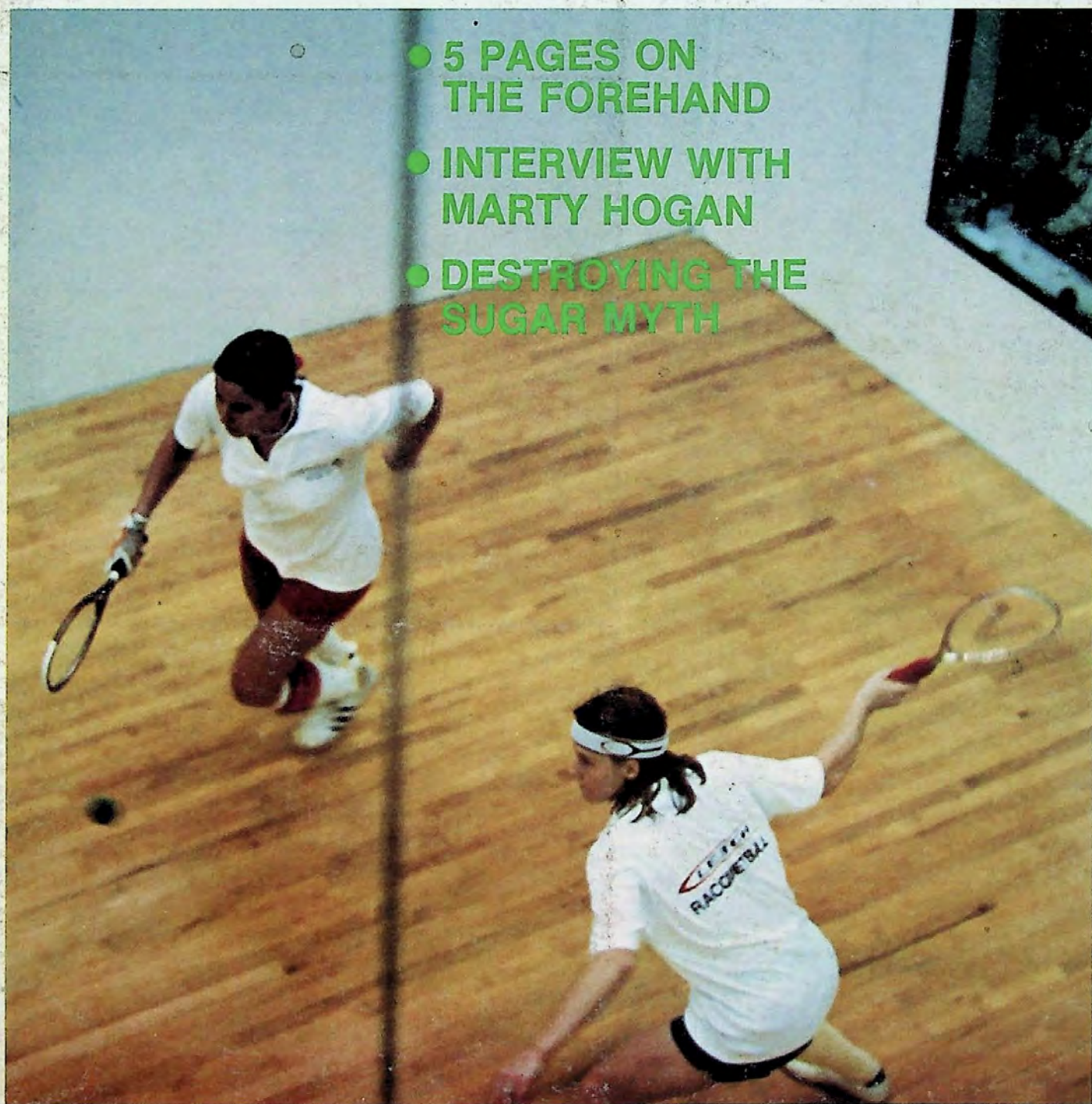


National Racquetball

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 4 • \$1.00 • NOVEMBER, 1975

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

- 5 PAGES ON THE FOREHAND
- INTERVIEW WITH MARTY HOGAN
- DESTROYING THE SUGAR MYTH





High performance package.

The official ball of the National Racquetball Club now comes in a new pressurized can to guarantee freshness. Look for the Seamco 559 in its new silver and green can at your pro shop or sporting goods department.

SEAMCO 

National Racquetball

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 4 • \$1.00 • NOVEMBER, 1975

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

CONTENTS

Editorial	
From Bob Kendler	2
From the Editor	4
National Commissioner	6
Letters	24
Feature Editorials	
Nationals in San Diego	9
History of Racquetball, Part II by Terry Fancher	12
Seamco, Leach Sponsor Pro Tour	32
The Beard Match by Jim Pruitt	56
Instructional	
Improving Your Forehand by Ken Wong	18
Racquetball Quiz	26
Health	28
Court Clubs	58
Upcoming Events	
Tournament Schedule	64
National Juniors	69
Tournament Results	
Toledo 3-Wall	34
Denver Pro Stop #1	40
National Racquetball Interview	
Marty Hogan	74

On the Cover:

Twenty year old Shannon Wright shows her winning form against Janell Marriott in the Women's Finals of the Denver pro-am. Full details, including Marriott's semi-final upset win over Peggy Steding on page 40.

—photo by Doug Panetta

National Racquetball magazine will pay \$25 to the author, upon publication, of any instructional, feature, or first person racquetball article submitted. All articles must conform to the specifications outlined in the table of contents and are subject to revision, alteration or rejection by the editor. Photographs of high quality in color or black and white are welcomed.

National Racquetball Magazine is the official publication of the United States Racquetball Association and is published bi-monthly by the National Racquetball Club, Inc., 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076, (312) 673-4000.

President and Publisher • Robert W. Kendler
National Director and Editor • Charles S. Leve
National Commissioner and Business Manager • Joseph Ardito
National Court Construction Consultant • Forest D. Wendt, A.I.A.
Photographic Consultant • Arthur Shay

National Racquetball Magazine is produced by Corporate Graphics, A/G Color Company Production Division, Chicago. (312) 666-5200

Executive Coordinator • Joseph M. Patten
Design Director • Milton W. Presler
Production Manager • George Lorenz

Printed by American Press, Inc., Gordonsville, Virginia 22942

Advertising Representatives are Print Media Services Ltd., 222 South Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, Illinois 60068, (312) 825-1145, Calvin E. Cooley, National Accounts Manager

All editorial communications should be addressed to The Editor, National Racquetball Magazine, 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076. Manuscripts must be typewritten and double spaced. Color and black and white photographs are welcomed.

Subscriptions are \$3.00 for one (1) year and \$7.00 for three (3) years. Controlled circulation postage paid at Gordonsville, Virginia. Postmaster send Form 3579 to National Racquetball Magazine, 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076.

FROM BOB KENDLER

Hats Off to Leach & Seamco



We have no doubt that you are among those of us who either pray or pay for racquetball. The spiritually minded ones long for the day when the game will reach a plateau that will take the youngsters off the street and put them into the court. It is their belief that bringing out the best in our sport will bring out the best in our children. Give them *anything* that's more rewarding than delinquency, something more exciting, something that's just plain fun. Then we occupy them with good, not evil.

Before this becomes a sermon, let me add that we need substance as well as spirit. For this, we must look to high-minded sponsors who, fundamentally, are just as dedicated to improving our sport as we are. What they contribute reinforces our finest intentions. Take, for example, Leach Industries who volunteered \$25,000 to co-sponsor our pro tour. Along with Seamco who also volunteered \$25,000 for the same purpose, no one has ever done more to inspire racquetball than these amazing firms that without any fanfare or pressure, came to our side at the most critical time in racquetball history. This is the crossroads for racquetball. Leach and Seamco have insured the future of the sport through a sponsorship that established a fiscal base and unlimited development. We needed their "tools" to implement our ambitious ideas and programs. We owe them thanks for their support

and first class equipment... Seamco's 558 and 559 balls and Leach's entire line of fine racquets.

You should think about this whenever you buy equipment. Let's be loyal to the ones who are loyal to us. But for their willingness to share with us the fruits of their success, we couldn't possibly bring you the superb play that comes only from superb tournaments. Racquetball has made enormous strides because these firms have given us a moral and material vote of confidence. You can show your appreciation by supporting those who support us.

But that's not the only reason. Both Seamco and Leach are leaders in their field. Their products have stood the test of time and tournament. You can't possibly go wrong with either one. Our Association unreservedly guarantees that their products will meet your every requirement. Remember, you set the standards, and these manufacturers complied by producing equipment that is exactly what you ordered. That's why more Leach-built racquets and more Seamco-built balls have been sold than all the others combined. That's why THEY have our endorsement and YOU have our guarantee.

What guarantee? We will replace any defective product produced for our Association or refund your money. This is not just an idle statement. We have been in court sports for nearly thirty years, and you can't find anyone, anywhere in America, who hasn't had an honest complaint promptly satisfied. If we didn't have the utmost confidence in Leach and Seamco, we couldn't possibly give you this guarantee. You just think about this for a moment, especially when you are shopping for equipment.

By buying our products you'll be saying "thank you" to two wonderful sponsors, Seamco and Leach. You'll also have the satisfaction of knowing you have a guarantee that really stands up. You'll also be ensuring the future of racquetball.

Isn't that the name of the game...

Thank you, Bud Leach
Thank you, Don Strong

Bob Kendler

Pro Racquetball Gloves

R-70 PRO — Already acclaimed nation wide as the finest glove for racquetball. Made from Saranac's own native deerskin — hand selected for its natural lightness and tackiness. Our supertite elastic and magic Velcro closure on the back gives this glove that added touch of class to make it the "choice of the Pros." Easily identified by Saranac's new Pro emblem. Colors: Bone deerskin with Red, Columbia Blue, Gold, Green, Orange, or White backs. Available in Left or Right hand. Sizes: Men's XS — S — M — ML — L — XL.



**SARANAC GLOVE CO. BOX 786
GREEN BAY WISCONSIN 54305**

Time for Tie-Breaker



As those of you who have been following *National Racquetball* for a while probably know, I'm the guy who caused such an uproar by proposing a few rule changes,—namely doing away with the three bounce and throwing against the side wall rule, eliminating the second serve, and scoring on every rally. For those of you who hate me for the above, you'd better stop reading right now.

For those of you who thought the ideas were good, or at least respect me for bringing new ideas into the game, thanks, I'll need your support, because I've got a new one,—a proposal that will solve all the problems that led to the need, I felt, for my original proposals. The idea? Ready?

Tie-breaker.

That's all, just tie-breaker. Well, that's really not all, and quite frankly, it's neither a new idea nor mine. But it will work in racquetball as I'm about to show you.

First, let me qualify everything I've said so far by reminding the reader that I speak of tournaments only now, although condescending individuals might want to include this racquetball tie-breaker in everyday play. If you do, well, thanks again. If not, well, you still have those dusty, old, archaic rules to play by.

The need is for a method to shorten tournament matches, since tournaments are becoming increasingly over-stocked by the one commodity we encourage and actively seek, namely players. As the matches drudge on into the still

of the night, hours behind schedule, tournament doldrums set in, referees and linesmen vanish like ghosts, and tournament directors want to head for the nearest ostrich hole.

Yet we do not want to "drastically change the game" as so many die-hards battered our offices with letters to point out. And too, we don't want to lessen the excitement for the fans.

Therefore, all of the above considered, tie-breaker is perfect.

Brumfield and Serot split the first two games of a great match. Two or five minutes is allowed as a break after the second game. Tie-breaker begins 0-0 and ends at 11. That's it,—a game to 11 to decide the third game.

Goodbye 2 a.m. matches; so long inferior third game skills due to cruel and unusual punishment of the rigors of major tournaments. Hello tie-breaker.

Will the excitement of the match vanish? Hardly. It will, in fact, increase. Will the thrill of the third game become obsolete? No way, the pressure will be even greater. Will conditioning go the way of black and white t.v.? Not likely, since players will still have to go three, er, well, two-and-a-half, anyhow.

There will have to be one "major" rules revision if and when tie-breaker goes into effect. The coin toss rule will have to be changed. I think one player should serve first

in game one, the other in game two, and the coin tossed again for tie-breaker. But then, I could be wrong on this point.

Actually, I could be wrong on the whole idea, but I don't think so. But I am thinking, and if you are too, then write our Letters department and let us know how you feel about tie-breaker.

Dear Editor: It's so simple I'm surprised you thought of it.—A Friend.

Hey, guess what?! Some of you are using illegal racquets. That's right. A few manufacturers, whom we decline to name, are producing oversized racquets. Better check yours and make sure it conforms to the racquet size rule (2.4). If you need a rule book, let us know; they're free.

But then maybe you feel the extra size is the reason why your retrieving so well these days. Could be. But it could be the reason you've got "racquetball elbow," too.

In any event, don't show up at an N.R.C. or U.S.R.A. sanctioned tournament with an illegal racquet,—'cuz you won't be allowed to use it.

Somebody else said it better than I: "You've got the rules, just enforce them."

LEACH

ALUMINUM SWINGER

POLYVINYL BUMPER FOR PROPER BALANCE

MONOFILAMENT NYLON STRING

NEW!

ALUMINUM EXTRUSION
FOR MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY
AND CONTROL

Leach introduces a low cost, flexible metal racquet. A new extrusion design allows us to produce an aluminum racquet with many of the same features found in higher priced tournament racquets.

GENUINE LEATHER GRIP

NYLON SAFETY THONG

For color brochure and further information on any of our products, please contact:

LEACH Industries, 5567 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, California 92123 (714) 279-1000

Seeds for the Forest



It's nice to know somebody cares. And cares enough to do something about it.

I speak of the D. B. Frampton Company, and it's president D. B. Frampton, who after reading about the aims and goals of our National Juniors program in the September issue of *National Racquetball*, has requested and been granted full sponsorship of the National Juniors.

It is not unusual for a manufacturer to donate funds for events; these pages detail the how's and why's of pro tour sponsors, ball and racquet sponsors and the like. What makes the Frampton sponsorship of the juniors so special is that it comes straight from the heart.

There is no way D. B. Frampton will make back his generous donation to the National Juniors tournament. The courts at the Orlando Y.M.C.A. are not even made out of his product. D. B. Frampton just wants to help the youth of our nation through racquetball.

The irony is that Mr. Frampton, at 85-years-old is probably racquetball's eldest statesman. Yet he has not forgotten youth, in fact, he wants to fulfill the dreams of youth and he is fulfilling those dreams with his financial assistance.

Through the kindness of this man, the U.S.R.A. can now offer each participant in the National Juniors tournament 10c per mile for each mile they have to travel in order to reach Orlando. There are only two limitations,—1) mileage is

computed after deducting the first 500 miles and 2) a maximum of \$125 will be allotted each entrant. Still, this is more than a feather in a man's cap,—it is a regal crown.

Kids from all over the nation now have a chance to attend this tournament, one that promises to be the thrill of a lifetime. Not only the competition, but the camaraderie and joys of friendships that could last a lifetime will begin in Florida. Add to that the natural thrill of enjoying a day at Disney World, and you have what the National Juniors is all about,—fun and education for kids.

The tournament is in a special time of year, between Christmas and New Years in one of the world's busiest places during this week. So, for those of you who haven't done so already, make your reservations now for flights, and contact Bill Dunsworth at the Orlando Y for rooms. Further information on the National Juniors, with an entry form can be found on page 69.

And the next time you're thinking of racquetball, think of it's friends. Think of D. B. Frampton. I know I will.

Since I'm throwing out bouquets this issue, I would like to toss one the way of the Denver Athletic Club, the facility which got our Seamco-Leach pro tour started off in such

tremendous fashion. What a resounding beginning to what promises to be the greatest year ever for racquetball!

D.A.C. athletic director Monte Huber and his two fine secretaries Rhonda Fults and Louise McWade did everything we asked of them and more during our stay in Denver. The remainder of Monte's staff also went all out,—people like Dave Glander, Bill Radden, and layman Jim Kosmiski.

The people in Denver couldn't have been nicer to the N.R.C. staff personnel who invaded their six court athletic club.

The players in Denver, both men and women, did more than their share in making our first pro stop of the year so terrific. Their talent, sportsmanship and respect was gratifying.

And on a personal note, a special thanks to the fine men in the health club, especially Don Englehardt, whose expert handling of sophisticated equipment gave me a week's respite from an ailing arthritic hip. What a joy it was to be given back my legs, if only for a week.

To you all in Denver, again thank you.

For once, handballers and racquetballers agree: It's great to play on a Frampton court.

Frampton handball/racquetball courts are of championship caliber any way you look at them. First off, they have the solid sound and "feel" that top players demand. There are no "dead" or hollow spots to throw your game off. Walls are absolutely plumb, and they stay that way because our exclusive F-62-SP panel has superior dimensional stability.

Just as important, our F-62-SP panels are tough. They cannot be harmed under normal playing

conditions, because they're made from fused fiber resin panels developed by Frampton and U. S. Gypsum Company. The only maintenance they need is an occasional wall washing. There's no patching, no painting, no downtime. Whether you're a handballer, a racquetballer, or planning to build a court, you have to agree those are good reasons to go with a Frampton. For more information, write for our brochure.

Coming soon: An important new product from Frampton. After several years of planning and research, we are going to introduce a new product that will be of great interest to anyone planning to build a new court installation. Watch these pages for more details.



FRAMPTON

D. B. Frampton & Co., 33 South James Road, Columbus, Ohio 43213, Phone (614) 239-9944

The "XL Bill Schmidtke" racquet is longer, lighter, with extra power.



Bill Schmidtke, consistent tournament winner and two-times IRA singles champion.



The XL Bill Schmidtke racquet is a full nineteen inches long, three-quarters of an inch longer than any other racquet in the Ektelon line. Yet it weighs only 275 grams, which makes it the lightest racquet in the Ektelon line. It is this unique combination of length and lightness that allows you to drive the ball with extra power. And that extra three-quarters of an inch can give you just that much more edge in a close racquetball game.

Bill Schmidtke says that with the longer, narrower face, there is less tendency to hit "off center." The sweet spot increases in size.

The XL is built with a deep-channel aluminum frame, developed by Ektelon. There is a tough nylon bumper that can be shortened to adjust racquet-swing weight. The XL is strung with the highest-quality, heat welded nylon string. Special tooling is used to precision form the metal eyelets to reduce string breakage. The top portion of the frame is slotted to increase head flexibility and so provide better ball control. The frame is anodized a rich black. The grip—in choice of black leather or rubber—is available in 4-1/8", 4-5/16" and 4-1/2" sizes. Every XL comes with a lined vinyl racquet cover.

One Year Guarantee

The XL Bill Schmidtke, like all Ektelon racquets, carries a one-year guarantee against frame breakage, and against any defects in materials or workmanship.

EKTELON



Dept. NR-11
7079 Mission Gorge Rd.
San Diego, CA 92120

Super Plush-Health Club

'76
Nationals
to San Diego

Atlas Vice President Jerry Sandstrom stands above the pride and joy of the Atlas Health Club, the two glass back-walled racquetball courts. You have noticed, we're sure, the permanent seating and upstairs standing room. Five other traditional courts will make this a super facility for the Nationals.

The most modern racquetball facility in the world will host the N.R.C.-U.S.R.A. championships and the finals of the Leach-Seamco Pro Tour next June in San Diego.

The Atlas Health Club, a sparkling, recently-opened \$1.7 million facility in the heart of San Diego's Mission Valley, will host the climactic event of racquetball's competitive season.

The Seamco-Leach pro finals will have a purse of \$15,000, the culmination of N.R.C.'s eight-stop \$50,000 tour that is sponsored by Leach Industries, makers of Leach racquets, and Seamco Sporting Goods, manufacturers of the 558 and 559 balls. More than 1,000



Lounging in the Ladies locker room,—like everything about the Atlas Health Club, it's comfortable, spacious and plush.



players are expected to participate, along with U.S.R.A. regional finalists, in the national amateur competition men's open singles and doubles; women's, seniors, masters and golden masters events.

And all contestants, their families and fans will experience a new dimension in site preparation, convenience, service, competitive conditions, available activities and general enjoyment.

Built by Atlas Hotels, the Atlas Health Club is located within walking distance of five Atlas Hotels in San Diego—Town & Country, Hanalei, Mission Valley Inn, Kings Inn, Ramada Inn—representing 1300 first class hotel rooms.

"Although each of our hotels has its own recreational facilities such as swimming pool and game areas, we believed it advisable to provide guests with a health club where they could enjoy a full range of activities," said Jerry Sandstrom, senior vice president of Atlas Hotels.

Sandstrom, in directing the construction of the club, visited racquetball clubs throughout the country. Through this experience coupled with Atlas Hotels management's commitment to highest quality possible, Sandstrom has produced facilities that establish a new standard of excellence.

As example:

Temperature and humidity for each of the seven racquetball courts,



Part of the exercise room at the Atlas. Players coming from all sections of the nation for the Nationals will be able to enjoy the ultimate in exercise and warm-up equipment.

One of the glorious whirlpools at the Atlas Health Club, complete with modern and attractive tile designs. Perfect for those aching tournament muscles, or just to relax and unwind after your match.



including the two tournament courts, may be regulated to suit individual requirements. In other words, if players on court #1 wish to play in 60 degree temperature and those on court #2 desire a 70 degree temperature level, this is easily done.

Custom made door latches are completely flush with the wall.

The 7½-inch concrete walls, designed to eliminate cold joints in the wall, were sandblasted and hand sanded before painted. The surface has a latex base and Kemico paint was used to resist ball marks and prevent minor chips.

Only a number one grade or better of maple was used for the floor and the wood pieces are uniform in length and width. The floor is free of any dark wood spots.

Special Anahydro cement protects the floor and guarantees a moisture-free playing surface.

Lighting fixtures (Abaolite Co.) are flush with the ceiling, providing a hinder-free surface. The mercury vapor lights produce a more natural color and each playing surface is illuminated by a total of 200 foot candle power about 60-70 more than normal power.

The structural glass system—7/8 inch annealed glass—at each tournament court is floor length and seats start at a sufficient distance so that spectators are not involved in a contestant's focal point when playing off the rear wall.

Seats for 300 persons are available for each of the two tournament courts, or about 500 for a single match. Glass rails allow easier observation from upstairs spectator areas.

In addition, contestants will be treated to the most modern locker-room facilities imaginable. There are exercise rooms, massage rooms, steam rooms, saunas, custom designed showers and space for more than 500 lockers.

There's even an indoor therapy pool, complete with 16 jets, surrounded by a 22 foot-high tile mural and fronted with a specially

treated indoor-outdoor window. Add also lounge areas, snack shop, pro shop, game room and film library.

Players, spectators, guests—all persons who stay at any one of the five Atlas Hotels—may use the club's facilities on an as-available basis. In addition, the Health Club has six championship lighted tennis courts, regulation swimming pool, jogging track and volleyball court ready for guest use.

"The Atlas Hotels is looking forward to the N.R.C. tournament and is planning to make the event the most successful in history." Sandstrom said. *"Certainly, the facilities insure a memorable tournament and all contestants, their families and spectators will be provided with the highest level of service and courtesy by the Atlas Hotels."*

Another feature will be tournament room service for the N.R.C.-U.S.R.A. championships. All five Atlas Hotels—tournament headquarters—are within easy walking distance of the Atlas Health Club, the tournament site.

And all the hotel rooms are equipped to receive closed-circuit television of key matches, announcements and starting times.

"You won't even have to leave your hotel room and you'll see the key matches," said Sandstrom. *"We have installed a closed circuit television system from the Health Club, allowing us to televise matches directly into each of our hotel rooms."*

In addition, we will be giving announcements, schedule changes, court assignments and other information vital to both players and spectators. Not only should this arrangement increase the efficiency of the tournament but also it will allow a far greater number of persons to watch the matches."

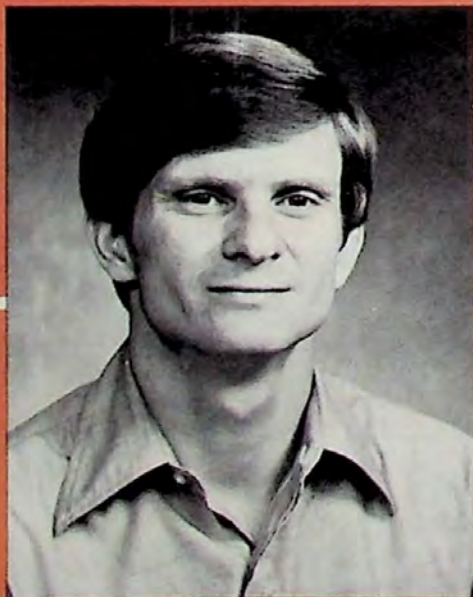


And if the tournament scene begins to drag for you after so many hours, then how about a nice swim in the Atlas Health Club's outdoor swimming pool. Or maybe the out-of-staters will just want to lounge around the deck, soaking up the San Diego sun.

The History of Racquetball

SERIES/PART 2

This is the second of a series in *National Racquetball* magazine on the history of racquetball. The work of Mr. Fancher is from his thesis "A History of Racquetball," written in partial fulfillment for a Master of Science degree in physical education at the University of Wisconsin. Any comments, additions or opinions regarding this paper should be addressed to Mr. Terry Fancher, Mid-Town Court House, 1235 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois 60610, where he recently accepted a court club managerial position.



Origins Of Racquetball

Racquetball probably got its earliest start in the year 1949. Joe Sobek was credited with inventing the game at that time. The original name of the game was "Paddle-Rackets." Prior to that time, Sobek had left his profession as a tennis and squash professional and was employed in an executive position in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Sobek had watched paddleball, using the wooden paddle, being played by numerous members of the Greenwich, Connecticut YMCA. Looking for a means to exercise, Sobek thought that paddleball would be a more interesting and entertaining game if a strung racket were used rather than a solid-faced wooden version. Sobek designed the kind of racket thought to be appropriate and took it to a New England manufacturer of tennis rackets, squash rackets, and badminton frames. With the new racket, Sobek started a group of men playing at the Greenwich Y.

In the early stages of the game, the only suitable ball available was a Spalding ball for children made of red, white and blue rubber; however, it worked remarkably well. As the supply was depleted, Sobek then put out a request to friends traveling throughout the country to purchase this ball wherever it could be found in toy stores. Eventually, the supply became exhausted and Sobek and his friends could locate

no more balls. After consulting Spalding, Sobek discovered that the firm did not plan to continue manufacturing the ball. Spalding did, however, have a pink rubber ball that was similar to the inside core of a tennis ball. This ball was used for many years, as well as a softer ball, which was blue in color and developed especially for Sobek, whose autograph was stenciled on the outside. The early rules for the game of racquetball were derived primarily from established squash rules. Over the years Sobek was reluctant to make changes, but most of those that were made were concerned with revisions in the serve.

The sport spread rapidly from the Greenwich Y as players moved to other towns and introduced the sport nationwide. During those formative years, "National Championships" were held at the Greenwich Y in Connecticut and identified as Paddle-Rackets Championships.

In those early years, Sobek on his own initiative periodically sent a YMCA four rackets and several balls and asked such organizations to experiment with the sport and give it a try. This often was done in the years from 1949 through 1959 and, as a result, the sport spread rapidly throughout the nation's YMCAs in

this ten year period. Sobek reported that the early participants in the game consisted of approximately 50% handball players and the remaining players came from some other racket sport.

