

The Louisiana

Racquetball News

Vol. 2 No. 1

705 Gerald Drive / Lafayette, Louisiana 70502

1st Quarter

Holliday, Woods Take Singles Championships

Billy Holliday of Baton Rouge used a strong offensive game and some excellent kill shots to capture the 1979 Louisiana racquetball Championships over Cliff Zeairs at the Wallbanger Court Club in Baton Rouge.

Billy was down 4-7 in the tiebreaker and came back to win 11-9. The tiebreaker had more service exchanges than either of the first two games. He had taken the first game of the match 21-15.



Champ Holliday

Results:

Men's A:

Quarters:

Almerico d. Marschall 21-11, 21-18
Zeairs d. Hannan 21-14, 21-14
Bobbitt d. Hodges 21-8, 11-21, 11-8

Semis:

Zeairs d. Almerico 21-17, 12-21, 11-3
Holliday d. Bobbitt 21-6, 21-6

Finals:

Holliday d. Zeairs 21-12, 14-21, 11-9

Men's B:

Quarters:

Comila d. Cunningham 21-14, 21-15
George d. LaCour 21-18, 21-10
Moore d. Savoie 21-3, 21-7
McGuirt d. Masood 21-19, 21-17

Semis:

George d. Gomila 18-21, 21-13, 11-2
McGuirt d. Moore 21-19, 21-17

Finals:

McGuirt d. George 21-11, 21-13

Men's C:

Quarters:

Broadwell d. Walker 21-4, 21-7
Coyne d. Markin 21-11, 21-5
Martinez d. Hobbs 21-19, 21-14
Rogers d. Versen 16-21, 21-14, 11-4

Semis:

Coyne d. Broadwell
Rogers d. Martinez

Finals:

Coyne d. Rodgers 21-6, 11-21, 11-10

(See Page 3)

Cliff pulled his game together with great retrieving and shooting to win the second game 21-14.

Gail Woods of Metairie won the Women's Racquetball Championships by defeating two-time state champion, Renee Hebert, 21-2, 21-1. Donna MacDiarmid won 3rd place by defeating Kit Almerico 21-14, 21-18.

In other action Jim McGuirt won the Men's B title by defeating Paul George 21-11, 21-13. Frank Gomila won 3rd place and Duke Besse won the consolation division. In the Men's C Tommy Coyne defeated Steve Rogers, 21-15, 10-21, 11-10. Richard Broadwell defeated Ken Martinez for 3rd place and Todd Ruiz won the consolation division. Joe Munday defeated Oscar Concepcion 21-10, 11-21, 11-7 to take the Men's D division title. John Pellerin won 3rd place by defeating Terrance Moreau 21-15, 21-9.

In other women's action, Gina Salemi surprised everyone by winning the Women's B division. She defeated Sandra Zulli in the finals 21-19, 11-21, 11-7. The number one seed, Bonnie Bozant, won 3rd place by defeating Donna Shernburne, 21-16, 17-21, 11-1. Kristen Campbell won the consolation division.

In the Women's C division Carla Conway defeated Jodie Silar of Lafayette 21-3, 21-18. Shirley Craig won 3rd place by defeating Vicki Rutland.

Barbara Davis of Alexandria won easily the Women's D division by defeating Cissie Texada 21-6, 21-4. Lou Reynolds defeated Cammie Coyne to win 3rd place.



Part of the crowd at State Tournament.

Teaching Films Available

L.R.A. has teaching films for RENT!!!

The Louisiana Racquetball Association has purchased four 10-minute teaching films that can be rented out by clubs or by teaching pros. The films are \$5.00 per film/per day or \$20.00 per day. The rental will be charged from the day the film is placed on the bus to the day the film is returned, less one day considered for transportation.

The films are listed below.

Film #1 - Fundamentals of Racquetball

Film #2 - Racquetball Shots

Film #3 - Racquetball Serves and Serve Returns

Film #4 - Strategy for Singles, Doubles or Cut-Throat

These films will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. To rent these films, you can contact the L.R.A. office.

Happy Holidays

From The
Louisiana Racquetball
Association

The LOUISIANA RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Year Ending November 30, 1979

Revenues

	Membership	and	Entry
Fees		5849.50
Advertising		155.00
TOTAL REVENUES		6004.50

Expenses

Auto Expenses	.....	305.75
Brochure	.....	245.00
Business Cards	.....	47.25
Miscellaneous Expenses	.....	25.00
Newsletter	.....	789.75
Photographs	.....	268.52
Postage	.....	177.42
Printing	.....	1480.12
Office Expense	.....	78.05
Telephone Expense	.....	43.38
Tournament T-Shirts	.....	1411.84
Tournament Supplies	.....	992.65
Travel	.....	598.09
Trophies	.....	1585.60
TOTAL EXPENSES	.....	8048.42

EXCESS OF EXPENSES

OVER REVENUES 2043.92

NOTE: Excess expenses were covered by a \$2500 donation by Chart House.

JOIN

THE

LRN

Louisiana Racquetball Association

AN AFFILIATE OF

**MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES**

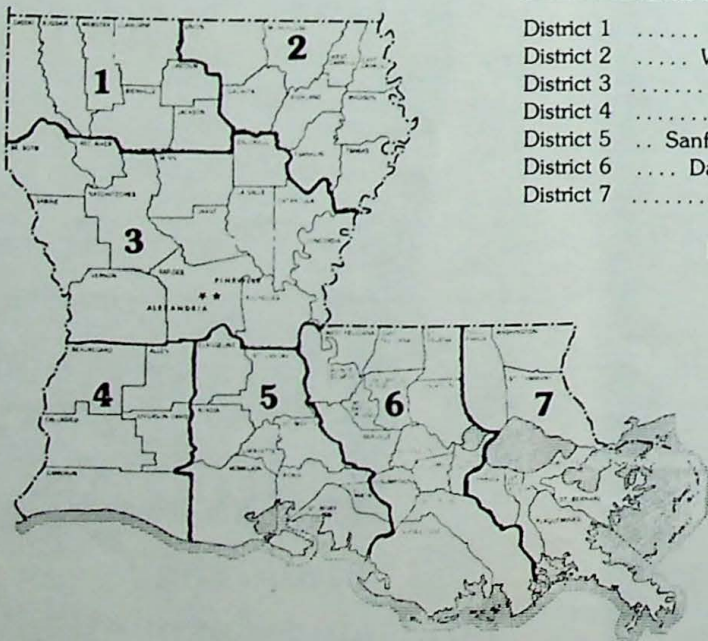
- Annual subscription to monthly National Racquetball Magazine
- Membership in and
 - Eligibility in USRA and LRN sanctioned tournaments
- USRA & membership card
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Ranking for all tournaments
- Sanctioned tournament applications mailed to your home
- Annual membership fee \$12.00



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO LRN
MAIL MEMBERSHIP TO
LOUISIANA RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION
117 DOCKET RD
LAFAYETTE, LA 70503

L.R.A.

