

National Racquetball®

September, 1978

Vol. 6 No. 9 • \$1.50

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'78

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On The Cover . . .

The triumph of her second National Championship shows on Shannon Wright's face after she scores her 21st point in the final women's match at Belleville, MI. To learn about more routine moments on the women's pro tour turn to a five page feature in our Women in Racquetball section.

—Photo by Arthur Shay

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SPALDING

Where Do We Go From Here?

No matter where I speak invariably I am drawn into a discussion of the Nationals. Surprising as it may seem it is never a question of the conduct of the event, it's always a matter of location. Players generally have been quite content with our administration but would like to be heard regarding the site. Our championships have become so social, so hospitable and so downright entertaining that the players' families plan their annual vacation around our show. We think that's an off-handed compliment and we appreciate it.

At this moment the final site selection for the 1979 Nationals has not been made. We've had some wonderful invitations and are checking them all out. But there is no way we can make an absolute decision until we hear from you. Got any good ideas for us? What we really need to know is where you would like to go, what time of the year and WHY!

If you have been to any of our events, you know a national tournament involves a lot more than making a draw. We do a year's work before we even get to the matches. Everything connected with the tournament is important, but pleasing you is most important. We really want to give you the kind of a tournament you want. Unless you take the time to write, we'll never know what you want. So please take time to write us — fully and frankly. Whatever you say will be kept in confidence and deeply appreciated.

Maybe you'd like to give us your opinion on some of the sites we are considering. Like the Atlas Health Club in San Diego, host for the 1976 and 1977 Nationals, a superb facility in one of racquetball's hotbeds. What's even

more important they have Jerry Sandstrom and when you've said Jerry Sandstrom, you've said it all.

The temple at Tempe, AZ, is a monument to the Porter People. This Arizona Athletic Club is so outstanding it defies comparison. Carl Porter would like to hold the tournament there every year and a lot of people would be glad if he did. Western hospitality (which is always great) reaches a new plateau every time Carl's staff takes over.

Then we have the Sportrooms of Miami, headed by Ed Torkelson, who is well on his way to becoming a leader in our industry. Beautiful new facility — outstanding personnel including handball's Fred Lewis and racquetball's Charlie Brumfield on the staff — and tremendous amenities. Plus in Miami we'll get a look at the Dolphins, courtesy of Tim Foley, also an owner.

Can you imagine what racquetball would be like in a \$6,000,000 club? That's what we have at the Las Vegas Sporting House and they are gung ho for anything we can do. Some say this is the most elegant court club in America and when you put this alongside all the entertainers and money changers, you have an unbeatable combination.

A return trip to Sports Illustrated in Belleville, MI, is always a possibility. If you were there this year, you saw what can be done in hospitality and management. We had an outstanding tournament right in the heart of middle America, where racquetball is rapidly moving into first place.

Westminster, CA, home of King's Racquetball Court, made a name for itself with its handling of one of our pro tour stops last season. It really



distinguished itself as the site for the first national telecast of racquetball and has the ability to handle any event, large or small. Rumor has it they will soon unveil a 65 court facility in the L.A. area and this should certainly be a milestone for all of us.

Want a surprise? Madison Square Garden would like to talk about the finals in a portable glass court. So would we. That's assuming you would like to go to New York. We could put on the preliminaries at any of the fine facilities in the greater New York area and wind up where the greatest sports shows on earth are held. This would certainly make television a great deal easier. And it would catapult us into the major league of professional sports because we are talking about galleries of 10,000 or more spectators. Can't ignore that.

I hope you are as confused right now as I am. If I knew where we were going, all these bids would be a joy. But I won't know where we are going until you tell us where you want the tournament. Come on now, take out that pen this minute and tell me where to put the Nationals.

Then we'll both know. ●

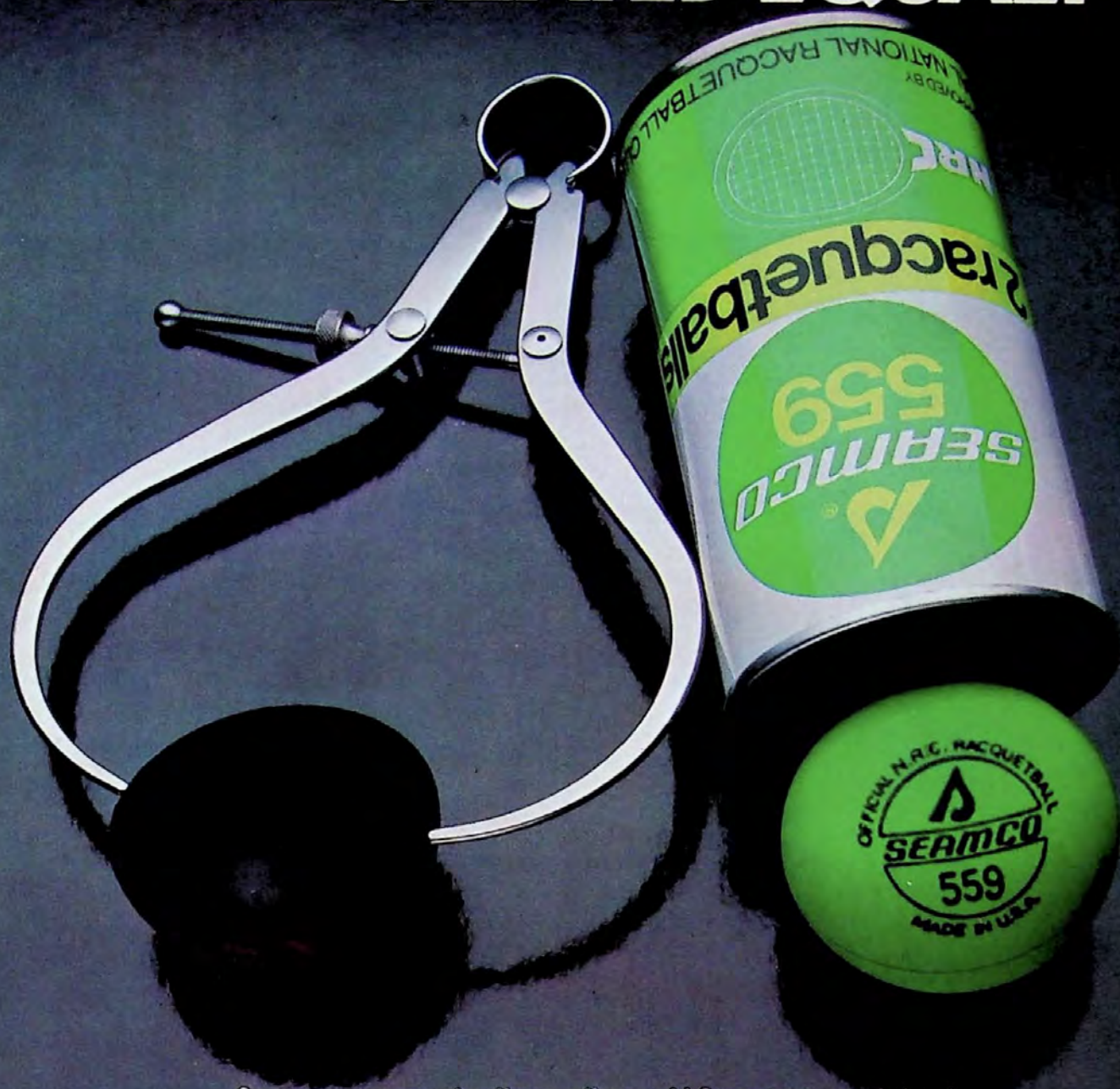
Evie & Bob Kendler

Evie and Bob Kendler

Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Hebrews 13:1, 2

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On The Agenda

Looking ahead can be as dangerous as it is unpredictable, but there are important things working that will take place in the future of our sport and most likely that future will be sooner than most of us think.

I speak specifically of three items — one way glass, the portable glass court and overseas racquetball.

In reverse order, there is no doubt that within the next 12 months a Japanese affiliate of the U.S. Racquetball Association will be formed as a Far East outpost. Eventually this will lead to affiliates in as many nations as possible in the Far East with the building of racquetball facilities the primary goal.

Last month we entertained a delegation of representatives from Japan to discuss this exact topic as well as a variety of other racquetball-related ideas. The Japanese influence on the worldwide nature of our sport will indeed be a factor before the mid-1980's, and all of us here at the USRA look forward to their help.

In a land that is as land short as Japan racquetball is an ideal activity, taking far less space than tennis courts, and with the ability to build vertically and still have adequate racquetball facilities, we feel certain that Japan will become a huge market.

Obviously the Japanese feel the same way and we look forward to forming this first Far East affiliate and to promote our great sport on a worldwide basis.

Another interesting concept that we anticipate materializing in the next year to 18 months is the portable glass court. Long a dream of USRA president Bob Kendler the portable glass court has a variety of enticing uses.

For openers it would allow spectators at our major tournaments to number in the thousands instead of the hundreds. It would allow us to take these tournaments into the major arenas for sporting events, although we're realistic to know that it may be a few years before we can command gates of 15,000-20,000.

Yet just having the flexibility to bring in the portable glass court and having such a showcase will be important to the sport. Other uses include setting it up at sporting goods shows for demonstrations and perhaps even doing a traveling exhibition tour.

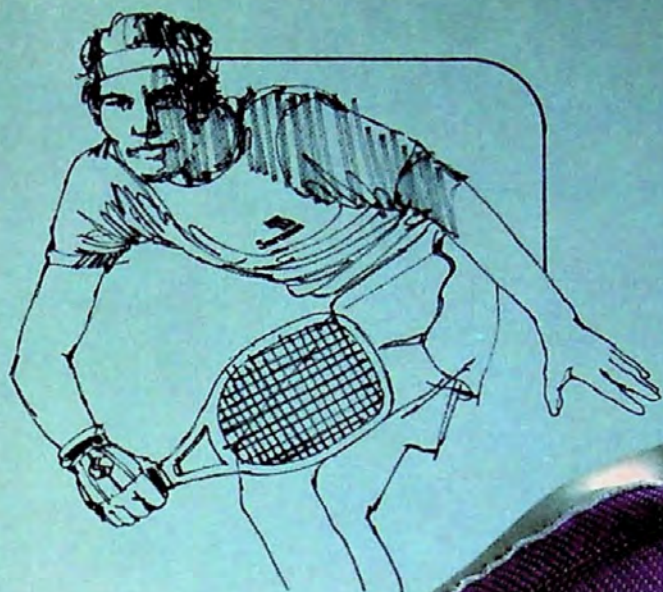
What would be really outstanding would be a successful marriage of the portable glass court concept with the "white glass" or as some have been referring to it "one-way glass." For if a portable glass court is to have the necessary impact, and for it to truly be good for the sport, the players will have to be able to see the ball while on this court. Current technology in glass, as we all know, is not the best.



However we have now tested the prototypes for the white glass and it looks good — very good. A door has been set up and played on and the players truly can see the ball as if it were coming off of a near white wall, while the spectators can see into the court like it was clear glass.

This special, patented process could be one that revolutionizes racquetball. Think how nice it will be someday, when glass courts are playable as well as viewable. No longer will those who play best in mirrors be those who play best.

As each of these items moves along the road to reality, we will keep you, the racquetball public, informed. Any ideas, information or questions you have relative to the future of our sport would be greatly appreciated. ●



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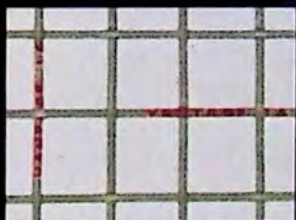
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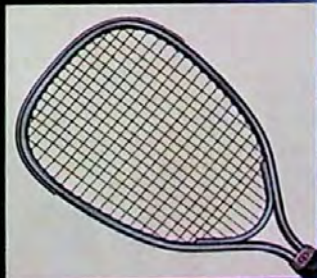
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Racquetball Player Finds a Better Way to Run

by Steve Zingraff

A Ph.D. candidate in physical education at Texas A & M the author also teaches racquetball and runs eight miles a day. He recently completed the 26 mile Aggie Marathon sponsored by the university.

What if I told you that distance running could not only be painless, but it could also be fun? You'd probably say something like *"You've got to be kidding."* This is the reaction of most people (even racquetballers) when discussing the fine and ancient art of distance running.

Why do we react this way towards the oldest of man's sports? Think back a few years and see if you can recall your pot bellied P.E. teacher looking at you with an evil smirk while nervously massaging his stopwatch. *"All right you guys, we're gonna run the mile today. All of you mullets who don't finish in under seven minutes will have to take an extra lap."* Or do you remember your baseball coach saying, *"Wrong base, stupid, take a lap."*? We have been trained to view distance running as something distasteful, and certainly something we wouldn't incorporate into our life style.

But let's face it, fellow racquetballers, running is an essential part of becoming the complete racquetball player, whose training and conditioning usually boils down to six activities: (1) Actually playing, (2) Practicing alone, (3) Distance running for endurance, (4) Sprinting for leg strength and speed, (5) Supplemental exercises such as calisthenics and (6) Tapering off of training as tournament time approaches. And which do you expect is the least included activity? You guessed it — distance running. Even those of us who do run for distance as part of our training view the activity as *"the necessary sacrifice."*

Yet it's distance running that can provide the foundation of endurance which helps make all other training easier and more pleasant. The key word — endurance — is the underlying secret of success for any tournament champion.

Not for Those Who Like to Train Until They Drop

Until several years ago I viewed running as the *"necessary sacrifice."* I have since discovered, at first through trial and error and then through research, that distance running can be both painless, and — even more important — enjoyable. If you're the type who likes to train until you drop, then you don't have to read on. But, if you're like me, you may find the following information helpful.

If the principles I set forth are followed, you will stand a good chance of implementing a three mile or 30 minute running program that is painless and enjoyable. You'll be able to play longer, harder and recover faster and you will stay at a consistently high level of fitness so that you won't have to *"gut it out"* to get in shape for tournaments.

Before I go any further let me make some assumptions about you, the reader. I imagine you play racquetball at least three times a week and are in fair to good physical condition. (If you are limited to fewer than three matches a week, your progress may be slow — you may have to run/walk initially.)

Different Shoes for Racquetball and Running

First let's consider a basic. One of the key ingredients to a successful running program is — simply — a good pair of running shoes. You're heading for trouble if you head for the track in your racquetball shoes. To avoid sore arches or shin splints invest at least \$20 in a good pair of running shoes that have a heel higher than the toe, good arch support, an Achilles tendon pad and a firm but flexible cushioned sole.

One quick warning — don't use your running shoes to play racquetball. The shoes will wear out faster because they are not built to support lateral movement, and you will run the risk of ankle injuries because of the unstable platform running shoes tend to provide.

Now on to my program, based on helping you rid yourself of two rather old fashioned principles. First chuck the saying *"If it doesn't hurt, it's not doing you any good."* There's no need to push harder and harder during training runs in order to make it hurt. Most of us don't like to hurt. Consequently we either stop running completely or we continue to make the *"ultimate sacrifice"* to our sport of racquetball and run anyway, hating every minute. That's not necessary. All we must do is run at a bit more than a leisurely pace to acquire the endurance we need for competitive racquetball. So we replace *"If it doesn't hurt, it's not doing you any good"* with *"If it hurts, you're going to fast."*

The second concept to discard is that you must combine time with distance. Since elementary school we have always been forced to combine the two variables of distance and time. We have had to run the mile in seven minutes to get an "A." The standard, procedure, then, for Mr. Rollout, when starting his program of running, is to measure off a half mile in his car (an out and back route) and set his target time. Let's say Rollout decided on seven minutes as his target time. If seven minutes is too fast for him, the pain may be extreme, which, in turn, might lead to his giving up his short lived running program. If, on the other hand, the seven minute target time is too slow, Rollout will fail to achieve the training effect he's after.

Steve Zingraff and his wife, Pat, know they're running at the right pace because they're able to converse — in this case the happy subject is racquetball.



Either 30 Minutes or Three Miles

The secret to the success of my recommended program is to use one variable and completely ignore the other. Either run for 30 minutes and don't pay attention to the distance, or run for three miles and ignore the time. I recommend 30 minutes or three miles at least three or four times a week because most runners find their second wind after the first mile or after seven to 10 minutes of running.

Let me expound on the term "*second wind*." The second wind occurs when the body settles into a state of homeostasis — when the body is using the same amount of oxygen that it is taking in. This physical state is characterized by a steady pace and a steady rate of breathing. Once a person enters this state of equilibrium, the pace can be maintained until the physical breakdown of the legs, ankles or feet from fatigue.

As you train, your steady pace will increase naturally because of the body's ability to adapt to stress. Your body will be able to utilize more oxygen more efficiently than before. You are now "*trained*."

How do you know if you're running at the right pace? The rule of thumb is: never exceed the speed at which you can carry on a normal conversation.

Warm Up and Check Your Pulse

Let's now review some of the actual mechanics of running. As in racquetball you should precede each run with a warmup routine, consisting mainly of stretching exercises. (Remember: stretch slowly, don't bounce. Bouncing may lead to torn muscle fibers.) You may also want to run your first mile slowly and increase your pace as you go.

You may want to check your pulse rate initially. Wait until you're about 10 minutes into your run, since your pulse rate will have leveled out. The pulse rate is checked simply by counting

each pulse for six seconds and adding a zero to the count you get. For example if you counted 12 beats in six seconds, your pulse rate would be 120 beats per minute. You're shooting for any count falling between 130 and 140 beats per minute. After you've counted as you run a few times, you'll learn what it feels like to be running with a pulse rate at this interval.

The recommended running technique is to hit on your heel and then roll your foot forward to your toes. Rhythmic breathing through your mouth and nose will help you settle into that sought after state of equilibrium. And hold your arms at about a 90 degree angle while you run.

These then are the key ingredients to my program: (1) Run a certain time (30 minutes) or a certain distance (three miles) and (2) run so that you can carry on a conversation comfortably.

Don't push — enjoy! Then watch how distance running improves your racquetball game. ●

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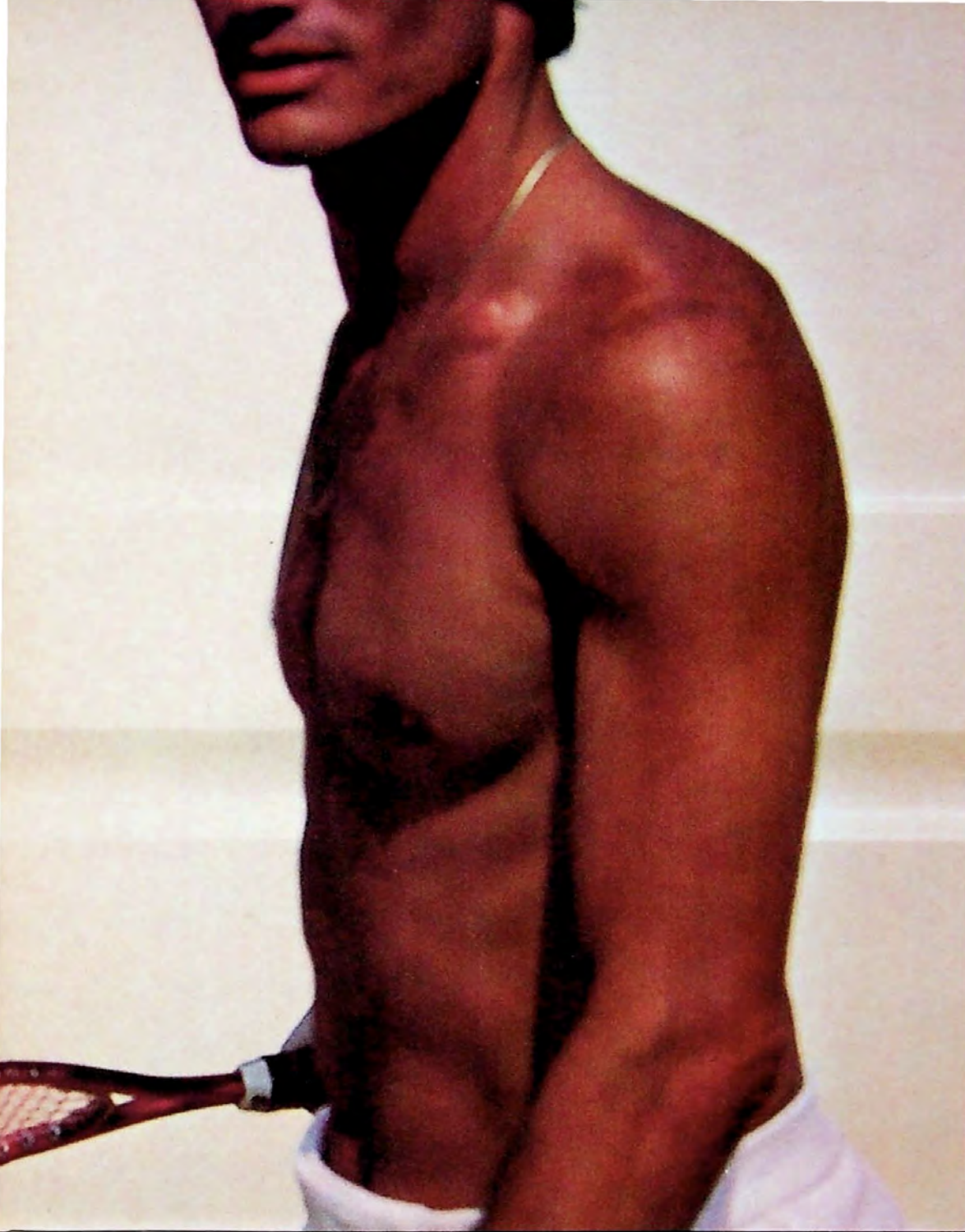


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The Backhand, Part II

by Steve Strandemo

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The Backhand Wrist Snap

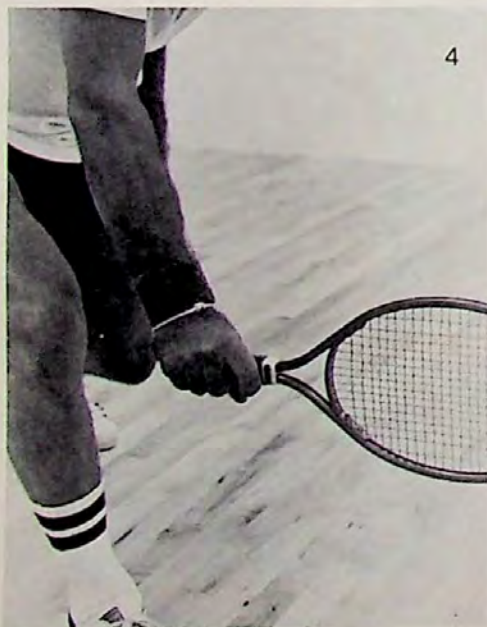
The wrist is fully cocked.



The wrist starts to extend before contact.



The wrist is snapping more, and the racquet is coming through on a horizontal plane.



At contact the wrist finishes its snapping motion.



At the beginning of the follow through the wrist is held firm and the racquet is still horizontal.



Notice the continuous firm hold of the wrist. This firm wrist position after contact will give maximum direction to your shot.



7

Notice the improper rolling of the wrist after contact. Rolling over the ball like this will tend to send your shots into the floor.

The Wrist

The wrist will remain cocked until it snaps forcibly through that 12-to-18-inch range before impact. But as soon as it completes its snap, then hold it and keep it fixed — if you let it roll over or just flick at the ball, then your shots will spray in every direction.

The Non-Hitting Arm

A lot of tennis converts like to place their left hand on the throat of their racquet as they draw it back, but this can be destructive in learning a proper racquetball backhand. It prevents you from bringing the racquet back far enough and quick enough so that you can take a full swing at the ball, and it leads instead to a short, punching stroke.

Another question is what to do with the non hitting arm. By practicing and experimenting you'll find the position that's comfortable and efficient for you. I used to play with my left arm held tightly against my body (against my thigh or in next to my side), but now I'm learning to hold it out away because I think the added clearance gives me a quicker swing with more potential power. The key thing is that your left arm should benefit your balance and help you swing with a fluid motion. You don't want it positioned so that it takes away from the full extension of that swing.

The Open-Stance Swing

Due to the speed of the shot, you have a shortened backswing and very little rotation of the shoulders. Your feet are wide apart so you have a powerful base of support.

The knees are slightly bent and the racquet is coming through on a horizontal plane. There's no time for the hitter to step into the ball, so he must hit from a stationary position.

Contact is made off the front foot, the wrist has snapped, and the body has remained low.



