



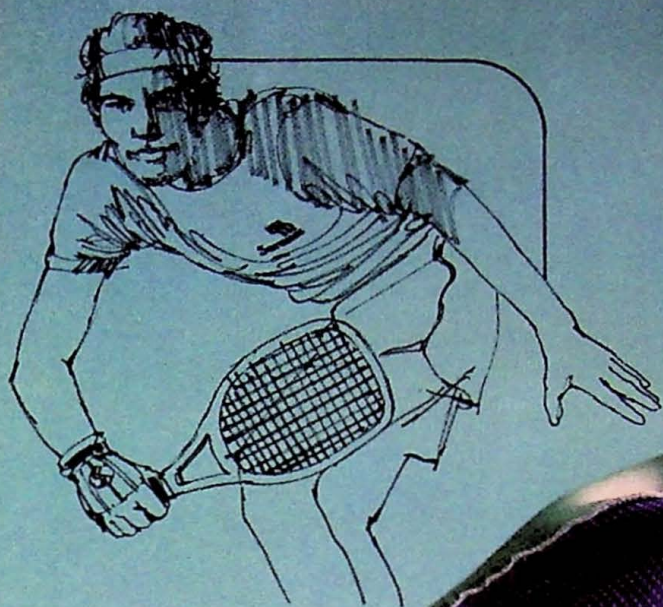
Colgate
Men & Women's
Pro-Am Racquetball Tour
Co-sponsored by
Seamco/Leach
Sanctioned by NRC/USRA

Aurora YMCA
Aurora, Illinois
April 5-9, 1978

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slap it  dunk it  bounce it 
freeze it  spin it  cream it 
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winning racquetball

Arthur Shay with Chuck Leve

Winning Racquetball is intended for beginning players seeking shortcuts to racquetball competence as well as those who have achieved the competence required to enter local club tournaments and last at least a round or two.

Building on the basics, Shay and Leve cover such areas as the mental attitudes required to win tournaments; how to get into supershape for racquetball; how to use your limitations (fatigue, for example) as advantages; and how to play against someone who is trying to out-psych you. There are winning suggestions for every department of play.

Proven racquetball winners, such as Steve Keeley, Steve Serot, Sue Carow, Kathy Williams, Charlie Brumfield, Bill Schmidtke, Ron Rubenstein, and racquetball's 19-year-old superstar Marty Hogan, are photographed in action and quoted throughout to illustrate the points made in the text.

Winning Racquetball will lead the racquetball enthusiast to the level of competence and beyond into tournament excellence.

Arthur Shay is a former *Life* and *Time* writer and *Sports Illustrated* photographer. He is the author-photographer of thirty-one books. Chuck Leve is the author of *Inside Racquetball* and the National Director and editor of *National Racquetball* magazine, the official publication of the United States Racquetball Association and the National Racquetball Club, Inc.

Foreword by Robert W. Kendler, President, United States Racquetball Association

Please send me _____copy(ies) of WINNING RACQUETBALL at \$4.95 each plus 50¢ postage and handling for each book ordered. Illinois residents kindly add 5% sales tax; California residents please add 6% sales tax. NO CASH OR C.O.D.'s accepted—please send check.

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Colgate Men and Women's Pro/Am Racquetball Tour

Schedule

September 8-11

The Racquet Ball Club, Inc.
West Allis, Wisconsin
(Milwaukee)

October 5-9

Health 'n Sports Club & Spa
Westbury, New York

November 9-13

King's Racquetball Court,
Westminster, California (Los
Angeles).

December 14-18

Court House I, Marietta,
Georgia (Atlanta).

January 11-15

Gresham Court Club, Gresham,
Oregon (Portland), **Men Pro Only.**

January 19-22

Court Sports of Omaha
Omaha, Nebraska
Women Pro Only.

February 15-19

Arizona Athletic Club, Tempe,
Arizona (Phoenix).

March 15-19

San Antonio RB/HB Club II, San
Antonio, Texas.

March 30-April 2

King of Prussia Racquetball Club,
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania
(Philadelphia), **Women Pro Only.**

April 5-9

Aurora YMCA, Aurora, Illinois
(Chicago), **Men Pro Only.**

June 17-24

Sports Illustrated Court Club,
Belleville, Michigan (Detroit),
National Championships.

Colgate, Seamco, Leach Sponsor N.R.C.'s Pro Racquetball Tour

Colgate-Palmolive, the well known national firm that specializes in sports promotion, is the newest member of the National Racquetball Club's sponsorship group on the pro tour. Colgate joins Seamco Sporting Goods, in their fourth year, and Leach Industries, in their third season.

The aid given by these firms, in prize money, promotional dollars and consultation, has elevated the pro tour to its current status of a for-real, nation-wide sporting event.

Together these three firms have donated over \$250,000 in prize money, publicity funds, and promotional dollars to keep the pro tour on its annual upward spiral. It is due to this support that the N.R.C.'s tour continues to be one of the world's most exciting professional events.

Colgate has involved themselves in sports promotion seriously in recent years including major golf and tennis events.

"I think racquetball is the next big sport for this nation," said Colgate president David Foster. *"We are pleased to be able to support this young and dynamic sport."*

Seamco and Leach are old friends to the N.R.C.'s pro tour and have each donated over a quarter of a million dollars in prize money, souvenir shirts, racquetballs and other promotional items during the past few years.

Seamco is the largest manufacturer of racquetballs and Leach is the nation's number one racquet manufacturer. Together with Colgate-Palmolive, these three generous firms make up a strong, aggressive sponsorship trio of which racquetball can be proud.

The fact that these firms have been willing to invest part of their profits back into the development of our sport is indicative of people and businessmen who run these companies.

Al Mackie, president of Seamco, Charlie Drake, president of Leach, and David Foster, president of Colgate-Palmolive have done yeomans service to racquetball.

Often these people or their representatives are on hand at the pro tour stops. We invite you to say hello and discuss racquetball with them.

Souvenir Program Staff

Publisher • Robert W. Kendler
Editor • Chuck Leve
Business Manager • Joe Ardito
Director of Design • Milt Presler

Cover Photo by Arthur Shay

From "Marty Hogan's Power Racquetball" By Marty
Hogan, Charlie Brumfield & Arthur Shay Published
by Contemporary Books, Chicago

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People You Should Know



Robert W. Kendler

Bob Kendler is president of both the United States Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club. The founder of both organizations, Kendler is the one person who has been most responsible for the tremendous growth and improvement of racquetball.

A 73-year-old, Multi-millionaire, Chicago area real estate developer, Kendler began his court career before racquetball was ever imagined.

It was Kendler who formed the United States Handball Association in 1951, taking the national jurisdiction away from the Amateur Athletic Union and putting it in the hands of players.

The key issue then was antiquated amateur rules, and from that issue Kendler built a strong, national organization in racquetball's predecessor, handball. The U.S.H.A. publishes *Handball* magazine, the true bible of that sport.

When racquetball began its

initial movements Kendler was among the first to recognize the potential of this young sport. He formed the first racquetball association in 1968 and later formed the U.S.R.A. and N.R.C.

Due to his firm belief in health and well being for all people, Kendler paved the way for original racquetballers to exist harmoniously with handballers, by encouraging the usage of courts by both groups.

Using his real estate and building companies as pertinent background, Kendler and the U.S.R.A. have aided hundreds of court club developers with expert advice on the details of the racquetball/handball business.

A strong leader, Kendler has always maintained that the road to a strong Association is through fiscal propriety. He runs the U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. with one eye on finances and both eyes on principle.

"The key to our organizations," he says, "is to know what the right thing to do is, and then make sure we have the money to do it."

With a vigor that belies his age, you'll still find Kendler on the court three times a week.

Chuck Leve

The National Director of both the N.R.C. and U.S.R.A. is 29-year-old Chuck Leve, a 1970 journalism graduate from the University of Miami (Fla.). Leve joined Kendler's organization in 1970, four days out of college and has been there ever since.

Leve's two main responsibilities are the editing of *National Racquetball*, and the organization of the professional



tour each season. He works closely with each host club, coordinating the preparation work at each stop.

Leve has been the only editor of *National Racquetball* since that publication's first issue back in September of 1973. That magazine has grown from a 24 page near-pamphlet to current editions of 150 pages and more.

The growing size of *National Racquetball*, plus increased advertising and subscriptions led Leve to recommend that this publication become monthly which it will begin in January, 1978.

As for the pro tour, it is Leve who sets the dates of each stop, the tournament format, and does the entire ranking and seeding for each event.

In addition to all that, he is the tour's chief referee, calling almost all of the quarter, semi, and final round matches along with Terry Fancher.

Leve has been an innovator in racquetball, - constantly coming up with new ideas attempting to improve the game at each step. The 11-point tie-breaker was his idea, as were the abandonment of the three bounce rule, and clarification of the 10 second rule. Linesmen first became an integral part of pro matches under Leve's leadership.

Joe Ardito

The Business Manager of the N.R.C. and National Commissioner of the U.S.R.A. is the likeable Joe Ardito. Known by the players as "Papa Joe," Ardito is the man who hands out the checks after each money match.

An experienced tournament person in the highest degree, Ardito began his work in handball over 20 years ago and "graduated" to racquetball with the inception of the N.R.C. in 1973.

