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Vol. 13 No. 3 March, 1984

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**ANGEL CORDERO: NO 'HORSEING AROUND'
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On the cover...

Angel Cordero, one of the world's most famous jockeys, along with many of his fellow riders, is an avid racquetballer. For the story of Angel's plunge into racquetball and some insight into this incredibly successful athlete, turn to page 7.

—photo by NYRA photographer
Bob Coglianese

Next issue...

April brings baseball to the forefront and we agree featuring American League Rookie of the Year, Ron Kittle, who uses racquetball as a major part of his off-season conditioning. We'll also take a close look at gloves with our Annual Glove Guide, plus top instruction and much more!

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From The Editor . . .

Getting Whomped

The guy on the other end of the phone line was looking for a game.

"I just moved here from Cleveland a few months ago," he said. "I'm an A player back there and have been looking for a good workout. They say you're pretty good, so how about a game?"

I dismissed the thought of going up against a Cleveland A with my mediocre Chicago C game. Lots of people think I'm a decent player because I work in the industry. They point to my incredible won/lost record as evidence that I know what I'm doing on the court.

Actually that record is only evidence that I know how to properly select my opponents. And that doesn't include any Cleveland A's.

"Sorry," I said. "You caught me right on a deadline and it's really crazy around here. Some other time, all right?"

"Sure, how about Wednesday? By the way, I really like your publication. Been a subscriber for five years. You guys really do a great job."

He had penetrated my defenses.

"What time Wednesday?"

Well, I've been around and I know that a Cleveland A is roughly equal to a Chicago A, so if this guy was telling the truth about his ability, I was in trouble. I had a week to get ready and decided there was little sense cramming for the match. I figured at best he was probably a Cleveland B and we'd have a decent workout, with Cleveland winning, feeling good, and both of us getting the kind of workout we wanted.

On the prescribed day at the prescribed time, Cleveland was late, caught in a snowstorm. I mentally gave him 15 minutes to show and he showed in five. He turned out to be a big guy, even portly, at least 20 pounds over playing weight and maybe more. This was no Cleveland A, I thought.

The locker room chatter included life in Chicago, state of the racquetball industry, equipment and general inquiries (at least by me) to find out how much racquetball Cleveland really knew. He knew plenty.



He knew, for example, how to hit an effective drive serve. I found that out on the second point of the game. Later I found out he could hit it to the forehand side, especially when I was leaning left.

He knew, for example, how to kill the ball from deep court. Not mid-court, mind you, deep court. Thirty-eight footers. Any time he got his forehand he'd put it away no matter how deep he was.

He knew, for example, how to play defensively, although he didn't have to show too much of that portion of his repertoire. But when he needed to take the ball upstairs he did.

He knew, for example, how to hit a uniquely pestering forehand reverse pinch kill into the left front corner. I watched it miss once in three games.

He knew, for example, how to anticipate returns of his shots, so that he could maneuver his significant size with quickness that belied his weight. The longer he played, the thinner he seemed to get.

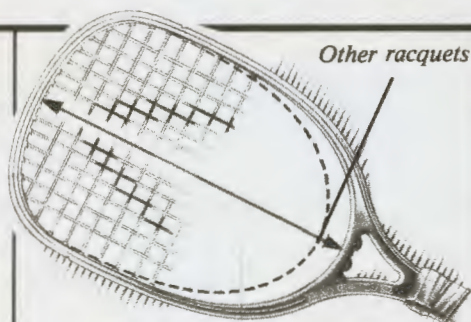
Cleveland also knew how to win. And believe it or not, that's what made the match so enjoyable for me. He never let up. He never patronized me. He made me earn each of my points (7, 11, and 9 in 21 point games).

And while I wish I could have given him a better match, I left the court knowing that I had learned something about my game (how much work it needs) and that I had much room for improvement. Getting whomped gives you that humble feeling.

Oh yes, I learned something else. Chicago C's have no business on the same court with Cleveland A's. But if he calls again, I'll play. That's what I love about this sport. ●

Chuck Line

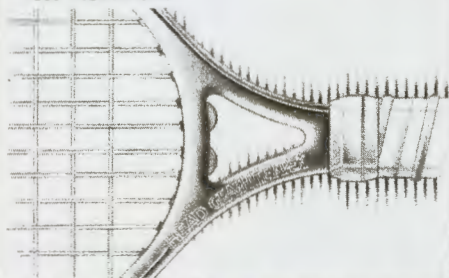
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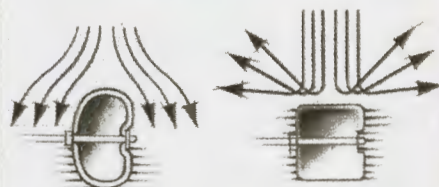
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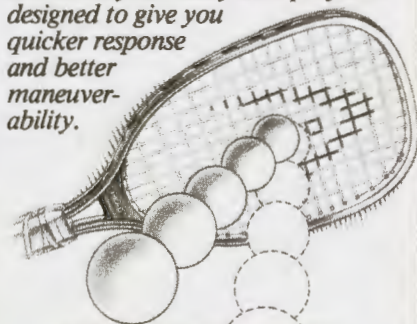


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New Test, Same Result: Open Eyeguards Flunk

by Linda Catanzaro Boberg, Associate Editor

As we went to press with our annual eyeguard issue (February, 1984), the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) published findings that supported the view that most eyeguards on the market today are inadequate.

"The Assessment of Ocular Protection for Racquetball," published in the December 23-30, 1983 issue of JAMA, presented the findings of Michael J. Feigelman, M.D., Joel Sugar, M.D., Norbert Jednock, John S. Read, M.S., and Peter L. Johnson, D.D.S.

At the time the testing was done, Dr. Feigelman and Sugar, Mr. Jednock and Mr. Read were from the Department of Ophthalmology of the University of Illinois Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Johnson is from the Eye and Ear Infirmary of the same. Dr. Feigelman is presently with the Wilmar Ophthalmological Institute, Baltimore.

They purchased 11 eyeguards—both open and closed lensed—from a Chicago area sporting goods store.

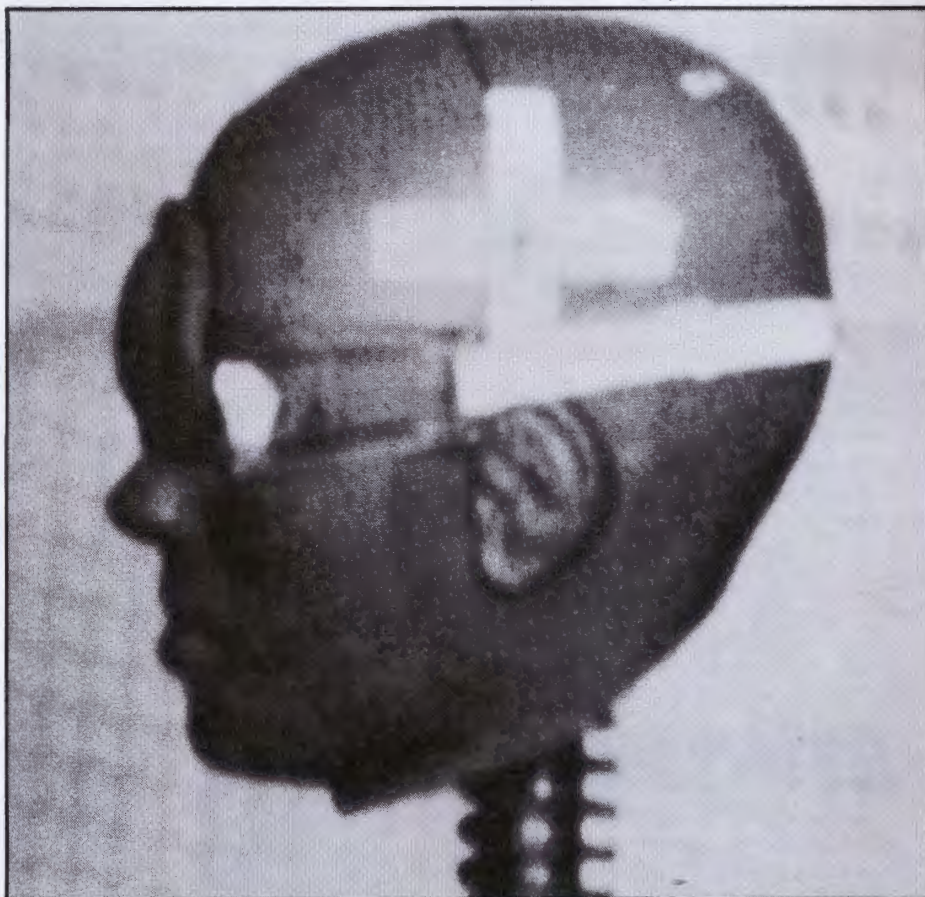
Following manufacturers' instructions, the guards were mounted to a headform which consisted of a human skull covered with latex to simulate *"Underlying soft-tissue thickness and skin structure."* This head was attached to an acrylic base which was clamped to plywood and attached to a metal table.

Using a commercial ball throwing machine, regular racquetballs were hurled at the head at approximately 70 mph. Photographic equipment recorded each shot. A fluid-filled pressure transducer was placed in the skull's left eye to confirm the impact.

The results of the test indicated that *all open eyeguards were useless.* The ball either penetrated the opening and touched the eye, or broke part of the frame.

Dress lenses—regular street wear glasses—failed the test as well. The lenses shattered upon impact.

Safety glasses did not shatter, but their frames broke and the lenses were dislodged. If an eyeguard survived a direct hit, it was tested again after the lens was scratched with a nail file. When safety glass lenses were scratched,



their impact resistance was damaged and the ball would break the lens and touch the eye.

Of the closed lensed guards, three failed because of shattered lenses. Four passed the test.

Those that passed all had similar characteristics: lenses were made of polycarbonate; the frame was a part of the entire eyeguard unit (such as in wrap-around models); the frame was made of polycarbonate or polyamide material; temporal hinges were not used in construction.

Although this report agrees with most of the *F803 Specifications for Eye Protectors for Use by Players of Racquet Sports* (the publication of the American Society and Testing Materials), it recommends that both the American and Canadian testing groups re-evaluate their specifications for eyeguard frames.

This is a frame of 16 mm film taken at 1000 frames per second which has been blown up to its present size. It shows a racquetball travelling at a velocity of approximately 100 miles per hour flattening out like a pancake as it impacts the eye protector on the headform.

The JAMA report indicates that if frame construction is poor, the eyeguard has a chance of not adequately protecting the eye or can cause damage to the eye.

JAMA also favors multiple hits to an eyeguard where the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and ASTM reports indicated that one blow to an eyeguard was sufficient enough to test its worth.

The ASTM and CSA specifications go beyond the JAMA report in that they both test visual requirements, angles of impact, impacts with racquets, markings, and flammability.

All of the reports agree on the single, major issue: Eyeguards—preferably closed lensed eyeguards—are necessary and vital racquetball equipment. Amen. ●

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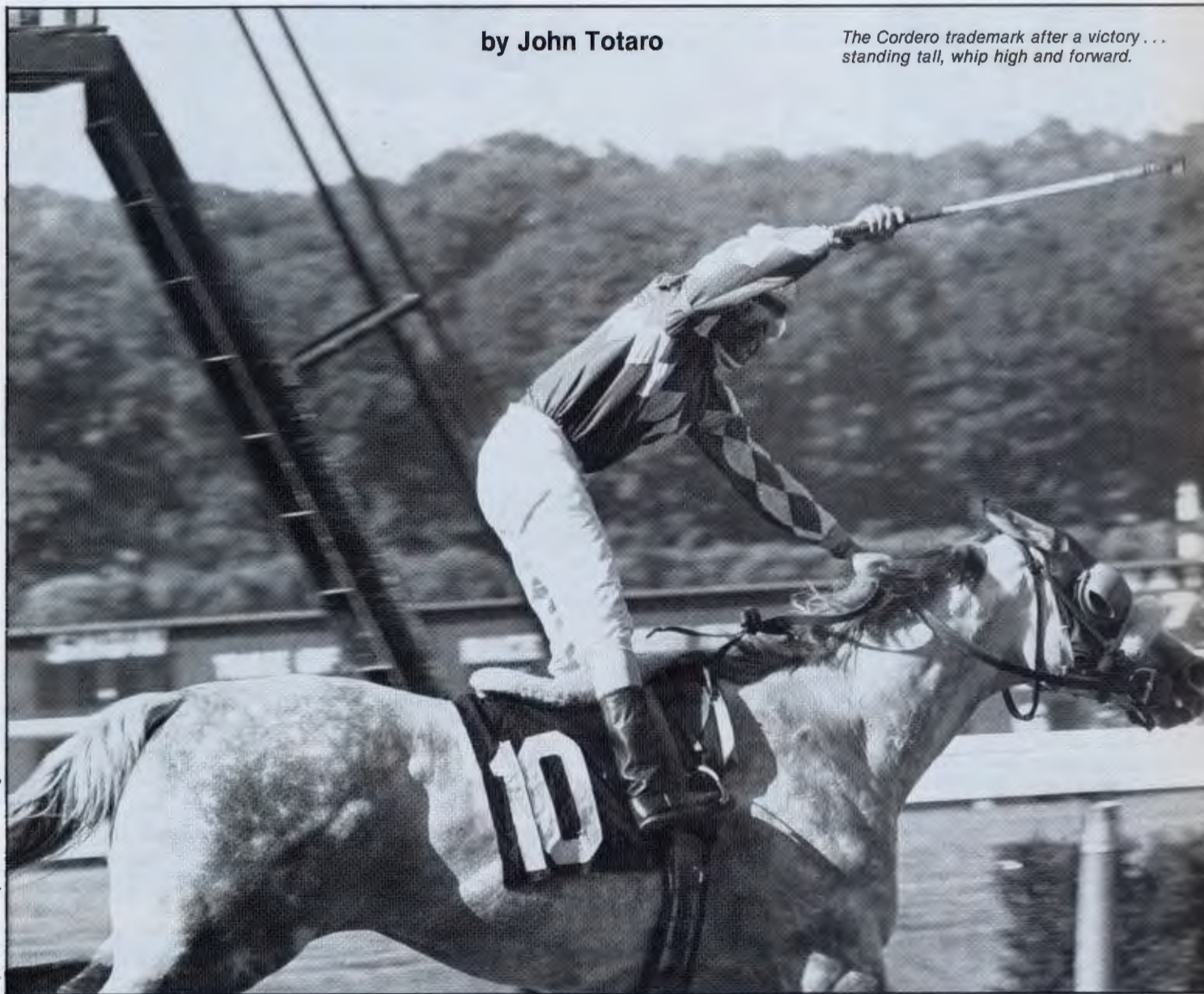
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Angel Cordero And Friends Handle Weighty Problem With Racquet In Hand

by John Totaro

The Cordero trademark after a victory... standing tall, whip high and forward.



For a professional jockey, maintaining weight on a daily basis is of the utmost importance, and can sometimes be a tedious chore. Angel Cordero Jr. tackles this "weighty problem" by playing racquetball, and he enjoys doing it.

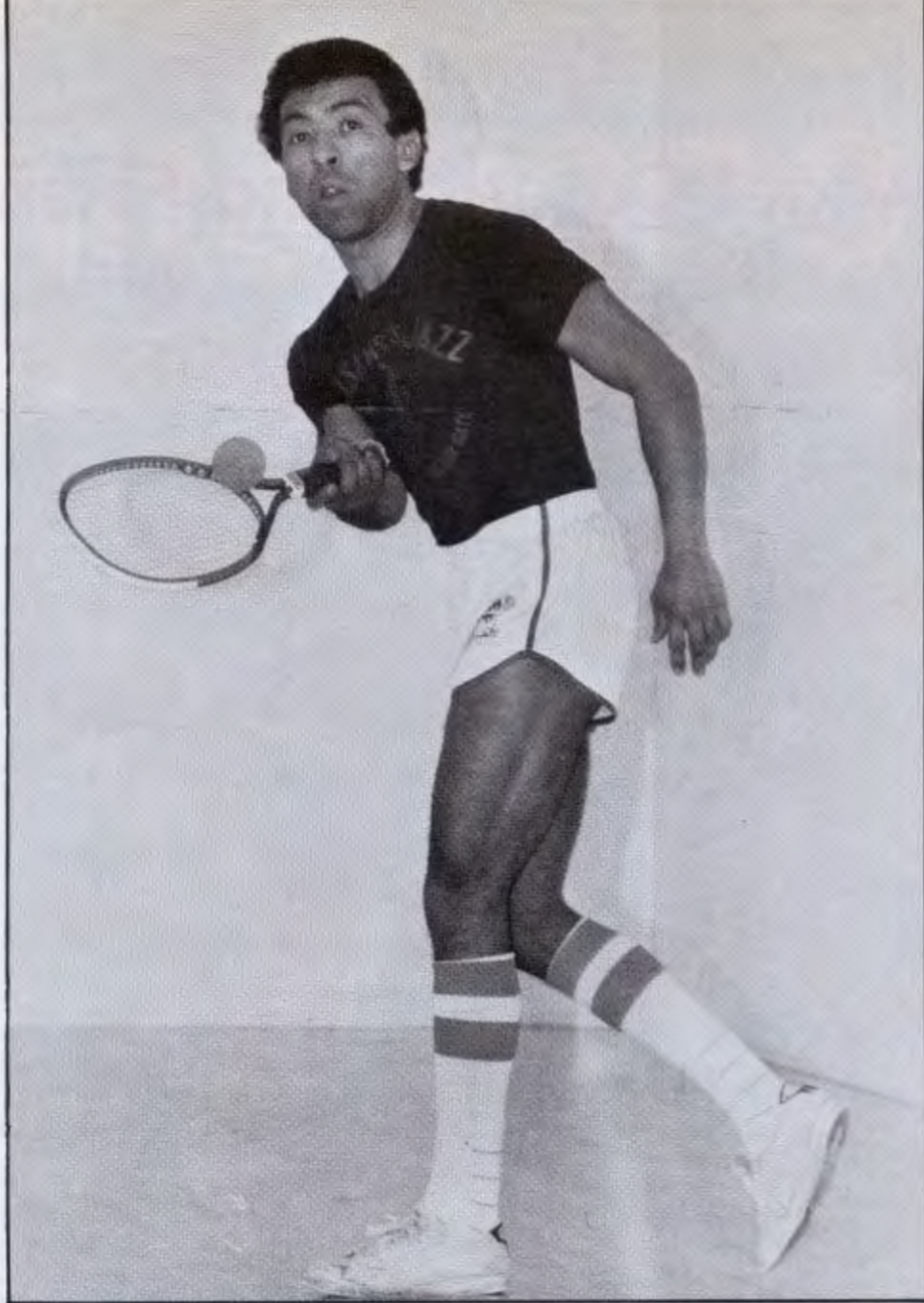
Cordero—1982 and 1983 Eclipse Award winner as the country's top rider and one of the most recognizable athletes in all of sport—and a host of other members

of the New York riding colony have taken to the hardwood of the racquetball court for exercise and relaxation.

For the better part of the last two years they have been gathering at the Centre Court Club in Rockville Centre, NY usually each Tuesday. (Tuesday is the only day of the week that thoroughbred racing is not run in New York.)

"I got into racquetball back in 1981," said Cordero recently in the jockey's room at Aqueduct Racetrack. "Ralph Theroux, a jockey's agent, took me to a club here one day and showed me what the game was all about. Then I went to California to ride that winter and trainer Wayne Lukas took me to his club, and we started playing two days a week out there. I've been at it ever since."

Angel Cordero



"It keeps me light," Cordero explained. "I don't sweat much, but I lose weight after playing. It keeps my weight down without any sacrifice, and it sharpens my reflexes for riding."

"Of all the sports I have played, racquetball is the best to keep you in condition," Cordero affirmed. "You need quick reflexes and have to make quick decisions on the court, just as you have to do on the racetrack."

"When you go between horses, get into trouble and really feel the dangers of riding and possibilities of becoming paralyzed or getting killed, that's when you can express your opinion about riding a horse," says Cordero. "People just don't realize how athletic jockeys are."

Cordero, born in Santurce, Puerto Rico on November 8, 1942, was introduced

to horses by his father who was a jockey and trainer at El Comandante Race Track in Puerto Rico.

He began riding at the same track in 1960 and came to New York in 1962. Despite winning his first race in July of that year, Cordero was not an instant success in the "Big Apple" and almost went back home in 1965.

Angel remembers those days as miserable times—he was commuting to the track by subway and was having difficulty mastering English and winning acceptance.

Cordero captured his first stakes win at Delaware Park in 1966, and since then has accumulated an impressive list of stakes triumphs that includes: The Kentucky Derby (1974 and 1976), the Preakness (1980), Belmont Stakes (1976), Coaching Club American Oaks (1973), Marlboro Cup (1978), Jockey

Club Gold Cup (1972 and 1983), and the Woodward (1978, 1981, 1982 and 1983), among others.

In 1983 Cordero set a new record for most stakes wins in a year eclipsing the old mark of 46 set by Willie Shoemaker.

In 1982, Angel became the first rider to amass over \$10 million in one year earnings, and he repeated that feat this season. With a little over a month left in the racing year, Cordero has an outside chance of becoming the first jockey to surpass the \$10 million plateau in purse earnings.

"Junior," as he is commonly referred to by the New York media, became just the fourth rider in history to win 5,000 races earlier this year.



Despite his achievements, Cordero has often been the recipient of the wrath of the sophisticated New York fans, and has had somewhat of a love-hate relationship in much the same manner as Reggie Jackson of the Yankees had during his tumultuous years with the Yankees.

"I am very flamboyant, so the public singles me out the way they did with Jackson and even Ali," says Cordero.

"New York fans like to root for New York horses, so even though they boo me and yell at me when I lose, I am their best friend when I beat a horse from the West Coast," the talented reinsman commented.

"Winning is a feeling that wipes out all the boos and the headaches," he continued. *"From the first day I came from Puerto Rico, nobody told me it would be easy."*

Angel has gone to the starting gate over 30,000 times and still rides with the same zeal and fervor that he did when he was a young apprentice. His competitiveness and will to win are just as evident on the racquetball court as they are on the racetrack.

Both Gregg McCarron and Frank Lovato Jr., who compete against Cordero at the three New York race courses—Aqueduct, Belmont and Saratoga—also compete against him on the racquetball court.

"Angel is a real competitor, and he tries just as hard to win at racquetball as he does at horse racing," says Lovato.

"Angel's aggressiveness sometimes hurts him in racquetball because he tries to chase the ball to attack it where many times he could wait and play it off the back wall," said McCarron, *"But Angel is a good player."*

Dennis Gannon, the pro at the Centre Court Club where the jockeys most often play has also noticed Cordero's intensity on the court.