1978-1980

**OFFICERS**

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District 6 David Marschall
District 7 Cliff Zeairs
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CYSTIC FIBROSIS GRAND SLAM OF RACQUETBALL

QUALIFYING ROUNDS IN YOUR LOCAL CLUB

**JANUARY 1980
FINALS
February
8, 9 & 10, 1980**

WALLBANGER COURT CLUB

7069 Perkins Road
Baton Rouge, La.

**TEAM UP,
ROLL OUT
AND SCORE ON CFI**

New U.S.R.A. Rules

By Larry Bobbitt

The United States Racquetball Association has announced six rule changes that will immediately affect all players in L.R.A./U.S.R.A. sanctioned tournaments. For your reference, the following is a description of those changes along with a statement as to how they will be applied and enforced here in Louisiana.

1. **Forfeiture time reduced from 20 to 10 minutes.** If a player is scheduled to be on the court playing his match at a given time, he should be in the building and reporting to the control desk at least 30 minutes before his match time. Therefore, if he is 10 minutes late, he is actually 40 minutes later than he should be, and there is no reason he should not be forfeited, both out of consideration for his opponent and in order to see that the tournament runs smoothly. This rule will be strictly enforced, and we will make sure that signs are posted

to remind players of this change.

2. **Glove changes.** (Like all other timeouts for the change or adjustment of equipment) glove changes will be charged against the player as a regular timeout.

3. **Players may not call timeouts after the referee calls the score.** The U.S.R.A.'s reasoning is that as the calling of the score begins the service preparation for the next rally, the server and the receiver are entitled to begin planning their strategy and concentration without being interrupted by the call of "time-out". Again, we will put up notices of this rule change to alert the players.

4. **Linesmen, as well as the referee, shall be empowered to call foot faults.** This rule has been adopted primarily for professional play, as it does not properly apply unless the match is played in a court with two glass sidewalls (where the linesmen have a better view of the service zone). For all

practical purposes, we will not apply this rule in Louisiana.

5. **Players may not wear black or other very dark colors.** The wording of this rule regarding player's uniforms has been made stronger. The players are requested to wear "light or bright colors" so that as not to distract from the visibility of the ball. Also, if a player shows up wearing a dark royal blue shirt and the ball being used is blue, the referee or tournament director will require the player to change.

6. The last change is the most complicated: **The receiver will not be allowed to strike a return of serve on the fly in front of the receiver's five-foot restraining line.** This restriction, added to the other rules already in effect for return of the serve, leaves the following to be applied that will cost the receiver the point if violated:

(a) The receiver(s) may not cross the receiving lines (those little

3 hash marks on the side walls) until the server strikes the ball. (This means that no part of the receiver's body or equipment may be over the line.)

(b) The receiver may cross the line after the ball is struck, but he must then wait for the ball to bounce before hitting it.

(c) The receiver is allowed to hit the ball on the fly if the ball is beyond the receiving line.

(d) In making the service return, no part of the receiver's body or equipment may pass over the short line (back line of the service zone).

The six rule changes have been announced by the U.S.R.A. National Commissioner, Joe Ardito, and are in effect at all L.R.A./U.S.R.A. sanctioned tournaments. If you have any comments or suggestions, you are welcomed to pass them on by contacting me c/o Louisiana Racquetball News, 705 Gerald Drive, Lafayette, Louisiana 70503.

Almerico Takes Holiday Classic By Win Over Holliday

When Billy Holliday of Baton Rouge, the No. 1-ranked racquetball player in the state, and Mike Almerico are at their best, there is little to choose between the two.

So, Holliday knew there was trouble ahead when he turned his ankle early in the Alexander-Bolton Holiday Classic at the Courtyard Racquetball Club on December 7, 8, and 9.

And, sure enough, in the finals of the men's open division Sunday, second-seeded Almerico defeated Holliday with an 11-0 blitz in the tiebreaker. Holliday had taken the second game 21-17, after losing the first by the same score.

Almerico had beaten Bill Land in straight games in the semi-finals, while Holliday needed a tiebreaker to advance past Tim Hannon.

Top-seeded Larry Bobbitt, No. 1 in the state, defeated host Fred Guillot in the championship match of men's seniors. Glenn Gottlieb won Men's B singles, defeating Chuck Moreland in the finals.

In men's doubles, Guillot and Bob Soule upset Bobbitt and Harry Stelly in the finals.

Donna MacDiarmid won the women's open singles, beating Kit Almerico in the finals. Barbara Davis of Alexandria and Shirley Craig, who upset MacDiarmid and Almerico in the semi-finals, then defeated Donna Sherburne and Kathy Hunt for the women's doubles title.

Results:

Men's Open Singles: Semi-Finals: Billy Holliday d. Tim Hannon 17-21, 21-10, 11-2; Mike Almerico d. Bill Land 21-19, 21-9. Finals: Almerico d. Holliday 21-17, 17-21, 11-0. Third Place: Hannon.

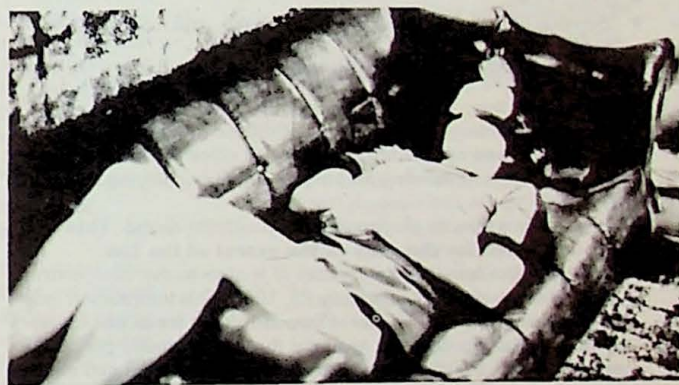
Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: Larry Bobbitt-Harry Stelly d. Rick Chiquelin-Tim Hannon 21-13, 18-21, 11-8; Fred Guillot-Bob Soule d. Mike Almerico-Joe Almerico 21-17, 11-21, 11-10. Finals: Guillot-Soule d. Bobbitt-Stelly 21-18, 18-21, 11-8. Third Place: Chiquelin-Hannon.

Men's B Singles: Semi-Finals: Glen Gottlieb d. Sam Coker 21-4, 21-14; Chuck Moreland d. Ron Jeter, 21-11, 21-5. Finals: Gottlieb d. Moreland 21-20, 11-21, 11-0. Third place: Jeter.

Men's Seniors Singles: Semi-Finals: Bobbitt d. Stelly, 21-10, 21-2; Guillot d. Joe Almerico 21-8, 21-18. Finals: Bobbitt d. Guillot, 21-5, 21-12. Third Place: Stelly.

Women's Open Singles: Semi-Finals: Donna MacDiarmid d. Ginger Parrish, 21-5, 21-5; Kit Almerico d. Vicky Politz, 21-7, 21-15. Finals: MacDiarmid d. Almerico 21-10, 21-14. Third Place: Politz.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: Barbara Davis-Shirley Craig d. MacDiarmid-Almerico 15-21, 21-18, 11-10; Donna Sherburne-Kathy Hunt d. Politz-Tanya Loustolet 21-10, 21-15. Finals: Davis-Craig d. Sherburne-Hunt 17-21, 21-13, 11-6. Third Place: MacDiarmid-Almerico.