After having played many racket sports, Sobek felt that paddle-rackets had more to offer than any of the others. It proved to be a stimulating winter activity. Additionally, it was fun, gave tremendous exercise, and was easy to learn. Another advantage was that anyone, young or old, could step into the court and play the game at his own pace. As the game prospered in the 1960s and spread throughout many geographic areas, as well as private clubs, many different types of balls were tried in an experimental effort to discover which was the most satisfactory. Also, during the same time period the game was played under a variety of different names, such as "paddle-rackets," "paddle-tennis," and "paddleball."

Racquetball 1968-70

Due to the increasing popularity of racquetball throughout the country in the 1960s, competition on a nationwide basis emerged. After an introductory national tournament in Milwaukee, the first "International Championships" was conducted in St. Louis, Missouri, at which time the International Racquetball Association was established through the resources and leadership of Robert W. Kendler and the offices of the United States Handball Association. That newly formed racquetball association

combined the splintered groups of racquet and paddleball players across the nation. It also attracted many former handball players as a result of the similarity of the two games.

Although the first official International Racquetball Association Championships were held in 1969, the sport had really begun to emerge on the national sports scene one year earlier. The National Paddle Rackets Tournament held in 1968 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 23-26, served as the springboard from which racquetball was brought into prominence. Before, paddle rackets players had been primarily playing for enjoyment and had held a few tournaments in the New England states. However, in the 1960s, as the sport began to spread rapidly, it infiltrated the paddleball and handball player ranks.

Several of the top racquetball players of today were nationally ranked performers in paddleball, including Bill Schmidtke, Bud Muehleisen, Charlie Brumfield, Bill Schultz, Paul Nelson, Steve Keeley, Craig Finger, and Paul Lawrence. By 1967, the game of paddle rackets began to challenge paddleball as the most popular game in many clubs and communities. A widespread interest was noticeable among the top-flight paddle rackets players, not only in New England, but also in areas such as Louisville, San Diego, Minneapolis and other major metropolitan areas. To

highlight this great enthusiasm Larry Lederman, Athletic Director of the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Milwaukee, decided it was time to hold "a big tournament." By then it was debatable which was the better game, paddles, or racquets. Lederman's idea was to get all of the top stars together, organize one game, and decide whether to play with the solid paddle or the newer strung rackets. Lederman recalled that people came to the Milwaukee Jewish Community Center with wooden paddles and played the game in the handball courts, although many handball players had the attitude that the paddles would damage the court walls. But play was allowed and Lederman became curious as to what extent a sport like paddleball played with the strung racket could ever progress.

He had tried the game of paddleball himself and played with all kinds of different balls then in use. The game was also promoted at the JCC but it just did not flourish; there was a lack of appeal. This might have been due to the game not being fast enough, plus the added factor of the heavy racket being a lethal weapon. The game continued to be played at the JCC, however, especially by Tom Sanicola, who played in all kinds of contests with the better handball players, hands against the paddle, using a handball. Sanicola played against Paul Haber, five-time national handball champion, and Simie Fein, two-time national handball doubles champion, to see who could win.

It was not until a gut racket invented by Sobek was introduced in the Milwaukee area in 1966 that the game really began to create enthusiasm. Lederman purchased several of the rackets immediately, allowed people to borrow them, and encouraged play. Before long there was a large following, especially the participants who had difficulty learning handball or squash because those two sports appeared to be more difficult. In contrast, there was instant success with the gut racket game.

The ratio of paddle rackets to handball players at the Milwaukee JCC soon grew to five to one and this was years prior to the first national tournament. In 1967, a small committee for paddle rackets was organized which was interested in being incorporated with the National Paddleball Association. Papers were drawn up by the committee of Sanicola, Lawrence Gardner, Benjamin Labowski, Phillip Cottle, and Maurice Laskin, with the intent of making the new sport into a national organization. It, too, was called the National Paddleball Association.

When the first tournament was held in Milwaukee May 23-26, 1968, the committee called it the National Paddleball Tournament, not distinguishing between paddleball and paddle rackets. There were 72 entrants in that first tournament

from all over the United States—New York, Pennsylvania, as far west as Denver and Phoenix, and as far south as New Orleans; players from Canada also participated.

Entries came in from every state in the Midwest, as well as inquiries about the rules, rackets, and type of ball, indicating the wide differences of play in the various areas.

Paddleball was described as being played in the same courts as handball, following the same rules, but differing in the ball and racket. There had been other national paddleball tournaments, but the wooden racket was used with a slower type of ball, according to Lederman. In order to standardize the game as to racket and ball, a Paddleball Committee was incorporated into the USGPA (United States Gut Paddleball Association) to organize the tournament and make headway towards a uniform sport code.

Libowsky was the president of the group with a committee composed of Gardner, Lederman, Sanicola, Mort Luck, "Buckets" Goldenberg, Irving Peckarsky, and Sydney Plotkin. A news release written for publicity of the tournament predicted that the number of gut racket players would eventually outdistance handball players which claimed 2,500,000 players in the nation. Apparently the game had become popular because one did not need to be an athlete to play. There was almost instant success the moment a player stepped into

the court. The resiliency of the racket, the fast moving ball, and the size and shape of the racket did not offer any obstacles to a person trying to hit the ball. It was easy to keep the ball in play. As Libowsky noted, *"Once we get a few national tourneys going and players begin to accept the new game, it is bound to become one of the most popular games in the nation for an indoor sport."*

In 1968 it was hard to determine how many gut paddle players there were in the country because nobody had taken the time to find out and organize the players into an association. It was possible that the Milwaukee committee might turn the game over to the United States Handball Association with headquarters in Chicago and a national magazine at their disposal. Thus, players could be registered and the game more easily promoted. It was prophetically stated that if this was the committee's choice, Milwaukee would have had a hand in shaping the destiny of a coming indoor activity that had a lasting value for men and women because this game could be played from age six to 76.

Lederman and his directors, along with the athletic community of the JCC, combined to handle the problem of organizing paddle rackets players into a cohesive group. They formed a tournament committee of members of their club and athletes in the various court sports—persons who, over the years, had organized major

tournaments and even some national sport events. Lederman convinced most of the top players of paddleball to give up the older game in favor of the newer game of paddle rackets for the tournament and then collaborate and form a national committee for the sport of paddle rackets.

A contemporary list of names of top paddleball players in the country was developed and most of them agreed to set aside their paddles to take up rackets at least for this tournament. Lederman also sent invitations to every YMCA athletic club, JCC, college or university known to have courts, urging them to send their top players to compete in the tournament. Players from all over the country made it truly a national championship. The spirit of the tournament was set in a letter from the tournament committee to all participants:

Our Committee has worked long and hard to make this tournament a truly memorable experience for you, and if there is anything we can do to help make your stay more pleasant, we are eager to do so. The Jewish Community Center is dedicated to enhancing the physical and spiritual health of all people, and we are happy to be part of the effort to strengthen the physical fitness of people through paddleball.

Bill Schultz and Bill Schmidtke, players from Madison, Wisconsin, met in the finals of the singles championships and other players from Milwaukee battled in the doubles finals, as these two cities dominated the National Paddle Ball

Gut Racket Championship in the first tournament. Schultz won the singles crown in three games by defeating his doubles partner, Schmidtke. Fein and Jim White captured the doubles title with a triumph over the other Milwaukee team, David Glinberg and Dan Trost.

In winning the singles titles, Schultz established himself as one of the country's foremost players in the game, having won the national wooden paddleball title in 1962 and a runner-up in every tournament since. Schultz, who was a YMCA Executive Director in Madison, Wisconsin, had been instrumental in popularizing the wooden paddle game, having initiated two national tournaments in Madison. However, his introduction to the game with the gut racket began on a "home and home" sociable arrangement between the Madison YMCA and the Jewish Community Center in Milwaukee. Schultz had seriously begun working out with the gut racket only three weeks before the tournament with a purchase of four rackets and a half dozen Pennsylvania Pinkies (a pink rubber ball used in the national tournament) from Lederman. Daily sessions on his own home courts with partner Schmidtke revealed the remarkable transformation that could be made in adjusting to a new game and ball.

The first national tournament determined that handball players could make the changeover to

paddleball. Half of the players in the tournament played both sports and enjoyed playing the two games; it gave them a chance to choose.

Organizational meetings were held throughout the tournament and after its completion. Every player, along with athletic directors and prominent sports-minded businessmen, took part in discussing the future of the sport. The conclusion was that this was the beginning of a great new sport called paddle rackets and it needed an organizational structure.

In essence, the good of the first national tournament was to form a permanent and enduring framework for the new sport as an end result to the athletic competition it provided. Large paddleball tournaments had previously generated a spirit of friendship and harmony necessary to accomplish the desired goal of organization. Lederman and the tournament committee hoped to capitalize on that harmony to guarantee that the future of the game of paddle rackets would be secure. Many popular sports had risen to popularity only to falter due to poor organizational structure, excessive commercialism, lack of publicity, or for other reasons. It was hoped that this failure could be avoided with the game of paddle rackets.

Name Change

A change in the name of the organization was the product of meetings held in conjunction with the first International Championships in St. Louis. It was the wish of the U.S. Handball Association to tie together the various games played in the 20x40 handball courts. Several players from Madison, Wisconsin, and San Diego, California, played with both the wooden paddle and the "gut" racket and had demonstrated a desire to unify. If this desire held true for other players across the country, the USHA felt that it might be more inclusive to change the name to the International Racquetball Association. This would include everyone under one organization, for the benefit of all. This was to be a topic brought up for discussion at the first "International Paddle Rackets Association" championships convention which brought to an end the first season of paddle rackets. The membership was urged to voice their opinions in response.

At the organizational meeting in St. Louis on April 26, 1969, players and officials who attended voted for selection of a name that gave a better description of the game. The International Racquetball Association became the new official name for the four-wall racket game since the word "paddle" appeared to denote the use of a wooden paddle. It was reported that since there was a great deal of confusion of nomenclatures in the game of

paddleball the initial naming of the "International Paddle Rackets Association" might be repetitive in using both "paddle" and "rackets" together and perhaps not all-inclusive.

After official adoption of the word "racquetball" as the name for the game, people were still referring to the "gut" four-wall court game as paddleball. The IRA headquarters tried to explain that paddleball referred to the wood paddle game and that had been the main reason for the changeover at the first international meeting in St. Louis in April of that year. It was also stressed that the "racquet" spelling be used both for the game, racquetball, and the implement used, racquet, rather than racketball and racket.

The results of the first International Racquetball Association Championships held in St. Louis, April 24-27, 1969, were termed a total success. The large cross-section of the players in the country who attended provided outstanding competition in the four brackets of action—open singles and doubles, and Masters singles and doubles (players over forty years of age).

Continued Success

With the advent of the 1970 championships, racquetball was well on its way to success. The tournament exceeded any previous national racquetball entry with sixty players in singles and an overall count of 159 entries from fifteen

states. National Commissioner Lederman presided at the International convention meeting and stated that this was an "historic first," not just the meeting but the four-day competition held at the St. Louis JCC. *"By banding together we can follow only one road, that of success,"* Lederman added.

Committees were formed covering adoption of an official ball, rules, nominating, and tournament procedures. Many players requested that the association provide a ball that would be uniform in performance and give a true bounce.

Kendler, President of the IRA, recommended that an "Air Force Orange" ball be experimented with, for better view by players and for picture values on film and television. Kendler felt that TV was the key to promotion of the game and orange was a color the public could follow. It was also suggested that the St. Louis JCC be given an option to again host the International Championships for the next year because of its fine facilities, central location, and also because racquetball was primarily played east of the Mississippi river.

A highlight of the tournament was the first women's competition. A local heroine, Frances Cohen,

proved the class of the field in defeating Kimberly Hill, a University of Southern California freshman. Women had claimed their rightful place in the sport's national tournament.

National championship tournaments became the culmination of each year's play as well as being the key to rule changes and organizational meetings, and they provided a general reinforcement of the best interests of the sport.

Next issue: Organization and Leadership.

Improving Your Forehand

The key to rapid improvement in racquetball or any other sport is the establishment of a well defined development program consisting of simple objectives covering the basic fundamentals at the early stages of development and slowly building from that foundation. This series of articles will define such a program and will cover the basic fundamentals of strokes, court coverage, and strategy; this first article will discuss the basic philosophy toward developing a forehand stroke.

Because the human mind can only comprehend and retain a small amount of information at a time, the instruction stresses learning center court control, simple shot execution, and elementary strategy

in a step-by-step program. But as in everything you learn, the first attempts are the most frustrating and confusing; everything seems complicated. While reading this article I may saturate your mind with details, but in the first reading, try to gloss over the details. Perhaps the last few paragraphs are the most important in the sense that the first few paragraphs describe the forehand in detail, but then the last paragraphs explain how you can take what sounds like many complicated steps of instruction and break them down to a few simple steps. Have faith in the system and your game will improve faster, and you will have a much more solid foundation for a total game.

There are four major parts to a forehand:

1) **the grip**; 2) **the positioning of the body relative to the ball**; 3) **the backswing**; and 4) **the forward stroke**.

First, the grip is a *continental grip*; it will allow you to hit both a forehand and a backhand with basically the same grip and therefore reduce some complication in learning how to hit the ball and in changing quickly from one stroke to another during a rally.

To assume this grip, put your hand out as if you are going to shake hands and place the racquet in your hand so that the racquet face is perpendicular to the floor. If gripped properly, the first segment of your index or trigger finger should be squarely against the back of the grip. Your fingers should be slightly spread for better control. Notice that the V formed by the thumb and index finger is on top of the left edge of the grip. You may modify the grip according to your feel, but most well-rounded players use grips very similar to this. Figures 1, 2, and 3 show three different views of the grip.

Fig. 1

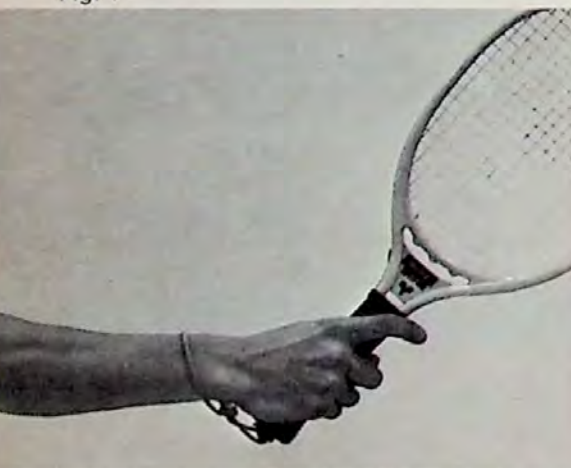
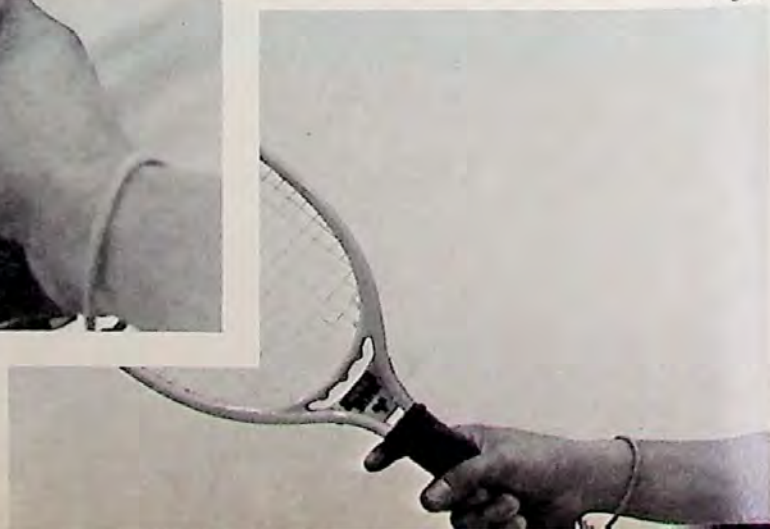


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Secondly, you must properly position your body relative to the ball. For the beginner, the easiest shots to control are the thigh high or knee high balls. So, when trying to hit anything other than a lob or ceiling ball, you should try to move so that you can hit the ball from thigh high or lower. If the ball is very high, you should hit the ball after it comes off the back wall. Once you reach the ball, if you want to hit it along the right wall (all references are for a right hander; substitute left for right if you are left handed), you should try to get into a *closed stance* so that you are facing the right wall, and your back is slightly turned toward the front wall. This will allow you to better control the ball and keep the ball from *floating* to the front wall.

Figure 4 shows the proper closed stance and figure 5 shows the improper *open stance*. You will later find out that there may be times where the open stance is better than a closed stance, but that topic will be left for the discussion on advanced techniques. Also, try to bend the knees slightly and take a crouched position. You will be able to hit harder, more accurately and with a greater variety of shots from this position.

The third part of a good forehand is an early backswing. This is one of the most important steps in hitting any shot because an early backswing will allow you to react to unusual bounces, stroke the ball properly, and hit more offensive shots. This is the main reason why Charlie Brumfield's shot execution is far superior to his contemporaries. In fact, an early, proper backswing can compensate for an inadequate grip or swing.

The backswing should begin as soon as you decide that you are going to hit a forehand; you should not wait for the ball to bounce



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

before getting your racquet back and into position. The backswing is executed by bringing the racquet back so that the upper arm is parallel to the floor, the elbow is slightly bent (about 45 degrees), and the wrist is in a full *wrist-cocked* position. In order to hit a crisp shot your weight must shift to the back foot, the upper part of your body and the racquet arm should rotate slightly away from the right wall, while in a closed stance. The most important part of the backswing is an early rotation of the shoulders. This shoulder rotation should be completed after taking one or two steps toward the ball.

Notice in figures 6 and 7 I have rotated my shoulders after taking only one step. Then by figures 8 and 9, I have gotten into the set position with a full shoulder rotation. Note that the positioning of the body and

Fig. 6



the early backswing occur at about the same time. The sooner you start moving to this set position, the better your chance of hitting a well-controlled shot.

The final step is the *forward stroke*. The stroke is basically a *pendulum swing*. During the downward arc of the swing, the racquet face should be above the wrist and the wrist should remain cocked until the racquet reaches the *contact area* which is just off the instep of your front foot. When you contact the ball, the wrist should break naturally with the follow-through in the direction of the intended shot. During your swing, your body weight should shift forward, and your shoulders should rotate toward the front wall. What might be helpful is to take a small step forward to help move your weight into the ball.

Figures 10-13 show the stroke at four different points of the swing.



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

Fig. 7



Fig. 8

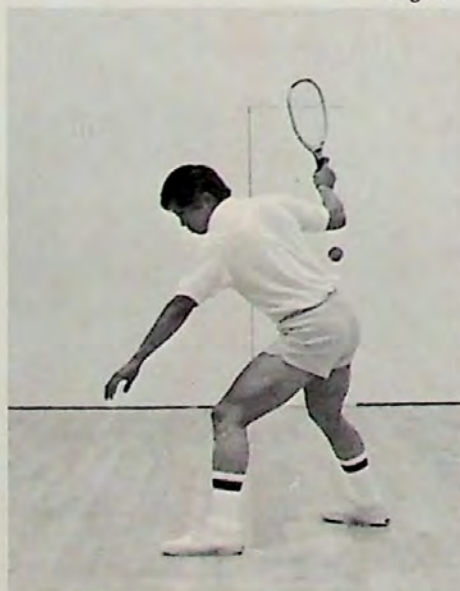


Fig. 9





Fig. 13

Note four important points in the figures: 1) the wrist remains cocked until the heel of the hand reaches the contact area; 2) the racquet face does not drop below the wrist too early; 3) the swing has leveled off before reaching the contact area. This leveling off allows you to hit the ball in a larger contact area, i.e., whether you are early or late, the ball will still be low; 4) the shift of weight from the back foot to the front foot.

The ball should be hit with a slight *underspin*; the underspin is required for control and to help keep the ball from coming off high on the back wall. To hit with a small amount of underspin, you must try to hit as if you are pulling with the heel of the hand using a pendulum swing. However, the ball should not float,—if it does, then hit it with no spin.

Each of the above four steps in

hitting a forehand can be and should be practiced, one step at a time until you are comfortable hitting the forehand.

The program for learning the forehand will depend on how serious you are about racquetball. For players of all levels, some time should be spent practicing the forehand. The amount of time will vary with the desired goals. The serious player may want to spend an hour a day, three or four days a week practicing the forehand. If you are a serious player, you should count how many good shots you hit out of, say 100 and try to improve on that score each time you practice. This will help you concentrate better and indicate how you are progressing in your program. Figure 14 is an example of a partially filled practice chart.

Let's suppose you are definitely not a serious player. Then the warm-up time before a game is sufficient practice time. You should always spend at least five to 10 minutes warming up to prevent injuries. After some stretching exercises, you should start the warm-up by dropping the ball into the contact area and then hitting the desired shot. Start in the set position; this will reinforce the idea of having the racquet back and in the set position before swinging. Your goal should be to develop a smooth pendulum swing and a controlled shot down the right wall about three feet or lower. As you become accustomed to the swing, you can lower your height objective each week.

When you feel sufficiently loose, practice hitting a moving ball; you can do this if you give yourself a soft set up off the front wall, get in position with an early backswing, and take a pendulum swing. Try to move back fast, set up and then step into the ball. Try to over-emphasize the early rotation of the

shoulders and upper body because again, this part of the backswing is the most important part of hitting any stroke. You should always move back far enough so that you can move forward for the ball,—it is easier to hit while moving forward than backward. If your weight is on your back foot when you are hitting, this means either you are setting up too slowly, moving back too slowly, or giving yourself too difficult a set up.

You should not hit more than one ball in a row for each set up; you should give yourself a set up, hit one shot, let the ball roll, pick up the ball, analyze why you hit a good or bad shot, and then repeat the cycle. Never hit three or four balls in a row because each shot usually rushes you more and more and causes you to only re-inforce your bad habits. It's tough enough just trying to hit one set up at a time.

Warming up in this step-by-step manner will allow you to re-inforce the good parts of your forehand, help you warm up slowly, help develop a grooved swing, and give you more confidence in your forehand each time you practice. While playing a game, concentrate extra hard when you get a forehand set up, but don't worry about mis-hitting backhands or tough forehands until you can hit the set up. This method can also be applied to practicing other shots we will learn in this series.

The following is a list of problems which might arise during practice or warm up; each problem is followed by the probable causes:

1) **ball goes off to the left:** you hit the ball too far in front of your front foot; b) You broke your wrist too early; c) you hit with an open stance.

2) **ball is over four feet high:** a) you

lifted your front shoulder instead of keeping it level; b) you hit the ball on your upswing; c) you dropped the face of the racquet below your wrist too soon; d) you did not level out your swing soon enough; e) you hit with too much underspin.

3) ball sprays all over the court: a) you had a late set up and backswing; b) you hit the ball by taking a swing which is one big loop rather than a two-step movement of backswing and forward swing.

4) ball goes off to the right: a) you broke your wrist too late; b) you hit the ball off your back foot instead of your front foot.

5) you hit the ball into the floor: a) you hit it too far behind your lead foot; b) you used top spin instead of under spin.

6) no power: a) You're not taking a full backswing; b) your shoulder rotation is poor; c) your are late setting up.

This is not a complete remedy list but it should cover some common problems and solutions. Other common errors are hitting the ball too high, hitting downwards and over the ball, and not setting up early enough.

In learning the forehand, you should concentrate on the most important parts of the forehand first and then slowly refine it. Most players develop very slowly because they try to concentrate on too many things at once.

For instance, now that you know a little bit about the forehand, concentrate on the forehand for the next two months and don't worry about your non-existent backhand, —even during a game. In practicing the forehand, don't attack all parts at once and don't try to hit everything a half an inch off the

floor; perhaps each week concentrate on a few new facets of the forehand and add these parts to your game slowly until you are able to hit a good, solid forehand. Then concentrate on lowering the ball from three feet to a few inches, — and do it gradually. A good order to attack the forehand might be the following:

1. grip
2. early backswing and set up
3. take a full swing
4. let the ball drop to knee or thigh high before hitting it
5. use a pendulum swing
6. hit with a closed stance
7. shift your weight from the back foot to the front foot when swinging
8. use a full wrist cock on the backswing
9. keep the racquet face above the wrist and in a cocked position until the racquet reaches the contact area
10. follow through with the racquet in the direction of the intended shot

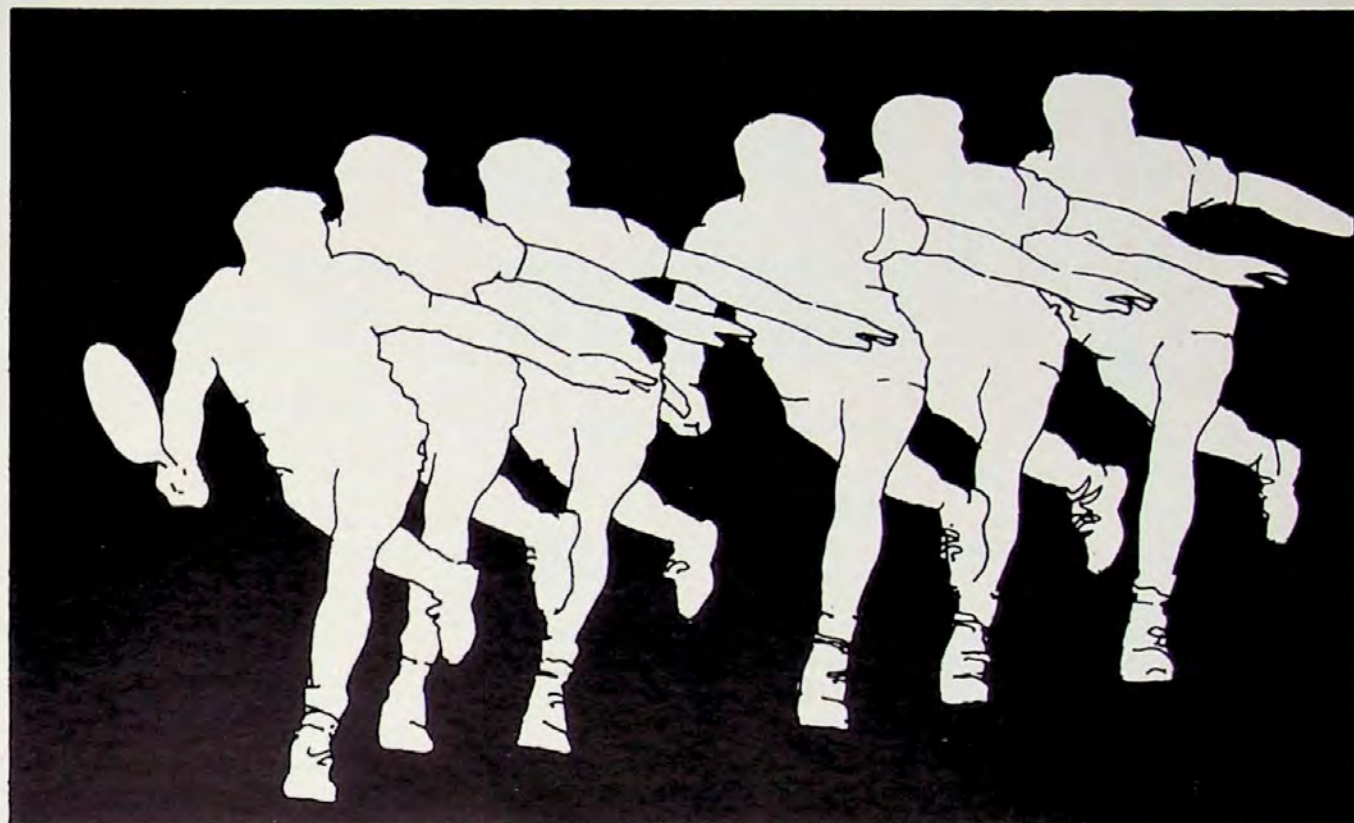
For instance, you can spend the first week on grip and early backswing. Then spend the next week or two concentrating on taking a full swing and letting the ball drop. Your swing doesn't have to be perfect before you can enjoy playing the game or feel comfortable on the court. Each time add more parts of the forehand to your game until you can execute all parts of the forehand well.