"Jockeys in general are built well for racquetball because they are small, compact and quick," opines Gannon. *"Angel is a real intense guy and he plays with enthusiasm. If he had more time to play, he could develop into a real top player."*

Jockeys have less free-time than many other professional athletes because there is simply not an off-season. The New York tracks are open year round with only one day off per week.

In spite of his busy schedule, Cordero's love for racquetball has grown to such a degree over the last couple years that he has found a way to play even when riding days at Belmont and Aqueduct and nights at the Meadowlands.

"It's tough to play racquetball on the Island when I am riding at the Meadowlands at night, so I joined a club in Secaucus, NJ called Club Meadowlands and I play there with my wife and fellow jockey Lauren Ayoub before riding in the evening," said Angel.

"Sometimes I even play after the races at the Meadowlands. It's relaxing to get on the court after a long day riding horses."

Though Cordero is considered by many to be the best rider among a strong group of New York jockeys he is, by his own admission, not the best at chasing the little blue ball.

"Gregg McCarron is the best among us," analyzes Cordero. *"He is a very good player."*

"McCarron is real good," echoes Frank Lovato. *"I've played against him several times and have only been able to defeat him once. He's a good finesse player, and could probably beat a lot of people that play regularly."*

What does McCarron think about his "number one ranking"?

"I've been playing longer than the other riders," he says modestly. *"I first became acquainted with the game back in 1973 when I was riding in Maryland, and I started playing regularly about two years ago. I get to play about three or four times a month and I would categorize myself as a low B player."*

"It's a good way to pull weight," confirms McCarron. *"If I have to make weight on a particular day, I will play racquetball the night before. After three or four vigorous games, I will go home,*

Gregg McCarron, acknowledged best among the jockeys.



have a glass of orange juice, and go to sleep. The next morning I will weigh two or three pounds less."

"It's better than sitting in the hot box and losing only liquids, and besides, it's fun," said the outgoing reinsman. *"You can play at any level and you can enjoy it without being a real good player. That's what I really like about the sport."*

While Cordero uses racquetball as part of his training, he still maintains that the only way to keep in top riding shape is by riding horses in competition.

"It's great for stamina and helps keep me fit, but if I don't ride for five or six days I get real tired when I come back," Cordero says. *"Even though I ride all year long I don't get in my best riding shape until we go to Saratoga in August."*

At the age of 41, Angel is still at the top of his game, but sometimes entertains the thought of retiring. He has talked of riding a year in California and a year in Europe, and then becoming a trainer.

Whenever Angel does leave his saddle and goggles behind, you can rest assured he will be seen more regularly on the racquetball court, but until then the tricky caroms will continue to be just an aside to stretch runs and photo finishes. ●

John Totaro is on the press staff of the New York Racing Association.

Racquetball The Japanese Way

by Chuck Sheftel

On September 20, 1983 I was fortunate to be invited to Japan to lecture and do clinics on racquetball representing the American Professional Racquetball Organization (APRO) as its founder and President. I was unprepared to absorb the evolution and development of racquetball in Japan.

Three years ago a Japanese man named Ken Ueyama asked me to teach him how to become a racquetball teacher. He envisioned racquetball blossoming soon in Japan and wanted to be in the forefront.

For two weeks I taught him racquetball. He stayed with my family for that period and we enjoyed his stay with us immensely, due in large part to the education he gave us on the oriental way of life.

Having experienced many cultures during my three years as a Peace Corps volunteer I relished the idea of such a cultural exchange.

We did not hear much from Ken for awhile (although he did send over a Japanese woman to learn racquetball from me). Thus, I knew he was continuing his quest to promote racquetball.

But some problems started to evolve that paralleled the United States' past and present problems. Politics between rival factions, owners, organizations, and associations were already arising and stunting the purity of growth. Racquetball was going to develop in Japan all right, but it was also going to have the "developing syndrome" of everyone competing with everyone instead of everyone assisting everyone for the overall welfare of the sport.

Two years passed and while we never received an invitation, we heard that Marty Hogan, Jennifer Harding, Dave Peck and a few others had ventured to Japan for short periods to show the Japanese some racquetball. They were warmly welcomed but the time was not yet ripe — the Japanese were unable to comprehend the skills and intricacies of these mastered styles.

Then in December of 1982 Ken invited me to come to Japan to certify racquetball teachers. Unfortunately, I had to decline the offer because my wife had recently died and my four-year-old and I could not handle such a trip at that time. Waiting all this time and turning down the invitation was quite painful.

Chuck Sheftel



Then in June of 1983, Ken called and said he wanted to meet me at O'Hare airport in Chicago. To my delight he re-offered the opportunity to lecture in Japan in September and October of 1983 and even bring my son with me.

On September 20, 1983 Chuck and Bradley Sheftel went to Tokyo, Japan.

After a 12 hour direct, non-stop flight to Tokyo we arrived at Narita airport to

the smiling and familiar faces of Ken and his pretty wife Tammi. We were to stay at their home (known around the Japanese racquetball circuit as the "Ueyama Hotel") for four weeks. They were to become the most gracious hosts I have ever encountered.

We experienced Japan by living like Japanese and having it explained to us by Japanese. This, in my mind, is the only way to truly understand the culture. Other racquetball visitors enjoyed the luxurious, first class hotels and Western style living which could not truly allow them to imbibe the Japanese way of life.

Japan is a completely different culture than I have ever previously experienced — so embedded in tradition while at the same time very technologically advanced. Tradition is apparent in every path of life. In fact, even the opening of the fabulous Bachamichi Racquetball Club and the 1st Annual Bachamichi Racquetball Tournament was steeped in tradition.

The owner of the club, Toshiyuki Koro, was the person who sponsored me to come to Japan to lecture on and teach racquetball. This club was his second in Yokohama, a city only one hour by train from Tokyo (a small distance for commuters in Japan).



The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the Bachamichi Racquetball Club. That's Toshiyuki Koro (second from left — grey suit) and Chuck Sheftel on Koro's left.

The Bachamichi is the most luxurious of the 12 existing racquetball clubs in Japan. It has six racquetball courts, all with glass back walls, and an all-glass court that was probably nicer than any I have seen in the United States. The 500 seats that surround the court electronically collapse into the wall. The computerized scoreboards also add to the first class appearance of the club.

We got acclimated quickly into the racquetball scene because the tournament began the day after we arrived. This was the biggest tournament that had ever taken place in Japan with 225 participants, 100 more than the previous all-Japanese tournament.

The tournament scene in Japan is very similar to the United States; everyone knows everyone. The same faces always turn up at all the tournaments. Players still stroll around in warm-ups sporting a bag with two or three racquets.

The difference to me, of course, was that everyone looked strange and spoke a strange language. I was lost in a sea of Japanese people speaking Japanese. The curious thing was that I actually could tell what they were talking about because I understood the language of racquetball.

Everyone very methodically signed up at the registration desk and received their personalized key chain. After that they looked at the draw sheet, warmed-up and got ready for the first round matches. Routine warm-ups and massages were being performed throughout the club. The procedures of this Japanese tournament were very meticulous.

Before the tournament could begin the opening ceremonies for the Bachamichi Racquetball Club had to commence. I had a front row seat for this ceremony because I was one of the honored guests. The lights dimmed and the spotlight aimed toward the Japanese and Bachamichi Club flags while the national anthem blared. All were silent.

Then came the speeches from all the dignitaries of the racquetball world and the city of Yokohama culminating in the ribbon cutting ceremony. I was one of the four people to have the high honor of cutting the ribbon to open this spectacular club.

When the Japanese give awards, they do it the right way!



I was given white gloves with the gold scissor. Then Koro-san ("san" is put after the name for respect) gave the word and snip . . . the ribbon was cut.

Smiles burst out and Koro-san's dream had come true. He walked into the glass court and formally hit the first ball. The crowd cheered. The tournament could now begin.

The players dress like American players. English words, names, and manufacturers adorn shirts, warm-up suits, and sweaters. It is very fashionable now so at least I could understand the sayings or advertising on their wearing apparel.

But I could not understand language because very few Japanese speak English. Some can read it and slightly understand it, but few speak it. I was shocked to see how difficult it was to communicate in Japan because of this language barrier. I had been expecting many Japanese to speak English.

The players went to their courts with their referees who were equipped with wireless microphones that were programmed into their particular court.

The lights dimmed, save the spotlight on the flags, as the national anthem blared forth.



Wouldn't you know the Japanese to have the best speaker system?

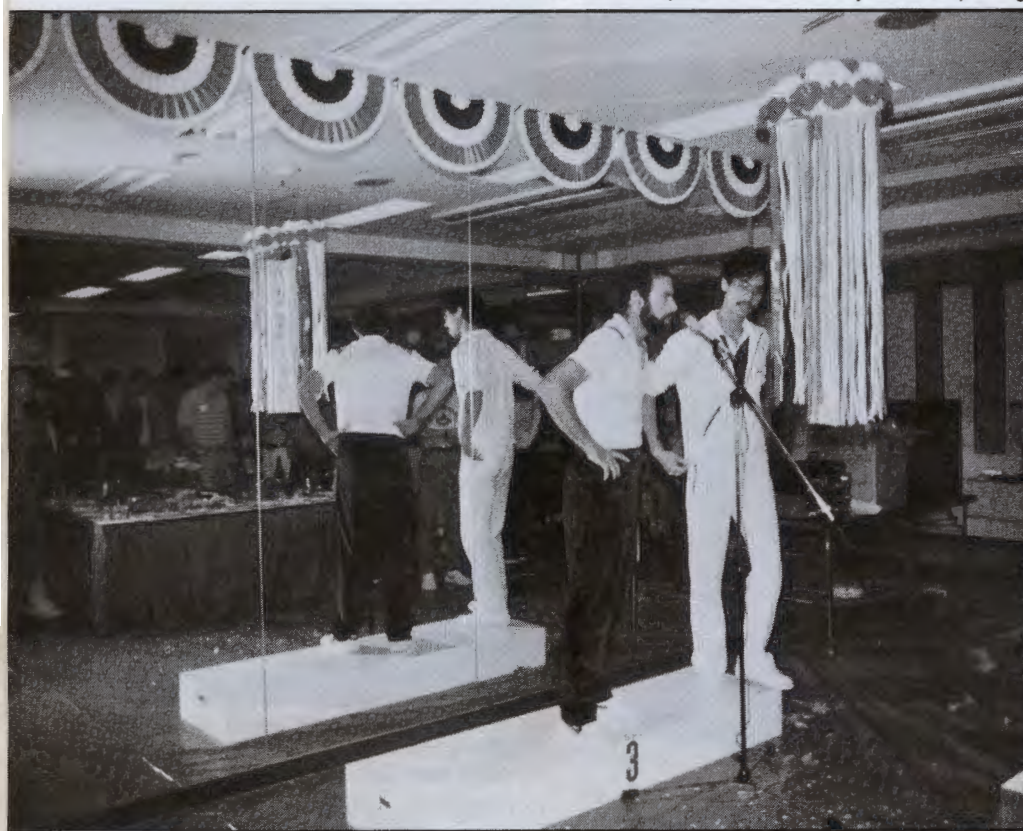
The players were extremely talented for the short period of time they've been playing racquetball. The best player two years ago was not even ranked this year. The top two players were originally champions in squash and tennis which was quite evident in their styles. Ken and I tried our luck in their first Japanese doubles tournament but lost to the champion squash player and his partner 21-18, 21-15. I guess I'll have to travel to another country to get my trophy. Never give up!

The only unsportsmanlike behavior occurred from the foreigners ("guyjean" in Japanese). The Japanese rarely appeal a call from the referee. The only Japanese who did appeal were those who had visited the United States and had been contaminated with American on-court antics. When one did hear explicatives, wall pounding, screaming, and/or continuous appeals — it was always coming from the "guyjean" court. When two Japanese play, they play racquetball. This was quite a refreshing sight for these sore eyes after watching over 10 years of the theatrics of so much racquetball in the United States.

The spectators were also interesting.

Racquetball The Japanese Way

Sheftel makes another speech with Ken Ueyama interpreting.



the two locks I always carry on my sports bag, quite an unusual feeling for this American.

Japanese players are definitely divers, literally flying around the courts. They do not do anything halfway so a ball hit is a ball that can be returned. They are very disciplined in their approach to life which is evident in their quick learning of racquetball.

I taught people different strokes or shots and I would constantly see them practicing what they learned day after day on the court . . . alone. They were not *playing* racquetball they were *practicing* it until they achieved success. Discipline combined with patience is their way of life and it reaches into the sports world as well.

For lunch some of the players did resort to the local McDonalds. The American fast food craze has hit Japan in a big way, especially for young people. Our diseases and obesity also accompany this trend. I heard that 10 years ago you could not even find a "fat" person in Japan. There are a few now and ever-increasing with the surge of Wendy's, McDonalds, 31 Flavors, Dunkin Donuts and others.

No one walked into the club with their street shoes on. Sinful. People were given plastic bags to put their shoes in while they walked around the club in their stocking feet. Applause could seldom be heard. Jeers from the crowds were non-existent. It was generally a very conservative and reserved crowd that showed only hints of any overt reactions.

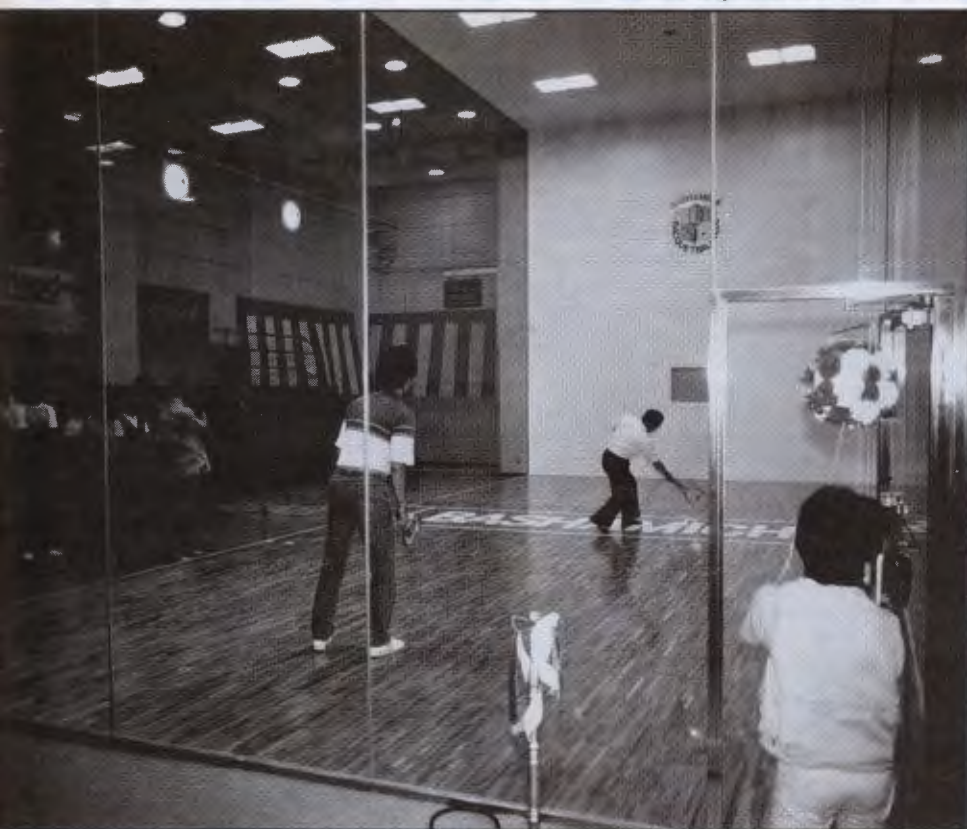
Another hard custom for me to accept was that anything could be left around the club without the suspicion of it being stolen. There is nearly no theft in Japan. Ken actually told me to leave my camera, passport, and money ("yen") near the registration desk. I flinched but accepted his word.

I returned a bit nervous (because I'm American) to find my bag untouched. This phenomenon always occurred. Cars were left open with thousands of yen inside them, wallets were lost and returned intact, belongings were left on tables and other instances without anything ever being stolen. No one needed to strap chains or locks on their bags for club lockers. I was able to discard



The awards ceremony, with class.

A good view of the glass championship court at the Bashamichi Racquetball Club.
It rivals any court the author's seen.



While they indulged in the American junk food, I meandered down to the local *sushi* (raw fish) bar and enjoyed my yellowtail, tuna, octopus, squid, and seaweed while comfortably sitting crosslegged on the tatami mats.

The tournament continued with the typically happy and sad faces walking throughout the club. The whirlpools became the conversation area for all those tired and aching muscles. But an ancient American racquetball tradition did prevail in Japan — matches fell behind about one hour.

The evening brought an exciting time too, the catered banquet. It was not the typical "racquetball dinner" of submarine sandwiches or pizza. Instead, *tofu* (bean curd) *sushi*, chinese chicken, finger sandwiches, tempura vegetables, and other Japanese favorites were the order.

But before anyone could eat, a toast ("*compie*") must be made. Everyone raised their beer (and some orange drink) glasses and toasted the tournament.

"*Compie*," everyone shouted.

The dinner then began with the clanging of chopsticks devouring the food. The beer was poured but in a rather unique way. No one ever pours their own beer. Someone else must pour your beer or drinks.

I gave a short speech about how the Japanese were excelling in racquetball quicker than the players in the United States had. The crowd roared. After drinking and eating quite a lot we adjourned home to our beds ("*futons*" or mattresses that lay on the floor).

On Sunday all the finals occurred on the glass court. The Men's A singles pitted squash player against tennis player. The squash player won in two games because the tennis player became exhausted and just could not dig down for enough energy to win. I would rank the top players of Japan with low Open players of the United States. That's quite a feat considering they have been playing for such a short period of time.

The Women's A singles finalists had met in the finals for almost every

previous tournament. These two know each other like sisters. The favorite won again to capture the coveted crown. I would rank these women among the high women A players in the U.S.

But the best was yet to come — the awards ceremony.

In Japan, the winners do not do as we do in the United States, i.e., walking up to the front desk, declaring your victory to the desk person, who in turn abruptly throws you your trophy.

The awards presentation actually took 45 minutes — to prepare! Floor coverings went into the glass court so that large tables with prizes and medallions could be set up. Presentation stands, placards, banners, music, microphones and spotlights had to be positioned in just the right places for the grand occasion.

Then the fanfare really began. The national anthem played and each divisional winner marched in. The Olympics had seemingly arrived at the Bashamichi Racquetball Club. Koro-san was inside the glass court with his helpers poised to give out the gold, silver, and copper medallions. The winners of each division proceeded up to the tiered staircase to receive their handful of gifts and appropriate medallion.

Then as they marched out dignitaries were asked to hold candles and twirl flash lights while the promenade music played. Quite a spectacle!

The tournament ended with all contestants saying farewell until the next event. And while it would be a few months, the players would definitely return to their home courts to practice, practice, practice! I hope to return annually to participate in this festive event and witness the rapid skill development of the Japanese.

This tournament was a tournament to be remembered, especially for an American. We should take a long look at such a classy act. We can learn something. ●

Mike Yellen: Racquetball's Ambassador To Europe

by Cathy Urquhart-Hoy

Racquetball has grown up in America. The sport's infancy in the 1960's meant teaching a nation about racquetball. Growth in the 1970's meant watching clubs spring up nationwide faster than Mike Yellen's kill shot. And in the 80's, stabilization in the sport today means that an estimated eight million people play racquetball.

Racquetball is past its "fad" stages in the U.S. and is settling in with athletes who play because they love the sport, not necessarily because it's the "in" thing to do. That means a solid business foundation for companies whose product bases of racquets, equipment and clothing is targeted to the serious racquetball player.

But what about racquetball in Europe? We hear rumors now and then. We get glimpses of European players who come over to "the states" to compete every so often. But how is racquetball really being received in Europe?

Mike Yellen, America's premiere racquetball player, got a glimpse of how racquetball is faring in Europe recently while on a promotional tour for Ektelon, the leading racquet manufacturer.

Until 1983 Ektelon had been distributing its products throughout Europe via a network of independent sales representatives — very similar, in fact, to how Ektelon products are distributed in the U.S. A year ago Fabrique Nationale, the parent company of Ektelon and Browning, took over worldwide distribution of Ektelon's entire racquet and equipment line.

Fabrique National wanted to introduce racquetball American-style to players who are anxious to know more about the sport, more about equipment and more about how Americans play this fast, around-the-wall ball game. The company decided to enlist the talents of Yellen, America's number-one ranked men's pro, to spread the word to Europe's enthusiastic, but relatively inexperienced, players.

Yellen flew into Brussels on October 13th for what was to be a whirlwind promotional tour of four countries in three weeks — Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands. Jean Marie Martin, Fabrique National's promotion and sales rep assigned to the trip, met Yellen at the airport and for the next weeks acted as tour guide, interpreter, and booking agent — wisking Ektelon's star pro from one clinic to the next and introducing him to a wide range of European beer, food and culture (in that order?).

"Basically I was there to do exhibition matches and clinics," Yellen says. "For instance, to talk about equipment and products, to do demonstrations and answer questions about the game, and then to do exhibition matches with the best players — pretty much what I do at my clinics here in the U.S."

Yellen's clinics here in the states, however, don't generally include much discussion on the state of the sport — a subject that stirred great interest on the part of the Europeans he met.

"They just wanted to know a lot about the game in general since it's still so new to them," he says. "They wanted to know how many clubs we have, and the number of players here, and generally what racquetball is all about in the United States."

"They were simply amazed at the number of racquetball facilities we have access to here. For instance, I used my hometown of Southfield, Michigan, as an example and they couldn't get over the fact that within a five-mile radius from my home there are more than 100 courts."

Where racquet club facilities do exist in Europe — and from the information that Yellen was provided with, only 16 non-military facilities are listed for all of France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands — courts are limited to but a handful. The largest club Yellen visited was the Playoff Club in Arhensburg, Germany, which boasted six courts, five of which were glass back walls. The average was three courts per club — in all, only 31 courts in the 11 facilities he visited.



The scarcity of court facilities became most apparent to Yellen in Paris, France, where he was invited to attend the grand opening of one of the first racquetball courts in all of France.

"The club owner had asked all the top European players to attend and when he heard that I was in Europe he invited me to conduct an exhibition match and clinic as part of the grand opening festivities," said Mike.

"The whole thing was a really big event, and yet they were only opening one court. It was amazing."

Yellen made good use of a copy of the November issue of *Playboy* that he picked up on the trip. In it was an article by Arthur Shay called "High Voltage Racquetball" which highlights some heavy statistics on the state of the sport in the U.S.