Recuperating after the tournament.

State Tournament Results

(From Page 1)

Men's D:

Quarters:

Moreau d. McGinn 21-11, 11-21, 11-10
Munday d. Schuster 21-4, 21-15
Concepcion d. Kyzar 21-16, 16-21, 11-5
Pellerin d. Jones 21-15, 21-4

Semis:

Munday d. Moreau 21-5, 21-6
Concepcion d. Pellerin 21-16, 21-6

Finals:

Munday d. Concepcion 21-10, 11-21, 11-7

Women's A:

Quarters:

Woods d. Debagory 21-5, 21-1
Almerico d. Roberts 21-19, 21-14
MacDiarmid d. Morgan 21-18, 21-17
Hebert d. Simoneaux 21-1, 21-4

Semis:

Woods d. Almerico 21-7, 21-7
Hebert d. MacDiarmid 21-14, 21-4

Finals:

Woods d. Hebert 21-2, 21-1

Women's B:

Quarters:

Bozant d. Jacobs 21-16, 21-12
Salemi d. Moore 21-12, 21-16

Zulli d. Ryder 21-10, 21-2
Sherburne d. Duncan 21-16, 21-2

Semis:

Salemi d. Bozant
Zullie d. Sherburne

Finals:

Salemi d. Zulli 21-19, 11-21, 11-7

Women's C:

Quarters:

Craig d. Politz 21-16, 21-9
Conway d. Politz 21-14, 21-8
Silar d. Stonebreaker 21-18, 21-8
Rutland d. Jakula 21-7, 21-13

Semis:

Conway d. Craig
Silar d. Rutland

Finals:

Conway d. Silar 21-3, 21-18

Women's D:

Quarters:

Coyne d. Richard 21-14
Texada d. Miller 13-21, 21-13, 11-6
Davis d. Lamb 21-3, 21-7
Reynolds d. Fumas 19-21, 21-10, 11-6

Semis:

Texada d. Coyne
Davis d. Reynolds

Finals:

Davis d. Texada 21-6, 21-4

The Grand Slam Of Racquetball

Louisiana Chapter
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

QUALIFYING ROUNDS IN YOUR LOCAL CLUB
JANUARY 1980

FINALS AT THE WALLBANGER COURT CLUB

7069 Perkins Road
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

FEBRUARY 8, 9 and 10, 1980

1. Chapter will provide:

- Posters
- Entry Forms
- T-shirts
- Statewide publicity: P.S.A.'s to television and radio stations, and press releases to newspapers.
- Trophies for Finals.
- Grand Prizes
- "Seamco 600" balls, scorecards, drawsheets, and rule books (provided by LRA)
- \$.75 to the LRA for each participant.

2. Clubs agree to:

- Set a date for sometime in January 1980 for the qualifying round in their club and notify the Cystic Fibrosis office of the date.
- Be responsible for holding and organizing the qualifying round in their club.
- Donate court time to players during qualifying round. **This is a tax deduction for the club to the extent of the law.**
- Be responsible for supplying names of finalists to the Tournament committee on or prior to January 28, 1980. This information may be phoned into the CF office. (**Two finalists from each division** may qualify. It is not required that clubs qualify players in every division. If clubs so desire they should have third and fourth place in the event that the first and second cannot attend the finals.)
- Display posters, distribute entry forms, and encourage participation.
- Notify CF office, at least one week in advance of the qualifying round, as to the number and sizes of T-shirts required for players.
- Determine for themselves whether the club will allow outside players or just club members to participate.
- Receive entry forms and money at the club and forward all forms and funds to CF office. The club will be provided with a form to keep their records.
- May use any type ball they desire. If they would like the "Seamco 600", they should notify Larry Bobbitt.

**TEACHING PROS DO NOT HAVE TO QUALIFY
THEY WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE IN THE DRAW FOR THE
FINALS.**

3. Players:

- Must pre-register at club of their choice and pay entry fee of \$20.00 to play in one event, and \$10.00 additional fee to enter more than one event. **All fees are tax deductible.**
- Are able to play in qualifying round of which they are a member, or in a club which will allow outside players.
- Must be members of the LRA (\$12.00 Annual Dues) if they advance to the finals. As members of the LRA, players who advance to the finals will receive points toward a state ranking plus coverage in the LRA newspaper and name in the National Racquetball Magazine.
- Will receive a CF "I Did It" T-shirt at qualifying round.

Divisions Represented Will Be:

Men's — "A", "B", "C", "D"

Seniors "A", "B"

Open Doubles

Juniors: 17 and under
15 and under
13 and under
11 and under

Women's "A", "B", "C", and "D"

Open Doubles

Juniors: 17 and under
15 and under
11 and under

**TWO FINALISTS FROM EACH DIVISION MAY QUALIFY.
IT IS NOT REQUIRED THAT CLUBS QUALIFY FINALISTS IN
EVERY DIVISION.**

FINALS: Wallbanger Court Club, February 8, 9 and 10

Tournament Committee will handle the draw.
Trophies will be awarded to the First, Second, Third, and
Consolation Winners in each Division. Trophies will be silver
pieces.

COCKTAIL-AUCTION

Thursday, February 7, 1980, 7:30 p.m.
Wallbanger Court Club

The Tournament Committee invites all competitors to bring their families and guests. All members of participating clubs are invited to attend.

There will be a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Men's Division "A" Finalists and Women's Division "A" Finalists will be paired with a prize valued at \$100.00 and auctioned to the highest bidders. The "owners" then immediately take home this valuable prize and become eligible to win a Grand Prize. Two Grand Prizes will be awarded — one to the "Owner" of the Men's Division "A" and one to the "owner" of the Women's Division "A" Winner. **All winning bids are tax deductible to the extent of the law.**

CLUB PRIZES

A prize will be awarded to:

- to the club with (10) or more courts which has the most participants per court.
- to the club with (9) or less courts which has the most participants per court.

MILLIONS of American children suffer from lung-damaging diseases.

Of illnesses treated by pediatricians, 75% involve respiratory problems. Of illnesses which strike children, lung disease is the second major cause of death. It is a health problem of frightening proportions.

The most serious lung-damaging disease is cystic fibrosis. It can affect not only the lungs, but also the gastrointestinal system. Other serious lung-damaging diseases affecting children include severe asthma, chronic bronchitis, bronchiectasis, persistent pneumonia and a condition resembling adult emphysema.

WHAT IS CYSTIC FIBROSIS?

CF, a genetic (inherited) disease, is a leading cause of death in children. In CF a thick, sticky mucus clogs the lungs and airways, creating breathing difficulties, high susceptibility to infection and lung damage. The mucus may also interfere with digestion by preventing the flow of enzymes from the pancreas into the small intestine, causing malabsorption of food.

WHEN DOES CYSTIC FIBROSIS OCCUR?

