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RACQUETBALL

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*A Troubled Final
in Beaverton*

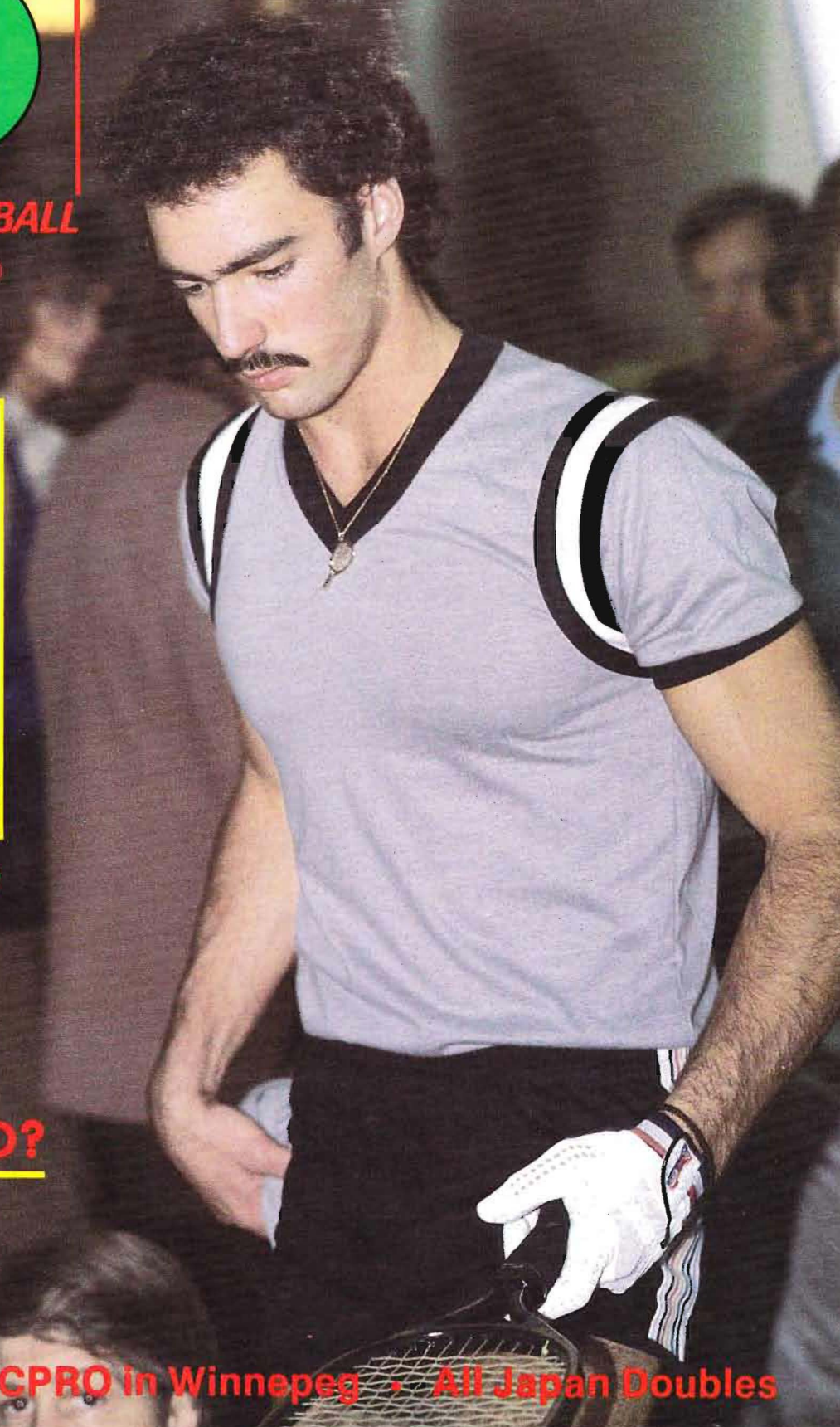


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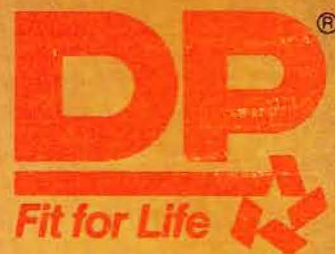
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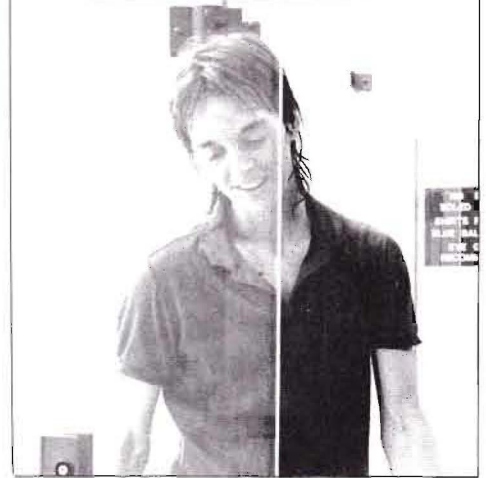
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VOL. 3 NO. 4 ISSUE #21

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RACQUETBALL**



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Jason Holloman

Let's Do This Again



It was a strange experience, but a very good one. It started in a hotel room at the MGM Grand Hotel Casino where the IRSA (International Racquet Sports Association) convention was taking place. I walked into the room which happened to belong to Luke St. Onge of the AARA and took a look around at some unfamiliar faces. As they introduced themselves, I found myself meeting some people I'd talked with over the phone on occasion but had never had the chance to meet.

There were a few familiar faces. I knew Luke, of course, and Drew Stoddard was there, but John Denley, Paul Henrickson, Fran Davis and Pat McGlone were new faces just being connected to their names. There was an immediate distrust. Everybody at first held their cards very close to their chests. Here for maybe the first time were representatives of the men's pros, the women's pros, the AARA and the media (me) all in one room. We all grabbed a cup of coffee or tea and munched on a danish or two. Then things got very interesting.

Everybody had a question about somebody else's business. "Why does the

AARA do this?" or "How come you guys (or gals) are doing that?" Pretty soon it was complain, complain, complain. What was funny about this whole situation was that Luke had brought us together to give a short panel discussion to interested clubs on "How Racquetball Makes Your Club Profitable." By the sound of the discussion, racquetball was more of a problem than it was worth.

Then another interesting thing happened. After everybody got his own gripes out in the open, each one started to listen to the other person's side of things and before you know it, sympathetic ears were listening and sympathetic minds were searching for solutions.

The meeting got very constructive. There were a lot of "what if's" and "how about's" and I think for the first time many of the people there began to get a larger picture of racquetball and the growth that could occur if we all went in generally the same direction.

Two hours later we hammered out our agenda for the meeting that was to take place that day at 2:30 p.m. I asked Luke how many he had last year at a similar function.

"Well," he said sheepishly, "I hope to double our attendance from last year."

I asked how many had been there last year.

"Four," Luke chuckled, "we had four."

We all laughed at the imagined scenario of seven people speaking quietly in a circle with four racquetball club owners from Dustpot, New Mexico. At least, I thought to myself, we got a chance to air out our differences and set up some guidelines for cooperation in the future.

It was quite a surprise then to all of us when we found that the room where we were all to speak was jam-packed—standing room only. There were a hundred to two hundred people present! A few of us got stage fright, but we managed to get our presentations out. Here is a synopsis of what was presented on "How Racquetball Makes Money for Your Club."

Luke St. Onge-Opening Statements:

"Racquetball is a sport. It is unique, and it's going to be here for a long time.

Most clubs deal with fitness which is an ever changing, flexible industry that at times is pretty hard to define. Racquetball isn't. Racquetball will be the same sport 10-15 years from now. Once you have your capitalization in, you can make a lot of money in racquetball. A sport provides better retaining power at less investment. IRSA figures state that after covering your overhead in your own club, if you increase your retention by 2% it affects your profitability by 16%. Racquetball is the perfect tool for retaining members."

Paul Henrickson, President of AARA:

"The AARA is the recognized ruling body of amateur racquetball. We are currently a class C member of the U.S. Olympic Committee and we are actively seeking to upgrade our status to Class A. The association is a member of the International Racquetball Federation which governs racquetball in 44 countries on five continents. The AARA is a service organization dedicated to serving its members and its state affiliates. Membership dues are split evenly with its state affiliates. For every \$6.00 sent in for membership, \$3.00 is returned to the state of origin for promotion of racquetball within that state. Members receive our publication "Racquetball in Review," travel and product discounts, availability to enter all sanctioned amateur tournaments which will number 800 in this next year, a vote in the affairs of the AARA to elect board members to represent them—national, regional and state rankings, and a membership card as well as a current amateur rule book. We are currently in the process of implementing a referee certification program. Members are eligible to qualify for the Elite Training Camp which is held in Colorado Springs at the O.I.C. training center. In tournament play we give discounts for tournament shirts, free tournament balls, discounts on trophies, free tournament programs which tournament directors can use to sell advertising in and free tournament kits. We assist in acquiring sponsors for state-run events. Because of all these services, we feel the AARA is one of the best ama-

Continued on page 30

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

International Racquetball is going to be a little late coming to you in May. The reasons for this are simple. We try to give you the most up-to-date tournament coverage possible and we would like to get the Ektelon Nationals into our May issue before we take our summer break. Our summer issue doesn't come out until August and by then the Ektelon Nationals would be pretty old news. Thanks for your patience!

The Editor

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Drew Stoddard

Amateur And Professional



It should be no mystery to anyone that the world of sports is currently embroiled in a heated debate over the ever-changing definition of an amateur athlete. The debate is not a new one—it has gone on in various stages of intensity since professional sports were conceived in the early part of this century.

But the controversy has been stoked by the soaring popularity of the Olympic games, supposedly the last great bastion of amateur athletic competition. Because the massive visibility of the Olympics is so alluring to top athletes, and because the actual definition of amateurism is determined by the recognized governing body of each particular sport, the dividing line between amateur and professional has been stretched and pulled in so many directions that it is now practically non-existent.

Still, the International Olympic Committee is standing by its charter which

mandates that some line—however nebulous or discriminatory—be drawn (which is a little ludicrous considering the “amateur” Maher brothers and Alberto Salazar probably all make more money than the president of the IOC). Like many of you, I personally regard the whole argument as nonsense. And, there is now some indication that the IOC is preparing to change its position—some hockey and tennis professionals will apparently be allowed to participate in Calgary and Seoul in 1988.

As you might expect, racquetball has not been exempt from all of this. In fact, depending how things go in the next few months we may be getting ready to jump into the whole mess with both feet. On March 15th, representatives of the IOC met with officials of the AARA in Colorado Springs to consider racquetball's pending application for membership in the IOC. That is a complex process, but if membership is approved shortly as Luke St. Onge seems certain it will be, racquetball may be eligible for full Olympic participation within the decade. Racquetball's participation in the 1987 Pan Am games has already been confirmed.

With all of this in mind, I have been meeting over the past month with Luke St. Onge, executive director of the AARA, to try to solve the problem of defining amateurs and pros within the sport of racquetball. The problem exists because in the past the governing bodies of the amateur and pro games didn't even recognize each other, let alone work together to establish guidelines everyone could accept. For the record, as Commissioner of the RMA Men's Pro Tour, I strongly support the AARA and intend to work closely with Luke to rectify the situation, and to generally unify the racquetball community.

The current definition of a racquetball professional, according to the 1984-85 AARA rule book reads as follows:

“A professional shall be defined as any player (male, female, or junior) who has accepted prize money regardless of the amount in any PRO SANCTIONED

tournament (WPRA, RMA) or any other association so deemed by the AARA Board of Directors. A player may participate in a PRO SANCTIONED tournament which awards cash prizes but will not be considered a professional if NO prize money is accepted.”

According to the present interpretation of that ruling by the AARA Board, any player who has accepted money in a pro sanctioned event is not eligible to compete in AARA tournaments (some of which are now offering considerable prize money), and is ineligible for national and international amateur competition, which includes the Pan Am Games and the Olympics.

The problem, of course, is that for the last two years there has been no governing body in professional racquetball to sanction tournaments, and therefore, in my opinion, there has been no acceptable definition of a “sanctioned” pro tournament.

With the recent creation of the RMA Men's Pro Tour, that problem has been solved—for the future. But what about the players who have accepted money—some in large amounts—since the Catalina tour shut down in 1983?

The logical solution is to clean the slates and start the whole thing from scratch, and that is exactly what we've decided to do. Effective immediately, full amateur status belongs to every male racquetball player regardless of the amount of money he may have accepted in the past. The first sanctioned professional tournament will take place in Concord, California, March 26-29, and every RMA Pro Tour stop after Concord will be considered a sanctioned pro event. The Office of the Commissioner will maintain records of prize money earned and will make those records available to the AARA.

Maintaining one's amateur standing does not mean a player cannot participate in a sanctioned RMA Tour stop. A mechanism has been created by the AARA similar to that used in other sports whereby a player may deposit prize

money in a trust account and then be reimbursed for expenses. This allows a player to be rewarded financially for athletic activities without losing his eligibility.

How much can you earn and still keep your eligibility? Well, certainly more than pro racquetball offers at this stage. And remember, we're only talking about prize money; money earned from product endorsements and player contracts do not affect eligibility.

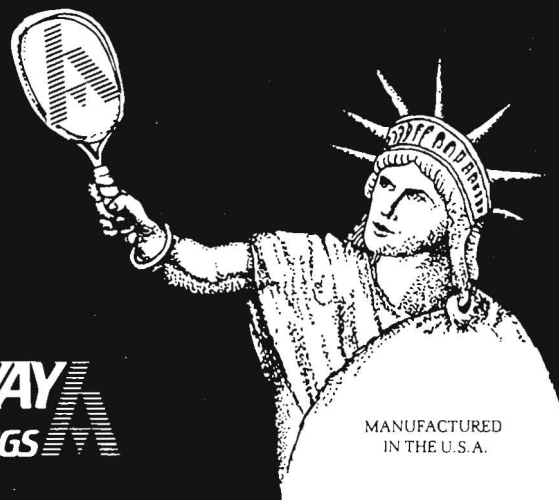
So, the decision is now up to each player. If you are interested in playing professionally while maintaining your amateur standing, before you accept any further prize money contact the AARA at the following address:

Luke St. Onge
AARA
815 N. Weber, Suite 203
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

I believe this is the fairest possible solution to what has been a sticky problem for some time. The new interpretation will bring the AARA into compliance with IOC and USOC standards (which is crucial for full Olympic acceptance), and yet will not punish players who were confused about the guidelines in the past. ●

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In The News

Olympic Committee Member Positive About Racquetball

On March 15th, Walter Troger, Sports Director for the International Olympic Committee, visited the headquarters of the American Amateur Racquetball Association at the Olympic training facility in Colorado Springs to review racquetball as a possible competitive sport in the Olympic Games. Mr. Troger, who is also on the National Olympic Committee as Secretary General for the Federal Republic of Germany, visited with Luke St. Onge, Executive Director of the AARA.

Mr. St. Onge commented, "He came here to visit with us, to evaluate us and to give us a chance to talk to him about racquetball as an international competitive sport. He went away convinced that racquetball is a viable sport practiced world-wide which means it meets the Olympic criteria of active competition in 25 countries on five continents. A racquetball demonstration was provided for Mr. Troger so he could see how the sport was played and he even went down on the court to try it out himself."

Later on that same day, the AARA provided a reception for Mr. Troger at the U.S. Olympic Committee Convention Center where the department heads of the Olympic Committee met including General George Miller, Secretary General of the U.S.O.C. Both Mr. Miller and Mr. Troger gave short speeches on the impressive merits of racquetball.

The International Olympic Committee will take action concerning racquetball according to the recommendations of Mr. Troger and an announcement will be made this May. An affirmative recommendation could mean a Class A status for racquetball and put it in the Pan Am Games as an official competitive sport in 1991.



Adams VS Goliath

by John Barlow

You could almost hear his mother's voice whining in the background, "David, are you picking on the girls again?"

Not hardly, in fact, quite the contrary. It was Lynn Adams who was pushing around Dave Brown the all-pro cornerback of the Seattle Seahawks.

In a clinic/exhibition match at the Pacific West Racquet Club, in Kent, WA, Brown was soundly defeated by Adams (aka the NFL Pro Stopper) three times, 21-11, 21-6, 15-7. The match was held as part of the grand opening ceremonies for the newest Pac West location in Lynnwood, WA, and kicked off the WPRA's Seattle pro stop. Adams showed Brown, an enthusiastic gallery, and viewers of KOMO-TV sports that bigger is not always better. That is not to say that Brown is any slouch as a racquetball player. In fact, when the NFL held its last racquetball championship, Brown finished second in front of all but one of those big burly types.

The 6'1", 195 pounder said he has been playing racquetball off season for ten years, and has played against the likes of Vicki Panzeri and Jennifer Harding. "I played Vicki a lot five or six years ago—she was

the first woman that I ever played. We were both developing and were beating each other about the same amount. I played Jennifer three years ago and she definitely beat me."

