses, we suggest you have a set of athletic frames (they're a special reinforced nylon with unbreakable lenses). From what we've been able to tell, they should cost you between \$20 and \$40, depending on your prescription, etc.

One further thing we'd suggest, regardless whether you use the Brow Rest, the Lunaire, regular athletic glasses or anything else, that you wear a strap behind your head. It appears to improve safety and security if you're ever hit with the ball (or racquet), besides keeping the glasses from falling off in play.

An interesting sideline—we sent samples of the Lunaire to a number of members of the IRA Board of Directors for them to test, and we asked for their reactions. Their reactions ranged from "very good—the best yet" to "lousy". We've gotten a favorable reaction from the people in St. Louis who have tried both, so we're making them available at the St. Louis JCCA. We think that that's the second stage in our program—to get some feedback from players on what their response and reaction is.

In the meantime, though—for your own safety and self-interest—we suggest you give thought to wearing some kind of eye protection. We have no doubt that you'll find it somewhat of an inconvenience, but the alternatives are a lot worse!

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Pay Attention!

Dear Editor:

You and the staff have done an outstanding job since RACQUETBALL, Official Voice of the International Racquetball Association, became an independent reality in November, 1972.

Frequently, items and stories of sports medicine interest have appeared in your printed columns. However, one of the most outstanding articles to date is "Protect Your Eyes—They're the Only Ones You've Got" by ophthalmologist-racquetballer Dr. Benjamin Milder (January 1974).

His recommendation to convene a representative group to establish national standards should be taken most seriously by the IRA, board of directors, officers and general membership. Evidently the state of Iowa membership is legitimately concerned about this problem as mentioned in the same issue under Our States in Action.

How does one compare the victory or the loss of the game with the potential of life-long, partial or total permanent visual impairment (incomplete or complete loss of eyesight)?

As an enthusiastic but cautious player, who has been intimately involved in the management of on-court injuries, I only hope that you will continue to stress the importance of preventive care and proper health safeguards at all levels of play.

Michael Mittelman, M.D.

Promote Fitness

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my thanks to several people for the best tournament I have been to (which is not many). It was the Montreal Invitational. Thanks to Ivan Velan and John Spencer for the well organized and executed event. I am sure all those who were there would agree.

I also wish to let everyone know that the pictures of the tournament and the camera were stolen from my car. I just can't say how disappointed I was. Thanks to all the people who spoke on the tape, I got a good write-up in the newspaper. It promotes physical fitness through racquetball. I believe that more about physical fitness should be stressed when discussing racquetball.

J.C. Lepitre

For Idle Hours

Dear Editor:

For those of you who are not doing too well on the court, Davey Bledsoe and I have originated a new game to be played with the racquetball and best without the racquet.

While you're cooling off at your favorite tavern, after a couple of hours on the court, you get a glass, preferably with a lip just a little larger than the circumference of a racquetball. You just happen to have a racquetball with you and believe it or not, you can play with a broken ball, which doesn't seem to be too hard to find.

The object is to bounce the ball into the glass. Long bounces, short bounces, high bounces or low bounces, all are acceptable. Davey and I felt we had mastered the bounce until Steve Smith came up from Memphis and had a few lucky games.

You can score anyway you like, and as the evening wears on you can try two bounces instead of the one.

If this gets boring and you have your racquet with you, you can go outside and play against the building across the street—but watch out for the automobiles. This is much better after 1 a.m. as there is less traffic at this time.

Ray V. DePue

Paddleball, Anyone?

Dear Editor:

I have been somewhat disappointed that there has been no mention of any kind regarding paddleball in your magazine. Although I and many others do not play racquetball as frequently as paddleball (although it was coming to that until the recent influx of paddleballs), we enjoy both sports. I think it is a shame that both sports aren't coordinated to some degree in the magazine.

In some areas such as Michigan, paddleball has prevailed over racquetball but that does not mean racquetball is not being played. I'm sure, too, there are paddleball players who are potential subscribers if a section of the magazine were devoted to paddleball.

Paddleball is not dead or dying. I play both sports for the joy and physical involvement of each. Many others do likewise.

Paul Petro

Editor's Note:

The International Racquetball Association is devoted entirely to the promotion and development of racquetball and RACQUETBALL Magazine is the official publication of the IRA. If, however, IRA members feel a portion of the magazine should be used for publication of paddleball tournament results and related news, it can be done. Your comments will be welcome.

Contrast, Not Color

Dear Editor:

Quite obviously, there are many factors and variables which contribute to determination of which is the "best" racquetball on the market today. Since the governing bodies of the separate associations provide the manufacturers with certain production standards, the manufacturers introduce

RACQUETBALL

Letters . . .

variables of their own, i.e., durability, liveliness and color to promote competition and increase sales.

We know that durability and liveliness are two of the most important determinants of any racquetball's court performance. Color, too, may affect the way we perceive the size and motion of the ball in flight, although to what extent remains to be ascertained.

The sensation of color is a complex process and varies significantly with the individual. In a letter published in the last issue of RACQUETBALL Magazine, an attempt was made to evaluate the green vs. the black ball using one aspect of color sensation, that of the size of the peripheral visual field. The irrelevant point was made that the visual field (the total area in which a specific object can be seen while the eyes are looking in a given direction) is smaller for green objects than for any other colors. The conclusion drawn from this phenomenon was that the black ball could be seen more easily in the periphery than could the green ball.