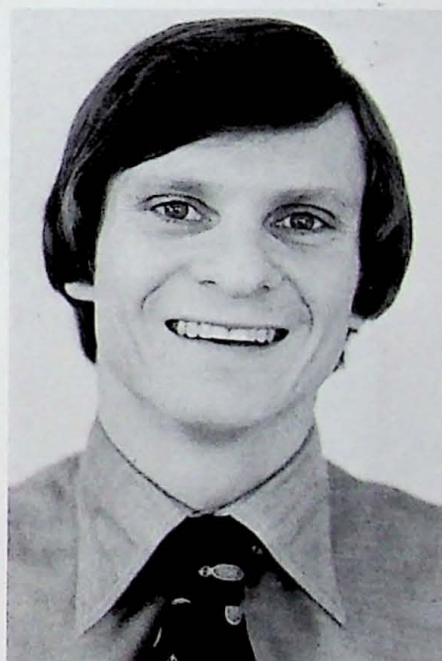
One of Joe's most important roles is the coordination of N.R.C./U.S.R.A. relationships with the manufacturers within racquetball. He is the Association's liaison between the various suppliers of all products within the industry.

An off-shoot of that is his responsibility to coordinate all advertising in *National Racquetball*. It is Ardito who works with advertisers and their agencies, ensuring that each is given the necessary attention.

With all that said and done, however, the "real" Joe Ardito comes out annually at "his" tournament, the U.S.R.A.'s National Junior Championships. Kids have always been Joe's first love, and this tournament, probably the highlight of the U.S.R.A.'s tournament season, is Ardito's "baby."

The pros know Ardito as a fair and firm enforcer of N.R.C. rules and policies. The kids know Ardito as a fair and firm enforcer of discipline and behavior both on and off the court.

We know him as the guy who works behind the scenes to make sure that the job gets done in racquetball.



Terry Fancher

When it comes to organizational ability, it would be hard to top Terry Fancher, the U.S.R.A.'s National Coordinator. Terry's first responsibility upon joining the U.S.R.A. in 1976 was to organize affiliates in the various states on behalf of U.S.R.A.

It took just over a year, but Fancher's never-say-die attitude brought in 46 affiliates by September, 1977. The job entailed contacting individuals

or organizations who desired to work with the U.S.R.A. to further promote racquetball in their areas.

A top 20 pro player himself, Fancher is a regular contributor to *National Racquetball* magazine in the instructional section, as well as coordinating the state affiliate section within the publication.

A racquetball fanatic from way back, Fancher first came to the U.S.R.A.'s attention in 1975 when he submitted his masters thesis (University of Wisconsin) on the history of racquetball to *National Racquetball*. That thesis has since been published by the U.S.R.A. and is available in pamphlet form.

Terry has incorporated his playing abilities and ideal understanding of the game to make himself one of the game's best referees. He, along with Chuck Leve, will usually call all matches from the quarters on.

It was at Terry's urging that the U.S.R.A. was able to provide free balls, shirts and other tournament materials to sanctioned tournaments throughout the country, a policy that still stands. Terry continues to work with all state affiliates, keeping his eyes open for trends and ideas, as well as making sure that each state receives their subscription funds each month.

A solid addition to the U.S.R.A. staff, check with Terry Fancher if you have any ideas concerning further promotion of racquetball in your area.

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We are proud to have been selected as the site for this years Chicagoland Pro Tour stop. The Pro stop is not new to Aurora. The YMCA hosted the Tour in November of 1974 and again in January of 1976.

Along with our other 7 courts, the Aurora YMCA features the worlds first 3 wall glass court which will allow the 500 plus spectators an exciting close-up look at racquetball at its best from the top players in the country.

Excitement is the name of the game here in Aurora. One can easily see the first effects of the \$200,000 building renovation program now underway. Construction will begin shortly on an 8 lane, 25 meter pool with balcony seating for 400. Future plans include a fitness center and additional racquetball courts. The entire program is designed to meet the recreational needs of our community, and frankly, we like showing it off to you.

Again, welcome and good luck.

Robert F. Richardson
President



Thomas A. Rusch
Executive Director



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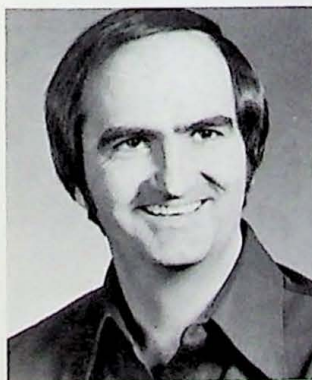
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Pro Tour, and best wishes to the Aurora YMCA**



Marty Hogan

Date of Birth: 1-22-58

Home Town:

St. Louis, Missouri

Year on Tour: Third

Handedness: Right

Racquet: Leach

Pro Victories: 1973-77 (11)

1975-76 (2):

Vermont-October;

Milwaukee-February

1976-77 (9):

Edmonton-September;

Vermont-October;

Ft. Lauderdale-December;

Las Vegas-January;

Houston-February;

Denver-March;

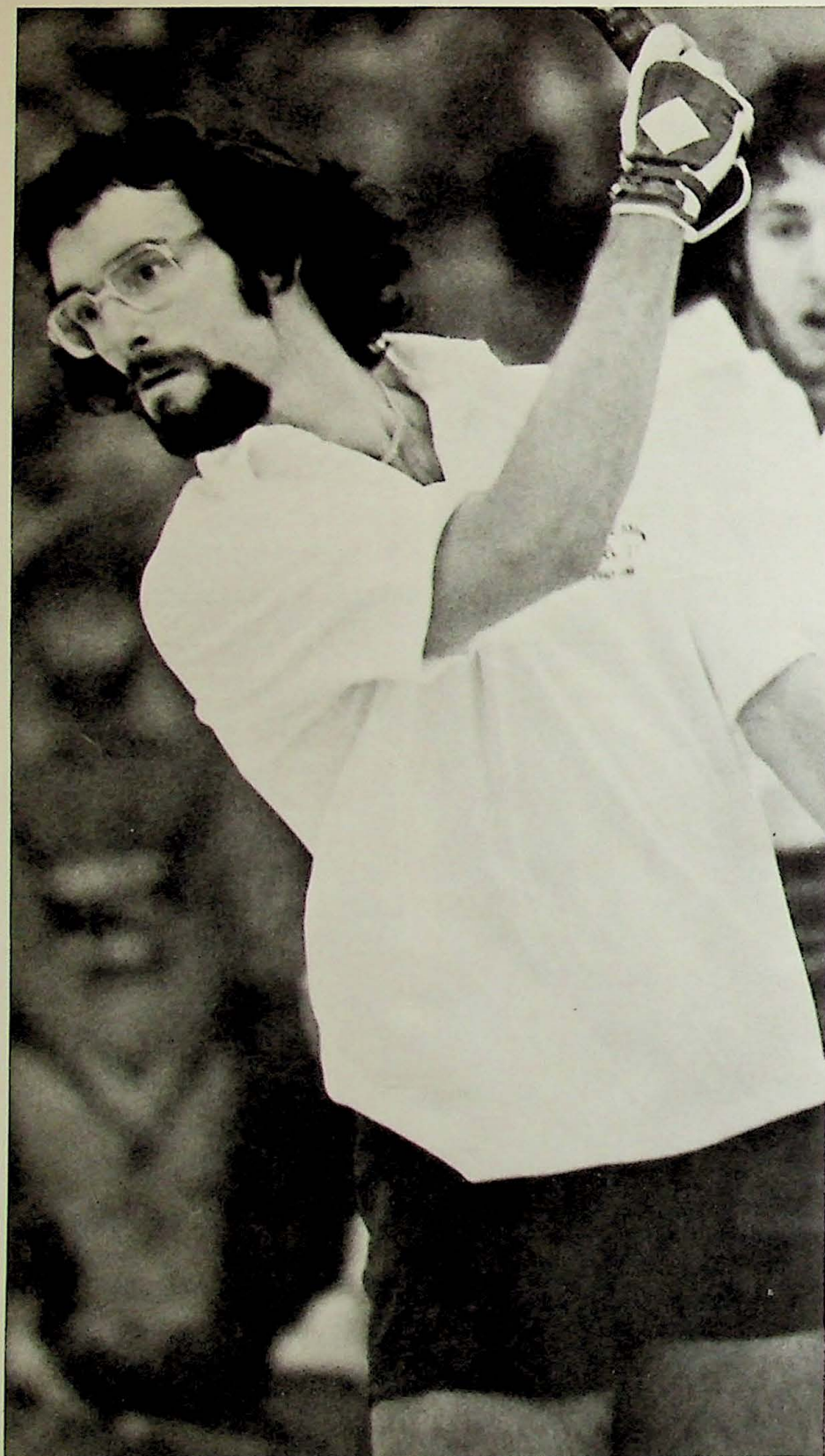
Chattanooga-March;

Southfield-April;

Lombard-April;

Prize Money 1976-77: \$22,000

Game Style: Power; Serve and Shoot. Watch for power drive serves to both sides; He's the game's hardest hitter; Will go for the kill shot at any point on the court, with either forehand, backhand or overhead. Good anticipation, not afraid to dive. Note he gives plenty of room to opponent. Emotional on the court, doesn't mind mixing it up with referee, fans. Can actually mis-hit a ball for a winner due to velocity. He's the man to beat in any tournament. No lead is safe against him.