CF happens approximately once in every 1,600 births, when a child inherits two genes for CF, one from each parent. In each pregnancy, a child born to parents with the CF gene will have a 25% chance of having the disease, 50% chance of becoming a symptomless carrier, and a 25% chance of escaping both the CF gene and the disease. When only one parent has the CF gene, none of the children will have the disease itself, but they could be symptomless carriers.

IS THERE ANY WAY OF PREDICTING CF?

Not yet. Research developments may soon make it possible to detect symptomless carriers. Research is trying to identify characteristics in the cells and blood of both CF patients and their parents that could be isolated to provide accurate testing. When such a test is perfected for practical screening, prospective parents could learn if they are among the 10 million CF gene carriers in the U.S.

HOW IS CF DIAGNOSED?

A "sweat test" for measuring salt content in the sweat is a major tool in establishing the diagnosis of CF. Sweat in CF patients has an abnormally high salt content, a condition not occurring in other lung-damaging diseases. The earlier a child is diagnosed and treated, the better his chances for improved

QUESTIONS & FACTS about CYSTIC FIBROSIS

health, stable lung condition and prolonged life. Diagnosis in infancy, whenever possible, is strongly recommended.

WHAT IS THE RECOMMENDED TREATMENT?

Treatment for CF children varies with each individual child and is determined by the attending physician. Treatment often includes postural drainage, a type of therapy which helps the patient cough up mucus from the lungs and bronchial tubes; inhalation of aerosols to loosen thick mucus; and special medications and diet supplements such as antibiotics, pancreatic enzymes and vitamins. Some children with CF take as many as 40 or 50 pills a day. Children with other lung-damaging diseases benefit greatly from some of the same treatment as those with CF.

WHAT IS THE OUTLOOK FOR CF PATIENTS?

Little more than a decade ago, most CF babies died in pre-school age. Thanks to improved therapy and expanded research, increasing numbers of individuals with CF are surviving into adolescence and adulthood with the ability to lead more normal and active lives than ever before. The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation conducts a CF Adult Program to help those 15 years and older with physical, emotional and career development.

WHAT DO CF CENTERS OFFER LUNG-DAMAGED PATIENTS?

More than 100 CF Centers associated with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation offer the services of respiratory specialists and the latest therapy for CF and other children's lung diseases. CF Centers screen and evaluate children with lung-damaging diseases, offering diagnosis, patient-referral and care. Precise diagnosis of lung-damaging diseases requires specialized knowledge as the symptoms of CF and other lung-damaging diseases are often similar and can be misleading.

Center personnel train parents in administering the home care

therapy and medication needs of lung-damaged children.

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Because someone you know — perhaps YOU — may be one of the estimated 10 million CF gene carriers in the U.S. You may have or know a child with a chronic respiratory problem who could greatly benefit from prompt diagnosis and expert treatment. It is important because there are millions of children struggling for the breath of life, and they need you.

WHAT IS THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION?

The Foundation, established in 1955, is dedicated to the research and clinical care which is essential for children with lung-damaging diseases. CFF grants to scientists and researchers are bringing us closer to the primary objective of the organization — finding a cure or control for cystic fibrosis. It is also leading to better understanding of the causes and controls for all diseases which affect the lungs of children. CFF training and sponsorship of CF Centers is continually improving the quality of life — for children with respiratory problems. The Foundation also conducts public and professional educational programs, sponsors medical and scientific symposiums, and acts as a source of assistance and guidance to its Chapters. The CFF cooperates in a worldwide effort toward better understanding of genetic problems and pediatric pulmonary illnesses.

HOW DO CF CHAPTERS OPERATE?

There are 100 local Chapters of the CFF, many of which have branch operations in major communities. Manned by volunteers and professional staff, local Chapters conduct the annual CF Breath of Life Campaign to provide funds for Chapter activities and the National Foundation's programs. Chapters provide informational assistance to families of lung-damaged children and can make referrals to various local agencies for financial aid. (Many states include cystic fibrosis under the Crippled Children's programs.) The total care of a CF patient can cost \$5,000 yearly in drugs, dietary supplements, equipment, hospitalization and clinic evaluations. Chapters are a source of information on available CF Center care and conduct year-round promotion activities on the problems of lung disease in children.



Scenes from The State Champion





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Appeals

By Larry Bobbitt

Whether you're an open player, or a D player, if you play in tournaments, some day you're going to be playing in, or refereeing, a match with linesmen. It's important that you understand how linesmen and appeals work so that you can make the most of your rights, while not abusing them.

What Can Be Appealed?

Fault serves (short, long, foot-faults, etc.); skip balls (hits floor before it hits front wall); and double bounce pick-ups (hits floor twice before being struck) are the only calls that can be appealed. Therefore, you **may not** appeal hinders, avoidable hinders, technicals, screen serves and other "control" calls. On the calls that can be appealed, keep in mind that you have the right to appeal not only when a call is made, but when no call is made and you think it should have been.

When Can You Appeal?

You must wait until the rally is over, and, of course, you must lodge your appeal before the next rally begins. If you wish to appeal a skip ball or double bounce pick-up that the referee does not call on your opponent, you should continue playing, but try to raise your hand after the questionable shot to alert the referee and the linesmen that you will be appealing that shot when the rally is over (if the referee and linesmen are not sure which shot you are appealing, the appeal will not be allowed).

How Do You Appeal?

After the rally, you turn to the referee and state, "I appeal _____," and go on to describe exactly which shot or call you believe was made in error. You must not look to, or address, either linesman, or your appeal will not be allowed and you might be awarded a technical for attempting to intimidate the officials.

How Does the Appeal Work?

After the referee recognizes your appeal, he should restate which call is being questioned, and how he made the call. Both linesmen will then simultaneously signal whether they agree with the referee's call (thumb up), disagree with the referee's call (thumb down), or could not be sure of the call (palm down). If either linesman agrees with the referee, the referee's call stands (regardless of the other linesman's signal). If both linesmen disagree with the referee's call, the call is overturned. If one linesman disagrees with the referee and the other

linesman indicated he is not sure of the call, the rally is replayed.

In the event both linesmen disagree with the referee's call, the referee must then make a decision to see that "justice prevails." For example, if the referee called a short serve, and the linesmen rule the serve good, the referee has two options: 1) allow the server to take the serve over, or 2) award a point to the server, if in the referee's

judgment, the receiver **could not** have returned the serve. If the referee called a skip ball, and the linesmen rule the shot good, then the referee can determine to have the rally replayed, or award the rally to the hitter if there was no way the other player could have returned the final shot. Since the referee's judgement in these matters is final, the referee is instructed to replay the rally **unless he is sure** the shot was a clear winner.

What Are the Players' Moral Responsibilities When There Are Linesmen?

Anytime we use terms like "morality" and "sportsmanship," we are entering somewhat of a "gray area" as the morality of racquetball, and all sports, is a highly debatable and subjective matter. The racquetball rule book does not require the player to make calls against himself, and I refer here particularly to double-bounce and skip balls. If I were a professional racquetball player, playing against

another pro for prize money, with professional referees and linesmen, I can not see why I should just "hand my opponent some money" by calling a double-bounce against myself! (I would like to see what would happen if some lineman in football went up to the referee to admit that he was offside on the previous play!)