After three games that were far more fun to watch than the scores indicate, Brown shook hands with Adams and made the introduction for the clinic. "Any questions?" he asked the spectators, who met this query with laughter and applause. Later he said, "Lynn's a fine player. She didn't leave the ball up at all. She kept me off balance and against the back wall and didn't give me a chance to use my quickness or my hitting ability. But," he said with a wry smile, "there will be another time."

Although Dave never scored big, he did score, and many times at the frustration of Adams. Early in the second game after one of Brown's points Adams stepped out of the court in comic disgust and told the viewers, "You can tell he's old, only old men hit dink shots."

Later Adams said, "He's an excellent player, and," she laughed, "he's solid as a rock. I ran into him during one rally. It was like running into a wall. I probably have a bruise somewhere."

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WALLNET BALL is a synergic sport, gearing traits of familiar racquet sports. It combines the grace and motive of tennis, the thrust and strategy of racquetball, and the ease and novelty of paddle tennis. But once viewed, the sport's unique style is not to be mistaken.

The game is played on a standard-size indoor racquetball court divided midway by a 34-inch net in height. One player is positioned on each half of the court with a 27-inch wooden paddle used to serve or return the ball over the net. All four walls plus the floor are used as hitting surfaces.

Points are scored by the serving side on an ace serve or rally win. When the serving side loses a rally it loses the serve. A game is won by the side first scoring 15 points with a two-point lead. A match is won by the side first winning three out of five games.

WALLNET BALL is designed to be adaptable to varying levels of fitness and playing ability. The game is easy to learn, but is also a game of skill.

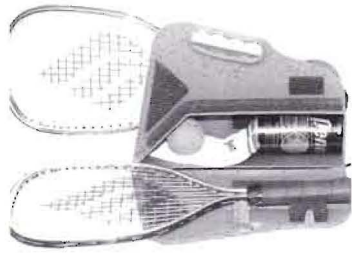


WALLNET BALL is more than a participatory sport; it is an ideal spectator sport as well. It is easier to follow than most other court sports, and most enjoyable to watch. With the invention of glass-walled courts, WALLNET BALL is a likely candidate for exhibitions and tournaments.

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On June 14th through the 20th, racquetball's largest prize money tournament of the year, the Diversified Products National Singles, will be held in the beautiful Play-Off Racquetball Club in Beverly, Massachusetts. Expected to draw over a thousand amateurs, men and women pros, the tournament is scheduled to include many activities during the tournament week.

"We're doing this up right," commented Paul Henrickson head of the New England Racquetball Association which is running the tournament. "On Sunday we're going to close the tournament down for a few hours and anyone that wants to go watch the Red Sox in Fenway Park can go free. We've got

500 tickets available and the bleacher section, which has a great view of the park, is reserved for people like us who want to get crazy."

"On Tuesday night, we have 600 tickets available for anyone who would like to take a two-and-a-half hour cruise around Boston Harbor. The cruise will have two cash bars and a steel band to liven up the night. Then, on Wednesday, we will have a banquet at the spectacular Radisson Ferncroft Hotel."

Mr. Henrickson also wanted to remind everybody to bring their travel gear as well as their racquetball bag. A few miles north is Rock Port and world famous lobster. A few miles south is Cape Cod, and Beverly

is only twenty minutes from downtown Boston.

The D.P. Nationals has earmarked \$40,000 in prize money for the final stop of the 1984-85 RMA Men's Pro Tour. After the final on Thursday, the man who is #1 in the official rankings will be proclaimed the National Champion. \$20,000 will go to the women's pro division and \$50,000 in prizes will be offered to the finalists in the amateur divisions.

For information on how to enter this tournament, please contact: The D.P. Nationals, c/o The New England Racquetball Association, 20 Oakes Street, Millbury, MA 05127, 617-754-6073.

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Lynn Adams fields Vicki's pass in the final

Local residents claim that nothing ever happens in Essex Junction, Vermont. That was until Lynn Adams came to town. Adams blasted past the competition in Vermont like a runaway freight train and won the \$6,000 "Stroh's Women's Pro Stop" at the Racquet's Edge Family Recreation Center, February 15-17. Flaunting her fine tuned skills, Adams ended the fruitful winning streak of surprise co-finalist Vicki Panzeri in three games, 21-15, 21-11, 21-8. Lynn's triumph in Vermont put her within three points of retaking the number one position in the WPRA's ranking, a position that has eluded her for almost a year.

The meeting of Adams and Panzeri in Vermont was the second time in four months the two West Coast natives have met in a WPRA event, a match that was made possible by Vicki's spectacular upset over top seeded Heather McKay in the semis.

Going into the finals Adams was the odds on favorite. In her previous three matches she totally dominated each of her opponents. She lost only one game to Marcy Lynch, of Philadelphia, PA, in the round of 16, and yielded no more than 15 points in her other 12 games.

Opening in the first game against Panzeri, Lynn jumped to an early six point lead. She moved Panzeri to one side and passed her on the other. Then, at 7-1 Adams faltered. She skipped a couple of balls allowing Vicki a chance to get back

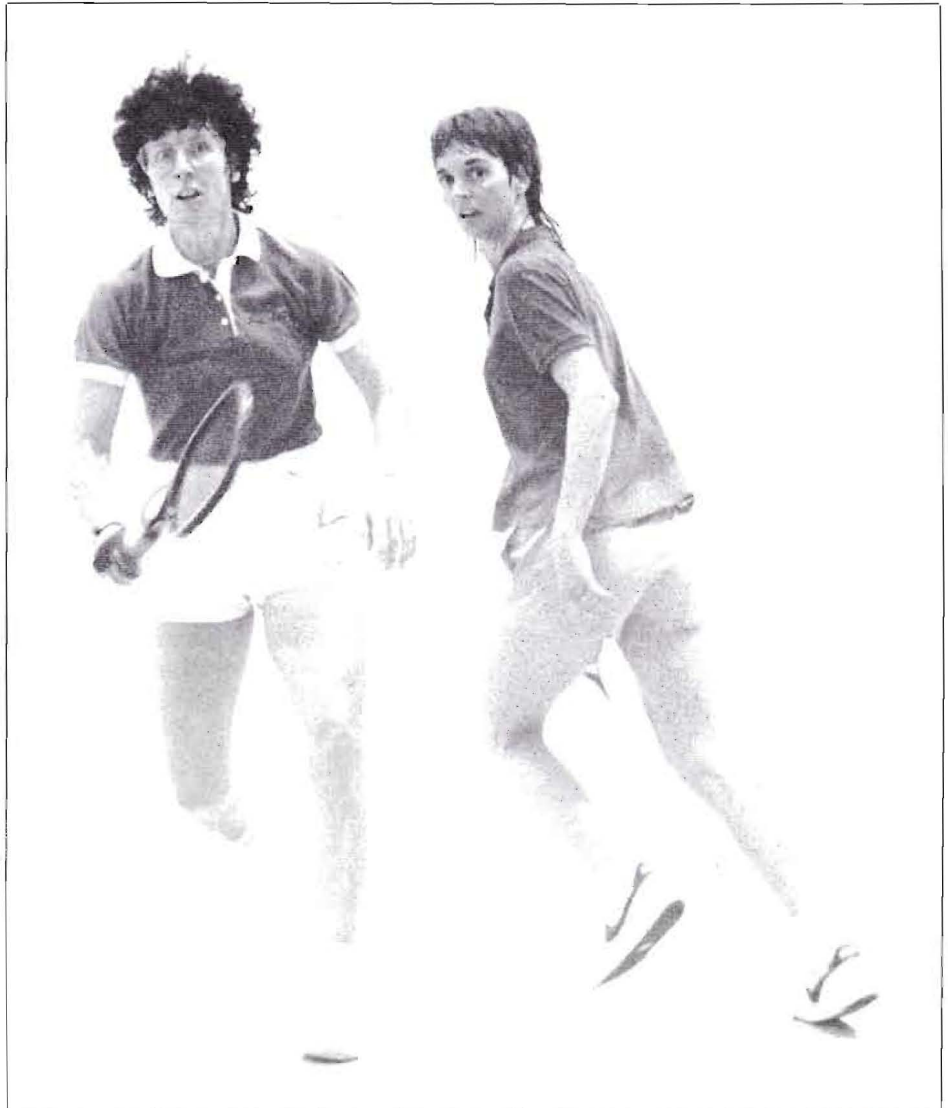
Lynn Adams Breezes Through Vermont...

in the game. Panzeri fought hard to catch up but to no avail. In fact she could get no closer than three points to the seemingly unstoppable Adams, who took the game 21-15.

In the second game Adams was again first to score. Vicki snapped back serving two aces which helped to gain a 6-3 lead, but the lead didn't last. Adams came on even stronger than before and tied the game at seven. Vicki was visibly slowing down; the semifinal marathon of the previous evening with Heather McKay was beginning to take its toll. Vicki scored only four more points that game. Adams took the game 21-11.

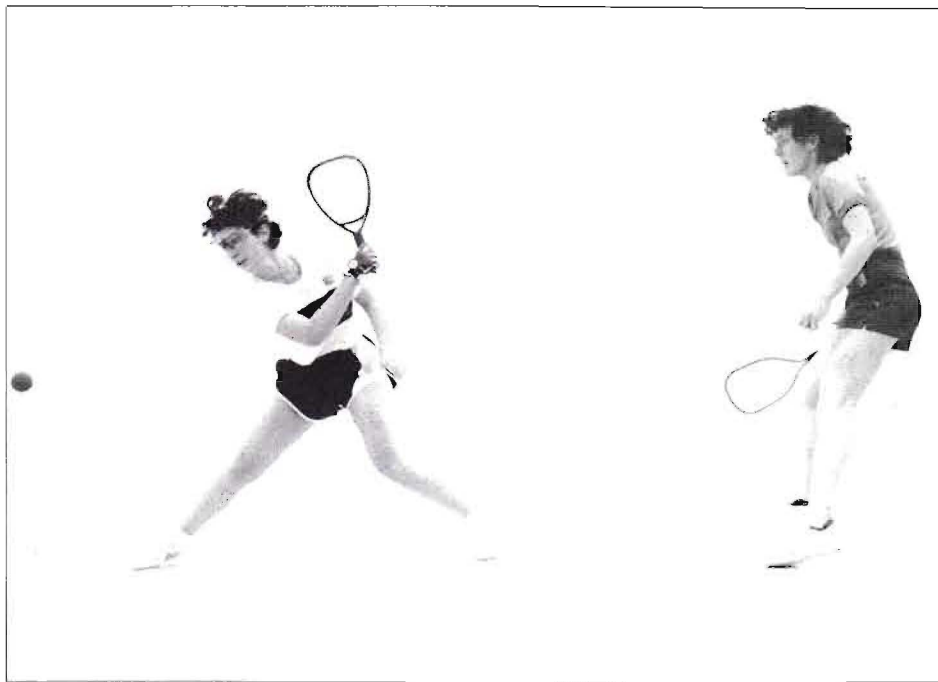
Vicki started strong in game three, but it was only a moment before she again felt the weight of Lynn's heavy hand. Adams caught Panzeri at 4-4 and never slowed down. Lynn rifled in five more points before Panzeri called time to slow the Californian's momentum. It didn't work. When play resumed Lynn took complete control scoring five points to every one scored by Panzeri. In a match that seemed only minutes old Lynn pulled the plug on the third and final game winning it 21-8.

Immediately after the game Lynn praised her opponent by announcing to the crowd that Vicki was one of only four people to ever beat Heather in racquetball. Later she said, "Vicki is a tough player. She gives everyone fits. It doesn't matter what round you play her. She is a

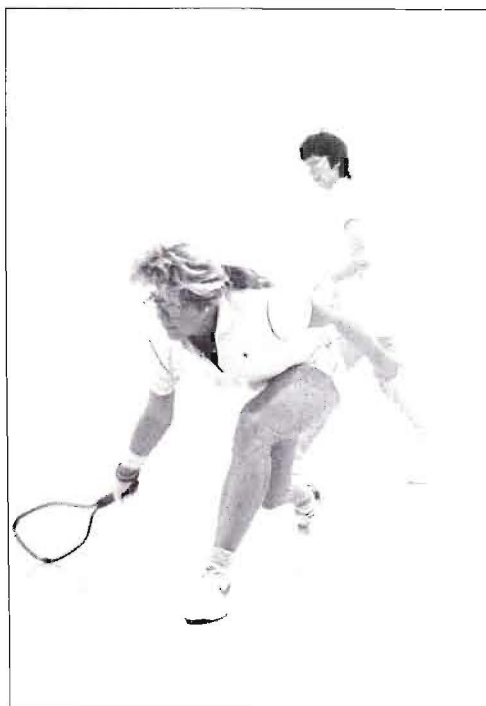


Heather & Vicki exchange the spot for center court

... But Heather McKay Ran Into Stormy Weather In Her Semi-Final With Vicki Panzeri



Heather Stupp battled against Adams in the quarterfinals



Babette Bell reaches for Heather's pass

real different player, different than almost anyone else on the tour—a lot of different speeds. She takes pace off the ball and does a lot of soft pinches. She can really move you around and make you tired.”

“I’m excited that I won this tournament. I have worked very hard and I want

to finish this season ranked number one.”

Later Vicki explained what she felt was her biggest drawback in the match: “My serve really disappointed me. I started each game pretty close but couldn’t get my serve to build to my satisfaction. I played a little better yesterday. Heather didn’t push me as much, and I wasn’t quite as tired. The ball we played with yesterday was a little slower, too. Lynn loves the fast ball, but after last night I was too tired to keep up with this one.”

Noticeably absent in the finals was Heather McKay who was defeated by Panzeri in a five game upset Saturday night. In front of a volatile gallery which changed alliance to the underdog with every change in the lead, Panzeri and McKay blasted around each other for 184 total points.

The first game went easily to Panzeri. When Vicki wasn’t killing, Heather was hitting into the floor in an uncharacteristic loss of control. Panzeri took the game 21-7. But the match was far from over.

The score was much closer in games two and three as the two players pounded on each other point by point. McKay started slowly in each game but in the end won both of them, 21-17, 21-18.

Game four was similar to the previous two. At first it appeared Heather would repeat as winner, but it was not to be.

With the score tied at ten, Panzeri put her racquetball skills into overdrive and took the lead for the rest of the match. Vicki tied the match at two games each by winning the fourth game 21-18.

Recent memory couldn’t recall a game as emotional or exciting for a WPRA gallery as the fifth game between Panzeri and McKay. The score was tied eleven times and the game seemed to last as long as the previous four. Normally the fifth game of WPRA match would end at 15, but in this case that wouldn’t give Vicki the time to gain the two point advantage she needed to win.

For the third time in the match Vicki was the first to score, but Heather, ever the survivor, would not be held down. She snapped back tying the score at four and again at five. Spurred by Heather’s recovery Vicki narrowed her margin of error and began killing left then right, forehand and backhand racking up a large (by this match’s standards) four point lead. Wisely the Canadian called time out, and that is what it took to cool Panzeri’s hot hand.

Heather took her first lead of the game when Vicki couldn’t pull a lob out of the left corner. From that point the two players railed on each other, one matching the other shot for shot as the crowd, led by a nervous Lynn Adms, gasped at every crack of the ball.

Rally by rally the game inched past the point of normal conclusion. Heather failed to capitalize on three match points allowing Panzeri two match points of her own. Panzeri took advantage of the second match point and joined a unique and very small group of people that have beaten Heather McKay at anything. Vicki took the game and match 21-19 in front of spectators that met the surprising upset with a standing ovation and deafening cheers.

“I was having a real good time,” Vicki later commented. “I’m not a real stressful type person. I try to be as relaxed as possible but I don’t normally smile in my matches, but this time I was laughing and having a good time. It didn’t really matter to me if I won or lost that match, I felt I had done well and the score was so close it could have gone either way.”

Heather, who had been plagued by a sore neck throughout the tournament, said, “I had her game point three times but couldn’t put it away—it (her neck) didn’t break me. I wouldn’t have gone into the court if I didn’t think I could win. Vicki played well—no excuses.”

The other semifinal match between Caryn McKinney and Lynn Adams was

an example of just how sharp Adams' game was throughout the entire tournament. Two-and-a-half months ago McKinney defeated Adams in a non-ranking event in Tampa Bay, but Adams would not allow that upset to be repeated. Lynn completely dominated the three games allowing the score to be tied only twice in the second game and was never pushed in the rest of the match. She took the set 21-11, 21-14, 21-15.

Caryn McKinney had a fine tournament of her own defeating Chris Evon in a three game first round, and a four game upset of fourth ranked Terri Gilreath. She pushed Terri from side to side forcing mistakes and taking advantage of the errors. She took the match 24-22, 21-12, 19-21, 21-10.

Another surprise in Vermont was Babette Bell of Pensacola, FL, who upset tenth ranked Janell Marriott, of Warwick, RI, in five games before losing to Heather McKay in the quarterfinals.