Charlie Brumfield

Date of Birth: 6-9-48

Home Town:
San Diego, California

Year on Tour: Fifth

Handedness: Right

Racquet: Leach

Pro Victories: 1973-77 (9)

1973-74 (1):

Milwaukee-March

1974-75 (3):

Lansing-February;

Milwaukee-March;

Las Vegas-April

(National Championships)

1975-76 (5):

Denver-September;

Tucson-December;

Aurora/January;

Peoria-May;

San Diego-June

(National Championships)

Prize Money 1976-77: \$6,725

Game Style: Control. Not as hard a hitter as some, but still has the ability. Watch for medium speed drive serves with plenty of Z's. Will try and force ceiling ball rally. Likes to drive the ball cross court. Great rapport with fans, tries to get them involved. Can out-think anybody on the court. Still and always a player to watch.



LEE SPORTS

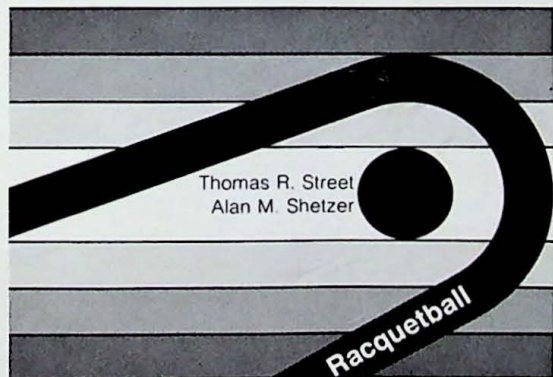
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Davey Bledsoe

Date of Birth: 3-7-51

Home Town:

Kingsport, Tennessee

Year on Tour: Fourth

Handedness: Right

Racquet: Wilson

Pro Victories: 1973-77 (2)

1976-77 (2):

Newport Beach-May;

San Diego-June

(National Championships)

Prize Money 1976-77: \$10,175

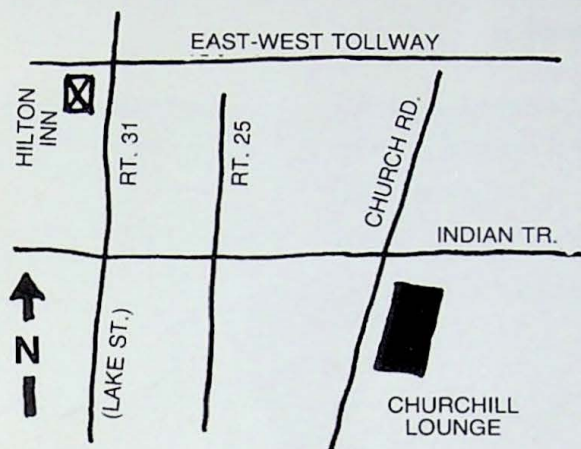
Game Style: Power; Serve and Shoot. Will generally use drive serve to both sides, mixed with hard Z-serves to the backhand; Power second only to Hogan. Speed and court coverage best in the game. Front court game can't be beat. Pet shot forehand right corner kills. Plays well under pressure. Will take seemingly low percentage, deep court kill attempts. Plays strictly offense. Was surprise winner of '77 Nationals.



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Steve Serot

Date of Birth: 2-13-56

Home Town:

St. Louis, Missouri

Year on Tour: Fifth

Handedness: Left

Racquet: Leach

Pro Victories: 1973-77 (4)

1973-74 (2):

Houston-September;

Chicago-April

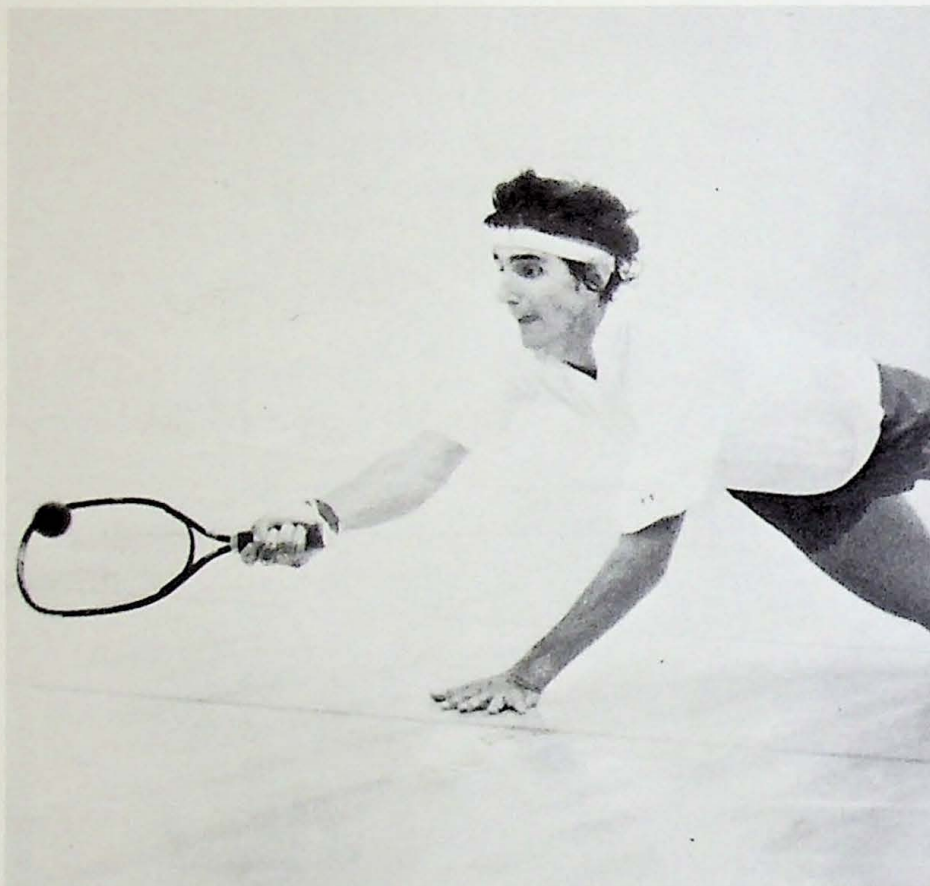
1974-75 (2):

Vancouver-November;

Aurora-January

Prize Money 1976-77: \$2,300

Game Style: Serve and Shoot. Although classified as a shooter, he doesn't have the offensive serve that most shooters do. Greatest retriever in the game, by far best diver. Tends to get banged up due to amount of time spent on floor. Can shoot from anywhere on the court. Regained confidence would be big help. Still a gallery favorite.



Jerry Hilecher

Date of Birth: 7-20-54

Home Town:

St. Louis, Missouri

Year on Tour: Fifth

Handedness: Right

Racquet: Ektelon

Pro Victories: 1973-77 (1)

1976-77 (1):

Sacramento-September

Prize Money 1976-77: \$6,800

Game Style: Serve and Shoot.

One of the hardest hitters with a booming drive serve, his biggest asset. Will hit hard, drives to both sides, looking for aces or weak returns. Likes to shoot his forehand during the rally, uses the backhand for ceiling defense. Can handcuff opponent if serve is on. Not afraid to dive and does it well. Is tough in any tournament.

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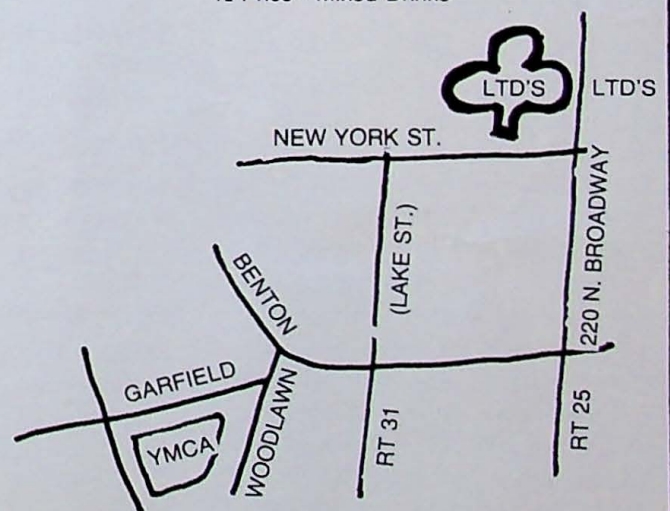
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Richard Wagner

Date of Birth: 2-11-56

Home Town:

San Diego, California

Year on Tour: Fourth

Handedness: Right

Racquet: Leach

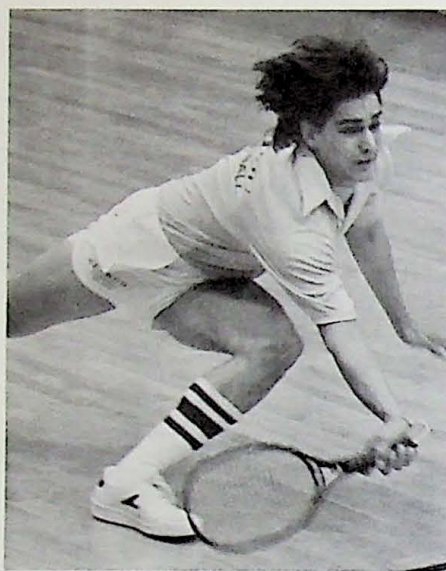
Pro Victories: 1973-77 (1)

1975-76 (1):

Buffalo-March

Prize Money 1976-77: \$4,975

Game Style: Primarily serve and shoot, with a hedge toward control. Doesn't have the big serve like most shooters, but kills off the back wall as well as any. Backhand tends to be more consistent than forehand. Runs with speed and quickness second only to Bledsoe. Matches well against control players, has trouble with big hitters. Watch for forehand right corner kills and straight-in backhand kills.