But amateur racquetball has developed, out of necessity, a moral code of its own. The moral code is based on the premise that the game is being played for enjoyment, not for money, and that the referees and linesman are themselves players and volunteers, not highly trained and experienced professionals. It is also understood that even the best referee is going to make some mistakes because he is over forty feet from the front wall, over fourteen feet from the floor, and last but not least, he is human! **The sportsmanship and cooperation of the players is absolutely necessary to insure a fair and enjoyable racquetball match.** There is simply not the

(See Page 9)

Notice To All Club Owners

Louisiana Racquetball News would like to have your club news in our paper. It is our desire to include items of interest about your club. When you have noteworthy news, such as, tournaments, special programs, parties or charity events, send your information to us: Louisiana Racquetball News, 705 Gerald Dr., Lafayette, La. 70503. News for the April issue must reach us by the 15th of March.



New Orleans Finest Tennis Club Presents RACQUETBALL

**One Time Only Fee \$250.
Monthly Dues \$30. No
Court Fees.**

The Rivercenter Tennis and Racquetball Club in the beautiful New Orleans Hilton... A limited number of racquetball memberships are now available.

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and enjoy the social life at the indoor garden bar and observation deck. Fast paced racquetball at The



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Louisiana Racquetball Association

December 1979 Rankings

MEN'S A

1. Billy Holliday — Baton Rouge
 2. Tie — Mike Almerico - Lafayette
Cliff Zeairs - Chalmette
 3. Larry Bobbitt - Lafayette
 4. Andy Hodges - Shreveport
 5. Tim Hannan - Chalmette
 6. Jerry Winsberg - New Orleans
 7. Bob Soule - Baton Rouge
 8. Rick Chiquelin - Baton Rouge
 9. David Marshall - Baton Rouge
 10. Paul Bruno - New Orleans
- *Billy Holliday** is the current state champion.

MEN'S C

1. Randy Kyzar - Lake Charles
 2. Steve Rogers - Baton Rouge
 3. Dan Markim - Lafayette
 4. Richard Broadwell - Baton Rouge
 5. Ken Martinez - Metairie
 6. Bill Versen - Baton Rouge
 7. Todd Ruiz - Reserve
 8. Bryan Culotta - Lafayette
 9. Ed Scott - Chalmette
 10. Nino Paccacio - Baton Rouge
- *Tommy Coyne** is the current state champion.

WOMEN'S A

1. Gail Woods - Metairie
 2. Renee Hebert - Kenner
 3. Donna MacDiarmid - Lafayette
 4. Kit Almerico - Norco
 5. Becky Roberts - Lafayette
 6. Kathleen Morgan - Lafayette
 7. Lee Ann Simoneaux - Baton Rouge
 8. Susan Debogory - Baton Rouge
- *Gail Woods** is the current state champion.

WOMEN'S C

1. Shirley Craig - Monroe
 2. Pattie Gleason - Alexandria
 3. Carla Conway - Chalmette
 4. Jodie Silar - Lafayette
 5. Vicki Rutland - Baton Rouge
 6. Lee Ann Stonebreaker - Baton Rouge
 7. Jana Politz - Baton Rouge
 8. Vicki Politz - Baton Rouge
 9. Karen Jakicla - Ruston
 10. Lola Miller - Alexandria
- *Carla Conway** is the current state champion.

SENIOR'S A

1. Larry Bobbitt - Lafayette
 2. Jerry Winsberg - New Orleans
 3. Wallace Hardy - Monroe
 4. Warren Reuther - New Orleans
 5. Otto Schoenfeld - New Orleans
 6. Fred Guillot - Alexandria
 7. Chuch Croft - Shreveport
- *Larry Bobbitt** is the current state champion.

MEN'S B

1. Bill Land - Natchitoches
 2. Lance LaCour - Chalmette
 3. Frank Gomila - Chalmette
 4. Jack Moore - Baton Rouge
 5. Asif Masood - Natchitoches
 6. Rick Cunningham - Monroe
 7. Joseph Savoie - Baton Rouge
 8. Glen Weidenbacher - Kenner
 9. Mike Palmer - Kenner
 10. Pat Goodman - Metairie
- *Jim McGuirt** is the current state state champion.

MEN'S D

1. John Pellerin - Baton Rouge
 2. Oscar Concepcion - Baton Rouge
 3. Terrence Moreau - Alexandria
 4. Dennis McGinn - Baton Rouge
 5. Tommy Lofton - Baton Rouge
 6. Steve Jordan - Lake Charles
 7. David Ocmund - Garyville
 8. Troy Lyle - Mandeville
 9. A.D. Deville - Alexandria
 10. Byron Franklin - Lake Charles
- *Joe Munday** is the current state champion.

WOMEN'S B

1. Kristen Swigart - Baton Rouge
 2. Gina Salemi - Baton Rouge
 3. Donna Sherburne - Baton Rouge
 4. Sandra Zulli - Chalmette
 5. Bonnie Bozant - Kenner
 6. Kim Moore - Denham Springs
 7. Brenda Jacobs - Lake Charles
 8. Francie Ryder - Baton Rouge
 9. Susan Debi Duncan - Baton Rouge
 10. Barbara Davis - Alexandria
- *Gina Salemi** is the current state champion.

WOMEN'S D

1. Cissie Texada - Alexandria
 2. Cammie Coyne - Lake Charles
 3. Susan Polk - Shreveport
 4. Triwa Drury - Mandeville
 5. Lynn Aucoin - Mandeville
 6. Donna Hardwick - Alexandria
 7. Janell Nelson - Alexandria
 8. Charlene Kling - Baton Rouge
- *Barbara Davis** is the current state champion.

SENIOR'S B

1. Steve Stephenson - Covington
2. Leonard Lewis - Alexandria
3. Charlie Pfister - Metairie
4. Don Gunther - Chalmette
5. Steve Stonebreaker - Metairie
6. Paul Baum - Metairie
7. A.J. Krail - Harvey
8. Nick Marino - Metairie
9. Whipper Baudoin - Baton Rouge
10. Gerald Broussard - Covington

***Steve Stephenson** is the current state champion.

MASTERS

1. Gene Ferris - New Orleans
 2. Joe Hero - New Orleans
 3. Milton Aucoin - Mandeville
 4. Fred Hartstein - Bossier City
 5. Ben Voorhies - Lafayette
 6. Gordob Coker - Natchitoches
 7. Al Irwin - Monroe
 8. Bobby Forest - Baton Rouge
 9. Bob Baudry - Baton Rouge
 10. B.h. Texada - Alexandria
- *Gene Ferris** is the current state champion.

LOUISIANA JUNIOR RACQUETBALL RANKINGS

BOYS 17 & UNDER

1. Mark Comeaux - Lafayette
 2. Bobby Smith - Chalmette
 3. Shane Pescay - Chalmette
 4. Andre Villars - New Orleans
 5. Mark Hannan - Chalmette
- *Mark Comeaux** is the current state champion.