The other upset of the tournament was that of Bonnie Stoll, of Stamford, CT, who was defeated by Canadian Heather Stupp in three games; 21-9, 21-17, 21-17.

The "Stroh's Women's Pro Stop" was sponsored in part by Champlain Valley Distributors of Burlington, Vermont. Proceeds of the tournament were donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

The WPRA is sponsored in part by Voit Sports, and has selected the Voit Rollout Blue as the official ball of the WPRA tour.

Stroh's Women's Pro Stop Essex Junction, Vermont

Round of 16:

Heather McKay d. Marci Drexler; 21-15, 21-18, 15-21, 21-16

Babette Bell d. Janell Marriott; 21-15, 19-21, 14-21, 21-19, 17-15

Fran Davis d. Molly O'Brien; 21-13, 21-13, 8-21, 17-21, 21-8

Vicki Panzeri d. Sandy Robson; 21-7, 22-20, 21-16

Terri Gilreath d. Joyce Jackson; 19-21, 21-12, 21-12, 21-11

Caryn McKinney d. Chris Evon; 23-21, 21-13, 21-16

Heather Stupp d. Bonnie Stoll; 21-9, 21-17, 21-17

Lynn Adams d. Marcy Lynch; 21-13, 21-8, 9-21, 21-11

Quarterfinal Round:

McKay d. Bell; 21-16, 21-18, 21-14

Panzeri d. Davis; 23-21, 21-14, 21-9

McKinney d. Gilreath; 24-22, 21-12, 19-21, 21-10

Adams d. Stupp; 21-15, 21-10, 21-6

Semifinal Round:

Panzeri d. McKay; 21-7, 17-21, 18-21, 21-18, 21-19



Caryn and Terri in an unofficial time out in the quarters

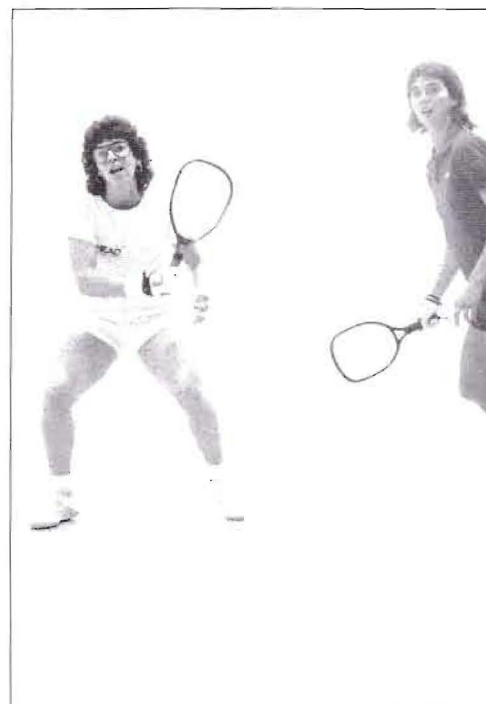
Adams d. McKinney; 21-11, 21-14, 21-15

Final Round:

Adams d. Panzeri; 21-15, 21-11, 21-8

Total Purse: \$6,000

The Racquets Edge lays claim to being the largest racquetball club in Vermont. It might also lay claim to one of the largest people machines to put on a WPRA pro stop. It would be impossible to name all the people who were involved, but between the Green Mountain Racquetball Association and the Racquets Edge there were many, and they all did a superb job in promotion, in hospitality and in the mechanics of running the stop—all involved are to be congratulated. . . Vicki Panzeri gets an award for the most appealing appeal, although it didn't work. In her nip and tuck match with Heather McKay, play was stopped when the referee called a hinder on McKay. Vicki thought a more appropriate call might have been an avoidable, but the ref didn't agree. Vicki took her position in back court to replay the point. Just before the serve, she looked up over her shoulder to the ref and with a smile asked, "Are you sure you won't change your mind?" . . . Finally, one of the little known facts about Heather McKay. When Heather was a teenager in Australia she had a pet kangaroo named "Wally." Apparently her brothers came across



Fran Davis took on Vicki Panzeri in the quarters

Wally when they were hunting. She said he eventually grew to a height of five feet plus and from time to time was invited into the house "for a bite to eat." Let your imagination work on that for a while. Now, all you parents, don't you feel bad for not letting your kid have a puppy. ●

Heartbreaker For Harnett

As he stood at the microphone in front of 400 eager fans and a myriad of television cameras there to record the long-awaited final between two of pro racquetball's superstars, the expression on his face made needless the words he was about to speak. It was a pained expression of sickened disbelief that was like an eloquently written chapter on how precariously is perched the career of every great athlete. Everyone who has watched Bret Harnett play knows he is a great athlete; he has the heart of a lion, and the body of a Greek god. But this Sunday afternoon the heart was broken and the body useless as he held up his shattered hand to the crowd and apologized, "I'm sorry I can't play."

With those words Bret Harnett brought to a close the 1985 LaBatt's Pro-Am at the Griffith Park Athletic Club in Beaverton, Oregon, the sixth ranking stop on this season's RMA Pro Racquetball Tour. His final round forfeit to second-ranked Mike Yellen—a scenario that is the secret nightmare of every pro tournament director—marked the first non-played championship match in a ranking professional tournament in over a decade. It was also the ultimate anti-climax to a tournament that had it all; thrills, drama, controversy, and some of the biggest upsets of the 1984-85 season.

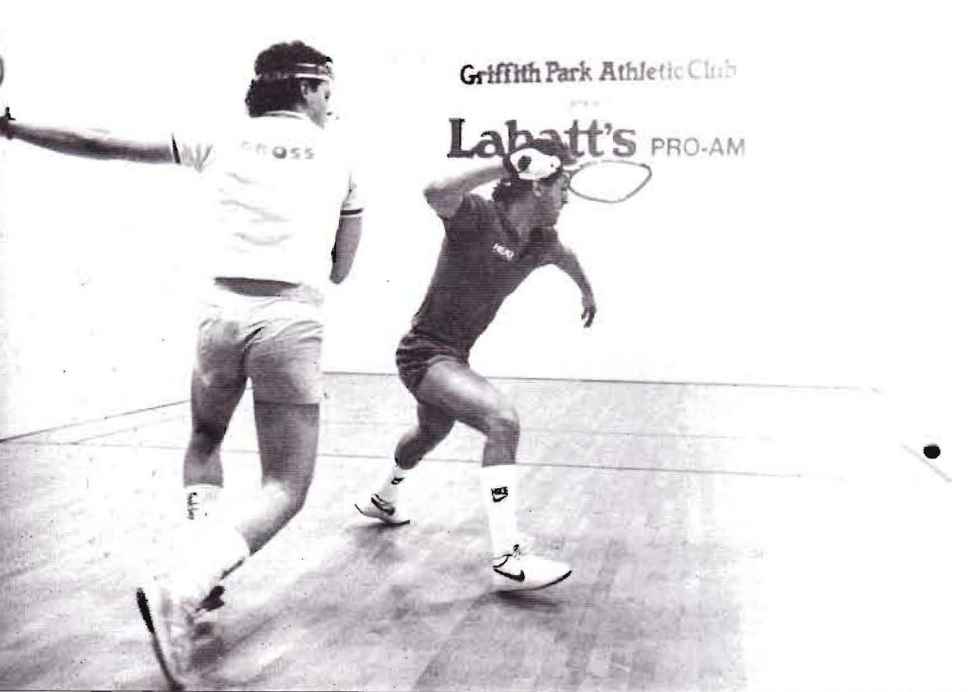
Although the forfeiture somewhat tainted the victory for Mike Yellen, the win was an important one for him nevertheless. Beaverton was the first win of the season for the defending National Cham-

After a glorious victory against Hogan in the semis, an injury forces Harnett to forfeit the final to Yellen in Beaverton



Bret puts a little body-english into his semifinal victory





Andy Gross and Cohen went five grueling games in the quarters

pion, and Mike had played tack-sharp racquetball to reach the finals, losing only two games en route.

Indeed, considering how the two had played during the event, it was a shame the match didn't take place; the expected Yellen-Harnett matchup had the potential of being a classic, but predicting who might have won the match, had it taken place, is difficult. As hard as it is to believe, Yellen and Harnett have not faced each other in a tour event in nearly three years, and they have never played during Bret's tenure in the top five.

In lieu of the final, Mike Yellen conducted a clinic and staged an exhibition with Canadian pro Woody Clouse. Ever gracious in victory (no matter how it comes), and having one of the better senses of humor on the tour, Mike told the

crowd before entering the court to play, "I just want you to know, if I lose this match, there's no way I'm giving back the money." Right on, Mike.

There's no doubt that breaking the thumb of your hitting hand at the first knuckle is an unpleasant experience. But what made this injury particularly gut-wrenching for Bret was that the boy was on a roll. The break occurred late on Saturday night during the final moments of a match that may well have been the greatest performance of Harnett's professional career, and was unquestionably the most exciting contest of the 1984-85 season thusfar; a spectacular five-game semifinal upset of top-seeded Marty Hogan that propelled Harnett into the finals, and brought Hogan's perfect Oregon record to an end.

In the closing moments of that match—just three points from taking the victory—Bret launched himself into backcourt trying to retrieve a Hogan pass and collided violently with the backwall glass, trapping the thumb of his left hand between the glass and his racquet handle. Incredibly, unaware that the hand was broken, Harnett played on for nearly 20 minutes before finally disposing of the stubborn Hogan, 10-11, 11-2, 6-11, 11-5, 11-8.

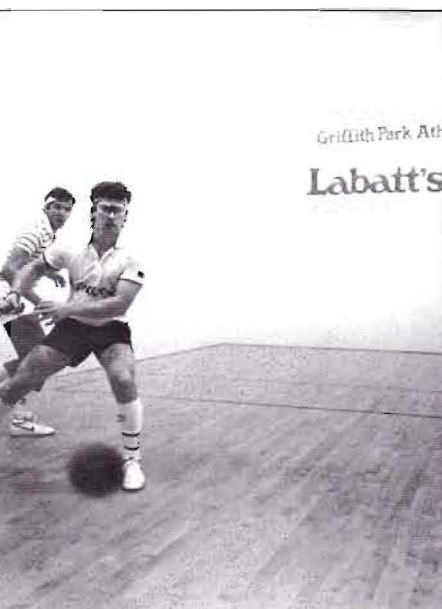
It was not until he awoke in the middle of the night that Bret was aware that anything was seriously wrong. By the time he reached the club to play the finals (which he fully intended to do), his thumb was blue and swollen to twice its normal size all the way to the wrist. The following morning back home in Las Vegas, x-rays confirmed that the thumb was broken at the first knuckle. Prognosis: out for at least six weeks. It just hasn't been a good year for Bret. (Eight months ago, a strange infection in the palm of his left hand appeared just long enough to keep him out of the DP Nationals, just four weeks after he'd won the Ektelon Nationals.)

But even with the surprising turn of events surrounding the final, the real story of the Beaverton tournament was not a particular match, or even a particular player. The real star of the LaBatt's Pro-Am was the ball, which had more to do with the overall results than any other single factor. Because there is no official ball on this season's RMA Pro Tour (there will be during the 1985-86 season), each event has the option of selecting their own ball. The Beaverton tournament was the first pro event ever to use the Ram, a ball that most of the players had never before even seen. The result turned the early rounds of the men's draw into a circus.

In addition to having a severe breakage problem the Ram ball is extremely fast, two facts of which neither the players nor the excellent tournament staff at the Griffith Park Athletic Club were aware prior to the start of match play. Most of the players agreed that the pressurized Rams that were used in the first two rounds were considerably faster than the old Seamco green that was used on the pro tour in the late 70's, and the green was a rocket. In fact, the Ram was so fast that most of the pros who utilize a "set-up and shoot" style (which is now most of them) were eliminated right off the bat.

Seven of the top sixteen players were thumped in the round-of-32. Jack Newman (#13), John Egberman (#14), and Rich Wagner (#16T), who all play with similar deliberate styles, were each upset in three easy games by Evan Terry, Mark

Hilecher took Hogan five close games



Hilecher graciously accepting defeat to Hogan



Martino, and Doug Cohen, respectively. Ed Andrews (#12) and Mike Ray (#16T) fell to their unseeded opponents in five-gamers.

Then came the shockers: Dave Peck (#4) never saw half of the bullets fired by David Gross and fell in four games; and Gregg Peck (#3) had the same problem with 16-year-old Andy Gross—he fell in five games and notched his first loss in the round-of-32 in many years.

The problem was apparent to everyone: the ball was so fast that many players simply couldn't read its flight, and no one could catch up with it. Newman and Egberman went through their matches without setting up on a single ball!

Marty Hogan came through his first round match, though not easily—he was extended to five games by Jack Nolan. Mike Yellen advanced with the help of a forfeit. Most of the other winners just pulled it out any way they could. But there were three exceptions; Bret Harnett, Doug Cohen, and Jerry Hilecher obviously had little trouble timing the Ram ball as they disposed of their opponents with ease, and that would become a big factor later on.

The round-of-16 saw three more top-ten players bite the dust: Gerry Price (#8) fell in three quick games to Hilecher, who by now was exploiting the speed of the ball with a blazing drive serve launched by a new serving motion; Scott Oliver (#6) was utterly destroyed by Doug Cohen, 11-5, 11-10, 11-0, in Cohen's best victory this season; and Cliff Swain (#10) was ousted in four games by fellow Northeasterner Ruben Gonzalez.

Marty Hogan and both Gross brothers also swept by their opponents in the 16's, making the quarterfinals look like a reunion of St. Louis racquetballers. Five of the eight quarterfinalists (Hogan, the Grosses, Cohen, and Hilecher) grew up in that midwestern city which has long been recognized as the country's most prolific producer of racquetball champions. It also seems there was a mysteriously large supply of Ram balls in the St. Louis area for two weeks prior to the Oregon pro stop. Oh well; those, as they say, are the Missouri breaks.

Two of the quarterfinal matches were close, and two were not. Mike Yellen and Bret Harnett breezed past Ruben Gonzalez and David Gross in four and three games, respectively.

Marty Hogan finally laid to rest the widely-held belief that, for him, the faster the ball the better when he was extended to the limit by red-hot Jerry Hilecher in the quarters. Hogan was clearly uncomfortable with the speed. Hilecher finally yielded, but not before extending Marty



Andy Gross and commentator on cable T.V.

to five hard-fought games, 11-7, 7-11, 11-6, 5-11, 11-8.

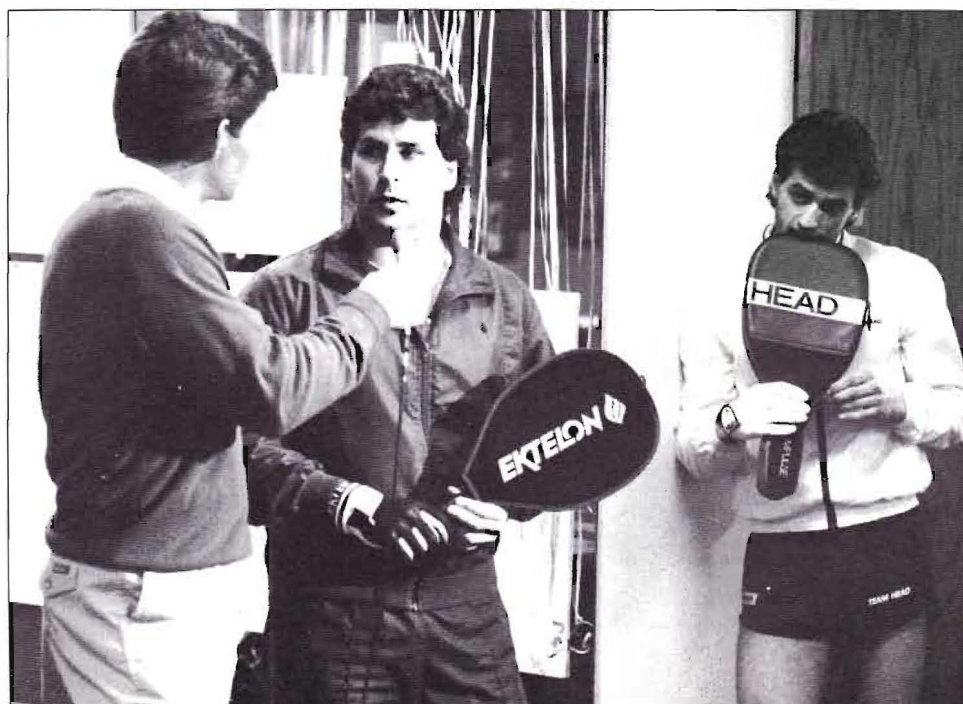
And Doug Cohen earned the first semifinal finish of his career by taking out a stubborn Andy Gross, also in five games, 11-3, 4-11, 8-11, 11-4, 11-8. Cohen is putting together his best season ever. After winning the national juniors title in 1979 and turning pro, Doug had some early successes on the tour, but for the last two seasons his game has been stagnant. His strong showings in the last three events have put him in a good position to finish the season in the top ten.