Yellen in his familiar role:

teaching racquetball clinic-style. This time he was in Europe, instructing listeners.



For instance, Shay points out that of the 8-10 million racquetball players in the United States, half are at the A or B level or better. His article also notes that there are more than 30,000 courts in this country and that racquetball comprises a half-billion dollar industry in and of itself. They were facts and figures that Yellen used frequently in his clinics to emphasize the tremendous popularity that the sport enjoys in his home country.

"They were really amazed because in Europe racquetball is so very new," Yellen says. *"The sport is in its infant stages really — where racquetball was here maybe 20 years ago."*

If racquetball is still in its developmental stages in Europe, so too are the racquets and equipment that Europeans are learning the game with.

"I spent a lot of time talking about equipment," Yellen says. *"They wanted to know about racquets and other equipment like eyeguards. I think they were really surprised to find out that Ektelon is the leader in the industry."*

"The top players there, of course, have access to the better American products and at that level I saw players using better equipment. But I'd guess that maybe 90 percent of the players there are playing with limited brands of equipment simply because it has been the only thing they could get their hands on up until now."

"They were especially curious about the racquets I brought with me for the exhibitions. The CBK caught the most looks and comments. I think that was mostly because it looks so different because it doesn't have a throatpiece. But everyone also was interested to see how it played too and I think they were really impressed."

"They were also amazed that we actually have clothing that is made especially for racquetball. In Germany and Belgium where they are so new to the sport, most people don't even know that companies like Ektelon exist, let alone that they provide all these different kinds of products for the game."

If racquetball is still in its infant stages in Europe, so too was the level of play that Yellen saw generally.

"Most of the Europeans I worked with were right at the beginning levels, some at the intermediate stages," he says. *"I spent a lot of time going through the basic checkpoints of the game just as I would for a beginner's clinic here — you know, swing, shot selection, position strategy and safety."*

"In the Netherlands they were a little more advanced with the game. I spent a couple days working with the Dutch National Team and for the most part they were good players — in fact, they had players who were capable of successfully playing in the Open ranks here in the U.S."

"A lot of questions came up about the professional level of play here — what the pro circuit was like for instance. They seemed to be very professionally oriented about the game and when it came time to do the exhibition matches they really played 150 percent to beat me. I'm not sure they understood that it was intended more for instruction rather than all-out play."

In Germany, all but one of the clubs that Yellen visited were on U.S. military bases where he spent time working with Americans stationed there.

"They had some really good players on those bases," he says. *"Most of them already knew a lot about the sport in general and as a result I spent less time talking about equipment and basics. They really wanted to know"*

European Racquetball Facilities

Yellen gets some decent competition from Robert Gordon — the play in Europe does need some time . . . we got a kick out of the exit sign. How else?

1. Candries Sports Center, Mechelen, Belgium — one court, glass back wall.
2. The Shape Military Base, Belgium — two courts.
3. Racket Center Westvliet, Leidschendam, Netherlands — two courts, both glass back walls.
4. Racketcenter DeLeyens, Zoetermeer, Netherlands — three courts, all glass back walls.
5. Stuttgart, Germany — Military Base, one court.
6. Weisbaden, Germany Military Base, three courts, two glass back walls.
7. Ramstein, Germany, Military Base, six courts.
8. Mannheim, Germany, Military Base, two courts.
9. Playoff Club — Arhensburg, Germany, six courts, five glass back walls.
10. Racket Centrum, Zwejndrecht, Zwejndrecht, Netherlands — four courts, three glass back walls.
11. Squash-Racquet Club De France, Paris, France — one court, glass back wall.

more about the finer points of the game. Also at the one non-military facility I visited in Germany I had the chance to work with the German National Team. The top couple of players for the team looked like they could play in our Open division too.

"An amusing thing happened at one of the bases where we were scheduled to do a clinic," Yellen recalls. "We were late getting to the clinic in the first place and then after rushing to get there they stopped us at the gate and wouldn't let us in. Apparently because of all the protesting that was going on over the nuclear missile deployment in Europe, the base was taking extremely strict security measures. They detained us for more than 30 minutes before they could confirm that we indeed were there with clearance. And in the meantime we had all these people waiting for us wondering where we were."

A potential stumbling block to racquetball's growth in Europe, Yellen feels, is the fragmentation of organization between the different countries as the sport gains momentum. Most of the countries have national teams and the beginnings of racquetball organizations.

"And yet the countries are so small and there are so many different languages, that the lack of organized communication seems to have hindered the growth of the sport," he says.

"Because racquetball is so new there, and because it's starting to experience rapid popularity among players, there are constantly new developments that are going on. What has to happen is the communication must be there between the different countries and organizations for everyone to be aware of new developments. They've done a great job up until now with what they've had to work with.

"And yet the players themselves are so incredibly supportive of the sport," Yellen says. "They think nothing of traveling long distances — across entire countries — to support grand openings and tournaments like the one we were at in Paris. That is what is going to make racquetball keep on going in Europe."

What about communication at Yellen's clinics — were language barriers a problem?

"Not really," he says. "Most everyone spoke English and when somebody didn't understand something one of the other players could usually help."

They just spoke racquetball. ●

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Gabriela Pozuelo: Miss Costa Rica

by Carole George



Many women worry that they can't be a lady and an athlete. Not Gabriela Pozuelo! As Miss Costa Rica 1983 and one of the top racquetball players in her country, she has proven that a woman need not give up one to be the other. She is definitely both a lady and an athlete.

"The way of thinking of women in Costa Rica is strange," admits Pozuelo, a strikingly sensual woman with long, blonde hair and dark Latin eyes. *"Being a lady means doing nothing. It's a hard way to say it, but it's the truth. I think a woman can do whatever she wants to do if she still knows how to be a lady."*

Pozuelo is most definitely a woman who can do whatever she wants to. At 23 she has already competed in every sport imaginable: tennis, squash, horseback riding, tae kwon do, volleyball, swimming, track and field, basketball, softball, and racquetball.

She has a full-time job selling advertising, marketing, and publicity design and one day dreams of owning her own advertising agency. She was studying marketing and advertising in college, but had to interrupt her studies to do all the traveling connected with her present title as Miss Costa Rica.

"They asked me two times before if I would enter the Miss Costa Rica contest to represent my country, and finally, the third time I said 'yes,' said Pozuelo.

She beat out 10 women in the finals and then found herself sailing off to St. Louis, MO in July, 1983 for the Miss Universe Pageant. She didn't win it — she hadn't expected to — but she fully enjoyed the three weeks, all paid for by the pageant.

"All the women were competing for more pictures, more interviews, to meet more important people, have more eyes on her — superficial things," she said. *"I knew I didn't have a chance to win. So I just had an open mind to see everything and really enjoy my time because I wasn't competing in that way."*

However, her sports background did attract the attention of the media. She was the envy of all when the local paper wrote a story on her athletic accomplishments. Pozuelo's goal is to someday represent Costa Rica in the Olympics. She already has played in two international racquetball competitions and hopes to attend the second World Championships this July in Sacramento, CA.

Pozuelo really enjoyed the North American championships which she and her teammates entered in March, 1983. She was greatly impressed by the U.S. team and found all of the players very friendly. But their serious attitude was something new to her.

Preparing to put one away in the right corner.



"Latins are crazy. We drink alcohol, party, come in late," she said. *"We don't care if we're in the competition representing our country or not. But North Americans have it inside their hearts and minds that they've been working really hard."*

Carole George is a well known author, photographer and racquetball player residing in Santa Cruz, CA, and traveling the world in search of racquetball stories and friends.

Gabriela attacks with a forehand.



—photos by Carole George

"I spend a lot of time, too, practicing sports. But I really enjoy my drinks and I like to get home late. Even if I'm competing, I don't forget that I'm a person and I have one life. I don't care if I lose. That's true, not just bull."

Pozuelo's lifestyle has gotten even crazier since she accepted the title of Miss Costa Rica. She has travelled all over the world, which is something she loves to do. She is like an ambassador from her country and even has a diplomatic passport which gives her special privileges.

Since tourism is one of the major revenue sources for Costa Rica, Pozuelo spends a lot of time convincing people what a wonderful place it is for a vacation. In a typical week she might fly from Miami to Texas to Mexico City to Los Angeles, making appearances for Costa Rican airlines, travel agencies, beauty pageants, and sports events.

Still, she's not quite crazy enough to want to appear in a magazine like *Playboy*.

"I don't need to be there, first of all," she explained. "I love my body. I don't like it if someone I don't know or I don't like looks at me in that way. I don't want to let them think something about me. Some of these women are probably trying to sell their bodies. They're giving you the chance to think in that way, at least."

"My body is something I love, something I'm going to live with the rest of my life. I don't need to sell it. I give it to the ones I love. There are so many ways to give your body."

This lady's definitely not for sale. She enjoys men and could easily be married already, but for now Pozuelo feels she has too many other things to see and do before settling down.

"But I will love marriage!" she says enthusiastically "I hope I will continue in sports after I have kids. But first I would want to spend one, two, three years just with my husband—not just for fun, but to get to know each other, to learn if we want to spend the rest of our lives together. Then I want to have kids. But you never know. I love to live my life day by day."

If the past is any indication of what the future can bring, then each day should lavish more excitement and more accomplishments on Gabriela Pozuelo. With all the brains, beauty, and brawn that she has, nothing should stand in the way between her and her dreams.

Neither racquetball nor Costa Rica could imagine a better international ambassador. ●

Discover Your Low Drive Serve Target

by Steve Strandemo

This is a "cautionary" article for all those players who consider the low drive serve to be one of their major weapons.

The optimum front wall target for the low drive serve is extremely small, leaving very little margin for error. Not even the best players, pros included, can expect to hit this tiny four-by-nine inch area 100 percent of the time.

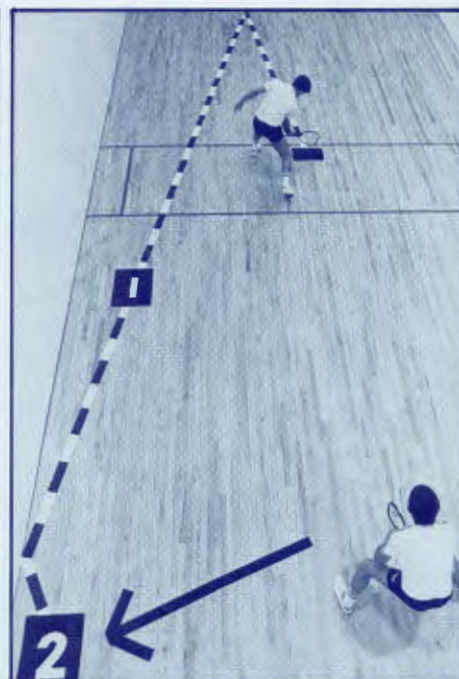
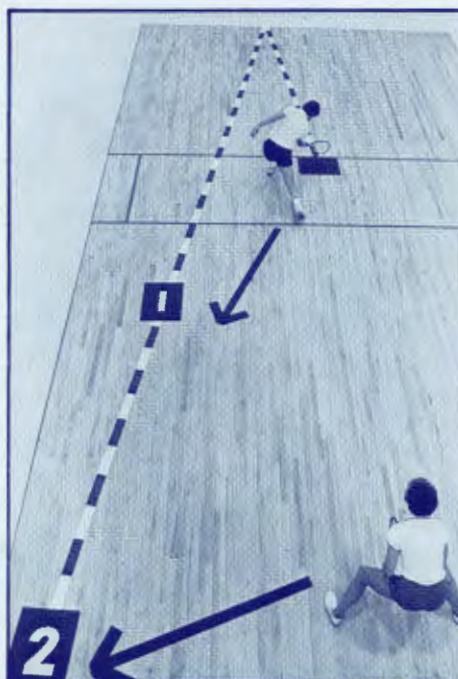
So given that we're all going to shoot errantly on many of our low drive serves we should be aware of the consequences of hitting above, below, and to the sides of the "bullseye," and learn which type of miss-hit serve will do us the least amount of damage.

Using three imaginary players I will illustrate their optimum low drive serve and show how their skill and strength of serve dictate how high they have to aim on the front wall to keep the ball in the right direction and off the back wall.

First, what are we seeking from the perfect, low drive serve?

The ball can take one of two basic angles into the back corner: it can travel directly into the corner, taking two bounces without hitting the side wall (*Photo 1*), or it can nick deep along the left wall (*Photo 2*). In both cases the ball bounces twice before reaching the back wall and forces the receiver to use a good crossover step to make the return.

In *Photo 3* we see that the angle of a low drive serve depends on the ball being hit in the service box at a very specific height and striking the front wall at a particular spot in order to hit



Photos 1 & 2. The major goal of a low drive serve is to either (1) send the ball straight into the back corner, or (2) have the ball nick the side wall on its way to the back corner.

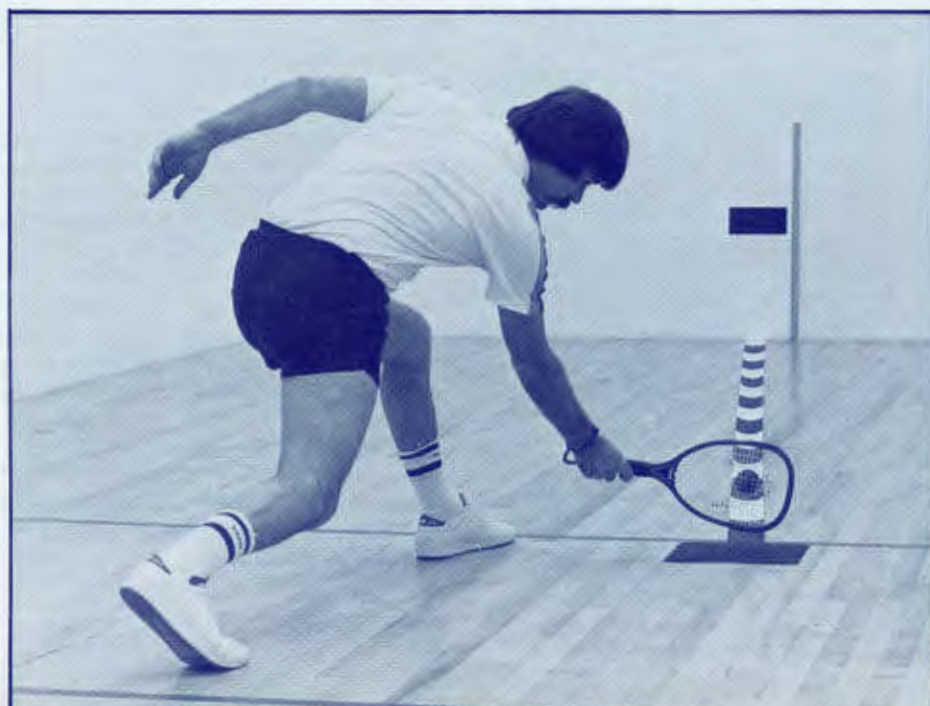


Photo 3. The important component parts of the low drive serve are the height of racquet contact, the proper angle into the front wall, and the height of your target on the front wall. Take the time to get these parts well integrated into your game.



the ideal target. This target should be visualized about two feet to the left of where your racquet meets the ball in the service box. All players should go through a drill to discover his or her own optimum target.

What happens when you don't hit a perfect, low drive serve (Photo 4)?

If you strike zone "0," just above the target, the ball will kick back too deep into the rear of the court and rebound off the back wall, thus giving your opponent time to position himself for the return and use the direction already on the ball to make a very accurate offensive shot into the front wall.

If you hit just to the left of the target in zone "1," the ball will kick off the side wall in the air, carom into the deep middle of the back court, forcing you to relinquish a good center court position and giving your opponent the advantage of a large hitting lane down the wall.

When you serve just to the right in the area marked "2," you are not gaining any advantage, but you are not giving away any either, because a good referee will call this serve a screen. As long as the ball lands in the back court you will get that first serve over again.

A serve that lands in area number "3" and falls short of the target is definitely the place to miss, because you then have the opportunity to make a well-directed second serve. Hopefully, that second serve will reach your opponent around shoulder height forcing him up to the ceiling with his return.

In brief, when going for the low drive serve, concentrate on the "good" area and make sure that any "misses" fall short below the target where they will do you the least harm. (Photo 5).

Using three different players as examples, I would like to demonstrate how the optimum target moves up and down the front wall depending on the

Photo 4. Here we see the dimensions of the low drive target and the four miss-hit options. Be objective and realize you will never hit the "good" area 100% of the time.

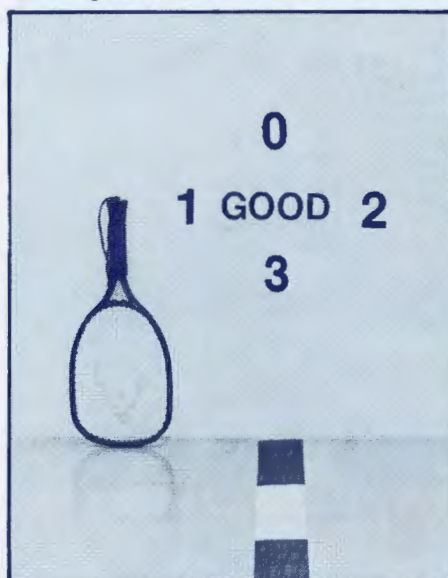


Photo 5. All the best servers in the game go for the "good" area or bring their serve in short. Even the top pros realize they can't be accurate all of the time; what's important is that they have the proper mental approach to low drive serving.



Photo 6. Here's an example taken from behind the hard hitter's racquet, to emphasize that the "good" target on the front wall is very, very small.

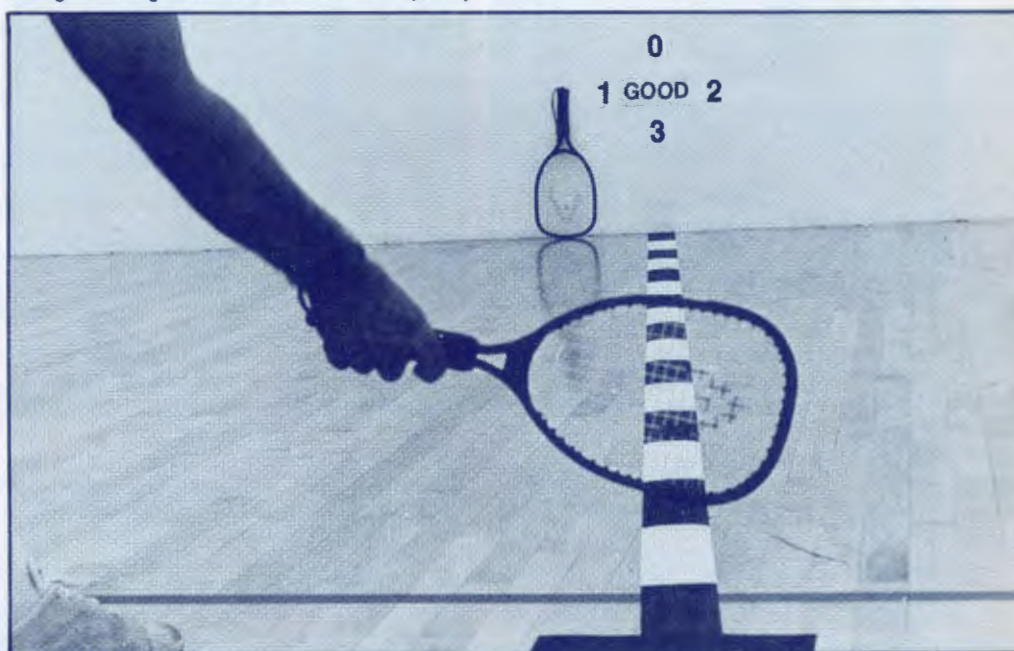




Photo 7. Notice that this top player's low drive target is only one foot off of the floor, because he hits the ball so hard. He has virtually no "short" area to work with. He has to be careful that he doesn't skip in the serve when he hits short.



long. To make a successful, low drive serve he must strike an area no higher than one foot from the ground, and that means an extremely accurate serve in order not to set up his opponent for an easy return.

Photo 8 shows a good B level player who cannot serve as hard as the East Coast player, but, nevertheless, gets good velocity on the ball. His target lies a little higher up the wall at approximately the handle height of his racquet. Although higher, the size of his target is virtually the same.



Photo 8. This good B player doesn't hit the ball as hard as the Open player in *Photo 7*, but still has a lot of pop on the ball. Notice how his target moves up to the height of the racquet handle.

velocity of the serve and the height at which the racquet makes contact with the ball.

In *Photo 6*, a top open player from the East Coast is shown delivering a tremendously hard, low drive serve from a very low contact point on the racquet.



Photo 9. Here's another good B player who plays excellent racquetball but doesn't hit the ball with quite as much velocity as the player in *Photo 8*. Notice how the target has moved up a few more inches.

If he had hit the front wall any higher than the distance of the throatpiece of his racquet from the ground (*Photo 7*) his serve would undoubtedly have kicked off the back wall for a set-up or been

The San Diego B level player in *Photo 9*, serves with still less velocity and his target is again, correspondingly higher on the front wall. This player's quality of play is equal to the player in *Photo 8*, but due to his shot velocity, he is forced to move his target up just a little.

★ ★ ★

To get the most mileage out of a low drive serve, experiment and discover exactly how high you contact the ball in the service box and how high up the front wall you should aim so that the ball will then take two bounces before striking the back wall. When you've mastered that you will have a deadly low drive serve that you can legitimately call a "major weapon." ●

Steve Strandemo has dedicated himself to the study and analysis of racquetball. He is the author of two instructional books, The Racquetball Book and Advanced Racquetball, director of Strandemo Racquetball Camps, a touring professional, and chairman of AMF Head's Racquetball Advisory Staff.

Charlie Garfinkel's 'Spot' Racquetball

Using Your Backhand

by Charlie Garfinkel

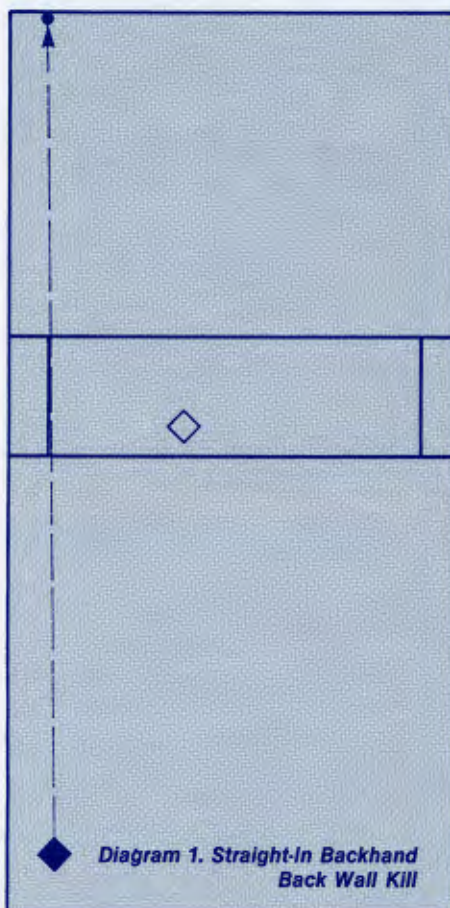
This article begins a monthly series by former top pro Charlie Garfinkel using the "spot" theory of racquetball, which helps improve your game by hitting a specific spot on the wall, which will give the desired effect for the shot. The spot theory also takes into consideration the "spots" on the court occupied by both you and your opponent.