BOYS 15 & UNDER

1. Mark Lerille - Lafayette
 2. Lance Lacour - Chalmette
 3. Steve Kisse - Chalmette
 4. Desi Vega - Chalmette
 5. Danny Sans
- *Mark Lerille** is the current state champion.

BOYS 13 & UNDER

1. Greg Kisse - Chalmette
 2. John Bock - Chalmette
 3. John Lane - Chalmette
 4. Lester Klotz - Chalmette
 5. Jeff Lane - Chalmette
- *Greg Kisse** is the current state champion.

GIRLS 17 & UNDER

1. Pam Ratliff - Lafayette
 2. Carla Conaway - Chalmette
 3. Judy Ferris - Metairie
 4. Dale Vucinovich - Metairie
- *Pam Ratliff** is the current state champion.

GIRLS 14 & UNDER

1. Sherry Chambers - Chalmette
2. Michelle Tassin - Chalmette
3. Liane Lacour - Chalmette
4. Valerie Pescay - Chalmette

***Sherry Chambers** is the current state champion.

LOUISIANA DOUBLES RACQUETBALL RANKINGS

MEN'S OPEN

1. David Marshall & Doug Moreau - Baton Rouge
 2. Larry Bobbitt & Harry Stellu - Lafayette
 3. Bob Soule & Fred Guillot - BR/Alex
 4. Guy Faget & Duke Besse - Baton Rouge
 5. Wallace Hardy & Jim Dyer - Monroe
 6. Cliff Zeairs & Frank Gomila - Chalmette
 7. Jim McGuirt & Tommy Guarisco - Laf./M.C.
- *David Marshall & Doug Moreau** are the current state champions.

MEN'S B

1. Guy Faget & Duke Besse - Baton Rouge
 2. Ron Jeter & Joe Kadi - Baton Rouge
 3. Larry Bergeron & Mark Bregenzler - B.R./NO
 4. Bob Broadwell & Malcolm Settoon - BR
 5. Rob Carter & Dhu Thompson - Monroe
 6. Tony Carter & Jeff Hutchinson - Baton Rouge
- *Guy Faget & Duke Besse** are the current state champions.

MEN'S SENIORS

1. Wallace Hardy & Fred Guillot - Monroe/Alex
 2. Jim Block & Lenny Lewis - Alexandria
 3. Charlie Pfister & Gene Ferris - New Orleans
 4. Ben Voorhies & Jerry Broussard - Lafayette
- *Wallace Hardy & Fred Guillot** are the current state champions.

WOMEN'S OPEN

1. Susan Debogory & Lula Ribas - BR
 2. Candy Zeairs & Bonnie Bozant - Chalmette
 3. Susan Besse & Donna Sherburne - BR
- *Susan Debogory & Lula Ribas** are the current state champions.

WOMEN'S B

1. Nancy Robinson & Jan Soule - BR
 2. Lee Ann Stonebreaker & Patsy Jeter - BR
 3. Diana Lumpkin & Wanda Bonfanti - BR
 4. Donna Hernandez & Tanya Loustalot - BR
- *Nancy Robinson & Jan Soule** are the current state champions.

Appeals

(From Page 8)

time, money, or personnel available to properly officiate the game without the full cooperation of the participants. I contend that this premise applies whether or not there are linesmen, and therefore, even when there are linesmen to check the referee, each player has a moral obligation to call double-bounce himself, skip balls, double-hits, illegal

hits, being hit by the ball and other calls that are difficult for the referee and linesmen to catch from outside the court.

There is a further responsibility that players have when there are linesmen: only appeal when you believe the referee made an error. Some players abuse the right of appealing by doing it every time

they think there might be a slight chance of getting the call overturned, even when they know the referee made the right call. Excessive appealing slows the game down and makes it very tedious for the other players, the officials, and the spectators. The referee has the right to award a technical or technical warning for excessive appealing, but it is a difficult penalty to enforce

as the circumstances are so arbitrary.

If you would like more information in the use of linesmen and appeals, please write to me c/o Louisiana racquetball News, and I will send you a complete L.R.A. Referee's Guide, which covers this, and many other rules, more thoroughly.

Racquetball Attracting Wall-to-wall Adherents

By Ronnie Viegets

(Reprinted with permission of the Times-Picayune.)

Racquetball.

What's all the fuss about? Is it not simply the overweight and over-aged trying to establish themselves as athletes? A socially acceptable excuse for women with bad legs to wear shorts in public?

Well, yes. And more...much, much more.

In 1973 there was one racquetball club in Louisiana; today there are close to 25. Those clubs are being filled by all kinds of people with all kinds of motives, but racquetballers generally fall into two broad categories. The first category player is a version of the Weekend Athlete, the person who didn't want to hang up his sweatband the day he finished school. For this type, racquetball is a sport that is inexpensive, easy to learn, vigorous but safe--in short, the perfect lifelong recreational diversion.

Racquetball is more like a vocation than a diversion for the second category player. These are the usually young people, the adolescents who see the game as something that can be mastered easily enough to challenge adult players in a short time. Easy, that is, if you have an adolescent's time and energy enough to practice it four or five hours a day.

There is the expected difference between the way these two distinct types approach and play the game. "I play a retrieval game. I find it hard to find the time needed to develop a good kill shot," Mark Bregenzer was admitting at the recent state singles championships in Baton Rouge. Mark is definitely a first category player. A young-looking manager of the McLean Trucking Company terminal in New Orleans East, Mark would like to spend the four or five nights a week on the court that are necessary to become a super player. Unfortunately executive duties usually cut that time in half.

So, he has by necessity become a "retrieval" player. A former high-school basketball player ("I'd still be playing but at my age it's hard to line up 10 guys to play."), he uses his quick feet and lithe reflexes to scramble around the court like a racquetbearing Fran Tarkenton. Returning every shot, keeping the ball in play until his opponent impatiently spikes the ball into the floor or gets caught leaning too far to one side of the court. Bregenzer plays this sort of I-can-hit-it-longer-than-you game well enough to have won this year's Hank Stram Racquetball Club's "C" division championship and be voted the state's "Most Improved" player in that division.

But Mark doesn't kid himself. He knows that as you move up the proficiency ladder racquetball becomes a power game. A game tailored to young strength and young reflexes.

"Two years ago the best players were 28 to 25 years old; now they're 18," Mark says, nodding towards a nearby court where Lance Lacour is warming up for his first match.

The second category player, Lance Lacour is a freshman at Holy Cross High School, 14 years old and doesn't look a minute older. He wears glasses that keep slipping off his Boy's Life face and is tall for his age, with legs that look like they start at his chest. He's quiet and polite and might remind you of the kid with the highest chemistry average in your high school class.

Except that Lance Lacour is a fantastic athlete. You don't notice any adolescent awkwardness when he's moving around a racquetball court. With good anticipation and those long legs, he glides to the spot on the court where he can best await his opponent's shot that caroms off the back wall. The ball slows down and Lance gets into the flow, the direction of the ball. The key to hitting winning shots is knowing how to wait properly. Wait for the fall of the ball until it is level with the bottom of the shin. Bend the knees, bring the racquet back, cock the wrist. Then uncoil, shooting the ball on a blurred line six inches off the floor straight for the crotch of front and side wall where it will rattle in the corner for an instant and then bounce twice on the floor for a winner before an opponent can get within 10 feet of it. Lance Lacour knows how to wait properly. He's a very good player and he's going to get better.