In this article we concentrated on the forehand stroke. You should practice the forehand and concentrate on developing it during this next period. Don't worry if you can't hit a backhand yet. If you are a beginner, your objective should be smooth-stroked, crisp shots which hit no higher than about three feet on the front wall. As you get better try lowering the height by letting the ball drop lower before hitting and aim for maybe one to three inches on the front wall. Also, occasionally re-read this article as you reach each objective in practice.

Figure 14

Practice Chart				
Shot: Forehand				
Date	Objective	Good Shots	Bad Shots	Total Shots
8/26/75	3' or lower	9	91	100
8/27/75	3' or lower	10	90	100
9/1/75	3' or lower	2	98	100
9/3/75	3' or lower	33	67	100
9/4/75	3' or lower	46	54	100
9/5/75	3' or lower	85	15	100

you don't have to be a wimbledon champion



You don't have to be a Wimbledon Champion to be a part of The Tennis Digest. The sophisticated monthly compact magazine is with you where you play, dine, live. It encompasses the quality life style of the tennis motivated person. Our magazine is created to inspire and entertain Southern California tennis enthusiasts with six pages of photographic instructions every month by a familiar teaching professional. Tennis events, exotic resort and travel coverage, racquetball (the second biggest explosion), backgammon for tennis players, fashions and more! **With the major focal point TENNIS!**



8383 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 514
Beverly Hills, California 90211
(213) 651-2022

Enter my subscription for only 9.00 per year
(newsstand cost 1.00 per issue)

☐ for 1 year ☐ Bill me

☐ Payment enclosed

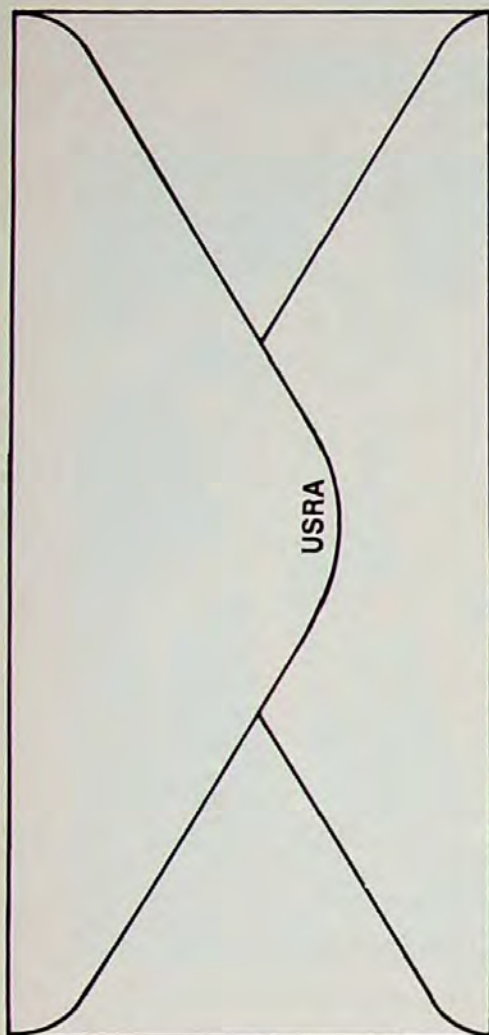
Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

LETTERS



Dear Mr. Kendler:

There are very few great moments in any man's life, and I am confident last week was one such moment for you. I wish to send my congratulations.

I cannot think of a more deserving man, and I am happy to see you receive such recognition.

Charles Drake
Leach Industries

U.S.R.A. president Bob Kendler was a recent recipient of the Masonic 33°, the highest award in Masonry.—ed.

Dear Mr. Leve:

With respect to the proposed rule changes, I have read the pros and cons in the July issue of *National Racquetball*. I do not agree that for racquetball to succeed it must be like tennis or ping-pong.

Racquetball, if anything, is like handball and attracts former handball players, such as myself.

Rule changes are not going to popularize the sport. For example, tennis has been around for ages without rule changes. It is becoming popular due to the advent of television which draws sponsors and a couple of flukes, such as Billy Jean King and the feminist movement.

Why jeopardize success? It is obvious that racquetball is catching on very fast, not only with ex-handball players but with the younger people and with females. It is also becoming very popular with middle aged women, who need exercise, and young couples who are able to play in mixed competition.

If tournament play needs special handling because of the time element, make special rules for tournaments only. I vote to keep the racquetball rules as they are now for the various pro reasons given in the July issue as to the advantage of having two serves, of scoring only when serving, etc. Racquetball is catching on fast as is evident from

the money being put into racquetball clubs, at least here in the midwest. I would not jeopardize its growth at this time by rule changes which are unnecessary and unproven.

A. J. DeAngelis
Elmhurst, Ill.

Dear Joe:

I want to congratulate you and your associates for the splendid job you have initiated and for the progress you have made. I think that this progress for "National Juniors" is the most important step taken in this entire field.

I have followed Juniors Play in several different areas of the country and find tremendous enthusiasm, a highly developed competitive spirit, anti-drug and abuse attitude, plus academic leadership in school work. All of these wonderful objectives are found to be common developments when the group play Racquetball. Then comes the big payoff when the Mothers of these young people become interested in Racquetball.

There is no end to the results that can come from "Planting the Forest".

Again, let me congratulate you and wish you success and we will be doing our darrest to help in any way possible.

D. B. Frampton
President
D. B. Frampton & Co.

Dear Chuck:

Thought you did a great job running the 3-wall racquetball tournament in Maumee.

Best of luck and I hope to see you along the trail.

Bob Nichols
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Bob,

I just received your letter from the National Racquetball Club. Let me compliment you on its content, as I feel this is the first time the racquetball player has been advised in writing as to what he may expect from any association in professional racquetball.

We are glad to be a part of this tour and look forward to a profitable season for all concerned.

Charles Drake
Leach Industries
San Diego, Cal.

Dear Chuck:

I am writing this letter in regards to the proposed rule changes.

To score on every rally is a drastic change which I think should be further contemplated, and if enforced, only done so through a lengthy period of time.

Concerning the three bounce rule, —I think it should be ousted. The player still must obey the 10 second rule.

The elimination of the second serve would mean a more conservative game for everyone. I think many people would dislike it, including myself, but it is something we could get used to.

Allowing throwing the ball against the side wall would not affect the game much, just as long as the ball is served according to the rules.

Thank you.

Kevin Becker
Wheeling, W.V.

Dear Sirs:

The proposed rule changes (*National Racquetball*, March 15, 1975) should help promote racquetball by likening the rules to other well-established racquet sports. Our sport is certainly mature enough to give handball back their rules and to develop our own. I

agree, however, that to rush into changes could result in an undesirable patchwork system making our rules different,—not better.

Only two changes appear to be at issue, the scoring and single serve. The others were never a factor to the average guy anyway.

Both server and receiver should be able to score points. The defense can score in every sport from tennis to football. There is no point in being an island. Besides, it will be an incentive for players to think offensively. The kill shot and pass shots are the touchdowns of racquetball and should be scored the same whether by the server or receiver. As a matter of fact, I challenge any player (even the pros) to deny that they have never,—at the end of a long and heated rally,—posed the question, "Who served?" Hopefully, this change would also end the frustration of splitting the first two games and being booted out of your court in the middle of game three having only played the game but not won or lost.

One change that won't improve the game is the one serve rule. I think it's very popular, even among beginners, to try to blister in a scoring serve on your first attempt, then come back with a defensive serve if necessary. What serve to use and what serve to expect are two of the genuinely fun psychological elements of the game. This rule change would stifle daring and result in a mass move to safe serves.

Bob Milstead
Grand, Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sirs:

We recently returned from the Steve Keeley-Steve Serot San Diego racquetball camp. We are looking forward to attending next year and highly recommend the camp to racquetball players of all ages.

Meals and housing were excellent, and the schedule provided ample

time for individual and group instruction as well as a chance to play with the pros.

A special thanks to these pros, Steve Keeley, Steve Serot and Marty Hogan for teaching us so much in such a short time.

Many thanks also to Hugh Terrell, counselor Karin Walton, and especially to Dave and Amanda Newlon.

The week was an opportunity to learn racquetball and a great chance to experience new people.

Jean Thorne
Karen & Margaret Hill
Brainerd, Minn.

September 11, 1975

Dear Chuck:

I enjoyed the recent edition of *National Racquetball*. I must admit that I particularly enjoyed the article on pages 24 and 25. Thanks so much for your interest; hope we will get a chance to get together in St. Louis in the not too distant future.

Byron D. Sachar
St. Louis, Mo.



With racquetball gaining such widespread popularity, a high percentage of our players are beginners, many of whom could stand to brush up on their knowledge of the rules. Too, many of our veteran players seem to know everything there is to know about the rules, often incorrectly.

For these two groups of players, (and actually for all those in between), the staff of *National Racquetball* has put together a racquetball quiz, based on the rule book. This quiz, although perhaps humorous in places, is seriously meant for instructional purposes.

Read the questions carefully, and choose the one answer that is correct or closest to correct.

Grading (correct) 38-40,—you're a pro; 33-35,—you can pass; 30-32,—okay for a B player; 29 and below,—you're an avoidable hinder.

Multiple choice

1. A regulation racquetball court is:
 - a) 23x46
 - b) 20x40
 - c) 18x36
 - d) none of the above.

2. The minimum height of the back wall must be:
 - a) 10 feet
 - b) 14 feet
 - c) 12 feet
 - d) 20 feet.

3. Which of the following type racquet frames are illegal:
 - a) wood
 - b) steel
 - c) plastic
 - d) none of the above.

4. What is the only officiating call a player may make during a match?
 - a) avoidable hinder
 - b) short serve
 - c) backswing hinder
 - d) double bounce.

5. A player may leave the court during a time out:
 - a) after telling the referee
 - b) after receiving permission from the referee
 - c) after telling his opponent
 - d) whenever he wants as long as he's back on the court in 30 seconds.

6. At the beginning of a match the winner of the coin toss:
 - a) gets his choice to serve or receive
 - b) serves first in all three games
 - c) gets to choose the ball
 - d) must serve, he has no choice.

7. If the score is Brumfield 20, Strandemo 17 and Strandemo commits a Technical Foul:
 - a) Brumfield wins 21-17
 - b) Brumfield gains the serve
 - c) Strandemo loses on forfeit
 - d) Brumfield leads 20-16.

8. If the score is Brumfield 6, Strandemo 0 and Strandemo commits a Technical Foul:
 - a) Brumfield wins automatically
 - b) Brumfield leads 7-0
 - c) Brumfield leads 6 to minus-one
 - d) Strandemo loses the serve.

9. When serving, a player cannot serve:
 - a) before the referee calls the score
 - b) until his opponent is ready
 - c) until the 10 second limit expires
 - d) all of the above.

10. If the server accidentally drops the ball on the third bounce:
 - a) he should apologize to his opponent
 - b) he loses the serve
 - c) he gets to bounce it over
 - d) none of the above.

11. The 10 second rule means:
 - a) that the server has that long in which to put the ball in play
 - b) same as a) except the receiver also has the same 10 seconds in which to get ready
 - c) the players can get a drink of water
 - d) none of the above.

12. In doubles you:
 - a) must always serve cross-court
 - b) must always alternate serves to one opponent, then the other
 - c) can serve to either of your opponents
 - d) must tell your opponent to whom you are going to serve.

13. If you've got one short serve against you and you serve a screen ball:
 - a) you lose the serve
 - b) you serve over with no change in the situation
 - c) a Technical Foul is called and your opponent gets a point
 - d) the referee gives you a warning.

14. In doubles, the server's partner:
a) can stand anywhere he wants as long as he's within the service zone
b) can stand anywhere he wants as long as he's in the service box
c) should stand facing the front wall to avoid injury
d) must stand with his back to the side wall, facing the server.

15. Violation of #14 above results in:

- a) loss of serve
- b) foot fault
- c) court hinder
- d) short serve.

16. Which of the following serves results in a handout:

- a) your serve hits the ceiling, front wall, floor in that order
- b) you hit an obvious short serve and catch in on the fly
- c) you swing and miss as you try and serve
- d) a and b above
- e) all of the above.

17. As receiver you cannot:

- a) fake a swing to confuse your opponent
- b) move until the ball is served
- c) catch the ball at any time
- d) none of the above.

18. A serve at the crotch of the:

- a) back wall is good
- b) side wall is bad
- c) side wall-short line is an automatic ace
- d) all of the above.

19. A player can:

- a) switch hands with his racquet as long as he can get the thong on and off and back on in time
- b) hit the ball with two hands on the racquet
- c) a and b above
- d) none of the above.

20. If the ball goes out of court in the opening at the back wall:

- a) the game is over
- b) whoever hit it gets the point
- c) the play goes over
- d) none of the above.

21. Your opponent swings and misses at a ball during a rally, blocking your view and causing you to be struck by the ball. That is:

- a) too bad, you still lose the rally
- b) a hinder
- c) an avoidable hinder
- d) Technical Foul for faking a swing.

22. If the ball hits the handle of your racquet and reaches the front wall:

- a) it's still in play
- b) you have committed an avoidable hinder
- c) you automatically lose the rally
- d) you buy a new racquet.

23. You have just lost a rally. Your opponent serves the ball to begin the next rally and the ball breaks as it hits the front wall. What happens?

- a) the serve goes over
- b) the serve is short
- c) you are awarded the serve and the previous rally (which you lost) is re-played
- d) none of the above.

24. Your opponent hits a shot down the left wall. As you go over to hit it you're afraid you'll strike him with your racquet. As you hold up your swing the referee calls "hinder" and a split second later the ball strikes your opponent. The correct call is:

- a) avoidable hinder, you get the point
- b) hinder, the play goes over
- c) point for you, the ball hit your opponent
- d) you get a point for good sportsmanship.

25. If you are injured you have:

- a) 10 minutes of injury time before you have to forfeit
- b) 15 minutes
- c) 20 minutes
- d) 30 minutes.

26. If you take five minutes for injury and re-injure yourself:

- a) you have five more injury minutes before you must forfeit
- b) 10 more injury minutes
- c) 15 more injury minutes
- d) you must forfeit, you're only allowed one injury time out.

27. U.S.R.A.-N.R.C. rules call for:

- a) two minutes between the first and second games
- b) three minutes
- c) four minutes
- d) five minutes.

28. When serving, if you serve an otherwise legal serve but step on the front line:

- a) you lose the serve
- b) the serve is good
- c) it is a short serve
- d) none of the above.

29. If a ball strikes the front wall, back wall, floor and front wall again in that order:

- a) the play goes over
- b) you ask for a new ball
- c) you must hit the ball on a fly off the front wall
- d) you can let it bounce once more and then you must hit it.

True or False

30. ____ In doubles you cannot change the order of serve once the match has started.

31. ____ In doubles if one partner swings and misses, the other partner cannot hit it.

32. ____ Any time the ball strikes a player before hitting the front wall, it is a hinder of some kind.

33. ____ If your shoe comes off during play, an automatic hinder is called.

34. ____ If the ball goes through your legs it's an automatic hinder.

35. ____ Avoidable hinders always result in a point for the non-offender.

36. ____ If your opponent is crowding you, you can push him away.

37. ____ If you wear glasses and need to wipe them off, you can call an equipment time out and still retain your three regular time outs.

38. ____ Your opponent hits a roll-out and as he does he blocks you. Unable to see or move you are therefore entitled to a hinder.

39. ____ Once a player establishes a position on the court, it is his opponent's obligation to go around him.

40. ____ A player who moves directly into the path of a ball just struck by his opponent has committed an avoidable hinder.

Destroying the Sugar Myth

HEALTH

Women Sports, September, 1975

The championship season for the lovin' spoonful seems to be over, friends. Sugar, that stuff which we sports and non-sports alike dump in quantities of 2,000 tons a day into our coffee and tea alone, is very unsporting stuff, it turns out.

According to Dr. A. M. Cohen (in a report to the International Academy of Preventative Medicine in Washington), long-term feeding of refined sugar to laboratory rats led to impaired glucose tolerance; succeeding generations of the animals fed the same high-sugar diet rapidly developed diabetes, accompanied by other ailments such as vascular changes and kidney disorders.

Put simply then, sugar, time-honored as a superior, superfast, superfine source of energy, smacks. Not only of dental decay and diabetes ("What's bad for the teeth is bad for every other part of the body," reminds Dr. E.

Cheraskin, a prominent researcher into the subject of refined carbohydrates and the devilry they do) but of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), skin and joint disorders and heart disease. According to Dr. John Yudkin, author of *THE* anti-sugar book, *Sweet and Dangerous*, sugar is implicated in most of the cases of heart disease that take the lives of 800,000 athletes and nonathletes alike each year.

Basically, sugar is a chemical—some go so far as to call it a drug—with a molecular weight of 342.20, with a formula of $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$. It is stable in air and has a sweet taste—what one nutritionist described in quiet desperation as "that enjoyable poison." When ingested, it imposes a great strain on the body as it is metabolized, enormously stepping up one's requirements for vitamins and minerals. Minerals such as potassium, sodium and calcium, which are especially crucial to any athlete, are rapidly depleted by a diet even moderately rich in Baby Ruths and Dunkin Donuts.

"You can undo a week of training in just five minutes with extra sugar

Everywhere, women of all ages are discovering the healthy, free feeling of participating in sports. Now Billie Jean King brings you a new magazine for and about women who are involved in every kind of physical activity.

womenSports

**Special Introductory offer
\$8.95 for 12 issues**

☐ Enroll me as a subscriber to womenSports. I understand that if I'm not completely satisfied with the first issue, I can simply write "Cancel" on the invoice and there will be no further obligation.

☐ Enclosed is \$8.95 for a one year subscription (12 issues) of womenSports. Also send me a FREE Bonus, a can of womenSports tennis balls for paying with the order.

(Please Print)

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Return to: womenSports Subscription Dept.
Suite 266
1660 S. Amphlett Blvd.
San Mateo, Ca. 94402

Nutrition author Frances S. Goulart is a competitive long-distance runner. Her most recent cookbooks are The Ecological Eclair (Macmillan, Inc., May, 1975) and Bum Steers (Chatham Press, May, 1975).

before competing," says former Olympic weight lifter and coach Bob Hoffman. "An increased flow of body insulin is set off, which lowers blood-sugar levels below normal, producing fatigue." Concurring is Harvard nutritionist Jean Mayer, who points out that it takes only nine pre-game chocolates to throw the body's calcium-phosphorus level out of balance and keep it below normal for at least 72 hours. Sugar-rich snack foods also cause shortages of such necessary trace minerals as zinc and chromium, he warns.

Furthermore, sugar produces stickiness of the blood cells in the bloodstream, according to California physician W. D. Currier. A clumping of the red blood cells and platelets tends to block the capillaries.

The evil substance comes not only in candy-bar form; it lurks in every mouthful of Gatorade, every blob of peanut butter, every spoonful of catsup.

The answer lies in developing a taste for the vitamin- and mineral-rich foods that are natural sources of energy. Where does "go" power come from? According to exercise expert Per-Olof Astrand, "Energy production of exercising athletes comes from a judicious mixture of carbohydrates and fats. Proper dosage can increase stamina by 300%." Soybeans, dates and sunflowers are superior anti-fatigue foods, for starters.

And there is fructose. Writing in Great Britain's *ATHLETIC WEEKLY*, Dr. M. H. M. Arnold advises the use of fruit sugars (fructose) as a sucrose substitute. A one-and-a-half-pound supply produces a body stock of one-and-a-half-pounds of glycogen—that probably works out to a bushel and a peck of apple-gnoshing, which is a lot even for the most frugivorous eater. The virtue of fructose is that it is converted almost instantly into energy (sugar may take up to 30 minutes) and also hastens the speed at which other sources of glucose in the body are

converted into glycogen. Fructose can sometimes be found in a commercial powdered form.

If you would be done with that dangerous upper and downer, sugar, there are some relatively easy ways to increase the carbohydrate in your diet (and thus the glycogen, which is stored in your liver and muscles) with little, if any, sugar.

First, make a conscious effort to reduce your sugar intake to no more than 10% of the day's calories. If you are at all average it's twice that high now.

Second, protect yourself from the harmful effects of the Oreos and Nehis you do consume by increasing your intake of Vitamin C, the powerhouse vitamin as it is known in nutrition-oriented athletic circles. Richest sources are rosehips and acerola cherries, both of which are available in tablets and powders at health-food stores, and those minerals such as zinc, magnesium and B vitamins like niacin that help the body utilize sugar. Another famous endurance nutrient is Vitamin E, the best source of which is wheat germ. According to the Department of Agriculture's handbook *Food*, wheat-germ oil has two-and-a-half times the high-energy value in whole grains, all other starches and sugar—and one teaspoon of the oil is equivalent to five pounds of the pressed germ!

The third thing you can do, now that you're going to be living a lot lower on the Nehi and the Milk Dud, is to make some just-as-instant, twice-as-nutritious substitutes.

Energy-Ade

Mix in the blender:

¾ cup cottage cheese
¼ cup powdered milk
1 quart orange juice
2 tablespoons wheat germ or wheat-germ oil
2 or more tablespoons brewer's yeast (optional)
1 fresh egg
A juicy alternative to soda-sipping; club soda spiked with fruit juice concentrate and a drop of vanilla extract.

Energy-Aids

1 cup hulled sunflower seeds
1 cup dates, pitted
¼ cup honey
Pit dates and chop very small. Grind seeds to a powder in the blender and combine with dates. Add honey and mix till well blended. Roll into one-inch "Energy Aid" balls. Makes about 30.

FEATURE EDITORIAL

The Voice of the People... Oh How We Need It!

Nothing could be more frustrating than our problem with the TV people. It all started back in April, at the Nationals in Las Vegas. First, we spent a lot of time convincing the Tropicana to build glass back walls, though they fell far short of what we had hoped for. Then we spent thousands of dollars making the exhibition court suitable for both spectators and TV. Finally, we spent more than ten thousand dollars filming hours of finals. I am afraid to ask Jim Jacobs for the cost of cutting, editing, and producing the finest half hour show you can possibly imagine. Just visualize the *best* half hour taken from the top racquetball match of the year!

Now don't tell me I am prejudiced. It didn't come as any surprise that the finals were unbelievably exciting, superbly played, and far more dramatic than my limited literary skill can describe. It featured two of the most admired men in our sport. It was an absolute natural for TV, and countless thousands of eager fans have asked us why it has not appeared on one of the sports extravaganzas.

No one can say it failed to meet TV standards because it was filmed by professionals who do Las Vegas shows for Johnny Carson, Frank Sinatra, and Dean Martin. This Company also did a special for President Gerald Ford That's about as good as they come. The color, the inserts, and the splits are sensational. The play is even more sensational. Nor can anyone say that it wouldn't attract audience. We believe there would be more than a million viewers, probably many millions, based on nationwide enthusiasm and the anticipation of seeing championship racquetball finals on television for the first time.

Racquetball, as we all know, is THE Sport of the '70's. Its growth has been the subject of much

discussion on these very pages. Racquetball is exploding. Unfortunately, everyone in the whole world knows this...except the networks.

Now the networks may say that we are asking too much for our show. We are not. We have been offered less than our cost, and I'll be darned if I'll demean the sport. I don't intend to set so little value on our show that our future negotiations will be measured by our past commitments. If what we have isn't worth what we ask, then we are willing to be put to the test. Let the networks name the rating they need to pay our price. If we can't produce sufficient audience, **THEY NEED NOT PAY US ONE CENT.** The tape is FREE! Our only condition will be that we have a proper time slot and ample advance billing. We will fully inform the 2.5 million players and fans around the country **AT NO COST TO THE NETWORKS.**

Now here's where you come in. Nothing motivates the networks like a ton of mail...*the voice of the people.* Oh, how we need your voice now! Please, if you want to help me... if you want to help racquetball... if you want to see the BEST racquetball ever played, **WRITE A LETTER TO EACH OF THE THREE MAJOR NETWORKS.** Write it in your own way and, if you don't mind, please send us a copy. We would like to publish some of them. Here are the addresses: NBC—30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020; ABC—1330 6th Ave., New York, NY 10019; CBS—51 W. 52nd, New York, NY 10019.

They have everything to gain and nothing to lose. If our show isn't TV worthy, then we don't deserve one cent. If it's what I say it is, we most certainly are entitled to cover our costs. In view of the

court club explosion in every sector of the North American hemisphere, the networks could very well take a new look at their market analysis. They may suddenly discover that racquetball and handball are right on the heels of tennis. By encouraging our growth, they may be nurturing a program that one day could be a big money-maker for them. After all, our stars don't expect the moon and are just as eager to promote TV as we are.

Talk to the great athletes and they'll tell you that at one time or another, racquetball or handball has been a vital part of their conditioning. I have never heard one of them say they got in shape playing cricket or golf. And I have never heard one who wasn't proud of his on the court days. That's because once a racquetball player, always a racquetball player.

Before you do anything else, please write a letter to the networks. Ask several of your racquetball buddies to do the same. Put this editorial up on your club bulletin board. Don't let George do it... **YOU DO IT!** And do it now. If I can put this over this year, I'll bring the championships to you **EVERY** year. You know we have a problem that is peculiar to racquetball. I can't bring everyone to the game, but TV can bring the game to everyone. We are talking in terms of three to five hundred spectators at the championships now. This could very easily become three to five million, if you send in your appeal. You well know that we are deeply involved in an all glass court, including the front wall. But at best, this can only provide for

thousands of spectators, when it's MILLIONS we want to reach.

You want to know why we need to reach millions? First of all, we need the income to promote the sport. Second, we think racquetball has never received the recognition it truly deserves. And more important than any other consideration, we think racquetball has a profound impact on our young people. If youth gangs can be educated to congregate in racquetball courts instead of streets and pool halls, maybe...just maybe...we will

improve some lives. Isn't it better that they kill balls rather than people? Besides, there are so many youngsters we would like to help with scholarships; so many junior and intercollegiate tournaments that need beefing up. Whatever you do for us, you do for the kids.

Remember, at the United States Racquetball Association none of us receive any salary. Only the administrative staff who work full time receive any compensation. The accounting, the legal work, and the marketing is all handled by

volunteers. We not only volunteer our time...some of us also volunteer our money. This we don't ask you to do. Just volunteer some letters to the networks. That will be the most valuable contribution you can make.

What does *Tennis* have?

Blessings...

Bob Kender

COURT PRODUCTS, INC. PARAPHERNALIA FOR CONSCIENTIOUS RACQUETBALL ENTHUSIASTS:

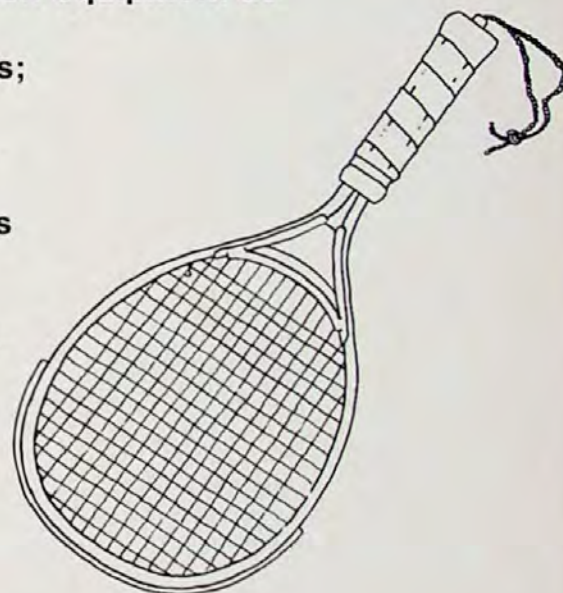
Proudly offering such widely proven equipment as

Leach, Vittert
and Seamco Racquets;
Seamco Balls;
Champion Gloves.