Mike Yellen's defeat of Doug Cohen in the semifinals was a surprise to no one—Cohen has never beaten Yellen in a tour event. What was surprising was the strength of Yellen's performance. Because he plays a methodical control game, most

of his fellow players expected Mike to have fits with the ball speed. But Yellen is amazingly adaptable. He had his timing locked, and disposed of Cohen in three fairly close games, 11-9, 11-7, 11-10. Although Mike didn't know it at the time, it was a victory worth \$4,000.

The fans in Beaverton had good reason to expect a fine semifinal match between Hogan and Harnett on Saturday night. Over the last two-and-a-half years, the rivalry between pro racquetball's top two power players has grown into one of the best in the game. Although Harnett's sole victory over Hogan took place at the Ektelon Nationals last May, many of their contests in the past have gone right down to the wire. Stated simply, Bret Harnett is the only player in racquetball who can match Hogan stroke for stroke

Yellen in a T.V. interview with a nervous Cohen next in line





Hogan yelling at himself in the semi



Harnett immediately after scraping by Hogan in his spectacular semifinal win

at his own power game.

Two critical factors were clear from the opening moments of the match. First, Harnett was having fewer problems with the fast ball; because he is tall, Bret has learned to hit down on the ball more than Hogan who tends to strike low and lift. Hogan had fits keeping his shots down—Bret didn't. And second, Harnett came out of the gates with an unusual amount of intensity. Harnett and Hogan are close friends, and, whether or not it is really true, it has certainly seemed in some of their past matchups that Bret wasn't giving 100%. For whatever reason, on this

day he was giving it his all.

The first four games were a delight; Hogan took the first and third, Harnett the second and fourth. But in the tie-breaker Bret was brilliant. Relying heavily on his rocket drive serve down the left side wall (many of which went untouched by Hogan), and literally sacrificing his body by diving for anything fast and blue, Bret completely overwhelmed Hogan as he ran up a surprising 10-2 lead. Seven times he served at match point, and six times Hogan held him off, running his own score to 8.

Finally, while unknowingly gripping his

racquet with a broken thumb, Harnett rolled an outright winner to Hogan's backhand and raised his arms to the standing crowd in celebration. The match was one of his best performances ever, and the tie-breaker was almost certainly the finest single game of his pro career.

The LaBatt's Pro-Am in Beaverton is one of the most traditional events on the men's pro tour. This year marked its fifth as a ranking tour stop, and the tournament was once again taped for telecast throughout the Northwest by Rogers Cable Systems.

Great credit is due the fine tournament staff at the Griffith Park Athletic Club—Devri Doty, Tony Krause, Lynn Thompson, and Wayne Westwood—for running a first-class tournament despite some... well, difficult circumstances. Donations are now being taken to a new shirt for Devri printed with the phrase, "I Survived the 1985 Beaverton Pro Stop."

The 1985 LaBatt's Pro-Am was sponsored by LaBatt's, Omni Distributing, Nike, and Ram Racquetball.

LaBatt's Pro-Am Beaverton, Oregon March 13-17, 1985

Qualifying Round:

W. Clouse d. B. Laughter; 3,8,7
M. Martino d. H. Marcus; 2,4,2
E. Inoue d. M. Henshaw; 2,2,(8),2
D. Negrete d. P. Marino; 7,(8),6,0
M. Lowe d. F. Snow; 9,3,(9),(10),3
J. Plazak d. J. Housgard; 7,5,(7),(10),9
J. Negrete d. M. Griffith; 5,9,2

Round of 32:

M. Hogan d. J. Nolan; (7),(10),6,7,0
E. Inoue d. M. Ray; (6),(10),6,5,8
G. Price d. B. Sell; 4,2,7
J. Hilecher d. C. Brysman; 10,0,(7),2
B. Harnett d. D. Green; 2,(5),7,4
W. Clouse d. E. Andrews; 6,(4),(8),0,6
E. Terry d. J. Newman; 5,5,5
D. Gross d. D. Peck; 8,6,(2),8
A. Gross d. G. Peck; (3),6,4,(3),9
M. Martino d. J. Egerman; 7,9,5
S. Oliver d. J. Plazak; 5,3,5
D. Cohen d. R. Wagner; 7,9,6
R. Gonzalez d. D. Negrete; 7,3,4
C. Swain d. J. Negrete; 2,0,0
B. Hawkes d. M. Lowe; 7,3,8
M. Yellen d. D. Obremski; forfeit

Round of 16:

Hogan d. Inoue; 8,6,6
Hilecher d. Price; 5,1,5
Harnett d. Clouse; 7,(10),6,3
D. Gross d. Terry; 5,3,(10),4
A. Gross d. Martino; (9),7,4,8
Cohen d. Oliver; 5,10,0
Gonzalez d. Swain; (8),6,8,4
Yellen d. Hawkes; 4,(5),7,7

Quarterfinal Round:

Hogan d. Hilecher; 7,(7),6,(5),8
Harnett d. D. Gross; 7,1,4
Cohen d. A. Gross; 3,(4),(8),4,8
Yellen d. Gonzalez; (5),7,2,3

Semifinal Round:

Harnett d. Hogan; (10),2,(6),5,8
Yellen d. Cohen; 9,7,10

Final Round:

Yellen d. Harnett; Injury forfeit
Total Prize Money: \$10,000

Harnett holds up his broken thumb to the spectators



Devri Doty—Beaverton tournament director





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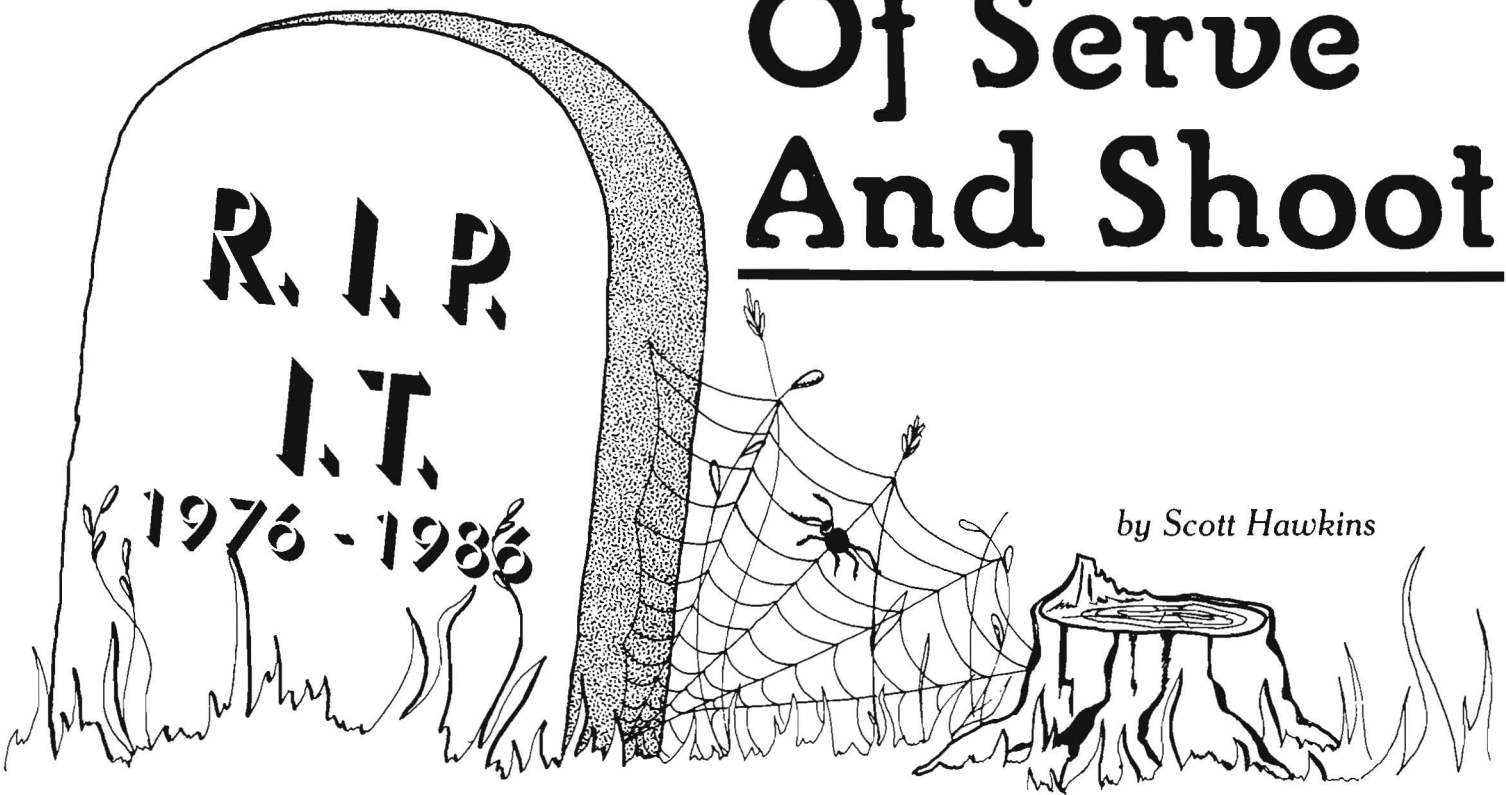
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The Myth Of Serve And Shoot



by Scott Hawkins

It has now been nearly nine months since I retired from competitive racquetball, and in that time I have done a great deal of reflecting on my experience as a professional. I have spent a lot of time trying to answer the questions that eluded me during my playing years. I believe in the past few months I have found the answers to some of those questions, and I have come to the realization that during my days as a racquetball professional, I was playing the wrong game style.

That statement may come as a surprise to those who remember that I played an aggressive game, a style that has become known as "serve-and-shoot." The serve-and-shoot style of play became very much in vogue after the emergence of Marty Hogan in the mid-1970's. It was the style that had supposedly revolutionized the sport of racquetball, and was therefore the style I embraced as my instrument to take me to the top of the sport. My mistake was that I took serve-and-shoot on faith, and never questioned the foundation upon which it is built. I

now believe that it is a game-style that relies on a superior stroke, outstanding athletic ability, and a shot selection with no set objective except to end the rally—now.

Since that concept now seems to me to be a very unreasonable approach to racquetball, I have gone back and started from scratch to find the most intelligent way to maximize one's racquetball potential. What I have found makes a mockery of the entire concept of serve-and-shoot racquetball:

Rule 1

The most important aspect of racquetball play is footwork—the need to set up on the ball properly and consistently so that you can continually hit the most effective shot, within the limits of your stroke potential.

The next time you watch a serve-and-shooter play, notice how little attention he pays to his footwork. Most serve-and-shooters are swift runners; they reach many balls, but their speed is wasted by what they do when they reach the ball.

Most of the time they don't take the extra step or the little shuffle of the feet that is necessary to get their body into the right hitting position. Serve-and-shooters tend to think that once they've reached the ball, the stroke is all-important. But in reality, the best stroke is almost worthless unless it is preceded by proper footwork.

Rule 2

Since footwork is the most important component in an effective game, the main objective of shot selection should be to thwart your opponent's ability to set up on the ball. This is accomplished by: (1) setting up on your own shot properly; and, (2) selecting the shot that is most likely to keep your opponent off-balance so that his return is weak and ineffective.

It is in the area of shot selection that the concept of serve-and-shoot really falls apart. The code of the serve-and-shooter is, "I can shoot the ball from anywhere and make it roll." And it is true, at times they can; but not with the consistency that is required for a direct and coherent game plan. The serve-and-shooter relies heav-

ily on his athletic ability, and consequently he is a hero one minute, and a goat the next. And in the end he falls desperately short of his playing potential.

Rule 3

If the two variables, footwork and shot selection, are given as constants, the player with the better stroke will always win. The stroke is the single greatest determining factor when assessing the limitations of one's game. A player with a superior stroke can consistently be offensive in situations that force others with less effective strokes into defense.

It is this variation of stroke efficiency that produces what I call the "serve-and-shooter's paradox." The one talent that every "successful" serve-and-shooter possesses is exceptional stroke technique. This allows him to execute shots that would seem impossible to many. He survives desperate situations because he is able to stroke the ball effectively in all kinds of awkward positions. But, because he is able to do this so often, he attempts to do it all the time. Like the compulsive gambler, he is betrayed in the end by his own confidence; not because he lacks talent, but because the percentages were simply never there to begin with.

Having been able to observe the game from the outside for some time now, I believe I have found a better way. What do I call this revolutionary concept of racquetball? The same thing they called it ten years ago; control. Contrary to current wisdom, the control game did not die in the late seventies when Charlie Brumfield and Steve Keeley were forced out by the serve-and-shooters. In modified form it lived on in the games of Mike Yellen, Dave Peck, and Jerry Hilecher, the three most successful professionals of the last seven years excluding Hogan. To their credit, they all achieved this without any one of them being, in my opinion, among the ten best athletes to play professional racquetball. Their success and longevity are testament to each one's understanding of how to maximize their own athletic abilities.

So, how did an entire generation stray from the gospel of racquetball? They were seduced away by the one glaring exception to the rule—Marty Hogan. Personally, I don't believe Marty has ever understood how to get the most from his phenomenal ability. His misuse of talent has allowed many less-talented players to challenge him, and has in fact probably cost him the national championship for the past two seasons. But the one thing

"So, how did an entire generation stray from the gospel of racquetball? They were seduced away by the one glaring exception to the rule — Marty Hogan."

Marty does understand is how to get the most from his body. Marty is the strongest, fastest, and most durable player in the history of racquetball. He has developed his body to a point where he now possesses a combination of physical attributes that were once thought to be incompatible. Because of that, he wins; even though he plays consistently well below his potential.



Marty Hogan

An entire generation of racquetball players have mistakenly used Marty's game style as a model. The logic has been, "He's number one, therefore what he's doing has got to be the best." That logic works most of the time, but not here. Somehow, we all failed to see that what made Hogan great was not his game style, but his superior athletic ability.

High-level racquetball is ripe for a new role model. Yellen, Peck and Hilecher have all come close at times. Each has had his moment at the top, and each has beaten everyone in the game consistently for long stretches. But none have possessed the pure athletic ability necessary to truly knock Marty Hogan off his throne.

Racquetball's new role model will not come until there appears a young player who has the great physical abilities usually associated with serve-and-shooters, but who also perceives the wisdom of the control-style game. To most, his play will not look like control racquetball, because he will use his natural ability to push back those "confining walls" of the current control-style shot selection, and he will create new standards for the game. The general concept will be the same as that espoused by Brumfield and Yellen, but this player will be able to do so much more. Shots that now are hit defensively will be turned to offense. His game will appear highly aggressive, yet there will be no loss of consistency. There is no good reason for the present dichotomy that exists between the great athletes and a good court mind.

Although racquetball's new role model has not yet risen to the top, I suggest keeping an eye on one young player: Gregg Peck. Gregg is a big, strong, hard-hitter who plays in much the same style as his older brother. And yet, his recent performances seem to suggest that Gregg may have the physical ability to do what Dave never could—match Hogan's speed stride-for-stride without sacrificing consistency. This season Gregg has raised his professional ranking to #3, and his game still lacks some polish and experience. I believe it may be just a matter of time before he matures and starts raising the standards by which racquetball is played.

Whether our new model will be Gregg Peck or another player who will appear in the next few years, it is time to re-evaluate the game, and perhaps to re-examine its roots. And it's time to return to a racquetball game style that is fundamentally sound and works for all, not just a few. ●

Racquetball as a sport has come of age. Audiences have grown larger, tournament participants have increased, and the purses have become fatter, while the competition has become fiercer. The game has literally developed into the world's fastest growing sport out of what was considered a recreational activity played by a very small number of people only about twenty years ago.

As every sport develops, rules change, players become more sophisticated athletes, and important issues face the top competitors. So, too, with racquetball. When players become good enough to earn prize money in the pro tour, their justly-earned achievement inevitably forces them to make a decision—to choose between turning pro or remaining amateur. Those who have reached this level of skill will tell you that it is not easy to get there; but if you do, you will have to face this decision.

The number one question asked of top-rank players is whether they are pros or amateurs. This question is usually followed by "what do you have to do to turn pro?" I usually respond with "become a better player."

Because of the short history of the game and the way it has developed, the differences between the pro and amateur divisions are not quite clear to everyone, and the distinctions between the two categories are often unclear for a number of reasons. To many, the traditional connotations of each category still holds: a pro has exalted skills and outstanding experience. This notion tends to glorify or idolize pros in all sports: pro-golfer, pro-football player, and so on.

Amateur, on the other hand, still churns up the traditional image of one who engages in certain activities as a pastime. An "amateur athlete," in general, lacks the professional competence to compete, the skills necessary for success. The traditional meaning of the word in most people's eyes remains negative, still denoting the original sense of the term from the Latin base *Amator*, "one who loves" but in a frivolous sense. Thus, we commonly hear phrases such as "a bunch of amateurs," "an amateur performance," and so on.