Ben Koltun

Date of Birth: 2-3-58

Home Town:

St. Louis, Missouri

Year on Tour: Second

Handedness: Right

Racquet: Leach

Pro Victories: None
(1975 National Juniors Champion)

Prize Money 1976-77: \$2,175

Game Style: Serve and Shoot, mixed with control. Likes to go for the ace with drives serves to both sides, especially to the right. Retrieves well, and can shoot the back wall especially well. Lacks the offensive punch of those above him. Has plenty of ability, is smooth hitter. Needs confidence to move up. Plays the power players well.



Craig McCoy

Date of Birth: 2-20-57

Home Town:

Riverside, California

Year on Tour: Fourth

Handedness: Left

Racquet: Leach

Pro Victories: None

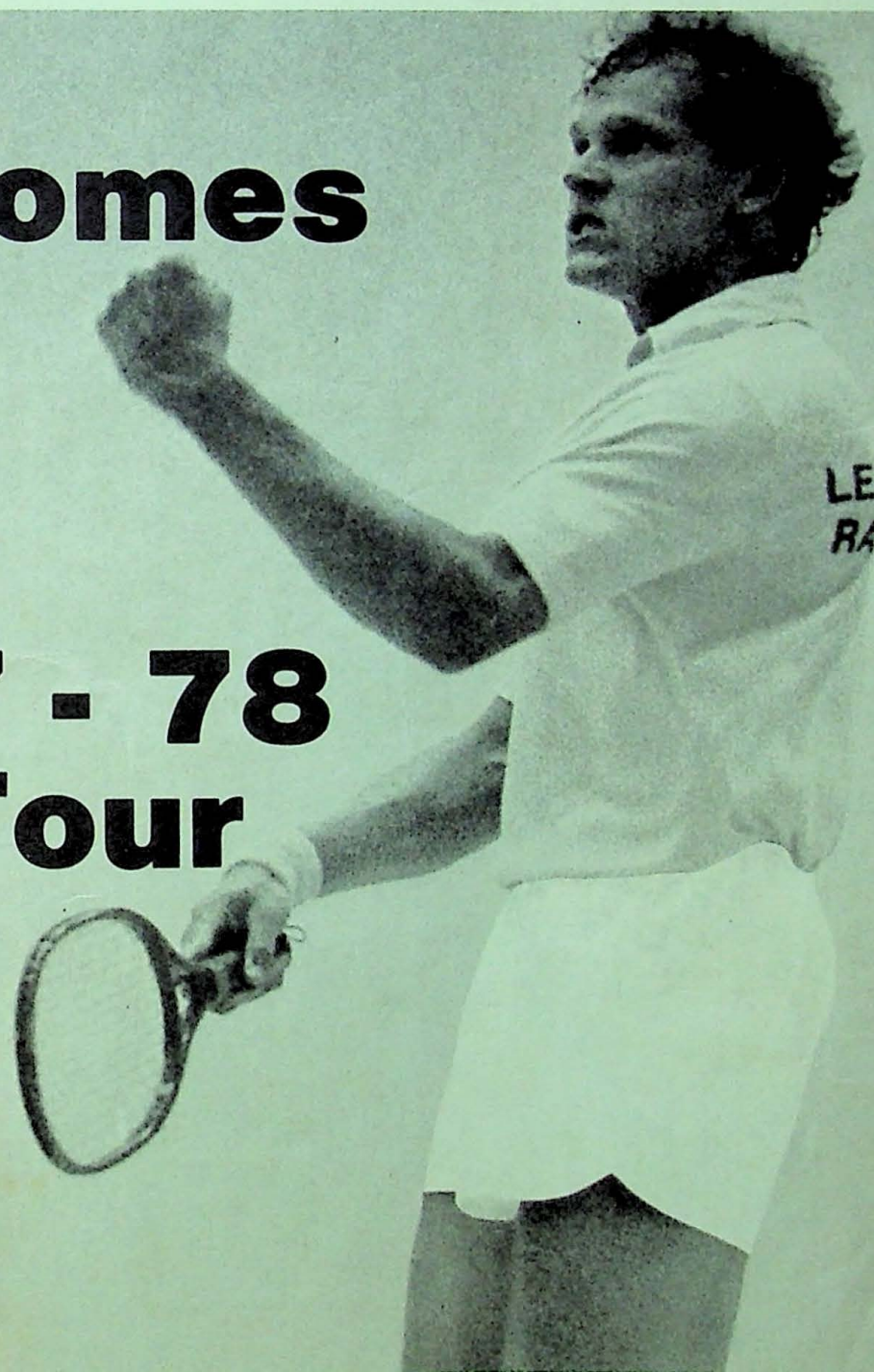
Prize Money 1976-77: \$5,125

Game Style: Power. Serve and Shoot. Likes to hit the hard Z serve to both sides, has super Z to the forehand. Will mix in drives down either line. Fluid strokes make him look slower than he is. Can power near the top when he wants. One of the best tie-breaker players on tour. Needs that big win to be consistent semi-finalist. Can get hot, especially with forehand, left corner kills.

National Racquetball

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**Welcomes
You
To
The
1977 - 78
Pro Tour**



HOGAN	5-	HOGAN	5-	HOGAN	8:30	HOGAN	8:30
SCHMIDT	2:30	KEELEY	8:30	KEELEY	8:30	KEELEY	8:30
CHASE	2:30	CHASE	8:30	CHASE	8:30	CHASE	8:30
HAMMILL	2:30	KOLTON	8:30	KOLTON	8:30	KOLTON	8:30
DAVE PECK	2:30	HILECHER	4:00	HILECHER	4:00	HILECHER	4:00
THOMAS	10-	YELLEN	4:00	YELLEN	4:00	YELLEN	4:00
FLEETWOOD	10-	FLEETWOOD	4:00	FLEETWOOD	4:00	FLEETWOOD	4:00
DERN	10-	BLED SOE	4:00	BLED SOE	4:00	BLED SOE	4:00
BLER SOE	10-	SEROT	5:30	SEROT	5:30	SEROT	5:30
SEROT	11:30	ZEITMAN	5:30	ZEITMAN	5:30	ZEITMAN	5:30
ZUCKERMAN	11:30	MORROW	5:30	MORROW	5:30	MORROW	5:30
MORROW	11:30	WAGNER	5:30	WAGNER	5:30	WAGNER	5:30
STEPHENS	11:30	MCCOY	7-	MCCOY	7-	MCCOY	7-
WAGNER	11:30	BRUNFIELD	7-	BRUNFIELD	7-	BRUNFIELD	7-
MCCOY	1-	JONES	7-	JONES	7-	JONES	7-
BYR	1-	BRUNFIELD	7-	BRUNFIELD	7-	BRUNFIELD	7-
RISH	1-	STAFFORD	7-	STAFFORD	7-	STAFFORD	7-
MORROW	1-	BRUNFIELD	7-	BRUNFIELD	7-	BRUNFIELD	7-
JONES	1-						
STAFFORD	1-						
BRUNFIELD	1-						

Rankings and Earnings

(As of March 20, 1978)

Current Official Men's Rankings

1. Marty Hogan,
St. Louis
2. Charlie Brumfield,
San Diego
3. Davey Bledsoe,
Kingsport, Tenn.
4. Steve Serot,
St. Louis
5. Richard Wagner,
San Diego
6. Jerry Hilecher,
St. Louis
7. Ben Koltun,
St. Louis
8. Craig McCoy,
Riverside, Cal.
9. Jay Jones,
Los Angeles
10. Steve Keeley,
Haslett, Mich.
11. Mike Yellen,
Southfield, Mich.
12. Jerry Zuckerman,
St. Louis
13. Mark Morrow,
Los Angeles
14. (Tie) Steve Strandemo,
San Diego
David Fleetwood,
Memphis
16. Steve Chase,
Phoenix
17. Steve Mondry,
San Diego
18. Jim Owen,
Denver
19. Randy Stafford,
Memphis
20. Mike Zeitman,
Memphis

All Time Career Earnings Men

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Marty Hogan, St. Louis | \$54,190 |
| 2. Charlie Brumfield, San Diego | 39,600 |
| 3. Steve Serot, St. Louis | 21,350 |
| 4. Davey Bledsoe, Kingsport, Tenn. | 20,250 |
| 5. Steve Keeley, Haslett, Mich | 18,450 |
| 6. Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis | 15,720 |
| 7. Steve Strandemo, San Diego | 15,610 |
| 8. Richard Wagner, San Diego | 15,015 |
| 9. Craig McCoy, Riverside, Cal. | 10,805 |
| 10. Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis | 6,506 |
| 11. Ben Koltun, St. Louis | 6,425 |
| 12. Mike Zeitman, Memphis | 5,375 |
| 13. Jay Jones, Los Angeles | 5,025 |
| 14. Mark Morrow, Los Angeles | 3,750 |
| 15. Ron Rubenstein, Chicago | 2,885 |

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Mexican food good, plentiful at LaFiesta

(Editor's note: This column is written after a single, anonymous visit to an area restaurant by one of The Beacon-News staff writers. Because hours and menus may change, readers are urged to call ahead.)