The Follow Through

After contacting the ball, and with the wrist held firm, you want to pull through with your hitting shoulder so that the racquet travels on as horizontal a plane as possible. This will enable you to have greater consistency in keeping the ball low on the front wall. If your shots keep hitting too high on the front wall, then either your follow through is carrying up too high or your racquet face is beveled (tilted) up at impact, instead of being straight up and down.

Common Backhand Errors

Placing your left hand on the racquet handle will prevent your racquet from being pulled back to its proper set position, and it will inhibit you from having a fluid swing. Notice the lack of shoulder rotation by the hitter.

This is a similar problem, with the racquet not pulled back properly. Insufficient knee bend and excessive bending at the waist will also place the hitter in trouble.





11

The body continues to stay low, the wrist is held firm, and the follow through is shortened.

Practicing The Backhand

If you're unable to hit a backhand up to the front wall that returns to your backhand side, then start your drills by lobbing a forehand so that you can simply turn around and hit a backhand.

As you're gaining confidence in this stroke, just practice hitting it up and down the left wall, about three feet high or lower. You'll have trouble keeping the ball off the left wall and out of center court, but remember: the people you are playing at your ability level are also having a tough time with this shot. So you want to learn to direct the ball into their weakness as much as you can.

Once you acquire a dependable stroke, you can start rallying with yourself completely on the left side of the court, and eventually you can practice cutting the ball off near the front court. But this will take a good, firm stroke that sends the ball into the front wall with accuracy and velocity.

The knees are not bent and the racquet is too low in its set position. This resembles a two handed tennis backhand, which is not what you want.

A basically good swing is ruined by having the racquet face tilted upward at impact. The ball can go only in one direction - high up on the front wall.



14



15

This sequence shows that common backhand ailment – the punch stroke. In the first photo, the hitting arm is too far away from the body. Then, at contact, the racquet is still too far away from the body, thus placing all of the strain of the swing on the hitting arm. The follow through is equally wasted as far as generating any power. The entire swing lacks wrist snap and good shoulder power.

16



17



18



Backhand Fundamentals

1. Have your racquet set quickly, and pulled back.
2. Have your wrist in a cocked position to help ensure an explosive wrist snap.
3. Your legs should be comfortably bent to help generate a more total body swing.
4. Have your left arm positioned so you have clearance to swing freely.
5. Let the ball come to you so you can take a full shoulder swing.
6. Rotate your shoulders toward the back wall.
7. Uncoil your hitting shoulder and your hips into the ball so that your racquet can move freely through impact. There should be a natural opening-up of the body.
8. Don't be tentative; get the racquet back as you set up, and then bring that hitting shoulder down through the ball with force.
9. Strong shoulders will help, but flexibility is just as important to enable your upper body to rotate easily.
10. Let your body do its work before your racquet contacts the ball.
11. Snap the wrist forcibly through contact, but don't let it roll over; let the hitting shoulder pull the racquet through.
12. Follow through at about waist level.
13. Poking the ball will result in a weak, incomplete follow through.
14. Try to funnel your strokes down into the left front corner. But first strive for velocity. You want to at least put pressure on your opponent to make the next play when you miss your target. A short, punching stroke will give him too many setups. ●

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Preventing Wall Crashes

by Terry Fancher

This article is from 40 Common Errors in Racquetball, and How to Correct Them by Terry Fancher and Arthur Shay, now on sale at pro shops and bookstores.

Mistake

Wall crashing • Racing toward either side wall, it is easy to overrun the ball and crash into the wall, usually shoulder high with the arm pinioned between body and wall.





Correction

To avoid overrunning that results in wall crashing practice hitting from racquet and arm's length from the wall. Do a series of 10 shots forehand and backhand from each wall, trying to hit "wallpaper" balls — balls very close to the wall.

Even in a frantic rush to the ball, you shouldn't have to come closer than three feet or so — theoretically.

OK, a crash is imminent. Learn to break your crash by using the hand and arm nearest the wall as a kind of shock absorber, a spring that lets the body hit the wall with some insulation from the direct shock.

As swimmers and veteran handball players do learn to use that braking (not breaking) arm to push off and get back into a good defensive position, instead of crumbling on the spot. ●

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Teaching the Backhand

by Jerry Hilecher

Jerry Hilecher, one of America's top racquetball players, this month presents the third in his how to teach series written especially for *National Racquetball*.

In Lesson number three we have the unenviable task of beginning to teach how to hit a backhand. But before plunging into that you probably want to finish where we left off last month — the forehand back-wall stroke.

As always spend the first five minutes of the lesson backtracking, reviewing, making sure good habits are being established. Hit a few setups to your student's forehand, toss a few easy ones off the back wall.

Remind your student of what we discussed in the last lesson — that the "secret" to hitting the ball off the back wall is for you to move at the same speed as the ball as it rebounds off the back wall, so that the ball remains in the same position relative to the front of your body.

As you move out from the back wall the racquetball is dropping, and you're concentrating so you can make contact low, just as you would with a normal forehand setup.

Eye on the ball, racquet ready, full stride, rotate the hips and BOOM! Kill it. (See Photos 1, 2 and 3.)

Too many people let the ball get past them as it bounces off the back wall. Then they're lunging and falling onto the floor instead of stroking it smoothly.



Photos by Lou Thiessen

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Coming Up:

New shots and new ideas from top pro
Jerry Hilecher.

The way to avoid this common pitfall is to use the shuffle step.

As the ball comes off the player moves away from the back wall, back foot behind front, slow and easy. (See Photo 4.) Demonstrate it for your student. Help with the timing. Polish the stroke. You know how important it is to kill those back wall plums. Give the student the full benefit of your experience right here.

As he or she goes through the drill, hitting one after another, you should be watching for the same checkpoints you taught with the forehand: proper grip, wrist cocked, hip rotation, weight transfer, follow through, etc.

Don't forget to compliment a good stroke. "Dynamite. Real smooth."

Build confidence and enthusiasm. You're about to meet it.

Photo 4



The Backhand

The reason we've waited until now to introduce the basic backhand stroke is to build confidence and knowledge. If you've built a strong basis in the forehand, it will be easier for both you and the student to tackle the backhand.

The backhand takes the longest to develop. Your student will see less change in his game. If you introduce it too early, you run the risk of discouraging someone so much that he never comes back for another lesson — and that's a big loss for the sport of racquetball.

Now this may surprise you. I suggest you start by hitting some setups to your student's backhand. That's right: forget about the backhand grip for right now. Forget about drop-and-hit. Dish up a few setups off the front wall.

The goal here is to get the footwork right.

Your student will gain the ability to move to the left and just make contact. Don't worry about where the ball goes. Don't worry too much about the technique. Again let's get a little confidence.

Instead of having him remember a new grip, wrist snap, elbow position, this, that, this, that . . . let's get the footwork right.

Remember what I said back in Lesson 1 — footwork and timing are the biggest failures of most racquetball players.

Teach how to turn toward the side wall, stepping toward the backhand front corner. It's the Box Theory from the last lesson. (See Photo 5.)

As this becomes natural, you'll be ready for the grip.

Only please gear your instruction to the individual. If your student is a fast learner, don't waste time, get on with it! But if you are teaching a complete novice, perhaps someone who's having a little trouble picking up the basics, slow down. Be patient. These articles aren't exact timetables: 15 minutes on this, 30 minutes on this, now do this, next lesson we'll do such-and-such. I'm giving you a guide. This is my third article. If you and your student are already in your sixth lesson, that's OK. No big deal.

When you know your student is getting comfortable with the backhand, which can be awfully awkward for a lot of people, explain what would happen if he didn't change to a backhand grip.

The racquet would be tilted at the point of contact, right? The ball would be undercut and hit too high.

The checkpoint is the "V" formed by the thumb and forefinger.

For the backhand that "V" should be toward the inside of the racquet handle. A right hander rotates the racquet to the right, a left hander rotates it to the left.

Again give a demonstration, only don't use the time to practice your own shots. Once or twice will do nicely.

And now let's plunge into the full swing.

I'm not here to teach you how to hit a backhand. I'm assuming you already know that. But keep in mind the biggies — the several keys to a good stroke.

Photo 5



- Ready position. Weight back, facing left wall, racquet cocked at shoulder level.
- Full stride. A 45-degree step toward the backhand corner.
- Be low. Drop the racquet quickly to desired level of contact, then make a level stroke and wrist snap.
- Follow through. The arm gets weary when the swing is restricted.

I recommend you practice all this without the ball. Have your student make five or 10 strokes, and you comment appropriately. Try to single out one major point, until the student can eventually comment on his own stroke. Self criticism is a good indication that someone is learning.

Then add one more element — the ball.

Make a nice, easy ball drop off the lead foot. The biggest problem I see is rushing the stroke. There's a definite tendency to hit the ball too high — even more so than on the forehand.

As the swing looks better and feels less awkward, begin hitting some setups. Only this time insist that the proper stroke be used. Legs, hips, weight, wrist.

Where is he or she hitting the ball? If it's going into the near side wall, he's hitting it too late. If it's going cross court, she's hitting too far in front; the lead foot may be pointing straight ahead instead of into the corner at that 45 degree angle.

And that's it. Easy, huh? And to think you and I were scared when we began trying to teach the backhand . . . ●

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APRO teaches . . . How to Practice

Photo 1



Photo 2



Steve Boren, using Veteran Pro Kathy Williams as a model, shows how a teacher should break the shot into elements the student can practice. Photo 1 — point of contact off the front foot, photo 2 — concentrating on wrist snap, photo 3 — combining wrist snap with ball placement and photo 4 — the perfect execution.

The practice court, which is readily available but seldom used, helps students improve their racquetball games. Practice with emphasis on court position and strategy is attained by playing as many matches as possible. To develop specific shots the use of a practice court is best.

The instructor should inform the student that only one or two shots should be practiced per hour. The repetition of this particular shot or shots selected for the hour is the key. The instructor, having selected the shots, should then explain each element of the shot in detail — arm position, point of contact of ball, foot placement, wrist snap, etc. Now the student may proceed with the practice period.

The instructor should formulate a practice session for each shot, informing the student to concentrate on only one element of that shot. The one hit stop — one hit stop method should be implemented and continued until the student has achieved an understanding of that element of the shot. When the student has an understanding of each element, he may then put two or more parts together until the whole shot is being practiced with the one hit stop method.

A student will become very bored on a practice court unless some games or props can be implemented into the practice session. The teacher should stimulate the pupil with the use of games (percentage of good shots, consecutive shots, etc.) and/or props (cans in front court, tape walls, boxes in rear court).

The teacher should always inform the student that: **THE PERSON PRACTICING WILL BE THE MOST CRITICAL AND LEAST OBJECTIVE ABOUT HIS OR HER IMPROVEMENT.** But the use of practice courts will improve the student's game at a gradual rate. ●

—Steve Boren

Photo 3

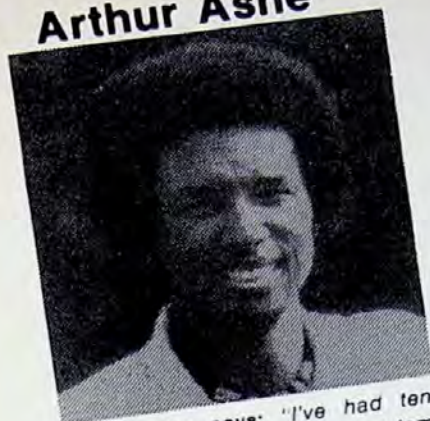


Photo 4



The American Professional Racquetball Organization certifies instructors at clinics around the country. For more information write to APRO, 730 Pine Street, Deerfield, IL 60015.

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Arthur Ashe says: "I've had tennis elbow and in my opinion Sportsmate provides a very effective conditioning for aid in the prevention and rehabilitation of tennis elbow. For my money, Nautilus equipment is the best!!!"

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Steve Serot

by Dan Bertolucci



It has been said that Steve Serot, at age 22, has been over the hill and back, and that he is the youngest veteran in professional racquetball. Well over the hill — hardly. And he is back. One only needs to check the current rankings of men professionals to see that Serot was nestled in the number three spot going into the National championships. Assuredly he's back.

"Every player goes through maturity periods both on and off the court," Serot says. "When I was 15 to 17 years old, I was very offensive and had only one game style. Now I play each player differently, mixing it up with defense and offense, doing what I have to do to win. Three or four years ago people would say 'Does Serot know what defense is?' I was also much more reckless about myself, diving at whatever cost. This plagued me because I was sidelined often or playing injured. This year I've played every game and had a pretty good season."

Today Serot continues to awe audiences with his unbelievable retrieving ability and his tenacious backhand. He's often demonstrating his ability to shoot from any position on the court — supine, prone or upright.

Born and raised in St. Louis — a contemporary of other greats such as Hogan, Hilecher and Koltun — Steve began playing racquetball at the Jewish Community Center when he was eight years old. Steve, like many others, turned to racquetball after having been introduced to handball by his father.



"My father played pro baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals for 13 years," Steve says. "When he retired, he took up handball to stay in shape. I began playing handball with my father — I won the Junior National Handball Championship title when I was 14 — and eventually I switched to racquetball."

Although Steve is naturally right handed, at age 13 he injured his right arm playing baseball, and had to become left handed on the court in order to continue playing racquetball. He's been a racquetball southpaw ever since.

At 17, though he'd batted over 400 for three consecutive Little League seasons, he gave up a try at professional baseball to pursue a racquetball career, encouraged by a Leach Industries offer for a scholarship at San Diego State University. (He thinks Leach's program for junior players is outstanding.)

Steve likes to amuse his friends with his harmonica and his magic tricks. Other non racquetball interests are squash and marathon running, though the latter is related to racquetball because it's part of his training. Steve runs six miles every morning and does 300 situps a day. He also has a daily racquetball game, and three times a week he works out with Nautilus equipment to develop his upper body.

Steve's list of racquetball accomplishments is long. Between the ages of 15 and 18 he put together over 50 semi-final finishes. In 1974 he was national champion runnerup and top men's pro money winner, as well as National Invitational Doubles champion with partner, Charlie Brumfield.

Serot is considered the best diver in racquetball, but reaching for a ball head first is no longer the mainstay of his game.



Though Brumfield has been a frequent winning doubles partner for Serot, Steve has been less than successful against Brumfield as an opponent. Steve says "After high school, when I moved to San Diego, I looked on Charlie Brumfield as the great racquetball hero. In doubles I always was referred to as his partner; in singles I was his opponent. I was the youngster – just one of the many – and it took away some of my confidence.

Backhands are Serot specialties.

This season I moved away from that pressure – out of San Diego and back to St. Louis. Being back here has restored a lot of my confidence – just winning all my practice games has been a help. It's good for me to be in St. Louis – the best racquetball player around."

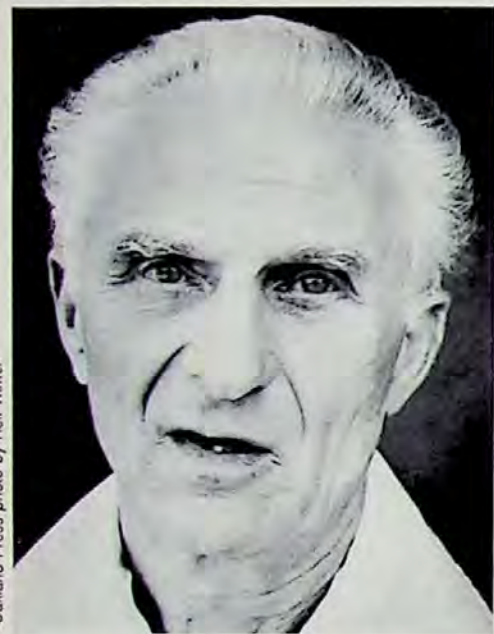
Steve says he plans to compete "until the body is no longer able. I have still not reached my peak.

"For anyone to improve he or she must practice, get into condition and play better players. Oh yeah, watch the pros." And one of the pros to watch is Steve Serot. He is back. ●

At 72, His Life Revolves Around Racquetball

Racquetball is Joe Finn's third business and athletic career.

by Nick Longhurst



-Oakland Press photo by Rolf Winter

Joe Finn hung his head in shame when he remembered his ignominious first round defeat in the Golden Master's division of the 1978 Nationals.

And that's no sort of performance for a man who has been playing the game for over ten years.

But what you have to remember is that the first day Joe picked up a wooden paddle racquet and a bald tennis ball he was already 62 years old — at the age most people are thinking of giving up their athletic enjoyment.

Seven and two — his age, 72 — and Joe was facing an opponent 15 years younger than himself.

"And down at this end of the age scale, those sort of numbers matter," he added.

So here is a man, in his third athletic career, his third business career, who has literally spent more hours on a court than most of us have breathed.

The slim, soft spoken former gas station operator from Troy, MI, the oldest player in this year's nationals, has been playing indoor court sports for over 50 years. He started off with a 20 year spell playing handball . . . "but that ended when I tore some ligaments in my arm. My doctor advised me to change to a sport with a racquet."

So Joe, at the ripe old age of 41, took up squash and his involvement with that lasted until one day in the mid 60's when he was tempted onto a handball court by a few friends clutching some suspicious looking racquets and an old bald tennis ball called a "pinkie".

It didn't take much for Joe to desert the long-handled squash racquet for the new and growing game which went under a handful of names but generally rejoiced in the title — "paddle tennis on the handball court".

Joe's new love didn't endear him to his former handball playing cronies down at the Troy Y, for he was a turncoat, a traitor pushing for acceptance of the new sport in the precincts considered sacred by handballers.

"I was the villian at the Y. I had been one of them and now here I was pushing for racquetball. At first the five courts at the Y remained solely for handball.

"Those handball players called me everything under the sun and they were ready to string me up when we had meetings to bargain for court time".

The deal Joe lost his friends over seems laughable to those of us who grew with the boom in the sport. Out of the five courts two were made available for racquetball.

"But — and it was a big but, — when a handball player wanted them . . . he had the right to take the court right away," chuckled Joe.

Joe's close involvement with the game just grew and grew. He became state commissioner for Michigan and organized a tri-county league.

Then five years ago he retired from the gas station business and did the very thing handfuls of young racquetball players would give their all for. He became a racquetball bum.

"I didn't get tired of work, I just got tired of pumping gas. Then I worked for a while as a distributor for Ektelon racquets.

"I used to sell a couple hundred racquets a year; I was the only one man distributor in the business I suppose," he grinned.

Then at a age when most of us would be thinking of a comfortable armchair and grandchildren, Joe found himself a new job — teaching racquetball at the Maple Courts in Troy.

"I couldn't bear to be inactive for more than a couple of days so the job suits me fine. I work every day of the week, normally from 9:30 until 3, teaching mostly beginners. I get such a kick out of it I think I would die if I couldn't do it. And I can still beat the majority of club members, so when I want a tough game I can always find someone whose trying to get the edge on me."

Joe is also one of the few racquetballers who have carried the sport onto the television screen, and that puts him in with the elite few like Hogan, Bledsoe, Wagner, Wright, Harding and Marriott.

Joe played a seven minute game against former Detroit Tigers catcher Jim Price who hosted a Detroit sports show.

"I had no idea he was such a good player. We played one game and he beat me 21-18."

It was a shock for Joe when he saw the program televised. "I saw an old man playing. Every player figures he is a graceful athlete, but I looked at the screen and saw how I really was. I tried to clean up my style a bit after that though."

Joe's doctor says he is going to be just as lively when he reaches 90 years of age and he swears he'll still be playing racquetball.

"Being fit and healthy certainly helps recovery from an illness, and I know that has been a fact with me.

Joe plans to stay with his game, too. "I think it's too late to change over to a fourth sport. I like to run, too, but running is boring. Racquetball is my life and if I didn't play I would go nuts. I would probably even have to find a job or go back to pumping gas or something.

Stick to it Joe . . . we hear you. ●

National Racquetball

EXTRA!

Class Named for Robert W. Kendler

The 1978 Fall Reunion of the Valley of Chicago, which will be held Nov. 2, 3 and 4 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Chicago, will be named the Robert W. Kendler class.

The honor will be bestowed upon the illustrious Robert W. Kendler, 33°, M.S.A., who has been active for many years as chairman of the Ancient Craft Degree team.

In announcing the honor for USRA/NRC President Kendler the Illustrious Robert L. Giesel, 33°, Active, said "this is in token of our great esteem for you and

for all you have done for our Valley of Chicago with the Ancient Craft Degree Team and with Fraternal Relations."

Keeley Wants Your Old Non-Dimpled Bandido

Veteran racquetball pro and author, Steve Keeley, says he hasn't hit a kill shot since the Nationals, where he broke his last old Bandido racquet made from a plastic mold which Leach Industries no longer uses.

Keeley will trade a new Leach Bandido for an old racquet. Says Keeley: "Identify the old Bandido by its weight (312 grams) or by examining the top of the handle (eight-sided surface) just above the grip: The words 'Leach

San Diego' appear in raised plastic on the two widest faces of this eight-sided surface, and only on the old Bandidos the two surfaces on either side of the raised plastic letters are flat. (On the new Bandido the two surfaces kitty

corner to this 'Leach San Diego' are indented, or dimpled.")

If you can trade with Keeley, write him or send him your old model. His address is 6369 Reynolds Rd., Haslett, MI 48840.

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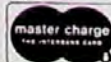
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To the best of our knowledge Racquet Time is the only firm in the nation working with and for investors, builders, or owners in club management, franchising, leasing and purchasing.

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*Montclair, California; Fresno, California; Tucson, Arizona; Lexington, Kentucky; Monroeville, Pennsylvania; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Laguna Niguel, California; Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Women In Racquetball



Carol Brusslan

Should You Join The Pro Tour?

All right. So you're a natural athlete, you've played racquetball for two years, you were sensational at it right from the start, you've been climbing to the top — winning amateur events all the way up to your state Women's Open.

Should you shift racquetball from hobby to job? Should you devote

your life to racquetball? Should you join the pro tour? And when?

Yes. And immediately, if you're young, free, willing to make a long term commitment and can afford it.

Getting on the circuit can be costly — travelling to the tour stops and paying for food and motel rooms. So before you join the pro tour your amateur wins should have earned you a manufacturer's equipment contract, at the least. Then it's a matter of waiting for the break, when skill and experience push you into consistently good performances in the round of 16 or a brilliant, lucky streak puts you in the semis.

That's the chance that could lead you to your fairy godmother — the sponsor who pays all your pro tour bills, clothes included.

Five women fairly new to the circuit who talked about turning pro between rounds at the June Nationals were tour boosters whether they'd won or lost their matches in the Michigan tournament.

If they'd won, they were glowing over victories. If they'd lost, they still felt good, happy with their progress, each woman believing next season would be her big season. Several added, "I'm going to be a national champion some day."

You'll read more from these new pros in this Women in Racquetball section, where you'll also find the honest and revealing "Life on the Women's Pro Tour" by a seven year veteran.

—Arthur Shay photo



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Winning, losing, eating, training . . . 40

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Life on the Women's Pro Tour

They're Not Campfire Girls Anymore

by Jean Sauser



-Arthur Shay photos

The NRC women's professional racquetball tour is currently made up of 16 women who come out to compete on a regular basis. History books will record us as the first women racquetball pros. Our story is one of camaraderie, competition and a special dedication to a sport that will be to the 1980's what tennis has been to the 1970's.

The story of the women's pro tour really begins in the early seventies when financial backing for the pros was at a minimum. In fact few women received any financial assistance at all. The majority of us paid our own way to and from tournament sites and to save money ended up sharing hotel rooms with four or more other players. Due to this financial situation we got used to having two players in each bed of a motel room with a couple of pros in sleeping bags on the floor.

"We had roomfuls of players," one veteran recalls. "If you didn't get along with people, you could always take your sleeping bag and move out to the hall." Tagging ourselves Campfire Girls on an outing often provided comic relief when we stood in line to use the shower.

As sponsorship made its way into the picture we graduated from motel room floors to beds to our own rooms. Those of us who came through these early days have kept our roots intact by continuing the tradition of camaraderie that accounts for the good sportsmanship we are known for on the racquetball courts.

Often pro tour observers ask us if socializing together at tournaments makes it harder for us to face each other in competition. The answer is yes and no.

"It used to bother me staying in the same room with my opponent, knowing we had a match the next day," says Kathy Williams of Denver. "I like my fellow pros as people. But as the years have gone by all of us have become very professional about our games. Now I can do both, play against a girl and talk to her off the court."

Friendship — call it a spirit of togetherness — is one of many reasons we are unlike other women professional athletes participating in older more established sports like tennis and golf. They have been groomed for competition from as early as age six. All of us happened upon the barely 10-year-old competitive sport of racquetball from other lifestyles and sports interests.