Mike Yellen, the present national champion, has an array of shots that are second to none. Playing him is extremely difficult for other pros. A leading pro, who requested that his name not be used, says, "Yellen has such a wide variety of shots that you're never sure which shot he is going to take, even if the same situation presents itself over and over."

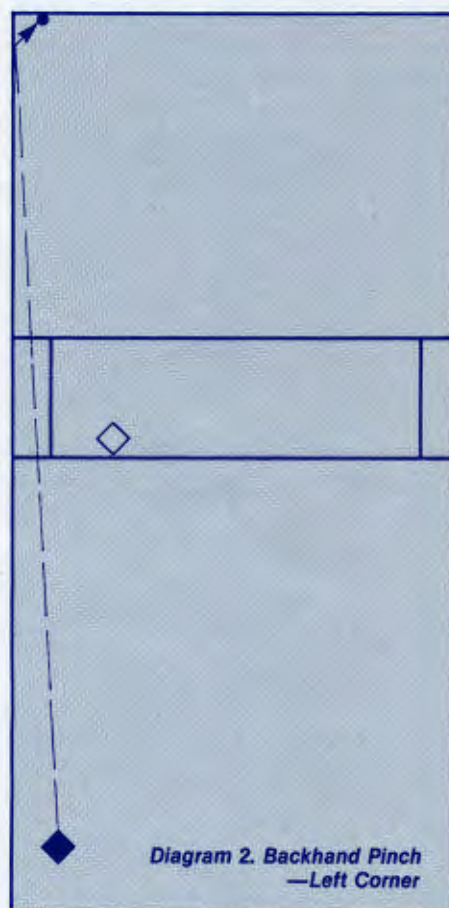
These words are praise of the highest order. But don't despair—Yellen's strategy can be incorporated into the games of players at all levels.

In *Diagram 1*, Yellen is in deep back court on the left side with his opponent near the short line about 2-3 feet from the center of the court. Mike has a shot off the back wall. In this situation he has six different shots depending on the position of his opponent. No wonder his frustrated opponents don't know where the ball is going!



In *Diagram 1*, Yellen hits a straight in backhand kill shot. He attempts to hit the ball as close to the side wall, without touching it, as possible. The shot will be hit so low that his opponent has no chance to return it.

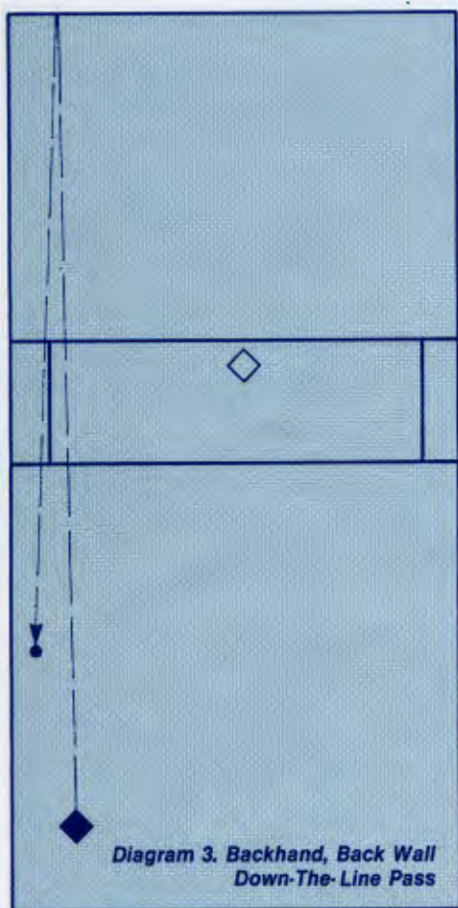
In *Diagram 2*, Yellen's opponent moves about one foot closer to the side wall and nearer to the short line. He's inviting Yellen to again hit his straight in backhand kill. Yellen is probably smiling as he hits a deadly backhand pinch shot that hits low and breaks sharply away from his frustrated opponent. The



backhand pinch in this situation is hit as close to the left corner "crack" as possible. Yellen's opponent has not found the right "spot" to stand in order to return the ball yet.

In *Diagram 3*, Yellen's opponent moves to the middle of the court near the service line. He's standing about a foot in front of the short line, figuring that he'll react quickly to the straight in backhand kill or pinch.

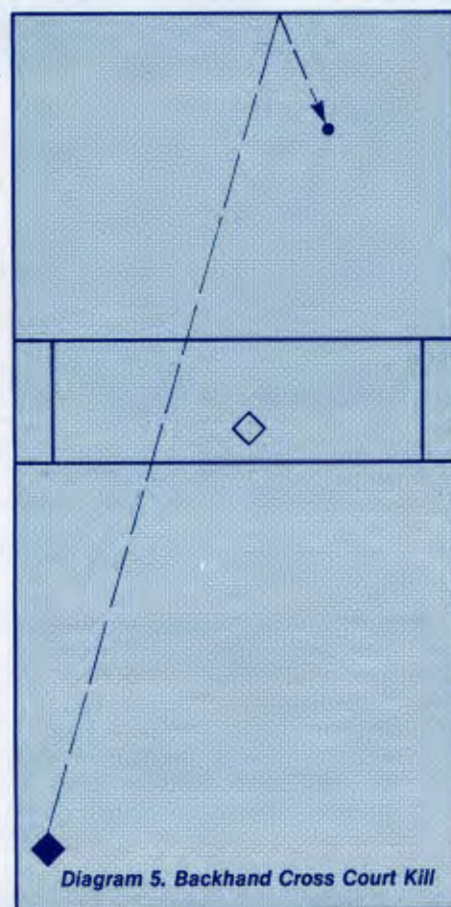
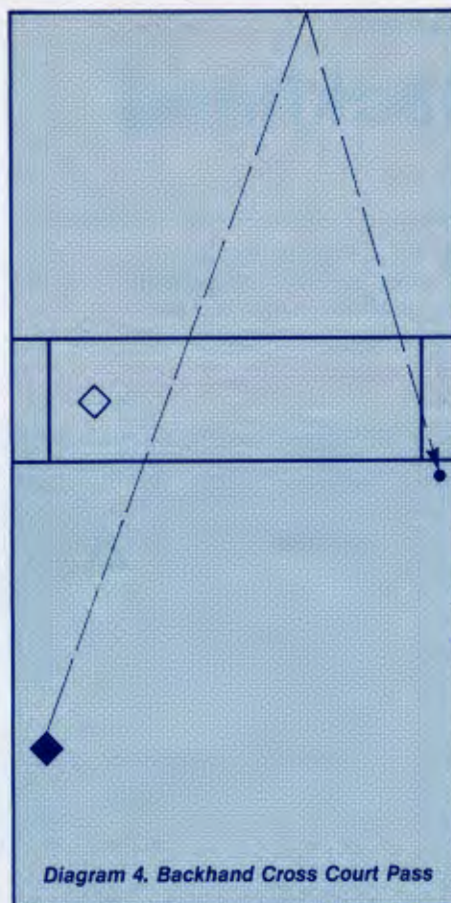
But, he hasn't reckoned with Mike Yellen. Yellen, seeing how far up his opponent is, counters with a beautiful down-the-line pass. The ball hits about



1-2 feet from the left side wall, about 3-4 feet high. His frustrated opponent is shaking his head as he is passed with a good five to eight feet to spare.

In *Diagram 4*, Yellen's opponent is so frustrated that he practically blocks Yellen's path down the left side wall. He is standing about 3 feet from the side wall near the short line. He rationalizes that he has Yellen's left side shot completely neutralized.

And, he is correct. But, Yellen simply hits a sharp crosscourt pass that travels behind his opponent. He aims for a spot 2-3 feet to the right of center



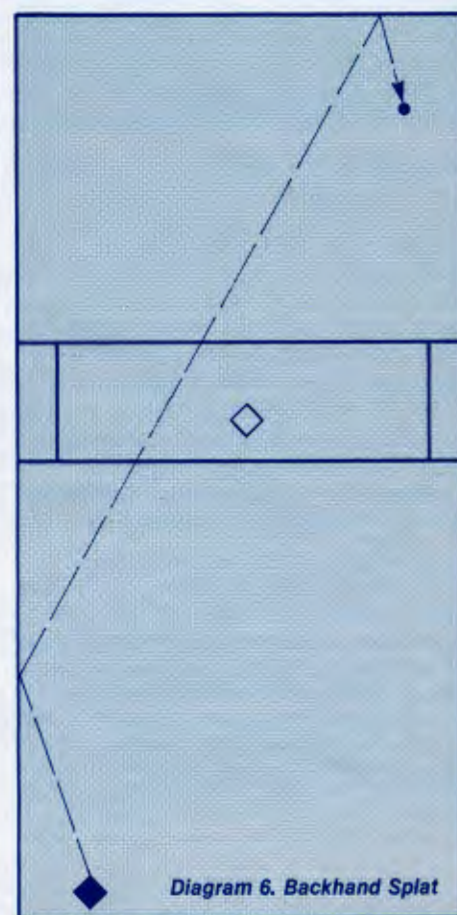
front wall, about 3-4 feet high. The ball flies by his opponent before there is time to react.

In *Diagram 5*, Yellen's opponent moves back to the center court near the short line. He feels that he is getting used to Yellen's array of shots from the deep backhand corner.

Yellen then hits a shot that he hasn't attempted throughout the match. He shoots a crosscourt kill that lands 1-2 feet from the right of the center front wall, as low as possible. His disgruntled opponent is just about ready to smash his \$100 graphite racquet into the ground. But, Yellen still has one more shot left.

In *Diagram 6*, his infuriated opponent decides to move into a position approximately halfway between the serve and short line in the center of the court. His reasoning is that he will be prepared for any shot that Yellen has already hit. This may be true.

But, Yellen unleashes a devastating backhand splat shot. He hits the ball as hard as he can into the left side wall about four feet behind the short line. The ball carries to the right front wall about 1-2 feet from the side wall. It appears to die as it rolls out like a wet sponge about 3-5 inches from the floor.

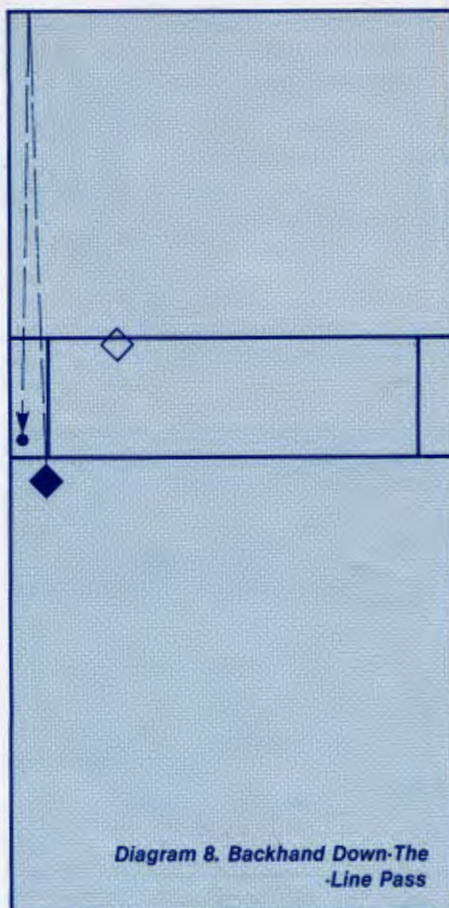
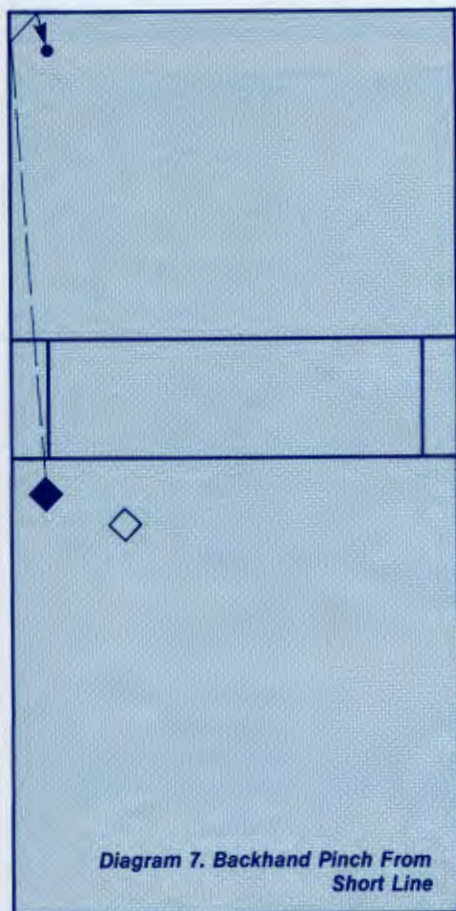


Needless to say, Yellen's poor opponent was last seen obliterating his racquet to smithereens in the men's locker room.

On the distaff side, Lynn Adams, current national champion, has always impressed me with her abundance of backhand shots from the front court. From the short line in, her befuddled opponents have constantly been left guessing as to where Adams will hit the ball next. And yet, Adams's shot selection and strategies can readily be emulated by players of all levels.

In *Diagram 7*, Adams is stationed at the short line near the backhand side of the court. Her opponent is directly behind her about 2-3 feet towards the center of the court. Adams hits a left side wall-front wall pinch shot as close and low to the side wall crack as possible. The shot is non-returnable as her opponent is too far away from the ball to react.

Note: This shot must be hit as close to the left corner crack as possible. If it is hit further back on the side wall it will hit further towards the middle of the front wall. And, if the shot is hit too high on the front wall, Adams's opponent will be able to return it.

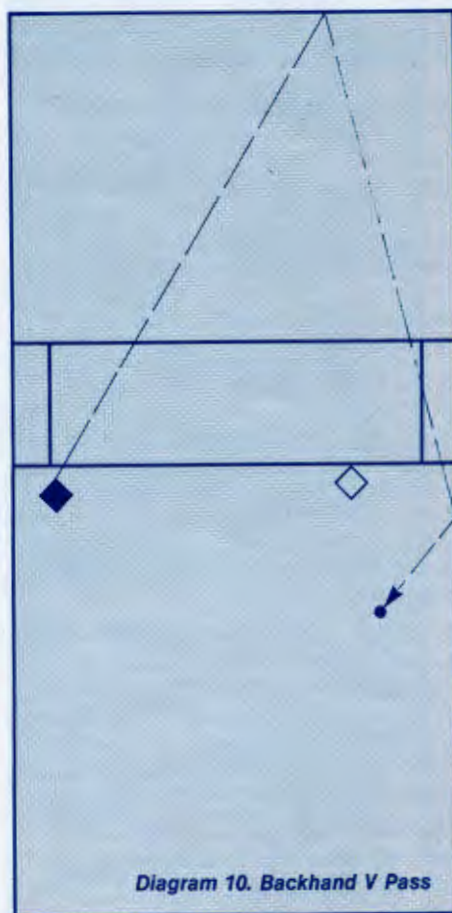
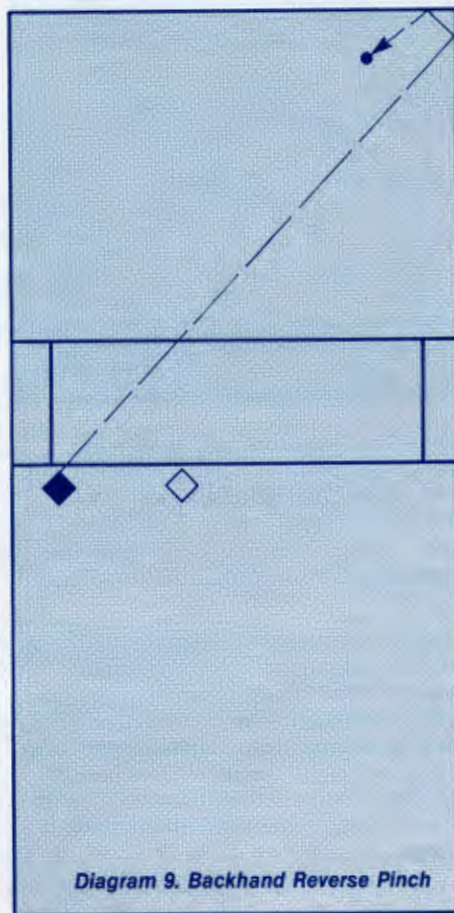


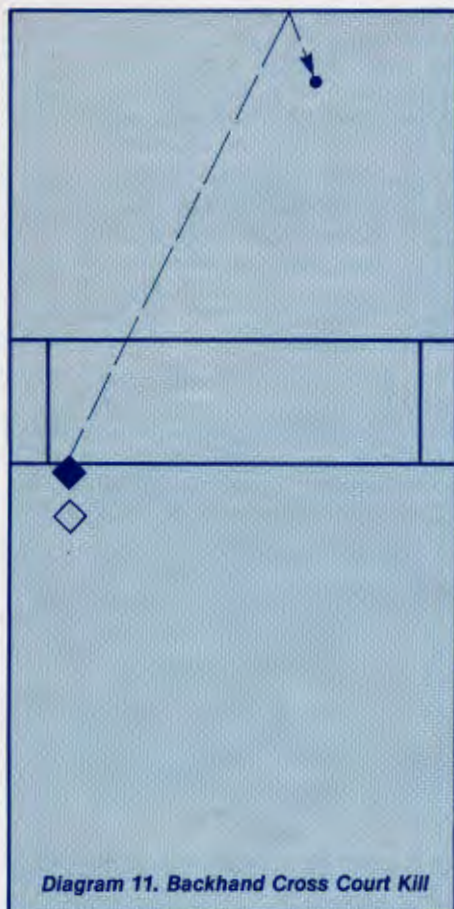
In *Diagram 8*, Lynn's opponent has moved up to the service line to cover the pinch. However, Adams, who is again stationed at the short line, hits a passing shot 3-4 feet high, straight down-the-line, for an easy point.

In *Diagram 9*, while Lynn is stationed at the short line near the left side wall, her opponent is parallel to Adams about three feet across from her. She feels that this position will help her return Adams's pinch shot or down-the-line passing shot.

Alas, although this is sometimes good strategy, Adams completely fools her opponent by hitting a beautiful reverse corner kill into the right corner as low as possible. She tries to hit it as close to the right corner crack as possible.

In *Diagram 10*, Adams hits a shot that is hit as well as anyone in pro racquetball. Her opponent senses that Adams is going to hit a cross court pass. So, she is standing about four feet from the right side wall by the short line. She feels that this will give her ample time to back pedal to return the pass. Unbelievably, she has guessed right. Adams is preparing to hit a backhand pass.





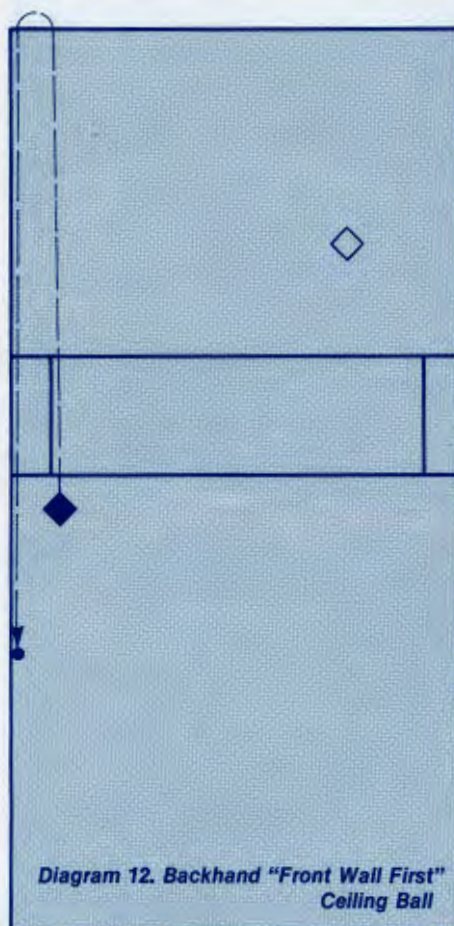
But what shot does she hit? A perfect V pass, that hits the front wall about 1-2 feet to the right of center on the front wall, 3-4 feet high. The ball then continues towards the right side wall about three feet high and hits about one foot behind Adams's startled opponent on the right side wall, ricocheting away from her. Score another easy point for Adams.

In *Diagram 11*, Adams's opponent is crowding, directly behind the short line, feeling she can cover any shot Adams might try. Wrong again. Lynn unleashes a devastating backhand cross court kill that lands 1-2 feet to the right of center court on the front wall. She hits the ball as low as possible, 3-5 inches off the floor.

In *Diagram 12*, her opponent is halfway between the service line and the front wall in the middle of the court. Naturally, her opponent is expecting an almost certain kill. However, the crafty Adams catches her opponent completely off guard with a ceiling ball.