•
Large or small orders
are both handled
with the same
immediate delivery.

•
As with
our equipment,
our prices
to clubs,
retail stores,
institutions
are virtually unbeatable.

•
For a complete
listing of prices phone (312) 831-5540
or write to
Court Products, Inc.
1095 Andean Place
Highland Park, Illinois, 60035.



Leach & Seamco Sponsor Pro Tour

"We couldn't be happier," said N.R.C. president Bob Kendler.

"We couldn't be happier," said Leach Industries president Bud Leach.

"We couldn't be happier," said Seamco executive vice president Don Strong.

What was it that made all three men, probably the three key men in the sport of racquetball, so exuberant? It was the signing of an agreement whereby Leach and Seamco will sponsor the 1975-76 pro racquetball tour for Kendler's National Racquetball Club.

The tour, thanks to these two giant manufacturers, will have \$50,000 in prize money for the eight stops from September through June, including the N.R.C.-U.S.R.A. National Championships in San Diego. The \$50,000 base is broken down into seven stops at \$5,000 each and \$15,000 for the Nationals.

In addition, several host clubs may put in additional funds to make the tour that much more lucrative.

Of course many more people were involved in the details leading up to the signing of the sponsorship agreement, with the key man being N.R.C. National Commissioner Joe Ardito who made a special trip to San Diego to negotiate the Leach

segment of the tour. Ardito, along with Charles Drake, manager of Leach's racquetball division, hammered out the rough edges and came to terms on an arrangement that has led all parties concerned to voice enthusiastic approval.

On the eastern front, N.R.C. National Director Chuck Leve's summer trip to Seamco's New Haven, Connecticut headquarters paved the way for final negotiations which were concluded by Strong and Kendler.

In all it was a team effort by each group that culminated in a great relationship.

"The people who should be happiest," said Kendler, "are the pro players. They are the ones who will directly benefit from this deal."

"Indirectly, and of course in the long run, everyone will benefit," the hard-working president of the N.R.C. said. "All we want to do is promote racquetball, and we feel one of the best ways to do just that is to co-ordinate a solid, exciting professional tour."

How was it that Kendler was able to bring together both the largest racquet and the largest ball manufacturer in the sport?

"Actually, it wasn't that difficult," he explained. "We hold both of

these firms in the highest regard and consider them both the leaders in their field in racquetball. Seamco makes the finest balls on the market, and Leach does the same in racquets. The fact that both firms were number one made it that much easier to work with them."

Seamco, of course, is no stranger to followers of the racquetball pro tour, having sponsored the last three events on last year's tour,—Lansing, Milwaukee and Las Vegas.

"We are very grateful for what Seamco did for us last year," said Kendler. "We wanted to show our appreciation by giving them the chance to promote further by co-sponsoring this year's tour."

Leach, as well, has been involved in sponsorship in the past, by donating racquets, uniforms, gym shoes, warm-up suits and travel expenses to many players on the N.R.C. tour since its inception in 1973.

"We know that for racquetball to make its way through the maze of all sports seeking national recognition it would need a promotional boost that only a pro tour can give it," said Drake. "We are only too happy to contribute our share."

The tour, which began in September in Denver, traveled last



Bud Leach, president of Leach Industries, signs the contract for co-sponsorship of the N.R.C. pro-am racquetball tour, with Seamco.

month to Burlington, Vermont, and continues in December in Tucson. Other stops include Aurora, Illinois, Milwaukee, Miami, Peoria, Illinois and San Diego.

"It's going to be a big year, a very big year," said Kendler. "Even now racquetball is making great headway all over the country, especially in the media. We see it in the newspapers, on the news shows, and even as segments of series on network television.

"Our sport is starting to grow up," he concluded. "And when it does there's going to be no holding it back."

For the past five years, ever since the birth of Leach Racquets, Bud Leach has been acutely sensitive to the development of a proper image for the sport he and his company have helped to popularize. And that concern led him to provide financial assistance in terms of co-sponsorship—along with Seamco—of the 1975-76 \$50,000 8-city N.R.C. pro tour.

"Leach Industries always has been involved in the pro tour but until this year we were willing to play a subordinate role, helping wherever and whenever we could or were asked," Leach said.

"The N.R.C. believes as I do that a successful pro tour is a vital instrument to developing greater participation in the sport on both the professional and amateur levels. And I am very pleased that through sponsorship of the 1975-76 NRC tour by Leach Racquets my company is contributing toward that goal."

Ever since Leach Industries in 1970 started its modest operation of producing 35 racquets a day—in 18 months the production had grown to 1,000 a day and now averages 1500 daily—Bud Leach has given a helping hand to players.

"The company sponsored players and gave them racquets, sweat-suits, shorts and shoes," Leach said. "We tried to impress upon them that the public would in part judge the sport by how they judged them. Even today with millions of people playing racquetball, the showcase of the sport is its professional players."

Nearly a dozen top pro players are members of Leach Industries' playing staff and they include Steve Keeley, Steve Serot, Richard Wagner, Ron Rubenstein, Betty Johnson, Mike Zeitman, Jan Campbell, Marty Hogan and David Bledsoe. Charlie Brumfield for several years represented Leach on

the tour as did Steve Strademo and Bill Schmidtke.

Charles Drake, a nationally ranked player and marketing and sales director for Leach Industries, has the day-to-day contact with the players but says that Bud Leach regularly monitors their progress.

"Bud is a real fan and when one of our people isn't going so well, he takes a personal concern," Drake said. "There are a lot of things that Bud does for the players—and for the sport—that I learn about long after they are done."

Leach was a water ski enthusiast when he left San Diego in the late 1940's to run the water sports division of Cypress Gardens in Florida. He was national water ski champion in 1946 through 1951 and designed the first fiberglass composite water ski.

"The first time I played racquetball, I was thrilled with the sport," he said. "It's the kind of a game you can grab onto right away."

Today more people grab onto Leach racquets—which come in fiberglass, aluminum or carbon models—than any other make. Leach equipment is sold in the United States and Canada, Europe, Mexico, Hong Kong, Japan & Manila and its markets are expanding daily.

3-Wall Toledo

Sue Carow showing the all-out effort needed in the National 3-wall as she follows through with a 39-foot return in the finals against Kathy Williams.

Norton Gutowitz (center) whose financial and physical aid was greatly appreciated is flanked by doubles champs Jack Soble (left) and Jerry Davis (right). Norton's son Mark (below) did yeoman's service refereeing, and with hospitality.





Soble gives Dan Alder a little verbal jab as Alder is unable to reach Jack's perfect pass. Kathy Williams and Jerry Davis look on.

Through the rain, through the mud, through overcast skies and into darkness racquetball was played at the first annual U.S.R.A. National 3-Wall tournament. And although the conditions provided by Mother Nature were not ideal, those hearty souls who survived this exciting event certainly made the best of it.

And the best of them all turned out to be Mike Romano, a bearded young man from Fitchburg, Massachusetts who took the Men's Open Singles division without losing a game. Romano, whose game seemed like he was groomed on 3-wall courts breezed through the tournament before topping Cleveland's Jack Soble in the finals 21-14, 21-11.

But Soble was a winner as well, teaming with fellow-Clevelander Jerry Davis to win the Open Doubles title over Dan Alder and Kathy Williams. That's right, racquetball fans, the Kathy Williams of the ladies play. And before any of you out there think that the match was a breeze for the two males, check out the scores of the match: 20-21, 21-6, 21-11.

"They were tough, no doubt of it," said Soble of the doubles win. "Alder plays a tight left side, and Kathy did everything right on the right."

This was especially true in the first game, when Alder-Williams raced to a huge lead and then had to hang

on for the 21-20 win. But the steadier game of Davis and Soble won out in the final two games.

"We played a lot better in the second two games," said Davis, who also won the Men's 35 and over bracket. "We settled down and played some serious racquetball."

Williams also didn't go home a loser as she took the Ladies singles title, with another of her knock-down, drag-out battles against Glenview, Illinois' Sue Carow. Playing each game right down to the wire it was Williams 21-18, 18-21, 21-19.

"One of these days I'm going to get her," said the outspoken Carow. "I don't know if it'll be 4-wall or 3-wall or what tournament, but I'll get her." The loss was Sue's sixth straight against Williams in tournament competition.

Fred Vetter, the hard-hitting Milwaukeean breezed to the Men's 55 and over bracket coasting to a 21-6, 21-4 finals win over Vince Buckley, Orland Park, Illinois.

The tournament was played under the most adverse conditions imaginable as nightly rains and early morning drizzles caused some players to spend more time squeegeeing the courts than playing on them.

"It's a wonder we even got the tournament in," said U.S.R.A. National Commissioner Joe Ardito.



U.S.R.A. president Bob Kendler surveys the action as the big crowd does the same.

Camille McCarthy proves that perfect form does not always come up with the shot, as Sue Carow's pass has come and gone.



who floor-managed the entire event. "A lot of people may have been unhappy because of all the rain, but they don't realize how lucky we were just to finish the tournament."

The rain forced play indoors for part of one day, but as soon as possible play was again moved outdoors at the eight court Lucas County Recreation Center in Maumee, just outside Toledo.

"It's a shame it had to be like this," said Ardito. "Because this is a beautiful facility and the people here were just wonderful. But as they say, you can't fool around with Mother Nature."

Weather or not, nobody could stop Romano in the Men's singles. Showing the drives, fly kills and retrieving necessary for 3-wall, Mike clearly was in control the entire way. Only Soble gave him a test.

"I wasn't really sure how well I would do here," said Romano. "I'm really a four wall player, like the rest of the guys. But we were all in the same boat, no pun intended."

Terry Fancher, a recent convert to Chicago from Madison, Wisconsin took third place in the open, defeating Southfield, Michigan's Tom Brownlee 21-13, 4-21, 21-5.

In the semi-finals Romano did a job on Fancher, 21-7, 21-5. Fancher's wife, Penny, took third place in the women's singles.

"I couldn't do a thing against Romano," said Terry. "He just outplayed me in every phase of the game."

Meantime Soble was topping Brownlee in the bottom bracket, one easy, one hard, 21-20, 21-7. The tough first game loss seemed to take the zing out of Brownlee's game, which was marked by booming forehand serves. But the 32-year-old Soble, showing his tournament experience, came through when he needed the big point in the first game.

The Mansfield, Ohio brother team of Kim and Clark Pittman took third place in the open doubles with 21-15, 21-13 wins over Romano and Tom Otto. In the semi's it was Davis-Soble over Pittman-Pittman 21-20, 21-10 in a match that should have gone three games. However, Kim Pittman double faulted twice in crucial stages of the contest to let the Clevelanders off the hook. The second game was dominated by lefty Soble's ferocious forehand, and Davis' excellent front court game.

In the upper bracket Alder and Williams had to go three against Romano and Otto to reach the finals. But a steady performance by Kathy, and great left side play by Dan turned out to be the deciding factors in a 21-19, 16-21, 21-13 win.

The tournament was held in conjunction with and at the same



Need we say more?

All photos of the 3-Wall Toledo tournament are by Arthur Shay.



Tom Brownlee battles Terry Fancher in the third place match.



Ah yes, the rain and mud. Here a brief respite from the rains allows two youthful spectators time to play in the gook.



Open singles champ Mike Romano, like most players this weekend spent a great deal of time well past the 40 foot line. Here Mike displays a desperation backhand retrieve as finals opponent Soble waits for the plum.



Author-club manager-player Terry Fancher and wife Penny found time during the tournament to make eyes at each other.



Seniors finalist Jon Ohleiser (near) scored an upset win over number two seed Gerry Lapierre (far) in the seniors semi-finals.



Referee supreme Steve Macionsky interpreting a call for Jerry Davis during the open doubles finals. Dan Alder keeps his ears open, while Jack Soble doesn't want to hear any more. Davis also won the senior singles title.

time as the U.S. Handball 3-wall Nationals (won by New York's Lou Russo), and experiment that met with about as much enthusiasm as the weather.

"I don't think there were any major problems," said Ardito, "but the rain and coinciding scheduling problems left everyone a bit irritable."

One of the things the combined tournament did bring was a match between Brenda Russo (wife of handball winner Lou) and Robin Lewis (wife of handball runner-up Fred) in the women's division of the racquetball tournament. Of course, in order to meet each other they each managed to lose their first round matches. So, into consolation they went, where Lewis atoned somewhat for her husband's loss in handball by crushing Russo 21-9, 21-12.

Sue Halsey eventually won the women's consolation title, as did Mike Yellen in the men's.

Davis' win in the 35 and over bracket included a 21-10, 21-18 semi-final victory over Toledo's Bob Nichols. Anderson, Indiana's Jon Ohleiser knocked off Cleveland's Gerry Lapierre in the other semi-final to reach the championship round. Lapierre took third place 21-15, 21-11 over Nichols.

Camille McCarthy, who looked a lot better than she played, won third

place in the women's division 21-3 over Fancher. Carow topped McCarthy in the lower bracket semi-final 21-11, 21-6 in a match most people felt would be a lot tighter.

"I haven't really been playing that much," said Camille, "and Sue really was on against me. I don't want to take anything away from her, she played very well."

In the upper bracket semi-final Williams also had an easy time 21-4, 21-4 over Fancher.

Despite the inclement weather most people, once accustomed to walking through the mud rather than trying to avoid it, actually had a fun time.

Much had to do with the hospitality of Norton Gutowitz and his son Mark, who welcomed players to their lovely home one evening for a night of barbecuing, swimming and general camaraderie.

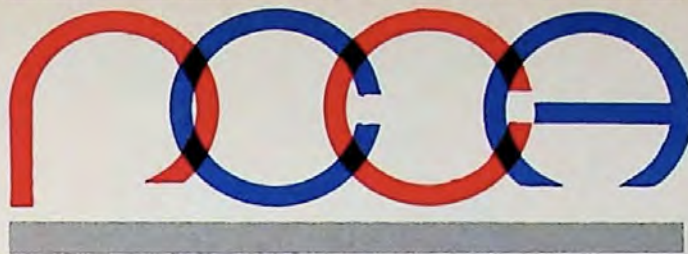
Another local standout was Steve Macionsky who set a modern day record for most matches refereed in the mud, although Morton Grove, Illinois' Tom Street was a close second. Others who aided greatly not only in refereeing but in their true desire to help the tourney under adverse conditions included Soble, Dale Herbert, director of the Lucas County Recreation Center, Fancher and many, many others.



Tournament chairmen Joe Ardito (left) and Chuck Leve discuss matters like how to stop the rain, how to dry the mud, etc., etc.

"Well," sighed an exhausted Ardito when it was over, "we had it over Labor Day, and brother, did we labor."

A banquet Saturday night of the tournament was well attended and the players were treated to an all-they-could-eat buffet. U.S.R.A., and U.S.H.A. president Bob Kendler delivered the keynote address.



FIFTH NATIONAL COURT CLUBS ASSOCIATION SEMINAR-MEETING

December 12-14, 1975—Camelot Inn—Chicago O'Hare Field area
6565 N. Mannheim Rd., Rosemont, IL 60018. #312 827-6121.
(Courtesy bus to and from airport to Camelot Inn)

NOTE: *If you reside in the Chicagoland area and will not be staying at the Camelot Inn...registration fee plus prorated costs if you participate—dinner, lunch, court club nite.*

- Full agenda of speakers on all important aspects of handball/racquetball Court Clubs.
- Package rates include: Two nights lodging PLUS—Friday night, Dec. 12—get-acquainted cocktail party, steak dinner, open bar afterwards.
Saturday morning, Dec. 13—continental breakfast, coffee break, buffet luncheon...all-day meeting til 5 p.m.
Saturday night—chartered bus transportation to Northbrook Court House for cocktails, buffet dinner—informal handball/racquetball tournament play.
Sunday morning—brunch, windup of seminar meeting.

Package rate—\$70 per person on double occupancy, plus \$25 registration fee.
\$80 per person on single occupancy, plus \$25 registration fee.

ALL RESERVATIONS AND FEES TO BE PAID TO:

National Court Clubs Association (NCCA) • 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60676

Please register me for the 5th NCCA Seminar-Meeting to be held Dec. 12-14, 1975, at the Camelot Inn, near O'Hare Field, Chicago.

☐ Single occupancy—\$105 (covers all costs)

☐ Double occupancy—\$95 (covers all costs)

*no additional registration fee for wives.

Name _____ (please print)

Club _____ (if any)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to: NCCA

Registration will be set up in lobby of Camelot Inn from 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12. For any further information please contact: Mort Leve at NCCA headquarters, Skokie, Ill. 4101 Dempster St.—Phone—Area Code 312. 673-4000.

Denver **1** Pro-Am Tour

"I told the N.R.C. to make the \$1,500 check out in my name a week before the tournament," said Charlie Brumfield. "I'm not sure whether they did or not, but I got it."

Charlie Brumfield, the champ, was holding court in the offices of the Denver Athletic Club, host to the first stop on the 1975-76 Seamco-Leach pro racquetball tour. And The Brum was savoring every minute of his glory.



Charlie Brumfield (in deep court and star) re-inforced his number one standing with a first place finish in the first stop of the 75-76 Leach-Seamco pro tour.

Marriott is all concentration as she takes a back wall set-up against Steding in the semi-finals.



"What's going to happen when I start playing well?" he asked with a bewildered look on his face. "If I could kill more than three balls a tournament, the other guys might be in real trouble."

Brumfield had minutes earlier defeated Steve Strandemo in the finals 21-15, 21-16 in an exciting, well-played, and yes, close match. Strandemo, whose desire, concentration and tremendous shotmaking kept him in the match all the way, went home with \$1,100 in his pocket, not too shabby as they say, for second place.

But center stage was not all Brumfield's, nor was it really that of Shannon Wright, the pixie-ish gal who captured the women's title. Much of the accolades in Denver went to Janell Marriott, who defeated national champ Peggy Steding in the semi-finals before losing to Wright in the championship match.

That victory over Steding put an end to Peggy's three year, 200-plus consecutive match wins in ladies brackets of racquetball tournaments,—a feat not likely to be repeated by any racquetballer for some time.

"I was just outplayed," said Peggy, whose heads-up attitude showed the mark of a true champion. "Janell was better than I was out there today. Maybe this will be good for me."

Perhaps so, but the sad truth is that youth is calling, even to the legendary Peggy Steding, who at 39-years-old, just can't take the rigors of the ever-toughening ladies

brackets. Marriott, as 23 and Wright at 20-years-old are the signs of things to come.

But Peggy Steding did not stand alone as one of those who must step aside to let youth be served. In this tournament it was served in the men's bracket as well, where 17-year-old Marty Hogan topped former national champ Bill Schmidtke in the round of 16, and where 22-year-old Davey Bledsoe did the same to Minneapolis' Ron Strom, nine years his senior.

But then, we're getting off the track.

"I'm the Ben Hogan of racquetball," Brumfield was telling a reporter from the Associated Press. "It really amazes me that I ever lose."

Whether the AP took Charlie seriously or not, couldn't conceal the fact that he had to work hard for this win, possible harder than any previous tournament victory.

In the semi-finals Brumfield's face and manner was complete seriousness as he battled Steve Keeley to 17-all in the third game. Keeley, using concentration bordering on self-hypnosis, methodically and mechanically matched Brumfield point-for-point.

At that juncture The Brum reached into his never-ending bag of pressure shots, pulling out ace at 18, big point at 19, and incredibly another ace at 20. Both aces cracked out at the left side wall just behind the short line on low, drive serves. He went out and grabbed the 21st point, literally taking the match away from Keeley.

"I had to do something," said Charlie. "He was getting too close."

A strange match it was, they were still saying the day of the finals, for Keeley, with nary a smile nor frown took game one from Brumfield 21-16, and possessed the capabilities, all were sure to take the favorite in game two.

But Brumfield jumped out early, racing to a 5-0 edge, increasing it to 8-0, then 13-0, 18-0, then unbelievably, 20-0. Was Brumfield to give Keeley the bagel in the semi's? Eyes stared down to the server's box, where Charlie took a good seven of his allotted 10 seconds. Would we see that hard drive aimed for the left side wall crack?

But no, we saw a compassionate Charlie Brumfield, for those of you who want to believe it. Brum blooped a serve to Steve's forehand, which was promptly killed in the right corner, Keeley came in, killed for one, gave up the serve and the two waited 10 minutes to get the night's work over with.

Just 24-hours earlier it was Mike Zeitman in the lion's den, only Mike was just as much the lion as was Brumfield in this physical, demanding two and one-half hour quarter-final match. Showing an intensity few thought him capable of, Zeitman won game one 21-17, forcing Brumfield, if the champ was to win, to do what he likes least in life,—go three games.

The match did just that as Brum took game two 21-13, setting game three as the finale to a high-pitched

Results: (First round) Schliebe def. Dobbin 21-11, 19-21, 21-17; Kosmiski def. Gillingham 21-20, 21-11; Huber def. Mazaroff 13-21, 21-10, 21-3; Blackford def. Austin 21-9, 21-9; Weum def. Goodridge 18-21, 21-10, 21-12; Campbell def. Barr 21-11, 21-14; (Second round) Brumfield def. Banisky (forfeit); Wright def. Schliebe 21-5, 21-2; Bowman def. Kosmiski 21-8, 21-18; Zeitman def. Ropp 21-1, 21-10; Schmidtke def. Huber 21-18, 21-18; Hogan def. Blackford 21-18, 21-18; Jones def. Oliver 21-1, 21-1; Keeley def. Johnston 21-11, 21-11; Serot def. Cortez (forfeit); Ikier

def. Charlson 21-3, 21-19; Wagner def. Glander 21-15, 21-20; Hilecher def. Weum 21-3, 21-1; Strom def. Rish 21-7, 21-5; Bledsoe def. Campbell 21-3, 21-1; Drake def. Arnold 21-0, 21-4; Strandemo def. Wren 21-4, 21-2; (Third round) Brumfield def. Wright 21-3, 21-7; Zeitman def. Bowman 17-21, 21-5, 21-15; Hogan def. Schmidtke 14-21, 21-16, 21-8; Keeley def. Jones 21-12, 21-12; Serot def. Ikier 21-10, 21-9; Hilecher def. Wagner 21-19, 21-15; Bledsoe def. Strom 21-13, 12-21, 21-17; Strandemo def. Drake 21-4, 21-6.

drama. And it was Zeitman, who seemed to be in the driver's seat with 8-3, 10-6 and 11-7 leads.

Not only in the score advantage, but in a physical advantage, Zeitman appeared on top. You could sense it, you could feel it, but it never happened. Charlie rallied to tie at 11, ran to 15, then 19, and withstood a Zeitman comeback to take game three 21-15.

"At 11-all we were both tired," said Brumfield. "The only difference was that I wanted to win more. Mike didn't have to win, he had played very well, the fans were thrilled and Mike could live with himself."

"But I can't lose. I won't, not to Zeitman or anybody. If I get beat it will never be because I didn't want it more than my opponent."

Despite all of Brumfield's babble the tournament actually looked like it would belong to Steve Serot, not by skill perhaps, because Serot has played better, but by luck. Serot survived a total of six match points against two different opponents before bowing to Strandemo in the semi-finals.

His quarter-final victory against Jerry Hilecher was nothing short of amazing. Hilecher, playing rollout with the green ball, seemed to have a magnet attracting his shots to the bottom board. Kill, kill, kill was all Serot saw as he dropped a big lead and game one 21-19 and found himself trailing 20-13 in the second. Once, Hilecher was put out, and Steve picked up a point. Twice, Hilecher was put out and Steve picked up two more. Thrice

Hilecher was put out and Steve reached 19-20. But in again, came Jerry.

A furious rally ensued, Serot diving and sliding and Jerry pounding and shooting, the momentum of the rally changing, switching and changing again. Serot finally went for it, the ball was killed, or was it? Hilecher appealed referee Chuck Leve's call; a reversal would give him the match. The first linesman disagreed with Leve; but the second linesman was blocked out of the play, and couldn't make a call. Result: re-play the rally. Serot took it on the re-play, as well as the next two points to salvage the second game.

And what everyone figured would happen, did in the third. Hilecher, both mentally and physically drained couldn't stay with the hyped-up Serot and Steve moved into the semi's 21-11.

Keeley and Hogan were next up on the D.A.C.'s glass-walled championship court. Finally, breathed the fans, an easy match, one to relax with, sip a few beers.

Ah yes, enjoy the thrashing the veteran was giving the kid, and enjoy it they did as Keeley gave everyone's armpits a chance to dry by easily taking Hogan in game one 21-10. But it was a strange game, to those with insight,—Keeley didn't really win it,—Hogan lost it. Marty, as is his style hit the ball hard and low, and Steve let him shoot and shoot and shoot. And Marty skipped and skipped and skipped. But, if Hogan could only get hot.

Hot wasn't the word, for it was a

wonder the strings on Marty's Little Bandido didn't melt the rubber ball as he belted his way to a 21-10 reversal forcing game three.

With the outcome always in doubt the two struggled all the way, and Keeley, this time, came out victorious 21-17.

Wasn't somebody talking about Steve Strandemo? Yes he was there, waiting for his match, and in turn to see what this exasperating quarter-final round would do to his game against Bledsoe. The Roadrunner against the Flash it could have been billed, but it was more like the Tortoise and the Hare. But Bledsoe the Tortoise never got going.

Strandemo, letting the fans down easily after three straight highs, demolished Bledsoe 21-13, 21-7 and everyone went home.

The Keeley-Brumfield semi-final has been previously described and the Strandemo-Serot semi was equally exciting, in a different sort of way. Strandemo looked unbeatable in game one and when the score reached 15-1 it was a bit ridiculous. There was nothing much to say, as Strandemo outplayed, outshot and outthrust Serot and he coasted in 21-9.

Game two appeared carbon-copyish when Strandemo edged out early and held a 13-7 advantage. Finally, Serot got going. But Strandemo fought him off, or tried, but as earlier reported, it looked like The Spirit In The Sky was looking after Serot, because somehow he



Strandemo leans in to a backhand against Serot. For those who want to learn to do it right, note the wrist cock, 90 degree angle at the elbow, perfect eye contact, and transfer of weight from back to front.

managed to win the second game, snatching victory off the nylon strings of defeat.

Strandemo then won the third game in routine fashion 21-14.

It was a strong field in this first stop of the N.R.C.-sanctioned tour. A good omen of sorts, showing truly the greatest racquetball possible, a mark of excellence for which each pro can strive to outdo as the tour progresses.

The Denver Athletic Club, complete with every amenity necessary to make a jock's life physical bliss, proved to be the best of hosts. Monte Huber, D.A.C. Athletic Director not only did a superb job in organizing, refereeing and administering,—he's also a helluva player, losing to Schmidtknecht 18 and 18 in the second round. And Dave Glander, Monte's assistant was also impressive before bowing 21-15, 21-20 to Richard Wagner.

The entire staff of the D.A.C. welcomed the tournament and players with warmth and efficiency, especially three gals who had to put up with questions, phone calls, ticket sales, draw revisions, ad infinitum. Number one on what could be a never-ending list of thank you's is Rhonda Fults on whose desk fell everything from entry fees to Leve's tape recorder; Louise McWade and Joannie Anderson did more than their share as did Bill Radden, Jim Kosmiski and many, many others. You just don't have as successful a tournament as this without great support.

Referees and linesmen abounded,



Davey Bledsoe, a loser in the quarter-finals, was a winner off the court.