Hoping to Be There When It Hits

So we are the pioneers of a sport that has yet to realize its potential in terms of prize money earned, endorsements granted, publicity received and celebrities made. I know that secretly all of us hope we will be there when the "Big Time" hits, but right now most of us prefer to say we play the tour for a variety of other reasons.

"I came on the tour because I just wanted to take one sport and see how well I could do in it," says Rita Hoff of St. Louis. Although she admits that it would be great to play for thousands instead of hundreds of dollars, Rita insists that she enjoys other features of the pro tour.

"I play for the experience and I enjoy meeting people along with the competition."

For many of us racquetball presents that needed personal challenge.

"Until racquetball, I never worked at sports," says Karin Walton of San Clemente, CA.

"If I went out to ski, I didn't worry about how fast or slow I went or who I could beat. Racquetball is different, it's a challenge. Here everything is focused on being the number one player."

She's right. The only true winner on the racquetball pro tour is the woman who emerges victorious in the final match on Sunday. This tedious process of single elimination goes on throughout the tournament weekend. Winning and losing are the main topics of conversation during a typical weekend of tournament play.

"I hate to lose," says Sue Carow of Glenview, IL, who has yet to ever win a pro stop.

"When I do, I usually leave immediately to save money and besides I don't feel like I belong there. I'm anxious to get back home and work on my game so I can win the next time out."

Lose and Leave

Like Sue Carow most of us do leave the tournament site within a day after a loss. On our way to catch our flights home you'll hear comments like:

"Back to the racquetball drawing boards!"

Or more seriously:

"I know exactly what I did wrong and I won't make the same mistake next time."

Leaving early with a headful of resolutions begins the much needed process of forgetting about losing. And the concentration starts flowing on a positive outlook for the next pro stop.

The other side of the coin is winning. What is it like to win a pro tournament? Janell Marriott of Salt Lake City, who won the March women-only tournament, says, *"Great! I felt like for once I finally didn't choke."*

It is a relief to win and a disappointment to lose on the tour because all of us over the years have shifted our lifestyles to accommodate professional racquetball. In addition to playing the sport most of us work in it.

Some of us are in the court club business either part time or full time.

Jenifer Harding, who won her first pro stop last season in racquetball's first televised tournament, is a club manager and part owner of the Milwaukie Racquetball Club of Milwaukie, OR. She is very involved in the field of court club management as well as professional play, and usually has a briefcase or business magazine in her hand when she's off the court.

"Tournaments are like vacations to me," she says. *"I am so busy running the club at home that it's nice to get away and just worry about playing racquetball."*

Those of us who are not involved with racquetball clubs do racquetball clinics and exhibitions in various sports facilities around the country.

Kathy Williams is the most active woman in the field of racquetball clinics and exhibitions. She has programs that range from introductory racquetball instruction to instructor's seminars.

Throwing Newspapers

The woman pro who has the most interesting sideline is Martha MacDonald. She delivers newspapers with her husband in her home town of Gainesville, FL. She admits that throwing papers for a living may not promote racquetball, but it keeps her fit for pro play.

"I play outdoor racquetball as well as indoor racquetball and throwing papers is good for both sports," she says.

Martha's lifestyle leads to the training end of women's professional racquetball. Few of us use racquetball alone to stay in shape for tournament competition. All of us have favorite off court methods we use to enhance strength and playing ability.

Running is the common denominator among most of the



women pros. Some of us run occasionally and some of us run religiously.

"I run five and one-half to eight miles a day," reports the current national champion, Shannon Wright, who enjoys running distance so much that she participated in a half marathon (12 miles) last summer in Coronado, CA.

"I placed in the top half, I came in 2,112th!" she says.

Weight training is becoming a part of professional racquetball also. One of racquetball's harder hitters among the women, Marcie Greer, claims that working with weights improved wrist strength and enabled her to hit the ball harder and faster.

Skipping rope is another common training routine, with Sarah Green of Memphis the most fanatical rope skipper among us. She claims that rope skipping gives her extra wind on the court and improves her reflexes for quick front court volleys.

Karin Walton seems to be the super trainer among the pros. She starts her day by riding her bike to her part time job at a nearby court club. After a few hours of work and no more than two hours of competitive racquetball play she heads to the beach to body surf.



"You tone up every muscle in your body fighting the waves," she explains. *"It's the best exercise I know."* Karin's training routine winds up with skateboarding, *"excellent for your legs. You use the same muscles in skateboarding that you use for shots in racquetball."*

As for diet at the moment there is no *"Pro Tour Diet of the Racquetball Stars."*

Peggy Steding eats potato chips and drinks coke after coke. Rita Hoff follows a similar diet of taco chips and diet pop.

Yogurt and Light Beer

Jennifer Harding eats only salads, yogurt and fruit and the only thing that keeps her from being a nutritional saint is that she washes everything down with plenty of light beer.

With the exception of Steding, who doesn't drink, all of us agree that light beer goes hand in hand with professional racquetball.

We seldom go past light beer though. We are unanimous in our opinions that drugs are out of the question, and that hard liquor is for special occasions only.

Even though our diets may leave something to be desired it is no coincidence that this past year was a landmark year in terms of quality of game play and style of dress. We played better than ever before, dressed better than ever before. Looking good on the court seems to have contributed to the psychology of playing better.

"If I think I look good, I play better," says Karin Walton.

The women have made this transition toward a fashionable *"racquetball look"* with the added encouragement of the tournament directors and the sponsors themselves.

We are being encouraged by our sponsors' clothes allowances to buy fashionable shorts and shirts. And tournament directors now provide all women with souvenir shirts that are tailored for women and very feminine in design. We are all aware that dressing up the sport will only help promote racquetball farther faster.

Every pro agrees that the last consideration she gives to professional play while on the road is tournament social life. However when we are not playing we do socialize around the tournament site. The best way to describe our social lives on the tour is spontaneous.

"I never come out on tour planning to do anything special or to be with any particular group of players," says Pat Schmidt from Milwaukee WI. *"Whatever comes up that appeals to me at the time is what I do."*

Most of us operate that way because we have to discipline ourselves so much at home in training, playing and general preparation before a tournament. Once we arrive at a tournament location we make few plans outside of arriving for our matches on time. We often end up shopping, seeing movies or shows and having leisurely dinners.

Pro tour social life also depends on geographical location. If it's a good one like Phoenix, AZ, we go sightseeing. Lately all of us have been checking out the best discos in the cities we travel to. We all agree that dancing is good for your legs, right?

But regardless of where we travel to, why we play, how we train or what we wear — one thing is certain. All of us are returning to the pro tour this year ready to play better than ever before. We're eager to fill our own potential as athletes, while we help racquetball fill its potential.

AJAY RACQUETBALL EQUIPMENT



AJAY



Spoiler

Large size and durability make the Spoiler a unique racquet which will add a new dimension to your game. This model is the largest legal size and provides enlarged sweet spot. Made from double heat treated aluminum, the Spoiler weighs only 265 grams. Poured foundation handle, top quality smooth leather grip and natural colored tournament grade nylon strings are standard. Deluxe vinyl cover included. Grip sizes: 3 15/16", 4 1/8", 4 1/4", 4 1/2". Standard Pack 1 — Model CM100 Stock No. 28815



Model CM100
28815



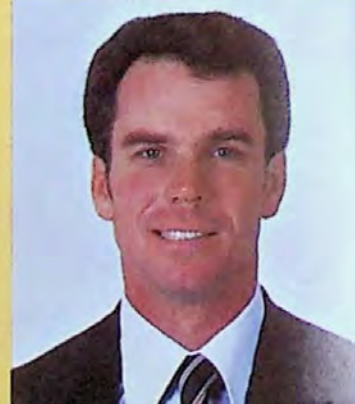
Enforcer

Rectangular shaped frame is constructed from double heat treated aluminum to endure heavy wear and tear. Poured foundation handle gives additional strength and stability. Top quality smooth leather grip, black tournament nylon strings and cover is included. Weighs 255 grams. Grip sizes: 3 15/16", 4 1/8", 4 1/4", 4 1/2". Standard Pack 1 — Model CM110 Stock No. 28820

Model CM110
28820



"Take it from me,
Roger Staubach,
you get more fun
for your money
with Ajay"





Model CM120
28819

"357"

An all new angular frame design allows racquet head to be held closer to the floor at almost any angle. Gives you better control and accuracy when going for difficult, low floor shots. Frame is constructed of double heat treated aluminum and strung with natural tournament grade nylon. Poured foundation handle reduces breakage. Top quality smooth leather grip and deluxe cover. Grip sizes: 3 15/16", 4 1/8", 4 1/4", 4 1/2".

Standard Pack 1 — **Model CM120**
Stock No. 28819



Bullet

Racquet features an elongated teardrop frame creating an extended sweet spot. Player has increased ball control from any hitting position. Heat treated aluminum frame, tournament grade nylon strings, raised sewn cowhide grip, and poured foundation handle are standard. Matching racquet cover included. Grip sizes:

3 15/16", 4 1/8", 4 1/4", 4 1/2".

Standard Pack 1 — **Model CM130**
Stock No. 28821

Model CM130
28821

Avenger

Large rectangular racquet frame made of double heat treated aluminum. Racquet offers durability with its tournament grade nylon strings, poured foundation handle, and top quality smooth leather grip. Available in three (3) color co-ordinated combinations. Grip sizes: 3 15/16", 4 1/8", 4 1/4". Standard Pack 6 Asst'd. — Model CM180 Stock No. 28827



Model CM180
28827

Model CM200
28823

Vendetta

(LIGHT WEIGHT)

At 235 grams, the Vendetta is the lightest aluminum racquet on the market today. Player has quicker response time and increased racquet speed when hitting the ball. In addition, player fatigue due to normal racquet weight is reduced because of lightweight feature. Aluminum frame racquet with poured foundation handle features a nylon throat piece and a quality smooth leather grip. Grip sizes: 3 15/16", 4 1/8", 4 1/4". Standard Pack 6 — Model CM220 Stock No. 28824



Model CM220
28824

Excalibur

Rectangle shape, lightweight (only 265 grams), and rugged construction make the Excalibur the one to win with in 1978. Frame constructed of double heat treated aluminum and available in red or blue colors. Poured foundation handle reduces breakage. Color co-ordinated tournament grade nylon strings and raised sewn cowhide grip complement this outstanding racquet.

Grip sizes: 3 15/16", 4 1/8", 4 1/4". Standard Pack 6 Asst'd. — Model CM200 Stock No. 28823

Hustler

An all new fiberglass and nylon combination racquet for long lasting durability under the toughest conditions. Cross nylon strings and rubber composition grip are standard.

Grip size: 4 1/8".

Standard Pack 6 — **Model CM250**

Stock No. 28829



Model CM250
28829



Model CM400
28835

Model CM300
28828

CM300

Teardrop shaped and constructed from specially formulated aluminum. Result is a durable and heavy duty racquet capable of holding up under heavy use. In addition, a new special brushed finish will keep racquet looking like new.

Poured foundation handle, composition rubber grip, and cross nylon strings are standard. Grip sizes: 4 1/8", 4 1/4".

Standard Pack 6 — **Model CM300**
Stock No. 28828

Digger

High impact resistant plastic frame makes racquet extremely durable yet lightweight. Nylon strings and composition rubber grip. At 220 grams, this racquet is ideal for women and beginners.

Standard Pack 6 — **Model CM400**
Stock No. 28835

"Take it from me,
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you get more fun
for your money
with Ajay"



Racquetball Gift Sets

Attractive racquetball gift sets contain an Ajay racquet with deluxe vinyl cover and one (1) can of Seamco balls. Gift sets are packaged in printed corrugated cardboard with clear plastic overwrap. An ideal gift for the beginner or the pro.



CM100 "Spoiler" Gift Set: Oversized rectangle racquet with smooth leather grip and deluxe vinyl cover. Available in assorted grip sizes. Standard Pack 6. Stock No. 28886



CM200 "Excalibur" Gift Set: Rectangular shaped racquet, available in red or blue colors with deluxe vinyl cover. Available in assorted grip sizes. Standard Pack 6. Stock No. 28887



CM110 "Enforcer" Gift Set: Rectangle racquet with smooth leather grip and deluxe vinyl cover. Available in assorted grip sizes. Standard pack 6. Stock No. 28885



CM220 "Vendetta" Gift Set: Extra light teardrop design racquet with smooth leather grip and deluxe vinyl cover. Available in assorted grip sizes. Standard Pack 6. Stock No. 28888

(NOT SHOWN)

CM120 ".357" Gift Set: All new angular design racquet with smooth leather grip and deluxe vinyl cover. Available in assorted grip sizes. Standard pack 6. Stock No. 28883

CM120 "Bullet" Gift Set: Elongated teardrop shaped racquet, raised sewn cowhide grip and deluxe vinyl cover. Available in assorted grip sizes. Standard Pack 6. Stock No. 28884

Racquetball Bags

28871



Ladies Tote Bag: Attractively styled bag constructed of durable rubber backed rayon. Bag features attractive tri-color braided handles, silk screened outside ball and racquet pockets, as well as an inside zippered accessory pocket for easy storage of personal belongings. Packaged in attractive four color display carton. Standard Pack 3. **Stock No. 28871**

28872



Deluxe Nylon Carryall: Multi-purpose bag features durable nylon construction. Poly zipper and heavy duty nylon web carrying straps. Standard Pack 6. **Stock No. 28872**

Racquet Covers

28867



28870



28868

Deluxe Racquet Cover:

Cover is made from expanded vinyl with attractive raised letter design. Heavy duty nylon zipper for long wear. Cover is available in assorted colors and fits most racquetball racquets. Standard pack 12.

Stock No. 28867 Deluxe Racquet Cover - Rectangular

Stock No. 28868 Deluxe Racquet Cover - Teardrop

Deluxe vinyl carryall bag is ideal for carrying racquetball racquet and clothing. Heavy duty expanded vinyl construction and brass hardware insures long wear. Bag features detachable shoulder sling and an inside pocket to store wet clothing. Bag is packaged in an attractive four color display carton. Standard Pack 3. **Stock No. 28870**



OFFICIAL SEAMCO RACQUETBALL BALLS

Approved balls by both the International Racquetball Association (IRA) and the United States Racquetball Association (USRA). Made of natural rubber, 2 1/4" in diameter. Two balls per can. Standard Pack 6 cans/1 dozen
 Seamco 559 Green — Stock No. 28801
 Seamco 444 Official IRA — Stock No. 28802

RACQUETBALL ACCESSORY COUNTERTOP SELF-SELLER

Attractive heavy duty cardboard display holds 8 popular Ajay racquetball accessories, including the following:

Stock No. 27010	Wrist Bands	14
Stock No. 27011 & 27012	Wrist Bands	14 (Assorted)
Stock No. 27020	Head Bands	14
Stock No. 27021 & 27022	Head Bands	14 (Assorted)
Stock No. 27040	Belt Towel	7
Stock No. 27050	Mor Grip	12
Stock No. 27060	Elbow Loc	7
Stock No. 27080	Eye Glass Holder	7

Self-Seller Merchandise — Stock No. 28876

WRIST BANDS: Elasticized 2 ply cotton band. One pair per printed bag.

Stock #27010: Royal-White-Kelly;
 Navy-White-Burgundy; Brown-White-Tan;
 Blue-White-Maize Standard Pack: 12 pair (3 of each color)

Stock #27011: Blue-White-Blue;
 Maize-White-Maize Standard Pack:
 12 pair (6 of each color)

Stock #27012: Solid White Standard
 Pack: 12 pair

HEAD BANDS: One size. Absorbent
 cotton band. One per printed bag.

Stock #27020: Royal-White-Kelly;
 Navy-White-Burgundy; Brown-White-Tan;
 Blue-White-Maize Standard Pack:
 12 each (3 of each color)

Stock #27021: Blue-White-Blue;
 Maize-White-Maize Standard Pack:
 12 each (6 of each color)

Stock #27022: Solid White Standard Pack: 12

HEAD & WRIST BAND COMBOS:

One set per printed bag.
 Stock #27030: Royal-White-Kelly;
 Navy-White-Burgundy; Brown-White-Tan;
 Blue-White-Maize Standard Pack: 12 sets
 (3 of each color)

Stock #27031: Blue-White-Blue;
 Maize-White-Maize Standard Pack: 12 sets
 (6 of each color)

Stock #27032: Solid White Standard Pack: 12

BELT TOWEL: 12" x 15" terrycloth towel with
 belt clip. One per poly bag. Stock #27040:
 Standard Pack: 12 each

MOR GRIP:

Stock #27050: Non toxic rosin compound. Resealable
 vinyl bag. One per polybag. Standard Pack: 12

ELBOW LOC:

Stock #27060: Strong, reinforced elbow bandage with
 adjustable velcro closure. White and Red-White-Blue.
 One per card. Standard Pack: 12 (6 of each color)

TERRY SLIP-ON GRIP:

Stock #27070: Elasticized and slips over regular
 grips. Available in Brown or Navy. One per poly
 bag. Standard Pack: 12 (6 of each color)

EYEGLASS HOLDER:

Stock #27080: Adjustable elastic band with metal
 slides. One per printed card. Standard Pack: 12

RACQUETBALL GLOVES:

Absorbent, dimpled rubber palm design with velcro
 closure. One size fits all. One per bag with printed
 insert.

Stock #27090: Men's Right Hand
 Standard Pack: 12

Stock #27090-L: Men's Left Hand
 Standard Pack: 6

Stock #27091: Women's Right Hand
 Standard Pack: 12

Stock #27091-L: Women's Left Hand
 Standard Pack: 6

PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL GLOVES:

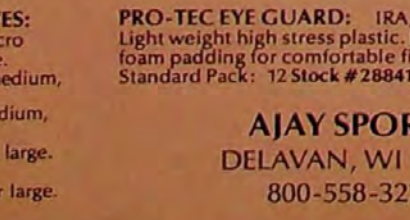
Deluxe sheepskin with expandable back. Velcro
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Some Faces to Look for on the 78-79 Tour

One of the players on these pages — Francine Davis — is starting her first pro season with the 1978-79 tour schedule. Dena Rassenti and Sally Murphy are in their second seasons, and so is Karin Walton. Judy Thompson, formerly on the professional tennis circuit, now concentrates on racquetball tour stops near her home. Here's what these women — interviewed in Belleville, MI, at the Nationals — said about being a touring pro.

Karin Walton

Racquetball approached me after I started winning regionals and then the 1977 Women's Open. I never expected to be a pro, but everything just fell in place . . . My first pro tournament, in the semis, I beat Shannon Wright and got a ranking of seventh. It was that tournament that put where I am with a sponsor to back me up. My advice? Go out and show them you can play. Try to be somewhere sponsors will notice you. There are players who have the potential, but they stick to amateur events. If you want to be a pro, you have to play with the pros.



Sally Murphy

Two pros — Kathy Williams and Janell Marriott — encouraged me to try the pro circuit when I met them at a Pro-Am tournament in Arizona. They felt I had potential, and gave me the confidence I needed to get started as a pro . . . I've played racquetball for three years, and won almost all the women's Open divisions in Arizona, including the women's singles state championship and the doubles title. I started playing three wall to fill a PE requirement in college, and was good at it right from the start . . . It's not practicing that makes you better — it's tournament experience. You have to get on the circuit to learn to play under pressure . . . All you have to do is show up well in one tournament and a sponsor will give you the benefit of a doubt.



Francine Davis

Things started clicking when I came in fourth in singles and first in doubles in the regionals in Vermont two years ago. Then I started training very hard. This year I won a trip to the Nationals by coming in first in the northeast top women's division . . . I plan to pay my expenses for the 78-79 tour by getting a sponsor or working for a court club that will give me a travel allowance . . . I was playing paddleball at Brooklyn College, but paddleball was getting me nowhere. Then someone showed me a copy of *National Racquetball* with pictures of Peggy Steding and Shannon Wright. Another girl from Brooklyn College let me borrow her racquet, I liked the game and realized there was more future in racquetball — it was receiving national recognition . . . The time to get on the pro tour is when you start winning, when you start feeling your strokes coming in, when you can volley with the pros, handle their power and run with them.

I'm not discouraged if I can't beat them — they've been playing 10 years, I've been playing two . . . I'm not afraid of competition — I want to win fighting for it; I want to have a hard time getting there.



Dena Rassenti

Being the Canadian Open champion for 1977 spurred me on. That was the best tournament I ever played from beginning to end. I may have entered prematurely (77-78) but I figured this is a big year for racquetball — especially women's — and at 22 I can't afford to wait to get started. I think it's best to get in while the field is small . . . I've gauged myself on how well I play against Marci Greer. I lost to her in a couple of qualifiers, but I played better each time . . . Shin splints kept bothering me and finally kept me from playing. Now that I'm competing as a pro it's hard coping with an injury that lasts. This is the first time an injury has mattered . . . I'm financing my trips mostly from money I saved being a teaching pro, and I'm hoping a major sponsor will come forward. True — being on the pro tour is expensive, but I'd say to anyone — *do* it, just get the entry forms and go.



Judy Thompson

Before I took up racquetball seriously four years ago I was on the pro tour — but it was tennis. I learned from two years on and off the Virginia Slims circuit that I'd done it the wrong way. I was 28 — too old to start — and I had a three-year-old daughter I didn't want to leave that much. I think it takes two years on the circuit to get used to the pressure, to adjust to a professional life style. So anyone who's thinking about becoming a pro should be ready to spend at least three years giving it a try. In the meantime put yourself in as many pressure situations as you can, get into men's divisions and try to pick a few stops on the pro tour to play in.



Playing Tip Number 11

In their Strategy section of *Inside Racquetball for Women* Pro Jean Sauser and Photographer Arthur Shay, co-authors, touch on the psychology of racquetball — how your frame of mind can contribute to your winning game. Besides helping you improve your game this tip from Shay's and Sauser's mistake-correction book can help you have a better time whether you win or lose.

The excerpt is part of *National Racquetball's* series from one of the country's most popular racquetball books, on sale in hard cover and paperback at court clubs and book stores.

Mistake: Getting Angry at Yourself

You miss a shot. You get angry at yourself. Some players brood about missing an easy shot for several volleys after the miss. The brooding, of course, often leads to other misses — and more self-hatred.



—Arthur Shay photos



Correction: Think about the Next Shot

The way to avoid getting angry at yourself is to concentrate on the next shot, not the last one. Think ahead, not backward. Drive your mistake from your mind. Think positively! You can do better, you will do better. The past is gone, so deal with the future.

Who's Playing Racquetball?

D. C. Lantz: Audio Expert

D. C. Lantz was wrapped up in audio engineering until the sound of her own name over a health club loudspeaker changed her life.

The person behind the page was a stranger who had spied D. C. (short for Deborah Christine) in the exercise room. When he asked, "Do you want to play racquetball?", D. C. said "No."

"I had absolutely no interest in racquetball, but he practically forced me into the court, and I loved the sport immediately. I liked running around and I liked pounding the ball. It was a lot better way than exercise machines to get rid of aggressions."

At the time D. C. was accumulating aggressions each day as audio engineer for a 24-track sound studio, mixing sounds and editing film commercials. D. C. had settled on the technical end of sound after working as a disc jockey at Ohio's Antioch College, where she majored in communications, and running a cable TV station in Newark, DE. She'd also written and produced spot ads for station WILM in Wilmington, DE, where she sometimes used her own voice in her commercials. (Her voice — with an appealing edge of huskiness — is still in demand for free lance assignments.)

But now — 23-year-old D. C. says — writing, producing, speaking over and engineering commercials don't mean as much to her as racquetball.

"I play 10 hours a week and I enter all kinds of tournaments — I usually win the B's."

And D. C.'s very much in the racquetball business. She's assistant manager of the new Greenville (DE) Racquetball Club



—Steve Gaber Photos



and just started "Courting Success," a consultant service to help clubs attract members and keep them happy.

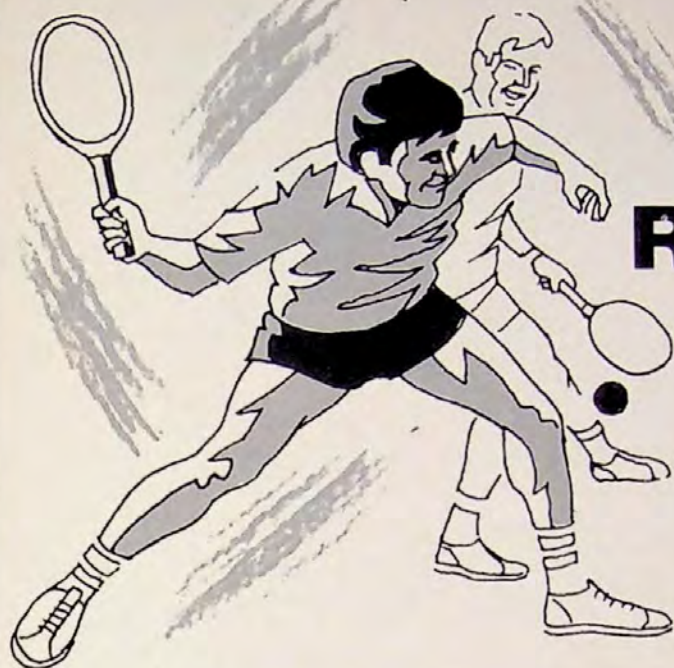
Two years ago — before the loudspeaker called her out of the exercise room — D. C. hadn't picked up any kind of racquet. Athletics for D. C. meant field hockey, lacrosse, gymnastics (she won a state title in junior high), hunting and showing the family horse, "Dr. Sam."