As a break from the hamburger routine, LaFiesta offers some excellent lunch bargains.

Three of us were seated and served promptly.

One headed for the buffet, recently begun during the lunch hour. For \$2.65 (\$3.95 for the dinnertime equivalent), he had a choice of salads (cactus salad was a surprise treat), vegetable dishes and the makings for tacos and tostados.

A buffet hostess is handy to help the novice assemble a meal and explain the dishes. Those offerings will change weekly, owner Hector Labra said.

Two of us ordered dinners — burritos at \$3.80 and carne adobado (a marinated steak) at \$5.75.

Dinners come with a choice of extras, including Mexican rice, refried beans, salad and "gringo" offerings such as french fries and onion rings.

Two large burritos made up one plate; burritos are offered with pork, beef or vegetarian filling. The vegetarian filling was frijoles refritos (refried beans) with cheese.

The steak was a large strip steak, tender and nicely marinated although a bit rare for a "medium" order. It was a delicious reminder that Mexican cuisine ranges far beyond tacos.

The rice was flavorful, tomato-flavored and spicy. The refried beans were good quality.



Carmen Labra of LaFiesta helps Gary Assel at the buffet.

A small salad was the twin of that served in most restaurants in Mexico — iceberg lettuce and tomato with no dressing. It serves as a good counterpoint to the spiciness of much Mexican food.

Tecate beer was served properly, in the can with a wedge of lime. What the waitress described as "dark beer" turned out to be Dos Equis, dark in color but with a light flavor.

The service was top-notch throughout the meal, even though our waitress wore a "trainee" pin on her lapel.

The menu offers about a dozen Mexican

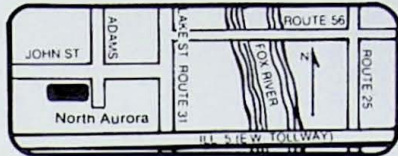
dinner entrees and American specialties.

Dinners often provide more than you may want to eat for lunch, but there are daily lunch specials as well as the buffet. That is scheduled to be served Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Prompt service also helps make LaFiesta a good lunch bet. We were in and out within an hour without feeling rushed. We could have departed sooner, but the buffet diner went back for a third plateful.

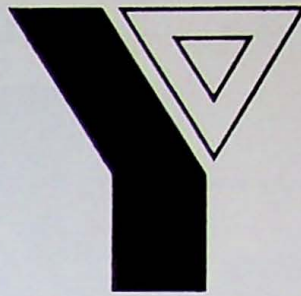
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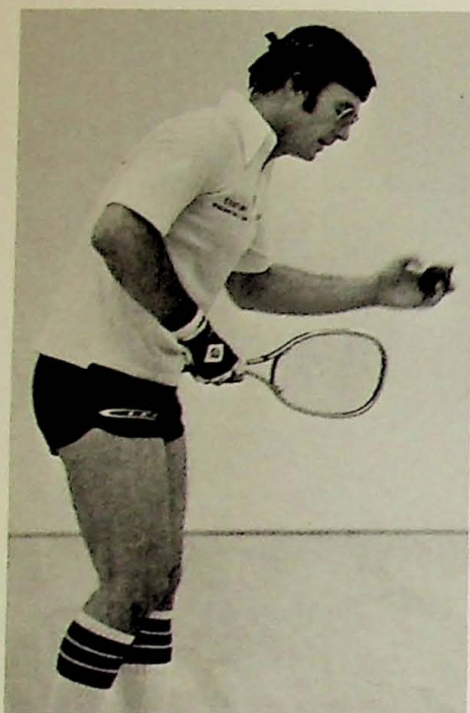
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Jay Jones

Date of Birth: 1-31-43

Home Town

Los Angeles, California

Year on Tour: Second

Handedness: Right

Racquet: Leach

Pro Victories: None

Prize Money 1976-77: \$2,275

Game Style: Combines control with some serve and shoot. Likes to use the hard, drive serves and some Z's. Is offensive with his forehand and defensive with backhand. Likes to shoot forehand off the back wall. Excellent concentration, and knows the percentages. Will play conservative and wait for his shots. In superb shape due to rigors of off-the-court employment (professional stunt man).



Steve Keeley

Date of Birth: 2-8-49

Home Town:

Lansing, Michigan

Year on Tour: Fifth

Handedness: Right

Racquet: Leach

Pro Victories: 1973-77 (3)

1973-74 (1):

Long Beach-October

1974-75 (2):

Oceanside-September;

Livonia-December

Prize Money 1976-77: \$2,875

Game Style: Control. Another percentage player from the old school, Keeley does not have the power of most of the players ranked above him. Still has picture-book strokes, superb concentration, and great eye contact. Can shoot well when he wants to. Good retriever, heady player. Best shots are forehand right corner kill and backhand left corner kill. Watch for garbage and Z serves, even some backhand lobs. Will also hit around-the-wall balls to supplant ceilings.



Mike Yellen

Date of Birth: 2-3-60

Home Town:

Southfield, Michigan

Year on Tour: First

Handedness: Right

Racquet: Ektelon

Pro Victories: None

Prize Money 1976-77: \$200

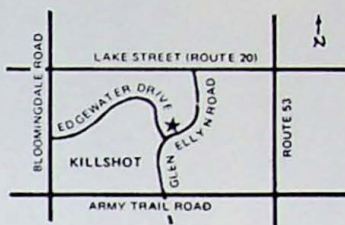
Game Style: Control. A rookie who had some early surprises in pro action a year ago. Plays the percentage game, with emphasis on passing, cross court and wide angle. Hits drive and Z serves, varying speeds. Youngest player on tour which could hurt. Needs experience.

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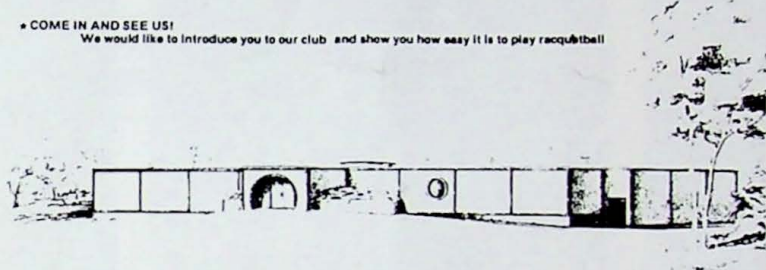
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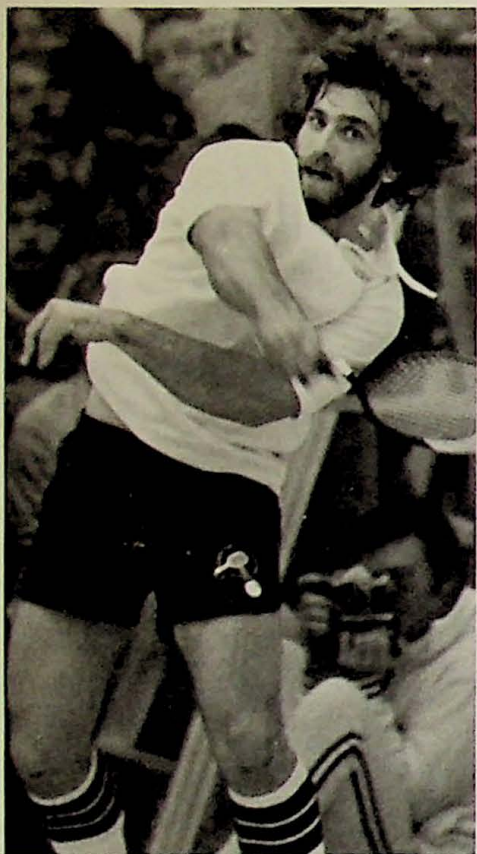


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Mark Morrow

Date of Birth: 6-21-52

Home Town:
Los Angeles, California

Year on Tour: Second

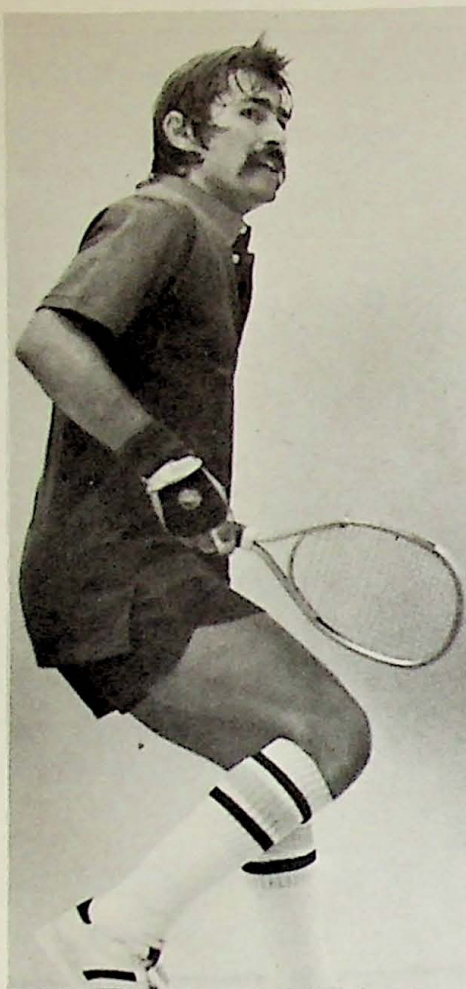
Handedness: Right

Racquet: Leach

Pro Victories: None

Prize Money 1976-77: \$1,500

Game Style: Power, Serve and Shoot. Strong as a bull, he'll drive the ball both ways on serves, use Z's occasionally. Likes to shoot his forehand, sometimes backhand. Great desire, one of the more vocal players. A year under his belt should aid concentration and consistency.