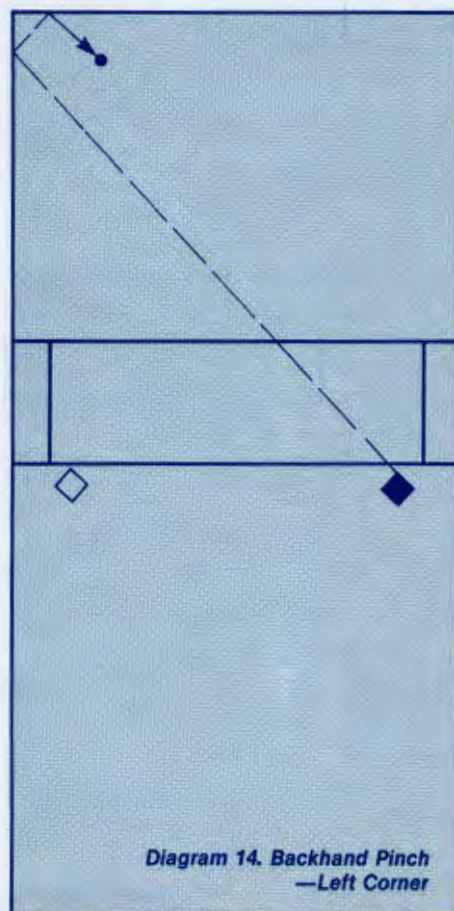
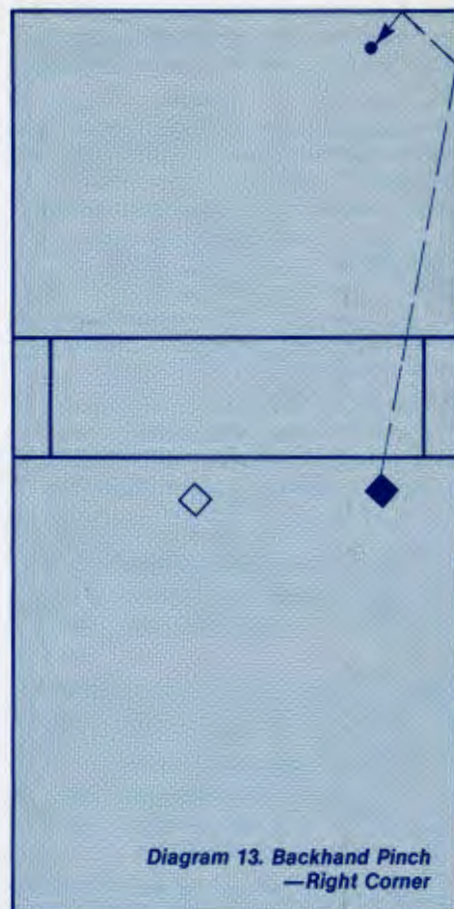
"A ceiling ball!" you say. "Her opponent will have time to scamper back and return the shot."

No way! Lynn has hit a ceiling ball that



will hit the left front wall first, about three feet from the ceiling. The ball will then hit the ceiling and travel at an extremely fast pace towards the back wall. Adams's opponent will never be able to return the shot, due to its fast pace.

Last, but certainly not least, is Jim Austin, the present AARA National Senior Vet's Singles Champion. Austin, whose backhand can only be described as phenomenal, even serves every serve using a backhand stroke. Unbelievably, he runs around his forehand to take as many shots as possible on his backhand.



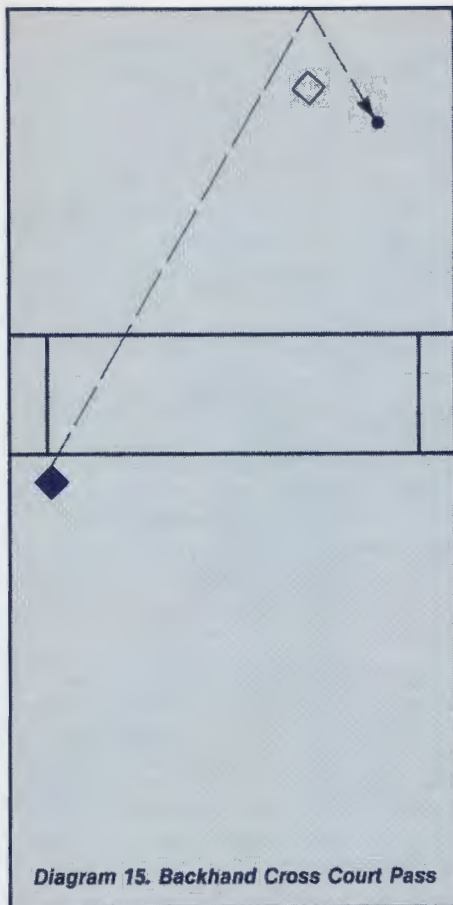


Diagram 15. Backhand Cross Court Pass

I have often chuckled when he's warming up. Other players are convinced that his opponent will take him apart. When Austin walks off the court winning by scores such as 21-6, 21-7, the laughs are quickly replaced by looks of admiration. For Austin, as you will see, can shoot his backhand from virtually any spot on the court.

As in *Diagram 13*, one of Austin's favorite ploys is to take a backhand about four feet from the right side wall, near the short line. His opponent is usually stationed directly across from him. Austin hits a backhand right side wall-right front wall pinch shot that literally rolls out. His amazed opponent looks on in disbelief.

Another shot that has made Austin famous is shown in *Diagram 14*. His opponent is stationed near the left side wall by the service line. Jim is again near the right side wall by the short line. This time, he hits a backhand pinch into the left corner, as close to the crack as possible. The ball ricochets away from his awed opponent who is still stationed at the short line.

Austin's deception and pace on his backhand is a thing of beauty. He has the ability to hold his shot until the last split-second.

In *Diagram 15*, his opponent is near the front wall anticipating a cross court kill. At the last instant Austin unleashes a tremendous cross court pass that leaves his opponent completely stranded. The ball hits about three feet to the right of center, four feet high. Even though it is high when it passes his opponent he has caught him completely flatfooted.

In *Diagram 16*, Austin hits a shot that is one of my personal favorites. He is in deep back court about five feet from the back wall. His opponent is at the short line toward the center of the court. It appears that Austin will hit a hard kill straight into the left front wall. But, just before impact he shortens his swing and proceeds to roll out an amazing 35 foot drop shot. Needless to say his opponent has had it.

Regardless of which of our champion's shots you wish to emulate, you must practice them by yourself, and in actual game situations. You'll find that hitting the right "spot" will get you out of many a tight "spot." ●

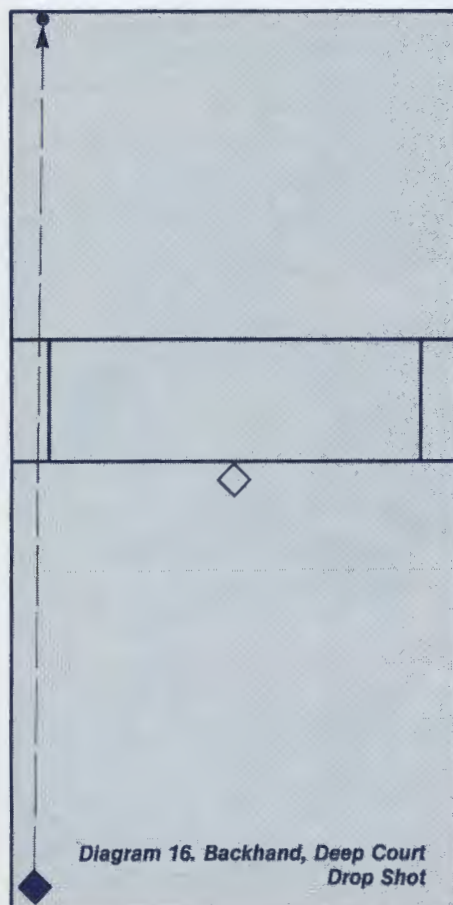


Diagram 16. Backhand, Deep Court Drop Shot

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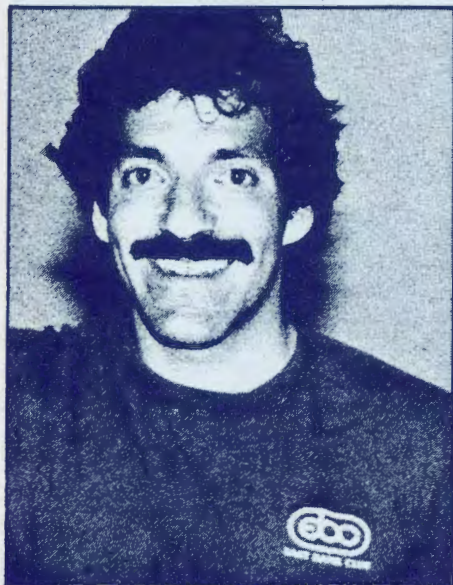
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Steve Mondry's Racquetball Clinic

5 Tips For More Fun On The Court

by Steve Mondry



1) Return The Serve

The most common return of serve error in racquetball is that players attempt to kill the serve return far too often. I don't mean occasionally too often, I mean *far* too often. Not being able to return serve is a killer to having fun.

If the player is unable to return serve because of the greater skill of the server, then the two players shouldn't be playing a "match" for fun. It won't be. If the player is unable to return serve because he's always going for bottom board, the result is the same as the player who's not that good.

Nothing is more boring than playing someone who either rolls out the serve return or skips it. I mean, that's just not racquetball. And even if you want to make the argument that the pros play that way, it's still not racquetball as it should be played on the amateur, especially club, level.

Remember that the primary thought of the receiver should be to (first) return serve to the front wall and (second) return serve in a way that moves the server out of center court. From time to time a kill shot attempt should be made to balance defensive returns and as evidence of a well rounded game.

Additionally, you'll get your share of kill opportunities on mis-hit serves by your opponent. So there's really no reason to force it.

2) Don't Let Up

Most players do one of two things when they play: either they let up when they're ahead, or they let up when they're behind. Either way, as soon as it happens the fun rapidly escapes the match.

I guess I can understand a player who gives up when he's way behind. The feeling of hopelessness along with the realization that you just don't have the shots to keep up with the other guy is depressing. Yet the only way to improve your game is to learn from those superior to yourself. And you can't learn if you don't try.

There is nothing worse than the player who lets up when he's way ahead. Those who are guilty of this transgression like to say that they do it in order to keep the game close and thereby enhance the workout. That's a bunch of you-know-what.

Actually the opposite is true. The guy who's obviously got the upper hand and slacks off to make for a better workout, succeeds only in dissipating the intensity of the game. As a result, both players end up merely dinking the ball around and nobody gets a workout.

3) Compliment Opponent's Good Shots

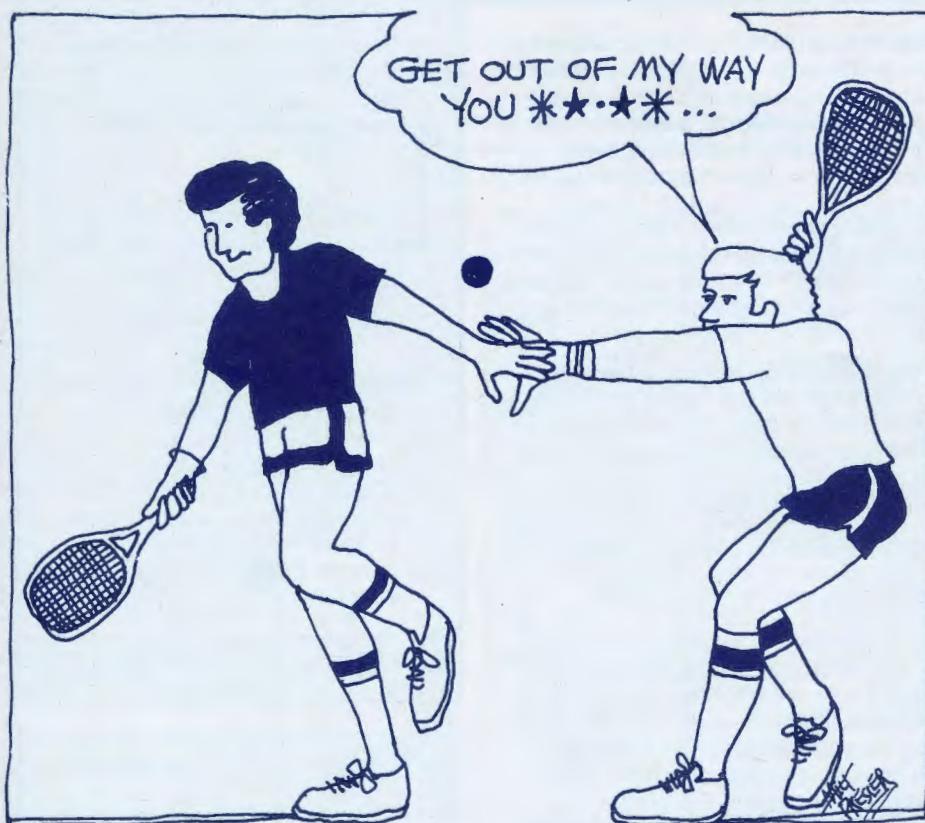
I used to play a couple times a week against a guy who's ability was similar to mine. We'd practice together often and occasionally we'd play a match for the post game thirst quencher. Soon, however, I began to look around for other partners and eventually our times on the court together became rare.

Why? He was a jerk. He never could bring himself to compliment me on a good shot. Not that I'm always looking for praise. I'm not. But this guy not only wouldn't give me the compliment, he'd ridicule my good shots.



It doesn't matter whether you're a novice player or compete in the Open division. The primary reason most of us take up racquetball is for the fun and exercise. Most of us go onto the court hoping to burn up enough calories to offset the pizza and beer we're going to have after our match. Otherwise, we'd all look like Orson Welles.

Unfortunately, in many cases the better we get, the more experienced our game, the more advanced our abilities, we lose sight of the primary reason we began playing in the first place. So, if you want to have more fun and exercise than you've had in a long while, follow these five rules:



You work and work and work on your game; you practice hours on end; and then you get into what's supposed to be a friendly game and you actually hit the backhand V-pass that you and he both know you've been working on for over a month.

"Why don't you use the strings next time?" is not my idea of a compliment.

On the other hand, if you want to be the kind of opponent who is asked to play often, then you should give credit where it's due. You don't have to get all flowery about it, but when you've hit that perfect ceiling ball that floats deep into the backhand corner and rolls it out (using the strings) I say, let him know you appreciate a good shot.

4) Avoid Abusive Language

There are not many actions that dampen the spirit of a good, hard workout as much as foul language. After any rally, especially a hard fought, 10 or 12 hit rally, it's extremely disheartening to listen to your opponent swear or curse about why he lost the rally or missed the shot.

Sportsmanship carries over to the verbal aspects of court conduct as much as giving each other enough room to hit the ball. Add to that the fact that spectators (including children) can be glancing into your court at any time and there's really no reason for profanity.

Have some class! Show that you can be a good winner as well as a good sport.

A close cousin to abusive language is super-loud self encouragement which often takes the form of self-abusive language. This is the guy who's constantly berating himself.

"Move, you dummy!" he nearly screams. "Stupid! How could you miss that shot?!" he yells angrily. All this player is doing is stating the obvious. He's a dummy. Keep your cool and you'll keep your practice players.

5) Play Close Calls Over

There are plenty of racquetball players who believe that the golden rule means "do unto others as they do unto you." Too often this means cheat. I've even known players who practiced cheating in the form of blocking the referee's vision of double bounce pick ups, screen serves and other borderline gimmicks.

To me, the game is much more enjoyable when played honestly. I don't think there's been more than a handful of shots in my life when I didn't know if I "got" it or not. You almost always know. In a friendly practice game, it is my belief that honesty is definitely the best policy. If there is a questionable call, play it over.

You will soon find, as I did, that the game becomes more fun as your court friends respect you more. There's no reason to cheat—ever, and there's especially no reason to cheat in practice. All it will do is irritate your practice partner until he eventually won't practice with you.

Nothing could be more counter-productive.

Undoubtedly there are other ways to ensure a more fun-filled experience on the court. These five tips should serve as only a beginning to help you reach your racquetball goals.

Fun and exercise are the reasons I took up the sport. They go hand-in-hand and are often dependent on your on-court attitudes. And when you find that practice partner who's willing to share his court time with you to help you improve your game, you owe him the same thing right back.

Be the kind of opponent that you would want for yourself. ●

Steve Mondry is head racquetball pro at Lehman Courts, Chicago, a top touring pro for six years and author of numerous instructional articles on racquetball, conditioning and weight training.

Shots Of The Future: Use Them Today

by Jean Sauser



Charlie Brumfield dominated racquetball in the early 70's with a defensive game that no one could equal. Consequently, every level of player from pro on down tried to master this game style. Marty Hogan changed the game again in the late 70's with his power serve and shoot game. Again, players across the country followed suit. Just recently Mike Yellen countered Hogan's quest for a sixth straight title with a control style.

Thus, with the cycle having been completed, what will the future bring? No one knows for sure, but here are some shots that are being used by successful pros now, that you can learn to make your racquetball future brighter.

Overheads

Once considered "carryovers from tennis" by most serious racquetballers, these shots are becoming more common among tournament winners. Lynn Adams, this year's WPRA National Champion, is famous for them. She is the most consistent pro on the tour with her overhead shots and it keeps her five points ahead of the other women pros. She overhead kills and overhead drives more shots off of ceiling balls than any other woman in the history of the game.

Overhead shots are an essential skill for a top notch racquetball game. You should learn to shoot overhead shots from ceiling balls that are falling short in deep court, but not short enough to allow you to take a sidearm stroke.

Ball contact for an overhead shot is made anywhere between head level and a comfortable arm's reach over your head. Then you simply drive the ball downward into front court, as if you were executing a tennis serve.

There are four basic overhead shots you should be able to hit successfully. They are a *corner kill*, *cross court corner kill*, *down-the-line drive* and a *cross court drive*.

Racquetball is now in its second decade as an organized, competitive sport. The basics of the game are still the same, but game styles are changing.

Shots that were once considered "low percentage" and "carryovers from squash and tennis" are now being implemented into racquetball on the pro and top tournament levels of play. This is due to the fact that racquetball equipment (primarily racquets and balls) has come a long way in 10 years.

Players are now having great success with shots that in years past were impossible with their unsophisticated racquets and balls. Also, the talent level of the players has increased right along with the number of participants enjoying our sport. Shots that were only attempted by pros a few years back are now common among all types of players.

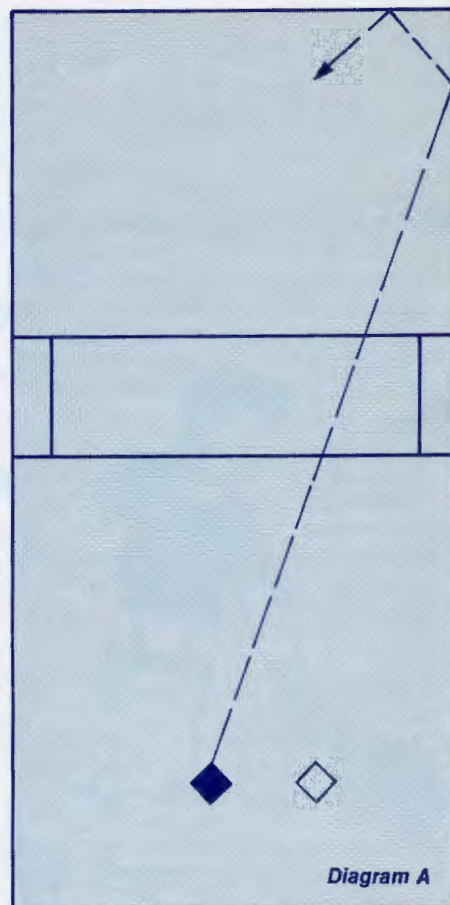


Diagram A

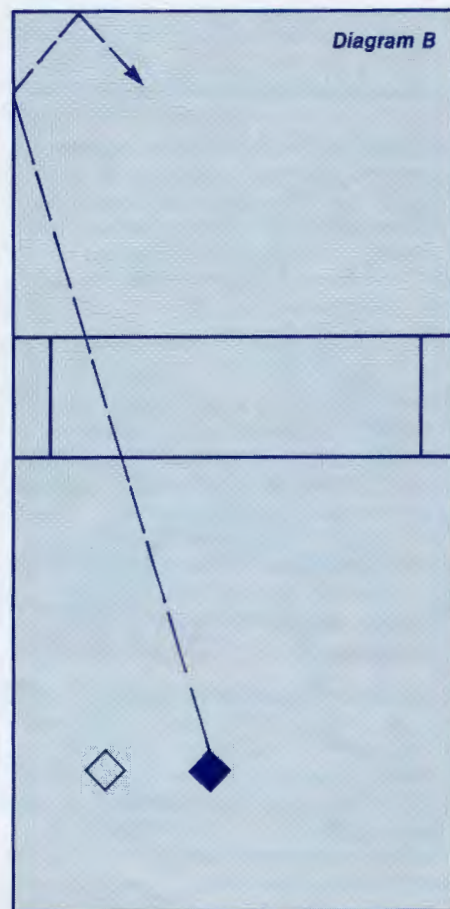
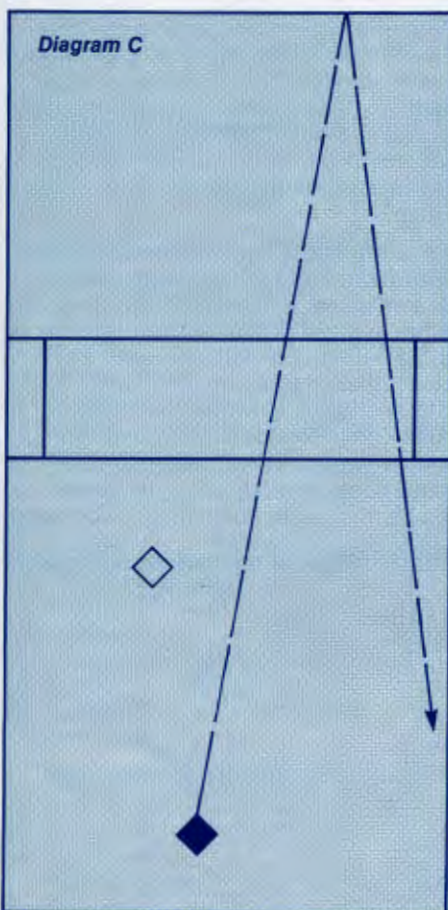


Diagram B

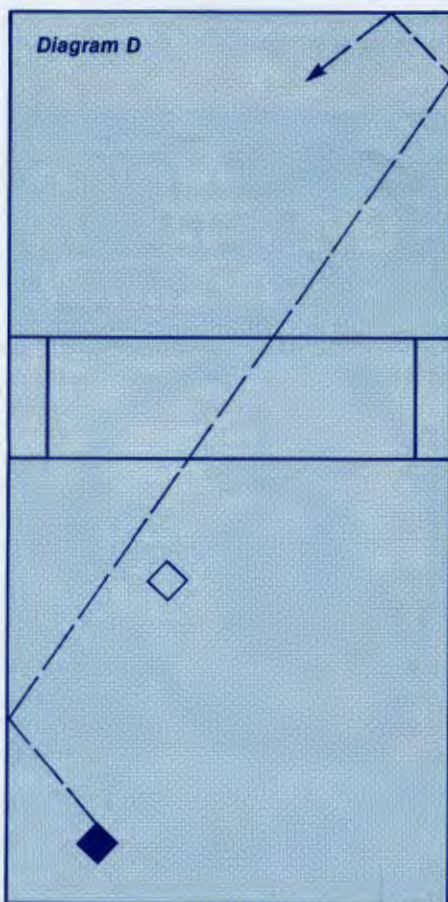
You should attempt a forehand *corner kill* when both you and your opponent are positioned in deep court. It is even more effective when your opponent is in deep court on your forehand side (Diagram A).