Horses still matter to D. C., a classic case of the busy person who gets a job done. She lives on her family's farm in Boothwin, PA — a mile over the Delaware border — where the Lantz' board harness race horses on leave from the track.

"Right off a racing schedule they're a little crazy," D. C. says. "No one wants to feed and groom them... so I do it!"

If you know a woman who plays racquetball and whose job or hobby would make her a good subject for this series, send her name, address and phone number to Carol Brusslan, National Racquetball, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

Racquetball is number one interest for D. C. Lantz, an audio engineer who grooms and feeds vacationing race horses.



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Racquetball



Terry Fancher

Banner Year Ahead for Amateurs

After a three fold increase in amateur tournaments in 1977-78 the upcoming tournament season promises to be mammoth. Some of our state associations, such as the Upstate New York Racquetball Association headed by Doug Reighly, have events planned ahead for a full year and a half. (We're running the Association's schedule in this USRA section.)

Our headquarters and sponsors are gearing up for the huge provisions of Seamco balls and Leach shirts. And now with Wilson-Bata as our official racquetball shoe Wilson Sporting Goods also will become more involved with amateur racquetball events. These days there are so many tournaments, whether sanctioned or otherwise, a player has to plan his schedule several months in advance. One can now afford to be choosy.

This brings me to my next point. Host clubs must take better care of the players during a racquetball tournament. When an average player attends a racquetball happening, he or she likes to be taken care of during those actual days of the event. Complaints we hear from players always revolve around the same aspects of what they consider a sour tournament. They include inadequate

food for hospitality, charging the players for towels, holding up tournament matches because club members purchased court time, rudeness from the host staff, over charging for refreshments like beer or soft drinks, not providing new balls at the start of each match, and the list goes on and on.

Some may say the players are just getting spoiled. I doubt it. My feeling is that a club hosting a tournament should do it correctly and treat the players as guests and with respect just as they should with a club member, or they should not host a racquetball tournament at all. All costs for the tournament to a player should be included in the entry fee with the exception of alcoholic beverages or national memberships. Nickel and diming players to death with towel charges and other irritating requirements will eventually lead to poor entries in future events. In all fairness players must realize that they are guests and treat the club as if it were their own as well. Then tournaments will benefit everyone.

Juniors Show Incredible Potential

The quality of our young junior players is remarkable. After our National Juniors this past August I could only speculate as to which of these youngsters will become professionals. Many already have years of amateur tournament experience behind them and a bright future lies ahead.

The skills that the boys and girls displayed at such an early age was simply superb. Not only have they begun to master a lifetime skill, but they also are reaping the benefits of competitive play and a possible professional career. I'm glad we did not wait any longer to emphasize our junior's program in the state, regional, and national tournaments.



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Meet Your Chairman



Ron Akins — Ohio

Ron Akins, a production control supervisor for Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation in North Canton, shares his enthusiasm for racquetball with his wife, Barb, and their daughter, Rhoda, who's 13.

Before he took over as USRA state chairman Ron served on the Ohio board of directors and was publicity chairman and editor of the state newsletter.

Ron competes at the North Canton YMCA, where he first saw racquetball played. He enters most of the local tournaments and takes off frequently with the Ohio travelling leagues that have been popular in the state for the last five years.



Driving, Pushbuttoning and Building For Racquetball in Roanoke

by Laura Alderson

Folks in southwestern Virginia will do just about anything to play racquetball. They'll drive 80 miles round trip to get a court. They'll wait at least a week for a particular time to use what seems to be the only public court between Richmond in the center of the state and Bristol, on the far western edge.

They'll pushbutton their phones constantly to get through to a reservation desk at a nearby university for a reservation on courts the wrong size. And they'll even give up and build their own.

In the Roanoke Valley, where around 180,000 people live, players went so hard for racquetball that the local newspaper headlined the problem "Racquet Brawl."

None of which deters the enthusiasm of people here who think the game is so great more people should be playing it. Players say the private racquetball club scheduled for a fall opening will also overflow with members.

Racquetball came home to Roanoke with businessman Terry Brenner, who learned it at Michigan State in the 60's and played it on the old handball court built at the family business, a scrap yard.



The logo for the Virginia Tech Racquetball Club
— Tech's mascot is the turkey.

No Damage to the Handball Courts

Brenner walked into the Roanoke Central YMCA one day in 1972 with two racquets. That was all it took — except for one trip back to the scrap yard, where the Y's guiding fathers were persuaded the game wouldn't damage the Y's two handball courts.

Soon businessmen had switched from handball and tennis and were bringing their wives in to try racquetball at the Y on couples' night. That is how racquet brawl began.

In early 1976 the Y had opened its membership to women. Among special programs for that sex it offered racquetball lessons. "The women got addicted to it," Y physical director, Jim Wright, says, and before long 100 to 110 players were fighting to reserve courts each day — a situation that led to the town's newspaper story on racquet brawl, which in turn made the game an even hotter sport at the Y. There are just too many players and not enough courts, especially with members coming from as far away as 40 miles.

Meanwhile, over in Blacksburg, 39 miles west, there are 20,000 students at Virginia Polytechnic and State University and around 24,000 town residents, some of whom have discovered racquetball. To serve them are 16 courts at the university gym. The courts were built in 1976, "but they're at least 22 feet high, for some strange reason," says Jim Smith, sponsor of the Tech racquetball club. Smith is an associate math professor who began playing racquetball three years ago.

400 Players a Day

Smith says a handful of players used to play at Tech's coliseum in a room about 24 feet wide by 44 feet long, with ceilings who knows how high. "Then it moved to the new gym and that's where racquetball went crazy," Smith says. Courts are booked solid for 11 hours on weekdays and 12 on weekends and Smith estimates that the courts serve 300 to 400 players a day.

"If you don't have a pushbutton phone, you're in trouble," Smith says, explaining that you can make reservations between 5:30 and 6:30

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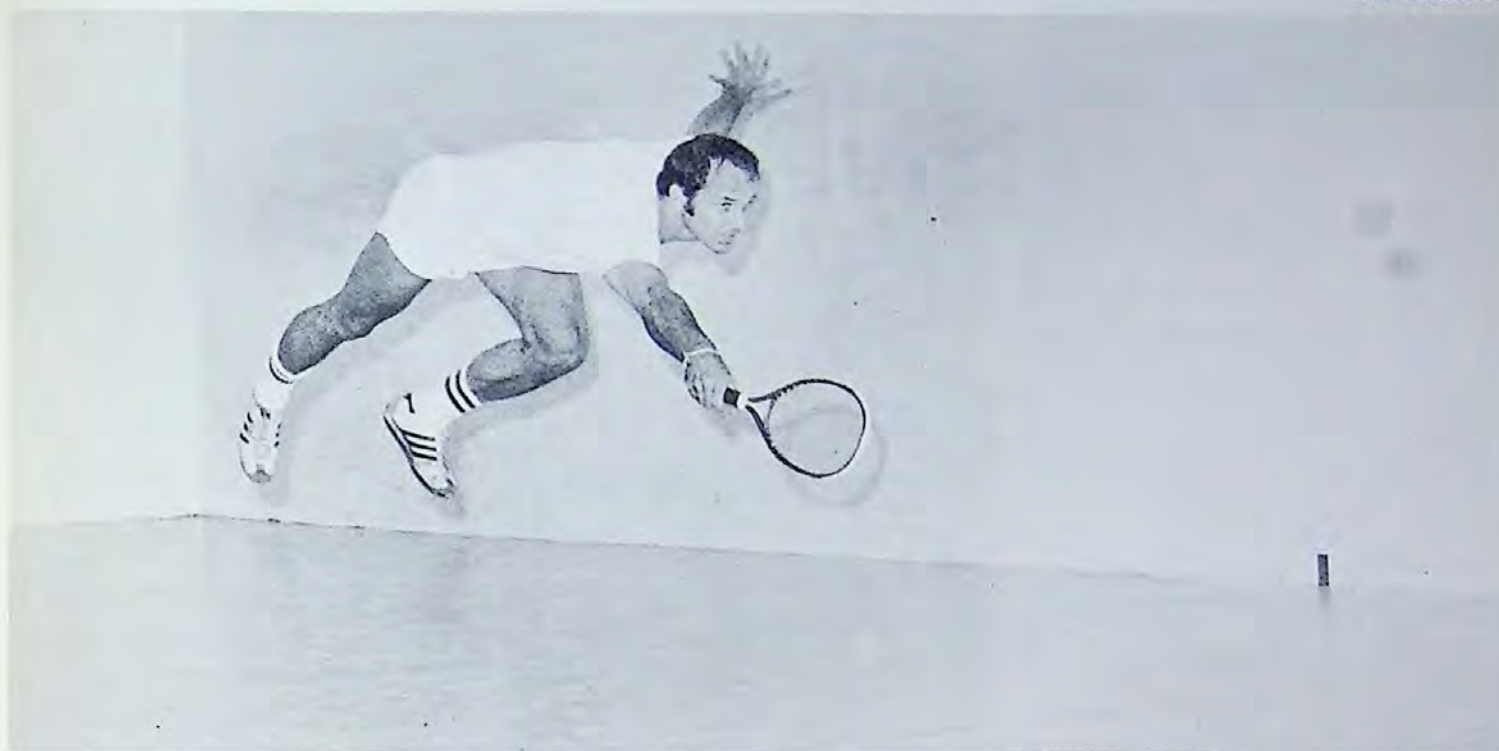
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p.m. the day before you want to play. "I've dialed for 15 minutes straight. The phone rings before the guy can put the receiver down. Pushbuttons give you more dials a minute."

Besides the extra high ceiling there's another design problem with Tech's courts. "Well," Smith says with embarrassment, "the glass in the doors isn't flush. We have to play a hinder. Sometimes it's frustrating when you're ready to kill and it hits that window."

Even though Tech's odd sized court and jutting window eliminates sanctioned tournaments last April the college sponsored the second annual Virginia Tech Open, drawing more than 100 players. To keep the top players from Virginia and surrounding states from dominating the play a special category for "semi-professionals" was created, Smith says.

Impressive List of Winners

Among those top players is Radford physician Bill King, whose list of wins is impressive. King won the Virginia State Singles and Doubles championship last year and this in the Senior singles division. This year he won the doubles in the same tournament with Hank Weiss of Norfolk. King learned to play

on the undersized courts of the YMCA in Winston-Salem, NC, in 1972 and at the medical units of the University of Tennessee in Memphis.

In 1974, when King opened his practice in Radford, a city of about 12,000 which is 42 miles southwest of Roanoke, he didn't find any courts. When he phoned the YMCA in Roanoke to find courts and players, he found Jim Roberson, a dentist who had built his own racquetball court across the hall from his bedroom in his sprawling suburban home in Roanoke County. Roberson had picked up the game on the handball courts of Roanoke College.

Roberson's court is also part time home for Tamas Kutas, winner of the Virginia State Singles and Doubles Championship in Open Singles in '75, '76 and '77. Kutas is a field engineer for General Electric who began playing at the University of Cincinnati. He won the Southeastern Regionals Singles Open division last March.

None of the three are sure why southwestern Virginia has such good players and so few courts. The only public court apparently is at Radford's Recreation department, where Director Dave Bisset is quick to note that it is regulation size.

One between Roanoke and Bristol

Bisset said he doesn't know of another public court between Roanoke (where the YMCA courts aren't really public) and Bristol, on the Virginia-Tennessee border 142 miles southwest.

"Some men came in one day in the early 70's and asked to play racquetball," Bisset remembers.

"They had a sawed off tennis racquet and a tennis ball with the fuzz worn off."

Now the game is so popular, Bisset said, the sporting goods stores stock equipment and if players want a certain day, they must reserve court time a week or more ahead. In winter the court is booked solid from 9 to 9. Spring eases up the demand, however, and you can get a court a day in advance or — sometimes — that day.

So if you're passing through southwestern Virginia, don't depend on a spur-of-the-moment racquetball game. Unless you hit it lucky, you'll have to stand in line with the natives.



Tournament Results

Reporters, take note: Help make our typesetter happy by sending us your tournament results typed double or triple (preferred) space with one-inch margins all around. Thank you.

Florida

Sportrooms of Sabal Chase was host to the Miami Racquetball Championships June 23-25.

Results

Men's Open: Joe Icaza d. Frank Johnson 21-15, 15-21, 11-6.

Men's B: Robert Mendez d. Alex Ramos 21-17, 21-16.

Men's C: Tinker Hewitt d. John Morris 21-11, 21-18.

Men's Novice: Bob Rosenblatt d. Noel Gonzalez 21-13, 21-15.

Men's Seniors: Mike Wohl d. Frank Harney 21-7, 21-10.

Men's Masters: Wohl d. Melvin Mitchell 21-13, 21-3.

Golden Masters: Carlos Sena d. Don Keils 21-19, 21-8.

Women's Open: Lynn Jennette d. Pam Harrison 21-19, 13-21, 11-9.

Women's B: Dee Lewis d. Harrison 21-17, 21-10.

Women's C: Susan Sotello d. Kathy Griffin 21-6, 21-3.

Women's Novice: Sotello d. Jean Zeller 21-3, 21-7.

Florida

The Orlando Florida Racquet Ball hosted another successful tournament in its short six month old life. This time the Orlando edition of the Ektelon/Natural Light Racquetball Championships, a series of tournaments to produce the top amateur racquetball players in some 30 U.S. cities, was held May 26-28.

The tournament drew over 350 entries and was the largest field for Racquet Ball club to date.

Results

Men's Open:

1st - Mike Fatolitis, 2nd - Keith Dunlap, 3rd - Jim Adkins.

Men's B:

1st - John Stanford, 2nd - Randy Watkins, 3rd - Dave Reep.

Men's Novice:

1st - Andy Warden, 2nd - John Quevedo, 3rd - Dave Heisig.

Men's Seniors:

1st - Mike Mojer, 2nd - Larry Bauer, 3rd - Collie Carlton.

Men's Masters:

1st - Tom Zetrouer, 2nd - John Hinkamp, 3rd - Eugene Glenn.

Women's Open:

1st - Cile Adkins, 2nd - Debby Drury, 3rd - Donisa Zetrouer.

Women's B:

1st - Julie Knight, 2nd - Rene Fish, 3rd - Mary Andrews.

Women's Novice:

1st - Jane Meilleur, 2nd - Donna Nickel, 3rd - Jonnie Gordon.

Georgia

The second annual Georgia USRA Singles Tournament, at Atlanta's Downtown YMCA, drew some 120 entrants, with a waiting list of over 25.

The June 1-4 event held several exciting matches, upsets and some of the state's best play yet.

Men's Open top seeded Joe Icaza was upset by number two John Parks in finals match scores of (Parks) 12-21, 21-20, 11-5.

First round scores were Ed Camara over Don Curtis 18,10; Barry Rhodes over Richard Wuller 11,13; Henry Langendorf over Dutch Sears 11,13; Barry Nelson over Bob Miller 19-21, 21-12, 11-9; Hugh Durham over John Derdeyn 14,0; Jim Lane over Ray Irwin 14,20; Mick Dodson over Jerry Wickliffe 21-7, 8-21, 11-8; Marshall Chamberlain over David Lawrence 13,19.

Second round scores were Icaza over Curtis 13,3; Rhodes over John Parris, 7,7; Doug Wurster over Langendorf 20-21, 21-12, 11-7; Nelson over Vic Match 19,20; Bob Siegel over Durham 16,17; Wayne Vincent over Lane 15,18; Chamberlain over Dodson 20,11; Parks over Bill Baumgartel 3,4.

Quarter final scores were Icaza over Rhodes 6,16; Nelson over Wurster 18-21, 21-19, 11-2; Siegel over Vincent 21-17, 16-21, 11-6; Parks over Chamberlain 9,19.

Semi-final scores were Icaza over Nelson 6,10, and Parks over Siegel 9,10.

Women's Open quarters found Diane Crowe defeating Nancy Palm 14,12; Bev Payne over Nancy Willard 11-21, 21-12, 11-9; Nancy Fox over Eva Metcalf 9,8 and Sue Graham over Luana Blalack 3,14.

Semi scores were Crowe over Payne 7,5 and Fox over Graham 11,20.

Crowe pulled out a victory over Fox in a tense, three-game finals match with scores of 9-21, 21-19, 11-8 for the first place crown.

Graham placed third.

Women's Novice quarters found Rita Camp winning by forfeit; Corkie Collins defeating Leslie Rosenberg 0,5; Mellany Malone beating Valerie Benedict 16, 12 and Rosalie Jensen over Pat Wentzel 9,9.

Semi play saw Collins defeat Camp 14,16; and Jensen over Malone 8,7.

Collins walked away with the first place Novice trophy with 12,12 finals scores, while Camp received third place.

Men's Master first round scores were Bob Creviston over Sue Graham 20,16; and semi action saw Jake Heaton defeat Frank Jernigan in another exciting three-game match, 16-21, 21-9, 11-6 and Jim Bradford defeat Creviston 13,5.

Bradford took home first place trophy with three-game finals match scores of 21-15, 15-21, 11-5. Creviston won third.

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Men's Senior quarter play saw top seeded Hugh Durham defeat Don Curtis 17,5; Jim Lane over Scott Carroll 13,19; Ron Scallion over Mike Jones 1,7 and unseeded Roger Wehrle over second seed Jim Hilliard 7,1.

Semi action found Durham over Lane 6,20; and Wehrle over Scallion 10,8.

Durham then defeated Wehrle 6,18 in finals play and Scallion placed third.

In Men's B quarter final action, number one seed Rich Olson defeated Steve Boyce 21-11, 16-21, 11-2; Chuck Couch beat Butch Simcoe 14,18; unseeded Ron Clark won over Woody Burckhalter 17,12 and Bill Kleyla defeated second seeded Pat Gartland 19,9.

Semi B play found Olson edging by Couch 21-8, 20-21, 11-8 and Clark taking Kleyla with three-game scores of 13-21, 21-6, 11-3.

Olson then defeated Clark, the surprise B entry, in a finals match with scores of 21-16, 16-21, 11-6. Couch took home third place trophy.

Men's Novice quarter action saw Mike Ray over top seeded Larry Engram 8-21, 21-17, 11-7; Steve Miller over Stan Wise 21-20, 13-21, 11-6; Marvin Soskin over Jerry Brody 15,15 and Harold Cohn over Dennis Orlemanski 19,20.

Mike Ray, the 15-year-old surprise novice entry, then defeated Miller 21-11, 17-21, 11-10 in semi play, as unseeded Soskin beat Cohn 18,17. Soskin defeated Ray 16,2 for the novice crown and Miller captured third.

Boys Junior finals found number two seed Danny Phillips upsetting top seed John Derdeyn in one of the tourney's more exciting three-game come-back matches.

For the first time in Georgia, all but two divisions attracted enough entrants for playing.

Alabama

The first annual War Eagle Open had all the makings of your well planned, highly competitive, three day tournament last June at Auburn University, but the results of the final match between number one seed, Bryce Anderson, and number two seed, Joe Ycaza, were unpredictable.

The final had started out looking like an upset with Anderson being dominated by the precision shooting and passing displayed by the older Ycaza. After a 21-9 thrashing in the first game Anderson came out "smoking" and with some awesome shooting and retrieving of his own quickly ran the score to 15-6, at which point Ycaza forfeited the game over a disputed call.

A third place playoff in the Women's Open Singles provided a thriller as unseeded Micki Anderson, Bryce's wife, went all out against third seeded Diane Palazolo. After splitting the first two games both players threw caution to the wind and began shooting anything and everything from all over the court. Spectators held their breath when at 10-10 in the tie breaker both players unleashed backhand rollouts from 35 feet.

Five innings were played at 10-10 before Micki found the handle for that elusive winning point.

Results

Men's Open Singles: 1st-Anderson, 2nd-Ycaza, 3rd-Mark Thomas, Consolation-John Jordan.

Men's B Singles: 1st-Dutch Sears, 2nd-John Fuhrmann, 3rd-Dennis McRee, Consolation-Allen Dunn.

Men's C Singles: 1st-Rick Almas, 2nd-Ken Kelly, 3rd-Tony Barbaris, Consolation-Larry Engram.

Men's Senior Singles: 1st-Ron Scallion, 2nd-Roger Wehrle.

Men's Masters Singles: 1st-John Webster, 2nd-Roland Chasse.

Women's Open Singles: 1st-Babette Bell, 2nd-Sue Graham, 3rd-Micki Anderson, Consolation-Diane Palazolo.

Washington

With only six months of racquetball experience, Tennis World Sports Director Mir Rahim was the surprise winner of the Seattle Racquetball Championships June 2-4 at Tennis World. Mir, who is a former national tennis champion and intercollegiate squash champion of Pakistan, defeated Steve Bellar, a top ranked Washington state player, in the Men's Open Finals. Mir's biggest goal in life is to "beat the World All-Racquet Sports Champion."

Results

Men's Open Singles: Mir Rahim d. Steve Bellar 21-7, 21-19.

Men's B Singles: Brad Furlong d. Vicki Panzeri 21-20, 21-19, Third - John O'Brien.

Men's C Singles: Darrell Krause d. Will Graham 21-16, 21-14, Third - Russ Bertrand.

Men's D Singles: Bret Clark d. Jim Mora 21-17, 21-15, Third - Arnie Robinette.

Men's Novice Singles: Victor Ackley d. Clyde Hallett 21-17, 21-1, Third - Paul Elsberry.

Men's Senior Singles: Sid Williams d. Tom Graham 21-9, 21-12, Third - Pat Whitehill.

Women's C Singles: Aileen Boyden d. Kay Trepanier 19-21, 21-10, 11-1, Third - Brenda Putnam.

Women's D Singles: Sandy Evich d. Carla Martin 11-21, 21-11, 11-1, Third - Lynda Hild.

Men's Open Doubles: Ray Oram/Curt Larson d. Williams/Bertrand 21-14, 21-18, Third - Panzeri/O'Brien.

Men's B Doubles

Ken Jensen/Larry Peccatiello d. Rick Murphy/Will Graham 21-17, 21-11, Third - Panzeri/O'Brien.

Consolation Matches:

Men's B Singles: Lynn Ratliff d. Steve Wilson.

Men's C Singles: John Reid d. Jim Ross.

Men's D Singles: Chris Eyring d. Rich Miller.

Men's Novice Singles: Dave Pollock d. John Fotheringham.

Women's C Singles: Penny Evich d. Chloe Beardsley (default).

Women's D Singles: Donna Noborikawa d. Pat Palko.

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Wisconsin

Back in January Paul Ikier, manager and pro of Madison's Court Club, changed his residency to Wisconsin from neighboring Minnesota. He entered the USRA Wisconsin Singles Championships and accomplished a feat no other racquetball player has done in Wisconsin for five consecutive years — he dethroned Joe Wirkus. This writer remembers the almost three hour match well, with Ikier barely winning in the tiebreaker 21-17, 18-21, 11-9.

May 19-21 the first USRA Wisconsin Doubles Championships were hosted by the Supreme Court, Madison's newest racquetball facility. Ikier and his partner Brad Armstrong met Wirkus again in a finals, but this time there were two of them. Joe had teamed up with his younger brother, Jim, and went on to capture the first USRA Wisconsin Doubles title, defeating Ikier and Armstrong in the tiebreaker 21-20, 15-21, 11-7.

Young Jim Wirkus, just 19, played the left side and showed extreme poise and confidence against the veteran Ikier. Brad Armstrong's solid right side play complimented Ikier's smooth and experienced backhand but in the end it was Jim's powerful backhand and Joe's forehand pinches that led to the title.

In the upper bracket semi's the Wirkus' had little difficulty with the team of Ken Frank and Bobby Schultz. On paper the powerful lefty, Schultz, and brilliant retriever, Frank, would be strong opponents for the Wirkus' — but someone forgot to tell Joe and Jim and they advanced to the finals quite easily 21-16, 21-4.