However, these traditional definitions do not accurately apply to many sports, especially racquetball. I would like to offer a useful definition of each and an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the two categories.

But first, a few historical notes. In

Amateur Or Pro?

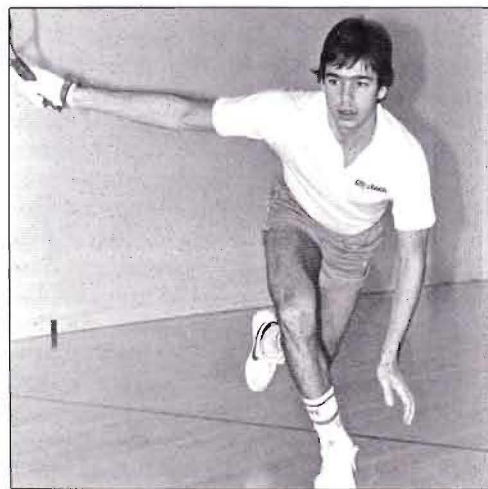
Amateur/Pro Dan Ferris Tells Us How To Have The Best Of Both Worlds

by Dan Ferris and Dr. Joseph Young

1982 and 1983, the Men's Professional Tour changed abruptly. The conditions allowed only the top twelve professional racquetball players to compete on the tours of those two years. This came at a time when I, fresh out of college, committed myself seriously to the game, dedicated to becoming a career professional. However, given the restrictions imposed by the Catalina Tour, I, like many others, had no choice but to continue as an amateur.

The consequences of this tour change were devastating to many serious players. First, the tour completely eliminated all but the top twelve pros, leaving all other pros in a very awkward situation, a catch 22 of sorts. On the other hand, approximately twenty pros could no longer play in the the pro stops; and on the other hand, since they were classified as professionals, they could not play amateur tournaments either.

As I now look back on this event, I realize that remaining an amateur provided me with many benefits, in both prize money and recognition. I went on to win the National Amateur Championship



Dan Ferris

in 1983 and 1984, two finishes which allowed me, furthermore, to become a member of the U.S. National Racquetball team. This participation further expanded my exposure and opportunities, and I subsequently became the first American to win an international tournament held outside of the United States. This competition, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, proved to be an opportunity that I other-

wise would not have had. Thus being an amateur helped me immensely.

Technically, an amateur in racquetball is a player who *has not* accepted prize money in any professionally-sanctioned tournament within the preceeding twelve months. As previously indicated, amateur status is in no way negative or less superior.

However, I don't want to give the impression that becoming a pro is a matter of a player's own decision. Like anything of value, becoming a pro racquetball player requires discipline, hard work, dedication and long hours. Pros have to earn the title of professional by making the final sixteen, a cut-off point below which a racquetball player receives a paycheck. And not every player can make the top sixteen.

Given the way the game has evolved, "amateur" and "professional" have simply become separate divisions. In the professional sphere, a pro is any player who *has* accepted prize money in any professionally-sanctioned tournament, and, as such, the player automatically loses amateur status for the succeeding twelve months. Consequently, pro status may not always be "superior" to that of amateur. The categories, or divisions, are simply different. And do not forget that many "amateurs" can successfully compete against many "pros."

However, as a common occurrence, many young players consider only the pro category and make an all-out effort to jump into the pro ranks as soon as their competitive abilities allow them; they, therefore, bypass considerable exposure and many splendid opportunities as a potential amateur champion.

Competitive players need to remember the importance of exposure and the resultant marketability; the amateur arena helps develop both, a condition true of competitive sports in general. Consider, for example, that in NCAA athletics many players want to jump directly from high school to the pros. No doubt, some can successfully make this transition, but many more cannot. Here's the chief drawback as I see it: bypassing amateur competition means, in most cases, bypassing marketability. Almost everyone agrees that a Heisman Trophy winner will be more in demand than any high school ball player, regardless of ability and talent. Some players do not realize that NCAA or amateur athletics help athletes develop and mature. As racquetball grows and competition gets tougher, the

PRO

Pros

- Player contracts may include bonuses and salaries over expenses
- Prize money can be taken in cash
- Excellent exposure by being in the top 4

Cons

- Limited exposure unless in the top 4-6 players
- Elimination from all AARA tournaments: even those with prize money
- Prize money break down drops very fast, eg: \$4,000, \$1,800, \$900 \$400, \$100—Must make it to semi-finals in order for prize money to exceed expenses
- Pro tour not concrete

AMATEUR

Pros

- Excellent exposure for good players not able to be a top-ranked pro
- U.S. Racquetball team plus other AARA events
- International competition
- Can compete in both AARA and pro tournaments (Can receive the best of both worlds)
- May use pro prize money to pay racquetball expenses

Cons

- Unable to accept professional prize money in cash; must have it reimbursed for expenses
- Also have limited exposure unless you finish among the top amateurs at the AARA Nationals

idea of marketing and maturing as an amateur will gain more popularity. I encourage players to keep amateur status and also play in the pro stops and have the best of both worlds.

As this article attempts to demonstrate, both pro and amateur classes have their appealing points. The above chart sums up my view on the advantages and disadvantages.

Both pros and amateurs can compete for top dollar and spotlight recognition, but pros sometime face limited opportunities. For example, they cannot enter into tournaments sanctioned by the AARA (American Amateur Racquetball Association) in which first place money, like that of the Michigan 7, often exceeds \$500.00.

Using professional prize money to cover expenses can be very appealing. For example, world class skiers Phil and Steve Mahre made over a million dollars last year, yet both remain amateurs. Some of their expenses include houses, cars, whirlpools, and traveling.

Another important consideration involves the future of the pro game. As

we have seen in the past, the pro tour has had its problems. In addition to the problem that Catalina presented, the stops are few, and the prize money is low, a problem that has plagued racquetball for years; but steps have been taken to provide fatter purses. Rumor has it that the RMA (Racquetball Manufacturers Association) will possibly be subsidizing pro tournaments in the future.

The best of both worlds involves first marketing yourself through the amateur arena before aspiring to pro level. And remember: most amateurs do play in the pro stops, for most stops are designated pro-amateur, allowing amateurs but not pros.

In this article, I have attempted to discuss the differences between the two classes as I see them. In my 14 years of racquetball playing, I have competed as both a pro and an amateur, and I strongly believe that both have their merits—both have progressed and are continuing to improve and develop.

If you are serious about racquetball, remain an amateur and play in the pro tour—what I call the best of both worlds.

CPRO IN WINNIPEG

The third stop on the Canadian Professional Racquetball Organization (CPRO) Tour took place in Winnipeg, Manitoba February 22-24, 1985. This normally windy, chilly city (temperatures averaging -30 degrees Celsius throughout winter) warmed up to a balmy -10 degrees for the twelfth annual Keystone Classic CPRO/AM. We believe it had to do with the warm reception and hospitality of the Manitoba Racquetball Association's Debbie and Dennis Jones, and Ron and Vicki Spires.

A total of twelve seeded pros from across Canada and eight qualifiers filled out a 20-man draw competing for \$6,000 in prize money. All the top names were present, the likes of Lindsay Myers, Sherman Greenfeld, Roger Harripersad, and Haydn Jones, with the exception of one Brian Valin who was sidelined with a broken hand. Apparently, Valin reached into his locker before removing his lock and opening the door after suffering a loss at a local racquetball tournament in Ontario.

The Supreme Racquet Courts was the host club, with eight courts (three glass backwall viewing) and full amenities—including a well-stocked bar. The main sponsors of CPRO are Canadian Pacific Airlines and AMF Voit Canada, with the tournament sponsors being Carling's Breweries and Blackwoods Beverages.

The event was sold out with 250 single entries and doubles teams on top of that. . . by far the largest tournament in central Canada this year. Again, they got their money's worth when it came to watching the pros.

Lindsay Myers, a recently licensed stock broker at Yorkton Securities Inc. in Vancouver, and Cliff Hendrickson, co-owner of the Foothills Racquetball Clubs of Calgary, teamed up to put on the free, sold-out CPRO clinic to

30 eager racquetballers on registration night. The waiting list was 30 people long. The response to the professional clinics has been overwhelming, and feedback has been nothing short of fantastic.

There were no major upsets in the first or second rounds, as first-seeded Myers (B.C.) got by Warren Hart (Sask.) 3-1, and Martin Gervais (Que.) 3-1 en route to the semis. Fourth-seeded Haydn Jones (Ont.) had no problems with Paul Shanks (Alta.) 3-0, and Rick Gartel (Alta.) 3-0 to face Myers in the semis.

Second-seeded Sherman Greenfeld (Man.) sliced through Greg Stardub (Man.) 3-0 and Mike Gerecia (Ont.) 3-0, getting to the semis to meet up against third-seeded Roger Harripersad (Alta.). Harripersad struggled through Joe Kirkwood (Man.) 3-2 and put away Woody Clouse (B.C.) 3-1.

The big upset of the tournament came when Haydn (Canadarm) Jones rolled through a struggling Myers, 3-1. The last time these two met was in Vancouver back in November of '84 with Myers coming out ahead. It was apparent that Myers was not even remotely prepared for the match as his timing was out to pasture against the powerful, long-reaching Jones, who by contrast was right on his game.

Greenfeld had a relatively uneventful semi against Roger Harripersad, who although showing flashes of brilliance, was unable to make a dent in his opponent's armor, falling three straight games. The finals proved to be the best played, most exciting match of the tournament. Greenfeld and Jones had never met and therefore had no previous experience to base their game plans on. The crowd got to see an extremely interesting strategy unfold. Jones, with his size and power, came to the court to reach, pummel and roll.

He had Greenfeld all over the court doing the "headless Ban-shee chicken hunt" for the elusive blue egg. First game score was an impressive 11-3 victory.

Greenfeld, in the second "found himself" and combined the "hunt" with some of his own expertise, using wide passes and tight pinches to produce an 11-8 win. The sparring went on for the next two games, much to the crowd's delight, culminating in the fifth and deciding game.

The Winnipeg native Greenfeld jumped to a 4-1 lead, then 5-3 and 9-4. Jones, it seemed, had tired and having never been in the finals of a CPRO event, didn't have the wherewithall to come and put the game away, finally succumbing 11-5. This was the third consecutive Keystone PRO/Am win for Greenfeld.

The pro consolation final saw Cliff Hendrickson (Alta.) defeat Brian Thompson (Alta.). ●



Egerman Wins in Spokane

by Ike Bailey

It may have been freezing outside in Spokane, Washington, February 14th through the 17th, but inside Club East's first Pro/Am there were some barn-burning matches to heat up the crowd. Before the four days were over, American pro John Egerman would walk away with a lion's share of the \$3,500 in cash prizes by taking both the Pro Singles title and sharing in the Pro Doubles spotlight with partner John Lochridge.

In one of the best pro and amateur turnouts in the Northwest, over 140 entrants from Canada, California, Washington, Idaho and Montana locked horns in some spectacular battles.

The spectators squeezed into the stands on Saturday night to watch two exciting semifinal tie breaker doubles matches. Little did they know it would be a chance to see Andrews and Egerman work out before they were destined to meet each other in the final on Sunday. Ed Andrews paired up with Fielding Snow to take on Paul Shanks and Roger Harripersad of Calgary. Left handed Shanks and the unbelievable speed of Harripersad were able to shut the door on the tournament's number one seed, Ed Andrews and his partner. At the same time next door, the doubles team of John Egerman/John Lochridge defeated Jeff Larson and Dan Allen.

In the Pro singles, Egerman drew a tough draw and went through Harripersad and Lindsay Myers, displaying the talent he had shown to all on Wednesday night when he gave a free clinic at the club. This set the stage for the finals on Sunday against Andrews who had little trouble winning in his bracket.

The Pro Singles final kicked off with spectators spellbound by the best level of play ever seen in this area. Spokane was finally to have two top ranked pros display their talent live before an appreciative crowd. The rallies were powerful and quick. The speed and endurance of Egerman and the reach and power of Andrews made for some beautifully executed rallies, but it was Egerman of Head Racquetball who in the end defeated Andrews of Ektelon in two straight games. John earned the top cash award of \$1,000 for his fine performance.

The Pro Doubles finals turned into a real tough contest for the Egerman/Lochridge versus Shanks/Harripersad matchup. Each team took a game and the tie-breaker was barely broken 15-14 in favor of Egerman and Lochridge who earned a stand-

ing ovation from the stands and the \$600 prize for first place.

Our sponsors, Shasta Beverage, Rainier Beer, Nick and Joey August Distributors, Foot Joy, Wilson Sporting Goods, Fortunate Life Center and Spokane Valley Sports Medicine deserve a special thanks for helping Club East provide this first Pro/Am tournament, but most of all, a very special thanks to the great turnout of American and Canadian amateur players who made it such a great event.

Tournament director Ike Bailey said he is going to look into a minor problem he heard about concerning the men's and women's locker rooms. It seems both sexes were walking into each other's dressing rooms "by accident." What do you believe? Arrangements for handling these minor problems and coming up with even larger cash prizes for next year are in the works.

Andrews Remains #1 In \$100,000 Grand Prix

Ed Andrews defeated Cory Brysman 15-1, 15-8, in tournament #10 of the \$100,000 Sports and Fitness Racquetball Grand Prix on February 3rd at the Valley Health & Racquetball Club in El Monte, California. The tournament drew a number of the top pros, notably Brian Hawkes and Egan Inoue (from Hawaii) besides Andrews and Brysman.

Brysman defeated Hawkes and Andrews overcame Mike Gustavson in the semifinals. In the Men's A division, Vince Jimenez edged out Don Dipalma and in doubles play, the hardy team of Dave and Kevin Johnson of Huntington Beach upset favorites Hawkes and Brysman in two straight games.

Tournament Director Jim Ross would like to thank sponsors D.P. Industries, Michelob Light, Solana Tanning Center, Penn Racquetball, Pony Shoes, A'ME Grips and Rip Plum Sportwear for their continued support of the Grand Prix.



Left to Right: Minato/Hirasaka men's doubles champs, Ohta—women's doubles champ, Ishimoto—seniors champ, E. Watanabe—women's doubles champ

ALL-JAPAN DOUBLES & ALL-JAPAN SENIORS

by Ken Shinn, Japan Correspondent

The racquetball players of Japan gathered for the first tournaments of the year on February 10th and 11th. The 2nd Annual All-Japan Men's and Women's Doubles tournament and the 1st Annual All-Japan Men's Seniors tournament sponsored by JARA (Japan Amateur Racquetball Association) were held at Oaks Racquetball Club in Kashiwa City, Chiba Prefecture (territory). Kashiwa is a city located in the northeast of Tokyo and it takes about an hour by train to arrive there from the center of Tokyo. Oaks opened in November 1982 and is equipped with eight racquetball courts, 17 tennis courts and its even has hotel accommodations. Therefore, it is very convenient for those players coming from other parts of Japan.

The Senior's tournament is particularly notable because it has just been added to JARA's tournament schedule this year. To qualify for the Senior's div-

ision, a player must be over 40 years of age as of the end of March, 1985. Fourteen players registered for this first tournament. By the end of the 10th, the quarter finalists had been selected. They were Ishimoto from Do Racquetball Club, Mitsushima from Oaks Racquetball Club, Nobeta from Kioicho Racquetball Club and Ishiguro from Kobe YMCA.

On the morning of the 11th, the semifinals took place and Ishimoto and Ishiguro defeated Mitsushima and Nobeta respectively and proceeded to the finals. The final was on the afternoon of that same day and Ishimoto led the game. He won by 15-4 and 15-5 to become the first Senior's Champion of Japan.

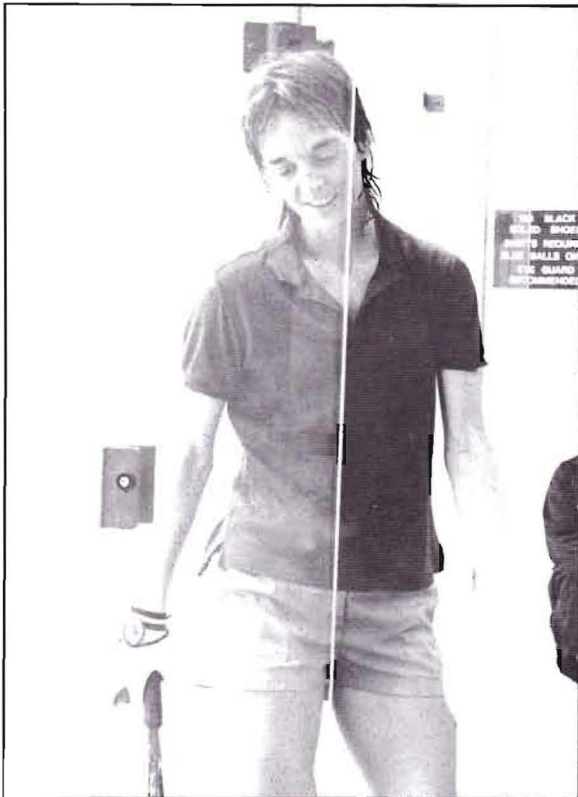
The All Japan Men's and Women's Doubles quarterfinals were also selected by the evening of the 10th. The women's quarterfinalists out of 14 participating teams were E. Watanabe/Ohta from XAX Racquetball Club, Kiuchi/Tozawa from DRC, Yamada/Kobayashi from

Musashino Sporting House and N. Watanabe/Sekiguchi also from Musashino. Watanabe/Ohta defeated Yamada/Kobayashi of the same club in the semifinals. Both women's teams in the finals displayed excellent teamwork but Ohta of XAX is left-handed and that gave her team a decided advantage. Watanabe/Ohta defeated Watanabe/Sekiguchi by 15-12 and 15-11 to take the 1985 Women's All Japan Doubles title.