A *cross corner overhead kill* is very effective when your opponent is in the deep backhand corner of the court and you are positioned in the center of deep court returning his ceiling shot (Diagram B).

Overhead pass shots are very effective when your opponent is moving up toward center after hitting a ceiling ball to your forehand. You should drive the ball down the forehand side wall using an overhead stroke when your opponent is positioned near center court or slightly to the left of center court (Diagram C).

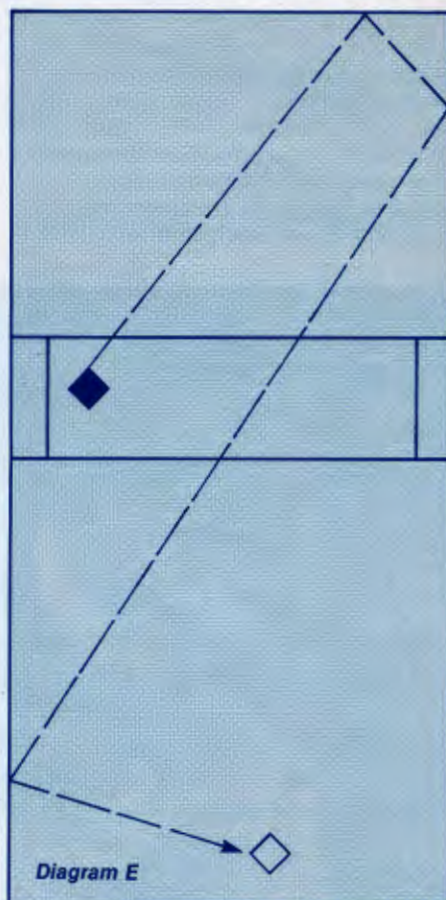


The *overhead cross court pass* can be used when you are returning a ceiling ball from the forehand side of the court and your opponent is positioned in center court or slightly to the right of center court (Diagram D).



Splat Shots

Another shot that is gaining popularity with top ranked players is the splat. This shot is borrowed from squash and is rapidly finding a home with top ranked pros such as Yellen. Mike plays squash for fun and racquetball for national titles. He says that being able to hit the splat consistently in tournament play last year was one of the main reasons he won two national titles.



A splat shot is executed by hitting the deep side wall at about knee level at maximum force. The ball then carries low across the court into the opposite front side wall creating a corner kill (Diagram E).

The splat shot adds an element of surprise to your game. This unexpected shot from deep court often catches your opponent standing flat-footed expecting a more conventional return.

You should use splat shots when your opponent is on your side of the court anywhere from center court to deep court.

Fly Kills

Handball players have used them for years. In tennis it's called playing the net. Fly kills are now, finally being used consistently by top tournament players. They need only check their history books to find Peggy Steding's many national titles—largely due to fly kills.

Fly kills used to be considered risky business but in certain situations today, they are not only effective, they are essential for good center court play and control. You should attempt to fly kill the ball when your opponent, in desperation, has slammed the ball into the back wall in an effort to get it back

to the front wall to save the rally. This floating return should be cut off in center court "on the fly" and driven low into the front wall for a kill.

You can practice the skill of fly killing the ball with a friend. Have him stand five to seven feet from the back wall, facing the back wall. Let him hit the ball into the back wall so that it carries to the front wall.

You should be positioned just slightly behind center court position. Then, as the ball comes floating down off the front wall, move forward and fly kill it.

Remember this fly kill drill situation for game play. When you see your opponent slam the ball into the back wall to save the shot, prepare to move forward and fly kill the ball.

The Game Of The 80's

Cutting off the serve, serving overhead Z serves, fly killing, splat shooting and overhead shots are all shot selections that were absent from most of the best games in town as few as five years ago. However, they are being used today and are definitely the shots of the future.

If you are unsure of the physical skills involved in hitting these shots, take a lesson or two to develop those skills. It is not suggested that you learn these shots before you learn the basics of racquetball, its fundamental strokes and strategies. However, once you've built a solid foundation of good racquetball skills, then it's time to add these shots to your game. Remember, the best in racquetball is yet to come! ●

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Strings? How important are they to your racquetball game? Do you ever think about the strings in your racquet, or do you take them for granted?

We fuss about the clothes we wear on the court, the shoes that make us comfortable, good, lively balls, gloves that fit well, and eyeguards to protect the most vulnerable part of our body. But what do we know about strings?

If you have an opinion, now is the time to tell us, complaint or otherwise. And if you don't know a thing about strings, take a moment to tell us that, too. String manufacturers and stringers appreciate knowing if more information is needed in the marketplace. They want to serve you better.

We'll print the results of this survey in our *June* issue, so you can compare notes with other players. Please respond by May 1 so we'll have time to tabulate.

Send your completed survey forms to *National Racquetball Reader Survey*, 1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, IL 60025.

1. How often do you play racquetball?

- ☐ 3 or more times per week
- ☐ 2 times per week
- ☐ 1 time per week
- ☐ 2 times per month
- ☐ 1 time per month or less

2. How many years have you been playing?

- ☐ More than 5
- ☐ 5 or less
- ☐ 4 or less
- ☐ 3 or less
- ☐ 2 or less
- ☐ 1 or less

3. Where do you normally play?

- ☐ Private Club
- ☐ YMCA
- ☐ JCC
- ☐ Park District
- ☐ School
- ☐ Military Base

4. What is your skill level?

- ☐ Beginner
- ☐ Intermediate
- ☐ Advanced
- ☐ Open
- ☐ Professional

5. Are you male or female?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

6. What is your age?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55 or over

7. How many racquets do you own?

- ☐ One
- ☐ Two
- ☐ Three
- ☐ Four or more

8. What is your usual playing racquet made of?

- ☐ Aluminum
- ☐ Graphite
- ☐ Composite
- ☐ Fiberglass
- ☐ Steel

9. What is your string tension?

- ☐ Less than 20 lbs.
- ☐ 21-25 lbs.
- ☐ 26-30
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ 31-35 lbs.
- ☐ 36-40 lbs.
- ☐ 41 lbs. or more

10. How important do you think string tension is to your game?

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Moderately important
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Irrelevant

11. What are your strings made of?

- ☐ Nylon
- ☐ Composite materials
- ☐ Gut
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other _____

12. Do your strings have any special features? (Check all categories that are applicable)

- ☐ Multifilament construction
- ☐ Extra "bite"
- ☐ Coated core construction
- ☐ Diagonal stringing pattern
- ☐ One string per hole
- ☐ Other _____

13. Are you satisfied with your present strings?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

14. How often do you have your racquet restrung?

- ☐ Every six weeks (or more often)
- ☐ Every six months (or less)
- ☐ Once a year (or less)
- ☐ Only if the strings break
- ☐ Never

15. Where did you last have your racquet restrung?

- ☐ Local racquetball club
- ☐ Other club
- ☐ Sporting goods store
- ☐ Other _____

16. Does your local club have restringing capabilities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

17. In your opinion, is having a restringing service in your club important?

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Moderately important
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Irrelevant

18. How much did restringing cost last time?

- ☐ \$10 or less
- ☐ \$11-\$15
- ☐ \$16-\$20
- ☐ \$21 or more

19. Did restringing noticeably improve your performance?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

20. What was the major influence on which strings you bought? (Rank in order of your first three preferences; i.e., put a number 1 next to your first choice, a number 2 next to your second choice, etc.)

- ☐ The stringer said they were best
- ☐ Saw them advertised
- ☐ Teaching pro told me what to use
- ☐ Cosmetic appearance
- ☐ A friend recommended
- ☐ Same strings that originally came with the racquet ●

Nassau Good Choice For Racquetballers

by Victor Block

A number of people planning winter vacation trips to the Caribbean and other sun-and-sand destinations have contacted me to complain that they have a hard time finding a place to visit where they can play racquetball. Unfortunately, they're not alone.

Hoteliers in many areas of the world—including the islands that dot the clear turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea—have been all too slow to take advantage of the racquetball craze by building a couple of courts for the enjoyment of their guests. Recently, however, this picture has begun to change.

This is not to say that winter-time visitors to every warm weather vacation spot should automatically pack their racquet and eyeguard. But it *is* possible to combine a trip to a top-notch hotel nestled at the edge of the ocean with the availability of first-class racquetball facilities.

One destination to consider the next time you're seeking a place at which to escape the rigors of winter is Nassau in The Bahamas. A brand new hotel complex there offers some of the most luxurious accommodations, widest selection of activities, and complete line of recreation—including racquetball—from the southern tip of Florida to the northern coast of South America.

The Cable Beach Hotel and Casino, which had its grand opening in late January, is less than five miles from Nassau. The \$100 million hotel has nine floors of ocean-front guest rooms and suites with private balconies facing the sea. Its 700 guest rooms and vast public areas make the hotel the largest in The Bahamas.

Among recreational facilities are a private beach, fresh water swimming pool and 18-hole golf course. A pier on the beach provides a variety of water sports including boating, water skiing, snorkeling, scuba diving and parasailing.

A major feature of the complex is the casino, which is connected to the hotel by an arcade lined by more than 20 gift and specialty shops. The 20,000 square foot casino offers blackjack, craps, roulette, bacarrat and wheels of fortune, along with 526 slot machines. In keeping with the goal of providing a



non-intimidating atmosphere for guests not classified as "high rollers" are the 5¢ slots—unheard of at most gaming establishments—and the low \$2 minimum betting level at the tables.

Another feature designed to appeal to a wide audience is the Broadway-style musical show presented in the 1,000-seat theater that is part of the casino complex. Other facilities include a restaurant, deli-style eatery, bar and lounge.

For racquetball players, a major point of interest is the Sports Centre. It has 10 tennis courts, five clay and five all-weather composition; a stadium court for tournament exhibitions; three squash courts with a balcony viewing area; a health food snack bar, and pro shop.

There are three racquetball courts, two

with glass back walls. They, like the entire building, are air conditioned. Use of the courts is free for guests of the hotel during the day, with a \$5 per person per hour charge from 6 p.m. to midnight. Rental equipment is available.

Needless to say, vacationing at such a luxurious resort hotel does not come inexpensively. Winter "rack rates" at the Cable Beach begin at \$110 a night (single or double) and extend up to \$170 for a deluxe room. However, there are attractive package plans that enable vacationers to economize on the cost of their stay.

For example, golf packages include round-trip transfers between the airport and hotel, room, a welcoming drink, all greens fees, use of a golf cart and other extras. The three-night golf plan costs \$269 per person (double occupancy), the seven-night package \$605.



Cable Beach Hotel, The Bahamas.

A similar tennis program includes many of the same features, with unlimited use of the tennis courts substituted for golf greens fees—plus free evening play on the racquetball or squash courts for an hour. The tennis package costs \$237 per person for three nights, \$537 for seven nights.

For additional information or reservations, call toll-free in the continental U.S. (800) 327-3305; in Florida, call collect (305) 262-1397.

For visitors to Nassau who stay elsewhere, there's a club with one racquetball court that is available for play. The Racquet Club and Health Center—while operated as a membership organization for area residents—allows visitors to play on the racquetball court at a charge of \$5 per hour.

Other facilities at the air conditioned

club include three squash courts, three clay tennis courts and a lounge area. Future plans call for the addition of other features, including a weight room and sauna.

For additional information or to reserve court time, call (809) 323-1838—without the area code if you're in Nassau. ●

Victor Block is a free-lance travel writer for newspapers, newsletters and magazines; a state editor for Fodor's Guidebooks, and a member of the Society of American Travel Writers. When not on the go researching travel articles, he lives in Washington, DC.

Readers are encouraged to send your racquetball travel questions to Victor Block, c/o National Racquetball, 1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, IL 60025.

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Strandemo Adds Junior Camps

You're never too old, or too young, to learn. At least, that's how it looks in racquetball today where the standard of junior play improves year by year. The success of a junior racquetball player begins with professional training. If good habits are acquired at an early age, he or she is off to a flying start because good technique and sound strategy will become second nature.

No one understands this better than Steve Strandemo, racquetball's number one camp conductor, who ran his first junior racquetball camp last year. The junior camp, tailored especially to meet the requirements of young players, offers excellent opportunities for the aspiring junior to prepare both physically and mentally for

local, state, regional, and national tournaments.

Probably no other player benefits quite so much from the intensive training provided at a racquetball camp, or responds with such enthusiasm to the new ideas encountered there, as the junior player. Juniors learn fast and have a gift for rapidly incorporating new play into their game, a gift which, unfortunately, often tends to fade as we get older!

Five Strandemo/AMF Head Junior Training camps are planned for 1984 at different locations throughout the country. These sessions, held over a long weekend, will offer young players an opportunity to get down to some serious training in a friendly atmosphere—and to have fun, of course.

At camp, players can refine those strokes and strategies which are vital to successful tournament play. The pioneer camp in '83 proved what a valuable learning tool videotape can be. Students were thrilled to see themselves on screen and with the tangible results of their efforts on tape they were able to grasp their errors and make improvements much more effectively by comparing and contrasting before and after play. Movement around the court, stroke technique, and strategy can all be scrutinized in slow motion, and bad habits nipped in the bud.

Juniors will also view and analyze matches between top professionals and begin to appreciate just why these players made it to the top. Racquetball players of any age would get goosebumps

watching some of this incredible action.

In addition to strengthening their basic game, camp participants will return home with some new shots and strategies in their repertoire, and, who knows, may even be able to show their parents a thing or two!

As part of the Strandemo junior racquetball camp package, players will all receive a new Head Vector racquet, an Adidas Training Center shirt, Penn racquetballs, and a Training Center racquetball bag.

Junior camps offer a weekend of friendship, fun, and learning, and will give young players an experience to remember. For more information contact Steve Strandemo Racquetball Camps, P. O. Box 24445, San Diego, CA 92124, (619) 268-8707.

Mondry, Hogan Clinics

Racquetball instructor par-excellence Steve Mondry, along with five time national champion Marty Hogan, have set up a series of racquetball clinics in Chicago and New York for this summer.

At press time, the Chicago dates of June 8-10, 15-17, and 22-24 were firm. New York dates are to be announced shortly.

The Racquetball Magi

As you might expect, many avid racquetballers give subscriptions to *National Racquetball* as holiday gifts. After all, *National Racquetball* is relatively inexpensive, is a monthly reminder of the person who gave the gift, and fits neatly into a stocking.

So everything should have been just great for Don, who gave his wife Nancy a gift subscription for Christmas. Right? Wrong!

When *National Racquetball's* acknowledgement card came to Don's attention, he naturally figured we goofed. Fearful that Nancy would think he shut her out for Christmas, Don blew the surprise and told her the acknowledgement was sent to him in error and that she'd be getting a gift subscription for Christmas.

Nancy was surprised—but not at Don's receiving the card. She had bought him a gift subscription to *National Racquetball* and the card was no error! Nancy's acknowledgement arrived a few days later.

It seems that great minds work together. And just to make sure, we consolidated their subscriptions into one and extended it by a year.

Technifibre To Sponsor WPRA

The Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) has added another official tour sponsor by reaching an agreement with Technifibre, the Bellingham, WA based manufacturer of

synthetic string.

"We are extremely happy to become associated with Technifibre," said WPRA president Jennifer Harding. "Technifibre is just beginning to market their rac-

quetball products in the United States and we look forward to growing with them."

Technifibre joins current WPRA tour sponsors AMF Voit and KangaROOS.

WPRA For CF

The December WPRA tour stop at Game Point Racquetball and Health Club in Plymouth, MA netted over \$5,000 for the Massachusetts Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, thanks to the efforts of tournament director Gregg Maloley, assistant tournament director Kathy Moylan, and the WPRA players who participated, and public relations director Florence Tambone.

Lite Beer To Sponsor AARA

The AARA National and Regional Adult events will again be sponsored by Lite Beer from Miller in 1984. The Regional Championships will be titled "Lite/A.A.R.A. Regional Championships." The titles of the U.S. National Singles and Doubles will remain the same, but the events will be presented by Lite Beer from Miller and sponsored by DP Leach and Penn Athletic Products Company.

This year will mark the third consecutive year that Lite Beer from Miller has sponsored the AARA major adult events. Lite Beer from Miller is also a major sponsor of the U.S. National Team and is the only major company that has made a long-term commitment to racquetball from outside the racquetball industry.

Penn To Support U.S. Team

A unique marketing promotion under the direction of Bob Beebe, Product Manager of Penn Athletic Products Company, to help underwrite the U.S. National Racquetball Team was unveiled recently.

Penn will place counter posters in all court clubs and some retail outlets throughout the United States soliciting help for the U.S. National Racquetball

Team through membership in the A.A.R.A. It is estimated that over 1.5 million applications will be distributed.

In return for the \$6.00 donation, supporters will receive a high quality luggage tag stating: "I support the U.S. National Racquetball Team" with the American flag in the background and a year's membership in the A.A.R.A. The \$6.00 donation is tax deductible.

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Tournament Results

Yellen's Comeback Captures Hogan For Schoeber's Pro Title

Mike Yellen and Marty Hogan, racquetball's battling arch-rivals, went at it again in the finals of the Eighth Annual Wilson Christmas Classic at Schoeber's Racquetball Spa, Pleasanton, CA. And it was Yellen again defeating the former champ, this time with a rousing comeback after being down 2-1 in games.

Playing amazingly well under pressure, Yellen rallied after losing a shocking third game, to capture games four and five. Scores of the match were 11-6, 5-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-7. In game three, Yellen held a nearly insurmountable 9-0 lead, only to have Hogan come back to take the game by reeling off 11 straight, 11-9.

"You just can't let Marty's ability get you down," said Mike. "Sometimes he'll do that. He has the ability to run a streak, but you can't lose your own confidence."

Yellen collected \$4,000 for the victory while Hogan took home \$1,800. The

two-week long tournament featured \$20,000 in cash and merchandise prizes for players from the novice through professional levels.

Yellen, using lob serves to control the pace and an effective service return to neutralize Hogan's power game, seemed ready to take control after building that 9-0 lead in the third game. But Hogan's 11 straight points appeared to take the momentum for himself.

It didn't work out that way, however, as Yellen calmly regrouped and won the next two games.

Actually, there was very little difference between this match and any of the others Yellen and Hogan have staged recently.

"The last six or seven times we've played it's been like this ... a break here or there," Yellen said.

Ironically, Hogan said he felt the match turned away from him after he rallied to win the third game.

"I felt real good at that point. But, as a matter of fact, maybe winning the third game wasn't such a good thing," he said.

"I had so many peaks and valleys in my mental concentration that maybe if I had lost that third game I might have played with more intensity in the last two games."

Yellen engineered a 6-0 lead en route to his 11-6 win in the first game. Theatrics and disputed calls highlighted the second game, during which Hogan built a 7-0 lead and then hold onto win 11-5.

Yellen continued to play well in the third game and was particularly successful defusing Hogan's drive serve.

"It's something I've always worked on hard against Marty," Yellen said.

Hogan, finding himself on the brink of big trouble, changed strategies and began using lob serves to both Yellen's forehand and backhand sides.

"I just wanted to more or less get a few points, throw his game off and get to the fourth game," Hogan said. "I didn't play at a real high intensity level, but I played real steady."

Hogan went back to his power game in the fourth set, using back-to-back aces to tie the score at 6-6. But Yellen won the next five to square things and then, after falling behind 4-0 in the fifth set, dominated the rest of the way. ●

Eighth Annual Wilson Christmas Classic Schoeber's Racquetball Spa Pleasanton, CA

Round of 16: Hogan d. McCoy 10-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-5; Andrews d. Ray 11-9, 11-05, 10-11, 11-7; Harnett d. Eggerman 11-11, 5-11, 11-4, 11-10, 11-7; G. Peck d. Hawkes 11-2, 11-7, 11-3; Oliver d. D. Peck 11-9, 6-11, 11-2, 11-6; Gonzalez d. Myers 11-5, 11-7, 11-7; Hilecher d. Newman 11-4, 11-8, 11-5; Yellen d. Cohen 11-10, 9-11, 11-10, 11-8.

Quarter-finals: Hogan d. Andrews 11-8, 11-7, 11-6; Harnett d. G. Peck 11-7, 3-11, 11-4, 7-11, 11-5; Gonzalez d. Oliver 11-7, 11-10, 4-11, 11-5; Yellen d. Hilecher 11-4, 10-11, 9-11, 11-4, 11-2.

Semi-finals: Hogan d. Harnett 11-9, 7-11, 11-8, 11-6; Yellen d. Gonzalez 11-7, 11-8, 11-5.

Finals: Yellen d. Hogan 11-6, 5-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-7.