The lower bracket semi's featured Ikier and Armstrong against lefty Galen Johnson and Tom Handlen. Johnson, considered to be Wisconsin's premier left side player, didn't get much of a chance to display his talents as Ikier and Armstrong breezed to the finals 21-15, 21-6.

The Womens Open drew just five teams and the round robin results had highly ranked Connie Peterson and Karen Finkelburg easily defeating Linda Frank and Julie Jacobsen 21-8, 21-9 for the crown.

In the Mens Senior division USRA State Chairman Bob Keenan teamed with State Committeeman Jerry Hoff to capture the crown over Madison's Dave Hults and veteran Paul Nelson. The lopsided scores showed dominance by each team with the finals going to the tiebreaker 9-21, 21-13, 11-1.

Both semi's were close with Keenan-Hoff stopping Larry Preo and Frank Klode 21-19, 21-17. Hults-Nelson got by Jim Compton and Bob Moericke in a tiebreaker 21-18, 20-21, 11-6.

The Mens B had Mike Jiru and Dave Lattimer team up to defeat Dan Frank and Pogo Knight in a tight three gamer 18-21, 21-8, 11-8.

In the semi's Jiru-Lattimer found Jim Andrews and Dick Ricco worthy opponents in a 21-17, 21-13 well played match. Frank and Knight had one close game in their semi's against Randy Bauknecht and Ted Koch by the score of 21-19, 21-9.

The Womens B, dominated mainly by Milwaukee and Madison teams, had the two cities opposing each other in the finals. Madison's Janice Lucht and Barb Sowinski defeated Judy Pohl and Judi Mottl 20-21, 21-9, 11-6. In the semi's Pohl-Mottl stopped Laurie Johnson and Karen Doyle 21-14, 21-9 while Lucht-Sowinski downed Bergman-Pruitt in their semi's 8-21, 21-15, 11-0.

The Masters played to a round robin with the strong team of Mike Mackedon and Claude Manning topping Supreme Court owner Ivan Brunner and his partner Chet Howard 21-17, 21-11.

The Juniors 14 and under bracket had one of the better finals of the tourney featuring Bob Kinney and Jeff Tubbs coming out on top of a tiebreaker against Jeff Plazak and Mike Manning 21-16, 14-21, 11-9.

The tourney drew 76 teams in all, the largest doubles event ever held in Wisconsin, and it was the first USRA sanctioned doubles event. Much of the tourney's success must be credited to Joe Wirkus, manager and pro at the Supreme Court, and to his hard working staff. A special thanks to

Connie Peterson for her time and efforts prior to the tourney. Leach Industries shirts were well received and a big thanks to the USRA Wisconsin Chapter for the Gatorade.

This writer would like to comment on an occurrence during the tourney that displayed extreme good sportsmanship and should not be overlooked.

In an early round of the Men's Open, a match between Steve Peck and Steve Salamone vs. Gary Tate and Dennis Ryan ended with Peck-Salamone winning a tiebreaker 11-7. With one out and Peck serving at 10-7 one of the members of the opposing team lost a shoe during a volley. The shoe remained off for at least three shots before Peck hit a winner for match point. The official, not quite familiar with the "loss of equipment" rule, allowed play to continue after Tate had lost the shoe and Peck's winner for match point occurred while a player was minus a shoe.

Under the conditions Tate and Ryan could have easily ranted and raved at a loss in this manner but they calmly voiced a protest after all players had left the court. The Tournament Director and State Chairman considered the protest and decided the point should be replayed. All four players agreed to the ruling calmly and without complaint. The point was replayed and Peck and Salamone won the match.

—Bob Keenan

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Wirkus/Wirkus d. Peck/Salamone 21-11, 21-7; Frank/Schultz d. Guenther/Vascholz 21-14, 21-19; Ikier/Armstrong d. Gerschke/Ernst 21-7, 21-12; Johnson/Handlen d. Parrott/Lucht 21-17, 21-18.

Semis: Wirkus/Wirkus d. Frank/Schultz 21-16, 21-4; Ikier/Armstrong d. Johnson/Handlen 21-15, 21-6.

Finals: Wirkus/Wirkus d. Ikier/Armstrong 21-20, 15-21, 11-7; Third: Johnson/Handlen d. Frank/Schultz 21-18, 21-17.

Men's B

Quarters: D. Frank/P. Knight d. Anderson/Nordness 21-18, 21-8; Bauknecht/Koch d. Sebak/Ward 21-19, 21-15; Krause/Chambers d. Walsh/Pegram 21-20, 21-12; Andrews/Ricco d. Lamers/Steenis 21-18, 12-21, 11-4; Jiru/Lattimer d. Van Drisse/DeWan 21-18, 21-10.

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Wisconsin

Semis: D. Frank Knight d. Bauknecht Koch 21-19, 21-9.
Jiru Lattimer d. Andrews Ricco 21-17, 21-13.

Finals: Jiru Lattimer d. Frank Knight 18-21, 21-8, 11-8.

Third: Bauknecht Koch d. Andrews Ricco 21-20, 21-18.

Seniors

Quarters: Huitts Nelson d. Pinion-Fisher 21-10, 21-14.

Compton Moericke d. Murray Sedik 21-20, 21-14.

Klode Preo d. Kinney Anderson 21-20, 10-21, 11-10.

Keenan Hoff d. Marrott Grutzner 21-16, 21-14.

Semis: Huitts Nelson d. Compton Moericke 21-18, 20-21, 11-6.

Keenan Hoff d. Preo-Klode 21-19, 21-17.

Finals: Keenan Hoff d. Huitts Nelson 9-21, 21-13, 11-1.

Third: Compton Moericke (by forfeit).

Womens B

Quarters: Pohl Mottl d. Hett Gagliano 21-10, 21-19.

Doyle Johnson d. Olson Schallern 19-21, 21-18, 11-0.

Bergman Pruitt d. Wirkus Colletti 21-9, 18-21, 11-10.

Lucht Sowinski d. Singler Grutzner.

Semis: Pohl Mottl d. Doyle Johnson 21-14, 21-9, Lucht Sowinski

d. Bergman Pruitt 8-21, 21-15, 11-0.

Finals: Lucht Sowinski d. Pohl Mottl 20-21, 21-9, 11-6.

Third: Doyle Johnson d. Bergman Pruitt 21-8, 21-18.

Masters

Finals: Mike Mackedon Claude Manning d. Ivan Brunner Chet

Howard 21-17, 21-11.

Women's Open

Finals: Connie Peterson Karen Finkelnburg d. Linda Frank Julie

Jacobson 21-8, 21-9.

Juniors 14 & under

Semis: M. Manning/J. Plazak d. B. Huitts/J. O'Laughlin 21-2,

21-9; B. Kinney/J. Tubbs d. E. Grutzner/J. Johnson 21-12, 21-2.

Finals: Kinney/Tubbs d. Manning/Plazak 21-16, 14-21, 11-9.

Third: Grutzner/Johnson d. Huitts/O'Laughlin 14-21, 21-8, 11-6.

Consolation Winners: Mens Open — Lucht/Parrott **Seniors** —
Pinion-Fisher, Jr. — Cassidy/Caplan **Mens B** — Van
Drisse/DeWan **Womens B** — Jordan-Cavalco

The Bridgkort Racquet Club of Neenah, hosted a field of 128 of Wisconsin's finest racquetball players March 31 - April 3.

The Mens Open event was well contested with Brian Parrott taking top honors over Jon Derksen 21-5, 21-15. The biggest upset of the tourney was Parrott's upset over number one seed Galen Johnson in the semi-finals 21-9, 13-21, 11-4. In the lower bracket semis Derksen defeated Bruce Thompson 21-19, 21-9. Thompson beat Johnson for third 12-21, 21-18, 11-9.

The Seniors division drew 23 entries with Bob Adam defeating Roger Siegrist 21-17, 21-8. In the semis Adam easily handled Don Gemoll 21-6, 21-13. Siegrist went to the finals by downing Greg Kettelson 21-10, 21-13. Kettelson defeated Gemoll for third 21-17, 21-19.

Don Chambers outlasted a field of 38 entries in the Men's B and defeated Dan Mohr 21-19, 21-20. In the semis Chambers defeated Jon Waldron 21-11, 21-15 and Mohr barely got by Tim Brown 21-18, 20-21, 11-6. Brown defeated Waldron for third 21-6, 21-14.

The Men's C division drew 40 entries and Archie Landerman defeated Milwaukeean Bill Birkett in the finals 21-20, 21-15. In the semis Birkett stopped Tom Tadych 21-7, 21-19. Landerman eased through the semis via Tom Soens 21-14, 21-11.

Twenty-six competed in the Women's Open division with Judie Lutz downing Gina Waldron in the finale 21-18, 21-8. Waldron topped Janice Lucht in the lower semis 21-15, 21-6 and Lutz

surprised number one seed Nola Ward in the upper semis stopping her 21-13, 21-13. Nola captured third over Lucht 21-20, 21-17.

Scott Schultz defeated Bob Akulian 21-16, 21-8 for the Men's Open Consolation. The Men's B Consolation went to Jim Marrinello over Jeff Wilson 21-8, 21-16. Bob Mann defeated Jeff Rosen in a tiebreaker 9-21, 21-15, 11-10 to capture C Consolation. The Men's Senior Consolation also went to the tiebreaker with Hank Krause besting Tom Biebel 21-9, 12-21, 11-4. Leta Leyon was the Womens Open Consolation winner topping Lisa Rosen 21-15, 21-13.

Hats off for a successful event to George Millar and his fine Bridgkort staff, and special thanks to Tournament Director Randy Bauknecht and Floor Manager Art Snell.

—Bob Keenan

Minnesota

The fourth annual Northwest Invitational was held June 9-11 at the Northwest Racquet and Swim Club, in St. Louis Park. One hundred and thirty players from the upper midwest and Canada competed in the three day event.

Mike Filippi, who works at a local Twin City Disco, provided music for the Saturday night dance. Festivities included a chicken dinner, a full evening of disco dancing and a drawing for prizes compliments of the Northwest Racquet and Leach, Ektelon and Munsingwear.

In the Men's Pro event, Bob Adam defeated Pat Page, 21-13, 21-12.

Men's Open Singles was won by Tony Upkes, who beat John Kellner, 21-13, 18-21, 11-9.

Mike Hylden took the Men's B Singles title in straight games over Jim Pratt 21-18, 21-5.

The Men's Senior B Singles event was won by Jim Wills, over Howard Spizman 21-9, 21-16.

In Women's Open Singles, Martha Corwin defeated Nancy Harrer, 21-15, 18-21, 11-2.

Women's B Singles winner was Marilyn Sturm, over Barb Jacobson 21-5, 21-15.

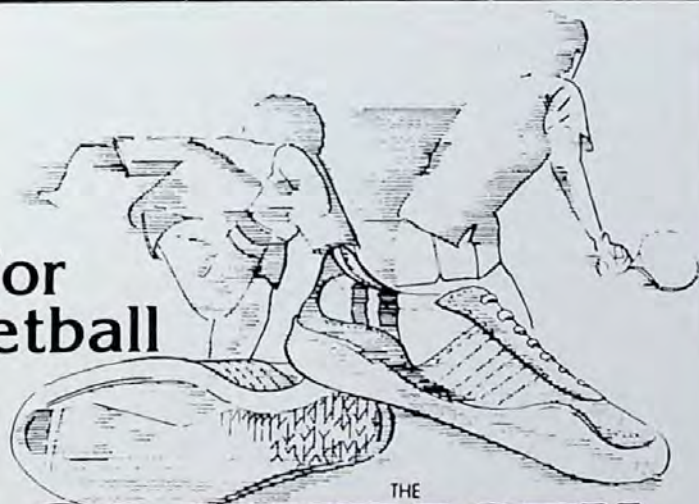
Shirley Eiken took the Women's C Singles over Lisa Adam 21-13, 21-10.

In Men's Open Doubles, Steve Singer and Don Constable defeated Bob Adam and Pat Page 15-8, 11-15, 11-6.

Les Carl and Mike Hylden took the Men's B Doubles event over Craig Stirtz and Dave Hart 15-8, 15-7.

In the two Round Robin events, Bob McNamara defeated Ralph Stillman for the Masters Singles title, and the Men's Senior Singles title was won by Larry Kinney over Evered Eiken.

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SUNY Binghamton

Oct. 20-22
The Court Club, Albany

Nov. 3-5
YMCA, Batavia

Dec. 1-3
Winton Racquetball Club, Rochester

Jan. 12-14
4 Walls Courts, Buffalo

Jan. 26-28
DeWitt Clubhouse, Syracuse

Mar. 2-4
New York State Championships, Rochester

Mar. 30-Apr. 1
YMCA, Batavia

Apr. 13-15
SUNY Binghamton

May 4-6
YMCA, Rochester

Jun. 1-3
Racquet Club of Eastern Hills, Buffalo

Oct. 6-8
2nd Annual Tri-Sate Tournament, Manchester Court Club, 2 Driving Park Road, Manchester, NH.

Dec. 2, 3
2nd Annual Closed Tournament, OFF THE WALL RACQUET CLUB, Nashua, NH.

Feb. 9 - 11
New Hampshire Open Tournament, place to be announced.

For further details or questions contact Robert Gelinas, 814 Goffstown Road, Manchester, NH 03102. 603-625-5551.



Minnesota

The Ektelon, Anheuser - Busch Tournament held at Roseville Kings Court June 23-25 drew over 200 entrants.

Results

Womens Open: Martha Corwin d. Jacque Coplin, Third — Elaine Weiss, Consolation — Terri Seaborg.

Womens B: Sandi Riach d. Jean Krusemark, Third — Mary Hunnes, Consolation — Marsha Liss.

Womens C: Vivian Luce d. Jean Lane, Third — Vicky Hodgson, Consolation — Lisa Adam.

Womens Novice: Carol Hood d. Nancy Husen, Third — Debbie Smith, Consolation — Janice Tukki.

Womens Open Doubles: First — Nancy Cato/Terri Seaborg, Second — Nancy Herver/Mary Adam, Third — Meg Souder/Jacque Coplin.

Womens B Doubles: First — Jenny Bjerken/Pat Hagen, Second — Sandy Chapck/Barb Jacobson, Third — Marsha Liss/Rosie Lebowitz.

Seniors: Bill Hall d. Monte McCunniff, Third — Bill Harper, Consolation — Charles Schafer.

Men's Open: Bob Adam Jr. d. Dan Ferris, Third — Tony Upkes, Consolation — James Woolcock.

Men's Open Doubles: Dan Ferris/Tony Upkes d. Greg Johnson/Gary Peterson, Third — Bob Adam Jr./Pat Page, Consolation — Mike Weum/John Kruger.

Men's B: Al Pederson d. Craig Stirtz, Third — Gary Wheaton, Consolation — Dave Hart.

Men's B Doubles: Tom Grady/Sparky Corwin d. Chuck Carlson/Kevin Joppe, Third — Craig Stirtz/Dave Hart, Consolation — Larry Kinney/Bruce Miller.

Men's C: Frank Hess d. Tom Arnold, Third — Dennis Schatz, Consolation — Mark Thompson.

Men's Novice: Ron Payne d. Terry Poirier, Third — Dan Savard, Consolation — Don Groves.

Missouri

The first place winners of the 1978 Spaulding-Vittert Mid-States Open, which drew 600 competitors June 30-July 3 at four of the St. Louis Spaulding clubs, were:

Men's Open - Ken Wong.

A - Mike Ellis.

B - Chris Patterson.

C - Berry Kiesel.

D - Ritt Rainey.

Novice - Ron Huelsing.

Over 40 - Art Albert.

Women's Open - Mary Dee.

A - Julie Simon.

B - Donna Housely.

Intermediate - Karen McDowell.

Novice - Rebecca Lovelace.

California

Tom Hutchinson beat Jerry Mifsud 20-21, 21-19, 11-6 to win the Men's Open Singles at the Spring Racquetball Tournament in Westminster April 14-16 co-sponsored by King's Court and Professional Resources.

Other winners were: Women's Open Singles — Amy Atkinson over June Stubbe 21-9, 21-8; Women's Novice Singles — Sue Coltun over Marge Fleckner 21-0, 21-10; Men's Novice Singles — Tom Moore over Andy Nueman 21-6, 21-5.



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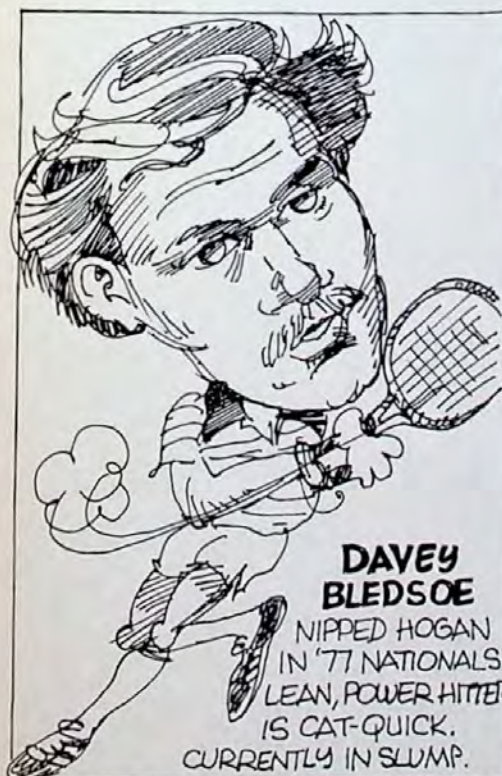
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A View of Six Pros Before the Nationals

Detroit Free Press Art Director Dick Mayer sketched some of the players expected to be top contenders in the Nationals held in Belleville, a suburb of Detroit. *National Racquetball* readers are getting a look at the drawings with permission of the *Free Press*, which ran the series on Sunday, June 18.



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Tournament Results

Hogan Wins —

Hogan sets up for his violent forehand as Brumfield tries to regain coverage position in the dramatic championship match.

• Nationals '78 •

All photos by Arthur Shay

- Finally!

Finally, Marty Hogan is racquetball's National Champion. The last title and the one that means the most was bestowed on our sport's finest player June 24 when he captured the 1978 National Championship from former champ Charlie Brumfield 21-12, 21-20.

It was as amazing a match as last year's upset win by Davey Bledsoe over Hogan, for had Hogan's good fortune not been Brumfield's inability to execute at the wire, a tie-breaker would have been necessary to determine the outcome.

After dropping the first game 21-12, Brumfield faced a 14-7 deficit in the second as the gallery began making dinner reservations. Hogan's fearless game was clicking crisply and Brumfield was unable to contain the blasting youngster.

And then, incredibly, Hogan quit playing his game. He stopped shooting, lost his ace serves, and gave Brumfield the opportunity to get back into the match.

Brumfield, who knows Christmas when he sees it, went after the title with renewed faith, outscoring Hogan 13-2 to take a solid 20-16 lead.

If there was ever an unwritten axiom in racquetball it has been that once Charlie Brumfield reaches 20, he is sure to reach 21. But he couldn't do it this time, despite three opportunities to put away game two.

The crucial rally was Brumfield's first chance at the game when Hogan left up a left side wall-front wall backhand pinch. Brumfield needed only to step over from his backhand to forehand and casually dump the re-kill into the right corner to force the tie-breaker.

Instead he hit the ball into the floor, skipping in the kill attempt that is a 90 percent for beginners.

"When he got 20 I knew I'd better shoot every ball," said Hogan. If I continued to play like I was, I would have lost."

Twice more Brumfield was unable to capture the point and as Hogan came back it was the veteran who wilted

under the pressure. At 20-18 Brumfield had a backhand set up along the left wall and instead of hitting down the line for an almost certain winner, he elected to go cross court, where Hogan took the shot off the back wall and rolled it out in the right corner.

In his final chance at the game Brumfield did go for the winner, a backhand kill attempt into the left corner from center court.

"If I can't make this shot," Brumfield said, "I can't win the tournament."

He left the shot up and Hogan re-killed with a backhand pinch that rolled out left side wall-front wall.

It was a championship match that befitted championship matches. The tide of the games ebbed and flowed from one player to another, but it was Hogan's blistering serve and fierce determination that proved to be the difference.

When Brumfield, who started fast in game one, built a modest 6-4 lead, Hogan held him scoreless for six straight innings to turn the game around 12-6.

At that juncture — with the fans fearing a Hogan blow-out — Brumfield rallied for five points his next time in to make it 11-12 and put up one more after holding Hogan, and the game was tied at 12.

But Brumfield never scored again. A drive serve to the right was an ace for point 13; a V pass to the left was 14; a left corner kill with his backhand was 15; a backhand cross court kill made 16; another ace, this one a drive left, was 17; an incredible backhand kill from 39 feet and shoulder high into the left corner was 18, and another ace, a driver left, made it 19-12 before Brumfield was able to regain the serve.

A seven point inning in which every rally ending shot was an offensive winner by Hogan! Truly a championship display.

When Charlie didn't score, Marty took over where he left off and in two swings of the racquet had captured the first

game. Serving at 19-12 Hogan hit two more aces, the first a perfect drive right to Brumfield's forehand for 20 and the second a Z serve left to Brum's backhand making the final 21-12 in the first game.

The nine point difference in score could be directly related to Hogan's nine aces in the game.

"I played pretty well," Hogan deadpanned.

He continued to play well into game two scoring seven straight over four innings to take command 13-5. There the Hogan domination ended and somehow the canny Brumfield reached back into the years of experience that won him five national championships and came up with the right combination to get him back into the match.

"Hogan had had a relatively easy tournament to the finals," said Brumfield. "I felt if I could put pressure on him late in the second game it could work for me. He wasn't used to doing anything."

And the pressure began to pay off as Brumfield mounted his drive that would eventually fall one, slim, elusive point short.

Coming in at 8-14 he tallied three times, each time hitting a winner with his forehand — a re-kill in the right corner, a cross court kill left, and a forehand pass down the right line.

Hogan's 15th point did little to slow down Brumfield, who added five more in the next inning, the first two coming on Hogan errors, the next three on Brumfield kill shots — a forehand back wall, backhand left corner, and forehand right corner giving Brumfield his first lead of the game 16-15.

Hogan tied it at 16-all with a forehand cross court pass right, but Brumfield responded with another big inning, allowing Hogan a taste of his own trademark, while eating four straight.

The 17th point was a forehand kill into the right corner, 18 was a forehand pass down the line right, 19 was a freebie on a Hogan skipped kill attempt

headed for the right corner and 20 was scored by Brum on a backhand pinch kill left to right. Hogan's response was a time out.

"I thought certainly Brumfield would go for the ace," said USRA president Bob Kendler. *"You would think that a player as thoughtful as Brumfield would have one serve up his sleeve for a situation like this."*

Instead Brumfield stayed with the shoulder high garbage serve that had enabled him to keep Hogan's serve return defensive. When Marty went for the low percentage kill (*"I'll shoot every ball"*) and left up the backhand pinch, Brumfield needed only put away the plum to win the game. As reported the dump kill attempt skipped in.

With his plug back in the socket Hogan responded with only one point, a backhand kill straight in, and Brumfield had opportunity number two to win the game. This time he chose to go for the winner, a backhand kill attempt into the left corner, only to leave it a little high. Hogan re-killed in the same corner with his backhand to regain the serve.

Marty notched another kill for his 18th point, a forehand into the right corner, but was unable to add more and Brumfield stepped into the service zone with a 20-18 lead, serving for the game for the third time.

Two opportunities down Brumfield's concentration must have weakened, for he did indeed have opportunity number three, a backhand set up which called for a down the line pass left. Unable to recognize the opportunity, or unwilling to go for the winner, Brumfield took the cross court pass route and Hogan buried the back wall kill into the right corner to take the serve. It was all over.

Three shots into the next rally Hogan rolled out a backhand kill in the left corner making it 19-20 and Brumfield was shook. A mis-hit Hogan pass attempt gave Charlie a chance to take an offensive shot from center court and the Brum hit it in the dirt again with his forehand for the 20-20 tie.

Hogan, who smells 21 like Nicklaus smells a birdie, went right after the title. A drive serve to the backhand found a ceiling ball return to the backhand. Hogan responded with a cross court drive and Brumfield drove back cross court, whereupon Hogan went for the backhand kill attempt from deep court and connected in the left corner.

The game, the match, the championship to Marty Hogan.

In the ceremonial presentations afterwards both player displayed tears, for obviously different reasons.

"I think Brumfield would almost rather have lost five and five," said USRA National Director Chuck Leve who refereed the match. *"To have the game in his grasp and let it get away is the toughest way to lose."*

Afterwards Brumfield explained he missed the forehand dump kill attempt (the first chance at game point) because he couldn't change his grip from backhand to forehand.