"It's great to be able to get into this game when you're young," Mark Bregenzer comments. "The game just wasn't around for kids when I was that age."

"A kid can get pretty good in six months. I've been playing about 18 months," Lacour says as he towels off his face. Yes, he replies, he plays every day. "A two-day layoff would be a lot for me."

The long days on the court have given him the rhythm and the timing needed for a power game. A rejection of the safe return shot off the ceiling or the defensive lob in favor of the go-for-broke kill shot.

That's the way the best racquetball in the world is being played now. It formerly was played with a slower ball and cement walls and it was more a control game, a finesse game. Tricky little drop shots, high lobs that died tantalizing deaths just at the junction of back and side walls. All kinds of shots. All kinds of spin. All speeds. You needed the smartaleck

precision that good snooker players have.

Then promoters started building plexiglass walls and the clear glass made the flight of the ball harder for the players to follow. Then they began to juice up the ball, making it faster. A control game, the kind of energy-saving game older players favored, became almost impossible to win with. The wins were going to young strongmen.

In his first match Mark Bregenzer has cause to rue the fact that he's more retriever than shooter. He is often at his acrobatic best, during the match, deftly flicking wall-hugging passing shots past his foe, a guy named Duhe. But he also misses the chance to put away a lot of setups in the frontcourt, instead hitting the ball back to the middle of the front wall, keeping it in play instead of getting the point.

(After one such failure, he spins around on his heel and bellows "Let's go!" at himself. Racquetball is a game of self-absorption; you can tell this by the large amount of auto-conversation, id and ego shouting at each other. "At least Mark doesn't smash his racquet on the wall anymore," remarks his wife. "Not since he started paying \$50 for a racquet.")

Bregenzer outlast Duhe, 15-13, 15-14, but runs out of retriever's luck in his next match. After dropping the first game 15-7, he battles back from a 6-12 score in Game Two to knot the score at 14. But his game-point serve isn't high or low enough and bounces harmlessly off mid-back wall where his opponent can slam it back for a side-out winner. The next shot is a down-the-line sizzler to Mark's forehand, one final shot the retriever can't retrieve, and it's all over, 15-14.

Maybe next year Mark Bregenzer will be able to put in enough practice hours to be able to regularly smash those kill-shot returns that blow the dust out of the corners of the court. And even if he doesn't, racquetball will always be a fetching combination of challenge and relaxation--the perfect diversion after a tough day at the office.

Lance Lacour has already put in those practice hours. Armed with the confidence of youth, he slams through his three opening matches against veteran adult competition in the "B" division. Using a good service game, hitting a variety of serves off one serving motion, Lance keeps his more experienced competition out of rhythm and out of position. All three finish their matches talking to themselves.

Also, for the first time in this tournament, Lance's father won't be able to watch. Youthful-looking Papa Lacour has a match of his own in "C" division, scheduled at the same time as his son's match. Lacour pere can't stay with his son on the court. "He beats me all the time. It's good for his Oedipus complex."

It's the perfect spot for a psych job.

This being a semi-final match, they will play to 21 points. Lance takes an early lead in the first game, still slashing those lovely-to-look-at roll-outs six inches from the floor, forehand and backhand. But then George starts to use his weight advantage to move Lance away from the controlling center-court position during the rallies. Being the only racquet sport that doesn't separate contestants with a net, racquetball is the only one where a player's weight can be an advantage. Then the older man begins to shout, kung-fu style, when hitting the ball. The shouting is technically illegal, but the referee seated high above the court says nothing. Beginning to press, Lance starts flubbing his backhands and George catches and passes him, 21-19, for the game.

In the second game, the teenager is further flustered when a couple of close calls from the official go against him. You can't dwell on your last shot in racquetball, good or bad, because your next one is only seconds away. Lance is still thinking about the close calls as George continues to pull away. Now it's Lance's turn to talk to himself.

The final unnerving of youth takes place mid-way in the match. The server is required to glance over his shoulder before serving to be certain if his opponent is ready. On successive serves, George waits until the instant before Lance serves, then raises his racquet over his head--the signal for a timeout. Both serves are beauties, low and hard to the backhand corner, but the referee rules them illegal. Rattled, Lance blows his serve and George goes on to win handily, 21-9.

It's been an impressive tournament for the youngster from Chalmette. He's lost, but he's had the chance to learn some valuable things about the non-shooting parts of the game and he's learned that youth doesn't always win its duels with experience. And Lance Lacour knows in his heart that he's still looking up toward the top of his sport.

But as two teenaged girls who watched his last match were prissy enough to remind him, he'd better not forget to look back, too. "Just think," one of the girls tells him as he heads for the showers, "Somewhere today there's a 12-year-old out there who's gonna be ready to beat your ears off in couple of years."

That's the promise of racquetball. It's New Wave. A game that is getting better every year. And thousands of Americans every month are joining its ride to the top.

Almerico Captures Leukemia Society Tournament

Mike Almerico of Lafayette used a strong retrieving and shooting game to defeat the current state champion, Billy Holliday, 21-16, 15-21, 11-6. Until this tournament Mike's game had been in a slump--he had not been killing the ball off the back wall and his concentration and killer instinct had been lax in the state tournament. However, he put his game together at the Leukemia Society Racquetball Tournament at Hank Stram's Racquet and Health Club in Kenner, Louisiana on November 10 and 11.

The tournament drew 156 players from all over the state. It is slated to be held in 1980 with Budweiser as a sponsor. The Louisiana Racquetball Association would like to thank Don Sweeney and his staff of the Leukemia Society Chapter and Hank Stram's Racquetball and Health Club for organizing and hosting such a fine tournament. Without people like these racquetball would not have much of a future at the state level.

In the Men's B division Bill Land of Natchitoches defeated Lance Lacour of Chalmette for the championship 21-13, 20-21, 11-4. These two players are ready to move to the A division. They possess all the skills to play in that division.

"Watch out" A players, Lance and Bill will be heard from in the future. Glenn Weidenbacher won 3rd place by defeating Joseph Savoie 21-8, 13-21, 11-2.