Mike Zeitman, showing the strain of his quarter-final match with Brumfield during a time-out.

but Jay Jones, Pete Wright and Bill Austin will be forever etched in the N.R.C.'s book of friends for the superb job they did.

And just a few words for those players who didn't quite make it this time around, like Jeff Bowman, who drove over 1,000 miles from the University of Illinois to make this tournament, only to lose to Zeitman in the round of 16, 17-21, 21-5, 21-15; Strom and Schmidtke, upset victims who we all know will be there all season among the leaders; Wagner, whose build up preceding the event may have been premature, but who shows the promise of a future great.

And a few sidelight tidbits for those who may have wondered: Ron Rubenstein, Craig McCoy and Bill Dunn did not make the tournament for varying reasons; the fast courts, high altitude and pressurized cans made the balls a bit livelier than usual causing slight adjustments in players games, but obviously, not affecting the results; and it was once reported in jest in *National Racquetball* that Mike Zeitman's father, Irv, was the world's worst hearts player, when in fact he is one of the best this reporter has ever seen; the worst, by far, bar none, forever, is Marty Hogan who managed to completely ruin an otherwise good card game, due to his inability to differentiate between hearts and spades and queens from kings.

In any event, if every tournament is like this one, we have arrived!



Acrobatic Steve Keeley diving in vain at a perfect pass shot off the racquet of Marty Hogan. The up and coming Hogan took veteran Keeley to three games before bowing.

Results: (First round) Steding and Wright byes; Knudsen def. Joyce 21-5, 21-7; Marriott def. Lehman (forfeit); Williams def. Thompson 21-8, 21-1; Campbell def. Gerou 21-6, 21-11; Carow def. Jeffers 21-0, 21-5; Johnson def. Halsey 21-5, 21-3;

Consolation Quarter-Finals: Joyce and Halsey byes; Thompson def. Lehman 21-9, 21-0; Gerou def. Jeffer 21-3, 21-11; Semi-Finals: Thompson def. Joyce 19-21, 21-11, 21-8; Gerou def. Halsey 21-8, 21-1; Finals: Gerou def. Thompson 21-2, 21-4.

Denver 1 Pro-Am Tour

Denver Athletic Club athletic director Monte Huber awards the prize money to women's winner Shannon Wright (left) and runner-up Janell Marriott. Prize money for the ladies was donated by the D.A.C.



It's like hitting a home run the first time at bat in the Major Leagues. Or running back the opening kickoff for a 101-yard touchdown as a rookie. Or one would guess, like winning the top prize the first time you ever enter a pro racquetball tournament.

Well, Shannon Wright will never get a chance to hit a Major League home run or run back an N.F.L. kick-off, but she sure did play great racquetball to capture \$350 and the title in Denver.

"I am happy, just happy," said the pert Mrs. Wright, who at 20-years-old has a great career ahead of her. "I played well most of the time and really am just thrilled."

And all in a field that included Peggy Steding, Janell Marriott, Kathy Williams, Jan Campbell, Sue Carow, Betty Johnson, Ruth Knudsen and others.

"She's been working hard on her

game," said husband Pete, a round of 16 loser to Charlie Brumfield. "I guess the hard work is paying off."

Shannon's style is mostly the offensive theory of racquetball. She shoots or drives the ball when opportunity arises, rather than spending a lot of time on the ceiling. Her cross court and V-passes are as fine as there are.

In the finals against Marriott, a taller, stronger opponent, Shannon still was effective with those driving shots. And her retrieving is just as good.

The scores were 21-12, 6-21, 21-11 showing perhaps inconsistency on the part of both ladies. But in defense of Janell, how can one be "up" emotionally for a match after defeating Peggy Steding?

"I knew it would be tough mentally," said Janell. "But after the second game I thought I could

Women

All photos of the Denver tournament are by Doug Panetta, Denver, Colorado.

handle it. Shannon really came back, though.

"I'll beat her next time," she vowed.

Marriott's win over Steding (21-17, 6-21, 21-17) had the packed house on their feet in the third game, when after falling behind substantially, Steding made a gutsy, although futile comeback attempt.

Janell's concentration was tremendous, her serves deliberate and effective, and her shooting outstanding. And so nobody ever questions it, the match was a Marriott win, not a Steding loss.

In the bottom bracket semi-final Wright showed she could play under pressure when she topped Jan Campbell 17-21, 21-16, 21-17. Campbell, in her first major tournament since knee surgery, announced through her excellent play that she will be a factor all season long.

Showing the poetic form taught her by Brumfield, and an improved shot selection, Campbell gave Wright all she could handle in the semi's. Every game was close throughout, each gal digging in, but never giving up. In the end it was probably that little extra determination that Shannon seems to have, that piercing desire so apparent in great athletes, that won it for her.

The quarter-finals were a contrast with only one match having a doubtful outcome, and strangely it was Marriott's. Drawing the really tough number five seed, she met number four Kathy Williams (who drove from Michigan for this one)

and the fireworks did indeed go off. With four points out of 114 scored separating the two, Marriott won the split decision 21-18, 17-21, 21-16.

Nobody else really gave the top three a true tussle, with Steding easily topping Ruth Knudsen, of Salt Lake City 21-6, 21-9 in the top bracket; Wright topping Betty Johnson 21-15, 21-3 and Campbell ousting Sue Carow 21-11, 21-18 in the bottom bracket.

Johnson's 15 points in the first game against Wright, and Carow's 18 against Campbell were both deceiving, as the winners had victory in hand through out. Both Betty and Sue are outstanding competitors, but just a shade lacking against the top notch competition.

"I've never seen a tougher women's draw," remarked one of the top male players, "I think I'm better off over here."

With the way women's racquetball is improving, that player, who shall remain anonymous, is probably right.

Disappointment is written all over Steding's face after her loss.

The thrill of victory? For Janell Marriott it was more relief than excitement after her win over Peggy Steding.



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Sky Harbor

The Sky Harbor Court Club, a brand new nine court facility in Northbrook, Illinois held its first annual pro-am invitational tournament September 12-14 for the club's grand opening.

An all-star cast of players showed including number two ranked nationally Steve Strandemo, as well as number six and Illinois state champ Ron Rubenstein. Added to that were other top pros including Mike Zeitman, Marty Hogan and Jerry Hilecher all of whom helped fill out the 32 bracket men's field.

Sixteen women competed in the Ladies event, headed by Illinois' top two players Sue Carow and Jean Sauser.

The upset of the tournament and perhaps the year came in the men's quarter finals where Zeitman, despite a serious eye injury

defeated Strandemo, 21-16 in the third game of a fantastic match.

Zeitman was struck in the eye by a blistering shot off the racquet of Gil Schmitt, Sky Harbor club pro, in the previous round, and by the time Mike's match with Strandemo came around, Zeitman's eye was virtually closed due to the swelling. Yet Mike played probably his best ball in two years despite the disability. His win over Schmitt was by the scores of 21-19, 21-15.

Another upset, also in the top bracket saw Wisconsin state champ Joe Wirkus defeat Hilecher 21-4, 21-15. Wirkus played superbly while Hilecher was not up to his usual shooting game.

In the lower bracket Hogan topped fellow St. Louisian Rudi Losche 12 and 18 while second seeded Rubenstein eliminated Jeff Bowman in a hard fought battle 21-17, 21-16.

The semi-finals were then set with everybody looking toward a Zeitman versus Rubenstein final.

They never got it as more upsets continued, with Wirkus defeating Zeitman 21-12, 21-17 and playing the best racquetball of his life. Meanwhile Hogan took care of a hobbling Rubenstein 21-15, 21-12 as Ruby was nowhere near his usual form due partly to a pulled hamstring and partly to excellent Hogan shotmaking.

So Wirkus, the Cinderella man of the tournament faced Hogan, who definitely seems marked for the top eight nationally this year. Wirkus, playing the steady racquetball he displayed all weekend topped Marty in game one 21-19 and seemed to have the match in his grasp when he bolted to a 16-5 second game lead.

But the 17-year-old Hogan was not ready to concede, as he began to shoot the ball more and miss his shots less. Gaining momentum steadily, he came back to grab the second game 21-18 and won the match going away in the third 21-8.

Prize money of \$850 was distributed among the top finishers.

Upsets were not the case in the women's bracket where number one seed Carow defeated Bev Franks 13 and nine while Sky Harbor pro Sauser reached the finals with a semi win over Wisconsin State champ Pat Schmidt 21-13, 21-12. The Carow-Sauser final was number four in recent tournaments, with Carow holding a 3-0 advantage to this point.

This time the story was different as Sauser outlasted Sue and came back to take a 21-11, 11-21, 21-13 win. Carow was hampered throughout much of the third game with leg cramps, greatly affecting her naturally excellent retrieving. But take nothing away from Sauser (who actually called a time out when Carow had already utilized her last, to enable Susie to walk off a cramp), for she played very, very well.

Schmidt took third place in the Ladies open and Georga Maisel



won the consolation. Terry Fancher captured the men's consolation, topping Paul Nigro in the finals.

A pick-up mixed doubles tournament was played Saturday and Sunday and found Ed Lammersfeld and Jan Van Der Wel coming out on top against Jim Hall and Carow.

Contestants and spectators were treated to champagne all weekend as well as souvenir shorts and t-shirts. Striking pewter beer mugs made nice trophies for the winners.

Special thanks to Bill Feigen, Sue Knauer, Chuck Leve, Georga Maisel, Tom Wilkins, Spencer Karlin and many, many others for their help in running a very successful tournament.

Gil Schmitt

Las Vegas

Ray Anderson took the title and left them crying. Maybe not literally, but just weeks after capturing the first open tournament ever held in the city of Las Vegas (last year's Nationals excluded, of course), winner Anderson took a position with The Court House Sports Club of Chicago. His relocation paves the way for a new city champ to be crowned, but until then his legend will remain.

"It was the first tournament sponsored by our newly-formed Las Vegas Racquetball Club," said club president Dan Seaton, "and it was a complete success."

Seaton, the top seed in the event didn't mean a 100 per cent success, since he succumbed to Anderson in the quarter-finals 21-13, 21-17.

"That's probably why the results are so late getting to the magazine," he said of the tournament that was run in July. "But we do want the people to know that we are an active group in Las Vegas."

Anderson defeated Phil Waldman in the finals and proved to be much the superior player on this day, capturing first place 21-6, 21-12. Bill

Prescott took third place with a 21-3, 17-21, 21-12 victory over Dewey Sparger.

In the semi-finals Anderson topped Prescott 21-18, 21-8 while Waldman beat Sparger 12 and 17.

In the Women's bracket number one seed Debbie Rud blitzed through all competition, allowing double figures only once and that was a 10 point second game win in the semi's. It looks like Las Vegas gals have a way to go to catch Debbie.

Rud won the title with a 21-7, 21-9 sweep over Theresa Anderson, the tournament's second seed. Priscilla Connelly won third place 21-15, 21-13 over Sandie Gray.

The women's semi-finals found Rud topping Connelly three and 10, while Anderson eliminated Gray nine and six.

The Men's novice attracted the largest entry, 27 men, and as with most novice tournaments it's

anybody's ball game. So it was in Las Vegas as Tom Bishop took Ron Ruegge in the title match 21-12, 20-21, 21-5. Jim Threet came in third with a 21-13, 21-7 victory against Angelo Rivers.

Rivers lost his semi-final match against Ruegge 21-15, 21-18 while in the bottom bracket Bishop beat Threet 21-17, 20-21, 21-16 in the best match of the bracket.

Consolation champions were Chris Barnbeck in the men's, in a 21-12, 18-21, 21-16 win over Ron Eckhoff, and Bobbi Jo Kelly 21-3, 21-9 over Vickie Draper.

"The LVRA is really moving now," said Seaton. "We've got over 80 members and we're holding tournaments, clinics and other activities as often as possible."

So when you get to the entertainment capital of the world, look up the Las Vegas Racquetball Association. You'll get a work out!



Las Vegas winners (l. to r.) Priscilla Connelly, Ron Ruegge, Bill Prescott, Dan Seaton, Ray Anderson, Phil Waldman, Theresa Anderson. (Kneeling, l. to r.) Jim Threet, Tom Bishop.

Livonia

Players representing eight states from around the midwest traveled to the fourteen court Racquetime facility in Livonia, Michigan to test their skills in the annual Michigan Summer Open. Co-sponsored by Racquetime and Seamco, 220 participants turned out to make this the largest tournament ever to be held in Michigan.

Open Singles

In the Open Singles event, Dave Bledsoe emerged the winner by downing Mike Zeitman 21-11, 21-18. Bledsoe's outstanding shooting and retrieving was just too much for Zeitman who just an hour earlier squeaked a tough three-game, semi-final match. The Gordon Kelly-Zeitman semi-final was probably the best match of the tournament. After losing the first game 16-21 to Gordon, Mike came back to win the second 21-17. In the third game it looked like Gordon, with a big lead, would easily take the match. But Mike slowly worked his way back as the enthusiastic crowd saw both players have an opportunity at match point before Mike got the break he needed to put the ball away and take the third game 21-20.

At the other end of the bracket, Bledsoe defeated Dan Alder 21-14, 21-18. Alder who has been away from racquetball for the summer gave Bledsoe his toughest match of the tournament.

Women's Open and Women's Novice

A total of twenty-four women vied for trophies in the Women's Open and Women's Novice events. In the Open, new comer Pat Krise won a tough three game 21-20, 16-21, 21-20 against Carol Stewart. Working up to the finals, the hustling, retrieving style of Stewart against the slower controlled type game of Krise proved to be an exciting match for the spectators. Third place went to Irene Ackerman who defeated Linda Frank 21-6, 21-1.

The Women's Novice event saw many enthusiastic newcomers. Judy Shirley won the event with a

three-game win over Marty Wonch, 21-7, 18-21, 21-7. Third place went to Barbara Kopitz who defeated Kathy Wilson 21-16, 21-7.

Men's Novice

The Men's Novice was the largest with seventy entries. Many good B players seeing the tough draw in the open decided to enter the Novice which made for a large and exciting draw. Clyde Senters with a fine display of shooting throughout the tournament defeated Tom Street 21-19, 21-8, to take the top spot. Playing both singles and doubles, Senters sustained an injury early in the tournament but still managed the big win. In the semi-finals, Senters defeated Bill Dion 21-20, 10-21, 21-13. While at the other end of the bracket, Street was defeating friend and often tournament foe Alan Shetzer 21-7, 21-13. Shetzer went on to win third place over Dion 21-15, 21-14.

Masters Singles

In the Masters Singles event, top seeded Gerry Lapierre emerged on top by scores of 21-7, 21-14 over Manny Nosan. Gerry seemed to have little trouble with the 19 man draw except for a three game quarter final win over Jack Schuberth 21-4, 17-21, 21-13. Gerry then defeated Dave Pearlman 21-8, 21-13 in the semi-finals. At the opposite side of the draw, Nosan went a tough three-gamer with Art Payne 21-9, 8-21, 21-18 in the semi-finals. Third place went to Pearlman who defeated Payne 21-13, 21-17.

Open Doubles

The Dave Bledsoe-Mike Zeitman team emerged victorious in the perfect 32 team doubles draw. The U.S.R.A. National Doubles champs easily defeated all comers while allowing a scant seven points per game average to all opponents throughout the tournament. In the finals Bledsoe-Zeitman defeated the number two seeds Jack Soble and Jerry Davis 21-5, 21-16. In the semi-finals Bledsoe-Zeitman defeated Pruitt-Schmid 21-4, 21-7 while Soble-Davis defeated Fred Lewerenz and Tom Carpenter 21-14, 14-21, 21-9. Third place went to Lewerenz and Carpenter.

Mixed Doubles

Eleven teams entered the Mixed Doubles competition with last year's winners Lewerenz and Kathy Williams coming out on top again. The Lewerenz-Williams team defeated Matt Richardson and Irene Ackerman 21-13, 21-5. Third place went to Ken and Linda Frank who defeated Jim Easterling and Teresa Gnewuch 21-10, 21-9.

Minneapolis



Left to right, back row: Dean Constantine, Ted Lockett, Ralph Stillman, Ben Brewster. Front row, left to right: Richard Lurie and Amos Rosenbloom.

Everybody won when the "Minneapolis Court House Invitational Singles Six-Man Handi-Capper Round Robin Quickie Frolic" was held Friday, August 1, 1975, at the Court House in Minneapolis.

The tournament featured 1) limited playing time of 2½ hours, 2) complete tournament played in 2½ hours, 3) families invited, 4) each player brought a prize for another player—the prize was given for showing up, 5) players of unequal ranking were equalized by handi-capping.

Malin "I Know, I Know" Greenberg and Paul "Pro" Ikier set the points for handi-capping and were surprisingly accurate as 50% of the matched went to 21—18 or better.

New York

In what could be the longest winning streak in any U.S. racquetball tournament, Charlie "Big Bird" Garfinkel, defeated Chuck "Six Million Dollar Man" Wurzer, in the finals of the Buffalo, New York Class A Singles Championships. The scores were 21-15, 21-2.

Actually, the scores were closer than indicated. In the first game, Wurzer was shooting extremely well, and making his usual fantastic gets. Gar was missing a little.

At 15-15, in the first game, Gar got hot, and Wurzer seemed to tire. Gar,

sensing this, started to run Wurzer more. Consequently, he got many more shots. Garfinkel went on to a convincing 21-15, 21-2 victory.

Wurzer, who is physical fitness director for the pro hockey Buffalo Sabres, and Manager of the Four Wall Courts (where the tournament was held) got his "Six Million" nickname from his tremendous physique. The only time that he gets tired, is when his motor gets rusty.

In the semis, Garfinkel defeated fast rising newcomer John Alfieri by the scores of 21-9, 21-11. John, who finished sixth in the East's Super 16, will be surely heard from in the future.

In the other semis, Wurzer was

defeating Sonny Hill in a two hour marathon, by the scores of 17-21, 21-11, 21-13.

In the battle for third place, Alfieri kept the ball away from Hill's deadly forehand most of the time, to win by the strange scores of 11-21, 21-1, 21-16.

Earlier round matches of note, were Jim Dollinger's 21-13 first game win over Gar. The next two went to Gar by scores of 21-5, 21-7.

Joe Tyree defeated Bud Stange in a thriller by the scores of 21-19, 16-21, 21-20.

In the Class A Doubles Championships, Chuck Wurzer and Charlie Garfinkel won their sixth straight title by defeating Joe "Hot Dog" Tyree, and Johnny "Nice Guy" Moshides, by the scores of 21-8, 21-7.

Wurzer's great gets and forehand kills, coupled with Gar's left corner pinch shots, spelled the difference in the one sided victory.

In the semis, Gar and Wurzer defeated Paul Smaldone-Paul Brodnicki, by the scores of 21-10, 21-6, while Moshides-Tyree were defeating Nelson Lipp and Bob Buzby 21-12, 21-20.

N.Y. Doubles

In the New York State Doubles Championships, Charlie Garfinkel and Chuck Wurzer (The Good Guys) were dethroned after five straight championship years. The Culprits: Mike "Chug a lug" Luciw, and Leo "Attila the Hun" Marsocci. (The Bad Guys)

Mike, who is from New Britain, Connecticut, and Leo, who is from nearby Rochester, helped to provide the fireworks for the most exciting match ever seen on the Niagara Frontier.

Both Leo, and Mike, who look like two rejects from the old Smith

Leach Racquetball Racquets

In Stock merchandise . . . Wholesale on request

SWINGER & LITTLE SWINGER
One piece construction
genuine leather grip . . . \$19.00

BANDIDO & LITTLE BANDIDO
A great racquet for competitors
of every caliber . . . \$25.00

STEVE SEROT . . . \$27.75

R. B. E. . . . \$12.95

CARBON SWINGER . . . \$30.00



MAG I—ALUMINUM RACKET
Top new aluminum racket . . . \$30.00

LEACH EAGLE
—ALUMINUM RACKET . . . \$15.00

SEAMCO 559 BALLS . . . \$14.50/Doz.

GLOVES
Left or right . . . \$3.00 each

WRITE OR CALL
FOR
1975 CATALOG

*Racquetball Trophies at
better than wholesale prices*

Sports Awards Co.

4351 N. MILWAUKEE AVE. CHICAGO, ILL. AC 312/282-8060

Brothers Cough Drop adds, put on a fantastic show.

In the first game they could do no wrong as they piled up a 17-6 lead. Suddenly, Wurzer and Garfinkel got hot. Leo and Mike never won another point. That's right! Fifteen straight points by Gar-Wurzer won the game 21-17.

In game two, the score see-sawed back and forth to 20-20. Each team came in to serve twice, and the tension was unbelievable. Marsocci finally rolled out an off balance backhand to win the game 21-20. The local experts felt that Gar-Wurzer's failure to take a time out at 20-20 led to their downfall.

In game three, Marsocci and Luciw, the Northeast Regional Doubles Champions, used Marsocci's great z-balls, and Luciw's deadly kills to win 21-15. It was a great two hour marathon. The fans won't soon forget these two great players and characters.

In the semis, Marsocci-Luciw defeated Jerry Davis-Jack Soble of Cleveland, by the scores of 21-12, 21-9. Gar-Wurzer defeated Mike Anzalone-Ron Salvador also Cleveland, by the scores of 21-10, 21-10.

The tournament included teams from all over New York State, Cleveland, Toronto, and New Britain.

All of these tourneys were hosted by the beautiful Four Wall Courts. Garfinkel, who has played all over the U.S. and Canada, was quoted as saying, "I've played in many facilities, and Four Wall Courts rates with the very best in the country."

Michiana

The 1975 Annual Michiana Open Racquetball Tournament was staged at the South Bend YMCA. This was the first year with the turnout and operations commendable. Tom Kutas defeated

Brian Parrott 12-21, 21-17, 21-7 to capture the final.

Kutas, of Hammond, Indiana advanced to the finals by defeating Clark Pittman of Ohio in the quarter-finals 11-21, 21-13, 21-10 then defeating Tom Karas of Valparaiso in the semi-finals 21-10, 21-3. Brian Parrott, a law student, defeated Al McClure of Fort Wayne in the quarter-finals 21-6, 19-21, 21-16 then defeated Ron Johnson of Indianapolis in the other semi-final 20-21, 21-8, 21-6.

Johnson defeated Karas 21-18, 21-8 for third place. Ron Anderson of South Bend, who was also tournament chairman, defeated B. M. Vantrease of Ohio for the consolation title 21-18, 21-2.

In the Womens Division it was Jane Pritchett of Anderson defeating Nancie Messerschmidt of Fort

Wayne with a thrilling second game 21-14, 21-20. Pritchett advanced to the finals by defeating Cindy Lear of Muncie 21-8, 21-7. In the other semi-final Messerschmidt topped Fran Mamula of South Bend 21-19, 21-15 in a well earned match.

Mamula captured third place by defeating Lear 21-3, 21-7. Phyllis Vantrease of Ohio defeated Julia Marshall of Carmel 21-16, 21-8 for the consolation title.

The 1976 Tournament will take place with two new courts added to the existing four. The present facilities include a glass court and gallery enabling fine viewing for all matches. Participants have found these to be some of the finest courts in the nation.

Schweitzer Wholesale Sporting Goods, Inc.

413 Woodfield Road
West Hempstead, L.I., N.Y. 11552
516/483-4961 516/483-2845

RACQUETBALL SUPER SOCK—88% ORLON Acrylic, 12% Stretchable Nylon—Red and Blue Stripes on White—Size 10-13.

3 prs.—for \$ 6.50

6 prs.—for \$11.00

12 prs.—for \$18.00

Ladies Pom Pom Sneaker Sox—size 8-11—white or assorted color poms—Orlon & nylon, 12 prs.—\$12.00

Bob Wolf Pro All Sports Sneaker—\$11.00/pair

DOUBLE KNIT GYM SHORTS WITH SLIT—\$4.00 ea.

WARM UP SUITS—(ACRYLIC FLEECE)—S, M, L, XS, XL—Red, Navy, Royal, Dk. Gr. — \$24.50

Your check will include sales tax & postage

We have special prices for "Y"s, schools, clubs, & colleges.

Minneapolis

After the grunts, groans, hinders, bruises and cheers subsided, Bill Schmidtke, playing out of the Polish Hall of Fame, walked off with the open singles championship with a 16-21, 21-8, 21-17 win over Ron Strom, Northwest Tennis of Minneapolis. Bill came from behind 16-12 to win the third game.

One hundred thirty nine players from seven upper midwest states and Canada entered seven divisions of play. Hospitality was furnished all weekend and tournament T-shirts were given to the players. The winners received wall plaques which replaced the traditional trophies.

Open singles third went to Paul Ikier, Minneapolis Court House. Barry (Barney Google) Gerr, Mpls. Court House, showed magnificent racquet control in taking the open consolation.

Open doubles was won by Ron Strom-Bob Adam Jr., Edina Kings Court, over Steve Singer-Ron Haskvitz, both Mpls. Court House, 21-5, 21-13. Singer-Haskvitz had a good doubles tourney with wins over Ikier-Gerr and Schmidtke-Mike Weum en route to the finals. Ikier-Gerr won the consolation. It was said that Gerr had the touch of a surgeon, a tree surgeon!

Senior singles winner was Bernie Nielson, Marshalltown, Iowa, over Bernie McNamara, Mpls. Court House in two games. McNamara got

to the finals with tough three game wins over Don Webb, Urbana, Ill., and Charlie Schafer, Winona, Mn.

Senior doubles went to Bob Tonkin-Monti McCumniff, both of Waterloo, Iowa, over Webb-Bill Williamson, Urbana 21-12, 21-15. The consolation was won by Tom Keyes-Dave Herstad both from the Edina Kings Court.

The Women's division was delightful and showed great "sportsmanship." It was a pleasure to see an on-the-court smile. Koni Porter, Edina Kings Court won the final besting Sue Dostal, Marshalltown, Iowa, 19-21, 21-2, 21-6. Kay McDonald, Fargo, N.D. won third place and Alice Skultety, Omaha, Nebr. won the consolation.

The B singles winner was Arch Allison, Marshalltown, Iowa, over Gerry Cadman, Winnipeg, 21-16, 15-21, 21-16. Arch had to recover from a Friday night bout of the 4 A.M. flu to reach the finals. Third went to Bob Gloden, Rockford, Ill. Consolation was won by Pat Page, Edina Kings Court, who was the iron man of the tourney with 11 matches in B singles and doubles.

B doubles victors were Pat Page-Brian Heeb, Edina Kings Court over Gloden-Scott Berry, Rockford, Ill., 21-7, 21-12. Consolation victors were Howard Spizman-Stewart Segal of the St. Paul Court House.

Jim Carlson
Mpls. Court House Mgr.

COURT TESTED LIGHTING LAYOUTS

*Approved Fluorescent
And Mercury
Handball Fixtures
Designed, Engineered
& Manufactured by*



MORRIS KURTZON, INC.
1420 South Talman Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60608
Telephone (312) 277-2121

*David Koch
Hank Maday*

Schaumburg

Gordon Kelly, the nice guy pilot, captured the second annual U.S.R.A. Midwest Invitational Racquetball Tournament September 19-21 at The Court House in Schaumburg, Illinois.

Kelly, seeded third in this turbulent tournament of upsets, emerged victorious in a method fitting the results of the event: unusual. He blew a 19-12 lead in the first game of the finals against St. Louis' Rudi Losche, came back from farther in game two aided by an avoidable hinder, and finally put away the third for a 19-21, 21-20, 21-8 win.

Pre-tourney favorite, Milwaukee's Joe Wirkus was a semi-final loser to Losche in another exciting, well-played battle, 14-21, 21-12, 21-16. It was Wirkus who had stunned two top pros, Jerry Hilecher and Mike Zeitman just a week earlier in another tourney in the Chicago area.