"I didn't react fast enough with my grip, so I was forced to take the shot with an improper grip, and the result was a mis-hit ball and skip," he said.

Had he counted the second game in the win column too soon?

"I'd have won the third game, no question about it," he said.

Hogan, on the other hand, could have cared less about the third game.

"You never want to go to the tie-breaker with Brumfield," said Marty. *"He is the luckiest tie-breaker player alive. Any time it goes three, he's never out of it."*

Nobody had to tell young Mike Yellen about that. Yellen, who became the sentimental favorite by knocking off highly seeded players plus being the home town boy, found his 10-8 lead over Brumfield still not enough and was eliminated in the semi-final thriller 21-16, 17-21, 11-10.

It was easily the most exciting match of the tournament, one of those best of the year types. There always seem to be one or two matches per tournament that are exceptional and you never really know when they'll show up, quarters, semis or finals. This was that match.

Yellen had come through probably the most difficult bracket in the draw with the likes of Craig McCoy, Jerry Hilecher, Steve Keeley and Mike Zeitman along with two top amateurs Bobby Bolan and Gary Berberet to contend with. After wins over Berberet, McCoy and Hilecher Yellen, only 19-years-old, found himself in the semi-finals against none other than Brumfield.

There was nothing in game one to indicate the excitement and intensity that was to come later. Brumfield played the game like teacher lecturing pupil grabbing a 10-2 lead and coasting in 21-16 with the game never in doubt.

Yellen played much tougher and looser in the second game and when he moved from 9-all to a 16-12 lead, he brought the house with him. Sensing that their local hero could in fact bring down the mountain, the gallery began bellowing with very rally.

Yellen's smooth forehand strokes and heady shot selection made him Brumfield's equal as the match wore on. When Brum scored once to move within 13-16, Mike answered with one of his own, a pass down the line right making the score 17-13. Five more innings occurred and five times Yellen held Brumfield scoreless, adding one here and one there until his last time in the service zone at 19-13.

"Playing as well as I was," said Yellen, *"I knew I'd better do what I could to get the two points as fast as possible."*

Mike did just that, scoring the 20th on a backhand kill into the left corner and followed it with the 21st — a backhand pass cross court to the right for the 21-13 win, forcing the tie-breaker, and sending the 450+ gallery into howling delight.

If ever a more exciting and thrilling tie-breaker is played, it should be sent directly to the Hall of Fame, for it is hard to imagine a game with more intensity, shotmaking and guts than the tie-breaker between Yellen and Brumfield.

The game started routinely with the players trading points over the first five innings to 2-2 before Brumfield made the first move of the tie-breaker, scoring once in each of the next four innings while holding Yellen scoreless, making his lead 6-2. As it turned out that was the biggest lead of the game.

Playing like a veteran Yellen drives the ball cross court as Brumfield attempts to move away from the glass in their thrilling semi-final battle.

Yellen closed the gap to 7-4 with a backhand, back wall kill, and when Brumfield couldn't add to his total, Mike came all the way back to a 7-all tie with the impetus gained on an avoidable hinder call by referee Leve (so clear cut that Brumfield didn't even argue), which was followed by a left corner backhand kill and forehand kill straight in.

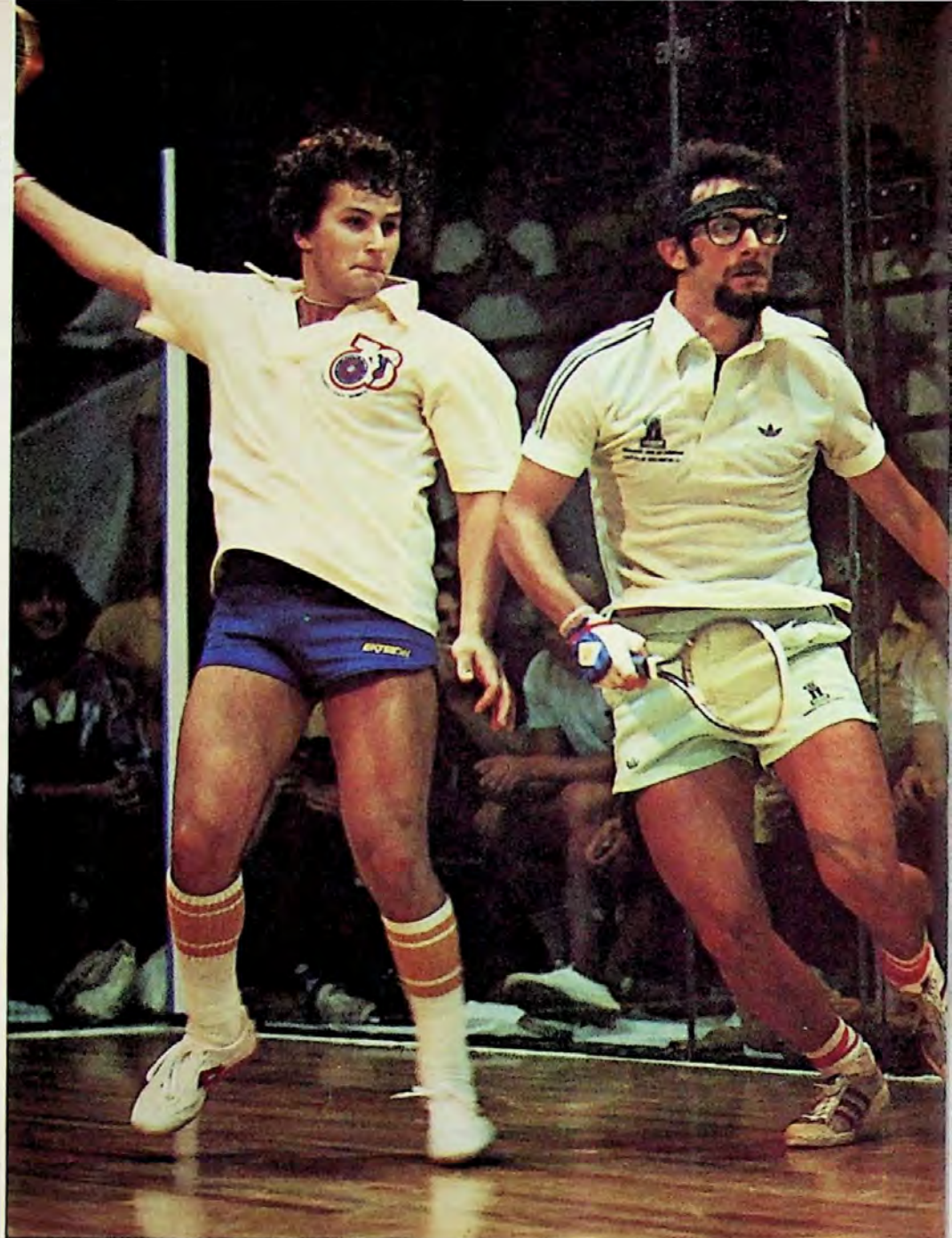
From there the match trudged toward completion with the suspense edging upward like a Hitchcock script. When Yellen skipped in a forehand it gave Brumfield a brief 8-7 lead, but the youngster got tough and really put on the heat.

A backhand kill into the left corner, the result of an off the back wall set up, gave Yellen his eighth point for the tie. Brum then went for the back breaking serve return kill attempt and came up with a skip ball and Yellen now had a lead 9-8. The next rally resulted in three Brumfield diving retrieves, only to have Yellen put it away with a pass left while Brumfield recovered from a dive right.

It was now 10-8 Yellen and the place was in an uproar. This rookie pro who 10 months before couldn't win the National Juniors championship was now one ace, one crack, one skip, one freak ball, one anything away from a berth in the championship match. Frankly it's hard to believe he never got there.

Brumfield responded with a glove change to consider the situation as Yellen paced the service zone.

Mike's serve for the match point was a wicked drive left that Brumfield barely returned to the front wall and immediately Charlie was on the defensive. Yellen drove a pass to the backhand and Brum had to scurry into deep court to retrieve with no chance for an offensive shot. Finally Yellen's shot was not quite perfect and Brumfield responded by killing a forehand into the right corner and regaining the serve.



As in most great athletic battles there seems to enter a controversial point now and then, and the controversy occurred on the next rally with Brumfield serving 8-10.

It wasn't a particularly long or exciting exchange until Brumfield took a forehand off the back wall and shot into the right corner. Immediately referee Chuck Leve called the ball "skip."

On appeal by Brumfield, however, one linesman disagreed with Leve's call and the other linesman was unable to make a call having been blocked by the unusual glass fins that surrounded the Sports Illustrated Court Club's

championship court. The result was a no decision on the appeal and a re-playing of the rally, denying Yellen a side out.

On the fifth shot of the next rally Brumfield hit the crack just past the short line on a V pass for his ninth point. But Yellen was still alive when moments later Charlie did skip a shot, this time a backhand kill attempt.

As Yellen stepped up to serve again for match point, it was clear that he'd better get it now. He stayed with the hard drive serve which Brumfield handled, and then went for the winner, a backhand attempt into the left corner. Brum covered the shot and re-killed with a backhand pinch to put out the side and take over again.

Koltun follows through with one of his few offensive opportunities in the Hogan-dominated semi-final encounter.

Serving now at 9-10 Brumfield scored quickly with a pass to the left cross court and the drama heightened as the match now stood at 10-10 in the tie-breaker.

Brumfield went for the ace on a drive serve and almost got it as Yellen was forced to scramble to retrieve. The result was a set up off the back wall for Brumfield who calmly killed it into the right corner with his forehand for the match 11-10.

As exciting as the Brumfield-Yellen semi-final was the Hogan-Ben Koltun semi was total domination by Hogan, much to the surprise of many onlookers.

Koltun had reached the semis with a quarter-final win over Steve Serot and 16's victory over Charlie Rish, who forced Ben to three games before bowing.

But Ben's usual good effort against Hogan was not to be this night as Marty played probably the best single match of the year in downing Ben 21-9, 21-6.

Hogan was awesome. He killed balls from every corner, every height in every direction. His serves were exceptional and his power was like a punch to the solar plexis.

"There wasn't anything I could do," said Koltun. *"When he gets hot like that and his serves are clicking, you just hope that he cools off. Too bad he didn't."*

The first rally of the match was an omen perhaps as Hogan blasted a drive serve to the left for an ace. Marty added to that and grabbed a comfortable 8-1 lead, which he held fairly well. Koltun could come back only to 5-9 on some fine play, but Hogan spurted forward scoring 10 straight, primarily on strong serves to take command 19-5.

Marty seemed to ease up at this juncture, but when Ben approached double figures, Marty put it away with 20 coming on a backhand kill on the short hop in center court and an inning later 21 on a Koltun skip on a vicious Z serve to the backhand 21-9.

Those hoping for a Koltun comeback in the second game were given an early shock as Hogan was absolutely fantastic in his execution, piling up a 13-1 lead. Koltun called two time outs, stalled and changed tactics — none of it helped as Marty continued to roll.

When Ben made a move toward respectability drawing to 15-6, Marty responded with three straight aces — a drive left for 16, a drive left that cracked out for 17, and another drive into the deep left corner for 18 to cement the match which ended 21-6.

Only one of the quarter-finals went to a tie-breaker (Yellen over Hilecher 14-21, 21-17, 11-5), but all were good matches.

Koltun and Serot were first up in a battle of St. Louis natives. Serot had topped highly rated amateur David Peck in the first round by big scores (11 and 3) and then bested Eric Campbell 15 and 14 to reach the quarters. Koltun,

as noted, stopped Rish and eventual amateur champ, Jeff Bowman, in the first round.

Serot must have left his kill shot back at the hotel in the first game as he played almost all defense and the result was Koltun picking his shots well, executing superbly and taking game one 21-7.

In the second Koltun took another early lead (5-1) and increased it to 10-3 and 14-6 before Serot began playing the excellent racquetball of which he is so capable.

A kill and two passes were three quick points and narrowed the lead to 14-9. A pass left moments later made it 14-10, and each player scored once to hold the lead at 15-11.



Serving at 11-15 with a good chance to get back into the match Serot was called for an avoidable hinder (stepping in front of a back wall set up) for a side out.

The call (although it was a good one) must have bothered him for Koltun scored four times with his next service on a pass left, forehand kill cross court, forehand kill into the left corner and a forehand re-kill straight in to take a 19-11 lead.

Serot was able to mount some pressure as he moved to a garbage serve to try and get the first offensive opportunity, but Koltun held him off and on his third try scored the 21st point on a forehand pass cross court right 21-17.

The way Hilecher began the next quarter-final match you'd never figure on him losing it to Yellen. Gearing up his big serve and shooting especially well, the lithe St. Louisan built an 11-1 lead and had command of the entire first game.

In fact Hilecher's only problem was scoring the 21st point, being unable to connect at 20-10 and 20-13, and finally hitting a forehand right corner kill to win 21-14.

The second game was one of the better games of the round as Yellen managed an early 9-3 lead which woke up the crowd, only to have Hilecher respond by tying things at 9-all. The next tie came at 12, and then another one at 15 as Hilecher, a four year veteran, knew what had to be done.

But it was Yellen who broke the tie on a backhand kill into the left corner, and two straight Hilecher skips, both forehands and both off the back wall, made it 18-15. After a time out, Jerry managed to regain serve and close to within 17-18, but that was the best he could do.

Yellen tallied 20 on a forehand kill on an off the back wall set up and 21 was next, a cross court pass that cracked out of the left wall. Second game to Yellen 21-17.

If they hadn't taken Mike Yellen seriously yet, they did so in the tie-breaker as he took a 3-0 lead and built it all the way to 9-2 before Hilecher made a belated comeback attempt, which fell short.



Jones makes a beautiful diving retrieve in center court in front of Brumfield, who captured this quarter.



Wagner is all determination as he goes for a winner in his quarter-final loss to Hogan.

Yellen's first match point was at 10-3 (Hilecher killed a forehand for side out) and the next one was at 10-5, where after a hinder Mike connected on a V pass left which Hilecher got his racquet on after a dive, but couldn't get it back to the front wall.

It was a disappointing loss for Hilecher, one of the few pros to ever win a tour stop over the past few Hogan/Brumfield dominated years. Jerry had looked good in eliminating Bolan in the first round (6 and 17) and Keeley in the second round (21-1, 21-17). But this appeared to be Yellen's tournament.

That Mike was playing super could be deduced from his routine win over McCoy in the 16's 21-9, 21-14. McCoy, seeded fourth and one of the non-Hogan pre-tournament favorites, was never in the match as he sleepwalked all the way to the showers.

The third quarter-final match pitted Brumfield against Jay Jones, who everybody always counts out, and who always seems to show up around the quarters.

This entire bracket was unusual, as it was almost a Jones versus Don Thomas quarter, for Thomas gave Brumfield all he cared to have in their

dramatic round of 16 battle, complete with ball bruises, pushing, shoving, and toe-to-toe arguments ala Leo Durocher and the umpire.

When cooler heads prevailed Brumfield escaped with a 21-8, 17-21, 11-6 win.

Thomas had earned his right to meet Brumfield with a thrilling 21-19, 14-21, 11-10 win over Steve Strandemo in the first round, putting an end to Strandy's dreams of a comeback from injury and illness this season.

Jones, meanwhile, had every reason to expect he'd be playing defending champ Davey Bledsoe in the 16's, but in the shocker of the tournament, Bledsoe was upset in the first round by Larry Meyers, 1977 National Juniors Champ 3-21, 21-19, 11-0! Meyers couldn't duplicate the feat against the veteran Jones who bested the youngster 21-4, 21-19 to rate a crack at Brumfield.

Thus Jones and Brumfield went at it, and the way the match started you could have figured Jones to be a semi-finalist. Playing as well as he ever has Jay bounced to a 10-3 first game lead and held it all the way to 17-10 before Brumfield began his late game rush to 21. Only three of Jones' first 17

points came on Brumfield errors as Jay continuously connected on offensive winners.

But then he got stuck on 19. Three times each man served at 19-13 before Brumfield finally scored once to make it 14-19, and after one more point made it 15-19. They each served three more times at this score before Brumfield again broke loose, scoring twice.

When Jay couldn't score again, Charlie came in at 18-19 and never left the service zone adding 19 on a kill into the right corner, 20 on a back wall error and 21 on a backhand skip of a drive serve for the 21-19 win.

Game two began similarly as Jones grabbed the early advantage 9-4, but Brumfield rallied to tie at 9-all. When Charlie moved out to a 13-10 lead, he never looked back, increasing it to 15-10 and holding to 18-13. A pass and two kills later Brumfield was in the semis 21-13.

The final quarter-final battle was between Hogan and Richard Wagner, the number five seed. Wagner had reached the quarters on the strength of a 21-10, 21-17 victory over Mark Morrow (avenging an earlier tour loss) and an easy win over surprise qualifier Bruce Christiansen in the first round.

Hogan's early wins came at the expense of qualifier Joe Wirkus in the first round 21-14, 21-17 and Jerry Zuckerman in the 16's 10 and 15.

The determined Wagner was hoping to erase the memories of Hogan big wins against him earlier in the season, including a televised blow out. He did far better this time, though falling short 21-18, 21-13.

Hogan seemed to lack the intensity that marked his later wins and that coupled with Wagner's determination made the first game a good one.

It was close throughout and actually Wagner let the game get away from him, or rather allowed Hogan to take it from him. Rich held his own with ties at 6-all and an 8-all before he grabbed the mid-game lead with a four point inning taking a 14-9 lead.

A Look At The 16's



Zuckerman manages a diving get against Hogan in front of the full gallery.

Thomas drills a forehand cross court as Brumfield attempts to recover from poor position.



Wagner sets up for a cross court kill attempt with his backhand while Morrow strains to recover.



Jones shoots for the kill off the back wall while Meyers leaps high to avoid being hit.



Rish exalts in his second game victory over Koltun. Unfortunately Charlie couldn't add the tie-breaker.



Yellen follows through with a backhand as McCoy gets ready to cover the pass down the left wall.



Serot drives a backhand as Campbell tries to change direction.



Keeley goes for bottom board and around Hilecher, who is in perfect retrieving position.

Hogan was up to the task and began pouring it on at this point, scoring twice to close to 12-15 and then four more in the next inning to force a 16-all deadlock.

Next time in Hogan did more damage with four more points to completely turn the game around. At 16-16 Marty hit a forehand kill, an ace on a drive right, another forehand kill and a pass left to take a 20-16 lead.

Wagner was able to hold three times at game point but could only add two more of his own and finally Hogan took the game 21-18 on backhand pinch kill left to right.

Game two was all Hogan as Marty rolled up big leads of 8-1 and 14-3 and coasted home with a 21-13 win. The primary difference in Wagner's game was his inability to get his first serves in play, which he did do in the first game. Hogan's concentration was far superior in game two as well.

The best round of 16 matches, as noted, were Brumfield's win over Thomas, who eventually took third in his quest for the amateur national title and Koltun's victory over Rish, whose serve is "as tough as anybody's," according to Koltun. Scores of that match were 21-12, 16-21, 11-4.

Rish had a satisfying first round win over David Fleetwood in what could be termed a mild upset 21-17, 7-21, 11-7. Campbell knocked off seeded Steve Chase 14-21, 21-19, 11-8 and Keeley's 21-20, 21-18 win over Mike Zeitman was another well played match.

Men Pro Results

(Qualifiers): Wirkus, Christiansen, Bowman, Campbell, Berberet, Bolan, Meyers, McDowell.

(First Round): Hogan d. Wirkus 21-4, 21-17; Zuckerman d. Dern 21-13, 21-16; Morrow d. Stephens 21-8, 16-21, 11-1; Wagner d. Christiansen 21-5, 21-2; Koltun d. Bowman 21-17, 21-13; Rish d. Fleetwood 21-17, 7-21, 11-7; Campbell d. Chase 14-21, 21-19, 11-8; Serot d. Peck 21-11, 21-13; McCoy d. Stafford 21-14, 21-9; Yellen d. Berberet 21-9, 21-4; Keeley d. Zeitman 21-20, 21-18; Hilecher d. Bolan 21-6, 21-17; Meyers d. Bledsoe 3-21, 21-19, 11-0; Jones d. Owen 21-6, 21-15; Thomas d. Strandemo 21-19, 14-21, 11-10; Brumfield d. McDowell 21-12, 21-5.

(Second Round): Hogan d. Zuckerman 21-10, 21-15; Wagner d. Morrow 21-10, 21-17; Koltun d. Rish 21-12, 16-21, 11-4; Serot d. Campbell 21-15, 21-14; Yellen d. McCoy 21-9, 21-14; Hilecher d. Keeley 21-1, 21-17; Jones d. Meyers 21-4, 21-19; Brumfield d. Thomas 21-8, 17-21, 11-6.

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. Wagner 21-18, 21-13; Koltun d. Serot 21-7, 21-17; Yellen d. Hilecher 14-21, 21-17, 11-5; Brumfield d. Jones 21-19, 21-13.

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. Koltun 21-9, 21-6; Brumfield d. Yellen 21-16, 17-21, 11-10.

(Finals): Hogan d. Brumfield 21-12, 21-20.

Photos of the round of 16
by Mike Zeitman



Shannon Makes

Shannon Wright did to the women's professional bracket at the National Championships what Marty Hogan was unable to do in the men's division — she destroyed it.

Sure Hogan won his title, but not nearly as convincingly and strongly as Wright won hers. Leaving her scowls and verbiage on the sidelines Shannon Wright was all business each time she took the court and the results were that no single opponent was able to score 21 points in both games combined against her during the entire tournament.

There can be no doubt any longer — Shannon Wright has proved that she is as good in the Women's division as Hogan is or ever was in the Men's.

It's difficult to say much about the championship match, which Wright won over Jennifer Harding 21-3, 21-8. Harding, who had played superbly all week en route to the finals, just never got into the match. It appeared that her fear of being blown out helped cause her to be blown out. Jennifer seemed nervous and tight throughout both games.

Before the crowd even had a chance to settle into their seats, Shannon had mounted a furious offensive assault that built to a 13-1 advantage. Her serves were deadly, her shooting precise and Harding was unable to cope with the onslaught.

Just in case there was any doubt Wright serving at 13-2 added seven points in one inning including three aces to take an incredible 20-1 lead. Moments later the first game was mercifully over and in 24 minutes Shannon had captured game one 21-3.

The first half of game two showed some good racquetball action as Harding was able to relax a bit and hit some of her shots. But Wright pounded away at the backhand side and continued to serve extremely well, resulting in a 10-5 lead. Jenny came back to 8-11 but that was the last point she ever saw.

Two key errors by Harding at 11-8 (both backhand skips) jumped the lead to 13-8, and after a scoreless frame Wright stretched the advantage. She notched 14 on a forehand pass right, and two near aces on Z serves to the right, found Harding's left handed backhand unable to put enough power on the return and both fell short of the front wall adding to the advantage 16-8.

Jenny's time out at 17-8 did nothing but waste 30 seconds as Shannon continued to add points. A forehand cross court kill was 18, a backhand kill into the right corner was 19 and an ace on another Z serve to the right made 20.

One side out later came the merciful end, a forehand pass down the line right with Harding having no chance to retrieve. The record win to Shannon Wright, her second straight and well deserved championship.

The only game in which Wright was forced to work came in her semi-final battle with Janell Marriott, who by flip of the coin was placed in the top bracket much to the anguish of both player.

It was a beautiful game, that initial encounter, and it proved to be the only game in which Shannon came close to defeat. After some early jockeying Wright took an 12-9 lead, her biggest of the game until the final score.

At 12-10 seven straight serves occurred before a point was scored and it was Marriott who notched it when Wright's attempt to kill a serve return skipped in. A forehand pass down the line right tied the score at 12, and after a hinder Marriott took the lead 13-12 on another error by Wright, a forehand skip into the right corner.

Shannon came right back, however, and knotted the scoreboard once again with a forehand fly kill from center court. Ties ensued from there at 13, 14 and 17 until Wright captured the one point edge 18-17 with a forehand cross court kill.

She put up a cushion with her 19th point, a forehand pass right, before Marriott returned the favor and tightened the game 18-19 on a soft dump kill with her backhand from an off the back wall set up. A backhand kill gave Wright the serve again and this time she went to work fast.

A forehand re-kill straight in along the right wall was point 20 and a disappointing final rally came when Marriott skipped in the serve return off a tough Z serve to the left for a 21-18 final.

In what must be a record performance for a National Championships semi-final match Shannon trailed 2-1 in the second game with Janell and proceeded to run 20 consecutive points over the next nine innings to capture the match 21-2!