In the Men's Doubles, matches, 46 teams signed up for the competition. Reaching the quarterfinals were Minato/Hirasaka from DRC, Ishimoto/Yoshiwara also from DRC, Ohya/Furuta from Big Bang Racquet Club, and Naoi/Kidokoro from KRC. At the semifinals as had happened in the Women's semifinals, two teams from the same club had to play each other. Minato/Hirasaka defeated Ishimoto/Yoshiwara (both teams from DRC) and Naoi/Kidokoro defeated Ohya/Furuta.

The men's finals were staged immediately following the women's finals on the 11th. There was some speculation on which team would be the strongest in the finals. Minato is a left-handed player and that made the Manato/Hirasaka team a well-balanced pair. Also in their favor was the fact that they had won the doubles title last year. Naoi, however, had defeated Hirasaka in the finals of the 3rd Annual All Japan Racquetball Championship this last December.

Both teams looked a little nervous at the beginning and each team missed easy set-ups. But they soon recovered and before long four bodies were running, jumping and chasing the ball all over the court. The play looked very even, but Naoi/Kidokoro lost the first game 15-9. When the second game started, it was obvious that Minato/Hirasaka were completely warmed up and they whipped their opponents 15-3 to become the Men's All Japan Doubles champs for two years in a row.



Panzeri On Top In WPRA Seattle Stop

Vicki Panzeri shows a home-town crowd a perfect finish and climbs into a solid number three WPRA ranking

For the second time in three weeks, Vicki Panzeri was a finalist in a WPRA tournament. For the first time in over two years she emerged the victor by winning the fifth annual Pacific West Classic held March 8-10, at the Pacific West Sport and Racquet Club, in Lynnwood, WA. In front of a home town crowd Vicki blasted by co-finalist Terri Gilreath winning the \$10,000 event in three games, 21-10, 21-7, 21-10.

It was a big win for Panzeri. Combined with her second place finish in Vermont, her victory in Lynnwood moved her from fifth to third place in the WPRA rankings, a spot which has long been reserved for Shannon Wright-Hamilton.

Almost from the beginning of the tournament Vicki was expected to go to the finals. Her game was razor sharp as she dominated her four opponents losing only two games—in the semis—to Liz Alvarado, of Odessa, Texas.

Going into the first game of the final Terri was the first to score. She warmed Panzeri up by shooting around her for most of the first 13 points of the game gaining an 8-5 lead. It was Gilreath's last lead of the match. With Vicki warmed up, the term "lunch" took on a new meaning to Gilreath. Vicki devoured Terri scoring eight times to every one scored by Gilreath, and won the first game 21-10.

Panzeri's skills were even sharper in game two. With the help of excellent serves, which included a couple of aces, Vicki jumped to an 11-1 lead. Panzeri timed every shot with "Swiss accuracy" and followed all of Terri's returns with a precision touch that left the Californian struggling to stay in a rally. Scoring for Gilreath was almost impossible. Terri's game had clearly lost the intensity of previous matches and Vicki's game was never sharper. She moved Gilreath all over the court and scored at the slightest

opening. Terri was never in the game. Vicki took it 21-7.

Any glimmer of hope for Terri was dashed in the third game as Vicki once again took control, racking up points at will. Terri called time out at 11-2 to regroup but to no avail. When play started, Vicki again sent Terri on tour of the court. No matter how Gilreath tried there was no containing Panzeri's near perfect shots. There seemed to be no defense, and so it was. Panzeri's total control of each rally kept Terri far from her own game style and ever on the defense.

For the second consecutive WPRA tournament, the final was painfully short. In contrast to Vermont, however, Vicki came out on top. She won three games in a row to take the match, 21-10, 21-7, 21-10.

Terry Gilreath's first tournament win over Lynn Adams



After the match Vicki seemed to discount the win saying, "It was an easy draw." But friend Bonnie Stoll was there to keep it in perspective. "Vicki, don't say that," she grinned, "I was in your draw!"

"I was nervous going into the final," Vicki said. "I expected that it would be a very close match and I felt that Terri could come back at any time. I played well, but Terri was mentally drained." There was little doubt that Terri had lost some of her mental energy after her five game bout with Lynn Adams the night before and an earlier five game marathon against Molly O'Brien, but even Terri was one of the first to say Vicki played great racquetball. "She was possessed," Terri said. "She didn't hit the ball with tons of speed but she placed it exactly where she had to. Her passes almost never came off the back wall. When I was running them down and would say to myself, 'Oh boy, there it goes.'"

In the semis Panzeri took out Liz Alvarado in five games. Alvarado, who had a great tournament by beating fifth seeded Fran Davis in the round of 16, and Babette Bell in the quarters, pushed Panzeri five games before Vicki stopped the 22 year old Texan. It wasn't exactly a friendly match. Vicki had made frequent requests to the referee to call avoidables when Alvarado crowded her shots, but hindes were called instead. In the third game Vicki left the court to again plead her case. The referee explained what he was seeing and told her he would watch more closely. At the suggestion of one of the spectators, Vicki took the next crowded shot and hit Alvarado. Vicki got a point for the avoidable but on the next shot Liz took the same liberty and put a welt on Panzeri. And so it went for the next two and a half games. In the end Vicki won the match, 21-17, 15-21, 19-21, 21-6, 15-12.

Alvarado's surprise semifinal finish gave her a big boost in the WPRA rankings. She moved eight places to take the number ten spot from Brenda Poe-Barrett.

The other semifinal match between the number one seed Lynn Adams and third seeded Terri Gilreath was a hard fought battle between the two Southern Californians. The match was so close that the cumulative score after four games totaled 78 points for each player. But the fifth game and the match were finally decided on a single, hotly contested point. With Adams leading in the fifth game 14-13, Terri ripped in a forehand that Adams thought skipped into the front wall. She offered her hand to Terri thinking the match was over but was told by the referee that the shot was good and the score was tied. Astonished by what she thought was an obvious skip, Adams appealed to the linesmen. It was thumbs down for the judge on the right, and the left linesman didn't see the shot. The point was to be replayed and Lynn was livid. She asked Terri if she was going to take that as the ruling or overturn it. Terri said she didn't see the ball skip and was going to take it. The next four points Terri came on like a tornado while the winds in Adams' sails were dying. Five serves later Terri won the match, 15-21, 21-23, 21-19, 21-15 and 17-15.

After the match Lynn said, "I shouldn't have let it get that close. She played really good racquetball, she really did, and I missed a lot of shots. I wasn't playing smart at all." About the replayed point she said, "There is no question the ball skipped, and in my mind I won that match 15-13. I was very blown away by the whole thing. I knew I couldn't make my shots after that. It was a good learning experience for the future. There is no reason why I shouldn't have gone ahead and won it anyway."

Later Terri explained her feelings about the replayed point. "I didn't see the ball hit the floor, and with three line judges that all saw it differently, there's no way I'm going to say, 'Oh, my ball skipped.' If the score was 3-3 I wouldn't have overruled the call either. I feel badly that it ended that way because it was a big win for me. It doesn't feel crisp because of the way the match ended but I did have to play hard to win those next four points. I did score more points than Lynn did."

Babette Bell, of Pensacola, Florida, surprised spectators upsetting fourth seeded Caryn McKinney in five games in the round of 32, 8-21, 17-21, 21-19,



Early round losses force Janell Marriott and Caryn McKinney to watch quarterfinals with Terri Gilreath and friends



Marci "The Drex" lost to Adams in the quarters

21-19, 15-8. She went on to beat Michelle Gilman before losing to Liz Alvarado in the quarters, 20-22, 21-11, 21-17, 15-21 and 15-12.

Molly O'Brien, of Sellersville, PA, played surprisingly aggressive racquetball beating sixth seeded Janell Marriott in the round of 16, 21-17, 22-20, 21-7. She then pushed Terri Gilreath five games before succumbing in the quarterfinals, 21-12, 21-8, 24-22, 21-19, 15-11.

Marci Drexler upset eighth seeded Jennifer Harding in a three game first round, 21-18, 23-21, 22-20. She went on to defeat Marcy Lynch, 21-11, 21-13, 21-17, before being stopped by Lynn Adams in the quarters, 21-5, 21-10, 21-13.

**Pacific West Classic
Lynnwood, Washington
March 8-10, 1985**

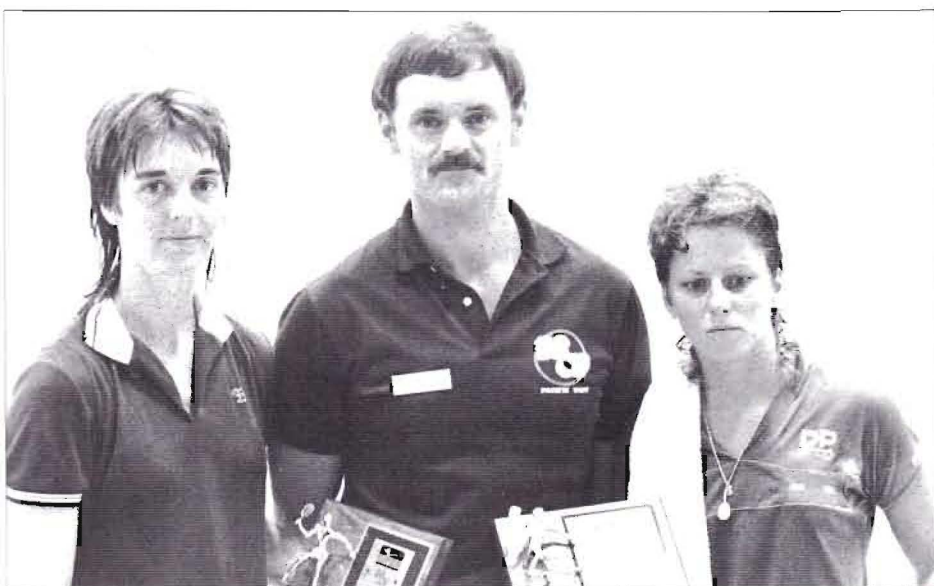
**Round of 32:
Lynn Adams-BYE**



Babette Bell before her quarterfinal battle with Alvarado



Panzeri slaps a backhand against Gilreath in the final



Finalists Vicki Panzeri and Terri Gilreath receive trophies from tournament director Bruce Hartley



Liz Alvarado took out Fran Davis and Babette Bell before losing in the semi against Panzeri

Tamara Low d. Tanya Spangler; 21-14, 21-16, 21-18
 Marcy Lynch d. Tracy Eagleson; 21-19, 21-19, 18-21, 19-21, 15-10
 Marci Drexler d. Jennifer Harding; 21-18, 23-21, 22-20
 Janell Marriott d. Robyn Stuhr; 21-9, 21-10, 21-11
 Molly O'Brien d. Helen Shields; 21-8, 21-9, 21-14
 Trina Rasmussen d. Val Paese; 21-11, 21-11, 21-12
 Terri Gilreath d. Sandy Robson; 21-7, 21-7, 21-11
 Babette Bell d. Caryn McKinney; 8-21, 17-21, 21-19, 21-19, 15-8
 Michelle Gilman d. Gail Woods; 18-21, 21-9, 22-20, 21-17
 Liz Alvarado d. Crystal Fried; 21-11, 21-3, 21-10
 Fran Davis d. Mona Mook; 11-21, 21-11, 21-14, 21-14
 Joyce Jackson d. Debbie Geigel; 21-9, 21-9, 21-11
 Bonnie Stoll d. Charlie Ortiz; 21-11, 21-12, 13-21, 21-16
 Sheri Strandberg d. Joyce Robertson; forfeit

Vicki Panzeri-BYE

Round of 16:

Adams d. Low; 21-12, 21-11, 21-13
 Drexler d. Lynch; 21-11, 21-13, 21-17
 O'Brien d. Marriott; 21-17, 22-20, 21-7
 Gilreath d. Rasmussen; 21-11, 21-8, 21-13
 Bell d. Gilman; 21-13, 21-7, 21-16
 Alvarado d. Davis; 10-21, 21-8, 21-7, 21-9
 Jackson d. Stoll; 21-11, 1-21, 21-19, 17-21, 15-11

Panzeri d. Strandberg; 21-15, 21-7, 21-12

Quarterfinal Round:

Adams d. Drexler; 21-5, 21-10, 21-13
 Gilreath d. O'Brien; 21-12, 21-8, 22-24, 19-21, 15-11
 Alvarado d. Bell; 20-22, 21-11, 21-17, 15-21, 15-12

Panzeri d. Jackson; 21-19, 21-19, 21-17

Semifinal Round:

Gilreath d. Adams; 15-21, 21-23, 21-17, 21-15, 17-15

Panzeri d. Alvarado; 21-17, 15-21, 19-21, 21-6, 15-12

Final Round:

Panzeri d. Gilreath; 21-10, 21-7, 21-10

Total Purse: \$10,000

Tournament Notes

The Pacific West Classic was sponsored by the Pacific West Sport and Racquet Club as part of their grand opening of their beautiful new club in Lynnwood, WA. the club is the newest of seven (soon to be eight) Pac West clubs in the Seattle area and is a nice addition to the equally beautiful city of Lynnwood. Local residents would be wise to check out a membership to the new club before there are no more left... Tournament director Bruce Hartley is to be congratulated on another fine tournament. The pro division went off without a hitch, and got rave reviews from all the players. . . The best one liner of the tournament came from an unnamed spectator who viewed the Liz Alvarado/Babette Bell match. Taking note of multiple welts on Alvarado's legs the viewer announced that Liz should be a poster child for the "Rip-It Foundation". . . WPRO rules expressly forbid excessive verbal encouragement of a particular player while watching a match. With that in mind, Bonnie Stoll felt safe yelling—right out loud—"Come on Marci!" (generic spelling), while watching the heated battle between Marci Drexler and Marcy Lynch. . . A final note about Bonnie Stoll. It was mentioned after the doubles exhibition match that Bonnie was considering a career change to pro wrestling. Bonnie says she has checked into a school that teaches the act and has gone so far as to think up a stage name—"Mink"—get it?*

*(Answer: Mink Stoll)

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Editor from page 4

teur service organizations in the country. We are developing new players as well as retaining our current ones without cost to the local facility."

Luke St. Onge, Executive Director of the AARA:

"Racquetball is only one step away from major international recognition. Racquetball has spread to 44 countries of which 22 are now recognized by the National Olympic Committee. In 1985, racquetball will be in the London World Games along with 24 other sports. Racquetball will be in the World Masters Games for competitors over 35 and will be held in Canada this summer along with 15 other international sports. Racquetball will be a demonstration sport in the Pan Am Games in 1987 and we feel it will be a full sport in the Pan Am Games by 1991. All this activity on an international scale will provide tremendous stability for the sport of racquetball."

John Denley, State Director of the AARA in New Jersey:

"We feel very strongly in the state of New Jersey that we must get racquetball into the school system. We will be

announcing a major program in April. We plan to ask the profitable clubs to donate into a trust fund to be administered by two club owners, between \$250 to \$500 per year. This would develop between \$15,000 to \$25,000 a year to offer the school system racquetball scholarships for their high school students. The clubs would also donate a period of their down-time hours for use by the high school who wish to offer the scholarships. The investment by the club would be returned by students rather quickly in the form of new memberships, family participation and increased participation of students within the community. We want to unite the club owner, the high schools and the manufacturer. I think this new program will be very ambitious, but very successful for everyone involved."

Fran Davis, representing the Women's Professional Racquetball Association:

"About 40% of all racquetball players are women. The WPRA is not just for the professional woman player. It is also for the amateur men and women. The WPRA has been designed to promote women's racquetball. We help clubs develop their down periods during the day by offering clinics for women who can play in the



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daytime hours. We raise the level of interest for the women players by showcasing the women in professional tournaments. If you invest time with the women's program with the WPRA as a vehicle you can promote and be profitable during the dead times of the day."