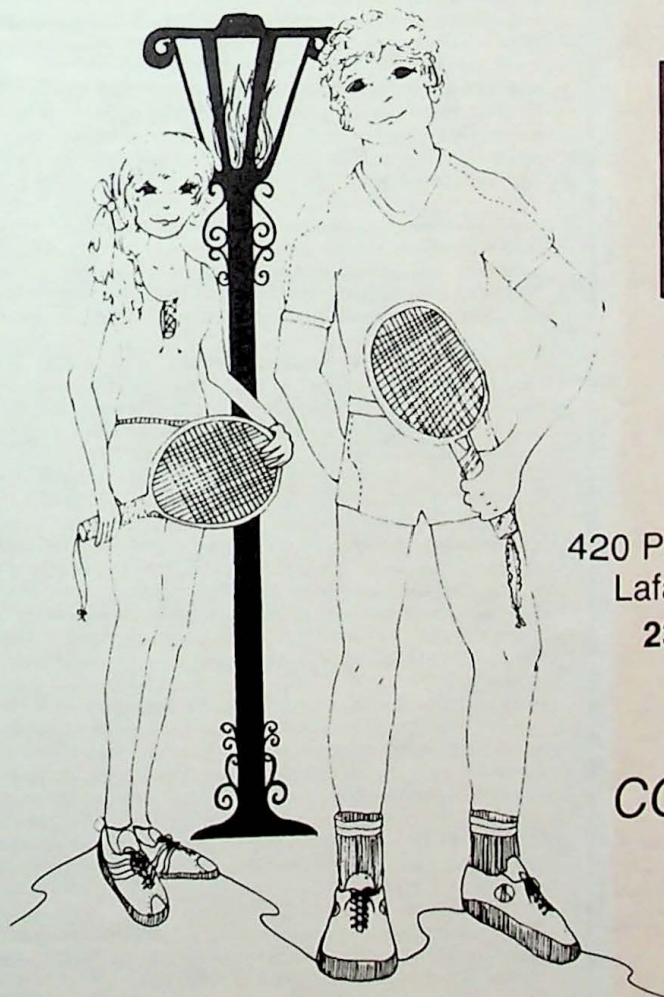
Randy Kyzar of Lake Charles won the Men's C division by defeating Dan Markim in the finals 21-12, 21-7. Todd Ruiz received a forfeit from Bryan Culotta for 3rd place.

In the Men's D division John Pellerin defeated Steve Jordan for the championship 21-20, 21-11. Troy Lyle defeated David Ocmand for 3rd place 21-5, 21-17.

In the women's divisions, only three divisions were contested. The Women's A division was dropped when there were not enough applicants to complete the draw. Kristen Campbell won the Women's B division by defeating Donna Sherburne in the finals. Gina Salemi won 3rd place by defeating Barbara Davis. In the Women's C division Shirley Craig defeated Patti Gleason 21-15, 21-11. Judy Lynch defeated the wonderful Lola Miller for 3rd place 21-7, 21-8. In the Women's D division Susan Polk won the championship by defeating Cammie Coyne in the finals 21-16, 21-7. Third place was won by Trina Drury who defeated Lynn Aucoin 21-17, 21-10.

TOURNAMENTS - 1980

DATES	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION
Jan.	Cystic Fibrosis Grand Slam of Racquetball	Your local club
	Qualifying round at your local club Local club will set date of tournament	
Feb. 8,9,10	Cystic Fibrosis Grand Slam of Racquetball (Finals)	Wallbanger Court Club 7069 Perkins Road Baton Rouge, LA
March 7,8,9	La. Seniors, Masters & Golden Masters Championships Singles & Doubles	To Be Announced (TBA)
April 3,4,5,6 25,26,27	U.S.R.A. Regionals I.R.A. Regionals	TBA TBA
May	TBA - I.R.A. Nationals	TBA
June 1-7 20,21,22	U.S.R.A. Nationals Louisiana Doubles Championships	Las Vegas The Courtyard (Alex.)
July 18,19,20	Louisiana Junior Championships	TBA
August	TBA - U.S.R.A. Junior Nationals	TBA
Sept.	TBA - Louisiana Singles Championships	Wallbanger Club



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Larry Bobbitt, L.R.A., Inc.
Editor

Who's On The Court

By Becky Roberts

The Time: 5 p.m. Friday.

The Place: Tournament Town, U.S.A.

The Setting: Make-A-Racquet Court Club

Checking in at the front desk is the cast of tournament participants. As usual, there are a few familiar faces. Maybe you'll spot someone you've seen before.

The first to check in at the desk is Sidney Serious. This guy has only one goal in life and that is to win this tournament. He sits in a corner unnoticed until his match. His face remains void of all expression. Didn't anyone tell Sidney that racquetball tournaments are supposed to be fun?

Nat Lampoon is equally dedicated but to a different cause. Since he figures he has no chance of winning, he decides to make his weekend worthwhile. So with a shout of "TOGA" his part begins. For the next 48 hours you will find him dancing on the courts, stripping in the lobby, and chasing the women out of their dressing room. This fella is the last to leave on Sunday afternoon because he is not sober enough to find his car in a full parking lot.

Next comes Bill Blasser, the human mannequin. Not once, even in his toughest match will you see a drop of sweat or a hair out of place on this man. He's probably the only racquetball player to have made the cover of **Gentleman's Quarterly** so he keeps his reputation intact by wearing starched shirt, shorts and socks. A low moan escapes from his throat as he sees his opponent approaching the court. To his utter disdain he must play...

...Oscar (The Grub) Slobotnik. After scrounging through his duffel bag, Oscar finally finds a sweatshirt with only three holes and a couple of blood stains. With a shrug of his shoulders he pulls up his mismatched socks which promptly slide back to their original position. He wipes his dripping brow with a mildewed towel and enters the court.

Ol' Samarai Sullivan is warming up on the next court. He's got the longest arms in racquetball history and is never in control of them...or his racquet...or the ball. Innumerable cuts, bumps and donuts cover his body but Sam doesn't seem to mind. He continues to dive into the side wall, slam into the back wall, and throw his body on the floor. Suddenly a toothless grin breaks through his battered, scarred face. He just won his first match. By forfeit.

Shuffling through the entrance with cane in hand is an old racquetball personality, Methuselah's older brother Bartholomew. Bart chug-a-lugs a bottle of Geritol, spends thirty minutes stretching battle-worn muscles and arthritic joints, and then wears down his 21-year-old opponent in a grueling three hour match. He drags his younger adversary off the court cackling "Better luck next time, Sonny." The old codger mutters that he's late for his aerobic disco class and sprints out the front door.

As the weekend progresses the losers emerge. The boos and hisses on Court One draw our attention to Alexander Gallahad. Oh, the crowd is not booing him; they're angry that some ogre has defeated their favorite. You see, Gallahad is so handsome, so chivalrous, and so honorable that he just should not lose. Unfortunately, the poor devil that won is now being drawn and quartered by the gallery.

Oh-oh! There goes another loser, Dudley Dipstick, straight to the tournament director with his forty-three page list of grievances. In his wake are bent racquets, broken furniture, and crying children whom he has kicked out of his way. He threatens the winner with a legal suit, grabs his equipment and storms away. But Dudley will be back on Monday to tell the world how the referee stole the championship from him in the first round.

In the final match on Sunday, a surprising upset is taking place as the number one seed is being destroyed by a new player who signed his entry simply "Clark K." Rumor has it that he actually slipped into the phone booth to don his unusual but colorful playing apparel. Never before has racquetball witnessed such skill. His serves have the speed of a bullet, his backhand the power of a locomotive. And the way he retrieves those passing shots...why, you'd almost believe that the man could fly.

Sunday, 5 p.m.

The club is shrouded in eerie silence, the last ball has been hit and the last player has gone home. The lights have been turned out. Then, from somewhere in the depths of the blackness, comes one final cry: "TOGAAAAAAA".