In the bottom bracket, highly touted number two seed Jeff Bowman was rocked by a stunning, second round loss to Fred Lewerenz, Detroit 21-13, 16-21, 21-19. Lewerenz was then ousted in the next round by Madison's Terry Fancher as the upset trend continued.

Kelly, it turned out, won three games during the tournament by the magic 21-20 score with that being his third game margin in the second round against young Charlie Rish, of the University of Illinois. Kelly had won game one 21-18, only to have Rish come back 16-21 in the second before the dramatic ending.

In the women's bracket it was all Jean Sauser who topped Minneapolis' Koni Porter 21-18, 21-2 for the win, in a much deserved first game, and an uneven and non-contested second.

Porter, the top seed, had defeated number four ranked Bev Franks of Northbrook, Illinois 21-8, 21-3 in the semi-finals, while Sauser, also from Northbrook bested Madison's Pat Schmidt 21-11, 21-14 in the bottom bracket.

Franks took third place in the ladies bracket easily over Schmidt 21-6, 21-5 while Francher topped Wirkus for men's third place 21-7, 21-20.

Kelly, the tournament winner had knocked off Fancher 21-15, 21-13 in the men's semi-finals as much more was learned in Schaumburg than just who won the event.

For example, people were told by their eyes to watch another St. Louis hotshot, 16-year-old Ben Koltun, who lost to Kelly in the quarter-finals 21-20, 21-10. A hard-hitting shooter, the mark of a St. Louis player, Koltun had topped Fond du Lac's Tom Wirkus in the second round 21-17, 16-21, 21-15 to move into Kelly.

Tournament chairman Fred Blaess, president of the Illinois Racquetball Association and manager of The Court House upset two opponents in a row before succumbing to Joe Wirkus in the quarters 21-8, 21-11. Blaess, whose "go for it" style is unusual to out-of-towners, especially his backhand-overhead-hypotenuse-reverse-pinch-kill, topped Michigan's Tom Carpenter 21-17, 21-15 in the first round, and then stopped Oshkosh's Bill Clark 21-20, 21-14 in the next.

Carpenter, proving that the first round must have been just a bad dream, came back to take the men's consolation championship without losing a game. Women's consolation was won by Pat Krise.

"We felt the tournament went off well," said Blaess. "The upsets added to the excitement and I think the fans saw some pretty darned good racquetball."

He was right, especially in the finals where Losche had the match all wrapped up except for that final point.

In game one, Rudi got hot when down 19-12 and just pummeled his way back into the game. Kelly was forced into playing the rapid-paced, flailing game that Losche loves, and the result was disaster.

Game two was all Losche, or so it

seemed, as he raced to a 15-6 lead using the same game plan, and controlling or at least outplaying Kelly in the front court. But Gordon is a veteran of many a match, and finally sensed the problem,—he couldn't beat Losche at Rudi's game.

"After you lose the first and you're down 15-6 in the second it's time to change something," said Kelly. "If you don't you're headed for an early shower."

What Kelly changed was his entire game plan,—and reverted back to the time-tested, age-old racquetball axiom, slow the pace, go to the ceiling and wait for your shot.

Taking a good seven and eight of his 10 seconds to serve, Kelly did just that and crept back into the match. But Losche still had three shots at 20 and couldn't get the final point. At 20-18 the crucial rally of the match occurred.

Rudi had Gordon on the ropes, driving him cross court left and setting him up for the right corner kill. But Rudi's ball stayed up a bit, and Gordon was able to retrieve it. But Losche didn't think so, and screamed his delight with a well-earned, but mistaken victory. Meanwhile, he had returned Kelly's pick up and when Gordon regained his balance to retrieve it Losche was right in his way, still savoring the non-existent victory.

When the two collided an avoidable hinder was called on Losche, and his appeal to the linesmen for a double bounce call on Kelly was denied. Gordon came in, got the necessary three points and the 21-8 third game score tells the rest.

It was a screwy end to a fun-filled and well played tournament. The thank you's abound, but special mention must go to Tim Plum, Chuck Leve, Bill Feigen, Dave Edelman, Art Michaely, Dan Rhyma and all the others who helped, refereed, played and watched. We hope to see you next year.

San Antonio

The Racquetball & Handball Club of San Antonio hosted the first Racquetball Tournament in the Southwest of the season. Three hundred thirty entries from Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas participated at its club's eight courts.

Pete Wright of Dallas defeated Jim Austin of Houston in the Men's Open with scores of 18-21, 21-9, 21-8. Tom McKie handled Eric Campbell both of Dallas for third place and Gary Hinkle won the consolation.

In the Men's Seniors, Robert Hill of Houston defeated John Watson also of Houston 21-14 and 21-6. Steve Biespiel beat Ed Burford of Dallas for third place and Dave Todd won the consolation bracket.

In the B's, Dino Solomon of Houston downed Ron Meek of Austin 21-20, 21-13. Dwayne Cooper of Dallas beat Brad Walker also of "Big D" for third place and Bob Ellis of San Antonio won consolation.

Tom Easterling of Denton led a field of seventy-two entries and defeated Jim Peterson also of Denton with scores of 21-6, 21-12. Mark Dickman finished third and Eddie Fink of Austin won the consolation.

In the Women's Open, Jan Segall of Austin beat Libby Bernhard 21-9, 21-14 also of Austin. Connie Gamboa of Waco beat Suzanne Storey of Friendswood for third place and Pam Spann won the consolation.

In Women's Novice, Liz Huff of San Antonio defeated Linda Guerrero 12-21, 21-16, 21-17 for first place. Mary Oeschleger of Denton beat Jan Zamzon for third and Julie Dossett of Houston won the consolation.

In Junior Singles, State Champion Mark Malowitz defeated Larry

Nitishin (both of Houston) 21-10, 21-15. Up and coming Ken Kaihlanen of San Antonio beat Blake Walker for third. Bobby Stone of San Antonio won the consolation.

In the Doubles Open Tom McKie and Eric Campbell of Dallas defeated Kevin Meyer and Jeff Kwartler of Houston in two close games 21-18, 21-17. Father and son Mark Malowitz and Milt Karp of Houston defeated Carlos Nieves and Lorre Ferre of Dallas 21-20, 21-13 for the B Doubles.

Virginia Davis and Blake Walker of Dallas defeated Liz Huff and Jackie Black of San Antonio 21-13, 11-21, 21-6 for the Women's Doubles Championship.

Illinois' Fred Blaess to capture third place 21-17, 21-10.

In the Women's open Nancy Messerschmidt topped Tonya Long 21-9, 21-10 for the first place award, while Alice Becker defeated Linda Schulte for third 21-10, 15-21, 21-19.

Men's B had some great matches and when the smoke cleared it was Dennis McDowell over Jeff Gitt 21-14, 21-14 for the top spot. Morton Grove, Illinois' Tom Street captured third place over Dave Joyce.

The Men's C finals went three games with Ken Becker topping Mark Pitliangus 17-21, 21-11, 21-12, while Allen Ambrose won third place over Arnold Goodman 21-11, 21-15.

The Women's C division was won by Georgia Potter, who knocked off Julia Marshall 21-19, 21-5 for her win. Diane Pitliangus topped Brigitte Huff for third place 10-21, 21-19, 21-12.

Notes of the Tournament: Nancy Messerschmidt made it to the quarter-finals of the Men's C tournament, proving that she is a gal to watch in future events. Thanks to Ken and Alice Becker for all their assistance making the tournament the success it was.

Ken Wong

St. Louis

The first annual Court House (St. Louis) Fall Racquetball Classic entertained six brackets of play over the September 12-14 weekend.

In the Men's open division, Court House pro and nationally-ranked Ken Wong defeated 16-year-old Ben Koltun in the finals 21-19, 20-21, 21-9 for the victory. Oklahoma's Roland Treat stopped Schaumburg,



NEW CONCEPT IN COURTS: HANDBALL • RACQUETBALL • PADDLEBALL

Complete Packaged Court System

Lower Installed Cost

Low Maintenance

Fire Rated

WORLD COURTS, INC.

554 MAIN ST

S. Weymouth, Mass. 02190

Phone: A/C 617 337-0082

Oregon Racquetball Taking Off

"It's basically an easy sport. I think it's biggest appeal is the quickness with which it can be learned. It gives you a hard run and in a short amount of time.

"Sports like tennis or handball require a lot of time and patience to develop the proper skills. A person who hasn't been very athletically inclined can play a few games of racquetball and be relatively proficient."

He offered the example of a couple of his friends as proof positive.

"They hardly got any time off from their jobs. You know, middle-aged and busy. But after a few hours of racquetball, they were hooked.

"In any sport, you like to try and succeed; in racquetball, you see the progress quickly. That's satisfying. It's not like tennis. You're in an enclosed area; the ball has to come back to you."

Besides the ease of learning, Lubisich cites the sport as an outlet for aggression. "Any game where you hit something releases a bit of hostility. You unwind. You get all the pressures of the day out of your system. You take it all out on a rubber ball."

With plaudits such as those, the sport had to grow. It did.

In 1973, Lubisich and a few friends unveiled the Rose Festival Racquetball Tournament. It drew 76 entrants. As tourney chairman, Lubisich felt gratified.

"For something that was unknown the interest was pretty good," he said. "We ran a quick, fun tournament. We expected to do the same the next year."

Something happened. The entrants' list hit 177 in 1974 and reached 256 this year. "We had to turn away people," Lubisich laughed. "We had all six courts at the MAC (Multnomah Athletic Club) going from five in the afternoon until midnight."

He sees the future even brighter. "I'm not sure if racquetball will go through the explosion that tennis experienced. But you never know. Look at how it's gone so far," Lubisich said. "Look at me."

Look indeed. From a flacid 236 pounds on his 6-foot-1 frame, he dropped 15 pounds after beginning play. "I've shed 10 pounds playing one weekend in a tournament. It's an easy way to diet."

With popularity has come the jargon familiar to any sport. Lubisich slides into the parlance. "Z-ball," "roll out," "kill shot," "photon" and "ceiling ball" flow smoothly as he describes the game in somewhat earnest terms. Strategy is paramount.

"Each player has his own distinctive style," he said. "For one man the backhand might be exploited; for another the serve might be weak. You're constantly adjusting to fit your game to the opponent."

The only hindrance to expansion, Lubisich said, is the high cost of building courts. As of now, 40 courts serve all the handball and racquetball players in Portland.

"You've got 300-400 players at the MAC alone," he said. "That's six courts for them and the handball people. And the time's divided evenly between them, though twice as many play racquetball. At the Jewish Community Center another 300 play and they've got six courts. But it costs from \$20,000 to \$25,000 to put up a quality court. And it's not worth it unless you build at least six at a time."

The scarcity of courts—especially public ones—limits the draw. "We have studies," Lubisich said, "showing the average player is in the \$14,000-\$20,000 income bracket. Middle class. With so many of the courts at private clubs, it takes a lot of money to join and pay initiation fees."

Public courts, he hopes, might provide a solution. But city officials, he said, have expressed little interest in such a program. However, the YMCA plans to provide courts at its new headquarters.

"It's a fabulous game," Lubisich said. "You have to try it to believe it. I did."

The Sunday Oregonian, June, 1975

Pete Lubisich is a convert. And with the fervor of the reformed, he spreads the word—racquetball.

Sired by handball and nurtured on tennis, racquetball burst onto the sports scene a short decade ago. And like any infant, it grew. Phenomenally.

Born in the Midwest out of an aging handballer's frustration, the game spread westward until Lubisich picked it up in 1972.

A member of the University of Southern California's 1962 Rose Bowl team and an all-conference guard that season, Lubisich went to dental school and moved his family and practice to Portland in 1971.

Lubisich, the 1975 commissioner of the Oregon Racquetball Association, estimated 2,000 players in the state. And the number is growing daily, he said. The reason, he contends, is its simplicity.

Beard Match



My opponent appeared magnificently invincible as he entered the court. He was muscular, tall, handsomely bearded and clad (like all good guys) in a white warm-up suit.

It was my first time on the court against Mike Zeitman and also the first time I had noticed how imposing a figure he is.

Then he started warming up with a few forehand photon kills. After just a few minutes he seemed to become bored with those shots and began rolling out backhand pinch kills.

A sizeable crowd had gathered to watch some turkey (me) challenge one of the best racquetball players in the whole world. The word had passed quickly thru *Racquettime* in Livonia, where over 200 players had gathered for the Seamco Michigan Summer Open.

The stakes were high. The loser, after months of loving cultivation, would have to shave off his beard. Mike, because of my age and other contributing factors, agreed to spot me 15 points per game.

I tried to concentrate on warming up, but kept being distracted by the *oohs* and *aahs* of the crowd at Mike's warm-up antics (by then, he was shooting behind his back and thru his legs). Unimpressed, I attempted to shoot one behind my back. I missed the ball, striking and bruising my ankle instead.

At that point the referee, Dave Bledsoe, said something like, "*Jaim, y'all'll haff to do better'n thaaf if you wanna winnn.*" (I've been meaning to ask Dave what country he's from). Reacting to that, I smiled, but inside, I began to feel really weak. Was it a sudden attack of the flu?? Zeitman seemed to grow taller right in front of my eyes.

My thoughts concerning my health were interrupted by the ref's saying, "*Arre y'all readdy?*" The coin was in the air. I called, "*tails*." It was heads. We shook hands. Mike entered the service box. I was ready!!

Then Mike did a frightening thing. He turned, staring right at me and

began stroking his beard. Then a slow toothy grin began to cross his face. I've never noticed how big and white his teeth were. I began to feel like Don Quixote before battling a windmill.

Then he did another frightening thing . . . he served the ball. Luckily I killed it in the right front corner. My strategy was to play conservatively and concentrate, concentrate. I planned to pass and use the ceiling ball, then kill when and if he set me up. I felt that he would go for the kill when he was serving and play the ceiling and pass when I served. With my 15-point advantage, I *thought* he would play conservatively.

Was I ever wrong!! Never has anyone received such a gracious (and exhausting) tour of a racquetball court. I must have run three miles returning his shots that first game. At one point, my knees buckled and were shaky. Everyone saw it. I felt like a victim from *Jaws* which I had seen the night before in an effort to boost my killer instinct. My opponent smelled blood. I had 20 points, but he rolled on. First game to Zeitman 21-20. I've *never* been so tired. Mike looked great. He didn't even change shirts between games. It appeared that he would easily routine me in the next game.

In the second game I got lucky. Maybe I played well. I can't remember. Maybe I appeared in such bad shape that he let down. In any case, I won 21-8.

Spiritually, I felt better. My body was numb; it had absolutely *no* feeling. I could read the message in everyone's eyes, "*He'll murder you in the third game! Poor Pruitt, just wait until Zeitman gets serious.*" I crashed on a soft chair and drank a quart of Gatorade during the break between games two and three.

Spectators and acquaintances stopped by to smilingly wish me well, but they all had that look. A female friend said, "*It's too bad, Jim, the thing I've always liked about you is your beard.*"

The ref commented, "*Theare's noo way Mike's a gonna shave his beeard*". When asked what he meant, he drawled, "*I think he's a*

gonna cumm out with everthaing he's gott. Mike ain't gonna messs ahround." I began to feel weak again.

I also began to think. What would Brumfield do in this situation?? I never came up with an answer because the ref called "*Plaay Bawll*"!!

Mike entered the court looking refreshed. It was evident that he had grown even taller between the second and third games.

It was quickly evident that he felt no pity for me and my atrophying physical condition. He came out blasting away. His skill and grace of movement gave new meaning to the word beautiful. Before too many points I was mesmerized. All I could do was stand around and observe his spectacular play.

His court coverage and retrieving were incredible! I began to swing desperately, missing the ball completely. He played as though he were alone on the court. Mike enjoyed complete mastery of the game. I stalled. I argued with the referee. I was moving around the court like a drunk.

I wasn't even getting to the ball. If you can't get to the ball, you sure as heck can't shoot it.

He rolled up 14 straight points; score 14-15.

Then an amazing thing occurred. Upon winning the serve at 14-15, Mike handed me the ball and said, "*Relax. You're not having any fun.*" I don't know what his motive was for saying that to me. Was I really looking that bad?? Or, was this a psyche tactic?? It made me think, "*Here I am having the time of my racquetball life and I'm more concerned with winning than the fun and fellowship of the match.*" It was a turning point for me.

I now believe Mike was sincerely trying to help me with his remark and consider it a very sportsmanlike gesture.

I pinched one in the left corner, 16-14 and then side out. Mike came blasting back with four straight points before giving up the service, 16-18. I used my last time out. I was dead on my feet.

At 18-16, Mike aced me with a lob serve that I missed completely, 19-16. I won the serve, but it was costly in terms of energy and strength. I was working 10 times harder than Mike, or so it seemed. I got lucky again and pulled two more points out of my magic hat, 18-19, before losing service.

Mike promptly aced me again with a lob serve (It was now obvious that I couldn't handle that serve) 20-18. Then he did a memorable and despicable thing.

He called time out and yelled at me, "*I want you to think about it and suffer.*" Then he announced to the crowd, "*Take one last look at him, folks. This is the last time you'll see him with his beard!*" All I could do was grin and bear it.

Then he served, match point serving 18. I returned a slow pass that hit the crack, side out. As I took the service box, I gave Zeitman the biggest grin I could give under the circumstances. The spectators laughed approvingly.

Mike promptly rolled out my serve, retaking service at 20-18. He served a high, nearly perfect lob serve that I barely managed to flick to the front wall for a winner, 18-20.

From somewhere deep down inside myself, I found a lucky pass and then a kill to make it 20-20, before losing service.

This was the *third* time Mike was serving for the match and I felt like a drowning person going down for the usually fatal third time.

Again he served a high, wall-hugging lob that died in the corner. I stabbed at it desperately and miraculously it ambled slowly to the base of the front wall and died, side out.

If I'd had any time outs left at that point, I would have called one just to harrass Mike, but I had used them long before.

Mike returned my serve hard to my backhand (I'm lefthanded) but it hit the crack and popped up. All during the match, I had been shooting similar shots cross court to his backhand. He moved in anticipation

to the left and I shot a slow pass down the right side (which he nearly retrieved) for the match. The reason my shots were slow was that I had no strength remaining to hit them harder. Ironically, my opponent taught me the box theory upon which the strategy of my winning shot was based!

I was ecstatic! I couldn't believe I had won!! Neither could Mike Zeitman. The look on his face made me feel sort of guilty. I was happy for me and sad for Mike. After all, 15 points is a heck-of-a lot of points to give *anybody*! I rationalized that he would survive without a beard as he has a handsome face underneath, and I don't. I began to feel better about it.

In my exhausted state, I mentally promised myself never again to undertake such a folly.

Dave Bledsoe, our ref and Mike's doubles partner, (they are the current U.S.R.A. National Doubles Champs), came up and said, "*Guhd Maatch, Jaim. Ah'll gihve you 15 points and if you beeat me, ah'll shave mah whoole haid!*"

So Dave Bledsoe will spot me 15 points a game and if he loses, he'll shave his head . . . hmmm!!

I hope your shaved head will look as good as Kojak's, Davey.

A Hot New Game Hits SA

BY SUSAN JACOBSON

The San Antonian, July, 1975

In the fifties you were out to lunch if you didn't have a flashy shirt (flaunting "Harry's Hardware" on the back and your nickname on the front) color-coordinated with your bowling ball and shoes. In the sixties, unless you wore all white, with a tasteful touch of red and blue, you were simply nowhere on the tennis court. But just any ol' pair of shorts and a grubby T-shirt is where it's at in the seventies—particularly if where you're at is the Racquetball and Handball Club of San Antonio.

Racquetball is everyone's game and indications are that it's becoming everyone's game. *Sports Illustrated* estimates that over half a million enthusiasts have discovered the game, and the *Wall Street Journal* has racquetball's leading equipment manufacturers producing 12 times as many racquets and 25 times as many balls as they were in the early seventies. In short, racquetball is the fastest growing indoor sport around.

The clamor for courts all over the country gave a few shrewd San Antonians a few sharp ideas, and in a few short months a few thousand San Antonians had a new racquet.

"We taught San Antonio how to play racquetball," says Racquetball and Handball Club president and managing partner, Bruce Hendin.

Did it want to learn? "When the Club opened on December 3, 1974, our goal was to have 400 members by December 31, 1975. We exceeded that goal by March of '75. In the first hundred days," continues Hendin, "we averaged three new members a day, and it was steady—not a huge rush one day and nothing the next. Now we have over 425 member units."

(Some units include six family members, the entire San Antonio police department and the new San Antonio Thunder soccer team.)

An estimated 600-700 players use the courts each week, "and over half our members are people who never played racquetball before we

opened. As a matter of fact," Hendin claims, "it's been so successful, we're planning to open similar clubs in Houston, Dallas and Fort Worth."

These impressive statistics, however, don't particularly surprise Hendin. "I knew what could be done in this field." As the former athletic director of the Jewish Community Center in St. Louis—the largest Jewish Community Center in the country and, at the time, the best racquetball facility—Hendin headed up the nation's first official racquetball tournament in 1969, which attracted the game's leading 167 players. It was at this tournament, incidentally, that the game of paddleball officially became "racquetball." And it was at this tournament that Hendin realized a surge of interest in the game and the lack of racquetball facilities nation wide.

"Manufacturers, contractors and businessmen began questioning me on how to build courts and where to build them." He began advising people all over the country on how to accommodate racquetball aficionados.

And as the American appetite hungered for the sport, Hendin's wife hungered to return to her native San Antonio. So Hendin obliged them both by interesting fellow partners Philip Barshop, Harris Sterling and Tom Nissalke in building the first private club in Texas devoted exclusively to racquetball and handball.

"It was a bad time to be doing any constructing," recalls Hendin, "especially in a new business with no proven track record. We began construction in April of '74 when interest rates were at their peak, construction start-ups at an all-time low and banks very selective in their lending."

But these obstacles were overcome, and the next major concern was finding the right piece of land. Hendin considers the location at 121 Northwest Loop 410 "ideal—we're no more than 10 minutes away from any point in San Antonio."

In a few short months a few thousand San Antonians had begun learning a new racquet.



Bruce Hendin and partners built the first private racquetball club in Texas.

Then, since this was a Texas first, no local contractor or architect had any previous experience with the specialized requirements of indoor courts. Hendin, however, had. So he designed a general plan for the 15,000-square-foot complex, leaving the details to local architect Ed Nicholson and contractor Paul Sword.

And these details are not to be minimized. For the walls, male-female cinder blocks with troweled-on fiberglass were specially devised by Barrett Industries of San Antonio; flooring is of the finest quality hard maple with no dead spots; doors are heavy butcher blocks (with \$35-dollar hinges); and mercury vapor is used for optimum lighting.

During the eight-month, half-million-dollar construction, the major anxiety was sunny San Antonio itself—specifically, Hendin saw the city as a haven for outdoor sports, and he wondered if racquetball could succeed in such ideal weather conditions. Would tennis and golf nuts come in out of the glorious sunshine? *"But after I visited San Diego, which has a similar climate (and where some 10,000 players compete for space on more than 100 courts), I knew what we could do here."*

What they've done here is to improve upon almost every comparable facility. *"We wanted a private club,"* says Hendin, *but not private in the sense of exclusive. For example, we don't serve liquor, but we have adequate facilities so members have no problem getting a court as long as they call a couple*

of hours in advance. And we welcome non-members to come out and try the game. Another thing—we wanted a place nice enough so that a husband wouldn't have to tell his wife, 'don't go there,' and so a wife would be able to bring the kids (either to watch or to play)." The partners also spent a lot of money on interior decorating, taking into consideration a comfortable and friendly reception area, spacious locker rooms, safe areas for spectators, and a pro shop.

"Our membership concept is also different from most business operations," Hendin explains. *"Usually it's sound business practice to make your money up front. But what we do is make money on the dollar charge of the courts."* A basic nominal membership fee entitles a member to use the courts, sauna, exercise room, steam room, showers and lockers; and then there's a charge for court time. *"By charging a small membership fee, it's a better deal for the member—if he chooses to go out of town for a month, we lose. If he plays a lot, then he pays more. This way we all benefit."*

If anyone's complaining, he can't be heard over the blare of blasting balls. The Club is a hub for such action as state and regional tournaments, lessons, ongoing ladder competitions, leagues, free clinics and mixed doubles parties. Recently Hendin invited Peggy Steding—the world's leading lady of racquetball—for a dazzling demonstration. *"We invited the Club's top male players to challenge Peggy, and anyone beating her would win a new color television set."* Eager male

A major anxiety during the construction was sunny



San Antonio itself—would people exercise indoors?

chauvinists appeared en masse with visions of avenging the Billie Jean King-Bobby Riggs debacle. But the TV set sat . . . and sat . . . and sat—unclaimed.

Steding is just one of the many women who are racing to racquetball. The reason, Hendin asserts, is simple. "Racquetball is without a doubt the easiest competitive sport to play. One of the reasons why it's so much easier than tennis, for example, is that a tennis court is 60' by 120' and open, while a racquetball court is 20' by 40' and fully enclosed. Another reason is that the face of a tennis racquet is so far from the handle you need superior eye-hand co-ordination in order to hit the ball. In racquetball the racquet is shorter and more of an extension of the hand, making it easier to connect with the ball.

"Many women who can't do well in tennis are turning out to be great racquetball players. I can teach someone who's never played tennis or racquetball," continues Hendin, who has taught both, "and after an hour they're frustrated with tennis and exhilarated with racquetball. After three or four times with racquetball you can be half as good as you'll ever be, and after three or four months you can compete in tournaments."

Racquetball novice Barbara Syamkin can testify to that. "I played a total of three times before entering the Club tournament in January. I won first place in the novice division. After that I decided

"I knew what could be done in this field," cheerfully smiles a successful Hendin.



to really learn the game and practice." She then won a second-place trophy in the Texas Racquetball Association Tournament, novice division. Adds Barbara, "'Novice' really means that you've played no more than one year. The girl who beat me had been playing two years, so I didn't feel so badly."

The success story is no different for men. Insists Hendin, "We have guys who can't walk and chew gum at the same time—fellows who just never were good athletes—never excelled or found enjoyment in sports. But they can play and have a great time, get a good workout and be on their way in an hour."

Michael Beldon, a frequent competitor at the Club who admittedly never made All-American, explains, "I never played anything exceptionally well. As a matter of fact, I'm blind in one eye, have poor eye-hand coordination

and have two left feet. But you don't have to be an athlete to go out and be competitive in racquetball. I mean," quips Mike, "you can't lose a racquetball like you can a golf ball." Hendin insists that racquetball, a relatively inexpensive sport, "is an ideal psychic release for anyone feeling pent up—either with three sick kids or a business deal that fell through." He claims "It beats a barroom brawl, wife-beating or letting yourself feel frustrated. Just take a racquet and beat the hell out of the ball."

So . . . all you disgruntled housewives, would-be entrepreneurs and physical failures—take a tip from Bruce Hendin. Keep that bowling shirt in mothballs. To heck with finding a pair of tennis socks with just the right color stripe. Throw on your grubbies, get with it and see what the racquet is all about.



Written by a professor of Psychology and professional salesman.

"Developing Racquetball Skills"

By
EDWARD VOCKELL & OTTIS CAMPBELL

A Dynamic New Book For The
Intermediate and Beginning Player

Send \$3.45
Postpaid

DYNAMIC RACQUETBALL
Dept. 300 — Box 2023
Hammond, Indiana 46323



FOUR FLAGGS COURT CLUB INC.