In fact, the measurements which determine the size of the visual field are taken with a colored object moving on a black background. If the colored object is presented against a lighted or white background, as in a racquetball court, the visual field size is no longer affected significantly by color.

The important variable now becomes contrast, or the difference between the brightness of the background (wall) and the brightness of the moving object (racquetball). The greater the contrast, the greater the size of the peripheral field. The highest contrast observable is obtained with a BLACK object on a white background.

On the basis of this information, and assuming all other variables equal, the black ball provides (1) greater visibility and (2) the largest peripheral field of view. No colored ball can provide more of either of these two characteristics, under the conditions present in a playing situation.

With the astounding continued growth of our sport, we can expect to see a proportional increase in the number of companies producing racquetball equipment. We will see changes and refinements made in the ball affecting surface texture, regularity and consistency of shape and a host of other variables. It is admirable that we choose to purchase and defend as "best" the ball endorsed by our own organization. But carelessly constructed evaluations based on purported expertise, if false or misleading, can do more harm than good in the hands of competitors.

Thanks for taking the time to read this offering, and best wishes for the explosive continued growth of racquetball and RACQUETBALL Magazine.

Richard C. Stevens, O.D.

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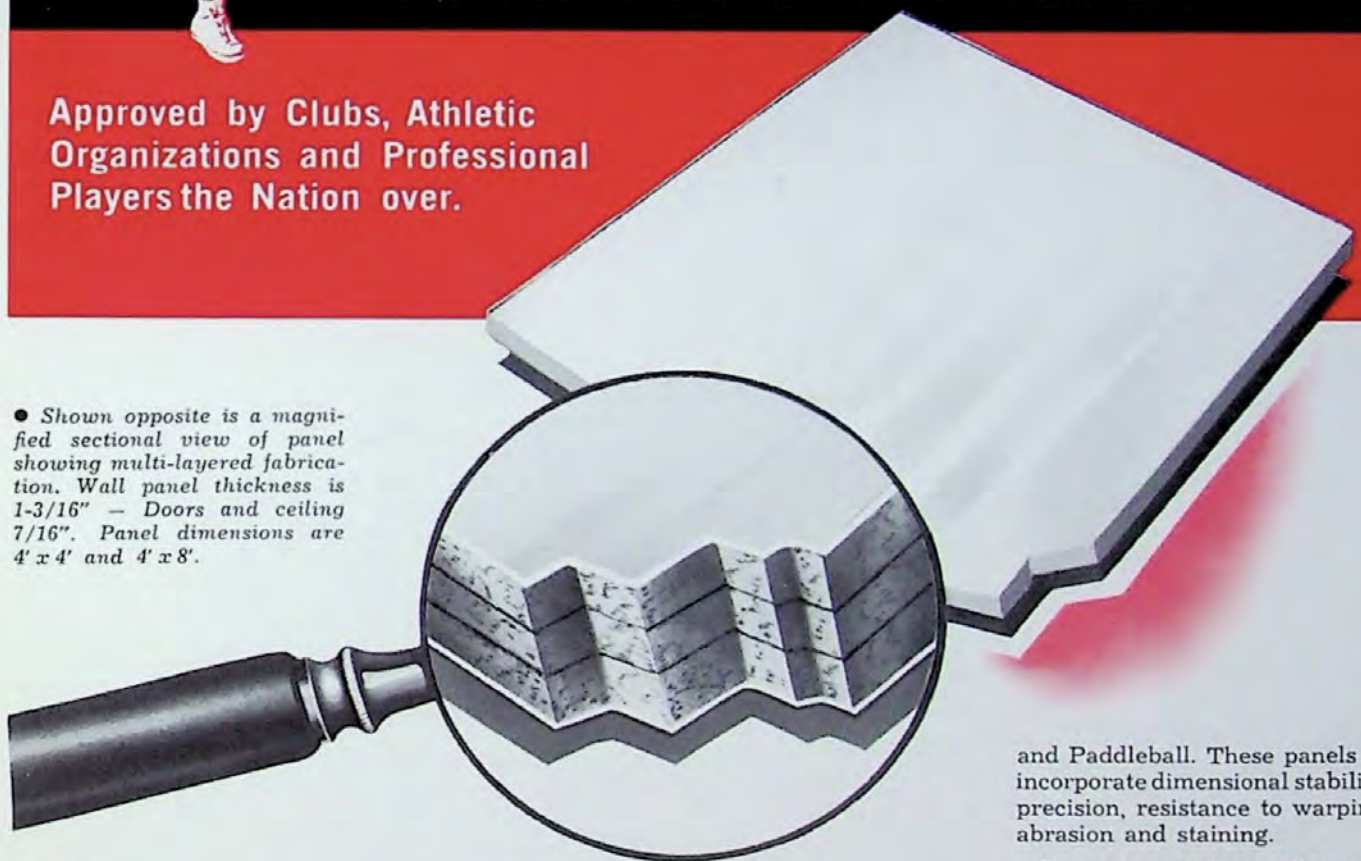


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