Steve Strandemo

Date of Birth: 3-4-48

Home Town:
San Diego, California

Year on Tour: Fifth

Handedness: Right

Racquet: Ektelon

Pro Victories: 1973-77 (1)
1974-75 (1):
Sunnyvale-January

Prize Money 1976-77: \$4,625

Game Style: Control. Plays the percentage game, uses steady Z serves to force ceiling rally. Likes to stay upstairs and take percentage shots. Tends to play closer than most. Will shoot his backhand off ceiling balls. Good retriever. Has history of good early seasons. In top physical condition. Outstanding student of the game.



Steve Chase

Date of Birth: 8-25-51

Home Town:
Phoenix, Arizona

Year on Tour: Second

Handedness: Right

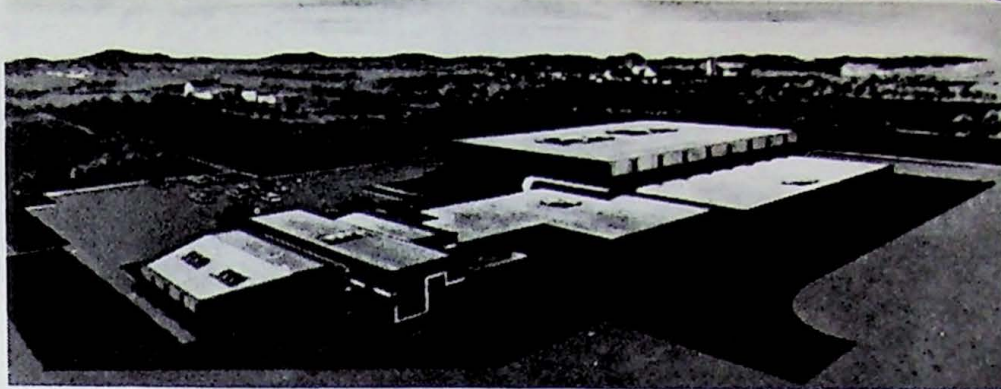
Racquet: Leach

Pro Victories: None

Prize Money 1976-77: \$950

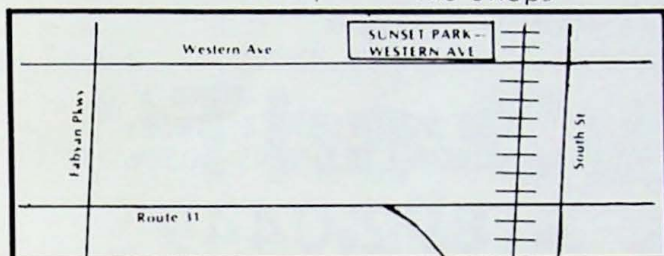
Game Style: Control. A year's experience should aid. Plays control, although not afraid to shoot, especially his forehand. Steady game, not prone to mistakes. Lacks the offensive punch to break into top 10. Can be tough when serving well.

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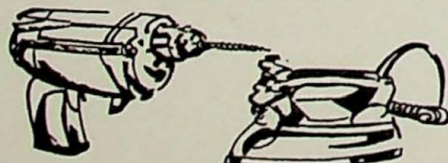
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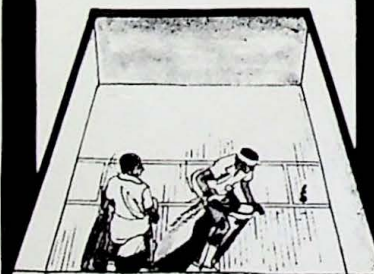
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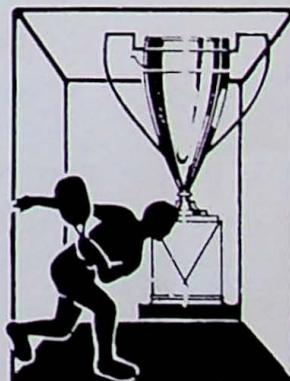
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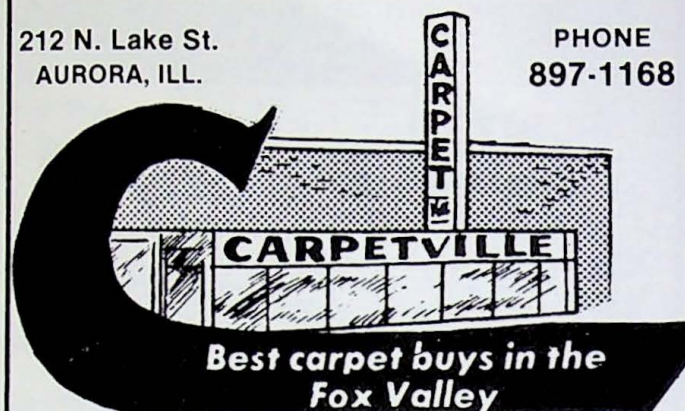
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Ranking The Players

The N.R.C. has devised an elaborate system of ranking the professional players. This system is based on a number of criteria, all of which are directed toward obtaining the most accurate reflection of the current skills of each player.

From this ranking the official draw for each tournament is conducted. Therefore, the key to a player's position in the draw in each tournament is largely dependent on his current ranking.

One of the goals of the N.R.C.'s ranking system is to accurately reflect the *current* abilities of each player. This conforms to the N.R.C.'s feeling that to allow players to build up tournament credentials over months and years would be unfair to those new players attempting to break into the higher ranks.

There are five categories, each counting 20% of the total from which the rankings are determined. These categories are labeled as follows: "Prize Money," "Total Points Earned," "Average Points Earned," "Percentage of Victories," and "Current Season." Let's explore each one.

Prize Money

This category is self explanatory. The amount of prize money earned by each player is added up after each event, and this cumulative total then represents each player's amount. The players are then ranked within this category, from highest amount of prize money earned to lowest, and each player is given his or her corresponding number, i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. depending on how much money has been earned.

Total Points Earned

The N.R.C. awards points based on performance, per round, in each tournament. The tournament winner receives 12 points, the runner-up 9, semi-finalists 7, quarter-finalists 5, round of 16 losers 3, and round of 32 losers 1. These points are then accumulated by each individual, similar to prize money and each player is given his corresponding number depending on where he ranks within this category.

Average Points Earned

In this category points are awarded similar to the "Total Points Earned" category except that the points are taken as an average per tournament played, rather than a cumulative total. In this way players who are forced to miss tournaments due to injury or illness are not treated totally without mercy by the system.

Percentage of Victories

Similarly, this category is an average, as all percentages are. Here the total number of matches played by each player (beginning with the round of 32 in men and round of 16 in women) is tabulated with the number of victories. These totals are then added together and the percentage is taken.

In each of the above criteria, only the most recent five N.R.C. tour events are tabulated.

With this in mind the overriding regulation concerning the ranking system is that only the most recent five tournaments are counted. In this way, a five tournament rotation system is established whereby those players currently playing well will be justly rewarded by a better

ranking by those not doing as well.

For an example, if Mr. Ace Serve was to win the first tournament of the season, he would be credited with that win throughout the first five events. When tournament number six rolls around, however, the credentials from tournament number one are not counted.

Current Season

The final category is a total of the first four, and is the only category not based on a five tournament rotation. Rather this category serves to put some weight on past performance and is a cumulative total of the first four categories throughout the season. After each event, the totals of each category are entered onto a master category which keeps a running total of each.

Finally, then, after each player is ranked within each category, the categories are then cross/added. For example, a player may be ranked 5 in "Prize Money," 4 in "Total Points Earned," 6 in "Average Points Earned," 5 in "Percentage," and 4 in "Current Season." This player's final ranking number (add them all together) is 24. All the players are added in this way, and wherever 24 fall in relation to the other players is the ranking.

The lower the number, the higher the ranking. For example, a perfect total would be 5. That player would be first in all categories and a series of 1's would add to 5.

Seeding and Draw

Due to the increasingly large number of entries in the professional divisions over the past few years, the N.R.C. decided to limit the professional rounds of each tournament this season to 32 players.

However, since N.R.C. policy still allows anybody to play who desires to do so, there will be qualifying rounds the day prior to the tournament for these players.

The N.R.C. ranks pro players on the basis of five criteria, - total points earned, average points earned, percentage of wins versus losses, prize money, and total for season.

Based on that ranking system, the top 20 players are given an "exempt" status, i.e., exempt from qualifying. These 20 players, plus four additional "at-large" exemptions chosen by the N.R.C. are automatically placed in the round of 32, once an entry is received from that player.

The remaining entrants play off Wednesday for the final eight spots in the round of 32, which is played Thursday along with the second round. The quarter-finals follow Friday, the semi's Saturday and the finals Sunday.

In tournaments where both men and women professional divisions are held, the women's draw is limited to 16 players, with 10 "exempt" based on the ranking system, and two "at-large" exemptions chosen by the N.R.C. A qualifying tournament on Wednesday decides the remaining four players to fill the 16 bracket.