Drew Stoddard, Commissioner for the RMA Men's Pro Tour:

"Why, you may want to know, would the Racquetball Manufacturers Association put an appreciable amount of money into the men's pro game? They believe, as most people in organized sports believe, that one of the fastest ways to make a sport grow and bring new people into the sport is to put on display the absolute best that the sport has to offer and to make that product as exciting and visible as you can. I doubt there are many people that do not believe that if racquetball could gain a large amount of national exposure that it would mean an increase in the number of players in the clubs and an intensification of the players that are already there. One of the vehicles that will promote racquetball in the near future will be a portable glass court that should be in use by the end of this year which should solve many of the problems we've had with getting racquetball on television. Couple the new court with a national sponsor and increased prize money and the net result will be a general increase of growth for the sport.

Jason Holloman, Editor of International Racquetball:

"The media in racquetball is the connective tissue that holds the sport and its various organizations together. The organizations like the RMA, the AARA and the WPRA flex their muscles and we take note of the reactions. Through the eyes of the media, all people involved in racquetball can get in-depth coverage of professional and important amateur tournaments, up-to-date information on the evolution of the sport, exposure to new products that improve the sport and, in general, be entertained and informed about one of their favorite pastimes and fitness activities. By reading the racquetball media, a player becomes proud of the sport he participates in and through the knowledge he gains through reading, he passes on his enthusiasm for racquetball. That enthusiasm benefits all of us."

Pat McGlone, American Racquetball Handicap System:

"Historically, racquetball players have used self-declared comfort zones to measure performance. In other words, players chose their rating not earn their rating.

Now racquetball has a system that allows players to earn their performance rating. It's a results-oriented system that uses actual game scores to produce ratings. Once these ratings are established they become an incredible programming tool for the sport. Suddenly you have a national standard system for measuring performance from player to player, from club to club or from region to region. Everybody who uses the system knows what level of play they perform at and tournaments become more fair by reducing the risk of

sandbagging. Also, a standard rating system allows a player to figure out his handicap thus he can work to improve his game by playing against himself."

The meeting was a great success. I think everybody found out that although there are different organizations that we really aren't at odds with each other. We all want racquetball to be the best it can be and with just a little communication every once in a while, we might all be surprised at what could be accomplished.

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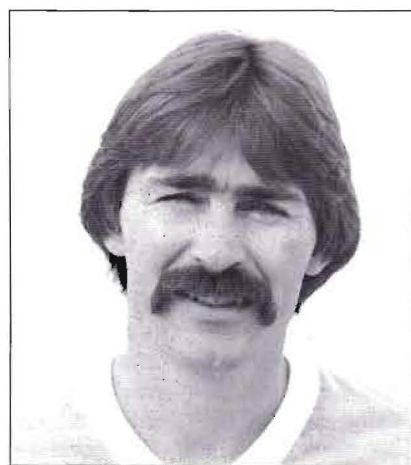
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ADVANCED RACQUETBALL



PART EIGHT: CUTTING OFF THE BALL

When your opponent's offensive attempt has been left up and is coming hard through the heart of the action zone, you must know how and when to cut this shot off, in the air or after one bounce. Even though the ball will come off the back wall if you let it go by, there are going to be many times in a match when you should capitalize on the situation by intercepting the ball and taking it back down low to score. You can't back off, for this aggressiveness—just like volleying at the net in tennis—will give your game a boost in several important ways.

First, you'll score more easy points as you take advantage of your positioning in the center-court area. Instead of moving back to play the ball off the back wall—and giving your opponent a chance to move forward into a prime

coverage position—you can end the point quickly with a straight-in kill, a tight pinch, or a pass. Even if you leave the ball up, you're still in good court position to cover your opponent's next shot.

Second, by holding your position and forcing the action, you'll keep a toehold in the center court—where you want to be. You'll also reduce your opponent's offensive potential and draw many weak returns by keeping him constantly on the move and under considerable pressure.

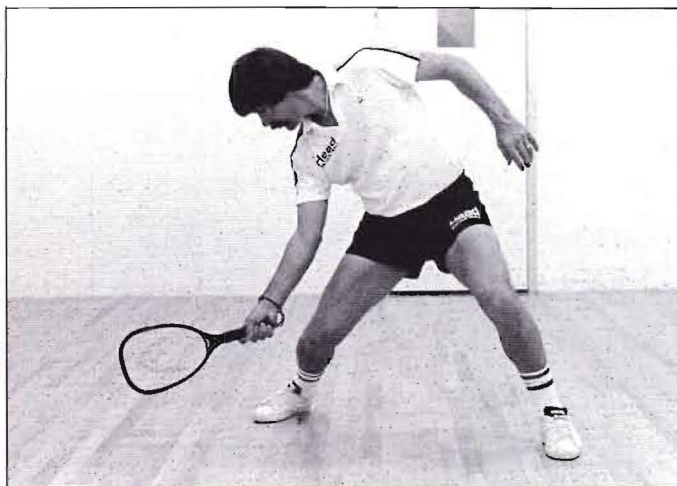
Third, if your opponent is off-balance or out of position after hitting, you'll have a variety of scoring options and it will be easier for you to angle the ball away from him—as a pinch or a pass—before he can recover. In addition, you can use your body positioning to legally block him off as you snap the ball into the open court

area.

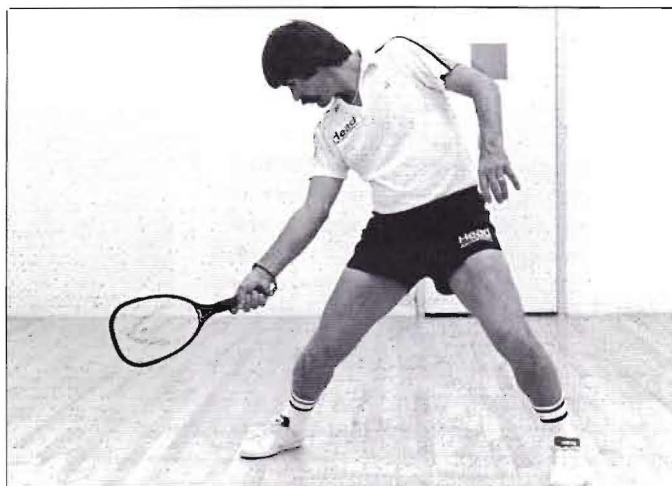
When you shy away from cut-off opportunities by letting every possible ball carry into the back wall, you must fight uphill against an aggressive opponent who understands the importance of controlling center court. Every time you go back to set up in deep court, he'll be moving forward into a prime coverage position and the pressure will now be on you to hit a perfect kill or pass to score points. You may be ripping for winners, but if you miss just a little, he's going to be able to cover nearly all of these shots—and most of them from up ahead of you. In short, he's going to control the match.

STRATEGY DECISIONS

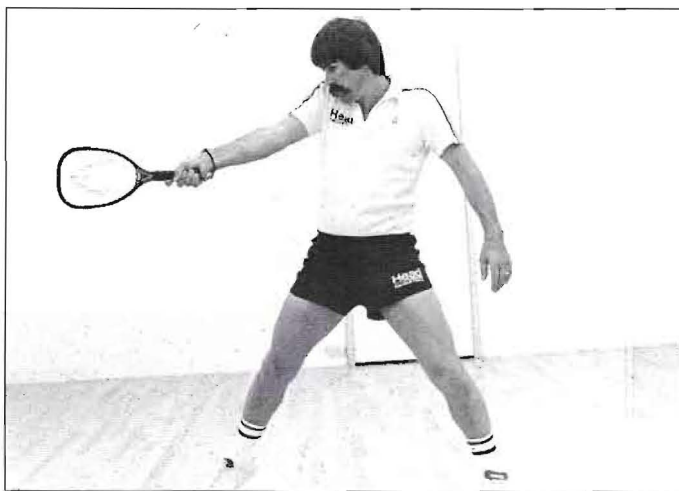
Through experience and practice, you'll gain the instincts needed to quickly judge whether



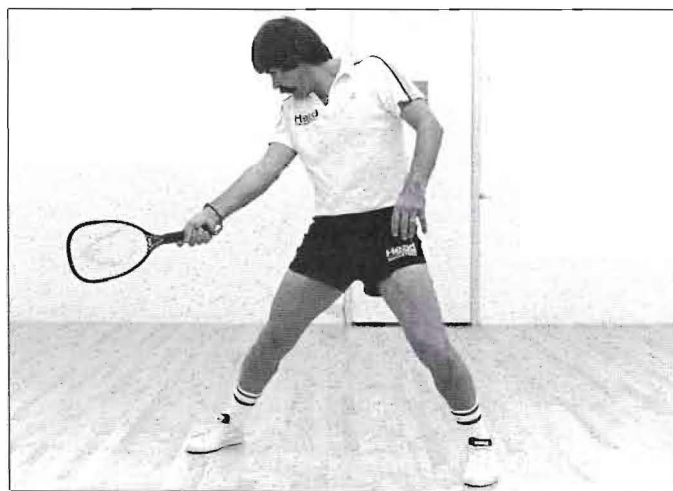
When cutting the ball off, you're often forced to hit from an open stance, with your body virtually facing the front wall, and without stepping into the ball. Here's where you need a sound upper-body swing and hip rotation. Top players learn to strike the ball when it's only a foot off the floor.



All advanced players must be able to hit the ball offensively when it's coming in at around knee height.



This is a crucial area that needs regular attention in practice. Instead of always letting a shot like this carry off the back wall, work on cutting it off efficiently at about waist level, especially when your opponent is out of position, or on your left hip and you want to kill it or drive it away from him for an immediate winner.



Bringing the ball down low from around chest level takes a high degree of skill, but this offensive approach can put great pressure on an opponent who's out of position and trying to scramble back into play. Remember, however, that this shot will easily carom off the back wall, so use good discretion when cutting a ball off this way.

you should cut the ball off or let it go through to the back wall. A useful guideline has always been: hold your ground against all balls that are coming to you *at waist level or below*. True, this is the kind of decision that must be made at advanced levels, but it's not always hard-and-fast. For example:

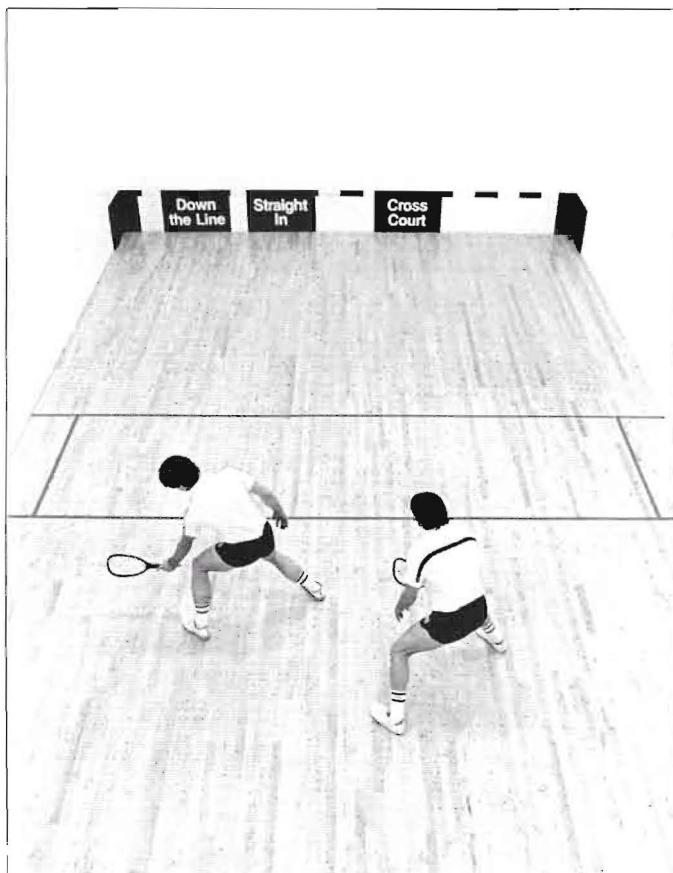
- If the ball is scorching through the center-

court at about waist level and you know that you're going to be forcing an offensive shot by trying to cut it off, it will be wiser to let the ball rebound off the back wall, enabling you to set up for a higher-percentage kill attempt.

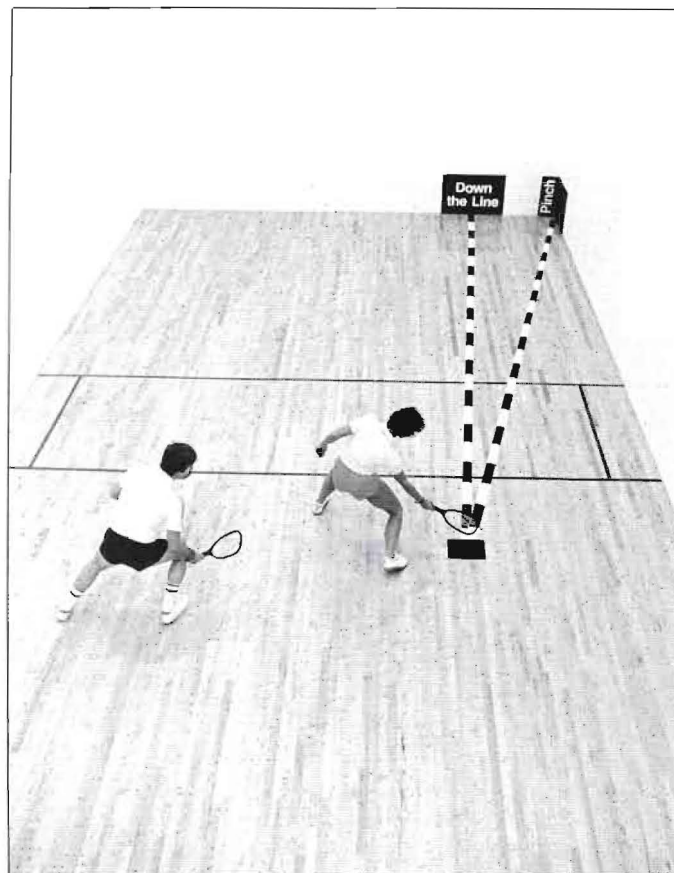
- If your opponent is already well-positioned—and you're scrambling or off-balance—instinct may tell you to take your

chances by letting the ball go past.

- If you realize that you're simply keeping the ball in play or giving your opponent setups, then be less aggressive here as you play important matches—but work hard on your technique in practice so that you can begin hitting the ball really low and accurately into the corners and the front wall.



When cutting the ball off in center court, the hitter wants to be thinking "low zone"—the entire area from the corners across the front wall—but he can actually score with 5 types of shots: pinches into either corner, kill-pass attempts, or the straight-in kill.



The hitter is positioned for a definite scoring opportunity. Although her opponent is already moving to the right in anticipation, her best shot is a down-the-wall kill or pass. However, she should also mix in tight pinch shots to keep her opponent "honest."

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When cutting the ball off, maintaining your position is not enough; you must be thinking low zone, going for outright winners or shots that at least keep pressure on your opponent by forcing him forward or to the side. If you fail to really do anything with the ball except rehit it, then eventually you're going to give your opponent a shot he can put away. (I see this problem occurring with players who try to play too close to the service box. Although they may cut many balls off, very often they only have time to punch a shot harmlessly into the front wall. By moving back 3 or 4 feet as their opponent sets up to hit, they would gain enough reaction time to put away a few balls and end some rallies in their favor.)

TECHNIQUE AND IMPROVEMENT

Cutting the ball off properly is a difficult skill to acquire and one that demands constant attention in terms of your reactions, movements to the ball, racquet control, and execution.

Since you're contacting the ball at different angles as it comes to you, usually waist high or below, you must rely on adaptable form (which was discussed in Chapter 4). As is stressed there, concentrate on giving yourself as much time as possible to get your body into a solid but efficient hitting position—ideally, with your feet planted firmly, since you'll not have time to actually step into the ball. Carry your racquet around midhigh so you're ready to set up quickly and you're free to rotate your upper

body into the shot, pulling through with a full but compact follow-through. Use your legs and hips as much as time allows and strive for solid contact with the ball, putting direction and accuracy ahead of power. Racquet control is also important because sometimes you'll want to drive a passing shot down-the-wall when your opponent is out of position, sometimes you'll try to take off a little speed as you block the ball into the corner, and other times you'll want to pinch the ball hard with overspin.

Learning to do all this confidently, under pressure, requires concentrated practice sessions. Yet here's a simple drill that will enable you to work on all the basic principles, alone or with a friend. Stand about 25 to 27 feet from the front wall in the middle of the court and start rallying by yourself (or with your friend), holding your position and cutting off as many balls as you can that come to you around waist high or below. At first, simply concentrate on hitting off your forehand side, driving the ball low into the front wall; if it comes back to you on two bounces, still try to make a play. Eventually, however, cover both sides of the court and consciously try for pinches, passes, and straight-in kills.

THE LOW-ZONE RALLY

Your ability to cut the ball off is going to prove crucial in low-zone rallies, where you and your opponent are suddenly caught up trying to put the ball away while scrambling to hold your

ground in the center-court area. In these intense, close-quarter exchanges, where there's little time to swing with picture-perfect form, you'll both be hitting the ball low—but not low enough or accurately enough to win the point outright. Thus, you'll be hitting from an open stance one moment—reacting to a ball coming straight at you—and an instant later you may be stretching out and digging up your opponent's potential winner. Here's where you must have the ability to adjust quickly and move into a position to take a quick, solid stroke as often as possible, so that you can make that difficult volley or the "reflex" shot where you don't have time to think. By hanging in the rally like this and keeping your opponent moving and off-balance, you'll find yourself winning more than your share of points.