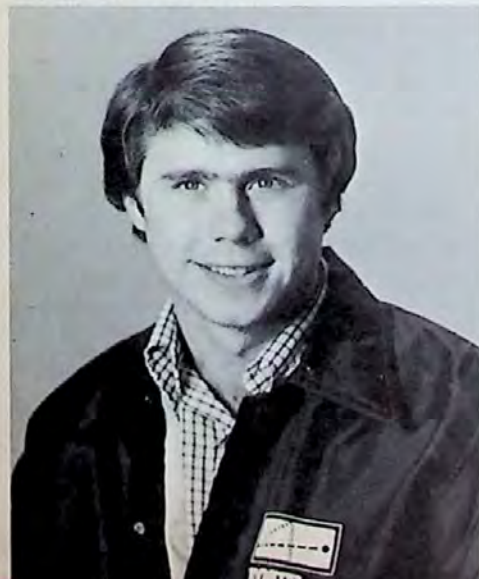


Four Flaggs Court Club, artist's rendering. Club is now open in Niles, Illinois, just north of Chicago.

Bill Greengoss



John Van Der Wel



The first Chicago area court club in a shopping center location will be opening in October at Four Flaggs Shopping Center, Niles, Illinois. The club is conveniently located at Milwaukee Avenue and Golf Road, directly across from Golf Mill, one of the busiest shopping centers in the country.

This unique convenience concept in court club marketing is expected to bring more women into the game of racquetball by offering greater exposure during regular shopping trips as well as providing easy access to a recreational activity, according to Bill Greengoss, Club Director. Now, for the first time, women will be able to do their shopping and play racquetball in the same place without even moving their car. This new approach should be a boom to the growth of the sport.

The club location is in a north suburban traffic hub serving Niles, Des Plaines, Morton Grove, Skokie and Park Ridge. This area is industrial as well as residential, and the club is expected to draw business people by offering special group and company membership rates.

In a recent interview John Van Der Wel, Club Manager and pro, described the club facilities as comfortably plush with the right atmosphere for both recreational and social activity. There will be two courts featuring glass back walls for viewing at ground level, which is ideal for watching competitive matches and also can be used for instructional purposes.

In addition to nine regulation Racquetball/Handball courts, Four Flaggs Court Club will have luxurious appointments throughout. Large lounge areas will be fully carpeted with court viewing areas on the upper deck. The spacious men's and women's locker rooms will each have a sauna and whirlpool. There will be a well equipped playroom supervised by an attendant. A variety of equipment, accessories and racquet rentals will be available at the pro shop on the main floor.

Four Flaggs will offer special introductory membership fees in three categories—Individual (prime time) \$30.00; Day Time (non-prime time) \$15.00; Family (all time) \$35.00. Court fees will be \$6.00 per hour for non-prime time and \$8.00 per hour for prime time.

Buffalo, New York now possesses one of the most modern and luxurious court clubs in the nation, Four Wall Courts, Inc. Located within one mile of the Buffalo International Airport, it is in the most centralized court complex in Erie County.

"We are extremely proud of Four Wall Courts," said club manager and pro Chuck Wurzer. *"It's a first class club and we hope to attract top competition to it."*

That competition should start with Wurzer, who holds numerous New York State titles and is generally considered one of the game's foremost right side doubles players.

"Yea, and I had to put up with Charlie Garfinkel on my left most of those years," quipped Wurzer.

Four Wall Courts features six courts, three with glass back walls leading to speculation of a major tournament, probably a U.S.R.A. Regional in the Spring.

As is the custom these days, ammenties are the thing, and Four Wall Courts certainly has their share, beginning with spacious men's and women's locker rooms, comfortable viewing areas, especially behind two of the glass back walls, full exercise area, nursery with baby-sitting services, saunas and more.

"Our goal is to offer you the finest in recreational facilities," reads the Four Wall Courts brochure. *"There is room to construct new courts as*

the membership grows insuring adequate court time availability in the future."

The club features other services as well. Special attention was given the locker room areas to the smallest detail, including the spacious lockers. Food and beverages are available in a canteen area, and a fully-stocked pro shop features all the latest in racquetball and handball equipment.

Wurzer will lead the lessons program, both individual and group, and a big feature is a free instructional clinic for beginning players.

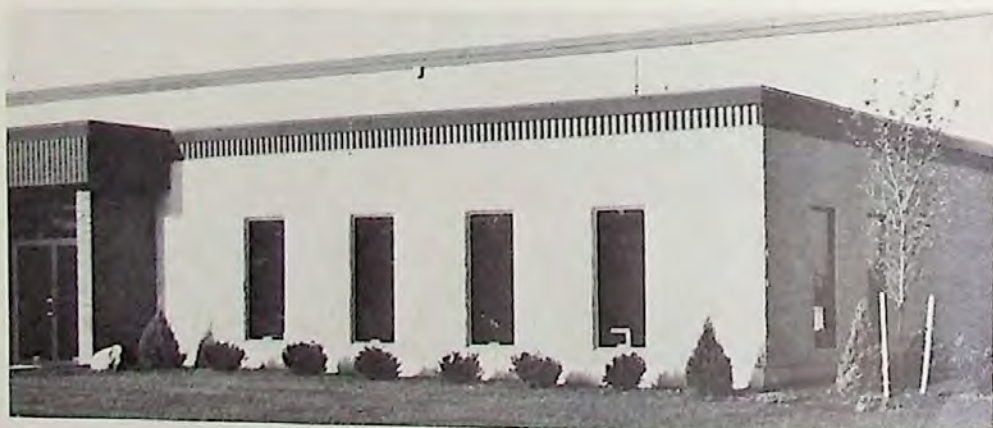
Membership is \$60 a year for individuals and \$75 for families. There is a monthly payment plan for members convenience and they have an added advantage of a 50¢ discount if they block out permanent court time. Rates are \$3.00 per person per hour for singles and \$2.00 per person per hour for doubles.

"We have something for everybody on the four wall courts," said Wurzer. *"And any time you're in the Buffalo area, come on over. We'll be sure to fix you up with a game."*

Four Wall Courts



Part of the pro shop at 4 Wall Courts shows the complete line of clothing and racquets.



Front view of 4 Wall Courts from the parking lot. Modern design with top notch facilities inside.

Oakbrook Handball/ Racquetball Club

Groundbreaking Ceremony recently held for the Oakbrook Handball/Racquetball Club marks the commencement of construction and initial membership campaign. The club, located at 424 Plaza Drive in Westmont, will be the first of its kind in the West Suburban Chicago area devoted exclusively to handball and racquetball.

Participating in ceremony, from left to right, are: Andre F. Stepelton, Senior Vice President, and Marcel L. Levesque, President, Bank of Westmont; Curtis A. Ferestad, Westmont Village Manager; Jim Darrow, Club Manager; Patrick F. Daly, Architect and Partner, Court Consultants, Ltd.; Larry Darrow, Court Consultants, Ltd. The deluxe 8 court facility containing lounge, viewing gallery, nursery, steam and sauna rooms will be open sometime late this year. Information concerning the club and membership is available by calling Court Consultants, Ltd. 236-6588.



NATIONAL RACQUETBALL SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

Planning a move?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

attach label here

If you're moving, please let us know five weeks before changing your address. Place magazine address label here, print your new address below. If you have a question about your subscription, place your magazine address label here and clip this form to your letter.

name _____

address _____

city _____ state _____ zip code _____

Please include a NATIONAL RACQUETBALL label to insure prompt service whenever you write about your subscription.

MAIL TO: N.R.C., 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076.

TO SUBSCRIBE mail this form with your payment.

- JACUZZI WHIRLPOOL
- SAUNA & STEAM ROOMS
- LOCKERS
- POOL & GAME TABLES
- UNIVERSAL GYM MACHINES
- PLATFORM TENNIS COURTS
- RACQUET BALL & SQUASH COURTS
- PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
- EXERCISE EQUIPMENT
- COURT SURFACES
- ULTRAVIOLET "SUN TANNING" ROOMS
- CONSULTATION
- PLANNING & DESIGN
- SALES
- INSTALLATION
- SERVICE

UNIVERSAL RECREATION & FITNESS CONSULTANTS

a Division of Olympic Sports Products Inc.
5885 N.W. 151 St. Miami Lakes,
Florida 33014 • 1-800-327-3690

ONE RELIABLE SOURCE

TO FILL
ALL YOUR
RECREATIONAL
AND
CLUBHOUSE
NEEDS

UNIVERSAL

Recreation & Fitness
Consultants

Brumfield Exhibition

Nearly 150 members packed into The Center Courts, a recently opened eight court racquetball club in West Los Angeles, to watch Charlie Brumfield, National Racquetball Champion, take on Jay Jones, National Amateur Champion, in an exhibition match on a glass walled court. Later, Brumfield conducted an off-court question and answer session in which he discussed his winning techniques, strategies, and equipment. Finally, a parade of challengers each paid \$5 to play "The Brum" for five minutes, earning \$2 for each point scored. The score? Brumfield 204, Challengers, 9. Roger Duhl, the first member to play and the top scoring challenger with three points, won a BrumStar Carbon Star racquet for his five-minute achievement.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOUR SITES AND DATES

After a booming beginning September 25-28 in Denver, and an equally successful pro stop in Burlington, Vermont, the Seamco—Leach Pro Racquetball Tour takes a brief respite in November, aiming for the next major event, December 11-14 at the Tucson Athletic Club.

"Tucson has a couple of tough acts to follow," said N.R.C. National Director Chuck Leve, *"but we're sure they'll be up to the task. The T.A.C. is one of the most modern, luxurious and suitable hosts this country has."*

The Leach-Seamco tour, which is sanctioned by the N.R.C., is progressing right on the schedule set for it this summer by Leve and his staff. The two outstanding showings both in players and performances in Denver and Burlington, have proven that pro racquetball, N.R.C.-style, is here to stay.

"After seeing the first examples of what the N.R.C. can do," said Charlie Drake, Leach's Racquetball Director, *"We're more sure than*

ever that co-sponsoring the tour was a wise decision."

And so it is as the tour heads for Tucson, followed by Aurora, Illinois in the first 1976 pro stop, January 22-25. The Aurora Y.M.C.A. with its three-sided glass walled spectator court is no stranger to pro tournaments, having hosted a tour stop in November of last season.

Tournament director, as usual, is Y physical director Jim Stotz, a true veteran of tournament wars.

"We had a good tourney last season," said Stotz. *"Keeley and Serot certainly wowed 'em in the galley in the finals. We're looking forward to an even more successful tournament this year, now that we've got some pro experience behind us."*

After Aurora, the tour moves on to another old friend, the Wisconsin Athletic Club, who under the name of Milwaukee Handball/Racquetball Club, has two years of hosting experience for the N.R.C. tour. The Milwaukee dates are February 26-29.

The pro tour then calls for events in Miami in March, Peoria, Illinois in May and the National Championships in San Diego in June. The month of April has been set aside by the pros, so that all attention can be focused on the U.S. Racquetball Association's (U.S.R.A.) regional tournaments all on April 22-25.

"Not all of the hosts are finalized yet," said Leve, *"but most of them are. We'll be having regionals for sure in San Antonio, San Francisco, Buffalo, and Chicago. There's also a chance of regionals in Canada and the south."*

Final sites for the remaining regional will be announced in the January issue of *National Racquetball* magazine. But Leve indicated he expected no trouble in deciding where to go.

"Actually, we have no problem at all," he said. *"We just want to be sure the hosts are located strategically so that all players in the U.S. and Canada have a chance*

1975-76 N.R.C.—U.S.R.A. Major Tournament Schedule

Date	Event	Site	City
December 11-14	Tucson Pro-Am	Tucson Athletic Club	Tucson, Arizona
December 26-30	National Juniors	Orlando Y.M.C.A.	Orlando, Florida
January 22-25	Aurora Pro-Am	Aurora, Y.M.C.A.	Aurora, Illinois
February 26-29	Milwaukee Pro-Am	Wisconsin Athletic Club	Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
March 25-28	Miami Pro-Am	Miami Court Club	Miami, Florida
April 22-25	U.S.R.A. West Regional		San Francisco, California
	U.S.R.A. Southwest Regional	HB/RB Club	San Antonio, Texas
	U.S.R.A. East Regional	4 Wall Courts, Inc.	Buffalo, New York
	U.S.R.A. Mid-west Regional	Illinois Ctr. Racquet Club	Chicago
April 29-May 2	Tournament of Champions	Courtside	Peoria, Illinois
June 13-18	National Championships	Atlas Health Club	San Diego, California

to compete in one. We've never had a host who lost money."

The U.S.R.A. differs from other governing bodies, however, in that the regionals are not used as a qualification means for the Nationals. Instead, they are simply as billed: an amateur, regional, championship tournament. In keeping with U.S.R.A. rules, only amateurs may compete in the regionals, and that means players with prize money earnings of less than \$200 in the past 12 calendar months.

The U.S.R.A. feels that once a player accepts \$200 in prize money he or she has relinquished the amateurism for which the U.S.R.A. stands.

"If they want to play pro ball," said Leve, "they have the pro tour. If they want to play for enjoyment, camaraderie, and the spirit of competition, they have the U.S.R.A."

The U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. combine forces for the National Championships, June 13-18 in San Diego. There, virtually all divisions of play will exist, and winners will be crowned National Champions, from pros up to all age brackets except juniors.

It is widely known that up until the last moment, Las Vegas was in contention to host the Nationals, but after due consideration, San Diego was given the nod. But don't cross Las Vegas off the racquetball map, for N.R.C. and U.S.R.A. officials having something in store for the home of last year's nationals.

"We gave both bids our closest scrutiny," said Leve. "And we felt San Diego came up with a great package. It was a case of having two good choices, the toughest

kind of problem. Anyhow, since Vegas had the Nationals last year, we thought we'd give San Diego a chance to see what it could do."

The Atlas Health Club and Atlas Hotel chain intend to do a great deal, as can be read in other parts of this issue.

So, with the pro tour going great guns, the regionals just about set, and the Nationals confirmed and ready to roll out the red carpet, the biggest year ever in racquetball is firmly off the ground. Welcome to it!

Free Rule Books, Draw Sheets and Scorecards

The U.S. Racquetball Association will donate to any sanctioned tournament this season rule books, draw sheets and scorecards. That's right, will donate these articles, - free of charge to tournament hosts.

Just fill out the coupon below and we'll get in touch with you to make sure your tournament has enough of these materials.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____

A free copy of NATIONAL RACQUETBALL is yours for the asking.

This dynamic, colorful and instructional publication serving the needs of the entire racquetball community and highlighting all phases of the fastest-rising sport in America is a free gift for you.

Just in time for the Holidays we will send you at no cost and no obligation a copy of this magazine, which also features interesting interviews with the nation's top players, detailed instructional material to aid your game, as well as developments on the biggest boom in the building business, racquetball/handball court clubs.

To receive a free copy, or have one sent to a friend, just fill out the coupon below. No obligation, of course.

NATIONAL RACQUETBALL
Magazine

4101 Dempster St.
Skokie, IL 60076

Please send a free copy of
NATIONAL RACQUETBALL to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Below are the answers to the
racquetball test on page 26.

How did you do?

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (c) 5. (b)
6. (d) 7. (d) 8. (c) 9. (a) There are instances when the server can serve before the receiver is ready. For example, if the receiver is stalling and taking more than the allotted 10 seconds between rallies, the server can serve. Since the receiver has to be ready within the 10 second limit, this serve would be good. In all cases, however, the server must wait until the referee calls the score. 10. (b) As alluded to in previous issues, this is seldom called. 11. (b) 12. (c) 13. (b)
14. (d) How many times have you seen the server's partner face the front wall as the serve is made? This is illegal. 15. (b) 16. (e) That's right, if you swing and miss it's a handout. 17. (c) 18. (a) 19. (b)
20. (d) It depends on whether the player was hitting the ball into the back wall or if the ball is rebounding from the front wall. 21. (a) 22. (c) Seldom called, this is like a wrist ball in handball. Only the head of the racquet may be used to make a legal return. 23. (a) The ball must be determined to be broken prior to it's being put in play. Once the ball is served, i.e., strikes the server's racquet, it is in play making all previous rallies valid. A player may request the referee inspect the ball, or the referee can do so on his own after any particular rally. 24. (b) 25. (b)
26. (b) 27. (d) 28. (b) The line is "in." If you step over the line it would be a foot fault. 29. (c) The ball must be struck prior to hitting the floor twice. 30. False. You cannot change the order during a game, but you can change between games. 31. False. 32. True. Even if the ball obviously would not have reached the front wall, it is still a hinder. 33. True. 34. False. 35. False. The penalty could be a handout. 36. False. Pushing is never allowed. If you are being crowded the referee will call an avoidable hinder on your opponent. 37. False. If you need more than the 10-second between rally time period you must call a time out or risk being served to. 38. False. 39. False. 40. True.

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

OR Send check or money order
at \$7.95 each. Plus \$.50 Postage

SPORTS PRODUCTS 1670 Cordova Street Los Angeles, California 90007
(213) 731-6313



SOLARI HANDBALL • RACQUETBALL •

HANDBALL

RACQUETBALL

DESIGNED FOR MAXIMUM EYE PROTECTION



N.R.C.-U.S.R.A. PRO-AM TOURNAMENT

TUCSON, ARIZONA

DECEMBER 11-14, 1975

Site: Tucson Athletic Club, Tucson, Arizona.

Facilities: 8 regulation, indoor, 4-wall courts.

Dates: December 11-14, 1975.

Entry Fee: \$12 per person in amateur events; \$20 per person in pro event.

Sanction: By the U.S. Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club.

Official Ball: In all amateur events: Seamco 558 (black). In all professional events: Seamco 559 (green).

Rules: U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. rules and regulations apply. If two events entered, players may have back to back matches. No player having accepted \$200 or more in prize money within the past 12 months may enter amateur events.

Trophies: To first four places in amateur events. First two places in consolation. \$4,500 prize money in Men's Pro Singles; \$500 prize money in Women's Pro Singles.

Entry Deadline: In our possession by midnight, Tuesday December 2, 1975. Prescribed fee must accompany entry form. Entries received after the deadline or without fee will not be accepted.

Mail Entries: Carl Porter, Tucson Athletic Club, 4220 E. Bellevue, Tucson, Arizona 85712.

Make Checks Payable To: Tucson Athletic Club.

CONSOLATION IN ALL AMATEUR EVENTS IF COURT TIME ALLOWS.

Please enter me in: ☐ Men's Pro-Am Singles ☐ Amateur Men's Singles
☐ Ladies' Pro-Am Singles ☐ Amateur Ladies' Singles

PLAYERS ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER NO MORE THAN TWO EVENTS.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Presents
RACQUETBALL WORKSHOP
at the
TROPICANA HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

OCTOBER 5-9, 1975
Open to all skill levels

SUBJECT MATTER TO BE COVERED:

• Serve • Return of Serve • Forehand • Backhand • Offensive Shots • Defensive Shots • Anticipation
• Shot Selection • Singles and Doubles Strategy • Training Methods • Theory and Execution of Percentage
Racquetball

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION INCLUDE:

• Court Time with Pros • Video Tape Analysis • Lectures • Films • Practice Time • Competition • Questions
and Answers

THE PRO INSTRUCTORS: ** Additional Pro's as they become available.

DR. "BUD" MUEHLEISEN: Holder of 24 International Racquetball Titles
 1st Player elected to Racquetball Hall of Fame

STEVE KEELEY: 3 Time Winner of this year's Pro Racquetball Tour
 3 Time National Paddleball Champion

** We reserve the right to substitute Pro's if necessary

WORKSHOP RATE:

\$250.00 includes: • 20 Hours of Instruction • Room (four nights double occupancy) • Dinner Show at the
World Famous Follies Bergeres • Cocktail Party • Souvenir Gym Bag • Etc.

\$100.00 Deposit must accompany your application, refundable until Sept. 21, 1975.

For Additional Information, Call: Stuffy Singer (213) 981-4700.

Make checks payable to: SINGER SPORTS WORKSHOPS

Mail to: SINGER SPORTS WORKSHOPS
 P. O. Box 3011
 VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA 91407

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Business Name and Address: _____

Home Phone () _____ Business Phone: () _____

In case of emergency notify: Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____

Number in your party: _____ Number of rooms required: _____

UPCOMING EVENTS

national juniors



Ten cents a mile for every entrant. Free lodging and food. Great competition, and a trip to Disney World. Has there ever been a better tournament format? If there has, we can't think of when, and it will all happen December 26-30, 1975 in Orlando, Florida.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the D. B. Frampton Company of Columbus, Ohio, whose sponsorship has made the above benefits possible, the U.S.R.A.'s National Juniors tournament has all the ingredients of a huge success.

So, if you haven't done so already, make those plane reservations now. The Christmas-New Year's time in Orlando is the busiest of the year, and we want all players to be able to attend.

"We feel that by sponsoring the National Juniors, we are contributing to racquetball in the most profitable way," said Frampton Sales manager John Dobbie. *"And we mean profitable for the sport."*

The tournament will have three brackets of play,—Boys 18 and under,—Girls 18 and under,—and a co-ed division of Boys and Girls 15 and under. The entry fee is \$10 per player and players should send the entry form page 71 to the Y.M.C.A. in Orlando.

There are only two restrictions to the mileage allowance. First, players will have to deduct the first 500 miles of their trip before the ten cents per mile goes into effect, and secondly, a maximum of \$125 will be awarded to each individual.

"There's no way we could pay the entire mileage," said U.S.R.A. National Commissioner Joe Ardito, *"even with sponsorship. But we still*

feel that many players will be able to attend now, who otherwise wouldn't have been able to afford it.

Players will be staying at the Orland (Winter Park) Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge on Lee Road and I-4. The Motor Lodge features two heated swimming pools and is a short distance from our tournament site, the Orlando Y.M.C.A.

"We're going all out for the kids," said Y.M.C.A. physical director Bill Dunsworth. *"We are planning a tournament that they will never forget."*

The tournament, since it is sanctioned by the U.S.R.A. is open to amateurs only, emphasizing the U.S.R.A.'s belief that professionalism has no place in juniors play. Since only one or two of the nation's pros are juniors this should have little affect on the tournament.

There will be consolation in all events, meaning the two courts at the Orlando Y.M.C.A. will be filled for a good portion of every day of the tournament.

"How could you have a juniors tournament and not have consolation?" asked Ardito. *"The name of the game is play, and consolation guarantees every entrant two matches."*

The U.S.R.A. will provide chaperones for the boys and girls and the Orlando Y will be providing the necessary manpower to organize and run the tournament efficiently. The Seamco black 558 racquetball will be used.

So, if Christmas is a little brighter this year for a lot of kid racquetball players, just thank D. B. Frampton. He's made it all possible.

We'll see you in Orlando!



FRAMPTON
D.B. Frampton & Company
33 South James Road
Columbus, Ohio 43213
Phone (614) 239-9944

TO ALL THE JUNIORS:

GREETINGS, AND GOOD LUCK.

I believe in competition because I have thrived on it all my life. I have won some games and lost some games, but I have enjoyed every game and I have played to the hilt.

I would like everyone of you to know that I am particularly pleased that you have entered the National Juniors Tournament. I know that the competition will make you a better person, whether you win or lose.

Racquetball is a great and growing game. Like any athletic endeavor it requires a great deal of dedication on your part.

To the young people who have entered the Tournament, I extend my most sincere best wishes. It will be an experience you will never forget.

Good Luck.

Sincerely,

D. B. Frampton
President

DBF:sw

Official Entry
U.S.R.A.-JUNIORS
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sponsored by D. B. Frampton & Company

SITE: Orlando (Fla.) YMCA

DATES: December 26-30, 1975

ENTRY FEE: \$10 per person.

SANCTION: By the U. S. Racquetball Assn. (U. S. R. A.).

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 558

RULES: U. S. R. A. — N. R. C. rules and regulations apply.

TROPHIES: To first four places in each event. First place in consolation.

ENTRY DEADLINE: In our possession by 6 p. m. December 15, 1975. Prescribed fee must accompany signed entry form. Entries received after the deadline or unsigned, or without the fee will not be accepted.

MAIL ENTRIES: Bill Dunsworth
YMCA — 433 N. Mills
Orlando, FL 32803
Check must accompany signed entry form.

Please enter me in:

Girls 18 & under () Boys 18 & under () Boys and Girls 15 & under ()

Consolation in all events.

NAME _____ AGE _____ CLUB _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the U.S. Racquetball Assn. or Orlando YMCA, their respective agents, or any facility used for this tournament, for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my competition in said tournament.

SIGNATURE _____ PH. _____

Make checks payable to:
Orlando YMCA
Same must accompany entry.



RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEMS/PCB®

another service offered by the **TENNISYSTEM/PCB®** specialists



Your method of billing your members' regular charges may be the least professional thing you do.

With tightening competition for racquetball members, it's just good business to make sure you're not turning any of your members off at billing time with an error-prone manual or inadequate billing program. What's more, you owe it to yourself to maximize your receivable controls for faster return on that big dollar investment your facility represents.

RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEMS/PCB® is the computer billing system designed from market research by the racquet sports specialists, the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. We are the exclusive developers of TENNISYSTEM/PCB®, the system that totally solves clubs' billing problems, while providing you with timely and concise information needed for your club's present and future growth.

We have many satisfied clients throughout the country, with 100% renewals each season. RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEMS/PCB® will cost you less than your present program, and we can prove it. We know it will give you the finest controls.

Receipts, optionally signed by your Racquetball Club Members are promptly mailed with our concise, informa-

tive, **TOTALLY DESCRIPTIVE STATEMENTS**, to eliminate billing related questions and problems. Customized imprinted payment cards, pre-addressed to your club, and matching return envelopes enclosed with your racquetball club members' statements, help to convert charges into working cash fast... especially with our guaranteed 72-hour turnaround service. Easy-to-read, color-coded aging analysis tells you instantly who owes what, and for how long. In addition, we include the date your member last used your club's services and the date payment was made.

Precise sales analysis (including cash) sorts down all sales, categorically. Free PR, sales, and optional dunning messages can be custom-imprinted on top of your racquetball members' descriptive statements each month.

And you receive free in-club training by our pro.

It takes only an hour a day to operate Racquetball Charge Systems/PCB®. Can you beat that? No expensive, complex installations or confusing, sensitive gadgets. No minimum service period. No binding contract. No cancellation fee.

Smooth and immediate transition from your present system or you can start now before your club is constructed.

*PCB is Permanent Court-Time Billing.

Free registered and trademarked samples of statements, print-outs, transaction forms, payment cards. Free quotation. No obligation. Backed by 9 million dollars of computer power and our pros to run it.

**WRITE OR CALL COLLECT NOW FOR
MORE INFORMATION OR A DETAILED
PROPOSAL. 312-681-3061**

NOTE: RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEMS/PCB® are exclusive registered and trademarked data systems for RACQUETBALL by the

Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. 1930 GEORGE STREET MELROSE PARK, ILLINOIS 60160

**RACQUETBALL
CHARGE
SYSTEMS/PCB®**

1976 N.R.C. MIDWEST PRO-AM OPEN

AURORA, ILLINOIS YMCA

JANUARY 22-25

Site: Aurora YMCA, 460 Garfield Ave., Aurora, Ill. 60506. Ph. 312-896-9782

Facilities: 8 regulation, indoor, 4-wall courts.

Dates: January 22-25, 1976

Entry Fee: \$20 per person in Men's pro event; \$15 per person in all other events. (\$3 of each player's entry fee will be refunded after that player referee's one match. Only one refund per player.)

Sanction: By the U.S. Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club.

Official Ball: In all amateur events: Seamco 558 (black). In all professional events: Seamco 559 (green).

Rules: U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. rules and regulations apply. No player having accepted \$200 or more in prize money within the past 12 months may enter amateur events.