Based on the N.R.C.'s ranking system, the top ranked player is placed at the top of the draw; the number two ranked player is placed at the bottom of the draw. The third and fourth ranked

players have their names drawn from a hat to determine in which bracket they play.

The fifth through eighth ranked players have their names drawn from a hat to determine in which bracket they play.

The ninth through 16th ranked players have their names drawn from a hat to determine in which bracket they play.

The remaining 16 players (eight exempt and eight qualifiers) are drawn from a hat to determine in which bracket they play.

The method accomplishes three general goals. First, the better players are strategically separated, making the best matches later in the tournament. Second, new tour players and qualifiers have a better chance, rather than being forced to go up against the top seeds every time as in the past. Third, the recent problem of repetitive match-ups is virtually eliminated.

Sounds simple, doesn't it?

Tie-Breaker

Racquetball's tie-breaker, the 11 point third game, was initiated by the N.R.C. in the Spring of 1976 and has met with overwhelming acceptance on the parts of players, fans, and host facilities.

The brainchild of the N.R.C.'s national director, Chuck Leve, the tie-breaker serves to accomplish a myriad of goals for major tournaments. Among them:

- Matches are kept on schedule in tournament play. This allows for shorter working hours for directors, more accurate planning for spectators and players can now better plan their dietary and rest programs more efficiently.
- Everyday players have a better chance of finishing their match within the allotted

normal one hour time period rather than splitting two games and being unable to finish a third, thereby being unable to determine a winner.

- The excitement of the match is enhanced. Often the third game (when played to 21) would be a long, drag-out affair. With the tie-breaker players must be "on their toes" from the beginning of the third game or it's lost.
- Less pressure is on referees. Many volunteer referees would decline helping due to the potential long third game. With the tie-breaker, referees are more apt to call a potentially close match.
- Underdog players, if they reach the tie-breaker have a better chance at an upset, making for even better competition.
- Players are less apt to "concede" the first or second game, knowing the third game is only 11 points and anything might happen.
- Players will be fresher for the next round, thereby testing racquetball skills rather than conditioning.

A few rules regarding the tie-breaker that you should know:

1. The player scoring the most total points in the first two games combined serves first in the tie-breaker.
2. If the players scored equal numbers of points in the first two games then another coin toss is conducted by the referee to determine first server.
3. Players are allowed two time outs each during the tie-breaker.
4. As with normal 21 point games, a one point margin is all that's necessary for victory, and many exciting 11-10 matches have been played.

The United States Racquetball Association

The United States Racquetball Association (U.S.R.A.) was formed by Bob Kendler in 1973.

The responsibility of the Association is to govern amateur racquetball in the United States.

The U.S.R.A. does many things behind the scenes for racquetball. It publishes the official rules of the game, publishes its magazine, *National Racquetball*, has affiliate organizations in virtually every state, and sponsors amateur tournaments, from the National Championships to local events.

The U.S.R.A. rule book, which is free for all U.S.R.A. members, is a yearly publication giving all the rules and regulations under which the game is played. For a free copy contact your state association or the U.S.R.A.

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National Racquetball, the monthly publication of the U.S.R.A. is the communications piece of the Association, your voice to what's going on within racquetball. *National Racquetball* is sectionalized to provide the subscriber with as much material on a variety of subjects within our sport as is possible.

Instructional articles are the backbone of *National Racquetball*, with more than 20 pages often devoted to improving your game. Major tournament results, court club news, interesting features and interviews, and a Women in Racquetball section are just some of the many interesting facets to this magazine.

If you are at all "into" racquetball, then you should by all means be "into" *National*

Racquetball. This publication is free with a yearly membership to the U.S.R.A.

U.S.R.A. affiliate organizations began with the work of Terry Fancher, the U.S.R.A.'s national coordinator, who spent a full year contacting various persons and organizations throughout the nation. Terry's goal, and that of the U.S.R.A. was to find capable people everywhere, who would volunteer their services to help organize racquetball on the state level.

Affiliates are encouraged to promote the sport in all areas, with special emphasis on junior and women players. Events sanctioned by state affiliates make them eligible for free balls, souvenir shirts, draw sheets, scorecards, rule books and other materials in the U.S.R.A.'s tournament package.

Two dollars of each subscription that comes into the U.S.R.A.'s treasury is re-imbursed to the states on a per membership basis. Over \$100,000 has been "re-invested" in local racquetball by the U.S.R.A. through its affiliates in the past two years.

This money is used by the states to further promote the game, write and mail newsletters, underwrite tournaments and in general, give the affiliate organizations part of the operating capital that is necessary for them to function.

Many of the tournaments sponsored by the U.S.R.A. are of "major" title, including the National Championships in June each year, which culminates the Labor Day to Summer season.

Additionally, the Regional Championships fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S.R.A., which pays the full air fare round trip to the Nationals for all men and women open singles winners at the Regionals.

Every state championship is part of the U.S.R.A.'s far reaching program, as well as every local tournament sanctioned by the affiliates.

In all over 500 tournaments a year fall under the U.S.R.A.'s jurisdiction. That's plenty of racquetball, - for everyone.

The U.S.R.A. is an amateur organization, and sponsors only amateur tournaments or the amateur brackets of play at a professional tournament. No player who has accepted \$1,000 or more in prize money in the past 12 months may play in U.S.R.A. events.

For further information on the United States Racquetball Association, contact their headquarters at 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076 or phone (312) 673-4000.

The National Racquetball Club

The National Racquetball Club (N.R.C.) actually preceeded the U.S.R.A., although they were both formed in 1973. The N.R.C. is the governing body of professional racquetball, and limits its efforts within this framework.

The best known function of the N.R.C. is to organize the yearly professional tour, that series of for-prize money events, usually one or two a month from September through June.

That tour, which began in the fall of 1973 with no sponsor and a total of \$20,000 in prize money, now boasts three major sponsors, over \$150,000 in prize money, and 12 events a season.

The N.R.C. began pro racquetball back in '73 because the organization's president, Bob Kendler, saw the need for professional promotion of racquetball. Kendler felt that if racquetball was to ever become the big time sport that he felt it could, a pro tour was of the utmost importance.

Since its inception, the N.R.C. through its sponsors, has given away over \$400,000 in prizes. Many of the players who were a part of the original pro tour have "graduated" to other age categories, making room for today's young stars.

One of the N.R.C.'s major goals, and one that could see its realization this season, is television coverage for one or more of the pro tour stops. The N.R.C. is constantly in communication with the major networks, as well as local outlets probing the media world in its efforts to see racquetball covered on television.

For each of the past two years, the N.R.C.'s National Championships have been carried over Cable TV. As the sport grows and with it our national audience, we draw closer to that day when we can sit in our living rooms and watch the best competition that racquetball has to offer.

The N.R.C.'s pro tour schedules its events geographically, for one, making at least one stop in every general area of the nation. Another consideration is which areas are racquetball "hotbeds" as we seek to bring the best of the sport to those who have developed an appreciation for it.

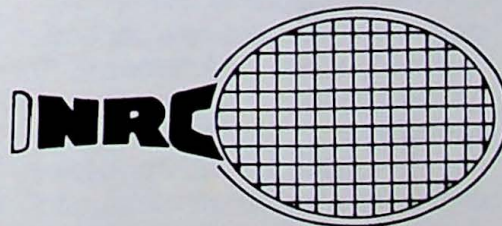
Host facilities on the pro tour put in months of preparation to see that their stop is well attended, hospitable and promoted to bring the gospel of racquetball to as many as possible.

Annually, facilities from all over the nation, bid on the tour stops with only the best clubs in the most desirable areas being chosen as tour stop hosts.

The N.R.C. shares the pages of *National Racquetball* magazine with the U.S.R.A. to keep racquetballers of all ages and persuasions abreast of the latest developments within the sport. Each tour stop is covered in detail, with current rankings and money winnings listed.

Although the pro tour is highlighted by the professionals, the tournaments are open to any player who desires to try his game against the best. Such players go through a qualification event prior to the tournament, and those who reach the pro level can match their shots, on the court, with the tops in the game.

For more information on the N.R.C., contact their national headquarters at 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076 or call (312) 673-4000.



How We got Here

Racquetball was formally organized by Bob Kendler only as recently as 1968, but it is a game that has captured the enthusiasm of physical-fitness minded men and women throughout North America. Foundations of our present-day paddleball and racquetball games may be found more than seven centuries ago.

In an idle moment 700 years ago, two French monks began batting a ball around a monastery courtyard with crude wooden paddles. As a result, this impromptu game, which came to be known as court tennis, gained popularity with royalty and Louis X was so over-extended chasing balls that he became ill and died shortly after a match. Also, the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon were both reported to have played the game.

While paddleball is played with a wooden paddle, racquetball is played with a strung racquet, the frame of which is made of wood, aluminum alloy, fiberglass or a similar combination of materials. Since its origin, probably in the 1940's through the efforts of Joe Sobek, the popularity of the game of racquetball has spread and surpassed paddleball; players of all ages and both sexes can now be found playing racquetball. The increase in interest, facilities, and the addition of racquetball to the physical curriculum has done much for the promotion of the sport.