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Tournament Results

Maine

The Bud Light/Court Yard Open

The Court Yard

Saco, ME, October 14-16

Sponsors: Bud Light, Penn, Lisa's Pizza,

Burger King, Saco Printing, Tournament

Director: John Bouchard

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: R. Olson d. Tito 15-10, 15-5; Wright d. Tarling 15-4, 15-9; Bilodeau d. Bouthot 15-8, 12-15, 15-11; Bouchard d. G. Olson 15-8, 15-6

Semi-finals: R. Olson d. Wright 15-10, 15-12; Bouchard d. Bilodeau 10-15, 15-8, 15-6

Finals: Olson d. Bouchard 15-9, 15-13

Women's Open

Quarter-finals: Graham d. Lemieux 15-10, 15-13; Fransoso d. Michaud 15-14, 15-7; Brown d. Carr 12-15, 15-14, 15-13; Eon d. Everin 15-8, 15-9

Semi-finals: Graham d. Fransoso 15-2, 15-12; Eon d. Brown 15-8, 15-13

Finals: Graham d. Eon 15-10, 15-2

Men's A

Quarter-finals: Smith d. DiPalma 3-15, 15-11, 15-13; Pierpont d. Giguere 13-15, 15-2, 15-10; G. Olson d. Pughatch 1-15, 15-11, 15-10; Fabes d. Norsworthy 15-12, 8-15, 15-7

Semi-finals: Pierpont d. Smith 15-2, 15-5; G. Olson d. Fabes 15-6, 14-15, 15-4

Finals: Pierpont d. Olson 15-4, 15-13

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Johnson d. Kurzman 9-15, 15-10, 15-9; Hood d. Gobell 15-8, 5-15, 15-8; Beck d. Mailman 15-4, 3-15, 15-13; Gagne d. Hart 15-8, 15-9

Semi-finals: Gagne d. Beck 15-7, 15-14; Hood d. Johnson 15-9, 15-6

Finals: Gagne d. Hood 15-11, 15-6

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Flannery d. Hammond 15-9, 15-13; Tower d. Babb 15-8, 2-15, 15-11; Anotil d. Farley 12-2, 15-5; Lessaro d. Trask 15-10, 15-10

Semi-finals: Flannery d. Tower 15-1, 15-1; Anotil d. Lessaro 15-10, 15-10

Finals: Flannery d. Anotil 15-8, 15-12

Men's Novice

Quarter-finals: Doherty d. Maciejewski 15-9, 15-5; Canning d. Godin 1-15, 15-5, 15-12; Knowlen d. Dinsmore 3-15, 15-13, 15-5; Carr d. Hall 15-4, 15-3

Semi-finals: Doherty d. Carr 15-5, 15-3

Men's Seniors

Quarter-finals: Simmons d. McCrillis 15-8, 11-15, 15-4; Keefe d. Gagne 9-15, 15-12, 15-9; Williams d. Drovinn 15-10, 15-11; Isenberg d. Anotil 15-3, 15-1

Semi-finals: Simmons d. Keefe 8-15, 15-9, 15-10; Isenberg d. Williams 10-15, 15-7, 15-2

Finals: Isenberg d. Simmons 15-14, 15-6

Men's Masters

Quarter-finals: Simmons d. Gartland 15-2, 15-11; Lowell d. LeBrasseur 15-14, 13-15, 15-7; Friedman d. Trask 15-3, 15-11; Drown d. Chaplin 15-3, 15-12

Semi-finals: Simmons d. Lowell 15-4, 15-2; Drouin d. Friedman 15-10, 15-6

Finals: Simmons d. Drouin 14-15, 15-10, 15-13

Women's B

Finals: Mailman d. Smith 15-9, 15-2

Women's Novice

Quarter-finals: Huot d. Parker 15-2, 15-0; Cox d. Joncas 15-1, 15-3; Bolvin d. Gartland 15-14, 15-13; Cloutier d. Blood 8-15, 15-6, 15-5

Semi-finals: Huot d. Cox 15-2, 15-6; Cloutier d. Bolvin

Finals: Cloutier d. Huot 15-9, 15-1

Men's Open Doubles

Quarter-finals: Bilodeau/R. Olson d. Fransoso/Zubrod 15-7, 15-6; Smith/Williams d. Norsworthy/Pierpont 10-15, 15-3, 15-9; Bouthot/Tito d. Eon/Mailman 13-15, 15-9, 15-10; Isenberg/Wright d. Karter/Pughatch 15-6, 15-9

Semi-finals: Bilodeau/Olson d. Smith/Williams 15-3, 15-4; Bouthot/Tito d. Isenberg/Wright 15-12, 15-12

Finals: Bilodeau/Olson d. Bouthot/Tito 15-12, 14-15, 15-13

Men's B Doubles

Quarter-finals: Giguere/Hood d. Guerin/Guerin 15-2, 15-14; Beck/Ottovic d. Chaplin/Maciejewski 15-11, 15-7; Graham/Eon d. Foster/Foster 12-15, 15-12, 15-10; Babb/Johnson d. Hammond/Trask 15-13, 15-7

Semi-finals: Giguere/Hood d. Beck/Ottovic 15-4, 15-9; Babb/Johnson d. Graham/Eon 15-14, 14-15, 15-11

Finals: Giguere/Hood d. Babb/Johnson 15-7, 12-15, 15-4

Women's B Doubles Finals:

Gay/Mailman d. Bilodeau/Gerrior

Colorado

1983 Grand Junction Athletic Club Open

Grand Junction Athletic Club

Grand Junction, CO, October 21-23

Sponsors: Kentucky Fried Chicken, LITE Beer, & National Pipe & Supply

Men's Open: Giacomo d. Nowak 21-13, 21-15

Men's A: Bailey d. Wyble 21-20, 21-4

Men's B: Hornbeck d. Chapman 14-21, 21-7, 11-2

Men's C: Norris d. Billings 21-10, 21-8

Men's Novice: Joseph d. Saad 21-16, 21-18

Women's A: Bauer d. Blowers 10-21, 21-10, 11-1

Women's B: West d. Parsons 21-8, 21-10

Women's C: Grass d. Rockman 20-21, 21-9, 11-6

Women's Novice: Gratz d. Black 21-8, 13-21, 11-5

Men's A Doubles: Nowak/Turner d. Giacomo/Arnold 21-10, 21-10

Men's B Doubles: Spangler/Groomer d. Vanderhooft/Hays 21-20, 21-17

Women's A Doubles: Blowers/Draeger d. Haller/Lehman 21-15, 21-5

Women's B Doubles: Sullivan/Lambert d. Tyler/Grass 21-19, 21-15

Juniors — 8 & Under: Aubert d. Belden 21-20, 16-21, 11-6

Juniors — 9-12: Brown d. Aubert 21-8, 21-16

Pennsylvania

Sawmill's 5th Annual White Rose Classic

York, PA, October 21-23, 1983

Men's A Open: 1st—Cohen; 2nd—Gonzalez

Men's A: 1st—McCarthy; 2nd—Juron; 3rd—Crosen

Men's B: 1st—Bond; 2nd—Polisky; 3rd—Rohrbaugh

Men's C: 1st—Hartsock; 2nd—Friedman; 3rd—Vogtman

Men's Seniors: 1st—Munson; 2nd—Merrill; 3rd—Vanore

Women's A Open: 1st—Fischl; 2nd—Zarfes; 3rd—Upson

Women's B: 1st—Crews; 2nd—Anderson; 3rd—Lee

Women's C: 1st—Anders; 2nd—Daly; 3rd—Dattisman

Women's Novice: 1st—Guldon; 2nd—Selan; 3rd—Nelson

Men's B Doubles: 1st—Vanore/Munson; 2nd—Facinoli/Goodrich; 3rd—Miller/Dickey

Colorado

Southwest YMCA Fall Tournament

Southwest Denver YMCA

Denver, CO, October 26-30

Sponsor: Bear Valley Ace Hardware

Tournament Director: Rick Taylor

Men's A: Sundine d. Kidneigh

Men's B: Taylor d. Roth, 21-9, 21-20

Men's C: Woods d. Malonson 14-21, 21-15, 11-5

Men's D: Heymann d. Ehrhardt 21-11, 21-20

Women's C: Mihlenbeck d. Dahl 21-14, 21-17

Women's D: Lucas d. Gardelli 21-19, 21-15

Colorado

Evergreen Athletic Club's "Fall Classic"

Evergreen Athletic Club

Evergreen, CO, October 27-30

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: Hansen d. Helton 21-18, 21-13; Connely d. Stone 21-14, 15-21, 11-6; Frand d. McDermott 21-9, 21-19; Farkas d. Siversen 21-14, 19-21, 11-2

Semi-finals: Hansen d. Connely 21-8, 21-4; Frank d. Farkas 21-18, 11-21, 11-9; Frank d. Hansen 21-13, 15-21, 11-10

Finals: Frank d. Hansen 21-13, 15-21, 11-10

Women's Open

1st—Fornaciari; 2nd—Hatton

Men's A

Quarter-finals: Self d. Pena 21-17, 21-20; Walker d. Wells 21-20, 10-21, 11-7; Plummer d. Oberto 21-15, 21-13; Rodriguez d. Helm 21-14, 20-21, 11-7

Semi-finals: Walker d. Self 21-10, 21-6; Plummer d. Rodriguez 21-19, 21-19

Finals: Walker d. Plummer 21-5, 15-21, 11-6

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Johnson d. Flemming 21-12, 21-7; Finch d. Batres 21-14, 10-21, 11-6; Peretti d. Santomo 21-10, 21-12; Diddy d. Hunsinger 21-14, 21-7

Semi-finals: Johnson d. Finch 21-20, 21-12; Diddy d. Peretti 21-15, 21-11

Finals: Diddy d. Johnson 21-18, 21-7

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Smiley d. Cockburn 6-21, 21-12, 11-4; Siegel d. Steele 21-14, 21-1 Butts d. Turner 18-21, 21-17, 11-8; Thomas d. Hansen 21-17, 21-7

Semi-finals: Siegel d. Smiley 21-8, 21-13; Thomas d. Butts 21-14, 21-14

Finals: Siegel d. Thomas 21-16, 21-19

Men's Novice

Quarter-finals: Paulman d. Palan 21-4, 21-9; Wilbanks d. Meyers 21-7, 21-7; McJunkin d. Choate 21-9, 21-7; Ridley d. Jones (Forfeit)

Semi-finals: Paulman d. Wilbanks 21-16, 21-10; McJunkin d. Ridley 21-11, 21-18

Finals: Paulman d. McJunkin 21-7, 21-18

Women's A

Quarter-finals: Wise d. Wilcox 17-21, 21-20, 11-8; Baldi d. Warrender 21-14, 21-12

Semi-finals: Main d. Wilderson 21-11, 21-3; Grant d. Rodriguez 21-3, 10-21, 11-4

Finals: Main d. Grant 21-4, 21-16

Women's C

1st—Hrebar; 2nd—Keeney

Women's Novice

Semi-finals: Bouton d. Held 21-6, 21-2; Barnett d. Fontana 21-14, 21-17

Finals: Barnett d. Bouton 21-12, 21-18

North Carolina

4th Annual \$5,000.00 Sports Center Classic

The Sports Center

Fayetteville, NC, October 28-30

Sponsors: Miller Lite, UCB

Tournament Director: Sharla Alexander

Men's Semi-Pro

1st—Gonzalez; 2nd—Ray; 3rd—Bledsoe; 4th—Little; 5th—Gries; 6th—Swisher; 7th—Compton; 8th—Vanderpool

Men's Open

1st—Watkins; 2nd—Dayvault; 3rd—Yang

Women's Open

1st—Lofthouse; 2nd—Armbricht; 3rd—Hammond

Men's A

Quarter-finals: Miste d. Surface 9-15, 15-1, 11-3; Tweedie d. Swarez 15-9, 9-15, 11-2; Olinski d. Owen 15-8, 15-13; Lain d. Snook 15-0, 15-0

Semi-finals: Miste d. Tweedie 15-5, 15-3; Olinski d. Lain 15-7, 15-9

Finals: Olinski d. Miste 21-20, 21-20

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Lee d. Wiles 15-12, 11-15, 11-7; McMillian d. Elliot 15-4, 13-15, 11-8; Armbrecht d. Heroux 15-10, 8-15, 11-5; Bryant d. Pool 15-13, 15-8

Semi-finals: Lee d. McMillian 15-7, 15-4; Bryant d. Armbrecht 21-7, 14-21, 11-9

Finals: Lee d. Bryant 21-12, 21-14

Men's C

Quarter-finals: LiPuma d. Zigler 15-0, 15-0; Tart d. Ray 6-15, 15-11, 11-4; Walter d. Evanovich 9-15, 15-9, 11-6; Miuer d. Gen-try 15-7, 15-11

Semi-finals: LiPuma d. Tart 14-15, 15-7, 11-7; Miller d. Walter 15-7, 15-8

Finals: Miller d. LiPuma 21-7, 21-8

Men's Novice

Semi-finals: Peacock d. McCullough; Thompson d. Phillips

Finals: Peacock d. Thompson

Men's Senior

1st—Johnson; **2nd**—Ed Taylor; **3rd**—Lehnecke

Juniors 18 & Under

Semi-finals: Fitzgerald d. Nobles; Fisher d. Berti

Finals: Fisher d. Fitzgeralds

Juniors 14 & Under

Finals: Rittenmeyer d. Armbrecht

Women's B-C

Semi-finals: Turnbull d. Francis 15-4, 15-6; Fonke d. Teague 15-5, 15-11

Finals: Turnbull d. Fonke 8-21, 21-19, 11-6

Men's Open Doubles

Quarter-finals: Surface/Dayvault d. Tweedle/Owen 15-4, 15-10; Johnson/Monfre d. Vandell/Lehnecke 9-15, 15-6, 11-3; Heath/Taylor d. Swisher/Snook 15-11, 15-3; Hunt/Yang d. Mistele/Olinski 15-6, 15-12

Semi-finals: Surface/Dayvault d. Johnson/Monfre 15-6, 8-15, 11-1; Hunt/Yang d. Heath/Taylor 15-11, 15-11

Finals: Hunt/Yang d. Surface/Dayvault 21-20, 20-21, 11-10

Men's B Doubles

Quarter-finals: Heroux d. Vaivao/Murphy 3-15, 15-7, 11-7; Evanovich/Miller d. Dennison/Oakley 15-10, 15-8; Armbrecht/Wiles d. Pritchery/Fitzgerald 15-12, 14-15, 11-5; Lewis/Lain d. McMillian/Fisher 15-13, 15-8

Semi-finals: Evanovich/Miller d. Heroux/Brown 15-10, 15-8; Armbrecht/Wiles d. Lewis/Lain 21-20, 20-21, 11-10

Finals: Armbrecht/Wiles d. Evanovich/Miller 21-18, 21-18

Pennsylvania

Scranton YMCA Halloween Open

Scranton YMCA

Dunmore, PA, October 28-30

Sponsors: Koerner Ford Scranton, Joseph C.

Pinto Contractor & AMF Voit

Tournament Directors: Sam &

Shirley Pettinato

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: Guinter d. Cook; Bevelock d. Barrett; Mathewson d. Hubert; McAndrew d. Geiger

Semi-finals: Guinter d. Bevelock; McAndrew d. Mathewson

Finals: Guinter d. McAndrew

Women's Open

Semi-finals: Conforti d. Reuben; Pettinato d. Krohn

Finals: Conforti d. Pettinato

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Shaikh d. Nicholas; Burke d. Welles; DePrimo d. Gentile; Smarsh d. Con

Semi-finals: Shaikh d. Burke; DePrimo d. Smarsh

Finals: DePrimo d. Shaikh

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Transue d. Monry; Schirling d. Van Wert; Azzarelli d. Yobs; Geiswite d. Shank

Semi-finals: Schirling d. Transue; Geiswite d. Azzarelli

Finals: Geiswite d. Schirling

Women's B

Semi-finals: Krohn d. Kudrich; Shank d. Musto

Finals: Krohn d. Shank

Women's C

Quarter-finals: Butckuitz d. Kudrich; Musto d. Harrison; Kapp d. O'Connell; Yonchuck d. Olive

Semi-finals: Musto d. Butckuitz; Yonchuck d. Kapp

Finals: Yonchuck d. Musto

Men's Open Doubles

Quarter-finals: McAndrew/Barrett d. Azzarelli/Cron; Dieterick/Geiger d. Susek/Nicholas; Hubert/Bevelock d. Napkori/Cavanaugh; Mathewson/Pettinato d. Cook/Mulroy

Semi-finals: McAndrew/Barrett d. Dieterick/Geiger; Hubert/Bevelock d. Mathewson/Pettinato

Finals: Hubert/Bevelock d. McAndrew/Barrett

Mixed Doubles

Semi-finals: Conforti/Bevelock d. McAndrew/Kudrich; Shank/Guisewhite d. Pettinato/Pettinato

Finals: Conforti/Bevelock d. Shank/Guisewhite

Colorado

6th Annual Foothills Tournament

Colorado Court Sports

Arvada, CO, November 3-6

Sponsor: Arvada Auto Wrecking

Tournament Directors: Don Hanna & Peggy Haddon

Men's Open

Semi-finals: Farkas d. Brookens 14-21, 21-19, 11-10; Tarde d. Helton 21-6, 21-9

Finals: Tarde d. Farkas 21-13, 21-20

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Men's A

Quarter-finals: Creel d. Lopez; Houck d. Shanks; Vigil d. Matson; Campbell d. Knowles

Semi-finals: Houck d. Creel 14-21, 21-11, 11-6; Vigil d. Campbell 21-13, 21-11

Finals: Vigil d. Houck 19-21, 21-7, 11-7

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Johnson d. Bloom; West d. Floerke; Clark d. Bozich; Hall d. Durbin

Semi-finals: West d. Johnson 21-19, 21-20; Clark d. Hall 16-21, 21-16, 11-2

Finals: West d. Clark 21-4, 21-10

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Schleibaum d. Ross; Bernath d. Alonzi; Brown d. Neilson; Boscia d. Fujioka

Semi-finals: Bernath d. Schleibaum 21-12, 21-10; Brown d. Boscia 21-4; 21-11

Finals: Bernath d. Brown 19-21, 21-16, 11-3

Men's Novice

Semi-finals: Snead d. Nix 21-7, 21-9; Hellmer d. Nix 21-8, 21-18

Finals: Snead d. Hellmer 20-21, 21-14, 11-2

Women's A

Quarter-finals: Turner d. Williams; Carder d. Swoboda; Regan d. Hulet; Wyble d. Eichhorn

Semi-finals: Turner d. Carder 21-9, 21-5; Wyble d. Regan 21-10, 21-9

Finals: Wyble d. Turner 19-21, 21-9, 11-8

Women's B

Quarter-finals: Havener d. Sudine; Bozich d. Potter; Fortney d. Tjeimeland; Modisette d. Hording

Semi-finals: Havener d. Bozich 21-11, 19-21, 11-9; Fortney d. Modisette 21-11, 21-10

Finals: Fortney d. Havener 21-17, 21-16

Women's C

Quarter-finals: Grass d. Walrath; Wollesen d. Neiberger; Peterson d. Heffelman; Stanns d. Roffes

Semi-finals: Grass d. Wollesen 21-6, 21-8; Peterson d. Stanns 21-7, 21-9

Finals: Grass d. Peterson 21-4, 17-21, 11-1

Women's Novice

Semi-finals: Barnett d. Hoy 21-3, 21-9; Glomski d. Dolfin 21-1, 21-5

Finals: Barnett d. Glomski 21-9, 21-16

Washington

Budweiser Tournament
Tacoma Family Fitness Center
Tacoma, WA, November 4-6

Men's A

1st—Stevens; 2nd—Kubasek; 3rd—Wilson; 4th—Triller

Men's B

1st—Argyle; 2nd—Poitras; 3rd—Smith; 4th—Russ

Men's C

1st—Storaasli; 2nd—Lynch; 3rd—Guaglianone; 4th—Seaburg

Men's D/Novice

1st—Watson; 2nd—Cröft; 3rd—Sagisti; 4th—Spodnik

Men's Golden Master

1st—Bushong; 2nd—Jenkins; 3rd—Savage

Women's A

1st—Tiedeman; 2nd—Hamilton; 3rd—Cartledge; 4th—Fox

Women's B

1st—Betsch; 2nd—Roger; 3rd—Houser; 4th—Chausis

Women's C

1st—Carlson; 2nd—Megert; 3rd—Naemura; 4th—Locke

Women's Masters

1st—Mannakee; 2nd—Reinhardt; 3rd—Murdoch; 4th—Bushong

Men's Open Doubles

1st—Williams/Druktenis; 2nd—Stevens/Chausis; 3rd—Henderson/Wilson; 4th—Kubasek/Poitras

Men's B/C Doubles

1st—Rathbone/Julich; 2nd—Udall/Goddard; 3rd—Dawson/Reid; 4th—Bond/Furham

Women's B/C Doubles

1st—Hoy/Dorsey; 2nd—Kerschner/Lammers; 3rd—France/Post; 4th—Chausis/Zeroogian

Connecticut

The Downtown Racquetball Club
Pro/Am Classic
The Downtown Racquetball Club
New Haven, CT, November 4-6

Men's Pro

Semi-finals: Gonzales d. Rubin 15-6, 15-12; Swain d. Chardvoynne 15-9, 15-9

Finals: Gonzales d. Swain 15-11, 15-7

Women's Pro

Finals: Marriott d. Stoll 15-7, 15-9

Men's A

Semi-finals: Demico d. Alvarez 12-15, 15-11, 11-9; Gonzales d. Santoro 15-12, 9-15, 15-3

Finals: Demico d. Gonzales 15-10, 15-3

Men's B

Semi-finals: Reynolds d. Foster 15-11, 15-9; Lewis d. Travis 15-10, 3-15, 11-8

Finals: Reynolds d. Lewis 10-15, 15-0, 11-9

Men's C

Semi-finals: Kroop d. Lucinsky 15-7, 15-13; Ames d. Feuer 7-15, 15-9, 11-2

Finals: Kroop d. Ames 9-15, 15-2, 11-6

Men's CC

Semi-finals: Benanto d. Petrik 15-8, 15-8; McIntire d. Schultz 15-5, 15-8

Finals: McIntire d. Benanto 15-14, 14-15, 11-9

Men's Novice

Semi-finals: Damico d. Dinicola 15-8, 14-15, 11-7; Harrington d. Kramer 15-9, 15-12

Finals: Harrington d. Damico 15-8, 15-2

Men's 35+

Semi-finals: Menendez d. Hansen 15-4, 15-5; Gershaw d. Champagne 15-10, 15-10

Finals: Menendez d. Gershaw 15-10, 15-14

Men's 45+

Semi-finals: Henzy d. Maitland 12-15, 15-0, 11-3; Hollander d. Ehr Gott 15-7, 15-5

Finals: Hollander d. Henzy 15-6, 15-8

Juniors 15 and Under

Semi-finals: Preiss d. Lampo 15-11, 6-15, 11-8; McDonald d. Hogan 15-11, 15-11

Finals: McDonald d. Preiss 15-8, 15-3

Women's A

Semi-finals: Adler d. Green 13-15, 15-6, 11-9; Morris d. Ehr Gott 15-11, 15-5

Finals: Adler d. Morris 15-14, 15-0

Women's B

Semi-finals: Nardone d. Peterson 15-6, 15-11; Ettinger d. Wald 14-15, 15-7, 11-4

Finals: Nardone d. Ettinger 15-5, 15-13

Women's C

Semi-finals: Sobolowski d. Porco 15-6, 15-7; Rinaldi d. Linsky 1-15, 15-10, 11-6

Finals: Sobolowski d. Rinaldi 15-14, 15-8

Women's Novice

Semi-finals: Mellen d. Fusco 10-15, 15-9, 11-6; Reed d. Henzy 15-4, 15-3

Finals: Reed d. Mellen 15-5, 5-15, 11-10

Men's Open Doubles

Semi-finals: Eliassen/Maturah d. Thiel/Hernjak 15-2, 15-9; Stoll/Rubin d. Hansen/Hansen 15-13, 15-1

Finals: Eliassen/Maturah d. Stoll/Rubin 15-7, 15-10

Women's Open Doubles

1st—Morris/Wyer; 2nd—Ettinger/Mittricker

Men's B Doubles

Semi-finals: Barbaro/Weisbrot d. Alvarado/Gonzales 15-7, 15-9; Downs/Abate d. Lewis/Malavasi 15-11, 15-13