Awards: To first four places in amateur events. First two places in consolation. \$4,500 prize money in Men's Pro Singles; \$500 prize money in Women's Pro-Am. Consolation in all events except Men's Pro.

Entry Deadline: In our possession by midnight, Wed. Jan. 14, 1976. Prescribed fee must accompany entry form. Entries received after the deadline or without fee will not be accepted.

Mail Entries: Jim Stotz, Aurora YMCA, 460 Garfield Ave., Aurora, Ill. 60506.

Make Checks Payable To: Aurora YMCA.

Housing: Hilton Inn (312-892-6481); Holiday Inn (312-896-0801); Ramada Inn (312-851-2000)

Please enter me in: ☐ Pro Singles (Limit 32) ☐ Amateur Men's A Singles
☐ Ladies' Pro-Am Singles ☐ Amateur Men's B Singles

PLAYERS ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER ONE EVENT ONLY.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ (Res) _____ (Business)

Marty Hogan

Marty Hogan, at 17-years-old, is the youngest professional racquetball player in the country. Born and raised in St. Louis, Hogan first entered a racquetball court at age eight. After a few years of on-again, off-again play, he finally gave up the game.

The only son in the Hogan family of four children, Marty is currently a senior at Ladue High School in St. Louis, where he will graduate in January, a full semester ahead of his class.

It wasn't until four years ago that he began playing again, this time with a verve and dedication that he still maintains. After various outstanding showings in local and club tournaments, plus remarkable efforts in practice versus fellow St. Louisians Steve Serot, Jerry Hilecher and Ken Wong, Hogan took to the National tournament scene.

His first major effort was the Amateur singles bracket in the 1974 Milwaukee pro-am where he lost in the finals to Green Bay's Galen Johnson, a proven veteran. A month later he was a quarter-finalist in the Chicago pro-am amateur division. A summer of hard work and practice led him to the pro tour a year ago, including the quarter-finals in the Milwaukee pro division last February.

Marty's progress was halted, or at least slowed somewhat, when he lost amid great controversy to Vic Niederhoffer in the round of 32 at the National Championships in Las Vegas. But a couple of good summer showings, including a win over Steve Keeley, and a tough, three game loss to Charlie Brumfield and a top eight finish in the first pro stop of the year, make Hogan a man to watch this season.

His short career has been marked by controversy, most of it self-inflicted. Termed "cocky," a "bad actor," and many worse things by friends and foes alike, Hogan's matches have been called everything from a circus to detrimental to the game. Perhaps it is just a coincidence, but his improved play of late has paralleled a remarkable improvement in attitude, both on and off the court. Gone are the distasteful attempts at psyching out an opponent, the very thing that he feared most from others.

Is this a "new" Marty Hogan? Or is it just the same loud-mouthed, derogatory racquetball player, who is growing up?

In the following interview, conducted by *National Racquetball* editor Chuck Leve, Hogan gives his views on the game, his opponents and himself.



Marty and U.S.R.A. National Director Chuck Leve discuss some of the finer points of racquetball.

Leve: *How long have you been playing racquetball?*

Hogan: I started playing when I was about eight-years-old. I continued to play for a couple of years because I really liked the game, but then I guess I lost interest for about five years. Then St. Louis hosted the Nationals in 1973, and I saw how really nice all the people in the game were and I made up my mind to try and do something in the sport, which I thought I could do.

Leve: *Who got you on the court the first time?*

Hogan: My mother was a top player around St. Louis for a long time, and she even took fourth in the '73 Nationals. She's the one who got me on the court originally and I guess like any kid, I really wanted to beat my mom. She's the one who really motivated me.

Leve: *Do you remember your first day on the court?*

Hogan: No, I sure don't.

Leve: *Would you say, then, that your parents encouraged you to take up racquetball?*

Hogan: Yea, definitely, especially in the beginning.

Leve: *Then why did you quit?*

Hogan: I started getting involved in some school sports like gymnastics and football, all of which took a lot of extra time. I had to make a choice back then and I decided to try these other sports.

Leve: *How does a 17-year-old kid reach the top 16, and even better?*

Hogan: Well, playing with all the pros last year helped a great deal. I look at last year as a preliminary year in my career. I wanted to see how I could do, and I tried to study the other players to see what they did to beat each other. I just tried to take some of their game plans and work them into my game.

"I've seen what has happened to Serot. I won't let it happen to me."

Leve: *But even before that, like when you finished second to Johnson in Milwaukee, you were only 15. How does a person reach that plateau by age 15?*

Hogan: A lot of playing, a lot of determination to win.

Leve: *Did you practice much?*

Hogan: Well, not really. I practice a lot more now, because I realize that I have to perfect my shots. It helps to go out on the court alone. It's a lot more effective than just the everyday playing.

Leve: *Before that, you mean you just played matches with people? No practice?*

Hogan: Yea, I just kept on playing. I've always played at the J.C.C.A. (Jewish Community Centers Association—ed.), and there've always been a lot of good players around.

Leve: *How much time do you spend on the court daily?*

Hogan: On a normal day I play anywhere from one to three hours, providing the courts are open.

Leve: *Do you use any other training methods, like weight lifting or running?*

Hogan: Right now I don't think I have to get into shape like all the other players because now that I'm young I really don't have to worry about my condition and all that. But I'm sure that in a few years I'll have to do some training. Every once in a while I'll weight lift, but nothing regular.

Leve: *How does racquetball affect your school life?*

Hogan: It affects it a lot. For instance, all the principals, assistant principals and teachers know that I'm a racquetball player. I've either skipped their classes

because of tournaments, or they've seen me on t.v. or they've read about me in the paper. But there's really no hassle getting out of school, because they know it's for a worthy cause.

Leve: *You winning money,—that's a worthy cause?*

Hogan: You bet!

Leve: *Does it affect your grades? Do you have to make up a lot of work?*

Hogan: It's just like when you miss school any time, you have to make it up. I usually do it before I leave for a tournament, I get most of it out of the way ahead of time.

Leve: *How are your grades?*

Hogan: I've got about a B average. Since I'm graduating early I've had to take a few extra courses along the way, but I never did go to summer school.

Leve: *Where do you plan to go to college?*

Hogan: Well, Leach Industries is giving me a scholarship, so I guess I'll be out in San Diego somewhere, probably San Diego State. Since that's where Leach is headquartered, they couldn't help me as much if I was going, say, to Missouri or somewhere. If I'm out there with them, they'll be able to work with me more and do more things for me.

Leve: *How did you get involved with Leach Industries?*

Hogan: Again, it goes back to that first Milwaukee tournament. Charles Drake, who manages Leach's racquetball business saw me play and said "we'd like you to play for us". He gave me his phone number and I called. Frankly, I really don't think he was that interested in me at that time, although he did send me equipment and t-shirts. I don't know, but I think they felt that

I was a youngster, and maybe a little better than average so why not keep him on our side.

But now that I'm a lot better than I was then, Leach is beginning to do more things for me, like the scholarship, helping me financially to get to tournaments, things like that. I'll sign a contract with them in January, when I'm 18.

Leve: *A lot of people say that as you mature, your interests will expand and racquetball won't mean that much to you. Consequently, they predict your game will suffer. What do you say to that?*

Hogan: No way. That won't be a factor at all. I know there's going to be more and more money coming into racquetball, the great progress of the N.R.C. is just the beginning. I don't think I'll ever lose my interest or enthusiasm.

Leve: *There are those who feel that this has already happened to Serot. Do you think this is true, and couldn't it happen to you?*

Hogan: Yes, in many ways it has happened to Serot. When he was living in St. Louis his dad was always there watching him, instructing him, guiding him. Now he's in San Diego, and he's got it extra good, with his own Z (Datsun 240-Z sports car—ed.), and I think it has taken away from his racquetball. I suppose it could happen to me, but now that I've seen what has happened to Serot I won't let it happen to me.

Leve: *You seldom have a big match where you're not up against somebody much older and more experienced than you. Does that bother you when you go on the court?*

Hogan: No. It actually motivates me to work harder to beat these older players. Even though I do lose to the Charlie Brumfields and Steve Strandemos I know that I'm going

"Without question, the toughest player...is Steve Strandemo."

to get them sooner or later because they're 10 years older than me and have an edge in experience.

Leve: *What does it feel like to go into the court against a guy like Rubenstein or Schmidtke, guys double your age?*

Hogan: I figure I'm just a kid, I can last longer than they can. That's the only thing I've got in my favor. They've got much more ability and they're much smarter. So I just beat them with my physical characteristics.

Leve: *Do you feel any extra pressure against the "wily, old veterans?"*

Hogan: No, I don't. Right now I can beat anybody. At any time I can beat anybody playing the game. The more I keep on winning and beating these players, the more confidence

it's going to give me in the long run. And then I'll be beating the real greats.

Leve: *Who's the toughest player for you?*

Hogan: Without question, the toughest player I've ever played has got to be Steve Strandemo. He's got a different attitude than most of the other guys,—he won't give you a point if it would save your life. He's always working hard. And he's probably the strongest player mentally in the game right now.

Leve: *Strandemo?*

Hogan: That's right.

Leve: *You know when Brumfield reads this he's going to try and give you a donut.*

Hogan: Yea. Big deal.

Leve: *How do you like all the*

traveling you do now?

Hogan: I like it a lot. I get to see a lot of things and places for the first time. That's half the reason I go to all these tournaments.

Leve: *Do you ever study on the road?*

Hogan: No, I don't. During the week I study for school. During the weekends I study for racquetball.

Leve: *Do you foresee yourself as a consistent top eight finisher this year?*

Hogan: Top eight for sure, probably top four. I'll be a threat for the semi's in every tournament.

Leve: *Who will you replace?*

Hogan: It could be any one of the five through eight right now. Most of the older people are starting to get slower and more tired,—they're

The Hogan forehand: point of contact. Notice how Marty's weight is transferred forward, his eyes are on the ball and he hits off the instep of his front foot.



The Hogan forehand: Marty's follow-through finds him following the probable kill shot directly into the corner. Virtually all of his weight is now on the front foot.



Hogan shows the correct ceiling ball backswing.



Marty points to the spot where he wants that ceiling ball to hit,—about three feet from the front wall on the ceiling.

the ones who you'll see dropping out of the top eight first. They'll be replaced by the younger players like myself, Rich Wagner and Craig McCoy. There's definitely going to be a re-cycling of the top eight.

Leve: *Your last few answers perhaps confirms what many people say is your biggest drawback,—that you're too cocky to ever reach the top. How about that?*

Hogan: A year ago I'd say you're probably right. I remember those days when I went through all that junk about psyching out opponents, acting on the court and all that baloney,—and that's what it was, a bunch of baloney. I can tell how different I am on the court now.

I learned how to act right on the court by watching the other players. Take Keeley for example. He goes in there and plays, greatest attitude ever in racquetball. So I've just tried to change my attitude and I think this will help me. I'm getting there.

Leve: *You were involved in what has to be one of the most controversial matches of all time, when you lost to Vic Niederhoffer in the round of 32 in Las Vegas. What were your feelings after that match?*

Hogan: It hurt a lot because that was the first time in the whole pro season that I went out before the round of 16. I'll say this, though, it made me more determined to get my head on straight and quit all this joking around junk. Even Vic came up to me later in the week and talked to me. He said that if I got rid of all the baloney I'd be a much better player.

I've taken his advice to heart. I saw the way he beat me. He sure didn't beat me on sheer racquetball skills, heck he'd only been playing the game a few months. He beat me because he was much smarter than I was.

Leve: *You've added about four inches and 40 pounds since last season. As you get bigger do you think it will help your game?*

Hogan: Oh, yea. It already has. I'm hitting the ball as hard as anybody in the game right now. And I'm still as quick as ever. I think I'll get tougher as I get bigger.

Leve: *What was the best match you ever played?*

Hogan: The best match I ever played was against Charlie Brumfield in the finals in Spokane this summer. It was right after I beat Keeley in the semi-finals. In the first game against Brumfield I played probably the best single game of racquetball in my life. I beat him 21-10. The next two games he won but I still feel it was my greatest match.

Leve: *What was your most disappointing match?*

Hogan: The Niederhoffer match in Vegas. No doubt about it. It was just a strange match. I didn't realize it until much too late, but when you play Vic you really have to be hitting your balls well to have a chance. I don't think there's anybody around who can stay with him on the passing game. His passes are exceptional, they're perfect. They always hug the side walls, and never come off the back wall. His retrieving and passing make him so tough.

Leve: *How did you feel, having played racquetball for five years, to be beaten by someone who had been playing just a few months?*

Hogan: Believe me, it didn't feel good at all. You know, once you realize you can't beat him with the passing game, it puts more pressure on your shooting. And I guess I just started leaving my shots up. I don't know if I changed my game or just started getting weaker.

Leve: *Speaking of pressure, how do you handle it?*



The Hogan follow-through of the overhead or ceiling ball.

"It really feels good having somebody picking up the tab..."

Hogan: Well, there's always pressure. There was pressure in Vegas, there was pressure in Spokane against Brumfield. I just play my regular game,—when there's a set-up I shoot it. If I don't have a set-up I hit a ceiling ball or I drive it.

Leve: *Have you ever choked? Or had opponents choke against you?*

Hogan: I don't know. I don't think I've ever choked. But everybody told me I choked against Niederhoffer, losing 21-20 in the third game. But he hit an incredible shot to win. I think a lot of players choke against me. I think they hear a lot about me, with all the publicity on me and everything. You know, here's a 17-year-old, who's beginning to beat everybody. They think about it. They have to. Most of my opponents get uptight, and shots they might ordinarily hit, they don't. I'd call that choking.

Leve: *Was there a choke involved in your win at Sky Harbor (see page 47)?*

Hogan: No, I don't think so. Wirkus won the first game 21-19 and had me 16-5 in the second before I came back and won. I just started shooting much better. When it was 16-5 I stopped making so many dumb errors like I had earlier in the match. When it got to that point I knew a few mistakes and I would lose the match. I began hitting the shots I wanted to hit, I was retrieving pretty well and I don't think there was too much he could do. He could have choked, but he didn't.

Leve: *But isn't this what we're talking about? Why didn't you play smart the entire match and make it that much easier for yourself?*

Hogan: I don't think I was concentrating very well the first game and most of the second. That

first game was probably the single worst game I've played in a long time. I don't mean to take anything away from Joe, but I just couldn't hit the ball right. I couldn't get fired up. I don't know why. Then I came back to win the second 21-18. I really can't explain it.

Leve: *You said before that Strandemo is the toughest guy for you to play. You mean you'd rather play Brumfield or Serot, than Strandemo?*

Hogan: Yes, that's right. Playing Serot the game is easy, it goes so fast. He's a shooter and I'm a shooter. The ball either rolls out or skips, and that's the way the match goes. Charlie plays a control game and you can get most of his shots. Even when he's shooting his kill game isn't nearly as good as most other top players. His control game is excellent, though. But at least he keeps the ball in play longer, and you have a chance.

Leve: *After Las Vegas, when you lost in the round of 32, and then this summer when Wagner beat you easily, did you wonder just exactly what your abilities were? I guess what I mean is what steps have you taken to improve your game?*

Hogan: Well, I played a lot. I concentrated on my game through June, July and into August. I tried to work harder with more determination. Then in August I went out to San Diego where I played for a week, then I went up to Spokane and lost to Brumfield in the finals. I was keyed up for the Spokane tournament, I guess I needed to prove myself again, to myself. After a few early rounds I knew I was playing much better. And then I beat Keeley in the semi's.

Leve: *What did you do specifically during the summer? Did you go out on the court alone? Did you just play for fun?*

Hogan: I played Jerry Hilecher a little bit more than usual and I played Ken Wong about twice a week. Other than that nothing much different.

Leve: *What's it like practicing against players you could meet in a tournament such as Hilecher and Wong? Do you hold back at all?*

Hogan: No, I don't think so. Especially not against Kenny; we usually go all out. Plus Ken is the pro at The Court House in St. Louis and he wants to be known as the best in St. Louis. He tries to beat me when we play, so they're pretty tough games.

Leve: *Does anybody coach you, or help you with your game?*

Hogan: Besides my mom, no.

Leve: *How have you managed to perfect your strokes at such an early age?*

Hogan: I don't know. I practiced by taking many shots with my backhand unnecessarily. And I watched all the better players and tried to imitate what they did.

Leve: *What advice would you give somebody, say 12 or 13 years old, starting to show an interest in racquetball?*

Hogan: I would definitely recommend that the kid start playing racquetball now. This game has a great future, and I know I'm lucky to be in it so young. There's more and more money coming into it and I wouldn't be surprised if within a few years the money in racquetball is right up with bowling, golf and tennis. The game is progressing so fast that I'd tell a 10 or 12 year old to start swinging, start playing, jump into a few tournaments now and then and ride the future. You know there's nothing bad about traveling around the country, staying in nice places, having everything paid for. It really

feels good having somebody picking up the tab all the time.

Leve: *Was there much discussion when you decided to turn pro at age 16?*

Hogan: I had played in a few N.R.C. amateur tournaments before that and I did pretty well. I figured that if I was ever going to really get big in this game I had better start playing the top players, professionally. That's how I plan to make money, that's what I want to do.

Our family had a pretty long discussion one night and my mom said if I'm going to play the game I might as well try and do something in it. There was no controversy over it at all, in fact my family encouraged me. Eventually I plan to make my living playing professional racquetball.

Leve: *You've spoken about some of the other top players and their characteristics. What is it like to play Keeley?*

Hogan: It's strange the way he plays. Sometimes he can play better than any other player in the game. Other times he's pretty bad. Against him, players have a better chance because he hits the ball slower than anybody in the game. I mean the ball is really traveling slow. He's got great control, but just because he hits it so slow, you have extra time to react and retrieve, unless it rolls out. I would say Keeley is the easiest of the top four to play.

Leve: *What about Schmidtke?*

Hogan: I haven't played Bill in a long time. He is getting older and age is beginning to creep up on him. But he has without doubt the best forehand in the game,—it's a good, hard consistent kill or drive.

Rubenstein is a lot like Schmidtke,—he's getting older, slower and tireder faster. But like Schmidtke he's got some great shots, the best

pinch shots ever. Yet Ruby is beatable now, where three years ago the only one who could beat him was Brumfield.

Leve: *How do you like playing other young players like Wagner?*

Hogan: I'd like another crack at Wagner. He and I have a little grudge match going and I'm really looking forward to playing him this year.

Leve: *Are there any other players you'd like to comment on? Players, maybe you've lost to?*

Hogan: Well, I lost to Zeitman. Mike is a power player, but he's just like the weather,—one match he can be playing fantastic like he did at Sky Harbor to beat Strandemo, and then he can turn around and lose to anybody. He can beat anybody and he can lose to anybody. If Mike is on, and you always have to anticipate that he will be, he's as tough or tougher than anybody.

Leve: *Wouldn't you say that you've really just described yourself?*

Hogan: Yea, in a way I guess I'm like that. But I'm not as inconsistent as Zeitman.

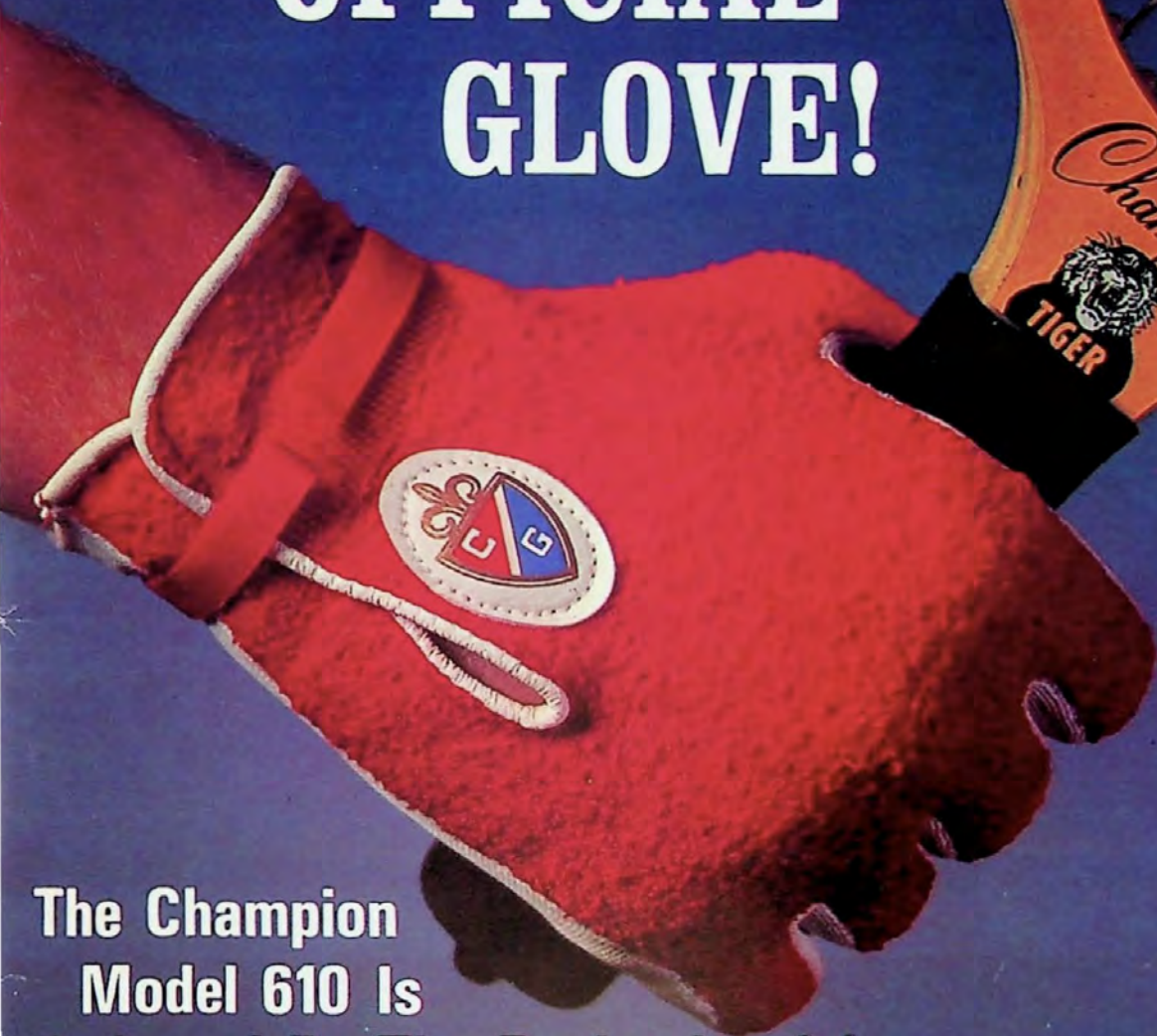
Leve: *Do racquetball players have slumps, like other athletes?*

Hogan: Definitely. Mike is an excellent example of that. In the beginning of last year, he was a terror. By the end of the season he was having trouble in the 16's and even the 32's. For sure players have slumps.

Leve: *What kind of year do you envision for yourself?*

Hogan: Well, the only thing I can say, is the rest of the tour better be ready for Marty Hogan!

NEW NRC OFFICIAL GLOVE!

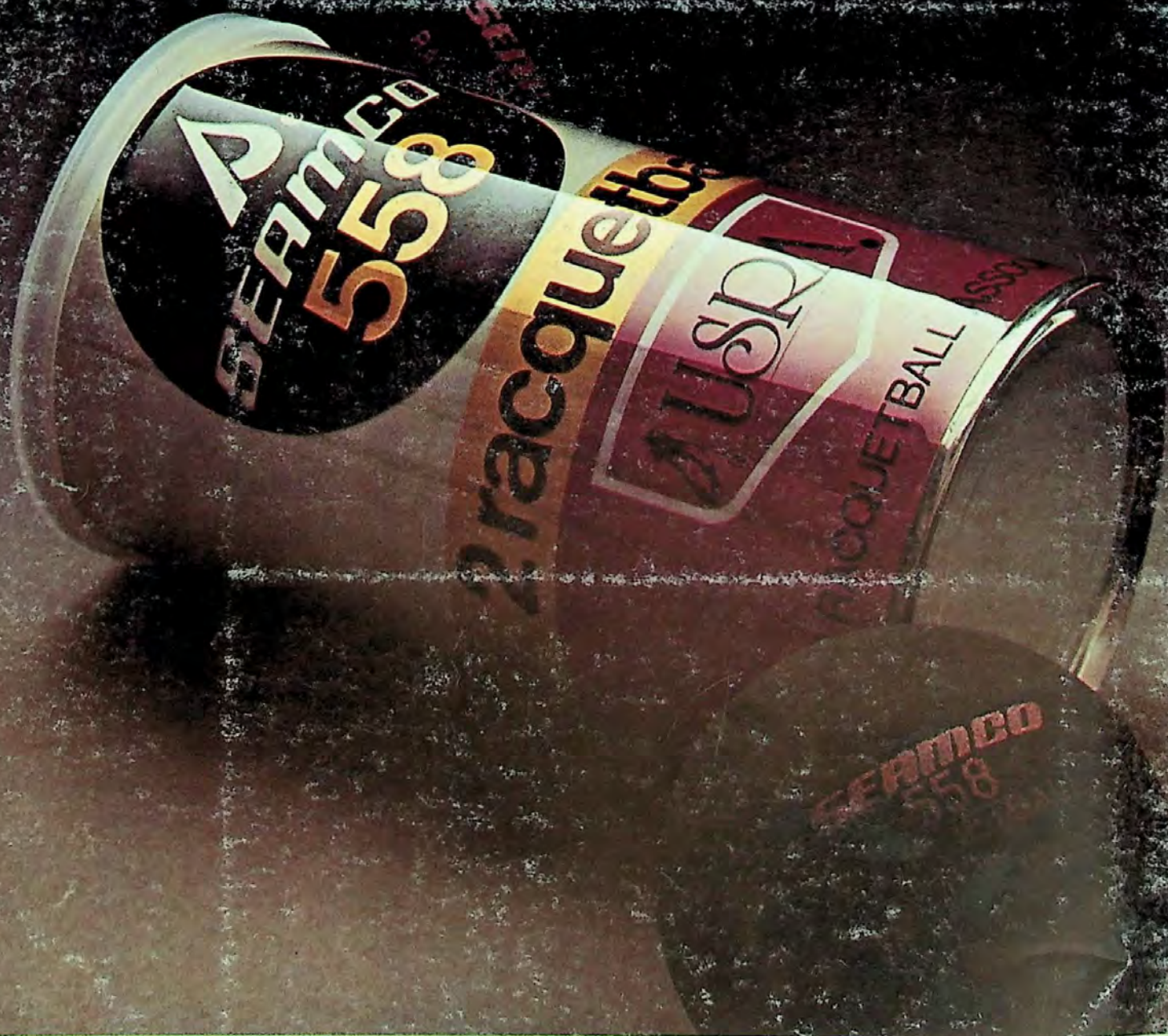


**The Champion
Model 610 Is
Endorsed By The Professionals!**

Champion GLOVE MFG. CO.
2200 E. OVID DES MOINES, IOWA 50313

The Model 610 racquetball glove by Champion features a "wrap around" wrist with adjustable Velcro fastener for perfect comfort. A thin selected doeskin palm gives you a confident feel. Eastman's Kodel terrycloth back and Helanca stretch finger inserts are included for extra comfort and style. So choose the glove of the professionals . . . the Champion Model 610 Racquetball glove.

There is only one official racquetball.



The Seamco 558. Official racquetball of the United States Racquetball Association.
At your pro shop or sporting goods department.
Seamco Sporting Goods, a division of Dart Industries, Inc., New Haven, CT 06503.

SEAMCO 