Here again, rally against yourself from around 23 to 30 feet, trying to return every ball that comes to you about waist high or below. This will probably exhaust you in 5 minutes, but you'll be forced to take all the different strokes that come up in a quick-reaction rally—against balls that rebound directly off the front wall or carom off a side wall. ●

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APRIL 17-21 RANKING	Toyota/Lite Classic Merrit RB & Fitness Baltimore, MD Dave Pivec 301-532-2250	Toyota Mini- Van + \$7,200
MAY 1-5 RANKING	Ektelon Nationals The Sports Gallery Aneheim, CA Jim Carson 714-968-4313	\$22,000
MAY 10-12 NON-RANKING	One Last Shot Alpine Racquet Club 1040 Four Mile NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-784-3900	\$4,000+
MAY 15-19 RANKING	Crack Shooter Open Rocky Mountain Sports Club 1880 Westland Road Cheyenne, WY 82001 Steve Galassini 307-734-8884	\$10,000
MAY 30-JUNE 2 RANKING	Arcadia All-Pro (Amateur June 5-9) 56 E. Duarte Road 818-446-2175 or Jim Ross 714-539-1826	\$12,000+
JUNE 14-20 RANKING	DP Nationals Play-Off RB Club Beverly, MA Contact: New England Racquetball Assoc. 20 Oakes Street Millbury, MA 05127 617-754-6073	\$40,000

WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL TOURNAMENTS

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
MAY 1-5 RANKING	Ektelon Nationals The Sports Gallery Anaheim, CA Jim Carson 714-968-4313	\$18,700
MAY 17-19 RANKING	Sports World P.O. Box 6676 Lawton, OK 73506 Judy Smith 405-536-9963	\$10,000
JUNE 6-9 RANKING	WPRA Nationals Riverbend Athletic Club Ft. Worth, TX Ken Newell 817-284-3353	\$22,000

JUNE 14-20 DP Nationals \$20,000
NON-RANKING Beverly, MA
Contact: New England
Racquetball Assoc.
20 Oakes Street
Millbury, MA 05127
617-754-6073

OUTDOOR TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
JULY 5-7	Outdoor Nationals Contact: Barry Wallace 714-241-9075	
AUG 30-SEPT. 1	Sana Ana College Carol Herd 714-893-5821	\$1,300+
NOV. 22-24	Santa Ana College Carol Herd 714-893-5821	\$1,300+

APRIL April Region 6 Regionals STBA April 3-6 Towne & Country Tournament 2250 South 800 West Woods Cross, UT 84087 Mike Vandegriff April 4-7 Durango Racquetball Classic Court Club of Durango 1600 Florida Road Durango, CO 81301 April 5-7 Full Court Club Singles 1111 E. 40th St. Anderson, IN 46014 Donna Lewellen 317-649-7387 April 5-7 (Doubles) April 12-14 (Singles) Milk Open Pro/Am *4 Fairmont Racquet Club 3328 W. Genesee St. Syracuse, NY 13219 April 12-13 New Jersey Doubles *4 Spa 23 Racquet & Health Club Pompton Plains, NJ 201-839-8823 April 12-14 AARA Region 1 Championships *5 STBA April 12-14 Adult Regionals, Region 3 *5 Bethlehem Racquetball Club Bethlehem, PA Bernie Howard April 12-14 6th Annual Tiger Open *3 The Racquet Club 467 N. Dean Rd. Auburn, AL 36830	GINNA VINSON 887-9591 April 12-14 Montana State Singles *4 STBA April 12-14 Wyoming State Singles *4 Casper WRC/YMCA 315 E. 15th St. Casper, WY 82601 April 13-15 Region 4 Singles The Complex Suwanee, GA 404-945-8977 April 13-15 Adult Regionals, Region 6 *5 Olympian Health & Racquetball 2120 N. Woodlawn Wichita, KS April 13-15 1985 AARA Northeast Regionals STBA Paul Henrickson 617-754-6073 April 17-20 YMCA Tournament 737 East 200 South Salt Lake City, UT 84102 Ruth McGovern April 18-21 Adult Regionals, Region 15 STBA Seattle, WA April 18-21 Illinois State Doubles *4 STBA Chicagoland, IL Art Michaely 312-647-8222 April 19-21 RAM State Singles *4 Mt. Clemens Racquet Club Michigan
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Jim Hiser

April 19-21

Region 2 Championships *5
Al Seitelman
73 Babylon
Sound Beach, NY 11789

April 19-21

Adult Regionals, Region 7
San Antonio RB & Handball
849 Isom
San Antonio, TX 78216
Bruce Hendin

April 19-21

Region 11 Adult Regionals *5
Russell Courts
817 W. Russell
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-338-9902

April 24-27

Feeling Great Tournament
1194 South Main
Springville, UT 84663
Judy Watkins

April 25-28

Region 12 Adult Regionals
Tom Young's Athletic Club & Spa
2250 Wyoming Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

April 26-28

Adult Regionals, Region 14
STBA
San Francisco, CA

April 26-28

Men/Women Open, Novice, Doubles,
Juniors
Grand Junction Athletic Club
2815 Foresight Cr.
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Gary Scogin
903-245-4100

April 27-29

Asheville Circuit Ct.
Asheville, NC
Colon Wood
704-252-0222

April 29-31

AARA Region 2 Championships *5
STBA
Al Seitelman
73 Babylon
Sound Beach, NY 11789

MAY

May 1-4

Racqueteer Tournament
615 East 9800 South
Sandy, UT 84070
Randy Goodsell

May 2-5

Junior Regionals, Region 8 *5
STBA
Chicagoland, IL
Alvin Barasch
312-673-7300

May 3-5

East Coast Women's Championships
Racquetball International
Dave Isso
617-336-5600

May 3-5

Junior State Championships
Indiana Athletic Club
411 South Harbor Dr.

Noblesville, IN 46060

May 3-5

One Last Shot
Grand Rapids, MI
Jim Hiser
313-653-9602

May 3-5

Region 2 Juniors *5
73 Babylon
Sound Beach, NY 11789
Al Seitelman

May 3-5

Junior Regionals Region 4
Omega 40
1 South Kings Rd.
Ormond Beach, FL 32074
Steve Xynidis
904-672-4044

May 3-5

South East Junior Regionals
Anderso Athletic Club
1704 East Greenville Street
Anderson, SC 29621
Jan Parker
803-224-2297

May 3-5

State Singles
STBA
Seattle, WA

May 4-6

Junior Regionals Region 3
Sawmill Racquet Club
York, PA
Dick Lee and Jan Stauch

May 4-6

Junior Regionals Region 4
Anderson Athletic Club
1704 Greenville Street
Anderson, SC
803-224-2297

May 4-5

Junior Regionals Region 5
5675 Carmichael Pkwy.
Montgomery, AL 36117
Jack Sorenson
205-277-7131

May 8-11

Country Court House Tournament
10300 S. Redwood Road
South Jordan, UT 84065

May 8-12

Evergreen Athletic Club Open *3
2932 State Hwy 74
Evergreen, CO 80439
Barry Riddle
303-674-6902

May 9-12

New Mexico State Doubles Championship
Supreme Courts Racquet & Health Club
4100 Prospect Ave. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

May 15-18

Sports Mall
5445 South 900 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84117
Rick Strout

May 17-19

AARA Region 10 Juniors *6
Full Court Club
111 E. 40th St.
Anderson, IN 46014
Donna Lewellen
317-649-7387

May 17-19

4th Annual Men's Only Tourney
Wachusett Racquet Club
Fitchburg, MA
Mike Luciw
617-345-5667

May 17-19

New Jersey State Championships *4
Residents Only
King George Racquetball & Health
17 King George Rd. at Rt. 22
Greenbrook, NJ 08812
201-356-6900

May 17-19

Super Seven Finale *3
Davison Racquetball Club
G-2140 Fairway Drive
Davison, MI 48423
Jim Hiser

May 23-26

AARA National Championships *6
Downtown YMCA
1700 Louisiana St.
Houston, TX
Luke St. Onge

May 29-June 1

St. George Court Club
Box 1267
St. George, UT 84770

May 31-June 2

Junior Regionals Region 15
Pacific West Club
Kent, WA

JUNE

June 7-9

Indiana State Singles *4
Court Club
3455 Harper Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46240
Sonny Moon
317-846-1111

June 7-9

Region 11 Juniors *5
Russell Courts
817 W. Russell
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

June 8-10

Spring Classic
The Racquet Club
Durham, NC
Bob Book
919-286-7529

June 22-26

DP National Championships *5
STBA

JULY

July 14-15

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RANKINGS

RMA PRO TOUR OFFICIAL RANKINGS MARCH 20, 1985

RANK	PLAYER	POINTS
1	M. Hogan	94.44
2	M. Yellen	70.00
3	G. Peck	65.00
4	B. Harnett	62.22
5	D. Peck	61.00
6T	S. Oliver	50.00
6T	G. Price	50.00
8	R. Gonzalez	48.00
9	J. Hilecher	47.50
10	C. Swain	40.00
11	D. Cohen	38.00
12	E. Andrews	28.00
13	A. Gross	27.77
14	B. Hawkes	27.14
15	J. Newman	25.55
16	R. Wagner	25.00
17	J. Egerman	24.28
18	M. Ray	22.50
19	D. Gross	22.00
20	B. Sell	21.42
21	C. Brysman	21.11
22	E. Terry	18.66
23T	M. Antes	17.50
23T	L. Gilliam	17.50
23T	M. Levine	17.50
26	S. Lerner	15.71
27T	S. Moskwa	15.00
27T	E. Inoue	15.00
29T	D. Thomas	12.50
29T	K. Vantrease	12.50
29T	D. Obremski	12.50
29T	M. Martino	12.50
33	D. Green	12.00
34T	J. Nolan	10.00
34T	M. Griffith	10.00
34T	P. Britos	10.00
34T	D. Simonette	10.00
34T	M. Plotkin	10.00
39T	D. Johnson	8.00
39T	M. Lowe	8.00
41T	L. Myers	7.50
41T	M. Fairbairn	7.50
41T	B. Valin	7.50
41T	D. Negrete	7.50
41T	W. Clouse	7.50
46T	S. Fitzpatrick	5.00
46T	W. Snead	5.00
46T	J. Botello	5.00
46T	K. Kaihlanen	5.00
46T	S. Perry	5.00
51T	G. Texeria	3.00
51T	P. Marino	3.00
51T	C. Scott	3.00
54T	D. Ferris	2.50
54T	W. Beardsley	2.50
54T	S. Morey	2.50
54T	S. Hawkins	2.50
54T	R. Arnovitz	2.50
54T	K. Atwell	2.50
54T	J. Hammock	2.50

WPRA RANKINGS MARCH 10, 1985

THIS MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Heather McKay	301.50
2	Lynn Adams	290.75
3	Vicki Panzeri	160.00
4	Terri Gilreath	129.00
5	Shannon Wright	127.50
6	Caryn McKinney	89.00
7	Janell Marriott	86.25
8	Fran Davis	72.00
9	Joyce Jackson	71.00
10	Liz Alvarado	49.00
11	Brenda Poe-Barrett	48.75
12	Jennifer Harding	47.00
13	Molly O'Brien	42.25
14	Peggy Gardner	41.25
15	Bonnie Stoll	41.00
16	Babete Bell	36.25
17	Marci Drexler	34.25
18	Marcy Lynch	28.00
19	Heather Stupp	26.25
20	Marci Greer	24.50
21	Trina Rasmussen	22.00
22	Laura Martino	16.50
23	Mary Dee	15.50
24	Stacey Fletcher	15.00
25	Sandy Robson	13.00
26T	Martha McDonald	12.50
26T	Carol Pranka	12.50
26T	Rita Hoff Scott	12.50
29T	Tamara Low	10.00
29T	Val Paese	10.00
31T	Suzie Carlos	7.50
31T	Leslie Clifford	7.50
31T	Cathie Fredrickson	7.50
31T	Michelle Gilman	7.50
31T	Sheri Strandberg	7.50
36	Chris Evon	5.50
37T	Tanya Spangler	5.00
37T	Gail Woods	5.00
39T	Elaine Riley	3.00
39T	Donna Meyers	3.00
39T	Jean Sauers	3.00
42T	Diane Adams	2.50
42T	Cindy Baxter	2.50
42T	K. Bishop-Thulin	2.50
42T	Diane Bullard	2.50
42T	Ellen Campbell	2.50
42T	Lisa Devine	2.50
42T	Cindy Donnally	2.50
42T	Carol Dupuy	2.50
42T	Tracey Eagleson	2.50
42T	Dot Fishl	2.50
42T	Melody Fox	2.50
42T	Crystal Fried	2.50
42T	Debbie Geiger	2.50
42T	Kay Kuhseid	2.50
42T	Robin Levine	2.50
42T	Mona Monk	2.50
42T	Cathy Nichols	2.50
42T	Charlie Ortiz	2.50
42T	Monique Parent	2.50

AARA/ARHS NATIONAL MEN'S RANKINGS JANUARY 23, 1985

1	Fred Calabrese	365
2	Charlie Nichols	270
3	Tim Hansen	260
4	Mark Hegg	225
5	Andy Roberts	225
6	Jim Cascio	215
7	Cliff Swain	215
8	Doug Ganim	205
9	Bruce Christensen	190
10	Dave Bennett	180
11	Tom Fournier	180
12	Sergio Gonzalez	180
13	Mike Ray	180
14	Bubba Gautier	173
15	Mitch Campbell	145
16	Stu Hastings	140
17	Dan Obremski	130
18	Lee Stocks	130
19	Jim Synhorst	120
20	Mike Love	110
21	Al Wright	110
22	Steve Miragliotta	108
23	Dan Ferris	100
24	Danny Green	100
25	Charles Horton, Jr.	100
26	Ken Kaihlanen	100
27	Bob Piper	100
28	Chuck Ransum	100
29	Mike Reynolds	100
30	Rick Smith	100
31	Steve Willis	100
32	Haydon Jones	95

AARA/ARHS NATIONAL WOMEN'S RANKINGS JANUARY 23, 1985

1	Cindy Baxter	340
2	Molly O'Brien	180
3	Leesa Smith	180
4	Cindy Doyle	175
5	Kam Higgins	150
6	Pam Clark	145
7	Sheri Anderson	140
8	Kathy Gluvna	140
9	Joetta Hastings	140
10	Robin Levine	140
11	Mona Mook	130
12	Angela Uyble	130
13	Diane Bullard	120
14	Crystal Fried	100
15	Mary Lou Holrudd	100
16	K. Randanzo	100
17	Karen Walton-Trent	100
18	Dot Fischel	90
19	Fran Davis	80
20	Lisa Ecker	80
21	Joy Eon	80
22	Debbie Erhart	80
23	Chris Evon	80
24	Robin Rodriguez	80
25	Paula Truman	80
26	Marcy Lynch	75
27	Elaine Mardas	70
28	Cathy Nichols	70
29	Julie Ginsburg	65
30	Donna Henry	65
31	Debbie Mackell	65

CPRO RANKINGS (Canadian Professional) as of March 4, 1985

RANK PLAYER

1	S. Greenfeld
2	L. Myers
3	R. Harvey
4	H. Jones
5	B. Valin
6	R. Harripersad
7	R. Gartel
8	W. Clouse
9	W. Talabar
10	W. Bowes
11	B. Daku
12	G. Koumeralis
13	C. Hendrickson
14	B. Thompson
15	M. Gervais
16	M. Gregorio

MEN'S JAPANESE RANKINGS DECEMBER 10, 1984

RANK	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Y. Hirasaka (DRC)	367
2	S. Naoi (KRBC)	300
3	S. Ohyama (B-BANG)	250
4	M. Ishimoto (DRC)	227
5T	Y. Furuta (B-BANG)	215
5T	T. Minato (DRC)	215
7	M. Kiuchi (OAKS)	207
8	S. Zaima (B-BANG)	175
9	T. Nirazuka (B-BANG)	160
10T	K. Okuyama (OAKS)	148
10T	T. Yoshiwara (DRC)	148

WOMEN'S JAPANESE RANKINGS DECEMBER 10, 1984

RANK	PLAYER	POINTS
1	M. Kurimoto (XAS)	368
2	S. Tozawa (DRC)	301
3	E. Watanabe (XAS)	225
4	M. Kobayashi (MSH)	196
5T	M. Sekiguchi (MSH)	189
5T	E. Kiuchi (DRC)	189
7	M. Hataya (B-BANG)	185
8	S. Ohki (EVEN)	170
9	S. Sagawa (BRC)	168
10	Y. Ohta (KRBC)	161

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

The amateur rankings are the official rankings of the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA).

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