Finals: Barbaro/Weisbrot d. Downs/Abate 15-11, 15-7

Men's C Doubles

Semi-finals: Moore/Eule d. Rosario/Linskey 15-7, 15-11; Ratner/Kraus d. Abate/McDonald 15-3, 15-6

Finals: Moore/Eule d. Ratner/Kraus 15-14, 13-15, 11-10

Women's B/C Doubles

1st—Tabone/Wald; 2nd—Meyer/Murzyn

California

Riva Open
Royal Racquet Club
Burlingame, CA, November 4-6
Sponsors: Riva Sportwear, Tred II, Taste Restaurant, Gatorade, Bud Light
Tournament Directors: Roger Fairchild, Jack Hughes

Men's Open

1st—Wright; 2nd—Hawkins

Women's Open

1st—Gilreath; 2nd—Pessagno

Men's A

1st—Lowe; 2nd—Garcia

Men's B

1st—Frenna; 2nd—Olson

Men's C

1st—Hemingway; 2nd—Farber

Men's D

1st—Espino; 2nd—Gonos

Men's Seniors

1st—DeLuca; 2nd—Thomas

Women's B

1st—Palmer; 2nd—Sherwood

Women's C

1st—Wilson; 2nd—Gallagher

Women's D

1st—Hyde; 2nd—Enquist

Men's Open Doubles

1st—Wright/Hildebrand; 2nd—Dunn/Doyle

Men's B Doubles

1st—Davis/Ettema; 2nd—Donithorne/Kintana

Mixed Doubles

1st—Dziedzic/Hooks; 2nd—Guinn/Nagel

Juniors

1st—Arney; 2nd—Palmer; 3rd—Fregosa, Jr.; 4th—Araghi

New Hampshire

Salem Bud Lite Open
Salem Racquetball Club
Salem, NH, November 4-6
Tournament Director: Al Parchuck

Men's A

1st—Pattison; 2nd—Barrett; 3rd—Martellini; 4th—Marcotte

Men's B

1st—Caro; 2nd—Fransoso; 3rd—Casella; 4th—Racioppi

Men's C

1st—Goulet; 2nd—Fregoire; 3rd—DeFrancesco; 4th—Howe

Men's D

1st—Sweetser; 2nd—Gazelian; 3rd—Sullivan; 4th—Ribaud

Men's Novice

1st—O'Donnell; 2nd—Morris; 3rd—Harper; 4th—Waldron

Men's Seniors

1st—Heguy; 2nd—Smith; 3rd—Bischoff; 4th—Drouin

Women's A

1st—Bailey; 2nd—O'Dwyer; 3rd—Hatem; 4th—Drewniak

Women's B

1st—Taillon; 2nd—LaFlamme; 3rd—Norman; 4th—Ross

Women's C

1st—Quellette; 2nd—DiBlasi; 3rd—Crowley; 4th—Porcello

Women's D

1st—Benerakis; 2nd—Moll; 3rd—Shain; 4th—Caradonna

Women's Novice

1st—Benerakis; 2nd—Pinciarro; 3rd—Nicolosi; 4th—Ruggieri

Men's Doubles

1st—Vaillencourt/Proulx; 2nd—Barrett/Normanden; 3rd—Pattison/Ely; 4th—Lemanski/Waldron

Iowa

4th Annual Racquet Club —
Lite Racquetball Tournament
Racquet Club . . . at the Lodge
Okoboji, IA, November 11-13, 1983
Sponsor: McLaughlin Distributing Company
(Lite Beer)
Tournament Director: Monty Schwager

Men's A: 1st—L. Weeks; 2nd—L. Stugelmeyer

Men's B: 1st—K. Horner; 2nd—B. Ginger

Men's C: 1st—J. Sullivan; 2nd—M. Ammons

Men's Novice: 1st—R. Davidson; 2nd—B. Melville

Women's B: 1st—S. Rooney; 2nd—T. Thate

Tomen's C: 1st—K. Palmer; 2nd—J. Finzen

Men's Doubles: 1st—Lucas/Stugelmeyer; 2nd—Hoppe/Martin

Michigan

MRA #3—Racquetball Plus
Racquetball Plus
Grand Rapids, MI, November 11-13, 1983
Sponsors: Wilson Sporting Goods WJFM,
Viking Sports, & Bud Light

Men's Pro

Semi-finals: J. Amatulli d. R. Anderson 21-13, 21-15;
B. Mitchell d. M. Anderson 21-19, 7-21, 11-6

Finals: Amatulli d. Mitchell 16-21, 21-19, 11-10

Women's Pro

Semi-finals: Frederickson d. Anderson 21-1, 21-10; Thompson
d. Ackerman-Chmura 21-7, 21-5

Finals: Frederickson d. Thompson 21-7, 21-16

Men's Open

Semi-finals: Hastings d. Loew 21-12, 21-9; VanderLind d.
Easterling 21-1, 21-19

Finals: Hastings d. VanderLind 20-21, 21-13, 11-8

Men's A

Semi-finals: Van Dis d. Schermer 21-12, 21-15; Austin d.
Kaber 14-21, 21-14, 11-8

Finals: Austin d. Van Dis 21-12, 13-21, 11-5

Men's B

Semi-finals: C. Kelly d. Rodriguez 21-10, 15-21, 11-3; B. Kelly
d. Richmond 21-17, 21-13

Finals: B. Kelly d. C. Kelly 21-17, 21-17

Men's C

Semi-finals: Carlson d. Kan 21-8, 21-1; Brady d. Zamanian
21-16, 13-21, 11-9

Finals: Carlson d. Brady 21-12, 21-8

Men's D

Semi-finals: Myers d. Verbeck 21-14, 21-10; Ohanesian d.
Wesaw 21-15, 21-18

Finals: Myers d. Ohanesian 21-11, 18-21, 11-9

Women's A

Semi-finals: Lozon d. Steinbach 21-19, 21-20; Heckman d.
Hamel 21-14, 16-21, 11-3

Finals: Lozon d. Heckman 21-20, 5-21, 11-4

Women's B

Semi-finals: Barry d. Driver 21-14, 21-16; Latreille d. Dolack
21-11, 21-12

Finals: Barry d. Latreille 19-21, 21-18, 11-6

Women's C

Semi-finals: Gilliland d. Shore 21-16, 18-21, 11-6; Hoshield d.
Caruso 21-20, 21-18

Finals: Gilliland d. Hoshield 21-11, 21-17

Women's D

Semi-finals: Huczek d. Wiegerink 21-8, 21-9; Gill d. Brady
21-8, 21-15

Finals: Gill d. Huczek 21-16, 21-20

Men's Seniors A

Finals: Bonnett d. Gravelyn 20-21, 21-13, 11-6

Men's Seniors B

Semi-finals: Hahn d. Goodman 21-8, 21-18; Smith d. Sharum
(Forfeit)

Finals: Hahn d. Smith 21-13, 21-12

Men's Seniors C

Semi-finals: Rensberry d. Chrenka 8-21, 21-12, 11-6; Straut-
nieks d. Justice 21-12, 21-14

Finals: Strautnieks d. Rensberry 21-17, 21-11

Men's Masters B

Semi-finals: Bult d. Mitchell 21-5, 21-10; Markward d.
Whitehead 21-17, 21-8

Finals: Bult d. Markward 21-14, 9-21, 11-9

Boy's 13 & Under

Finals: Bonnett d. Steinbach 21-19, 21-18

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Kansas

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Boeing Military Airplane Company's Activity Center
Wichita, KS, November 16-20, 1983
Sponsors: Wilson, AMF, Foot-Joy, 7-UP and local sponsors
Tournament Directors: Mike Gann and Bob Mason

Men's Open

Semi-finals: Comilang d. Tibbits; Stuteville d. Bryan
Finals: Stuteville d. Comilang

Men's B

Semi-finals: Lindeman d. Owens; Hood d. Johnson
Finals: Lindeman d. Hood

Men's C

Semi-finals: Hall d. Bell; Kupfert d. Fuhrman
Finals: Hall d. Kupfert

Men's D

Semi-finals: Darouie d. Schmidt; Applebaugh d. Purinton
Finals: Darouie d. Applebaugh

Men's Novice

Semi-finals: Sternberger d. Orton; Pham d. Davis
Finals: Pham d. Sternberger

Men's 35+

Semi-finals: Fay d. Evans; McMillan d. Howell
Finals: Fay d. McMillan

Colorado

1983 Turkeyshoot to Benefit M.S. Rally Sport Health and Racquet Club
Boulder, CO, November 17-20, 1983
Sponsors: Herman Joseph's, McGuckin Hardware, Potter's Restaurant
Tournament Directors: Sherry Benedetti and Bob Schwab

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: Hansen d. Mosak 21-16, 21-4; Farkas d. Siverson; Tarde d. Helton 21-18, 21-19; Sanchez d. Bennedetti 21-3, 21-6

Semi-finals: Hansen d. Farkas 21-10, 21-7; Sanchez d. Tarde 21-18, 21-20

Finals: Sanchez d. Hansen 21-20, 21-15

Women's Open

Quarter-finals: Fornaciari d. Dahl 9-21, 21-8, 11-7; Pendley d. Zale 21-6, 8-21, 11-7

Semi-finals: Armstrong d. Fornaciari 16-21, 21-18, 11-3; Howard d. Pendley 21-7, 21-4

Finals: Armstrong d. Howard 21-8, 21-16

Men's A

Quarter-finals: Bryant d. Walker 10-21, 21-13, 11-6; Rodriguez d. Self 21-19, 21-15; Matson d. Pena 21-7, 21-12; Smario d. Schwab 21-11, 21-15

Semi-finals: Bryant d. Rodriguez 21-13, 17-21, 11-7; Smario d. Matson 17-21, 21-19, 11-1

Finals: Bryant d. Smario 21-9, 16-21, 11-8

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Sellers d. Siegel 21-17, 21-12; Johnson d. Rosen 21-18, 17-21, 11-9; Robie d. Roth 21-16, 10-21, 11-5; Abbink d. Dutton 21-18, 17-21, 11-9

Semi-finals: Sellers d. Johnson 21-8, 21-11; Abbink d. Robie 21-12, 21-5

Finals: Abbink d. Sellers 21-9, 21-12

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Jenkins d. Brockett 21-12, 21-6; Jeavons d. Grant 17-21, 21-8, 11-9; Ingram d. Winey 21-13, 21-13; McLemore d. Miller 15-21, 21-9, 11-10

Semi-finals: Jenkins d. Jeavons 18-21, 21-19, 11-9; Ingram d. McLemore 21-16, 21-19

Finals: Ingram d. Jenkins 21-12, 12-21, 11-4

Men's Novice

Quarter-finals: Toledo d. Dixon 18-21, 21-8, 11-8; Perez d. Smario 21-18, 19-21, 11-10; Bowman d. David 21-9, 21-8; Schwallier d. Szeto 13-21, 21-7, 11-3

Semi-finals: Toledo d. Perez (forfeit); Bowman d. Schwallier 12-21, 21-5, 11-10

Finals: Bowman d. Toledo 21-18, 21-18

Men's Seniors 35+

Quarter-finals: Huber d. Adair 21-3, 21-0; Tarwater d. Boland 21-16, 21-5; Campbell d. Sedlock 21-10, 21-5; Lynch d. Arner 21-4, 21-2

Semi-finals: Huber d. Tarwater 21-9, 21-13; Lynch d. Campbell 15-21, 21-13, 11-9

Finals: Huber d. Lynch 21-12, 21-19

Women's A

Quarter-finals: Wyble d. Carder 20-21, 21-8, 11-4; Williams d. Main 21-9, 21-9; Eichhorn d. Hoban 21-18, 21-14; Almeida d. Hulet 21-11, 21-4

Semi-finals: Wyble d. Williams 21-18, 21-14; Almeida d. Eichhorn 21-11, 21-9

Finals: Almeida d. Wyble 21-14, 21-20

Women's B

Quarter-finals: Duell d. Benedetti 21-9, 21-3; Wood d. Lustbader 14-21, 21-13, 11-5; Tjelmeland d. Roberts 21-10, 21-12; Rocks d. Grass 21-18, 21-13

Semi-finals: Duell d. Wood 21-13, 21-15; Rocks d. Tjelmeland 21-19, 21-18

Finals: Duell d. Rocks 21-4, 21-11

Women's C

Quarter-finals: Walrath d. Kioneigh 21-19, 21-3; O'Hara d.

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Barke 21-10, 17-21, 11-1; Buxton d. Barnett 21-12, 21-4; Best d. Bernard 21-8, 21-3

Semi-finals: O'Hara d. Walrath 11-21, 21-5, 11-5; Best d. Buxton 21-9, 21-7

Finals: O'Hara d. Best 21-14, 21-18

Women's Novice

Quarter-finals: Lamb d. McEwen 21-14, 21-7; Overton d. Ovellette 21-10, 21-10; McDonnell d. Fairless 21-12, 21-20; Selin d. Bash 21-1, 21-5

Semi-finals: Lamb d. Overton 13-21, 21-17, 11-9; Selin d. McDonnell 21-11, 21-9

Finals: Lamb d. Selin 21-16, 10-21, 11-4

Men's A/Open

1st—Belanger/Lolsel; 2nd—Polocek/Rapoport; 3rd—Proctor/Knipe; 4th—Rudis/Rugieri

Men's B

1st—Porcello/Provins; 2nd—Salta/Laurent; 3rd—Savage/Carroll; 4th—Laine/Jesseman

Men's C

1st—Salta/Laurent; 2nd—Patten/Whitney; 3rd—Whitcher/Metrano; 4th—Brown/Saffo

Men's Seniors

1st—Polocek/Rapoport; 2nd—Crim/Drouin; 3rd—Bloom/Maxwell; 4th—Savage/Carron

Women's A

1st—Rosenfeld/Turner; 2nd—Baeder/Knipe; 3rd—Boucher/Beaudoin; 4th—Bloom/Proctor

Women's B/C

1st—Taft/Saffo; 2nd—Berube/Brouillard; 3rd—Porcello/Middleton; 4th—Brewer/Hough

New Hampshire

New Hampshire State Doubles Championships

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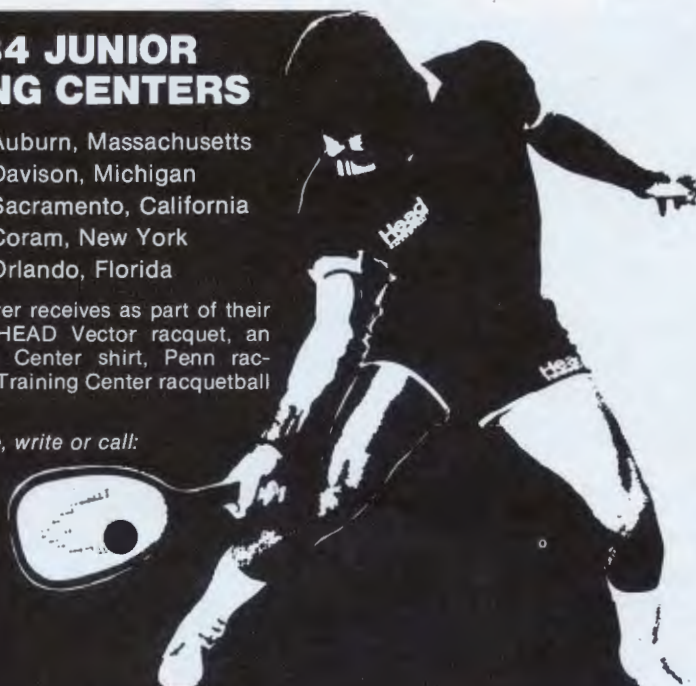
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Letters

Gar's Spots

Dear Editor:

I really enjoyed the first installment of the new Charlie Garfinkel series (*Charlie Garfinkel's 'Spot' Racquetball, January issue*). It's about time somebody realized that we all don't have the time, energy or money to totally alter our strokes to mimic the picture-book style recommended by most authors.

That's why it's so refreshing to see somebody like "The Gar" offer simple, well diagrammed advice on *where* to hit the ball, not necessarily *how* to hit the ball. By reading his articles and paying attention to his diagrams I can easily visualize how his tips will add points to my game.

I'm afraid that my strokes will forever be slightly off kilter; I don't think I'll ever quite have the smoothness of Harnett or the power of Hogan or the finesse of Yellen. But I do enjoy the game and prefer to improve myself (admittedly never to a pro level) by hitting the proper "spot," as Garfinkel says.

So, keep up the good work, Gar. Racquetball continues to hit the spot!

Dawn Tarte
Elk Grove Village, IL

Rizzio Retires

Dear Editor:

I know it's not often that a local story makes your national publication, but after more years than I like to count, I've retired as the pro at the Harlem-Irving Racquet House in Des Plaines, IL, just outside of Chicago.

I just wanted to publically say thank you to all the wonderful people I met, worked with and taught at Harlem-Irving. I'd especially like to thank club owner Ray Ruscitti for years of dedication to racquetball and for allowing me to share some wonderful experiences because of that dedication.

Speaking of people I've taught, did you ever learn to hit a forehand?

Sam Rizzio
Chicago, IL

Never needed one. —Ed.

Mondry Scores

Dear Editor:

As a long time subscriber to *National Racquetball*, I just wanted to say a few words about Steve Mondry's monthly instructional column, *Steve Mondry's Racquetball Clinic*.

I've really been impressed in the last six to 12 months with Steve's consistent and concise style. His tips on improving my game are direct and to the point and, most importantly, are simple enough so that I can easily incorporate them into my game.

I've read just about every book on racquetball (including yours) and have found that most books get too technical, too complicated and too boring to do me much good. Mondry, on the other hand, seems to have that knack

(that all good instructors must have) to sense when he's about to give out more information than can be absorbed. And that's where he stops.

Steve has obviously put long hours into his racquetball game. You can count me among those who turn to his articles first, when I get my copy of *National Racquetball* each month.

H.b. Anderman
Gadsden, AL

Thank You, Thank You

Dear Editor:

Thank you so much for the copy of *National Racquetball* (December issue). The best possible compliment I can give you is it's a fantastic magazine—very interesting, informative and totally into its purpose—racquetball!

Enclosed is my check for a subscription and my only regret is I couldn't make the deadline to receive the free book by Steve Keeley.

Anyway, here's hoping '84 proves to be the best year yet for *National Racquetball* and my game as well (laugh)! If at all possible, start my subscription with the January issue.

Thanks so much.

Ron Harris
Milan, MI

Hey Ron—there's an opening in our P.R. department. The job's yours if you want it.—Ed.

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Why Do You Play Racquetball?

by Tom Grobmisi

Why do you play racquetball?

A lot of people don't care—but I do. So I asked around. And just about all I got were the trite answers like, "*It's a good workout,*" or "*It's fun!*"

But one girl I asked who had obviously had a few too many in the Ship Shot Lounge told me she heard that lots of electricians played racquetball and she always thought electricians were particularly interesting, so she took up the game to meet them.

So I began to wonder just what kind of answers I'd really get if I only asked people who had had a few too many

and were uninhibited enough to tell me why they really played racquetball. I spent several nights interviewing 30 inebriated and often obnoxious players. I think you'll agree that the effort was worth it and the results very interesting.

Nineteen people gave the typical "*good exercise*" and "*lots of fun*" type answers; 12 gave very interesting and unusual answers; three made me promise not to tell; one guy couldn't remember if he even played racquetball and asked me to tell him when the little hand is on seven; and two people gave me reasons I can't spell. (I know it

doesn't add up to 30 and I don't know why, either.)

But I think it says a lot for the sport of racquetball that over 25% had interesting answers. That's a heck of a lot higher than the national average for answering questions, even when you consider how boring most questions are. As a matter of fact, a study done recently at some big school reported that the one question people asked each other more than any other is, "Huh?"

But that's beside the point. The point is, you never really know when someone is pulling your leg. ●

KIDS!

by Tom Grobmisi

There's hardly anything that upsets me more than watching some cocky young kid win at racquetball. They don't win because they're *better*—they win because they're *younger*. Because they never get tired. And because they go into every match expecting to win. They actually feel they're "entitled" to win.

Kids today *expect* to get what they want just because they decide they want it. In a word, they're spoiled! They believe all they have to do is try hard enough and want it bad enough and they'll win. This gives them a tremendous competitive (and even unfair) edge. Whatever happened to such qualities as insecurity? Guilt? Humility? Those values our parents so carefully instilled in us!

It's up to us parents to bring back those values that gave our elders such a huge advantage over us when we were young. We took our lumps, and now it's our turn to win! And if we don't do something about it soon, before you know it our grandchildren will be whopping the tar out of us too.

Take a good look at your kids today and ask yourself if they honestly *deserve* to be that happy. If, like me, your answer is "*Heck, No!*" then you better do something quick to cut them down to size. And if you're not sure

how to do it, why don't you ask *your* parents. I'll bet you money the first thing they tell you is you're completely wrong to even think about doing what

you want to do—that's always been their first step.

Come to think of it, that's a good place to begin with your own kids, too. ●

The Aerobic Health Fitness and Exercise Center

by Tom Grobmisi

The "*Aerobic Health Fitness and Exercise Center*"!

We used to just call it "*the club*."

The "*mineral hot tub circulatory pool*"... We used to just call, *the "tub."*

We used to just pay by the hour,
(Providing, of course, we got caught);
And now we must pay just to shower,
And the towels even have to be bought!

So we try to adjust to the changes,
And play just as much as we can;
But at least now, when we get tired,
We can lie back and get a nice tan.

Oh, we long for the good old days,
When racquetball was supreme;
And using a court for some dancing,
Would have surely been thought quite obscene! ●



Playing with an erratic racquetball is like shooting pool during an earthquake. Either way, you're holding yourself back. And guessing a lot.

Since 1979, there's been a lot less guessing. That's the year the Penn® Ultra-blue first appeared. The year players discovered consistent performance—from their ball, and from their own game.

Since then, Penn has quickly become America's number one racquetball—going from nowhere to everywhere at courts and in major tournaments around the country. Virtually overnight.

It wasn't done with inflated claims or false promises. It was earned. With liveliness, durability, and Penn's now-famous consistency. With quality that made Penn the performance standard.

So invest in a can. You might discover you're a better player than you think.

NO OTHER BALL CAN TELL YOU HOW GOOD YOU ARE.





The Will To Win.

The will to win. When you've got it, nothing can stop you. It breaks down the barriers and pushes you to the ultimate limits of your capabilities.

Once you're there, you'll find that only Ektelon racquets can meet your performance standards.

Our Graphite CBK[®], the game's most powerful racquet, and the Composite 250G[™], the most widely used tournament model, are designed for players who want the best.

Ektelon . . . if you demand as much from your racquet as you demand from yourself.

Composite 250G.



Graphite CBK

EKTELON[®]

The Most Recommended Name in Racquetball

another  BROWNING company