Racquetball probably got its earliest start in 1949, the year Sobek was credited with inventing the game. The original name of the game was "paddle-rackets." Prior to that

time Sobek had left his profession as a tennis and squash professional and was employed in an executive position in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Sobek had watched paddleball, using the wooden paddle, being played by numerous members of the Greenwich, Connecticut YMCA. Looking for a means to exercise, Sobek thought that paddleball would be a more interesting and entertaining game if a strung racket were used rather than a solid-faced wooden version. Sobek designed the kind of racket thought to be appropriate and took it to a New England manufacturer of tennis, squash, and badminton frames. With the new racket, Sobek started a group of men playing at the Greenwich Y.

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

After having played many racket sports, Sobek felt that paddle-rackets had more to offer than any of the others. It proved to be a stimulating winter activity. Additionally, it was fun, gave tremendous exercise, and was easy to learn. Another advantage was that anyone, young or old, could step into the court and play the game at his own pace. As the game prospered in the 1960's and spread throughout many geographic areas, many different types of balls were tried

in an experimental effort to discover which was the most satisfactory. Also, during the same time period the game was played under a variety of different names, such as "paddle-rackets," "paddle-tennis," and "paddleball."

After official adoption of the word "racquetball" as the name for the game, people were still referring to the "gut" four-wall court game as paddleball. It was stressed that the "racquet" spelling be used both for the game, racquetball, and the implement used, racquet, rather than racketball and racket.

* * * * *

The fast-moving "lifetime sport" of racquetball is rapidly becoming one of the most popular leisure time and conditioning activities. Players of all ages are participating in singles, doubles, cutthroat and mixed doubles play. Clinics, leagues, and tournaments are being conducted, and classes in physical education are giving credit in an attempt to satisfy the needs of the players. The almost instant success of racquetball has caused researchers to conduct experiments in an attempt to discover new knowledge and scientific data about the game.

In an attempt to explain why so many people have become interested in this sport, here are a few of the main reasons that have been observed:

1. **It is easy to learn.** The playing techniques, rules, and strategy are simple to

Credits:

"History of Racquetball," Fancher, Terry.
"Success of Racquetball—Here's Why,"
Alexander, R. and Matthews, Bill.

learn, to understand, and to put into practice. In a very short time span, the beginner can find himself successfully playing the game.

2. **Immediate success is possible and probable.**

Returning the ball to the front wall after it has already rebounded from the front wall is not a difficult skill. With a little experience and instruction, a person can easily acquire the ability to return a variety of shots to the front wall by means of the many different methods available to him.

3. **Conditioning benefits are excellent.**

In a short period of time, an individual may be the benefactor of a vigorous physical workout which has positive results in cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, coordination, agility, and reaction and response time. Muscular strength, flexibility, balance, power and speed are also challenged by racquetball.

4. **Psychosocial values are high.**

The opportunities for emotional growth are great in racquetball. One may experience opportunities to control or release outbursts of temper as well as being afforded opportunities to relieve emotional tensions. Self confidence and social interaction found in fellowship with one's companions can be very rewarding. In doubles, cooperation and teamwork are requisites to success.

5. **Skills are easily transferred from other sports.**

Handball, tennis, badminton, squash, table tennis and paddleball are a few of the sports which have many elements in common with racquetball. The skills, rules, and strategies are very similar and have common values.

6. **Safety hazards are few.** One must remember not to over-exert oneself initially, to "warm-up" properly and to wear a racquet safety thong around the wrist in order to avoid injuring the opponent by striking him with a loose racquet during play.

* * * * *

The statistical growth of racquetball is astounding. From a mere 50,000 players in 1970 the number of participants swelled to an amazing 5.5 million in September of 1977. With so many new people taking up the game, it is nearly impossible to keep up with the rise in popularity the sport is experiencing.

Five years ago, there were only two private court clubs in existence in North America. The

number grew to 80 in two years, then 220 clubs. Today, there are over 700 with almost as many in the planning stages. In addition, the YMCAs, JCC's, military installations and community recreation centers across the country have numerous courts for participation and are adding more.

The sale of racquetballs was a lowly 228,000 in 1970 and now 12 million are sold annually. Prize money on the NRC pro tour has doubled every year beginning with a \$25,000 limited tour in 1974. There seems to be a virtually limitless increase to the numbers of players and amount of equipment to be sold in the coming years. With expanded interest from television coverage, sponsorship and promotion, racquetball certainly seems to be the game of the next decade.

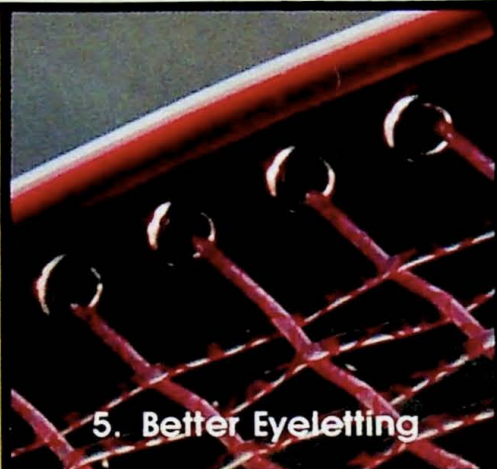
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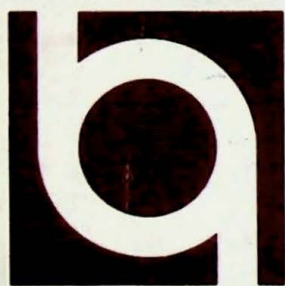
1. Cobra



3. Redesigned Handle



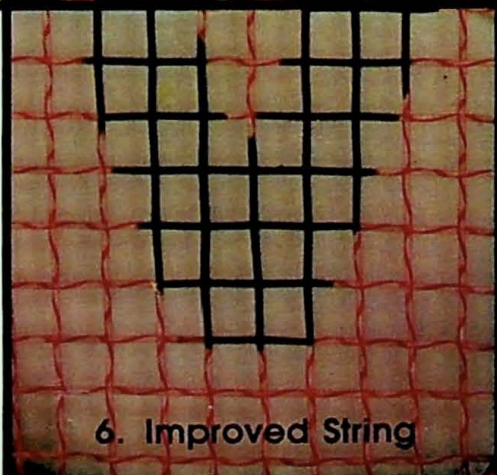
5. Better Eyeletting



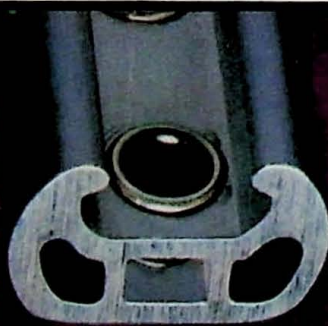
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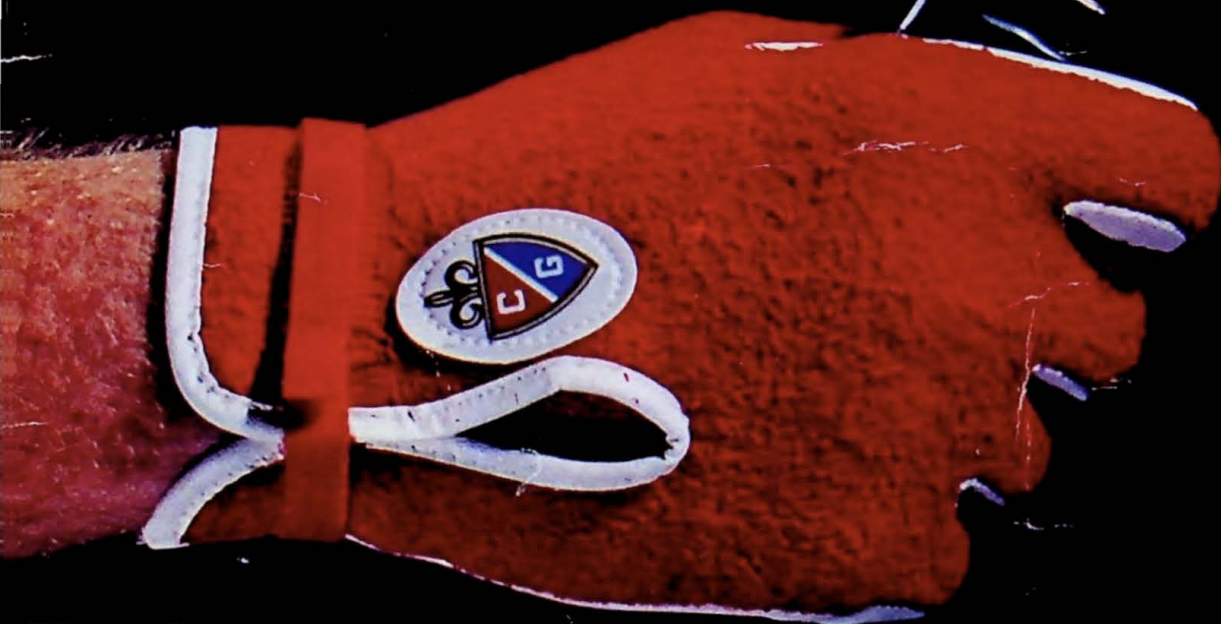


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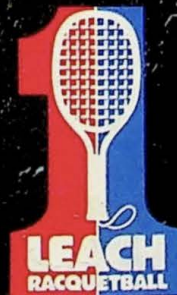
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