The first big inning was the fourth when Shannon entered the service zone behind 2-1. A backhand back wall kill into the left corner tied the game at two. A forehand pass down the line right was three, a forehand error by Marriott made four, five came on a backhand pinch kill, six on a backhand kill cross court from an off the back wall set up, seven was a V pass left again off an off the back wall set up as Marriott was having trouble reaching the ceiling on serve returns, next was eight on a forehand kill into the right corner, and Marriott's only response was a time out, after which she regained the serve.

Shannon tallied one, zero and one over the next three innings while holding Marriott scoreless and gradually built the lead to 12-2 whereupon she added three more on two backhand kills and a Marriott error to ice it 15-2.

Things went from bad to worse when at 17-2 Marriott was called for an avoidable hinder making it 18-2, with the only consolation coming a few plays later when, serving at 20-2 for the first time, Wright committed an avoidable hinder for side out.

It Two In a Row

Wright shows the form that decided the Women's Pro Championship. Note how she uses her entire body to gain maximum power and control, here against Harding in the finals.





Marriott recovers from a retrieve that brought her to the floor as Wright readies for her next shot in their semi-final match.

Janell was unable to score as Shannon passed with her backhand down the line on serve return, and took over the service zone again.

This time she got the final point, again on an error by Marriott, a ceiling error off a drive serve left for the 21-2 final.

The other semi-final match found Harding against surprising Karin Walton, who, like Mike Yellen in the Men's division, unexpectedly came through with an upset win in the quarters 21-8, 17-21, 11-4 over former champ Peggy Steding.

Walton and Harding had an interesting and exciting battle with both games being closely contested and late rallies in each game proving the difference on Harding's behalf.

After Walton took a fast 5-1 opening lead in game one, Harding rallied to tie at five and extend her run to a 7-5 lead. Walton regrouped and knotted the score at seven-all setting the pace.

Other ties occurred at nine, 14, 15 and 16 before Harding was able to break loose and hold a final lead, although it wasn't easy.

Each player served twice at 16-all before Harding burst through with a four point inning to take command. Her 17th point came on a forehand pinch kill off the back wall, 18 was another forehand back wall kill, 19 a gift on a Walton forehand error, and 20 a backhand pass down the right line. Walton responded with her final time out of the game.

When play resumed, Harding accommodated with a backhand skip on a cross court kill attempt and Walton had another chance to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

A forehand kill straight in from center court was point 17 and an ace on a Z serve to the right (backhand) was 18, whereupon an avoidable hinder that most fans disagreed with — judging by the crowd reaction — cost Walton the next rally and resulted in a side out.



Walton shoots from deep court as Harding anticipates the return in their well-played semi-final battle.

The expected then occurred. With Karin obviously shook she hit a back wall forehand kill attempt into the dirt for Harding's 21st point and the 21-18 win.

The second game was more of the same with ties at 5, 6, 7, 10, 14 and 18 before the outcome was finally decided. The biggest lead of the game after an early 5-2 Walton advantage was Harding's 14-10 lead which quickly dissipated.

Four Walton points in one inning ended that situation with three kills and a Harding forehand fly error tying the score at 14. When Jennifer came back with two of her own to regain a 16-14 lead (two forehand passes), Walton called a time out to slow down the pace.

Harding managed one more point after the time out on a forehand pinch kill, her best shot, left wall-front wall.

At 15-18 Walton made a final move to overtake Harding and save the match. A backhand V pass to the right made it 16-18 and an ace drive serve to the right made it 17-18. Harding took the next rally but couldn't score, and Walton hit a forehand kill into the right corner to tie it at 18, forcing a Harding time out.

But it was Walton who made the crucial error down the stretch, mis-hitting a routine ceiling ball return, which came high off the back wall, allowing Harding to kill easily in the left corner and regain the serve.

Jennifer, who's been there before, knew what to do with the situation. She took the safe offensive shot — a forehand pass cross court for a winner and a 19-18 lead. That was followed by an overhead pass down the line right, which barely eluded Karin and made it 20-18.

Match point was next and Harding took home the winner, a forehand pass cross court to the right, another perfect placement and victory.

The quarter-finals held some outstanding matches highlighted by Walton's upset win over Steding and Marriott's three game win over Martha McDonald in a re-match of the King of Prussia tour stop finals.

The Marriott-McDonald match was first up. Marriott had looked extremely sharp in besting qualifier Laura Martino in the first round. Martino, runner-up in the 1977 National Juniors Championships, had knocked off veteran Camille McCarthy in the qualifying rounds to earn a shot in the top 16.

But Marriott's experience was evident in that match, as it was in the quarters against McDonald. Martha had just barely reached the last eight, having to go to the proverbial wire before beating back a tremendous effort by Sue Carow 11-21, 21-17, 11-10 in the first round.

It became a match of Marriott's patience versus McDonald's quickness, as the two played for the right to meet Shannon Wright in the next round. It was Janell who hit the key shots late in the first game to take a 21-17 win.

McDonald fought back and managed to win game two 21-15, setting up a tie-breaking finish to begin the women's quarters.

The thrills were gone early in the tie-breaker, however, as Marriott came out of the chute smoking and the result was a non-exciting, although well played, 11-3 victory.

Harding and Kathy Williams were up next, as Williams for the zillionth time during the season attempted to get past the quarter-finals. Kathy was in the round due to an impressive 21-4, 21-11 win over Jan Pasternak, who was playing only a shadow of her former game.

Harding, quite the opposite, had her hands full en route to the quarters, having a difficult match with pesty Marci Greer, who had to come through the qualification rounds, and did so

strongly. Jennifer was able to repel Marci's determined bid for an upset, but not until she was forced to work very hard 21-18, 21-19.

Jenny didn't have to work very hard in her first game against Williams, taking the win 21-2. Kathy must have left her control and concentration in the locker room, because neither was evident on the court.

Game two was much more respectable with Williams loosening up and hitting many of her shots, but not nearly enough. Harding's excellent quickness and court coverage, along with her potent forehand kills, were the keys in a 21-15 second game and match win.

How did Karin Walton beat Peggy Steding? The big question must still be boggling the mind of the 42-year-old former champ as her loss to Walton marked the earliest defeat in the National Championships in Peggy's brilliant five year career.

Denying over and over that her legs are slowing or that age is in any way adversely affecting her game, Steding blamed her own lack of concentration and Walton's good play for her defeat.

"I got beat by the better player today," she said.

That was a true statement. Walton was near-perfect in game one, driving the ball to both sides of the court, serving well and taking early offensive opportunities to the bank to score a one-sided 21-8 victory.

Perhaps the 42-year-old legs loosened up a bit in the second game, or maybe Steding realized that she'd better concentrate or she'd be gone. Whatever occurred either physically or mentally, it worked for Peggy, as she came back to take the second game 21-17.

After early give and take Peg jumped to a 14-8 lead and held a 20-16 advantage before scoring the final point on a backhand dump kill into the right corner.

The tie-breaker that everybody hoped would be one of those classics was an in-and-outer.

After two innings Walton led 2-1 and with the serve proceeded to score seven straight points to make the tie-breaker an impossible task for Steding.

The inning went like this: 3-1 on a backhand kill straight in along the left wall; 4-1 on a forehand kill cross court to the left; 5-1 on a forehand pass cross court to the right off the back wall; 6-1 on a forehand back wall skip by Steding; time out Steding (her first); 7-1 on a backhand kill cross court; 8-1 on a forehand skip by Steding on a center court set up; 9-1 on a gross error — a forehand ceiling ball which fell short — and another Steding time out, her last. The inning finally ended when Walton skipped in a forehand pinch kill attempt.

Gallantly Steding tried to regroup, scoring three points in her next turn up, two of them on Walton skips, the other on her own pass left, making it 4-9, but Karin was up to the task and she cracked out a V pass left to regain the serve.

Steding never saw the light of the service zone again. A near ace on a drive left got a skip ball return from Steding's backhand and made it 10-4. The final rally was next and it ended with a backhand kill straight in from center court to put Karin Walton into the semi-finals 11-4.

The semi-finals! For somebody who had barely got out of the first round Karin must have been thanking her lucky stars. She lost the first game of her first match against Jean Sausser 21-18, and had to come back to win the match 21-16, 11-6 just to reach the quarters.

Steding had looked much more impressive in her initial encounter, topping qualifier Jean Oeschger 21-7, 21-5. Oeschger had defeated eventual women's amateur National Champ Alicia Moore in order to qualify.

Bowman Takes Am Title In

That left the Rita Hoff-Shannon Wright match as the last quarter-final match and Shannon went right to work. She was coming off a routine victory over first-time qualifier Susie Dugan 21-7, 21-10 and seemed to be coasting.

Hoff had her own impressive first round showing, stopping the unpredictable Sarah Green in the first round by the huge scores of 21-4, 21-7. Green, who started the season as a consistent semi-finalist, finished the season with a series of miserable showings for unexplainable reasons.

So Wright and Hoff went at it again, and Shannon's guns were too powerful for Rita, despite Rita's determination and desire. The deep court shooting and driving control were too much for Hoff and the result was a 21-10, 21-4 win.

The Women's Pro division is becoming exceedingly difficult, with the qualifying rounds proving to be almost as interesting as the main draw. Dugan, for example, had to go an 11-8 tie-breaker win to stop Jamie Abbot in the first round of qualifications, and then was forced to defeat the top seeded non-qualifier, Pat Schmidt, to earn a berth in the top 16. Martino's win over McCarthy was another superb match 18-21, 21-17, 11-8.

Women Pro Results

(Qualifiers): Dugan, Martino, Greer, Oeschger.

(First Round): Wright d. Dugan 21-7, 21-10; Hoff d. Green 21-4, 21-7; McDonald d. Carow 11-21, 21-17, 11-10; Marriott d. Martino 21-9, 21-10; Harding d. Greer 21-18, 21-19; Williams d. Pasternak 21-4, 21-11; Walton d. Sauser 18-21, 21-16, 11-6; Steding d. Oeschger 21-7, 21-5.

(Quarter-finals): Wright d. Hoff 21-10, 21-4; Marriott d. McDonald 21-17, 15-21, 11-3; Harding d. Williams 21-2, 21-15; Walton d. Steding 21-8, 17-21, 11-4.

(Semi-finals): Wright d. Marriott 21-18, 21-2; Harding d. Walton 21-18, 21-18.

(Finals): Wright d. Harding 21-3, 21-8.



11-10 Nail Biter



1978 National Amateur Champion, Jeff Bowman, serves his left drive serve . . .



... while opponent Bobby Bolan prepares to return the serve. That's Neil Asprea, Bolan's sponsor, just off Bobby's left shoulder, tensely taking in the action.

Neil Asprea, the manager/mentor of both Bobby Bolan and Donny Thomas could hardly contain himself. The pressure of the National Championships, which weighs especially heavy on the shoulders of those players anxious to use their wins as a springboard into the pro ranks, was finding its way to him too.

The always cheerful Arizonan quickly excused himself during a crucial passage in a Thomas match and paced the walkway outside Sports Illustrated's Lemontree club like an expectant father waiting for the sound of the slap.

And the pair of cigars stuck in his top jacket pocket, guarding his hopes for victory like a pair of stiff, upright sentries, showed just how confident he was.

And when Bolan took the court for his final clash of the competition against veteran Jeff Bowman, a campaigner already seasoned by a year long tour of duty in the pro ranks, Neil needed to relieve the tension he was feeling.

That's why spectators lucky enough to get a ringside seat round the open glass walls for the game were treated to the sight of Neil endlessly squeezing Seamco balls between his fingers to ease the pain he felt in his gut.

You could read the atmosphere like a travel poster — "*National Championships, gateway to professional stardom* —" and although it's a cliché, it's true.

It was a hard road, with enough tie-breakers fought down to the last few points to provoke one of Sports Illustrated's stockbroker visitors to remark "*I thought competition in our business was tough. But boy, this is thrilling . . .*"

It's the way Ben Koltun came, followed by Jerry Zuckerman (a year later) and it's a place where the play is often so

good that the only way to distinguish between them and the pros is the color of the ball.

There were some upsets, too, primarily with the players who were going after more than one goal. Bolan, the slight, toothy kid from Tempe, nailed last year's runnerup, Stan Wright, in the round of 16's with all the authority of 21-20, 21-7.

Blond Larry Meyers, last year's National Junior champ who put an early end to Davey Bledsoe's aspirations for a second term of office in the professional ranks, went down fighting to Rick Dern 10-21, 21-17, 11-9 and number one seed David Peck of El Paso, found he couldn't fight the pressure as well as an illness and he was blown away early in the preliminaries.

Bowman didn't have it easy. Bolan's stablemate Thomas gave him a hard time in the semi's, forcing the San Diegan hard in the first game and conceding by only one point at 21-20. Thomas came back in the second game, giving too much of his energy reserve in a 14-21 win to have enough left for the crucial tie-breaker which Bowman claimed 11-6.

Bowman's easiest victory was ironically against fellow San Diegan Bill Stevens in the quarters. After a close first game, which ended 21-19 for Bowman, Bill slid to a 21-12 rout the second time around.

All this came after the royal scrap of them all, against Canadian Lindsay Myers in the round of 16. The over-the-border player, seeded second in the tournament, pulled out a first game win, again by the one magical point. But after the five minute break it was Bowman's turn to counter in a long running tussle which after some bitterly fought for points came out in his favor by the reverse of the first game, 21-20, and if you don't call that equality . . . what is?

At this stage of the game winning is the thing which counts and the world of stylish racquetball gear is far away, left to be sported by the pros who get paid for wearing their latest lines of racquetball fashion.

But there is something about Bowman, wearing a crumpled sweatshirt, purposefully knotting a makeshift headband of old ragged towelling around his hair for the final tie-breaker against Myers.

It went 11-5, and with it Lindsay's hopes of a big show and a victory for the folks back home.

Now Bolan always looks like he could use a good meal, but when he starts playing it's clear that the fragility of his build doesn't extend to his mind. He's tough and he hangs in there, right through some impossible situations often thanks to some gets which make spectators blink and look twice.

He got to the finals via Gary Berberet of Buena Park, CA, who went down 21-9, 13-21, 11-8 in the semi's, Jeff Kwartler, the Texan who avenged his quarter-final defeat of 11-21, 21-10, 11-5 by being on the winning doubles team and Wright in the 16's.

Sooo. Bowman opened up the first game, quickly pulling out the first four points. With the first front wall duel of the match Bolan got in the kill which counted and he stepped into the service box. A Bowman mis-hit gave him one, a skip gave him two and he soft pinched an off the back wall ball for three, which was all Jeff was conceding this time around. Back in charge Jeff caught a string which took him to 11-3 before the no-no of a three-wall second serve temporarily forced him to abdicate. He was back next rally and after a couple more service swaps he managed to up the score to 15-3. Bobby got it back, but he was powerless to put on any more badly needed points before Bowman added three to make 18. Bolan tacked on one, and with Bowman back in the box, he tried a deep dying pass into the right corner, which Bowman somehow managed to dig out and put away with a stunning backhand.

And to celebrate that one he aced Bolan for 20-4. Bobby found one more point in the next few exchanges, but so did Bowman and that one was all he needed.

Bowman came out in the second game with a distinct advantage and Bolan, who was serving, knew it. Bobby scored one point before changing places, but he knew that the big problem was going to be the balls he was leaving up for Bowman's soft pinches into either corner. He tried to keep the ball down low, so low in fact that he gave Bowman his first point when he skipped what could have been a perfect kill. Bowman pulled out two more before Bolan got back into the scoring box. An ace equalized the score at 3-3 and a couple of good passes took him to a 6-3 superiority over Bowman.

An overhead kill into the right corner made it 7-3 and some tight play, including another ace, took Bolan to 16-3 before Bowman produced another wide pinch which changed title to the serve. But that didn't last long and Bolan soon had the score at 17-3. Bowman came back with one, lost two more and got the serve back at 4-19.

Finally he started to pull himself together, hanging on to the concentration he had been sadly missing through the game. He carried the next three points, lost it at 7-19, got it back, then proceeded to hit himself on the serve. Two more rallies down the road he pulled the score out to 9-19, survived a Bolan time out and carried on to 12-19.

But that was just as far as he was going to get. Bolan scrapped his way through three more exchanges of serve before sealing the game with a great kill from a tricky passing ball.

The tie-breaker was nip and tuck to 4-4. Then Bolan rallied for four more before letting go. Bowman added two and with the score at 8-6 he was faced with a cruel court hinder when the ball deflected wildly off one of the badly fitted glass panels along the left wall. He lost that point and then it was 6-9 and not a comfortable place to be in. But Jeff rallied his last remaining forces and slowly, painfully pulled back to 9-9 as the tenor of the game changed.

Bolan tacked on one more before giving up the serve again. If there was any time for him not to make a mistake it was right now, but he did. He gave up control, then skipped an anxiously

played kill shot attempt to allow the score to even at 10-10. Bowman took his last time out and marshalled every last remaining fibre of energy. It was all he needed. One more serve, one more point.

Bolan's biggest problem was his serve. *"I didn't get my serve working at all in the first game. It was only in the second that I finally started getting it over."*

"And the way my game is set up, I can't do anything without it. The ball was really lively so I stayed off the ceiling because I didn't want to give him any setups. In fact my best points came from some soft garbage serves I gave him. They forced him to come off the back wall. But I should have had it. Ten-nine I was leading . . . and I let it slip away. Now I'm going to have to train all summer long."

A record 221 entrants competed in the Amateur Open Singles division, the largest Single division in the history of national tournament competition. The victory for Bowman was one of both physical and emotional excellence.

Amateur Men's Singles Results

(First Round-Upper Bracket): Byes-Peck, Huber, Alderson, Berberet, J. Dunlap, Dern, Bush, Weightman, Meyers, A. Ellis, Frye d. Moriarty, forfeit; Beitsch d. Golueke 21-9, 13-21, 11-10; Fondren d. Postolain, forfeit; Witt d. Lockett, forfeit; Stanger d. Ray 21-19, 21-2; Redic d. Pagnucco 21-7, 21-3; Oates d. Wood 21-7, 21-2; Wirkus d. Cartee 21-1, 21-3; Cohen d. Boehms 21-6, 21-5; Brewer d. Martin 21-16, 18-21, 11-9; Kamm d. Wilks, forfeit; Paliczuk d. Burgin, forfeit; Flewelling d. Terrance 21-2, 21-5; L. Vantrease d. Sayes 21-13, 21-17; Scales d. Jackson 21-15, 21-8; Wilcox d. Parodi, forfeit; Dix d. Vanderlind 21-13, 11-21, 11-5; Schatz d. Campbell 21-13, 21-5; Gottlieb d. Dave Clark 21-6, 21-19; Garrigus d. Neighbors 21-6, 21-5; Doeher d. Valera 21-2, 21-14; Riehl d. Tarantini 21-2, 21-1.

(First Round-2nd Bracket): Byes-Stephens, Marsocci, Kent, Kwartler, Bolan, Bertolucci, Luciw, York, Wright, B. Ellis d. Left 21-14, 21-10; Lewis d. Rubenstein 21-6, 21-19; Cox d. Farrell 21-13, 21-14; Mazaroff d. Atkins 21-2, 21-2; White d. Weisman 21-13, 21-11; Mirek d. Kiljanek 21-5, 21-12; Mistelle d. Gross 21-9, 21-14; Jackinovich d. Young 21-2, 21-11; Zuckerman d. Depuydt 21-3, 21-4; Chalfant d. Tate 21-20, 12-21, 11-10; Moshides d. DeCamp 21-4, 21-3; Beamer d. Meredith, forfeit; Doug Clark d. Miles 21-18, 21-14; Berra d. Jacobs 21-15, 20-21, 11-4; Hodges d. Cloud 21-4, 21-7; Oliver d. Walsh 16-21, 21-19, 11-8; Allan d. Murray 21-12, 21-18; Humphrey d. Logan 21-9, 21-3; Heatherington d. Hipsher, forfeit; K. Dunlap d. Pranger 21-2, 21-9; Champagne d. McKibbin 21-20, 21-2; Sandler d. Porter, forfeit; Hosta d. Chrise 21-4, 21-3.

(First Round-3rd Bracket): Byes-D. Thomas, Capitanelli, Malowitz, Stepp, Deustler, Trent, Senters, Romano, Hegg, Brownlee, Owen, A. Thomas d. Cavanaugh 21-19, 21-16; Rubin d. Geist 21-6, 21-3; Colbert d. Mintz 21-13, 12-21, 11-4; Vincent d. Floyd 21-20, 18-21, 11-4; Adkins d. Himelhoch 21-3, 21-1; O'Connor d. Rocco 21-6, 21-13; Peters d. McDonough, forfeit; Christiansen d. Rzepecki 21-1, 21-1; Groves d. Chandler 21-12, 21-9; JanAppel d. Thiessan, forfeit; Hadaway d. Sagara 21-15, 21-6; Hernandez d. Reslock 21-14, 21-3; Wilhelm d. K. Vantrease 21-9, 17-21, 11-7; McKie d. Lantz 21-7, 21-2; Travers d. Rehm 21-2, 21-7; Vanover d. Garvey, forfeit; Klearman d. Valenciano 21-16, 21-18; Lau d. B. Thomas 17-21, 21-3, 11-4; Wickham d. Blacksher 21-2, 21-2; Carpenter d. Kocab 21-1, 21-5; Mandel d. Orl 21-1, 21-6.

(First Round-Lower Bracket): Byes-McDowell, Lujan, Kelly, Stevens, Bowman, Hemphill, Fox, Luft, Myers, Silva d. Kersh 20-21, 21-4, 11-7; G. Davidson d. Scandirto 21-5, 21-3; Hawkins d. Patterson 21-11, 21-2; Frick d. Glosser 21-19, 15-21, 11-2; Thompson d. Tokarz 21-19, 21-13; Kaihanen d. Staketee 21-1, 21-2; Luntao d. Amick 21-14, 21-9; Llewellyn d. W. Miller 21-4, 21-15; Sulli d. Constantino 21-10, 21-6; Merrill d. Vinciguerra 21-7, 19-21, 11-4; McLaughlin d. Klintworth 21-14, 21-2; Delaney d. Hahn 21-18, 21-14; J. Davidson d. Oberleas 21-0, 21-2; Aguglia d. Chlapecka 21-1, 21-0; Matthews d. Gibbo 21-4, 21-7; Adam d. M. Miller 21-6, 21-10; McNair d. Nutting, forfeit; Ramirez d. Easterling, Letourneau d. Ardelean 21-4, 18-21, 11-7; Hays d. Drake, forfeit; Remen d. Emerson; Kinca d. Jones 21-7, 10-21, 11-10; McKinney d. Knight.

(Second Round-Upper Bracket): Peck d. Frey 21-12, 21-19; Fondren d. Beitsch 21-5, 21-10; Huber d. Witt 21-6, 21-8; Alderson d. Stanger 21-4, 21-6; Berberet d. Redic 21-7, 21-8; Oates d. Wirkus 13-21, 21-13, 11-10; Cohen d. Brewer 21-5, 21-14; J. Dunlap d. Kamm 21-3, 21-4; Dern d. Paliczuk 21-19, 21-14; Flewelling d. A. Ellis 21-9, 21-1; L. Vantrease d. Scales 21-12, 21-7; Bush d. Wilcox 21-6, 21-6; Weightman d. Dix 14-21, 21-12, 11-3; Gottlieb d. Schatz 21-15, 19-21, 11-8; Garrigus d. Doeher 21-13, 21-9; Meyers d. Riehl 21-7, 21-0; Stephens d. B. Ellis 21-5, 21-18; Cox d. Lewis 20-21, 21-15, 11-1; Mazaroff d. White 21-9, 21-9; Marsocci d. Mirek 21-14, 21-15; Kent d. Mistelle 21-5, 21-10; Jackinovich d. Zuckerman 21-14, 19-21, 11-4; Moshides d. Chalfant 21-3, 21-6; Kwartler d. Beamer 21-11, 21-7; Bolan d. Doug Clark 21-1, 21-3; Hodges d. Berra 21-6, 21-1; Bertolucci d. Oliver 21-12, 21-4; Luciw d. Allan 21-3, 21-11; York d. Humphrey 21-11, 21-17; K. Dunlap d. Heatherington, forfeit; Champagne d. Sandler 21-13, 21-13; Wright d. Hosta 21-3, 21-3.

(Second Round-Lower Bracket): D. Thomas d. A. Thomas 21-2, 21-7; Colbert d. Rubin 21-17, 21-5; Capitanelli d. Vincent 21-14, 20-21, 11-10; Adkins d. Malowitz 21-19, 14-21, 11-8; Stepp d. O'Connor 21-8, 21-20; Christiansen d. Peters 21-15, 21-6; Groves d. JanAppel 21-2, 21-1; Deuster d. Hadaway 21-3, 21-6; Trent d. Hernandez 21-10, 21-2; Wilhelm d. Senters 21-5, 21-11; McKie d. Travers 21-6, 21-10; Vanover d. Romano 21-20, 14-21, 11-5; Klearman d. Hegg, forfeit; Wickham d. Lau 21-4, 21-19; Brownlee d. Carpenter 21-13, 21-3; Owen d. Mandel 21-11, 21-15; McDowell d. Silva 21-4, 21-9; Hawkins d. G. Davidson 21-7, 21-20; Frick d. Thompson 21-17, 21-17; Lujan d. Kaihanen 21-9, 21-20; Kelly d. Luntao 21-11, 21-12; Llewellyn d. Sulli 21-11, 21-19; McLaughlin d. Merrill 20-21, 21-18, 11-10; Stevens d. Delaney 21-7, 21-12; Bowman d. J. Davidson 21-8, 13-21, 11-1; Matthews d. Aguglia 21-16, 21-16; Adam d. McNair 21-5, 21-14; Hemphill d. Ramirez 21-1, 21-17; Fox d. Letourneau 21-13, 21-8; Luft d. Hays 21-3, 21-5; Remen d. Kinca 21-12, 21-15; Myers d. McKinney 21-17, 18-21, 11-9.

(Third Round): Peck d. Fondren 18-21, 21-11, 11-3; Alderson d. Huber 16-21, 21-20, 11-5; Berberet d. Oates 21-6, 21-6; Cohen d. J. Dunlap 21-11, 12-21, 11-10; Dern d. Flewelling 21-9, 21-13; Bush d. L. Vantrease 21-15, 21-4; Gottlieb d. Weightman 21-17, 21-18; Meyers d. Garrigus 21-12, 19-21, 11-3; Stephens d. Cox 21-5, 21-8; Mazaroff d. Marsocci 21-17, 18-21, 11-3; Kent d. Jackinovich 21-11, 21-6; Kwartler d. Moshides 21-20, 21-15; Bolan d. Hodges 20-21, 21-12, 11-5; Luciw d. Bertolucci 21-9, 21-8; K. Dunlap d. York 21-13, 21-19; Wright d. Champagne 21-18, 19-21, 11-3; Thomas d. Colbert 21-8, 16-21, 11-4; Adkins d. Capitanelli 21-8, 21-20; Stepp d. Christiansen 21-19, 21-13; Deuster d. Groves 21-15, 21-13; Trent d. Wilhelm 21-5, 15-21, 11-3; McKie d. Vanover 21-4, 21-10; Wickham d. Klearman 21-18, 21-17; Owen d. Brownlee 21-5, 21-17; Hawkins d. McDowell 21-16, 21-12; Lujan d. Frick 21-13, 21-13; Kelly d. Llewellyn 21-12, 18-21, 11-4; Stevens d. McLaughlin 21-17, 21-17; Bowman d. Matthews 21-16, 21-9; Adam d. Hemphill 21-4, 21-18; Fox d. Luft 21-11, 21-14; Myers d. Remen 21-14, 19-21, 11-0.

(Fourth Round): Alderson d. Peck 21-1, 21-18; Berberet d. Cohen 21-17, 21-9; Dern d. Bush 21-17, 7-21, 11-10; Meyers d. Gottlieb 21-17, 21-19; Stephens d. Mazaroff 2-21, 21-6, 11-9; Kwartler d. Kent 21-12, 13-21, 11-8; Bolan d. Luciw 21-9, 21-18; Wright d. K. Dunlap 21-10, 19-21, 11-2; Thomas d. Adkins 21-15, 21-9; Stepp d. Deuster 21-16, 21-6; Trent d. McKie 21-19, 21-7; Owen d. Wickham 21-20, 21-12; Hawkins d. Lujan 21-9, 21-3; Stevens d. Kelly 19-21, 21-15, 11-9; Bowman d. Adam 21-10, 21-13; Myers d. Fox 21-13, 21-13.

(Fifth Round): Berberet d. Alderson 7-21, 21-20, 11-6; Dern d. Meyers 10-21, 21-17, 11-9; Kwartler d. Stephens 11-21, 21-13, 11-10; Bolan d. Wright 21-20, 21-7; Thomas d. Stepp 20-21, 21-19, 11-5; Trent d. Owen 21-19, 21-16; Stevens d. Hawkins 12-21, 21-10, 11-4; Bowman d. Myers 20-21, 21-20, 11-5.

(Quarter-finals): Berberet d. Dern 21-10, 14-21, 11-2; Bolan d. Kwartler 11-21, 21-10, 11-5; Thomas d. Trent 21-16, 21-11; Bowman d. Stevens 21-19, 21-12.

(Semi-finals): Bolan d. Berberet 21-9, 13-21, 11-8; Bowman d. Thomas 21-20, 14-21, 11-6.

(Finals): Bowman d. Bolan 21-5, 12-21, 11-10. (Third): Thomas.

Alicia Moore

It was almost a carbon copy of the one and only time they had met before, as 29-year-old California housewife Alicia Moore downed Linda Prefontaine from Eugene, OR, for the Women's Amateur National title. But it very, very nearly went the other way.

Alicia, who lives in Soquel, had an easy ride to the finals and based on her tourney experience looked like the favorite to take the women's crown. She downed Judy Thompson, of Davenport, IA, in the semi-finals 21-12, 21-11 and Barb Faulkenberry, of Clearwater, FL, in the quarters 21-14, 21-16.

In fact her longest match was in the round of 16's when she had to go three games with Barb Tenneson, of Minneapolis.

Still unsettled Alicia romped to a resounding first game victory, allowing Tenneson only three points. But the second game was a tightly fought scrap which ended in Tenneson's favor 21-20. But Alicia regained her authority in the tie-breaker and she hammered home an 11-3 score to get out of the round.

Prefontaine undoubtedly had the harder path to the top. She met number two seed Sally Murphy, of Denver, in the semi-finals. Sally powered her way to a first game win 21-18, but then she let Linda in with 21-8, 11-2 victories in the rest of the match.

Two other favorites for the top also went down early in the tournament. Prefontaine blew away Laura Martino, of Fountain Valley, CA, easily with 21-7, 21-10 scores and Hope Weisbach, of Phoenix, crumbled to Judy Thompson 21-11, 21-9.

Top-seeded Moore found it hard to settle down in the first game of the championship match and her powerful drive serve ended up costing her points as, time after time, she set up Linda off the backwall.



Captures

Coveted Crown



Linda Prefontaine blasts a forehand pass cross court as Alicia Moore races to cover the shot in their exciting Women's Amateur Singles championship match. The victory went to Moore 21-18, 20-21, 11-7.

She settled down sufficiently to get even at 10-10. But then Prefontaine's superior shooting ability came through. She caught a string which took her from even to 13-10 but then they settled down to trading point-for-point. At 16-12, Moore lost sight of the ball in the glass coming off the front wall and gave up the point. Three times she missed connecting with the ball during rallies. She mistimed the next point to give Prefontaine the advantage at 17-14, and then an ace had her diving to the floor in a futile retrieve attempt which put her even further into the hole at 18-14.

When she won the side out, Alicia's game suddenly changed. She held back the drives which had given her opponent easy kill opportunities and softened up her game. And it was the change of play which allowed her the eventual mastery of the game.

A Prefontaine skip gave her 15-18, another skip made it 16-18, a perfectly executed Z serve made 17 and number 18 came when she pinched a service return into the left hand corner.

Moore was rapidly regaining confidence, and on the next rally she took a high bouncing ball in deep court and hit an overhead instead of going back to the ceiling. That piece of strategy put her one up at 19-18. Number 20 came with a down-the-line pass and 21 came next when she picked up a Prefontaine pass and repassed her down the right wall.

In game two Prefontaine went down to two early points. She skipped her first rally and then watched as Moore drove one by her for an ace for the second. But it was close. They tied at 2-all, and 4-4 before Prefontaine caught a string that pulled her out to 10-4. Then two consecutive aces gave her 11 and 12. Moore battled her way back into the game, pulling level again at 13-13. She was helped by Linda, who totally missed a ceiling ball off the back wall to give Moore the 14th point. With the end in sight Alicia started to slowly pull away, dragging out the score to game point 20-15.

But Linda was able to produce one final effort which did everything she wanted. She took the serve after Moore skipped an easy kill attempt which would have given her the game and started adding on points. In a classic comeback she took 17 and 18, waited for Moore's time out, then nailed in two more to equalize before belting in a game-winning ace on a drive right.

The tie-breaker was a bitter struggle. They went even at 3-3, 6-6 and 7-7 before Alicia turned on the final pressure. Prefontaine tried not to make any mistakes and in doing so she made 'em. At 7-8 she lost the serve because she refused to shoot an easy backhand set up.

She lost the next point with a skip, and a kill shot attempt which Moore put away with a soft right corner pinch cost her the next point, too. One more to go and once more Linda mis-timed a Moore drive off the back wall which cost her the championship title.

Explained Alicia, "Before I went into the court I had a game plan. I played her once before and I won that contest 11-4 in the tie-breaker.

"I knew that she was going to shoot everything that I left up so beforehand I decided to soften everything - give her garbage serves and try and stay off the back wall. But I just didn't stick to my game plan.

"Every time I drove the ball hard . . . that was her cup of tea. I strayed from the game plan and it got me into trouble. I never got my rhythm in the first game and it was only when I started to slow down the game a little bit that I began to make points."

Alicia had also been taking some long walks during the tournament . . . walking around every ball to keep it off her backhand.

"All the way through I was having trouble positioning myself so I could get a really clean crisp snap on my backhand," she said, "and I didn't have any confidence in it, so I was avoiding it."

Women's Amateur Singles Results

(First Round): Brickley d. Smith, forfeit; Ward d. Bernadette 16-21, 21-13, 11-2; Adams d. Taylor 10-21, 21-13, 11-8; Farrell d. Hornack 21-20, 21-20; Ambler d. Long, forfeit; Nickerson d. Zammit 21-2, 21-5; Overcast d. Lawson 21-19, 21-9; Merrill d. Gibson 21-10, 21-12; Pattyn d. Baily, forfeit; Cornblath d. Drury 21-6, 21-15; Vanderwel d. Lantz, forfeit; Waldron d. Gray 21-0, 21-3; Robert d. Charfauros, forfeit; Meger d. Romo, forfeit; Livingston d. Nunn 21-10, 21-7; Ingle d. McKay 21-7, 21-5; M. Nelson d. Shaenks 21-17, 21-14; Westmark d. Mericas 21-14, 16-21, 11-9; Tebbs d. Folkertsma 21-3, 21-5; Kemp d. Cummins 21-2, 21-4; Williams d. Huebner, forfeit; VanSpybrook d. O'Sullivan 21-12, 21-12; S. Nelson d. Marting 21-4, 21-5; Finkelburg d. Flannery 21-2, 21-13.

(Second Round): Moore d. Brickley 21-3, 21-2; Swofford d. Curtis, forfeit; Tenneson d. Ward 21-6, 21-10; Adams d. Farrell 21-18, 18-21, 11-0; Ambler d. Parent 21-14, 11-21, 11-1; Faulkenberry d. Henry 21-9, 21-14; Nickerson d. Prisching 21-14, 21-14; Abbott d. Overcast 21-9, 21-9; F. Davis d. Merrill 21-5, 21-6; G. Hogan d. Constantino 21-4, 21-8; Thompson d. Pattyn 21-3, 21-6; Dugan d. Cornblath 21-12, 21-15; Noguchi d. Vanderwel 21-10, 21-4; Adkins d. Waldron 21-13, 21-7; Gonzalez d. C. Davis 21-5, 21-20; Weisbach d. Robert 21-2, 21-1; McCarthy d. Meger 21-6, 21-15; Behner d. Randle 21-3, 6-21, 11-1; Lee d. Livingston 21-11, 21-13; Martino d. Ingle 21-8, 21-4; Prefontaine d. M. Nelson 21-13, 21-7; Kronenfeld d. Westmark 21-5, 21-12; Stoll d. Taplin 7-21, 21-8, 11-6; Tebbs d. Rassenti 21-13, 9-21, 11-2; Oeschger d. Kemp 21-7, 21-16; Peterson d. Katz, forfeit; Farmer d. Huhta 21-17, 9-21, 11-6; L. Hogan d. Williams 21-5, 21-5; Pommerich d. VanSpybrook 21-1, 21-4; Ackerman d. S. Nelson 12-21, 21-11, 11-6; Dee d. Hosterman 21-2, 21-2; Murphy d. Finkelburg 18-21, 21-3, 11-6.

(Third Round): Moore d. Swofford, forfeit; Tenneson d. Adams 19-21, 21-10, 11-6; Faulkenberry d. Ambler 19-21, 21-20, 11-5; Abbott d. Nickerson 21-6, 21-4; F. Davis d. G. Hogan 21-4, 21-8; Thompson d. Dugan 21-20, 21-17; Noguchi d. Adkins 21-10, 21-13; Weisbach d. Gonzalez 21-18, 21-8; Behner d. McCarthy 21-15, 21-18; Martino d. Lee 21-13, 13-21, 11-4; Prefontaine d. Kronenfeld 21-19, 21-4; Tebbs d. Stoll 21-2, 21-5; Oeschger d. Peterson 21-16, 21-10; L. Hogan d. Farmer 21-5, 21-16; Pommerich d. Ackerman 21-6, 21-16; Murphy d. Dee 21-10, 21-17.

(Fourth Round): Moore d. Tenneson 21-3, 20-21, 11-3; Faulkenberry d. Abbott 18-21, 21-20, 11-9; Thompson d. F. Davis 21-7, 17-21, 11-9; Weisbach d. Noguchi 21-12, 21-13; Martino d. Behner 21-11, 21-8; Prefontaine d. Tebbs 21-10, 11-21, 11-9; Oeschger d. L. Hogan 21-6, 21-5; Murphy d. Pommerich 21-20, 6-21, 11-6.

(Quarter-finals): Moore d. Faulkenberry 21-14, 21-16; Thompson d. Weisbach 21-11, 21-9; Prefontaine d. Martino 21-7, 21-10; Murphy d. Oeschger 15-21, 21-18, 11-1.

(Semi-finals): Moore d. Thompson 21-12, 21-11; Prefontaine d. Murphy 18-21, 21-8, 11-2.

(Finals): Moore d. Prefontaine 21-18, 20-21, 11-7 (Third): Thompson



Coming Up In October

Stories on two divisions new to the nationals — Women's Seniors and Super Masters — and details of matches in the Seniors, Masters and Golden Masters categories.

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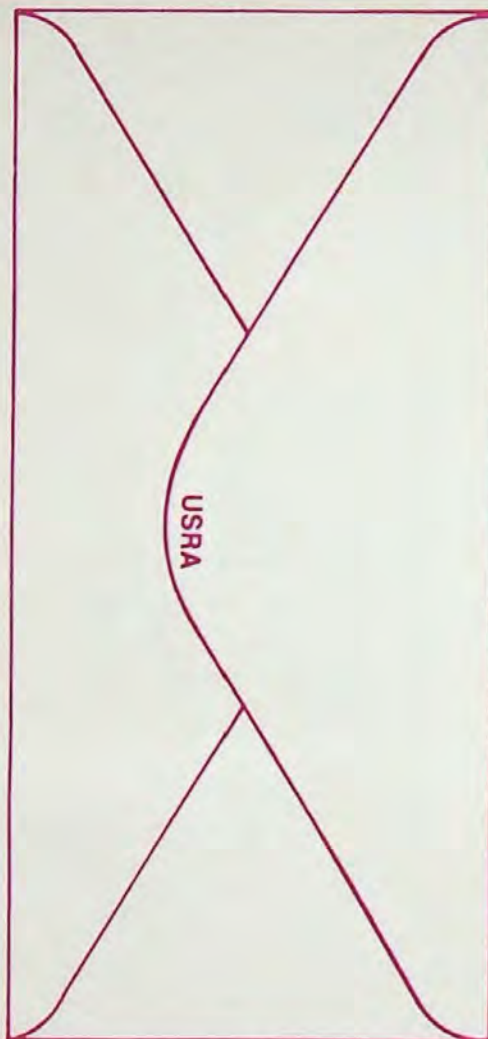
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Letters



Congratulations on "Examining"

Dear Bob:

I am writing to congratulate you on your article "Examining the Record" in June's issue of *National Racquetball*.

In reading I could not help finding a great and significant similarity to what has happened to the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. regarding other firms imitating us as well.

I certainly agree with your statement that the penalty of success is to be followed by imitators.

In your service to racquetball and handball, you above all have been copied, imitated, xeroxed and followed, but like Rudyard Kipling said, and as you quoted, "They couldn't copy your mind."

Thank you for making racquetball/handball the great sport it is today and in your doing so, you have made the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. an entity in this market as well. We all, at the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp., owe you, Bob Kendler, our deepest appreciation.

Allen Gunther
Chicago

Coincidental Criticism

Dear Mr. Kendler

As a reader of your fine magazine, I would like your counsel on a difficult question. In recent tournament play there has been an outbreak of unsportsmanlike behavior among fans cheering their favorites. These activities range from pounding on the court balconies, to shouting abusively before a serve, to calling plays out loud. What can a spectator, player, or referee do about such situations?

Since so many fans and players alike read *National Racquetball*, I'd appreciate seeing an answer to this inquiry in your letters column. Your publication does a really fine job of educating and informing us all!

Camille Blachowicz
Evanston, IL

By now we hope players, referees and spectators have all read Chuck Leve's 22nd Point editorial, "On Being Professional," in the July National Racquetball and are taking it to heart. ED

Tumwater Appreciates USRA

Dear USRA/NRC Staff:

Congratulations on another superb season and a year that has certainly established racquetball as the sport of the present as well as the future. Speaking on behalf of the Tumwater Valley & Area contingent I would like to thank the USRA, and especially Chuck Leve, for the help given in running our annual season opener, along with Leach Industries for supplying shirts. The combined USRA/NRC staffs receive our appreciation for a well run and enjoyable Northwest Regionals/Men's Pro stop which many of us participated in.

And a very warm thank you to Bob Kendler and all others involved in bringing this area the Arizona Pro Tour stop over the PBS network.

Again congratulations and best wishes for the upcoming season.

Mark Thompson
Olympia, WA

Rating System's in Racquetball's Future

Dear Ms. Brusslan

I want to thank you very much for publishing my article in the May issue of *National Racquetball*. The response to my system has been very good and I believe racquetball will benefit from it in the future.

Richard E. Turek
Phoenix, AZ

This Teaching Pro Has a Kidney Transplant

Your story in February about the man with a kidney transplant was of special interest to me because I feel that my career in racquetball is quite unusual. In 1971 I received a kidney transplant from my brother. Since that time I've been quite involved in sports and graduated from college in 1976 with a teaching degree in P.E.

I instantly fell in love with racquetball after I started out with a part time job at a racquetball club. Since then I've moved up to my present position as women's teaching pro and program director at Racquetball Plus, a chain of five clubs in southwest Michigan.

I also play on our club team, which travels to tournaments throughout the midwest and I'm happy to report I'm improving steadily. I even won the Women's B class at the Aurora Pro-Am stop.

I'd like to let other kidney transplants — or anyone with a physical disability — know that once the ordeal is over, they can resume a normal, active life if they want to (within the physician's guidelines). Racquetball can benefit anyone.

Pat Folkertsma
Jenison, MI

Some Medical Warnings For Hilecher

Dear Editor:

In the article by Jerry Hilecher "Let the Hilecher Mile Tax Your Oxygen Debt," in June *National Racquetball* a couple points require clarification. Hilecher recommends that the first 1,560 yards be run at an even pace with a 200 yard sprint at the end. He states that this is equivalent to running a longer distance. This simply is not true if the goal of the training program is to improve endurance conditioning. The basic type of mile that he is running is for anaerobic speed, which is the primary requirement he has for racquetball.

The manner in which he varies his running is a desired pattern in order to maintain variety and motivation. Based upon his age and his apparent excellent level of conditioning I would recommend to him that he run two miles in approximately 13 minutes. If he performed that three times per week he would be meeting the minimum requirements. It is best not to exceed five days per week, because people in general will go psychologically stale. This would include running sessions plus racquetball sessions.

The experience that Hilecher related of running on sand indicates that although his level of fitness was excellent, he was simply not ready for that kind of grueling experience. It is important that people understand that they should not be experiencing sessions of PTA (pain, torture, agony). These kind of sessions turn people off and this is not necessary for health running.

The last point that should be brought to Hilecher's attention is that he ought to check his cholesterol promptly. Because he likes hamburgers and milk shakes, he may have a very high cholesterol and be totally unaware. It is a common mythical belief amongst well conditioned athletes that as long as they are physically very active that their cholesterol must be normal. This is entirely false as documented by the case of Chuck Hughes of the Detroit Lions who died in 1971. This professional football player is assumed to have been in excellent condition, yet he had a very high cholesterol of 350 and he died of a heart attack at the age of 28. Hilecher and your readers should understand that very clearly.

Joseph Arends, M.D.
Troy, MI

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Welcome To A New Season



Those who have followed the progress of the pro tour over the past five years will find the format of the upcoming 1978-79 season to be one that perhaps never seemed possible only a few short years ago.

The Colgate Men's and Women's Pro/Am Racquetball Tour is supported by the same companies that have been associated with the tour in the past. Those companies are Colgate, Seamco Sporting Goods and Leach Industries.

A new addition to the format, and one that all will agree makes for a better and more lucrative tour, is that each individual event on the tour will have only its own sponsor, and will carry that sponsor's name, i.e., the Jack-In-The-Box Racquetball Classic, the Catalina Classic, etc.

What this means is that the financial burden of prize money, implementation fees and promotional costs will be absorbed by one sponsor for one event (or in some cases two events). This allows for smaller overall corporate investments, but bigger prizes at each tournament.

Putting the for instances into working order Colgate, for the privilege of being the overriding sponsor, has put up \$125,000 in prize money. Of that sum \$50,000 will be the prize money base for the 1979 National Championships, and the other \$75,000 will be part of the first-ever bonus pool in racquetball, which will accumulate at \$10,000 per tournament (approximately) and will be payable at the National Championships.

What this all means is that the players will be competing for \$30,000 in prize money per tournament as opposed to the \$15,000 they played for this past season. Now that's quite an increase, and one of which we are mighty proud.

Each tournament will be named after the individual sponsor who has donated the necessary funds for that event. In September the event will be the Jack-in-The-Box Racquetball Classic Sept. 27-Oct. 1. The next tournament will be the Leach Classic Oct. 25-28. November 15-19 will be the Seamco Classic, with sponsors like Kunnan/Leach, Coors, Catalina and of course, Colgate, becoming involved in the 1979 portion of the season.

For you pro players, fans and other interested parties — the entire format and schedule will be published in the October issue of *National Racquetball*.

* * *

Thought I'd knock out a few lines regarding the National Juniors Championships, just completed in King of Prussia, PA, and to be detailed in the October issue.

I am annually amazed at the tremendous skill levels shown by all the juniors as they continue to become better players at earlier ages. This season's players were truly the best I've ever seen.

The juniors program of the USRA is rapidly becoming the spawning ground for future professionals, witnessed by the fantastic showings of other juniors grads like Mike Yellen, who finished second in the Juniors in August, 1977, and finished in the semi-finals in the Pro division in the Nationals in June, 1978. Or like Larry Meyers, who won the 1977 Nationals Juniors and went on to beat defending National pro champ Davey Bledsoe in the Nationals of '78.

Others like the 1975 winner Ben Koltun, who is now ranked fourth on the tour, and Bobby Bolan, who almost captured the prestigious National amateur title, are showing that the way to the top in competitive racquetball is to go through the USRA juniors program.

These kids are learning far more than just how to hit racquetballs — they are learning important lessons in life. Their excellent conduct on and off the court at the National Juniors shows what fine young people are involved in the program.

We at the USRA/NRC are extremely proud of the juniors and hope to be able to increase and improve the program in the years ahead. ●



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The Lady Swinger is a racquet dedicated to the proposition that women are every bit as serious on the court as men.

It's a natural competitor.

We've modified the basic teardrop shape to turn the entire string area into one big sweet spot, for more accuracy.

It weighs in at under 250 grams, making it easier to swing.

And the Lady Swinger's narrow-throat design and comfortable 4" grip put a stop to rotational torque on occasional miss-hits around the edge. So it's easier to control.

It's a superb price competitor too, with a suggested retail under \$20.00.

That's right. The first women's racquet for under \$20.00.

And backed by a full one-year guarantee covering both strings and frame.

The Lady Swinger. It's a great new racquet from the company amateurs and pros alike have been taking to court for years. And winning with. We rest our case.



NUMBER ONE BY DESIGN



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